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2/A

# THE DEMOCRAT

FOR ST. KITTS

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# HURRICANE LUIS STRIKES

● Major damage sustained by private and public sectors



The Basseterre Junior High School, with severely damaged roof. This is one of the many schools adversely affected by Hurricane Luis.



Some of the many vessels knocked ashore by the pounding waves, following the passage of Hurricane Luis. (Photos by Willett Studios)

**The** natural disaster of the nineties struck the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis at about 11.00 am on Monday 4th September 1995. It was Hurricane Luis and it pounded our shores, our inland residential, administrative, and industrial areas, our agricultural-plains, our uplands and rain forests for some thirty (30) fearsomely anxious hours.

It passed about twenty five (25) miles off the north-east coast of St. Kitts packing 140-miles-an-hour winds and causing excessive damage which the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is currently assessing.

Government buildings including several schools, the four (4) hospitals, the air and sea ports, commercial and private properties, roads, water services, electricity and crops all suffered severe and extensive damages.

Fortunately for us, there have been no serious injuries to individuals and no deaths have been incurred. The Honourable Prime Minister, Doctor Denzil Douglas gave a preliminary estimate of over two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000.00) U.S. as the approximate tune of our total losses through the onslaught of this disaster.

In his recent Broadcast to the Federation, the Prime Minister especially commended NEMA for its formidable role in monitoring the emergence of the Hurricane; and also in

alerting the population continually, with respect to the necessary preparations, in view of the unprecedented gravity of the storm.

He also complimented Radio and Television ZIZ and VON Radio for their gallant and efficient vigil all through the nights detailing the course of the Hurricane and enabling residents to communicate messages of concern to friends and relative both at home and abroad.

SKANTEL was in operation continuously and this was a sovereign balm to the lonely, the shut-ins, the hospitalized and to others confirmed to institutions as inmates and as staff workers. The people of St. Kitts and Nevis, after the unpleasant encounter with Hurricane Hugo six (6) years ago, took no chances and their precautionary measures have helped to minimise what could have been a far worse disaster.

A Fund has been established for the relief of Hurricane victims in the name of the Accountant General at National Bank. The Account Number is 23683. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) E.C. has been initially deposited by Government to the Fund. The Prime Minister also indicated that friendly Governments and agencies both regionally and internationally have promised to assist our Federation.

In the meantime, we sympathise with our

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## PAM IS HERE & HERE TO STAY

**READ THE DEMOCRAT • THE FEDERATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER**

**WE ARE NOT JUST A NEWSPAPER .....WE ARE THE DEMOCRAT**

# Hiding Behind Hurricane Luis

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Please publish the following letter in your widely read Newspaper.

I too wish to join all others in thanking Almighty God, for sparing our Land of Beauty, from the worst of Hurricane Luis.

However, having heard Prime Minister Douglas' assessment of the cost of the damage our country has suffered, I must prepare our people for the follow-up to this assessment.

Despite all the pretence of concern for the welfare of the people of St. Kitts and Nevis, Douglas and his henchmen intend to use the damage caused by Hurricane Luis to continue their SQUEEZE on the people.

Mr. Douglas has estimated the damage to amount to **over US 200 million dollars**. His intention is to get people worried as to where his Government is going to get so much money from; thus evoking sympathy for him and his Mis-leaders.

But when you add the figures he gave in his Address on ZIC, you get **US 135 million dollars**. What is the extra US 65 million dollars for?

The truth of the matter is that the Douglas Government intends to use Hurricane Luis as an excuse, not to follow through on promises made to the people in their 1995 Manifesto. So he has to push the estimate as ridiculously high as possible.

Soon, we are going to hear them say they cannot pay Civil Servants the promised 10% increase, retroactive from January, because of Hurricane Luis.

Then, they are going to use the Hurricane as an excuse not to pay the workers on the Industrial Site the promised \$300 per week Minimum Wage.

Then, we going to hear Government can't pay Sugar Workers their bonuses. Next, Douglas is going to back-track on the promise to build the 1,000 additional low-income houses, because of Hurricane Luis.

In actual fact, despite all his efforts to show sorrow and concern for those who suffered losses, Douglas truly sees Hurricane Luis as a

God-send.

He will continue to hide behind it to get sympathy for his inefficient and incompetent Government. He will hide behind it, in the hope that people will forget the vast number of persons his Government has victimised, from July 3 to present, just because they support PAM. He will hide behind it, to cover up his Government's inability to make good on the promises made to the people, during the 1995 Election Campaign, in terms of new roads, new hotels, new schools, and increased tourism, among others.

Above all, Douglas intends to use the inflated estimates of the damage inflicted by Hurricane Luis, to further push up the cost of living. Soon we are going to hear of increases in the cost of food items, water, and electricity. And bread is bound to go up again!

The Labour Party's philosophy has always been "The more downpressed you keep a people, the more dependent on you they remain." Hurricane Luis gives them the excuse to continue doing just that, unless we stop them.

Come on, people, stop allowing Douglas to fool you.

While it is true that we can say that Hurricane Luis has passed on, the pestilence and ravages of the Douglas government will linger on for some time to come.

### WATCHMAN

## Hurricane Luis Strikes.....

(Cont'd from Front Page)

neighbours in Antigua and Barbuda and in St. Maarten, as well as in Dominica and Anguilla where the damages have been reportedly worse than in our case and technical assistance is at least promised from us to our severely hit neighbours.

The Police Department which came in for very high praise and commendation is poised to clamp down on any looting, vandalism and or similar offences which usually follow the aftermaths of Hurricane.

We in St. Kitts and Nevis can regard ourselves as lucky and blessed as we narrowly escaped the full rage of Hurricane Luis.

## WILL THE BRAGGADOCIO CONTINUE ?

(Cont'd From Front Page)

National Disaster in the visitation of Hurricane Luis. We know for sure that the Douglas government will not take any credit for the visit of Luis and we do not expect them to do so. We will not credit them with that either. But we smile at the Douglas' government braggadocio in their Editorial for Wednesday 23rd August, 1995. Their boastings remind us of the parable Jesus told about the Pharisee and the publican which is recorded in Luke 18 vs 10-14. Jesus had this to say after relating the parable "For everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted". There's a lesson in that for Prime Minister Douglas and his Ministers and his Advisers.

Hurricane Luis lashed St. Kitts & Nevis for some thirty (30) hours, as of Monday this week, and inflicted untold damages to all areas of our lives. Luis was more fearsome than Hugo which blasted our Federation on September 17th 1989 just two days before the 6th Anniversary of our Independence. Hugo messed up our lives with winds of over 120 miles per hour, heavy rainfall and fiercely rough seas. The warnings given before the arrival of Luis stated that it was regarded as more deadly than Hugo and the lessons learnt from Hugo helped immensely in our readiness for the onslaught of Luis which was closely monitored and described as packing winds of over 150 m.p.h. Our people were better prepared this time.

Hurricane Luis from all reports, was heading our way after it gave Antigua and Barbuda a quick and knock-out punch, Kittitians and Nevisians braced themselves for the worse. We were kept fully abreast of this hurricane's activities throughout; thanks mainly to the regular and accurate reporting from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as well as ZIZ and VON Radio Stations. But of course, countless other courageous and community-minded citizens and residents played an outstanding part too, for which we are truly grateful and take this opportunity to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts.

God in his infinite mercy heard and answered our prayers. Hurricane Luis changed direction slightly, just as it was about to unleash its fury on 'Our Land of Beauty'. Thus St. Kitts and Nevis was spared utter, total and complete destruction. What we got was actually the tail-end of Luis but its fury was such that it did even more expensive damage than Hugo, according to the government's reports.

When it was all over, the nation breathed a huge sigh of relief. **God Be Praised!** Whatever beating we took, but for the grace of God, it would have been a lot worse. The damage done was enough for St. Kitts and Nevis to be declared a disaster area by Prime Minister Douglas.

Hurricane Luis was no respecter of persons, places or things. On the whole, the government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis are responding well indeed. The period of restoration has begun and will take time, patience, understanding, hard work and goodwill on everyone's part before our way of life returns to normalcy. This is another occasion for us to rise and live up to our young nation's motto: 'COUNTRY ABOVE SELF'. We rose to the occasion magnificently after Hugo in 1989 and we proved that we are a people with tremendous resilience. Let us do it again, God being our helper!

## ADVERTISE IN THE DEMOCRAT

## Regional Counterdrug Law Enforcement Training Course

Forty policemen, drawn from Drug Enforcement Units in St. Kitts/Nevis, Dominica and Antigua attended a four-week Regional Counterdrug Law Enforcement Training Course in St. Kitts/Nevis.

The course had been developed by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Department of Defence (DOD) as a model by which all countries in the Eastern Caribbean region could be trained in the field of Drug Law Enforcement. The course also aimed at fostering international coordination and cooperation in drug control operations throughout the Caribbean. The development of this model was agreed to during the recent Drug Squad Commanders Conference held in Barbados in December 1994.

The idea was to present a standard comprehensive training course that addresses the needs of local law enforcement officers, and create the level of confidence among the participants to encourage the exchange of information.

During the month long exercise participants (20 from St. Kitts and 10 each from Antigua and Dominica) were exposed to case initiation/preparation, trends in drug trafficking, Caribbean operations demand reduction, medical training, cocaine and narcotics terrorism, surveillance, operations, marijuana eradication, drug identification and pharmacology, and court preparation and testimony.

Along with trainers from the DEA and DOD other regional lecturers included, Mr. Charles Leacock, Deputy Director, Public Prosecutions, Barbados, Ms. Seerena Harris, Director of Trinidad/Tobago's Joint Services Staff College and Mr. Charles Barton, Superintendent of Police in Antigua.

Participants were required to undergo a three to four day practical field training exercise which tested their ability to apply the training received.

The course, funded by the United States Government, began on August 14 but concluded four days earlier than the scheduled date of September 9 due to Hurricane Luis.

**Press Release**  
**USIS**  
**September 8, 1995**

**PAM: GOOD IN THE PAST  
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