

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



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HAPPY 3RD ANNIVERSARY!

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Other News:

On October, 12 Party Chairman Khemraj Ramjattan and Executive member Martin Cheong engaged in a road painting exercise of pedestrian crossings and traffic signs in West Coast Berbice. They were joined by local activists in the community outreach.

Sheila Holder, AFC Vice-Chair represented the party at the ACDA organized Holocaust Day observances on October, ---

AFC leader Raphael Trotman and Khemraj Ramjattan met with the incoming Deputy British High Commissioner and held wide ranging discussions about the state of the country and the work of the AFC.

When the National Assembly resumed, several questions submitted by AFC Vice-Chair Sheila Holder, MP were answered. On the question about providing trained teachers for the Mahdia

On October 29, 2008 the Alliance For Change celebrated its third anniversary as a political party. What began as a movement at the Ocean View Convention Centre three years ago has mushroomed into a full fledged political force in just three years. Those who were gathered at the launch not so long ago remember the scene of a packed Convention Centre, filled with people of all walks of life, and the emotions which boiled over as people were overwhelmed at what they were witnessing and the possibilities that lay in store for Guyana. The spirit that was present at the event was captured in the Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan's words when he said *"We dare to be different in our approach as a political movement but this task of being a major force on the political landscape of Guyana is not going to be easy and we are well aware that unless innovation in political procedures and arrangements are created, the racial/ethnic divide will persist,"*

The years were not expected to be easy, and we have everything to be grateful for. We have defied all the odds by standing up and becoming recognized as a credible alternative political party to the others that have been around for decades and their only contribution to Guyana has been to oversee and accelerate its destruction and demise. It is sad to know that today the youth of Guyana are lost, and feel that they have nowhere to turn to. Equally disappointing is that our elderly, who gave their blood and sweat to build this nation, are now condemned to witnessing their labour disintegrate into tatters. The picture of Guyana today is a sad one. Crime is at levels never before imaginable; human rights abuses are now the order of the day; justice has become rare and out of reach for especially the poor; and the political image brought on by the regime is one of corruption, incompetence, and failure. The AFC has a duty to keep the dream alive by never giving up this journey to bring change to the political culture, and the restoration of hope. More and more, the people of Guyana are recognizing that ours is the only political party capable of providing positive change and restoring this nation to glory.

The leadership thanks the thousands who continue to give support and encouragement, and by not losing faith in the soundness of our quest. You are urged to go out and recruit others, and to live your lives as examples of change by not harbouring the seeds of hatred and discrimination, but of change and togetherness. We thank you in all ten regions of Guyana and overseas. You are the soul of this party and we honour your commitment today.

Several events were held to commemorate the anniversary including a Leadership Seminar, a cycle race event to remember our members Marlis and Maxie, and a Church service. Below are photos of some of these events.



AFC Leadership at Prayer Service



Cyclists at AFC Sponsored Marlis Archer & Maxie Perreira Event

community to allow students to be prepared for the CXC examinations - the Education Minister stated that currently at the CPCE was a teacher from Mahdia who will be assigned to the Mahdia community upon completion of her studies to fulfill this need. Holder then enquired whether the Minister would allow the AFC to provide a teacher to the Community. The Assembly laughed hilariously recalling the Minister's bizarre utterances in connection with the AFC's donation of four flush toilets to Santa Rosa school following the pit latrine death.

The Alliance For Change Wished Our Hindu Brothers And Sisters And All Guyana A Happy Deepavali!



The opportunity was taken to remind all Guyanese that this festival of lights is a celebration of the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. There is too much darkness enveloping our society as seen in the horrific crimes earlier in the year at Lusignan and Bartica, the violations of citizens' fundamental human rights, increasing domestic and sexual violence, the rising cost of living. The AFC offered in the greetings, words of comfort and support and said that light will always triumph over darkness and that there are much brighter and better days coming. We have to believe that the lights of Deepavali will illuminate every heart and soul in Guyana and usher in a new dispensation of change that takes us towards eternal peace and prosperity as a people and nation.

We must therefore on this auspicious day, embrace and acknowledge the good in each other; thereby demonstrating a reaffirmation of hope, and a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill for the future transformation of our beloved country. Happy Deepavali Guyana!

Upcoming Events:

Amelia's Ward AFC group to host a BBQ and Fish Fry on Tuesday, October 28, 2008.

A Parliamentary Motion on the unjustness of the lack of access to television of the people of Region 10 is to be presented by Mrs. Sheila Holder in November, 2008.

Members of the Executive are expected to undertake a long over-due visit to the Rupununi in November to meet with members, and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere.

Contact Us:

editorsafc@yahoo.com

Website: afcguayana.com

“Every victory comes in time, work today to change tomorrow. It gets easier, who's to say that you can't fly. Every step you take you get, closer to your destination. You can feel it now, don't you know you're almost there?”

Yolanda Adams

AFC TACKLES JAGDEO AND CORBIN ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS

The Alliance For Change (AFC) and Guyana Action Party-Rise Organise And Rebuild (GAP-ROAR) have teamed up to chastise the President and Leader of the opposition for their continuous and unholy collaboration to exclude the other parliamentary parties from the Local Government Reform process. AFC Leader Raphael Trotman and GAP MP. Everall Franklin had cause to write to them pointing out their unjust behaviour. Here is some text of the letter written in October, 2008: *“We have taken a decision to write to you expressing our respective parties' concern about their exclusion from the deliberations of the Local Government Task Force since we entered Parliament in September, 2006. We had previously raised this issue with you regarding our meaningful involvement and participation in the work of the Task Force. Justifiably, the AFC and GAP-ROAR are entitled to representation on the Task Force by virtue of their parliamentary status. The letter went on to say “AFC and GAP-ROAR remain totally in the dark as to the outcomes of previous meetings in this process as we were never consulted, or privy to any correspondence and/or records of deliberations. In the interest of inclusivity, we find our continued exclusion, to be wholly objectionable and offensive to the notion of inclusive and participatory democracy as enshrined in Article 13 of the Guyana Constitution, and contrary to very public utterances made by both of you calling on all stakeholders to join together to work for the national good.”* As expected, there has been no response from either political leader. We are demanding a higher standard of service.

PARLIAMENT RESUMES WITH CONTROVERSIAL BUSINESS

The disregard being displayed by this PPP/C Government for the Constitution, and the fundamental rights of Guyanese were concerns raised in the National Assembly by AFC Leader Raphael Trotman, MP and Chairman, Khemraj Ramjattan, MP, and formed the basis for the AFC not supporting the bills listed below

- Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill No. 18/2008
- Interception of Communication Bill No. 19/2008
- Criminal Procedure (Plea Bargaining and Plea Agreement) Bill No. 21/2008
- Evidence (Amendment) Bill No. 22/2008

In expressing the party's views they argued respectively, and strenuously, against the state introducing legislation to erode fundamental legal principles for examining witnesses, spying on Internet correspondence and listening into the telephone conversations of the Guyanese people. In view of the Government's conduct the AFC parliamentary team voted against all four of these bills, but this did not stop the government from using its majority to ram the bills through. The AFC will continue to oppose all initiatives which are not for the benefit of the people of Guyana.