

**COUNTER-RESOLUTION OF CONFIDENCE IN
THE MEMBER FOR KILLARNEY & PRIME MINISTER**

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

11TH DECEMBER, 2019

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Resolution Tabled in this Honourable House on the 4th December, 2019 by the Honourable Member for Cat Island, Rum Cay & San Salvador, be Amended, as follows:-

After the first use of the word “Whereas” every other word be deleted, and substituted by the following words:

[WHEREAS] pursuant to Article 73 (1) of The Constitution the Governor-General shall appoint as Prime Minister the member of the House of Assembly who is the leader of the party which commands the support of the majority of the members of that House;

AND WHEREAS on the 11th May, 2017 the member for Killarney, Dr. The Most Honourable Hubert Alexander Minnis, was appointed as Prime Minister by the Governor-General after the general elections held on the 10th May, 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister and the Government which he leads have pursued The People’s Agenda and, through many positive initiatives, brought to and passed by this Honourable House and Parliament, has successfully implemented a reform agenda designed to correct the many errors and abuses of the last PLP Government, and brought economic growth and diversification of the economy, systemic improvements in the public service, greater accountability, and relief to thousands of suffering Bahamians;

AND WHEREAS the Central Post Office Building on East Hill Street has been a mold-infested crumbling wreck for more than two decades requiring endless repairs costing tens of millions of dollars each time, with no lasting improvements; and which even as conditions rapidly worsened, imperiled the lives, health and safety of the general public and especially the hundreds of Bahamians forced to work day-to-day in unhealthy and sub-human conditions; which conditions caused a near total collapse of the Postal system in The Bahamas inflicting additional economic harm to the business community and the economy in general;

AND WHEREAS under the last PLP Government every government agency or Ministry was permitted to evacuate the mold-infested and crumbling building, with the exception of the Post Office and its long-suffering staff and workers;

AND WHEREAS the PLP Government merely contented itself with a face lift of the moldering structure over its five years tenure in office; building a covered walkway to prevent customers and pedestrians from being struck by crumbling and falling chunks of concrete; and nailing plywood to the ceiling of the portico of the building similarly to prevent grievous bodily harm from the crumbling roofing of the said walkway and porch; failing to fully resolve problems with the air conditioning services or eliminating the mold infestations in the building; thereby leaving the staff to swelter and suffer from oppressive working conditions for years;

AND WHEREAS the proposal to lease the Town Centre Mall was raised at Cabinet by the Minister of Transport who is responsible for the Post Office. The Member for St. Anne's was excused from the meeting; when the Government initially decided to explore other options;

AND WHEREAS after such explorations of alternative options, they were found to be too expensive or impractical;

AND WHEREAS the said Member for St. Anne's, who was absent at the material time, in fact did not, in any way, participate in the discussion or decision-making during the Cabinet meeting at which the Government decided to lease portions of the said building to house the Central Post Office;

AND WHEREAS the question of renting the Town Centre Mall to house the Central Post Office was also seriously considered by the PLP Government, who ultimately decided to pursue another option, (which option caused expressions of outrage and opposition by residents in surrounding established communities, who had not been consulted);

AND WHEREAS the Resolution Tabled by the Opposition is designed to incite public resentment against the Government in general and the Member for St. Anne's in particular; and also, to distract this House, the general public and the Government in the performance of its duties;

AND WHEREAS the Most Honourable Prime Minister, the Member for Killarney, and the Government which he leads, have successfully implemented many of the Commitments made in "The People's Agenda", namely:

- Restored the economic vitality of The Bahamas by attracting more than \$8.6 Billion Dollars in foreign direct investment in touristic developments, cruise ports and the re-development of the Harbour of Nassau;
- Stopped the threatened imminent closure of the Our Lucaya Hotel group by its former owner; purchased the threatened Hotels which the PLP opposed) and made a major government investment of more than \$70 Million to save jobs, and to rescue, support and expand the economy of Grand Bahama, which has lagged for many years behind the recovery of other parts of The Bahamas;
- Brought an end to the rampant corruption which marked the tenure of the last PLP Government;
- Established the Anti-Corruption Unit within the Royal Bahamas Police Force, and strengthened the legal framework to fight corruption, so as to decrease the wastage and loss of wealth to Bahamians;
- Created the constitutionally Independent post of Director of Public Prosecutions, thus removing the possibility of any secretive political pressure on prosecutorial decision-making;
- Implemented policies and a regulatory environment that caused the country's gross domestic product (GDP) real growth rate (over and above the inflation rate) to be on track to achieve 1.8% in 2019 prior to Hurricane Dorian, having pulled our way out of economic contraction during the Great Depression which started in 2008;
- Caused the reduction in the national unemployment rate (prior to the natural disaster of Hurricane Dorian) from 14% down to 9.5% for the first time in 10 years;

- Championed small and medium sized businesses through the establishment and funding of the Small Business Development Centre, which has already serviced 128 SMEs, having provided \$3.3 million to SMEs, including \$1.2 million in equity and grants, and facilitating or guaranteeing \$2.1 million in loans;
- Greatly reduced the historically high crime rates under the PLP, inclusive of the murder rate, on a sustained basis;
- Effectively managed the growth in The Bahamas' tourist arrivals to an unprecedented and historic 6.6 million foreign air and sea arrivals in 2018, with stopover visitors having increased by 16.7% when compared to 2017.
- Implemented an aggressive policy of people-led re-development of Over-the-Hill and distressed communities by the creation of special Economic Empowerment Zones in traditional communities, similar to those long enjoyed in the City of Nassau, while restoring historical parks and recreational facilities; cleaning up the environment with bulk waste removal and the removal of derelict vehicles;
- Halted the series of more than 5 economic downgrades of The Bahamas by international ratings agencies to "junk bond" status, under the PLP, and achieved the first positive re-evaluations of fiscal management and economic stability received by The Bahamas in more than a decade;
- Implemented fiscal Laws and policies designed to ensure accountability by the Executive to Parliament for the management of the Nation's economy;
- Implemented a policy of delivering Grants of Crown Land to ordinary Bahamians in our Family Islands to empower the people and to give them a jump-start in their own self-empowerment;
- Began providing greater access to affordable homes through the grant of certain exemptions for the building of dwelling homes on serviced-lots within Government subdivisions throughout The Bahamas, facilitated by the Access to Affordable Homes Act;
- Implemented free tertiary full-time education for all Bahamians at the University of The Bahamas and The Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute;
- Achieved a 300% increase in Pre-School enrollment by increasing the number of class rooms and also providing direct subsidies of \$2,000.00 each year to approved private sector Pre-School operators for each child in the programme;
- Implemented the first Virtual School in The Bahamas enabling once subject-deprived students in remote and disadvantaged areas to receive teaching lessons in critically needed mathematics, science and social studies over the Internet;
- Beginning to implement fully digital education by the use of tablets and lap top computers for every student in our public schools;
- Implemented a viable and sustainable programme which has, after many decades, finally fixed the New Providence Landfill and Dump site, and stopped the raging and harmful wildfires and stench which plagued surrounding communities;

- Addressed the environmental problem of oil seepage at Clifton that had been left unresolved for more than a decade, by building a bulkhead and dock to contain oil seepage and protect not only our wildlife, but residents and visitors to our southern shores;
- Tackled the decades-old challenge of power generation on New Providence, having installed seven tri-fuel engines presently being tested at Clifton Pier, and, in respect of renewable energy, executed two large solar generation projects on New Providence and presently requesting proposals for solar energy from Independent Power Producers for strategic Family Islands;
- Provided for the health of our citizens by repairing clinics throughout our Family Islands and hiring more doctors, registered and clinical nurses, pharmacists and other medical personnel;
- Established an independent Marijuana Commission to assess and recommend how the country should treat with marijuana for medicinal, religious, recreational, commercial, industrial and other purposes;
- Restored respect for The Bahamas internationally and strengthened diplomatic ties, resulting in The Bahamas being re-elected to serve on the International Maritime Organisation Council in Category C, with the highest number of votes ever for The Bahamas, and an uncharacteristic outpouring of international development and other aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian; whilst also establishing an Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission to the European Union, giving the Bahamas access and a presence before the European institutions who took many harmful decisions in the past without direct contacts and representation by The Bahamas; and
- Most recently, in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, made available \$10 million to assist ordinary Bahamians with home restorations and an additional \$10 million to help restore businesses; created a legal structure to ensure the delivery of reconstruction on Abaco, its surrounding Cays and Grand Bahama Island; and have already restored a record-breaking return nation-wide to 80% of pre-Hurricane Dorian tourist arrival levels.

NOW BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT this Honourable House has full confidence in the Member for Killarney, and that he continues to serve as Prime Minister in this Honourable House and throughout the Nation.

Mover:

Seconder: