

**STATEMENT-GRAND BAY BY ELECTION
HON. ROOSEVELT SKERRIT
PRIME MINISTER
OCTOBER 28, 2021**

Today, 28th October, 2021, I advised His Excellency, the President to issue a writ under the Public Seal of the State, declaring that a by-election be held in the Grand Bay Constituency.

This is pursuant to Section 12 of the House of Assembly (Elections) Act Chap. 2:01.

The by-election becomes due following the untimely death of Honourable John Fitzgerald Edward Registe on the 1st of September 2021, which means the seat of the Representative for the Grand Bay Constituency has fallen vacant.

Section 55 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Dominica provides that where the seat of a Representative falls vacant, otherwise than by reason of a dissolution of the House, a by-election shall be held to fill the vacancy within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy, unless the House is sooner dissolved.

The Dominica Labour Party, which I have the honour to lead, will now embark on a period of campaigning ahead of polling day. We have observed before that the official opposition in the parliament is not inclined to cooperation in

such matters. Nevertheless, the DLP will move ahead swiftly with its plan, already in motion, for a predominantly virtual campaign.

We take example from election campaigns held in other regional territories within the past year, which allowed for large crowds at campaign events, and the corresponding spike in COVID-19 cases in these territories.

In the interest of safety, therefore, we will engage in non-traditional modes of campaigning to include meetings streamed via online platforms, radio and television; and more targeted interactions via meeting platforms such as Zoom. All activities will be conducted in a responsible manner, within the stipulated health and safety guidelines established by the Ministry of Health.

In my capacity as Political Leader of the Dominica Labour Party, I wish to now advise that H.E Dr. Vince Henderson, Dominica's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States, has been confirmed as the Labour Party's candidate for the Grand Bay by-election.

Ambassador Henderson's nomination was this week endorsed, first, by the Executive of the Grand Bay Constituency Association and Party Stalwarts of Grand Bay, and subsequently approved by the full membership of the Association.

The decision was then ratified by the Central Executive of the Dominica Labour Party.

Ambassador Henderson brings a wealth of experience as a former government minister, diplomat, and former member of the House of Assembly.

I am confident his vast knowledge and insight in the management of the affairs of state will place him in good stead to contribute to the further development of Grand bay and Dominica.

Against this backdrop, therefore, I wish to advise that the date for the by-election in the Grand Bay constituency has been set.

Nomination day shall be Tuesday, the 9th day of November, 2021. Voting Day in Grand Bay shall be Thursday, the 25th day of November, 2021.

I look forward to a clean, safe and peaceful by-election campaign over the next three weeks.

I thank you.