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CASTRIES NORTH

MANIFESTO



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FOREWORD

I am honoured to present myself to you, the people of Castries North, as a candidate seeking to represent our community with integrity, purpose and unwavering dedication. Good representation is rooted not in ambition or political prestige, but in a genuine commitment to uplift people, to listen, to serve, and to build a stronger foundation for the generations that will follow us.

Over the past year on this journey, I have walked your roads, visited your homes and listened to your stories. I have seen the neglect. I have felt the frustration and the pain of many residents who have been overlooked for far too long. I have witnessed how government resources, your resources, have too often been reserved for the few, while the vast majority continue to go without.

Today, we stand at a defining moment. We have an opportunity to turn the page on a politics that prioritises maintaining power over meeting people's needs. We can choose a new path, one rooted in fairness, transparency and genuine service. A politics that is not about who holds power, but about how power is used to improve lives.

In this manifesto, I outline my vision and plans for Castries North: meaningful action on housing, healthcare, infrastructure, security, support for persons with special needs and opportunities for youth development. These proposals are shaped by your voices, your struggles and your hopes.

Together, we can build a community where every resident is seen, heard and valued. Together, we can create the future that Castries North deserves.

Stephen Fevrier





PUBLIC SAFETY

Over the last four and half years, the level of insecurity within the community has grown significantly. The residents of Castries North are more fearful and concerned about the safety of their families and their property. Under the incoming UWP Administration, the following interventions will be put in place:



Improve security through enhanced community policing.



Institute neighbourhood watch programmes.



Scale up use of technology to ensure the safety and protection of public spaces.



HEALTH

Community and In-Home Care, Upgraded Facilities (Including Diagnostics), Polyclinics



Healthcare in Castries North has not met the needs of the constituency. The health centre has not seen any meaningful upgrades in the past 40 years. Primary health, including in-home care, is inadequate and does not meet the needs of the constituency. To address those failings, the following interventions will be put in place:



Design of a new polyclinic with the aim of construction in the first term of the UWP Administration.



Improvement of diagnostic facilities.



Strengthening of in-home care.



Implementation of national health insurance.



Structured support for the disabled and persons with special needs.

SPECIAL NEEDS

SUPPORT

According to the 2022 National Population Census, Castries North contains an elevated number of persons with special needs and disabilities. Approximately 7 per cent of Saint Lucians reported special needs support. Constituency-level data is not publicly available. Based on the national average, up to 800 persons in the constituency may require assistance in different forms. The following interventions will be put in place:



Conduct of a special needs assessment in partnership with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.



Retrofit and improve public spaces to enhance accessibility.



Provide in-home care and support for families and guardians with responsibility for acute needs.



Establish a programme of support for those with special needs through the Ministry of Education, targeted at communities within Castries North.

CHILDCARE

Early Childhood Development

A fundamental contributor to positive social outcomes for children is the provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) support. This includes the establishment of safe spaces, comprehensive instruction, and the modelling of appropriate behaviour. ECD support is a strong leading indicator for positive social outcomes, including higher school readiness and longer-term academic achievements. Beyond the academic, ECD supports a more engaged youthful population and overall better social outcomes. This is particularly critical in Castries North that already has a legacy of academic excellence and positive social outcomes. Under the incoming UWP Administration, the following interventions will be put in place:



In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, establish and support early childhood development centres for the residents of Castries North.



Provide direct support to families and single parents to meet their needs during this delicate development phase.



YOUTH & SPORTS

Enhancement of Facilities and Training



Castries North has a unique history of producing high-performing athletes, many of whom have proudly represented Saint Lucia on the regional and international stage. Those accomplishments are all the more impressive when assessed against the inadequate infrastructure and lack of effective support for training. A comprehensive programme will be established alongside the VBCC to deliver best-in-class infrastructure and training for high-performing athletes in Castries North. Particular attention will be paid to football, basketball, and athletics. The following interventions will be put in place:

1. Establish La Clery as a centre of excellence for sports development and training.
2. Upgrade the La Clery playing field to include seating, changing rooms, and lighting.
3. Upgrade playing fields and courts across the constituency, including Agard, Bois Patat, and Bisee.
4. Construct new sports and recreational facilities across the constituency, including in Sunbuilt, Cedars, and the Union/Almondale environs.
5. Upgrade existing school facilities at St. Mary's College, St. Joseph's Convent, Castries Comprehensive School, as well as Dame Pearlette Louisy.
6. Working with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sports, establish modular training and coaching programmes for football, basketball, and athletics.
7. Build a dedicated swimming pool and tennis court in the constituency.
8. Provide a yearly subvention to the VBCC to meet the needs of the constituency's future.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

With women of Castries North forming the foundation of the community, more attention is required to support single mothers and vulnerable women in their everyday needs. To promote the participation of women in the development of our community, under the incoming UWP Administration, the following interventions will be put in place:



Special education grants for young girls and women.



Funding for female athletes for training and coaching.



Introduce female sports leagues.



Targeted support for women-owned businesses.





SUPPORT FOR **RETIREEES & THE ELDERLY**



The demographic profile of Castries North reflects a high concentration of people at an advanced age, with a median age of 37 years old. Many persons in that category require governmental services depending on their specific circumstances. These services may vary from transportation to assistance in seeking healthcare, in-home care, and support through caregivers. The UWP Castries North branch will create a registry of needs to ensure seamless and timely support for retirees and the elderly.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Retaining Walls, Footpaths, Parks, Bus Shelters



To allow the constituency to meet its full economic potential and deliver on social development, under the incoming UWP Administration, Castries North will be targeted for two housing development programmes, an expanded industrial park, the establishment of a logistics hub, shared working spaces for small businesses, upgrading of recreational spaces (including for sports), and eco-friendly development of Vigie Beach to include changing rooms, showers, benches, and improved garbage disposal. Incentives will also be provided for foreign investments as well as to facilitate local businesses and consortia to expand economic opportunities in the constituency. The following interventions will be put in place:



Develop a comprehensive programme for the construction of footpaths throughout the constituency.



Develop play parks and wellness parks (calisthenics parks).



Establish a road improvement programme.



Establish bus shelters in every community.



WATER SUPPLY

Improved Storage

Residents of Castries North have been experiencing further degradation of water supply, including extended periods without water. Areas most affected include Carellie, Chase Gardens, Morne du Don, Odlum City, Active Hill, York Hill, and Agard. The rolling crisis of water scarcity will be addressed through increased storage capacity, enhanced transmission, and the exploration of innovative solutions to enhance supply. The following interventions will be put in place:



Rehabilitation and modernization of the Theobalds Water Supply System.



Completion of the Hill 20 transmission upgrades.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Castries North continues to suffer from an acute shortage of affordable housing. Under the previous UWP Administration, efforts had advanced to establish a housing development programme in the community. The project was stopped by Stephenson King and the Labour Party Government. Under the incoming UWP Administration, the following interventions will be put in place:



Introduce affordable housing, including support for first time home buyers through the mortgage deposit guarantee plan as well as the establishment of public-private partnerships with local contractors.



Leverage public-private partnerships to develop mixed use residential-commercial spaces.



Establish of housing trust.



Rationalization of unplanned developments.



Support with materials and infrastructure for low-income families seeking to enhance their living conditions.



