



*Together for Progress*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **United Progressive Party Calls for Transparency and Economic Accountability Regarding Dominica's International Airport**

Roseau, Dominica: June 3, 2026 - The United Progressive Party (UPP), led by Joshua Francis, is urging the Government of Dominica to provide full transparency regarding the long-term economic sustainability of the proposed international airport project.

While the UPP supports national development and improved international connectivity, we believe the people of Dominica deserve honest and open discussion about the long-term financial implications of this massive undertaking.

Current global economic trends, rising aviation and operational costs, inflation, fluctuating tourism markets, and the realities facing small island developing states strongly suggest that unless Dominica's economy experiences substantial and sustained growth, the proposed airport may ultimately require ongoing government subsidies funded by taxpayers.

The experience of neighboring Caribbean countries provides important lessons.

Argyle International Airport in St. Vincent was constructed with expectations of significant tourism growth and expanded airlift. The airport was reportedly designed with an annual capacity of approximately 1.2 to 1.5 million passengers. However, actual passenger movement has remained far below that projected capacity.

Official statistics indicate:

- 2017 passenger movement: approximately 185,224
- 2018 passenger movement: approximately 189,324
- 2019 passenger movement: approximately 203,465

Even in recent years, passenger throughput remains only a fraction of the airport's intended operational capacity.

Public reports and budgetary allocations have also indicated that the Government of St. Vincent has had to provide financial support and operational subventions connected to airport operations and maintenance.

This raises serious and legitimate questions for Dominica:

- Who will finance operational costs if projected passenger arrivals do not materialize?
- How will maintenance, staffing, runway repairs, security, and debt servicing be sustained?



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- Will the financial burden ultimately fall upon the Dominican people through higher taxes, increased fees, or rising public debt?
- Has the government released a comprehensive independent feasibility study and long-term cost-benefit analysis for public review?

The people of Dominica deserve answers before future generations are committed to potentially unsustainable financial obligations.

The United Progressive Party believes that national development must be guided by:

- transparency,
- fiscal responsibility,
- realistic economic forecasting,
- and protection of the people from excessive debt burdens.

We therefore call upon the Government of Dominica to publicly release:

1. The full economic feasibility study;
2. Long-term operational cost projections;
3. Passenger and tourism forecasting models;
4. Debt servicing projections;
5. Expected annual subsidy requirements; and
6. Contingency plans should projected revenues fall short.

Development must not be driven by political prestige or emotional rhetoric. It must be grounded in sound economic planning and accountability.

The United Progressive Party remains committed to responsible development, economic transparency, and protecting the financial future of the people of Dominica. of crisis, and we remain hopeful that together we will overcome these challenges.

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