Manifesto of the People’s Republic Party (PRP)

“Illuminating the Way and Taking Guyana to Higher Ground”
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC PARTY

The Light Has Come

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“Illuminating the Way and Taking Guyana to Higher Ground”

Introduction to the Manifesto – Why we exist and what we will do

The Lamp is here and the Light has come to brighten Guyana’s way! The PRP believes that Guyana’s best years are ahead of us as we seek to attain our highest potential, that a people united cannot be defeated. Guyanese are capable of taking back their country from corrupt politicians, and moral, godly leadership is the foundation of all progress towards a new frontier of becoming a modern, twenty first century society with modern practices for systems of governance and efficient, people-focused management.

The PRP, a newly formed force, has entered the political arena with a vision of sustainable change to lift Guyana to higher ground with real social, political and economic transformation beyond the political rhetoric and empty promises at election time, which politicians never intended to implement. Our Manifesto will be a Lamp for the nation--our plan of action, our plan of work--not an enticing document just to win votes and then abandon the people later. For decades, despite Guyana being the most endowed country in CARICOM, possessing an abundance of mineral resources of gold, diamonds, bauxite, manganese, and precious stones; timber; rice; sugar; vast fisheries, agricultural resources and food supply; and an abundance of natural resources including forestry and land; the masses of Guyanese people have lived in destitution from paycheck to paycheck, while our Caribbean nations with very meagre natural resources live in better comfort with a higher standard of living. While we are the richest country in CARICOM, we are ranked just above Haiti in quality of life. Clearly, a lack of resources is not Guyana’s problem. The root cause of our persistent poverty and destitution is the lack of honest political leadership over the past five decades.

In Guyana today, there is an absence of strong, moral, godly, unifying leadership. While some countries suffer because of natural disasters such as hurricanes, the tragedies of Guyana are all man-made; our hurricanes are called politicians who are not promise keepers. Our political parties make grand promises at election time, then once elected, they forget the people and are too busy making deals for their own aggrandisement. They forget the needs and promises made to the masses of people who voted them in. The goal of being involved in politics should never be to get in government to steal national resources and enrich oneself.

We must arrest this hamster wheel of underdevelopment as we rotate between the two major political parties who have failed to forge a national unity and a protocol for working together
for the national interest. At a time when we need the two major parties to unite and hold common positions to deal with a powerful group of shrewder, external oil investors and securing the best deals for the nation, the Coalition Government continues to flounder in its one-upmanship and triumphalist approach, locking out the Opposition who represents half of the population. At the same time, the Coalition Government repeats its past and violates the Constitution since the passage of the No Confidence Vote.

The greater tragedy is probably the silence of the good people. While we have to put up with two major political parties taking turns to appropriate the country’s assets for themselves and the inner circle of political financiers, our religious leaders have been largely silent or complicit in supporting current political parties who have shown very little sensitivity to diversity in the awarding of contracts, appointments of Boards and Committees, hiring for jobs, and implementing economic development and community improvement. Surely, our churches, mosques and temples have more honest, moral people than those who have held us back from entering the promised land of human and national development.

On the cusp of an emerging oil bonanza that will dramatically transform Guyana, the nation is most divided and our Government has shown poor leadership regarding the protection of traditional family values, affirming the sanctity of life, arresting runaway crime, and tackling unbridled corruption that enriches a few and robs the country of its national resources.

Guyana’s time for a better life is now! It is time for the national pie to be shared by all, especially the hard laboring, working class who toil tirelessly but still have remained poor. We should not stand idly by, while the politicians sell out our interests through bad oil deals, and are unprepared and clueless about the necessary policies and measures to secure our interests. At this point, “a hole in the boat is a hole in the whole boat.” It does not matter which side of the Guyana boat has a hole, and which parties caused it. The PRP will rise up to plug the holes so that Guyana may live. If not us, who? if not now, when? The PRP envisages that Guyana can rise as a shining beacon of light within CARICOM and the wider world. We believe this can only be done if we embrace a new model of honest, moral, godly leadership in national affairs for those who will be leaders in our Party and Government, as embodied in our Code of Conduct.

This Manifesto sets out what a government, led (or influenced) by PRP leaders, would do. We will treat our manifesto as a sacred promise to the people, knowing that our moral values rooted in godliness, would guide clean, honest government in this transformative paradigm of servant leadership. We see ourselves as the servants of the people, not their masters. People first! Our Party extends a warm invitation to all Guyanese to join us if you share our values and espouse the principles embodied in our Code of Conduct. Let us rally forward and save our beautiful country! Let’s put Guyana first! The Lamp is here and the Light has come to illuminate the way and take us to higher ground! PRP will lead with integrity towards a better, brighter future for all Guyanese!
Policy Directions & Plans of the PRP

1. JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Guyana is now the richest country in CARICOM with the most resources, yet we have many working poor, and a handful of people connected with the Government hogging the riches. Why does anyone think that with oil, the masses will be better off or rich and enjoy the good life? Already, the oil deal is a sellout, and foreigners have taken over. Very little will trickle down to the poor masses. The same corrupt system we have now will continue to benefit the mostly rich business class, if there is not a new moral, honest government based on a rigid anti-corruption agenda. Remember the government had a US$18 million signing oil bonus and hid it from the country? We are rich now, but most of the money is stolen in procurement scams, sole sourcing of contracts, land and concessions giveaways to politicians and friends, overpriced government projects (recently army drones, Durban Park, bridge feasibility study, airport scam, drug bond, etc.), and inefficient backward policies and practices. We have had successive “10% governments” whereby a Contractor has to give back at least 10% to government or party people who helped them win the overpriced contract. Kickback schemes prevail, and shoddy work is approved although below the requirements of the bill of quantities. Corruption is ubiquitous and scams siphon off the nation’s resources. We remain poor, and will remain poor under oil, with governance that is more of the same. The country’s oil has already been sold out. If Government was not the vehicle for stealing, our money would have stretched to do more – better electricity, water, Internet and phones, roads, big salary increases, etc.

We will use the Singapore model to tackle corruption, including an incorruptible and competent civil service “having the best and brightest” citizens in government; competitive salaries; zero tolerance for bribery; reversal of the “low morality and high bribery” culture; adequate supervision and monitoring; active enforcement of current integrity legislation; and control systems. Ministers who allow foreign companies to deposit money into their bank accounts will be immediately fired. Ministers whose assets and business ventures exceed their income will be investigated and sanctioned if necessary. The PRP will act on findings from the Auditor General’s Report and pursue wrong doers. It’s not enough to just report wrongdoing and there are no follow up consequences.

a. A diversified, balanced economy is essential for long term sustainable growth. Therefore, we will not put all of Guyana’s proverbial eggs in the ‘oil’ basket, or abandon
our agricultural and mining bases. Transparent management of resources will be given the highest priority.

b. Oil agreements will be re-negotiated to ensure fairness to Guyana. Lopsided contracts will result in very little benefit to our people and will fuel escalating disillusionment and discontent if rising national expectations go unfulfilled due to low revenues from oil. We will not be paying all of the unfettered expenses of the oil company, their taxes or for environmental clean-ups.

c. We are committed to applying very stringent measures and laws to ensure the protection of the environment.

d. New oil blocks will be auctioned in an open process that will result in Guyana having a greater share of oil revenues. Auctions will be supervised by a broad National Committee that includes the Opposition, not just the government side alone.

e. Especially in rural, agricultural communities, it will be the priority of the PRP to support and promote the canning and preserving of farm produce, moving Guyana toward becoming the food basket of the Caribbean, exporting to the CARICOM, South American markets and further afield.

f. We will review the situation in the sugar industry and act in the best interest of the workers and Guyana.

g. We will build the necessary all-weather roads from farm to factory and will install more needed pumps for drainage and irrigation in rice areas. We will seek to pay rice farmers in a timely manner and find new markets for our rice.

h. We will support local farmers by encouraging exportation of food products that are abundantly available in Guyana.

i. Improved management, monitoring, and operations systems will be implemented to ensure that gold and diamond declarations are honest and accurate, and that Guyana gets its fair share of revenues.

j. We will review the situation of the bauxite industry and act in the best interest of Region 10 and Guyana.

k. While providing incentives to the private sector businesses, Government has a role in facilitating job creation. The Private Sector will be viewed as an ally to government and a PRP Government will forge strong partnerships with the Private Business Sector.

l. Local businesses will receive either the same incentives or even more to be competitive against foreign companies. Our greatest loyalty and support will be to our own local companies. We will increase monitoring and sanctions against companies receiving concessions who fail to honour their agreements with the State and sanction government officials who fail to monitor those who receive concessions.

m. We will support small businesses with investment loans through the re-establishment of an agriculture bank.

n. We will make the process of registering a business in Guyana user-friendly, creating a more responsive business climate with the goal of attracting foreign investors and increasing the rating index for ease of doing business in Guyana.

o. Trade Unions are essential organizations that should be encouraged, respected, and supported in a collective bargaining framework. We will encourage a new unionism that is amenable to collaboration and partnership with the government, eschewing a model
of ongoing conflict and adversarial relationships. We will honour collective bargaining agreements.

p. A government grounded in moral and godly principles supports a living wage for all. Just labour should be justly paid, and our labour laws should support this goal. All workers, especially the most vulnerable in low pay areas such as retail sales, security services, domestic services, market and street vendors, sanitation services, and manual labour workers deserve to live in dignity and respect. In our first term, we will seek to move towards a monthly minimum wage of $100,000.

q. Tourism will be expanded, concurrent with enhanced safety and security measures and hospitality training to make Guyana a tourist destination. Severe penalties will be instituted against those robbing or attacking tourists.

r. We will tackle youth unemployment and assist graduates of UG and other colleges to find jobs. We will examine the Guyana National Service model among others in an effort to meet this objective.

s. We will end the domination of monopolies in the communications sector and implement the plans for liberalization of phone and Internet services to result in competitive, fair pricing with high quality of services that are reliable and efficient.

t. We will work to extend the existing partnership with Norway on Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy. Proceeds from this arrangement will be used to promote development especially in our interior and Amerindian communities.

u. The current rate of exchange of the Guyana dollar is the lowest compared to the currencies of other CARICOM countries and the US dollar. This is simply unacceptable and a Study Committee will be commissioned to examine our monetary/fiscal policy and make recommendations for the gradual strengthening of the Guyana Dollar.

v. The PRP will set up a Study Group to examine the viability of supporting the establishment of an oil refinery facilitated by private/public partnership.

w. The PRP administration will place significant emphasis on forest sustainability and the environment. Therefore, special rangers from our indigenous communities will be trained and employed to monitor and maintain forest management practices.
2. **UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

a. In their most vulnerable, destitute moments, the seriously sick should not have to make appeals and beg in the newspapers for donations, while Government Ministers can fly off to foreign countries for premium health care paid for by taxpayers. A PRP government will assist in cases of severe hardships and time-sensitive needs and emergencies.

b. We will ensure healthcare facilities, especially regional hospitals in thickly populated areas are upgraded and well equipped with basic diagnostic and imaging equipment such as X-rays, MRI equipment, ultrasound, CT machines, and other high-tech laboratory capabilities including well-trained health professionals to be models of health organizations located in clean, well-maintained and well-landscaped physical environments.

c. Ministry officials shall be severely sanctioned for shortages of drugs and medical supplies if it is found that operational inefficiency, negligence, and corruption are the causes for shortages.

d. If fraud or theft of drugs and supplies is found, severe penalties will be instituted, including prosecution and dismissal.

e. The PRP will encourage and fund research into the traditional forms of medicine such as remedies from plants, herbs and minerals. We will also gather data on the links between health, poverty, income, education, housing and the environment, to guide policy making.

f. We will continue to assign healthcare providers to provide basic healthcare services in underserved areas, and to implement the mandatory immunization programs for infants and eligible target groups for communicable diseases such as mumps, tetanus, diphtheria, measles, rubella, malaria, filaria, hepatitis, etc.

g. Guyana Water Incorporated will be given a deadline to accomplish targets towards operational efficiency including building new wells, water treatment, billing, speedy connections and reconnections, and providing potable, drinkable, safe water 24/7. “Red” and sedimented water is simply unacceptable in this 21st century.
3. EDUCATION REFORM AND MODERNIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS: CREATING 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND REDESIGN OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

a. We will provide free higher quality education from nursery to university levels. All those who benefit must serve the country for at least 5 years after graduation, or pay reimbursement to the Government.

b. We will offer more scholarships for students performing exceptionally well at Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

c. We will offer special scholarships and programs to attract students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields and oil-related training programs. Special scholarships will be awarded for high need programs not available in Guyana.

d. We will create structures and mechanisms and follow up (not just talk) to tap in to the large pool of talents and skills available in the Diaspora. In education, they can conduct on-line programs or special customized, short term programs using flexible scheduling. They can help businesses and government to modernize operational systems.

e. We will recruit Diasporans to serve on Advisory Committees in critical areas, including oil monitoring.

f. The Coalition has received lots of advice from those experienced in oil, but they don’t seem to be listening. The bad deals remain unchanged. With utmost haste, we will accelerate study programs to meet urgent, immediate training needs to prepare Guyanese to monitor oil and related contracts, and create the necessary technical expertise.

g. We will create an “Equity in Education” policy to provide an education to the other regions matching what is available in Region 4.

h. We will incrementally and systematically restructure the current stratified school system that assigns students to high schools based on NGSA (National Grade Six Assessment) scores. All schools will offer the same high quality of education regardless of location. It is immoral to deliberately create schools of varying quality and send the students with the lowest scores to the weakest schools. We will begin working towards neighbourhood school systems where the quality of education available at each is comparable.

i. We will remove the rural-urban divide and create equitable schools in terms of qualified staff, resources, school facilities, and curriculae.

j. Teachers lay the foundation for our society. As such the quality of teacher determines the quality of foundation laid. Given the level of corruption in our tertiary institutions relating to conferring of diplomas and degrees on persons successfully completing a course of study, our education system is in urgent need of an audit to determine the professional capability of qualified teachers operating at every level of the system. Therefore, the PRP as part of its reform and modernization of Guyana’s education system will adopt an occupational licensing approach to ensure that teachers meet
minimum standards for classroom instruction in all subject areas. Teachers will be required to sit certain examinations set by a Licensing Board to qualify for promotion and salary increases. Furthermore, education officers assigned to schools and various levels of education will pay periodic visits to schools and classrooms to ensure that the quality of education being delivered meets acceptable standards. We will compensate teachers fairly with ongoing increases in pay rolled out against the backdrop of a results-based approach to appraisal and rewards. Teacher benefits will include monetary, housing, transportation, and promotional incentives to those who serve in hard-to-staff, riverain and interior schools; and waivers of customs duties to teachers and university staff on the purchase of vehicles, special terms for acquisition of house lots and low-interest mortgages for first-time house owners. Teachers’ pay will be increased to a minimum of $100,000.

k. We will accelerate the implementation of programs for gifted and talented students and special education students addressing the special populations such as the autistic, visually impaired, hearing impaired, behaviorally and emotionally impaired, and school dropouts.

l. We will accelerate the pace of integrating modern technology across the whole curriculum, including technology for operational efficiency including school records, data tracking and analysis, and data-driven decision making systems.

m. We will update the curriculum to include greater exposure to creative play, computer programming/coding and innovative design to address present challenges efficiently.

n. We will create an “Education Cabinet” under the Minister of Education to engage in alignment and integration of all education initiatives through strategic planning for a National Education Plan. The Education Cabinet will include representatives from UG, Teachers Training Colleges, School of Agriculture, the Technical Colleges and vocational schools, the Nursing and Medical Training programs, others involved in education efforts including private schools and colleges, and representatives from the business community.

o. We will restructure the curriculum to include applied “real life” learning such as job shadowing, internships, work study programs, and regulated trade apprenticeships with appropriate certifications. We will encourage local businesses to collaborate with rural schools in these efforts.

p. We will prohibit any attempts from internal and external influences who want us to start teaching children in nursery school that men can marry each other and women can marry each other. Do you want our schools to do that? This liberal, ungodly curriculum also wants schools to teach “gender fluidity” and “gender identity” which seeks to brainwash children that not because you have boy body parts means you are a boy, or not because you have girl body parts means you are a girl. According to that ungodly doctrine, regardless of your biological parts, you can simply choose if you want to be a boy or a girl. Such decadent notions are inimical to our Caribbean culture, are calculated to brainwash our students about gender, and promotes sexual deviance ideas and behaviours cloaked as human rights issues. It is alarming that both the Coalition
Government Ministers (including the Minister of Education) and top Opposition Leaders are seen giving support at events held by the homosexual lobby.

q. We will support Guyanese businesses by procuring exercise books and juice/foods for the breakfast program from local sources where available.

r. We will train local school boards to support school improvement plans and encourage the formation of more school boards in the management of schools.

s. We will create a substitute teacher system to ensure instruction is not lost when teachers are absent. Quality and amount of instructional time is highly correlated with student learning.

T. We will set standards to protect instructional time in schools with minimum hours or days per academic year.

u. We will provide support services, exploring mentoring programs in collaboration with the faith-based community, the Parent Teachers Association and the Alumni Associations; as well as peer education training to deal with bullying, violence in schools, suicide prevention, substance abuse, and school dropout. We will also train and hire mental health professionals, school counselors, and social workers.

v. We will audit and restructure programs and administration of the University of Guyana to provide education that is directly relevant to current needs including new oil-related disciplines.

w. We will introduce the LLB program at the Tain Campus using on-line learning methods, and explore distance learning in other regions.

x. With expansion of Internet hubs in communities away from Georgetown, satellite programs by UG, the Teachers Training Colleges, Technical Institutes, and Nursing training will become more feasible. We will make sure Bartica and other remote communities have access to these programs.
4. **REALIZING THE HOUSING DREAM**

a. We will facilitate every family fulfilling their dream of owning a home. We will provide low interest loans and assistance as resources are available.

b. We will ensure professional planning of new communities that reflect modernity, making more house lots available. Squatting will be discouraged, and assistance will be provided to help squatters find land in planned communities. We will ensure that there are adequate regulations regarding building standards and zoning.

c. We will complete the Amerindian Land Titling Project.

d. We will continue programs for replacement of pit latrines with “flush toilets” in all regions.

5. **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Our people should not have to cower in fear night or day, or wonder if they will be the next person robbed and brutalized as they walk the streets or sleep in their beds. We should not have to live in overly bolted and iron grilled homes barred up like prisons. When current law enforcement officers or ex-law enforcement officers become the bandits and criminals, we are in a sad state as a nation.

a. We will substantially increase salaries of the Police Force.

b. As necessary and with limits, we will utilize the Armed forces to assist the police in special projects especially in high crime areas, and in the dismantling of gang-related terrorism.

c. Our firefighting capability is inadequate and abysmal. Many homes have been burned down before the Fire Service arrived. We will improve our fire fighting capabilities.

d. Systems will be implemented to ensure citizens get a live voice when they call the Police station for help. It is simply unacceptable that when people call they either cannot get through, or are told that no police is available, or no transportation is available to respond. By then you are maimed/and or dead, and the bandits are gone.

e. Businesses, including fishing boats, will be able to have gun permits to protect their property and fight piracy, without having to pay bribes, and this will be done in a transparent, speedy process.

f. We will make greater investment in DNA testing and forensic technology to solve crimes quickly. It is unacceptable that in the 21st century, we do not have much technological capability, and crime is spiraling out of control.

g. To foster diversity, we will redesign recruitment and training, and offer incentives to make it attractive for Guyanese from all regions to pursue careers in law enforcement.

h. Ambulance services are atrocious. Currently, a patient may probably succumb before an ambulance reaches them in a time of emergency. We will increase the availability and efficiency of ambulance services in the country.
i. Too many of our citizens die in road accidents. We will sanction those who commit traffic offences using a points system that leads to higher insurance rates, and impose suspension or termination of driving privileges as deterrents. “Safe driver” classes will be mandatory for traffic violators committing moving violations. The number of vehicles on our roads is steadily increasing, and sensible, scientific traffic control is needed.
6. **24/7 ENERGY POLICY**

a. We will expand electrification in Guyana.

b. We will upgrade existing generators and put in additional generating capacity so that there is widespread availability of energy 24/7 and blackouts are abolished. We will ensure GPL has solid arrangements for the supply of oil for the generators.

c. We will facilitate the purchase of excess energy capacity from private providers.

d. We will develop a reliable, cheap power supply to assist manufacturing and national energy needs. A national energy plan will include a mix of strategies including oil generators, wind power, solar power, and hydroelectric power. We will provide tax breaks and duty free incentives for alternative energy initiatives.

e. The PRP will work towards hydroelectric power facilities that will be able to support all future industrial operations.

7. **SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SUPPORT – PEOPLE FIRST**

a. The National Insurance Scheme will be more efficiently monitored so that employers who collect workers’ contributions and do not remit them to the NIS in a timely manner will face severe sanctions.

b. NIS will be sanctioned if its records of worker contributions are inaccurate. Workers should not suffer because of inefficient operational practices.

c. Government must ensure an equitable distribution of wealth accruing from oil revenues so that the neediest and most vulnerable of our society, namely, single parents, school dropouts, the disabled, pensioners, minimum wage earners and the unemployed, all benefit. The PRP using a plethora of welfare interventions targeted at the specific needs of each group will seek to alleviate the situation of needy groups in the short term, with a medium and long term goal of the beneficiaries becoming financially independent, contributing members of society wherever possible. Such targeted interventions will include remedial classes, stipends, free day care services, skills training programs, small business loans and extension services, free psychosocial interventions, subsidized services that include public housing, water and homecare for the elderly, food packages, soup kitchens, incremental increases to pensions and other types of such benefits. Religious institutions and civil society organizations will be important partners in ensuring that these interventions reach the persons that they are intended for and that there is no abuse of the system.

d. For vulnerable citizens living in extreme poverty conditions, the PRP administration will establish a system of short term cash transfer benefits, based on oil and gas revenues. This system will include a monitoring and evaluation component that will determine when an individual or household has reached a point of self-sustainability.

e. We will ensure a stronger enforcement of our occupational health and safety laws, including adequate safety equipment for employees.
f. We will address root causes of suicide and domestic violence through community
development projects, involving religious organizations, businesses, civic society, and
mental health services. We will embrace all assistance from “Diasporans”.
g. Refugees to Guyana will be documented and monitored to ensure compliance with our
laws. Our economy is too small to absorb large influxes of immigrants on an ongoing
basis, so we will seek international assistance to meet the needs of refugees. We will
monitor against indiscriminate squatting, human trafficking, and address the medical
and environmental consequences that may emerge from unplanned communities.
h. We will encourage and support the Guyana Consumers Association in its efforts to
support and protect the consumer from unethical business practices and substandard
products and poor services.
i. We will work with The Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities
(GCOPD) to promote the participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in their 2030
development agenda and the Guyana PWD Act 2010, to promote an understanding of
disability issues and mobilize support for their equal opportunity, dignity, rights and
well-being of PWDs to live independent, dignified and productive lives, with barrier-free
accessibility. Policy development will be done with their meaningful input.
j. Prison reform: We will partner with non-profits, the education sector, religious
organizations and businesses to give greater focus on rehabilitation of prisoners through
vocational training and counselling, mental health services, and other re-entry
programs; provide state–assisted employment to prisoners upon re-entry – require
those with government contracts to set aside a few jobs for reentry candidates, and
grant incentives to businesses hiring them.
k. We will overhaul the structure and programming of the Onderneeming Youth Detention
Centre.
l. We will provide more support for the Childcare and Protection Agency to provide quick
response services and interventions to protect children and minors from sexual
exploitation, especially in the high incidence mining areas.
8. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MASSIVE, NATIONWIDE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

a. Guyana has major infrastructural needs that require a national plan. We will create a comprehensive, long term infrastructure plan in order to enable economic growth, encourage investment and improve the quality of life especially in underserved communities.

b. We will use income from oil and gas to fund massive infrastructural development across all of Guyana- build durable, all-weather farm to factory and to market roads; clean clogged trenches and canals and keep them maintained, repair existing roads and bridges; widen existing roadways; upgrade airports in the hinterland; repair all Post Offices and government buildings across Guyana; build new roads and bridges; build a new bridge across the Demerara River; examine the possibility of bridging the Corentyne River; build new and rebuild damaged sea defences; upgrade all ferries and stellings; put in additional ferries where needed; build recreational facilities where non-existent; and upgrade all community centres as part of the infrastructural works financed by oil revenues.

c. The PRP will examine the feasibility of establishing a light railway system to connect major towns that are far apart in order to minimize the transportation woes of commuters.

d. We will create a fair and transparent bidding and tender process for government funded projects, including roads, bridges, utilities, sea defences, etc.

9. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INVIOABLE

a. Guyana is a deeply religious country of three major religions, with a long history and tradition of religious tolerance and freedom. All religions have inherent foundational godly and moral values which have influenced the structure of our institutions. Guyana should not be forced by influential, external forces to accept alien practices and lifestyles that contradict our historic, traditional values and culture. We espouse tolerance and respect for all, but hold steadfast to the longstanding, eternal truth that marriage can only be between a man and a woman. Notions such as gender fluidity, and the practice of sodomy are inimical to our traditional, godly values. We hold that anything else represents sexual deviance and do not constitute any special claim to human rights. “Human wrongs, cannot be human rights.” Nevertheless, we believe that a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy is a reflection of tolerance.

b. Religious organizations shall have the freedom to practice their religion including the practice of freedom of conscience to beliefs about traditional marriages as between one man and one woman, and the traditional family, without fear or sanctions. Religious
Ministers or others shall not be sanctioned for refusing to perform same sex marriages, or to support a homosexual agenda, or facilitating such proselytization.

c. Religious organisations shall be key civil society partners with the PRP for implementing poverty alleviation programs at “grassroots” level and for providing support services through mentorship programs in schools.

d. The PRP will set out certain criteria that must be met to qualify as a religious practitioner and tighten the screening of such persons in order to ensure that they qualify to administer support to vulnerable persons and minors. Persons who duly qualify will enjoy certain tax exemptions and fringe benefits.

e. PRP believes all people of faith, religious leaders and religious organizations have the freedom to participate in all civic duties, including community development, participation as voters, and as candidates for government and political office without fear or favour.

10. EFFICIENT NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

a. The PRP is committed to making the delivery of government services more cost efficient by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy, wasteful practices and faulty regulations that presents the opportunities for indulgence in bribery and corruption.

b. We will restore the Ministry of Labour because oil will bring in new employers who must not be allowed to discriminate against Guyanese workers.

c. We will implement more accountability for Government Ministers. We will develop with consensus a Code of Conduct and use it to immediately fire Ministers found to be corrupt.

d. We will ask Parliament to designate a certain number and title of positions in government as “Policy Exempt” positions. These Policy Exempt positions will be closely monitored to ensure there is no abuse of the system.

e. We will provide increased government subventions so NDCs may have adequate staff and resources to operate and make local improvements. We will improve the process for NDCs being able to collect rates and taxes owed by residents.

f. Justice delayed is justice denied. Cases should not drag on for decades. We will appoint more judges and magistrates, especially in the hinterland areas. Residents in the Interior regions will not have to come to the city to appear before a Magistrate’s Court. This is an affront to our goals for regionalism, and puts undue great burdens on interior residents. We will also work to secure the substantive appointment of the Chancellor and Chief Justice of Guyana. Acting appointments for several years are simply untenable. We will use Night Courts and Weekend Courts to reduce the backlog of cases, and make it easier for fines to be paid for minor traffic offences without requiring court appearances.

g. We will create a Permanent Office of Diasporan Affairs within the Office of the Presidential Secretariat to co-ordinate and promote the active engagement and participation of all Guyanese living abroad.
h. We will review existing immigration policy to ensure skilled and legal immigrants are being processed in a fair, transparent and orderly manner, while undocumented/illegal migrants are dealt with in accordance to law.

i. In Guyana, there are inadequate numbers of JPs/Commissioner of Oaths to serve all regions, and the President gets involved in these approvals. This process will be changed to allow for more routine appointments.

j. Sensitive to the conditions of climate change and weak, inadequate sea defences that lead to perennial flooding of the coastlands creating much devastation and hardships, the PRP will examine the feasibility of developing a new capital city in the highlands of Guyana.

k. Parika will be designated as a township. As development continues in the Diamond area, it will be designated as a township.

l. NDCs will be required to ensure all homes have lot number signs to enable identification by Post Office and emergency services. All streets will have signs showing their names. All villages will have road signs saying, “Entering/Leaving XXX Village.”

m. Any Parking Meters contract in the Capital City shall be subject to parliamentary review and approval. The process leading to an agreement will include all stakeholders, business and community representatives.

11. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IS ESSENTIAL, URGENT

a. Guyanese abroad love Guyana just as much as locals. We will amend the constitution to enable Guyanese to have dual citizenship and to participate in our political processes without any impediments and restrictions. Our present laws stipulate that those with dual citizenship cannot participate as members of the National Assembly or councilors in the Regional Democratic Council. We recognize that dual citizenship allows Guyanese to maximize their pensions, social security and health care benefits in their foreign country. This helps Guyana. Guyanese, who went abroad in search of a better life during the dictatorship era, escaping crime and unemployment and in search of greener pastures are not disloyal to Guyana. Also, Guyanese in the Diaspora have much talent to offer, apart from their contribution to the nation through remittances. We will amend our present laws so that at the most only the President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the House will be prohibited from holding dual citizenship while in office.

b. The PRP is committed to constitutional reform. We will reduce the powers of the Presidency - including immunity from prosecution including while holding office and after demitting office.

c. We will activate the Constitutional Commission process and rewrite the Constitution through a broad based consultative process. This will include electoral reforms.

d. While recognizing that we need to revisit penalties for possession and use of contraband drugs, and the need for provision of drug prevention and treatment facilities, we oppose the legalization and decriminalization of marijuana and other illegal drugs. There is a direct link between drug use and violent crime, domestic violence, sexual assault, unemployment, mental instability, and general anti-social behaviors. Government will
not be facilitating more drug use, as we are faced with vaping, opioid addictions, and increasing use and sale of drugs in schools and the wider society.

e. Award of leases, transfers, and sale of large acreages of land and national assets will be subjected to parliamentary approval. Lands will not be given for land speculation and resale for profitmaking. Land awarded for special purposes that goes unused may be repossessed.

f. We will ensure public disclosure of contracts for deals involving national assets, and guarantee the public’s access to public information.

g. Contracts and agreements executed after the December 2018 No Confidence Vote will be reviewed to determine their legality and enforceability. Remedies will be made where necessary.

12. SENSITIVITY TO THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION & RACIAL HEALING

a. Guyana belongs to all Guyanese. Every citizen has equal rights and equal access to the resources of the country. Politics should not be about ethnic domination. Jobs and social and economic benefits should not be distributed with skewed ethnic preferences. Such practices are immoral, ungodly and inimical to national unity and a better life for all in a democratic society. The diversity of the nation should be reflected in every sphere of Guyana’s life. The Ethnic Relations Commission will be charged with the responsibility for ensuring our diversity is reflected in employment, and access to state benefits in a transparent process without regards to race, religion, politics, or geographical location. We will implement “affirmative diversity action” polices to ensure jobs, scholarships, training opportunities and government programs are designed and operated to reflect and include the diverse faces of the nation.

b. Bribery, corruption, and racial discrimination are criminal behaviors and severe penalties will be meted out to those found perpetrating such acts.

13. ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION AT THE ROOT

a. We will install accountability laws, measures and checks and balances to increase transparency and reduce corruption.

b. Corruption in government eats away at the sinews of our nation, and robs our nation of its wealth. While a few well-connected ones hog the riches, the poor masses struggle for daily survival. When politicians get into office and quickly appropriate state resources to themselves, building palatial structures and engaging in overnight conspicuous consumption, it not only dampens but destroys the public trust in government. Corruption in government creates a ripple effect in the rest of the public service and wider society. We will root out corruption wherever and whenever it happens by firing
and jailing Ministers and public officials who do not adhere to a national Code of Conduct.

c. We will ensure the Integrity Commission does its work. Declarations to the Commission will be made public and available as public information. It is not enough that the Head of the Commission merely reports who has not submitted declarations and there are no sanctions; the Head must bring charges against those who fail to file by the deadline.

d. Billions of dollars are spent annually on public procurement for materials, supplies, equipment, and state services in all areas of government. The potential for corruption is high so there is need for ongoing monitoring and accountability within a framework of transparency. The Public Procurement Commission must do its work diligently in accordance with the rules. We will ensure that the Integrity Commission does it work.

e. The Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) and State Assets Recovery Agency (SARA) will be revamped and staffed with independent minded professionals who show up for cases, not partisan hacks and operatives. It is tragic when the agency charged to root out corruption, itself becomes investigated, and top officers have to be removed.

14. FOREIGN POLICY

a. At a time when our border dispute is before the World Court, we will maintain friendly relations with our usual partners. We will also seek new partners and build a web of strategic support for our national interests.

b. Our foreign embassies will do more beyond processing travel documents and doing paper work. They will engage in economic diplomacy and facilitate the development of new markets for our products, secure technical assistance and support to address national needs and capacity building, and so contribute to social and economic development.

c. Foreign Embassies will engage in ongoing outreaches and create a Directory of Guyanese Skills and Talents. This will facilitate partnerships and points of convergence.

15. CULTURE, ARTS, SPORTS AND RECREATION

a. We will expand sports and recreational opportunities at the village/NDC level, capitalizing on partnerships with local churches, businesses, non-profits, and Diasporans.

b. Arts, sports and recreation activities as positive alternatives for youths, lead to gainful occupation of their time and keep them away from harmful behaviors. Especially for our young people, these provide opportunities for development of leadership, self-esteem, and self-fulfillment, capitalizing on their strengths. Therefore, at the NDC level, we will ensure every NDC has a community centre, and that there are community organizers in hinterland communities.

c. We will support the restoring of funding for the Guyana Prize for literature and other area of the arts.
d. We will promote volunteerism in schools to support community enhancement projects at the village level.

(Note: This Manifesto presents some policy directions of a PRP Government if we are given the opportunity to serve. It does not include all our positions on all issues. In some areas where specific logistics are needed, it would depend on the consensus-building processes in Parliament, as a majority vote will be needed to secure approval for implementation).
TO ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS OF GUYANA:

... if you believe ...

1. That those who rule over men must do so justly and in the fear of the Lord;

2. That law and order, respect for human life, and traditional family values within our society must be restored;

3. That you need the kind of leaders who will put the well-being of Guyanese citizens first and foremost--above political gain, personal desires and ambitions;

4. That after 53 years, Guyana with all its resources and potential should have been more developed and prosperous so that its citizens have a better standard of living;

5. That all Guyanese have a right to benefit from our natural resources and that right includes participation in agreements, decisions and projections made by our democratically elected representatives at every level.

6. That only righteous leadership combined with intelligent developmental strategies can alleviate poverty and foster national and individual prosperity;

THEN, PUT YOUR BELIEF INTO ACTION!

VOTE P.R.P. X

The People’s Republic Party (P.R.P.) is the first God-fearing people’s party of its kind in Guyana with leaders of integrity, intelligence, and vision, and who are faithful to God in belief and lifestyle.

REMEMBER: When you vote for persons who make and implement evil laws and practices, you become a supporter and partaker of those evil laws and practices.

P.R.P. – The Light Has Come

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VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: @peoplesrepublicparty.gy
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC PARTY

Integrity . Knowledge . Vision

CODE OF CONDUCT

The People’s Republic Party (P.R.P.) comprises several persons who have represented to the Guyanese people that if elected to positions of governance in the National Assembly and the Regional and Neighbourhood Councils they will faithfully govern the Nation of Guyana with absolute integrity with a view to protecting our fundamental rights and resources and promoting progress and prosperity throughout the Nation.

Having given this promise to the Guyanese people, and in accordance with the values and standards of morality that the P.R.P. endorses, all members of the P.R.P. are required to conduct themselves in the private and public spheres of their lives in a manner that evidences their sincere commitment to uphold this promise and these values and standards.

Accordingly, members of the P.R.P. shall:

I. Administer the financial and physical resources of Guyana with impeccable honesty for the benefit of the Nation.

II. Eschew any involvement in all illegal practices and transactions as prescribed by the laws of Guyana.

III. Conduct all their financial and business affairs with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

IV. Choose the best interests of the Guyanese people in the event that there arises a conflict between those interests and one’s personal interests in the course of carrying out one’s duties.

V. Ensure and demonstrate that those persons being hired or appointed for jobs or projects are suitably qualified and not chosen because of nepotism.

VI. Support all laws and practices which demonstrate and support the belief that all human life from conception to natural death is sacrosanct and that no one, from conception to natural death, shall be deprived of his or her life intentionally except in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence of which she or he has been convicted, as provided for in Article 138 (1) of the Constitution of Guyana.

VII. Uphold the institution of marriage as being solely between one biological male and one biological female who are not directly related to each other as siblings, parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, uncles and nieces, or aunts and nephews.

VIII. Cherish and respect their parents, spouses, and children, and demonstrate this by providing for them as needed and required for their welfare in every facet of their lives.

IX. Defend freedom of religion, speech, and the primacy of parental rights over those of the State in rearing and caring for children.

Failure to comply with this code of conduct can result in termination of one’s duties and position within the government and the Party and expulsion from the Party.
PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC PARTY
The Light Has Come

VOTE P.R.P. X

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Pastors launch political party

Members of the People's Republic Party. From the left are Pastor Premraj Parshotam, the Region Six coordinator; Pastor Patrick Bourne, who is the Region 4 coordinator; Presidential Candidate Dr. Valerie Leung; Glennis Smith, Pastor Timothy Norton, and General Secretary and Linden Pastor Terrence Joseph.

By Stabroek News  December 1, 2019