

**ADDRESS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DLP CHRIST  
CHURCH WEST CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY BRANCH OFFICE  
KENDAL HILL, CHRIST CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 11, 2006 BY  
STEPHEN LASHLEY, CANDIDATE**

MR. MASTER OF CEREMONIES, LEADER OF OUR GREAT PARTY AND THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS COMRADE DAVID THOMPSON, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THIS CONSTITUENCY MR. MAURICE KING, CONSTITUENTS OF CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, FELLOW CANDIDATES, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.

I WANT FIRSTLY TO THANK ALMIGHTY GOD FOR BEING HERE AS PART OF THIS CEREMONY THIS EVENING. A CEREMONY THAT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT HIS GUIDANCE AND THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SOME OF WHOM I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION – THE FIRST BEING SANDRA FORDE WHO SITS ON OUR ELECTIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE AND WHO HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY ALONG WITH ANTHONY WELCH ALSO A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, TO DELIVER THESE FACILITIES.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION WINSTON ARMSTRONG AND CLEATON COPPIN, AND THE WORKMEN WHO HELPED TO PREPARE THE BUILDING FOR THIS EVENING – MARTIN AND CHETWIN. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY “THANK YOU” TO THE ENTIRE ELECTION PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS IN SO MANY WAYS.

I EXPRESS ALSO MY APPRECIATION TO THE BRANCH (THE CHAIRMAN TEDROY DANIEL, HIS COMMITTEE AND ALL MEMBERS) FOR HAVING THE CONFIDENCE IN ME AND ELECTING ME AS THEIR CANDIDATE.

I ASSURE ALL OF YOU PRESENT THAT OUR ELECTION PLANNING IS VERY ADVANCED AND THE STRUCTURE IS IN PLACE TO DELIVER THIS SEAT TO THE DLP WHENEVER ELECTIONS ARE CALLED.

I FEEL HUMBLLED AND HONOURED TODAY AS YOUR CANDIDATE. I HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CHALLENGE IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT AS A PRODUCT OF THAT REVOLUTIONARY POLICY OF FREE EDUCATION PURSUED BY OUR FOUNDING LEADER THE LATE EXCELLENT ERROL BARROW, THAT I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO BE A PART OF A TEAM TO CONTINUE HIS DREAM OF EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE IN THE PURSUIT OF MEANINGUL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A NEW DISPENSATION CHARACTERISED BY GLOBALISATION AND LIBERALISATION.

THE OPENING OF THIS BRANCH AND CAMPAIGN OFFICE IS A CRUCUAL STEP IN OUR PLAN OF ACTION TO RELIEVE THIS CONTINUENCY OF THE BURDEN OF JOE EDGHILL AND THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY. THIS OFFICE WILL BEGIN RENDERING SERVICE TO THIS CONBSTITUENCY IMMEDIATELY – WE WILL SOON ANNOUNCE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER.

MY INTERACTION AND DISCUSSIONS WITH THOUSANDS OF CONSTITUENTS FROM GALL HILL TO SILVER HILL, VAUXHALL TO GRAEME HALL, KENDAL HILL TO WARNERS, CANE VALE TO MAXWELL HILL AND BEYOND REVEAL ONE COMMON THEME OF A LACK OF REPRESENTATION BY THE CURRENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

THERE HAS BEEN NEGLECT BY MR. JOE EDGEHILL IN EVERY POSSIBLE AREA THAT ONE COULD MENTION. RESIDENTS' CONCERNS ABOUT HOUSING, LAND, COMMUNITY AMENITIES, CARE OF THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED, EMPLOYMENT, DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES FOR OUR YOUTH INCLUDING INADEQUATE SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE NOT ARTICULATED AND RECEIVE HARDLY ANY ATTENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT HE IS A PART OF.

TODAY THE BURNING PASSION OF CONSTITUENTS TO GET AHEAD WITH THEIR LIVES AND PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY SUPPORT. IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION FOR THEM HAS BECOME A LIABILITY.

AS TAXPAYERS THEY HAVE FAILED TO BENEFIT FROM ANYTHING THE GOVERNMENT DOES.

SO THAT AFTER ALMOST THREE PARLIAMENTARY TERMS (12 YEARS) OF JOE EDGHILL THE RESIDENTS OF SILVER HILL ARE WITHOUT A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND YOUNG FOOTBALLERS HAVE NO PLACE OF THEIR OWN TO PRACTICE AND DEVELOP. IN MY CANVASS I HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR COMPLAINS RIGHT HERE IN KENDALL HILL, AND ALSO IN BRIAR HALL AND MAXWELL HILL.

WHEN JOE EDGHILL LEAVES THE HALLOWED HALLS OF PARLIAMENT AFTER THE NEXT ELECTION HE WILL LEAVE A LEGACY THAT NO MP SHOULD FEEL PROUD OF – A LEGACY OF LACK OF AN EFFICIENT REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NHC UNITS IN SILVER HILL AND GALL HILL MANY OF WHICH ARE LEAKING AND

RUN DOWN; HE LEAVES HIS LEGACY IN VAUXHALL AS WELL WHERE THE PRIMARY SCHOOL THERE HAS NOT BEEN UPGRADED AND THE SCHOOL IS FORCED TO SOLICIT VOLUNTARY HELP IN PAINTING CLASSROOMS ETC; DRAINAGE PROBLEMS AFFLICT RESIDENTS OF WARNERS AND MAXWELL AND OTHER AREAS; THE OPTION TO PURCHASE TENANTRY SPOTS HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF ANY ACTION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE - IN MAXWELL HILL FOR EXAMPLE SALE OF HOUSE LOTS IN THE TENANTRY THERE WERE TO BE FINALIZED BY GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER SOME SEVEN YEARS HAVE ELAPSED AND RESIDENTS ARE BEING TOSSED FROM RDC TO NHC AFTER ENCOUNTERING NO HELP FROM THEIR PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE.

AND I CAN GO ON AND ON – NO PROGRAMME FOR FIXING ROADS, STREET LIGHTS, CLEARING CLOGGED WELLS, DEBUSHING OF VACANT LOTS, POVERTY IN SEVERAL AREAS HAS FORCED PERSONS TO USE UNSANITARY PIT TOILETS AND IN ALL OF THIS NO ATTENTION WHATSOEVER FROM THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION INSPITE OF SEVERAL LETTERS OF APPEAL THAT I HAVE WRITTEN TO THEM.

MY INTENTION IS SIMPLY TO FIX THIS PROBLEM OF NO PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION ONCE AND FOR ALL AND I HAVE ASSURED THE RESIDENTS THAT I WILL WORK WITH THEM IN REALISING THEIR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS SO THAT ONCE AGAIN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK TO EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF THEIR ISSUES AND CONCERNS. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH RESIDENTS AT THEIR DOOR-STEPS A NEW KIND OF REPRESENTATION WHICH WILL FOCUS ON PLACING THE PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT. A KIND OF REPRESENTATION THAT IS NOT ABOUT POLITICAL HAND-OUTS AND

BRIBING OUR YOUTH TO VOTE, BUT ONE THAT ENSURES COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND THE REKINDLING THAT COMMUNITY SPIRIT THAT HELPED ALL OF US PRESENT HERE TO DEVELOP AS CHILDREN.

I FEEL HUMBLLED AND PROUD AS THE SAME TIME TO BE PART OF A VICTOROUS TEAM UNDER THE ABLE AND DIGNIFIED LEADERSHIP OF DAVID THOMPSON. I PLEDGE MY ENERGIES WITH GOD'S HELP TO UPLIFTING THE RESIDENTS OF CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL AND IN RESCUING THE PRIDE AND DIGNITY OF ALL BARBADIANS. HOLD ON CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL – THE TIME DRAWS NIGN, THE DAY OF RECKONING WILL COME AND VICTORY WILL BE OURS WHEREEVER THEY RING THE BELL. I THANK YOU.