

What I Envision for my Country

by

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Dominica is an island surrounded by and possessing striking physical beauty – mountains, rivers and creeks, villages, towns, farms, historic resources and open agriculture and countryside. We must be extraordinarily careful and proactive to preserve our rich heritage while enhancing our communities.

I envision my country being the envy of many islands, especially in the region. We have a beautiful country and we must maintain that while attempting to jump-start our economy. We must not sit by and await possible high records of unemployment due to lack of vision, incompetent leadership abilities, qualities and teamwork. Dominica can have fame and fortune if we act wisely. We must explore the island as becoming a gateway to global technology centers in the region being met with our diverse rural and natural environmental atmosphere. This vision for Dominica will have become a reality when we have achieved:

Land Use

- Aesthetically appealing development that reflects excellent standards, diversity of influence, and a commitment to making people the focus of development decisions.
- Protecting, sustaining and enhancing the country air and water quality, soils, landscape wildlife and other natural and man-made resources making Dominica environmentally sound.
- Rural residential, hotel, resort, industrial and office complex development that maintains the country's rural character, preserves the environment, water quality and quantity and natural features, and develops at overall densities that do not exceed the capacity of rural roads and public facilities or compromise the integrity of the rural economy.
- Our town and rural countryside character is preserved. Distinct, well-designed residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use communities.
- Revitalization of our older communities through quality projects and conformance with the natural environment.
- Balancing the private property rights of individuals with the public interest and the shared values of the community.
- Have Urban, Town, Village and City Council have a say and determined how they would like to see their individual villages and cities improved with sound development.
- Have said local jurisdiction be involved in proper land use planning with their jurisdictions.

Education

- A globally competitive quality of education for all our children.
- A learning environment where children of diverse social, ethnic and economic backgrounds (given the passport citizen program) can feel safe, motivated, respected and prepared for a fulfilling and productive life.
- A library system that is accessible anywhere on the island and promotes life long learning.
- An education system that offers a variety of higher education's option.
- Introduction of customer service, national resources, tourism, tour guard, etc is incorporated as core subjects or electives into our education system.

Transportation

- A safe and efficient transportation system of major arterial and minor local roads that supports the island topography, slopes, and planned growth.
- Existing road that provides safe and convenient access to business and employment areas. Travel to and from the island airports within reasonable time.
- Land use and transportation decisions that are linked together so that the location and timing of new development coincides with existing improvements needed to meet increased demands. Hence, the IDP...
- Pedestrian friendly, safe side walks around developments and down towns, i.e., (Roseau), parking facilities around town and other points of interest.

Government Services

- All citizens feel that they have a stake in government and vice versa, are connected to their neighborhoods, and can influence government and its actions.
- Government programs are available and delivered to all citizens at the highest level of customer service at reasonable costs.
- The public is served with creativity, integrity and respect.
- Responsive, well-run professional, technologically sophisticated government that is connected to its citizenry.
- The government's financial policies assess long range fiscal impact, provide an equitable distribution of the cost of development between direct beneficiaries and the citizens at large, maintain acceptable levels of taxes and fees, sound debt management and provide for potential economic uncertainties and risk.

Pubic Safety

- Provide a safe place where all people, regardless of age, ability, or economic condition, can live and work with dignity and respect and without fear.
- That Princess Margaret Hospital can meet the needs of the island and the word special care is associated with the citizens who can afford it having to travel to other countries.

- Continue to support the police and fire department backed up by well-trained career personnel, meeting the demands of growth.
- Consider the establishment of a public safety department incorporating fire, police and prison under one umbrella.
- Efficiency and well-run public safety department.
- Provide update equipment, technology and advance training to our islands public safety personnel.
- Introduction of an island-wide criminal background checks mechanism that will link to the region and INTERPOL.
- Introduction of computerized daily operation within public safety and other departments.
- Establishment of a Disaster Preparedness Unit that is under the responsibility of the public safety director.
- Establishment of a Bomb Squad Unit.
- Possible a homeland security arm of public safety may be necessary in our long range planning.
- Effective, efficient and customer-related custom officers at our ports of entry and departure.
- Establishment of a national park ranger program that can be independently sustained and funded.

Economic Development

- A strong, diverse and resilient economy based on the island's comparative advantages, not dependence on unworkable citizenship passport sale.
- The island full potential of global technology, Eco-tourism, alternatives to our banana industry, agriculture, industrial plants, business complexes, natural parks, nature welcome facilities, technology parks, light manufacturing plants, office complexes, revitalization of Roseau (the capital), so that it reflects as such. Historical preservation and districts is realized.

Establish innovative business and entrepreneurial spirit

- A strong business country with business leaders involved in the economic success of the island and the region, especially on issues of infrastructure, workforce and education.
- Government recognizes its citizens in the Diaspora.
- Establishment and introduction of zoning on the island is paramount to sustainable and properly planned development.
- The vitality of the island's agricultural, horticultural and equine industries can be realized.
- Dominica's positioned as a premier tourist destination because of its historical resources, pictorial settings, nature, vista, cliffs, loving atmosphere and beauty.

More to come!

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