

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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Other News:

1) The Distribution of National Identification cards is ongoing and the Party urges all Guyanese, and particularly our youth, to ensure that they are registered and uplift their id cards in preparation for Elections.

2) The National Executive supports the call made by Region 4 Councillor Michael Carrington for the restoration of the Dependants' Allowance. The poor are already finding it difficult to make ends meet and are being punished for having children and other dependants. The policy of not allowing for tax relief for those who have dependants is an unjust and inhumane one.

Upcoming Events:

1) Preparations have begun by a Special Task Force to advise and prepare the Party on our approach to Local Government Elections. Members are invited to submit suggestions to the Executive on how they feel the AFC should and could be involved.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!



The festive Christmas season is once again with us and the Alliance For Change joins with every Guyanese in celebrating the cheer and joy of Christmas. The first Christmas message to mankind was spoken by the angel of God in these simple but yet inspiring words *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men"*.

Christmas remains a time and a season when we cherish peace and goodwill to those around us, a time when there is charity in our hearts and hospitality in our actions. From home to home and from heart to heart the warmth and joy of Christmas brings us closer together as families and also as a nation. The best of all gifts around Christmas time is the presence of a happy family and a happy nation wrapped up in peace, love and joy.

The gift of the Saviour is an expression of goodwill or love to all men. From His great example we have learnt as a nation to banish envy, malice, pride, lust, passion and covetousness. We are disposed as a people to lay aside our differences and to love each other and to seek each other's welfare. Despite our cultural and religious diversity we have learnt to be tolerant of our fellow Guyanese brothers and sisters, and even those from other shores who visit or reside in our midst. We know that the joy that we share with others at this time is the joy that will come back to us.

It is our prayer that your lives will overflow with blessings rich and eternal and that every path you trod will lead to peace and happiness. As we celebrate the birth of the Saviour let us look at the past with tenderness, let us look at the present with courage, and let us look to the future with hope.

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AFC SUPPORTS WORKERS' STRUGGLE

In both the sugar and bauxite sectors there is severe disruption as the workers' unions have called on them to struggle for better wages and conditions of service. In the case of GuySuCo a "measly" 3% increase has been offered to the workers even as it is discovered that a few sacred cows in the management earn more than a few hundred workers, put together, on a monthly basis. We cannot continue to have a Cadillac lifestyle on a donkey-cart economy.

For the bauxite workers at the Bauxite Company of Guyana Inc. (BCGI), the story is even worse. The workers' demand for a better wage was met with letters of dismissal and a declaration that the Guyana Bauxite & General Workers Union (GB&GWU) is no longer recognised as the union representing workers at the company. Here, a foreign company, with no regard for the laws of Guyana and our industrial relations practices, is being allowed by the regime to get away with rank lawlessness. The AFC has not only supported the bauxite workers and their union, but has gone further by calling for workers everywhere to see that the time has come for their representative unions to unite and to cast aside political and personal differences and unite. We must all the support workers.

The Party's CEO, Leader, and General Secretary made a presentation to Guyana's female boxing champ-Shondell Alfred to help her prepare for her upcoming world title fight. Ms. Alfred thanked the party and remarked that the government, or no other entity, had come forward with support except the AFC.

2) Outreach visits continue in early January with visits to several hinterland communities in Regions 1, 7, 8, and 9.

3) The National Executive will meet in January to agree the Party's work programme for the first quarter of 2010 and to update plans for elections.

4) The Youth Convention is scheduled to be held in January 2010.

"You change your life by changing your heart"

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SCENES FROM OUR COUNTRYWIDE CHRISTMAS CHEER

For Christmas 2009, gifts, drinks and snacks were shared to over 1500 children in all 10 Regions of Guyana by Party Executives and representatives. The pictures show children in Bartica, Mahdia, Linden, Berbice, Lethem and Georgetown receiving their gifts. The Party is very grateful to the persons and organisations here, and abroad, that contributed to this successful exercise.

