



A letter to the Dipper

Dear Sir



It has been over 30 years since you departed this earthly realm and over 50 years since your acclamation as the Father of Barbados' Independence. History has recorded your achievements on behalf of your countrymen as the democratisation of the education process and expanded free education to all levels; the introduction of a National Insurance and Social Security scheme; school meals on an improved nutritional basis; improved health services; accelerated industrial development; considerable expansion of the tourist industry; and taking Barbados into Independence in November 1966.

On the 99th anniversary of your birthday the party you founded inevitably lost every seat in the 2018 General Election and a massive mandate has been handed to the new government. With democracy so active you would believe that Barbados is heading into a future based on the foundation of education, pride and industry. Unfortunately, the story of modern Barbados has veered sharply away from your vision (you expected to sustain each citizens' contribution to national and regional development.)

Free education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels is not just a privilege but was intended to be the platform on which this nation with minimal natural resources would participate in the modern globalized society. However we are witnessing a culture which doesn't value education and its potential benefits and the squandering of this opportunity by many who have achieved accreditation. The severe lack of critical thinking in the management of the county's affairs at all levels has led to a downward trend in the rating and recognition of Barbados as a leader amongst developing nations. This seems to be as a direct result of greed and a lack of understanding of the principles established by the founding fathers.

Although breaking the physical shackles of slavery and colonialism were completed at the legislative and societal levels, it remains intact at the psychological level even among our educated elected leaders. It is evident that there is no intention to empower Barbadians though economic enfranchisement since we continue to manufacture what could only be described a Reverse Plantocracy. Every election cycle sees a return and deepening of the relationship between parties and the class of wealthy whose contribution to national development must equate with contractual expectations. In the meantime, many of our people celebrate only in political tribalism and fleeting handouts.

Furthermore, the foundation of our economy has been eroded to the point where the new norm is celebration of the acquisition of foreign loans, disbursement of crown lands at an under value and the arrival of new garbage trucks. This economic enslavement keeps our nation in the doldrums of development and demonstrates the lack of visionary leadership once associated with regional leaders such as yourself. We are currently at 50 plus years of independence in a mid-life crisis as our national leadership has been contaminated by the influences of neo colonialism and blinded by post-independence partisan agendas.

Mr. Barrow, truth is Bajans are more about politics than good governance. This defies the legacy you tried to create for Barbados. We must find the motivation to correct this downslide but with so many bought into the false narrative we fear for the future.

We in the United Progressive Party believe that you would be pleased at the development of a party which sees true empowerment as the next big step in our democracy. Our leaders have a vision which is consistent with yours.

“What kind of mirror image do you have of yourself?”

*- Errol Walton
Barrow*

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Eliminate NCDs | Get healthy in 2019

Most people do not know that Barbados has a strategic plan for combating Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and herein lies part of the problem. Combating NCDs must be about the people and implementing the best means to encourage and support them in living healthier lifestyles.

The priorities for NCD prevention and control are stated as

- (1) Control raised blood pressure to target;
- (2) Reduce physical inactivity
- (3) Reduce salt intake
- (4) Reversal in upward trends in obesity
- (5) Reduce harmful use of alcohol and
- (6) Abstinence from all forms of tobacco.



The rise of NCDs among the citizens of Barbados and the region is of a significant concern to the United Progressive Party (UPP). Our campaign in the last general election focused heavily on finding solutions for NCDs. We feel that it is within the best interest of our country to constantly strategize to reduce the rates of disease, and so help to further the productivity and innovative scope of our people. There are exponential economic gains from minimizing illness and disease in Barbados. We feel that Barbados could and should be a regional leader in ensuring the rates of NCDs are reduced. We must as a priority expand the capacity of our people to live long, happy, fulfilling lives.

WELLNESS MUST BECOME A NATIONAL GOAL

It is not enough to advocate eating healthy food in a vacuum, and national intermittent exercise programs. The state has to institutionalise standards, beyond those which we have inherited. Old ideas of nutrition such as the over dependence on starches have not been working for us. A progressive government would begin to unravel new ideas of nutrition and nourishment for our population. Once proper nutritional standards have been established, based upon our own cultural and bio-chemistry dynamics, then we would institutionalize these ideas and make them practical for our citizens.

On a Point of Order



In the name of transparency can we see exactly what developer Maloney was able to take out of the hands of the people of Barbados for \$13.5 million? Don't the taxpayers deserve a fair price? Has he not already pocketed the money at Coverley for the sale of those houses under the DLP? And was not the first act of the BLP to give him even more money with Ross? And how did the BLP determine that that price is three times the value of Coverley? Most of all, why wasn't this sale of crown lands tabled in Parliament? Don't be fooled by big numbers. One three bedroom house can cost 1/2 million these days. Do the math. Have we been ripped off?

PARTISAN POLITICS VS. LAW & ORDER?

THE POLICE FORCE and criminal justice have finally been "patriated" to where they rightfully belong, under the office of the Attorney-General of Barbados. This is yet another example of how principles of good governance are now being frequently compromised by partisan political objectives.

After the last election in a rather brazen move the Barbados Labour Party swore into Government the largest cabinet in the history of Barbados. Clearly it was felt that no matter the promises made during the election campaign and no matter the criticism by the BLP of the DLP for having a large Cabinet, the BLP clearly felt that Barbados had given them a mandate to do as they pleased.

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