Residents of the flood-affected communities of Lethem in the Rupununi and Kwakwani in the Upper Demerara-Berbice Region welcomed PNCR Presidential Candidate Brigadier (ret) David Granger who led teams on 8th and 10th June, respectively. The PNCR team to the Rupununi – which included Member of the National Assembly Dr. George Norton and Guyana Youth and Student Movement Chairman Christopher Jones – carried relief supplies and emergency equipment which were distributed to displaced persons.

Granger expressed concern about the People’s Progressive Party Civic administration’s lack of support for the Rupununi which is the country’s largest region. He pointed out that parts of the inundated Linden-Lethem roadway had become impassable causing vehicles and passengers to be stranded for days and commented on the poor condition of the Lethem aerodrome’s runway which was “cracking up” and becoming dangerous for aircraft.

Granger, accompanied by Regional Chairman Mortimer Mingo, also visited residents of Kwakwani in the Upper Demerara-Berbice Region who were facing a disastrous flood. The flood disrupted the lives of residents and caused them to lose their possessions, in some cases their livelihoods and their ability to provide even the most basic necessities for their families.

Rupununi and Kwakwani faced almost identical flood situations over the years and the PPPC seemed ill-prepared for recurrences. There are no disaster preparedness plans for the regions; no mobilization of voluntary relief workers took place and no civil defence stores were stocked. Granger called for the mobilization of a volunteer Militia to be trained and equipped to carry out civil defence tasks to protect the community during fire, floods and other disasters.
The establishment of APNU

The Joint Opposition Political Parties (JOPP) - Guyana Action Party; National Front Alliance; People’s National Congress Reform and Working People’s Alliance - announced the formation of A Partnership For National Unity.

The APNU will contest the 2011 General and Regional Elections as a single united List of Candidates with:
- a common symbol;
- a consensus Presidential Candidate - Brigadier (ret) David Granger;
- a single Representative and a single Deputy Representative of the List of Candidates;
- an agreed Electoral Platform; and,
- a unified campaign organisation and management.

The Parties signed a joint ‘Declaration’ in which they formally asserted their commitment to establish a Government of National Unity.

Youth crisis

The People’s National Congress Reform has accused the People’s Progressive Party Civic administration of ignoring the youth crisis in this country.

The Party said that the administration was also ignoring the fact that the entire world was currently observing the International Year for Youth – IYY – in 2010-2011. The ‘Year’ began on 12th August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. It coincides with the 25th anniversary of the first International Youth Year in 1985 on the theme Participation, Development and Peace.

The Government of Guyana which ought to be concerned about the nation’s youth has been silent on this very important declaration, silent on the meaningful celebration of the year and silent on the need to introduce serious policies to promote youth development and protect youth from abuse.

The PNCR has given a public undertaking that, once a Government of National Unity is installed after the next elections, it will implement “serious changes; serious youth education improvement, serious youth employment opportunities and serious youth empowerment initiatives.” These will give our young people in urban, rural and hinterland areas the hope of enjoying a ‘good life’ in the land of their birth.

The art of Qaseeda

The Guyana United Sadr Islamic Anjuman together with the Anna Catherina Islamic Complex and the Muslim Youth League were congratulated by Presidential Candidate, Brigadier (ret) David Granger for organizing the National Qaseeda Competition on Sunday 12th June 2011.
Granger was invited to present some of the prizes and address the congregation. Qaseeda, which features songs of praise and adoration about the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SA), is a tradition brought to Guyana by Indian indentured immigrants 173 years ago. The Anjuman has been credited with reviving and preserving the tradition which has its origins in Arabia during the life of the Holy Prophet 1400 years ago. Brigadier Granger pointed out that the art of Qaseeda is “...an important National Cultural resource” but was “little known outside of the Islamic community.” He called on the Anjuman to make it better known among other sections of the Guyana population.

PNCR calls for a halt of violence against women

The People’s National Congress Reform has criticised the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Human Services and the Guyana Police Force for failing in their obligation to protect women from the spate of murders which have rocked mainly rural communities this year. PNCR Presidential Candidate Brigadier David Granger said that it should be apparent to all parties that the present law-enforcement measures with respect to the human security of ‘persons at risk’ were not functioning. Granger, addressing a television audience, said that based on information published in the press, one woman has been killed every fortnight. In addition to wife murders, there have also been several rural rape-murders in previous years. These have highlighted the low level of human security, particularly for women and girl children, in certain areas of this country. Crimes of violence against women have exposed the inability of the PPPC administration and its educational, law enforcement, social welfare and youth services to comprehend the causes of the crisis.

A Government of National Unity, Granger said, will put policies in place to ensure the safety of the country’s most vulnerable citizens – often very old women and very young girl children.

PPPC lacks the will to wage war on narco-trafficking

The People’s Progressive Party Civic administration lacks the political will to wage war on narcotics trafficking in this country. This accusation by the People’s National Congress Reform comes in the wake of the arrest of several Guyanese citizens after Police intercepted a vessel with an estimated 204 kg (450 pounds) of cocaine at Batavia, an island located 8.5 km up the Cuyuni River. The cocaine – with an estimated street value of US$5 M or over G$ 1.0B – was found stashed in plastic containers on a vessel. This incident itself was preceded earlier this year by seizures of cocaine shipments in Barbados and Jamaica which investigators say came from Guyana. These contributed to Guyana’s unsavory reputation as a ‘narco-state’ over the past 19 years of PPPC administration. The United States Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs publishes an annual report – the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report – which usually opens with the familiar axiom: “Guyana is a transit point for cocaine destined for North America, Europe, and the Caribbean.” Seven years ago, that annual Report cited the PPPC administration’s “lack of political will” as a contributory factor to the continuing ineffectiveness of the national counter-narcotics programme.
Campaign Journal

Granger visits Georgia

PNCR Presidential Candidate Brigadier (ret) David Granger, accompanied by his wife Sandra and Campaign Director Joseph Harmon, arrived in Atlanta, Georgia on 27th May. During the three-day visit to the state, Granger attended a special dinner, a barbecue and a breakfast in his honour. Granger also visited some of Atlanta’s historical sites including the Morehouse College of Medicine and the Martin Luther King Center. He attended the popular annual Guyana Memorial Day picnic in Stone Mountain where he greeted thousands of Guyanese and hosted a book-signing event.

Visit to Maryland and Washington

David Granger and his team accompanied by North American Campaign Manager Derrick Lawrence arrived in Washington DC on 30th May as part of his North American campaign tour. Social events included a cocktail reception and campaign picnic which was attended by over 200 prominent Guyanese in that region, including PNCR members Guyana Defence Force veterans. While in the Washington DC area, the team attended several meetings with a number of prominent US politicians including members of Congress and officials from important departments and agencies within the US government. Granger also sat with well-known journalists in the area for one television and two radio interviews.

New York and New Jersey Visit

David Granger paid a visit to New York and New Jersey on 2nd–6th June during which he toured the borough of Queens in NY and met with the Business Alliance for Long Island. Granger attended a meeting with business associates on 3rd June. Later, he attended a Black Tie dinner event; a PNCR (Queens) Group Breakfast in Brooklyn; an evening visit to New Jersey for a Town Hall meeting; the XGDF NY 25th Veterans Anniversary Church Service; an Idol Concert at Catherine McAuley High School and a Sip-and-Chat reception.

GTSA meeting

PNCR presidential candidate David Granger met representatives of the Guyana Taxi Service Association on Wednesday 22nd June. Association members shared their concerns about crime, consultation, legislation and motor car maintenance. Granger stated his policy objective of fostering private enterprise. He observed that, “the state must provide an environment for hardworking citizens to achieve their business objectives while protecting the interests of Guyanese citizens”.

GOA run and walk

The PNCR participated in the Guyana Olympic Association’s annual 10 km run and walk in Georgetown on Sunday 26th June. The 20-member was led by Presidential Candidate David Granger.