

Sept 5th 2025

THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION FURTHER DEEPENS AND WIDENS

A GALAXY OF RICHES

The vast system of riches for the young people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines known as the Education Revolution continues to deliver as it deepens and widens. The further roll-out of this magnificent flag-ship of the Unity Labour Party (ULP) government is in evidence in August – September 2025, as the new academic term opens, and beckons an enhanced goodness and glory of all in SVG particularly for the students, parents, and teachers. To be sure, there are likely to be hiccups, and there will be dissonances here and there; after all, our wholeness and majesty, in this enterprise do not mean perfection; to err is human, but only the timid, and lazy souls, the apostles of learned helplessness, the usual prophets of doom and gloom drowned in their own insecurities, negativism and thirsty for power, stuffed with politically partisan bile and personal angst, would seek to second-guess or nit-pick from the opposition complaints industry about the near-universal acclaim of this remarkable Education Revolution being strengthened, consolidated, and expanded before our very eyes.

SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS: A CIVILISATION AT WORK

Every September, at the start of the school year, the largest mass movement of the people occurs across SVG. In September 2025, as usual under the ULP government, this mass movement of people, has taken place in peace, with no requirement or necessity of armed police or any police pressure whatsoever at the gates of the near 100 early childhood centres; 68 primary schools; 26 secondary schools; 3 schools for children with special needs; 6 technical institution/centres; 4 divisions of the SVG Community College; the Global Campus of the University of the West Indies; 3 off-shore medical schools. All told, over 30,000 students descend or prepare to descend upon the educational institutions; the parents of the first-time entrants to these bodies turn-up with their sons and daughters; the teachers/lecturers are assembled; the minibuses, private vehicles and the state's school buses, transporting all those involved, are on the "jam-packed" roads with little or no inconvenience, overt pain or suffering; the kitchens' staff, the janitors, the cleaners, the watchmen/women are on the move to their various locations; and the administrative staff are up and about overseeing everything, and sorting out glitches here and there as they emerge. All this is a tribute to our mature, and ever-maturing, civilization at work.

IN THE RUN-UP TO SEPTEMBER 2025

In the run-up to September 2025, what has been happening to make whole our evolving Education Revolution?

First, let us address the physical plant: The Building, Roads, and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) of the government of SVG has been busy with scores of contractors and hundreds of workers carrying out a \$4 million programme of repair work on the school buildings. On Union Island, the severely-damaged Stephanie Browne Primary School in Clifton has been rebuilt and ready to receive students, post-Beryl; and the Mary Hutchinson Primary School at Ashton has been built afresh, modern and very comfortable, reconstructed from the rubble occasioned by Hurricane Beryl.

At Fitz Hughes, the primary school has been rebuilt, brand new; also constructed is a well-equipped, air-conditioned, well-staffed Early Childhood Centre (ECC), ready to deliver quality early childhood education for children (3 years to under 5 years) free of cost to the families. The government is also in the process of opening up another ECC at the Young Woman's Christian Association (YWCA) Building, which the ULP government built over 20 years ago; this would make 20 ECCs operated by the government; in 2001, there was no government-operated ECC. Indeed, in 2002, only 15 per cent of the relevant age cohort (3 to under 5 years) were at an ECC; today, over 85 per cent attend ECCs.

On St. Vincent, the government intends to continue for the time-being, the secondary and primary schools at Arnos Vale. By Friday August 29, 2025, at Arnos Vale, according to the data collected from the parents, the total primary school population will be 33, and 13 from the secondary school. The situation on Union Island has advanced sufficiently for most students to return.

The report on school furniture given face-to-face, to the Cabinet by the Ministry's officials on Thursday August 28th was that all schools will have the requisite pieces of furniture, including Sion Hill Primary School which had a furniture problem with woodlice; these items are being replaced. No doubt, here and there, some schools are likely to have some items of furniture falling short, despite the public servants' oral assurances to the Cabinet.

However, all facilities and staffing were reported as being ready for the school term.

Meanwhile, the CPEA and the CSEC results were quite commendable, and in many important particulars, quite impressive, although some challenging downsides remain which are being addressed especially the issue of a less-than-optimal performance in Maths.

APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS

A report is being submitted by the Office of the Chief Personnel Officer to the Cabinet, this week, to approve the appointment as: "Graduates", some 162 teachers with university degrees. Approval has already been given by Cabinet to appoint a further 100 "Teacher Ones" and 80 "Teacher Twos". All principals,

deputy principals, and other teachers have been appointed, save and except in respect of some vacancies arising from very late requests by some teachers for study leave overseas; in most of those cases, the universities sent “acceptance letters” to these teachers quite late.

SCHOLARSHIP GALORE

Some two weeks ago the Cabinet approved 2,466 Tuition Scholarships (yes, two thousand four hundred and sixty-six) for university study, 75 scholarships for Monroe College; the 110 persons who were awardees of national scholarships, national exhibitions, and bursaries from last year; dozens of young persons going off to study law at the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad or Medicine at this or that university. Last week 30 young Vincentians left for Taiwan to pursue fully-funded 5-year university scholarships, negotiated by the Comrade; 18 young Vincentians also left on full scholarships to Cuba study in various fields of medicine and health; there are currently 50 Vincentians in Cuba also studying medicine; and others elsewhere; most are children of poor and working people.

Further 48 Vincentians received economically disadvantaged student loans for university education from the state-owned Student Loan Company, set up by the ULP government.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN ABUNDANCE

There are students support systems in abundance including: Uniforms, shoes and other items through the Ministry of National Mobilisation; books from the Book Loan Scheme; on-going financial support from the National Lotteries Authority; financial support from Ministry of National Mobilisation, too; distribution of laptops, tablets, and chrome books; the school meals programme; health and wellness support; security protection; monthly stipend to students in Nursing School; and so forth. Never in the history of SVG has there been such overwhelming support delivered to our students at all levels.

NEW TERM, OLD NDP

Meanwhile, the new school term has made no impression on the old NDP. The current NDP is the most backward political party ever in our country’s history. They promised to provide a meagre \$100,000 for the people of the Southern Grenadines, but it has yet to happen. They have no idea what to say about education. They are completely lost; they are on the platform with no issue of merit or worth. And they are trotting out some uninfluentials (some NDP rabble and discarded town-rats) in a vain quest to influence people. They are being rejected everywhere, including the Kingstown seats and the Southern Grenadines. The NDP is in death throes. After this dem dead!