

# VIP Public Meeting Carrot Bay

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

**Tonight I bring greetings from Team VIP to you the people of the 1st District, and Carrot Bay in particular.**

I come before you in the tradition of all the great leaders of this Party before me, namely our founder and first Chairman and this territory's first Chief Minister your own Hamilton Lavitty Stoutt: Representative of this District; and our immediate past Chairman Ralph Tilford O'Neal: this territory's first Premier and Representative for the 9th District, asking you to once again love the things that made this party a winner so we can make this country great again.

I am sure you would all have a burning enthusiasm to learn what the VIP has to offer in terms of its Mission, and its Vision for the Virgin Islands

The Virgin Islands Party has as its mission the betterment of our people through opportunities for their empowerment. These opportunities must come through partnerships between the private sector and government.

Our Vision is the expansion of the Virgin Islands economy through a concerted and dedicated effort of diversification, beginning with our Financial Services Sector.

**The  
Economy**

This territory yearns for the opportunity to get back to solid leadership and join the United States as the formidable leader in the west in the march to prosperity.

We are aware that the state of our economy which has been in a mode of contraction since the NDP took office in 2011 is largely in part to their failed policy of austerity, and that only the VIP's stimulus policy can save us. I mean all of us, not the few at the top of the pyramid that they are concerned with.

A disastrous and poorly advised decision to adapt a proven failed European economic model which punishes the poor and rewards the rich is responsible for the continuous slide in our economy. It is a system which recognizes that only the fittest can survive, and is fully prepared to sacrifice the weaker class which happens to be the poor among us.

Through this economic model the National Democratic Party promises a better life, but they failed to inform the poor that they will be eliminated in order to create that better life for the rich.

**The Virgin Islands Party which I now lead believes the opposite.**

We believe that all men are created equal, and while the realities of life tend to create a natural imbalance in that equality, it is the responsibility of Government to ensure that equilibrium is maintained. The Virgin Islands Party's stimulus seeks to inject capital in areas that would otherwise fail, thus ensuring an opportunity for survival during economic contraction and ultimately growth with the eventual turnaround.

It is the tested and proven US model which President Barrack Obama has used to save the major US and British banks along with the US automobile and insurance industries among others.

I am already on record for stating that the VIP economic Plan for the Virgin Islands will include but not limited to a framework where:

- 1: **Public spending must impact medium and long term economic growth positively, over short term political expediency.**
- 2: **Public spending must create real jobs, especially for Virgin Islands Youth: jobs that impact the social and economic infrastructure positively.**
- 3: **Public spending must impact social welfare and social cohesion in a positive manner.**
- 4: **Public spending must positively impact public safety and public security.**
- 5: **Public spending must improve the basic infrastructure at the grassroots – before spending on outlandish projects such as an airport without feasibility study. And**
- 6: **Public spending must first improve and impact the lot of those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. This is good economic policy with a strong foundation- as opposed to a top down economy built on sand. This spending at the grassroots is the only real avenue for economic growth, and is the best way to stimulate a slow economy.**

A VIP Government under a Fraser Premiership will strengthen medium and long term economic growth and ensure good jobs for Virgin Islanders by the introduction of a **National Ocean and Maritime Science Program**.

This will be a systemic effort to introduce a culture of boating, yachting, and marine technology into the Virgin Islands. The objective is to empower young Virgin Islanders to man and manage the boating and yachting industry in every parameter, and increase the level of local employment in an industry that is vital to the national interest, socially, technologically, and economically.

A  
leader  
who  
cares

My message is one of consistency, and sustainability. It is a VIP message to the youth who feels that they are being ignored; a VIP message to the poor who feels that they have been abandoned permanently; a VIP message to the elderly who feels that the system has failed them; a VIP message to the Civil Servants who saw the NDP cut their increments in half; a VIP message to Virgin Islanders and belongers who feels like second class citizens in their own country; and a VIP message to the business community that public private partnerships will be the future course of these islands.

Virgin Islanders are assured that the VIP understands and accepts that these islands belongs to you and not us, and that no development can take place unless we can clearly demonstrate how it benefits you the people, and that it is in your best interest.

FSC

I am already on record stating my concerns about the critical cross roads the Financial Services Sector of this territory are at, which is ironic, given that it was 30 years ago on august 15th 1984 that the International Business Companies Act was passed, the Act, which among others: removed the requirement of corporate capacity; recognized that companies could exist without members; and provided for true and statutory mergers.

This single undertaking has single handedly brought the Virgin Islands from the brink of bankruptcy in the 80's to the financial giant as it now stands in the Caribbean and the world.

**Ladies and gentleman let's give our dear friend and former Chief Minister Cyril B. Romney a resounding round of applause for bringing this legislation into being. My dear brother Earl P. Fraser was also a member of that administration.**

Today our Financial Services are under attack from all angles, including the government of France which has placed us on their blacklist since August 2013 for noncompliance, and to this day no one in the administration can tell us when this will all end.

In the interim however, our government continues to compromise the liberty and rights of its citizens as it signs agreement after agreement forcing you to disclose to foreign governments your earnings and belongings. The first of these agreements was with the United States in the form of a Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), then the UK with their own version of the US FATCA, and now the Global Forum.

Hon. Fahie and I have already pointed out the long term impact these tax agreements will have on the industry as they remove the incentives investors once enjoyed by doing business here. Unfortunately, the Premier's advisors are telling him different.

The heavy burden of new taxes placed on our citizens is without justification. No one can justify the size of our departure taxes to travel to St. Thomas. No one can justify the high cost of a passport, the cost of a Visa, or the cost of any government service for that matter.

HHI

Who in government is prepared to explain how our small businesses will cope with the cost of the National Health Insurance (NHI)? Conservative estimates by experts in the Claims Settlement area of Health Insurance have placed the revenue deficit for the NHI at close to \$50 million in the first year alone.

It is a concern of mine that the consultants who came here to do the research from which the recommendations were made were merely only able to scratch the surface of the depth of the potential liabilities.

This initiative is being rushed and if implemented now, will spell financial disaster for the government of the Virgin Islands.

Education

The Virgin Islands are unique in this region and indeed the world. No one refutes that we have the best sailing waters in the world, no one refutes that we are number one in the world in company registry. Then why can't we place our own label on our Education System?

The Virgin Islands will have a hard time convincing others that we have a college, thanks to our former leader H. Lavitty Stoutt, which issues a degree, but our High School can't issue a Diploma, it must come from outside in order to be legitimate. That must not continue. It will not continue under a VIP government.

Our High School must go back to issuing its own Diploma as its signature of achievement, under a system that is fully accredited but is unique to these Virgin Islands, making it mandatory for persons wishing to compete here to meet our standards. It is the only way to instill the pride our people deserve in them, and it is the best way to enhance any advantage they may have here at home.

I do not take kindly the explanation given for not building a new Junior High School. Priority for education must be given over a \$50 million Cruise Ship Pier Land Side Development; priority for education must be given over a \$300 million plus airport runway extension.

Financial resources cannot be the reason when moneys are being spent elsewhere. Our youth must come first.

### Closing

In closing, I make no secret of the fact that we are in a search for candidates to fill the 11 slots on our ticket that will become constitutionally vacant in order to contest a seat in the next general election. And while it is the responsibility of each District Committee to find and present such persons to the party for congressional ratification, we cannot sit without giving directions.

My advice to anyone with an interest in joining the ticket is to get out there and let it be known that you have that desire to run for public office, then garner the support of as large a group as you can find to pledge their support for you. This group must be a group of registered VIP members.

That registration and even your own can start tonight. Our team is here with full gear to accommodate you.