



Press Release

The United Workers Party (UWP) wants full accountability for CBI funds and the US100 million dollar debt forgiven by Venezuela

The United Workers Party is again asking the Roosevelt Skerrit administration to present complete and truthful post Maria accounts for the Citizenship By Investment (CBI) Program and the US100 million dollar debt forgiven by Venezuela in November 2017.

With respect to the CBI, the people of Dominica have a right to know:

- 1) *How much money was in the CBI bank account at the National Bank of Dominica when Hurricane Maria struck on September 18th, 2017?*
- 2) *How much money has been collected from the program since September 18th, 2017?*
- 3) *How much money from the CBI program has been spent since September 18th, 2017 and what specifically has the money been spent on?*
- 4) *Why has government refused to use funds from the CBI program to compensate private sector companies who suffered loss of inventory and damage to their properties because of the government's failure to deal with the breakdown of law and order that erupted after Hurricane Maria?*

As far as the debt forgiveness from Venezuela is concerned, the people of Dominica have a right to know:

- 1) *What is the government's explanation for accepting forgiveness of a debt which the Prime Minister told Parliament – the highest decision-making body in the country – did not exist?*
- 2) *Having accepted forgiveness of a debt that government has not been accounting for, on November 21st, 2017, which organization has been*



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holding the money that the debt represents and when will this money be passed to the Government of Dominica?

3) How will the money (that no longer has to be repaid to Venezuela) be used in the climate resilient reconstruction of Dominica?

It is estimated that between September 18th, 2017 and December 31st, 2017, from the sale of passports and the debt forgiven by Venezuela, the government had at its disposal over one billion EC dollars for relief, recovery and reconstruction responsibilities.

To date, there are no reports on how these funds are been spent and no policy measures for the transparent, non-political utilization of these funds in the climate resilient rebuilding of Dominica.

Persistence with this substandard governance conduct will make it increasingly difficult for Dominica to secure further assistance from a world community that rallied purposefully behind our cause in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

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