

October 23rd 2020

Taking care of business, the ULP getting ready for five in a row

Introduction

On October 18th 2020, the opposition New Democratic Party led by Lorraine Friday, took the bold step of selecting the North Windward village of Owia to launch their candidates for the 2020 general election. This in itself is extra-ordinary, since in the normal course of things, Owia would never figure in to the plans of the NDP, to launch their candidates.

But there are two reasons why Owia was selected. In the first case, the consultants and advisors told them that North Windward is an easy seat for them to knock off. They have since discovered that the Carib Chief Montgomery Daniel, is even stronger and safer in that seat. Despite all the hurrah, Montgomery Daniel will be counted in the winner's column, as the ULP seeks another historic "five in a row" victory.

But there is another even more important reason. Let's take our minds back to the year 2007, when the ULP completed the construction of the Rabacca Bridge, with assistance from the government of Taiwan. You will remember the type of adverse criticism provided by the NDP, in relation to the bridge. Every time there was heavy rainfall, sycophants of the NDP flocked to Rabacca, hoping to see that the construction work, would be washed away. That did not happen.

And so, the presence of the Rabacca bridge, has provided the NDP with an opportunity to travel safely to Owia, to hold their candidate event. And amidst all this, is the talk by the NDP, that the ULP has done nothing for Vincentians. Unbelievable!!

The Silly Season

We know that this is the so-called silly season, when the election campaigning is in full swing, and the political parties are likely to make silly statements. But the NDP has to take the cake in terms of the amount of lies they continue to spread. They tout the message of jobs, jobs, jobs, but we are still waiting for them to state where the jobs will come from.

Then we have the often repeated statement from the NDP, about the sale of the Vincentian passport. This is perhaps the only economic policy that the NDP feels comfortable talking about with their supporters. Given the way world events have been unfolding, in relation to citizenship by investment and the selling of passports, there is now limited support from the ranks of the NDP, for this project.

Nevertheless, Friday and Sir James Mitchell and company, are still bent on the selling of passports, and they have employed a group of consultants based in Switzerland and the United Kingdom, to assist them in the current election campaign. Their work can be seen in the advertisements and the commercials that have been placed on radio, television and Facebook.

Leadership

Let's take the current Covid-19 pandemic that is affecting all countries, including St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The average Vincentian, including those who support the NDP, have agreed that the ULP administration has handled the pandemic well. In-fact, the leadership of the NDP, including Godwin Friday and Sir James Mitchell, have made statements on radio, congratulating the ULP for the job it has been doing, in the current circumstances.

No one has died from the covid-19 pandemic, no health worker has been hospitalized, and there is no evidence of any community spread in the country. In addition, because businesses have been affected by the pandemic, the ULP administration has provided a number of stimulus packages, for those Vincentians in distress. For that matter, even those Vincentians who were employed with the cruise ship industry, were included in the numbers were paid from the Consolidated Fund.

This is the type of leadership the ULP provides, through the five star general, Dr, Ralph Gonsalves. And that is not all. Through the leadership of Dr. Gonsalves, the economy of the country has been doing very well, as compared to other countries in the OECS group. It is old news now, but the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Allan Chastanet, has told his citizens that his country has no more money, to meet the costs of stimulus packages and other relief measures.

Where would we have been under the NDP in the current crisis? Remember they wanted to lock down the country, no movement in or out, bringing life to a standstill. The economy would come to a halt, and Vincentians would have suffered immensely. But the guiding hand of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves was able to steer our economy through the rough Covid waters. Leadership is extremely important.

Conclusion

When Vincentians go to the polls on November 5th 2020, the choice is clear for all to see. The ULP has a compelling developmental narrative backed up by a record of performances and tremendous gains which our country has made. On November 5th 2020, the choice is very clear. Vincentians must go out in their numbers and vote solidly for the Star, the symbol of the Unity Labour Party. The ULP possess a quality leadership which has been tried and tested in extremely

difficult circumstances. That leadership has made an immense difference for the better. It's ULP all the way, five in a row.