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The NDP Practicing Tough Love

Introduction

Over the last two weeks the Opposition NDP continue to demonstrate what a nasty dirty party it is, with its latest version of the so called “tough love” campaign. Basically this a move by the NDP to victimize ULP supporters, in a particular way, so as to get them to change their voting pattern. In 2015, a caller to Nice Radio on the New Times programme, said that he had informed his mother, that he would stop all remittances if she did not vote for the NDP.

Present in the studios of Nice Radio at the time of the call, were the then leader of the NDP, Arnhim Eustace, and Vice President St. Clair Leacock. It came as a shock to most persons that the two NDP officials encouraged the caller to send the money to the NDP account. They made no effort to encourage the caller, to send the remittance to his mother, despite the political differences between them.

Vincentians did not pay enough attention to this concept of “tough love” at the time, despite the fact that it was highlighted by a number of radio talk show hosts, including Frank Da Silva. Now the situation has come full circle following the recent NDP town hall meeting in Toronto, Canada.

The Tough Love concept

It was the representative for the constituency of South Leeward, Nigel “Nature” Stephenson who presented the “tough love” concept at the town hall meeting in Toronto. Stephenson highlighted the importance of remittances from Vincies living in the Diaspora, to their relatives and friends back home. He reasoned that these remittances don’t make any sense, if they are sent to relatives and friends who support the ULP in government.

So Stephenson wants the NDP supporters in Canada, to provide their relatives and friends in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with an ultimatum - support the NDP or no remittances. This concept has shocked most right-thinking persons in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is downright wicked and sinful to withhold remittances, all because of political differences. So Friday and company is saying to their supporters in Toronto, New York and London, place your relatives in jeopardy, send them no money, no Christmas barrel, if they don’t support the NDP.

The whole scenario is frightening and horrible. ULP supporters are being placed in a compromising position because they support a modern progressive party that

is bringing untold benefits to the country. ULP supporters are to be victimized because they support the political party that has provided the best governance in the history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The NDP has become so desperate that they will sink to this level, in the vain effort to win an election in this country. They will make Vincentians suffer, particularly supporters of the ULP whose relatives in the Diaspora support the NDP. They would have their supporters refrain from sending remittances to help their relatives and friends, all because of politics and their drive to win an election.

This is all wicked, deceitful and inhumane. How could you put your supporters through such a concept, asking them to deprive their relatives of money for school fees and books, for rent, mortgages, car payments and medical bills? And this is a party who claim that they love Vincentians?

Desperate Times

These are desperate times for the New Democratic Party. They have tried a number of things in their bid to attract a following, but these have not been successful. Godwin Friday and company cannot provide a clear narrative, to tell the Vincentian voter about their plans to develop the country. In fact their only strategy is to beat up and criticize the plans and programmes of the ULP administration.

And they have returned to their policy of telling lies in a big way. For example, Daniel Cummings, the Member of Parliament for West Kingstown, astounded the audience in Toronto, when he lied on the hard-working nurses in the country. Cummings said that our nurses request from patients the identity of the political party they support when they are being admitted to the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. This of course is a dastardly lie.

This lie by Daniel Cummings attempts to serve two purposes. First, it tries to indicate that the nurses are unprofessional in their work, and that only those patients who state that they support the ULP, will get good care at the MCMH. Secondly, Cummings is trying to create a false opinion, that this is a policy of the ULP administration, and that the ULP is victimizing supporters of the New Democratic Party, when they go to the MCMH. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There is no policy by the Ministry of Health for patients to state their political preferences. Equally, there is no policy for nurses to put this question to patients. It is all false, and is another ploy by the NDP, to make the ULP look bad. But it will not work.

Conclusion

The impressive work that the ULP administration is currently conducting in the state, is throwing the NDP into a tail spin. There is the exploratory drilling exercise at Lot 14, that has captured the imagination of all Vincentians, including supporters of the NDP. The people of Central Leeward and North Leeward are actively awaiting the start up of work on the government hotel at Mt. Wynne/Peters Hope. Then there is the Rain Forrest project which will see more development in the fisheries sector, and the country is looking forward to the construction of the express hotel in the Diamond Brighton area.

So many things are happening here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, under the supervision of the ULP administration, and all the NDP could find to talk about, is an evil concept called "tough love". What a shame!!!