



Newsletter Date: August, 2009

Volume 2, Number 4

In This Issue

- 2nd Delegates Convention Successfully Held
- Good Governance absent from Guyana
- Emancipation Greetings Extended to All Guyanese
- Other News & Upcoming Events

2nd Delegates Convention Successfully Held

The Party's 2nd Delegates Convention was successfully held under the theme "From Third Force to First Choice" on July 24th and 25th amidst pomp and celebration. Delegates, observers, and special invitees who gathered at the Ocean View Convention Centre were given a treat as they saw sterling cultural performances and heard speeches made by the Leadership on the ground that had been covered in the past two years, and where we have to be as we prepare for Government. Apart from the speeches, the highlight of the Friday night opening ceremony was the fusion of music and culture in a piece produced specially for the convention.



Other News:

Hinterland visits were recently concluded in Rupununi, Moruca, Linden, Kwakwani, Ituni, and Berbice. Party activists were challenged to become better organized and to recruit new members in preparation for elections.

Particularly in the hinterland communities the issues remained the absence of job opportunities, and the inability of countless citizens to obtain birth certificates. The people of Region 10 remain aggrieved about the Linden/Kwakwani road which is in terrible condition.



The Party bid farewell to two outgoing diplomats- the Canadian High Commissioner Charles Court and Arthur Meyer of Brazil, and welcomed Excellencies Fernando Sandoval and Pedro D.Arteaga Cardenas of Mexico and Cuba.

PPP/C. For his part the newly appointed CEO, Peter Ramsaroop said that the time had come for a new vision to emerge and this vision to take shape required the involvement of the entire nation speaking in one strong voice demanding progress and reform.

The Convention ended on Saturday 25th July, after the Delegates had deliberated for a full day on a number of Motions, and papers that were presented, which covered topics such as a review of the 2006 Election Campaign, Overcoming the Fear Factor, and Local Government Elections and Reform. The day's session ended with the election of the new executive for the period 2009-2011. Leader, Chairman, Vice-Chair, General Secretary and twelve elected members who include: Clayton Hall, Cathy Hughes, David Patterson, Mark Atkinson, Gerhard Ramsaroop, Martin Cheong, Sewnauth Punalall, Dominic Gaskin, Sarah Punalall, Michael Carrington, and Fitz Ralph, and Sixtus Edwards as General Secretary.

In the pictures above, artistes perform the special selection fusing the sounds, dances, and words of the various cultures of Guyana, and the newly elected Leadership of the Party.

At the Convention, a special award was presented to Dr. Rohan Somar, the President of the New York/New Jersey Chapter for his dedicated service to the AFC and Guyana.

Party Leader, Raphael Trotman challenged President Jagdeo to a public debate on the infiltration of drug lords into political parties and government. Not surprisingly, he did not show up.

Emancipation Celebrations in Region 5 were supported by MPs David Patterson and Raphael Trotman at the Emancipation Queen Pageant, and Hopetown Soiree. New General Secretary Sixtus Edwards represented the party at the Queenstown, Essequibo anniversary celebrations.

Upcoming Events:

Outreach visits are planned for Berbice, Linden, and Essequibo during August and early September to further the membership drive. Every member is tasked with recruiting 10 new members by December, 2009.

Leadership visits will be conducted in August in New York, Washington, and Toronto by Vice Chair, Sheila Holder and CEO, Peter Ramsaroop as part of the programme of strengthening Diaspora links and involvement.

"If you don't create change, change will create you."

Contact Us

alliance4change@yaho.com

Website: afcguyana.com

Good Governance Absent From Guyana...We Are In Crisis

The revelations coming out of the US Federal Court in New York about the Government's thick involvement with Roger Khan, and with murder, have outraged all right thinking Guyanese. Even though we were aware of the government's involvement, the evidence caused us to relive the sordid days of people disappearing and being gunned down. The lies are phenomenal and insulting to Guyanese. The Party's leadership has decided on a course of action including for the time being a boycott of parliament because we don't believe that any issue being debated and discussed now is greater in importance to the lives of Guyanese and the fundamental issue of governance. A joint initiative is also planned with other opposition parties and civil society groups to sensitise them as to the seriousness of the governance and security crisis facing the nation. The Party Leader and Chairman recently led the way in a peaceful picketing exercise outside of Parliament



Emancipation Greetings.

The Party extended 171st Emancipation greetings to all Guyanese and in particular our brothers and sisters who are the descendants of Africans. In its message the party stated that The Emancipation Proclamation of 1838 meant that our African brothers and sisters were then free from the oppressive forces of the day, secure from the brutality, excesses and intemperance of the power hungry, and free to peacefully and independently pursue personal goals towards self development and true happiness.

Citizens were urged to take a moment in quiet contemplation to remember those whose rights and freedoms have been trampled upon, especially in recent times by the State and the note the failure by many of us to speak out in protestation. Daily, we are witness to government policies, programmes and actions by which the basic rights and freedom of citizens are being violated by draconian laws and the brutality of the security forces. The AFC believes that it is time for all peace loving Guyanese to take a stand, it is time for Change. The Party urged that this year's commemoration of Emancipation should be more focused on the significance of freedom and the high price that has to be paid to maintain it, and less on revelry and celebration.

Parliamentary Round-Up

The National Assembly unanimously passed a Motion introduced by the AFC calling for better treatment and protection of Guyanese citizens resident in sister Caribbean states. The Motion was necessary to display to foreign governments that our citizens are not to be mistreated even if their government chases them away from our shores.

The Parliamentary recess runs from August 10-October 10, 2009 at the end of which several Motions, questions and Bills will be presented by the AFC team on governance, and party financing to name a few.