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The NDP: Party of Contradictions, Disarray and Poor Leadership

The former President of the United States of America once said, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” Clearly, from the onset of this statement, the New democratic Party continues to fail when it comes to the issue of leadership, both internally and externally. The recent occurrence, where two former Political leaders of the party verbally attacked each other last week on personalities and party policies displayed the level of abysmal leadership portrayed by Dr. Godwin Friday. After all, Arnhim Eustace continues to speak on behalf of the NDP while Sir James Mitchell is urging the party to revisit its stance and position on adopting the “One China Policy”.

We cannot forget, that it was also recently, the Vice President of the NDP Major St. Clair Leacock agreed with Sir James that there must be a change in the Senate, favouring Israel Bruce to replace Zita Barnwell as Senator and this issue was played out in a public spat and brawl for all to see.

Last year December, we saw a public brawl between Mr Eustace and the Major, where the Major said he “felt very badly” when former party president, Arnhim Eustace, chastised him publicly on the radio over public comments Leacock had made about his party’s appointment of opposition senators. So far, no call for an apology nor any rebuke from the President of the Party was done in all these circumstances to show that he is the Leader and that it is time for Unity. It is crystal clear that NDP continues to be divided and in disarray.

Party of Contradictions

We have never seen a party more contradictory than the New Democratic Party. With DR. Godwin Friday at the helm, the party continues to dwindle under his leader since he succeeded Arnhim as Leader. Many see him as uninspiring, lacking enthusiasm, vision and ideas. Have you ever asked yourself, what idea is genuinely authentic of Dr Friday since he became President of the NDP? The NDP which recently had a walk for jobs is equally the party that has criticised job-creating initiatives such as YES program, SET program, the cocoa project, Buccama Bay Resort, Mt Wynne Peters Hope development and the Argyle International Airport.

Even further, the NDP is also trying to make an issue with the establishment of a fish processing facility at Calliaqua. It is amazing how much worse a mass political party can get. The NDP, who once supported the idea of building a geothermal energy plant, with Mr Eustace then as Leader stating that it will improve productivity and lead to cheaper energy cost, made a complete about turn to oppose the project that he saw as beneficial.

It is no wonder, that the Vice President of the NDP, Major St. Clair Leacock, stated that “If the NDP does not pay attention to that which is successful in the way that Dr Ralph Gonsalves

manages his assertiveness, boldness social life, risk-taking, oratory, his presence and draw lessons from it, then the NDP will pay a heavy price”. He further stated that “the Political Leader of the Unity Labour Party who also is the Prime Minister of our blessed island is a very serious and formidable political figure who does not have an equal in our Caribbean politics, who also has regional respect and influence”. This remark by a top executive member in the NDP is quite telling. It even means that not even the President of the NDP, Dr. Friday is seen as an equal of our great Political Leader and Prime Minister, by Leacock. So why is it the NDP continues to try and hoodwink Vincentians thinking they can do better and is an alternative to the governing ULP? It is because they only want the power for power’s sake?

Conclusion

We must always remember, not to forget where we were in 2001 and what we have now. It is only under strong and influential leadership with vision and real ideas that we can consolidate and improve upon what exists while securing and building a brighter future for all Vincentians. Anyone can see that the NDP is and will continue to be a dismal failure with an abysmal leadership, lacking real ideas and vision. The NDP’s idea is to sell SVG to the highest bidder through the sale of passports while we in the ULP believe in our citizens. We invest in our people to continue to build sweet SVG, with tourism and hotel development, geothermal energy and increasing opportunities for all. Forward ever, backward never!!