

# Labour Spokesman

SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED..., TITUS 2:8

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## HURRICANE LUIS POUNDS ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

### Prime Minister Douglas Declares Islands 'Disaster Area'

The Prime Minister, Dr the Hon Denzil Douglas, on Thursday night, September 7, declared this country (St. Kitts and Nevis) a disaster Area and urged his country men and women to join hands and hearts together in thanksgiving to Almighty God for sparing us "the worst effects of Hurricane Luis".

In an address to the nation aired over Radio Station ZIZ and the Voice Of Nevis (V.O.N) on Thursday night Prime Minister Douglas indicated that the over-all damage of Hurricane Luis to the Federation was estimated at some US\$200 million.

The Initial Damage Assessment carried out by teams from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) showed Hospitals and Health Care in the islands topping the survey chart with an estimate of US\$60 million, followed by the "General Economic Activity Impact which was put at US\$20 million and School Buildings and Education and Road each estimated at US\$18 million.

Damage to Electricity was estimated at US\$15 million; Agriculture US\$12 million and Tourism and Residential Buildings \$10 million each.

At the bottom of the chart were St. Kitts and Nevis air and Sea Ports Authority and the Commercial and Industrial Sectors US\$7 million each and Government

Headquarters and other government facilities US\$5 million.

With respect to residential buildings Prime Minister

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for their invaluable assistance prior to, during and after the passage of Hurricane Luis.

He also had words of praise for the staffs of

Radio Stations ZIZ and VON, SKANTEL, the Acting Commissioner of Police and members of the Royal St. Christopher Nevis Police Force, Officers and Members of the Defence Force and Cadet Corps, the Red Cross, Medical Personnel including nurses and doctors at the hospitals in both islands, the business community and the general public.

The Prime Minister in his address to the nation announced a special concession to local homeowners who do not have home insurance to allow them to purchase duty free lumber and building material, recommending to merchants at the same time a discount to persons purchasing such items.

The Prime Minister also announced a concession to allow persons purchasing generations for the first time to purchase

them free of duty. Hurricane Luis on Wednesday afternoon, September 6, passed 25 miles off the North East coast of St. Kitts packing winds of 140 miles per hour causing extensive damage to St. Kitts and Nevis.

About 300 displaced residents were accommodated in shelters and with families and friends.

Eight out of 24 schools (on St. Kitts and Nevis) sustained very serious damage to their roofs and resource material, forcing further delay in the re-opening of government schools at the start of the 1995-96 academic year.

All hospitals in the Federation underwent extensive damage to roofs and facilities as a result of the ferocious winds and heavy flooding from Hurricane Luis.

Photos displayed on the inside show the extent of the damage inflicted - including ripped off roof - at the J.N. France General Hospital, the Basseterre High School, the Bas-

(cont'd on page 2)



PRIME MINISTER Dr. The Hon. Denzil L. Douglas

ster Douglas stated that his government had established at National Bank a Fund to be known as the Hurricane Luis Relief Account Fund, No. 23683 in the name of the Accountant General.

Government, he said, had made the initial deposit to the Fund of EC\$150,000.00.

He said the purpose of this Fund was to render assistance to those in need and deserving of assistance upon established criteria and invited citizens to contribute generously to the Fund which will be administered on the basis of Fairness and Justice.

Prime Minister Douglas thanked members of the



Residents in Basseterre queue up for supplies of potable water trickling from a stand-pipe after the passage of Hurricane Luis - Willett's Photo

# Thank God Almighty We are Free at Last!



## The Labour Spokesman

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## EDITORIAL

### INSPIRATIONAL

## LEADERSHIP AT WORK

This week-end finds many of us without the basic facilities like water and electricity in our homes following the passage of Hurricane Luis earlier this week.

And while we agonize about the discomfort and problems we are experiencing here in St.Kitts and Nevis our brothers and sisters in Antigua and Barbuda, St. Maarten and Anguilla are faced with even greater problems and woes trying to settle down after a severe pounding from this powerful and devastating hurricane which has left behind a trail of deaths in Martinique, Dominica, Antigua and St. Maarten.

Luis forced the closure of our Airports, and workplaces for almost the entire week and our schools for the full course, but we were once more fortunate.

The Island Main Road Project took a severe pounding and so did the multi-million dollar Sea Port Project in Basseterre - Carnival Village, Warner Park, the Basseterre and Junior High Schools, the Sandy Point and Molineux Pavilions and a significant percentage of residential homes, but through it all we came through without a single death.

The passage of this disastrous hurricane brought out both the evil and good characteristics of our people, but the good prevailed. We rose to the challenge and took every precautionary measure to protect our homes, ourselves, families and loved-ones.

External assistance has been sought and secured from the Caribbean Disaster Programme (sponsored by PAHO), the government of Germany which pledged EC\$180,000 towards roofing material, the Republic of China on Taiwan (US\$5,000); USAID the British and US government and other regional and international government and funding agencies, but we have to demonstrate the courage and will to help ourselves first.

As the Honourable Prime Minister admonished us in his broadcast to the nation on Thursday night; "let us be thankful for the help others give us..

"Let us as a people show that we are our brother's keepers.

"Let us show the world in humility that we know how to bear one another's burdens.

"Let us not be daunted by our present troubles. We can and we must rise above them".

Prime Minister Douglas went further to admonish the nation.

"All we need is a steadfast faith in God, unity of purpose, the will to serve one another in love, courage and determination in the face of adversity and by God's grace we shall conquer".

We commend the Prime Minister and his Cabinet for the leading role they have played in sensitizing the country for the passage of this deadly hurricane, and for the magnanimity they continue to demonstrate in government.

Like Hugo, six years ago, Luis has served to remind us of the old Biblical saying - when the rain falls, it falls on the just and the unjust".

The politics of PAM that divided and destroyed this country over the last 15 years, must be put behind us. We are too small a country with close family ties to allow politics to ruin us.

We must therefore use this experience to further our healing process which began on July 3, 1995, when we gave that overwhelming and decisive mandate (7-1) to the Prime Minister and his victorious Labour Party.

Finally we want to take this opportunity also to commend the Prime Minister on the strong and decisive stance he took against those persons who allowed themselves to be overcome by temptation and used the national disaster to prey upon the misfortune of others - looting stores, shops and supermarkets in

## HURRICANE LUIS POUNDS ST.KITTS AND NEVIS

(cont'd from page 1)

seterre Junior High School, the Saddlers Primary School, the Island Main Road Project at Old Road and Cayon; the Sea Port Reclamation Project and low-income houses built in Sandy Point by Romig Phipps' Solid Construction Firm.

Hurricane Luis knocked

the electricity generating station out of commission, leaving St.Kitts and Nevis in complete darkness and without water supply for several days.

The Prime Minister in his broadcast gave some assurance that the electricity and water supplies will be back on track

by next week and that schools will be fully functional in the very near future, indicating that his government was moving expeditiously to returning life to normal in St.Kitts and Nevis, after what he described as "a major calamity".



### NOTICE

THE ST.KITTS-NEVIS LABOUR PARTY would like to extend a hearty Thank You to all those who contributed or donated to make the fund raising "Tea Party" a success

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The ST.KITTS-NEVIS Labour Party wishes to advise that the Victory Dinner & Dance for Saturday 16th September at the Fairview Inn has been postponed to Saturday 28th October, 1995, due to the recent national disaster.

St.Kitts.

"Our society should have no place for those who behave in that manner and my government will not tolerate it", the Prime Minister declared.

This is in keeping with his 1995 election pledge to make Law and Order the number one priority on his government's agenda. And he has not departed from this commitment one inch since assuming the office of Prime Minister and Minister responsible for National Security - giving the Police a full hand to do their work.

### WORD of GOD

New Testament  
[Fulfilled]

Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Matthew 26:31

### NOTICE

The Sandy Point Labour Branch - Constituency No.5 - will hold its usual Monthly Meeting at Manchester Hall on Sunday 10th September, 1995 at 4:30.