

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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Other News:

1) Our esteemed Vice Chairperson Sheila Holder, M.P. was chosen to be an Elections Observer for Presidential and elections held in Mozambique in . We salute Mrs. Holder in recognition of her honour of her international public service.

2) Diwali greetings were extended to our Hindu brothers and sisters as the Party recognised the significance of Diwali and the desire of all to bring change to all.

3) AFC Scrutineers are now involved in the ID Card Distribution exercise.

TORTURE OF YOUTH...Who Is Next?

The month of October ended with the publication of the picture of a tortured child; leaving anyone who has seen it to believe that evil stalks the land as we have hit an all time low. We are all shocked at what we saw, but how shocked are we, and what are we prepared to do about it? These are questions the AFC is asking the average Guyanese; especially those who support the present administration. Aren't we all ashamed at what is happening? The Party, through its Leader issued an open appeal to civil society to get its act together and speak out. Already, this appeal to seems to be bearing good fruit as many citizens and groups have expressed outrage. Some of these words are repeated here. "Recent revelations of the barbaric torture of a child by ranks of the Guyana Police Force have had a chilling and devastating effect on the minds of most Guyanese, yet there remains an eerie silence from the non-political leaders in our society. Those, who we would have expected to speak out and stand up against the continuous brutalization of citizens by members of the coercive arm of the state. In the past, when details of similar tortures against citizens:- Leander, Wilson, Sumner, Robertson, Jones, Dunn and Edwin Niles (who died after being similarly burnt and tortured) were revealed to the public, "civil society" sat back, and for the most part, remained silent. This silence of the religious organisations and their priests, pastors, pundits, and imams, the social organisations, youth clubs and organisations, is what makes this administration, and these psychopaths who are state actors, bold and brazen enough to do what they do to other human beings who are Guyanese."

Most heartening to us are the various initiatives recently taken by members of civil society; some of whom have started to find their voices and legs, while others remain in hiding even in the face of this atrocity. The AFC therefore hails the work of the Guyana Bar Association, the Catholic Church, the Private Sector Commission, Red Thread and other organizers of the Friday vigil outside the Public Hospital, and the scores of organisations and decent citizens who put pen to paper and vented their outrage at the assault of a child, and have called for a change in the way this country is governed. The struggle continues, and the AFC will join and give support to the struggle as it has done in the past when atrocities have been committed against the citizens of Guyana. While the Party plays its part we look forward to more civil society support. We must never condone violence and particularly, state brutality. We will continue to engage with civil society, International Organisations, and others to fight the lawlessness that is taking over Guyana.

REGION 10 SEAT BATTLE CONTINUES

In the midst of our 4th Anniversary celebrations we could not forget the fact that this was also another anniversary of the injustice and disregard for the democratic process because the people of Region 10 are without the representation that they voted for in 2006. There is a squatter on the seat. Under the current administration, the welfare of the people of Region 10 continues to decline, and we will continue to do our best to keep hope alive and to bring relief and redress to them. The Party is presently involved in two community projects in Linden that will benefit youth and in the area of flood mitigation and relief.

Upcoming Events:

1) Our Chairman-Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. will be a guest of the Toronto Chapter from November 13-25. He is scheduled to appear at several town hall meetings and to meet members and interested Guyanese to update them about what is happening in Guyana and of our preparations for elections.

2) Outreach visits are planned for Kwakwani, Linden and Bartica during November.

2) The AFC will join with other Opposition groups to launch the Dossier on Torture and State Brutality.

3) A team of distinguished Guyanese will visit the US. State Department to apprise its officers of the growing dictatorship in Guyana and of the perils this poses for the citizens and regional security.

***"Life is change.
Growth is optional.
Choose wisely."***

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AFC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ENDED WITH A BANG!

The 4th Anniversary observations for your party began in solemn form with an inter-faith religious service on Sunday October and ended with a bang with a BBQ which was held at the party's office on Saturday, October. During the month, we visited members and supporters in Berbice, Linden, Georgetown, and Essequibo, and shared food to over 300 children at Bangladesh, Corentyne, assisted victims of fire, and sponsored the annual Marlis Archer & Maxie Perreira memorial Cycle Meet on Sunday, October 11.

At the end of the month the members of the National Executive Committee and representatives from all 10 Regions and our overseas chapters deliberated on the party's administrative matters, received reports from the general Secretary and treasurer and advanced plans for upcoming elections. We are ready! We continue to thank all those who have kept the faith and stayed with us through thick and thin and have been the backbone of a movement for change and transformation.



ECONOMIC CORNER

In view of the recent opening of the Takatu Bridge and the pledges made to construct a paved road from Lethem to Linden we unveil some intended proposals for the transformation of Lethem and Rupununi under an arc government. Our CEO Peter Ramsaroop continues to push the economic reform agenda.

The AFC believes that the airstrip at Lethem should be upgraded as an interim step to accommodate larger cargo aircraft while we the administration plays around with the dealing with the reality of having to put in place a paved road from Lethem to Linden. In addition, we see the need now for the building of warehouses to increase the circulation and the commerce of commodities, and for serious consideration to be given to the development of a cargo rail system that will facilitate better trade between Guyana and Brazil.

We Should All Be Concerned About Suicide

Within the past few days we have lost through suicide two beautiful, educated, and well cultured young women in the personage of Aliya Bulkan, Lisa Prashad and Poonam Rampersaud. The Alliance For Change extends our deepest sympathy to the Bulkan and Prashad families. It is a time of sorrow and grief not only for these three families but for all Guyanese who value the human resource of our country especially our young people. The World Health Organization's (WHO) map of suicide rates (2009) shows Guyana among nations with the highest suicide rates. There is hardly any family in Guyana which was never touched directly or indirectly by this problem. This means that we need to work harder across our beloved country to reduce the incidence of suicide.