

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



Newsletter Date: February, 2009

Volume 2, Number 2

2009 BUDGET EXPOSED AS A FARCE

In This Issue

- 2009 Budget a Farce
- Community Meetings Ongoing
- Sporting Items Handed Over
- Upcoming Events

Other News:

The Election Petition File went missing and it was only after the matter was made public in the newspapers that the documents were finally found. The injustice continues, and so too the struggle has to continue. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The party's executive met with Leaders of the Christian community in a special meeting to explain the AFC's objectives and work. Both sides came away with a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other.

The annual budget debates finished in February, and despite the fact that the Government's television did not show what transpired, the AFC's parliamentary team, was effectively able to expose the 2009 budget for all its lies. Anyone hearing Finance Minister Ashni Singh in his closing speech would now be convinced that the effective opposition in Guyana is the AFC and the GAP/ROAR working together like a well oiled machine. Singh viciously attacked MP's Khemraj Ramjattan, Raphael Trotman, and David Patterson for almost 2 hours. This tells us that we were extremely effective in our work. Ramjattan in his usual forceful style hit home the fact that corruption continues to eat away at the society like a disease which was being encouraged and fed by the PPP/C regime. He went further to call for a reduction of the 22 Ministers of Government and 8 Presidential advisers who adorn the political landscape, but do little or nothing except spend billions of dollars every year on vehicles, parties, fancy things for themselves, and ineffective programmes. The budget failed to provide for the unemployed, public servants, the business sector, farmers, residents in the hinterland, and youth in any way at all.

This upset those in the PPP benches and in a desperate attempt to cover up this the PPP unleashed Lumumba to try to suggest that Khemraj Ramjattan is a racist because he wants to close some useless Ministries. That attempt failed miserably and the PPP was left embarrassed by Lumumba's rabid performance; causing us to recall that "All dog can bark, but na all dog can bite".

The presentations by MP's Sheila Holder, Sarah Punalall, and David Patterson continued the high standard of research, and exceptional quality that the AFC's MP's have become known for as they dealt with the plight of consumers, the non functioning of GPL, hospitals, the plight of women and children in Guyana, corruption in government tendering, and failed government projects like the swimming pool at Liliendall, East Coast Demerara that is now a fish pond.

Leader of the party, Raphael Trotman, who was given the responsibility of closing the debate on behalf of the parliamentary opposition parties, lambasted the government for its shortsightedness, incompetence, and arrogance in addressing the current financial crisis by refusing to recognize that thousands of Guyanese are likely to lose their jobs if we are not prepared. He challenged the government to account for the billions of dollars spent on drainage and irrigation in 2008 as no results were realized as we saw thousands under water in December and January last. Trotman used the lyrics of the popular Morgan Heritage songs "Nothing to Smile About" and "Tell Me How Come" to ask the government how come they can play so many games when the Guyanese people were suffering in every Region in Guyana without jobs, homes, food, and security, and having nothing to smile about.

AFC LEADER ATTENDED PRAYER BREAKFAST WITH OBAMA

AFC Leader Raphael Trotman was a special invitee of the United States Congress at its recently held National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC. The most important persons in attendance at the breakfast were the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, and First Lady, Michelle Obama. It was a rare and privileged opportunity for the AFC to be recognized amongst the important political organizations in the world. Important to note was that no other political leaders from Guyana were invited to this event. It is absolutely necessary that we recognize the strong and positive influence of our religions and of the strength of faith in our lives. This includes our political work. The wind of change is blowing and is picking up great force.

The Party has taken up the cause of the Clico catastrophe and will continue to hammer away until the government comes to its senses about what good governance and transparency means. The resignation of Finance Minister Ashni Singh has been called for.

The "AFC on the Move" TV programme continues on Saturdays @ 4pm on Channel 9 and @ 6 pm on Channel 6.

Upcoming Events:

An AFC Leadership team is to visit the United States in March, 2009 to meet with the Diaspora Chapters and to coordinate and plan for upcoming elections.

An AFC Leadership Raphael Trotman has been invited by the Indian Culture Centre to deliver a lecture on the subject "What is A Guyanese Identity" in March, 2009.

Outreach meetings will continue in Regions 2, 3, and 5 for the month of March.

Contact Us

editorafc@yahoo.com

Website: afcguyana.com

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."
President Barack Obama

Regional Community Meetings Kick Off on Schedule

The scheduled community meetings in Regions 4 and 6 came off successfully. Meetings were organized by AFC Region 4 Councillor Michael Carrington at Yarrowkabra and Kurukururu on the Soesdyke Linden Highway to obtain information on the problems and concerns of residents. A similar visit was undertaken in New Amsterdam where the issues of the Angoy's Avenue residents in not obtaining Titles to their lands, was raised. In the photo below residents of Angoy's Avenue share their concerns and listen to the views of MPs Khemraj Ramjattan and Sarah Punalall.



2009 Parliamentary Agenda Unveiled

The party expects, that in the National Assembly for 2009, it will concentrate on advancing its own agenda, in addition to the work of scrutinizing the Government's management of the country, and approving and disagreeing with legislation that is, or is not, in the national interest. Five critical areas to receive special attention were announced during the budget debates, and these are: 1) The advancement of Freedom of Information legislation; 2) The adoption of Constitutional Amendments to address the Electoral and Party List Systems; 3) The Free and widespread distribution of the Constitution of Guyana to every citizen; 4) The issue of campaign financing and political party responsibilities at election time; and 5) A review of the Termination of Pregnancy Act.

We believe for ourselves, and are convinced from the urgings of supporters, that all these areas are very important to the people of Guyana and must be confronted and resolved. Unless the roots of our fundamental and core beliefs and principles are in place, nothing else will bear fruit. We will work to garner both national support, and the support of all the parties in parliament; including the PPP/C, as we advance the cause of the people's business.



AFC ASSISTS WITH SPORTING GEAR

Footballs and volleyballs were handed out to AFC representatives from Regions 8 and 9 to assist in the sporting programmes organized by communities in those Regions. The AFC has always believed that sporting activities, apart from providing exercise and ensuring good health, help to foster better neighbourly relations and thereby develop strong and cohesive communities.

Members and supporters who have requests for equipment may contact any member of the executive or their local representatives.