

# KEOD SMITH

Suite 1, Mosko Building  
Trinity Place,  
P.O.Box N10707,  
Nassau, Bahamas

Tel: 323-2421 Fax 328-1515

Email: [keod\\_smith@yahoo.com](mailto:keod_smith@yahoo.com)

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## PRESS CONFERENCE

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Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009  
11:00am

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Commercial Law Advocates  
Suite 1, Mosko Building,  
Nassau, Bahamas

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning.

At the upcoming National Convention of the Progressive Liberal Party, it is my intention to allow my name to be placed in nomination for the position of **National Chairman** of our Party.

From a purely political point of view, it cannot be disputed that the overall functioning of the PLP requires as its fundamental focus, which happens to be the primary assigned task of the Chairman; the readiness of the Party to become and

remain the Government of this archipelagic nation. Afterall, that is the prize in each and every general election.

More than 50 years ago, our Leaders concluded that in order to capture that prize, we should formulate ourselves into a political organization, so as to systematically and methodically develop and maintain ourselves as an institutional activist for social, economic and political betterment. They learnt that this could only be achieved if we had our finger on the pulse of the nation with our ears to the ground. It is now a matter of history that as a result of the effectiveness of that basic strategy, the PLP led us as a people, as we collectively stood firmly against institutional apartheid, bigotry and systematic economic and educational subjugation of the majority of our people in those times.

Having a clear understanding of that strategy is what underpinned the real movement of the PLP that led to it regaining the Government in 2002. I know this because I served as Vice Chairman of our Party during the last 18 months leading up to that election.

Beyond that, and crucial to elections in this Country as we have now seen following the last General Election, **the Chairman of the PLP must devise strategies** by which we are to ***Guard the Gate*** in order to minimize cheating by our opponents.

As we move into the last half of the current governing period of the FNM, all Bahamians know (*whether you are PLP or FNM*) that our country has experienced unparalleled suffering since the FNM took over in 2007:

- Crime has spiraled out of control with the murder-count returning to the high levels it was prior to 2002 when the PLP had regained the Government;
- Thousands of hard-working Bahamians, breadwinners, have been made redundant from their jobs in our number-one industry without proper compensation or humanistic consideration by their foreign-based employers;
- Workers of this country have once again become second-class citizens;
- The FNM openly accepts and seem to resign to the fact that they are incapable of devising any strategy for economic rebound in the immediate future of our country;
- The FNM sees our young people under the age of 30 as being a problem to push aside and called names rather than being seen as the source of *economic rebound* and *social reorder* of our country.

Because of these things, the PLP now has its best chance of securing the Government in 2012. As a basic strategy, it is my view that when a political organization is as close to a *sure thing* as now exists for the PLP being able to win the next General Election, it is absolutely necessary that it puts its best foot forward, with its best people doing what they are most effect at doing, as opposed to simply facilitating their personal political desires and wants; it is about team-work...knowing your role and playing it hard.

At the Chairman's level, this is best achieved by someone who is young enough at heart, if not in age, to give our very youthful electorate a comfortable feeling that the PLP will factor them into its plans. That person must also have adequate experience as an activist, advocate and civic leader in this country. I feel that I possess these characteristics.

With this in mind, I hereby declare that should I be elected as National Chairman at Convention, bar any unforeseen circumstances, it would be my intention not offer for reelection as Member of Parliament in 2012. In this way, from Day-one, I would be able to put 100% of my effort into the national task of regaining the Government as a whole. This means that my constituency would stretch from the salt-flats of Inagua in the South, to the sandy beaches of Grand Cay in the North and not just a single constituency on the Island of New Providence.

For a person trying to gain or regain a seat in Parliament, the task of the Chairman would present a measure of day-to-day conflict that would not bode well for that person's constituents or the Party as a whole.

Having said this, however, let me say to my people of Mt. Moriah, that I shall continue to have a special place in my heart for them and shall maintain an open-door policy for them on any and all matters related to this nation as a whole or the constituency in particular.

Now, having a clear understanding of the nature of the task of the Chairman, and against the back-drop of the shameless admission of the FNM Administration that it has no plans for the rejuvenation of the economy of Grand Bahama, on this coming Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2009, I will be addressing Grand Bahama PLP Delegates

to the Convention in a Pre-convention presentation on the topic **“Strategies for Immediate Economic Rejuvenation of Grand Bahama in 2009”**.

It is my view, that making this presentation is the most effective way of setting the right tone for the Convention itself as well as the approach of Government in resolving the economic woes of Grand Bahama. In the end, I will show that the answers are embedded in a **41-year Old Policy of the PLP** as articulated by none other than the Father of our Nation, The Right Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling.

With God’s help, and the support of Convention Delegates, I will not only be elected National Chairman at Convention later this month, but shall be serving in that post when the PLP regains the Government in 2012.

At the end of Convention, whether I win or lose, I hereby commit my efforts to that of the Party to ensure that there is **unity** as we move forward in this collective quest.

Thank you.