



OFFICE OF THE LEADER
PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS REFORM
AND
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

January 26, 2005

Ms Maya Trotz

Dear Ms Trotz

I wish to commend you on your bold initiative to support the flood relief effort in Guyana. The information that you are providing to Guyanese in the diaspora and others will certainly contribute immensely to our effort.

As you may be aware, the People's National Congress Reform recognized the magnitude of the crisis since Saturday January 15, 2005 after senior officials of the Party made an on-the-ground assessment in several areas, including Albouystown which was covered by four feet (4 ft) of water and other villages on the East Coast of Demerara from Plaisance to Nabaclis which were in even worse conditions. Consequently, on Sunday January 16, 2005, the PNCR launched a national appeal for flood relief in Guyana and, after receiving overwhelming support locally, began providing relief to several people in need in these communities. Meals are being supplied on a daily basis and other items such as, clothing; blankets, utensils, etc are being supplied to individuals and to shelters.

On Monday January 17, 2005, in my capacity as Opposition Leader, I invited President Jagdeo to treat the matter as a national emergency and urged the Government to treat the matter seriously. I also offered the full support of the Opposition to the Government in any national effort to deal with the crisis. I was invited to a meeting on the said Monday, January 17, at 2 pm with several others at State House where a number of Task Forces were set up to deal with various aspects of the crisis. PNCR Members of Parliament, (MP), were named to serve on these Task Forces. Regrettably, despite appeals by several in Guyana, no national Disaster Task Force that could co-ordinate all relief efforts is as yet functional.

The result is that several Non Governmental Organisations, (NGOs), developed separate initiatives to bring relief to the various communities. The Government has manipulated decision-making on relief efforts and has been using State resources in a political partisan way to provide aid to various communities. Decisions are being made at State House by a small group of People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) politicians, led by President Jagdeo, directing where relief food and other supplies should be sent. This exercise has not been equitable. Consequently, there have been several allegations of political discrimination in the manner in which the relief effort is being managed. In the interest of harmony, the PNCR has continued to support efforts of the Government, but has recognized the need to continue its flood relief operations to deal particularly with those areas that have been neglected.

*Congress Place, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana. Tel: (592) 225-8370/ (592) 225-7852-5
Fax: (592) 233-5835; E-Mail: rhoc@hotmail.com; Website: www.pnc.org*

Our operational centres are at Hoyte/Blackman Television station (HBTV) Channel 9, Mandela Avenue, from which hot meals and dry rations are distributed to various areas and our National Flood Relief Centre at Campala International Hotel, Camp Street, Georgetown, from where donations of items other than food are being received. Several other organizations, including the Guyana Red Cross are also doing likewise.

I would like to recommend that, until a proper National Disaster Relief Committee is established, flood relief should be sent to NGOs of your choice in Guyana and not to any relief agency controlled by the State, as these are being manipulated politically by the Government. Naturally, I would also request support for the PNCR relief efforts. Contributions can be sent to our account at Citizens Bank, Georgetown, details of which are given below, or through our website www.guyanapnc.org. Material contributions can be forwarded to our representatives in various parts of the USA and Canada.

I would also be grateful if you could also place on your website information on the PNCR flood relief efforts and ways in which interested persons and organizations can contribute. We will be forwarding information to you on a regular basis from our Flood Crisis Centre. Other information and photographs can be obtained and viewed on our website.

May I once again thank you for your noble efforts.

Yours sincerely



Robert H O Corbin, MP
Leader of the PNCR and Leader of the Opposition

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*Congress Place, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana. Tel: (592) 225-8370/ (592) 225-7852-5
Fax: (592) 233-5835; E-Mail: rhoc@hotmail.com; Website: www.pnc.org*

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Contributions can also be made through our website at www.guyanapnc.org