

**STATEMENT BY WINSTON DOOKERAN
POLITICAL LEADER, CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE
AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN ARIMA
08 OCTOBER 2007**

Thank you very much my friends here in Arima.

The last time I stood here in the centre of Arima and gave a political speech, the constituency of Arima voted out the PNM and we won the elections hands down!

It was 21 years ago and now I have come back to you as a grown man to once again give you the scent of victory in Trinidad and Tobago .

Arima has been known to be the gateway to political victories in Trinidad and Tobago. It is only when Arima changes, Trinidad and Tobago shall change.

It happened 21 years and I am sensing that victory in the air. Ever since we created the political explosion in Woodford Square and followed that up with the political earthquake in Skinner Park, we start our campaign for 2007 here in Arima, the centre of Trinidad and Tobago. This is where change will start.

Once again a new day is before us. Once again, a new page in the political life of our nation is being written. Once again, we shall embrace this country with a new political energy – a political energy that will unite this nation from Cedros to Sangre Grande, from Scarborough to Chaguaramas.

Once again, we shall see on November 5th, the entire country rising to a new unity among our people.

I understand a former Attorney General was hired by the PNM/UNC Alliance to destroy the COP. My friends, I want you to be aware that he has destroyed many things before, he is the man who can never unite anything, he can only destroy everything.

From today onwards, we start the fire on the Attorney General who brought down the Government of the UNC!

With your strength and the energy in the air, when I look into the eyes of the people here, I feel that I am more powerful than ever before because of your strength and power.

We dealt with the cabal in the UNC and I shall deal with the cabal in the PNM and bring the people back in charge of Trinidad and Tobago .

As I embarked on this journey I soon began to learn something that I did not know when I first started. I knew that we wanted to get things right in our country. I knew that we wanted to get our constitution right, we wanted to

get our health services right, we wanted to get education right, we wanted to get our security and safety right.

So I embarked on a plan to create a dream to make things right. And we started and soon learnt something. What I learnt was that a society cannot create what is right if it refuses to destroy what is wrong!

That is the issue now, we must embark on a plan to destroy what is wrong. The deceit and betrayal of those who call themselves the UNC Alliance Leadership team could not have been better exposed by Kamla Persad-Bissessar last Sunday - a party that has no sense of order.

And Mr Manning, in the way he treated some of his Ministers who had served him well and faithfully, he had to come out to the public and say that the constitution of the PNM is no longer followed.

You have on one side the PNM Political Leader, Mr Manning, undermining the constitution of his own party, according to his senior Ministers. On the other hand, you have the Leader of the Opposition realising that her party has no constitution at all!

That is why today, the only party that has emerged to be a genuine national party in Trinidad and Tobago is the Congress of the People. In one short year, we have been able with solid work, to build the pillars of a new organisation, the first of its type in the 21st century and the party that shall take over the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

I am proud to say without fear of contradiction that you the people and the party shall give me the honour to be the next Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

So my friends, tonight you heard from many of our speakers and I want to say a special word of appreciation and thanks to someone who has come on the political platform for the first time in his life to speak. He is a Senior Counsel, a man of impeccable record in the criminal justice system, a man who has left the comfort of a life he built for himself to come and dirty his hands in the politics of the people.

I say to Vernon de Lima thank you very much for joining this platform.

We cannot surrender our democracy to a leadership that is in love with power. That is what we are facing. Those who have been given power, like the Prime Minister, are now in love with power. He is intoxicated by it. He uses it for his own egotistical desires.

He built a presidential palace and ignored the building that is the home of the President and left it to rot. In his dreams he say a presidential palace in

which he, Mr Manning, shall be the executive president of Trinidad and Tobago.

My friends, he uses your power and authority, not to serve this nation and its people, but to satisfy his egotistical desire for love of power.

Are you going to allow him to become the executive president? The way he has behaved in trying to put a set of novices in his team is because he wants to control the cabinet he wishes to put in place.

You see, when you bring another young people you can control them until they get the experience. Young not necessarily in age, but in politics. That is what this battle in the PNM was about. Anyone who can stand up to him had to go because he wants to be Executive President of this nation.

And I want to ask you here today – would we the people of this country in whose names they govern, stand by and allow that to happen?

The time has come – five more years of Patrick Manning is five more years in which your democracy will be eroded. There are so many other instances in which during the last five years, he has the democratic rights of many.

We know what has been happening in the Justice System. We know how many cases had to go to the Privy Council. It is all there for all to see.

So my friends, if you have eyes and you cannot see, if you do not take stock, you can be putting into place a dictator for the next five years and maybe beyond. We cannot allow that to happen.

My friends, I say to you that on the one hand you have a leader who was once the Prime Minister who is addicted to power. On the other hand, you have the current Prime Minister who is obsessed with power.

The people must not leave the power to men who are either addicted or obsessed with it. Power belongs and resides with you the people of Trinidad and Tobago and we intend to return that power to where it belongs – the seat of power is in your hands.

I want you to understand that we are ready. For the last year, many people did not understand what was happening. From the time the COP began on September 10th 2006, we began rolling up our sleeves to work and talk to people all over the country.

We had was called conversation with the people. We said the people must be taken in confidence. We had hundreds of those conversations.

And we began to develop an approach to solve our country's problems.

Tonight you heard a bit about safety and security issues. Tonight you heard a bit from Deputy Political Leader, Wendy Lee Yuen, who is the acknowledged expert in the field of food production and agriculture in our land speak to you about the food production plan.

We not only have our plans ready; I want to tell you here the people of Arima.

This shall be our contract with the people and in the first sitting of Parliament in the next session, we shall lay it contract with the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Gone are the days when your politicians and your leaders tell you one thing and when they get here they do something else.

Gone are those days...Tyrone, I see you happy because this is what you told me when I came to Maloney – the issue in this election is trust!

That was the cry I got from the people – how can we trust the politicians? How can we trust the leaders because they come with so many promises and when they get there, there is nothing.

You have it right here – you have been calling for an Arima Hospital for a long time. I know the problems you have and I met with the people here in Arima on your desire for a first rate hospital in Arima.

I cannot promise you anything, but I will tell you I have stored your plight in my mind and in the minds of the next Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago.

Before I end, I know you have been introduced to some of our other candidates, Rodger Samuel, Sherwin Alleyne, Jerome Chaitan, Lena Brereton Wolffe, Kathy Ann Jones, Dalon Haynes, Wendy Lee Yuen.

And when you saw what we produced in Skinner Park last Saturday with the list of people who have offered themselves to the people, it stunned the entire country.

We have the plans, we have the ideas, we have the sense of loyalty to our nation, we understand the issues and now we have the people to make it all happen in little Trinidad and Tobago.

The party has launched its campaign here in Arima because we know that Arima is the gateway to political change in Trinidad and Tobago .

Our party has come here because we understand that if there is one thing about the people of Arima, they are not Trinidadians or Tobagonians, they are not southerners or northerners, they are not people of east or the west, they are people of Trinidad and Tobago.

You are the model city in our country! That is why we symbolically decided to start our campaign here because it is your spirit and energy that will now propel us every night for the next 30 nights.

As we go throughout this country with the full knowledge here now with your presence, that you are going to give us the mandate, as we walk through the countries and the tremors begin to take place, as the nation suddenly gets up and realise that we don't have to have Patrick Manning as Prime Minister anymore.

I thank you my friends in Arima. Now we move to a new historic and sweet victory for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

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