PROMISES, LIES AND MORE LIES!

Residents left at the mercy of the sea

After one year of what residents of the tiny coastal fishing village of Mosquito Hall describe as promises, lies and more lies by the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration, they remain scared of rising sea levels and the PPP/C’s lack of a comprehensive plan to adequately deal with sea and river defences. Mosquito Hall is a small fishing community located in Unity Mahaica, Demerara-Mahaica region. Over one year ago it was noticed that the structural integrity of their sea wall was badly compromised. Huge cracks, large cavernous holes and crumbling chunks of cement could be seen along a half mile stretch of wall in the Mahaica area. The Ministry of Public Works was informed and a piece-meal effort was made to patch and fill the cracks and holes.

On the 6th January 2014, a team of officials from A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) led by Shadow Minister for Public Infrastructure, Mr. Joseph Harmon visited Mosquito Hall, to inspect the crumbling sea defences in the area. He was there at the invitation of the residents who are scared that their lives and their property have been placed in jeopardy due to the degradation of the area sea defences. The team, which included representatives of the Media, was shown several breaches in the wall, large cracks, gaping cavernous holes and fractures all within a 100 meter stretch of sea wall. Mr. Harmon said that what he had witnessed was the result of systemic neglect and the lack of a structured national plan to deal with sea and river defences. In his 2013 Budget presentation, Mr. Harmon had warned that the $1.9 Billion that was allocated for sea and river defences and the $143,392,000 to deal with critical works was not enough. The APNU official said the PPP/C was not doing enough to safeguard the lives and livelihood of residents who lived in areas like Mosquito Hall.

Residents said that after the visit in January there was a flurry of activity by the Ministry of Public Works. Some holes were patched using sand bags and cement but two weeks later the holes and large cracks reappeared. They claim that an official from the Ministry visits the wall periodically but no work is being done and every day the wall continues to fall apart. A private engineer who inspected the wall at our request told New Nation that what was needed was a new wall. He said that the wall was too badly damaged and structurally compromised and that it had sunk in several places. It was his opinion that building a new wall would be more cost effective and provides the Government a chance to build a wall that would last another fifty plus years.

Residents, meanwhile, are bracing themselves for the next spring tide, and praying that a catastrophe is averted. They claim that during the regular high tide the water seeps through and under the wall and cause severe flooding. At the spring tide the water comes over the wall and with every tide the wall continues to crumble. Many experts see this as a disaster in the making. The Ministry of Public Works has indicated that it has no intention of replacing the wall. At a press conference held recently, Minister Robeson Benn said that remedial work will continue along with the use of Riprap (shoreline management using rocks and boulders).
The PPP/C damages and disparages local democratic organs

By Malika N. Ramsey

According to the scriptures, on the day of His resurrection, Jesus said to the woman who sought him near the tomb, "why do you seek the living among the dead?" The shedding of our citizens' blood and tears continue. The Guyana Police Force and by extension the Government of Guyana, seem to be going in the same direction.

There is a huge difference, Hon. Member, not that I think he lumped the Regional Democratic Councils in with the government, but then I am not sure that it matters. RTI's [Right to Information] are so sidetracked by itself and its use and reference could not identify the source of this 'authority'. The current constitution establishes this source and adopts the terminology 'local authorities' in Chapter 5 of the Constitution. There is no vagueness or ambiguity as to where sovereignty resides; it is with the people who elect their representatives. In fact, in Article 209 of the Constitution, the phrase 'local democratic organs' appears 10 times (apart from being the sub-title of the chapter). In addition, the phrase 'local democratic power' appears twice and 'local government organs' appears twice as well. Not once do the words 'local authorities' appear in this chapter! A new Constitution was ushered in. To adapt to change however, first requires that it be recognized that there has been change.

Ms. Shadick could be advised that even a cursory examination of the constitution would establish that RDC's are 'local democratic organs'. Ms. Shadick, who actually was a member of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee established to review the four Local Government Reform Bills, rather than seek to heap abuse on Opposition Members, could better spend her time and efforts in familiarizing herself with the legislation governing local government.

Mr. Ganga Persaud, the former Local Government Minister, but still MP, was equally egregious in his presentation. After referring to the legislation governing local government, he proceeded to go on a cruise with Opposition Members, could better spend her time and efforts in familiarizing herself with the legislation governing local government.

Mr. Ganga Persaud, the former Local Government Minister, but still MP, was equally egregious in his presentation. After referring to the legislation governing local government, he proceeded to go on a cruise with Opposition Members; and any and all administrative staff or officers are mere servants of the councils. Mr. Ganga Persaud and his colleagues in Government are creating their own rules whereby administrative staffs are the 'local democratic organs' and any and all administrative staff or officers are mere servants of the councils. Mr. Ganga Persaud and his colleagues in Government are creating their own rules whereby administrative staffs are the 'local democratic organs' and any and all administrative staff or officers are mere servants of the councils. Mr. Ganga Persaud and his colleagues in Government are creating their own rules whereby administrative staffs are the 'local democratic organs' and any and all administrative staff or officers are mere servants of the councils.

The People's National Congress Reform wishes all Guyanese a happy, joyous and fulfilling Easter, particularly members of the Guyanese and worldwide Christian Community, on the occasion of the celebration of one of the most important events in the Christian Calendar, the commemoration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We hope that the symbolism of our kites soaring to the heavens inspire all Guyanese to emulate the examples set by Jesus, for the renewal of national duty of the Government to keep us safe. If citizens seem to forget, Government must remind the nation about the importance of keeping crime and violence at its minimum, it is the duty of the Government to keep us safe. Our Human Resource is our country's most important resource.

Our Government must sit and idly by and watching this valuable resource being violently destroyed? Is it that they are not competent enough to deal with this problem? Is it that they lack the expertise or law enforcement capabilities to adequately deal with violent crime, or is something more sinister?

Non participation in the Rodney Commission of Inquiry

The People's National Congress Reform has taken a decision not to participate in the Commission of Inquiry into the death of Walter Rodney. This decision was arrived at after a meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Party. The Party has expressed grave concern about Terms of Reference No. 4 and the appointment of Commissioner Seenath Jairam, SC.
Opposition will withhold support for Amerindian Development Fund until there is a roadmap on how money will be spent

By Ronald Bulkan, MP

The combined Opposition in Parliament has disapproved of the $1.1B set aside in the 2014 Budget for Amerindian Development. This action by APNU is very consistent with their 2011 Elections Manifesto. On page one, our motion leader, Don, Brigadier David Cranes, in his introductory remarks stated: "The tide of ideas in Guyanese politics has turned. A Partnership for National Unity has brought a new politics into being. We have, at the core of our commitment - a new covenant - between the citizen and the government. We believe that the people of Guyana are entitled to the benefits of a 'good life' in the country of their birth." Hence, what took place in the National Assembly was predictable and very necessary.

I have travelled this country extensively and what I see is not a healthy picture. In the upper Mazaruni villages of Chinoweing and Wax Creek, not one child has ever passed the National Grade Six Examination to get a top secondary school in Georgetown. Rather, many of them, still at school age, work alongside their parents in search of that precious metal - gold. What sort of life will this fund guarantee these children? They are all times the victims of all sorts of abuse from seasoned miners.

What sort of life will this fund guarantee families whose farms are constantly destroyed in the name of mining? How will this fund address the cleaning of the heavily polluted Mazaruni River, the main source of potable water for thousands of people?

In the Rupununi the situation is no different. On Tuesday 8th April, a retired primary school teacher brought a third form student from Quarrie Village to the school. He needed some assistance with his projects in Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. One thing was that the students, this lad included, were given all of these projects with less than a week to submit. The submission day was the next day, Wednesday. The saddest thing was that the lad did not know the formula for calculating the area of a triangle. I am talking of a third form student. This was the same situation for one of the bright students.

I will tell all that there are more than 100 such third formers across this region. How will this development fund help these children? While I have advocated in the past, and continue to do so, for a Technical Institute for the Rupununi, what we got instead is one massive courthouse which is still to be utilised. Is this the government's vision for our youths?

While the majority of our young people are languishing in unemployment, under-employment and early pregnancies, which only serves to ensure that poverty is multiplied, the Government has singled out 10 young people in each village to be Community Support Officers (CSO).

The regional system calls for District Development Officers 1 and 2; Assistant Regional Executive Officers and Deputy Regional Executive Officers. These officers are charged with ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of the local government system, inclusive of Amerindian villages.

Over the years, in an effort to jobs for party operatives, the PPP has created the Community Development Officers and the Regional Development Officers. Now they have Community Support Officers. It is sure that all these positions come into conflict with each other and we have a situation of power play. Whoever is closer to the party wields more power.

Is that the PPP's concept of development? It has been reported that some of these CSOs see themselves as the authority. According to the author of the article, printing and division are the order of the day.

Therefore, until and unless the Ministers of Local Government and Amerindian Affairs call a road map on how these monies will be spent the Opposition will have the support of all, inclusive of the Amerindians themselves, to withhold their support. From all the evidence available to date, the monies will be used as a vote-getting scheme.
On the 16th April 2014, Helena Maud McAllister became Guyana’s newest centenarian. Born Helena Maud Yarde on the 16th April 1914 in Norton Street Worthmanville, she attended Freeburg Primary School and later married Hilton McAllister. The couple shared a marriage of over six decades, until Hilton passed away six years ago at the age of 96. Mrs. McAllister has travelled extensively overseas but spends most of her time in Georgetown. Very active within her small circle of family members and friends, this Centenarian still serves as the Managing Director of her family business, Mac’s Housing and Facilities. She is also at 100 fully computer literate and communicates with her children and other acquaintances via the internet (E-mail and Skype). Her hobbies include cooking and sewing and until she closed her business school, she enjoyed teaching shorthand and typing.

Helena Maud McAllister credits her Christian faith with a life of prayer and free of stress for her longevity. Her message to young people is to put aside frivolous things, find something substantial to do and be passionate about it and let God take permanence in their lives. Ms. McAllister celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by her children, relatives and close friends. A dinner party was held in her honour at the Pegasus Hotel.

PNCR distributes Kites to Kids

On Saturday 19th April 2014, the Leader of the People’s National Congress Reform travelled to Ann’s Grove, Demerara-Mahaica region to distribute kites to children in the area. Earlier in the month the Party Leader accompanied by Assistant General Secretary, Ms. Amna Ally distributed kites to children in the Buxton-Friendship area. The kite giving exercise is an annual event undertaken by the Leader of the PNCR. In several other regions throughout the country, APNU Members of Parliament also distributed kites. Ms. Renita Williams, MP, distributed kites on Sunday 21st April in the Mabaruma area, Barima-Waini region (No. 1) and Ms. Dawn Hastings distributed kites in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni region (No. 7).
Task Force for Guyana’s Youth Inc. (TFFGY) is a Florida non-profit corporation based in Miramar. They registered with the Florida Department of State’s Division of Corporations ten years ago. The group’s principal mission is to further the development of youth in Guyana. To celebrate their tenth anniversary the group of mostly Guyanese-American women travelled to Georgetown on Thursday 17th April to start a week of activities to commemorate their organisation’s significant milestone. During a packed week of activities the Task Force travelled to New Amsterdam to meet with students who are recipients of TFFGY scholarships. The students are Edrianna Stephen, a freshman at the University of Guyana; Shaqwane Crawford of Presidents College and Shaniice Henry who attends Queens College.

As part of their itinerary, the Task Force also paid a courtesy call on the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Brigadier David Granger and met with members of the Board of the Burnham Education Scholarship Trust (BEST), at the Office of the Leader of the Opposition in Georgetown. Several charities and institutions which are supported by the Task Force were also visited which include the Sophia Literacy Project, Marian Academy, and the Bernice Mansell Foundation. The group also met with United States Ambassador, H.E. Brendt Hardt; President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Clinton Uring; and the Head of the Tourism Authority Group (TAG). While in Guyana, the group took the opportunity to visit several historic and tourist sites. A cocktail party was also held in the group’s honour at the Guyana Defence Force Officers Club, Camp Ayanganna. Donna London, President of Task Force for Guyana’s Youth told New Nation that it was a very productive visit. She said that the group had gained tremendous insights into some of the complex challenges facing young people in Guyana. Ms. London said that many of the members of the board had not visited Guyana in several decades and this trip provided an opportunity for them to reconnect with their home land and better appreciate some of the problems, especially those in the education sector. The Task Force has announced plans to increase the number of academic scholarships it is currently giving.

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TFFGY Board members meet with Scholarship Awardees. Seen in the front row from left are Edrianna Stephen; Shaniice Henry and Shaqwane Crawford.

**Foreign Exchange Rate**

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<th>Sell</th>
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<td>JMD Jamaica</td>
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Exchange Rates as at 2014-04-23
**Health Benefits of drinking Lemon Water**

- Lemon is an excellent and rich source of vitamin C, an essential nutrient that protects the body against immune system deficiencies.
- Lemons contain pectin fiber which is very beneficial for colon health and also serves as a powerful antibacterial.
- It balances maintain the pH levels in the body.
- Having warm lemon juice early in the morning helps flush out toxins.
- It aids digestion and encourages the production of bile.
- It is also a great source citric acid, potassium, calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium.
- It helps prevent the growth and multiplication of pathogenic bacteria that cause infections and diseases.
- It helps reducing pain and inflammation in joints and knees as it helps maintaining the health of the eyes and helps fight against eye problems.
- Aids in the production of digestive juices.
- Lemon juice helps replenish body salts especially after a strenuous workout session.

Pack with all the goodness, make it a point to begin your day with a glass of warm lemon juice. Its cleansing and healing effects will have positive effects on your health in the long run. However, it is very important to note that lemon juice when comes directly in contact with the teeth, can ruin the enamel on the teeth. Hence, it is advised to consume it diluted and also rinse your mouth thoroughly after drinking lemon juice.

http://foodmatters.tv/articles/1-cheers-to-drinking-warm-lemon-water

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**Aging**

The aging process starts earlier than many people realize. Even if you are only thirty-five years old and have no symptoms of disease, microscopic damage is already occurring in the cells of your major organs. Sounds scary, does it not? But progressive damage to the body can be delayed. A multi-pronged programme reduces the risk for heart disease, cancer and other major ailments such as hearing loss, vision loss, memory problems, etc.

As you may already know, antioxidants are compounds that deactivate free radicals, highly reactive molecules that attack cell membranes (coverings), proteins and even our DNA. Of course, free radicals have been implicated in heart disease, cancer and dementia (organic senility). In addition, evidence suggests that free radicals are also responsible for the gradual decline of the immune (defense) system, which leaves older persons increasingly vulnerable to infection.

So far, four antioxidants seem to be especially beneficial. These are: Carotenoids, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, and Selenium. Carotenoids are fat-soluble antioxidants which help protect cell membranes. To boost carotenoid levels in your body, eat more sweet potatoes and red and yellow vegetables. You should also take a supplement containing 50 milligrams (mg) of mixed carotenoids every day.

Vitamin E is another fat-soluble antioxidant which has been shown to protect the heart and the brain and enhance the body's immune system. It is hard to get enough vitamin E from grains and other food sources without also getting too much fat. For this reason, it is best to rely on a supplement and dosage of 200 international units (IU) per day, but check with your doctor first.

Vitamin C is a water soluble antioxidant. It is found primarily in citrus fruits and it protects the parts of cells that vitamin E and carotenoids cannot reach. The usual dose is 500 milligrams every other day. Selenium is a mineral found mainly in seafood and liver. It plays a pivotal role in neutralizing free radicals. Strangely, most people are deficient in this mineral. The usual dose is 200 micrograms (mcg) every other day. In addition to the antioxidants listed above, it is often a good idea to take supplements of folic acid (1 mg per day), coenzyme Q-10 (50 mg per day) and zinc (20 mg per day). You should first discuss the good matter with your doctor. The good thing is that all these supplements are sold over-the-counter in all good pharmacies in Guyana.

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**Check your Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure NOW!**

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**In unity there is strength**

May Day is a special occasion for the Labour Movement and workers in Guyana. It is a time when they should be able to celebrate the consolidation of their rights, increased wages and benefits, improved working conditions, the protection of pension rights and the general progress of the labour movement. Unfortunately, on May Day 2014, Guyanese workers are forced to lament the absence of any such gains.

Guyanese workers cannot forget that, since acceding to Government in 1992, successive PPP Administrations have used their majority in the National Assembly to pass legislation designed to intimidate members of the labour movement and undermine the recognised trade union body, the Guyana Trade Union Congress (GTUC) and the so-called Federation of Independent Trade unions (FITUG). In this context, note should be taken of the deliberate policy of encouraging trade unions aligned to the PPP to preserve more independent unions in order to marginalize and destroy them.

There has been a continuing and concerted effort by Uncle to take back the gains achieved, since the pioneering and foundational efforts of Hubert Nathaniel Chirchlow and other stalwarts who made major personal sacrifices for the achievements of many of the workers' rights that are now under attack. Indeed, some anti-working class elements are peddling the idea that trade unions have outlived their usefulness, and that those conditions which Chirchlow fought for, such as a living wage and better conditions of work, can be better provided for by employers, such as the Government, themselves. It should be clear, to all genuine members of the labour movement in Guyana, that it would require unity of purpose to successfully defend their hard earned rights.

As a consequence of the anti-working class policies of the PPP Administration, even before the advent of the global economic events, Guyanese workers have been caught up in a vicious struggle to survive and ensure their material betterment. Indeed, with the introduction of the unconstitucional 16% Value Added Tax (VAT) in 2007, the cost of living in Guyana spiked, considerably undermining the ability of our workers to provide for their families and sustain themselves.

In all of the adverse prevailing circumstances which confront the Trade Union Movement, particularly the Public Servants, careful attention should be paid to the intransigence and stubborn refusal of the Ramotar PPP Administration to:
- Reduce the VAT by 2%;
- Increase Public Servant emoluments by 10% across the board while committing to the effective re-establishment of normal Collective Bargaining negotiations;
- Implement the various proposals and recommendations for the reform and modernisation of the Public Service;
- Halt the blatant misuse of the device of Contract workers to bypass the rules established by the Public Service Commission and to undermine the GPSU;
- Increase the pensionable age for Public Servants to 65 years;
- Reduce the Berbice River Bridge toll to $1,000.00;
- Commit to the pursuit of an action programme which would restore the long term viability of the NIS; and
- Ensure that the financial assets of the nation, which are being abused through the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd. (NICIL), to bypass scrutiny by and accountability to the National Assembly, are transferred to the Consolidated Fund.

On the occasion of May Day 2014, therefore, New Nation recognises the critical role that Trade Unions have played in the political, economic and social development of the country and urge the Movement to remember that such a role can only continue if the Trade Union Movement, as a whole, remains united to protect the interests of all Guyanese workers.
The People’s National Congress Reform on Sunday 13th April 2014 held a General Members Meeting at the Paradise Primary School. The focus of the Town-Hall style meeting was to prepare Party members for Local Government elections. Speakers included APNU Local Government Elections Campaign Director, Mr. Winston Felix; Party Chairman, Mr. Basil Williams; and Party Leader, Brigadier David Granger. The Party members present were informed of the PNCR’s plans for local government elections. Party Leader Granger reminded members that the Party would be contesting the elections under the banner of A Partnership for National Unity. Party members were urged to ensure that every eligible person within their various constituencies take advantage of the current 6th cycle of registration and get registered.

Campaign Director, Mr. Winston Felix told members that their door-to-door mobilization had to be intensified and suitable candidates identified from the various constituencies to contest at both the Proportional Representation and the First-Past-the-Post. He also outlined the qualifications necessary to be a councillor for a Local Authority Area.

In a lively interactive question and answer period that followed, members asked a wide range of questions of regional and national interest. The Members of Parliament present also took the opportunity to discuss with the Party members, the work of APNU in the National Assembly. Much time was spent discussing the 2014 Budget.

Residents of the Beterverwagting/Triumph business community joined forces with the Beterverwagting/Triumph Local Government Campaign Committee in a self-help effort to rebuild a key bridge linking the villages of Beterverwagting and Triumph on the East Coast of Demerara. The business community and the local government committee came together and mobilized the finance, building materials and technical management resources. Labour was provided by volunteers from the two villages and other well-wishers.
APNU country-wide outreaches continue

A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) continued with its country-wide outreach, covering all districts over the weekend 12th and 13th April 2014. On Saturday evening (12th April), the Partnership held a Public Meeting at Rose Hall Town, East Berbice-Corentyne Region. The speakers were Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Brigadier David Granger, and APNU’s Members of Parliament, Mr. Basil Williams, Ms. Volda Lawrence, Mr. Christopher Jones and Dr. Rishi Thakur.

The main focus of the meeting was the 2014 Budget. Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Brigadier Granger told the gathering that the 2014 Budget has failed to present a comprehensive financial plan for the development of the material resources and for the improvement of the quality of life for the ordinary people. APNU speakers called on the PPP/C Administration to reduce the Berbice River Bridge toll; to increase the old age pension and public assistance; to increase Public Servants’ salaries. Calls were made for the restructuring of GuySuCo so that it could become a viable company.

APNU Member of Parliament, Mr. Christopher Jones noted the absence of a National Youth Policy. Jones said; “young people in Guyana want good paying jobs, but say cry the: Budget says nothing and offers nothing in the way of job creation.” APNU also called for the introduction of programmes to relieve the plight of depressed communities and for the immediate introduction of a National Procurement Commission.

APNU called on the PPP/C Administration to make changes to the 2014 Budget for the public good.

APNU Member of Parliament, Mr. Basil Williams in his presentation said that the people of Guyana deserved a Budget that would lower the costs of living, stimulate growth and improve the quality of life for the working man and woman.