

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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In This Issue

- The Interest of the people of Guyana is Paramount
- AFC To Test For Existence of Rule of Law
- Lindeniers Fed on Christmas Day.
- Upcoming Events

NOTICE

Democracy is your business so play your part by ensuring that you are registered to vote, have uplifted your id card, and are ready to go out to make the change you dream of a reality. Begin to organize yourself and others now!

Other News:

Successful outreach exercises have been conducted in Berbice, Essequibo and the East Bank of Demerara as the people continue to call on the party to establish groups and to have a presence in their communities. There is a wind of change blowing.

Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, has presented a Broadcast Bill to the National Assembly. This Bill now joins the FOI Bill presented by Leader, Raphael Trotman. The AFC has created history with the presentation of these two Bills. Support the call for a free and transparent society.

AFC WILL ACT IN GUYANA'S BEST INTEREST

As we approach elections be they Municipal and Local Government or the General elections due in 2011 the AFC has to maintain its brand and identity, which we have fought so bravely to establish since its launch in 2005; especially when others said we were "rejects", neophytes, disgruntled, wayward politicians who will amount to nothing. The stone which the builders rejected has now become the headstone of the corner, and the members, supporters and people of Guyana have every reason to be proud and confident that the decisions leading to the upcoming elections will be made in their best interest.

For the thousands of Guyanese who see us as their only hope, the AFC is the only alternative amongst political parties, for any upcoming elections. Recognising that Guyana's development cannot rest on the shoulders of any one political party or grouping, common sense and necessity dictate that we enter into alliances with like minded citizens and organizations. Those of us who stayed the course and fought, and persevered and endured ridicule, persecution, and discrimination would not want to see our efforts go up in a smoke by making foolish decisions and choices. We have managed since our launch in 2005 to move from being a "third-force" concept into the first choice for thousands of Guyanese who have become disenchanted and disgusted at the increasing levels of corruption, lawlessness, favoritism and discrimination that characterizes the regime on the one hand, and on the other, the ineptness and strange acceptance of the way things are by the other political opposition party.

In the months ahead, there will be many attempts to sow the seeds of mischief and discord, and to cause, doubts and suspicions to arise in the minds of our supporters and activists. Do not shift from your message of change and fall victim to the devices and traps set by others. Certain fundamentals will never change. Our name, principles and brand will never be diluted; we will, as we seek alliances with other like-minded groups and individuals, never forsake our fundamental beliefs or forget those who were burnished with us in the crucible of fire. At the last Convention, our Party's Leader, Raphael Trotman, stated quite clearly and unambiguously that *"the leadership of this Party will not abandon you and run for cover when faced with adversity; we will not allow ourselves to be compromised by dirty money, and neither will wilt or wobble under pressure."* We will stay the course-all of us!

We will pursue alliances with purpose; grounded in the belief that Guyana is for all Guyanese to enjoy as our birthright, and that we all have a role to play, individually, and collectively. There are many patriotic and upright Guyanese at home and abroad who we would be privileged to associate with.

Guyana is a beautiful place- blessed in abundance, and populated with beautiful people of every persuasion. Our diversity is our strength and our achievements must be made together and for the benefit of all. The AFC is a party that will stay the course. Our is a great party and we are ready to work shoulder to shoulder with other patriotic Guyanese to take this country towards its destiny of being a prosperous nation at peace with itself.

AFC URGES ALL GUYANESE TO SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI!

Become your brother's and sister's keepers. We all can and must contribute to the suffering faced by our fellow humans in some way. Give to the reputable charitable and religious organisations.

AFC TO TEST THE FOR EXISTENCE OF RULE OF LAW IN GUYANA

Chairman, and Attorney-at-Law, Khemraj Ramjattan, intends to test the foundations of the principle of the rule of law. We say that we practice democracy in Guyana but many believe that we have become a kleptocracy where thievery is the main business off government. Such was the case recently when the Prime Minister and Minister of Housing and Water could not give any proper or any account of why money in the billions, was being spent without the prior approval of the National Assembly as is required by law. The sight of the two Ministers looking dumbfounded was a pitiful one and marked the day that Guyana's democracy sunk o a new low. Billions of tax payers' money is being doled out and mismanaged and allowed to leak all over the place and we can no longer put this down to mismanagement and incompetence. This is too calculated and deliberate to be seen as bad governance. It is actually a perverse form of governance that is being practiced here.

Ramjattan intends to be the main witness in the case to be brought to establish naked violations of the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act, and he awaits the delivery of the official record of the proceedings in Parliament, the Hansard, before proceeding to call on the DPP to press charges. For her paying millions for a chartered plane, allegedly to fly students to Cuba without prior approval, Minister of the Public Service Jennifer Westford has also found herself in hot, hot water. We have to find out once and for all whether the rule of law exists in Guyana or we are living in a lawless society where every citizen can take the law into their own hands and do whatever they want. This latest incident comes on the heels of a call by the party leadership not two weeks before, for the DPP to be more vigilant and proactive in protecting the national purse from corrupt practices.

HOW ARE WE PREPARING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS?

At a Special Meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) it was decided that the party will participate in local government elections but not in the traditional manner as a competing party against other political parties, but rather, as friend and ally of the people. We feel that the AFC has to enter into strategic alliances with partners to contest upcoming local government polls. The party's partnerships would extend beyond the 6 Municipalities and to the 65 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs).

The party is looking strategically to see how best it could partner with civil society groups, leading personalities and other political parties in these areas. The recognition for Article 13 of the our Constitution intends that more power will be placed into the hands of people and this will mean a devolution of power away from government, political parties and directly into the hands off the people. At the very local and most important level, there should be less heavy political participation and involvement. According to him, there is need for a relaxing of the "stranglehold" that the political parties have over representatives in local authorities like NDC, explaining that the first criterion should be the ability to serve well as opposed to political affiliation. Party Leader, Raphael Trotman recently declared that "at this point in time there is too much involvement by the big ones in the ordinary day-to-day affairs of people, and a decision as to whether or not a footbridge should be built across a canal or trench should best be left to the village elders or the NDC rather than it having to come from party headquarters. We would be willing to come in as an equal partner.

AFC'S LINDEN CHAPTER ENSURED THAT THOSE WHO NEEDED A MEAL ON CHRISTMAS MORNING GOT ONE



Upcoming Events:

Further visits will be undertaken during January and February to Region 6 (East Berbice), Region 5 (West Berbice), Region 2 (Essequibo Coast), and Region 10 (Linden) to organize the work for the 1st half of he year and to continue preparations for Local Government Elections.

Leadership Visits are planned for February in New York USA and Toronto, Canada.

A Mashramani BBQ & Lime is to be held on Saturday February 20, 2010 @ the Georgetown Office. Tkts. Can be obtained from Exec members and the Office.

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"Change is the only constant"