



PROGRESSIVE LABOUR PARTY

March 28, 2012

Glenn A. Blakeney JP, MP, PLP Candidate for Constituency 13, Devonshire North Central

Remarks:

“Good Afternoon, Madam Premier, fellow Candidate Mr. Walter Roban, Family, Friends, Supporters and members of the Media.

It is with great pride and humility that I sit before you today as an incumbent candidate for Constituency 13, Devonshire North Central, because it is a distinct honor and privilege to have been endorsed again by my branch and the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party to contest the next General Election.

Since being first elected in 2003, I have had the wonderful opportunity to represent the voters of Devonshire North Central and to serve the people of Bermuda as a results-driven Team Player of the Governing Progressive Labour Party, which has required an open mind, humble spirit and unwavering commitment to service, regardless of personal challenge or any other difficult circumstance that a public servant may face from time to time.

So with that in mind, let me first thank my wife and family who have not only supported me by understanding the selfless sacrifices required of a politician that often requires us to be available and accessible to our constituents whether working 12 to 16 hours a day as a Minister, or indeed answering a telephone call at 2:00am in the morning. As a politician, it would certainly not be possible to effectively serve without the unconditional love, understanding and support of family.

Serving my community and the people of Bermuda has been an awesome experience and responsibility, which I have committed to without “fear or favor” in doing my level best to serve with dignity, sensitivity and compassion that has always been based upon a foundation of personal and professional integrity.

It has been particularly pleasing to assist my constituents with the team effort of my colleagues to get neighborhood roads paved, street lighting, a school bus shelter constructed and also the first deployment of CCTV camera’s in a Devonshire North Central area, subsequent to various concerns expressed by the neighborhood residents. It has also been quite a privilege to actually help a few of my constituents’ secure gainful employment.

Moreover, I have had the additional opportunity to meet and work with Bermudians of all backgrounds, whether they are clients in need of social services or organizations that require grants or request a concession for the use of various facilities under my remit as a Government Minister since 2008.

I reflect on these examples of service at parochial and National levels because it has not only given me the confidence and insight to serve my community even better, but indeed to foster productive relationships that are as diverse as our island community itself. Such relationships are the catalysts that I will continue to rely upon in the commitment to “Build One Another

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Together”.

I’m sure many of you can appreciate that a politician has to find that delicate balance between their public life and personal responsibilities, which for some of us also includes private business interests. And I can speak from my own experience, having founded Inter-Island Communications, Ltd and Bermuda Soul Record Company, Ltd. As a result, I truly understand the various challenges our Bermuda business community face in the current economic climate.

We are in precarious times and are not immune to the impact of the current global economic challenges, which many of us in Bermuda have not experienced before. However, it is not the time to turn on each other with disparaging remarks or aspersions that denigrate the entire country in the eyes of the world. Nor should we turn a blind eye to the daunting challenges we face without accepting the fact that inaction often results in perilous consequence.

So this is why the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party has continued to move the country forward despite the disingenuous attempts to dis-acknowledge, deny or demean our track record and the good we have done for our people and our country. Have we been perfect? Absolutely not, but we have been responsive to enacting legislation to foster an enabling environment for all stake-holders in our community, whether it be our commitment to providing concessions that help encourage economic growth and employment opportunities in the private sector or in helping law enforcement to more effectively address crime, or implementing educational reform, improving healthcare with the ongoing construction of a New hospital and the elimination of upfront payments to medical practitioners, Affordable housing developments or improvements to our national Sports Centre, such as the new Aquatics facility that will allow us to host sanctioned international competition while also providing members of our community a wonderful opportunity to be introduced to structured aquatic programs. These are but a few examples, which I highlight to reiterate why I am immensely proud and privileged to continue serving my country and my constituents as the Progressive Labour Party candidate for Devonshire North Central at the next General Election, under the Leadership of the Hon. Premier Paula A. Cox. My track record speaks for itself, which I trust will earn a vote of confidence from the voters of Constituency 13, Devonshire North Central. Thank You All Very Much.”

ENDS

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