Distress in the Pomeroon-Supenaam Region

Residents of the Pomeroon River squarely blamed the People’s Progressive Party Civic administration for the human distress and economic depression in the district. They bemoaned the PPPC administration’s failure to provide assistance or relief when farms along the low-lying areas banks were flooded. These were among the numerous complaints made to Presidential Candidate of A Partnership for National Unity Brigadier (ret) David Granger when he visited the Pomeroon-Supenaam Region in July.

At meetings with the residents of St Monica’s Mission and Kabakaburi Village in the Pomeroon River, Granger learnt of problems which included the lack of equipment to engage in logging; difficulty in obtaining material for weaving and predatory practices by business persons at Charity. Parents complained of the high cost of sending their children to school on the Essequibo Coast and the absence of any form of medical evacuation facility – such as a river ambulance – to transport patients who needed emergency assistance.

At meetings with villagers of Aberdeen, Wakanpau and Friendship – all farming communities – Granger heard complaints of poor drainage and heavy flooding in the farm lands during heavy rainfall and spring tides. Canals had not been de-silted and the mouth of the Pomeroon River has not been dredged for many years. Residents reported that farming was dying.

Brigadier Granger also met businessmen, Charity Market vendors and ordinary residents along the Essequibo Coast.
Headline News

High cost-of-living in the hinterland

Hinterland residents, particularly in the Upper Mazaruni District, have blamed the People’s Progressive Party Civic Administration for the high cost-of-living. APNU Presidential Candidate Brigadier David Granger listened to the residents’ complaints and had a first-hand look at the villagers’ depressed living conditions when he visited the Cuyuni-Mazaruni Region on 6th -8th August.

Granger – in his meetings with residents of Kamarang, Kako, Jawalla and Quebenang – listened to their views and concerns. He then outlined APNU’s vision for the future of the Upper Mazaruni. This included establishing an Upper Mazaruni Development Agency as a means of encouraging investment, harnessing economic potential and fast-tracking the development of the land and the people.

He pointed out that the indigenous residents remained impoverished despite the fact that the Cuyuni-Mazaruni Region – which was about the size of The Netherlands – generated enormous wealth from its legendary tourism industry and mining and logging economy. He accused the PPPC of attempting to use the hinterland as a ‘vote farm’ every five years rather than attending to the people’s daily human needs for employment, education and economic opportunity.

Toshao Norma Thomas and Regional Vice-Chairman and Guyana Action Party (GAP) Ms Amrita Thomas also addressed the gathering in Kamarang. They expressed the hope that the people of the Upper Mazaruni would be consulted on all matters that affected them. Granger emphasised that an APNU Administration would consult the people of the region before taking decisions affecting their lives and their future.

Granger also addressed the opening ceremony of the Upper Mazaruni Annual District Games at Jawalla and met villagers on Sunday 7th August.

Indigenous People are being neglected

David Granger, observing International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples on Tuesday 9th August, asserted that Guyana’s Indigenous people have derived little benefit over the past nineteen years under the PPPC administration. Little has been done to implement policies and programmes to eradicate poverty and alleviate unemployment in their communities.

He pointed out that, living mainly in the hinterland, Indigenous people remain marginalised from mainstream society. This was so largely because of the absence of roadways, bridges and aerodromes; the high cost of fuel; insufficient coastal and riverain vessels and other transport infrastructure.
Democracy!

APNU rallies herald democratic renewal

P residential Candidate of A Partnership for National Unity David Granger, has promised to “establish an inclusionary democracy, fulfilling the objectives of our national constitution.” He declared that the Partnership – APNU – was committed to ending the ‘winner-takes-all’ politics and ‘one-party’ governance practised in Guyana if elected into office at the forthcoming general and regional elections.

Granger made these commitments at the formal launch of the Partnership on 15th July. Rallies were held subsequently in Linden, New Amsterdam and Georgetown. Dr Rupert Roopnaraine of the Working People’s Alliance – WPA – speaking at APNU’s open-air rally at the Square of the Revolution in Georgetown on Friday 29th July, reminded the large crowd that they – and not those currently in office who continued to disrespect and disregard their rights – were the owners of our nation. He stated that “The days when they can share out the riches and the resources of Guyana to their families and their friends and their cronies” were coming to an end.

At the Georgetown rally which was chaired by Ms Vanessa Kissoon, MP, Ms Dawn Hastings, who hails from Kako Village in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni Region, greeted the gathering in Akawaio language and said that she was convinced that the APNU’s vision of a Government of National Unity is the answer to the fears of our country’s Indigenous peoples. David Hinds of the WPA declared that the APNU is a “symbolism of the PNC and the WPA – parties which had big differences in the past – coming together transcending their differences in the interest of all Guyana.” PNCR MP Basil Williams noted that the Partnership “could rescue this nation and remove this tyrant government from off the backs of the Guyanese people.”

Circus will not solve national youth crisis

David Granger has accused the People’s Progressive Party Civic Administration of attempting to deceive the public about the failure of its youth policy. The PPPC, after ignoring the entire International Year for Youth – IYY – which began on 12th August 2010, attempted, at the last moment, to hastily convene what it called an “Impress Youth Expo” at the International Conference Centre on Thursday 11th August. This was just one day before the expiration of the IYY. The PPPC administration has been, silent on the need to introduce serious policies to promote youth development and silent on the need to provide young people with jobs. It broke its silence only to host a circus which offered no solutions to the problems facing youth today, especially regarding education and employment.
APNU congratulates successful students

David Granger paid a visit to Linden on 4th July 2011 to honour the town’s top three students – Terron Alleyne, Carol Hopkinson, and Teryka Mohabir – who were successful at the National Grade Six Assessment examinations. He also visited the three top students – Tomaisha Samuels, Zawadi Collins and Duane Walters – of Hopetown, Berbice on 13th July 2011. The students received book vouchers that will assist their studies through the first year of Secondary School.

Martyrs remembered

David Granger participated in the start of a week of activities to commemorate the 188th anniversary of the 1823 Demerara Massacre on Saturday 20th August. The activities – organised by the PARBAMEL (Paradise Village-Bachelor’s Adventure-Melanie Damishana) Community Development Youth Group – commemorated the massacre of over 200 enslaved Africans on 20th August 1823 at Pln. Bachelor’s Adventure during the course of the Demerara Revolt. Granger related how the Demerara Revolt triggered the passage of the Emancipation Act exactly ten years afterwards.

National Reconciliation Day

David Granger attended the Son Chapman Tragedy Commemoration Committee’s annual wreath-laying and remembrance programme on 4th July 2011, at Hurudaia, Upper Demerara River. This event commemorated the 47th anniversary of the bombing of the Son Chapman in which forty-three Lindeners were killed. Granger said that the ceremony should not be an occasion for revenge, recrimination or retribution, but for reconciliation. He iterated his intention to establish an Institute for Conflict Resolution and National Reconciliation to research the causes of social conflict in Guyana and to recommend measures to save our children from the scourge of communal and criminal violence.

APNU village walkabout

A team of APNU officials and activists led by Presidential candidate David Granger, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine and Dr David Hinds and local activists Deon Abrams and Maurice Wilson, participated in a walkabout in Buxton-Friendship on 3rd August. This activity is part of a massive outreach by the APNU aimed at taking the Partnership into homes and communities across Guyana. The APNU leaders were able to hear from villagers about the problems which beset their community and they identified high unemployment as the biggest problem. They urged the APNU team to make jobs a priority when it gets into office.

Emancipation Day is a national celebration

David Granger participated in a Prayer Service at Plaisance Village on the Coast Demerara, festivals at Liverpool and Nurney Villages on the Corentyne Coast, Berbice and the National Emancipation Festival organised by the African Cultural Development Association at the National Park on the 1st August – Emancipation Day.

Gold and diamond miners’ meeting

The President and Executives of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association met David Granger at the Association’s head office in Georgetown on 14th July. Some of the issues discussed included the Low Carbon Development Strategy; Amerindian Titled Lands; Regulatory Framework to minimize perceived corruption in state agencies; Taxation and Royalty rates and Security Sector Reform. The miners raised concerns about the contraction of the alluvial mining sub-sector owing to the PPPC administration’s practices.