



Manifesto 2015

Action Agenda

Dear Brothers and Sisters, fellow Guyanese,

We are pleased to present to you our Action Agenda 2015 containing our plans for a developed Guyana under the theme: "Guyana Needs Youth". Except for the 'magic circles', all other plans are short-term plans.

Our Nation, Guyana, was born on May 26th, 1966. This year we will celebrate 49 years of Independence, yet our beautiful country, with all its natural resources and hard-working people, has failed to provide the basic needs for all our people. Until now, there are children who do not have access to potable tap water and who cannot attend secondary school because of poverty.

This election of 2015 is for the social, economic, and educational development of all our people. Our old leaders are stuck in the past, and the youth of this nation need to take the lead to unify and develop Guyana. The United Force offers you the opportunity to move Guyana from a developing country to a developed country.

The United Force believes in Almighty God and that all are equal under God as well as the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights. We also believe in equal opportunity for all and a meaningful quality of life for all.

The Founder/Leader of the United Force was the late Mr. Peter D'Aguiar who was also the founder of Banks DIH. Mr. D'Aguiar founded Banks DIH in the sixties, and today it is one of the most successful business giant in Guyana. Mr. D'Aguiar also wrote the first Manifesto of the UF entitled "Highway to Happiness".

If 'Highway to Happiness' was implemented in Guyana, even partially, then Guyana would have been as prosperous and successful as Banks DIH Ltd is today, and the most prosperous nation in South America and the Caribbean.

The United Force is now under the leadership of young politicians who are tired of the old politics of hate, racism, bitterness and suppression. The UF, therefore, offers better politicians over bitter politicians, betterment over bitterness and civility over confrontation.

Friends, we call on you to vote for the United Force on May 11, 2015. Be a TUF guy or a TUF woman.

Vote TUF, and put youth talent to work for Guyana. God Bless Guyana!

Yours Faithfully,

Marissa Nadir,
Presidential Candidate
April 2015

>>> 1.0: The Ideal Government . . .

The United Force will establish a People's Enterprise Capitalism in Guyana, where the people will be encouraged to own businesses either directly or by owning shares, following the pattern of our founder/leader Mr Peter D'Aguiar.

The United Force intends to restructure the entire Government's operation so as to provide EFFECTIVE and EFFICIENT government services. Services should be extended to the members of the public with the minimal delay. Staff would be trained to carry out their job effectively and efficiently. Where necessary, government services would be decentralized so that persons would not have to travel to Georgetown to complete their businesses, particularly with regards to the application for passports and registration of vehicles.

Government should also not participate in the ownership of businesses, except in the utility sector and social security sector. Over time, all government shares and interests in businesses would be sold to the public.

The duty of the Government is to manage the country and implement policies to make the lives of its citizens easy.

Today, anyone desirous of accessing any of the services provided by the government, have to take a day-off in order to complete his/her business with the government. This should not be the case. In this highly modernized and technologically advanced world, services should be provided quickly. Many times persons are getting a "royal running around" in order to access services from the government, or one has to pay "speed money" (bribes).

The United Force will ensure that all Government Services are computerized and persons will be allowed to transact businesses online and even pay their fees, and print receipts online. No body's business must be held back because of Government inefficiency.

The United Force believes that the purpose of the Government is to fulfill the needs of the people, especially the workers and farmers, by granting them opportunities to satisfy their needs. In other words, each family must be able to earn enough to provide for his or her family good and sufficient food, clothing, housing, medical attention, education and leisure. Each family must have access to good water, proper sanitation, electricity, drainage, irrigation, proper roads, public transportation, television, radio and internet.

Government services in all area will be given priority attention. Too often those who are supposed to serve our people, treat our citizens as if they are beggars and the scum of the country. Be it Hospitals or Health centers, the Police, schools or any Government office. TUF will change the culture and truly make government service people friendly. For example, why does the post office have to take ten days to deliver a letter, going just two blocks from the G.P.O? Why in spite of all the money spent in health, there are shortages of basic drugs? Why must our police treat victims as criminals? Why must our hospital emergency sector have people waiting hours?

TUF commits to making these changes which you, the people, are crying out for. We say let's fix the things that are broken and make government service respectful to our people.

>>> 2.0: Security . . .

Security is of major concern to all Guyanese. That is why we have dedicated the major portion of our Action Agenda to security.

The Constitution of The United Force specifies that the party's policy is to maintain a judicial and police system that will guarantee each citizen protection against injustice, violence, fraud and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

The United Force (TUF) is genuinely concerned about the economic and social welfare of every Guyanese, irrespective of race, creed, religion, gender or political affiliation. TUF proposes the implementation of the following short term and long term strategies to address the issue of Crime and Security in our nation. TUF hears your pleas for urgent solutions and we pledge to stand firm with you to combat this scourge.

TUF realizes that the input of every citizen and a conscientious commitment by the relevant authorities will be necessary in order to achieve any level of success during the implementation of these short term initiatives. We therefore ask for the full and unwavering support of everyone who is concerned about the future of our country.

Our objective is to achieve the highest level of security in the home and work environment. Every child should be safe, whether inside or outside of the home or class- room. Every business person should feel secure in his or her place of business and at all other times. These minimum goals can only be achieved through detailed examination of our current laws, the structure and function of our Criminal Justice System. The security and the judicial systems must be more accountable and responsive to the needs of our citizens. There must be transparency and confidence in our judicial system. Every citizen must believe that justice is colour and status blind. We must respect the decisions and those who render them. As such, TUF will endeavour to gain the confidence and support of all Guyanese.

In the short-term, TUF is therefore fully prepared to sit down with all stakeholders to achieve a meeting of the minds as to the most effective manner of addressing the crime issue in our country. The suggestions, recommendations, and input of all will be developed into a comprehensive proposal that will seek to achieve changes in our criminal justice system, thereby providing the machinery for the reduction of various crimes and anti-social behaviour in our society.

2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS

2.1.1 Recruitment, Training and Career Path

TUF will seek to amend the age of eligibility so that all graduating members from the police training school must be at least twenty-one years of age, before being permitted to patrol on

their own. TUF will require that all graduating constables be accompanied by a senior constable during the first three months of patrol.

2.1.2 *Review of Recruitment Standards*

Upon review of the qualifications standards for admission, TUF will make it mandatory that all candidates must have attained at least a secondary school education and have achieved no less than three passes in the CXC examination or its equivalent.

TUF will create a Recruitment Unit within the Force that will visit schools and other organizations to identify outstanding young men and women who would be willing to serve in the Force. Such targeted individuals, prior to attaining the appropriate age, will be invited to attend quarterly orientation and drill sessions, and be given a stipend for their participation in the exercise. The exercise will emphasize the building of character, discipline, and high moral standards, attributes that are critical to the survival of our Police Force.

2.1.3 *Pre-Appointment/Vetting of Recruits*

Although we hold the belief that one's history is no indicator of one's future conduct, we believe that a thorough investigation of a recruit's background is the only available tool by which he or she may be assessed to determine his or her moral and ethical standards.

2.1.4 *Appointment of Police Commissioner*

Elevation to the position of commissioner has been treated similarly to that of a monarchy, whereby in many cases the heir apparent is identified and known to the public years prior to his ascension to the position. The person identified is normally someone who has served as a Deputy Commissioner and acted in the capacity. This may not be the most qualified candidate, yet invariably he receives the nod for such a position.

TUF urges that the selection process be competitive in nature and that qualified male and female members of the Force holding the rank of assistant commissioner and above be given equal consideration for the position of commissioner. For too long, female members of the Force have been overlooked or by-passed during promotion to ranks above assistant commissioner. As such we must re-examine the eligibility, selection, and appointment processes by encouraging those qualified members to apply and compete for positions in the upper echelon of the Force.

TUF will seek to amend the basis and criteria used in the appointment of a Commissioner of Police and shall devise mechanisms that will foster public participation in the selection process.

2.1.5 *Standards and Ethics*

TUF emphasizes that a significant portion of a candidate's training should be devoted to matters of intelligence gathering, proactive policing, integrity, anti-corruption measures, and police-community relations. TUF will develop a program that will guarantee the safety and security of each member of the Force who files a complaint against fellow members for acts of misconduct.

Although we strongly believe that most members of the Force are law-abiding and highly professional in the execution of their duties, we are convinced that the conduct of some members continue to reflect negatively on the Force in general. Police personnel must be encouraged to report knowledge of wrongdoings by fellow officers. They must understand that they have a moral, ethical, and legal obligation to do so. However, we also realize that this exercise can only be achieved when the appropriate conditions and mechanisms are created within the Force to protect sources of information from any and all forms of victimization.

2.1.6 Promotions and Career Paths

The United Force supports a process by which all members of the GPF are promoted based on merit and nothing else. Thus, members should be aware of all avenues of advancement and be afforded equal opportunity to pursue the avenues of choice. Members must have no doubt that the path to professional advancement is through highly dedicated and professional performance of their duties.

2.1.7 Name Change

TUF has heard calls for the Guyana Police Force's name to be changed to Guyana Police Service. The United Force supports the call for a change of name. However, such change must not be an act of euphemism, but rather be accompanied by substantive and meaningful changes in the manner in which the police operate. A mere name change without drastic change in the modus operandi of the police will achieve nothing but further frustrate our citizens.

2.1.8 Remuneration and incentives to encourage pursuit of higher education

It has been generally accepted that members of the Guyana Police Force are woefully underpaid. Crime is our number one priority and our financial resources will be re-prioritised to give our law enforcement officers a well-rewarded remuneration package e.g. Improved salaries, Private insurance, A free house lot for each officer after serving three (3) years And a duty free vehicle after serving five (5) years, renewable every five years.

2.2 CRIME FIGHTING PROPOSALS

This category is intended to address serious and violent crimes of all nature such as homicide, domestic violence, rape, armed robberies and kidnapping and to present our plans of providing specialised units to deal with types of crimes.

2.2.1 Create Specialized Investigative Units

TUF believes that the most effective deterrent to crime is the fear of immediate detection, apprehension and prosecution by the authorities. As such, TUF will recommend the creation of specialized units within the Guyana Police Force. Such specialization will serve to enhance expertise and skills of members of each unit, which will lend towards a more productive and effective organization.

The United Force encourages and promotes the approach that the police must conduct some basic level of preliminary investigation, before taking someone into custody. The detention of any citizen and the deprivation their civil liberty must be justified by reasonable cause. We urge investigation before detention. In order to promote this approach, TUF will provide all members with the basic level of investigative skills necessary in the execution of their duty.

2.2.2 NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The United Force will create a separate investigation agency that will have as its main objective the function of crime solving. The NBI will be staffed with competent and professional staff recruited from within and outside of Guyana. This agency will complement the work of the law enforcement agencies.

2.2.3 Special Emergency and Tactical Response Unit

The United Force is of the strongest conviction that the disciplined services must create and maintain a highly trained unit capable of responding and repelling any domestic threats or armed attacks. Members of the unit, which will be no less than three hundred (300) strong, will be recruited from the Guyana Defense Force and Police Force. TUF will retain the services of highly competent and reputable units from various jurisdictions to provide the necessary training to this specialized unit. This will be a very professional unit that will see members being held to the highest stands of international best standards.

2.2.4 Emergency Communications Unit

TUF has heard of an ever increasing number of complaints by members of the public where their pleas for help have gone unheeded, because no one answered their calls to 911. The United Force recommends the establishing of an Emergency Communications Unit that will have multiple telephone lines dedicated to only receiving calls and will be manned by designated personnel on a twenty-four hour basis. This system will also be designed to record all incoming calls and transmissions relayed indicating the time of each activity. In most cases transmissions will be made via radios. TUF believes that the time has come where our emergency system must be responsive to the calls for help from our citizens and when it fails to do so. Those responsible must be held accountable and be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of service.

2.2.5 Intelligence Unit

The United Force believes that a competent intelligence unit within the Force must comprise of personnel that are capable of surreptitiously infiltrating various gangs and other illegal organizations for the purpose of providing timely information on the activities of the groups. The resources will be committed in areas of recruitment and training of suitable personnel in the art of infiltration and additional covert activities.

2.2.6 Anti-Police Corruption Unit

No law enforcement body can achieve any appreciable level of success, unless it enjoys the

unqualified support and confidence of the community it serves. The general sentiments shared by members of the public are that many members of the Force are corrupt. However, members of the public are reluctant to file complaints with the appropriate authorities for fear of victimization. To address this issue, it is recommended that an appropriate rank at the Sub-Division level be assigned the position of Integrity/ Community Officer and that this officer be provided with an exclusive and dedicated telephone number with capabilities to record complaints and information during his/her absence from office. This officer will be required to make routine visits to the communities within his/her jurisdiction and to interact with members of said communities, thus making him or herself accessible to anyone wishing to file a complaint. This approach can also serve as part of building a constructive community/police relationship. Integrity/ Community Officer should report without undue delay, all allegations of corruption and other forms of misconduct directly to the Head of the Internal Affairs Unit. This Unit will be responsible for conducting investigations of all complaints. Integrity/Community Officer must submit monthly reports of all complaints received to the Division Commander noting action taken, if any.

In order to identify potentially corrupt members, it is crucial that the Force initiates proactive and covert investigations. Measures such as sting operations should be encouraged and conducted on targeted officers by the Internal Affairs Unit. This measure will not only serve to identify corrupt officers but will also serve as a deterrent to police soliciting and/or accepting bribes.

A further step towards gaining the support of the community is transparency and impartiality in instances where the police are prosecuted. In order to remove all doubts and suspicions from the process, the practice of police serving as prosecutor in matters against fellow police would be discontinued. A Special Prosecutor should be appointed to handle all cases against police. Such steps will certainly help to remove any cloud of suspicion in the manner in which these cases are disposed of.

2.2.7 Homicide Unit

In 2005, our murder rate can be expressed as being of such levels that Guyana is considered one to the Region's crime Capitals. Although the statistical data pertaining to the conviction rate of those charged with murder may not be available, it appears to be extremely low. If this is so, then what are the reasons for such a poor conviction record? Was the wrong person arrested and charged? This can only be due to poor police investigation. Was it poor prosecutorial skills due to lack of experience, or was the prosecutor outwitted by the defence? Or was it poor investigative skills that resulted in evidence developed being unable to withstand the scrutiny and impeachment of competent attorneys? Was it poor case preparation or lack of experiencing in testifying?

Whatever, the reason may be, the United Force intends to thoroughly examine these issues and make all necessary provisions for adequate training in these fundamental areas. TUF will, in consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutor (DPP), seek to create and fund a highly skilled investigative unit that will be assigned to the Prosecutor's office. Such personnel may be

recruited from the list of retired and/or active members of the Force or from private investigative organizations.

The objective is to create an investigative body that will be under the direct supervision of the DPP, and be capable of assessing the investigative steps taken by the police and being able to pursue matters overlooked by the police.

Homicide investigations are unique and require methodical and comprehensive analysis of all evidence by highly experienced investigators. To date, there are more than forty seven unsolved murders committed in 2006. We must equip our investigators with the tools to make them more competent and efficient in the solution of homicide cases.

2.2.8 *Narcotics Unit*

No one can doubt that there is a proliferation of illegal drugs in our communities and that to a great extent, organized groups are engaging in the exportation of this illegal substance with impunity. TUF believes that the detection and investigative mechanisms currently in place to address this problem are duplicitous and unproductive. We have seen no appreciable levels of reduction in illegal drugs leaving Guyana. These illegal drugs and the funds generated will have severe impact on the integrity and stability of our political and judicial systems if unchecked. The lack of accountability for funds generated makes them untraceable. The very threat of a subterranean economy being created by these illicit funds can have tremendous influence on governments and their decisions.

2.2.9 *Fire Arms and Explosives Unit*

Although the 2005 statistics have shown some level of reduction in serious crimes when compared to the previous year, crimes associated with the use of firearms appear to be on the increase. Therefore, specific emphasis must be placed on preventing the entry of illegal firearms into our country and at the same time developing strategies to remove those that are currently in the hands of members of our society. Since illegal firearms are involved in most homicides, our objective must be to successfully and expeditiously solve those homicides and at the same time work assiduously to remove the illegal firearms.

The pervasiveness of illegal firearms in our society is of such magnitude that we must create a specialized unit to trace, identify, and seize weapons that are illegally held. Simultaneously, a program offering amnesty for a specific period coupled with an offer to purchase all illegal guns at a fair market value from the public will be instituted. Persons surrendering weapons will not be required to identify themselves to the authorities. Illegal weapons must be presented within a prescribed period. TUF will seek legislation that will allow for confiscated funds to be used to finance this and other programs.

TUF supports a carrot and stick approach to this problem and as such will simultaneously seek to significantly increase the penalty for anyone caught with illegal weapons upon expiration of the amnesty period. We cannot deceive ourselves into believing that the removal of illegal weapons from our streets will be the solution to the murder rate. We must remember that guns don't kill, people do; therefore police must identify and pursue those who are pre-

disposed to violence through “aggressive stop and frisk” of suspects and cordon and search exercises.

Law enforcement must remain in a proactive mode in order to achieve an appreciable level of success in reducing the amount of crimes involving the use of illegal firearms.

2.2.10 Armed Robbery & Street Crime Unit

Any successful attempt to reduce the level of armed robberies must be addressed by providing appropriate awareness training to those that are vulnerable, coupled with an aggressive and well equipped squad, capable of neutralizing those who are bent on using violent means to commit crimes. This unit must have the deterrent effect through its record of success in detecting and apprehending criminals.

We believe that one the most successful approaches to this emerging phenomena is the creation of a unit dedicated to the gathering of intelligence on individuals who have a history of engaging in such illegal acts. TUF will urge that this unit also engage in covert operations such as serving as decoys using various MO’s, such as the stakeout of banks and other financial institutions. In addition to the use of intelligence information to target specific suspects, police must be trained in the art of profiling subjects to ascertain whether a suspect is predisposed to engaging in criminal activities. TUF will encourage the creation of sustainable bicycle and motor cycle units that will conduct undercover patrols.

TUF through the Police Force will encourage and offer financial incentives to businesses that adhere to the following list of recommendations that may be relevant to their operation.

That their employees be fully vetted prior to appointment.

That they develop a comprehensive strategy in the event of armed robbery and that such strategy is rehearsed regularly and appropriate adjustments be made as deemed necessary.

Banks and other financial entities install cameras that are strategically positioned to record all activities within its confines and use vaults that are embedded with bolts on to a metal plate installed into the floor of the business’ entity.

That all businesses that conduct high levels of cash transaction be equipped with a silent alarm that is directly connected to the monitoring station of a security company

2.2.11 Sex Crimes Unit (Adults and Minors)

By the time they are apprehended by authorities, most perpetrators of sex crimes would have been repeat offenders. Statistics have also revealed that most victims of sex crimes knew the perpetrator prior to the commission of the crime. Because we have found that an overwhelming amount of victims are under the legal age of consent and may have fallen victim through manipulation or intimidation by adults, TUF believes that these vulnerable members of our society must be protected. They must be educated about the dangers of engaging in sexual activities at such tender ages, especially with adults. They must be educated as to the various methods of enticement and manipulation that may be directed towards them and how to respond to such perverted gestures.

Adequate mechanism with trained personnel must be in place for minors to report sex crimes, whereupon counselling and other support mechanisms should be in place to address the

trauma. Being very conscious of the traumatic effect and permanent emotional scars inflicted by such heinous crimes, TUF will seek to find the appropriate means to support and encourage victims of sex crimes to testify in a court of law. TUF will offer the necessary counselling and support mechanisms through funding to reduce the emotional impact to victims.

The public must be protected by being notified in a timely manner of the presence of sex offenders in their communities. Law enforcement has the obligation to alert and notify communities, whenever these predators move into their neighbourhood. As such, TUF proposes that upon conviction in a court of law, based on the offender's prior record that he be required to report his address to the nearest police station upon release from incarceration. The police will make every effort to acquaint the community to the fact that a convicted sex offender is residing within their community. This would allow for all precautionary measures to be taken to protect the community. TUF will also recommend that the convict be required to attend and participate in mandatory counselling for a specific period.

2.2.12 Anti-Terrorism and Kidnapping Unit

Criminals continue to intimidate our society with acts of terrorism and kidnapping. It must be understood that these types of crime in many cases are not spontaneous, but rather premeditated and calculated. Again a highly competent and efficient intelligence network will be in place to profile and conduct all forms of surveillance on targeted individuals.

2.2.13 Organized Crime Unit

Although some evidence exists that the tentacles of organized crime are emerging in some segments of our society, there is no clear proof that organized crime as internationally defined does exist in Guyana at this time. We must not wait for it to confront us, in order to take appropriate measures to curtail the emergence of such vicious groups. The United Force believes that organized crime is inseparably associated with illegal drugs, money laundering and other criminal activities that have regional and international implications. Therefore, we advocate that any comprehensive solution should include regional and international participation. Although TUF has yet to see any full-fledged manifestation of an organized crime family, it is obvious from recent developments that organized crime is about to establish a foothold in our society. It is a form of domestic terrorism.

Organized Crime members have a known reputation of where they will infiltrate and take advantage of countries that lack the relevant laws, procedures, and investigative skills to pursue them. Investigation of organized crime members and their activities, require investigative skills and experience. Undercover and surreptitious forms of investigations are paramount to any degree of success when investigating these groups.

Organized Crime members have a history of being involved in crimes such as:

- Engaging in contract killings;
- Money laundering;
- Major Armed Robberies;
- Kidnapping/Ransom;

- Turf battles for drug sale;
- Turf battle for prostitution.

Additionally, we must pay attention to currency changers. These can serve as outlets for money launderers. It will be necessary for all member states to formulate and agree on regulations to monitor currency changers. Such regulations should be standardized regionally. The time has come and gone when law enforcement could have solved crimes solely by traditional investigative means. Drug dealers and Money launderers do not stand in the corner and transact their business. The illegal activities are conducted domestically, regionally and internationally. As such, the telephone is a crucial tool in the equipment used. TUF therefore urges Guyana and the legislative bodies of each CARICOM member states to approve the appropriate legislation authorizing Electronic Eaves Dropping / Wiretapping as an available investigative resource.

2.2.14 Money Laundering and Counterfeit Unit

A recent report published by the US State Department described Guyana as having sixty percent of its support from a subterranean economy (the by-product from the proceeds of illegal drug sale and other dubious activities). TUF believes that these illicit funds generated from money laundering and counterfeiting of illegal monies will be funneled through legitimate businesses and later used for both legal and illegal purposes. These funds will enter the financial mainstream of Guyana to support activities that will be counterproductive to the growth and development of our country. Since 2006, TUF has proposed for this Unit to be established.

2.2.15 Juvenile Unit

Although the juveniles of our society have been responsible for some of the most heinous crimes committed recently, society has an obligation to provide a safe and productive environment for each juvenile who is a ward of the criminal justice system. Such an environment should be constructive and not destructive and most of all must be conducive and supportive of the objectives of counselling, rehabilitation, and successful re-entry into society. TUF will put all necessary frame works in place and enact the appropriate legislations requiring that all juveniles in custody be required to attend classes, whether in a custodial environment or otherwise. TUF will recommend that strict segregation of juvenile inmates be maintained from adults, from the time of arrest up to and including any period of incarceration. Juveniles who have been sentenced to any period of incarceration that exceeds their eighteenth birthday will upon reaching their eighteenth birthday be immediately transferred to an adult institution. If the period of incarceration remaining after their eighteenth birthday is less than twelve months, it shall be up to the discretion of the appropriate authorities as to whether such transfer will occur. Consideration may be given to the inmate's behavioural history and any potential adverse impact such transfer may have on the inmate's rehabilitation.

TUF will mandate that scheduled visits to schools and other institutions be made by social workers and police personnel to discuss drugs, teenage pregnancy, and the effects of other counterproductive behaviours with the juveniles in our schools. Counsellors will be required to

work closely with teachers and other school personnel in order to identify and intervene with those juveniles that exhibit signs of pre-disposition to deviant behaviour.

2.2.16 Domestic Violence Unit

TUF considers Domestic Violence as a most reprehensible anti-social and criminal behaviour in our society. This form of violence against the women of our society should not be taken lightly. Many of the murders associated with domestic violence are precipitated by pervasive and consistent history of physical and psychological abuse. As an organization that believes in a social and legal coherent society, TUF will seek to amend the relevant legislation to increase the severity of the penalty that may be imposed on those found guilty of this cowardly act.

TUF argues that early intervention and the offer of financial and other assistance by the relevant authorities can serve as motivating factors for victims to pursue their complaints. Victims must be encouraged to pursue their complaints and should not directly or indirectly be discouraged from so doing. In those cases where victims are reluctant to pursue their complaints, after necessary appropriate protection and assistance have been offered, TUF will seek to have legislation that will allow the state to prosecute the perpetrator by compelling victims to testify in a court of law to the facts of the complaint she initially filed with the police.

TUF would recommend that all complaints of domestic violence filed with the police be treated with due urgency by the police and that immediate and prudent steps be taken to minimize risk of further injury to the victim.

Making the victim aware of available residential and counselling facilities will be considered a prudent course of action. Records of all complaints of domestic violence will be maintained by the police station receiving the complaint in a manner that is easily retrievable. Copies of all complaints must also be forwarded to a central unit within the Police Force and to the Ministry of Social Services.

2.3 LABOUR RECRUITERS

TUF will seek legislation which will require that all persons recruiting personnel for any reason in our communities must first be certified by and registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. Certification may be granted only after thorough back ground investigations of the labour recruiter and business entity have been conducted and approved.

TUF will require each person recruiting within in our community to post a bond, the amount to be stipulated, with the Ministry of Labour which will remain available for the purpose of compensating victims who have made valid claims of fraud and other illegal actions against the labour recruiter.

Labour recruiters will be required to recruit only through a designated community representative such as village or community leader or captain or other such figure, who will be

responsible for establishing the authenticity of the local recruiter.

TUF will require police personnel receiving complaints of trafficking and/or sex crimes be accorded similar level of seriousness as that accorded complaints from other groups. TUF will seek legislation to increase the severity of the penalties for violation of any of the laws relating to trafficking in persons.

2.4 POOLING OF HUMAN, TECHNICAL, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES (REGIONALLY)

TUF supports the bold initiative of a regional collaborative effort to combat specific categories of crime in the region. As such, we believe that by pooling our financial, human, and technical resources greater levels of success against crime can be achieved in each jurisdiction. TUF will support the creation of a CARICOM Crime Lab available to all law enforcement entities in the region.

TUF will support the formation of a CARICOM Force, trained and familiar with the region that can be deployed to any member state to augment, support, and assist with crimes and other emergencies.

TUF will support the creation of a CARICOM Criminal Intelligence Unit that will gather and serve as the reservoir of information on criminal activities of citizens within the region. We believe that with the advent of free movement of persons in the region, such intelligence network will be extremely beneficial to the law enforcement agency of each member state.

TUF will support the creation of an Impenetrable and Compromise free CARICOM Witness Protection Program to be located in a member state.

2.5 LEGAL REFORM

2.5.1 *Early Negotiated Disposal/Resolution of Criminal Cases*

Justice delayed is justice denied. The net benefits of such negotiated plea are:

- >A reduction of cases assigned to the trial calendar.
- >Significant savings of human and financial resources.
- >A reduction of the remand population.

To allow for the prison authorities to transfer prisoners who are no longer on remand to other facilities, thus addressing the overcrowding conditions at the Georgetown prison.

Ultimately getting cases designated for trial to be brought before the court in a shorter time period. Such negotiated pleas may occur at any stage following the committal order and upon request of the accused and/or his legal representative.

2.5.2 *Legislation to Amend Judicial Sentences*

Any form of sentence, custodial or otherwise when imposed by the court must be done with the intention of having a constructive impact on the convict. As such, sentences should serve

to punish, and rehabilitate the convict and not serve as a revolving door form of justice that encourages recidivism.

2.5.3 Legislative Approval of a Good Samaritan Law

TUF over the years has received complaints and also registered the concerns of several citizens who have expressed reluctance to go to the aid or render assistance to victims during the commission of a crime, especially in cases where the use of deadly force against the perpetrator may be necessary. TUF will lead in the introduction and approval of legislation to be known as "The Good Samaritan Legislation". In order to promote and encourage the public's participation and assistance to victims of crime, the legislation will seek to make persons who have used reasonable and justifiable force, whether deadly or otherwise, immune from prosecution or civil action.

2.5.4 Legislation to provide protection against illegal and unreasonable search and seizure

TUF intends to put laws in place to govern police searching and seizing persons' property and premises.

2.5.5 Proposed Legislation Governing the Installation of Eavesdropping Devices

People's privacy and private conversation is important to the United Force. Permission would have to be sought from a judge in chambers before anyone, including the police, can install eavesdropping devices and to publish such information for public attention.

2.6 DRUG REHABILITATION

Drug Rehabilitation Treatment approaches and individual programs continue to evolve and diversify, and many programs today do not fit neatly into traditional drug addiction treatment classifications. TUF will design a program to cater for our own unique situation and will involve:

1. Detoxification, the process by which the body clears itself of drugs, is designed to manage the acute and potentially dangerous physiological effects of stopping drug use. Detoxification is often managed with medications administered by a physician in an inpatient or outpatient setting; therefore, it is referred to as "medically managed withdrawal." Medications are available to assist in the withdrawal from opioids, benzodiazepines, alcohol, nicotine, barbiturates, and other sedatives.
2. Treatment focusing on developing personal accountability and responsibility as well as socially productive lives.
3. Modified programs to treat individuals with special needs, including adolescents, women, homeless individuals, people with severe mental disorders and individuals in the prisons.

2.7 SEIZURES AND CONFISCATION OF FUNDS AND ASSETS OBTAINED BY ILLICIT MEANS

TUF intends to send a clear and unambiguous message to those who are engaged in criminal

activities that crime does not pay. TUF will advocate and present legislation, that if after a hearing is held by a competent court or other legally authorized body, it is determined that the assets of any person were obtained through illegal means, then such court or any legally authorized body may order the seizure and confiscation of said assets. Disposal of the assets will occur in accordance with guidelines established by the legislation.

2.8 AN ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION

The heads of the Anglican, Catholic Churches, the IRO, the head of the CIOG and the Hindu Community will be asked to sit as an Anti-Corruption Commission. Any citizen or company would go to this commission and make their complaints. The commission will be able to have the services of a retired Judge.

This commission will make its own decisions which will be binding on the government.

2.9 DISCLOSURE TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION

As a political organization, TUF will work assiduously to promote and maintain an administration free of corruption and other unethical conduct. We understand that in order to have a law abiding society, government must create an environment and act in a manner that is consistent and conducive to the standards expected from members of the public. TUF will fight to promote the highest level of integrity among public officials.

2.10 PRISON SYSTEM AND IMPRISONMENT

2.10.1 Work Release Program for Non-Violent Criminals

TUF believes that inmates incarcerated for non-violent crimes should be screened and evaluated. Where appropriate some of these inmates should be allowed to leave the prison under minimum supervision and be permitted to engage in productive employment between the hours of 7 am and 4 pm. Since many of these non-violent inmates do have parental and other responsibilities, any income derived from their employment may with their consents be forwarded to their families. This course of action eases the burden of daily overcrowding of the prison population and also assists families in the maintenance of their homes during the absence of a bread-winner. TUF is prepared to recommend that tax and other forms of incentives be offered to those companies that are willing to engage in a state sponsored program of employing non-violent inmates.

2.10.2 Pre-Trial Detention

TUF advocates that whenever an accused on remand is convicted and receives a custodial sentence, any period served in custody during the pre-trial period shall be deducted from the custodial sentence imposed.

2.10.3 Crime Victim Fund

The United Force strongly supports the argument that victims of crime should be compensated or at least be given some level of financial and other forms of assistance from the government.

As such, TUF will create a national fund with limited subsidy from the government with the major portion of its financial resources deriving from the imposition of nominal percent taxation on alcohol and tobacco to be known as *sin tax*. Additional financial resources will be derived from the unclaimed lotto funds and from liquidation of confiscated assets.

2.11 RESTRUCTURING OF COMMUNITY POLICING GROUPS

Community policing is an important component in our crime fighting strategy. Its members reside in the community. They have an inherent interest in the safety and security of their community and will not be merely diligent in serving as the eyes and ears of the police, but also will play an active role in the apprehension of criminals. Members are familiar with the terrain of their community and readily capable of identifying strangers. We believe that these skills are invaluable and will serve to enhance the efficiency and productivity of the police.

TUF intends to create the appropriate apparatus to address any and all concerns or misperception by the police as to the function of community policing groups and those concerns voiced by the members of various community policing groups.

Where necessary, the appropriate legislative action will be taken to achieve our objective of having vibrant, productive, and dedicated members in all of the policing groups. TUF believes that the support of the community policing group is crucial to the success of policing. As such, we will work with members of the community policing groups to encourage their participation and support, through the offer of incentives and other forms of financial benefits. The United Force will establish recruitment standards for membership to community policing groups. TUF will through the command structure require at least one member of the

We support a strong and aggressive approach to law enforcement and have offered our unqualified support to the relevant authorities in the lawful execution of their duties. However, TUF also vehemently argues that the execution of such duties and the preservation and respect of citizen's rights can be achieved in a harmonious manner. We believe that the respect of citizen's rights can result in greater support to law enforcement from members of the communities that they serve. As such, TUF will take every possible step to promote such a concept without impeding the function of the police

>>> 3.0: Education for a Knowledge Based Economy . . .

It is an accepted fact that one of Guyana's untapped resources to-date is its human resource potential. The United Force believes that we must invest in our Human Capital if we are to successfully transform our economy to meet the changing needs of globalization. The people are central to any development.

The United Force is committed to expanding the supply of highly skilled manpower to support the development of a knowledge based economy. Our manpower development will be

structured on an educational path that will lead to increased productivity. The United Force will:

1. Assess the manpower requirements for the successful implementation of sustained economic development. We will consider the establishment of a Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. Improve the quality of education and training delivery systems to ensure that manpower supply is responsive to technological changes and market demand.
3. Increase the accessibility to quality education and training to enhance income generation capabilities for all.
4. Restructure the education system in order to enable students to acquire a higher level of innovative knowledge and entrepreneurial skills.
5. Develop the education system to provide for seamless transition through all stages from early childhood to tertiary-level for all.
6. Develop an education curriculum that will focus on generating creative and independent thinkers as well as incorporate new aspects of knowledge and technology transfer.
7. Increase the supply of Science and Information Technology trained persons in the workforce. The capacity of Science and Information Technology education is a prerequisite for the development of the Knowledge Based Economy.
8. Train appropriate manpower that would lead to the development and promotion of Guyana as an international centre for Pharmaceutical Research and Development.
9. Ensure the provision of suitable accommodations at all times to meet the demands of delivering quality education at all levels and in all aspects.
10. Give top priority to improving the capabilities and conditions for the teaching service so as to ensure that quality teaching becomes the norm.
11. Develop Intensive Remedial Evening and Summer Programs that would allow participants a second opportunity to complete their basic educational program.
12. Promote lifelong learning opportunities through training to equip workers with new skills that enhance productivity.
13. Reinforce in the Education Curriculum a positive value system such as good work ethics, diligence, integrity, tolerance, gratitude, and respect for authority, punctuality and pursuit of excellence.

14. The United Force Government will do the following:-

- >Modernize the University of Guyana to conform to International Tertiary Education Standard.
- >All medical and technology students at the University of Guyana will be on Government Scholarship as a matter of priority.
- >Rehabilitating and equipping all technical and vocational schools.

>>> 4.0: Youth Development . . .

The United Force believes that the quality of our youth will determine the strength and future of the nation. The United Force will move expeditiously to provide economic, educational, and social opportunities for the development of our young people.

The United Force has identified a number of barriers to the entry of youth in the work force. Some of the factors identified were poor attitudes, inadequate or inappropriate skills, lack of experience and a lack of job opportunities. We believe that we must urgently strengthen the skills of our young people.

Our young people must be taught employable skills. People will be trained in programs such as food preparation, fashion design, pottery, wood carving, computer applications, and electrical installation. Other similar programmes will be built upon the same premise.

Another arm of the youth training skill programme will be established. This will work hand in hand with the private sector, the Trade Union Movement, the Manufacturers Associations, the Chamber of Commerce, Employers Consultative Association, the Co-operative Movement, and of course the Government. The intent here is to ensure that youths coming out of the Youth Skills Training Programme and wishing to attract wage employment primarily will be allowed to acquire the necessary work experience in a partnership agreement.

The United Force will advocate for the implementation Youth Development Principles, Policies and Actions. Some of our recommendations will include:

- >Reforming the Education System and maximizing the protective effects of schools
- >Upgrading of the public health care system
- >Institutionalizing national level mentoring systems for “at risk” youths
- >Reforming and strengthening legal, judicial and policing systems
- >Using the media and social marketing
- >Making families and fathers a top public policy issue.
- >Strengthening community and neighborhood supports to adolescents and families

These programmes are designed to release the creative talents of our young people and to empower them to participate in the economic activities of the country. The United Force Youth programmes are essentially building blocks for the development of the entrepreneurial spirit and the widest possible participation in the society.

The future development of Guyana will be dependent upon our investment in young people. A recent World Bank Report entitled “Caribbean Youth Development,” identifies this risk at three levels.

1. The individual
2. The micro-environment – comprising family, social networks, peers and role models, community and neighborhood
3. The macro-environment – including mass media, the economy, public institutions, cultural and historical background, and social norms in gender.

It is at these levels of risks that responses must be targeted, but it is first necessary to understand these risks.

Young people are not born as risks, but their micro- and macro-environment define them to a large extent, and create the conditions that lead to their risky behavior, which is often a reaction to the circumstances within which they exist. It means that it is those circumstances that have to be altered, and this is what the United Force will target.

Youth are not the problem, but a product of their micro and macro environments. In most instances youths react to the situation in which they find themselves. **Special emphasis must be placed on Family, Schools, Poverty and Gender.**

>>> 5.0: Women . . .

The United Force is building a society where Guyanese women and men have equal access to opportunities as partners in shaping the social, cultural, economic and political development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We will provide conditions to facilitate Gender integration in policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development of all women and the furthering of Gender Equality and Equity. Our areas of focus will be:

1. Restructuring and upgrading of the Gender Equity mechanism via discussions with relevant groups based on regional & international commitments.
2. Capacity building within the Ministries, Statutory bodies, local Government and across the sector to perform integration tasks.
3. Working towards the removal of obstacles, legislative and cultural, which hinder Gender Equality and Equity.
4. Facilitating the retention of young mothers in the classroom, while deploying “Big Brother” programme for boys as a means of providing surrogate fathering for them.

5. Conducting Gender analysis and planning training with public, private and Non-Governmental Organization sectors, with more emphasis on public sectors, so as to equip women and men from different sectors, to participate effectively in the integration process.

6. Ensure the further involvement of women in power sharing and decision making at national level.

>>> 6.0: Amerindians . . .

OVERVIEW OF THE AMERINDIANS

The Amerindians have made many contributions to the development of Guyana. Throughout our colonial history and sadly even today, the Amerindians have not gotten the support that is required. Images of sheer human suffering haunts the landscape of the Amerindian life, poverty, dilapidated housing, children suffering from malaria, inadequate medical staff and medical supplies and unemployment haunts the daily life of the Amerindians.

The United Force will strive to ensure good governance of the region. All administrative officers, whatever their political persuasions, must work together as a team for the well-being and development of the regions. The United Force will see to it that each officer of the administration knows exactly what his duties are, and that there will be absolutely no political interference by any officer into another's officer portfolio. The United Force will ensure that all service departments of the Regions, for example the Health, Agriculture, Education and Water perform efficiently and effectively, thus bringing relief and benefits to the people of the Regions.

6.1 EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERINDIANS HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY

The United Force will ensure that individuals desirous of being teachers would receive training, and that there would be an adequate number of teachers who will staff the schools. The development of a curriculum that would be appropriate to the unique nature of the largely indigenous environment and culture will be fostered.

TUF will ensure that quality education and to this end see that the schools are fully staffed utilizing the educational resources provided. The utilizing of teachers from NGO's such as V.S.O. so as to have to complement the teaching fraternity here would be a welcome opportunity. We should note carefully here that this policy is a mere short term solution to a much deeper issue. The schools must be fully equipped with laboratory to facilitate the teaching of the science subjects. TUF recognizes the great need for more nursery schools in villages and the training of teachers for these schools would be high on the TUF's agenda. TUF praises and supports the efforts of volunteer teachers in the nursery schools established by the CBR programme and would fully support any move that will allow their teachers to be brought

into the salaried establishment. TUF will aggressively pursue an adult education programme in the Amerindian communities. Youth education programmes will be developed to train youths in secretarial and administrative skills, computer, management, woodwork and carpentry, masonry and motor mechanics to stem the brain and skills drain from our country to other countries.

6.2 HEALTH INITIATIVES

The implementation of a practical health programme specifically designed for AIDS awareness and teenage pregnancies. A mobile dental unit must be put in to reduce the high level of dental decay in the schools and villages of the Regions. There exists the urgent need for a massive deworming programme of the population especially the children in the village of the villages of the Regions. The provision of human and financial resources for the health sector is urgently required. The United Force will as a matter of urgency establish functional X-ray units as well as fully equipped medical laboratories, at both the Lethem and Aishalton hospitals. The services of a resident doctor at Aishalton hospital would be a necessity to be met.

The Development and Implementation of a Tourism Plan for the Amerindians would stimulate the development of an entrepreneurial spirit and a small manufacturers sector to develop and to financially benefit from eco-tourism and cultural tourism.

6.3 OTHER AMERINDIAN DEVELOPMENT

The United Force will, as a matter of policy, ensure that every Amerindian community and every Guyanese be entitled to the Mineral Rights on their land under the top soil. There will be no distribution of land in the interior unless demarcation of land is completed and boundaries for new and existing villages agreed on. There will be prior consultation with the Indigenous People before mining and forestry leases are granted for areas around any Reservation.

6.4 THE COMMITMENTS

While the matter of settling land issues and the management of villages are very important there are several other important challenges for indigenous communities. These include:-

1. At least, double the stipends for Tosaos/Captains.
2. Each Tosaos/Captain would be entitled to a duty free 4X4 vehicle. TUF recognizes that these persons have a fulltime commitment when elected.
3. Each Village would have a satellite uplink internet facility, for education and communication.
4. Restore the Inland Transportation service. Transportation systems would be an investment in the communities to foster greater and affordable market access.

5. Agricultural development – The Indigenous communities live off the land and a TUF government will commit to making the resources and skills available to make more efficient agricultural production and that of processed foods.

6. Financial Assistance and Marketing Expertise in the communities is what is required to develop the art, craft and souvenir industry for the tourism sectors.

7. A greater investment in the education of the indigenous people will also be an important part of our commitment to indigenous communities. This includes an increased allocation of teaching and student supplies. Greater emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of trained teachers and enhancing the training of our existing teachers.

8. Health care and services will be modernized. We will establish a Flying Air Ambulance Service.

9. Create more Cultural and Sport opportunities by improving the necessary infrastructure.

10. Improved and maintain the roads, bridges and clean our waterways.

11. A reliable and dependable power supply system for Lethem and its environs would be established by power linkup with the Guri Dam in Bon Finn, Brazil.

>>> 7.0: The opening-up of Guyana . . .

Guyana is like a sleeping giant and a great treasure chest with all the wealth locked inside waiting to be found. We must break it open. We must release the wealth for the people's use. We plan to do this. By roads thrust into new lands we plan to open up and release the wealth of our land. We plan to integrate our great land into one prosperous unit.

The basic purpose of our plan is to fulfil our ideals.

1. To provide full employment.

2. To enable all our people to earn enough to enjoy "a full life".

We calculate that the effect of our plan will be to make possible both "full employment" and "a better standard of living".

Our Development Programme, like that of any progressive Government requires capital expenditure on various economic sectors. Economists usually distinguish between development in the "Public Sector" and the "Private Sector". The "Public Sector" means development works carried out by money supplied by Government. The "Private Sector" means development work carried out by money supplied by private investors. We have planned for development in both the public and private sectors.

Another distinction is usually made between capital spent on works which provide a basis for further economic development and works which relate directly to social welfare. Developments works are roads, drainage and irrigation, and other basic public works. Social welfare includes schools, hospitals and community halls. The ability of any country to expand social welfare depends on the wealth which the nation generates. Thus the priority for capital expenditure in a sound development plan must be given to works which will create wealth and make expanded social welfare possible. The extensive capital expenditure on "social development" in our plan is possible because the effect of the capital expenditure on "economic development" will generate the wealth to keep up and increase social welfare.

For convenience in the presentation of our plan, we have divided expenditure into 4 sectors of development as follows: **a) "Magic Circle" Road Development Plan, b) Agriculture Development, c) General Economic Development and d) Social Development.**

7.1 'MAGIC CIRCLE' ROAD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (OUR PLAN SINCE 1964)

This is our plan to open Guyana with a network of new roads: We plan also to stimulate agricultural and industrial development by perfecting all existing roads.

The first 'Magic Circle' planned is a 'Grand Circle' road, encircling the land within the following route: Georgetown, Timehri, Linden, Ituni, Kwakwani, Orealla, Crabwood Creek, New Amsterdam, and Georgetown. The complete road circle would be about 370 miles.

The second 'Magic Circle' is a road circle branching off from the first circle as follows: Ituni, Ebini, Mara. This splits the 'Grand Circle' into two smaller circles.

The third 'Magic Circle' is a road circle from Vreed-en-Hoop, Parika, Uresima, Rockstone, Linden, Wales and back to Vreed-en-Hoop.

The fourth 'Magic Circle' is a road encircling the land within the following route: Ituni, Kurupukari, Tumatumari, Bartica, Rockstone. The complete road circle would be about 500 miles.

The fifth 'Magic Circle' is a road branching off from the fourth circle as follows: Kurupukari, Annai, Lethem, Orinduik, Potaro landing, Tumatumari. This complete road would be about 1,000 miles.

The sixth 'Magic Circle' is a road encircling land within the following route: Supenaam, Towakaima, Matthews Ridge, Arakaka, Hosororo, Marawhana, Kwebana, Moruka, Charity, Supenaam. This complete road would be 2,000 miles.

Within these 'Magic Circles' there are more than 20 million acres of land that will become available for use. More land will be available for cultivation and pastures than the total coast land now in use. All the new lands will be accessible by road from Georgetown and other towns. The towns of New Amsterdam, Linden and Anna Regina will be greatly expanded. This

plan opens up magnificent vistas for development. The cattle and dairy industry would at last come into its own. Agriculture would become diversified with important development in bananas, citrus, tobacco and other crops. The interior will at last yield its riches for the benefit of the Guyanese people.

>>> 8.0: Agriculture . . .

8.1 RICE

This sector is a very complex yet profitable one. The future is endowed with great promises for a very successful industry. The plight of the farmers and millers must be addressed as a matter of priority. Concrete solution must be arrived at which must be supported by the State. The entire industry must be studied from the beginning and all steps to enhance production and the ability of the millers to take off the production must be implemented.

The farmer must concentrate on the preparation of the land, sowing and tending of his crops, reaping of his paddy and transporting to the mills. The miller must concentrate on cleaning of the paddy, drying, milling and selling the cargo of rice. The banking institution must be very supportive to the entire process and must be willing and able to bridge the financing required for the industry. Facilities must be made available to the millers at very competitive rates for the industry to make a giant leap.

The United Force will address this problem in the following way:

A Rice Development Fund (RDF) will be set up with the initial capital of G\$3 billion.

Access to the fund will be open to all farmers and millers. Farmers will be guaranteed payment for his paddy within two weeks of delivery to the mills. Millers will be permitted to draw from this fund for capital works.

In addition, The United force Government will do the following:

>Ensure that land at the MMA is developed and given to the farmers.

>Continue to work on a variety that is blast resistant, less fertilizer use, less pesticide and high yield both for the farmer and better recovery for the miller.

>Make available to every farming family a minimum of 50 acres of land for cultivation. Title of the land will be given to the farmer.

>Encourage the cultivation of not less than 1 million acres of land under rice.

>Encourage backward and forward linkages in the rice sector. Secondary processing industry will be given a high priority.

>Technology units will be set up to create new products using rice and rice by-products.

Teams will be sent to countries that have advanced in the field e.g. Brazil, India, USA and Thailand.

>A Committee comprising of Farmers, Millers, Private Sector, and Government will formulate a plan to protect farmers from crop losses.

- >There will be vigorous promotion of Export in this Sector. The team will include Millers/Private Sector/Government.
- >Input costs will be reviewed so that the cost of production will be drastically reduced.
- >Experimental units will be fully equipped on a continuous basis.
- >There will be a proper land use policy. All areas earmarked for cultivation will be properly demarcated and what crops will be grown.
- >For big industrialist, land will be allocated for infrastructure work according to Government plans. These lands will then be made available to farmers if necessary.

The government encouraged the farmers to 'grow more' and hence the supply of paddy exceeds its demand. The rice millers can't take off the paddy as fast as it is delivered creating long lines of trucks at the mills which take as much as ten days to be discharged. With the already low price of \$3,000 per bag, the farmers have to pay additional waiting time to the trucks which dramatically affect their income from rice cultivation. Additionally, there are others who can't cut their paddy because there are no trucks available to transport their paddy to the mills as they are already loaded with paddy waiting to discharge same.

A TUF government would have ensured that there were adequate storage to cater for the increased production of paddy as well as searching for additional markets for our produce. Additionally the government would have sourced cheaper fertilizers and other input for the farmers.

8.2 SUGAR

The problems in the sugar sector are manifold, including: too much government interference, management without a vision to turn-around the industry, low workers attendance as well as workers dishonesty, high production cost, and low market prices. A TUF government would carry out an analysis and prepare a sugar turn-around plan before injecting funds into GUYSUCO. Additionally the government will give out the lands to private farmers at a cost, and buy the cane from them. In the long-term, the factories would be sold to the farmers. The Government would look for markets, cheap input and ways to make by-products from sugar. All commercial aspect of the sector would be given to the farmers and stakeholders. The same strategies that would be employed to turn-around the rice sector would be employed to turn-around the sugar industry.

>>> 9.0: A Program For The Urban/Rural District . . .

SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES FOR OUR TOWNS & CAPITALS

All the Towns and the Capital City would have special programmes to deal with their environment and sanitation. Central Government will work with these municipalities to clear drains, clean garbage and maintain a healthy clean and attractive environment. Some 1 billion dollars annually will be dedicated to these special maintenance programs. After these places are cleaned TUF will enforce the municipal by laws and use the provisions under the Environmental

Protection Act to prosecute anyone littering and not keeping their surroundings clean. This enforcement will be done by the Litter Warden who will be the police persons for this programme.

9.1 A Georgetown and other Municipalities Renewal Plan

As proud citizens of Guyana we deserve a Capital that captures our glorious historical past and is first world in design and contemporary in its outlook. Our Georgetown Renewal Program will modernize our Garden City.

The Georgetown Renewal Program will be a Private-Public Partnership arrangement that will complement the work of the City Council. Our goal is to make Georgetown a safe, well-manicured and beautiful city. Of immediate priority will be:

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1. Grading of parapets. – Persons or companies responsible for leaving builders waste or building materials on the parapets will be fined.
2. Drains and alleyways will be properly cleaned. A Maintenance Program will be implemented. These cleaning works will be outsourced.
3. A Road Maintenance Repairs for all Main Roads
4. Develop and Implement a Traffic Management Program such as establishing order and law at bus parks.
5. Improve the City Constabulary to ensure that it becomes an efficient and effective policing and crime fighting agency.
6. Change the relevant laws to ensure that we have an Executive Mayor.
7. Hold persons responsible for the cleaning of their parapets and drains in front of their yards. Develop a Georgetown Clean-Up Campaign that is thorough and sustainable.
8. Establish a Georgetown Heritage Trail. Tax incentives would be given to persons and companies who will keep and maintain their historic buildings on the Heritage Trail. We will encourage the construction of historical architecture that will transform the skyline of Georgetown.
9. Review the rates and taxes system based on area criterion rather than a value system. This will encourage the development of abandoned and neglected properties in Georgetown.
10. Establish a new management protocol for the municipal burial grounds.

9.2 The creation of a programme for the bottom 20-25% of the population in the urban and rural districts. A dual approach would be adopted: A Sociological and Economic Perspective.

9.2.1 Sociological Perspective:

Identifying and defining the sub-culture of poverty.

Deal with the possible negative effects of further polarization of the society along the lines of class and ethnicity.

9.2.2 Economic Perspective

The creation of an economic programme of self-help for the bottom 20-25% of the population through joint-venture partnerships of the state, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the local community.

9.3 MABARUMA (REGION 1) & LETHEM (REGION 9)

The United Force will champion the cause of making Mabaruma in Region 1 and Lethem in region 9 Duty-Free Trade-Zones. Free Zones are special economic zones set up with the objective of offering tax free, and free customs duty benefits to local and expatriate investors. The Free Zones will be governed by rules and regulations and will be managed, operated and supervised by a special and independent Free Zone Authority, separate from the Government. The Free Zone Authority will offer business licenses to local and foreign-owned businesses. Each Free Zone will be designed around one or more business industry categories and only offers licenses (e.g. for a Free Zone Enterprise (FZE)), to companies within those categories. The Free Zones will offer opportunities trading, service, industrial, national industrial, and branch licenses to investors looking to set up their businesses. A proper plan would be designed so as to make these free zones into world class cities.

A company set up in a Free Zone offers benefits to owners:

1. 100% ownership to local and foreign investors (no sponsor required for foreign investors)
2. Tax exemption
3. Owning properties is allowed (25 years lease options, warehouse facilities, availability of areas for production and assembling etc.)
4. Fair renewal fees
5. Confidentiality of your business is maintained
6. Allowed to open bank account for foreign invertors
7. No restriction for doing more than one activity
8. Can wind up your business at your discretion

All government services including hospitals and primary to university education will be provided as well as banking opportunities. This will create a lot of jobs in those areas and attract migration of people from the coast land to settle there.

>>> 10.0: Leisure . . .

All children, irrespective of their physical condition need to play and to have leisure. Parents must encourage them to play, teach them games and provide toys for them. It is the responsibility of the State to see that facilities for the use of leisure are provided for all its citizens. The United Force government will provide public parks, playing fields, sports arenas, swimming pools, theatres, libraries, museums and other places of recreation and culture, so that all can enjoy leisure and participate in the cultural life of the community.

>>> 12.0: Science and Information Technology . . .

Since 1997, the TUF proposed that for Guyana to accelerate development, we need to invest in this sector. As a developing country with untapped resources, Guyana has to ensure that every investment made in developing Science and Information Communication Technology (S&ICT) builds human capital and generates acceptable returns on the international markets. The allocation of our scarce resources should therefore lead the transformation of our country's development into a knowledge-driven economy.

The United Force is committed to transforming Guyana into one of the leading Knowledge Economies (K-Economy) in South America. We envision a more integrated, diversified and dynamic economy shaped by science and information technologies, in order to exploit global market opportunities and the Internet. We must educate our workforce to utilize generational technologies to organise all our workplaces.

In this regard, TUF's Science and Information Communication Technology Policy provides a framework to attract investment, enhance productivity and sustain growth. We will strengthen strategic alliances among the Government agencies, private sector industries, external universities and internationally recognized research institutions. Our Policy addresses nine strategic thrusts:

1. In collaboration with international institutions we will strengthen national research and technological capacity and capability;
2. Promoting commercialisation of research outputs;
3. Facilitate e-commerce development;
4. Developing human resource capacity and capability;
5. Promoting a culture for science, innovation and techno-entrepreneurship;
6. Strengthening institutional framework and management for S&ICT and monitoring of S&ICT policy implementation;
- 7 Ensuring widespread diffusion and application of technology, leading to enhance market-driven R&D to adapt and improve technologies; and
8. Building competence for specialisation in key emerging technologies
9. Initiate and establish a working relationship with international partners to develop research and development in the medical and pharmaceutical industries.

>>> 13.0: International Relations . . .

The United Force reaffirms its commitment to invest in our international role, commensurate with our condition as a small developing state in a globalised environment. In this regard, we will place primary emphasis on diplomatic efforts to create and exploit new opportunities in trade and business relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, while maintaining and strengthening, wherever possible, traditionally beneficial relationships. This new diplomacy aims at empowering our people thereby enabling them to build the society they desire; safe, prosperous and proud of our heritage and role in the world. The United Force is confident that it has devised a methodology which will enable our country to benefit from increased interaction in the international community.

The conduct of our Foreign Affairs has far reaching implications in terms of its relevance to vital sectors of our economy. As such, maintaining an appropriate stance with regard to our involvement in International Relations can only serve our nation well in the long term. The major facets of our economy which are directly related to our dealings with the global community are as follows:

1. Energy
2. Agriculture
3. National Security
4. Trade
5. Economic Co-operation
6. Training and Education
7. Culture and Tourism
8. Technology Transfer

The central facet of our external relations will be to deepen the regional integration process with particular reference to the CARICOM, South and North Americas, and our friends of long historic standings.

This will provide the springboard from which we could insert ourselves into other hemispheric and global integration, especially with respect to economic and trade relations. We will pursue a broad-based political cooperation and linkages policy, geared towards increasing the economic and social benefits to be derived there-from.

Our approach will be flexible, yet purposeful, with the protection and advancement of the interests of the people of this country always being paramount.

In the implementation of its policy of strengthening and transforming our International Relations, the United Force will:

Place economic and trade relations at the top of our diplomatic priorities and reorient its missions accordingly

Revitalize Caribbean linkages to maximize the benefits of regional cooperation through membership and participation in CARICOM, including the C.S.M.E. and the C.C.J., O.A.S., F.T.A.A., and the A.C.S., MERCUSOR, as well as international linkages with organizations like the W.T.O., U.N., and I.L.O.

Apply an integrated approach to Foreign Affairs with the participation of relevant Ministries and interest groups in order to anticipate and respond to current and future international challenges facing our nation. Improve the effectiveness and agility of our diplomatic presence abroad for building stronger international economic relationships

Emphasize links between domestic and international dimensions of security, development, economic growth and protection of the environment.

>>> 14.0: Diaspora Investment Ministry . . .

We will establish a Ministry of the Diaspora to mobilise the human resource capital and investment capital that is a fundamental pre-requisite for the development of Guyana. This Ministry will be responsible to facilitate contact with the population of our people, who live overseas. TUF sees them as our El Dorado and will treat them as such.

The privatization of state corporations such as Guyana Power and Light, Guyoil, Guyana National Shipping Company, GUYSUCO and NCN would be tables so that Guyanese can invest in these companies. The United Force believes that this process has the potential to raise investment capital from its citizens who live at home and in the diaspora.

The United Force has the distinction of being one of the leading pioneers that utilise indigenous capital for national development. We only have to recall the example of Peter D'Aguiar's success story of Banks DIH. This is indeed a prime example of how a People Enterprise Capitalism Program can serve as a main trust for wealth creation. This model of economic development will generate wealth that would benefit all Guyanese.

The Ministry of the Diaspora will be responsible for the harnessing of the human resource capital and investment capital of our Diaspora.

>>> 15.0: Taxes And Duties . . .

15.1: Income Tax (PAYE)

The income tax system in Guyana is very unfair. Only persons who are inorganized employment pay the rightful amount of income tax, while the majority of Guyanese don't pay the right amount income tax or don't pay at all. This is because the PAYE tax system is burdensome on the people.

Therefore, the United Force intends to change the system so as to make voluntary compliance a norm. The monthly income tax threshold will be increased from the present G\$50,000 to between G\$75,000.

This will drastically increase the spending power of the working class and thus businesses will flourish, employment will be created and the government will earn more tax income.

The income tax rate will be reduced from 30% to about 25% with the option of reducing it by

1% every year for three years thus settling at 22% by 2018. This again will add more moneys into the pockets of the working class which will make the people happy.

15.2: Value Added Tax (VAT)

Value Added Tax (VAT) is a much fairer tax system (We think it should be called Sales Tax rather than VAT as it does not add any value to the item). Everyone has to buy goods and services and so everyone will have to pay VAT, except on Zero Rated and Exempted items. The United Force will study the impact that the changes within the Income Tax System as well as the impact of a lower VAT rate will have on the Tax Revenue Collection before making any changes in the VAT rate. Our study has shown that the VAT revenue collection by far exceeds the expectations, and if there is a way to relieve the people from some tax burden, then the United Force will go that way. Guyana's economy must be a business and production driven economy so that the Revenue needed to manage the country will come from large scale business and production rather than higher tax rates imposed on the people. Because of VAT certain other taxes and duties on goods and services should also be considered for reduction.

15.3: Duties on Vehicles

The duties levied on vehicles in Guyana is to suppress the people. Only Government Officials, Parliamentarians and Diplomats can drive new vehicles in Guyana. Even successful business men and women cannot afford to drive a new vehicle. This is real oppression (communism).

The United Force will reverse the system. There will be lower duties imposed on new vehicles (1 to 7 years old) and higher duties on older vehicles. Newer vehicles will use less gas, have less wear and tear and emit less carbon. Hybrid vehicles will incur lesser duties.

The duties collected from vehicle import will be used to maintain and expand our roadways.

This will be complemented by other revenues collected for using the roadways and soft loans to build bridges etcetera to ease congestion on our road ways.

The system of calculating the said duty will also be revised after careful studies.

The issuance of duty free concessions will be changed from every 3 years to 5 years.

Concessions to re-migrants will be closely monitored and issued by senior officials. University graduates and CPCE graduates as well as nurses and police officers who pledge to serve Guyana for at least 5 years with diligence will also be considered for duty free concessions.

15.4: Property Tax & Revenue Stamps

The United Force will abolish property tax as well as the licking tax also called sticking tax. It is an additional burden on those who save their moneys to invest or purchase other goods and services. People already pay rates and taxes on their property. These initiatives will be revenue neutral. As the over 1 billion dollars that will be released by the abolition of these taxes will be powering over 7 Billion dollars in economic transactions and will result in 1 Billion dollars from VAT in addition to increased income tax and corporation tax revenues.

15.5: Corporation Tax

Manufacturing companies will pay 25% on profits while other commercial companies will pay 35% thus a reduction of 10%

15.6: Other Taxes

Capital Gains tax to be reduced to 10%

>>> 16.0: Health . . .

A TUF government will ensure that the Georgetown Public Hospital and all the Regional Hospitals provide services to the public in a time efficient manner while effectively competing with the best private hospital in order to provide a better service to the public. Scholarships will be given to young doctors to specialize in the various fields of medicine in order to create a local cadre of highly specialized doctors. The salaries of the doctors and the nurses will be increased to a competitive level with the private sector. Instead of constructing a new specialty hospital, the TUF will endeavor to have those services available at the Georgetown Public Corporation. All clinics throughout the country will receive additional staff so that any person seeking the services will not be delayed for more than 3 hours,

>>> 17.0: Education . . .

If we want to achieve sustainable development in Guyana we have to spend on Guyana's human capital which is very critical to economic development while at the same time placing greater emphasis on productivity led growth. TUF will address the following issues:

- >Increasing the number of highly skilled technical workforce;
- >Reducing the shortage of labour in the manufacturing, manufacturing-related services and agro-based sectors;
- >Creating an online job bank to aid in the supply of and demand of human resources;
- >Matching education and training providers with industry requirements;
- >Enhancing human resource capacity for Research & Development and Science and Technology;
- >Enhancing the competence and innovativeness of the individual to be better able to overcome the uncertainties brought about by the increasingly global environment.

Guyana's education system must be geared to address the above issues in order to drive a knowledge-based economy. Amongst the many policies and programs to achieve these objectives are as follows:

17.1 Lifelong learning

The implementation of lifelong learning programs will be accelerated to enable all segments of society to continuously learn and acquire knowledge and skills. Lifelong learning infrastructure such as community colleges will be expanded and upgraded. The use of schools and community centers for lifelong learning are also encouraged. In addition, e-learning and distance education are promoted to increase accessibility to education and knowledge. The University of Guyana's

Distance and Continuing Education will offer more places with flexible entry requirements up to 10.0 per cent of intake at diploma and degree levels.

TUF will also partner with private education and training providers as well as non-governmental organizations to provide lifelong learning programs. Employers too are encouraged to promote lifelong learning among their employees.

17.2 Retraining and skills upgrading

In order to enhance competitiveness and economic resilience, labour productivity will be increased through efficient utilization of labour, skills upgrading, improving management capabilities, intensifying R&D and innovation activities as well as increasing utilization of technology and ICT in all sectors of the economy. Firms are also encouraged to implement the productivity-linked wage system. An adaptable, trainable and multi-skilled workforce is required as industries leveraged on technological advancements and production methods to increase their competitive edge in the global market and to attract foreign direct investment and encourage reinvestment. In this regard, access to industrial skills training will be increased to expand the supply of highly skilled human resource.

Measures will be taken to enhance the quality of the University of Guyana to be at par with world renowned universities. To achieve this objective, the quality of the University of Guyana will be benchmarked against international standards to enable it to become globally competitive. UG will continuously audit its quality through a rigorous ratings system to nurture competition in the pursuit of excellence. This will also enable The University of Guyana to become a centre of educational excellence and attract foreign students. UG will have to design its academic programs and develop its curricula based on market requirements to ensure the employability of graduates. These programs will be implemented with greater collaboration and active support from the Private sector. In addition, students will be given early exposure to workplace environment through a minimum of 4 months of internship or industrial attachment. The number of academic staff with PhD qualification at UG will be increased.

17.3 Science and Technology (S&T) and Research and Development (R&D)

The University of Guyana's research and innovative capability will be strengthened to develop capacity building, particularly in key technology areas and to nurture an innovative society with strong S&T capability. Towards this end, the enrolment of students in S&T programs at all levels will be increased to facilitate the creation of a critical mass of research scientists and engineers (RSEs). This will provide the potential source for R&D. Greater collaboration research will be undertaken between UG and the local industry research institute as well as with reputable foreign research institutions, universities and firms.

>>> 18.0: Public Private Partnership . . .

The United Force plans to use the Public Private Partnership initiative to create 50,000 jobs in 5 years. These jobs would be created in four categories or fields of employment, as follows:

1. Farming and Agro Processing 1,000 per year – 5,000 after 5 years
2. Construction and transport 2,000 per year – 10,000 after 5 years

3. Manufacturing	1,000 per year – 5,000 after 5 years
4. ICT	5,000 per year - 25,000 after 5 years
Service Industry	1,000 per year – 5,000 after 5 years
Total	10,000 per year – 50,000 after 5 years

We don't need to re-invent the wheel. We just need to look at the way other countries have created jobs successfully and implement those strategies in Guyana. One shining example that comes to mind is that of Malaysia where they have implemented Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to empower young people to own their own companies and create employment in the following but not limited to these areas of opportunities: manufacturing of fridges, stoves, ac units, washing machines, solar panels, and manufacturing and packaging of corn, tomato paste, chips, coconut water, milk, oil, dissected coconut, cheese etcetera.

>>> 19.0: The Private Sector . . .

The United Force since 1964 has propagated a free-market system for Guyana as it has worked for the USA and other countries. The Government should not interfere too much in the private sector but must make policies and provide effective and efficient services so that the Private Sector becomes the backbone and the catalyst of Guyana's economic development. Corporation Tax would be lowered and certain incentives would be given to production and export oriented companies. Minimum wages would be instituted while each employer with more than 10 employees will have to subscribe to a pension fund. Business will be encouraged to offer employees annual salary increments and fringe benefits, because to work for the same salary every year will demoralize workers. Bonuses will be tax free and also tax deductible. In other countries it takes two to four hours to complete your import and export entries with the tax office, while in Guyana it takes three to six days. To clear a container, it takes about two weeks of harassment, thus frustrating our business community. The GOVERNMENT has to enable the PRIVATE SECTOR to FLOURISH by providing effective and efficient services.

>>> 20.0: The Investment Climate . . .

The present commercial climate in Guyana is not conducive to investment. The people who invest are friends of the government and get special concessions. This should not be. Viable investors ought to have an equal opportunity to invest in Guyana. However, There are too many red tapes for such investors to pass through. Some companies desirous of commencing commercial activity in Guyana have to invest in infrastructural works before they can provide a service. Some of these companies, even though they have not started doing business as yet, already receive letters from GRA to pay taxes. This scares away investors. All investors whether local or international, ought to be treated equally. This is one example of the need to have efficient and effective Government Services. Investing in Guyana ought to be a simple and time efficient process for all.

The horror house that is called GO INVEST will be revamped. Applications for the rules based concessions will be expedited. Once a proposal meets the requirement, if it does not get all the approvals in 60 days then it will automatically be taken as approved. Investors will be warned that their word must be their bond and if they do not comply then their approvals will be revoked.

>>> 21.0: Assistance to The Elderly, Poor And Children . . .

Assistance to our senior citizens will be increased to \$20,000 per month. The poor and needy who are unable to work will receive public assistance for themselves or for their children. Physically challenged children will receive additional financial support while school busses will be made available to children who live far away from school so that no child will be denied primary and secondary education.

>>> 22.0: The Mining Sector . . .

The mining sector is managed by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) which falls under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment which falls under the Office of the President. Presently only friend of the government get lucrative concessions while the small miners either have to rent concessions from other concession holders or make do with a concession that they have received from GGMC where they go through hell to find gold. The United Force will make the GGMC a constitutional body to report directly to parliament and would be audited by auditors selected by the parliamentary audit committee. Gold mining is increasing becoming the back-bone of Guyana's economy and hence the small miners need all support and cooperation from the Government.

>>> 23.0: The Forestry Sector . . .

The Forestry sector is managed by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) which falls under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment which falls under the Office of the President. The GFC has implemented a tag-system which was working very well until they implemented a GPS tag-system as the GFC never has GPS tags which is putting a lot of strains on the small loggers. No logger must suffer because of the inability of the GFC to provide GPS tags, and TUF will ensure that loggers will be able to sell their logs whether the GFC has tags or not. The GFC will have to answer to Parliament for their inability to supply GPS tags to the loggers. The United Force will make the GFC a constitutional body to report directly to parliament and would be audited by auditors selected by the parliamentary audit committee.

>>> 24.0: The Energy Sector . . .

Guyana needed a hydro-power plant fifty years ago, since Guyana used to produce a lot of aluminum ore and hence we could have established an aluminum smelter since then. Alternative power supply is increasingly receiving a lot of attention. The United Force will assist young people to set up a solar panel factory so that we can supply cheaper solar panels to Guyanese. TUF will encourage the importation of energy efficient appliances and educate the nation on energy efficiency. TUF will also encourage the search for and production of gas for cooking and other uses.

>>> 25.0: The Tourism Industry . . .

Through the 'magic circles' of roads that the United Force intends to construct, the hinterland of Guyana will be easily accessible. TUF will also beautify some of the attractive Amerindian communities in order to improve tourism to those villages. We need to make it affordable for Guyanese to visit their country rather than to travel to other countries for their vacation and holidays. To attract foreign tourists we need to make the visits to the hinterland easy enjoyable and awe-inspiring. Foreigners see huge buildings, cities and town every day, hence eco-tourism will be the way to go. Tourists, however, will not come to Guyana if our security sector is not performing well and crime is high. If we are successful in making Lethem and Mabaruma duty-free zones, then that will be an additional impetus for tourists to come to Guyana.

>>> 26.0: National Insurance Scheme . . .

The National Insurance Scheme will become an autonomous body to report directly to parliament, and the parliamentary audit body will appoint its auditors to audit the NIS. Payment of benefits to beneficiaries should be come hassle-free.

>>> 27.0: Religious Leaders . . .

We recognize that morality is on the decrease in Guyana. We see many indecent exposure cases, child molestations, rape, stealing and the list goes on. In order to curb these vices the Inter Religious Organization will have to play an important role and moneys from the consolidated fund would be made available to the IRO to execute this task.

>>> 28.0: Wages And Salaries . . .

The United Force will implement and minimum wage in the public sector of \$250 per hour or \$52,000 per month. All public servants whose services have not been confirmed as yet will be confirmed immediately, as there are public servants who have worked for over 10 years without confirmation. It is hoped that the private sector would also follow this model of wages, salaries and benefits to our workers.

>>> 29.0: Berbice and Essequibo Development . . .

TUF will do the following for Berbice and Essequibo:

1. Application and issuance of passports.
2. Application and issuance of birth certificates.
3. Registration of vehicles.
4. Deep harbor wharf.
5. Container terminal.
6. Recreational facilities.
7. State-of-the-art hospitals with all treatments available in Georgetown.
8. Establishment of export-oriented manufacturing industries to create jobs.
12. Establishment of ICT schools in Lethem, Linden, Berbice, Essequibo and Demerara.

>>> 30.0: Our Future . . .

These vision and plans that are presented in these pages are like our first Manifesto - HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS. Should these plans be implemented Guyana can truly become the bread basket of not only the Caribbean but also of South America. TUF has always prepared the best development plans for Guyana.

TUF calls on all Guyanese, our youths, elders, doctors, nurses, teachers, farmers, police officers and others to vote on Issues, and the United Force is truly the right choice for all Guyanese.

VOTE TUF ON MAY 11TH, 2015.

God Bless Guyana.