

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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AFC TEAM SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGES NORWAY ON THE LCDS

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Other News:

To honour our Amerindian brothers and sisters, the leadership made visits and joined the Amerindian Heritage Month festivities in Orealla, Moruca, and Rock Stone. The point has to be made that it is the opinion of most, that the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs did poorly in organising the events for Heritage Month.

The Party's relentless pressure for Freedom of Information and Broadcast Legislation to be introduced has forced the government to announce that these will be introduced in the National Assembly shortly. We will wait and see and in the meantime continue to push for these two important legislative instruments.

The Party's leadership team led by Chairman Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. successfully engaged the visiting delegation from Norway on the Low Carbon Development Strategy. Three major issues were raised with the Norwegian delegation- a) The crafting of an action plan for climate change based on the 2006 National Development Strategy (NDS); b) the establishment of a truly representative Multi-Stakeholder Consultation and Steering Committee; c) and the need to put in place transparent mechanisms for any disbursement of funding Guyana will benefit from. The Norwegian delegation was given perspectives on Indigenous peoples' concerns and on forest management and conservation in Guyana.

Whilst we all agree that conservation and protection of our environment are important and should be promoted, we must also agree that if Guyana is to be paid for its conservation efforts that the money received should be seen as the patrimony of all Guyanese and therefore accounted for and spent in a transparent and equitable manner. The manner in which the present administration mis-spends, misappropriates and mis-directs scarce resources leaves far too much to be desired making it impossible to trust them with this windfall. This was the main argument that the AFC's team advanced when it met with the Norwegian government team on September 17, 2009. The argument appears to have won the day because shortly after, Guyana's President was forced to clear the air and announce that the money, if, and when received, would be disbursed through a transparent manner that involves Members of Parliament and others. This is effective opposition that has won the first battle in having a more just and equitable sharing of the nation's resources. The battle however continues and we are reminded that the price of justice is eternal vigilance. The photo below shows AFC executives Khemraj Ramjattan, Sheila Holder, Clayton Hall and Martin Cheong with Norwegian team leader-Marte Nordseth and others.



FOURTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON THE WAY

The Planning Committee for the observance of our 4th anniversary celebrations has set a programme that includes an Inter-Faith Service which was held on Sunday, October 4, 2009, the Marlis Archer & Maxie Perreira Memorial Cycle Race Meet on Sunday 10th October, an outreach and feeding programme in Corentyne on the 17th and 18th October, and will culminate with a Leadership and Campaign Management training session on the 30th and 31st to be conducted by the AFC's Leadership Institute. Members are encouraged to telephone the office on (592) 226-0181 to obtain further details and to indicate how they can make a meaningful contribution to the success of the month's activities.

The under-handedness of the administration was exposed by showing that 3 families in need of house lots in West Berbice went without as the PPP took the house lots for itself. This is shameful.

Upcoming Events:

The AFC's Executive is to consult and decide on the Parliamentary Team's return to the National Assembly following the August boycott arising out of the revelations in the infamous Simels trial in the USA..

Outreach visits are scheduled Berbice, Linden, and Rupununi during October.

The National Executive Committee will soon meet to discuss and settle the platform and strategy for upcoming elections.

A Youth Convention is being organized by CEO-Peter Ramsaroop and details will follow.

"Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for what you could become."

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MORE GUYANESE GOING INTO POVERTY

AFC Starts Preparation of A Blueprint For Government and Development

According to recently released statistics from the United Nations, an estimated 126,000 Guyanese now live on less than US\$2 or G\$400 a day, the latest United Nations report on human development around the world shows. According to the Human Development Report, released Monday, 16.8 percent of Guyana's 750,000 population live on the little or nothing and officially they can be considered to be living on or below the poverty line.

This is a frightening development because if we were to believe the lies of the administration, they make Guyana appear as if everyone is living well and happy. The report also went on to find that one out of every three Guyanese is preparing to leave the country. These are statistics that show the standard of living worsening and more and more Guyanese are running away to greener pastures.

The AFC proposes that we develop a road map for our progress using the National Development Strategy as the bedrock for all our national developmental plans. This strategy was agreed over a decade ago using the expertise of the best Guyanese minds from all stakeholder groups and interests, but has been foolishly cast aside by the administration. The Party is in the process of updating this important strategy document for use and implementation.

As part of this drive and at a recent press conference, our plan to resuscitate the ailing rice industry was unveiled. We continue to receive numerous complaints about the government's mis-handling of the rice sector which is robbing the nation of much needed revenue.

AFC on the Move



A wheel-barrow was presented by the AFC's Moruca Group to the Women's Development Group of Moruca, North West, to aid in their farming projects, and Region 10 Councillor Wavell Appeal shared watermelons from his farm to Senior Citizens at the Darfolk Home in Linden. A visit was also made to Marikobi by the Welfare Department and other members of the leadership and a number of items were presented to children, farmers and households there in addition to hearing their concerns and spreading the AFC's vision for change.

The Party's work of building cells and groups continues apace country-wide as we prepare for upcoming elections. Members and supporters are encouraged to make contact with the Georgetown Office or other executive members to receive further information on upcoming visits or to make preparations for visits.