



**STATEMENT BY THE**  
**HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR**  
**JUSTICE, IMMIGRATION AND**  
**NATIONAL SECURITY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA PROVIDES FOR 'FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, OF EXPRESSION, OF ASSEMBLY AND OF ASSOCIATION. THESE ARE AMONG THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN ANY DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER AS WE ALL KNOW WITH EVERY RIGHT COMES A CONCOMITANT RESPONSIBILITY WHICH AS A MATURE DEMOCRACY WE ARE EXPECTED TO EXERCISE.

IN THIS REGARD, AS MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY I VIEW WITH GRAVE CONCERNS STATEMENTS MADE LAST NIGHT AT THE UNITED WORKERS PARTY MEETING AT LAGON. WHILE I ACCEPT THAT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE DIVERSE VIEWS ON MATTERS AND THERE IS A NEED TO ALLOW ALL VIEWS TO CONTEND IN A DEMOCRACY, WE CANNOT AT THE SAME TIME CONDONE STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS WHICH SEEK TO COMPROMISE NATIONAL SECURITY. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I WISH TO CALL ON

**DOMINICANS TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES  
WITH ALL STATEMENT OR ACTIONS WHICH MAY  
APPEAR TO PUT STATE SECURITY AT RISK.**

**OVER THE PAST YEARS, THIS GOVERNMENT HAS  
WORKED VERY HARD TO ENSURE THAT LAW AND  
ORDER ARE MAINTAINED ON OUR BEAUTIFUL  
LAND. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR LOCAL,  
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS, WE  
WILL CONTINUE TO DIRECT OUR ENERGIES IN  
THAT DIRECTION. WE CONTINUE TO DO SO,  
BECAUSE WE KNOW THE VALUE OF A SAFE AND**

**STABLE ENVIRONMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY COUNTRY. THE WELFARE OF ALL OUR CITIZENS, (CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULTS AND THE ELDERLY) AND VISITORS DEPENDS ON HOW WELL WE PROSPER AS AN ISLAND STATE.**

**ANY STATEMENT OR ACTION WHICH SERVES TO INCITE VIOLENCE IN OUR PEACEFUL COUNTRY MUST BE DENOUNCED BY ALL RIGHT THINKING DOMINICANS AND I KNOW THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOU FALL IN THAT CATEGORY.**

**DOMINICA IS OURS TO BUILD, NOT TO DESTROY.**

**LET US TOGETHER WORK TO CREATE A GENTLE**

**AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY; VIOLENCE WILL NOT  
HELP EDUCATE THE POOR YOUNG PERSON, BUILD  
HOUSES FOR THE NEEDY AND BUY MEDICINE FOR  
THE SICK.**