

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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WHIM OFFICE OPENING HAILED AS HISTORIC

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Other News:

Recently, we observed two important religious holidays. The first was the occasion of You-Man-Nabi on February 27 to recognise the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, and the second was on March

1 In observance of the festivities of Phagwah. Messages were sent out by the party to our Muslim and Hindu brothers and sisters in particular, and to all Guyanese and Leaders participated in official events hosted by the communities.

2. The Nation observed 40 years of Republican status on February 23 last. The Party in its statement to the nation urged all Guyanese to re-commit to the true meaning of independence and nation-building.

3. The Head of the European recently Delegation in Guyana held discussion with a leadership team to discuss local government elections and other national issues.

History was made on February 6, 2010 when the AFC opened its Whim, Corentyne Office in the heartland of what is considered the stronghold of the PPP/C. If ever there was an indication that the wind of change is blowing naturally, and forcefully, throughout Guyana, it was on that bright Saturday afternoon when over a hundred residents of Corentyne turned up to be a part of the historic ribbon-cutting exercise.

Speeches were given by members of the executive who comprised Raphael Trotman, Khemraj Ramjattan, Sheila Holder and Sixtus Edwards and by Berbice based Dr. Rishi Thakur and Dr. Ramayya. Sugar workers expressed their outrage and anxieties about being short-changed and ignored by the government and its appointees in the industry. No one could believe that a once proud and vibrant part of Guyana was reduced to a begging bowl. Credit has to be given to our Chairman Khemraj Ramjattan, Vice-Chair and Dr. Ramayya for their hard to guide the people of Berbice towards change.

Through this office, the party will be able to service its membership in the mid to lower Corentyne and will bring to three, the number of offices in East Berbice. In the months ahead the AFC will be increasing its presence in all of Region 6 and taking the fight to the now bankrupt, but still harmful PPP/C.



NO SOLUTION WITHOUT DEVOLUTION

As the nation is put on an elections footing for the holding of Local Government Elections that are scheduled for 2010, the people of Guyana are no wiser as to their rights and responsibilities under the new electoral system that is proposed. If we are made to believe that the holding of elections is in itself the greatest litmus test of a functioning democracy, rather than the fullest participation of the people, then by all accounts, GECOM is failing miserably to prepare the people to exercise their constitutional and democratic rights to vote, and to elect leaders of their choice. Power belongs to the people and in a true democracy, local governance is more important than national governance.

We cannot agree to the holding of elections that do not allow for the people of Guyana to be able to manage their own local affairs and make decisions on issues that affect them. This is what these intended elections should seek to achieve. The party will be holding meetings with other opposition political parties and with members of civil society and the diplomatic community to highlight another

Outreach Visits

Leadership visits continued in Linden, Berbice (both West and East Coasts), Bartica, Matthews Ridge, Diamond, Wakenaam, and Essequibo Coast and Charity.

Upcoming Events:

The Long awaited Youth Conference will be held on May 8th, 2010, bringing youth from all across Guyana to discuss their issues and to formulate strategies to address them. Details will be provided.

Outreach visits for March and April are programmed for Kwakwani, Moruca, Mabaruma, Lethem, Berbice, and Essequibo. Members will be contacted on the chosen dates and times for meetings.

The Party's Welfare Committee will share hundreds of kites to deserving children nationwide, for Easter. Support the cause.

Vice Chair, Sheila Holder, MP will be in North America from March 27 to May 22 and will be meeting with supporters and the Chapters. She can be contacted via email: sheilaholder2001@gmail.com

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"Those who expect moments of change to be comfortable and free of conflict have not learned their history." ~Joan Wallach Scott

nefarious attempt by the PPP to hijack democracy in Guyana and replace it with a dictatorship. We are strong in our belief that the holding of local government elections, in the absence of meaningful reforms that will devolve power and authority to the people, would only result in another meaningless exercise and be a waste of scarce tax payers' money. Identify your candidates and prepare for battle!

WE ARE ORGANISING OUR YOUTH NOW!

Peter Ramsaroop CEO of the AFC discusses with the young generation Guyanese what and how they want Guyana to be. In this picture, the panel included teachers, professionals, Law and Economics Student and a high school participant. The AFC on the Move program is aired weekly across the country.



FIRE VICTIMS ASSISTED

The Party focuses much attention on assisting victims of fire. We provide clothing and food and offer our prayers and support in any other way that we can. The pain of the loss of everything is difficult to overcome and the AFC does its best to provide healing in these times of distress. In February, fire victims in Linden and Mocha Arcadia, E.B.D. were assisted.



The Leader and General Secretary make a contribution of cash, food and clothing in Mocha Arcadia.

ECONOMIC CORNER

The Bartica Triangle: The door to the development of the Interior of Guyana

The AFC 2011 Blueprint calls for key developmental zones. One such zone is the Bartica Triangle. Areas such as Bartica have been under-funded by central government, even though the entire Region Seven is one of our richest regions. We need the localisation of taxes where a major portion of taxes collected in each region remains in the region for funding the people's activities at the regional level. The reality is that the area is ignored and projects seriously delayed. The essential point of our plan for this Region is we need to consider carefully our resource endowments before we make massive commitments.

If the Government had studied Guyana's resource capacities, it would have already been targeting holistic renewable energy capabilities rather than looking for one silver bullet energy project. Here we have an example of a German study supporting our call for localized hydroelectricity plants. This will serve to keep long-term unit cost down as the power generated per fixed/sunken investment costs is reduced. The right plans need to be implemented with some degree of urgency so Guyana and all Guyanese can reap the true benefits of sustained development.