



# OUR PLAN FOR PROSPERITY

Excerpts from PPP/C Manifesto [2020 - 2025]



The following is a presentation of the key elements of the PPP/C programme for the next five years. A more comprehensive manifesto with the full range of policies and programmes will be launched shortly.

We all want a society which is free, prosperous, socially just, globally competitive and which serves every Guyanese equitably. Every Guyanese must have: a chance for a good education, access good paying jobs, be able to start their own businesses, raise and provide for a family, own their own homes, live in a safe and secure environment and retire with dignity. Every Guyanese must have full access to quality healthcare, safe water, be able to participate in sports and recreation and freely practise their religion and culture. We believe our hard work and sacrifice, bolstered by an economy strengthened by an oil and gas sector, must guarantee the next generation of Guyanese a brighter and better future.

With the emergence of Oil and Gas and a recommitment to the traditional economy

(bauxite, gold and other mining; sugar, rice and other agriculture; fisheries; forestry; and tourism), with a new emphasis on manufacturing, ICT and the service industry, we can transform our country into a modern multidimensional economy. Oil and Gas will provide significant earnings and if managed well, will bring transformational opportunities for all Guyanese. But this will only be possible if there is no squandering or mismanagement. For this reason, the PPP/C will ensure transparent and accountable management of the oil and gas sector, ensuring all revenues from oil and gas contribute to more jobs, more income and higher standards of living for all Guyanese while responsibly managing our environment and positioning Guyana again as a leader in low-carbon development.

As Guyana becomes an economic powerhouse, and the lives of our people are improved, our country must, with renewed vigour, pursue priorities to strengthen freedom, establish a firm commitment to democratic traditions whilst framing our priorities

to be more inclusive, transparent, accountable and more equitable. We will continue to promote good governance, respect for the Constitution and the human rights of all Guyanese, while fostering an economic environment where jobs flourish and there is guaranteed income for people. The Constitution must be a dynamic framework, subjected to continuous adjustments after widespread consultation with the people.

As General and Regional Elections loom, Guyanese have an opportunity to shape their future. We must not fall prey to fake promises. The choice is clear. The PPP/C has a proven track record. We built a strong and stable economy without the benefit of oil and gas. We are a Party of transformative policies and plans, and we keep our promises. These elections offer each of us a chance to choose the kind of life we and our children will have and the kind of country in which we will live.

These are some of the policies and measures we offer to give effect to our vision for Guyana.



## CREATING JOBS

As the PPP/C prepares to lead Guyana once again into an exciting future, our plan provides Guyanese with more jobs, particularly jobs for a new generation of Guyanese with higher education, vocational skills, and higher disposable incomes. While the public sector will continue to be a major employer, the private sector will be further incentivized to create more and better paying

jobs. The PPP/C will provide the enabling environment and incentives for expansion of existing businesses and emergence of new businesses by, removing obstacles to business growth, offering a fiscal regime that encourages investment, providing an empowering regulatory framework in which businesses can operate in a globally competitive manner and promoting skills-training to provide

employers with a pool of highly-trained and skilled human resources, among others. As part of the PPP/C fiscal and monetary policy, there will be the continuous review of taxation to support wealth creation and not serve as a disincentive to the expansion of business opportunities. In addition, the policy will be geared towards accelerating social spending and expanding infrastructure.

MORE JOBS LESS CRIME

BETTER EDUCATION

REDUCE COST OF LIVING

NO MORE 2AM CURFEW

NO VAT ON WATER



**Consistent with the objective of providing 50,000 new jobs and enhancing the well-being of all Guyanese, the following are some of the policies and measures which the next PPP/C Government will implement:**

- ✓ Reduce the bureaucracy, processing time for applications and other paperwork required for doing business.
- ✓ Restore zero-rated VAT for machinery and equipment for Agriculture, Mining, Forestry etc.
- ✓ Provide more incentives for small businesses and young entrepreneurs, including micro-credit facilities.
- ✓ Reverse the increased costs of licences and permits for doing business and accessing Government services which were raised since 2015.
- ✓ Reverse increased land rents and drainage and irrigation charges.
- ✓ Reverse VAT on exports.
- ✓ Reverse VAT on building materials.
- ✓ Remove VAT on data and establish online training programmes across the country.
- ✓ Promote skills training by increasing Technical and Vocational training and apprenticeship schemes.
- ✓ Partner with private companies and institutions to provide skills training in key areas.
- ✓ Incentivize employers so as to promote youth employment.
- ✓ Establish a National Job Bank and Labour Exchange.
- ✓ Provide greater support to vulnerable groups including the elderly and people living with disabilities.
- ✓ Simplify the tax system.
- ✓ Offer attractive tax incentives for business development.
- ✓ Improve access to financing for investments.

## RESCUING OUR PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

The traditional productive sectors must continue to play a significant economic and social role in our economy. Unlike the Oil and Gas sector which is capital intensive, Mining, Fisheries, Agriculture, Sugar, Bauxite, Rice and Forestry are labour intensive and

employ a significant percentage of the population. These sectors contribute significantly to our export profile, the foreign currency earnings of Guyana and GDP. These sectors also enhance our food security and serve as the base for our national manufacturing

output. We will provide incentives to strengthen and expand these sectors to ensure gainful employment for thousands of Guyanese. We will also pursue opportunities in Oil and Gas, which will be used to add to the viability of the traditional sector.

**In order to promote a diversified economy, create more jobs and expand income, the PPP/C will implement the following policy measures in the traditional productive sectors:**



### MINING

- Work with miners and their organizations to remove obstacles to their development.
- Reverse the VAT on machinery and equipment and revert to the 2% royalty rate.
- Establish a fairer, more transparent system for allocating mining concessions with more equitable access for small miners.
- Extend and upgrade roads in mining communities.
- Protect the rights and improve conditions of service for workers in large mining companies.
- Accelerate the implementation of projects in the bauxite and non-traditional mineral sectors.
- Provide training for miners through apprenticeships and education opportunities.



### FORESTRY

- Reverse VAT on machinery and equipment.
- Improve infrastructure including the maintenance of primary roads.
- Provide incentives for re-tooling and expanding the industry.

- Promote the use of lesser known/used species.
- Provide marketing support including bilateral arrangements to expand and create new markets.



### SUGAR

- Re-open sugar estates.
- Re-energize the local economy in the sugar communities.
- Pursue product diversification, provide retraining and employment opportunities for workers.
- Establish transparent private sector partnerships in the sugar sector and lend support to private cane farmers.
- Provide transitional support in areas where sugar estates were closed.
- Work to solve the problems of the industry as a whole, by firstly bringing the industry to break-even status and then to profitability by ensuring better management and greater efficiency through retooling, mechanization, product diversification and private participation.



### RICE

- Expand existing markets and secure new ones for rice and paddy.
- Reverse the increases in land rents and drainage and irrigation charges.

- Remove VAT on machinery, equipment, fertilisers, pesticides, etc.
- Restore budgetary support for adequate provision and maintenance of drainage and irrigation systems, and farm-to-market roads.
- Increase productivity through research/development into new strains and pest control.
- Explore a price stabilization/revolving fund facility for farmers.



### OTHER CROPS

- Create a supporting environment for other crops development including through incentives, drainage and irrigation, processing and marketing.
- Promote agricultural diversification with focus on coconut, ethanol, aquafarms, and horticulture.
- Promote an agri-energy industry producing bio-ethanol through sugar cane, palm oil, cassava and corn.
- Expand production of import-substitution crops.
- Expand soya bean and other crops in the hinterland savannahs, paying attention to fragile ecosystems and indigenous land rights.
- Provide training and financial support.
- Incentivize young people to pursue a career in agriculture and create training opportunities at tertiary levels to support them.





## CATTLE & LIVESTOCK

- Provide a support system and small grants for livestock farmers.
- Provide concessions for large-scale livestock farming.
- Provide appropriate breeding stock, training and facilities for cutting, packaging and storage of meat.

- Incentivize private investment in dairy plants, dairy processing facilities and the establishment of modern abattoir facilities in livestock producing regions.
- Minimize conflicts between livestock farmers and crop farmers through zoning.



## FISHERIES

- Enhance support for fishermen and the co-op societies.

- Reverse increases in licensing fees and taxes on fishing equipment, etc.
- Promote the creation of markets for commercial fisheries, including partnerships with investors who already have established markets.
- Provide concessions for large-scale livestock farming.
- Ensure that fishermen displaced by activities in the oil sector are compensated.
- Provide incentives to develop aquaculture.
- Intensify anti-piracy efforts including by utilizing GPS tracking systems and drone monitoring.

## MANUFACTURING, TOURISM AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In order to provide a friendly environment for businesses to be established and to grow, apart from favourable fiscal and monetary policies, the PPP/C will undertake the following:

- Provide the business sector with cheaper, reliable and stable power.
- Reduce the processing time for applications and other paperwork required for doing business.
- Provide tax incentives for new investments, re-tooling and technological improvements.
- Establish Industrial Parks/Estates for manufacturing in Coastal and Hinterland Regions.
- Establish a fund to stimulate innovation and new businesses.



- Create a National Entrepreneurship Body and increase grants to SMEs and young entrepreneurs.
- Develop a Hospitality Institute and provide training for skills required in the sector.
- Provide incentives for businesses in the hospitality industry, including the establishment of several world-class hotels.
- Re-establish the Ministry of Tourism and promote nature, eco- and adventure tourism.

# SECURING THE BENEFITS OF OIL AND GAS FOR ALL GUYANESE

We will approach the oil and gas sector in a national, non-partisan manner. Oil and Gas will bring not only significant financial resources and enormous transformational opportunities, but also many challenges. There are many examples around the world where developing countries have obtained wind-falls from Oil and Gas, but have eventually ended up poorer than before. Central to our strategy in the sector will be the following three critical areas:

### A framework for proper management of the resource

### Transparency and accountability

### Securing benefits for Guyanese

To ensure that our oil resource is managed responsibly, the PPP/C will:

- Immediately engage the oil and gas companies in better contract administration/re-negotiation.
- Establish an arm's length Sovereign Wealth Fund insulated from political interference.
- Define by legislation how funds will flow from the Sovereign Wealth Fund into the budget, and the purpose for which they will be used.
- Ensure that expenditures are transparently determined and go through the parliamentary process.
- Establish a regulatory framework which is independent of politicians.
- Build strong national capability to hold oil companies accountable, and to verify production and other expenditures.
- Ensure that blocks are competitively tendered/auctioned.
- Establish a model Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) based on industry-wide standards and best practices. The purpose of this is to ensure that Guyanese receive maximum benefit from these contracts without disincentivizing foreign investors in the sector.
- Training of thousands of Guyanese at every level to create a national corps of managers and workforce to chart the future direction and effectively manage the sector

To prevent oil money from being squandered, the PPP/C will among other things:

- Uphold the Santiago Principles of transparency and accountability and EITI.
- Criminalize non-disclosure of receipt of funds from oil revenues.
- Ensure annual reports from the Government are laid in the National Assembly detailing oil revenues and expenditures.
- Ensure there are regular audits.
- Civil society will be involved in a central role to monitor compliance and accountability.



REVERSE VAT ON BUILDING MATERIALS

DAYCARE FOR WORKING MOTHERS

END PRESCRIPTION DRUG SHORTAGES

REVERSE THE VAT ON EXPORTS

REVERSE VAT ON FARMING, MINING & FORESTRY EQUIPMENT



**The oil resource belongs to the people of Guyana. We will ensure that oil revenue works for all Guyanese, and is spent on improving people's lives and in support of job creation. Some areas in which oil revenue will be directed are:**

- Support for job creation.
- World-class education and healthcare for Guyanese.
- Social and economic infrastructure.
- Targeted cash transfer to Guyanese particularly the elderly, children, the poor and other vulnerable groups.
- Strong local content for Guyanese with legislative safeguards.
- Savings for future generations.
- Tax reduction for Guyanese businesses and individuals.

## INFRASTRUCTURE BOOM: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

**Guyana's infrastructure, including infrastructure for transport (overland/road, air and river), utilities (water, telecoms/ICT, electricity), sea and river defence, drainage, garbage collection/sanitation, new hospitals and schools must be expanded, modernized and become more efficient to support a flourishing economy.**

**The following are some of the measures which the PPP/C will implement:**

- Expand main roads and other essential infrastructure to accommodate growth in population and traffic.
- Improve community roads and implement an Urban Improvement Programme in Georgetown and other urban areas.
- Provide better drainage to prevent flooding in our communities.
- Enhance drainage and irrigation systems to improve agricultural productivity and community health and welfare.
- Provide significant support from Central Government for garbage collection in our communities.
- Ensure regular maintenance of outfall channels and sluices and procure suitable dredging equipment for each affected region.
- Build a bypass road with connections to Mocha, Eccles and the Demerara Harbour Bridge.
- Build and maintain 2000 miles of hinterland roads.
- Maintain hinterland airstrips and develop Lethem to international port of entry status.
- Expand river transport and improve ferry services.
- Build new schools and hospitals, outfitted with modern equipment.



**In addition to these measures, the PPP/C Government will initiate work on several transformative infrastructural projects.**

**These will include:**

- A deep-water harbour at the Berbice estuary.
- The Linden to Lethem road.
- A four-lane highway from Georgetown to Timehri (CJIA).
- The Parika to Rockstone Del Conte Road and link with Bartica.
- Bridge the Corentyne River.
- A high-span bridge across the Demerara River.
- Duty free zones

## CHEAPER AND MORE RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

**Energy is key for the economic growth of Guyana and for an improved quality of life for all Guyanese. The PPP/C is committed to providing affordable, stable and reliable energy to benefit both households and businesses. We will implement a programme with an energy-mix that includes hydropower, solar and wind, which will lead to more than 400 Megawatts of newly-installed capacity for residential and commercial-industrial users.**

**The PPP/C is committed to implementing the following policy measures:**

- Complete the Amaila Falls Hydro Project, moving towards clean, reliable, affordable power supply.
- Produce in excess of 200 MW in the interim, from natural gas.
- Invest in solar and wind systems for off-grid areas.
- Expand the Hinterland Electrification Programme.
- Replace and upgrade solar panels in the hinterland.
- Take urgent action to improve and upgrade the national grid (transmission and distribution).
- Develop micro grids for large hinterland villages.



50,000 NEW JOBS

REVERSE NEW TAXES  
ON GUYANESE MINERS

REVERSE THE 200 NEW TAXES + FEES  
GET MONEY FLOWING AGAIN

50,000  
HOUSE LOTS

REVERSE AGE LIMITS ON  
IMPORTED VEHICLES



## UTILIZING OUR RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER TO CREATE JOBS AND INCOME FOR ALL

Guyana's rich natural resources must be utilized to provide jobs and create opportunities for our people. They, however, must be utilized in a sustainable manner. Our mineral resources must be used to provide employment to thousands of our people. Our people have a legitimate right to earn from these sectors and to provide for their families. The PPP/C is committed to working with miners, miners organizations and those who work in the forestry sector and their organizations to

ensure that the impact to the environment is minimized.

Our rainforest is a valuable national and global resource and its preservation will have not only a positive local impact but will also impact the fight against climate change. We will reinstitute the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) to help achieve prosperity for our people by deploying earnings from forest climate services to diversify the economy and create more jobs and opportunities utilizing

a non-carbon intensive pathway. We believe that we can earn hundreds of millions of US dollars as we have already demonstrated through the Norway Agreement and create thousands of new, clean jobs. We have to ensure that the benefits from the Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) flow to all Guyanese, particularly Indigenous communities, where the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent and Opt-In must be rigidly observed.

**The LCDS will be broadened to include wider environmental services, integrated water resources management and climate resilience. Other initiatives under the LCDS will include:**

- Establishing an International Centre of Excellence for Biological Diversity with the objective of promoting cutting-edge research and developing and exporting educational services.
- Strengthening the EPA to provide a fair and empowering regulatory framework to guide economic growth initiatives.
- Strengthening and expanding the National System of Protected Areas in accordance with appropriate standards of environmental integrity.
- Taking steps to decarbonize the transport sector by implementing an ethanol blend into vehicles in an effort to reduce use of fossil fuels.
- Embracing renewable energy technologies and provide incentives for biomass-to-energy projects as a means of utilizing by-products and reducing dependency on fossil fuels.
- Provide grants for start-up businesses for renewable/recycling projects.

**Central to the achievement of better management of our natural resources is the issue of better land management and access to land. We will:**

- Establish a formal inter-agency mechanism for the purpose of coordination among the forestry, mining, agriculture, settlements and infrastructure sectors. This mechanism will serve to address multiple land use conflicts, foster fair, transparent and equitable land allocation decisions, and address inter-sectoral issues regarding the implementation of land use policy.
- Implement a National Land Use Policy with a regional dimension and which harmonizes residential and commercial interests.

## ICT: CONNECTING EVERY GUYANESE TO THE FUTURE

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is key to building an economy for the future and supporting national development. ICT must be used in Guyana as an engine for economic and social empowerment. The PPP/C is committed to developing the infrastructure and providing the enabling environment to promote the use of ICT across Guyana. This will enable optimal household use of ICT and eliminate the digital gap and unequal access within Guyana and between Guyana and other countries. ICT will be used to catalyze development in education, health, industry and agriculture by reducing transaction costs, and improving effectiveness, efficiency and productivity. Our goal

is the diffusion of ICT so that it reaches every Guyanese in every community, in every sector. For this to become reality, there must be improved access to the internet, increased ICT literacy, increased e-Government and partnerships with the private sector.

**In this regard, the PPP/C will increase access to cheaper data and bandwidth by:**

- Liberalizing the telecommunications sector.
- Allowing more fibre-optic cables to terminate in Guyana.
- Scaling up State-sponsored efforts to provide countrywide cover with fibre-optic cables and other wireless options to ensure subsidized access to poor and remote households. The medium through which every household, including poor ones, will be able to connect to the internet will be a reinstated One Laptop Per Family programme.
- Removing VAT on data.



**Increase ICT literacy by:**

- Providing schools with appropriate equipment and software.
- Reforming school curricula for the development of ICT proficiencies.
- Providing incentives for training in ICT.
- Providing community-based training for the use of computers.
- Establishing an International Institute of Technology in Guyana.



Promote e-Governance, which will improve the productivity of businesses and delivery of government services through the introduction of e-health, e-education, e-security, e-agriculture, electronic permit and licence processing, etc.

**ICT as an enabler for jobs creation:**

The ICT sector, if properly incentivized, can generate thousands of new jobs through co-investment, providing infrastructure support, State-sponsored training, and employment opportunities for the disabled.



## BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

The PPP's founding principles were based on pursuing the well-being of every Guyanese. For the PPP, this has always meant putting people at the centre of our economic, social, cultural and environmental policies. National economic prosperity is meaningless if it does not improve the well-being of every Guyanese. We must provide adequate levels of healthcare, education, water, housing and sanitation, and ensure safety and security for all. Consistent with this, the PPP/C plans to remove VAT on electricity, water, medical supplies and food items that were taxed after 2015.

Special programmes targeting women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups in society must be developed and implemented. Together with a vibrant, growing economy with well-paying jobs and the promotion of the well-being of all Guyanese in health, education and other areas. The PPP/C also recognizes the need for promoting culture and sports and the importance of developing rounded personalities in our youth. A robust, growing economy must support the development and improvement of the social sector.



### ENHANCED HEALTH SERVICES FOR OUR PEOPLE

- Expand primary healthcare/preventative medicine.
- Upgrade health facilities across the country including expansion of diagnostic services such as CT Scans, ultrasound, echocardiogram etc at key regional hospitals as well as improve ambulance services.
- Ensure that there is adequate supply of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies with a focus on timely procurement, proper storage and reliable delivery to hospitals and health centres.
- Expand the range of medical personnel, including doctors, postgraduate specialists, nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists and technicians and other support staff.
- Implement a performance management system that measures performance in health contracts/ service agreements to foster greater accountability and better quality of health services delivery, waiting time in emergency rooms and for surgery, and maintenance of an electronic patient records system.
- Expand tertiary healthcare including partnerships with the private sector.
- Provide generous tax incentives for private healthcare delivery providers.
- Improve conditions of service and remuneration for healthcare workers, technicians, nurses and doctors.
- Provide the option of contract gratuity or joining the pensionable establishment for doctors



### PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Create 10,000 house lots annually.
- Invest in support infrastructure in existing and new housing schemes.
- Reverse VAT on building materials.
- Facilitate affordable financing for homeownership.
- Promote home ownership, particularly among youths and young professionals through tax and other incentives.
- Promote partnerships and incentivize private sector involvement in the sector.



### DELIVERING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

The PPP/C intends to improve access to education at every level from nursery to university; to raise the quality of education across all levels; and to prepare students for the job market, especially at the technical and tertiary levels.

In an effort to achieve these goals, action will be taken to:

- Build, expand and improve educational facilities across Guyana.
- Improve remuneration and conditions of service for teachers.
- Offer incentives to teachers and opportunities for training and skills development.
- Expand the use of ICT in education.
- Enhance opportunities in Technical Vocational Education.
- Facilitate the establishment of an online university and promote e-learning for hinterland students.
- Enhance the Learning Channel to support learning across all levels and to extend the coverage across Guyana.
- Update a manpower survey and undertake curricula reform accordingly.
- Provide generous tax incentives for private education providers from primary to tertiary levels to ensure affordability and improve the quality of education.
- Provide 20,000 online scholarships.
- Provide free education at the University of Guyana within 5 years.
- Provide a pathway for debt write-off for students with outstanding student loans.
- Enhance attention to our children with Special Education Needs (SEN).
- Reform and strengthening of the monitoring system for school management.

Further, the cost of education to families will be reduced by doing the following:

- Restore and increase the 'Because We Care' \$10,000 Cash Grant.
- Supply all required textbooks to school children.
- Provide nutrition through initiatives such as the hot meal programme.



### IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND ENHANCED QUALITY OF WATER

- Ensure that water rates remain affordable.
- Reinstate water subsidies to pensioners.
- Expand treated water to more areas.
- Upgrade the distribution and transmission of water in urban, rural and hinterland areas.
- Reduce losses in the distribution system.
- Create the institutional mechanisms to rationalize the country's water resources through an Integrated Water Resources Management framework over the next five years.



## LESS CRIME AND SAFER COMMUNITIES



**Crime affects everyone's quality of life and takes a toll on businesses. In order to reduce crime and provide safety for all Guyanese, the PPP/C will:**

- Provide more equipment, facilities and training for law enforcement personnel.
- Improve investigative and forensic capabilities.
- Expand the use of modern technology and intelligence in the fight against crime including cybercrimes.
- Expand intelligence gathering and processing capability of law enforcement agencies and promote intelligence-led policing.
- Ensure greater accountability by the Police for solving crime including a crime observatory.
- Provide better remuneration and conditions of service for personnel in the security forces.
- Decentralize crime-fighting resources and capabilities across Guyana.
- Enhance security capabilities in the hinterland in support of mining, forestry and Amerindian villages.
- Strengthen the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
- Enhance the capabilities of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU).
- Increase international cooperation in the fight against the smuggling of narcotics.
- Provide increased budgetary allocation for the Office of the DPP.
- Expand training for Prosecutors to promote a higher rate of conviction for serious crimes.
- Implement new initiatives for greater road safety.
- Foster greater collaboration with the private security sector in certification and training.
- Reinstate the joint services bonus.
- Equip the army to enhance maritime and border security.
- Reform of the prison system to include compulsory training/education for prisoners, security and safety of prison officers and safer prisons with improved conditions.

## MAINSTREAMING YOUTHS IN NATIONAL LIFE

**Increased Opportunities for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities**

- Create a non-partisan national Youth Corps.
- Establish a Presidential Youth Advisory Council

to mainstream the focus on youth (jobs, housing, education, etc.).

- Provide a special fund for upgrading of sports and cultural facilities.
- Ensure that each region has a premium, multi-purpose sporting facility that could be used for multiple events.
- Build a sports academy to serve all regions.
- Provide incentive packages for businesses that provide sponsorships/employment opportunities for sports persons.
- Provide adequate financial and other resources for the promotion of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sites.
- Provide tax and other incentives to expand job and income opportunities in the 'entertainment sector' including recording studios, promotion of shows and sporting events.
- Upgrade the South Dakota Circuit to international standard.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN AND TAKING CARE OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Expand child care programmes and centres countrywide and enhance the capacity of the Child Care and Protection Agency.
- Incentivize the provision of child care services including collaboration with the private sector.
- Encourage and assist in the establishment of day care centres for working women.
- Enhance nutrition and vaccination programmes.
- Focus on the economic empowerment of women in all regions through, among other things, incentives and programmes to access microfinance in the commercial banking system.
- Promote the establishment of micro and small businesses by women through support including appropriate training, mentoring and grants.
- Mainstream women's participation in governance.
- Provide enhanced benefits for public assistance recipients.
- Increase old age pension to \$40,000 per month.
- Strengthen and enforce legislation on Trafficking in Persons.
- Expand access to Legal Aid Services for persons across Guyana.
- Improve conditions for persons with special needs, including children, through better facilities, services and job opportunities.

## SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF AMERINDIANS

**The Rights of Guyana's Amerindians and their access to opportunities will be high on the PPP/C agenda. We have a track record of working to improve the lives of indigenous people across Guyana and the next PPP/C Government will continue to make this a priority. Emphasis**

**will be placed on infrastructure development in villages, creating job opportunities, improving social services and enhancing the rights of indigenous people.**

**Some of the policy measures to address the specific needs of the indigenous, hinterland and riverine people are:**

- Immediately resume the Amerindian Land Titling Program.
- Resume the LCDS and advance the Opt-In Mechanism.
- Update the Amerindian Act after consultations with Amerindian communities.
- Fund the Community Development Plans thereby leading to the creation of jobs and income.
- Re-hire 2000 Community Service Officers (CSOs) as well as expand the CSOs Programme.
- Upgrade hinterland roads, airstrips and water supply.
- Improve agriculture support and infrastructure across the hinterland.
- Enhance and expand the Hinterland Housing Programme.
- Resume the household solar panel and computer projects.
- Deliver Government pensions, student grants and services directly to the recipients.
- Improve education and health facilities including hostels for secondary school students.
- Ensuring continuous supply of drugs and medical supplies.
- Improve working conditions for education and health workers.
- Harnessing potable water supply and securing water for agriculture and livestock during the dry season.
- Remove hardship taxes on hinterland communities especially in border areas.
- Increase Presidential Grants to fund other village activities.

## WORKERS' WELFARE

- Re-establish the Ministry of Labour and strengthen the capabilities of the Ministry to address industrial disputes including issues of collective bargaining.
- Improve conditions of service and remuneration for public servants.
- Ensure that all Guyanese workers are protected under the law and that foreign companies respect and adhere to the laws of Guyana.
- Ensure fair recruitment practices.
- Support trade unions in training and development of workers.
- Continue to uphold workers' rights and respect for the International Labour Organization Conventions.



## REGIONAL GROWTH AND JOBS PLAN

In addition to our wider initiatives to foster growth and jobs for the country as a whole, we recognize that such growth and job opportunities must be felt at the local level and benefit communities and individuals. In accordance with this belief, we propose to develop and implement for each Region a plan tailored for the development of that Region. In pursuit of this policy, we will focus on the upgrade of economic infrastructure and land development schemes to make more land available for agriculture and other economic activities that will create more jobs and income. In addition, we will provide tax and other incentives for regional development.

## MAKING OUR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS MORE ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE AND OPEN TO ALL

Good governance is indispensable for a strong and fair democratic system. The new and expansive economy; the development of a higher standard of living; the demand for greater inclusivity, transparency and accountability; improved local governance; the legislative and monitoring roles of Parliament; and the accountability of Cabinet all require appropriate and effective governance policies and measures.

### The PPP/C will continue to:

- Uphold the separation of powers of the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.
- Ensure non-interference by the Executive in the work of the Constitutional bodies.
- Ensure continuous reform and accountability of the criminal justice system to ensure justice is delivered in a timely way with regard to human rights.
- Strengthen the Integrity Commission to ensure compliance as we continue the fight against corruption.
- Pass campaign finance legislation.
- Implement arm's-length, non-political processing

- of duty-free concessions and incentives.
- Ensure that the procurement laws are rigidly upheld.
- Ensure that there is no discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation in the workplace, education sector, health sector or in any other areas of national life.
- Foster diversity and inclusiveness through education and equipping the Ethnic Relations Commission to actively fight against stereotyping and racism.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Governance at the local level is critical to ensure that the benefits of national development are spread across Guyana. We intend to promote greater empowerment of local communities by allowing them to manage their affairs. The PPP/C intends to allow local organs to exercise greater control over their communities in accordance with the legislation and strengthen their capacity to discharge their functions in a transparent manner with the objective of producing greater services for the people in these areas.

### Among measures to be pursued are:

- Substantially increase the subvention to Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) and towns.
- Strengthen Local Government Bodies to manage resources and to take on greater maintenance responsibilities for infrastructure in their areas.
- Strengthen Local Government Bodies in budget planning and preparation, financial management and accountability.
- Strengthen the Solid Waste Management Programme at the local level to deliver timely collection and appropriate disposal of garbage.
- Improve infrastructure (drainage, markets, bridges, community lights, etc) in Georgetown, other towns and villages across Guyana.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

**Ensuring people's participation in revising the Supreme Law of our land**  
We are aware that issues concerning constitutional reform, particularly in relation to a national, inclusive governance model, management of elections, fiduciary accountability, enhancing rights of Guyanese and ensuring constitutional language is simple have been raised and discussed in the public domain. However, we



believe that these, as well as other issues, must be part of a process of widespread consultation with the people of Guyana before being acted upon. The extensive changes to our Constitution under the PPP/C followed such a process. Moving forward, we are committed to continuous revision of the Constitution. In this regard, we will ensure that the Committee on Constitutional Reform that will advance the work will pursue nationwide consultation following the model used in the past, that is, with half of the members from civil society and equal representation from Government and the Opposition.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

We recognize that some issues in society are best tackled through partnerships. As such, we will work with civil society and non-governmental organizations, religious groups/leaders and others to address key issues such as domestic violence, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse and addiction, mental health and prison reform among others.

The PPP/C will support NGOs and religious organizations who provide for seniors, children and women and joint service veterans. We will re-establish a permanent mechanism for meaningful and regular engagement with the private sector and civil society for their involvement as development partners.

## DIASPORA

**Overseas Guyanese also have an important part to play in our country's development. The PPP/C Government will:**

- Aggressively pursue the involvement of the diaspora community in national development.
- Reverse the adverse changes to the re-migrant scheme.

## SECURING OUR SOVEREIGNTY/ STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The focus on our international relations will be to strengthen bilateral ties with our neighbours and friendly countries and multilateral organizations with the objective of preserving our sovereignty and territorial integrity, promoting Guyana's trade and economic interests, and enhancing the image and presence of our country and people on the world stage.

**Let us work together and to elect a Government that will deliver on its promises to all Guyanese.**

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

**FOR A BETTER GUYANA**