



**The Office of the Leader of the Opposition  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis**

March 12, 2018

Tel: (869) 465-0300  
Email: leader.opposition@sknparliament.org  
office.opposition@sknparliament.org

Office of the Leader of the Opposition  
P.O. Box 876  
Unit A6 Sands Complex  
Basseterre  
St. Kitts, W.I

March 12, 2018

Hon. Dr. Timothy Harris  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Government Headquarters  
Church Street  
Basseterre

Dear Hon. Prime Minister

**Subject: Access to Community Centres**

I write to strongly protest your government's continuing denial of the request of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for use of our Community Centres for town hall meetings with members of the respective communities. These requests have been made in pursuit of the legitimate business of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Last Friday, March 9, an application for use of the Community Centre in Newtown was made at the Department of Community Affairs by my Office, and as on previous occasions, my office was informed by Mrs Anne Wigley that your government has instituted a policy to prevent the Office of the Leader of the Opposition from using the Community Centres in St. Kitts.

During the tenure of the Labour Party Administration, the Opposition of the day including all political Parties had access to the Community Centres. To deprive the Opposition of the use of the centres that were constructed to enhance development through community-based activities is not only discriminatory but undemocratic and stifles the laudable principles of freedom for which the leaders before you fought to benefit the people whom they represented.

The issues that should unite us as Parliamentarians hinge on the wellbeing of all the people whom we are elected to represent and as such we must be given the opportunity to engage them in the communal confines that were designed for us so to do. Trampling on a fundamental right to information by the people in the respective communities is dictatorial and has no part in a democracy such as what we claim to embrace as citizens of this Federation. This decision should at once be dispelled with in the interest of fairness for all.

After all, the Opposition is part of the governance structure of this country and the decision to refuse the members access to government-owned community buildings is myopic and undemocratic.

The Office of the Leader of the Opposition will not under any circumstance accept any policy by your government that has been designed to prevent it from having access to the community centres or from carrying out its business as a legitimate institution of our State. Just as any legitimate community group or club, or any Department of Government is afforded the opportunity to make reasonable use of our community centres, so too must the Office of the Leader of the Opposition be afforded that opportunity.

My Office has already communicated these sentiments orally to the department in question.

I therefore use this correspondence to appeal to your government's better judgment in the interest of advancing our democratic development and our harmonious coexistence.

I look forward to kind response.

Yours respectfully

Rt. Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas

- c. Minister responsible for Community Development
- St. Kitts Evangelical Association
- St. Kitts Christian Council
- St. Kitts and Nevis Bar Association
- St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- HE Irwin La Roque, Secretary General - Caribbean Community
- HE Dr Didicus Jules, Director General - OECS Commission
- HE George Gow-wei Chiou, Ambassador - Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
- HE Rómulo Camilo Henríquez González, Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Venezuela
- HE Abelardo Fabio Hernández Ferrer, Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
- HE Douglas W Vasconcellos, Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Brazil
- HE Linda S Tagliatela, Ambassador of the United States to the Eastern Caribbean