



Newsletter Date: September, 2009

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Other News:

1) The Party's Leader admonished the Disciplined Forces for the recent incidents of robbery and loss of life by their ranks. Both in a full page ad, and at our recently held press conference, he called on these forces restore honour, credibility to their institutions, and to regain the trust of the people.

2) The issue of the plight of our brothers and sisters living in Region 1 and having to use the MV Kimbia was taken up by the party as a clear sign that the PPP is only interested in show and not in bringing genuine relief to our Amerindian brothers and sisters.

3) The Party has taken GPL to task for its sub-standard service and blames it for the losses being suffered by the business community, fires, and general sense of frustration felt by the entire nation.

HAPPY AMERINDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

September is here again and the Alliance For Change (AFC) joins with all Guyana to wish our Indigenous Peoples a very meaningful as well as successful Amerindian Heritage Month. While this month should be used to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of our Indigenous Peoples, time should also be taken to reflect on the sterling contributions they have made and continue to make to the social and economic fabric of our great nation. This contribution is hardly appreciated by the government of the day.

Those of us who visit hinterland communities are bombarded all the time with cries for help for better education, health and other social services. Beautiful schools are built at astronomical costs but have inadequate teachers, hospitals in areas like Kamarang in Region 7, Port Kaituma and Moruca in Region 1, still after many years do not have the resources and capacity to function as hospitals. Many patients still have to be referred to Georgetown at their inconvenience and in most cases at their own economic cost.

The Mazaruni River remains a testimony to water pollution caused by mining - a scenario that has evaded by the Government for decades. Economic alternatives in hinterland villages are absent. Capacity building for community leaders is found wanting. Our Indigenous Peoples deserve to be treated equal to all other Guyanese and be respected for the role they have to play in Guyana's development.

So with a sense of gratitude to our Indigenous Peoples for their contribution to the nation and support for their causes, the AFC wishes them a gratifying Amerindian Heritage Month. As you partake in all the diverse activities to highlight your month of celebration in your villages, districts and the nation as a whole may you be strengthened in your resolve to rise to the occasion and take your rightful place in Society?

The AFC stands fully behind you, and will be fully involved in the commemoration celebrations. Leadership visits will take place to Orealla, Rupununi, and Moruca to celebrate the month with our Amerindian brothers and sisters.

AFC LEADERS PICKETED BY PHANTOMS

As if there was not enough confusion on the local political scene, a group of confused people suddenly appeared at the offices of the AFC Leader and Chairman with pickets claiming to be 'concerned citizens'. We were all aware that it was only a matter of time before the PPP targeted the AFC because of the principled and relentless exposure of their bad governance. We had previously advised members about a "fear and smear" campaign that the PPP has started to unleash using lies, innuendoes and scare tactics to frighten away our growing numbers of supporters. We were therefore not surprised, but the sad part of all this is that in the midst of our political and economic crises, the PPP is paying people to protest at \$5,000 a day.

This is disgraceful because taxpayers money is being used to pay picketers every day when what they need is dignity and a job. All other political forces in Guyana use volunteers while the PPP relies on a misguided and desperate group to do its dirty work. Worst of all, is that the building used to organize the National Youth Parliament, a symbol of hope and leadership, in Oronoque Street, is the staging area for the picketers. What a fine example for our youth. We continue to believe that the picketing exercise is proof that the AFC is now the real threat to the PPP. The leadership and members of the AFC are neither impressed nor intimidated by these protests, pickets and personal attacks. We will prevail.

4) The AFC joins with members of the Muslim community in observing the holy month of Ramadan.

5) Leadership visits were conducted in New Amsterdam, Berbice and Essequibo Coast to push the leadership drive and to meet members and supporters.

6) The work of partnership building is ongoing as was recently displayed at a jointly held press conference between the AFC and GAP. Hopefully, long lasting partnerships will be forged.

7) The Vice Chair and CEO completed successful visits to New York, USA, and Toronto, Canada to address the general membership on issues of importance.

Upcoming Events:

1) Outreach visits are planned for Orealla on September 11, Annai and St. Ignatius, September 20-26 and Moruca on September 26.

2) As part of the Joint Opposition initiative, AFC Leaders will be in Linden to address a public forum on September 23 at the Constabulary Building..

3) Preparations are well advanced to observe our 4th Anniversary in October.

“Change starts when someone sees the next step.”

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CEO PETER RAMSAROOP Challenges Region 5 Administration on Farmers' Issues

Our CEO, Peter Ramsaroop, has been making regular visits to Region 5 (West Berbice) to meet with farmers at their request. The farmers complain that they are getting a raw deal from the MMA and the Regional Administration, which controlled by the PPP. They complain of great suffering and hardship as a result. Ramsaroop, working along with AFC Region 5, Executive member, Pradeep Bachan, have taken the fight to the administration and are winning the admiration and support of farmer, for the effective manner in which their issues are being resolved. Needless to say, the PPP has grown uncomfortable and is issuing veiled threats to farmers not to participate in meetings with Peter Ramsaroop.

AFC KEEPS ITS PROMISES



In the photos above, AFC Member of Parliament, David Patterson, presents a sewing machine to be used by the women's group in Annai Village, North Rupununi, and in the second, Executive member, Pastor Punalall and Vice Chair Sheila Holder presented much needed relief of mattresses, clothing and school supplies to Esther Blake of Two Friends, East Coast Demerara who recently lost everything in a fire. Our friends overseas made the second gift possible.

The Low Carbon Development Strategy

The Party Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, has written to the Government of Norway setting out, on behalf of the people of Guyana, the AFC's position that the currently proposed LCDS is not in the best interest of the people of Guyana. More details to follow soon.

AFC IN SOLIDARITY WITH RECENT VICTIMS OF CRIME

The AFC extended sympathy to those who recently lost their lives in the Essequibo River and stand in solidarity and support of the family of missing Ricky Jainarine. A minute's silence was observed on Friday Sept. 4.

TODAY stand for one minute of silence at 12:00hrs and say a prayer to mourn the deaths of			Pray for the safe return of Ricky Jainarine	
 Dwieve Kant Ramdass	 Jainarine Dinanauth	 Henry Gibson		