

## Statement of Intent

CARDINAL A. KING, QPM

Independent Candidate for St George's Constituency Statement of Intent

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Slogan:

"WE THE PEOPLE"



Theme: TOGETHER WE MUST FACE THE CHALLENGE AND MAKE THE CHANGE

# Introduction

It is my intent to run as an Independent Candidate for the St George's Constituency. I will listen to problems and concerns of my constituents and try as much as possible to help in any way I can.

As it has been for the past five (5) years, the elected Parliamentary Representative of St George's Constituency did not keep in touch with the people to get an appreciation of the concerns and the problems of the constituency.

There are particular problems and concerns for each community i.e. Potters, Pigotts, Powells, Barnes Hill, New Winthropes, Carlisle and Cedar Valley Springs that need to be addressed.

The present elected Parliamentary Representative did not give proper representation to the voters of this constituency throughout his elected tenure as the Parliamentary Representative.

Therefore the People of St George's constituency needs a representative who knows, who cares, who understands and who is capable of representing their interest. I present myself as that representative.

Some of the problems and concerns that are facing the St George's Constituency today and what I will do to help are:

## 1. FAMILY VALUES

- a. The family values of today have deteriorated a lot in the past few years. Respect for the elderly, parents, teachers and those in authority are nil.
  - i. As your representative I will try to strengthen the family by reinforcing traditional values such as respect for the elderly, respect for parents, teachers and leaders in society.
  - ii. I will seek to influence the elected government to make more resources available to the elderly and a daycare program in our communities for single parents.
  - iii. I will ensure that a day care for the elderly is set up to provide for the welfare of the senior residents.
  - iv. I will try to influence the government in power to set up a program where single parents can work from home so that they will be able to spend more time with their small children. I will encourage cottage industries.
  - v. I will influence the elected government to explore the possibility of increasing concessions on medicines and lowering the age for free utilities for the elderly.
  - vi. I will strengthen the existing adult education programs in our communities.
  - vii. I will foster a stronger relationship between homes and schools by strengthening Parent/Teachers Association.

## **2. SECURITY**

- a. There is a cloud of insecurity and uncertainty that is looming over our beloved country, and many of us are living in fear since the security system has broken down. The government can no longer assure us of protection in our own homes, on the street and on our properties, which I believe is a shame to the integrity of our founding fathers.
  - i. As your representative I will encourage the elected government to make available more resources to better equip the security forces to deal more efficiently with the problem of crime protection.
  - ii. I will set up a neighborhood watch where we will be responsible for ourselves and our security.
  - iii. As an experienced Police Officer for over 36 years, I will make myself available to every community in the Constituency in order to assist in any way to make the people feel more secure in their homes, on the street and on their property.

## **3. YOUTHS**

- a. The younger generations of today are plagued with peer pressure, lack of advanced educational opportunities and employment opportunities, drug addiction, teenage pregnancies and juvenile delinquency. We need to rescue our younger generation who are the sinew of society. We must restore our young people to their rightful place in society.
  - i. As your representative I will lobby the government to provide outlets for the Physical development of our young people as we try to inspire them both in mind, body and spirit. We must give priority to recreational and sporting activities to encourage our young people who are inclined to a career in sports and academics to make them rounded members of our society.
  - ii. I will lobby very strongly and persistently to get the government to increase employment opportunities for our young people.
  - iii. I will lobby the government to set up libraries and social clubs or community houses in each district where our young people can go after school to develop themselves in the Arts, a trade or sports or just to enjoy themselves instead of spending time on the street or getting in trouble.
  - iv. I will work with the government and donor agencies to provide scholarships for the young school leavers to increase the opportunities for employment.
  - v. I will work with the relevant Ministries and Bodies to upgrade our playing field and multipurpose courts in each community.
  - vi. I will lobby very strongly and persistently to ensure that the Government reduces the driving age as follows - motor cycle to 16 years; private motor vehicle to age 17 years and all public service and commercial vehicles to age 18 years.

#### **4. THE INFRASTRUCTURE**

##### **ENVIROMENTAL ENCHANCEMENT**

- a. We all know that a good infrastructure can make a world of a difference to a community. As I look around the constituency the infrastructure leaves much to be desired. The main concerns are our roads, improper street lighting, the drainage system, ineffective waste disposal and an inefficient water management facility. You can be sure that I undertake the following
  - i. A share of the national resources must be used to maintain the existing roads, and provide road access to every house in this constituency.
  - ii. As your representative I will lobby the government to provide proper roads, and a good street lighting system for every community.
  - iii. I will set up groups in the community who are responsible for ensuring that each area is kept clean and well maintained.
  - iv. I will influence the government to erect disposal bins in strategic locations.
  - v. I will undertake to work along with the relevant Ministries to establish a proper drainage system and maintenance for all areas

#### **5. OTHER POLICIES**

1. I will also lobby strongly for the Government to respect the **farmers** in this country so that they can be protected from foreign competition. I will be placing great emphasis on developing measures to enable the nation to be in a position to feed itself.
2. I will also try to influence the government to increase the wages paid to **non-established workers.**
3. I will lobby strongly for **spouses to receive a pension** after the death of his or her spouse. To date only the wife of the Prime Minister and Governor General are given that privilege, which I believe is unfair to the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.
4. I will also lobby for the **amendment to the Constitution** to reduce the powers of the Governor General and the Prime Minister to make certain key appointments. You have expressed to me the view that such appointments should be made by a select Committee of the elected members of the House of Representative. In this way we will ensure a more democratic approach to such appointments.
5. In the same vein, I consider it inequitable that a parliamentarian who serves for 11 years will get 100 % of his highest salary as his pension. This is in contrast to the civil servant. The Parliamentary pensions should be brought in line with those of the civil servants.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

There is a notion that an independent candidate cannot achieve anything in a constituency but let me assure you that that is not so. I have the experience. I love people. I have been helping people for my whole life. I care for both the young and elderly. When you elect me I will not change. I will continue to look into the interest of all of my constituents, as I have done on several occasions.

I was enlisted in the Police Service on 3rd May 1967 and moved up through the ranks. I attended the two most prestigious police colleges in the Commonwealth that is, Hendon Police Training College and The Police Staff College at Bramshill, United Kingdom, where I was successful. I was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Police Service. Many of you will know me as a Lay Preacher of the Moravian Church for over 30 years.

I ask for your vote because I know that I will be a good representative. I offer you honest and sincere representation. I will be your voice in Parliament and in the corridors of power where I will push your causes. I will ensure that your voice is heard above the din of partisan party politics. I will bring about the change which has been long over due for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

May God continue to bless you as we work for the betterment of the St George's Constituency.

**Cardinal A. King, QPM**

Independent Candidate for St George's Constituency