



111 Roebuck Street, Bridgetown

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September 19, 2011

## **PRESS RELEASE**

It has been reported that charges of disenfranchising party members have been laid against the Barbados Labour Party through the instituting of changes to its Standing Orders for the Party's upcoming Annual Conference.

Such charges are contained in a letter purportedly signed by Ms Mia Mottley, M.P.

The facts are that under the Party's Constitution, the Conference Arrangements Committee acts as a Standing Orders Committee and formulated new Standing Orders which have been ratified by the National Executive Committee and these together with the party's Constitution govern the BLP's procedures.

The new Standing Orders now provide that a member can only be a delegate of a single organ of the Party at the Conference. Under the Party's Constitution, a person could be a member of the Women's League, the League of Young Socialists and a constituency branch, all at the same time. That person could in theory also be a delegate for each of these organs simultaneously. Equally, for the purpose of establishing the number of delegates available to each organ, a person could be counted three times. This had the potential to distort the number of people who could vote at the Annual Conference.

The new standing Orders now eliminates the possibility of distortion.

With respect to the number of delegates for St. Thomas and St. Michael East the party has for many years now established a process by which all branches are given an opportunity to resolve any issues with respect to their membership lists and the allocation of delegates. In keeping with this process the number of delegates allocated to those branches remain the same as last year.

The current position on the nominations for offices within the Party are as follows:

Chairman- Dr. Jerome Walcott has been nominated by 19 constituency branches as well as by the Women's League and the League of Young Socialists; Ms. Mia Mottley Q.C. has been nominated by four branches.  
First vice-chairman - Dale Marshall Q.C., nominated by 10 branches; Dr. Maria Agard nominated by three branches;  
Second vice-chairman- Dr. Maria Agard, nominated by seven branches; Wendell Callender, nominated by one branch; Anthony Wood, nominated by two branches;  
Third vice-chairman, Wendell Callender, nominated by five branches; Peter Chase, nominated by three branches;  
General Secretary- Ms. Cynthia Forde, M.P., nominated by four branches; George Griffith, nominated by four branches; Tyrone Lovell, nominated by one branch;  
Treasurer- Douglas Skeete, nominated by seven branches; Rudy Grant, nominated by three branches.

Peter Phillips  
General Secretary