

Remaks by Tanisha Tynes 27th January PLP Launch Freeport



Mr. Leader (and Mrs. Christie) Mr. Deputy Leader (and Mrs. Davis) Party Chairman (and Mrs. Roberts) Parliamentarians Stalwart Councilors Fellow Candidates

My Fellow Bahamians I am here as a new generation team member of the Progressive Liberal Party and I am honored to be the PLP's standard bearer for the new Constituency of East Grand Bahama.

Brothers and Sisters, some twelve days ago the Prime Minister of this Country stood here and recited poetry to the residents of Grand Bahama. He told us that roses are red and violets are blue.

Please don't get me wrong. I like good poetry.

But at a time when this Island is in the midst of the worst economic crisis we have ever seen, when termination letters are being signed left, right and centre, when Grand Bahamians are sleeping in cars and are forced to bathe in the sea and wonder about the next meal we do not expect the Prime Minister to speak to us about roses being red and violets being blue.

Fellow Bahamians, these are serious times. There is no denying that the past four and a half years have been rough for Bahamians throughout the length and breadth of this Country but especially for those of us who live in Grand Bahama.

We have seen our economy sputtering and gasping for air with hotel closures, the shutting down of small businesses, the downsizing of the bigger employers in the Country including the Freeport Container Port, Old Bahama Bay and Our Lucaya, all of which have led to unprecedented levels of unemployment.

We have experienced increases in the cost of living, most notably the higher costs of gasoline and electricity. The standard of living for most of our people has declined tremendously. Many Grand Bahamians have had to live without electricity as they struggle to secure the basic necessities of life such as food and shelter.

Many Grand Bahamians have lost their homes because they were unable to pay their mortgages.

The people of Grand Bahama are HURTING!! And so tonight, I ask the question "What has our present Government done for us in Grand Bahama in the face of the global recession?"

Other Caribbean Governments have shown vision and the will to rebound in the face of this recession and are now out-performing us in the region. But what has our present government done?

My brothers and sisters, when faced with a struggling economy the present administration has played the blame game and made poor decisions to increase borrowing and increase taxes.

The effect of this Government's decisions has not been to help us but to place a heavier burden on our people at a time when Grand Bahamians are already struggling to make ends meet.

Grand Bahamians, we do not need a repeat of the past four and a half years. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!

Grand Bahama, the restoration of our Island will take a special kind of vision. The last Progressive Liberal Party Government had the foresight to allow the development of a film studio in East Grand Bahama which holds one of the world's largest water tanks for water and beach themed movies. As a result, the Bahamas was able to attract two A-rated movies, "Pirates of the Caribbean" and a James Bond film, "Casino Royale".

By 2006, the film studio in Grand Bahama had become an internationally recognized choice for making first rate movies. We need these out of the box strategies again.

My brothers and sisters, our Progressive Liberal Party has a plan to restore Freeport as the Magic City and to inspire and equip Grand Bahamians to play a more meaningful role in the development of the tourism industry on the Island.

Yes we want to put Grand Bahamians back to work, but we also want to get you buzzing about owning your own businesses and partnering with the Government and a stabilized Grand Bahama Port Authority to build our Island's new economy together. To this end, we will search far and wide for investments for Grand Bahama and will establish CAREER PATH ACADAMIES so that Bahamians can be trained to seize the many opportunities that will accompany these investments.

We believe in Bahamians... so we're going to invest in people!

East Grand Bahama, MY EAST GRAND BAHAMA, be assured that we will not be left out. You and I know there is something special about the EAST. We all know that the sun rises in the EAST; that when Our Saviour was born there was a star in the EAST. It is written in the book of Genesis that the Lord God planted a garden in the EAST.

We know that the eastern section of our Island has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. And it is no coincidence that two of the three national parks on our Island are located in East Grand Bahama.

The Lucayan National Park (established in 1977) has one of the largest underwater cave systems on earth. And Peterson's Cay is renowned for its excellent snorkeling close to the shore. Those who know of these hidden treasures travel from around the world to see our ancient ecosystems. East Grand Bahama is, therefore, naturally suited to be a hub for eco-tourism.

We must, develop this important sector of the tourism industry in East Grand Bahama while protecting and preserving its natural beauty.

We have so much to offer, including the hospitality of East Enders. Smith's Point with its famous fish fry stands out as a reason why visitors keep coming back to the Island.

Sadly, East Grand Bahama, there are still some basic needs that must be satisfied by your next PLP Government and Tanisha Tynes, your next PLP Member of Parliament.

There is still a need for access to city water in Mader Town, Gold Rock Creek, Freetown, Gambier Point and Bevans Town.

We need emergency facilities such as an ambulance and a fire station strategically located in the East. We need sufficient fire hydrants properly maintained in good working order. I have

listened to the cries of members of the Rolle family over the Bridge and the Cooper family of Mader Town. (recent victims of fire)

I recognize that the children of Sweeting's Cay need more and bigger classrooms and the need to build a junior and a senior high school in the eastern end of the Island.

Our children should not have to travel all the way to Freeport in order to obtain a secondary education.

I recognize the need for proper recreational facilities throughout the eastern end of our Island and the need for sea-walls to protect our shoreline in communities such as Smith's Point.

Brothers and Sisters, in 2007 this Island gave to the present administration five of the six seats in Grand Bahama. With the election results as close as they were it is fair to say that Grand Bahama gave them the Government.

One would have thought, therefore, that in light of Grand Bahama's overwhelming support, the present Government would have returned us the favour. Not so!

Instead, Grand Bahama was cast aside, ignored and forgotten by an uncaring Government which sat and watched Grand Bahama hemorrhage – perhaps because of their love for the colour red.

Tonight, I say, it is time to stop the bleeding!

East Grand Bahama, I want to make it clear that I am not running against any person or party. I am running for you, the people of East Grand Bahama and having watched my parents serve this community as true professionals for my entire life, I am now here to serve.

Grand Bahama, WE have the power to choose the next Government of this Country. And, as surely as the sun rises in the east we intend to exercise that power responsibly and choose a government that puts Bahamians first!

Fellow Grand Bahamians, if we believe it, we can achieve it.

Believe with me, Grand Bahama! Believe in The Bahamas! Believe in Bahamians!

And May God Bless Us All!

PLP! PLP! PLP!!!

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