

April 13th 2018

Development in Canouan

Introduction

The Grenadine island of Canouan is easily the consumer of much of the development monies earned by the ULP administration during its seventeen years in office. As a government in office, Canouan has been the focus of a lot of attention by the ULP, and there has been tremendous development projects, which have provided employment. Canouan, which is located with Union Island in the constituency of the Southern Grenadines, has been a bastion of the opposition NDP for many years.

Despite this, Canouan has been abandoned by the NDP between the period 1984 to 2001. When the ULP arrived in office in 2001, it met the island in need of some of the basic infrastructure, thanks to the negligence of the NDP. For example, the police station in Canouan had to be abandoned because of the inhumane conditions which existed for our hard-working police officers. There is a new administrative building which houses all the agencies of government in one complex. So, the offices of customs, the post office, immigration, the magistrate court and the port authority are located in one ultra modern building.

Canouan has been the centre for employment for many of the country's artisans. Many masons, carpenters, plumbers and electricians have found meaningful employment on that Grenadine island, thanks to the many projects negotiated by the government and well-meaning investors. Canouan boasts a well-used jet- port. Canouan is also the site of one of the top hotels in the Caribbean, the Pink Sands Resort. Not to be left out, Canouan also has one of the leading marinas in the Caribbean, a venue for medium size to large luxury yachts.

Despite all this the representative for the Southern Grenadines, Terrence Ollivierre, persists in a campaign of criticism, trying to seek some relevance in the current scheme of things. His latest attack using the situation related to the wharf in Canouan will backfire, since it is the NDP which built an under engineered wharf in 1990.

The New Wharf

On the 05th March, 2018 severe wave action associated with northern eastern storm resulted in a number of jetties being damaged across the island. On the 07th March, 2018 a team led by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority with

technical support from senior personnel from the Ministry of Transport and Works visited Canouan and Mayreau to assess the damage.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority had two assessments done on the temporary pier in the last three (3) months one by the internal Engineering Department and another by an independent engineering company. Both reports indicated the structural integrity of the pier is sound for continued use while suggesting some minor repairs. Prior to the wave action, plans were already in place to perform these works to extend the life of the jetty.

Vessels are now using the pier that was initially built with the support of the Venezuelan Government. This pier is structurally sound, however an extension that was built under the former administration was determined to have been under-engineered, resulting in the rapid deterioration of this segment. This segment was removed.

Work carried out since the wave action on the old jetty includes the installation of adequate lighting, removal of debris, removal of damaged segments of the old pier. Ongoing works include the installation of fenders and additional bollards to increase the safety level of operating on the jetty. Load limits have been given to the vessel owners and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard is working with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority to monitor the situation.

The cost of remedial work is \$30,360.00. The temporary jetty would be retrofitted in the near future to accommodate the landing of barges; this would reduce the workload of the older piers while maximising the usage of the piers. Work is scheduled to start on the 03rd April, 2018 and continue for ten (10) days.

Plans for the construction of a proper wharf at Canouan are being finalized. Correspondence from Legal Counsel representing the Developers on Canouan dated 11th March, 2018, signaled the commitment to commence construction to replace the existing wharf. Advance work was undertaken with respect to the Environmental Impact Assessment of the area earmarked for the construction of the New Facility.

The Chief Surveyor in correspondence dated 20th March, 2018 granted a no-objection to the reclamation of 10 acres of lands for the construction of the Industrial Jetty. An application is presently before the Quarry Board to operate a quarry at Kate's Hill, Canouan, which will provide a landfill for the Project. The lowering of Kate's Hill will further enhance the operation/safety of the Canouan Jet Airport and the Airports Authority is in full support of this initiative.

The Project was approved by the Planning Board in 2014. CRD Holdings Ltd has submitted an application to carry out engineering works (land reclamation) on

23/06/2014. The application was approved on 3^{0th} December, 2014, and an EIA has already been adopted as a precondition to Planning approval.

The site to be developed is located in the Taffia landfill area, at the south of the island. The new area is to be created by reclamation in Nens Bay and construction within the Taffia disposal area. The site is bounded at the southern end by the airport runway and by the Taffia Hill. Once the approval is granted by the Quarry Board contractual arrangements to commence construction will be finalised.

All this is being done, while the parliamentary representative for the Southern Grenadines, Terrence Ollivierre, continues to sleep on the job.