

UPP TIMES

The Progressive Voice of the People



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Corruption - Killer of Development

Arguably we are only seven months into the Barbados Labour Party Administration so it is left to be seen whether the Administration will make good on its promise to deal with corruption and the abuse of the public purse. Barbadians must ensure that they are not distracted by the arrival of garbage trucks, buses or police vehicles. The arrival of equipment to Barbados from foreign countries has been a feature of Barbados Government activity from the time Barbados was settled as a colony.

Corruption is a major challenge to all governments. While accusing past administrations of robbing the treasury provides good fodder for election campaigns the real test is whether the Government of the day will pass the necessary legislation and enforce it. The Government in a moment of political generosity invited all political parties, and other members of civil society, to make submissions on the Integrity in Public Life Bill to the Joint Select Committee of Parliament (JSCP). The United Progressive Party (UPP) made substantive comments with recommendations for the improvement of the Bill. The Bill proposes that the Minister of Finance and the relevant Minister take more well defined responsibility for the activities of the SOEs with the attendant penalties for default. This is appropriate since it is often through their interference that poor decisions have been made in the past. The Bill still languishes in the JSCP.

One of the areas addressed by the Public Finance Bill is the more effective financial management of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) with a special category for Commercial State Owned Enterprises. SOEs include entities such as the Productivity Council, The Defence Force and the National Sports Council. The Commercial SOEs include the Barbados National Terminal Ltd, Barbados Water Authority, Barbados Port Inc., Kensington Oval Management Inc., Sanitation Service Authority and the Transport Board

There is no doubt that poverty and corruption go hand in hand. Corruption in public office stands directly opposed to entrepreneurship and innovation when only those who finance campaigns see the real benefits of government facilitation. Corruption stands opposed to small business when politicians ensure that tenders are far outside the reach of small businesses no matter how efficient or skilled the workers might be. The IMF has instructed our Government to address corruption but the Public Finance Bill now joins the Integrity in Public Life Bill as they both languish in a JSCP. Is the JSCP the place where Bills seeking to address endemic corruption go to die?



“Success is not final.

Failure is not fatal.

It is the courage to continue that counts..”

- Winston Churchill

In This Issue

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Government Corruption and Incompetence Starts Like This...

New Year Guidelines

The objective of the Progressive Party is continuous development of our country and ultimately the fulfillment of the human and spiritual self. Our task as it has been from the time Barbados knew itself is to make progress even if by inches for all of our people

And all of us who can must do our best to ensure that those big dreams can be realised.

- Let us reach out to our family members who need our love and our assistance.
- Let us nurture our children and young adults.
- Let us work within our communities to make them strong.
- Let us support our local businesses.
- Let us provide employment opportunities wherever we can.

On a Point of Order

AT ONE POINT IN the history of Barbados we believed that we should have our garbage collected as a matter of course. Now we celebrate the acquisition of two trucks. There is clearly something amiss in a system that might have worked well for Barbados in the past, but no longer does. We must return to the days when we hold our applause for major advancements. .

United for all Barbados

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UPP
UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY



COME JOIN US!!

There is room to fashion a new democracy in Barbados. We have learnt how to cast our vote but not what to do between elections. We will help to shape a democracy where many voices can be heard and not just a few.

We need to educate our people as to what they should demand and how they can demand it from those who should represent their interests. We would like you to help us shape that new democracy and would love for you to join us.