

Change

Official Newsletter of The Alliance For Change

Unlocking Guyana's Future

Alliance For Change



Newsletter Date: March, 2009, 2009

Volume 2, Number 3

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Other News:

1. In March we observed two important religious holidays. The first was the occasion of Youman Nabi on March 9 to recognise the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, and the second was on March 10 to observe the festivities of Phagwah. Messages were sent out by the party to our Muslim and Hindu brothers and sisters in particular, and to all Guyanese.

2. At a Press Conference held on March 25th, it was announced The Second Phase of the Seeds of Change project is set to kick off in April. Regions expected to receive plants are Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10. Members of the executive can assist in getting plants to you on request.

3. The Head of the European Delegation in Guyana met with a leadership team from the AFC to discuss matters of importance to the people of Guyana including, the upcoming local government reforms and elections. The

NY/NJ CHAPTER HOSTED LEADERSHIP

On the weekend of March 13-15 the New York/New Jersey Chapter of the party hosted a strategic planning meeting with the Leaders Raphael Trotman, Khemraj Ramjattan, Sheila Holder, Cathy Hughes, and Sarah Punalall. The meeting was hailed as a resounding success by all who attended as it allowed for a wide and frank exchange of views and issues which impact on the party's approach to the politics in Guyana. Dr. Rohan Somar, Chairman of the Chapter, and his team displayed their patriotism and commitment to Guyana and shared their ideas for improving our efficiency and dynamism. The party acknowledges the importance of the Diaspora by having four (4) seats on the National Executive Committee set aside for elected members from North America, Europe, and the Caribbean. This is because of its belief that Guyana can never enjoy peace and prosperity if we do not harness the potential of the Diaspora and have them work with those of us in Guyana as equals.

Following the all day strategic meeting, a "Meet and Greet" was held at the X-GDF Association's hall at Queen's Boulevard, with Guyanese living in New York. This function was well attended and gave the leaders an opportunity to speak and to respond to questions about the state of our dear country. The leaders were heartened by the response of Guyanese in the Diaspora towards the AFC message, and very appreciative of the efforts put in by many to ensure a successful visit.

In the pictures below everyone is all smiles after receiving a handsome donation from a patriotic Guyanese who believes in the AFC efforts to restore hope and deliver a better life to the people of Guyana, and in the other, invitees share a good conversation on the "happenings" in Guyana.



JAGDEO TRIES DESPERATE MOVE TO SLOW DOWN GROWTH OF AFC

In what has been considered a cheap and desperate move to slow down the fast growing ranks of the AFC was very unpresidential at Babu John when he accused us of having drug links. The party's leadership has responded forcefully to the false accusation and has written to the CANU and the United States' DEA calling on them to investigate the preposterous claim. We will not be intimidated or distracted from our work.

We all know that the attack was part of grand scheme to bamboozle the people of

meeting ended with pledges on both sides to maintain contact and to ensure that information

4. The AFC congratulated Guyanese and West Indies Cricketing star Shivnarine Chanderpaul on the recent bestowal on him of the national award, the Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH).

5. President Jagdeo was called on to restore the annual ceremony of bestowing the Orders of Guyana on deserving citizens. The President of Guyana, as Chancellor of the Orders of Guyana, should accept that a system of recognizing and honouring the outstanding contribution of citizens is a fundamental feature and symbol of a well organized society. In Guyana, the people anxiously look forward to these honours being bestowed on a scheduled basis. There has been no announcement of a list of national awardees for the past 6 years.

Upcoming Events:

The annual sharing of kites to children will be done during Easter. It is expected that close to a 1000 kites will be shared to children in various communities.

Outreach meetings will continue in Regions 10, 9, and 6 for the month of April.

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*"Those who expect moments of change to be comfortable and free of conflict have not learned their history."
~Joan Wallach Scott*

Guyana, and distract them from what was happening at CLICO, the threat of losing thousands of workers' pensions and benefits at NIS, and the awful financial situation facing the nation. We all know who has connections to drug dealers including those who say they worked for the PPP and who they now pretend they don't know. "Is now de pepper bunnin them".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ARE COMING

Once again we hear another call for Local Government elections to be held sometime in this year 2009. The AFC has always encouraged the holding of these elections as they are an essential component of a democratic system which is clearly absent in Guyana. The Task Force on Local Government has failed to issue a report on its work, but yet the government is pressing ahead with legislation to amend the system, but is doing nothing to implement the much needed reforms. Power belongs to the people and in a true democracy, local governance is more important than national governance.

We cannot agree to the holding of elections that do not allow for the people of Guyana to be able to manage their own local affairs and make decisions on issues that affect them. This is what these intended elections should seek to achieve. The party will be holding meetings with other opposition political parties and with members of civil society and the diplomatic community to highlight another nefarious attempt by the PPP to hijack democracy in Guyana and replace it with a dictatorship. We are strong in our belief that the holding of local government elections, in the absence of meaningful reforms that will devolve power and authority to the people, would only result in another meaningless exercise and be a waste of scarce tax payers' money. While we continue to engage and battle, we urge members to begin the process of organising by identifying candidates and issues that affect them, and telling us how you would want them addressed.

APRIL SHOWERS WILL BE HERE AGAIN DON'T DEPEND ON GOVT.

The rains are upon us once again and there is no guarantee that we can depend on the PPP to get it right this time, thereby saving us from another round of "accumulation of water", which we all know as flood waters.

The AFC encourages all members and supporters to take care of their communities and environment by weeding their yards, burying trash, especially, cans and other containers that can hold water, and cleaning their drains and even alleyways. Such good and responsible acts empower us to support local governance and would contribute to ensuring that surface water is kept to a minimum, the mosquito population can be controlled, and our surroundings kept clean.

Remember, we have the power to manage and improve our communities and environment for change is coming. A Happy, Holy and Healthy Easter free from flood waters.

PARLIAMENTARY ROUND-UP

The party's parliamentary delegation has continued pressing the issues of CLICO and NIS in the Assembly. In other developments, we have refused to endorse the appointment of Kwame Mc Koy as a fit and proper person to be on the Rights of the Child Commission.