

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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RAMJATTAN/HOLDER TO LEAD AFC TEAM INTO ELECTIONS



At a historic Conference held on Sunday, October 31, 2010, Khemraj Ramjattan and Sheila Holder were endorsed as the Party's Presidential and Prime Ministerial candidates respectively, by the Delegates present and representing all 14 AFC Regions including, the four overseas Chapters. This came after a Motion was presented by Party Leader, Raphael Trotman, to name our Chairman Khemraj Ramjattan as the Presidential candidate to lead the AFC's charge into the elections.

Other News:

1. In November the party extended warm greetings to our Hindu and Muslim sisters and brothers as we celebrated Diwali and Eid ul Adha. On the 5th and 17th respectively. The preservation of the right of religious freedom is one that the AFC holds as most important.

2. The AFC bid farewell to Parliamentarian and opposition stalwart, Winston Murray who died on November 22, 2010. In a release, the party described him as being of a rare breed of politicians who were prepared to put Guyana first and to serve with a "quiet dignity" May his soul rest in peace.

3. The NY/NJ AFC US Government and international outreach Committee met with

This brings to an end the attempts by the PPP to besmirch the Party and to stoke division and distrust within the membership and populace. By this single action, the Party has demonstrated that its leaders are not "sacred cows" and that it can take itself through transition and transformation. "It is the new kind of politics that we seek to introduce into Guyana" said Ramjattan. He charged the delegates and activists to live "the examined life subjecting ourselves to the utmost scrutiny. Our credibility and integrity; our consistency with principle in our words and action are some of the attributes which will popularize and endear us to the hearts of those whose support we seek. And we must never fear that mistakes will be made because they will be made. After all, the Alliance For Change is an association of humans, not angels. What we do thereafter is to quickly pick ourselves up, dust off and proceed onwards never unduly victimising ourselves for our errors."

The Party expects that the membership will heighten their focus on the upcoming campaign and work as a cohesive unit to prepare it for elections and to work alongside likely partners that are being spoken to by the "Engagement Team" to link hands with us to present the best slate of patriots to win elections and manage the affairs of state.

AFC RE-WRITING THE HISTORY BOOKS AND RE-SHAPING THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE!

In a historic development, two women were nominated to fill the Prime Ministerial positions of the AFC, Sheila Holder and Catherine Hughes. Following Mrs. Hughes' gracious decline of the nomination, the way was cleared for Parliamentary veteran and consumer rights advocate, Sheila Holder, MP, to gain the unanimous support of the delegates who had gathered at the recently convened Conference.

Without a doubt, the presence of a formidable female VP and Prime Ministerial candidate will no doubt re-configure the entire 2011 Elections campaign and predictably, place the other contesting parties to reveal where women lie in order of importance and prominence in their own parties. The point must be made that Mrs. Holder was nominated for the post of Presidential candidate, but declined in favour of Khemraj Ramjattan.

Executives, Michael Carrington and Cathy Hughes who were nominated for the positions of Presidential and Prime Ministerial candidates respectively, were lauded for contributing to the democratic evolution of our young Party.

officials of the US Embassy in Georgetown to raise issues affecting Guyanese home and abroad. These include: corruption, expected misuse of LCDS funds, torture, and better US/Guyana relations.

4. On the Occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Party's statement read in part: "Therefore, on this day we remember those who were abused psychologically, physically, sexually or emotionally and salute their fortitude in overcoming their abuse. Most regrettably, we remember those who have lost their lives through violence while we salute those persons and organizations such as Help & Shelter, Red Thread and others that have been effective in their work to eliminate violence against women and girls.

5. MP, David Patterson, presented the Party's case for the reform of GECOM, and elections laws generally, at a Civil Society Forum on Electoral Reform on 10th December, 2010. The presentation was well received.

Upcoming Events:

1. A fund-raising BBQ and Dominoes Competition will be held on Saturday 18th December at Party HQ.

2. Outreach meetings will continue in Regions 1, 7, and 10 during the month of December as the Party takes the message to everyone and shares the greetings of the season.

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"The key to success is often the ability to adapt"

LEADERSHIP TAKES PROTEST TO GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL AGAINST MATERNAL DEATHS.



A picture says a thousand words. Our critics like to complain that we are not on the road enough; protesting, picketing and marching to bring the Government down. Our role as an opposition party, seeking government through democratic and lawful means is to expose the ills in our society, unmask the high levels of corruption and lawlessness that has come to characterize governance today, and to challenge at elections, for the people's support to be their government or to participate with others, in forming that government.

In the picture above the leadership leads by example by protesting in-front of the Georgetown Hospital against the unceasing deaths of mothers who go there to deliver babies. In 2010, child-birth should be routine and not a medical complication leading to death. We demand better care and attention for our mothers.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH OF RAPHAEL TROTMAN GIVEN AT THE SPECIAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE-October 31, 2010

"We are an alliance. Let us always remember that we are an alliance, a coming together and our work of coming together and building partnerships based on a shared vision, would never be complete. We have come together to heal, to reconcile, to accommodate, to reach out, embrace, and work with all that is healthy for this nation. We want to partner with ideas and initiatives from Guyanese of all persuasion. Yet, this alliance has founding principles and core values. And we must remain aligned and true to these principles and values. We offer the nation a unique opportunity to gather its resources under one unifying vision, under one people united whatever one's class, creed or ethnic origin. Under the Alliance for Change, Guyana will be for Guyanese, not for a particular ethnic group, social or economic class. This is our defining vision – one of unity, a vision of being Guyanese – heart and soul...

I believe that, as is expected in any organization, and particularly those like ours that are relatively young, there can occur a drifting and departing from core values and fundamental principles as we sometimes struggle to define ourselves and to be heard above the din of voices and opinions that seek to impose their wills upon us and undermine our party. It is therefore important that we sink our anchor deeply into our founding principles. The anchor must hold even if the ship is battered and the sails are torn and it must hold when we face the raging seas and the storm. **The anchor holds.**"

PARLIAMENTARY ROUND-UP

The party's parliamentary delegation will continue to represent the 30,000+ Guyanese who were confident enough to give us their vote in 2006. This is so despite the strong calls by a very few, but loud voices, demanding that we abdicate our responsibility and leave the National Assembly. We knew it was going to be difficult, and we continue to lead the way with questions, motions and legislation. We have our agenda, which we are in the process of realizing.