

# THE HOUSE

## MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Number Eight

Sept 2012



### A LONELY AND UNCERTAIN JOURNEY FOR TILLY AND HIS MUSKEETERS TO THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS (NDC) CONVENTION:



#### *Uncertain times ahead for Tilly.*

*It is a well-known fact in Grenada and other global environments that Tillman Thomas,, Finance Minister Burke, information Minister Noel, Education Minister Bernadine and hangar on Phinsley St.Louis are all facing an uphill battle as they enter the next NDC national convention. The challenges range from possible violence, elimination of the leftists in the General Council and total party disarray. Added to these challenges are the ongoing and growing corruption within the regime, hidden financial transaction that amounts to intended voting bribery within international organizations. With all these calamities, it is extremely difficult to visualize how Grenadian voters can further endure disarray and melee within the ruling administration.*

*The path of dishonesty, treachery and tomfoolery are very much engendered within the administration. The impotence and ceased mentality of the administration have been at a stand still since elected in 2008. Youth unemployment , crime, private and public sector lay-offs and the decline of the national economy are all realities that the NDC must accept full responsibilities.*

*While no one should dispute the down turn in world economies and its possible impact on Grenada and other nations, the NDC should not continue to use this situation as an excuse for its impotence. In the downturn of global economies, the local governing administration has a responsibility to ensure structural re-*

*adjustments and certain re-alignments of the local economy. Unfortunately, Thomas and his musketeers have ignored the deteriorating state of the economy and its impact on Grenadians. Instead, they embarked upon other drunken and irresponsible expeditions such as the purchasing of lands in Hope to establish a new University of West Indies Campus; payment of exorbitant architectural fees for another ill-conceived idea about building a new hospital.*

*Although the NDC approaches its last year in office, voters must be aware that at times in the dying days of an impotent regime, the sudden resurrection and promises will occur and they must be cautious. Announcements of the building of a new medical facility; dredging of Grenville Harbour; erection of a new five (5) star hotels are only meant as a "tomfoolery indicator".*

*Finally, with Qatar's deep involvement in the Syrian conflict, Grenadians are still awaiting the announcement by the Thomas administration as to when the Grenadian delegation will go to Qatar to pick up the cheque for national projects that would stimulate the economy.*

*Grenadians should be reminded that the Qatar-Saudi Arabia loot has already been shared amongst a few and to hell with the suffering population. Grenadians deserve much more.*

## **CAT AND MOUSE GAMES IN THE TILLY ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES:**



### ***Is she in or out?***

*Appointed Senator Glen Noel who holds the Ministry of Information must understand that his survival and prominence rest solely by the Prime Minister. Ms. Roberts was duly elected as the Member of Parliament for South St. George. It is also understood that her presence in Thomas's Cabinet is at his pleasure and her ministerial responsibility can be revoked by him. However, he cannot fire her as the MP for South St. George. Thomas can fire a Senator and revoke Ministerial responsibility.*

*As Noel and Burke are aware, the New National Party (NNP) remains deeply committed to fundamental rights, fairness and freedom. Minister Roberts should*

*be accorded those rights and Senator Noel should desist from constantly harassing her. At the same time, Minister Roberts must demonstrate her decisiveness about whether she is a full team player in the Thomas administration. The NNP advice is that cabinet solidarity is important and Minister Roberts must clearly demonstrate that both feet are Thomas camp.*

*Finally, her desire for an international environment job requires the endorsement and support of Tilly and his Cabinet. Given the volatile political situation and the likely hood that Roberts might be laid to rest during the next election, the NNP advice is to accept what is offered and take a permanent hike from Tilly and his musketeers. The alternatives are limited.*

**WHAT'S UP WITH GEORGE WORME? NEW TODAY EDITOR WHO WAS RECENTLY ARRESTED BY THE POLICE FOR STEALING SAND:**



*New Today Editor, George Worme*

*The air of silence continues from Marian, St. Davids and St. George regarding the disposal of criminal charge (s) recently brought against New Today Editor/Publisher, George Worme. The NNP Secretariat has received several enquiries about Worme's alleged criminality and the disposal of his criminal matter. The NNP has not been able to respond as it is not customary for the Party's newsletter to focus on such matters.*

*At the same time, our Party has a responsibility to accurately respond to enquiries from its friends and supporters in Grenada and the Diaspora. Since we are not up to date on Worme's situation, we ask the following questions.*

- 1) Is George Worme still facing alleged criminal charge (s) for stealing sand after having being arrested by the Police?*
- 2) If no, what were the final circumstances regarding the disposal of his criminal case?*
- 3) Who was his defence counsel?*
- 4) If his matter is still pending, when is his next appearance date in Court?*

*The New National Party (NNP) and many other Grenadians in Grenada and the Diaspora are deeply disturbed and alarmed by Worme's alleged criminal conduct*

## THE NEW NATIONAL PARTY (NNP) ELECTORAL CARETAKERS BEGIN TO STOMP GROUND AS THE ELECTION APPROACHES

The New National Party (NNP) electoral team has begun the search for votes as it wrestles to displace the Thomas administration from governing and to restore full confidence in the Grenadian economy. Since 2008, Thomas and his gang have embarked upon a national assault against Grenadians that have resulted in the destruction of the Grenadian economy.

The NNP recognizes that the task of governing will be difficult and expectations are high amongst voters. This is why the NNP focus must be on rebuilding the agricultural industry, the tourism sector, construction, foreign investment and resurrection of the private sector.

While the NNP will always strive to ensure a climate of life-long learning and full literacy capacity in the nation, the tasks ahead will require the engagement and constructive participation of all sectors and communities in nation building.

Our candidates are committed and knowledgeable patriots. They are committed to working with diverse sectors to ensure that the quality of life improves in the nation and residents are satisfied.

This is why we are urging you to support our candidates during the next election. NNP can do it.

## NEW NATIONAL PARTY CONGRATULATES KIRANI JAMES ON HIS SUCCESS AT THE OLYMPICS:



*Kirani James in Action*

The Political Leader, Executive and members of the New National Party have extended congratulations to Mr. Kirani James on his GOLD MEDAL victory in the athletic men's 400m individual at the London Olympics 2012. The NNP sees this as a victory for Mr. James, his family, the people of St. John and indeed all of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, the

Caribbean region and Grenadians in the Global Diaspora.

Our political leader and Former Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell, attended the Olympic Games and personally viewed the 400 metre race which he described as “a moment of pride not just for him but for every Grenadian and person of Grenadian heritage”. He urged other Grenadian youth to follow not just the example of Kirani, but also of the entire Grenada Olympic Team as examples of positive attitudes and behaviors as well as goal setting and dedication to success.

The New National Party also took the opportunity to congratulate the family, friends and coaches of the entire Grenada Olympic Team. The NNP called on all Grenadians to celebrate this historic achievement and always remain mindful of the ways in which Team Grenada represented the nation.

### **UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR PAYS COURTESY CALL ON DR. THE RIGHT HONOURABLE KEITH MITCHELL:**



*Ambassador Palmer (R) greets Dr. the Rt Hon. Keith Mitchell (L) as Bernard Link, US Charge d' Affaires in Grenada looks on.*

The United States' Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean states, Ambassador Larry Leon Palmer, recently paid a courtesy call on Opposition Leader, Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell at Dr. Mitchell's residence, Happy Hill, St. George. The Ambassador was accompanied by the US Charge d' Affaires to Grenada, Mr. Bernard Link.

Dr. Mitchell welcomed Ambassador Palmer to Grenada and made reiterated his appreciation for the very long and strong relationship that has been in existence between Grenada and the United States over the years.

Dr. Mitchell took the opportunity to once again express to Ambassador Palmer, the appreciation of the Grenadian people, and the New National Party for the tremendous support given to Grenada by the United States Government and its

people, after the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Dr. Mitchell also expressed his personal appreciation for having the opportunity to receive former Secretary of State, Colin Powell who took the time to visit Grenada where he had the opportunity to tour many devastated areas.

He noted the US Government's financial contribution represented the highest by any Government at the time, noting that the country also benefitted tremendously from contributions by ordinary American citizens and Grenadians living in the United States.

In further discussions with Ambassador Palmer, Dr. Mitchell expressed his concerns about the economic challenges faced by Grenada and other nations in the region. He stressed the importance of the leadership of Grenada and its people by ensuring the availability of resources and opportunities to ease the burden and meet the challenges successfully.

With respect to the impending general elections and applications of new information technologies applications, Dr. Mitchell addressed the inefficient functioning of the new voter registration system and the negative effects that this can have on the electoral process. He noted that the difficulties being experienced are making the exercise very difficult for many voters. As a result, voters are expressing deep frustration about, among other things, the length of time given to register, the insufficiency of required equipment and materials, the carrying out of the process in an election atmosphere, and the lack of adequate numbers of sufficiently trained personnel to manage the process.

He stressed strongly that his New National Party (NNP) does not expect the Government of the United States to be involved in the internal affairs of Grenada, although it is the intention of the NNP to highlight his party electoral management concerns to relevant US Government agencies. The intention of this exercise is to ensure that the Grenadian people are not, in any way, hindered in the exercise of their democratic rights.

Ambassador Palmer indicated that he looks forward to receiving further communication from Dr. Mitchell on the above matters and would give it a high level of importance.

Ambassador Palmer and Charge d' Affaires Link thanked Dr. Mitchell for his warm welcome and concurrence to meet with him. He issued an invitation to Dr. Mitchell to meet with him during any future trips that he makes to Barbados.

## **THE NEW NATIONAL PARTY WELCOMES DIASPORA VISITORS**

The New National Party on behalf of its Political Leader Dr. The Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, the Executive, Members and supporters of the Party a warm and fraternal welcome to all members of the Diaspora team who have answered the call to provide voluntary service to the homeland in their individual area of skill, learning and talent.

To the many other Grenadians returning home or visiting for the festive season , we extend an equally warm welcome to you and hope that you will enjoy the beauty of your home-land and find time to interact with family and friends and to participate in the many carnival activities.

To our foreign guests who are visiting for the first time or returning on another visit , we extend a very warm welcome to you and yours and encourage you to participate in our rich cultural activities , delectable national dishes and to embrace the beauty of our land with its warm and welcoming people.

To all of you , we say welcome home!

## CHANGES IN CANADA'S FEDERAL SKILLED WORKER PROGRAM:



Proposed regulatory changes were recently announced to the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) that will allow Canada to better select skilled workers who can “hit the ground running” upon arrival.

“The Federal Skilled Worker Program is Canada’s largest economic immigration program,” said Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. “The changes we are making to update the selection criteria are based on a large body of data and evidence we've accumulated over the years showing what skills and qualifications are most likely to lead to success for skilled immigrants.”

Following an extensive program evaluation, stakeholder and public consultations, as well as other research, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is proposing the following changes to the FSWP:

- Making language the most important selection factor by establishing new minimum official language thresholds and increasing points for language;
- Increasing the emphasis on younger immigrants, who are more likely to acquire valuable Canadian experience and remain in the workforce longer;
- Increasing points for Canadian work experience and reducing points for foreign work experience;
- Simplifying the arranged employment process to prevent fraud and abuse yet enable employers to staff positions quickly; and
- Awarding points for spousal language ability and Canadian experience.

Another proposed change is the introduction of the Educational Credential Assessment – a mandatory requirement that FSWP applicants have their education abroad assessed against Canadian education standards by designated organizations. CIC will then award points according to how an applicant’s foreign educational credential compares to a completed

educational credential in Canada. It does not necessarily guarantee that they would become licensed to practice in a regulated occupation.

“This is an important step we are taking to address the problem of immigrants arriving and not being able to work in their field,” stated Minister Kenney. “This new requirement will help potential newcomers make informed choices about immigration and Canadian career paths.”

CIC will be issuing a Call for Service Proposals on August 20, 2012, inviting submissions from organizations with expertise in foreign credential assessment to conduct the reviews. The deadline for submissions is September 21, 2012. For more information, please visit CIC’s [International Qualifications Network website](#).

The full text of the proposed FSWP regulatory changes is now available online in the [Canada Gazette](#). They also include improvements to the [Canadian Experience Class](#) and the creation of a new [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#). The Department welcomes input from stakeholders and interested parties.

Final publication is scheduled for late 2012 and the new FSWP points grid will likely take effect in January 2013. While there is currently a pause on new applications (except for FSWP candidates with a qualifying offer of arranged employment or those applying under the PhD stream), CIC expects to begin accepting applications again early next year.

These changes were announced by Minister Kenney in the past year.

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