

Hon. Julian Fraser, Third District Representative interacting with residents at his party, January 11, 2014

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## Buckle Up 2014 Will Be No Better; I Am Here For You - Fraser



Persons at the Third District Party, January 11, 2014

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BVI Platinum News

Updated: 57 minutes ago

Published: January 12, 2014 10:12 am AST

Residents have been cautioned that this year will be no better than last year when it comes to economic hurdles under the National Democratic Party (NDP) Government. This warning came from Hon. Julian Fraser, Third District Representative and Opposition Member.

"So what you have is a Premier hoarding money, \$32m so far in the Reserve Fund, while you the poor citizens of this Territory have sitting at the Treasury your unpaid vouchers up to \$12M because he cannot pay it; he does have the money to pay it. So my dear friends, whatever pain and suffering you have gone through over the year 2013, fasten your seat belts, 2014 will be no better; you can attribute that to poor leader," he said.

Hon. Fraser was speaking last evening, January 11 at his annual holiday party held at the Ellis Thomas Downs in Sea Cows Bay.

The Third District Representative threw a number of jabs at the Government's poor handling of the Territory's affairs, including the economy.

To this end, Hon. Fraser said the former Virgin Islands Party (VIP) administration's good handling of the Territory's finances resulted in its residents not suffering, which is contrary to what is taking place now.

"This recession did not begin in 2011, 2012, but in 2008 and the Virgin Islands Party was in Government, but because of proper management of our finances and the way we serviced our people, it was not felt as it is being felt today. Leadership, my friends, is what you are looking for, leadership is what you need," he said.

The Third District Representative spoke strongly on the poor leadership of the current administration.

"This Territory needs leadership that is compassionate so they can understand the day to day needs of the ordinary man; it needs leadership that is understanding so they can comprehend the importance of the flow of money to the dynamics of an economic system. Certainly such leadership will not withhold \$12M of our citizens' hard earned money in the Government's Treasury and allow the economy to go to the dogs," he said.

Hon. Fraser also noted that many have said he has not offered solutions, but he has, "only that it has not been reported."

"The next leader of these Virgin Islands must possess the ability to have knowledge of events before they take place. They must have an infectious optimism and clear plan for the future, and they must also be able to live in the reality of today, but also look to the future and plan how we are going to get there," he stated.

Further, the Opposition Member promised residents that he will be there for them during the trying times.

"I invited you here to come and enjoy yourself. Yes, I want you to forget about your worries for a brief moment, but when you leave here you have to go back to your own sacred homes and face life. As you do that, I want you to know that I feel your pain and I feel

your suffering; as you do that I want you to know that I am here for you and I will continue to be here for you no matter what," the Third District Representative assured.

He also spoke about the Protocols for Effective Financial Management, FACTA, constant layoffs and financial services.