

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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Upcoming Events:

1. The 3rd Quarterly Meeting and outreach of the National Executive Committee will be held by the Region 10 on July 11-13, 2008. Meetings are planned for Linden, Ituni and Kwakwani.
2. Leaders- Trotman and Ramjattan to visit New York in August, 2008
3. AFC Institute's Leadership Seminar "Integrity in Leadership" Sept. 19-21, 2008.
4. The Marlis Archer Parliamentary Internship Programme will kick off from October 2008. Two students at University level will be interns for 10 months with the AFC's parliamentary team.
5. Rupununi Trip & Football Tournament for Heritage Month- September, 2008

TIME TO TRANSFORM THE STATE

Since the birth of the Alliance For Change two years ago, the party has continued to define its role and usefulness in the deeply polarized and depressed society of Guyana. Our theme of "**Choose Change...It's Time**" remains relevant today as we continue to reach out to Guyanese throughout the length and breadth of Guyana with our message of hope, peace, reconciliation and development. We are convinced that more and more people are beginning to understand, appreciate and embrace this message.

Unfortunately, the senseless massacres which greeted the new year are a stark reminder that the State of Guyana is in serious trouble and cannot continue to exist if the government continues to live in denial about the poverty, racial divisions, corruption and widespread hopelessness which pervade our dear land and are feeding the crime and chaos in Guyana. This point was forcibly driven home by AFC leaders during the 2008 Budget Debate in the National Assembly. AFC leader Raphael Trotman, MP, addressing the National Assembly stated, "**There can be no development without inclusivity, no peace without justice; and no future without cooperation. Guyana cannot afford to experiment further with dogmatic and standard forms of "democracy" where there is a government and loyal opposition. We are just not configured to operate in that manner...Our response has to be both collective and constitutional.**"

The AFC will play its part by engaging in Stakeholders' Forums and elsewhere, but at every available occasion will remind Guyanese that we must have a new and better deal for governance. Article 13 of the Guyana Constitution imposes on us the duty to establish an inclusive democracy which should be rooted in strong local government institutions and practices that branch upwards to ensure truly representative Parliament and Executive, Judiciary and State Institutions, and in which all Guyanese are equally and meaningfully engaged in nation building. If we are to survive as a nation we have to transform the state.

STAY FOCUSED AND RESOLUTE

A clear pattern is emerging, one of confusion and distraction being deliberately created in the minds of the Guyanese people by the government. Any school child can see that every week in Guyana there is a new crises or scandal. Since January, we have witnessed and experienced the Lusignan, Bartica, and Lindo Creek massacres, corruption with the importation of Polar Beer, the suspension of the broadcast license for CNS Channel 6, and attempts to unconscionably raise electricity rates in Linden just to name a few.

The AFC leadership believes that the governing party is deliberately trying to hide its own internal wrangling and incompetence, and to fragment and frustrate the opposition parties and their supporters. This will ensure that no work gets done on the ground because we are all busy running to catch up with the latest crises or scandal. However, we are wiser to the plot and will continue our work within the communities. A decision was taken to focus on building and strengthening the party and to spend less time on chasing behind the government's distractions. This is not to say that we will find no time for other things, but the belief is that once the fundamentals are in place then our ability to respond will be second to none. Our agenda has to be well planned and strategically implemented.

Decisions of the 2nd Quarterly NEC Meeting:

It is announced that in keeping with a resolution passed at the 1st National Conference in July, 2007, the position of **General Secretary** has been created within the party and that **Mr. Clayton Hall** has been appointed to the office until the 2nd National Conference in 2009. The administrative functioning of the party is now in the capable hands of **Mr. Sixtus Edwards** and all enquiries regarding, membership, issues of concern, and visits can be channeled through

him. His contact # is 685-8632.

Contact Us

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OTHER NEWS

Thirty members of the AFC including MPs, Councillors, and activists recently participated (June 08) in a one day workshop on elections which was sponsored by USAID. The level of participation of those present was hailed by the USAID team as exemplary and praises were sung of the diversity, enthusiasm, and camaraderie within the AFC group.

Special mention must be made of Mrs. Sheila Holder M.P's efforts in successfully coordinating the AFC's participation.

SPECIAL PRIZES

The Executive has announced that special prizes of 14k gold pendants will be given out to members in any Region, who recruit 100 or more members by December, 2008! Who is up to the task?

"The key to change... is to let go of fear."

CONGRATULATIONS!!! AFC and GAP-ROAR won a decisive Court of Appeal Decision for Scrutineers' Money in June, 2008... Inexplicably, GECOM is still holding out. We will continue to battle for our Region 10 seat and our money. Thanks to the efforts of AFC Chairman and Attorney-at-Law Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., we scored a resounding victory in the Court of Appeal in which the Court ruled that all parliamentary parties were entitled to share in over \$200M that was spent to facilitate the scrutiny of the House-to-House Registration exercise. The AFC maintains its position that it cannot give its stamp of approval for any electoral list which emerges, since it was not allowed to observe the registration process.

AFC Goes Green...Seeds of Change Project Launched



Executive Members and others in Prayer at the Launch

On the 5th June, 2008 the party launched its Seeds of Change project in Pattensen, Georgetown.

There is no doubt that there is a world food shortage and that its effects are beginning to be felt in Guyana. In fact long before the world began feeling the pain, the improperly introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) drove prices through the roof in Guyana! The AFC is committed to its campaign promise of doing everything to keep prices down and to ensure that the poor, hungry and vulnerable are not left behind. Recently, at a gathering, our own AFC candidate Pastor Deoram Timram asked the question **"Why in a country like Guyana are so many people going to bed hungry every night?"** To date thousands of vegetable seedling plants have been distributed freely throughout the country. The AFC is partnering with others to grow and distribute a minimum of 25,000 seedlings by the 31st August, 2008. We depend on the generous donations of members and supporters to finance this project. We must, as a caring party, do something now for our brothers and sisters who are forgotten by this government. Get involved! To obtain further information contact Desmond Moses at 693-5131 or 227-5202.

Regional Outlook



Executive Members on a visit to Bartica

The AFC continues to be active in all ten Regions of Guyana. Within the past three (3) months visits have been conducted in Regions 2, 5, 6, 7, and 10. In the coming months visits will be undertaken to Regions 1, 3, 8, and 9 to meet with members and to streamline our programme.

The Region which has been most vibrant of recent has been Region 5 as hampers and beds have been shared; a football tournament organized; and a highly successful Seeds of Change outing staged on Sunday, June 29, 2008. All Regions are expected to become organized and to host activities without having to receive word from the headquarters. A case in point is in Region 8 where our Regional Councillor Ivan Wayne has informed us that he will be leading a team into Kato and Monkey Mountain in July, 2008, and only requires our support in obtaining some used clothing. We have met his request.