



AFC Campaign Launched in Guyana and North America

While other political parties were stuck on base one and find it difficult to move from there, the AFC had already moved ahead with its mandate and message to change Guyana. On January 29 the AFC kicked off its campaign for the 2011 Elections in Georgetown and then went on a rigorous regional launch including the University of Guyana. The Guyana launches were well received and attended with much excitement and expectation from the AFC, Guyana's largest multi-ethnic party.

With its Presidential and Prime Ministerial Candidate, its Action Plan, its new Campaign Headquarters and staff; activists and members, the AFC took the message of change to the Guyanese Diaspora on a two week journey that proved to be both reassuring and promising.

The overseas launches led by Presidential Candidate Khemraj Ramjattan, Party Leader Raphael Trotman and Campaign Director Salaudeen Nausrudeen began in



New York City, where more than 400,000 Guyanese call home. In Richmond Hill, NY on February 11, more than 350 Guyanese of all backgrounds gave the AFC a resounding welcome to call for change in Guyana.

In the packed banquet hall in Richmond Hill, AFC Leader Raphael Trotman stated that he will hold his Presidential Candidate Khemraj Ramjattan responsible for the devolution of the powers of the President of Guyana within the first year of the new AFC Government.

Presidential Candidate Khemraj Ramjattan in his feature address spoke on the urgent need for racial unity among all Guyanese both at home and in the Diaspora. He was emphatic that under the PNC/PPP Governments, all they did was give lip service to the racial unity of our people.

He stated under his Presidency, an investor, public servant or ordinary Guyanese will not benefit from Government's resources because of the texture of hair, but

because of the merit of case as he is on the road in Guyana to encourage all Guyanese of all races not to fear one another but to do what it takes to mold our nation into a more harmonious and progressive one.



On February 16th, the AFC's team held exclusive talks with officials from the Department of State at the United Nations. The nine member AFC team included executives from the AFC NY/NJ Chapter as well as the AFC Candidates from the Guyana. The Officials were impressed with the quality and thoroughness of the AFC presentations which were extracts from the Action Plan. The AFC team also met the current Auditor General of the UN and former Guyana Auditor General, Mr. Anand Goolsarran. Mr. Goolsarran pledged his support and willingness to participate in any capacity under the AFC Government.

The AFC team then went to the Sunshine State of Florida, where many Guyanese from the Central Florida area gathered at the Timehri Restaurant and Lounge to listen to the AFC's call for a Changed in Guyana. Speakers included renowned economist Dr. Tarron Khemraj, NY/NJ AFC Chairman Dr. Rohan Somar and Presidential Candidate Khemraj Ramjattan.

NEW Campaign Head Office



The AFC recently opened its spanking new head office located at 139 Fourth St., Campbellville, Georgetown. Drop by or call 231-8183 to learn more about the various activities at the Head Office.

ALLIANCE on the MOVE...



The AFC held a **peaceful picketing exercise outside the office of the President** on Friday to protest the arbitrary sacking of the Technical Research Officer in the Office of the President Ms. Marcel Joseph. The AFC believes that the manner in which this matter was handled reeks of authoritarianism and in a democratic state, such draconian measures not buttressed by any serious investigation must be condemnation.

The AFC conducted a **peaceful picketing exercise outside of the Parliament Building** on Thursday March 3 of March 2011 to register our disapproval of the abuse of worker rights in the bauxite industry as well as Government's intransigence in enacting Freedom of Information Laws. Peaceful protest is a component of the AFC's activism against the oppressive reign of the current administration.



AFC Presidential Candidate Khemraj Ramjattan and members of the AFC Berbice Team held a **small meeting with about 60 residents of Sandvoort, Berbice** on Saturday March 12, 2011. The residents listened attentively as Mr. Ramjattan shared the AFC vision for a prosperous Guyana. He explained how the AFC government will create jobs, youth developments, attract investments for cash crops and increased educational opportunities. The residents are besieged by severely damaged roads especially during this rainy season, lack of markets for their crops, low wages, unemployments and more. The meeting was organized by youth leader in the area Shaun, who is also an active member of the Region 6 AFC Campaign Committee. The AFC Berbice team also included Dr. Ramayya and Lionel Howell. After the meeting Party Leader Mr. Raphael Trotman joined Mr. Ramjattan for a 2hr Live on DTV.

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AFC Explains Alarming Trend to OAS

On March 9, 2011 the AFC met with OAS Assistant Secretary General, Albert Ramdin and members of his delegation, to explain recent political developments and 2011 election preparations. The AFC, represented by Khemraj Ramjattan, Presidential Candidate, Raphael Trotman, Party Leader, Latchmin Punalall, Member of Parliament, and Salaudeen Nausrudeen, Campaign Director, presented the alarming trend that the PPP administration is pursuing as the 2011 General Elections near.



administration to ensure that the media space is fair and open.

The recent “cuss down” of the opposition with racial overtones at Babu John as well as the recent order to “shoot to kill” at the Police Annual Convention were fully presented by the AFC as both alarming and dangerous precursors for unrest in an elections year. The AFC explained that such language in an election year is viewed as inciting and outright racist.

The AFC took the opportunity to remind the visiting OAS officials about the media blackout that the AFC have been experiencing and the unwillingness for the PPP

Asked whether the AFC would like to see the Media Monitoring Unit be established for the upcoming elections, the AFC agreed saying that, “the MMU is critical to the election period and would help to strengthen democratic values.”

Specifically, the AFC brought to the attention the untenable situation concerning its paid ads that are being refused by the state media; non-coverage of its press events; the blockage of a private television station in Linden; and the monopoly of the radio waves.

AFC Advocate for Sugar Worker Rights



Early morning on Feb. 15, 2011, more than 200 sugar workers from the Blairmont Estate gathered at the home of Pradeep Bachan, AFC Reg. 5 Coordinator to bring to his attention the plight of a 22 year old sugar worker Mr. Davekumar Jainauth, who fell while working in the fields.

The injured cane cutter Mr. Jainauth was taken to New Amsterdam Hospital by GUYSUCO. After basic treatment, the officials declared him safe and that nothing was wrong with Davekummar and was then sent home. The family then took him to Georgetown Hospital, and according

to the family, one doctor mistreated Davekummar and said that he was pretending. After such harsh and cruel treatment at Georgetown Hospital, the family took Davekumar to Medical Arts for treatment. Due to lack of money he was taken home and is bed ridden, cannot walk or move due to severe pain.

Family, friends and fellow cane cutters raised funds to assist Davekumar. Dave Kumar is married and has a three month old child.

Many sugar workers at Blairmont had downed tools to highlight this problem since this could happen to any sugar worker; and they have jointly promised to do so until justice is served to Mr. Jainauth. They are also calling for better treatment and care by the Public Health Care System.

Since no help was forthcoming, Davekumar’s family and fellow cane cutters sought the help and support from the AFC. The Party was able to raise funds as well as force the Ministry of Agriculture to make a contribution.

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Dr. Tarron Khemraj went into much details to explain why good policy is the key to economic success. He used the example of Barbados with such meager natural resources and land mass becoming the Singapore of the Caribbean while Guyana with an abundance of natural and other resources is grossly underdeveloped, impoverished and backward.

Presidential Candidate Khemraj Ramjattan continued the discussion with details



on what AFC will do to reduce crime, make the private sector the engine of growth, return jobs, ethnic harmony and the major role that the diaspora will be playing under the AFC Government. The audience was pleased to hear the AFC’s acceptance of the DEA and Scotland Yard’s assistance fighting crime in Guyana as well

as the introduction of Diaspora representation in the Guyana Parliament.

On Saturday February 19th, the AFC team was invited by the Guyanese American Cultural Association of Central Florida (GACACF) to their 41st Republic Day Awards and Ball. In his address to the more than 400 very successful Guyanese professionals and academics, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan shared the sorrowful truth of the exodus of the best of Guyanese and stressed the importance of the Diaspora towards the development of Guyana. “Guyana cannot and will not move forward without your participation,” said Mr. Ramjattan on behalf of the Guyana Parliament.

The following day the AFC’s team left the warmth of Florida and landed in freezing weather to take the message of change to its members and supporters in Toronto, Canada. Here again Khemraj Ramjattan inspired the packed Twilight Restaurant with his message of fighting crime, diaspora representation, creating the right investment climate, ethnic harmony and reduction of the presidential powers. Many members took the opportunity to drill AFC Presidential Candidate on the many issues and problems that are unfolding in Guyana.

Education Sinks in Stink at Berbice School

On Thursday March 10, 2009 the Alliance For Change, upon the invitation by residents, visited Mibikuri BBP and was appalled to discover the grave level of degradation and poverty of the community and in particular the Schools.

The Black Bush Secondary School which has been amalgamated with the Mibikuri Primary and Nursery schools was recently deemed unfit for students and teachers after the discovery of strong odor due to chemicals, sewage and garbage overflow. Consequently, all the students were forced to utilize nearby a makeshift storage facility, mosques and churches.

“It is a major inconvenience for us, making teaching and learning very difficult, I don’t know when this will end” said one teacher.

The AFC is convinced that the PPP Administration has grossly neglected the BBP communities and the working class in general. Such a scenario, will setback students and the educational system in a significant way, especially the students expecting to graduate this term.

It was discovered that the recently paved road network throughout BBP is in a deplorable state of disrepair. The road leading to the school could be singled as a woeful shame. Such basic infrastructural mismanagement and neglect introduces the visitor to the following litany of problems.

The Mibikuri hospital is invariably not serviced by a doctor. Residents have repeatedly complained about this predicament. The Mibikuri magistrate court has effectively been shut down as a result of



SHAME! Girls toilet at the School in Mibikuri.

unimaginable physical deterioration and over growth.

The AFC has noted the palpable lack of employment opportunities and business development for the residents and in particular the out of school youth. The AFC views BBP as a microcosm of the problems of the PPP leadership style, and as such this situation will perpetuate a tradition of underdevelopment and depression for all Guyanese.

The AFC also wishes to posit that the depressed condition of such communities is indicative of the ailing nature of the rice industry. The AFC in its Action Plan has elaborated its strategic vision for the rice sector that will bring about more jobs through value added products in addition to better management.

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University education critical part of development - Ramjattan

"A university is but that cradle out of which we can have the jobs that our action plan talks about, the creative skills of a people that would produce more with higher productivity rates", said Presiden-



tial Candidate of the Alliance For Change (AFC), Khemraj Ramjattan.

He was presenting his party's Action Plan on Thursday, at the Education Lecture Theatre, University of Guyana (UG) Campus.

Ramjattan said that the University must produce not only economic and entrepreneurial skills but also produce the well-grounded individual who could understand his neighbour, understand what sometimes creates the phobias that cause the destabilization and sometimes the disaffection between the various ethnicities which are present in Guyana.

The Presidential Candidate stated that universities are there to cultivate the mental skills of students irrespective of the subject matter, to self express, imagine, to creatively develop and to symbolize and maintain in society a respect for intellectual excellence and also to be skeptics about what is transpiring around them, which is what the AFC desires to witness at UG (both in Georgetown and Berbice), since this is essential to creating the quality people Guyana needs.

The AFC's Action Plan stated that the challenge of rebuilding Guyana can only be met with a skilled and highly educated work force and that the party would emphasize job creation through vocational and business schools which will directly reduce the unemployment rate especially among youth.

Prime Ministerial Candidate, Sheila Holder, told the audience that she is fully aware of how "disenchanted" many people are, of politics, politicians and the political environment that exists in Guyana.

She stated that to some extent while operating in the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) sector, she became frustrated at not being able to advance what was felt as necessary progress among Guyanese, resulting in her becoming politically involved (as a way to achieve those goals).

Candidates Profile: Sheila Holder MP, Prime Ministerial Candidate

Ms. Sheila Holder MP served as a member of the Trustee Board of the NGO Forum, as a Director of Guyana Stores Ltd, the Guyana National Bureau of Standards and the Bauxite Industry Development Company Ltd. and was chairperson for the Environmental chapter of the Guyana National Development Strategy.

Within the region, Ms. Holder was elected a member of the CARICOM recognized Caribbean Consumers Consultative Committee (CCCC), member of the Global Policy & Campaigns Committee (GPCC) of Consumers International (CI) as the representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2002, Ms. Holder was recognized by the St. Lucia Ministry of Commerce, Tourism, Investment & Consumer Affairs and The St. Lucia Consumer Association for her contribution to the advancement of the Consumer Movement in St. Lucia, West Indies.

Ms. Holder entered the National Assembly in 2001 on a GAP-WPA ticket and is a member of the Parliamentary Management Committee, the Committee for the appointment of members of Constitutional Commissions and the Standing Orders Committee.

Along with other members of AFC, she participated in the 2003 World Bank Seminar on Parliament, Good Governance and Poverty Reduction in Helsinki, Finland. It was during this time that she was contracted by the OAS to prepare a study on "Political Party Campaign Financing" in Guyana.

During 2004 Ms. Holder was a part of the Commonwealth Expert Team of Five mandated by the Commonwealth Secretary General to report on the Cameroon registration process for presidential elections.



She returned subsequently as a member of the 45th Commonwealth Elections Observer Group to the Cameroon Presidential Elections under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada.

In 2008 the Universal Peace Federation acknowledged Ms. Holder as an "Ambassador for Peace" having considered she exemplified the ideal of living for the sake of others, and as one who dedicated herself to promoting moral values, strong family life, Inter-religious cooperation, etc. Also, for transcending racial, moral and religious barriers to contribute to the fulfillment of the hope of all ages, a unified world of peace wherein the spiritual and material dimensions of life are harmonized.

Ms. Sheila Holder a proven civil society activist, consumer advocate and politician, is married to Nel Holder and has two sons and a daughter.

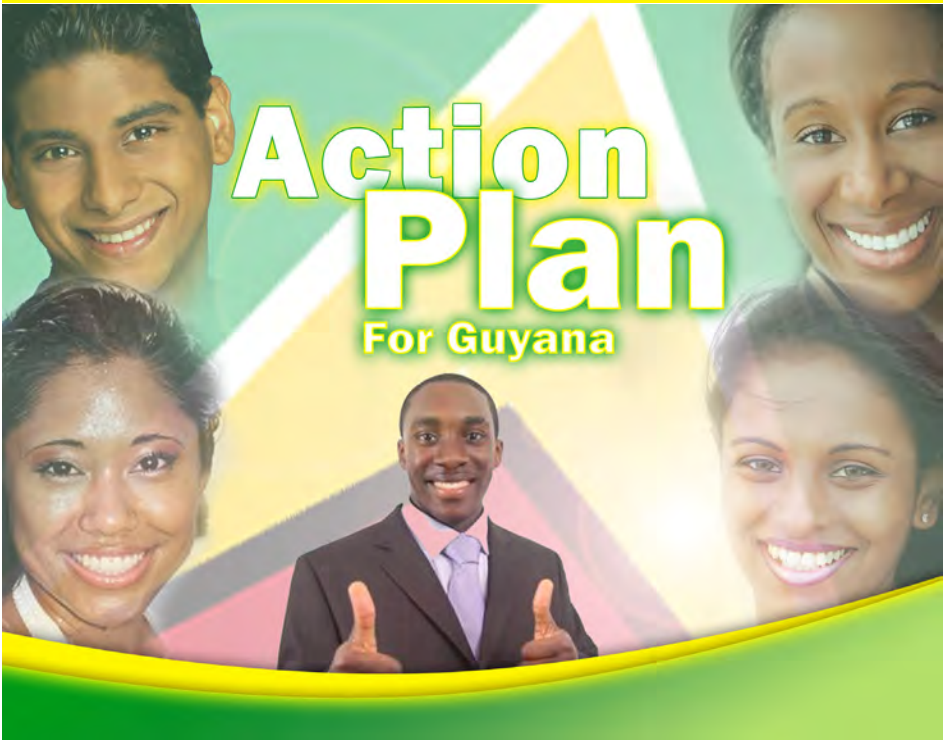
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CORRUPTION CORNER

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Making it Happen: AFC’s First Year in Office

The AFC believes that Guyana needs to make the right turn, onto the right track, and in the shortest period from day one. AFC will deliver the following 26 changes within its first year in office:

1. Reduce VAT from 16% to 12%.
2. Reduce non-commercial (manufacturing) corporate tax from 30% to 25% in the first year and to 20% at the end of the first term. Reduce commercial



- corporate tax from 40% to 35% at the end of the first term.
3. Increase the PAYE tax-free threshold to G\$50,000.
4. Commence a national discussion for Constitutional reform and propose amendments for the removal of the Executive Presidency.
5. License private radio stations based on transparent rules and regulations.
6. Implement the Freedom of Information Act and Broadcast Act - a signal of our seriousness on the issue of transparency.
7. Implement local government reforms and hold local government elections.
8. First Month: Re-engage the offer from the UK to reform the police force, which the PPP refused.
9. First Month: Allow the USA’s Drug

- Enforcement Agency to set up an operation in Guyana, which was rejected by the PPP.
10. Commission a Group of Forensic Auditors to reduce corruption and white collar crimes and facilitate civilian oversight.
 11. De-politicize the Head of the Presidential Secretariat. A technocrat will take this position with the understanding of transforming the Public Service into a meritocratic and effective organisation.
 12. Implement a National E10 (10% blend of ethanol with gasoline)(eventually E15) mandate to create a captive market for domestic ethanol use. This policy will save the Demerara and West Berbice sugar estates.
 13. Implement a Diaspora policy that encourages investment, harnesses their talents and expertise and makes re-migration easy and move towards Diasporal representation in the National Assembly.
 14. Task foreign missions to secure markets for Guyana’s products and attract foreign investments.
 15. Institute copyright laws, subsidies and other assistance for the cultural and arts industries.
 16. Announce that UG will become a research university and appoint a panel of experts within the first 100 days to best accomplish this objective.
 17. Take steps to establish a state development bank with a different mandate relative to our private commercial banks.
 18. Immediately upgrade our techni-

- cal schools for vocational training in areas such as carpentry, computer repair, electronic repair, refrigeration, landscaping, hospital-ity management and other vital skills.
19. Create job placement programmes that will ensure those who are trained in technical areas are placed in jobs.
 20. Create small business financing for those trained in vocational areas. Landscaping enterprises will be given immediate priorities for the purpose of national beautification.
 21. Launch a national beautification campaign, which will also enforce building codes, planting trees and gardens and develop parks in major towns and villages.
 22. Empower the Municipality to clean up the garbage, drains and overall image of Georgetown so it can reclaim its old glory
 23. Establish regular town hall style meetings with President, Prime Minister and Cabinet members in all 10 Regions.
 24. Establish a Commission of Inquiry to examine the finances, investments, and administration of the National Insurance Scheme, with a Special emphasis on contributors’ records.
 25. Initiate a conference for CARICOM coordination of production activities.
 26. National recognition of deserving persons on February 23 for Annual Guyana Awards.

AFC
Alliance For Change

The Right Turn
for Guyana

TV GUIDE

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I would like to Donate as follows:

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☐ \$1000 per month

☐ \$2000 per month

☐ \$3000 per month

☐ \$4000 per month

☐ \$5000 per month

Bring this form and payment to any AFC Regional Coordinator
or call 231-8184 for more information.