

# AFC POLICY – NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



One Nation. **One Vision.** One Future.



## INTRODUCTION: ENDING THE CYCLE OF BUILD-AND-BREAK

For over 60 years, Guyana's development has been marked by inconsistency. Each change in government has too often brought a change in vision. Promising national projects are halted, viable programmes are shelved, and new ideas emerge without continuity or completion. This pattern—**build, break, repeat**—has cost us precious time, opportunity, and public trust.

The **Alliance For Change (AFC)** believes that it is time for Guyana to adopt a **unifying, long-term National Development Strategy**—a plan not for one government, but for the nation; not for one political party, but for **all Guyanese**.

We propose a development model that aligns

policy with national aspirations, sets a clear vision for the future, and ensures that progress continues regardless of political leadership.

## VISION

To create a **unified, inclusive, and forward-looking national development framework** that promotes sustainable economic growth, equity, innovation, environmental stewardship, and social cohesion—**guided by evidence, driven by citizens, and resilient across governments**.

## Why Guyana Needs a National Development Strategy Unity of Vision

A shared development model aligns all stakeholders—government, private sector, civil society, and citizens—toward common goals and outcomes.





### **Continuity Across Administrations**

Long-term national priorities must be protected from political disruption. A binding strategy ensures momentum is not lost with each election.

### **Transparency and Accountability**

With a clear national strategy, citizens can better understand government plans and evaluate their consistency, impact, and delivery.

### **Economic**

A cohesive plan avoids wasteful duplication and guides smart investment in infrastructure, services, and innovation.

### **People-Centred**

Development should reflect the real needs of Guyana's people. A national strategy ensures those voices are heard and embedded in the process.

### **Foundational Principles of the Strategy**

**Non-Partisan Ownership:** Designed through consultation, not competition.

**Inclusive Participation:** Developed with input from all sectors of society.

### **Efficiency**

### **Planning**

**Sustainability:** Environmentally sound, socially just, and economically viable.

**Evidence-Based:** Guided by data, research, and measurable outcomes.

**Accountability & Transparency:** Results tracked and reported publicly.

### **Establishment of a National Planning Commission**

**The AFC will establish a National Planning Commission (NPC) to oversee the creation and execution of the Guyana National Development Strategy.**

#### **Key Features:**

**Reporting to the Office of the Prime Minister,** ensuring high-level leadership and non-political oversight.

**Membership** drawn from:

- All Ministries
- Parliamentary Opposition
- University of Guyana (UG)
- Chambers of Commerce (local and national)
- Indigenous Representatives
- Trade Unions
- Civil Society Organizations



- Youth Representatives
- Diaspora Advisors

Functions of the NPC:

- Develop and update the **25-Year National Development Vision**.
- Draft and review **5-year rolling Strategic Plans**.
- Coordinate and align the **budgets and sectoral policies** of all ministries.
- Publish **Annual Development Scorecards** to measure performance.
- Manage **National Development Indicators Dashboard**, accessible to the public.

### International Best Practices Integrated Singapore

- Strong central planning body with inter-ministerial coordination.
- Long-term “Master Plans” combined with 5-year action plans.
- Emphasis on human capital, housing, technology, and global competitiveness.

### China

- Five-Year Plans that guide public investment, innovation, and poverty reduction.
- Strong central and regional coordination.
- Commitment to poverty alleviation, infrastructure-led growth, and export capability.

### Rwanda

- Vision 2050 supported by community-based planning.
- Emphasis on reconciliation, innovation, and results-based governance.

### Botswana

- Transparent planning cycles,

citizen consultation, and economic diversification.

## KEY PILLARS OF THE AFC'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

### 1. Economic Transformation

- Diversify the economy beyond oil: agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, ICT.
- Develop world-class infrastructure: ports, roads, rail, energy grids.
- Support small businesses, innovation, and local value chains.
- Attract and regulate responsible foreign investment.

### 2. Human Capital Development

- Free and high-quality early childhood to tertiary education.
- Technical and vocational training linked to job market needs.
- Universal health coverage and digital health systems.
- Social protection for the elderly, unemployed, and vulnerable.

### 3. Environmental Resilience & Green Economy

- Low-carbon development pathway.
- Integrated water resource and forestry management.
- Investment in renewables: hydro, solar, wind, and biomass.
- Climate-smart agriculture and land use planning.

### 4. National Infrastructure & Connectivity

- Regionally balanced development—urban, rural, and hinterland.
- Modern transportation: ferries, highways, rail links, and rural roads.





- Universal broadband internet access.
- Integrated national logistics and export zones.

## 5. Governance and Institutional Strengthening

- Decentralization and local government reform.
- Digital governance and citizen access portals.
- Anti-corruption institutions and whistle-blower protections.
- Data systems for evidence-based policy and real-time monitoring.

## IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

| PHASE                         | TIMELINE       | ACTION   |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Phase 1: Foundation           | First 6 months | Establish National Planning Commission and initiate stakeholder consultations.   |
| Phase 2: Visioning            | 6–12 months    | Draft the 25-Year Development Vision and first 5-Year Strategic Plan.            |
| Phase 3: Rollout              | Year 1–2       | Integrate the plan across ministries, launch scorecard reporting system.         |
| Phase 4: Consolidation        | Year 3–5       | Monitor, refine, and scale national projects aligned with the strategy.          |
| Phase 5: Institutionalization | Year 5 onward  | Codify long-term planning into law; publish annual National Development Reviews. |

## CONCLUSION

A nation without a shared direction drifts like a ship without a rudder. The AFC believes that Guyana must stop planning in fragments and start building as one. A **National Development Strategy**, built on broad consensus, will ensure **continuity of progress**, reduce political conflict, and allow every Guyanese to believe in and participate in building the country we all deserve.

**THIS IS NOT A PLAN FOR ONE PARTY—IT IS A PROMISE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

