

CHANGE NEWSLETTER



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MPs BRING RELIEF AID TO SUCCESS SQUATTERS



Residents try to navigate flood waters in the Success squatting area.

The Success squatting area on the East Coast of Demerara has been a recent source of immense contention and national outrage as a result of the way the PPP led administration has engaged residents in an effort to remove them from the lands managed by GUYSUCO.

A press statement from the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) categorized the living standards at the squatters' settlement as a "humanitarian crisis". AFC Executive Sherod Duncan, MP, has been raising funds to help residents with non-perishable food items, as well as toys for the children for the holidays.

Citizens have given generously which has enabled the delivery of forty (40) "Care Packages" which included milk, rice, sugar, bottled water, tuna, sausages, instant soup,

biscuits, peanut butter and jam. Fellow AFC Executive Ricky Ramsaroop, MP, and APNU+AFC's Maureen Philadelphia, MP, ably helped with the distribution and have kept in contact with residents to monitor the situation.

During the course of the past two months the land has been deliberately flooded by GUYSUCO; residents have been shot at by the police with pellets, as well as tear gas. And more recently, with the erosion caused by the flooding, a huge tree fell on residents who were gathered nearby. Several of them were injured, treated at hospital, and discharged. However, one resident remains warded at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation in an unconscious state.



"Mayu" at AFC Headoffice

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Our Youth, Our Future!

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ARE YOU A MEMBER OF AFC?
IF NOT PLEASE CALL
+592 223-2934 or 503-0139



Hon. Maureen Philadelphia, MP; Hon. Sherod Duncan, MP, along with Hon. Ricky Ramsaroop, MP, delivering care packages to the residents of the Success squatting area

-EDITORIAL- Parliamentary Committees MUST convene

(AFC) continues to call on the Parliament of Guyana to convene all of the Standing and Select Committees, in particular the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

General Secretary of the AFC, Hon. David Patterson M.P., who is a member of the PAC, noted in an AFC press conference recently that the Public Accounts Committee last met on August 6, 2018 – some 27 months ago, and at that time – they were about only 30% completed examining the 2016 Auditor General (AG) reports. In reality the PAC is some years behind with the examination of the Public Accounts.

In accordance with the Standing Orders, the AFC recognises that the Speaker must schedule the first meeting, which is simply to elect the Chairman of the PAC, thereafter it's the Chairman responsibility to schedule and host meetings.

On behalf of the AFC, M.P. Patterson has written to the Speaker indicating that there should be no impediment to the hosting of the first meeting, since all that is needed for a quorum is three members and the Opposition has four members. It is noted that the Chairman of the Committee must come from the Opposition – thus the attendance of the Government members, while desirable, is not necessary.

Additionally, should the Speaker be unavailable; the Deputy Speaker should be mandated to host the first meeting – note that a similar meeting in 2015 to elect the Chairman lasted all of 15 minutes. The Opposition Chief Whip, Christopher Jones was informed a few days ago that the Speaker intended to schedule Committee meetings Monday, November 30, 2020 and Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Although the AFC welcomes this announcement, we must highlight that our Standing Orders require members to have three days' notice before the holding of a meeting. And as of the time of this writing, no Member of

the Opposition received notice for a proposed meeting.

Members of the public should note that the PAC does not only examine the AG reports, but they can also request special audits or reports. Mr. Patterson has also stated that whenever the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) sits to meet, he intends to request reports on several troubling issues that have been developing under the controversial PPP Government.

These include GUYSUCO's announcement that they will be single sourcing forty-four (44) tractors from a company in the USA. Not only will the AFC be asking the Public Procurement Commission to examine this procurement, but we will request that the Audit Office perform a value for money audit on this procurement.

The AFC questions How and Why was this company selected? What investigations were performed to ensure that these tractors are suitable for the soil and climate conditions in Guyana? We recall Indian tractors that were purchased but could not work here. Does GUYSUCO have any experience in operating and maintaining tractors like these? Is there training for staff to drive and operate the vehicles and implement a maintenance programme?

Finally, the Alliance For Change will be requesting a report on the distribution of the COVID-19 relief fund and observed that although the financial expenditure will be included in the AG 2020 report, several other issues with regards to the distribution programme have arisen. These include complaints that several persons and areas have been bypassed. Large families who occupy a single building have reported that only a single family or part of the building have received funds. We have also received reports that sections of communities supportive of the Coalition have been bypassed and public Servants seconded to outlying regions have not been paid. While the matter of payments will be in the 2020 AG report, the AFC seeks an Operational Report before Budget 2021.

AFC roasts PPP administration for its anti- regional integration

The Alliance For Change (AFC) in its most recent press conference roasted the controversial PPP Government for requiring visas of Haitian nationals to enter Guyana.

"It is anti-regional integration, it is against the principles of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and shows total disregard and contempt for the valiant struggle of those who fought to unite the peoples of the Caribbean," the party stated.

"The AFC wishes to remind the PPP Government that the free movement of people has long been viewed by all Governments of the Region as critical to regional integration and to be mindful that the CSME abolishes discrimination on grounds of nationality in all member states."

Article 45 of the CSME regime states, "Member States commit themselves to the goal to free movement of their nationals within the community." As a signatory to the CSME and a forerunner in regional integration, Guyana has an obligation to uphold all principles of the CSME.

Since the earliest attempts of regional integration with the establishment of the West Indian Federation through to the establishment of the CSME, Guyana has been at the forefront in uniting the peoples of the region.

As a result, the party said, "The PPP must not be allowed to destroy these efforts. This situation has become even more acute by the arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention of Haitians entering Guyana."

The AFC calls on Regional Heads of Government, the CARICOM Secretariat, Heads of Regional institutions, and the people of the Region to condemn the racially biased and provocative actions of the PPP. The party calls on the CARICOM Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of Heads of Government to address this matter.

“MAYU” AT AFC HEADOFFICE



Renovation works are continuing in earnest at the Alliance For Change, Kitty, Railway Line, Head Office and plans are to complete all works to reopen within a week and a half.

Members are excited and are lending their support in various areas required.

Just last week Saturday General Secretary, David Patterson, put out a call for members to volunteer their time to paint the internal walls of the entire two-storey building and the response was very positive.

Amid lots of food and music to lighten the spirit, the painting was completed by the end of the day. Another valuable take away was that members got the opportunity to bond with each other, especially after work!

The First Peoples or the indigenous peoples of Guyana refer to such an event as “kaiyap” (Arawak) or “manore” (Wapichan) , or “mayu” (Patamuna/Akowaio). Indeed, the indigenous way of working together to achieve a goal and celebrating after is very satisfying to the mind, body and soul.



**SATURDAY
12TH
DECEMBER**

**CAR WASH
and
BARBECUE**

**CAR WASH
\$800**

**BARBECUE
\$1000**

678-7581 OR 671-0288

CENTRE FOR CHANGE
Railway Embankment, Kitty, Georgetown

CHANGE NEWSLETTER TEAM



Valarie Garrido-Lowe



Sherod Duncan



Devin Sears

PUBLISHED BY THE AFC PUBLIC RELATIONS

AFC CONDEMNS ETHNICIZATION POLICY OF THE PPP

The Alliance For Change (AFC) in a recent press release stated, "the policies of the Irfaan Ali's Jagdeo-led administration are clearly revealing patterns dangerously discriminatory; and, with a loaded ethnicisation about them. The PPP Government's intentional action and policy, since its disputed instalment into office, has seen an unwise, unjustified dismantling of projects and policies of the previous APNU/AFC Administration which were directed to benefit the country and its people as a whole."

The AFC stated, "The significant move to reopen the closed sugar factories in the face of cogent and compelling evidence that this will result in a massive mispending of the country's monies just to create jobs for its East Indian base of support is stupendously ill-advised economics. So the underlying reason is but a sectarian spending...giving

red meat to its Indo-Guyanese base."

Additionally, AFC sees the recent spate of terminations of public servants, substantially of one ethnicity, Afro Guyanese, in these covid times as provoking trouble. "Several hundreds have had to suffer. The justification as revealed by the Governance Minister, surprisingly is that the dismissibility at pleasure doctrine is back in full force. This is an exercise of executive lawlessness. This makes a mockery of the insulation created by the various constitutional service commissions, Public, Police, Teacher and Judicial, set up to prevent the politicisation of appointments and dismissals."

The AFC notes that outside of this category of terminations, there is the instance of the Head of the Environmental Protection Agency being released from employ whilst his technical and professional qualities

were needed in negotiating the Payara Production Agreement.

The party states, "This badge of ethnicisation have occurred in the area of squatting. The AFC has noticed the regularisation of squatters at Conservancy Dam Canal No 1 with provisioning of lights and water and the several at West Demerara from Ruimzicht to Mary, Zeelugt, and Parika where East Indians are predominant. Yet at Success East Coast Demerara where Afro Guyanese brothers and sisters were conducting same, they are being shot at by the Police and flooded out."

AFC reiterates that right thinking Guyanese of all ethnicities must condemn this destructive polarising development. It is provoking an explosion in an already tense national situation.

MOTION TO RETAIN THE NAME "MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AFFAIRS" DISALLOWED BY SPEAKER MANZOOR NAZIR

On 1st September 2020, during the first sitting of the twelfth parliament and the beginning of the celebrations for Heritage Month, Ms. Juretha Fernandes M.P. submitted a motion asking that the National Assembly so directs the Government to retain the then name of the "Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs", as was in keeping with the request of the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana, the Constitution of Guyana and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The motion was seconded by Mr. Devin Sears M.P.

In 2015 when the APNU+AFC entered office, the name "Ministry of Amerindian Affairs" was changed to "Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs", in keeping with prolonged requests of key Indigenous Organizations and Indigenous Peoples across Guyana, prior.

The motion highlighted the fact that the Constitution of Guyana refers to the First Peoples of this Nation as "Indigenous Peoples" and that the United Nations Declaration on

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13th September 2007 to address the rights and concerns of Indigenous peoples worldwide and thereby refers to the First Peoples of nations as "Indigenous Peoples".

The motion included a clause that spoke of the thousands of Guyanese Indigenous Peoples and Guyanese of other ethnicities who signed an online petition against the renaming of the "Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs" to "Ministry of Amerindian Affairs". The online petition was grounded on the argument that the generalized ethnic label "Amerindian" or "American Indian" is now an acknowledged misnomer resulting from the erroneous geography of Christopher Columbus, a label which has been perpetuated without the consent of Indigenous Peoples; a label which will continue to distort the histories and search for the lost and hidden indigenous identities.

The motion was acknowledged on 3rd September 2020 by the Clerk of the National Assembly and again on 8th September 2020 where assurance was given that it was receiving the attention of the Speaker. On 2nd October 2020, one month after the

submission of the motion, the clerk communicated that the motion was amended by the Speaker and the clause which referenced the online petition was removed. And the motion, as amended, has been published on Notice paper. No objections were given by the opposition on the amendment made.

However, three weeks later - on 21st October 2020 - the Clerk wrote saying that "I wish to inform you that after further consideration, your motion was disallowed by the Hon. Speaker."

The reason given by the Speaker to disallow the motion is one which Ms. Fernandes believe is not tenable and she believes that argument should have been made by the Government's side of the house during a debate and not used to block the motion from even reaching the floor.

Further, due to the fact that the vast majority of the Indigenous population finds the name "Amerindian" offensive, special efforts will be made to speak to the Amerindian leaders throughout Guyana to take a petition to the National Assembly for the name to be changed from "Ministry of Amerindian Affairs" to "Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs"

COVID-19 CONTAINED IN MORUCA CENTRAL



In May 2020 Moruca recorded its first case of the much dreaded novel corona virus. News quickly began to spread as most of the residents found it very hard to adjust and adopt to the new norms of wearing a mask, sanitizing and social distancing. Moruca sub-region consists of several villages - Santa Rosa the host village comprising 11 satellite villages, Waramuri, Kwebanna, Santa Cruz, Warapoka, Waikarebi, Chinese Landing, Kokerite, Kariako, Manawarin and Assakata. Kumaka, which is located in Santa Rosa, is the prime business place where all the villages usually conduct business. In March of 2020 a task force was formed but after eight months it is no longer functional. Just recently, Kwebana, Warapoka, and Haimaracabra became the new Covid-19 hotspot in Moruca.

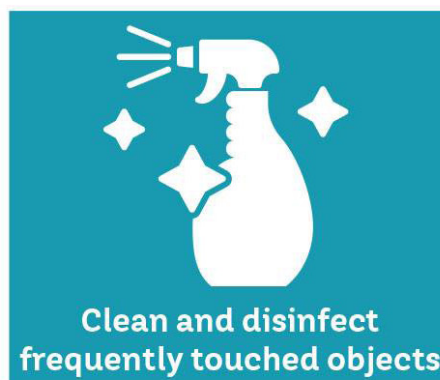
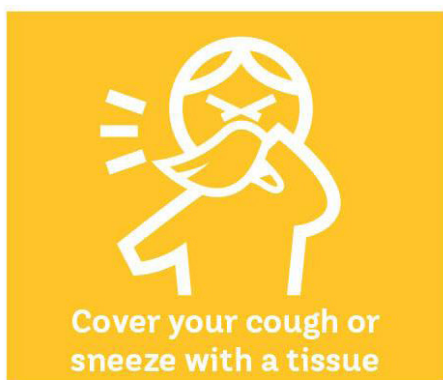
Fortunately, it has been contained in Moruca Central but there is still great anxiety as the Secondary School has now reopened for the 4th and 5th graders and at least two students, so far, were infected with the virus. It seems that nothing much is being done by the PPP

Government and school continues, albeit at low attendance. It is even sad to see that, except for a few, business places are still acting in a non-compliant manner. Almost every shop you enter, shop attendants are not wearing masks nor adhering to any other Covid-19 safety measures. There was one incident whereby a customer went to purchase a few items and another customer had just received a phone call from the doctor to inform that that customer was Covid-19 positive. The shop attendant acted in a very unconcerned manner when he was informed of the situation and despite this he extended an invitation for the person to enter the shop among other customers. It was very scary to know that one person can choose to jeopardize the lives of so many as that shop attendant did.

The Government is also no longer providing Covid-19 Updates for Moruca but it is sure and certain that more cases are recorded as more persons are being placed in isolation as of recent.

COVID-19 (the disease caused by the novel coronavirus)

What you can do



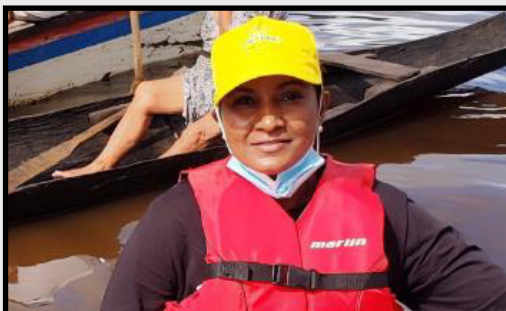


An Exciting, Adventurous and Educating Trip

DEAR EDITOR,

Since taking up Office as the Regional Vice Chairperson of Region #7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni, this was my first official visit to the Middle Mazaruni. My journey started 5am on Saturday morning on a jet boat which I joined at Bartica Ferry Stelling. The journey was exciting. It was still dark when we began our journey but then the sun came up revealing little by little the beauty that the Mazaruni River beholds. We arrived at Isseneru the said day at 12 noon. The sceneries along the way were breathtaking, nature unspoiled and at its best. I was so taken away and in awe with the beautiful black water, lush forest and mountains in the background that I did not realize the journey took so many hours. Region 7 is beyond beautiful. When we arrived at Isseneru we were welcomed by the Toshao. My team consisted of the Regional Chairman, the Public Relations Officer and myself. Isseneru is a buzzing Village, evidently progressive and well kept and affixed with a modernized Guest House, Health Post, School, Teachers' quarters, Weather Centre, Church, Community benab, shops and a Sports Field among the many houses scattered across the Village. I was impressed with the Village layout and the people were very welcoming and warm. They definitely made my stay a lovely one. We took a few hours site seeing, afterwards there was a community meeting. The residents came out in numbers, well aware of the Covid 19 safety protocols. They adhered to the necessary measures and I was pleased to see their proactive attitude. They are well informed about the virus and their Village continues to be Covid 19 free. As the meeting commenced, the atmosphere was friendly and warm.

We wanted to hear the concerns of the residents and issues that are affecting them, one of the main one being the health post that is in need of a resident doctor and some repairs. The other issues are education and internet connectivity so the students can keep up with the rest of Guyana. The headteacher is very passionate about her work and her students and it showed, so is the Community health worker. There are many small issues that can be easily resolved and I will be working with the Chairman and Councilors to ensure they are resolved in a timely manner. The Toshao, Village Councilor and residents welcomed our announcement of the contract being awarded to have the teachers living quarters bottom flat enclosed. This Project costs a little over 9 million dollars and will commence this week. The night there was lovely; we were well rested. The jet boat arrived at noon on Sunday to take us down the river to Kangaruma. The Villagers were out in numbers to bid us a safe journey as we boarded the jet boat. Thank you to the Toshao and Councilors and the residents of Isseneru for your warm welcome and hospitality!



Your for progress,
Kamal Persaud
Regional Vice Chairperson
Cuyuni-Mazaruni
Region #7

OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE



The talented, industrious and wise beyond years, Dillon Mohamed

"Purpose crosses disciplines. Purpose is an essential element of you. It is the reason you are on the planet at this particular time",

Chadwick Boseman.

Dillon Andrew Mohamed, hails from the village of Cummings Lodge and is a firm believer in the pursuit of purpose rather than just a career or field of study. Dillon is an air traffic controller by profession, a polyglot and language teacher, a singer and musician. He is a graduate of the Queen's College, Guyana and the Assemblies of God Bible College with a diploma in Christian Ministry. He also holds a diploma in Theatre Arts from the National School of Theatre Arts and Drama and an Aerodrome Controller's certificate and license from the Civil Aviation Training School. He currently reads for a Bachelor's degree in English Linguistics with the University of Guyana, co-pastors the Hope of Christ UACC and is the Caribbean representative on the board of the Global Interfaith Network.

Dillon is an avid defender of human rights and equality and seeks to use his talents and abilities to serve the purpose of

helping to make Guyana and the world a better place where there is greater humanity and equality and no one is put at a disadvantage. His goals include: using his musical abilities to promote humanity, peace and harmony among the Guyanese people, expanding his language teaching business, Conversa Global, so that Guyanese people becoming more proficient and equipped to understand and interact with the wider world, and fostering greater social cohesion among the population by educating the public on the diversity and issues that affect our country.

He believes that the AFC is the best party to foster this because it is the first political party to bridge the divide in the country and the only small party in Guyana's history to actually make an impact on the voting population. He believes that the party can create the avenues that will help him to achieve these purposes. His ultimate vision of the world is one in which everyone is equal and sees each other as human beings like themselves with the due respect. "The perfect balance between unity and diversity is tolerance and the awareness that peaceful coexistence is possible".