



ELECTORAL REFORM COALITION (ERC)

C/o Mr. Johnson Boston – Tel: 767-276-0387; Email: ercdominica25@gmail.com or bossojb@yahoo.com

26th May 2025

Honourable Prime Minister Mia Mottley
Chairperson of Caricom
Bridgetown
Barbados

Dear Excellency, Honourable Mia Mottley, Chairman of Caricom,

It is of great public concern in Dominica that you are currently serving as the Chairman of the CARICOM for the period, 1st January to 30th June 2025, and most ironically, you are being promoted as the Keynote Speaker at the Dominica Labour Party's rally scheduled for Sunday, 1st June 2025, less than three months after Prime Minister Skerrit bulldozed electoral legislation in the House of Assembly, and declared citizens' right to protest as patently illegal.

Last January, the electoral reform Coalition (ERC) wrote to you, in your capacity as Caricom Chairman, appealing for Caricom's intervention in persuading the Government of Dominica to respect the rights of citizens to free and fair elections. Your response to us was dismissive.

Never in the 53 years of CARICOM has a sitting Chairman participated in a partisan political rally: it appears that you are prepared to set the precedent in the Commonwealth of Dominica, where the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has been in office for more than 25 years amidst wide condemnation of fraudulent election contexts.

The Dominica Labour Party's 70th anniversary milestone is no excuse for you to break CARICOM's principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States. Any attempt to hide your behaviour under the cover of 'sister political party solidarity' deserves to be fully condemned and exposed.

You, Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, are the Chairman of CARICOM until June 30, 2025, and all your actions related to the Commonwealth of Dominica will be considered in that capacity.

It is indeed baffling for us to understand why a well-respected Caribbean leader, who professes to champion the causes of injustice in international fora, such as the United Nations, is prepared to sink to the poor levels of governance demonstrated by Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit. Why, Chairman of CARICOM, are you coming to endorse the atrocious electoral governance behaviour of Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, against the Dominican people?

You may recall that as a consultant to the Dominica Electoral Commission, well over a decade ago, you were paid handsomely to review the electoral legislation in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Your report was summarily discarded and taken out of circulation. That work, however, allowed for your broad familiarity with the fraudulent elections of Roosevelt Skerrit since 2005, and electoral governance that is not considerate of international best practice. You are also aware that he sold a Dominica diplomatic passport to fund the Dominica Labour Party's election campaign of that year.

To help you better understand the political reality in the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Electoral Reform Coalition (ERC) would like to bring the following to your attention:

1. The Dominica Labour Party and the Dominica Freedom Party formed a coalition government in 2000 and replaced the United Workers Party in the last free and fair elections.
2. In 2005, for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth of Dominica the ruling Party sold diplomatic passports to fund its campaign. When asked where the Dominica Labour Party was getting the money from for such an elaborate campaign, Prime minister Roosevelt Skerit responded with; "It's none of your damn business where the Dominica Labour Party is getting its money from, Go to Hell, Go to Hell, Go to Hell ", and from there Roosevelt Skerit has consistently injected millions of dollars in the Dominica Labour Party election campaigns of 2009, 2014, 2019, and even in the snap elections of December 2022;
3. The people of Dominica have been advocating for Electoral reform since the sale of the diplomatic passport in 2005 and it was in the aftermath of the 2005 General Elections that you were hired as a consultant to review the electoral laws.
4. After many years of continuous Electoral Reform protests, Roosevelt Skerit engaged Sir Dennis Byron to review the electoral laws after the highly fraudulent elections of 2019 which was characterized by multiple chartered plane loads of Dominicans being flown in by the Dominica Labour Party. On the eve of the 2019 elections, you are complicit in the deployment of the Regional Security Services (RSS) into Dominica whose forces viciously assaulted the sleeping people of the community of Salisbury in the early hours of the morning.
5. The Voter Register in Dominica has 74,600 voters with a population of less than 70000 inhabitants. The only democratic country in the world with more voters than citizens, considering that those under 18 are not on the list.
6. On November 6th, 2022, Sir Dennis Byron submitted his first draft report with recommendations to Roosevelt Skerit. A few hours later, following receipt of the report, the Prime Minister dissolved Parliament and called elections on December 6th, 2022. The opposition forces boycotted the elections.
7. Sir Dennis Byron submitted his final report in May 2023, with draft legislation which recommended campaign financing regulations. Sir Byron cited in his report the US\$27.5 million campaign budget for the Dominica Labour Party 2019 elections campaign.
8. In August 2023, the Government of Dominica, by-passed the Electoral Commission, and convened a series of public consultations to discuss the report of Sir Dennis Byron. The ERC and other opposition forces participated in the consultations and recommended a broad-based committee to review the recommendations. This request was ignored.
9. In May 2024, the government released the draft bills for Parliament but deleted all campaign financing regulations recommended by Sir Dennis Byron, and the opposition forces.
10. On July 7th, 2024, the ERC convened a people's parliament and had the audience ratify amendments to the electoral bills. A copy was shared with you as Chairman of Caricom, and with other Heads of Government.

11. On December 16th Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit presented the electoral bills to parliament, without campaign financing regulations, for the first reading. Citizens were encouraged to gather outside parliament to protest for campaign financing regulations. Incidentally, on the night of December 15th, the Barbados Coast Guard Trident was docked in Dominica's waters. The first reading of the bills went Incident free.

12. The ERC and other organizations continued to appeal to Roosevelt Skerrit to include campaign financing regulations in the electoral bills before going to parliament, without success.

13. When Roosevelt Skerrit announced the sitting of parliament for March 19th, 2025, the ERC appealed to citizens to gather outside parliament in a peaceful manner to let their parliamentary representatives know that they were objecting to electoral bills which don't include campaign financing regulations.

14. The police responded to the protests with deadly force. In the days after, 25 protesters were arrested, including many members of the ERC. The Roosevelt Skerrit regime has outlawed public protests, and any citizen who wishes to protest government policies must seek permission from the government.

15. Opposition forces are denied access to state-owned media, and to privately owned media houses that are supportive of the government.

16. The Electoral legislation passed in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Dominica on Wednesday 19th May 2024 legitimizes voters whose names were on the bloated voters list illegally. Persons who are out of Dominica for more than five years should have had their names struck off from the voting register. Now, people who are out of Dominica all their lives can simply return to confirm, and they will be on the list until death, and after death.

17. Roosevelt Skerrit can now facilitate the confirmation of Dominica Labour Party supporters overseas and has the liberty to legally import these voters for all subsequent elections.

18. Roosevelt Skerrit has informed the population that the issue of campaign financing is a matter that is before CARICOM. Can you, Madam Chair, clarify whether campaign financing regulations are on the agenda for Caricom.

The ERC will not insert you into Dominica's internal politics and will not abstain from informing you that with billions of dollars at its disposal and the extravagance of the Dominica Labour Party's 70th birthday celebrations, the Government of Dominica is incapable of managing waste disposal. This has brought about the most untenable situation, that of rat infestation across the island, and the onset of a public health epidemic, leptospirosis, which has already claimed precious lives of Dominicans.

Based on the foregoing, the Chairman of Caricom is best advised to stay away from Dominica's internal partisan politics. If your moral compass does not allow good sense to prevail and you choose to present yourself at the Dominica Labour Party's 70th anniversary, the ERC strongly recommends that you also consider visiting the people of Salisbury to apologize for the atrocities of the RSS in December 2019, or maybe the Salisbury people should prepare a welcome in your honour.

We, the leadership of the Electoral Reform Coalition, have determined that it will be in the best interest of the People of Dominica for us to seek an audience with you, in your capacity as Chairman of CARICOM, for a targeted conversation about implementation of the provisions of the new Electoral Laws in Dominica, and steps going forward conducive to implementation of the missing dimension of campaign finance regulations. In this regard, we hereby request an appointment with Your Excellency at a convenient time, and place during your stay in Dominica. I can be reached at telephone number 767-276-0387.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Johnson Boston
Chairman

Cc: H.E. Ms. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community
Cc: Media in the Caribbean Community

WE ARE STANDING FOR PROPER COMPREHENSIVE ELECTORAL REFORM FOR DOMINICA