



Office of the Leader of the Opposition

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Honourable Philip J Pierre
Prime Minister of Saint Lucia
Office of the Prime Minister
5th Floor
Graham Louisy Administrative Building
Waterfront
Castries

Dear Prime Minister:

As I and thousands of fellow Saint Lucians at home and elsewhere also know, thanks to word of mouth as well as widespread media publicity, a 37-year-old man was on the last day of February 2011 fatally shot as he sat in his vehicle at the junction of Marchand and Entrepot, in Castries East. Your constituency, Sir.

Several months earlier, he had agreed to be interviewed live on Radio St. Lucia by Richard Frederick. It was on the recalled occasion that the man's police record instantly became common knowledge. Asked by the host whether he had ever shot another human being, he said he had not. However, under persistent interrogation that sounded a lot like calculated bullying by Richard Frederick—since 2021 your Housing Minister—the man caved. He said he had once or twice angrily brandished a firearm, but since then had reformed. He was now a changed man. He no longer wanted anything to do with guns.

Fourteen years on, the referenced Marchand killing, one of several associated with the notorious IMPACS investigation of 2013, remains unresolved. The Director of Public Prosecutions recently declared his intention to prosecute the case now that his office and the recently appointed acting police commissioner had uncovered what they referred to as “compelling new evidence.” Two weeks before the 2021 general elections, DPP Daasrean Greene had given Saint Lucians a similar assurance.

Prime Minister, wary as I am of placing new burdens on the already overloaded shoulders of the DPP, I have chosen not to address in this letter certain related matters I am sure you are as familiar with, as indeed I am. I have no doubt you too have sensed the widespread concern that the unresolved killings of 2010-11 are not altogether disconnected from the homicides that have plagued our country over the last three years. In 2024, at an unprecedented rate, some eighty citizens have been shot to death, their bullet-riddled bodies left behind like roadside kill.

As if further to justify the public suspicions, the former prime minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony has more than once expressed deep regret that “this whole matter has been made into a political football,” that the people will continue to lose faith in our justice system, that they will not risk providing vital information to our crime fighters until this issue has been appropriately dealt with. Dr. Anthony had also famously read into the public record, a report by a team of investigators from the Jamaica Constabulary that “crime in Saint Lucia is facilitated by government politicians, members of the police force and businessmen.” That recently two young men were gunned down at high noon without an arrest in Derek Walcott Square—a few yards from the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the scene of another unforgettable murderous incident—only served to strengthen Dr. Anthony’s conviction.

It is unlikely investigators of the advertised caliber employed by the former prime minister would have fingered crime-facilitating government ministers, separate from police officers and businessmen, without identifying the individuals in each category. Or that a lawyer of Dr. Anthony’s stature would go public with such shocking details if he harbored the slightest doubt about their validity. To echo Dr. Anthony, Prime Minister, let us not for selfish reasons continue to play deaf, blind and dumb, at increasing cost to our country’s stability. Let us cease trying to fool all of our people all of the time. Let us instead agree to set aside partisan political aspirations—and put first the safety of our people, most of whom are among our most deprived and know from harsh experience that one plus one will never add up to ten!

Will we permit bloody history to repeat itself? Is there among us a political creature that not only can easily change loyalties but also its nature? Do you truly believe some leopards can change their spots? Could this be the reason you’ve allowed your Housing Minister free rein, to do and say as he pleases, wherever he pleases, regardless of targets? Prime Minister, does Richard Frederick’s reputation scare you? Have you, as many in our country and elsewhere believe you have, made Richard Frederick into your weapon and shield, consequences be damned? Or is it that you believe your political career would not survive without your Housing Minister?

A few weeks ago, while engaged in his customary lambasting of citizens critical of his methods, Richard Frederick bragged about his close association with conceivably rogue cops. Might these unidentified officers be among others fingered by Kenny Anthony’s so-called IMPACS report? Sir, your Housing Minister actually crowed on TV that police officers surreptitiously kept him informed about the comings and goings of private citizens.

As if to further emphasize his frightening disclosure, Mr. Frederick held his open right hand a foot above his desk and unforgettably bellowed: “I have a pile of information big so!”

Sir, if the public expected to hear you reprimand your Housing Minister, they remain disappointed. Notwithstanding, I want officially to bring to your attention your Housing Minister’s latest egregious TV performance, clips from which have embarrassingly gone viral. This time around, he focused his attention on four or five young men he identified by name as criminals. But before that, he repeated a widely condemned vile attack on Barbara Jacobs-Small, an esteemed daughter of the soil, considered an iconic figure by her peers, as well as by others at home and throughout the region. Barbara Jacobs-Small is largely appreciated for

her immense contributions to local broadcasting during the early days of Radio St. Lucia. You, Prime Minister, would also be familiar with the numerous artistic contributions of Arthur Jacobs, Barbara's deceased father. Neither father nor daughter deserved your Housing Minister's characteristic frothy-mouthed tongue lashing.

Prime Minister, I offer for your consideration a small sample from the avalanche of ad hominem Richard Frederick dumped on his most recent targets, as well as on viewers here and outside the land that gave birth to Olympic track star Julien Alfred: "Sometimes I pass by the CDC and I see those thugs there. I don't call them. I don't call them because in my view, you cannot want to associate with me when all you want to do is crime. I have a problem with that Solomon Clarke. I have a problem with that. A serious problem. Not long ago, you thugs were liming by Mr. Walters and you robbed him. I want to call on Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Commissioner this is getting too serious for a lackadaisical approach. I had SSU guys patrolling that area for me . . . I have a no-loitering sign there but they ignore it. All they do is rob the tourists. I am sick of it. I am tired of it. I'm calling on you Commissioner . . . those thugs have to be arrested on sight [site?] for loitering. There is one called Claude. Yesterday he robbed a tourist. Today, one got his backside beaten up at the hands of a tourist. I wish they had done something where you met your demise. And I make no bones about it." Was your Housing Minister dangerously inviting visitors to take the law in their own hands?

He went on: "Jarvis, stop it! Magah, Jeff, all of you! I'm not afraid to call your names! I know you! I have video footage!" Your Housing Minister then threatened to use the images of the named citizens in future episodes of *Can I Help You?* Several more times he called out by name Solomon Clarke (a relative of Rosh Clarke, I've been told), the UWP's election candidate for the Castries Central seat, now held by the ostensible Independent MP you took into your Cabinet following the last general elections.

It comes to mind, Prime Minister, that during the IMPACS period, three other relatives of Rosh Clarke—B.J. and his wife Cheryl Clarke and her brother Arthur—were fatally gunned down in Castries. Their killers still have not been brought to justice. Hearing your Housing Minister repeatedly threaten to feature on his show pictures of Solomon Clarke triggered in my thoughts horror images related to the infamous "death list"—replete with photographs of alleged gang members that in 2010 had "met their demise" supposedly at the hands of rivals. However, according to Prime Minister Kenny Anthony, reading on TV from the earlier mentioned Jamaica Constabulary report in 2015, the actual killers were police officers, facilitated by politicians in government. What, then, to make of televised instructions to the police "to declare war" on targets selected by your Housing Minister. Similar orders were given the police by members of government in 2010, prior to the disaster of Operation Restore Confidence, and before that Operation Restore Peace. A leading police officer unforgettably revealed during a radio interview at the time that he had good reason to tell certain politicians he had no stomach for "fighting crime with crime."

Considering his own family connections, should Rosh Clarke be particularly concerned about his personal safety? What to make of your Housing Minister's suggestion that the police commissioner's approach to crime was "lackadaisical?" Will Richard Frederick be satisfied only when the police carry out his televised war declaration on the citizens he openly

described as criminals without evidence? Again, I am reminded of then Prime Minister Anthony's public reading of some of the more shocking revelations of the IMPACS report!

Prime Minister, will you at least dissociate yourself and your party from your Housing Minister's potential unlawful orders to the police? It can no longer be disputed that Prime Minister Kenny D. Anthony knew more than he actually revealed in 2006, when he declared Richard Frederick "Saint Lucia's most frightening political prospect."

The chickens have come home to roost, Prime Minister. Will you act now to spare our country a repeat of the bloody 2010-11 nightmare? Will you expunge the Independent MP Richard Frederick from your Cabinet and the Office of the Prime minister? Or will you also disdain this appeal on behalf of the nearly 40,000 affronted citizens I am privileged to represent as the Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Saint Lucia? Sir, the ball is in your court. As I write, it is being reported that the bullet-riddled body of yet another young man has been found at a roadside, this time in Bexon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Chastanet', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

ALLEN CHASTANET
Leader of the Opposition