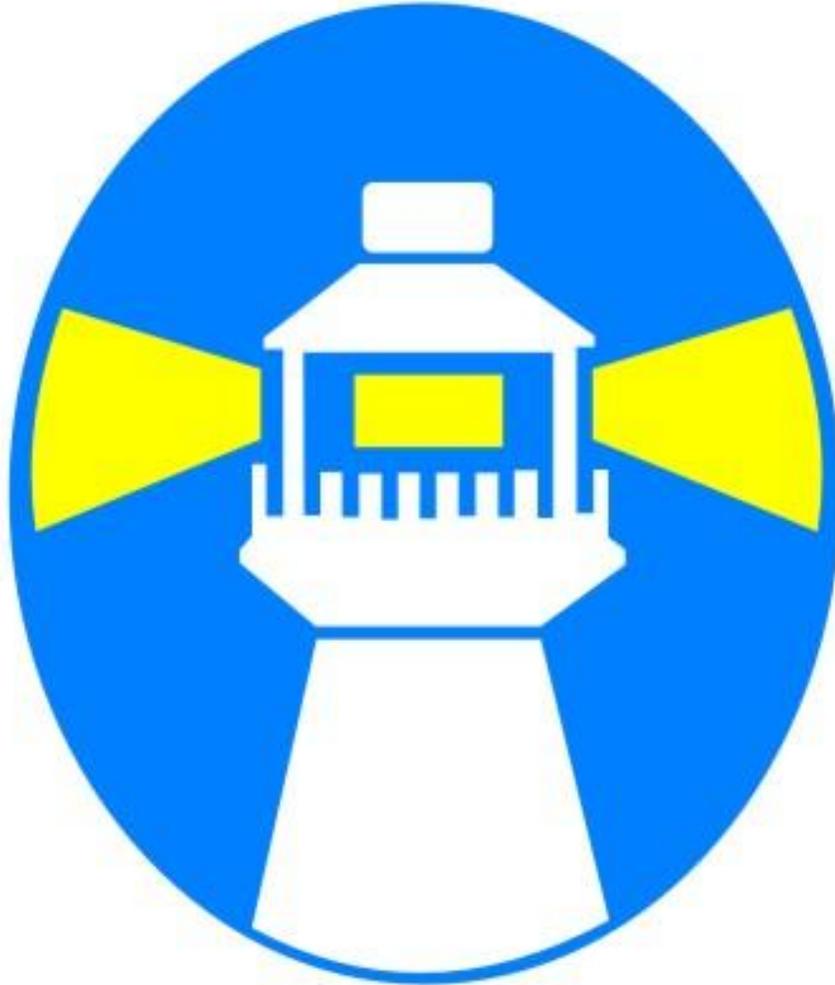


**A FRAMEWORK FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE**



**OUR VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT & PROSPERITY**

***2012 & Beyond!***

**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT**

***“Come Into The Light!”***



## **NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT**

**NDM...Our Vision for a new Jamaica**

**Our Faith is in the Jamaican People**

The National Democratic Movement has been a political party for sixteen years and we have been in the forefront in advocating for fundamental changes to Jamaica's political system to give our country the necessary breathing space to move forward.

We believe in the Jamaican people, in their inherent goodwill and in their capacity to achieve great things. We believe that the vast majority of Jamaicans yearn for a peaceful and stable society in which they can improve their lives through their own hard work. We believe that, with the appropriate changes, the Jamaican people are prepared to renew their faith in the institutions of government and those whom they entrust with the responsibilities of government.

**We can do it!**

**Better late than never**

Time is running out, but it is still not too late. We are a tough, resilient people. If we were not we would not have survived this long. But there is a limit to our endurance and we must act now before we reach a point of no return. We are still capable of great things. So often we have demonstrated our amazing prowess as a people. Our phenomenal success in sports and music and the outstanding achievements of Jamaicans all over the world are testimony to what we are capable of.

**We are Jamaicans - Together, we can work it out!**

### ***Reclaiming our Country***

The NDM offers the appropriate framework through which the Jamaican people can be mobilized to reclaim our country, restore our system of values, re-capture our sense of community and work together to achieve lasting peace and prosperity.

## ***Rebuilding Our Future***

We will rebuild our hope by renewing our dreams and re-charting our course. We will create a new political framework in which power is restored to the people and those who exercise power on “behalf of the people are constantly and rigidly held accountable to the people. We will pursue a strategy which, within the context of a competitive politics, seeks consensus in defining long term goals and mobilizing national commitment toward their achievement. We will enshrine the fundamental rights of each individual and put in place effective measures to protect and defend them. We will create the mechanisms to ensure equality and justice for every individual in the eyes and application of the law. We will guarantee every child the opportunity for a sound post-primary and primary education to ensure that he or she is equipped with life-sustaining skills. We will provide an economic framework which encourages savings and investment, enhances individual enterprise, creates jobs, and promotes the creation of wealth and equitable opportunity for all. We will ensure the efficient and impartial delivery of public services. We will create an environment in which all Jamaicans can once again be made to feel good about their country, will want to be stakeholders in its enterprise and will see their own prosperity as linked to the growth and development of the nation.

## **OPENING THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE**

### **A New Political Order for Jamaica**

#### **The Need For Reform**

The NDM believes that the problems that plague our nation are rooted in the political system under which we are governed. We reject the notion that the management of our affairs should rely on the reasonableness of men and women who so often demonstrate the propensity to be unreasonable. On the contrary, we believe that our political system should be so structured to demand and ensure good management by carefully balancing the powers of the State and by enforcing strict accountability on the part of those who exercise these powers on behalf of the State.

### ***The Over-concentration of Power (an elected dictatorship)***

The existing political system, the central feature of which is the enormous concentration of power in the hands of the Prime Minister, has led to abuse and corruption. It has come to be characterized as a “fight for scarce benefits and political spoils carried on by hostile tribes, perpetually at war, dividing rather than uniting the nation”. It undermines the real purpose of Parliament and deprives the people of effective representation. It is a system which eschews consensus and militates against national unity since dissenting voices are easily ignored.

## ***Tribalism, Corruption Dependency and lack of Investment***

The “winner-take-all” system provides the basis for political tribalism, garrison politics, corruption and the plundering of public resources which must be employed to support it. It produces a social and political environment which is hostile to investment not only because of its inherent volatility but also because it precludes the stability of policy which is indispensable to long term investment. Politics, as we have—practiced it, fosters a culture of dependency through the extensive use of patronage. The virus of mendicancy which afflicts so many of our people is a direct consequence of this process.

## **POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE - Restoring the Sovereignty of the People**

We reject the existing arrangement whereby sovereignty rests in a British monarch. Nor do we accept the notion that sovereignty should reside in Parliament. We are committed to the principle that the sovereignty of our nation resides in the PEOPLE and that it is to the PEOPLE that power belongs. We are committed to the principle that the PEOPLE, as individuals, hold certain basic, fundamental and inalienable rights.

## **SEPARATION OF POWERS (dismantling the one man rule system)**

We must have a strict separation of powers with direct election of our Prime Minister who will head the Executive arm of government, with a cabinet comprising potentially the best minds and most qualified persons to be ministers of government, rather than Members of Parliament who:

1. May not be qualified for the post.
2. Already have too many responsibilities to serve their constituencies, law making and other parliamentary committee functions.

MPs must be elected on separate ballots from the Prime Minister to give them independence and empowerment to be the people’s true representative rather than being mere rubber stamps for the Prime Minister or Party leaders. We need to get the best Jamaicans to work for us whether they are here at home or in the Diaspora. Put them to work for Jamaica!

## **STRUCTURE**

### **THE PRESIDENT/GG (TO BE APPOINTED)**

The President would be appointed for a term of 7 years on a resolution confirmed by a simple majority, save and except for a rejection by a two thirds majority of Parliament.

### **THE PRIME MINISTER (SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE- NATIONALLY)**

The Prime Minister would be responsible for the control and direction of policy, the Executive Management of State services and Budget preparation and implementation.

## **THE LEGISLATURE/PARLIAMENT (REAL POWER FOR YOUR MP)**

The Legislature, comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate, would be responsible for enacting legislation, approving budgetary expenditure and exercising oversight functions on the Executive. It would have final authority in matters pertaining to the imposition of taxes and any increase in the national debt beyond statutory limits. And MPs should live in the constituencies which they represent in Parliament.

## **THE JUDICIARY (SHOULD BE INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED BY THE PARLIAMENT)**

The Judiciary is responsible for adjudicating questions of law and upholding the Constitution. Senior appointments should come before Parliament.

## **THE EXECUTIVE/CABINET (LET'S EMPLOY OUR BEST BRAINS)**

The Cabinet would consist of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and not more than 12 other members nominated by the Prime Minister for confirmation. Such nominations would be presented to Parliament for scrutiny but could only be rejected by a two—thirds majority of each House of Parliament.

## **THE SENATE**

The NDM supports a modified approach whereby Ministers of Government would be nominated from the senate. In this method the size of the Senate would be adjusted appropriately and proportionately to maintain the necessary balance of power while meeting the numerical requirement for Cabinet appointments.

## **CREATING TRULY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES (REMOVING POLITICAL BIAS)**

Sensitive areas of national life must be removed from political influence and control. Independent authorities whose appointment would require a simple majority save and except for a rejection by a two-thirds majority of each House of Parliament would be established for the following sensitive areas:

- \* JUDICIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
- \* POLICE SERVICES COMMISSION
- \* PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION
- \* ELECTORAL COMMISSION
- \* INTEGRITY COMMISSION
- \* CONTRACTOR GENERAL
- \* PUBLIC DEFENDER
- \* PROSECUTOR GENERAL
- \* OMBUDSMAN
- \* GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK
- \* BROADCASTING COMMISSION
- \* PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION
- \* ALL STATUARY CORPORATIONS & EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

## **AMBASSADORS AND DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS**

The appointment of ambassadors and directors of public corporations would be subject to the approval of Parliament.

## **CONTROL OF TAXATION (LIMITING THE CABINET'S AND MINISTERS' POWER)**

We will abolish the Provisional Collection of Tax Act under which the Minister of Finance is able to raise taxes without prior notice to the public and without the approval of Parliament. No new taxes could be imposed without the approval of the House of Representatives.

## **PUTTING A BRAKE ON THE NATIONAL DEBT (LIMITING THE CABINETS' POWER)**

A constitutional limit to the amount of public debt that could be incurred, expressed as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, would be established within that limit. Parliament would, by statute, prescribe the maximum amount of debt that may at any time be outstanding.

## **LEGISLATION (NO MORE RUBBER STAMPING BY ONE PARTY)**

Legislation could be initiated by any member of either House of Parliament. Legislation could also be submitted to Parliament by the Prime Minister. All legislation would have to be examined by the appropriate parliamentary committee in public sitting before being debated and voted on by each House.

## **RESOLVING GRIDLOCK (BALANCING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF POWER)**

The chief argument against separation of powers is the possibility of gridlock. Gridlock is a good and necessary thing to prevent the abuse of power and the excesses of a constitutional dictatorship. But the frivolous use of gridlock must be avoided and the Prime Minister must not be frustrated in carrying out the mandate for which he or she was legitimately elected. We would minimize the risk of gridlock by providing the following:-

- (b) If legislation submitted by the Prime Minister is rejected by either House of Parliament, it could be submitted once within that legislative year and, upon such resubmission, could be again rejected only by a two-thirds, majority in each House.
- (b) If legislation approved by Parliament is rejected by the Prime Minister, it could be reintroduced in Parliament once within that legislative year and if, on its reintroduction, it is approved by a two-thirds majority of each House, it would become law with or without the approval of the Prime Minister.

## **TERM LIMITATIONS (PROVIDING NEW SPACE FOR NEW THINKING)**

The Prime Minister would not be allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms. Members of Parliament and Senators would not be allowed to serve more than three consecutive terms.

## **FIXED ELECTION DATE (REMOVING THE ADVANTAGE OF A GOVERNING PARTY)**

Elections would be held on a fixed date or period every 5 years.

## **IMPEACHMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS (FOR NON CRIMINAL ACTS)**

Provisions would be established in the constitution for the impeachment of public officials who are found guilty of negligence, abuse of authority or subversion of the democratic process.

## **ELIMINATING CORRUPTION - THROUGH OPEN GOVERNMENT (A PROSECUTOR GENERAL WITH POWER)**

We will establish an independent Prosecutor General to investigate and prosecute corrupt public officials. We will introduce a tough anti corruption law with severe penalties to punish public officials found guilty of corruption.

It is our strong view that some Civil Servants “aide and abet” policy makers in corrupt practices. We will redefine the Official Secrets Act making it only applicable to matters of National Security and those specific matters which Cabinet may from time to time deem “CONFIDENTIAL” in the national interest.

## **SETTING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES**

We will limit any increase in the salaries of Parliamentarians to the weighted average increase granted to public sector employees during the previous year.

## **PROVIDING EFFECTIVE CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATION (REAL POWER FOR MP’S)**

We will establish a Constituency Assembly comprising all important stakeholders within each constituency which should direct the Constituency Development Fund to be financed by 5% of the annual budget. This will be divided among all constituencies. Each Member of Parliament will be required to submit a 5-Year Development Plan which, once approved by Parliament, will guide the expenditure under the Constituency Programme - which must include contingencies for emergencies.

## **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (REAL POWER AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE)**

Projects to be financed under the fund will be carried out by the relevant government agencies. All expenditure will be subject to review by the Appropriations Committee and fully audited by the Auditor General on an ongoing basis. A Consultative Committee that will include a representative of each political party as well as representatives of community organizations will be established in each constituency to monitor and advise on the selection and implementation of projects. The Committee will be required to report annually to Parliament as no funds can be spent under the sole direction/discretion of any MP.

## **ESTABLISHING REAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NOT CONTROLLED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT)**

We will create a genuine local government system with complete autonomy from central government subject only to audit by the Auditor General. We will create a special structure for municipalities in which Mayors will be elected directly by all the people within each municipality not selected by any party bosses. The functions of local government authorities will be clearly defined and will be separate and distinct from those of central government. Local government services will be financed by the statutory remittance of 5% of recurrent revenue as well as by local rates and user charges.

## **A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO THE ISSUES FACING THE NATION**

On the economic front, there is a lot that should be done. We are living on borrowed money as a country and it is imperative that we develop a credible debt reduction plan. It is clear that we are spending more than we earn annually and must therefore earn our way out of the problem.

We need to cut excess 'fat'. For example, the constitution mandates a minimum of forty five constituencies in Parliament, but we have over-grown the number to sixty three rather than reduce it to a lower odd number.

### **COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS**

If we merge several of these constituencies, we could save millions of dollars in salaries and perks for MP's., and councillors. In realigning these constituency boundaries we should use the opportunity to eliminate the political fences to neutralize their 'garrison-type' features and effects. We recommend a maximum of 55 seats.

We should also cut our ministries to the constitutional limit of eleven and streamline our bureaucracy into a lean and efficient machine.

## **The Economy**

### **CONFRONTING OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS**

Jamaica has, for too long, avoided confronting our problems, relying on external loans, remittances, drug money and, most recently, high yielding "*Ponzi*" schemes lured by phenomenal interest rates to support a flagging economy. Over the last 44 years, the Jamaican dollar has lost most of its value – plunging from **JS1 = US\$1.20 to I\$1 = US0.015 (just above 1 US cent)**.

Much more jobs can be created through call centres based on the advantages we have over countries like India (where many call centre operations from North America are outsourced). If we create the ideal climate for investments in call centres we could almost immediately employ nearly 100,000 Jamaicans in new jobs in the short term period of 18 months. The NDM proposes a home based call centre job creation programme using **Technological Access with Logistics and Know-how (TALK)**. If this is implemented the programme will infuse into the Jamaican economy at least 800M weekly and the government would collect approximately 140M in taxes weekly.

The NDM realises that for the **TALK** project to succeed the need for training arises. This can be accomplished by using retired and part time teachers as well as unemployed University graduates to carry out the requisite training/retraining, using the existing school rooms in the evenings and weekends

We also need to enable the estimated J\$ 700 Billion owned by Jamaicans and currently locked away in BOJ's vaults to begin working for the country to create investments rather than paying out interest through government paper at the expense of the poor taxpayers. To get the \$700 billion invested we need to create CONFIDENCE, STABILITY AND A CLIMATE which is ATTRACTIVE TO INVESTMENT.

**As a starter the NDM** proposes to curtail the power of the Prime Minister, the Minister of finance and the Cabinet to impose new taxes without Parliamentary approval and after **3 months of the tabling of the bill**, to enable open and full discussions with the people. We will have no more “Nicodemus” tax packages. We propose the **abolition of personal income tax** over a five year period and **adjust GCT** to bring more consumers into the tax net.

We will also curtail those powers which allow the government to increase interest rates to significant levels which have in the past caused massive damage to the economy including business closures and throwing hundreds of thousands of people out of work.

Our geographic location, smack in the middle of South America and the Pacific Region, has been advanced by many experts as an ideal transshipment point, and as such there could be far greater expansion of our ports to include air and sea for shipment and storage of cargo.

We should market the parish of Portland to film makers all over the world as “the Hollywood of the Caribbean”. This parish is ideally suited for filmmaking and could possibly employ thousands of persons. This would add to our tourism product and the Marina located there would attract many wealthy people from overseas and would certainly enhance the economy of Portland.

There is no shortage of ideas for the development of Port Royal but to-date nothing has come to fruition. We need to appoint a task force to look at all plans on the table and if necessary to come up with new ones that will be placed on the fast-track for implementation. We need some action-oriented systems and personnel to manage such special projects and drive our economy.

Kingston, as the cultural Mecca of the country needs to have its mostly inner-city communities opened up and have major streets cut through them, running from east-west, from downtown to uptown. There are too many traffic jams because communities were built without proper city planning and the old rusty zinc fences have locked people away in hidden spaces and havens of criminality. The crime statistics have shown that many unsavoury things occur behind those walls and so we need to tear down those walls.

We should have large music studios dotting the landscape. Reggae belongs to us but many others are earning a lot more than us from our product. We should look at making Kingston the music copyright capital of the world. We could earn major foreign exchange from such ventures which could attract major recording labels and copyright lawyers, as well as other music interests to our shores.

## ***EDUCATION, JUSTICE and HEALTHCARE***

We will also re-focus our attention to Early Childhood Education (ECE). Government will rewrite the curriculum with emphasis on the real 3 Rs “READING, REASONING AND RESPECT. At age 2 ½ years children will be required to enrol in a ECE facility with properly trained ECE teachers who understand the special areas needs of children in that age group.

**It is envisaged** that by the time those children reach Primary schools they will be fully ready mentally, physically and spiritually to begin the second phase of their development.

The Justice system must be reorganised. Justice must be swifter and more effective.

The Police must be retrained to respect all citizens irrespective of their social status. More emphasis will be placed on a combination of Community policing, intelligence gathering and analysing using modern forensic techniques.

**A National Citizen Recording System** The NDM will implement a national citizen recording system to track every Jamaican from **birth to death**. This will enable many benefits including tracking the movement and migration of all citizens. It will also assist in census taking, planning for education and health, national security and assist revenue collection.

**The Health Services:** The best health service we can provide must be available to all citizens of Jamaica irrespective of social status. However those who can pay should pay. The system will be restructured to facilitate payment by those who have health insurance and those persons on programs like Path. There are many people who will need **health care** and who may have the means to pay but cannot pay at the time the service is needed. Those persons must not be refused care. Special arrangement will be made for such situations.

## **CLOSE**

Jamaica is too beautiful a country to have such ugly politics. When one thinks of how much better we can do, the question which must be asked is, "Why are we not doing so?" the answer comes down to our outmoded, corrupt and bankrupt political order.

**Presented by: Peter Townsend, Chairman, December 18, 2011**

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**NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT**

***"Come into The Light!"***

This is a message from the National Democratic Movement..... to be said by .....To the music of Earnest Smith “We the people”..... before the Ad....

Ka-kis-to- cracy- is the Greek word for a government made up of the least qualified and unprincipled people

We in Jamaica have suffered from **Ka-kis-to-cracy** for 67 years. The JLP and PNP government have very little to show, persons still live in the slums and garrisons, we still have bad roads and persons still use the pit latrine and bathe using the stand pipes.



This is **ka-kis-to-cracy!!!**, what a Ka Ka!

We must demand that the government work in the best interest of the Jamaican people and not for themselves.

No more Ka ka!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**This ad first written by .....NOT USED!**

**Ka kis to cracy** – It means government of the worst persons. It is a Greek word and the Greeks were among the first to adopt Democracy – “the rule of the common man”

**We in Jamaica have had Ka kis to cracy for too long. We must now reject Government by the least qualified or most unprincipled citizens. “THAT IS A.. KA KA!”**

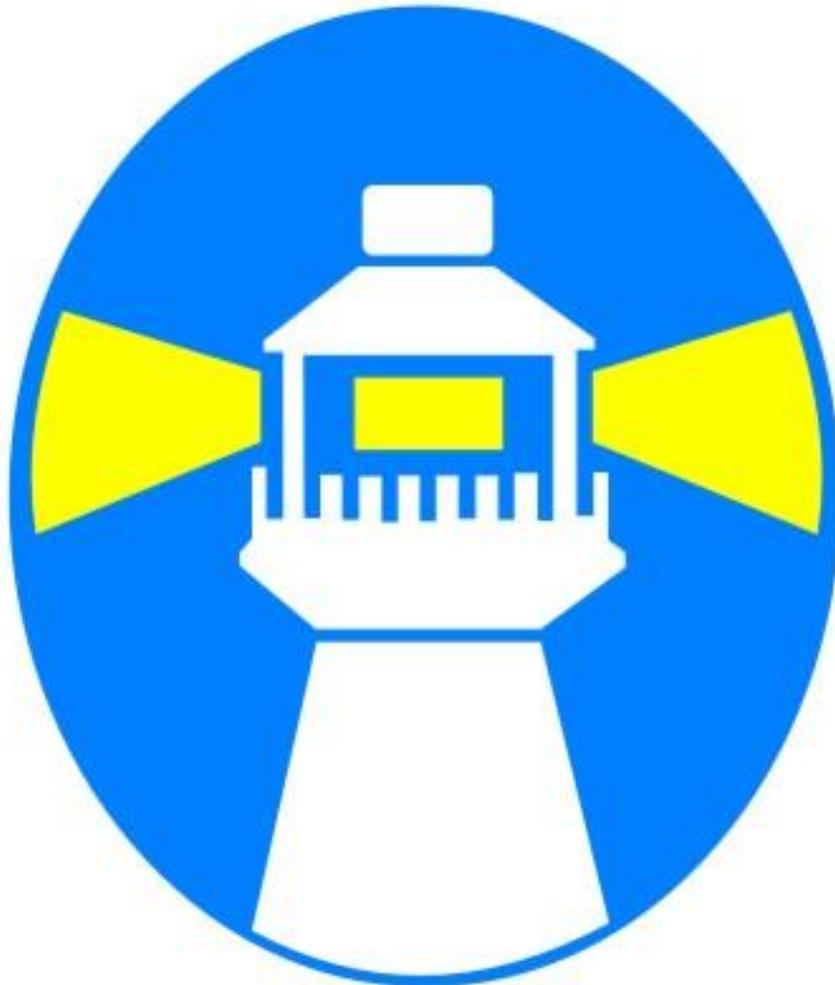
**“ For 67 YEARS (1944-2011) OF.. JLP/PNP GOVERNMENTS there is very little to show: people still live in slums, garrisons, have bad roads, bath**

under stan-pipes and use pit toilets: --- This is **Ka kis to cracy** - **“WHAT A KA KA!”**

We must demand that government work in the interest of the people and not for themselves **“WHAT A .. KA KA!”** (patwa)

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To be read by .....

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.....“This message is approved by the National Democratic Movement  
.....”



***“Come into The Light!”***

***2012 & Beyond!***