

## Statement from Shadow Education Minister Lovitta Foggo - School Amalgamations

The Progressive Labour Party is pleased to hear that the OBA Government have realised that the consultation period, during which meetings were held with staff and parents on proposed consolidation and closures of schools, did not meet with public acceptance. Consequently, no school closures have been announced. According to the Shadow Minister of Education, Lovitta Foggo, the feedback received from parents and key stakeholders in education made clear that the idea of school closure did not enjoy public support; which was evident during the public consultations. Additionally, most felt that the evidence presented by the Minister was woefully inadequate to support any suggestion of school closure, particularly with respect to arguments surrounding student performance.

We hope that in the future, the Minister of Education will conduct his due diligence before making any announcements which may have a grave impact on the community.

The past two months have caused unnecessary angst for parents, teachers and students, over where they may be placed in September. After all the uncertainty caused by the OBA, we now learn that there will be no changes at the primary levels.

We will lend our support to the amalgamation of St David's Pre-school with St David's Primary, and St John's Pre-school with Victor Scott Primary School, if these moves enjoy the support of both parents and staff.

Education is paramount. It must always be handled with respect and care. Our students, parents and teachers deserve nothing less!