

April 12th 2019

The Unity Labour Party flexes its muscles “Red blood in yo veins”

Introduction

On Thursday April 4th 2019, close to ten thousand members and supporters of the Unity Labour Party, answered the whistle by their general secretary, Julian Francis, for a march and rally in the capital city, Kingstown. It was an event that captured the imagination of the entire country, as well as followers in the Diaspora on Facebook.

As the spectacle of the Red Machine unfolded, many persons were caught off guard and were surprised. The opposition NDP was in fact shell-shocked at the sight of thousands of ULP supporters in their red, marching peacefully in Kingstown, without creating any obstacles to the traffic and the general public in particular. By and large, observers were surprised at the number of young people who were marching, in their red, a sign of their continued support for their progressive party.

While marginally smaller than the 2011 march, the intensity was still there. These were supporters of the ULP who came out to make a statement, that the ULP was still strong, vibrant and active, in love with the people, and ready for “five in a row”. In fact the slogan “red blood in yo veins” was the order of the day, and showed the commitment of the marchers to the philosophy and strategies of the ULP.

And finally it was a massive shock to Godwin Friday and the NDP, who, since 2016, were laboring under the impression that they were gaining some traction with the Vincentian public, and that the ULP was on a downward trajectory. Nothing could be further from the truth, but then we all know that the NDP is not interested in truth and facts, deciding to deal in lies and dirty propaganda.

Even their supporters in the Diaspora, in particular the internet crazies, were stunned into silence, having to face the undisputable truth, that the ULP is as strong as ever, and likely to gain more strength as the countdown to the 2020 elections begins. It was indeed a miserable feeling for the NDP, with the realization that they are doomed to spend another five years in opposition.

The March

It took the general secretary Julian Francis, a mere three days to organize the March and rally. This has confirmed him as the political organizer extraordinaire in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This is not good news for the opposition NDP,

having to face the combination of Dr. Ralph Gonsalves along with Julian Francis. This combination beat the NDP in 2001, 2005, 2010 and 2015, an amazing four in a row.

Vincentians were pleasantly surprised at the way the marchers conducted themselves, following the instructions of the police and the ULP marshals who were on duty, and ensuring that there was no encumbrances to the general public. This is in stark contrast to the protest by a rabble of NDP supporters, on March 21st, 2019, when Justice Stanley John threw out the election petitions. That illegal protest was led by Godwin Friday, and was aimed at disrupting the business activity in Kingstown. What a contrast it was!

The Rally was another great event, with some progressive addresses coming from Camillo Gonsalves, Saboto Caesar, Carlos James, Luke Browne, René Baptiste, Montgomery Daniel, and the new kid on the block, Orlando Brewster from the constituency of Central Leeward. Orlando Brewster, a product of the education revolution, from the Central Leeward area, is an exciting young prospect, and many ULP supporters will be keeping their eyes on him.

Then came the address from the party leader and Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, who outlined the plans of the ULP administration in the period leading up to the period 2020 and beyond. It was the sort of address that endears the Comrade to his supporters, taking them from year 2001, when the ULP arrived in office, to the present, with a detour to 2020/21, and the exciting projects to come.

This was a massive showing by the Unity Labour Party, and is a clear demonstration that the party is alive and well, and ready to do battle to ensure a fifth term, when the Comrade rings the bell.

Conclusion

In the face of this display by the ULP, the NDP, of course, could only resort to their dirty campaign tactics. They launched a massive attack against the Prime Minister of St. Kitts/Nevis, Timothy Harris, calling him all sorts of names. The unfortunate power outage by Vinlec, was also used as part of their propaganda, as some NDP spokespersons claimed that the ULP caused the power outage, to get more people to attend the march and rally.

And then we have the leader of the NDP, Godwin Friday taking issue with one of the slogans of the ULP, "put on yo red and hurt up they head". Here was Godwin Friday clutching at straws, trying to state that the slogan means that ULP supporters want to do harm to Vincentians who support the NDP. What foolishness from a man who has no leadership skills, and continues to disappoint his followers. The ULP is a party of love, togetherness and camaraderie. The ULP has a profound love for the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, individually and collectively, that is unmatched in the history of the country.

One thing is for sure - there is new spring in the steps of ULP supporters as they are more assured that their beloved party is in fine shape, and ready for the upcoming election campaign.