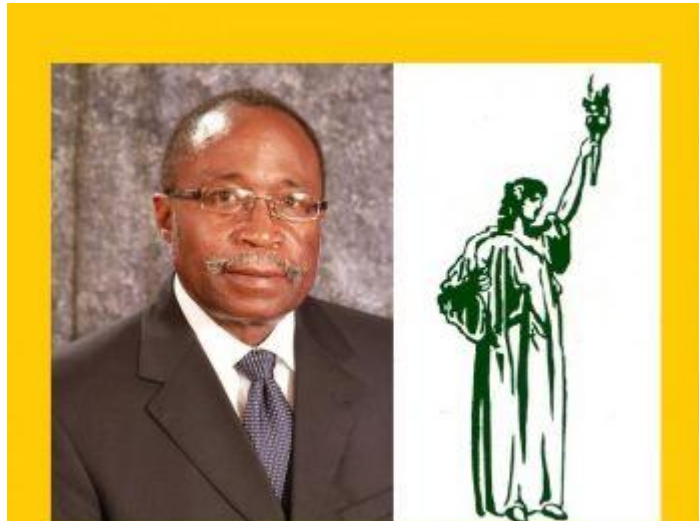


'Under NDP youths are in hopeless despair' - Hon Fraser

-Virgin Islands Party Chairman Hon Julian Fraser says the Education System is now a political football

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Sounding ready to be sworn in as the Territory's 3rd Premier while holding the post of the Virgin Islands Party (VIP) third Chairman Honourable Julian Fraser RA (R3) came out swinging with both a message of hope, and solutions while pointing out the failures of the Dr. Orlando Smith 3 year old National Democratic Party (NDP) Administration. Photo: VINO/File

ROAD TOWN, Tortola, VI - Sounding ready to be sworn in as the Territory's 3rd Premier while holding the post of the Virgin Islands Party (VIP) third Chairman Honorable Julian Fraser RA (R3) came out swinging with both a message of hope, and solutions while pointing out the failures of the Dr. Orlando Smith 3 year old National Democratic Party (NDP) Administration.

Hard for young people under NDP

Hon Fraser told the public that "today, record numbers of homes and vehicles are being repossessed. Parents have to work multiple jobs in order to provide for their families."

The veteran politician said, "since the NDP became the government, residents are having a hard time paying their mortgages. Most of our young people have no hope of affording their own home."

The VIP Chairman said that our young people are facing a future of hardship. "But the NDP continues to tell us the economy is booming, while resorts, hotels, and marinas, laying off scores of people each month, even as trust companies downsize and relocate," he said.

"The economy is not booming, when you visit places like the Stickett in Long Look, Scatliffe Alley in Road Town, parts of Purcell, Little Apple Bay, Baugher's Bay, Cane Garden Bay, Huntums Gut, Bell View and Parham Town," he said.

"For what will you discover? You will witness too many of our young people, without jobs or proper education, sitting around all day in hopeless despair," said Hon Fraser.

"This is very painful to me and is a social tragedy," said Hon Fraser, who followed H. Lavity Stoutt and Ralph T. O'Neal OBE as the VIP's third leader.



The Stickett. Photo: VINO/File



The Stickett community in Long Look. Photo: VINO/File

Hon Fraser also told the public that adding to this the fact, that "too many of our youth leave colleges and universities each year and return home with no career prospects".

This is certainly not good for the country the Leader of the longest serving political party claimed.

Education too political & too many cut backs on opportunity

According to the VIP Party boss a Fraser Administration will with urgency, begin to reorganize the education system to ensure that Virgin Islanders are capable of managing the maritime and yachting industries, in partnership with investors and stakeholders.

This will entail the establishment of a Maritime and Oceanographic Sciences Curriculum, together with a supporting Maritime Academy, where Virgin Islanders will be trained full time, in all aspects of the maritime industry Hon Fraser promised.

"The academy will be a place of learning, both academic and vocational, and it will introduce a new maritime culture into the country's body politic," he said.

The VIP will build a new junior high school to address overcrowding, indiscipline, and other issues that impact the education system.

The Party Chairman said deviancy has become a cancer in the Virgin Islands education system, severely degrading the education product.

The VIP will focus on rebuilding the deteriorating schools' infrastructure first, rather than embarking on any type of pie-in-the-sky projects or programmes.

He said that the lack of proper prioritizing appears to be the norm of an overly politicized Ministry of Education.

Hon Fraser noted that the NDP's mistaken policy of cutbacks on scholarships and opportunities has resulted in students being unable to afford the education that they need.

"The reality is that college tuition has tripled in the UK, and has significantly increased in the US," Hon Fraser told listeners.

In one of his boldest statement yet the Third District Representative said, "today, parents watch the dreams they have for their children evaporate into thin air under this NDP Administration."

The former Deputy Chief Minister who served as a government Minister in two Ministries warned that "Education is not a political football. The future of the territory depends on its education model."