

# URP



## THE UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY

**"ONWARD, UPWARD WE WILL GO!"**

# OIL - GAS & Agriculture



## 2020 Vision for a Modern and Safe Guyana



The 2020 Manifesto of the United Republican Party (URP) heralds the dawn of a new era for our country, its socio-economic prosperity and a change in the country's political ideology. To ensure this new era brings deserved benefits to the country and its people, it is of paramount importance that we have a leader with the acumen, the God fearing will, and a team of fresh dedicated individuals to pilot the new era.

The URP presents its 2020 to 2025 action plan for a ***Safe and Modern Guyana***.

We consider our party a visionary party with a visionary leader who understands the dynamics of what Guyana needs to move it to the next level. This is why our 2015 Manifesto bears elements of many features that are not only relevant after five years but elements that are applicable. This clearly demonstrates that the political machinery over the last five years that the electorate has put in place to secure our future and our children's future has failed, because they have been out of tune with what is needed ensure a MODERN AND SAFE GUYANA for all.

We are proud that our Manifesto remains in context, bearing the elements that formulate the policies we need, remaining our pilot and guidance for the next five years.



## 2020 MANIFESTO

### VOTE URP



# The United Republican Party 2020 Manifesto

## Vision for a Modern and Safe Guyana

**The time is here once again for us to create a  
“Modern and Safe Guyana”**

A Guyana that has in place the Socio-Economic and Political Pillars that will allow every citizen to maximize his or her true potential. A modern Guyana that will ensure poverty is eradicated and every man, woman, and child has a level playing field to enjoy a safe Guyana in its modern context.

**God is the Primary source of  
all true knowledge  
and is all that is known  
By its Means**



**A**s President, I will Donate my Salary to the Poor and Powerless. I want to serve the people not exploit them.

**I will Reduce the Minister's salary by 20% while increasing Public Service wages**

### **The Pillars on which our Party Manifesto Stands:**

To reinforce our nationalism and to be in unison with what we should be striving for as a nation and as a people. This manifesto has drawn upon the principles enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana which pilots our destiny.

“WE THE GUYANESE PEOPLE, Proud heirs of the indomitable will of our forebears, in a spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, proclaim this Constitution in order to:  
Safeguard and build on the rich heritage won through tireless struggle, bequeathed us by our forebears;

Affirm our sovereignty, our independence, and our indissolubility; Forge a system of governance that promotes concerted effort and broad-based participation in national decision-making in order to develop a viable economy and a harmonious community based on democratic values, social justice, fundamental human rights, and the rule of law;”

The aforementioned quote taken from the Preamble of Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is the platform on which the core Pillars of the United Republican Party Rest.



### **URP four Core Pillars are:**

<b>Action With Sympathy and Empathy</b>	<b>Politics with Ethics</b>	<b>Science with Spirituality</b>	<b>Religion With Tolerance</b>
---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------

## **United Republican Secretariat**

48 South New Road, Vree4enHoop, west coast, Demerara. Office: 592-254-0078 / 592-254-1799 Cell: 651-3825 or 662-4555

Email: [ybandhu@aol.com](mailto:ybandhu@aol.com) Website: [www.urp.org](http://www.urp.org) FB: United Republican Party/Guyana

Twitter: [gguyanaurp](https://twitter.com/gguyanaurp) Internet Radio: [www.urp.fastcast4u.com](http://www.urp.fastcast4u.com)

# The URP's Vision for Democracy in Guyana



## A Glimpse AT URP's Projected Five Year Achievements

The United Republican Party will undertake the re-opening of the Aluminum Plant and the construction of a new Wismar- McKenzie Bridge which was previously spoken of by our leader Dr. Vishnu Bandhu in the March 22, 2018 issue of The Republican, the party's Newspaper, in which issue the development of the Tiger Hill Hydro-Power Project was also addressed. This project is estimated to produce 28 mega-watts of electricity to feed the aluminum plant and the residents of Linden and other areas of region ten.

Another major development plan would be the establishment of a clay-brick factory and a Kaolin Plant in the Linden area, providing large scale employment.

The United Republican Party will also modernize the Guyana Sugar Industry with the development of a Bio Ethanol Plant.

- Increase in old age pension and public assistance
- Free internet service for families earning less than 100,000 a month
- Refinery to be built that processes waste products. Over 6,000 items are made from petroleum by-products, including fertilizer, flooring (floor covering), perfume, insecticide, petroleum jelly, soap, vitamins, and some essential amino acids.
- International Marketing Agency
- Revisit Oil contract
- School of Technology and Robotics Engineering
- Lands and Survey Restructuring
- Relocation the Georgetown Prison away from the city.
- Free educational facility of Mining in Linden
- Putting Guyanese First with Employment
- Regional contracts must be awarded to contractors with workforce, that are resident to that particular Region in which the works are to be carried out.
- Bringing back a National Airline and Flag Carrier.

**B**y any measure, democracy can be described as a governing system in which the central power is vested with the voting population. In such a system, government and the officials that make such a government are legally and morally obligated to attend to the needs of its citizens. By extension, in a democratic system, supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by the people or by their elected representatives under a free and fair electoral system.

Since our independence in May 1966, Guyanese have not really had a chance to experience a prolonged period of stable democratic government. The PNC, when in power, abolished the basic elements of democracy in its quest to build the Burnhamite dictatorship. The PPP came into office amid a great deal of national and international support in 1992. The expectation was that with the democratic opening that occurred after the 1992 elections, PPP leaders would reconstruct the fragile Guyanese political system to create institutions that would ensure that a democratic political order would be established. However, the opportunity to do so has been woefully squandered by the then ruling PPP. Who came into office and mimicked in many ways the actions of the dictatorial Burnhamite PNC.

Much of their leadership style, which was clearly evident under the leadership of the previous president was guided by a desire to centralize political control. In reality, the policies of the past and present governments have served to benefit a small group of loyal supporters, while the majority of the Guyanese people still live in poverty. The failure to build a sustainable democracy in Guyana was compounded by a number of factors, all of which have contributed to the erosion of democracy in this young nation.

Included among these factors are preferential treatment for loyal party supporters, widening the gap between rich and poor, a failed education system, migration of skilled persons, increased drug trafficking and money laundering, widespread corruption, and very vindictive governments that consider all non-supporters as enemies.

In 2015 a coalition party APNU (Main Components being PNC and AFC) won the elections and once again the Guyanese populace was excited, expecting that a new beginning will ensue. This was not to be; the new faced APNU returned to the fold with the same old tactics of the PNC and continues to govern by the same undemocratic mean.

Guyana needs a government that can provide hope for the future, trust in its people and stability in government. It is only then can we begin to establish a governing system that will work to work securing the social, political and economic interests of ALL Guyanese.

The United Republican Party (URP) will work with any political party and qualified, honest and sincere individuals in Guyana and Guyanese in the diaspora after the general election to support, build and establish democratic institutions that will serve the interests of all of Guyana's citizens. The URP will work with other local and regional organizations, international organizations and support groups, and sympathetic governments to help put Guyana on a democratic path, a path where a working democracy will create conditions in our society that will enable all Guyanese to help transform our society into one that recognizes the great potential of its citizens. More importantly, the URP will continue to work with its grassroots support to build such a system from the bottom up.



Message From:

# The Presidential Candidate of the United Republican Party

Fellow Guyanese, Brothers and Sisters I am proud to once again, avail myself to serve as the Presidential Candidate for the United Republican Party (URP). Five years have gone by and the citizenry of our country continues to suffer. I have said it before and I am saying it again “It is time for this confounded nonsense to stop”.

I believe with the dawn of this new era in Guyana, we also need new and fresh leadership with inclusive thinking that will ensure every Guyanese share in the wealth of this beloved country. The fact that Guyana is poised to take a quantum leap on the world stage because of enormous oil wealth that is pending, signals the need for fair and honest leadership. I am still of the belief that over the last five years the actions of the APNU (PNC/AFC Major stakeholders in the coalition) has demonstrated that they do not have what it takes to marshal and pilot the country out of the Social, Economic, and Political turmoil that has plagued us since our independence. Many are optimistic that the wealth the country is about to benefit from will transform the country. I believe if the wealth is not managed properly the country will suffer even more than it has in the past.

Taking these factors into consideration, the URP is continuing with its theme crafted for the 2015 elections. Our vision was then, and still now is, for Guyana to be transformed into a **Modern and Safe Country**. I am sure that as a people we will all come aboard and help to realize this dream.

Under the PPP/ C we have seen a very unstable economy influenced by a parallel economy that killed our economic prosperity and created fear as it relates to our national security. This same fear for our personal safety has continued under the APNU led government. We have also seen officials anxious to fill their pockets, no decency is of self is left.

Today we are still scared as our homeland security has become so ineffective that many go to sleep in fear at night. We have seen daylight crime rise and the blatant disrespect for the law has become the norm of the day.

We all need to live in a safe and decent society to enjoy the fruits of the wealth that is just before us. We cannot achieve any of the aforementioned goals if we remain complacent and continue to vote in the same manner we, as a nation, have done for decades. I urge you to assess the political climate of this country carefully and to go to the polls with a clear understanding of who you are as a person, what your goals are, and which political party can help you to achieve those goals. Ask yourself “Is there a Place at the Table for Me”? I Assure you, my Brothers and Sisters, there is a place for everyone once you vote URP.

**Presidential Candidate**  
**United Republican Party**  
**Dr. Vishnu Bandhu**  
**Business Mogul**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE OF THE UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY

This is an extremely special moment for me, to be entrusted the honour and responsibility of serving as the Prime Ministerial Candidate of the United Republican Party.

In the face of my upcoming duty, I feel humbled but at the same time privileged. I am grateful to the Party's Leader, Dr. Vishnu Bandhu, for giving me the opportunity to work for the better of the Party and Guyana, and I will strive in every way to be worthy of his and the Party's confidence, to fulfill my duties the best I can.

Over the years of association with the URP, I have been a witness to how intensely, sincerely and energetically Dr. Bandhu has represented the URP in Guyana and around the world, showing forth the role of the URP as initiators and enablers of change- A force of change. During my tenure as Prime Ministerial Candidate I will continue to promote the policies of the Party in their crucial task in society. I firmly believe that the URP exerts an impact on society and development by fostering equal opportunities for all.

I am proud to be a part of the URP, a party that is leading the way for good works and positive change in the country, fighting for a prosperous safe and sustainable Guyana. It is therefore with true humility that I look forward to the upcoming General and Regional Elections and to continue my inspiring work. I urge you to join us as we continue to strive to build a Modern and Safe Guyana. Our symbol is the cow head, vote for us, the United Republican Party on elections day.

Marcia Allison Lewis  
Minister of Religion  
Prime Ministerial Candidate



VOTE

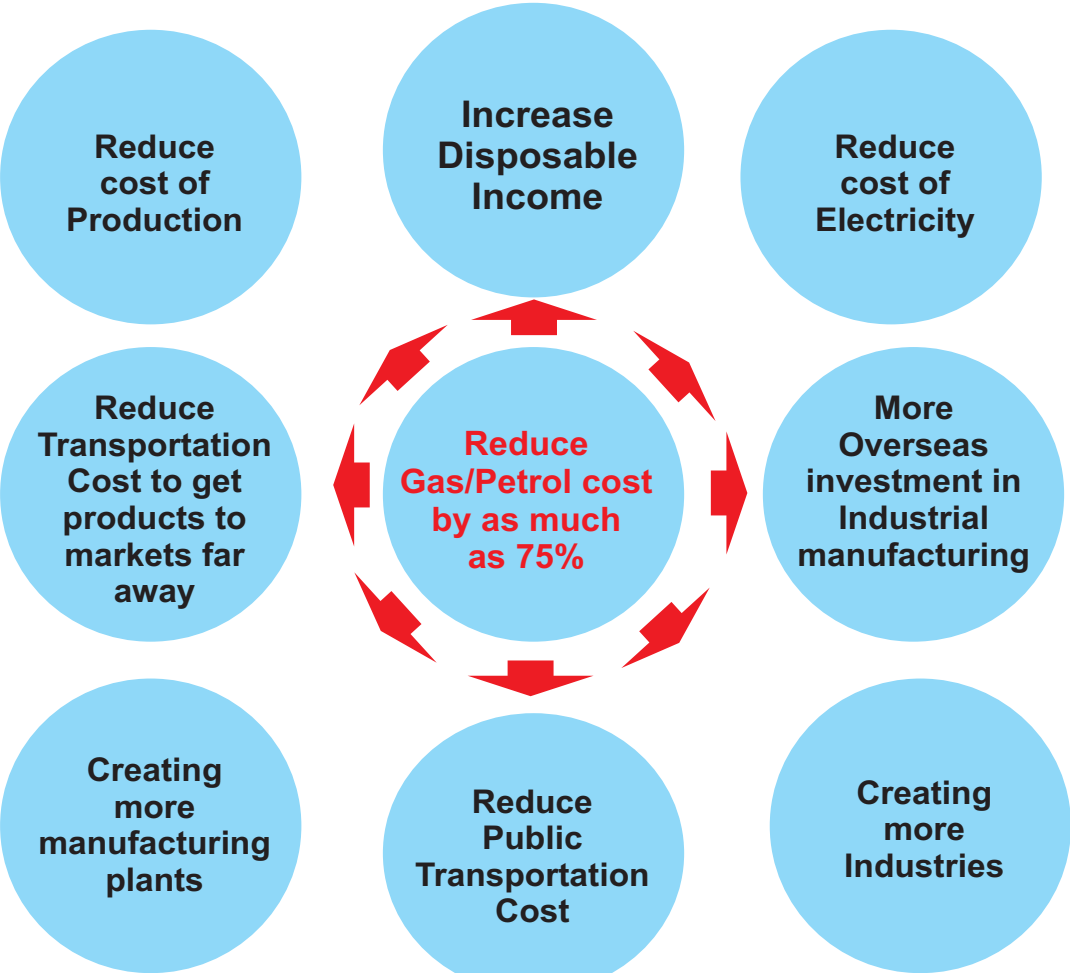


# A Glimpse AT URP's Projected Five Year Achievements

## URP's FIRST 90 DAYS IN GOVERNMENT

The United Republican Party First 90 Days in Office will aspire to achieve the following:

➤ **Reduce Gas/Petrol cost by as much as 75%**



All resulting in the reduction of cost of living and the increase of job creation

- Present Legislation in Parliament to stop the carnage on our roads (Points System for drivers and stiffer penalties for habitual traffic offenders)
- Ensure that existing established laws are enforced
- Launch an Economic Stimulus Program that will bring relief to a wide cross-section of Guyanese
- Initiate a Poverty Eradication Program (PEP).
- Introduce Unemployment benefits backed by Technical & Vocational Training; and Retraining.
- Initiate Constitutional Reform
- Commence reform of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS)

### OBJECTIVES

To present to Guyanese a manifesto that encapsulates programs that will move the Guyanese economy in a positive direction.

- To set up, at all levels, administration that will ensure the basic needs of modern living, and that which is enshrined in our constitution, namely, food, potable water, housing, primary health care, electric power access, road,/waterways, base education (literacy/ numeracy/skill), recreation/of social amenities, among others are available in a fair and just manner to all Guyanese;
- To promote self-reliance through active and practical encouragement of small and medium scale industrial initiatives, with specific emphasis on the cultivation of non-traditional agricultural products.
- To establish a policy of poverty eradication through active government intervention in youth training which will positively impact youth unemployment and redundancy;
- To protect, promote and elevate the status of womanhood through various deliberate equalization methods such as equal salary for equal employment;
- To provide more benefits for pensioners, the handicapped, widows and the unemployed;
- To protect the rights and privileges of children, including the unborn child,
- Foster liberty; enhance confidence, inculcate patriotism and nationalism, galvanize national unity and increase the quantum of happiness among Guyanese.
- To enhance primary health care, especially to the hinterland areas with specific emphasis on Amerindian villages and other settlements not readily accessible.
- Enhancing compulsory basic education especially to the hinterland areas with specific emphasis on Amerindian villages and other settlements not readily accessible.
- To sponsor scientific research for technological development in agriculture, mining and tropical diseases affecting Guyana;
- To undertake any other activities or programs that would usher in positive change for the lasting benefit of all Guyanese.
- To represent the interest of the Guyanese masses by participation in key and strategic sectors of the economy e.g. the sugar industry, rice trade and marketing; aggressive pursuit of nontraditional agricultural products; telecommunications; housing; fiscal/monetary control; scientific research and technological development specifically related to developing non- traditional sectors in relations to mining, etc.
- To create a hospitable private sector atmosphere for manufacturing and production businesses to thrive and prosper in Guyana; while ensuring proper protection for local industries and manufacturers.
- To provide leadership, strategic and economic support (where appropriate and possible) to Guyanese in the Diaspora;
- To honor international treaties, support and promote international cooperation between and among friendly nations and contribute socially, culturally and economically to the maintenance of world peace and order.
- To defend the territorial integrity and unity of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.
- To actively entrench, encourage and regard observance of the nation's ethical values and morality, especially truth, justice, honesty, equity, and the fear of God.
- To wage an ideological, moral, constitutional/legal war against corrupt practices, ethnic prejudices, and indiscipline in private and public life;
- To undertake all innovative activities that would eliminate or reduce poverty and illiteracy.
- Free internet service for families earning less than G\$ 100,000 per month.
- Present legislation in Parliament to address the carnage on our roads. ( points system for drivers and stiffer penalties for habitual traffic offenders ).
- Ensure that existing laws are enforced.

# Pillar # 1 Setting the stage for a Modern and Safe Guyana



As a nation, we have come to the crossroads of our future and that of our future generations. This is a significant time, a turning point, and we are here because most of our citizens are disillusioned.

Disillusioned, not because of what we have become as a nation, but because we know where we should be as a country. Our failed Economy gives Guyana a unique chance to confront persistent challenges and the many structural defects in our constitution. Our country, after five decades of purposeless drift, must now set itself to the important task and higher goal of facing up to the painful truth; which is to correct constitutional and structural imbalances; to remove Government erected barriers against self-reliance and allow economic emancipation for all; to replace a struggling economy with a vibrant and progressive economy; without which development will continue to elude us as a people and a nation.

The United Republican Party's vision is to remove all persons of all political persuasions who have cultivated, nurtured, and continue to nurture this culture. The Party's platform is to present to all Guyanese a vision for a **Modern and Safe Guyana**. Ensuring all people of this country have a chance to live comfortably. The URP is certain this reflects the views of countless Guyanese all across our country, who believe in Politics with Ethics; Religion with Tolerance; Action with Sympathy and Empathy; and Science with Spirituality.

This platform makes it clear that we are the party that is willing to put partisan politics,

racism, social and cultural differences aside, and concentrate on our country's development. We are the party that follows its bold words with bold deeds. A party you can believe, a party that puts God first.

*The URP has a special calling — to advance the principles of freedom, dismantle governance that has raped our country and trampled upon the dignity and worth of every individual. By so doing, the URP believes these principles form the foundation of both an agenda for Guyana over the next five years and the platform for our party. They point us toward reforms in government, a restoration of lost values, and a renewal of our National Motto – One People, One Nation, and One Destiny.*

Our party is aware of the challenges facing our country. After decades of bitter division in national politics, economic wealth and racism, our party will bring people together, using the very things that divide us as a powerful force for unity, healthy competition and development, calling all citizens to common goals, a party that will lead a government that is all-inclusive, where economic wealth is equitably distributed, and where we can move away from identifying each other by ethnicity rather than by nationality. To longstanding challenges, the URP brings a modern perspective and original ideas. All this pillared on a bold Economic Stimulus Program (ESP), which will encapsulate a Poverty Eradication Program (PEP).

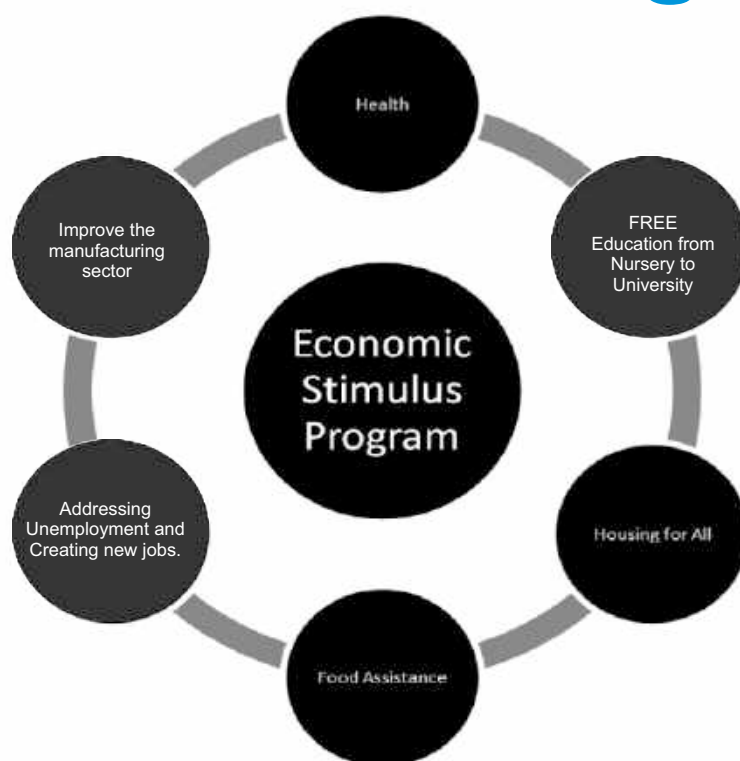
## Pillar # 2 Economic Stimulus Program



The United Republican Party (URP) would be dedicated and committed once elected as the new government after the March 2020 General Elections. As the government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the URP will institute policies designed to bring relief to the economy and to assist in eradicating poverty. The main purpose of the proposed Economic Stimulus Package will be to encourage consumer spending and gradually increasing the standard of living of all Guyanese.

*We, at the URP, believe with increased consumer spending on locally produced goods and services, stimulation and encouragement of industrialization will emerge in an attempt to supply the increase in demand for goods and services; this would result in creating new and explosive employment opportunities; hence recession can be reversed.* The Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) for Guyana will be tabled after elections in the 12th Parliament by the United Republican Party (URP).

The package will be designed with the intention to quickly jump-start Guyana's economic growth, create thousands of new jobs, with the aim of offering relief to the thousands of youth currently unemployed



### The need for the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP)

The plan's main purpose is to put Guyanese back to work; to stem the destruction of the fabric of Guyana social infrastructure, and to instill the confidence needed by local and foreign investors and the Guyanese public to restore and catalyze economic growth and recovery in Guyana.

The URP's biggest challenge will be to ensure systems are in place to safeguard the working of the program. As such, a Poverty Eradication Program Secretariat (PEPS) will be established.

## URP's Economic Action Plan will:

- Make investments to assist the wide cross-section of youth currently unemployed in gaining much needed technical and vocational skills and experience.
- Initiate projects to better connect workers over the age of 50 to potential employers. There are lots of already trained persons who are currently unemployed or underemployed who need jobs that will fully utilize their skills.
- Invest to enable more Guyanese with disabilities to obtain work experience with small and medium-sized businesses.
- Support small and medium-sized businesses and their workers by making loans and training, respectively, available.
- Subsidizing professional and skilled workers of Small and Medium-sized businesses to ensure they are profitable.

Promote job creation by initiating and supporting the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in the execution developmental infrastructure of the capital city and other major towns across the country; investing in transportation infrastructure, including a major roads to strategic parts of the country; development and maintenance of ports; and providing funding for community public infrastructure facilities.

### Benefits of PEP

*The Economic Stimulus Program for Guyana will bring relief to families with income not exceeding GY\$ 100,000 per month, in the following areas. The income will be assessed based on single-parent families or families with a combined income of GY\$100,000.00 per month. Direct Poverty Relief to every household will be based on eligibility for the provision catered for in the Poverty Eradication Package offered under the various specified areas.*

### Specialized Areas Under PEP

- *Monthly subsidy on the purchase of products and services produced locally. These products will be specifically classified to include basic food supplies including items such as rice, sugar, flour, milk, cooking oil, etc, - Specifically intended to relieve poverty and to jumpstart growth and expansion in manufacturing, packaging and labeling, canning and the bottling industries.*
- *Monthly aid for infants (Birth to Two years) on supplies including pampers, baby milk, and other products associated with nutrition for babies - offering relief to single parents.*
- *Subsidy for students attending the University of Guyana for – helping the University of Guyana (UG) students with their out of pocket expenses*
- *Yearly tax refunds on a mortgage payment for families with income not exceeding GY\$100,000.00*
  - widening the spectrum of opportunity for Middle- and Lower-Class Guyanese to own their own homes. Guyanese will benefit from this relief for the next three years. This tax rebate will be paid out yearly when Tax Returns are filed.
- *Uniforms and school supplies for all students from nursery to secondary.*
- *Unemployment benefits; in order to qualify for these benefits, persons would have to be unemployed, be registered with Ministry of Labour Recruitment and Placement Agency, and receiving training in a recommended area. Such persons will receive the benefit for a period of three months, after which, it is expected that they would have secured jobs*
- *Increase in Old-Age Pensions and investment in programs geared towards improving Health-Care for the elderly and the indigent.*

### Administration of the Program

The URP's biggest challenge will be to ensure systems are in place to safeguard the working of the program. As such a Poverty Eradication Secretariat (PEPS) will be established.

PEPS will be responsible for the execution of the program in conjunction with all other stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; The Guyana Revenue Authority, The Ministry of Human Services, The Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations( NGOs ) and a wide cross-section of faith-based organizations.

- PEPS will be directly responsible for the implementation and execution of the day to day administration of the program.

### Categories of persons EXPECTED TO Benefit

*PEP is intended to benefit a wide cross section of the Guyanese populace, including but not limited to:*

*Cane Cutters  
Sugar Workers  
The Police Force  
Guyana Defense Force  
Teachers  
Nurses  
Firemen/Women  
Prison Officers  
Public Service workers  
Private sector workers  
Rice Farmers and others.*

### Qualification For PEP

To qualify for the PEP program, the following must be fulfilled:

- One must be a citizen of Guyana, living, working or attending school in Guyana.
- If you are unemployed, you must be registered with the unemployment office and receiving training /retraining.
- One must have a valid Taxpayer Identification Number ( TIN) from the GRA
- Every member of the household must be either attending school, gainfully employed, or registered for unemployment or an old age pensioner.
- Total income must not exceed G\$ 100,000 per month.



# Pillar # 3 Creating a Modern Economy

The Guyana economy has numerous challenges. Unemployment is conservatively put at the highest in our country's history. Inflation has run away into hundreds of percent. The Guyana currency needs to regain ground as it keeps slipping, almost without worth domestically and internationally.

The framework for a Modern and Safe Guyana Economy must be set against a backdrop that brings hope and opportunities; a framework that reforms the tax code, makes allowances for wealth creation at all levels, eliminates barriers to self-reliance, eliminates constitutional defects, allows us to create foreign exchange, decentralizes infrastructure to engender local solutions to local problems, institutionalize a government where work is the order of the day and unemployment is a thing of the past. The result would be tremendous growth within the URP's First Term.

## TAX & VAT:

The URP is committed to the economics of inclusion, a set of tax reforms that engenders self-supporting principles, and one that will let people keep more of what they earn and accelerate the movement up the opportunity ladder

The URP, therefore, endorses the principles of Tax with a Purpose - Replacing the nation's unfair tax system with a simple code that has a better sliding scale that allows the Middle and lower class to really enjoy benefits. ***As such under the Tax Code for a Modern and Safe Guyana, the URP will level the playing field, giving the Middle Class more tax breaks, while setting the ground for an increase of the Middle Class and the shrinking of the Lower Class. In a true democracy, the Middle Class is the engine of growth. As such, a revamped Middle Class under the URP will allow our economy to once again grow, as more citizens will contribute in a more tangible way to the tax system.***

Our growth-oriented tax code will be the engine to a lasting economic boom, and shall be used to:

- ***Encourage entrepreneurship and targeted growth of the private sector.***
- ***Promote Research and Development.***
- ***Promote charitable giving and education.***

This is more than just an economic program to promote growth and job creation. It is our blueprint for the kind of society we want for our



children and grandchildren.

Income taxes and payroll taxes are the most obvious parts of the public's tax burden directly tied to the government. This is the type of taxation that should be encouraged in order to foster public scrutiny and government accountability. Indirect taxes, such as Sales Taxes, Value Added Taxes, Excise Taxes, and User Fees will be reviewed and made comfortable. These kinds of taxes shift the burden to the consumer while exempting the government from direct responsibility. Unpopular governments use these taxes to shift public resentment to the businesses that are forced to collect them.

***Under a URP Government, the Middle and Lower Class workers will begin to receive returns on what they have invested in. They will receive the following: Yearly tax rebates on timely submission of tax returns Yearly rebates on Mortgage Payments, this will work as an incentive and an encouragement to persons who own homes.***

A URP led Government will not lobby for a reduction of VAT but will use the proceeds of a better-regulated VAT collection system to support its Economic Stimulus Programme which is intended to ensure every Guyanese enjoy the fruits of a Modern and Safe Guyana.

# Pillar # 4 House Ownership

Every Guyanese has a dream to own a home. Homeownership is cited as a major pillar in the drive by the URP to create a Modern and Safe Guyana, where every family has access to facilities such as mortgage and loan advances to build their home. This is integral to an expanding economy. The United Republican Party (URP) wants to make homeownership more accessible for everyone. This will start with access to capital for everyone and access to credit for everyone. To sustain economic growth, the URP Government will commit to assisting thousands of low-income families move from renting to owning their homes via a Poverty Eradication Program (PEP) encapsulated in our Economic Stimulus Program.

A URP government will guarantee affordable low interest long-term mortgage loans to families under PEP. These mechanisms will be intended to open up more housing opportunities. URP will look for solutions the problem of overpriced housing, where the monthly rent of the household is insufficient to pay monthly mortgage installments for a home.

Affordable housing is in the national interest. Balanced national housing policy must recognize that decent housing includes apartments, and addresses the needs of all citizens, including families paying rent.

***URP will take an in-depth look at existing housing projects in all areas, For example - West Ruimveldt and other Housing Schemes that have Range Houses and houses originally built for first-time homeowners and where families have outgrown the current homes, with a direct aim of revitalizing such schemes. These homes will be upgraded under a special program.***

***The existing houses will be evaluated and the owners will be encouraged to use the value of their current homes to purchase larger homes in newly developed areas.***

***The existing houses will be upgraded and sold at the equity value to new house owners, giving first-time house owners an opportunity to get into homes.***



URP commits to open housing, without favoritism, quotas or lengthy bureaucratic controls, and we will encourage proactive efforts by the Realty and Housing industries to assure affordable access for every-one.

In many areas, housing prices are higher than they need to be because regulations that have not been reviewed for years, drive up property and building costs. Some regulation is, of course, necessary, and so is sensible zoning. The URP will empower The Municipal and Local Government authorities to work with local builders and lenders to eliminate unnecessary burdens that price many families out of the market. We also encourage the modification of restrictions that inhibit the rehabilitation of existing buildings.

# Pillar #5

## Small Businesses

We affirm that the small business is where prosperity starts. These are the stalls/stores in the marketplace, the corner shops, and neighborhood centers. Small businesses are the underlying pillar of a vibrant economy. It is the place where the man on the street creates and sustains his wealth. If the small business is successful, the economy will follow. If it fails, the larger economy fails as well. Small businesses create most of the jobs and they are a measure of the opportunities within the community. They are the primary engines of economic advance by the Guyanese trader man or woman. The more entrants to this sector, the more success in the nation's economy. The summation of the micro-economies equals the macro-economy. It stands to reason that once the people's businesses grow, so does the country's economy. Therefore, a URP Government effort would be to develop and implement policies that support the growth of the trader in the marketplace. This is a key ingredient to unleash sustainable economic growth. In a dynamic and enduring economy, small businesses generate more than half the gross domestic product. Any other equation is a mirage. Inherent in a small business is the willingness to give people a chance and the ability to train individuals new to the workforce.

**A URP Government will provide initiatives, such as:**

- **Lower tax rates**
- **Minimum red tape**
- **Limited legal and product liability**
- **The aggressive expansion of regional and overseas markets for goods and services.**
- **Set up Regulatory Bodies to liaise with Trade Unions and other Organisations to protect small businesses from corruption and corrupt**



**officials.**

- **Ensuring contribution to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) is a major challenge for small business owners. Self-employed businessmen and women or workers employed by small businesses are generally delinquent in N.I.S. contributions. This is one area that the government must focus on, to implement cooperative initiatives to ensure small businesses nation-wide have mechanisms in place for N.I.S. and Income Tax compliance.**
- **The establishment of an Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank which will cater to the needs of the small farmers and small businesses, ensuring that they have readily available financial assistance, if necessary, to stay in business.**

# Pillar #6

## TRADE - Economic Freedom

International trade has become the world's most powerful economic force. International trade is not the creation of the world's rulers, but of the world's peoples, who strive for a better future. The result is today's global economy of open markets in democratic nations.

**For our economy to grow, we must overcome the welfare mentality that keeps us imprisoned in a few export products, for example Rice, Sugar, Timber and Gold/Diamond which constitute almost our entire economy.**

Guyana can be a key player in the international market for a number of agro-based products. This is where our strength lies. A URP led Government commits to a call for action, not mere words. In general, average wages in export-related industries are significantly higher than those of domestically focused industries. As for agriculture, expanding exports is the key to regaining what was lost and returning Guyana to the true position of the "food basket of the Caribbean" and the world. All agro-based government agencies will be placed under the umbrella of the Guyana Marketing Corporation and will be reformed into export-oriented aggressive concerns, with specific product strength set by regional location. There is no point in spending lots of government money for decades in agencies that do not produce anything but hide under the pretext of being research facilities. Success should be measured by the capacity of such agencies to meet their specific product quotas for export or local consumption. Non-performing agencies will be re-assessed.

We should go back to the agricultural co-operatives of old, using the agro-based agencies as clearinghouses for pre-harvest and post-harvest support and resources for the local farmer and the co-operatives. New ideas in small and low-cost mechanization will be developed and directed to the local farmer.



# Pillar # 7 Technology – In a Modern and Safe Guyana

Governments do not create wealth, the people do - through creativity and enterprise and risk taking. With information technology, people in bondage can taste freedom, and people in freedom can bond more securely with each other. People who used to work for others can now be independent entrepreneurs, and persons can directly access information and transact business in relatively short periods of time.

URP has embraced this mental Modernization concept, for it advances the central values of our party and our country: a reduced role for the central government, greater personal liberty, economic freedom, reliance on the market and decentralized decision making. This is the national revolution rewarding creativity, hard work, tenacity, and a willingness to take risks.

The URP recognizes that the role of government in a Modern Economy is to foster an environment where innovation can flourish. The Information Revolution is the product of the creative efforts and hard work of men and women in the private sector, and not of government bureaucrats. At the same time, we recognize the magnitude and pace of change require vigilance to make the most of its opportunities and to mitigate its possible difficulties. For what we have experienced thus far is surely only the beginning of almost inconceivable growth, change, and upward mobility. Let others be fearful in the face of it, but let our country grasp the opportunity and join the brave.

The impact of the Internet on the daily workings of government to make it more responsive and citizen-centered is an important aspect of laying the platform for a Modern and Safe Guyana. Democracy thrives on well-informed citizens, and with this initiative, the public will have unprecedented access to the workings of government, including the voting records of their legislative members and the written opinions of judges, whose decisions will now be available for review in the court of public opinion. We commit to global markets and free trade.

We must cultivate and maintain a highly educated workforce so that continued progress need not depend on imported personnel. Instead of burdening schools with red tape and narrow government programs, we will give them maximum flexibility in using Government/state education technology dollars to meet their specific needs — whether it be for computers, teacher training, software development, or systems integration.

***We must speed up the research and innovation that drive technological progress.***

***We must protect the technology industry from modern-day pirates at home and abroad: both those who violate copyrights and those who loot by litigation.***

***We must restrain the hand of the government so that it cannot smother or slow the growth of worldwide commerce and communication through the Internet.***

➤ ***We must encourage the government at all levels to work with the private sector to ensure that the Internet is a medium for everyone. URP embraces a creative, incentive-based, public/private approach to solving national technology problems, and a URP president will use the influence of his office to urge high-tech philanthropy, such as the creation of one community technology center every year in each Administrative area. The centers will provide such services as free Internet access and technology skills training.***

The government also has a responsibility to protect personal privacy, which is the single greatest concern people have about the Information Revolution. Citizens must have the confidence that their personal privacy will be respected in the use of technology by both business and government. That privacy is an essential part of our personal freedom and our family life, and it must not be sacrificed in the name of progress. At the same time, consumers should have the benefit of new products, services, and treatments that result from the legitimate use of data with appropriate safeguards.



Under the United Republican Party (URP) leadership, a Modern and Safe Guyana will move away from an irresponsible and destructive culture that has impacted our education system for much too long. This system needs to be strengthened.

We must understand that a good and civil society cannot be developed only by government programs but must originate in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in the private institutions that bring us together. The URP calls for personal responsibility and community vigilance across the board, a culture that concentrates on only one faction of its citizenry in terms of development cannot excel. Proper achievement can only be made if it is done in a holistic manner.

The URP commits to the enduring principle that challenges ought to be approached with compassion to evolve a society where everyone has a responsibility to follow the rules, but no one would be left behind. Real Education Improvement: Accountability & Empowering Parents No child in Guyana should be segregated by low expectations, imprisoned by illiteracy or abandoned to frustration and the darkness of self-doubt.

## Pillar # 8 Education Leave No Child Behind

We have to ask the question, “Are our schools better off today than they were in the past?” At a time of remarkable change, when a world of opportunity awaits students who are prepared for it, Guyana's colleges and universities are offering remedial courses and Guyana businesses are unable to find enough qualified or trainable workers to meet local demand. Worst of all, so many of our children, Guyana's most precious asset, are headed toward failure in school, and that will hold them back throughout their lives. The United Republican Party desires a better result. We believe that every child in this land should have access to high quality, indeed, a world-class education, and we're determined to meet that goal.

It is long past time to debate what works in education, for our schools to survive we need a collective effort from all stakeholders including strong parental involvement.

- Excellent teachers and safe, orderly classrooms.
- High academic standards.
- Commitment to teach the basics — from an early start in phonics to mastery of computer technology.
- Government programs that fail to support these fundamental principles are sadly out of date, out of sync, and if not corrected soon, out of time.
- For dramatic and swift improvement in education, we, at the URP, endorse the following principles to:
- Raise academic standards through increased local control and

# Pillar # 8 CONTINUED



- accountability to parents
- Putting Systems in place to ensure that every child who is promoted without the required academic achievement receive after school teaching.
- Ensure that all children learn to read by introducing and encouraging nationwide “Early Start Program” for pre-school children and by facilitating state reading initiatives that focus on scientifically based reading research, including phonics.

Nothing is more important than literacy, and yet many children have trouble reading. This problem must be addressed at all grade levels. And as is so often the case in education, the solution is parent and child working together with teachers to help break a cycle of illiteracy that may have extended from generation to generation. URP wants to replace that pattern with the rich legacy of reading.

The education and achievement gap between disadvantaged children and their peers are ever so wide since the previous government hardly made any serious or credible effort to integrate them into the mainstream education strata. The United Republican Party hereby commits to programs and reforms, based on the timeless principles of local control, with accountability, parental involvement, and meaningful student achievement, to rectify the tragic fiscal and human loss. To this end, the government shall assume a special responsibility to advance the education of the disadvantaged children. We cannot allow nor afford another generation of children to be written off. Qualified teachers are the vanguard of education reform. With mastery of their subjects, a contagious enthusiasm for teaching, and a heartfelt commitment to their students, they can make any school great. That is why we advocate quality pay for them and expanded opportunities for professional development. Today, however, many teachers face poverty and disrespect despite their profession. We advocate a zero-tolerance policy toward all students who disrupt the classroom and we reaffirm that school officials must have the right and responsibility to appropriately discipline all students including students with disabilities, who are disruptive or violent within the confines of the United Nations Charter for the protection of the child – to which Guyana is a signatory.

**Toward the same end, we will encourage faith-based and community organizations to take leading roles in after-school programs that build character and improve behavior. We propose to improve teacher training and recruiting by introducing Retiree-to-Teachers programs, which places retired teachers of good standing in the classroom, and by rewarding regions that enact a system for teacher accountability. We will introduce interest-free long-term teacher-student loan programs to encourage- age-qualified candidates into the profession and home grant programs to encourage qualified teachers to serve in high-need schools. As a matter of fairness, we will look for ways to help defray out-of-pocket teaching expenses, which many good teachers in private and public schools make to the benefit of their students.**

*We will strive to promote the early diagnosis of learning deficiencies. Preventive efforts in early childhood should reduce the demand for special education and help many youngsters move beyond the need for special protections.*

In the final analysis, education remains a serious responsibility. We advocate choice in education, not as an abstract theory, but as the surest way for students to be freed from failing at the regular academic structure and put onto the road to opportunity and success by enrollment in Trade / Vocational Schools.

**Higher Education:** Increased access for all is one of the most important education objectives of the United Republication Party. To make available the opportunity for post-secondary education to virtually everyone. As such, more private institutions of higher learning will be encouraged. Such institutions will be autonomous, making decisions regarding admission, curriculum, grading, and graduation, with guidelines, checks, and balances against abuse provided by the government. The ultimate goal of the nation would be to have, at a minimum, one post-secondary institution in each region in the country. resources through student loans and grants tied to specific achievements. Herein lies the solution to functional tertiary education. The challenges we face today, in the technological revolution and in the global economy, require us to continue to expand the extent and excellence of higher education. This is why we commit to programs that increase access to higher education for qualified students.

# Pillar # 9 A Modern & Safe Guyana: Seats for All at the Welcome Table



Guyana can only be successful when it is able to offer a realistic shot at a better life; when poverty becomes just a stage, not a fate; when anyone can ascend the ladder and transcend the shackles of disadvantages; when it provides hope.

URP wants to expand opportunity rather than expand the government. We want to give hope and real upward mobility to those who have never known either. It is clear that the previous administrations have failed miserably, resulting in a country that is riddled with corruption, gross inefficiency, and segregation, abject failures, if their goal was to serve the people. The time is here to act, to bring hope, to expand opportunity. Our vision is to actualize innovative reforms to successfully move families, communities and ultimately the country, away from dependency, on to the independence of work and wealth creation. It won't be easy, but the results will surely be worth the effort.

*Increase the supply of affordable housing for low-income working families and rehabilitate abandoned housing through a mix of local and government partnership initiatives. Establish corporate tax credits to create incentives for the private sector to provide affordable housing to qualified employees. Build savings and personal wealth through Individual Development Accounts, in partnership with banks, to accelerate the savings of low-income earners for home ownership and other targeted individual development goals.*

This is necessary to help conquer suicide, abuse, addiction, and hopelessness. URP will encourage an outpouring of giving by extending charity tax credits to individual and corporate taxpayers and by allowing people to make donations tax-free. The renewal of entire communities is a tremendous task and involves one human face, one human heart at a time. But the Guyanese people have the potential to work wonders. The government does have a role to play but as a partner, not a rival. These forces have roots in the areas they serve, and their leaders are people to whom the disadvantaged are not statistics, but family, neighbors, friends, and moral individuals created in the image of God. With these approaches government becomes a partner with communities and faith-based providers in supporting families and children and helping them improve their opportunities for a better life.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR LOGO

The United Republican Party chose to embrace the head of the cow as our logo since it has great significance to the earth and to many civilizations around the world. The cow signifies good. It displays respect and power. It has immense value to many people for various reasons. It symbolizes strength and courage yet at the same time displays a nurturing and



protective nature. The cow also represents patience and abundance. It is a symbol of fertility, richness, and renewal, all of which the URP intend to bring to our country. We the United Republican Party pride ourselves in having all these attributes such as respect, strength, courage, conviction, and determination in which we will exercise in making Guyana great.

# Pillar # 10

## Removing Risk; Child Abuse - Domestic Abuse - Trafficking of Persons - Stemming Suicide

URP recognizes the importance of a functional home in the life of any child. The family still provides the best environment of stability, discipline, responsibility, and character. Documentation shows that where a parent is delinquent, children are more likely to commit a crime, drop out of school, become violent, become teen parents, take illegal drugs, become mired in poverty, or have emotional or behavioral problems.

The participation of faith-based and community groups will be especially important in dealing with problems such as teen-age pregnancy, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, rise in violent crime, suicide and homelessness, to name a few. Reducing negative factors and ushering in hope is the surest way to begin the healing process. After-school programs should be fully open to the community and faith-based groups that know best how to reach out to our children and help them reach their true potential. URP recognizes that children often pay the highest price in families where drug addiction and the daily reality of violence exist. We will support programs to remedy such problems through a mix of governmental and faith-based initiatives.

Still, there is no substitute for presidential leadership, whether internationally or here at home, where Guyana's families cry out for safe, drug-free, and functional schools. A URP president will hear those cries and work with parents to protect children. We will bring accountability to anti-drug programs, promote those that work, and cease operations for those that waste resources. Equally important, in a URP administration, anti-narcotic laws will be enforced to aggressively pursue drug dealers, from the kingpins to the street dealers. Illegal drugs and alcohol abuse are closely related to the incidence of child abuse.

The URP Government will initiate programs to help both children and adults in abusive or neglectful families, with priorities on preventive and family support services. We must introduce a functional child protection system, with accountability, to oversee willful or accidental neglect, ranging from physical and psychological abuse to commercial exploitation of the Guyanese child. URP believes that any child ought to be in school rather than being used for commercial benefit or any other enterprise during normal school seasons.

For many of those children, adoption may be the only route to a stable and loving home.



The government at all levels would work with the charitable and faith-based groups that provide adoption services to remove the obstacles they sometimes encounter in their efforts to unite children in need with families who need them.

We advocate government efforts to help the many children of prisoners through mentoring, and family rebuilding programs. These children are often ignored victims of crime. Early intervention into their plight is essential to reduce the cycle of violence and to save a child. ***We would be tough on criminals but compassionate towards their children.***

# Pillar # 11

## Renewing Family and Community

Individual rights and the responsibilities that go with them are the foundation of a free society. In protecting those rights, and in asserting those responsibilities, we affirm the common good and common goals that should unite all Guyanese. We are the party of the open door, determined to strengthen the social, cultural, and political ties that bind us together and make our country a great force for good in Guyana and beyond. Steadfast in our commitment to our ideals, we recognize that members of our party can have deeply held and sometimes differing views. This diversity is a source of strength, not a sign of weakness, and so we welcome into our ranks all who may hold differing positions. We commit to resolving our differences with civility, trust, and mutual respect.

# Pillar # 12

## Family Matters

The family is society's central core of energy. That is why efforts to strengthen and better family life are the surest way to improve life for everyone. We must rely on the home to instill the virtues that sustain democracy itself.

Just as environmental pollution affects our physical health, so, too, does the pollution of our culture affect the health of our communities. There is much to celebrate in contemporary culture, but also, much to deplore: The glorification of violence, the glamorizing of drugs, the abuse of women and children, whether in music or videos, advertising, or sensational journalism.

A URP Government will support and encourage individuals and organizations using their power as citizens and consumers to advance cultural modernization in all aspects of the Guyanese life.

Their efforts will be critically important in this Information Age, which, with all its tremendous benefits, brings a major challenge to families, when there are reports that porn sites are the most frequently accessed on the Internet, it is time for parents at home and communities through their public institutions to take action. We will endorse legislation to require schools and libraries to secure their computers against on-line porn and predators if they are connected to the Internet. This is not a question of free speech or freedom of association. Kids should not be victims of filth, and porn addicts should not use school library facilities for their addiction. Although Guyana is yet to join the revolution, now is the time to act, not when it is too late.



# Pillar # 13 Upholding the Rights of All/Quality Health Care

Quality Health Care: A URP Commitment to all. The equality of individuals is the law that has always been a cornerstone of our party. We, therefore, oppose discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, ability, ethnicity or national origin and will vigorously enforce anti-discrimination statutes. As we strive to forge a national consensus on the crucial issues of our time, we call on all Guyanese to reject the forces of hatred and bigotry. Accordingly, we denounce all who practice or promote racism, ethnic prejudice, and religious intolerance.

We believe rights are inherent in individuals, not in groups. We will attain our nation's goal of equal opportunity without favoritism, quotas or other forms of preferential treatment. It is as simple as this: No one should be denied a job, promotion, contract, or chance at higher education because of their race, ethnic origin, gender, religion or disability. An equal access, energetically offered, should guarantee every person a fair shot based on their potential and merit.

An essential part of a culture that respects life is the integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities. URP will pursue initiatives in research and practical assistance that can help individuals with disabilities live independently, hold jobs and take part in the daily life of their communities.

We affirm the right of individuals to voluntarily participate in labor organizations and to bargain collectively. We, therefore, support the right of governments to enact Right-to-Work laws. No one should be forced to contribute to a political campaign or a political candidate,

# Pillar # 15 Justice and Safety in a Modern and Safe Guyana

Most Guyanese over the age of forty remember a time when villages, towns, streets and high- ways were safe, doors were often left unlocked and windows unbarred. A time when high-rise walls and security wires did not imprison us in our homes. The elderly did not live in fear and the young did not die in execution style murders, sometimes perpetrated by the service men to whom we dole out tax payers dollars to secure us. Kidnapping was unheard of, and corruption was a scorned, shameful and reprehensible act.

*That world is now gone, swept away in the social upheaval provoked by the poverty now plaguing our economy, which introduced the notion that wealth can be attained without enterprise and hard work.*

*We cannot go back to that time of innocence, but we can go forward, step by challenging step,*

*to recreate respect for law. Most of that effort must come at the community and local levels, where it is universally acknowledged that the primary responsibility for law enforcement resides.* A URP led Government, with the support of community and local leaders will take a zero tolerance approach to crime, and community policing groups will be empowered under a decentralized law enforcement structure to implement crime fighting initiatives, with local accountability, to drastically lower crime in their sphere of influence.

At the same time, the URP recognizes the crucial leadership role the President, the National Assembly and the Judiciary should play in restoring public safety. The central leadership, in co-operation with Community leaders and local officials who are the front line against crime, should work within proper policing jurisdiction, to enact legislation for an effective deterrent penalty for offenders, restitution to victims of crime or the survivors thereof, removal of criminal aliens, vigilance against possible terrorism, and the coordination of services, personnel training, equipment and technology employed in crime fighting. The reliance of the Guyana Police Force on one central police command seated at Police Head Quarters Eve Leary can never guarantee law & order in Guyana.

In a country with eighty three thousand square miles, the Guyana Police Force cannot look effectively at policing per person only as a criterion; rather we must consider policing in terms of the volume of square miles that has to be policed. This must be done using the following guidelines

- *The involvement of huge command and control logistics that will eliminate gross inefficiency and abuse that has become the norm. To control such large areas and an already porous border will require effective communication and technological support. The expansion of the marine arm of the Guyana Police Force to work with the Guyana Defence Force Coast Guard in joint operations*
- *The Establishment of Joint Service Air Patrol, which will effectively deal with policing the massive land mass that needs to be secure.*
- *This has been the grey area in a seemingly insurmountable internal security problem in Guyana. Because of its highly centralized structure, there is no police presence in majority of the villages, rural and hinterland communities in Guyana. Law enforcement presence is often limited to Police Stations or Outposts in strategic areas, but because of the erosion of the social fabric in our society the enforcement of law and order requires a more frontal approach and as such there is a need to strengthen the numbers in the Guyana Police force and to have more combined operations with the Guyana Defence Force.*

# Pillar # 14 Six Races, One Guyana

PAGE 13

The United Republication Party recognizes that our country's ethnic diversity must share a common and unique national culture to transcend the differences that have held us hostage for the past five decades. To benefit from our diversity, we must strengthen the ties that bind us together. We must move away from identifying ourselves by ethnic differences such as 'Indo' and 'Afro' Guyanese, We are One People, One Nation, moving towards One Destiny. As such we must refer to ourselves as Guyanese.

A URP led Government will ensure that Guyana, as a country, once again engenders in its People, nationhood, and as such, patriotism must become the hallmark of our very existence. We must guard against deliberate desecration or disrespect to the symbols of national unity.

Another sign of our unity is the role of English as our official language. If we must relate to one another, we must have a common language in which to communicate. It is important that every Guyanese be able to communicate in that common language, while not forsaking our healthy and diverse creole heritage. A common language is vital if groups of diverse backgrounds have to come together to build a nation. While fluency in English should be made a necessary goal to every Guyanese, we also advocate mastery of other languages to enhance Guyana's competitiveness in the world market. We advocate foreign language training in our schools and the fostering of respect for other languages and cultures throughout our society. We believe that there is strength in our diversity. But to realize that strength, we must harness the good rather than the evil inherent in our differences. Diversity can be a good foundation for healthy competition, rather than the destructive and self-serving rivalry so commonly employed in our society today. To reap the benefits of our differences, we must educate ourselves about each other's cultures without imposing it on each other.

A URP led administration will ensure constitutional and structural substance to the ten Administrative Regions, we will promote healthy geopolitical competition in the development of the 10 Administrative Regions, no unit desiring to be left behind. As the Regions develops, so develops the nation, the central government playing the role of an umpire to ensure that no unit is left too far behind.

- *Guyana has a very unique situation where 80% of the land is occupied by 20% of the population (Hinterland) and 20% of the land is occupied by 80% of the population (Coastal Land) thereby creating a huge hiding place across the country for criminals. Due to the lack of local police presence, lots of villages are affected by crime.*

*The URP recognizes that Law & Order is the key to the infusion of foreign investment, without which industrialization and economic growth will forever elude Guyana. In order to ensure sound and sustainable security in the society, a URP government will pursue fundamental re- structuring of law enforcement, as follows:*

- *National Narcotic Strategy Master Plan.*
- *The Guyana Police Force Turnaround Plan.*
- *A URP president will:*
- *Advance an agenda to restore the public's safety.*
- *Initiate productive work requirements in prison to make criminals pay for damages resulting from their criminal activities, while also serving as effective rehabilitation program for the convicts.*
- *Increase penalties to combat the production, trafficking and use of illegal drugs.*
- *Encourage community based diversion programs for first time, nonviolent offenders. Such offenders can be easily rehabilitated, hence, the need to avoid exposure to seasoned criminals in conventional Prisons.*
- *Advance initiatives to protect victims' rights or the rights of survivors to victims of crime, at every stage of the criminal justice system.*
- *Crimes against women and children demand an emphatic response. That is why we must have a Law requiring local notification when sex offenders are released from jail, and why we advocate special penalties against thugs who, in assaults against pregnant women, harm them or their unborn children. Obscenity and child pornography laws will receive special attention.*

A URP government will review the juvenile justice system and ensure that juveniles are not bundled with seasoned criminals in common detention facilities. Juvenile crime demands special attention. Any juvenile who commits any crime while carrying a gun should automatically be detained, not released to someone's custody. URP urges authorities to consider zero tolerance for juvenile drinking and driving and early intervention to keep delinquency from escalating to crime. While recognizing the important role of both parents to the well-being of their children, we must acknowledge the critical need for positive role models for our children.

With regard to school safety, URP will encourage local school systems to develop and publicize a single system of discipline for all students who commit offenses involving drugs or violence in school.

## Clamp Down on Pillar # 16 Government Corruption

The very foundation for a free society has been under assault for decades, not only by criminals from the ground up, but also from the top down. A government that lives by evasion, cover-ups, stonewalling, corruption and duplicity has given us a totally discredited law enforcement system. The credibility of those who now manage the nation's law enforcement agencies is tragically eroded. The same goes for the credibility of the career work force, the criminal prosecutors and their foot soldiers, the rank and file of the Guyana Police Force. The politicization of decisions regarding both personnel and investigations has not helped matters either.

## Pillar # 17 Social Security/ the Elderly

The National Insurance Scheme (NIS), under a URP led government would be revamped to embrace modern technological and improved systems to better benefit contributors. A URP Government will make the NIS program a national priority. Personal contributions will be the cornerstone of the program. Each of today's workers would be given an opportunity to contribute a direct portion of their payroll taxes to personal investments for their retirement future. It is crucial that individuals be offered a variety of investment alternatives and that detailed information be provided to each participant to help them judge the risks and benefits of each plan. This is a challenge that demands the kind of presidential leadership the country has not seen before.

### Security for retired Guyanese

For most Guyanese, retirement means difficulties. URP wants to change this. In today's economy, there are far more opportunities for the elderly to have better economic security and avenues for employment after retirement must be opened up to allow for a better life. Retired persons must be given the opportunity to impart their skills and receive a reward. The URP will simplify pension laws and make it easier for more businesses, especially small businesses, to offer pension plans. The growing need for long-term care calls for long-term planning both by individuals and by government. We encourage, at all levels of government, regulatory flexibility and sensitivity to human needs in establishing nursing homes and related facilities that has quality and standards. In this area, as in so many other unheralded corners of the Guyanese life, heroic sacrifices are being made by many families to care for their mothers and fathers as their parents cared for them. This is good and very Guyanese in terms of the extended family. In a Modern Guyana economy, URP led Government will encourage further tax breaks for families who care for their parents at home, they will be recognized and rewarded for this responsibility. We will encourage tax credits for each elderly spouse, parent, or relative a family intends to keep in their own residence.

## Pillar # 18 Quality Health Care: A URP Commitment to All

We must re-engineer our health care system. This is a national urgency. The URP recognizes that an individual's health is often a reflection of the everyday choices made. While government's role is to help ensure a quality health care system, only individuals can make healthy choices.

We must acquire and translate the promise of medical research into readily available treatments, and this requires more than just money; it needs a whole new prescription for health care. That prescription is what the United Republication Party offers in the elections of 2020.

Let's start with the diagnosis; after five decades of neglect by virtually all the governments of this country, the foundations of our health care system have collapsed. We must learn how to heal ourselves.

A URP vision for a healthy Guyana embodies a modern thinking as it relates to all. Over 60% of people living in Guyana are unhealthy. Under a URP government, social standards will be improved, as such, persons will be able to eat healthier, there will be less stress and less stress related complications.

There is no doctor-patient relationship, which is the universal basis for a functional and effective health care delivery.

Another key step will be reform of malpractice law. You will be hard pressed to determine if one exists at the moment. URP commits to malpractice reforms that will discourage health care providers from concealing mistakes for fear of being vilified by the trial lawyers'. We must open up the free flow of information concerning medical errors, both to protect patients and to reduce the cost of modern medicine. Patients who are genuinely injured should be rightly compensated, but the punitive and random aspects of litigation will be restrained. Just as we hold all health care personnel to the highest standards, so too must public policy respect their ethical conscience. No individual or institution should be compelled to assist in providing any medical service that violates their moral or religious convictions.

### Women's Health

In URP, we hold dear the health and vitality of our families. Our efforts to build healthier

## Pillar # 19 Conservation, Preservation and the Exploitation of Natural resources

The United Republication Party is committed to responsible and accountable stewardship of the nation's natural resources. Guyana has vast untouched Natural Resources in the form of flora and fauna. This must be protected at all cost. The way to do so is to educate our citizens about what is conservation and allowing them to trust their innate good sense and decency to do so.

URP will develop Private/Public partnerships, rather than give our lands to foreign entities to rape our resources. URP will ensure we get back on a common track, so that both the people and their government can jointly focus on harnessing and utilizing our natural resources in the most efficient manner. URP affirms that economic prosperity and environmental protection can and must advance together. Prosperity should give our society the ability to advance environmental protection, and a thriving natural environment enhances the quality of life that makes prosperity worthwhile.

URP believes that the government's main role should be to provide market-based incentives to innovate and develop the new technologies for Guyanese to engage in regulated exploitation of our natural resources and ensure that environmental standards are met in that pursuit.

URP believes that the Government derives its legitimacy from the people, and as such should seek the people's cooperation in reaching consensus on matters vital to the security and well-being of the people. We should work cooperatively to ensure that our natural resources and environmental policies reflect the particular needs of geographic regions, localities and the residents thereof.

Natural resource and environmental policies should focus on achieving results like cleaner air, water, and land management not crafting bureaucratic processes and forcefully appropriating what belongs to the people and the localities. Where resource and environmental standards are violated, the government should apply consistent enforcement. We recognize that the very nature of resource and environmental concerns at times require government intervention. However, we affirm that a culture of sustained economic growth and progress can be cultivated when the people and localities are freed to demonstrate their unique abilities to manage local resources and solve the associated environmental problems at the local level, the government applying necessary oversight via taxes, levies, royalties, legislations and regulations.



families must begin with women, our mothers, daughters, grandmothers and grand-daughters. This nation needs far greater focus on the needs of women who have historically been under-represented in medical research and access to the proper level of medical attention. We will reverse this trend.

Across this country, and at all levels of government, we will be at the forefront in aggressively developing health care initiatives targeted specifically at the needs of women. And we will lead efforts to reach out to under-served and rural and Hinterland female populations, where disparities persist in life expectancy, infant mortality and death rates from preventable infections and other illnesses.

We are dedicated to pursuing comprehensive women's health care initiatives that include access to state-of-the-art medical advances and technology; equality for women in the delivery of health care services

The URP will increasingly focus upon health problems of the elderly, both women and men. Because nutrition is intimately related to health, we advocate vigorous government involvement in flexible nutrition programs for low-income families, the disabled, children and the elderly.

### Children's Health

This is another failed sector of the dysfunctional Guyana health system. The sobering statistics is that many of our children have died in the past decade over preventable or curable diseases. Youth drug abuse has increased exponentially. Smoking rates for youth have risen alarmingly, even among young girls, which used to be unthinkable and a taboo just about a decade ago. Birth fatalities are on the rise. So much of the suffering and deaths caused by child-hood diseases can be prevented by increasing immunization rates; by increasing resources for biomedical research; by encouraging low priced local alternatives to expensive drugs; by encouraging pharmaceutical progress; by sensible strategies against teen smoking not merely prohibition; by a real battle against illegal drugs in place etc. The URP's commitment is to address the emotional, behavioral, and mental illnesses affecting children. With parental involvement as the critical component, we can help our youth make the healthy and the right choice in avoiding risky behaviors involving alcohol, drugs, premarital sex, tobacco, and violence.

### Medical Privacy

The revolution in information and medical technology has created concerns about who has access to personal data and how it might be used. Patients and their families should feel free to share all medical information with their doctor, but they will feel safe in doing so only if that information is protected. A related concern is genetic discrimination, now that genetic testing has become a routine part of medical health care. Well-conceived, thoughtful action is clearly needed, action that will protect and not harm patients. A URP led government will work with patients, health care providers, researchers, and insurers to establish new rules for dealing with these new challenges.

# Pillar # 20

## Tourism- An Expanding Industry In Guyana

Guyana has come a long way in the Tourism Industry, though still in its youth, the country, with its huge potential for tourism, has been recognized as a prime tourism destination and is quickly becoming a major stakeholder in the global market place.

Tourism has taken off in Guyana, and under a United Republican Party administration, will become one of the country's major economic sectors, and with its successful development, will impact significantly, the socio-economic transformation of the country.

A URP led administration will develop a genuine partnership with the private sector to see the development of a viable and sustainable tourism industry.

The United Republican Party will develop and expand the country's diversified tourist product, nature and adventure tourism, yachting and birding, sports and agro-tourism, coupled with increasing in the country's cultural heritage.

Also part of the URP's Tourism Development Program, will be the re-organising and expansion of the Guyana Tourism Authority, as well as marketing aggressively on the international arena of our eco-resorts and tourist sites including the famous Kaieteur Falls.

The promotion of more domestic tourism to give Guyanese an opportunity to visit their own country with the reduction of cost of accommodation and transportation, working in association with Regional Democratic Councils, Municipalities and NDCs to establish log cabins and residential camps with basic facilities to provide accommodation for the local travelers. Duty free concessions and tax holidays will also be allocated to persons involved in the tourism sector.

Travel more and know your Guyana, must be the watch-word and prominent message to sensitize citizens on the nation's tourism drive.

Tourism is one of the most untapped natural resource that is available in Guyana. Under a URP lead Government, this Natural resource will be given the impetus to become a major earner for the Guy- ana economy and one which must be given focus as it relates to protection and exploitation of this most valuable resource of our country.

# Pillar # 21

## Agriculture in a Modern and Safe Guyana

Agriculture is the key to the country's economic development, and a URP led administration will ensure that there will be an agricultural revolution of a magnitude never before experienced in Guyana.

Guyana, touted “ The Bread Basket of the Caribbean”, will once again become a reality.

The process will commence with giving land to the landless and legislative and administrative action to ensure more equitable distribution, efficient use of the land, and to protect farmers from exploitation by land owners.

The URP's Agricultural Program will include the cultivation and processing of Industrial Hemp by removing the legislative barriers for the establishment of an Industrial Hemp Industry which will provide large scale green employment opportunities at all income levels, create new industries, build our national and regional economies and help eradicate poverty.

A URP administration will also amend the country's narcotic, drugs and psycho-trophic substances act to regularize industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity and establish an Industrial Hemp Licensing Authority as an agency under the Ministry of Agriculture with the specific role of regulating the industry.

The program will also include the commercial cultivation of soya bean and aloe- vera as well as revolutionizing and expanding the Fisheries, Livestock, Swine and Bee-keeping sectors. The Party's Agricultural Program will include the establishment of



a Regional and International Marketing Agency and an Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank to provide adequate financing for farmers and Industrialists. In the URP's agricultural policies and programs, duty free concessions will be given for agricultural machinery and spares, fuel, fertilizer and planting material. The construction of infrastructure such as farm to market roads, drainage and irrigation schemes, and sea and river defenses will also be of paramount importance.

**Canning and Packaging Industry;**

**To support a thriving agricultural sector and to ensure our products are competitive on the international markets, we must develop a viable Canning and Packaging Industry.**

**Canning helps to bring in revenue and increase**

# Pillar # 22

## Energy

PAGE 15



Hydro-electric power development in Guyana is the best option by far for renewable energy.

A URP led administration's vision is that hydro-electricity will certainly speed up progress and development in many areas and electricity at the flick of a switch in every house and business.

Guyana has over seven thousand mega- watts of hydro-power potential with several sites, and a URP Government will work to ensure that becomes a reality. Some of these areas include Kamaria, Tiger Hill, Amaila Falls and Tumatumari.

Despite Guyana's potential for hydro-electricity, all the projects have been at a stand- still under all past administrations. The PPP/C, during their tenure, invested US\$ 1.4 million dollars in the construction of a 400 kilo-watt solar farm at Mabaruma which still today remains a white elephant due to improper installation.

**supply and demand. It gives food longer shelf life and generates substantial wealth for farmers, retailers and the economy in general.**

**Other features of the URP's Agricultural development plan will be the expansion of the Guyana School of Agriculture to increase its intake of students, establishment of rural training centers to train youths and adults in agriculture skills, intensifying agriculture education in primary and secondary schools and the establishment of viable school farms.**

**The National Agricultural Research and Educational Institute [NAREI] would also be upgraded along with an increased number of agriculture staff in order to meet the modern and up to date needs of the nation's farmers.**

## Pillar # 23 Transportation & Infrastructure

Commerce is at the heart of our economy, and the transportation infrastructure is its main artery. Without safe and efficient transport, the economy declines. Maintaining that vital infrastructure has always been, in part, a government responsibility, and the URP will ensure this happens. The URP will undertake a strategy that will enable a Trans-Regional Road way and Railroad across the length and breadth of Guyana. Starting with the most needy areas which will allow, once again, the internal exchange of goods and products to consumers in all ten administrative regions, stretching to hinterland waterways and rivers. The rail and roads network will be complemented with Aviation measures which will include the building of airstrip at strategic locations. URP will champion investment in transportation assets as a cornerstone of the economy and, indeed, as a national way of life.

## Pillar # 24 Telecommunication



The United Republican Party is of the opinion that technology has the ability to transform every sector of the country's economy and to develop programs to educate our citizens to be dependant on Information and Communications Technology.

A URP administration will immediately liberate the sector, allowing other service providers to provide data, ending the monopoly and making bandwidth more available and affordable to our citizens country wide.

## Pillar # 25 Constitutional & Political Reform

The Guyana Constitution, in spite of all its many shortfalls, does guarantee indispensable democratic freedoms of speech, press, and association, and the right to petition our government. The URP affirms that any regulation of the political process must not infringe upon the rights of the people to full participation in the political process. The principal cure for the ills of democracy is greater participation in the political process by more citizens.

We advocate the preservation of the right of every individual and all groups, whether for us or against us, to express their opinions and advocate their issues. We will not allow any arm of government to restrict this constitutionally guaranteed right.

## Pillar # 26 Sports- A Priority under a URP Government

Under a URP administration Guyana will become a frontline country in the sporting world in all sports disciplines.

A URP Government will re-organize and expand the National Sports Commission and establish Regional Sports Commissions to work along closely with sports associations and clubs in the development of both indoor and outdoor sports in all ten administrative regions.

Other features of the URP's Sports Agenda would include the appointment of coaches in all sports disciplines, establishing new grounds and upgrading already existing ones to top class venues for foot-ball, athletics, basket-ball and other sports.

The establishment of up to date and modern surfaces for hockey and a modern velodrome for cyclists will also be part of the program.

Since sports is so highly regarded, a URP administration would honour Guyanese sports-men and women who excel at the national level with houses, land and scholarships. Duty free concessions and tax holidays will be available for sporting goods. A URP government will fully develop both indoor and outdoor sport disciplines in schools and other institutions of higher learning including the University of Guyana, as much emphasis will be placed on youth involvement and participation.

## A MAN OF THE PEOPLE

