

## **The Nasty Dirty Party that is the NDP**

### **Introduction**

The Opposition New Democratic Party never ceases to amaze Vincentians, with its further descent into nastiness. The actions of the party during the recent convention, or as some people called it, a “glorified public meeting”, at the Greggs Primary School, is testimony to this. The poor event management skills exhibited by the NDP is a symptom of a larger problem within that party, and by extension, these problems are a sign that the NDP is not ready for government in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Event management is not a new skill for most people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and political parties like the ULP, and the opposition NDP, are expected to have persons within their membership, who possess these skills. There are organizations and businesses in the State, who exhibit these skills, as a matter of course. For example, a business like the radio station Hot 97, hosts at least two carnival events every year. They have to use event management skills, and pay great attention to detail, in an overall effort to leave the rented area in a state of decency. Not so the NDP.

### **The NDP convention**

The NDP held a glorified public meeting on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, at the Greggs Primary School. Their spokespersons on radio called the event a convention, but the party held their convention the week before, at which persons were elected to offices within that organisation. It was reported that Israel Bruce, the proposed candidate for South Central Windward, made contact with officials from the Greggs Primary School, about arrangements for the use of the school. This is a normal procedure as with any government institution that is used by the general public.

So it is clear that the officials at the school, the teachers and the parents, expected a state of normalcy when they turned up for classes on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day after the convention. You could imagine their disappointment when they found the premises with two portable toilets still in place, and a quantity of garbage to be disposed of. The rest is history, as the teachers and students had to be sent home for two days, since it was unbearable to hold classes, given the stench that was coming from the portable bathrooms.

And so, the children of the Greggs Primary School lost two days of educational time, all caused by a political party that says it is concerned about education in the State. There is a reason why the NDP moved their convention activities to south

central windward. They feel that Israel Bruce has a strong chance against the incumbent Saboto Caesar, the country's Minister of Agriculture. That being the case, how could the NDP proceed to "blot their copy book" by failing so miserably?

It is clear that persons within the Greggs area, some of them supporters of the NDP, are angry about this development. They feel disrespected that the NDP could treat the children of Greggs in this manner. Even so, the NDP failed to take the blame for this awful lapse in planning and management, resorting instead to lay the blame at the feet of a "nameless contractor". Nevertheless, many right-thinking persons are asking themselves the question "how could this happen"?

### **Poor Leadership in the NDP**

This incident points to an even greater crisis in the opposition New Democratic Party, and that relates to the leadership of that political party. When a simple issue like the removal of two portable toilet facilities could be allowed to shame a political party of long-standing like the NDP, then something is wrong. Why did it take two days to remove the units, and a third day to remove the garbage from the kitchen? Where was the Political Leader, Godwin Friday? What about the party Chairman Daniel Cummings or the First Vice President St. Clair Leacock?

And then of course, the party hopeful, Israel Bruce, must have been paying attention to things in the constituency that he wants to represent. Did he not know what was happening, and why didn't he move faster to get the situation addressed? Did he not have any feelings for the poor students and teachers in the school? Did he not feel the pain and anguish of the people of Greggs? Or maybe he simply did not care.

These are some of the questions that right-thinking Vincentians are asking about the opposition New Democratic Party. The voters are much wiser, thanks to the Education Revolution, the hallmark of the ULP's seventeen years in office, and the cornerstone of the social and economic plan for the country.

### **Conclusion**

It is clear that the NDP does not love Vincentians. How could they allow this to happen to the people of Greggs? If, as it seems, the NDP felt that having the so-called convention in Greggs would give Israel Bruce an advantage in the fight against Saboto Caesar, then their strategy has failed miserably. They have embarrassed their supporters in the Greggs/Lowmans area in a big way.

But this is par for the course, as it relates to the NDP. After all this is a party that went to Vincentians asking for their votes, and then refused to attend critical meetings of the Parliament, including the budgetary exercise. Essentially, they are taking the people's penny, under false pretence. They are being paid salaries every month, and not delivering the service that is required.

As an opposition party seeking to get into government, the NDP has become a disgrace to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. That is why the people will reject them again, whenever the Comrade rings the bell.