

Alliance For Change

Action Plan

2nd Edition

For Guyana

jobs
 youth development
education hope
 economic transformation
VAT cut **justice**
 good governance
security integrity
 investment



vote change



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Our Goals

Healing and Reconciliation

To acknowledge, embrace and celebrate our ethnic diversity.

Liberal Democracy and Good Governance

To defend and increase civil liberties of our people and regulate government's intervention in political, economic and social issues affecting the people. To ensure that every citizen has equitable access to the resources of the state and the national decision-making processes in keeping with Article 13 of our constitution.

Industrialisation and Jobs

To create a whole new economy that will stimulate rapid development through Guyana's production transformation from a raw material producer to a manufacturer of value added goods and services.

Fair Taxes

To allow your paycheck go further and businesses grow. You work hard and you must be able to take care of yourself and your family in a dignified way.

Safe and Secure Society

To enable a safe and secure society where Guyanese can move freely, conduct business without fear and be our neighbours' keepers.

Functional Multi-Ethnic Society

To unleash the energies of all our people regardless of race, class, religion or gender. To enable all Guyanese to enjoy their fullest potential.

Moral Rebuilding

To rebuild the moral fabric of our society for the sake of future generations.

Education for a Better Future

To build the capacity of Guyanese to make the right choices for a better tomorrow.

Alliance For Change

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Change is coming Action Plan

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Foreword

Change is coming...

Like you, I am happy to be part of the Alliance For Change. I am confident we can work together to make the right turn for Guyana.

Like many other women and mothers, I see Guyana's raw side - not what was promised, but what it has become over the last four decades, as successive governments have failed to unlock Guyana's rich human and natural resources for the benefit of all Guyanese.


As we look around Guyana, we see the social fabric of our society collapsing, families becoming dysfunctional, women being bought, sold and violently beaten, our young men abandoning their education and taking to crime, alcoholism and drugs as their mothers and fathers are forced to flee Guyana in search of jobs and a liveable wage elsewhere. Many others who remain operate under the radar in fear of the powers that be, in an effort to avoid economic, political and racial injustices.

You will agree, this sad state of affairs has taken root as a result of misguided voting. We Guyanese have chosen to vote for race, leading to wrong leaders, wrong policies and a wrong way forward.

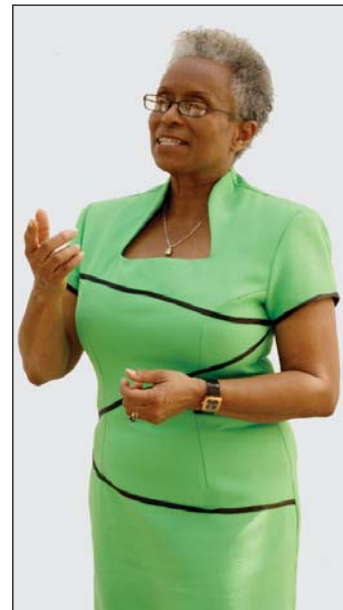
The Alliance For Change knows, and I know, that you want this to change in order to move Guyana in the right direction. That change is coming. Get ready, believe it, and join the AFC's effort. I'm doing this to make my children's lives better. What's stopping you from choosing the change you need?

I would like to encourage you to read this Action Plan as it contains very important information about the change the AFC envisions for all of us. We in the AFC are committed to building a new Guyana and seek your partnership in this endeavour. Therefore, I now invite you to hold our hands and let us walk through the maze to unlock Guyana's rich potential for the betterment of all, today and the next generation.

It is time to make the right turn for your family. Vote AFC. God Bless you.



Sheila Holder, MP
Vice-Chair



Message from Presidential Candidate



My Fellow Guyanese,

I am extremely honoured and humbled to seek your endorsement to lead Guyana into the next decade. Such a responsibility is serious indeed, and, all the more because you, your family, and your friends have chosen the Alliance For Change.

The Alliance has been most grateful for your sustained support since 2006. It is as a result of this support that we have managed to take your cries for change to the national and international arena.

The Alliance For Change is the key for Guyana, the key to unlock us from the divisive racial politics of the past, from the corruption that engulfs us, from the oppressive taxes we are forced to pay, from the deadly crime that haunts and traumatizes us, from the economic decline, and from the hopelessness that we breathe daily.

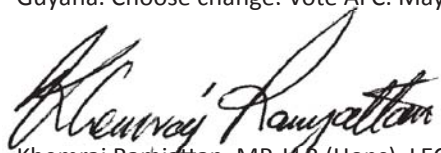
Guyana is at a crossroads and now is the time to make the right turn. Over four decades of PNC and PPP Governments have left us all bruised, weary and hopeless. So on this occasion, Campaign 2011, we must acknowledge the sins of our past and the challenges of the present.

Development for Guyana means economic, political and social transformation in the shortest period of time. This transformation implies not only rapid economic growth, but also political and economic freedoms, eradication of poverty, sustainable and eco-friendly use of natural resources, access to opportunities for all ethnic groups, and gender equality.

The power to make Guyana right is in our hands. But accomplishing this requires quality leadership, integrity, and fearlessness. Our Alliance, after only a short time on the scene, has provided all of these. We can provide so much more.

The AFC has the right message, the right plan and the right team to take Guyana into the right direction. This Action Plan was assembled with you and your loved ones in mind and outlines in the simplest way our vision, goals and plans to overhaul Guyana. Many of these ideas came from you who yearn for a new Guyana that can fulfill its promise to be great, green and beautiful.

I invite you and your family to study this Action Plan and then make the right turn for Guyana. Choose change. Vote AFC. May God Bless You and Guyana.


Khemraj Ramjattan, MP, LLB (Hons), LEC
Presidential Candidate/Chairman

Message from Prime Ministerial Candidate

Fellow Guyanese, Family and Friends


I am pleased to be your Prime Ministerial Candidate for the AFC in the 2011 General Elections. I am just as pleased to present our vision for Guyana's future with the expectation, that together we can bring it into reality. I am convinced that we are wiser to the mistakes of the past and will make the right turn in 2011 by giving the AFC the opportunity to lead a government that is truly for the people.

It must be a moment of great change so that Guyana can emerge from underdevelopment, nepotism and pettiness of past Governments. For 45 years Guyana has had the same parties making turns in the wrong directions, disappointing and betraying its citizens and allowing for an unfair distribution of the Country's wealth as the rich get richer while most Guyanese continue to remain poor.

The AFC Government will set the stage for an alternative development vision, compared to the failed policies of the past. We intend to make sure that the rising tide lifts all boats and not just those who receive favoured government treatment. Our vision is to see the economy and society transform itself within one generation. This means, in the immediate future, that Guyana will become less dependent on remittances-financed household consumption and the underground economy. Instead, AFC intends to focus its policy on private wealth and job creation.

In this Action Plan are twelve interconnected foundations for progress. The Action Plan is based on careful examination of Guyana's politics, economy and society. We recognise that there are areas that will require improvement, and we encourage you to read this with a critical and patriotic mind, and to share your ideas with us so that we can have an Action Plan that meets the highest standards of scrutiny and consultation.

Now is the time for Change. Failure to change now will lead to five more years of high taxation, higher unemployment, soaring crimes and widespread hopelessness. AFC looks forward to your guidance, support, and vote to make the change. The AFC can offer you, your family and friends the opportunity to hope and dream again. We invite you to partner with us on this exciting journey for change. Enjoy, may God bless us all!



Raphael Trotman, MP
Prime Ministerial Candidate/Leader



Change is coming
**Action
Plan**

*All dreams can
be realised*

A special message for
women and youth



The 2011 election comes at a defining time in Guyana's history. Although there has been moderate overdue infrastructure development over the last five years, in our quite moment of honest reflection. We Guyanese cannot ignore the unprecedented levels of corruption and the enormous gap between the have's and the have not's which stand as testimony of the society we have created today. But even with these harsh realities I am excited to share our vision of hope that we in the AFC will infuse you with, as you move through the pages of this "Action Plan".

In reawakening your ability to dream once again, the AFC asks each of you to imagine a Guyana in which strong independent institutions protect every citizen and a system that allows hard work and an honest living to reap untold rewards. In working to realise this dream, I believe that "we" women from all walks of life and our precious youth will be the primary agents of "Change".

Women are the custodians of our fundamental values that sustain families. Youth, are our creative explorers of new frontiers. These groups have long been recognized the world over as two communities whose contributions are critical for success in generating social wealth and creating an environment of peace, justice, security and stability.

In Guyana, several constraints limit our collective capacity to transform these principles into everyday practice. These include violence and physical abuse against women and young children; perpetrators who are parents, spouses, partners, family members, neighbours; and men and women in positions of power and influence. While thousands of women and youth are forced to live with these fateful consequences, we remain convinced that the issue of violence and abuse can only be effectively addressed in the context of our strategy for national development.

In the meantime however, our support for assets of women who dominate the informal sector must be guided by investments that protect, build and expand their livelihoods. Similarly, our support for the efforts of youth must be guided by investments that enhance creativity, encourage participation and provide opportunities for acquiring knowledge that assists the full realization of their potential.

We remain convinced that our paramount task must be to accelerate the rate of growth, speed up the pace of development and contribute to the creation of a just, happy and secure place for all Guyanese, a task that can only be successfully accomplished through the participation and involvement of women and youth.

I ask you to join me in ensuring this dream is realised. I know you will look deep into your hearts, put aside old doctrines and "make the right turn". With hope all dreams can be realised!

Cathy Hughes
Cathy Hughes
National Executive Member

Change is coming **Action Plan**



Making it Happen The First Year in Office

The AFC believes that Guyana needs to make the right turn, onto the right track, and in the shortest period from day one. AFC will deliver the following 28 changes within its first year in office:

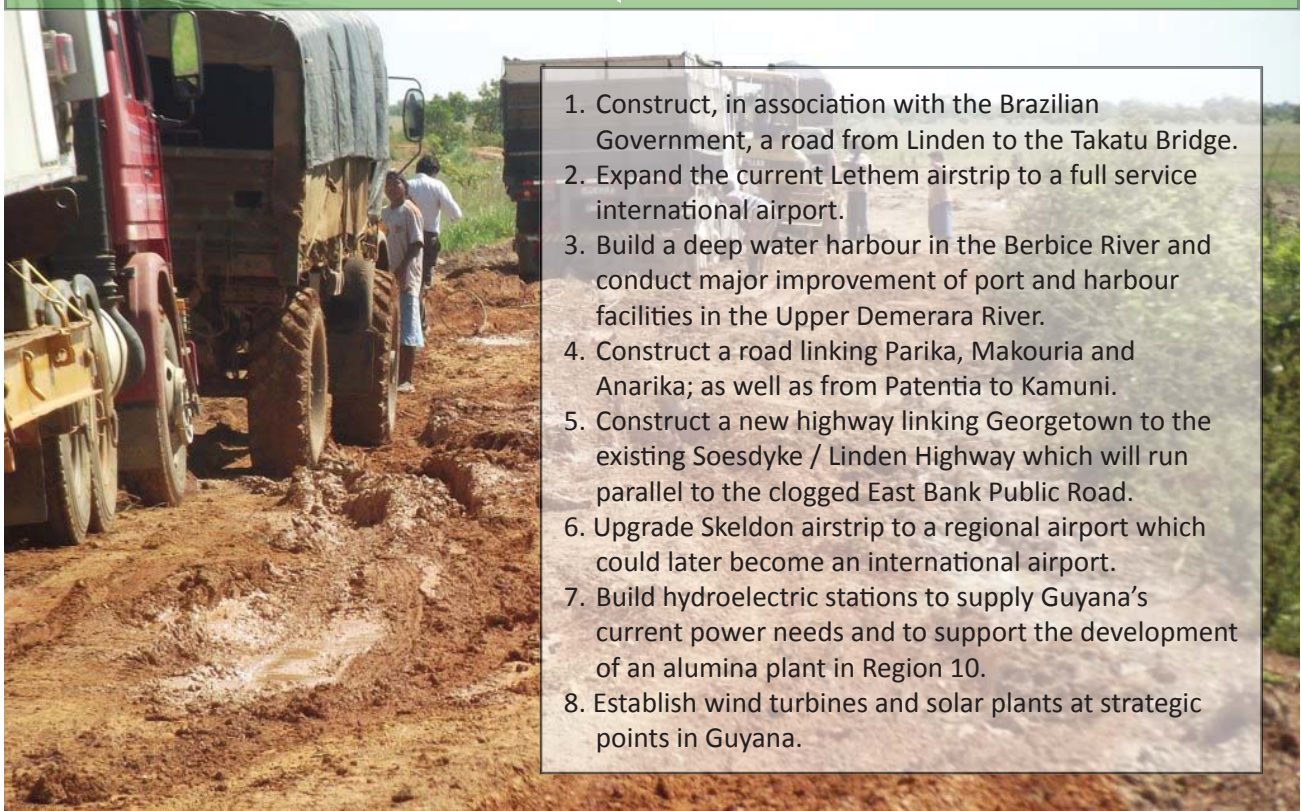
1. Reduce VAT from 16% to 12%.
2. The AFC will examine all sources of financing available to the Government of Guyana, including moneys in hidden accounts, and will use to significantly increase public service wages and salaries.
3. Reduce non-commercial (manufacturing) corporate tax from 30% to 25% in the first year and to 20% at the end of the first term. Reduce commercial corporate tax from 40% to 35% at the end of the first term.
4. Increase the PAYE tax-free threshold to G\$50,000.
5. Commence a national discussion for Constitutional reform and propose amendments for the removal of the Executive Presidency.
6. License private radio stations based on transparent rules and regulations.
7. Implement the Freedom of Information Act and Broadcast Act - our seriousness on the issue of transparency.
8. Implement local government reforms and hold local government elections.
9. First Month: Re-engage the offer from the UK to reform the police force, which the PPP refused.
10. First Month: Allow the USA's Drug Enforcement Agency to set up an operation in Guyana, which was rejected by the PPP.
11. De-politicize the Head of the Presidential Secretariat. A technocrat will take this position with the understanding of transforming the Public Service into a meritocratic and effective organization.
12. Implement a National E10 (10% blend of ethanol with gasoline)(eventually E15) mandate to create a captive market for domestic ethanol use. This policy will save the Demerara and West Berbice sugar estates.
13. Implement a Diaspora policy that encourages investment, harnesses their talents and expertise and makes re-migration easy and move towards Diasporal representation in the National Assembly. Establish a Cabinet level Minister to be responsible for and focus on Diaspora relations.
14. Task foreign missions to secure markets for Guyana's products and attract foreign investments.
15. Institute copyright laws, subsidies and other assistance for the cultural and arts industries.

Change is coming Action Plan

Making it happen: The First Year in Office

16. Announce that UG will become a research university and appoint a panel of experts within the first 100 days to best accomplish this objective.
17. Take steps to establish a state development bank with a different mandate relative to our private commercial banks.
18. Immediately upgrade our technical schools for vocational training in areas such as carpentry, computer repair, electronic repair, refrigeration, landscaping, hospitality management and other skills.
19. Create job placement programmes that will ensure those who are trained in technical areas are placed in jobs.
20. Create small business financing for those trained in vocational areas. Landscaping enterprises will be given immediate priorities for the purpose of national beautification.
21. Launch a national beautification campaign, which will also enforce building codes, planting trees and gardens and develop parks in major towns and villages.
22. Empower the Municipality to clean up the garbage, drains and overall image of Georgetown so it can reclaim its old glory
23. Establish regular town hall style meetings with President, Prime Minister and Cabinet members in all 10 Regions.
24. Establish a Commission of Inquiry to examine the finances, investments, and administration of the National Insurance Scheme, with a Special emphasis on contributors' records.
25. Initiate a conference for CARICOM coordination of production activities.
26. National recognition of deserving persons on February 23 for Annual Guyana Awards.
27. Establish and legislate a new liveable minimum wage for workers across Guyana and stop the exploitation of workers.
28. Commission a Group of Forensic Auditors to reduce corruption and white collar crimes and facilitate civilian oversight.

Medium-Term Infrastructural Works



1. Construct, in association with the Brazilian Government, a road from Linden to the Takatu Bridge.
2. Expand the current Lethem airstrip to a full service international airport.
3. Build a deep water harbour in the Berbice River and conduct major improvement of port and harbour facilities in the Upper Demerara River.
4. Construct a road linking Parika, Makouria and Anarika; as well as from Patentia to Kamuni.
5. Construct a new highway linking Georgetown to the existing Soesdyke / Linden Highway which will run parallel to the clogged East Bank Public Road.
6. Upgrade Skeldon airstrip to a regional airport which could later become an international airport.
7. Build hydroelectric stations to supply Guyana's current power needs and to support the development of an alumina plant in Region 10.
8. Establish wind turbines and solar plants at strategic points in Guyana.



Foundations for Development

Below are our twelve interconnected Foundations for Development. It must be emphasized that these Foundations are all equally important and must be implemented simultaneously.

Foundation 1: Private Sector Driven Economy and Industrialisation: *More Jobs, Better Pay*

Through private sector led industrial development, the AFC aspires to achieve rapid economic growth and lead Guyana to becoming the Singapore of the Americas. Through our detailed programme of transforming the productive and emerging sectors, the AFC will foster and facilitate the upgrading of skills for our people, enhance industrial growth and value added services. The vision is to produce world-class exports, with lessons drawn from the experiences of countries like Singapore.

The AFC strongly rejects the subsistence level of economic development encouraged by the PNC and PPP. We will therefore outline a series of industrial policies that will produce goods and services that are at the higher end of the value chain such as turning molasses and sugar cane into ethanol, raw sugar into refined sugar, rice into cereals, gold and diamond into world class jewelry, and bauxite into alumina. We will produce more packaged rice and stock feeds, and promote eco-tourism beyond Kaitere Falls, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Call Centres, and light manufacturing. We will build renewable energy equipment like windmills and solar plants, and support agro-processing of juices, and supermarket grade packaged fruits and vegetables.

The AFC will establish a one-stop Investment Agency that will be empowered to advocate for the private sector and deliver its decisions in a timely and effective manner. State agencies that are slothful will no longer be tolerated.

Foundation 2: Personal Security: Less Crime

The AFC will confront serious crimes and arrest the spread of organized gangs and improve public and personal security. Despite the significant increase in violent crime which is the main deterrent for new investment in Guyana and a direct stimulant for migration of our best talent, the PPP and the PNC failed to arrest it. Not a single major drug dealer was convicted by the PPP. Guyana is a country of unsolved crimes and non-convicted criminals.

The AFC will develop innovative strategies to enhance and support current police efforts to better serve the security needs of Guyana. The AFC, with the help of friendly foreign agencies like the FBI, Scotland Yard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, will provide the leadership and support to the Joint Services to further develop the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime. The AFC will provide resources to reduce the opportunity for criminals to corrupt the Joint Services.

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Foundation 3: Equal Opportunity: One Nation

The AFC recognizes that each citizen, no matter his or her race, creed, color, or gender has the right to access opportunities and make an important contribution to nation building. Failure to ensure ethnic balance in political, economic and social opportunities is counterproductive and a waste of our rich talents. Moreover, as a nation we must realise that all ethnic groups must be developed simultaneously and jettison the zero sum mentality of the past. Everyone can be made better off, given our bountiful natural resources. The AFC will reform and empower the Ethnic Relations Commission to provide Ethnic Impact Statements of Cabinet Decisions and Government departments where necessary and such findings will be acted upon in the best interest of all Guyanese.

Foundation 4: Political Reforms: One Destiny

AFC recognises that the present Constitution does not serve the best interest of the country and within the shortest possible time in office will appoint a Commission to rewrite the Constitution with the full participation of the people. The new constitution will put the necessary checks and balances in place to consolidate our ethos of liberal democracy. Freedom of speech, devolution of power and the Bill of Rights of our citizens will be enshrined in the document. The document shall provide processes to expose and penalize abuse of power, and corrupt activities. Our citizens shall be held to the rule of law in all their actions by this sacrosanct document.

There is no doubt that Guyana's economic success is being stymied by a politically backward constitution. The present political conflict between central government and the Georgetown City Council highlights this point. Guyana has not seen local government elections since 1994. AFC commits to meaningful local government reforms and holding these elections soon.

Foundation 5: Our Youth: Our Future

The AFC recognises that in keeping our commitment to break with the past and govern in the best interest of Guyana and all her people, we must acknowledge that our young people are one of our most valuable resources, especially since Guyana's population is mostly under 35 years of age. The AFC's political, economic and social evolution shall be focused on developing programmes that will provide opportunities to build character, values, self-esteem, employability and reduce risk factors such as crime, drug abuse, alcoholism, teen pregnancy, suicide, violence and illiteracy. Our programme will generate sup-



port and resources to make recreation, the arts and sports hallmarks of excellence to restore the bond between youth and their communities.

Foundation 6: Gender Equality: Our Women, Our Foundation

The AFC recognises that greater gender equality and empowerment are essential to eradicating poverty in Guyana since significant inequality in gender responsibility, opportunity and influence still exist. Therefore, the AFC intends to introduce policies to encourage the rebuilding of Guyana's family structure, the sharing of caring tasks between mothers and fathers as well as mentoring and financially supporting Guyana's children. In this regard the AFC plans to reintroduce allowances into the Income Tax system for dependents.

Further, it sees gender equality in the context of enhancing democracy, developing peaceful communities, eradicating poverty and violence against women. In advancing this objective, the AFC considers education for all, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality and combating HIV/AIDS crucial elements as well.

Foundation 7: Hinterland: The New Frontier

Given the threat of global warming and the concomitant increase in sea levels, we must start planning to establish major economic centres in the hinterland regions that will enhance the economic well-being of our Indigenous people and create centres of economic activities away from the coast. The AFC envisages that in the short-term Linden, Bartica, Madhia and Lethem will become important economic centres under its Government. All of these areas shall become Free-Trade Economic Zones and the AFC shall immediately commence negotiations with the State and Federal Governments of Brazil to pave the Linden to Lethem road and the Madhia to Bartica Road.

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While a high level of economic initiatives and development is planned primarily for the benefit of the Indigenous Peoples, the AFC will ensure that the indigenous culture, land rights and environment are protected.

Foundation 8: Diaspora Integration: Bring Back More Talent

With over 700,000 Guyanese living abroad, Guyana has arguably the most important pool of financial resources, skills and talents outside of its boundaries. The Diaspora represents a critical element in the current and future development of Guyana. While the Diaspora is seen as a source of remittances - currently about US\$400 million each year in cash and gifts - the AFC will implement a series of incentives to infuse this talent, wealth and their representation into Guyana.



The AFC will establish Diaspora desk offices at its Embassies and High Commissions in New York, Toronto, London and the Caribbean to solicit investments and entrepreneurial and other skills to develop Guyana; with clear constitutional guarantees that investor's assets will be preserved, regardless who is in Government. In addition, the AFC will facilitate a safe and hospitable environment for their investments.

Foundation 9: The Poor, the Elderly and the Disabled: Our commitment to care

The AFC Government will ensure that the nutritional and medical needs for the poor, elderly and disabled are met. Additionally, provisions shall be made for increases in social assistance, and pensions for the elderly, and the establishment of additional residential homes for the elderly and schools for those with special needs. The AFC

government will endeavour to ensure the well-being and security of our poor, disabled, elderly and homeless.

Foundation 10: Social Transformation: Dignity For All

The AFC will bring about qualitative and systemic social transformation for Guyanese and will focus on rebuilding a skilled, motivated and highly educated work force. The AFC will also focus its education policies on training the scientists, engineers, teachers, doctors, nurses, agriculturalists, university professors, researchers and vocational workers (computer technicians, carpenters, electricians, artists, mechanics, refrigeration specialists, landscapers, etc) who will be the driving force of economic and social transformation.

The AFC shall promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and design public policies so that all our people have universal access to health services, education, housing, and other Social Services as a means of maximizing the generation of our social capital, fostering social inclusion and giving all communities access to the productive sectors.

Foundation 11: Education Upgrade

The challenge of rebuilding Guyana can only be met with a skilled and highly educated work force. The AFC government will ensure that the nutritional and transportation needs of deserving primary and secondary students are met. Additionally, AFC commits to establishing adequate computer labs, technology and training in every school. AFC will emphasize job creation through vocational and business schools which will directly reduce the unemployment rate especially among youth. The AFC will also unveil a programme which considers the special needs of our most valuable education resource – “our teachers” with a view to providing special concession which will encourage them to remain in Guyana and teach our children.

Foundation 12: Public Service Reform

Any country needs a professional and politically neutral public service to implement and advise the government of the day. Important economic, industrial, and foreign policies would have to be implemented by the public service. AFC will ensure an efficient public sector to facilitate good governance, the development of the private sector and market systems. Accordingly, we recognise the need for reform of the public service to preserve its professionalism and make it a true meritocracy. There should be only one criterion for joining the service – **merit**.

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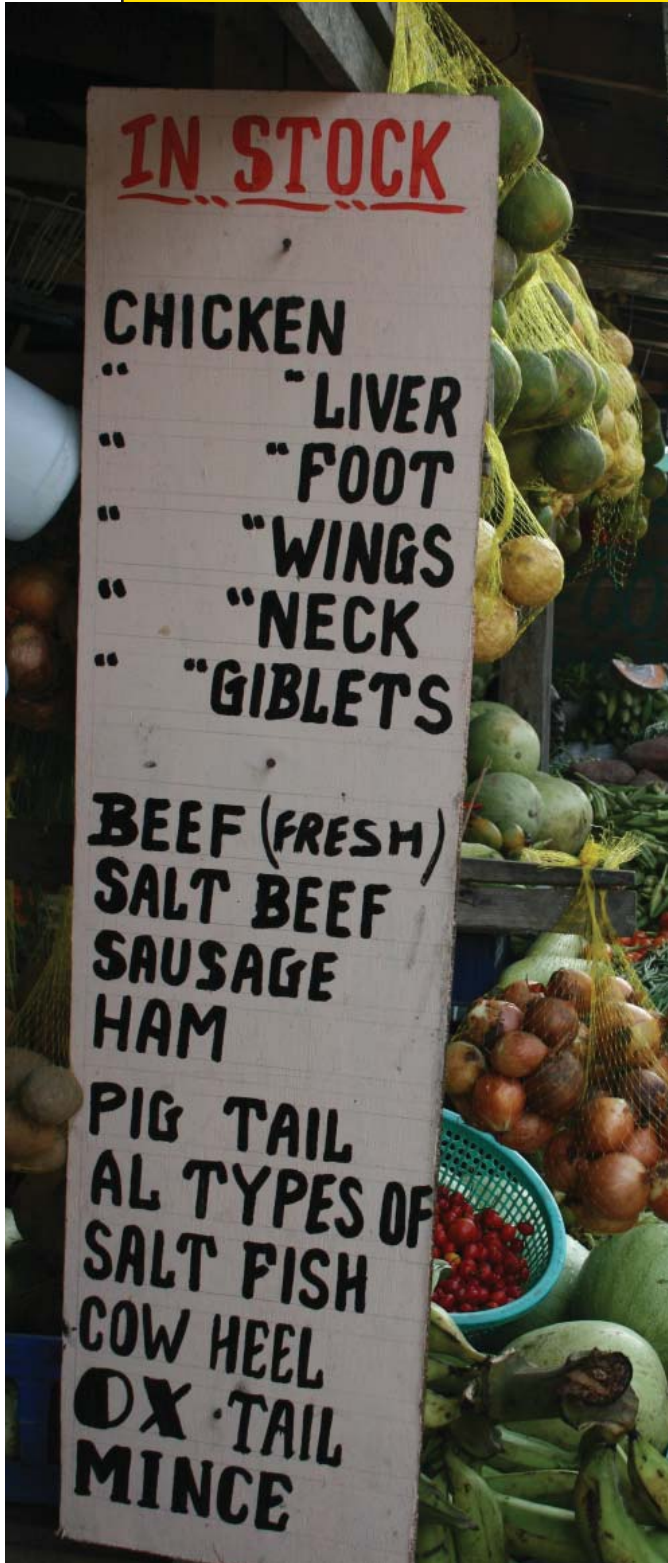
With a young population, Guyana possesses a demographic dividend and advantage. AFC will nurture and optimize this youth advantage by:

1. Active and direct involvement of Youths in decision-making by ensuring all State Boards have a youth representative on them;
2. Outfit all Primary and Secondary schools with fully functional computer laboratories. These shall be equipped with computers assembled in Guyana by trained youths. Further, an AFC Government will only buy locally assembled desktop computers, giving priority to companies within the Administrative Region. This will create in excess of 2,000 new jobs in the 10 Administrative Regions;
3. Offer a one-off grant of \$50,000 to eligible youths under 30 which can be supplemented with a micro credit loan of up to \$250,000 from the Commercial Bank or the State Development Bank to start a business. Ten of these entrepreneurs per year (one per Administrative Region) will be offered work space free of cost in one of the 10 Regional Entrepreneur Parks/Building to be built by an AFC Government to support small scale entrepreneur in housing their production/service facilities;
4. Build 10 Regional Mechanical & Electrical Workshops next to the 10 Regional Entrepreneurial Parks/Buildings, preferably in an Industrial Estate, to create in excess of 1,000 new apprenticeships for graduates from the Technical Institutes and other vocational centres to prepare them for full time employment in areas such as auto and heavy duty repairs, welding, bodywork, electrical work, air conditioner repair, etc;
5. Expand the vocational training of youths to feed these apprenticeship incubators to create tens of thousands of new sustainable jobs for the Youths of Guyana;
6. Facilitate internships for students from age 16 in public schools and learning institutions in all Government Ministries, Agencies and Corporations. An AFC Government will also give incentives to the Private Sector to provide internships as well;
7. Offer a child benefit allowance of \$2,000 per month per biological or legally adopted child for all children in school below the age of 21;
8. Free lunch for all children in primary school;
9. Free transportation for all eligible children from each primary school to the doctors and health clinics for their bi-annual medical check-ups and vaccinations where relevant;
10. Talent identification for sport and athletics which shall be supported with a cost of living grant for 100 talented athletes per year of \$50,000 per month each;
11. Establish connections with foreign universities for sports and academic scholarships;
12. Enhance sports participation for girls to improve self-esteem, self-image and self-efficacy;
13. Provide subsidies and other non-financial assistance for young people to participate in the arts and music with cost of living support for 100 talented artists and musicians per year of \$50,000 per month each;
14. Provide the necessary support and opportunities for young people to bring home medals from international sporting, musical and cultural events;
15. Improve health and nutritional awareness for young people by holding 10 Regional Youth Conferences per year in all 10 Administrative Regions to discuss all youth matters including health and nutritional issues;
16. Offer a grant of \$2 million each to 10 faith based organizations on a tendered basis to work in the 10 different Administrative Regions with no more than five projects going to one religious faith. The focus of this project shall be youth integration into religion, moral revival, training on social issues such as teenage pregnancy, suicide counselling, career counselling, and musical and cultural training;
17. Provide special scholarships for qualified youth in engineering, agro-technology, medicine, business, and information technology.

TAXATION POLICY

The AFC believes that there must be a comprehensive reform of the tax system. The AFC intends to pursue the following policies:

- 1. Reduce VAT from 16% to 12% IMMEDIATELY;**
2. Reduce non-commercial (manufacturing) corporate tax from 30% to 25% in the first year and to 20% at the end of the first term. Reduce commercial corporate tax from 40% to 35% at the end of the first term;
3. Tax cuts for new fixed asset investments for existing manufacturing, agro-processing and eco-tourism entities;
4. Tax holiday for new and pioneering manufacturing, agro-processing and eco-tourism entities. This tax break is subject to the condition that such new businesses penetrate foreign markets.
5. Reduce income tax from 33.3% to 25%, by the end of our first term;
- 6. Increase the PAYE tax-free threshold from G\$40,000 to G\$50,000;**
7. Amend the Income Tax (in Aid of Industry) Act to provide a one off Tax Holiday to all companies which are prepared to invest in fixed equipment up to G\$20 million;
8. Increase the efficiency of the authorities to collect rates and taxes;
9. Reintroduce allowances into the Income Tax system for dependents;
10. Appoint a Presidential Commission to review and update the Dr. Asgar Ally State Paper on Policy for Tax Equality and Reform. The outcome of this Commission will guide our public tax policies.



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Poverty Eradication Plan

Although the 1999 Household Income and Expenditure Survey indicated a marked reduction in poverty since 1993, the incidence of poverty in Guyana is still unacceptably high. The survey revealed that 36.4 percent of the population in Guyana lives in absolute poverty, and 19.1 percent exists in a state of critical poverty.

The highest incidences of poverty are in the hinterland areas of Regions 1, 7, 8, and 9. Notwithstanding that there are pockets of poverty in all coastal villages. Moreover, about half of the population of the workforce is not gainfully employed

The high level of poverty in the interior is due in most part to its remoteness: high transportation costs making living in these areas extremely expensive to acquire the most basic of goods and services from the Coast.

The AFC will:

1. Put the poorest to work again by creating 5,000 jobs in the first year in office in the landscaping/public cleaning industry, thus raising the productivity levels of the poor and unemployed;
2. Establish a youth brigade of unemployed youths who will be offered a stipend to learn a skill on the job by helping to build a house once a month in each of the

10 regions for 120 eligible families who will have to pay only 5% of the cost either in material, labour or cash with a view to expanding this programme once the quality of implementation is assessed;

3. Restructure the NIS to offer unemployment vouchers of \$10,000 per month for a maximum of 3 months with no further benefit within a calendar year once the beneficiary is willing to learn a skill and actively seek employment;
4. Award 1 community project (road, school, health hut, etc) in each of the 10 regions per month for 120 eligible depressed communities to a Contractor from that Administrative Region to create new employment in each of the 10 Administrative Regions;
5. Increase Pensions to \$11,000 per month from the first month in office from the current level of \$7,500;
6. Increase social assistance to the disabled, domestically abused, orphaned children and socially unable to \$10,000 per month from the first month in office;
7. Provide 1 kg of free rice to all those on the Pension and Social Assistance Register once they purchase a small Hinterland food hamper which will include all the produce from the Amerindian Missions at a discounted price
8. Offer a grant of \$2 million each to 10 different NGOs on a tendered basis to work in the 10 Administrative Regions with domestically abused women, orphaned children, fire victims, suicide, alcoholism, youth delinquency issues to supplement the State programmes in these areas, women job creation;
9. Offer a one-off grant of \$50,000 to eligible single mothers and/or youths under 30 which can be supplemented with a micro credit loan of up to \$250,000 from a Commercial Bank or the State Development Bank to start a business. Ten of these entrepreneurs per year (one per Administrative Region) will be offered work space free of cost in one of the 10 Regional Entrepreneur Parks/Buildings which an AFC Government will build to help small scale entrepreneur house their production/service facility.
10. Free mobile adult education for persons over 21 who cannot read and write in basics Reading, Writing, Spelling, Maths and other basic functional literacy skills. Education shall come to your street and dams.
11. An Amerindian Development Fund. A Women Development Fund and a Youth Development Fund will be established to support efforts that are required to develop and enhance the quality of life in eligible Amerindian communities, eligible Single Mothers and eligible Youths under 30 years.
12. Build a new orphanage to be managed by an eligible NGO.

Change is coming Action Plan

Liberal Democracy and Governance Reforms

Liberal Democracy

A Liberal Democratic culture for Guyana, as against one that is Marxist/Leninist or Communist or one driven by Party Paramountcy, is what the Alliance For Change will be promoting. Liberal Democracy is used to describe Western democratic political systems, such as Australia, the United States, Britain, New Zealand, Canada, India, Brazil and other nations.

It is a political system that strives to:

1. Defend and increase civil liberties against the encroachment of governments, institutions and powerful forces in society;
2. Restrict or regulate government intervention in political, economic and moral matters affecting the citizenry;
3. Increase the scope for religious, political and intellectual freedom of citizens;
4. Scrutinise demands made by all interest groups seeking special privileges;
5. Develop a society which rewards citizens on merit, rather than on rank, privilege or status;
6. Frame rules that maximize the well-being of every citizen.

Such a philosophical outlook and ideological position is supported by the AFC because the core values of liberal democracy are consistent and compatible with the beliefs and principles of the AFC.

Strategic Planning

1. Rationalize the current number of Ministries to more effectively serve the needs of the population;
2. Each Ministry will provide a strategic plan outlining how they will implement the AFC Action Plan;
3. Each Minister will be responsible for implementing his respective strategic plans and will be accountable to the people therefor;
4. Ministers will submit quarterly reports to the Head of Government;
5. The Cabinet must assume collective responsibility for the success of the programmes.

Executive Presidency

1. Commence a National discussion for Constitutional reform and propose amendments for the removal of the Executive Presidency.

The National Assembly

1. Implement the recommendations of the World Bank Fiduciary Oversight Studies and a Study by Sir Michael Davies, Senior Commonwealth Parliamentary Staff Advisor;



2. Establish fully staffed and equipped offices in the Parliament Buildings for all parliamentary parties.
3. Advocate for Diasporal representation in Parliament;
4. Televisе nationally the debates and deliberations in the National Assembly;
5. Repeal the Recall legislation to enshrine the independence of the Parliamentarian.

The Judicial System

1. Target the Judicial System to ensure that it continues the process started to deal with the backlog of cases, timely delivery of rulings and adopts accountability measures;
2. Address the delays in confirming appointments of Members of the Judiciary;
3. Institute financial independence;
4. Rationalise the positions of the Chief Justice and the Chancellor;
5. Reform and modernise the Deeds Registry;
6. Review the system of penalties and fines currently on the Statute Books.

Change is coming Action Plan

Devolution of Powers

AFC will encourage the involvement of Guyanese to restore their neighbourhood and village government to the sequential levels of the decision making process: **neighbourhood > village > sub-regional > municipal > regional**. The AFC will ensure that this process occurs through the mandatory holding of local and municipal elections under the agreed Local Government Reform.

Public Management

1. New public servants will be trained and must pass an examination of competence;
2. Reinstate and reform the security of tenure regime in the Public Service;

Procurement

1. Full implementation of the Public Procurement Laws;
2. Establishment of the Public Procurement Commission forthwith;
3. Enact legislation for the registration of architects, engineers, contractors and quantity surveyors.

Good Governance Action Plan

1. Fix the term of Parliament for a defined period of 5 years thus clearly setting a statutory date of the general elections;
2. Our government will be transparent and accountable and will ensure that citizens can access all aspects of the government's transactions and activities;
3. Our government will encourage equity by allowing for individual initiative regardless of race or religion or class. No person will be discriminated against;
4. Our government will adhere to the rule of law and ensure that Guyanese live and prosper without the threat of executive lawlessness and state sponsored violence;
5. Adhere to the doctrine of separation of powers under our constitution;
6. Conduct a public education programme to raise the

level of awareness Guyanese have of their democratic rights, roles, duties and obligations in advancing democratic principles in the country;

7. Adopt outstanding parliamentary recommendations approved by the Eighth Parliament of Guyana to create a National Assembly that is independent, respected, deliberative and responsive to the nation's needs;
8. Dismantle Government control of media and the regulation thereof by Broadcasting Legislation.
9. Engage the Diaspora in Special Parliamentary Committee and Diaspora Conferences;
10. Establish a Bipartisan Committee of the Future to advise and guide the policies and programmes of



Parliament;

11. Establish a convention for the President to give annual reports to the National Assembly;
12. Encourage the accessibility of information to members of the public through the enactment of the Freedom of Information Law;
13. Formulate new campaign financing regulations and devise a legal framework for registration of political parties.

Change is coming Action Plan

Crime solutions are vital to the revival of the nation. Crime is stifling genuine investment opportunities, affecting the well-being of the working people and is one of the principal contributors to the migration of the skilled human capital from Guyana. The increase of deadly crimes under the current administration has seen very little justice for the victims.

The AFC will redress the breakdown of law and order by doing the following:

1. Increase the salaries of all law enforcement officers by 20% in the first year of the AFC Term;
2. Establish a Ministry of Justice and National Security (MJNS) to better coordinate all aspects of public safety, border security, and the National Security Strategy;
3. Complete the implementation of recommendations of the Disciplined Forces Commission, Symonds Group Report, and CARICOM Task Force on Crime & Security Report;
4. Grant full permission to the DEA to establish their local facility;
5. Re-engage the British and other friendly Governments for assistance to reform the Joint Services;
6. Set up a Group of Forensic Auditors to target corruption and white color crimes;
7. Situate more police officers on the street by hiring civilians for desk work;
8. Facilitate a system that would allow members of the Joint Services to work in the administrative region of their choice where practical;
9. Appoint a specialised Anti-Crime Unit (ACU) comprising GDF and GPF personnel in all Police Divisions; headed by a GDF officer on secondment, to confront violent and armed criminals;
10. Establish a unified Drug Enforcement and Control Agency (DECA) to coordinate and execute drug enforcement policy between the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU), the Police Anti-Narcotic Unit (PANU), DEA, INTERPOL and other agencies;
11. Establish a specialised Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) to train officers in crime investigation, intelligence gathering and forensics;
12. Start the Police/Schools partnership programme by assigning a dedicated officer to each school with whom they can work on "Get to know the Police" workshops, etc;
13. Introduce legislation to legitimize and regulate Community Policing and establish Citizens Protection Units (CPUs) in keeping with best practices globally;
14. Pass Legislation to establish neighbourhood justice panels of village elders to adjudicate on petty matters



National Security and Crime

- such as anti-social behaviour and family disputes to free up the court's time for more serious matters;
15. Overhaul the 911 System to make it responsive to the needs of citizens;
 16. Train and empower the Police to respond more effectively to domestic violence;
 17. Construct a modern prison with new, appropriate and humane facilities for women, juveniles and remand prisoners outside of the city;
 18. Allow more prisoners to do community work like up keeping the surrounding in the cemetery and provide a nominal stipend at the end of their term for good behaviour;
 19. Mandate a jail term of life in prison after three convictions for violent felonies;
 20. Review and consolidate all criminal law and criminal procedure related legislation;
 21. Create a special office within the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions for the use of Special Prosecutors to prosecute persons accused of certain categories of offences;
 22. Implement an amnesty programme for the surrender of illegal weapons, which will be backed by a "Voluntary Weapons Collection" programme;
 23. The Amnesty programme will be accompanied by a special fund to provide alternative opportunities for training, development of income generating projects, credit etc. for youth at risk and sports, scouting, and other cadet-like schemes for youth in schools and religious organizations;
 24. Enhance the powers and independence of the Police Complaints Authority to investigate all complaints to a finality;
 25. Fund the University of Guyana and other institutions of learning to continuously assess the "influences to crime" in the society with recommended solutions;
 26. Commence multilateral negotiations within CARICOM to support a Witness Protection Programme;
 27. Establish the Police Air Unit at the Ogle International Airport.



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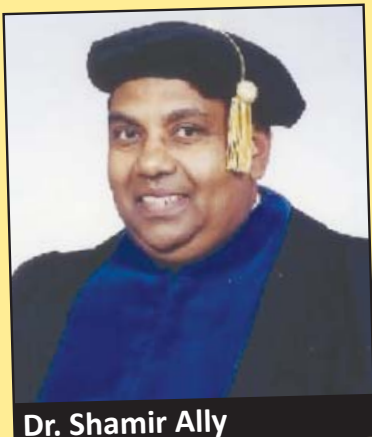
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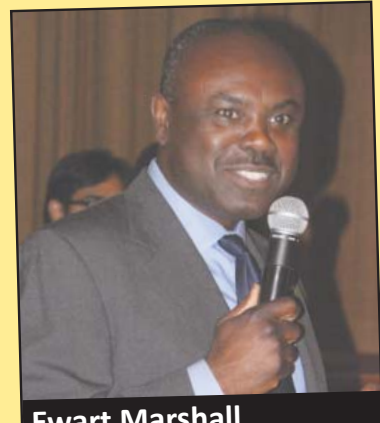
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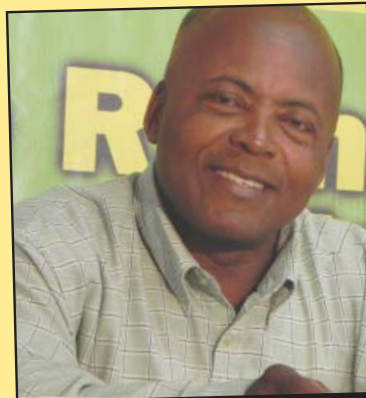
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Change is coming Action Plan

Education Policy

Education is the key to economic and social transformation. Therefore, the AFC has several strategies aimed at boosting this vital sector. In addition, the AFC intends to revisit and implement several recommendations noted in the National Development Strategy.

1. Develop appropriate non-monetary benefits, free land and duty-free concessions for teachers and university professors;
2. Increase emoluments and working conditions for teachers;
3. Provide an improved quality of education;
4. Ensure equal access to education;
5. Link education and curriculum design to Guyana's development needs;
6. Engage teachers and other stakeholders as active participants in the development of education in Guyana;
7. Distinguish between male and female learning and devise learning strategies accordingly, with a view towards reducing male drop out rate;
8. Establish a computer lab in every primary and secondary school;
9. Ensure that the nutritional and transportation needs of primary and secondary students are met;
10. Natural and agricultural science, mathematics, engineering and IT will become a major focus;
11. Boost training in technical education so as to create businesses and jobs;
12. Make the University of Guyana a major regional research university;
13. The University of Guyana will actively seek foreign students from the Caribbean, Guyanese Diaspora, Brazil, Suriname and other countries;
14. The University of Guyana will establish a regional language school with the intention of becoming the English-Language learning centre for South America;
15. Seek assistance from donor countries for more education professionals to work in Guyana for several years with the option of staying permanently with appropriate incentives;
16. Utilize the talents of the Diaspora in education, training and other areas of special needs.



Sports Policy

The AFC recognizes that sports and a sport oriented society is a means of empowerment and development which will help promote good health and national pride. Therefore the AFC will:

1. Establish national leagues for basketball, football, cricket and volleyball;
2. Build basketball, volleyball, cricket and football complexes; will ensure that sports play an integral part of our educational system;
3. Plan and host annual Guyana Sports and Athletic Championships;
4. Establish an accredited Sports Administration Programme at UG, where persons will obtain degrees in Sports Medicine, Sports Nutrition, Physiotherapy and Sports Administration – these courses will be made



- available to the rest of the Caribbean making Guyana CARICOM's home for "Sports Learning";
5. Establish State of the Art Sporting facilities in every County - thus enabling the potentially lucrative sector of Sports Tourism;
 6. Host the Carifta Games and an international IAAF sanctioned event.
 7. Construct a National Sports Administrative Centre, where every eligible National Sport Organization can have an office with shared administrative functions;
 8. Encourage eligible athletes of Guyanese descent living in the Diaspora to represent Guyana at international events by providing adequate resources.
 9. Rebuild and provide funding and staffing for community sports complexes

Change is coming Action Plan



Taking into consideration the vastness of our Hinterland and the distance of communities therein from Guyana's administrative centres, the AFC will implement measures to address the social, economic, logistical and other challenges faced by these communities.

The AFC will:

1. Conduct a production audit of every single Amerindian Mission with a view of identifying the top three products from that community. This information will be used to build a cottage Agro-processing industry in every Amerindian Mission to process the most economically feasible product that will benefit from guarantee purchase of a minimum amount every fortnight at the prevailing market price;
2. Purchase a Sky Van for the GDF that will be fully assigned to the NGMC to visit the closest Hinterland airstrips to all Amerindian villages at least one per fortnight to offer discounted transport for their value added products which will be sold to Pensioners and the very poor at affordable prices;
3. Review financial proceeds from the LCDS initiative to Indigenous Communities and engage them in meaningful consultation with the view of initiating other relevant economic and social projects of their choice;
4. Expedite land demarcation, new land title applications and applications for extension of titled lands simultaneously after dialogue with the Indigenous communities and other stakeholders;
5. Ensure that the Indigenous Communities benefit from mining, forestry and eco-tourism ventures in their lands and lands contiguous;
6. Review the Amerindian Act of 2006 in partnership with Indigenous Communities to address contentious provisions;

7. Engage meaningfully the National Toshao Council (NTC) and the Indigenous Peoples Commission (IPC) on matters related to Indigenous Communities;
8. Facilitate the preservation of the rich customs and traditions of the Indigenous Peoples through the promotion of cultural groups in communities and cultural displays as far as possible, nationally and further a field.

Lethem

The AFC recognises the strategic geographic and other advantages of Lethem. The AFC views Region 9 as integral to national development and also as a major platform for international trade with Brazil and other UNASUR Nations. The AFC has a vision for the complete modernisation of Region 9.

The AFC will:

1. Make Lethem and surrounding areas a Duty Free Economic Zone;
2. Residents of the area will enjoy duty free privileges on key items such as energy efficient vehicles as well as other key import/export items;
3. Create jobs by revitalising the cashew and peanut Industry. The plan is for Region 9 to be the hub for Cashew and peanut cultivation and value added production through modernised processing plants. Invest in Micro Loans for the development of the cashew and peanut industries;
4. Intense development earmarked in areas such as Moco Moco, St. Ignatius, Sand Creek and Aishalton;
5. Teach Portuguese in all schools in Region 9;
6. Construct a state-of-the-art meat processing plant and storage facility in South Rupununi for export of beef to Brazil and coastland Guyana;
7. Focus aggressively on agricultural development with special emphasis on the creation of an organic Beef Industry and large scale Soya bean production;
8. Establish a modern vocational training centre in Region 9.

Infrastructure Plans for the Hinterland

1. Develop the Lethem airstrip into a fully operational international airport;
2. The AFC propose residential zones that must be tied in with the development of local manufacturing industries. Also, new housing developments must confirm to the AFC's national beautification drive;
3. Construction of the 300-mile highway from Linden to Lethem.

Change is coming Action Plan



Housing Policy

The AFC will initiate a campaign called “Renewing the Dream” which will expand and upgrade housing development away from the seaside and facilitate home ownership - not only house lot distribution. Unlike the current housing policy, the AFC will integrate housing development with the development of local industries that will generate local wealth and jobs. We will make sure that a certain percentage of building materials are manufactured in Guyana in an effort to establish production linkages with housing. The AFC will:

1. Ensure basic infrastructure such as electricity, drainage, roads, water and other facilities are in place as house lots are issued;

2. Facilitate the process whereby Credit Union savings can be used as collateral for low interest Housing loans;
3. Support a National Volunteer Corps that will help the needy build their homes;
4. Establish new communities and towns in the Hinterland;
5. Establish a special fund for providing subsidies to mortgage companies for low interest loans to low income families;
6. Build starter homes for single parents and other vulnerable persons in society in every housing scheme being developed;
7. Build retirement villages with all the appropriate amenities (health care to recreation) to attract retirees from the Diaspora;
8. In keeping with our national beautification drive, green spots and parks will be established in each housing area and village;
9. Industrial development and production linkages will be tied to housing with the private sector given tax incentives to develop locally produced housing materials from local raw materials;
10. Standardise the building codes for all new buildings and provide free standardized house plans for prospective new home owners;
11. Develop a National Housing Database for strategic planning;
12. Create new commercial and industrial zones within new housing areas to enable easy access to these industries to a suitable workforce.

The Health Care System

Although billions have been spent on physical infrastructure, the Health Care system still continues to grossly under-deliver for the Guyanese people. Too much money continues to be wasted on bureaucracy and shady deals in the procurement process. The AFC’s first priority is to make the system work better with the money it has. The AFC will:

1. Launch a national health care programme focusing on all community health centres across Guyana to provide preventive care for medical conditions such as diabetes, malaria, high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer screening;
2. Modernise the regional hospitals to provide vital medical services such as safe deliveries, dialysis, diabetes care, hypertension, heart disease, psychological disorders and substance abuse;
3. Put patients first by introducing a Patients’ Bill of Rights;
4. Develop an effective pre-hospital and emergency medical service to take care of the urgent needs of

the population;

5. Move towards having the health care delivery system be in conformity with regional and international health care standards;
6. Revamp the education for health care professionals (doctors, nurses and technicians);
7. Provide full transparency and accountability for the procurement of pharmaceutical products;
8. Conduct regular health audits and patients feedback and host public discussion on the findings of the health audits;
9. Focus on quality of care by reducing delays in and out of hospitals and time between admission and surgery;
10. Invest in technologies that will help diagnose potential diseases and illnesses;
11. Provide doctors and nurses with incentives such as low interest home loans, special allowances and other incentives;
12. Hold doctors and medical administrators (public and private) accountable for the level of care they administer.

Change is coming Action Plan



Sugar Sector Policy



The AFC will build a sugar industry that is based on innovation and sustainability, where the infrastructure and technology needs of the industry are in place to facilitate GuySuCo and the private sector to thrive.

Decades of PNC and PPP rule have failed to move the industry forward; recently the PPP made a significant blunder in not implementing the Sugar Action Plan in full after the WTO ruling against the EU. The AFC will right this wrong by revising and implementing the revised Sugar Action Plan with a primary focus on developing a sugar ethanol industry in Guyana.

The AFC believes that Guyana must use our land, our talent in the industry, our access to the US Ethanol market and the private sector partners to better position the nation to reap the benefits from our competitive advantage at producing ethanol cane. Sugarcane is among the cheapest source of ethanol feedstock.

The AFC's sugar action plan will create many new jobs in the industry in the following areas:

1. Engaging investors (local and international) into developing the Canje Basin for ethanol cane with nearby distilleries for producing ethanol for the international market;
2. Use our abundant sugar/molasses to produce ethanol for local use - begin legislation for Guyana to adopt the E-10 Policy;
3. Incentivise Guyoil and other oil companies to invest in mixing-tanks for blending the E-10 (10% Ethanol gasoline);

The AFC Government will:

1. De-politicise and professionalise the decision making process at GuySuCo;
2. Invite an international Technical Mission from Brazil, India or other countries with core competence in sugar technology to analyse GuySuCo with a view to revising the Sugar Action Plan;
3. Establish a sugar factories rehabilitation programme to make them efficient and cost effective;
4. Re-engage local expertise to change the agronomical practices in the field to boost yield;
5. Mechanise the cane harvesting process which will complement workers as well as introduce many more skilled jobs;
6. Introduce a Cane-Quality Assurance System that incentivises cane farmers based on cane quality;
7. Involve the private sector in the financing and managing of the new cane lands in the Upper Corentyne area;
8. Provide funding for research, extension services and a scholarship programme at NARI, IAST and UG to produce a core competence for the industry, along with revising the curriculum at the Port Morant Training Centre to make it more relevant to the challenges of the industry;
9. Accelerate the development of the Berbice Deepwater Harbour with a temporary sugar storage facility in Berbice to reduce the cost of transporting sugar and ethanol to the international market;
10. Accelerate the development of a sugar refinery
11. Enhance the quality of life of sugar workers within their communities through better facilities, sports and social amenities.
12. The AFC will not privatize Guysuco but will raise vitally needed capital by selling premium shares to sugar workers.

Change is coming Action Plan



Region 10 Policy

The AFC's vision is to diversify the industries that will be the source for alternative employment beyond bauxite. Therefore, the AFC prefers to create a Region 10 plan rather than only a bauxite plan. It is important that the bauxite industry is saved and modernized. Since Guyana does not have the kind of financial investments to produce aluminium, we would invite and support foreign investment from reputable and known multinationals to develop

an alumina plant. This will create new jobs as we ensure workers' rights and welfare. The following specific plans are proposed for Region 10:

1. Given the threat of global warming and its strategic importance as the gateway of the South, Linden must become the secondary administrative centre of Guyana;
2. Develop the 200,000 hectares of the intermediate savannahs for citrus, cattle, legumes, vegetables as the country's second frontier for agricultural developments;
3. Develop the Tiger Fall hydro electric site over a longer term. The electricity will be tied to industrial development and alumina production;
4. Intensify block-making capability using lateritic bauxite soil. This will be supportive of AFC's housing policy;
5. Promote furniture manufacturing and value added wood products;
6. Re-engage the Government of Brazil and commence the construction of the Linden to Lethem road;
7. Transform Linden to become the main entry point for the eco-tourism expansion.
8. Establish a University of Guyana campus in Linden offering courses relevant to the developmental needs of Regions 7,8, 9, and 10."

Rice Policy

Mismanagement of the rice sector, ineffectual lobby to attain priority for our rice within the Caricom Regional Market and the politicising of the Rice Producers Association have resulted in rice farmers literally crying from Corentyne to Essequibo.

The overhauling of the entire system is therefore required. The AFC proposes the following policies for the rice sector for a fuller realization of its potential and greater profitability.

1. Re-gaining the respect within Caricom, UNASUR and other international markets that Guyana can be a reliable supplier of rice;
2. Provide access to low interest capital through the establishment of a State Development Bank which will support the rice farmers and the millers, as well as fishery and livestock farmers;
3. Planting and reproductive material being made available to farmers by the authorities. GRDB, NARI and UG will be upgraded to produce higher yielding and better disease-resistant varieties and generic planting material to ensure less dependence on imported pesticides, weedicides and fertilizers;
4. Improve the farm to market dams and roads and overhaul the drainage and irrigation system;



5. Manufacture value added products e.g. rice cereals, rice milk and flakes for the local and international markets;
6. Support and implement the World Bank Proposal on Agricultural (Crop) Insurance;
7. Build new facilities for rice farmers to bulk sell for better pricing;
8. Contract rice farmers to maintain the canals next to their farms;
9. Develop a plan to meet Brazil's need for rice by incentivising rice farmers to invest in rice cultivation in Region 9.

Change is coming Action Plan

Mining Policy

The AFC recognises that the mining sector is a very valuable contributor to the economy and therefore must not only be sustained, but improved in every respect. Apart from providing jobs and opportunities for over 100,000, the spill-over effects of its contribution to the development of roads, settlements, interior penetration, schools and health services, cannot be underestimated.

The AFC's policy is founded on the following:

1. That the natural resources are to be developed in a sustainable manner for the benefit of Guyanese;
2. That the natural environment must be preserved and protected with the minimum of disturbance and destruction;
3. That the way of life of the Indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers must be recognised and protected while planning extraction of natural resources.

The AFC will:

1. Review all legislation and regulations which negatively impact on the mining industry; particularly in the gold and diamond producing sub-sector;
2. Update and implement the recommendations of the National Development Strategy relative to Mining;
3. Provide Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders added rights and management over their land;
4. Revise the national mineral map to ensure more targeted mining;
5. Pursue foreign direct investments for the extraction of Guyana's mineral wealth, and particularly that of rare earths and metals;
6. Provide a 5% exemption of all accumulative gold and diamond mining acreage from inclusion in the strictures of the present Low Carbon Dev. Strategy;

Non-Traditional Agriculture

Guyana has a wide variety of agricultural products that can be processed for the global market. The AFC will:

1. Develop a national database of all farmers to include those involved in cash crop, livestock, aquaculture, others;
2. Focus on select commodities for greater support based on the demands of the global market especially pineapple, peppers, plantains, pumpkin, poultry, organic beef, organic sheep, goats & aquaculture fishing;

7. Encourage the establishment of a gold refinery.
8. Reform the operation of the Gold Board and all matters relating to the purchase and sale of Gold by the Government of Guyana, and the export of diamonds;
9. Provide special training and financial windows for small miners to ensure sustainability and environmental best practices;
10. Remove the six (6) month notice requirement to be given before alluvial mining is commenced;
11. Establish a special fund, to be managed by the Ministry of Energy, National Resources and Environment, equivalent to 25% of all revenues garnered from licensing, profits, royalties and fines collected, to be used to meet the costs of all environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance regarding the remediation of the land transferred to mining activities, and for training and educating of specialists required to manage and regulate activities within this sector.



Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources & Environment

The AFC will, within the first year of Government, establish a new Ministry to be known as the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources and Environment, that will formulate and oversee the implementation of the policy for all aspects of forestry conservation, harvesting of trees, mining, developing resources for our energy needs, and managing the environmental impacts of these.

3. Support superior extension services to farmers;
4. Support the understanding of the global market by the farmers;
5. Use the State Development Bank to provide targeted financial support to farmers;
6. Enhance a programme to make Guyana self sufficient in germplasm;
7. Make available more land for farmers to produce other crops, meat, milk and fish;
8. Ensure that produce is better stored, handled and transported to its final destination to preserve its value.

Change is coming Action Plan



Cultural Policy

AFC is committed to the development of a cultural policy which takes into account our rich and variegated heritage, and which works to employ culture not as a means of division but as catalyst for mutual understanding and social cohesion among our people.

Our culture policy will aim at an ongoing public campaign that seeks to equitably promote the various threads which together form the Guyanese tapestry - towards this end we will enhance cultural and anthropological studies programmes at the University of Guyana; strengthen cultural education at the secondary level; and consult with experts, from community elders/leaders to linguists to anthropologists in forming a consensus driven policy formulation and execution mechanism, inclusive of clear and unbiased channels of monitoring and evaluation.

The Arts - An Independent Arts Foundation

AFC believes that crucial to the development of the arts is an autonomous foundation, one that works in collaboration with but is not controlled by the Ministry of Culture.

The purpose of the Foundation would be to facilitate technical and financial inputs into specific arts programmes benefitting the individual artist, or community arts programmes.

The Foundation will examine and implement funding mechanisms including the use of Lottery Funds, events tax, and private sector donation and partnership investment.

Arts Policy

Visual Arts - AFC will review the operations of the Bur-

rowes School of Arts with a view to enhancing the facilities, programmes and human resources. In addition to strengthening the focus in traditional areas of the visual arts, BSA will be equipped with a graphics arts production department to service - at industry level pricing - a quota of government graphic design and layout work annually.

Music - the AFC will work to strengthen the music programme from nursery to secondary, in addition to working with private teachers and conservatories in enhancing their programmes. Additionally, AFC will facilitate the development of private recording studios who will become leaders in the music industry.

Dance - dance remains the strongest of the performing arts in Guyana, driven primarily by several private entities focusing on a variety of genres, from ballroom to Kathak to modern dance. AFC will work with existing dance schools to enhance their capacity where necessary and to engage the best of these groups in acting as cultural ambassadors for Guyana.

Literature - the AFC will ensure that emerging Guyanese writers are afforded mechanisms for their development of technical skills; the time to write; reward for their work; an enabling environment; and avenues for publication.

Theatre - the AFC commits to expanding technical development of theatrical skills nationally, particularly in rural and other peripheral communities while upgrading and expanding participation in the secondary school drama festival.

Film - the AFC strategy will be developing two initiatives: indigenous film production, and the facilitation of foreign film production.

Change is coming Action Plan



Guyana could by now have been the gem and jewellery capital of the Atlantic.

An AFC government will develop a jewellery export strategy aimed at creating jobs, increasing foreign earnings and positioning Guyana among the world's major jewellery locations. Such a strategy will see the creation of an advanced and modern jewellery industry with the capacity to serve as a regional jewellery centre.

An AFC government will pro-actively encourage the following activities within this sector:

1. The manufacture of jewellery for export
2. The manufacture of jewellery for retail to local and foreign buyers
3. The cutting and polishing of diamonds for export as well as for the local jewellery manufacturing industry
4. The cutting and polishing of gemstones for export as well as for the local jewellery manufacturing industry
5. The import and re-export of all types of jewellery and related items such as diamonds, gemstones, watches, clocks, jewellery making tools and equipment; jewellery packaging and displays.
6. The importation of the full range of materials and

equipment used in a modern jewellery manufacturing industry. With the full participation of all interested industry stakeholders we will commission and fund a study of the international jewellery market to determine among other things the following:

7. Which are the leading international institutions acting in the interest of or serving the industry, and what can they offer our local jewellery industry.
8. Which countries are the leading importers of jewellery and what are the applicable standards and tariffs for various types of jewellery entering those countries. And, for each of these countries the following data: volume of imports, number of importers, range of products, industry market trends, guide to doing business.
9. Which countries are the leading exporters of jewellery and what are some of the measures in place responsible for financing the industry, encouraging production, maintaining competitiveness and promoting exports.

In order to signal that it is serious about revolutionizing this sector the AFC Government will facilitate the setting up of a National Jewellery exchange. This will be a secure complex comprising:

1. Several retail, wholesale and manufacturing units which will be made available to qualifying persons or companies subject to conditions designed to establish and maintain a high level of confidence in the industry. Such a centre will pay for itself in no more than ten years from rents received from its occupants.
2. A full time learning centre for the industry with an emphasis on keeping jewellers informed on the latest technological advances as well as trends in designing and manufacturing. The learning centre will also educate jewellers on doing business in various foreign countries.
3. An export promotion centre specific to the jewellery sector whose mandate will be to implement an export strategy for the entire industry. This would involve gathering of market data, marketing Guyana as a source of good quality jewellery, direct marketing of products meeting certain requirements, organizing a Guyana contingent to attend international jewellery fairs, setting up and maintaining a trade directory for the industry with profiles on all export-ready local jewellery manufacturers and their product lines. The centre will also oversee the hassle-free and tax-free importation of all manufacturing equipment and materials for the jewellery sector.

Change is coming Action Plan

Fishing Policy

The fisheries sector is of critical importance to the country's economy both as a source of new jobs and a source of increased export earnings. Many more citizens benefit indirectly from fishing-related occupations, such as boat-



building and boat maintenance activities.

The AFC will:

1. Determine the areas of high adult abundance and the level of seasonality of the seabob and fishing resource;
2. Facilitate joint ventures investments, particularly for the deep slope fishery, in order to promote technology-transfer to local fishermen;
3. Strengthened mechanism to establish dialogue with artisanal fishermen on sustainable management issues, emphasis will be on the role of the Fishermen's Cooperatives;

4. Establish a Fisheries Surveillance and Enforcement Coordinating Committee with suitable representatives of the Department of Fisheries, the Coast Guard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Customs and Excise Department and the Marine Police;
5. Incentivise investments in a fish meal plant, cold storage and ice making capacity to support new fish port complexes;
6. Expanded market intelligence services for the fishing industry;
7. Allocate suitable areas of land for aquacultural activities and arrangements will be made for that land to be held in freehold or in 99-year transferable leases;
8. Construct National Aquaculture Research Stations;
9. Establish demonstration farms for both freshwater and brackish water culture to enhance the capacity of the Department of Fisheries to provide extension services.

On Libraries

The AFC will encourage, support and coordinate the establishment of community libraries and information centres in villages across Guyana.

Forestry Policy

Though the Forest Bill 2008 was argued by the Government to be a superior Bill to the 2004 Draft, it has not received Presidential Assent to date. The AFC views the 2004 Draft Forest Bill as more acceptable. The AFC will:

1. Revise the 2004 Draft by including provisions to accommodate climate change and international carbon accounting;
2. Revise and pass the associated and updated Forest Regulations, currently in 2004 draft, including a section to make the Code of Practice on Timber Harvesting obligatory for all long-term (TSA) concessions;
3. Support and implement the current revision of the 1997 National Forest Policy; and implement the associated 2001 National Forest Plan;



4. Ensure that all members of the Board of Directors of the GFC fulfill the qualifications prescribed in the GFC Act (2007), replacing immediately those who are not qualified;
5. Subscribe to the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative so as to ensure that the forest sector conforms to international best practice;
6. Publish in full, for transparency and accountability, the following:
 - a. All the current and all future Foreign Direct Investments and logging licenses;
 - b. All production and export records in the format used at the time of the Timber Export Board, including the names of exporters, forest products and destination;
- c. The strategic plan for allocation of State Forest resources. Ensure that associations of small-scale loggers are provided with special access.

Change is coming Action Plan



Livestock Industry

International trade in CARICOM in the livestock industry is approximately US\$400 million (FAO) with more than half of this trade being imports of meat from out of the region. The AFC plans to make the East and West Berbice River region, portions of the Intermediate Savannahs, the Linden Highway and the Rupununi Regions as focus areas for Livestock production. Even though the free range system that current exist will not be discouraged, more state resources will be funneled to incentivise private sector producers to accelerate penned production of livestock on a large scale for the export market.

Under an AFC Government, we will be embarking on a systematic approach to livestock research and production and pass all of this knowledge free of charge to the private sector producers. This is where the Brazilians will be our KEY partners.

Our approach will be to engage multidisciplinary teams of research scientists imported mainly from Brazil to develop production systems in close alliance with private sector commercial producers to mitigate and work around the complex technical, managerial and marketing factors associated with livestock production. The AFC will deepen the linkage between research agencies in Guyana by using these researchers to enhance the research capacity of the University of Guyana, NAREI and Livestock Authorities.

What are the wins for Guyanese from this Proposal?

1. Free scholarships for Guyanese students for 5 years who are engaged by this project at UG and in Brazil at a higher level (livestock production-engineering, all fields in livestock science, quality control skills, trained butchers in the art of meat cuts etc);
2. New funds into refurbishing the UG research labs and teaching capacity with the Brazilians doing some part time teaching where there is a gap;
3. Land distribution on a large scale to put the identified target locations into accelerated production with clear deliverables that the investor must invest or leave;
4. Set up a team of technical experts that will work with all CARICOM Governments to ensure that our meat production can compete in their market both from a quality perspective and price perspective;
5. Build an world class abattoir in Lethem with chilling facilities;
6. Grant a 3 year tax holiday to investors who will either process the meat, hides or other waste in Guyana or export these products.

Traffic Management and Road Safety

1. Reintroduce big buses on the long routes and build two bus terminals just outside of Georgetown – one east, and the other south;
2. Reform the mini-bus system along the Jamaican and Barbados models;
3. Revamp the drivers licencing system completely (no more “buying” of licences);
4. Deploy undercover traffic police;
5. Enforce appropriate speed and weight restrictions on heavy vehicles;
6. Restrict garbage collection and heavy vehicles appropriately;
7. Promote appropriate articulated vehicles to lessen heavy traffic and damage to roads;
8. Expand road safety programmes in schools and elsewhere nationally;

9. Introduce driving classes into the school curriculum for students 16 and older;
10. Improve lane demarcation and widen existing roads to improve traffic flow;
11. Introduce the 4-way stop system as a substitute for traffic lights where appropriate;
12. Strictly enforce the ticketing system for all minor offences (no more going to the police station);
13. Improve road signage nationally;
14. Build overhead pedestrian walkways, especially near schools;
15. Reform the auto insurance industry to provide better compensation for damages, injury and death from accidents.



Change is coming Action Plan



Renewable Energy

The AFC believes that a low carbon strategy is commendable from an environmental perspective; however its focus is misdirected. The thrust of the Government's current strategy is the quest for compensation from foreign countries for Guyana not to cut down its forests. The Government will then receive the funds and decide how to spend them. Renewable energy under the PPP is dependent on obtaining highly uncertain inflows of US\$580 million per year. The AFC's approach is to be proactive. Renewable energy can be done right now rather than waiting for funds.

The AFC proposes that renewable energy, eco-tourism, agro-industrial processing and information and communications technologies (ICT), assembling and manufacturing of low-priced computers must be the main thrust of production activities. Moreover, we do not need to wait until uncertain REDD funds are realised. Renewable energy could be funded by foreign direct investment (FDI) and/or concessional borrowing from the IDB and other similar agencies.

In keeping with the aforementioned points, the AFC proposes the following policies as part of a renewable energy economic package. The AFC believes that energy needs should be met with a portfolio of renewable energy sources and not a single energy source.

1. AFC proposes a Renewable Energy Industrial Expansion Act (REIEA). This Act would mandate specifically that Guyana move immediately to an ethanol blend of 10% by 2013 and a hydrous E15 blend by 2015;
2. The Demerara Sugar Estates and the West Berbice Sugar Estates would shift mainly to ethanol that could be made immediately from sugar and molasses. Other higher yielding feedstock would eventually be used;

3. Foreign investors will be brought in to develop other ethanol feedstock for the purpose of export;
4. As part of the REIEA, all bagasse (whether from sugar or ethanol) would be bought up by private investors to convert bagasse into electrical energy. For instance, bagasse from the Uitvlugt and Wales Sugar Estates would be used to generate electricity right at home in Region 3. This localisation would also utilise the existing national grid system;
5. It is a well known fact that the hydroelectricity capacity in Guyana is enormous. However, the country is yet to exploit this opportunity in a realistic manner. A major reason for failing to exploit our hydroelectricity capacity could be the small size of current domestic demand and the limited focus on manufacturing and agro-industrial processing. In this regard, the AFC proposes that hydroelectricity should be coupled with alumina production for Region 10. In this way, tremendous value would be added to Guyana's bauxite and immediate demand is created for electricity. The various hydroelectric plants could also claim carbon credits should this global market take off;
6. The AFC plans to explore the possibility of developing hydroelectric power for export to Brazil and Venezuela;
7. The AFC proposes the use of wind and solar energies;
8. The AFC proposes a National Bio-Diesel Policy which can revitalise the coconut industry and bring larger acreage under cultivation.

Oil Production

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has identified the Guyana-Suriname Basin as having the second highest potential among unexplored oil basins in the world. The USGS estimates mean recoverable oil reserves of 15.2 billion barrels and gas reserves of 42 trillion cubic ft. The AFC will:

1. Fully support both the onshore and offshore drilling projects that are scheduled to commence in 2011 and beyond within the environmental guidelines;
2. Engage the structural financiers and the specialized investment bankers to re-look at the US \$500 million investment in an Oil refinery at Crab Island in Berbice which is expected to create about 350-400 new jobs to re-energise the New Amsterdam area;
3. Explore an investment partnership between GUYOIL and the investor to support this venture so that some of the production from the refinery can be sold locally.

Change is coming Action Plan

The AFC recognises that “Women” are the custodians of our fundamental values that sustain families and are critical for success in generating social wealth and creating an environment of peace, justice, security and stability.

In Guyana, several constraints limit our women’s collective capacity to transform these principles into everyday practice. These include violence and physical abuse against women, limited access to finance for the promotion of entrepreneurial activity and insufficient protection under the current legal system. We also recognise that the plight of other vulnerable groups including, the disabled, children, orphans and pensioners are all intrinsically intertwined with the position of women in our society.

To this end the AFC will:

1. Establish and implement a Family Court to address the specific needs of women.
2. Enact a Family Law Act to deal with common law unions, child support and the custody of children, spouse maintenance and the resolution of property disputes.
3. Establish legal aid support for women who are victims of domestic violence systems and a rescue support fund during rehabilitation
4. Increase the number of shelters and care centres available to women in trauma.
5. Increase levels of child support payment and implement effective systems for ensuring funds are paid - such as court orders garnisheeing wages of parents who have defaulted.
5. Expand maternity benefits and introduce parental leave for males and females.
6. Establish systems to ensure earlier intervention by social services in disputes and the collection of data to determine causes of domestic violence, identification and implementation of solutions.
7. Establish Micro financing opportunities at banks and other financial institutions for women and other vulnerable groups
8. Review collateral requirements at financial institutions to address historical imbalances which can exclude women from qualifying for loans
9. Establish training and development centres for women that will provide support through career guidance programmes, job placements and apprenticeships.
10. Identify funds for scholarships, grants and loans to train women in non-traditional sectors, information technology, capacity building and other areas.
11. Implement special tax benefits for single women with school age children



Gender Equality and Support

12. Improve truancy monitoring and support services to assist women with managing their children.
13. Employ a full time counsellor at every technical, community and high school given the social challenges of the day
14. Expand school feeding programmes to assist single parents with the cost of living and improve attendance.
15. Establish day care facilities to assist working women especially in government offices.
16. Allocate house lots to accommodate poor unemployed youth, female heads of households, the elderly and people with disabilities
17. Free land for housing to people below poverty line
18. Establish retirement villages and subsidised rentals
19. Establish a national health fund under the auspices of the Ministry of Health
20. Ensure adequate representation of women on all statutory boards, gender sensitive policies in government and champion the rights of women.

Moral Rebuilding

The AFC has noted that over the past many decades of poor governance the moral fabric of our society has been tremendously weakened. The AFC recognises that without moral strength the benefits flowing from political stability, economic strength and democracy will be hindered. The AFC will pursue the following:

1. Work closely with faith based and other organisations to promote effective parenting and stable family life and general respect;
2. Include moral education in our school curriculum;
3. Have Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and other Local Government organs work at the community level to raise moral awareness;
4. Broaden the scope and empower the National Integrity Commission to deal with public officers who use such office to commit acts of immorality.

Change is coming Action Plan



Guyana can only develop with a good supply of skilled and talented workers and entrepreneurs. The AFC will:

1. Conduct a global survey in the Diaspora to determine their skills, talent and investment potential and their requirements for investing in Guyana;
2. Provide a healthy investment climate for the Diaspora by addressing crime, taxes, corruption, health, government support and social infrastructure;
3. Promote Diasporal representation in the National Assembly and explore the reintroduction of Diasporal voting at General Elections;
4. Develop the Diaspora exchange programme which would entail importing skilled members of the Diaspora on a contractual basis to transfer knowledge and talent to the local population. The AFC will pay competitive salaries to Guyanese scientists, researchers, teachers, professors, engineers, doctors and other professionals who are willing to return to Guyana to serve on a short-term or permanent basis to do work relevant to Guyana's development;
5. Establish a true one-stop investment agency that will proactively identify investment projects and seek out potential investors in the Diaspora;
6. Mobilise Diaspora investors and medical practitioners to upgrade the health services sector to make re-migration more attractive;
7. Set aside land for the development of retirement neighbourhoods at competitive price.

Tourism

While there are many destinations for tourism, Guyana's unique eco-tourism product can attract many visitors. However, product development, infrastructure and marketing must be a priority. The AFC plans to:

1. Ensure a safe and smooth experience from arrival to departure for tourists, by aggressively implementing our crime and security policy;
2. Embark on a global marketing campaign to promote Guyana's tourism products;
3. Provide specialised training through THAG for the tourism operators and personnel within the hospitality industry;
4. Improve the functioning and independence of the Guyana Tourism Authority;
5. Place special emphasis on eco-tourism with a direct link to hinterland development strategy.

Change is coming Action Plan

Foreign Policy

It is no secret that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been internally weakened over the last twenty years, and has become a purview of the President's Office.

The AFC will put together a framework that seeks to do, the following:

1. Redirect Guyana's foreign policy to articulate and advance our economic interests globally;
2. Establish the legal and procedural requirements to ensure that foreign policy is a matter for Parliament;
3. Establish a foreign policy community organized around the media, the university, NGOs, business and civil society organizations;
4. Assess the existing mediums through which our foreign policy is conducted – Caricom, the Commonwealth, OAS and UNASUR;
5. Establish a permanent parliamentary foreign policy committee;
6. Resuscitate the Foreign Policy Institute with closer collaborations with UG and UWI, to serve as a training centre for diplomats and a research institute;
7. Enhance the International Relations programme at UG to ensure that resources are available for both faculty and students (including extensive language training).



Caricom Economic Policy

Unlike previous governments, the AFC plans to utilise the inherent advantages associated with being a member of CARICOM. In recent times, CARICOM's initiatives have been defined by the issue of the free movement of skills within the CSME. The AFC believes there are other ways by which we could strengthen the Integration Movement via coordinated economic policy actions among the Members and a Caribbean-wide Production Policy Framework. The AFC will ensure that Guyana plays a major role in supplying the region with ethanol, processed and packaged agriculture goods, and serves as the preferred destination for eco-tourism.

We will encourage the use of the Common External Tariff (CET) as it would protect Guyanese products. AFC will promote a CARICOM-level policy for use of a 10% blend of ethanol which would save the entire region's foreign exchange.

Trade Policy

The AFC is committed to the development of trade and the pursuit of economic diplomacy. We will encourage future economic development by forming strategic alliances with the USA, Canada, UK, EU, China, India, Japan, Middle East Countries, CARICOM, UNASUR, Africa, Cuba and others. The AFC's approach will involve the following:

1. Market the natural beauty and resources of Guyana with a professional, modern multi-media approach in order to attract potential investors;
2. Provide fair opportunities for local businesses and investors to compete with foreign investors;
3. Assist existing industries to upgrade their operations so as to compete internationally;
4. Eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and expedite



- the overall process of doing business in Guyana. In short, keep it simple and effective;
5. Capacity building for our private sector on international trade policies, regulations and opportunities;
 6. Link diaspora policy with Guyana's trade policy.

Change is coming Action Plan

State Development Bank

A major constraint facing Guyanese investors is accessibility to affordable capital. The AFC proposes that a State Development Bank (SDB) be established and its funding sources shall be as follows:

1. Long-term government bonds;
2. Long-term deposits from members of the public and the Diaspora;
3. NICIL accounts;
4. Transfer (not more than 15%) deposits from the Bank of Guyana (BOG);
5. International donor community;
6. A portion of the foreign reserves in excess of 6 months import coverage.

General Principles:

1. Each political party in Parliament is allowed one representative on the Board who meets the technical qualifications of a banker, financial analyst, investments specialist;
2. Lending must never be based on political connections but on clear economic justification. Legislation with tough penalties must safeguard against any such intentions;
3. The SDB must not be a burden to the Treasury; it must be in a position to finance its own operations.
4. Loans must be below market interest rates without compromising the profitability;
5. Priorities must be given for agriculture, agro-processing, bagasse electricity, coconut plantations and processing, small and medium scale manufacturing, jewellery manufacturing for exports, wind energy, solar energy, ICT, aqua-culture and eco-tourism.
6. Borrowers will be required to meet performance criteria such as employment quotas and workers' rights, successful competition in foreign markets and the ability to create sufficient domestic linkages with a clear business plan and some seed capital.
7. The SDB would provide free technical advice on the viability of the investment projects.



Macroeconomic Stabilisation

The AFC understands the need to promote stable currency and prices. Our monetary and fiscal policies will be geared at safeguarding the cost of living of each Guyanese. The cost of living will be kept stable through the following policies.

1. An independent Bank of Guyana (central bank) which cannot print money to finance central government's fiscal deficits.
2. The central bank will only be allowed to purchase government securities, which it can then use for the purpose of open market operations.
3. There will be no political appointees on the Bank of Guyana board.
4. Creation of a stable exchange rate and low inflation, while still promoting the transformation of production with a suitable mix of small, medium and large scale businesses.
5. Implementation of a prudent fiscal policy that will always remain on a sustainable path so that the external and national debt are kept under control.
6. Ensure that money is never printed for the purpose of increasing public sector wages and salaries.
7. Maintenance of substantial foreign exchange reserves in US safe dollar assets and gold.

Other Financing

The AFC would focus on developing money and capital markets. Guyana does not have secondary corporate and long-term government bond markets.

The AFC would treat the aforementioned arrangements as priorities paying special attention to the issuance of the SDB's Long Term Bonds which could develop a secondary market for Long Term Government Bonds. The yield on these bonds would then become essential in the pricing of corporate bonds for private investors who wish to raise funds by issuing bonds.

Additionally, a key component of the introduction and promotion of the money market would be the establishment of a market for commercial papers, which would provide short-term financing for firms. It is also important that we promote the development of the Stock Exchange which has suffered from low listings and limited trading activity. The AFC would ensure that the Guyanese public is allowed to purchase Shares in any new public-private partnership that would be created. The Stock Exchange has an important benefit as it forces companies (whether privately owned or state owned) to become more transparent and efficient.

Change is coming Action Plan

Labour

The political and economic philosophy of the AFC wholeheartedly embraces Article 23:3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which articulates the right to a just and favourable remuneration for workers whom we recognise, are the creators of wealth in order that they may enjoy an existence worthy of human dignity.

The AFC will adhere to these five specific Articles of the Caricom Civil Society Charter namely:

- Article II- Respect for Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms;
- Article III - Human Dignity;
- Article IV - Rights to Life; Liberty and Security of the Person;
- Article V - Equality before the Law &
- Article VI- Political Rights.

Adherence to these rights will go a far way to facilitate and encourage the re-unification of the Labour movement in Guyana. Additionally AFC will:

1. Raise the retirement age to 60
2. Reestablish subventions to Critchlow Labour College as well as to all other industrial labour colleges.

Information Technology

1. Create IT centres to set up Business Process Outsourcing centres (BPO) to target South and North American markets;
2. Establish community IT centres in all 10 Administrative Regions, equip them with printers and scanners and provide jobs for training, digitalising Government records and data collection;
3. Enhance training of local computer technicians and operators; Draw on the Diaspora for assistance;
4. Remove VAT from computer accessories;
5. Create a light manufacturing sector that can build computers for export;
6. Upgrade the national bandwidth;
7. Adopt the Linux Operating System and Open Source Software nationally;
8. Equip every primary and secondary school with a computer lab, IT department and competent teachers;
9. Establish a National Skills Authority (NSA) tasked with the implementation of a detailed AFC policy set on IT;
10. Enact data protection laws.



Solid Waste Management

The AFC recognizes that it the Government's responsibility to ensure that the framework is in place for the proper management of the country's solid waste, thus to ensure that Guyana remains a green, clean country. The AFC will:-

1. Enact a Solid Waste Management Act that address the country's overall policy to waste disposal, ensuring that all municipalities, NDCs and village councils conform to a unified method of waste management.
2. Provide municipalities, NDCs and village councils with necessary resources to ensure the effective policing of the legislation.
3. Establish suitable landfill sites, properly located and constructed for each municipality and NDC.
4. Conduct public education courses in schools, work places and homes on the responsibilities that the members of the public have to keeping our environment safe and clean.
5. Introduce a deposit and return payment system on PET bottles, thus ensuring that this harmful product does not clog our waterways or landfill sites.
6. Provide long term tax incentives for businesses that recycle and convert non biodegradable products such as PET bottles and Styrofoam boxes into useful products.
7. Provide incentive for industries that will reuse the natural by products (methane) created from landfill sites – such by-products can be utilized for five to ten years.

Vision

Towards a just, equitable and unified democratic State and Developed Nation status for Guyana.

Core Principle

That the development of a just society is founded on the supremacy of the rule of law and the belief that all persons are equal.

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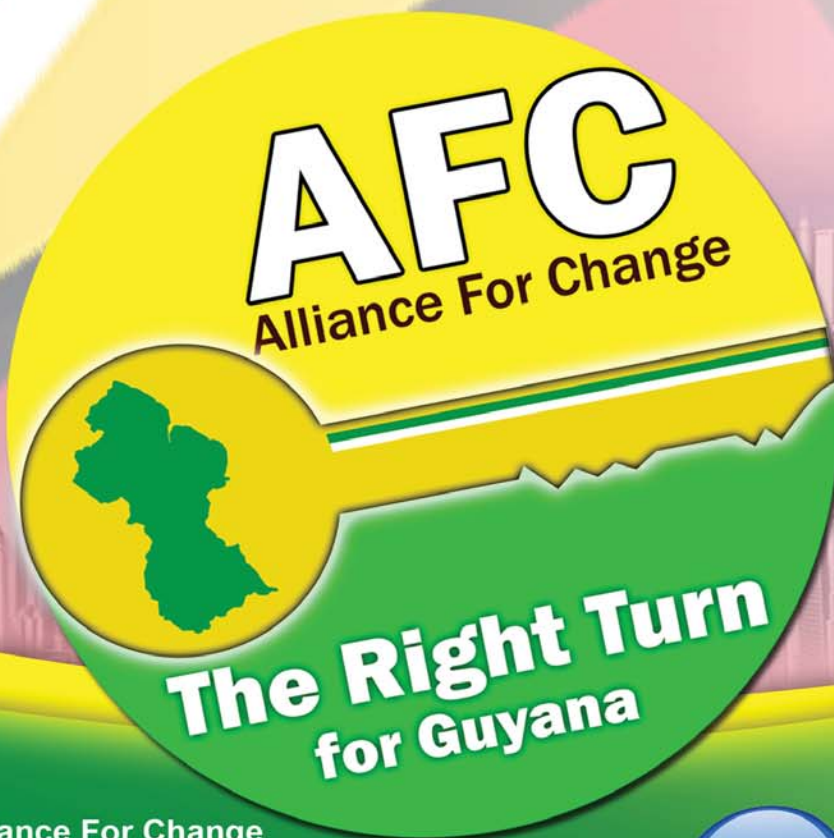
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Thank you!



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