

Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

BAMBOO Town MP Renward Wells yesterday suggested that the Progressive Liberal Party and the country will see the “power of one MP” when the Constitutional Amendment Bills come to a vote in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Wells was responding specifically to former PLP Cabinet minister George Smith who last week said the Bamboo Town MP did not have the political clout to “stand on a bully pulpit and talk tough.

”Mr. Smith said Mr. Wells only managed to capture 39 per cent of the popular vote during the 2012 general election, which did not signify strong support in his constituency. He criticised Mr. Wells after the Bamboo Town MP told The Nassau Guardian that if the PLP expelled embattled Fort Charlotte MP Dr. Andre Rollins then he would “go too.”

“I want Mr. Smith to know I have a bully pulpit and because I am an elected member of Parliament I have the right to get on any Bill in the House of Assembly,” Mr. Wells told The Tribune. “I have the right to say ‘yes’ or to say ‘no’ to every piece of legislation and to that effect it means that I can decide what becomes law and what does not become law.

“You mean to tell me that is not a man with some clout? Mr. Smith will see the capacity of one MP to disrupt or not disrupt,” Mr. Wells said. “For example this same gender equality bill. In order for it to pass, the government needs 75 per cent of the MPs to vote yes. That means every PLP will have to vote yes if all eight of the FNMs vote no. I have already gone on the record to say if the language is not changed, I will not be supporting the bill,” he said, referring to the fourth Constitutional Amendment Bill.

“He is saying I only won by 39 per cent, but I was in a four-way race for the most hotly contested seat in the election against three millionaires and I won.

“Obviously he (Mr. Smith) had not thought through really the substance and cohesiveness (of his statements),” Mr. Wells said. “His argument was lacking in consistency and substance if he really thought what he said, he wouldn’t have said it.”

Mr. Wells also said he stands by his decision to resign if the PLP expels Dr. Rollins. However, he refused to comment on the controversy that has dogged him for months and explain why he signed a letter of intent (LOI) with Stellar Waste to Energy Management in July. He said he will address this in “due time”. On Sunday PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts told The Tribune that Mr. Wells told the party’s National General Council last Thursday why he signed the LOI.

However, he declined to give his views on Mr. Wells’ testimony or to divulge his statements on the matter.

The prime minister fired Mr. Wells from his post as parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Works nearly two weeks ago over the controversy.