

Presentation of Sen. C.V. Hope Strachan for the Eastern Regional Conclave 21st July, to 23rd July, 2011

I am certainly pleased to be here. It is an honour to be asked to be a part of this conclave as we continue our campaign towards victory in the 2012 elections.

We have individually all been working in our various constituencies but this conclave is the culmination of the unified efforts of PLP's in this region of New Providence.

Without further ado I want to thank the Progressive Liberal Party under the leadership of Mr. Perry Gladstone Christie for once again reposing faith in me to be the candidate for the Seabreeze Constituency. Seabreeze are you here? Seabreeze I say it is it all about you!

In 2007, Seabreeze, you showed up big time for me. I came into the campaign approximately five (5) weeks before election day. You did not let that deter you from voting. When all was said and done we lost by some 64 votes. Like many of our candidates we fell victim to some strange phenomenon. You heard what the Pinewood and Marco City election courts said. All was not well with the Parliamentary Registration Department. Voter fraud was uncovered.

PLP's this must not happen this time. We must be vigilant. There is too much at stake.

Our children's futures are at stake. Our way of life is at stake. We are being pressured by this FNM government to lose ourselves, our very identities to others. Any government who says to its people that you need not apply, that you are lazy, that you are incompetent and in the same breath sings the praises of strangers has an agenda. I say that agenda is to change the landscape in this country.

The agenda is to change the landscape so that ordinary striving Bahamians, middle class Bahamians are wiped out. They want to take us back to that time when we were subjects to foreign powers. It must be some kind of inferiority complex. How do you explain wanting to give everything valuable to foreigners? Why are the Bahamian people being used as the vehicle by which foreigners can enrich and empower themselves? When will this government put Bahamians first? But we must resist this FNM's attempts to make us invisible, their attempts to make us inconsequential.

Election 2012 we must show up in huge numbers. We must not only send a message to the FNM that we have had enough of their victimization. We have had enough of their insults. We have had enough of their abuse. We have had enough of their mismanagement of our economy. We have had enough of their pandering to special interest groups. We have had enough of being taken for granted. Most of all we have had enough of their destruction of all that we hold dear. We must send them packing for good. Ladies and Gentlemen 76/77 murders and counting. When will enough be enough? How does a government who claims to care about the people shrug its shoulders and nonchalantly say that victim number so and so does not matter because its drug dealers killing drug dealers? And if that is the case how do we explain the gruesome domestic murders, the killings during the many armed robberies, the murders due to unresolved arguments? How does a government that professes to care for its people shrug its shoulders and say that it could do nothing to protect these murdered victims? This attitude towards crime comes over as unconcern for the families and victims of those slain in this carnage. When will the government realize that every murder victim in our country is an indictment on us as a people. The continuing mayhem has no place in a well ordered society. The ordering of the society has everything to do with the government. Having cancelled Mr. Christie's

Urban Renewal Program the FNM is now wringing its hands. Devoid of any ideas or vision for getting us out of this mess they have now resorted to lies. Now they say that they never stopped reviewed or cancelled the program. They now believe in the program and that they are continuing it. It's laughable! We must ask ourselves how many lives could have been saved had the government continued Mr. Christie's visionary Urban Renewal program? We can ask ourselves in light of the government's nonchalance towards many of the murdered victims in our country, whether life of Bahamian citizens have any value to this FNM government? Beyond voting day that is? It seems not.

I am totally amazed that despite the carnage The Right Honorable Prime Minister has failed to call the present Minister of National Security to account for his abject failure in this Ministry. The man who has been characterized as the man of action has failed to act. But not a word said. No criticism has been levied at him for this failure and lives are being lost every day. He gets a pass while criticism is levied at Perry Christie each day. But that's O.K. our leader is resilient. He knows where he's headed. He has a plan. He will rescue the Bahamian people. He and the candidates of our great party are ready to govern ready to lead.

Unemployment is at unprecedented levels. The government refuses to release the figures but we know how bad it is because the evidence is all around us. The effect of it is all around us. The crime, the hopelessness and the despair all speak to it.

Despite the thousands of Bahamians out of work the government continues to issue thousands and thousands of work permits for foreigners to be employed in many sectors of our economy where Bahamians could be employed. Most importantly the levels of illegal immigration have increased due to this FNM government's open door immigration policy. Come one come all. It's a free for all. It adds to further unemployment for Bahamians.

We need a clear policy on immigration in this country. Your PLP will deal with this issue.
REPORT ON THE WORK IN SEABREEZE

Seabreeze I thank you for your continued support as we move forward to D day. Over the last 4 1/2 years we have strengthened our branch activities by holding regular meetings. Such meetings have for the most part been well attended. Through the meetings we have had much imparted to us by guest speakers. However on several occasions our meetings focused on hearing from the constituents who were always pleased and delighted that we were listening to them. We always knew it was "all about them." Seabreeze also continued our canvassing of the constituency. We have had several events including, an Easter Egg Hunt, back to school give away events, Mothers day flower give aways, and this June on Father's Day we celebrated by hosting the fathers in the constituency to free haircuts and grooming. Themed "Look Ahead," this event was well attended and it was gratifying to see the many fathers come out with their children to support our efforts. While heads were being cut and fathers received facials and grooming their children were hosted to free face painting and bouncing castle, hotdogs and snow cones. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Sylvano Forbes better known as "Pauper" who came up with the idea. Pauper is at times one of my biggest detractors. However the branch appreciates his efforts in this regard. We also wish to thank persons who sponsored the events or provided donations of money time and talent.

Our most recent event was our Independence Holiday Steak Out, a fundraiser which was held on the

Seabreeze Park on Monday 11th July, 2011. This event we promoted as a time for PLP's to fellowship together. This proved successful.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Seabreeze Branch I wish to say a huge thank you to all who provided sponsorship and/or donations of money, time and talent to ensure these efforts were successful. All in all we believe that we have had a productive four (4 ½) years. We also know that there is much more to be done and we shall press forward towards the mark.

Personally, I would like to thank the former chairpersons of the branch in the persons of Mr. Kenhugh Rolle, Mrs. Charine Major, Mr. Darrin Rodgers and our present branch chairman, Mr. Ricardo Moncur. Together with their executive boards and the members of the Branch they have assisted me in no small way in my responsibilities as the potential candidate and now as the ratified candidate for Seabreeze. PLPs at election 2012 Seabreeze intends to deliver! Seabreeze intends to win! Seabreeze will deliver HOPE to the constituency of Seabreeze. Seabreeze will vote for Hope, Hope for now. Hope for the future. PLP ALL THE WAY!!

Sen. C.V. Hope Strachan