

**ADDRESS TO ST. JAMES NORTH BRANCH ON OCTOBER 8, 2006**  
**ON THE TOPIC "SAFE-GUARDING OUR FUTURE"**

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE APPRECIATE WHAT IS AT STAKE AND WHY IT HAS BECOME ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE PATH OF THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY MUST BE INTERRUPTED BY THE RE-ELECTION OF DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY TO OFFICE.

THEY HAVE TERMED IT "THE MOTHER OF ALL BATTLES". I HAVE TERMED THE COMING ELECTION AS AN EXERCISE THAT ALL BARBADIANS MUST BE INVOLVED IN. THE NOTION OF NOT VOTING IS NOT AN OPTION. THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY IS HOPING THAT BARBADIANS HAVE BECOME SO FRUSTRATED BY ITS MANOUVERINGS AND POLITICAL GAMES THAT THEY WILL ABSENT THEMSELVES FROM THE POLLS RESULTING IN A LOWER VOTER TURN-OUT.

I HAVE ENCOUNTERED PERSONS WHO CLAIM THEY ARE SO FRUSTRATED WITH THE FALSE PROMISES OF THIS GOVERNMENT THAT THEY HAVE FINISHED WITH VOTING. MY RESPONSE TO THEM ALWAYS IS THAT IF THEY DON'T VOTE OTHERS WILL. I AM CONCERNED THAT FAR TOO MANY BARBADIANS ARE NOT SEEING THE EXERCISE OF THEIR FRANCHISE AS AN ANSWER TO HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF THIS GOVERNMENT.

I AM EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED TO ASSURE BARBADIANS THAT NOTHING WILL BE DONE OR ENCOURAGED THAT WOULD THREATENED THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ELECTORIAL SYSTEM.

WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT OUR VOTERS LIST IS CLEAN. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT THE CONCERN VOICED BY SOME PERSONS THAT

NON-NATIONALS ARE BEING ALLOWED UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO OUR COUNTRY TO VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT TRUE AND WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT OUR SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY IS NOT BEING UNDERMINED BY THE BLP'S POLICY OF INCLUSION. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT THE NOTION OF BEING A BARBADIAN CITIZEN IS NOT RAPIDLY LOSING ITS SIGNIFICANCE AS THIS GOVERNMENT ENFORCES ITS BRAND OF CSME ON BARBADIANS WITHOUT FULL AND PROPER CONSULTATION. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT OUR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY HUMILIATED AND RIDICULED BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR DOING THEIR JOB. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT PARTY HOPPING OF THE TYPE PRACTICED BY CLYDE MASCOLL IS UNPRINCIPLED AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED BY OUR FUTURE GENERATION OF POLITICIANS AS AN EXAMPLE THAT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT WE ARE NOT CREATING TWO BARBADOSES – ONE FOR THE RICH AND ONE FOR THE POOR. WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL PROGRAMMES ARE NOT FOR THE BENEFIT OF BLP SUPPORTERS ONLY. WE NEED REAL ASSURANCE THAT THE CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION IS NOT BEING USED AS A POLITICAL TOOL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION THE PUBLIC GETS AND TO SHUT OUT THE VOICES OF THE DLP.

ALL OF THESE ISSUES CONCERN US IN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY. THEY NEED TO CONCERN EACH AND EVERY BARBADIANS AS WE APPROACH ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL ELECTIONS IN OUR HISTORY.

**RETURN TO GOOD GOVERNANCE**

THE BLP'S STATED POLICY ON GOVERNANCE SOUNDS VERY GOOD. AND HAS SOUNDED VERY GOOD FOR THE LAST 13 YEARS. AS A NATION WE HAVE TO BEGIN TO ASK OURSELVES WHY DO WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE FOOLED EVERY ELECTION BY THE BLP IN THE FACE OF A DISMAL TRACK RECORD OF PROMISES AND NO MATCHED PERFORMANCE.

IN THEIR 2003-2008 MANIFESTO, THE BLP DEVOTES AN ENTIRE PAGE TO GOVERNANCE. THEY DECLARE THAT THEIR MISSION WILL BE "TO DEFEND AND ADVANCE INTEGRITY IN ALL AREAS OF GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC LIFE WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST PARAMOUNT IN ALL DECISIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT AND CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW". THEY ALSO PROMISE BARBADIANS THAT "THERE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY" AND THAT "PARLIAMENT SHALL RETAIN ITS ESSENTIAL ROLE AS A BALANCE AGAINST EXECUTIVE POWER".

ALL OF THESE PROMISES HAVE BEEN BROKEN IN SOME RESPECT.

AT THE LEVEL OF THE PRIME MINISTER – EFFORTS BY OUR CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED AND MET BY NAME-CALLING AND INSULTS – WE HAVE NEVER HAD EVER IN OUR HISTORY A PRIME MINISTER REFERRING TO A NEWS REPORTER PERCEIVED AS NOT TOEING THE LINE OF THE BLP AS "AN INDENTURED SERVANT". WE HAVE NEVER IN OUR HISTORY HAD A PRIME MINISTER REFERRING TO BARBADIANS WHO QUESTION CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CSME (PARTICULARLY THE UNREGULATED FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOUR) AS XENOPHOBIC. AND RECENTLY A REGULAR CALLER TO OUR CALL-IN PROGRAMMES WHO HAPPENS TO BE CRITICAL OF THE POLICIES

OF THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW BEING TARGETTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND BEING TOLD TO SHUT UP. BASED ON THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THE BLP'S FIRST "CONVERSATION" WITH THE PEOPLE, AFTER ASSURING THE SMALL CROWD THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A SINGLE ANTI-CARIBBEAN BONE IN HIS BODY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DEMS WRE LETTING PEOPLE FROM ABROAD COME HERE AND TEAR DOWN THE GOOD THAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY. HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT RIGHT FOR THE DLP TO ENCOURAGE "A WOMAN WITH A TRINIDADIAN ACCENT" TO CONSTANTLY CRFITICISE THIS NATION". NOW IF ANY OF YOU REMEMBER THE TACTICS OF HITLER - THIS APPROACH IS NOT VERY DIFFERENT. INN DEFENCE OF THE DLP, THIS ACCUSATION IS TOTALLY UNTRUE AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION. ALSO IN LISTENING TO THE CALLER, THE CALLER DOES NOT CRITICISE OUR COUNTRY, NEITHER DOES THE CALLER "TEAR DOWN" ANYTHING. HOWEVER WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT LIKE IS THE FACT THAT THE CALLER IS VERY CRITICAL AND RIGHTFULLY SO, OF A NUMBER OF POLICIES OF THIS GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY THE ABSENCE OF ANY ACCOUNTABILITY. IN THE FACE OF CRITICISM, HITLER ALSO SOUGHT TO DEFLECT CRITICISM OF HIS REGIME TO AN ATTACK ON THE NATION OF GERMANY. INN BARBADOS ANYBODY WHO DARES CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT WELCOME.

RATHER THAN TALK ABOUT IT, A DLP GOVERNEMT WILL ENSURE THAT THIS COUNTRY RETURNS TO AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TOLERANCE FOR ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES AND VIEWS PREVAILS - IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER RESPECTS THE VIEWS OF OUR CITIZENS WHETHER YOU HAVE A TRINIDADIAN ACCENT, JAMAICAN ACCENT OR OTHERWISE.

SO THAT WHILE PRETENDING TO BE A LOVER OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION FOR PURELY PARTISAN PURPOSES, WE HAVE A PRIME MINISTER WHO IS WILLING TO TAKE ON A PARTICIPANT OF A RADIO CALL-IN PROGRAMME WHO JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE A "TINIDADIAN" ACCENT. THOSE PERSONS WHO ENTER BARBADOS UNDER THE CSME ARE THEREFORE PUT ON NOTICE, THAT IF YOU PLAN TO BE CRITICAL OF THE BLP GOVERNMENT, GET A BAJAN ACCENT REAL FAST.

THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PARTY THAT SAYS A LOT AND DOES THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE. THIS HAS RESULTED IN A LACK OF CONFIDENCE BY OUR CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT. TO A LARGE EXTENT WHILE CANVASSING I'M AMAZED AT THE NEGATIVE LIGHT IN WHICH POLITICIANS ARE HELD. I'M CONVINCED THAT IT IS BECAUSE OF THE "TWO-FACED" NATURE OF SOME OF OUR POLITICIANS. THIS BLP GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO BEEN "TWO-FACED" AND IT REVELS IN ATTRACTING TO ITS RANKS PERSONS WHO HAVE THE ABILITY OF BEING "TWO-FACED" AND LACKING IN CONSISTANCY.

WE IN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY WILL BE CONSISTENT IN GOVERNMENT AND THE CITIZENS OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE US AT OUR WORD. WE WILL NOT PRACTICE DECEPTION AND WE ARE NOT KEEN TO ATTRACT DECEIVERS AND PARTY-HOPPERS TO OUR RANKS. PERSONS WHO DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLUE AND RED. AS OUR LEADER DAVID THOMPSON HAS SAID, WE WILL BE TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, AND WE WILL SPEND QUALITY TIME IN OUR RESPECTIKVE CONSTITUENCIES LISTENING AND RESPONDING TO THE VIEWS, CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

AS I SAID THE BLP HAS AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF BEING INCONSISTENT – AND EACH TIME WE HAVE AN OPORTUNITY WE HAVE A SOLEMN DUTY TO REMIND BARBADIANS OF THIS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THEIR 2003 MANIFESTO, THEY BOAST OF HAVING CONSTANTLY IMPROVED THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PROMISES TO INTENSIFY THIS. HOWEVER WE KNOW OF THE QEH SCENARIO, THE PRISONS, THE POLICE, THE FIRE SERVICE, THE NATIONAL INSURANCE OFFICE, THE TREASURY BUILDING AND RECENTLY I SAW THE DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE WORKERS AT THE SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT WORK – POOR VENTILATION, EXTREME HEAT, OVER-WORK AND UNDERPAID – A COOK FOR EXAMPLE AT THE SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE EARNS SUBSTANTIALLY MUCH LESS THAN A COOK AT THE QEH.

THEY ALSO SAID IN THEIR MANIFESTO THAT THEY WILL IMPELEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORDE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMISSION. THAT REPORT BY THE FORDE COMMISSION DEALT EXTENSIVELY WITH INTEGRITY ISSUES AND ACCOUNTABILITY. ISSUES THAT DON'T SEEM TO FIT WELL WITH THE BLP GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE SINCE THAT REPORT WAS HANDED IN TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN 1998 (SOME 8 YEARS AGO) NOT ONE SINGLE RECOMMENDATIONN HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY DETERIORATION IN THE MORAL FABRIC OF THIS GOVERNMENT. IT CONINUES TO FLOUT THE LAW AS IT RELATES TO COMMISSSIONS OF INQUIRIES BY REFUSING TO MAKE PUBLIC THE REPORT OF THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY THEREBY IN MY VIEW CONTINUING TO AFFECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH THAT HOSPITAL.

IN CONTRAST, WE HAVE SAID THAT ONCE ELECTED WE WILL PUT IN PLACE INTEGRITY LEGISLATION THAT WILL ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS IN A MANNER THAT IS BEYOND REPROACH.

WE MUST BE VERY WEARY OF PROMISES BY THIS BLP GOVERNMENT. THE NUMBER OF PROMISES RISE EXPONENTIALLY AS AN ELECTION APPROACHES BECAUSE THAT IS THAT BLP'S WAY OF FOOLING THE PEOPLE. COME PEOPLE LET US SHOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO REJECT THE FOOLERY AND TRICKS OF THE BLP.

IN THE CITY, IN 1996 BILLIE MILLAR PROMISED A NEW LOOK FOR BRIDGETOWN. IT'S ONLY TODAY – TEN YEARS LATER THAN WE ARE SEEING ANY STEPS BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE BRIDGETOWN BY MEANS OF A PLAN THAT IS ITSELF FLAWED – AS IT IGNORES THE POOR LIVING CONDITIONS OF PERSONS WHO LIVE IN THE CITY. IT ALSO IGNORES THE PLIGHT OF THE RESIDENTS OF LAKES FOLLY AND ENVIRONS WHO CONTINUE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE STENCH OF THE SEWAGE PLANT.

THE PROMISED BOARDWALK ALONG BAY STREET TO THE HILTON HOTEL IS STILL A PROMISE.

IN 1994, AFTER THE ELECTION VICTORY, LIZ THOMPSON, THE THEN . THREE MINISTERS AND 12 YEARS LATER, NOT A SINGLE KITEM OF GARBAGE IS BEING SEPARATED.

SHE ALSO PROMISED THAT MANGROVE POND LANDFILL WILL BE CLOSED “ON A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED”. A DATE THAT 12 YEARS LATER IS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED.

IN 1994, WE HAD A BRAND NEW MINISTER OF TOURISM – SIR RICHARD CHELTENHAM WHO PROMISED A VASTLY EXPANDED GRANTLEY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. 12 YEARS AND FOUR MINISTERS LATER THE AIRPORT’S FINAL IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE TO DRAG ON WITH BUDGETS BEING OVERDRAWN BY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE MANY PROMISES OF THIS GOVERNMENT AND PERFORMANCE IS AS LONG AS BRIDGETOWN TO SIDNEY IN AUSTRALIA. NO WONDER THERE IS A LOT OF APATHY IN OUR SOCIETY AND OUR YOUTH DON’T TRUST POLITICIANS.

THEY ALSO PROMISED IN THEIR MANIFESTO THAT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED TO PERSONS TO PURCHASE TENANTY LOTS. YET TO THIS VERY DAY MANY BARBADIANS (HUNDREDS IN CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL) CANNOT OWN THEIR LOTS AND IMPROVE THE MUD ENTRANCES TO THEIR HOMES.

THEY HAVE RECENTLY AS EARLIER THIS YEAR THROUGH THE MOUTH OF WILLIAM DUIGUID PROMISED THAT THEY HAVE A PLAN TO MAKE NATURAL GAS AVAILABLE TO EACH HOUSEHOLD IN BARBADOS LIKE WE HAVE WATER AND ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE.” AND ALSO RATHER THAN FIX OUR ROADS AND ABANDON THE WASTAGE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FLY-OVERS, THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS NOW ADDED TO THE PROMISES – HE HAS PROMISED A HIGHWAY 2010 – LINKING ST. DAVID’S TO HIGHWAY 1. AND WE HAVE WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HIS OWN DEPUTY CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER THAT INSTEAD OF A NEW ROAD BEING CUT, THEY SHOULD COMPLETE THE ERMIE BOURNE HIGHWAY. THIS GOVERNMENT WASTE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY

COMPLETING LITTLE AND EMBARKING ON VOTE-CATCHING ESCAPADES.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

WHEN WE WIN THE NEXT ELECTION, WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY TO THIS COUNTRY SINCE THE BLP HAS MADE A MOCKERY OF ACCOUNTABILITY INSPITE OF MANY WARNINGS.

THEY HAVE PROMISED ACCOUNTABILITY BUT HAVE FAILED TO DELIVER ONCE AGAIN.

WE HAVE THE NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME WHERE IN HIS 2003 REPORT THE AUDITOR GENERAL INDICATED DIFFICULTIES IN THE VERIFICATION OF CASH ON HAND AT THE END OF 1999. IN HIS 2005 REPORT THE AUDITOR GENERAL ALSO NOTED THAT THE AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE NATIONAL INSURANCE FUND WAS FIVE YEARS IN ARREARS.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL HAS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE FAILURE OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTING RECORDS IN BREACH OF THE FINANCIAL RULES. PUBLIC SPENDING HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO RUN AMOK – WITH LITTLE OR NO INSISTENCE ON PROPER CONTROLS BY THIS ADMINISTRATION.

THE LATEST SPECTACLE AND PUBLIC DISGRACE BEING THE BUNGLED PROJECT AT WARRENS

**JUST WHEN WE** THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO NO WORST THAN TO BLOW THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IT HAS IN **GEMS** (\$250 MILLION WASTED), **EASTRY HOUSE, THE GREENLAND LAND-FILL** – NOW WE THE TAX PAYERS ARE BURDENED WITH A 50 MILLION DOLLAR AWARD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY **BARRACK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** OVER THE PROBLEM-PLAGUED NHC GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT WARRENS. I BELIEVE THAT THE REVELATIONS ARE SO STARTLING THAT THE MINISTER SHOULD BE FIRED IMMEDIATELY.

### **WARRENS BUILDING**

**BUT THE PROBLEMS** AT THIS PROJECT HAD TO DO WITH SLACKNESS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER, LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY. AND WHAT'S WORST BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF HOUSING ARE NOW CLAIMING THEY ARE IN SHOCK AND IGNORANCE.

**AND THEY HAVE** NO EXCUSE WHATSOEVER – WE HAVE HAD REPEATED WARNINGS FROM THE AUDITOR GENERAL IN HIS REPORTS ABOUT THE LACK OF CONTROLS AND SERIOUS SHORT-COMINGS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BUILDING CONTRACTS – ST. LEONARD'S BOYS SCHOOL BEING A PRIME EXAMPLE. AND I HOPE YOU REMEMBER ALSO THAT THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND HIS DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A GOOD TOUGUE-LASHING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER FOR DOING THEIR JOB.

**BUT ONE OF THEIR OWN** – SIR RICHARD CHELTENHAM SAYS THERE IS NOTHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THE HIGHEST AWARD OF DAMAGES IN THE HISTORY OF BARBADOS. HE IS ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT THE NHC HAS NOT BEEN PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO

WHAT WAS AND IS ONE OF ITS BIGGEST PROJECTS. MANY RULES HAVE BEEN BROKEN AND CONTRACTS VIOLATED.

**DO YOU KNOW THAT** OVER SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS OF BARRACK EQUIPMENT WAS DESTROYED AND NOW HAS TO BE REPLACED BY THE NHC. UNILATERAL ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE NHC ON SEVERAL MATTERS – ONE OF WHICH WAS TO REMOVE EVERSON ELCOCK LIMITED AS A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ELECTRICAL WORK – UNILATERALLY TAKING AWAY THE ELECTRICAL COMPONENT OF THE WORK FROM BARRACK CONSTRUCTION AND AWARDING IT TO EVERSON ELCOCK AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR – IT WAS THE FINDING OF THE ARBITRATOR – RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE SIT DENYS WILLIAMS THAT THIS ACT WAS A SERIOUS AND CONTINUING BREACH OF NHC'S CONTRACT WITH BARRACK. IN SHORT WHAT NHC DID WAS TO TAKE AWAY WORK FROM THE MAIN CONTRACTOR AND GAVE IT TO AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.