

## UWP Leader Lennox Linton reflects, one year later

**SIGNIFICANT PARTS PLAGIARIZED BY LINTON FROM 2013 SPEECH OF ALLAN CHASTENET OF ST LUCIA'S UWP.**

On September 1st, 2013 at our annual convention in Castle Bruce, following a painful review of the 14 year record of governance failures that led us to the conclusion that CHANGE IS A MUST, we acknowledged the tremendous work to be done for God and Country in order to reinstate the moral compass of enlightened leadership at the helm of our development efforts.

Personally, I was humbled by the party's vote of confidence in my ability to build and lead a team to conscientiously nurture and protect the public interest in the advancement of Dominica for all Dominicans.

We resolved to prepare for the battle to lift Dominica out of the abyss of gloom and doom into which it was dumped by the Dominica Labour Party. As our country yearned to be rescued from the grip of a Labour Party administration that managed to turn it upside down, inside out and back to front, we stepped forward with a renewed sense of purpose under the patriotic fervour of United Workers Party TEAM Dominica.

We committed ourselves and the membership of this great institution to a new order of leadership competence and courage in the cause of progressive change for our beloved nation. This was by no means just a call to help win votes in a political campaign for the seat of government. Much more than

**Commented [AA1]:** This and all other areas highlighted in yellow were plagiarized from Chastenet's 2013 speech

that, we were joining our UWP brothers and sisters and all the other patriots of this fair land in a crusade to restore the brightness of the Dominican soul.

And so we embraced the responsibility of renewal. In the dark, confounding days of political torment, we rose, not to curse the darkness but to bring the light of renewal. Renewal of the party into a properly structured, well-integrated, visionary, caring, innovative, and agile organization committed to the good governance of Dominica...Renewal of the country as a caring part of the global heart, responsibly earning its place in the international trade of goods and services and delivering the greatest good for the greatest number.

On the strong shoulders of audacious hope, we stood for change that will ensure that this proud country will never again be asked to accept “beggar” days as “better” days.

In the past year, we focused on renewing party structures, systems and procedures to secure relevance; improving participation; achieving consensus; and defining the skills and competencies required for the task at hand. We fearlessly held ourselves as leaders accountable and ensured the team stayed tightly focused on solutions and implementation. We disciplined ourselves to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution at all times and in so doing become proud examples of patriots pursuing their national responsibilities under the rule of law.

We have worked tirelessly to ensure that our selected representatives are

committed, willing and able to stay the course as agents of the change our country so richly deserves. We have been mindful that we must communicate respectfully with all constituents. We must listen to them, learn from them and be guided by their cares, fears, anxieties and emotions. We must empower ourselves to be effective facilitators of their worthwhile dreams and aspirations. We must rise up and live up to the highest standards of leadership and management excellence in the public interest.

For our Party and our Country we pressed reset button. We called on **everyone who had lost confidence, who was fearful of the future, but who wanted something better to get involved**. We asked our brothers and sisters to once again believe in our individual ability to make a difference and in our collective ability to let Dominica soar to the sublime heights of human achievement

In this regard, we aligned ourselves behind the vision of becoming the best as **one people and one proud nation enjoying a quality of life that is internally defined and not externally imposed**. It meant collectively determining key goals and doing what we have to do to make our country competitive in its wealth creation initiatives in the global community. **At the same time, we have been learning to prioritize and trade-off in an environment that mandates us to balance individual needs with the needs of the society**

We stepped up, and stepped forward for what is best for **all of us**. We joined hands, hearts and minds so that together we can:

- eliminate distrust, wastage, selfishness, corruption and apathy
- take responsibility for our future and demand more from ourselves and our leaders
- imagine what our country can and must become so we can all live a better life.
- eradicate poverty and illiteracy
- embrace democracy and appreciate the opportunity it affords us
- accept the need for individual and collective responsibility
- lead Dominica to the glory days of its full potential as the best place to live, the best place to work and the best place to enjoy life in the global community

Our calendar of events in the past 12 months since our 2013 annual convention, is eloquent testimony of our success in setting Dominica's Agenda for Change and defeating the politics of mepuis, hate and prejudice:

1. The grand convention rally on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 that made a bold, unavoidable statement about the seriousness of our bid to rescue Dominica
2. The Jobs and Economic Forum with key stakeholders on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at which we set out the road map for the creation of 5,000 new jobs in Dominica within the first three years of a UWP TEAM Dominica government

3. Coast to Coast in 25 – the listen, learn and educate tour of all 21 constituencies in November, 2013
4. The National Assembly on the Pottersville Savannah that reported on the Coast to Coast exercise and charted the vision of CHANGE going forward
5. The diaspora partnership and global teamwork tours of the Caribbean, North America and Europe
6. The biggest and best youth rally in the history of Dominican politics in St Joseph on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014
7. The first ever Budget Statement from a party in opposition presented to the people of Dominica on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 before the annual Budget Statement of the sitting government.
8. The East2West Agenda for Change encounters with all constituencies on the jobs and growth proposals in the Budget Statement of UWP TEAM Dominica; Free and Fair Elections, Equal Rights and Justice for all
9. The launch of [www.uwpdominica.com](http://www.uwpdominica.com) – a trailblazing, informative and highly interactive website that allows

Dominican citizens to communicate directly and effectively with their representatives on matters of interest.

Of course, it has not been all smooth sailing. We continue struggle with the challenge of adequately funding the work of United Workers Party TEAM Dominica. We continue to grapple with a proper solution for the failure of the independent electoral commission to stand firm against the relentless Skerrit cabal attack on free and fair elections in Dominica.

I thank the leadership and members of the Women's Arm and the Youth Arm of the party who have made their presence felt in evolution of our movement for change... I thank the patriots who have stepped forward as candidates on our team to contest the next election... I thank their key foot soldiers... and all those on constituency associations across the country who dedicated themselves in the past year to selfless service in the cause of building UWP TEAM Dominica for a better Dominica.

In the past year, we have believed in each other and embraced the power of WE. This journey commits us to determine and accomplish what we want Dominica to become. Collectively we have pressed the reset button and summoned the courage, to want more for our country, our families, and ourselves, knowing that by working together we can make it happen.