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ATTWOOD - PARADES AND PROTEST EVIDENCE OF CATASTROPHIC FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP FROM SINN FEIN AND DUP

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SDLP West Belfast MLA Alex Attwood said the controversy over Sunday's parade and protest in Belfast was a clear demonstration of the 'catastrophic failure' of leadership from Sinn Fein and the DUP.

Mr Attwood said the myth that a Sinn Fein/DUP axis would deliver stability, progress and reconciliation had been well and truly shattered by the events of the past six days.

He said: "Belfast went pretty close to a tipping point in the last few days no thanks to Sinn Fein and the DUP.

"Both of them, including some of their most prominent people, poured fuel on a fire that could have burned very seriously.

"They spent nearly all of their time protecting their political position both inside and outside government and failed until only the very last moment to wake up from sleepwalking into an even worse outcome.

"As with so much over last six months this demonstrated a catastrophic failure of leadership and it was not lost on the people of Belfast.

"There are some big conclusions to be drawn from these events. The community was told that a Sinn Fein/DUP future would bring opportunity, stability, progress and reconciliation. The last six months, as with the last six days, have nailed that particular myth. That is the big political message that people in Belfast have learned very nearly to our cost."

ENDS

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