



# Nevis Reformation Party

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**June 16, 2017,**

**Heather Cooke**

Regional Secretary

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Gordon House

81 Duke Street

P.O Box 636

Kingston, Jamaica

**Ref: No Meetings of the Nevis Island Assembly for the year**

Dear Madam,

I write to you in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition in the Nevis Island Assembly. I write to apprise you of pressing concerns affecting the proper functioning of the Nevis Island Assembly. The first concern is that the Nevis Island Assembly has not met for any parliamentary sessions in 2017. The second concern is that the competent authority has not set up the Public Accounts Committee:

In addition to the above, I wish to also bring the following matters to you attention:

1. There is no office for the Leader of the Opposition.
2. The Opposition has no access to the government media.
3. For the past 4 years and six months, there have been only (8) eight meetings of the Nevis Island Assembly and (5) five of those were budget debates.
4. The Premier and the Deputy Premier, who are both members of the National Assembly, regularly attend meetings of that body (on St. Kitts). They participate in parliamentary proceedings on St. Kitts, while refusing to convene meetings of the assembly on Nevis is a clear demonstration of their disrespect for our local Parliamentarians as well as the Nevisian public.
5. The members of the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) led cabinet unilaterally and corruptly increased their salaries by 33% for the Premier, and 23% for other ministers. This matter was not debated in or approved by the Nevis Island Assembly.

The House of Assembly is where the issues and peoples business should be handled regularly. I and many residents of Nevis are infuriated by this matter, as this has been the longest time I can remember Parliament **NOT** taking place in Nevis in the last 20 years. Have the reasons for no meetings been because the island of Nevis has been abandoned by the Premier and Deputy Premier of Nevis?

I believe that Parliament, Democracy and Good Governance are under threat in Nevis. I therefore urge the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to investigate the Nevis Island Assembly and the Public Accounts Committee.

Sincerely,

Hon. Joseph Parry

Opposition Leader in the Nevis Island Assembly