

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

## The Opposition NDP: Stumped again!!!

### Introduction

It's generally accepted by all that the New Democratic Party, led by Godwin Friday, is unable to learn anything that relates to the administration of this country. They peddle so many lies and half truths about the excellent work of the ULP and Comrade Ralph that most Vincentians are wondering if that political party has any shame.

They tell so many lies, and when they are discovered, and the truth is told, the NDP shows no remorse, no regrets, they just simply move on to the next set of lies. As the local parlance goes, the NDP is "barefaced" in their utterances of lies and more lies. They have no regrets when the lies are exposed, and in many cases, continue to tell these lies, without remorse.

Take the construction of the international airport at Argyle. For some time now, the NDP has been claiming that the airport was constructed at a cost of one billion dollars. From time to time, their spokespersons on radio will tinker with this figure, and go as far as to say that the cost of construction is around one point three billion dollars. In fact the government has said that the construction of the airport, is in the region of EC\$750 million dollars. But we know that the NDP will continue to talk about a billion dollars, as the construction cost of the airport.

### The IMF Report

The recent Article Four consultations between an IMF delegation, and the government, stake-holder organizations, and members of the opposition, is a nightmare scenario for the NDP. All through 2018, they have been saying bad things about the country's economy, all lies of course. Now the IMF proclaims for all to hear, that the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been recovering. You will note the phrase used by the IMF. In fact while the NDP has been preaching doom and gloom all through 2018, the government has been focusing, as always, on the economy of the country.

And so the IMF says "following the opening of the new airport, tourism arrivals have recovered, boosting tourism related services". Readers will remember the prediction by the IMF last year that the international airport will bring benefits, and will positively affect the economy of the country. This is the same international airport that the NDP poured scorn upon, with one of their supporters, Luzette King, wishing that a tsunami would come and wash it away.

Most importantly, the IMF report said “The growth outlook is positive. Staff expects real GDP to rebound from 0.7 percent in 2017 to 2 percent in 2018, and further to 2.3 percent in 2019, driven by increases in tourism arrivals, tourist related activities...including investments in hotels and resorts, and related local production”. All this is bad news for the NDP, and runs counter to the lies they have been telling about the economy of the country.

The IMF goes on to state that “beyond 2020, growth would be sustained at around 2.3 percent, assuming steady tourism and investment growth”. That is why the ULP administration has paid particular attention to hotel development. Next year, construction work will begin on the government-owned hotel in the central leeward area, and there are plans to construct a ninety-room hotel in the Brighton area.

### **More NDP Lies**

In the face of all this positive news, we have the NDP continuing their ridiculous strategy of selling Vincentian passports, and calling it a citizenship by investment programme. And we have the spectacle of St. Clair Leacock, the MP for Central Kingstown, attempting to fool Vincentians, by trying to compare the US based ED5 programme, as being similar to their plans to sell passports. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The United States ED5 programme is an investor based visa application programme which has set conditions for persons who apply, and results in a US “green card” being issued to those persons who meet the conditions. The NDP programme is based on the outright selling of Vincentian passports, similarly to what obtains in other OECS member states. They could never be one and the same, as Leacock seems to suggest. It’s a pitiful attempt by the NDP to cloak their passport selling programme with some sort of legal framework.

But this is the trade mark of the NDP over the years. How can we forget the statement by the member for East Kingstown, Arnhim Eustace, that the associate degree programmes were not worth the paper they were written on, even as our students were accessing universities with the same associate degrees. This dastardly lie was aimed at giving the education revolution a black eye.

It did not succeed, because even as Eustace uttered that statement, our valiant students were busy completing their associate programme, safe in the knowledge that this would ensure that they get advance placements, when they applied to the University of the West Indies, and other learning institutions in the world.

### **Conclusion**

The NDP is approaching a high level of desperation, as they see that all their efforts to paint the ULP in a bad light, are failing. Their members, especially St. Clair Leacock, Daniel Cummings and Kay Bacchus Baptiste, realise that time is not on their side and so desperation has set in.

Meanwhile the ULP administration, superbly led by Comrade Ralph, will continue its extraordinary work in relation to the socio-economic development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is well established in the consciousness of Vincentians, that the ULP is a force for good in our beloved State. Even the NDP has come to this understanding. After all, when asked about their development plans for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, they could only say "Ask Ralph".