

Dale Butler ~ March 1, 2012

Good afternoon to the Premier, the Hon Paula A. Cox, to the Hon. Minister Marc Bean, to members of Cabinet and Parliament that are present, to members of the Party, and to the media.

I am pleased to be here today to be formally announced as the Progressive Labour Party candidate for Constituency 25, Warwick North East, an area that I have represented for nearly 14 years.

I joined the PLP at the age of 16 and was told that to be a successful politician I would have to serve a period of apprenticeship, stewardship and then I would be ready for leadership.

Helping the late Dr. Barbara Ball and Austin Thomas along with senior retired politicians Stanley Morton and Ottiwell Simmons proved to be an invaluable apprenticeship along with assisting grassroots stalwarts Charles Bean, Mary Hayward and Hyacinth Burgess to name just a few.

This period of apprenticeship led to the development of numerous activities and programmes in the community and eventually a period of stewardship at the Central Committee level where I was able to work with the late Roosevelt Brown, Dame Lois Brown Evans and L.F. Wade.

All of this work in the community, on a regular basis, from age 16 prepared me to run in 1998 with former Premier Alex Scott. We won that seat and when single seat constituencies came along I was able to work in Warwick North East, constituency 25.

The people of Warwick North East have kept me busy with their needs whether it was street lighting, speed bumps, mirrors, access to major roads, community development or employment. They have certainly kept me busy. I am pleased to say that over the years we have developed the Rubber Tree Festival, Dr. Yvonne Blackette annual lecture, Charles Bean annual lecture, and sponsored numerous awards and scholarships to name but a few.

The Progressive Labour Party has a strong record to stand on, and I look forward to continuing to tell our story to the constituents, face to face, person to person, from one household to the next.

I look forward to continuing as the representative of Warwick North East, Constituency 25 and I hope the voters will **Keep the Butler in the House**.

