

Unity

February

David Granger Campaign

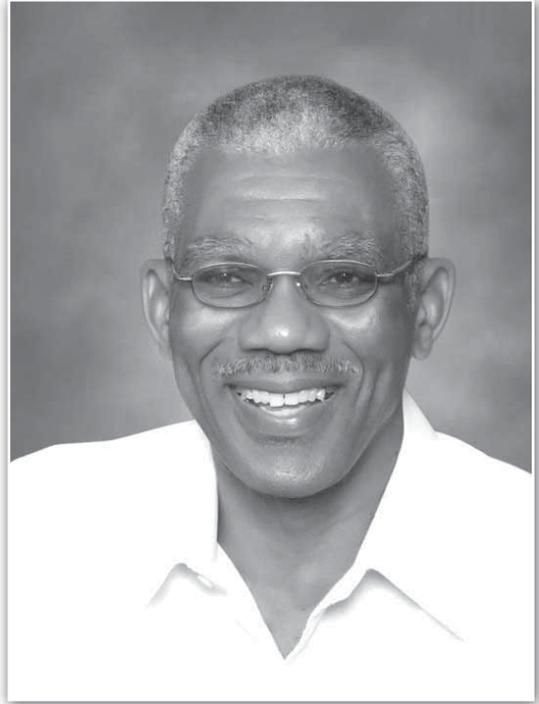
2011

Unity is highest priority

Brigadier (ret.) David Granger told Georgetown residents that the unity of the People's National Congress Reform was his highest priority.

Addressing a 'town-hall' meeting at the North Ruimveldt Multilateral School earlier in February, Granger said that a unified PNCR was the greatest challenge to the incumbent People's Progressive Party Civic administration. He therefore denounced the 'factionalism' of certain elements, reports of which had been given unwarranted publicity in the press since the 16th Congress. Far from being divided, the party – at the grass-roots level – remained strong. At the organizational level, the party's Constitution and institutions were respected, he said.

The open, democratic six-month-long presidential selection process had attracted attention countrywide, captivated public imagination and dominated the headlines. Granger was determined to persuade former members and supporters to return to the party. He explained his plan to convince young persons and citizens at large to support the PNCR.



Guyana needs better rural schools

Guyana needs better schools if the next generation of leaders is to be better educated. Speaking at 'town-hall' meetings at Buxton, Vreed-en-Hoop and St George's Community High Schools, Brigadier (ret.) David Granger expressed alarm over the state of the country's so-called 'high' schools and primary schools.

Granger said that the protests that occurred over the past four years were justified. He called on the PPP Civic administration to shut down schools which were unhealthy or unsafe and to accommodate children in a safe learning environment. He displayed copies of the *Kaieteur News* and *Stabroek News* newspapers which carried stories of parents and students protesting against appalling conditions at schools.



Protest at Golden Grove

Guyana's dangerous rural public schools

The education of Guyana's children is being severely hampered by the poor conditions to which rural children have been exposed. Parents and students in rural and hinterland areas have been forced to shut down more than fifteen schools in order to call attention to the appalling sanitary and safety conditions over the past four years:

- **L'Aventure Primary School** on the West Bank Demerara was closed by parents, staff and students who locked the gates to protest against rotten floors, leaking roofs and poor sanitation, in February 2007.

- **Enmore Primary School** on the East Coast Demerara was closed by members of the Parent-Teacher Association protesting against poor sanitation, in February 2009.

- **Friendship Secondary School** on the East Bank Demerara was the scene of a protest by teachers who complained about the shortage of furniture, in May 2009.

- **President's College** on the East Coast Demerara was the scene of a protest by teachers who were frustrated at the lack of water and the deteriorating conditions, in June 2009.

- **Belladrum Primary School** on the West Coast Berbice was closed down by parents protesting against unhealthy conditions, in September 2009.

- **Northbrook Nursery School** on the East Coast Demerara was picketed over the lack of teachers and inadequate furniture, in May 2010.

- **St Aidan's Primary School** at Linden in the Upper Demerara was closed by parents protesting against deteriorating physical conditions, in September 2009.

- **Vreed-en-Hoop Community High School** on the West Bank Demerara was closed by parents and students who protested the condition of the compound which was frequently flooded



Another day... another protest

during high tides, in October 2010.

- **Ann's Grove Primary School** on the East Coast Demerara was closed by irate parents who protested the poor state of the 90-year-old school, in October 2010.

- **Bagotville Primary School** on the West Bank Demerara was closed by parents who complained that there were only two teachers

for the approximately 107 students at the school, in October 2010.

- **Golden Grove Primary School** on the East Coast Demerara was closed to protest the shortage of teachers and the lack of water in the washrooms, in November 2010.

- **St. Ignatius Primary School** in the Rupununi was closed by teachers and parents who staged a protest to complain about the absence of potable water and poor sanitation, in November 2010.

- **Philadelphia Primary School** on the West Coast Demerara was closed by parents and students to protest the condition and state of the school, in January 2011.

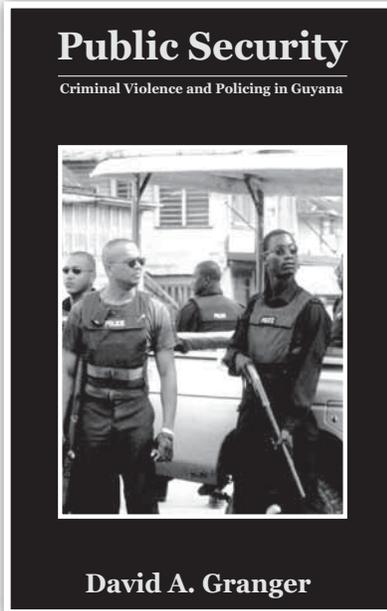
- **Wisburg Secondary School** at Linden in the Upper Demerara was blockaded by teachers and students protesting against repeated flooding and mosquito infestation, in February 2011.

- **Sisters Village Nursery School** at Goed Intent on the West Bank Demerara was closed after major leaks in the roof forced the suspension of classes, in February 2011.

Granger publishes book on public security

David Granger has published a new book. Entitled *Public Security: Criminal Violence and Policing in Guyana*, the book contains twenty essays which were selected to provide an understanding of how criminal violence can flourish when public policy fails.

The book's main concern is about human security which involves promoting vital freedoms and protecting people from critical threats. Human security is always paramount in the public mind. Granger feels, however, that the rising tide of trafficking in illegal narcotics and firearms – which



brought waves of criminal violence into the country over the last decade – has jeopardised human security.

Brigadier (ret.) David Granger has written several books on military history, defence and security. These include *Five-Thousand Day War: The Struggle for Haiti's Independence, 1789-1904*; *National Defence: A Brief History of the Guyana Defence Force, 1965-2005*; *The British Guiana Volunteer Force, 1948-1966*; *The Guyana People's Militia, 1976-1997*; *The Guyana National Service, 1974-2000* and *The Queen's College Cadet Corps, 1889-1975*.

Granger calls for regional agricultural institutes

David Granger has reiterated his call for the establishment of regional agricultural institutes. He feels that urgent attention should be given to intensifying agricultural education in the five huge hinterland regions – Barima-Waini; Cuyuni-Mazaruni; Potaro-Siparuni; Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo and Upper Demerara-Berbice – which constitute over 75 per cent of the country's land space. These regions, despite their proven agricultural potential and their extensive land resources, all suffer severe youth unemployment and underproduction of food crops.



Hinterland farming techniques must be modernised

Addressing audiences at 'town-hall' meetings in Bartica, Linden, Lethem and Mabaruma over the past month, Granger explained that his vision was to augment commodity production and encourage agricultural diversification. At the same time, he emphasised that the economies of the five hinterland regions can benefit from more efficient and sustainable technology, reduction in youth unemployment and the promotion of private enterprise through agro-processing.

All of these could be achieved by formal research and teaching in regional institutes, in place of the present range of ad hoc projects.

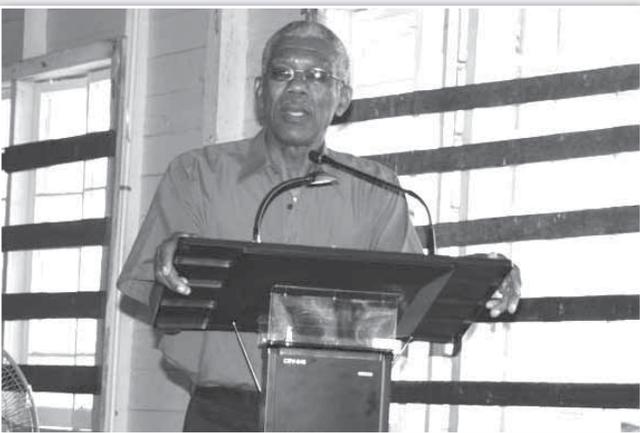
Campaign Journal

Queenstown



As the series of ‘town-hall’ meetings launched by the PNCR’s Presidential Candidate Process Committee came to a close, Brigadier (ret) David Granger said that he was confident that his message had impressed audiences across the country. The 18-meeting series started on 14th January at Queenstown in the Pomeroon-Supenaam Region and was due to end on 20th February at Kwakwani in the Upper Demerara - Berbice Region.

Union.



Residents of Union Village on the Corentyne Coast met with David Granger in January. Explaining that the People’s National Congress Reform party grew from the grass roots,

Granger emphasized that, in order to progress, there must be strong leadership at the community level.

Belladrum.

David Granger praised residents of Belladrum Village for their legendary resilience in the face of adversity. He recalled that the village had been too frequently flooded in the past and residents were forced to protest and picket to attract the attention of an uncaring administration.

Manchester.



David Granger met villagers at Manchester Secondary School who raised questions of the unemployment of young people. He explained that the era of government jobs was over and school-leavers had to think of self-employment in the future. He emphasised that, if he was elected, opportunities would be made available for micro-enterprises in the field of agro-processing.

Bagotsville.

At a meeting with residents of Bagotsville Village early in February, David Granger drew attention to the state of rural schools – especially on the West Bank and West Coast Demerara. Many schools with hundreds of students were without running water and proper sanitation; the best teachers were leaving and there was a high percentage of drop-outs.