

Speaking Notes of

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**Leader of the Opposition of Trinidad and Tobago and
Political Leader of the United National Congress**

The United National Congress National Assembly

January 27, 2019 Couva South Multipurpose Hall, Couva.

Kamla: We put people first. Our vision is of a transformed Trinidad and Tobago, in which our children and all citizens can benefit from the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the global movement towards the increased use of technology in all aspects of society, including the delivery of services to people. We believe in empowering citizens through education and skills development, promoting economic independence. Today, I say our democracy and freedoms are at great risk under the Rowley government and we must join together to vote them out!!

Introduction

UNC Family... welcome to your National Assembly!

For all the thousands watching at home or tuning in over the radio, or those joining us via livestream on the internet from different parts of the world - Welcome to the National Assembly of the United National Congress!

UNC Family. Thank you for your love! Like the song says - your love keeps lifting me higher and higher. I love you all!!

Tell me... Are you ready to move our nation forward?

Are you ready to get T&T working again?

I want to welcome and thank each of you for answering this call to action. Our beautiful Trinidad and Tobago needs you now more than ever!

I also want to acknowledge some of the special visitors with us.

We have the hard-working members of the diplomatic corps, the media and the many others who told me that they are coming to observe the proceedings today.

We have some persons who are coming to a UNC event for the first time and even those from other political parties, who have decided to join us here today.

All are welcome in the house of the Rising Sun! There is a seat at our table for everyone.

As I stand here, looking out at this massive sea of yellow... this sea of yellow represents progress. It represents loyal citizens who are ready to roll up their sleeves and **WORK**.

I must tell you that I am filled with pride, hope and a renewed sense of purpose.

As our national motto says: Together we Aspire; Together we Achieve.

UNC Family... Always remember... By Working Together, we will get Trinidad and Tobago Working again! WE are all one family.

UNC on the Move

My friends, we live in a time when many of our citizens are disillusioned with politics.

A time when our media, independent commentators and anyone who dares question those in power are abused, shouted down or threatened with being jailed for committing treason!

A time when our strongest and most loyal allies are being turned away in favour of dictators!

This is why the United National Congress has spent every day for the last 1239 days, working on our plan for the way forward!

And you know, in that same amount of time - the Rowley-led Government has been doing what? Absolutely nothing. No plan.

We said it before, during the 2015 campaign, and it came to pass.

Trinidad and Tobago needs the UNC now more than ever and we must remain focused, disciplined and committed to finding the solutions to the challenges we face as a nation.

I am happy to report to you that thanks to our efforts, support for the UNC has now grown into new areas of the country and is spreading into towns and villages and communities where we have not been in the past!

One great example of this is our magnificent victory in the Barataria By-Election and in the Belmont East By-Election where we increased our vote by 200%!

I see our candidates in the crowd, let's give them a hand, Sharon and Lianna, and our teams, you fought hard and you made us proud!

The victory in Barataria was even more impressive when you consider we ran a By-Election campaign in Barataria but the Government ran it like a General Election Campaign!

Talk about money they spend!

The UNC counted at least 10 PNM Ministers on the ground on election day and it seemed like they had the whole cabinet talking on platforms every night. And they lost then!!

They will lose again if they call elections today, and they will lose in 2020!!

Lianna had Stuart Young running scared in Belmont. You would not have believed that Young was the MP for this community. He went to Belmont with full police escort. I want to tell her that she and her team did an amazing job.

I was always confident of success in Baratavia and Belmont. Because this government is a government of talkers, and announcements. No action, talk only. Nothing from nothing leaves nothing.

We in the UNC are performers. And performance beats old talk every time!

UNC Works! UNC delivers!

Your party been working hard on the ground, going door to door, meeting our neighbours and listening to their concerns; listening to their hopes and dreams.

We are hearing stories of families struggling to make ends meet.

We have met young people like Dr. Singh and Mary worried about the future.

We've learned of the extreme difficulties of people like Patsy and Leila, single moms who were laid off and can't get new work.

We have heard stories of children not having access to medicine in our hospitals, or beds, or life-saving surgery.

Of persons struggling to access basic services because our institutions have broken down!

Trinidad and Tobago today feel like it has ground to a halt under an incompetent, lazy and brutal regime. Nothing works.

Time has not stood still here, it has in fact rolled back.

But I want to say to you this afternoon that the UNC will never stop caring for you.

The UNC is working for you!

We will never stop bringing the issues that affect you to the forefront of the nation. We will never stop representing your voice in the Parliament. And most of all we will never stop until we get this wicked, corrupt, lazy and incompetent government out of office!

The UNC is working in Belmont.

The UNC is working in Tunapuna.

The UNC is working in La Horquetta.

The UNC is working in Sangre Grande.

The UNC is working in St Joseph and San Fernando East and West.

We are working in Mayaro and Beetham Gardens.

The UNC is working in Couva and Chaguanas and Debe and Moruga and in Siparia.

The UNC is working all over Trinidad and Tobago!

We have put coordinators to work in the marginal seats and they have been reaching out to their communities, meeting and listening with people, and developing plans for the local community.

I urge you to meet your coordinators, get to know them, they are good people and they are working hard to move our great party forward!

I thank them for their commitment to our great party!

Our teams have found vibrant supporters and hardworking activists, people who want to get Trinidad and Tobago working again!

Everywhere you turn you meet people ready for a change.

And of course, they are invited to join us and some of the plans and policies I will mention later were developed with the assistance of these new members of our great party.

The UNC has been growing significantly in the marginal constituencies as our teams work the ground!

I am putting the Prime Minister on notice - his party no longer has any safe seats in this country! But I think he already knows this. It's evident by the great flurry of activity we've seen (or rather been bombarded with) over the past few weeks.

He knows that people are frustrated, the people are angry, and the people of Trinidad and Tobago want him and his party gone, and good governance restored under the UNC.

There is one thing we all know. The membership of the UNC is a family. And families always stick together. Like any family, we may not all always agree.

But we never turn our backs on our family! UNC family let me see you! Put up your hands, put up your flags!

Your party needs you, your country needs you.

It is time to stand up and step up.

If you, too, are angry with the state of our beloved nation under this Rowley-led Government, it is time to step forward and claim your space.

Now is the time to get involved.

Let's get Trinidad and Tobago working again!

Committees

We have established SEVERAL committees to develop plans and approaches to recover from this blight on Trinidad and Tobago.

We are going to need all of the help we can get because sea bath not gonna get you anywhere then you have Rowley's blight.

These committees, as I noted, are working on our plans to move Trinidad and Tobago forward, and once again, I invite all interested persons to get involved.

If you wish to contribute ideas, proposals, we welcome you.

I'll list the Committees led by Parliamentarians here and you can contact our headquarters (636 8145) for more information:

Committee	Chairman
Foreign Affairs	MP Rodney Charles
Energy	MP David Lee
Education	MP Gopeesingh/MP Karim
National Security, Law & Order	MP Moonilal/Sen Ramdeen
Health Care	MP Khan/MP Bodo
Finance, Economy	MP Tewarie/MP Paray
Works & Transport/Infrastructure	MP Rambachan/Sen Hosein
Local Government	Sen Khadijah Ameen
Public Utilities	MP Ganga Singh
Agriculture,	MP Guyadeen-Gopeesingh
Sport/Youth/Tourism & Culture	MP Padarath/MP Ramdial
Labour	MP Rudy Indarsingh/Sen Mark
Social Development	MP Newallo Hosein/Sen Haynes

We have also created a number of NATEX led committees. And they are:

The Development Committee

Fundraising Committee

BUNCH (Build UNC Home) Committee

Sports Committee

Community Outreach Committee

Membership Management Committee

Communications and Public Relations Committee

So, get involved. Claim your space. Call your councilor. Call your alderman. Call your MP. Call a Senator, call your coordinator, call our headquarters.

Call me - I think Devant put my number out there on the internet. Don't worry I won't say you committing treason if you call me. As always you can email me at kamlapb1@gmail.com

The Keith Rowley “Do Nothing” Government

In his fifth month of his fourth year as Prime Minister, Rowley has nothing to show. He would desperately like to get you to ignore your eyes and ears. To convince you of the wonderful job he's doing. But like the Emperor, his clothes are missing.

His tactics remind me of George Orwell's famous novel '1984'.

There is a famous scene at the end of the book, where the lead character, Winston, is being tortured and a party official is holding up 4 fingers and says to Winston:

'how many fingers am I holding up?' and Winston being tortured, in tears, says, 'I am only seeing 4, I see 4', and the Party Officials says, it could be 3 or it could be 5. It is what the Party tells you.'

Today the Government doesn't use mathematics - it uses Rowley-matics. Where 2 plus 2 equals 5!

He cannot fool you, because his maths is more like, nothing from nothing leaves nothing.

This is what is happening in Trinidad and Tobago today - just last week I heard the Prime Minister claim that he never appointed Mr. Wendell Mottley to the Sandals Committee.

He was even acting like he wanted to fight the journalist telling him no that isn't true. Robert Amar is now a folk hero for showing up the lies of the PM.

It looks members of the public 10 mins to find the video debunking the Prime Minister's claims- but it took the Prime Minister FOUR days to issue a meek apology.

This is the nature of this Rowley Do Nothing Government- They wrong and they strong!

It is clear the Prime Minister isn't living in reality -he's living in his own Rowley's world. A world where all you do every day is play golf and have cocktails in castles!

And when somebody ask you “why you not working” -you just say “Blame Kamla” “Blame the UNC”. They have taken the blame game to Olympic proportions.

What a luxurious fantasy world Rowley is in!

- He is the country's number one salesman. But was he a Salesman for T&T or for Sandals? Because by everything we can see, he was really trying to convince this bad and secret Sandals deal was good for us!

- Rowley acted like Butch Stewart was bringing investment to Tobago when in reality it turned out to be the other way around -with Trinidad and Tobago having to give billions of dollars to Butch Stewart!
- Now he is promising Marina and Airport...Rowley always Promising! It easy to promise! But when will he deliver? Typical PNM... promises never materialise!!

In Rowley's alternate world:

- there is no fake oil
- the Seabridge has not collapsed and the Galleons Passage is working fine. The Galleons Passage is the only ferry in the world that regards sunshine and gentle breeze as bad weather and can't sail!

In Rowley's alternate world:

- there is no humanitarian crisis in Venezuela
- In fact, now that Sandals collapse it looks like he is now the Salesman for Maduro! As long as he has friends in high places, his Dragon deal will dance.

Despite all of this - this abysmal record of incompetence and failure; this Do-Nothing Prime Minister has the audacity to question my time as Prime Minister!

I challenged the Prime Minister to a debate and he declined. And I don't blame him because he has nothing to talk about. What we going to talk about? I don't play golf! What will we debate about!

He wants to talk about the UNC and what we did in office.

Well let's talk: We built hospitals, roads, bridges, health centres, police stations and community centres all over Trinidad and Tobago.

And just today we are hearing more disturbing news. A Newsday columnist, who helped bring home those poor children trapped in Syria, has resigned -because the Newsday ran a story with the Government bragging how they rescued those children. And that is a lie! And when this journalist told the Newsday that was not true, they said nothing.

Now I don't blame the Newsday. I blame a tyrannical government that is attempting to intimidate our free press. You better say what we tell you or else! It is a disgrace that this government did nothing to help these children. But it is a bigger disgrace that they would lie and say they did!

You see in Rowley-land, Rowley is a superhero! But I want to tell him he's really a Super Zero!!

On top of lying to the nation, he can't even finish the projects that we started like the Arima and Point Fortin Hospital.... We built the Couva Hospital in 2 years and started the Arima and Point Fortin Hospital... but 4 years later he can't even finish that!

What have you done Prime Minister?

Talk to me when you have delivered ONE police station.

Talk to me when you have delivered ONE community centre...ONE hospital - or anything that will benefit people.

Until you can do that - just try and MIND YOUR BUSINESS.

Because performance beats old talk every time.

He has done Nothing! Nada! Zero!

As we get closer to local elections this year and general next year the Rowley song keeps playing in my head.

I will help out the Prime Minister - for his election campaign this should be his theme song.

ROWLEY WILL HAVE NADA TO SHOW TOMORROW, AND ROWLEY WILL HAVE ZERO TO SHOW IN 2020!

Rowley is a failure today. He was a failure yesterday and he will still be in a failure in 2020!

Today, we in Trinidad and Tobago are living through some of the darker periods in our history!

And it feels like we are living in a reality show "Keeping up with Keith Rowley".

This a Government that like to talk on TV. Instead of a Prime Minister we have a Talk show host!

They can't run a single Ministry well but they know how to run their mouth on TV! It's all talk and nothing to show!

The country was subjected to the Rowley Show for two nights with his PowerPoint and following that the return of his Conversations - one in Palo Seco where he couldn't be bothered to show up!

Now he's off to the UN to talk about Venezuela, he says, which is a convenient excuse not to talk to Tobago on Monday.

Rowley defines what is Reality;

Rowley defines what is Truth;

At least, in his mind he thinks so. But the truth is...

After almost four (4) years in government, Keith Rowley and his government HAVE NOTHING, NADA, ZILCH, ZERO TO SHOW!

BLAMING KAMLA WILL NOT HELP YOU, JUST SHOW US YOUR WORK SIR?

YOU HAVE SPENT MORE THAN \$166 BILLION...WHERE THE MONEY GONE?

In this 2019 crop of soca music, one artiste describes himself as Dr Mashup. I respectfully beg to disagree because Rowley is the ultimate Dr MashUp!

The entire country mash up under his Government.

Employment - mash up.

Safety and security - mash up.

Education - mash up.

Health care - mash up.

The economy - mash up.

The Tobago sea bridge - mash up.

Venezuela

I would like to take a few moments to speak about the situation in neighbouring Venezuela. There were many things I planned to say about this matter in Parliament on Friday, but I was not given the chance.

The PNM did not want me to speak. They don't like it when I talk - when I do people find fake oil, people lose their sandals.

I see we have a few Venezuelans here in the crowd today, I welcome you.

I can only apologise for the manner in which the Rowley Government has treated with this crisis and your countrymen and women who have sought refuge in our country, only to be turned away or disrespected.

I assure you this is not who we are as Trinidadians and Tobagonians...

Matthew 25:42 says in the Christian Standard Bible

"For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink"

I tell the people of Venezuela that the Opposition in Trinidad and Tobago shares their desire for a return to democracy, peace and freedom.

I wish to reiterate that we condemn the human rights abuses, the breaches of the rule of law and usurpation of democratic processes taking place on our doorstep.

I take umbrage at the Prime Minister's lack of decorum and his non-diplomatic tone in dealing with this matter in Parliament. In particular I take issue with his not-so-veiled attack on one of our most important trading partners, the United States of America.

I saw this morning that the Prime Minister is saying that he is standing on principle on the Venezuelan matter. I want to say to him one must first have principles in order to stand on them.

You cannot be buffing, humiliating and ostracizing our world trade partners and then run off to the US to appear as though you are trying to make peace.

But that is how they do things; they are an upside down back to front government.

What they should have done first they are doing last.

In the Parliament on Friday while the Prime Minister waged his own war on the US ambassador and President Trump on the Venezuelan matter both the AG Faris and the Planning Minister Robinson Regis could be heard and seen supporting the Prime Minister by saying "what could Trump do we"?

I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not afraid of anyone whether they are from Marli street around the savannah where the star-spangled banner fly or, whether they are from Diego Martin West.

The hasty bad decisions of our government on the diplomatic front has far reaching consequences in the area of national security and trade.

While the superpowers, the largest democracies in the world and the economic giants have taken a firm stand on the Venezuela matter, the government is playing dolly house with our foreign policy.

I am in no way influenced by the US or other free world nations on the position that I took; I believe in doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do and we cannot all be wrong. Our world has changed; we are no longer isolated from each other by water; we are connected in real time by technology and globalization.

It is either we move with the times and realise our geopolitical environment has changed from the 70s 80s and 90s. We cannot be like dinosaurs extinct but still hope to be relevant.

Today's diplomacy, as Ambassador Mondello has stated requires tough choices and if anything, as your Prime Minister, I was known for taking tough choices.

Today I tell Rowley, Faris and Camille that while you and your family hold diplomatic passports and you are provided with immunity, over 200,000 of our citizens hold ordinary passports with US tourist visas. So, you want to know what Trump could do to them??

I tell this government while you wine and dine off taxpayers' dollars in fancy restaurants 70% of all our food is imported from the US at an annual cost of over \$1 Billion dollars (**\$7 Billion TT**). So, you want to know what trump could do??

I tell the Prime Minister that we export over \$2.7 billion (**\$18.9 Billion TT**) annually to the US in the energy sector. So, you want to know what Trump could do?

Trinidad and Tobago is the biggest beneficiary of the Caribbean Basin initiative.

We receive trade preferences which grant duty and quota free access to the US to the tune of \$400M USD (**\$2.8 Billion TT**) annually.

Participation in CBI requires among other things a waiver of certain WTO conditions. TT's current waiver will expire in expires in 2021. The US president and congress has to approve renewing the agreement. And you want to know what Trump could do?

Trinidad and Tobago benefits from the CBI with over \$400M US (**\$32 Billion TT**) annually together with technical advice and cooperation on border control, customs and excise and mutual assistance which are heavy features of our national security apparatus.

Rowley, Camille, Faris and others still want to know what Trump could do?

Before standing in the wrong side of history and diplomacy and creating bacchanal and scandal with the US and our allies, they should have thought about all of these things before handling the affairs of our nation like pavement politics.

I want to say to the Prime Minister that you and your Government can bury your heads in the sand all you want, like cowards. But you see this woman, this woman from Siparia is not afraid of any man ...whether he in Trinidad or Venezuela!

And this woman doesn't get scared when tough decisions need to be made. I am a leader! Not a salesman! I don't work for commission! I lead by principle. And by the values and laws of our Constitution!

A leader doesn't attack and alienate our largest ally-whom we depend on for regional security and economic stability!

A leader doesn't tell the entire free world-they they wrong-but he is right!

A leader wouldn't appoint a man who sounds like he is not sure where he is, whether he is coming or going or what he is doing in any given moment to lead our Foreign Affairs Ministry at this critical moment... (poor fella. I feel for him.) He is a diplomatic tragi-comedy!!

And most importantly A leader doesn't say he believes in democracy but behaves like a dictator!

I call on Dr. Rowley to recognize that his "meet me on the pavement" diplomacy, is inconsistent with the maintenance of mutually beneficial bi-lateral diplomatic relations with friends.

By now, everyone knows they have no plans. They manage by announcement, policies are set based on who shows up and whisper something to them...so we will get a Sandals story but unlike the classic Cinderella tale, this one starring Rowley has no happy ending...

T&T under the PNM

50,000 workers have lost their jobs.

Entire industries have been shut down.

They have made it harder for businesses to get off the ground, and for established businesses to survive.

They have imposed or increased taxes on the common man.

They have cut back on GATE, making it more difficult for the younger generation to become part of the economy of the future.

They have increased fuel prices in each year of their administration.

They are coming with the dreaded Property Tax.

Rowley stopped the laptop computer programme. He said this is not bringing any value to students.

Seriously... a national leader in the 21st century made that statement! But then again, he made Anthony Garcia his Education Minister...

Homework centres have been shut down, IT teachers and counsellors have been sent home.

Computer labs are just empty shells.

Rowley mash up Petrotrin without seriously considering other economic alternatives or creating employment or new revenue streams.

The collapse of the health sector has indescribable pain and hardship - patients routinely wait up to three days for a bed.

Some die sitting up while waiting in the corridors.

Essential equipment and pharmaceuticals are in critical short supply.

CDAP drugs are often unavailable.

The agriculture sector has moved so horribly backwards that the annual food import bill is now \$6 billion.

In the midst of that, Rowley is converting the precious lands of the St. Augustine Nurseries into public housing.

This is the state of governance in Trinidad and Tobago just 40 months, after we undertook a modernization of the infrastructure and improved standards and delivery in every sector.

This is life in T&T after the sense of optimism we created and the improved quality of life we facilitated.

#UNCWorks - Record of Performance

How did you all feel watching the Prime Minister's PowerPoint presentation at the beginning of the year?

Disappointed? Confused? Vex? Well, me too!

But then I started to think about all of the things we were able to accomplish together in office throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

I remembered that it doesn't have to be this way.

Don't lose hope. We fixed this country after Manning and we will fix it again after Rowley.

So, we only see nothing when we look at their performance PNM, but the Government I led had a track record of performance.

As a famous British Prime Minister said: When you want something said, ask a man; When you want something done, ask a woman!

And when THIS woman was Prime Minister - I delivered for the People of Trinidad and Tobago!

We performed in every sector, we worked hard for the people of Trinidad and Tobago. We were focused on uplifting you and the nation.

We took a flailing economy and put over 55,000 people to work during our term. We put the country on the path to growth and prosperity.

Today one of the few things saving the economy from complete and utter collapse is the energy incentives we put in place which lead to over US\$6 Billion dollars (**\$42 Billion TT**) in investment by BPTT between 2011-2017.

Foreign Reserves reached its highest levels ever during our administration. Not only that, foreign companies were actually investing in Trinidad and Tobago - foreign direct investment increased by over 400% since 2010 from \$3.5 billion USD (**\$24.5 Billion TT**) to a high of almost \$16.1 billion USD (**\$112.7 Billion TT**)

We put our shoulders to the wheel and worked night and day!

We had the country moving

We had the country working!

We did it before and we can do it again!

Let's get Trinidad and Tobago working again!

#UNCWorks (2020)

So, as we turn now to the way forward, there is no question that our country today faces significant challenges.

The Rowley Government does not have the competence, vision or leadership to move Trinidad and Tobago forward.

The UNC remains focused and we have a clear plan for the development of our country in all areas: ensuring the safety and security of our citizens, providing quality education for our children, improving the standard of healthcare provided to citizens, and focusing on expanding the economy and creating sustainable jobs.

We have been working together with some of the best and brightest minds to develop plans and policies. And we are getting many good ideas from within communities from our field teams, councilors, MPs, Senators and aldermen.

UNC's Economic Recovery and Diversification Plan 2020-2025

The task facing the next UNC government will be to bring our economy back onto a sustainable growth path, restart the diversification process and restore trust in government.

Our *National Economic Recovery and Diversification Plan 2020-2025* summarises the plans and initiatives which we intend to pursue to get our people working again.

We will make strategic investments in the non-energy sector, where we have strong competitive advantage, market opportunity and growth potential.

Our economic plan outlines new drivers of growth to create new jobs and generate new sources of foreign exchange.

We have identified several diversification flagship economic projects which will mobilise and engage the private sector in kickstarting economic recovery and growth.

Agriculture and agro-processing, Digital Economy - Digital Innovation Corridor, Creative Industries - Port of Spain Trini 'Creative Arts Street', Renewable Energy - Tamana Solar TechPark, Infrastructure - Piarco-Aeropark Maritime Hub, Tourism - Plymouth International Cruises hip/Marina Complex, Tobago's first locally branded hotel.

At this time, I would like to show you a preview of some of the ideas that are under development. We will be building on these plans and others over the coming months and we will be speaking more about them with you as we move forward.

The task ahead will not be easy.

Nevertheless, I am confident in the will and ability of our people to overcome these challenges, as we have demonstrated in the past.

I encourage you to join with me in building a more secure and sustainable economic future for Trinidad and Tobago.

We put people first.

Our vision is of a transformed Trinidad and Tobago, in which our children and all citizens can benefit from the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the global movement towards the increased use of technology in all aspects of society, including the delivery of services to people.

We believe in empowering citizens through education and skills development, promoting economic independence.

As we stand here today, there are persons in this massive crowd, who are members of the PNM, but they are disillusioned with the Rowley Government.

They know now, what Rodney Charles was trying to tell them in 2015. They know that Keith Rowley does not have a plan, and he is not the right person to lead our country into the future we want for our children and grandchildren.

The country is now fully aware that Rowley DID NOT HAVE A PLAN; DOES NOT HAVE A PLAN, AND WILL NEVER HAVE A PLAN...

So, in circumstances such as these it is high time...we pack PNM's clothes in a garbage bag, put it on the ground by the wayside...it is time for them to GO!

Every one of you here today is putting country first.

We have members of the COP here today as well... and we want to tell you, welcome home. And for those of you who have been helping quietly in the background I thank you.

We welcome every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago who is willing to put in the work required to get the nation back on track.

Moving forward requires us to change our mindset which the PNM is incapable of doing.

The world waits for no one and to move forward together we must abandon the blame game and speak of ideas, positive policies and plans in a cooperative manner.

Among other things, I promise you we will reverse the decline in the economy and once again focus resources on the people of our nation.

The PNM did not want to open the Children's Hospital, we will do it within three months of getting back into government and we will rebuild the Port of Spain General Hospital and refurbish the Mount Hope Hospital and we will build and open as many health facilities as we need.

We will re-open the GATE to allow our youngsters to access Tertiary Education.

We will intensify our efforts in IT and Innovative technologies for sustainable jobs and to fortify the economy.

When we open the UWI South Campus, we propose a Faculty of Innovation to be staffed with the best in class staff to train our youngsters to be fully ready for the digital economy and the fourth industrial revolution AND to grow this industry like what is happening in Silicon Valley in the USA, Hyderabad in India and in Dubai.

Based on models of the Department of Homeland Security in the US and the Home Office in the UK, we shall merge National Security, Immigration, Refugees, and Justice into one streamlined Ministry of Home Affairs.

We will create conditions to revive the economy by encouraging entrepreneurship, business investment and job creation.

The UNC will lower corporation tax to a minimum of 18% over the next five years.

The over taxation of businesses, especially small and medium-sized business, slows growth, strangles innovation and kills entrepreneurship.

Reducing the cost of doing business is directly linked to creating jobs in the private sector.

By doing this, we will get T&T working again.

In an effort to build the competitiveness of our manufacturers, we will remove property taxes on plant and equipment.

To those of you who live along the East-West Corridor, I want to tell you that you and your communities are a major focus for the UNC.

Our plan to set-up a special economic zone from Barataria to Valencia will include tax breaks for entrepreneurs who set-up their manufacturing, digital and eco-businesses.

The East-West Corridor has the skilled labour required for these businesses and these businesses will create the jobs to get the corridor working and moving again.

We will also remove the red tape that is holding back development by automating the process for statutory approvals.

To get the nation working we must remove the needless red tape at Legal Affairs, at WASA and TTEC. Why does it take months to get EMA and Town and Country approvals? We have to streamline processes.

Getting Trinidad and Tobago working means putting in the digital infrastructure to make these things happen in minutes, not days.

Too many things in Trinidad and Tobago are set-up to ensure that getting something done, feels impossible.

The UNC will ensure that these simple things will be fixed once and for all.

This is how we are going to get T&T working again.

Nominations for Local and General Elections

Nominations for those seats we do not now have a sitting representative in Trinidad will be opened as from Monday 4th February 2019, forms will be available at our Headquarters.

1. Arima
2. Arouca/Maloney
3. D'abadie/O'meara
4. Diego Martin Central
5. Diego Martin North/East
6. Diego Martin West
7. La Brea
8. La Horquetta/Talparo
9. Laventille East/Morvant
10. Laventille West
11. Lopinot/Bon Air West
12. Moruga/Tableland
13. Point Fortin
14. Port-Of-Spain North/St. Ann's West
15. Port-Of-Spain South
16. San Fernando East
17. San Fernando West
18. St Ann's East
19. St Joseph
20. Toco/Sangre Grande
21. Tunapuna

I want to tell you not a single candidate has been chosen.

Conclusion

I share with you a very important quotation:

"The people of a country must be free to think, speak, write and worship as they wish, not as the government commands. When that is under threat, democracy and freedom are at great risk."

Today, I say our democracy and freedoms are at great risk under the Rowley government and we must join together to vote them out!!

My UNC family, I continue to be moved by your passion for a better future for yourself, a better future for your children and a better future for our great nation.

It gives me the courage to rise each day, with the strength and determination to fight for you to make this place a better one, for me, for you and for all of us.

I promise you, I will continue to speak for you, I will continue to stand up for you, I will fight for you, inside the Chamber, outside the Parliament and in the courthouse.

And with your love and support, and the support of the new members of our UNC family, we will win.

The bells toll will soon; the tide has turned and as we approach the elections later this year, armed with your love, armed with your support and driven by the desire to serve this land, we commit today that we are ready.

I ask that you stand with me, stand with this great party, the UNC, as we ensure that we wipe out the scourge of this wicked PNM Government.

And when we do, once more can you be guaranteed of a secure future for your children, more employment, better health facilities, better access to education and a safer and more secure environment.

Our people have suffered for so long, it has been a long and painful road, filled with hurt, despair, desperation and sometimes depression under this PNM.

I say to you, let not the darkness extinguish the fires of hope for they cannot take hope away from you. Hope is contagious, let us all channel that hope into a united movement, and together we will be victorious. And once we do, we commit that we will restore equality and equity to every single citizen.

United as a people, the UNC Government will return good governance to this country. With the experience of running the most successful Government in the history of Trinidad coupled with the bright sparks of new ideas, filled with innovation and firm fair guidance, the UNC team will be the best in class. And their main job will be to serve you, the people.

This is my hope. This is my dream for my country. For our Home. Our beloved Trinidad and Tobago.

Will you help us achieve that victory?

