

Highlights from the AFC's Action Plan for Change and Development for Guyana

This is what the AFC will do for you...

The Alliance For Change is pleased to release part three of our Action Plan for Change and Development for Guyana, that addresses Good Governance and Constitutional Reform. Parts one, two, three and four were released over the past two weeks. Copies of the published parts of our Action Plan can be obtained from our office.

We will be releasing subsequent sections of our **Action Plan** over the next few weeks and publishing a complete document in August, 2006. In this release we are introducing some of our candidates for the 2006 General and Regional Elections. We will continue to introduce our other candidates in future releases. We look forward to continuing to hear suggestions from Guyanese to further strengthen our plan.

Quality Education for all Students

- ◆ A comprehensive review of the education system from Nursery to University to ensure that educational and management methods are effective and relevant for students in all regions.
- ◆ Introduce special courses on conflict resolution and cultural and religious understanding and tolerance.
- ◆ An approach to education that fosters active, interdisciplinary life-long learning and offers traditional and non-traditional subjects in schools.
- ◆ Give students the ability to access new skills and knowledge on their own initiative through information technology.
- ◆ Re-introduce a scholarship scheme to reward the brightest and the best with the opportunity to realize their dreams.
- ◆ Train teachers to use teaching methods that recognise that there are many ways of defining intelligence and that each child has a special intelligence and motivation which teachers, parents and others working with children have an obligation to discover and build upon.
- ◆ Shift the focus of education from memorization of subject matter to developing a range of problem solving skills including written and verbal communication, mathematical, artistic, foreign language and ICT skills and emphasizing the ability to solve problems through critical thinking.
- ◆ Implement civics and life-skills programmes beginning in primary school to equip students with a strong sense of self-worth, improved social skills, and a sense of civic responsibility and empowerment.
- ◆ Introduce quality out of school sporting, recreational, cultural, entrepreneurial and other programmes from primary to secondary school.

Ensuring Equal Access to Education for all Students

- ◆ Establish systems for greater coordination and cooperation between the schools, social services and other health and welfare agencies to address issues that might otherwise contribute to behavioural problems and poor student performance.
- ◆ Provide for children with special needs children both in special schools and in regular schools.
- ◆ A cafeteria which will provide at least one hot meal per day by the year 2010.
- ◆ Provide school uniforms and text books to the most vulnerable as defined by a means test.
- ◆ Regulate and subsidise transportation for all students to reduce tardiness and delinquency and reduce exposure to the harmful effects of the "minibus culture"

Engage Educators as Active Participants in the Development of Education in Guyana

- ◆ Consider and consult educators, parents and students in the development of education in Guyana.
- ◆ Restore and recognise the dignity and respectability of the teaching profession.
- ◆ Recruit professional qualified teachers by providing an incentive package for primary and secondary teachers that better reflects the worth of their work to society and includes special arrangements to assist teachers in owning a home.
- ◆ Provide ongoing opportunities and incentives for training and skills building for teachers.
- ◆ Monitor the performance of, and accountability in, management of the education system in order to improve performance and win public confidence and trust.
- ◆ Engage teachers and head teachers on contracts that are performance related.

Technology

- ◆ Computer Laboratories in every school.
- ◆ A School network system to allow teachers to access educational resources.
- ◆ Training programmes to teach teachers to use computers as a tool for enhancing the teaching/learning process.
- ◆ Appropriate school management information systems to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of administration.
- ◆ Sustainable ICT programs in collaboration with the public/private and community sectors.
- ◆ Relevant information technologies for the provision of lifelong learning, anytime, anywhere, via distance education programs.



National Youth Agency

The AFC recognizes that in keeping our commitment to breaking with the past and governing in the best interest of Guyana and all her people, we must acknowledge that our young people are one of our most valuable resources. We must therefore make a significant investment in our youth so that they are able to reach their full potential and realize their dreams in the land of their birth. The AFC believes that an investment in our young people is an investment in our future.

The National Youth Agency is a youth volunteer service programme that will allow young people aged 17-25 from various religious, socio-economic, ethnic, and geographical backgrounds to travel in country to work on volunteer community projects will be developed.

Working groups will be organized to be representative of Guyana's diverse population. Groups of participants will be formed ensuring equal representation of males and females, as well as proportional geographic and ethnic representation. These groups will travel to communities accompanied by a specially trained Team Leader who will live with and supervise the group in the community for the duration of the project which will be a minimum of six months. Groups will live communally in two different towns or villages during the program and will spend two weeks billeted to a local family during their stay in each community.

Group projects will be designed by NGOs or other non-profit agencies or institutions in the host community who will submit proposals for projects dealing with social assistance and capacity building for vulnerable groups, capacity building, the arts and infrastructure. Activities may be manual, administrative, technical and organizational and will contribute to the development of the host communities.

In addition to their work projects, participants benefit from a learning program that focuses on leadership, civics and participation, cultural and self discovery and healthy lifestyles.

The combination of a working and educational programme is fundamental. Not only will participants develop professional skills through the work projects, but they will also flourish personally through the learning activities developing life skills that they may not have otherwise obtained. Equally as important, participants will develop a deep sense of nationalism and patriotism and contribute to the development of the communities in which they work and by extension the country.

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