

Virgin Islands Party
Third DISTRICT Declaration

By

Julian Fraser

October 8th 2011

By the grace of God:

We the Virgin Islands Party
Will be successful once again on November 7th
and we will continue to do things here in the 3rd District

"BETTER THAN ALL THE REST"

Because

"WE'RE SIMPLY THE BEST"

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, My people of the 3rd District: *those of you here at home and in the U.S. Virgin Islands; and particularly those of you abroad listening in on the World Wide Web; and indeed the entire BVI, good evening.*

The People of
District 3

Ladies and Gentlemen: The People of the 3rd District: *and again I mean both here in the BVI and in the United States Virgin Islands, whether family, friends, acquaintances, or well wishers, have been like no other in the world to me.*

They pray for me regularly, they call to see how I am doing when they don't see me, and they always have words of encouragement to share.

I always get a special sense of satisfaction whenever I meet those living in St. Thomas, and they say to me, "keep up the good works, continue to give them hell, I listen to you all the time, *I even read the BLOGS*".

That means the world to me, for I know that I am appreciated by my people.

I am particularly grateful to those who have over the years taken time out to express their thoughts in letter form, and sometimes even with a plaque.

Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do on occasion receive plaques from my constituents expressing their appreciation for my service.

You the people of the 3rd District have afforded me one of the world's greatest treasures, which is **YOUR TRUST**, and for that, I owe you a lifetime of debt.

My gratitude will never cease.

You're simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

My people, trust don't come easy; trust isn't something you go around asking for like forgiveness; trust isn't cheap either, ***YOU HAVE TO EARN IT.***

I never forget the days back in the 1999 campaign, *where* it was obvious that my candidacy was ***“Better Than All The Rest”***, that I had to work so hard to prove it.

I later found out that it was all about ***“TRUST”***, and ***“TRUST”*** my people, is inextricably linked to **CHARACTER.**

And character you see, can only best be defined as, ***“Moral or Ethical Strength”.***

Moral correctness is all about how you treat others. It first starts in the home and how you treat your family.

It is not about posing for a photo when the lights are on, but being there for them in the dead of winter through snow and rain, ***which I have.***

It is about being there with them in the middle of the night, every night, ***which I have.***

It is about providing for them every day, through good times and in bad times, ***which I have.***

And most importantly, keeping the promise that **you will never leave them nor forsake them**, something I have done consistently for the past thirty two years.

My people of the 3rd District, I am once again before you asking you to reaffirm **YOUR TRUST** in me, and for that, I once again present you with my credentials.

People of the 3rd District, you are a people of good judgment. I know that, because I was preceded by a great leader of your choosing. And I expect to be followed by someone whose character is worthy of that **GOOD TRUST** you have bestowed upon us, for the last forty plus years.

My People, the call is yours and yours alone. Don't let anyone come in here and tell you to move away from that tradition.

Hon. Cills
& the VIP

My People: The Third District, which is not unlike the rest of the BVI, has seen its transformation; and steady growth from the period of the early **1970's to June 16th 2003**, when the NDP took office and brought a halt to the hopes and prosperity for the District.

This transformation and growth began when *a special Man* took office in 1971, and continued for the next four years after he retired from politics in 1999.

When *that man* got elected in 1971 children were still attending primary School in the Methodist Church, and the curriculum facilitated only as far as grade 3.

He later fixed that by building a Primary School and broadened its curriculum to include the **5th Grade.**

When he first came to office, there was one way out and one way into Sea Cows Bay, East or West, depending on which direction you were traveling.

He fixed that by first establishing the Sea Cows Bay / Chalswell Road, and later the Albion / Bound Tree Road.

Thanks to him, Sea Cows Bay has probably the most comprehensive road network in the Territory.

I'm sure you know you can enter and exit Sea Cows Bay by way of Drake's highway, but did you know that you can do the same through the Nibbs Estate?

When he first came to office, these grounds upon which we stand tonight were privately owned; tonight they are the properties of you the people of the Virgin Islands. *Thanks to him, and the Virgin Islands Party.*

They are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

That he changed by purchasing this 114.5 acre estate from the Georges Family in 1998 at the sum of \$2,290,000 with the vision to provide land to first time home owners of the District, at the astounding rate of \$0.70 per square foot.

In real terms, that's \$7,608.69 per quarter acre. Now that's a Virgin Islands Party Government working together with your Representative, for you the people of District 3,

They are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

When he first came to office, Horse Racing was done on a four furlong: give or take irregular dirt-path right here in front you.

He changed that by bringing to the District a Modern Day Race Track, with a running surface that is probably still the best in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these accomplishments were made by none other than **Hon. Oliver Cills:** my predecessor, a man whose record speaks for him, **a true VIP.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, in 1999 Hon. Cills retired from politics, and for the next four years I assumed the position of District Representative with the Ruling Virgin Islands Party Government, **and the District continued to prosper.**

My First
Term in
Office

During those four years, the VIP and I were successful in sub-dividing and distributing **84 house** lots here on this the Nibbs Estate.

We were able to erect this 3000 seat grandstand at what is now Ellis Thomas Downs.

We were able to construct the Sea Cows Bay / Collon Hill Road by way of Jabbott Hill.

We installed Water Lines from the Doty Junction to Sage Mountain.

We were successful in eliminating the chronic water shortage issues in the District through the commissioning of a 300,000 gallon a day Water Plant here in Sea Cows Bay.

Ladies and Gentlemen: our successes were to continue, as hundreds of yards of sidewalks were installed from Albion to Palestina.

We were able to erect a fence around the Ebenezer Thomas Primary School. And later rebuilt the primary building.

Sea Cows
Bay Harbor
Project

And of course, not the least is the Sea Cows Bay Harbor Development Project. For which I was able to travel to St. Lucia in 2000, and get the OECS involvement with an environmental study.

Thereafter I succeeded with the commissioning of an Architect in 2001 to do the preliminary designs.

This project which by the time of the 2003 elections had already begun, *as evidenced by the delimitation piles in the sea; and the Albion Ghut lining*, was summarily abandoned by the NDP Government of 2003-2007.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen: Let me recommit to you, that this project will not go away. It was number one on my Platform in 1999: you elected me and I started it.

It was number one on my Platform in 2003: you elected me **but not the VIP** and the NDP Government abandoned it. **And you suffered.**

I came back to you in 2007 with a promise never to give up on making the dream a reality, but those four NDP years of Government was so devastating to this District, that getting the project going again was almost like starting from scratch.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me enlighten you with the realities of the actions of that NDP Government and this project.

My people, when the VIP and I left office in 2003, there was a total of \$955,000 appropriated across two Ministries for this project.

In the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labor, they literally raped the project, as they took every cent of the \$380,000 that was under their control, ***and spent it on other things.***

As far as the Ministry of Communications and Works were concerned, they might as well have done the same, for after going through three Ministers; and my having made three presentations:

- one to Caucus;
- one to the Minister, and the Ministry; and
- the other one to the technical team selected to execute the project,

Nothing was done.

My people of the 3rd District, tonight as I stand here before you I am pleased to report, that the Sea Cows Bay Harbor Development Project is back on track, despite the actions of the NDP.

Since taking office in 2007, I have been able to fund works on the project, and to date a consultant was commissioned to produce Construction Documents for the infrastructural works, which includes the Bulk heading; Finger Piers; Electrical; Water; and Drainage.

So far we have issued a total of seven contracts for the fabrication of Bulkhead Panels and Piles, and that work is currently being executed on site.

The Sea Cows Bay Harbor Development Project is a must, if we are at all serious about creating an alternative to the Metropolitan Road Town area. And most importantly, bringing commerce into Sea Cows Bay

This well needed project in the District promises a transformation in the form of:

1. Nine 2 story Buildings for Commercial Investments
 2. One hundred and sixty nine thousand (169,000) square feet of commercial space will be available.
 3. Two thousand eight hundred (2,800) square feet of space will be designated to make available: **Four Restaurants and a Pub**, which is to include varying levels of food services, from fast food to formal dining.
 4. Nine – 200 foot long jetties capable of providing berthing for approximately 125 yachts, including provisions for **Mega Yachts**.
 5. Water depth to accommodate Yachts with drafts up to 15 feet.
 6. Seventy Nine Thousand (79,000) square feet of office space will be available.
 7. A secondary road or by-pass will be placed parallel to Drake's Highway so as to make the development friendlier to users.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, with this development, the **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES** are huge, with:
 - Up to Eighty Three Thousand (83,000) square feet of ground floor commercial space being available for Gift Shops, a Grocery Store, and Banking Facilities.

Other opportunities include:

1. Investments in a Laundromat
2. Grocery for provisioning yachts
3. Three Boutiques
4. Two Gift / Souvenir Shops
5. Office Space up to Seventy Nine Thousand (79,000) square feet
6. Opportunities for Taxi Services
7. Provision of Fuel Services
8. Charter Boat and Sport Fishing Services
9. Provision of twenty four hour Security Service.
10. Garbage Carting Services

11. Internet Cafe
12. Beauty and Fitness Center.

My people, as is always the case with the NDP, everything that's good, **is too good for Sea Cows Bay**, so they will come to your houses and lie to you by having you believe that the works being carried out on site is a private project for the benefit of a land owner.

Well my people; let me have you know that this is just one of many lies you have been fed to date. And further, all the work being carried out on that site is a government initiative for the entire harbor, **as will be demonstrated to you later.**

My people, back in the day being a Man of the Cloth used to mean a lot. As a matter of fact our parents would say to us that there were two people you didn't cross paths with, and one of them was your Priest.

Well, that was then.

Today some of these men are known to violate **Certain Basic Biblical Tenets**, even to the detriment of family, without even batting an eye. So my people when I speak of **CHARACTER** you must take me seriously.

Lying to a constituency speaks volumes to the violation of "TRUST", particularly a TRUST you are seeking to get.

The District
and the
NDP

What has the NDP done for the Third District during their four years? Ask me and I'll tell you what.

They built a \$200,000 toilet here on the Race Track, and not a single soul from the Third District got a thin dime out of it.

Had this been a VIP project you could have expected maximum benefits to as many persons as was practicably sensible. I would have broken the project down into four Petty Contracts at \$50,000 each.

But you see, the NDP don't believe in the Petty Contract System.

This essentially would have been along the lines of Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, and Masonry. These are all crafts for which the 3rd District is well known.

The NDP Government without consultation, *or my input*, decided to put the Cemetery in the wrong location on the Nibbs Estate. And when I raised the issue with the Minister, he said to me **“boss you don’t get to make those decisions anymore”**.

What is particularly sad about this situation is that when the Land Use Map was drawn up, an area was designated for the cemetery, *but did they check*, or entertained my intervention? No.

The Race
Track Lands

Ladies and Gentlemen: one thing is for sure and that is, that the NDP government was **Spiteful**; I must know for when it came to **Sea Cows Bay people**, *they didn’t need Viagra to shaft them*.

Take the issues with Ellis Thomas and this Race Track for instance: as we are all aware, Mr. Thomas slaved to acquire that land.

He single handedly brought horse racing to Sea Cows Bay; and then turned around and got August Tuesday set aside as a holiday for the sport.

And how did the NDP Government show their appreciation to him?

They did it by telling him that when he dies, they are going to take his land from his children. **That is Spiteful.**

And as if that wasn’t enough, they wrote him and told him that Government is going to take all the lands around the Race Track, including the portion where his house sits. **That’s even more Spiteful.**

And if anyone is under any illusion that they have changed, I only take you back to the debate on the Motion in the House of Assembly to name this facility **“Ellis Thomas Downs”** in his honor, where the NDP was critical of the decision.

They also wrote Howard Matthias threatening him to do the same with his land.

And again they wrote the Nibbs and the Forbes threatening to take the portion of land where Eugene Nibbs and Waldo Charles workshops are located.

They moved in on Cyril Romney at Prospect Reef, and by the time they were gone they had the Hotel from under him. Today it represents a \$6,000,000 monument to poor judgment.

Sea Cows Bay people, “*My People*”, don’t be fooled. They called themselves **NEW**, and I believe them. I believe they are coming after you with a new vengeance. If you don’t believe me, check their message. It is consistent.

- 1. The Sidewalk Project is referred to as being a multimillion dollar waste;*
- 2. The Harbor Development Project is being referred to as illegal;*
- 3. BiWater which seeks to rid Sea Cows Bay of the raw sewage which flows in from Road Town, they say they are going to kill.*

These are simply messages being sent to you the People of the 3rd District, that swimming in sewage is fine with them. You didn’t need a sidewalk, even at the risk of loosing your lives. And of course the Development of the Sea Cows Bay Harbor is definitely not going to happen. **TOO GOOD FOR SEA COWS BAY**

This NDP during their term of Government between 2003 and 2007 has conducted a vendetta against BV Islanders and their property. They intimidated the old in our community, and they exploited the young.

That is exactly what they have done to Cyril Romney, Ellis Thomas and Howard Matthias who were getting up there in age. And because their children were young, they felt comfortable in exploiting them.

I am also inclined to believe that being from the 3rd District didn’t help either.

My people of the 3rd District: you have a responsibility, and that is to make sure that that display of Man's inhumanity to man is never repeated.

You must teach the NDP that the race is not won to the swift, but to he who endures to the end.

Let us make sure that on Election Day, they won't make it to the end.

Ladies and Gentlemen: in 2007 I gave the assurance that the Virgin Islands Party and I stood 100% behind Ellis Thomas; Howard Matthias; Cyril Romney; the Nibbs and the Forbes Families. And that they could rest assured that their children's future was safe with us.

My people, tonight I stand here humbled in knowing that even after the passing of both Mr. Romney and Mr. Thomas my relationship with both families remains rock solid. And this to me speaks volumes to both my Representation and my Character.

They're simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

Ladies and Gentlemen: in 2007 I stood before you and proclaimed that: “As a matter of fact, one of the VIP Government's first orders of business is to give Mr. Thomas his flowers while he can still see them, so we intend to name the Race Track in his honor”.

Tonight I am pleased to report, that on April 19 2009, the Virgin Islands Party and I stood right here and fulfilled that promise, by naming this track, “Ellis Thomas Downs” in his honor.

We are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

Nibbs Estate

Ladies and Gentlemen: In 2007 when I stood before you I said “***I must continue where I left off when leaving office in 2003 and pay close attention to the Nibbs Estate***”.

My People, I am pleased to report that I have done just that.

To initiate the process, on June 22nd 2009 I wrote the Minister of Natural Resources and Labor requesting that a Committee be established for the purpose.

And consequently, this Government, recognizing that the NDP Government had done nothing to advance land distribution on the estate, took the initiative by establishing the Committee with a mandate to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The Committee upon its establishment; embarked upon the tedious process of pouring over numerous applications, scrutinizing them for compliance with the terms of reference, through consultation with the Land Registry; Survey Department; and Public Works Department, before making their selections, and then preparing their report.

Ladies and Gentlemen: as you could see, work has been going-on on the Estates for several months in an attempt to have the sub-divisions ready as quickly as possible. Even though progress could have been more robust had the weather been more satisfactory, we are still making progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen: despite the weather, or any other snags we may have encountered, I am pleased to report that the Minister for Natural Resources and Labor has received the Report from the Nibbs Estate Land Use Committee.

And, that on Wednesday October 5th 2011 the Cabinet of the Virgin Islands has approved the award of 60 lots to first time homeowners, among others.

The committee's Terms of Reference required that finality be brought to the long saga of the relocation of the Tetley's, the Bryant's, and Prince, and I am also pleased to report that they have reached a solution.

That Ladies and Gentlemen, is your Virgin Islands Party and I working for you the people of the 3RD District.

We are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

My people, during the NDP years in Government while I was in the Opposition I observed the Guardrail of the Albion Bridge laying on the roadbed and wondered why PWD didn't fix it.

So one day after elections and becoming the Minister, I asked the Director of PWD to have it fixed. A few days later he returned to informed me that the Bridge was in such a state of disrepair that it was impossible to mount the Guardrail.

I then had some photographs taken to do my own assessment, and you would be shocked at what I found. That Bridge which was built in the late 50's was a catastrophe waiting to happen. One that I had to avert at all cost.

Ladies and Gentlemen: mindful of the trouble makers among us, and the haters, I can recall taking the photos to the Premier to show him, so when people call him with news he would know first hand. I will never forget his reaction when he saw the photo. As he asked, "*what are you waiting for*"?

This project was executed by first having to build a temporary bypass road across the Gut, then the demolition of the bridge, followed by the reconstruction.

The newly constructed bridge represented a marked improvement, including to the adjacent sidewalks, drainages, and roadways.

The project was done by Seven Contractors and a Project Manager, along with the assistance of the Project Engineer of the PWD.

In addition to those main contracts, work was given for trucking, road-bed leveling equipment, road wetting equipment, and crane service to place and remove the bypass road.

With the Virgin Islands Party, we put safety first.

We are simply the best:

"BETTER THAN ALL THE REST"

My People: one of my better attributes has got to be responding to your needs, and responding to your call for a sidewalk between Hannah Bay and Sea Cows Bay is what I did when I undertook to widen and make pedestrian friendly that particular stretch of Drake's Highway.

From Albion Well to Palestina Bridge, it was the only section of road that did not get Sidewalk during the time I did the installation under the last VIP Administration. And it was without question the most dangerous stretch of Drake's Highway for pedestrians.

After having negotiated with as many as four different land owners for permission to use their land, construction began in May of 2010, but suffered severe damages in July from land slides due to a flash flood.

And it didn't just stop there, because for the three months that followed there were numerous setbacks on account of a hurricane, a tropical storm, and another flash flood.

But today Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to report, that the sidewalks are open to pedestrian traffic, and for the first time in modern times people can walk from Sea Cows Bay to Hannah's without taking their lives into their own hands.

Now that is the work of a caring Virgin Islands Party Government and I, making sure your safety come first.

We are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

This project was indeed a complex one, for in order to facilitate the sidewalk, the road had to be widened, thus the necessity for hillside land, and to do so it required excavation and retaining walls.

When we were done, the project has served its purpose, providing the well needed security to the public, and it could not come at a better time to serve as an economic stimulus for the District, considering the **numerous amounts of contractors** who were involved in the works.

The project was built by 28 different Contractors, almost all from the District, and Ladies and Gentlemen, as an act of both *pride and vindication* I shall give their names. I do this as a means of recognition, and also to silence the liars who come into your homes saying that only a few contractors in the District get work. *“The List”*.

Now you must ask yourself the question, can I trust people who will deceive people for their own personal gain? Again what comes to mind, are those two words, *TRUST and CHARACTER*.

It is not true that I only give work to a few people in the District, for my policy is that all are inclusive. People must be honest, for if you don't have documents, *namely*, a Trade License and Good Standing Certificates from Inland Revenue, and Social Security, you cannot get a Government Petty Contract.

Petty Contracts are given only to those with such Documents. Every man and woman in the Third District knows this, because I have had two well attended meetings for persons interested in doing Government Contracts.

It is difficult for me to get people to bring in these Documents. Waiting for someone to bring me documents sometimes takes a month, and that causes delays to projects.

If I check my files right now, I doubt I will find three sets of current Documents, and if I do, it will be the same set of persons who make sure that their Document are current.

Ladies and Gentlemen: let me take this time to acknowledge Mr. Kurt Hodge, a young engineer who some day will be Director of Public Works.

Kurt is one of us from right here in Sea Cows Bay. He is the master mind of the project, and I am proud of him. *We should all be.*

When it comes to this project, tomorrow's headline should read, **“Hometown boy does well”**.

If all this is true, then why the NDP continue to criticize his work. *Is it jealousy?* Or is it because they think it is too good for Sea Cows Bay?

This Project creates a corridor that links the upcoming \$20 plus million expansion of Nanny Cay, and developments at Palestina, with the Sea Cows Bay Harbor Development Project.

ECONOMIC
TRADING
ZONE

Together this single entity becomes the Economic Trading Zone for the 3rd District.

This Economic Trading Zone is an initiative being advanced by the proprietors of Nanny Cay, Palestina and myself as a means of creating a true alternative to what currently obtains for visitors and residents. ***“THE SLIDE”***

Now that is the work of a caring Virgin Islands Party Government and I, making sure your economic future is secure.

***We are simply the best:
“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”***

Accomplishments
Continue

The District has had its fair share of developments during this past four years, as I have already made mention of the Sea Cows Bay Harbor Development Project; The Albion Bridge; The Sub-division of The Nibbs Estate; and The Nanny Cay Sidewalk Project.

But that is not all.

- You would all recall the days when portions of Duff’s Bottom, including in front VI Motors, was literally a lake when it rained, now that is no longer so, since we have constructed an elaborate drainage system in the area.
- We have also taken steps to ensure that minimal interruption to the electrical supply to Pleasant Valley comes in the event of heavy winds and storms, by burying the high voltage cables from Cable and Wireless gate to across the Pleasant Valley Bridge.

This choice had to be made in the interest of preserving the trees which serves to give the road its unique charm through the formation of a canopy cover.

- At Ellis Thomas Downs we were able to change the inside railing from plastic to aluminum, replace the running surface on the track, not once but twice, compliments of the hurricane.

We have also done extensive works at the stables, repairing roofs, and installing floors in order to alleviate the discomfort from having to use a water soaked floor.

Much work has been done on the platform between the Grandstand and the track, as it was expanded by four times over what I had done in 2003. Yes you heard right, I did what was there in 2003. The NDP did nothing, despite my asking.

I installed booths around the track so track officials can ensure that races are conducted fairly.

- Additionally, many of our roads have been overlaid, including portions of the Sea Cows Bay / Chalswell Road; and the Palestina / Pleasant Valley Road, which was done twice, again compliments of the hurricane.
- We have widened the stretch of road giving direct access to Porter Gut, and Cherry Gut, thus enabling us to turn the stretch of road thru Cherry Gut into a one way street.
- The infrastructure in the District has also been enhanced, and further developed through the many projects done to assist my constituents with access roads and civil works mitigation measures.
- As District Representative I have been steadfastly advocating for development in the District. This is evidenced by the addition of a most creative venture in the form of a Shopping Strip and Office Complex by R&R Malone at Pockwood Pond.

But my involvement was not only in creating the atmosphere for the business; it was also in ensuring the business stays viable. And creating a means of attracting other businesses through moving the Vehicle Licensing Department, (*the now Department of Motor Vehicles*) to occupy an entire building within the complex.

This my friends, is forward thinking. I can someday see that corridor being extended to Pockwood Pond.

Now those are new ideas from a caring Virgin Islands Party Government and I, making sure your economic future is secure.

We are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

Future
Development
Cont.

Ladies and Gentlemen: among my plans for the District over the next four years, is to complete the plan to establish a direct motorable link between Pleasant Valley and Sage Mountain.

This was started by me in my first term and got as far as needing a single approval, which evaded me until the term ran out.

A lot of work was done on that initiative, as I can recall walking the entire route with the late Randolph Mactavious and others, while at the same time gaining some valuable lessons in history.

These developments will only come from the Virgin Islands Party and I, for you the people of the 3rd District.

We are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

Funding has already been secured from the Caribbean Development Bank to address critical areas prone to severe flooding in the territory, and the 3rd District is a beneficiary of that funding.

- The Pleasant Valley Bridge which has proven inadequate to sustain the flow of water during heavy rains, will be addressed in a manner similar to the way the situation in Albion was handled, as the Bridge will be removed and replaced.

The banks along the gut leading to the bridge will be raised, and the road between the Bridge and Drake’s Highway will be re-engineered to accommodate the spillage of excess water from the gut.

This exercise is particularly important, considering the fact that the properties across the Highway at the intersection are always the worst hit from water flowing on that road.

- As for Pockwood Pond, enough can never be said about this area when it comes to the issues of flooding. However, suffice it to say that the Ministry of Communications and Works have been engineering solutions for the area for a while, and I am satisfied that we have solutions.

Sports &
Recreation

Ladies and Gentlemen: what is not obvious to the casual onlooker, but can only be seen from high atop the surrounding hills of Albion, is the mind boggling potential for recreation the Valley of Albion has to offer.

I happen to be one such person who is aware of this resource, and I intend to do something about it.

Earlier this year the youth of the District was successful in winning championships in both the District and Primary levels in Basketball territory wide. And I am happy that I was a contributor, both as a sponsor, and as host for an awards celebration.

The Basketball court which has seen its better days is scheduled for a rebuild, and I am please to report that the contract for the rubberizing of the floor has been let, and that work has begun.

ROGER
HODGE
PARK

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Cabinet of the Virgin Islands acting on the recommendations of The 2008 Committee has agreed to decide that the Softball Field located on the Nibbs Estate be named: **“Roger Hodge Park”**.

And the Committee being so charged with the responsibility to organize a ceremony, has recommended October 31st as the date, and I have accepted.

Ladies and Gentlemen it is my understanding, that this will be the first time ever that such an honor has been bestowed upon a youth in the territory.

This is The Virgin Islands Party and I, upholding a tradition of honoring our heroes, young and old.

We are simply the best:

“BETTER THAN ALL THE REST”

Roger was a person of humble origins and was born into a family renowned for their affiliation with sports, particularly softball. He was born on March 8, 1972 to Alphonse and Cecilia Hodge of Sea Cows Bay.

He was one of three employees of the BVI Electricity Corporation who died tragically on April 6, 2004 in a fatal accident on Drake's Highway, in Haver's.

OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Education

My People: I am proud to report that this District is home to more High Schools within walking distance of each other than any other District. And this did not come as a result of our District's needs, but rather as a result of our attraction.

Education, whether Primary; Secondary or College Level; shall continue to be high on our list of priorities.

Over the past four years I have been able to assist many of you with much needed scholarships and other forms of aid as you pursued your higher education, and I was happy to have done so.

I was able to assist with the fencing of the Seven Day Adventist School, and was instrumental in getting the Ebenezer Thomas Primary School its Playground Equipment.

The Virgin Islands Party and I are committed to enriching you with learning.

Position of
Trust and
Credibility

My people, for all my political life I have had a career of involvement at the highest levels of Government. I have been called upon to represent the Premier overseas, I have traveled overseas with the Premier, and I have had to do my own Ministry's work overseas as well.

I have had to negotiate on behalf of Government both at home and overseas, and in all cases I was the voice of the Government.

One thing I learned over the years, and that is that the people you negotiate with knows everything about you, including your favorite underwear, (*that is boxers or briefs*).

So they do know whether you are weak in the pocket or weak in the flesh. And if you are weak in the pocket, they will test you; if you are weak in the flesh they will also test you. And if you are weak in both the pocket and the flesh, they will test you still.

Being weak in any of these two evils, is a sure recipe for compromising the position of your Government, and they are prepared to use it to their advantage.

My people, sending the right man to do the job I am here before you asking for, *is your responsibility*. I know that I have been tried, I have been tested, and I have been proven.

Ladies and Gentlemen: can you put your **TRUST** in anyone but me at this time?

Chairman Mao Tse-Tung in his auto biography said, “any man who cannot overcome the twin crisis of money and sex, is not a man”.

But you didn’t need him to tell you that, because you are all followers of the scriptures.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I am your man, always has been. A man you can **TRUST**.

Commentary

In my profession, I was trained to see things conceptually, I see most things before they exist, and this is not a view many people get, so I am often misunderstood. But that too, my profession has prepared me for.

You know, there is a thin line between arrogance and self confidence, *and to the untrained eye one often misconstrue self confidence for arrogance*. Some people think I am arrogant. But I am not arrogant, I’m just self confident.

My dear people of District 3, **let me close with a passage of scripture**, for I am convinced, that this District is under attack, but the attackers will not succeed, because they must first know their own capabilities.

The scripture says:

“Those who say, “I love God”, and hate their own brothers or sisters are liars;

For those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

The commandment we have from him is this, those who love God, must love their brothers and sisters also.

1st John 4: 20 & 21

My people of District 3, I am seeking re-election to the 2nd House of Assembly, and I am asking you for your support.

Vote for me on elections day

Thank you all. And have a good night.

Forward ever, forward ever, backwards never.