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# Norton ready to lead PNCR again but won't be presidential candidate

-biennial congress apparently pushed back to next year



BY **DENIS CHABROL** — Wednesday, 3 June 2026, 6:12

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Mr Aubrey Norton

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Despite leading the People's National Congress Reform (PNCR)-dominated A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) to its worst defeat in last year's general and regional elections, Mr Aubrey Norton on Tuesday indicated that he was ready to run for the position of party leader again.

"The party will determine who is the next leader of the party. I will offer myself as a candidate once I continue to believe that I need to help the rebuilding process. However, if there emerges a candidate that the party is comfortable with, I am prepared to let that candidate emerge," Mr Norton said on KAMSTV, a Working People's Alliance (WPA) YouTube channel.

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Mr Aubrey Norton

appeal to young people in the next general elections.

“I’m making a public commitment to the people of Guyana. Even if I am leader of the party, I will not be the presidential candidate because I do believe, I genuinely believe that you need a generation that is in touch and can relate to the 35 and under and I will mold that generation to become the presidential candidate and a team,” he said.

Mr Norton justified his decision to retain leadership of the PNCR, saying it was part of his plan to “consolidate” the party.

The PNCR’s Congress is due to be held this year, but Mr Norton said that would be postponed to 2027. “That is a decision that will be made by the central executive of the PNC. If you ask me and you want my frank answer, I will allow the consolidation process to occur this year and then probably next year put to the executive of Congress,” he said.

Under Mr Norton’s leadership, APNU has lost seats in municipal strongholds such as Georgetown and Linden to the People’s Progressive Party Civic while retaining majority control.

At the regional level, APNU was defeated for the first time in recent history in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica) by the PPPC in the September 2025 general and regional elections, and Region 10 (Upper Demerara-Upper Berbice) by newcomer We Invest in Nationhood (WIN).

Mr Norton hails from Linden, the capital town of Region 10.

The PNCR Leader also dismissed repeated calls by sections of his party and the wider public for him to resign, amid numerous defections to the PPPC and APNU’s poor showing in last year’s elections. “I believe that if I abandon the party at this stage, we can generate the problems that happened after (David) Granger left,” he said.

The PNCR is yet to hold a General Council meeting since Guyana’s 2025 general and regional elections.