

## Remarks by Fred Mitchell MP

### Fox Hill

#### The Renaming of Springfield Rd in Honour of Frank Edgecombe.

Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen this evening it is my honour to welcome you back to Fox Hill for the second day in a row. Last night it was my privilege to be your host at the lecture at the Mt. Carey Union Baptist Church, where we toured our way from slavery through the 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to today.

Today, I am pleased to host you at quite a different kind of ceremony. I must say that the genesis of this is again an idea of yours when we were in Trinidad and Tobago that we do something to honour Frank Edgecombe that would memorialize him in the eyes of the nation.

We could of course start off with the fact that he was a Member of Parliament from 1977 to 1987. We could add to it that he was the first Fox Hillian to serve and be confirmed as the Principal of the Sandilands All Age School, the school where he received his early education. We can continue by saying that he served in the Senate as Vice President and that he was the longest serving chair of the Road Traffic Department. All of that is part of the public record, as is his service in the church and the generous donation of his time and effort to the building up of the church.

I want however to switch to something personal. Like the time I saw Frank Edgecombe on the roof of the church he was building actually with hammer and nail putting shingles on the roof. I thought: Good Lord, he's gonna fall down from there. But he thought nothing of it, neither did his sons and it was just natural.

And I recall how he got to be the MP for Fox Hill. I was in the PLP's junior circle in those days and following the party's political crisis of 1977, they were looking for someone to succeed the late Lionel Davis. Everyone kept talking about Frank Edgecombe. Sir Lynden kept saying how he was a head teacher and would he leave his work to come be a politician. They were sure he was the only one who could do it. And he did.

I remember his advice when I almost lost this seat in 2007. My majority went down from 1200 or so in 2002 to 64 in 2007. He said after they did the recount brother Mitchell you only have to win by one.

And I said Amen brother Amen.

Frank Edgecombe and his family have delivered for me. He supported me in money and in kind. His children are always there to help and support. They are strong Fox Hillians and we I think owe them big

time, a debt of gratitude. He is a prime example of the quiet dedication and hard work of the people of Fox Hill. He is a prince of this village.

It is for all of those reasons both national personal that I am happy Prime Minister to welcome you and the Deputy Prime Minister to Fox Hill today to rename this street where Mr.Edgecombe lives in his honour.

Thank you and God Bless our Commonwealth.