



CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

# Voice



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The Newsletter of the Congress of the People

## COP TAKING CHARGE

What others are saying about COP (Newsday Thursday 11th March 2010)

THURSDAY MARCH 11, 2010  
Trinidad & Tobago

# Newsday 16

The People's Newspaper 128 PAGES

OF TELLING IT AS IT IS

**AG: CRIMINAL PROBE OF UDECOTT PROJECTS**

*Philbert fails to deliver on earlier probes*

## COP BETTER THAN COP

SEE PAGE 3

**UDECOTT FIASCO HURTS TT**

CATHERINE ROMAN, chief executive officer of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, says recently that the UDECOTT/Coleco fiasco will have a negative effect on the country's global image. See page 7.

**WORK STOPS ON GUANAPO CHURCH**

Dear Lord please save our souls.



# UNIFICATION

On Sunday 7th March, 2010 the Foundation for Politics and Leadership (FPL) held a "Unification" forum at the SWWTU Hall, Wrightson Road Port of Spain.

Presenters included TOP Political Leader Ashworth Jack, FITUN's David Abdullah, Valini Pundit, Pandita Indrani Rampersad, NJAC Chief Servant Makandal Daaga and COP Political Leader Winston Dookeran. Representing the UNC at the forum were its Secretary General, Dr Glenn Ramadharsingh along with MP Winston "Gypsy" Peters, Dr. Rupert Griffith and Dr. Faud Khan.

In his contribution Mr. Dookeran stated that the, "Unification" process will lead to the enthronement of a Government which will place the needs of the people as top priority. He added that there are three serious issues facing the people of T&T, crime, corruption and the need for genuine economic transformation which will wipe out the whole question of poverty. He hailed Chief Servant NJAC, Makandal Daaga as, "T&T's philosopher who stood up to the challenges of this country."

Daaga, formerly Geddes Granger, in a very emotional speech, reminded the audience that power rests with the people, "nobody is listening to the people. Manning is only strong because the people have given him their power. Politicians take power from your breasts. The power to determine T&T is yours," he said. The Chief Servant called for the end of the racial hostility between, "nigger and coolie". He saw the need for drastic change in the whole political process, adding that the people must be fully integrated in this change.

Pandita Indrani Rampersad, in her presentation, injected the need for spirituality in politics. True spirituality has to be those higher values that guide our vision for the greater good of all. In plural cultures like ours, it is so very easy to divide people along lines of least resistance. It is a well learnt lesson from our colonial masters," she said.

"It was soul power that the small-framed Mahatma Karamchand Gandhi used to challenge the hegemony of the mighty colonial power. Who would have thought that this man's spirituality in politics would have had the kind of impact it had? Certainly, not the British", she added.

FITUN President, David Abdullah said that the old order with Panday and Manning is collapsing and lashed out at the culture of maximum leadership which seems to pervade the environment today.

He said there was a need for a systemic change in the society. Abdullah said that unification as opposed unity must take into consideration such principles as diversity, organizations, the bringing of the peoples together as a model to save this country from political disaster.

Youth speaker Valini Pundit called for serious unification discussion as the young people are fed up of talks. She called for a culture of systemic changes to reflect accountability, transparency and integrity. "It is happening in the world, and why T&T is excluding itself," she questioned.

Mr. Ashworth Jack who traveled all the way from Tobago to attend the forum, observed that when leaders become elected, rather than be humble they become arrogant.

Dookeran proposed a similar forum soon which should include United National Congress leader, Kamla Persad-Bissessar's participation.



From (R) Mr. Winston Dookeran, Chief Servant Makandal Daaga and Ms. Valini Pundit



Mr. David Abdullah and TOP Political Leader Ashworth Jack



Presenter, Pandita Indrani Rampersad



Moderator, Renee Cummings (L) and Chairman Nizam Mohammed (R)



Among the audience Ms. Merle Hodge (Centre)



Anil Roberts extreme left among the crowd

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# PARTY PHILOSOPHY

**Uniting the National Direction**

## Politics of Value

*The Politics of Value advocated by the Congress of the People focuses on Nationhood, Good Governance, Security and Direct People Participation.*

**THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE** believes that, if we are to chart a new course for our Country, all of our actions must be founded on the key values of Truth, Justice and Freedom.

The COP also believes that, in order for any unified political vehicle to emerge, it is vital that there is consensus on the principles and codes of political and electoral conduct by which the Parties will be guided

It will be our job in an age of new governance to transform our Country from its present state of lawlessness and apathy to one in which peace and justice prevail. All citizens will be able to go about their business free from the insecurity which engulfs every facet of our lives. To achieve this we need a Government which can plan ahead. It must not simply react on an ad hoc basis to crisis, with one knee jerk reaction after another. We need a Government which sees the needs of the People as the first priority, and not the construction of tall buildings to boost their own sense of aggrandizement.

## CIRCLES OF HOPE

### Engaging the Political Process of Change

Today we give birth to the *Circles of Hope!* We will invite the other Political Parties to nominate representatives to join one of six *Circles*, combining the best talents of our land to map out joint proposals on:

- **Security and Justice**
- **Quality of Life: Health, Education and Infrastructure**
- **Employment, Poverty Reduction and the Economy**
- **Competitiveness and Equity**
- **Corruption and Integrity**
- **People Issues – Community, Aging, Youth and Children**

The *Circles of Hope* will be the platform which serves as the first active step in fostering a bond between politicians from the several Political Parties. These politicians will join in creating a new political vehicle—one that will advance towards forming the next Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

## DEAR CITIZENS

### POLITICS OF CHOICE A Synopsis of COP's Unification Direction

In 2010, there is an objective and burning need for the development of a new national movement: our institutions have fallen apart and our society is fractured.

*The challenge to "fix politics" means engaging in the process of political change and seizing the opportunities that arise. It won't happen through the unity of political leaders, but through the unity of the people across ethnic, social and political corridors.*

To meet this challenge we need to align with a political platform where those who offer themselves up to the Electorate do so based on a desire to serve. They put God and Country before allegiance to personalities and Party. If we are to successfully meet this challenge, it is essential that we embrace the Politics of Principle and establish a Framework for Good Governance to which all Parties aspiring to form the next Government of Trinidad & Tobago will subscribe.

WINSTON DOOKERAN



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# COP CARNIVAL CULTURAL EXPLOSION 2010

Saturday 30th Jan. COP Operation Centre Charleville



Mr. Dookeran greets Calypsonian Winston Scarborough "The Original De Fosto Himself", while Mrs. Dookeran looks on.



From (L) Mr. Nyahuma Obika from NJAC, Mr. Dookeran, De Fosto and Dr. Patrick Watson

## COP Participates in Phagwa 2010

"Save our water for our future - Powder Abeer" was the theme for the Congress of the People(COP) Phagwa Group which participated in this year's Annual celebration, held last Sunday February 28th, at various venues including the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha annual celebrations and the Aranguez Savannah .

A subsidiary theme was, "Let us all make a better world for our children".

Internationally-recognised singer, Ramrajie Prabhoo was the lead singer, while drummers were Nirmal Prabhoo and Kenny Ramgobin. Rukminee Beepath accomplished Chowtal singer, provided tutelage to the group of singers, and was ably supported and guided by Spiritual Leader Ravi Ji.



Mr. Dookeran and Mr. Prakash Ramadhar at the opening ceremony of the Children's Phagwa celebration at the Tunapuna Hindu School.



Members of the COP Phagwa Group 2010 at the Aranguez Savannah. Holding the banner (L) Political Leader Mr. Winston Dookeran and (R) Deputy Political Leader Mr. Prakash Ramadhar. Spiritual Leader Ravi Ji stands in the centre.



Mr. Dookeran (L) is painted with beer at the Tunapuna Hindu School. (R) is Spiritual Leader of the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha Yuttam Maharaj.



Members of the COP Youth Congress participated in the Phagwa celebration.

## COP J'ouvert Band 2010. REDEMPTION

Band leader: Dr. Lincoln Douglas, Designer: Erwin Hope



Mas designer Erwin Hope and Mr. Dookeran



Flora Singh plays "Mama Trinbago"



D Dooks himself"



Dr. Lincoln Douglas directs traffic



Flagman Jamie Bahadur leads the way.