

EVERY BAJAN A WINNER

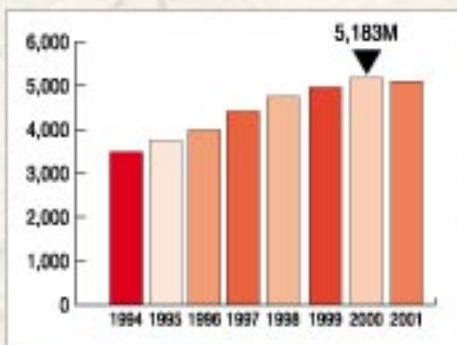
BARBADOS
LABOUR PARTY
AGENDA
2003 · 2008



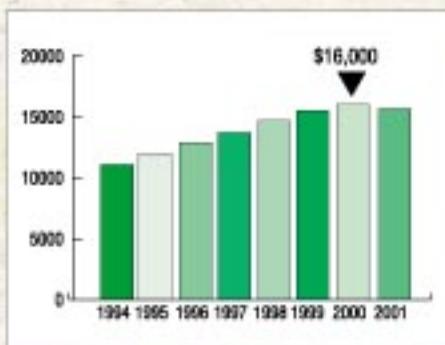
Proven PERFORMANCE

THE ECONOMY STRENGTHENED...
IT'S BETTER NOW FOR EVERY BAJAN

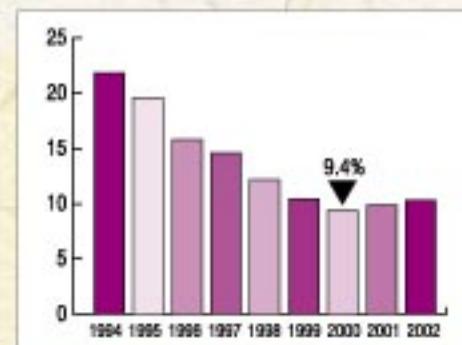
Gross Domestic Product (\$Millions)



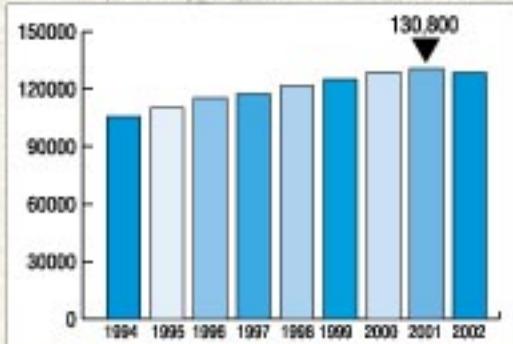
Per Capita Income



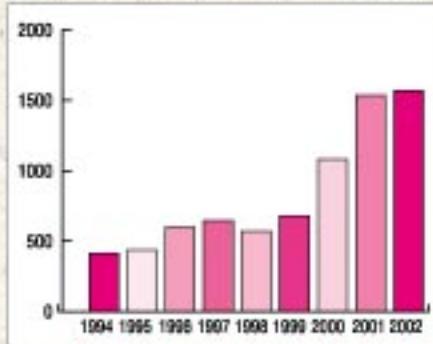
Unemployment Rate



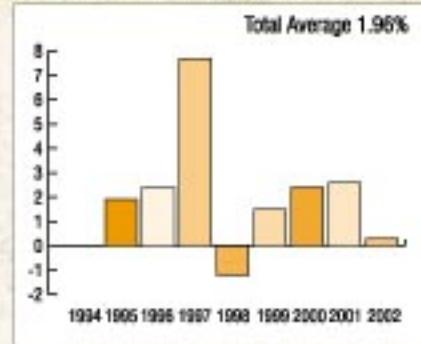
Number of persons employed



International Reserves (\$Millions)



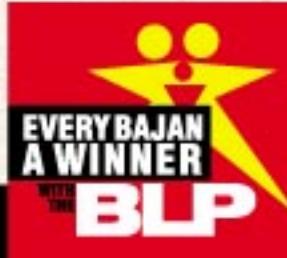
Inflation Averaged since 1994



	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
GDP	3,485M	3,742M	3,995M	4,413M	4,747M	4,965M	5,183M	5,098M	N/A
Per Capita Income	\$11,100	\$12,000	\$12,900	\$13,700	\$14,700	\$15,500	\$16,000	\$15,700	N/A
Unemployment Rate	21.8 %	19.6%	15.8%	14.6%	12.2%	10.4%	9.4%	9.9%	10.3%
Number of persons employed	105,600	110,100	115,300	117,600	121,800	125,100	129,000	130,800	128,700
International Reserves	\$412M	\$437M	\$599M	\$643M	\$568M	\$679M	\$1081M	\$1534M	\$1568M
Inflation Averaged since 1994	1.9%	2.4%	7.7%	-1.2%	1.5%	2.4%	2.6%	0.3%	

SUSTAINED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

In the face of several severe external shocks, the BLP's astute and innovative fiscal management restored the economy, generated thousands of jobs, increased savings and reserves and kept prices down.



RE-ELECT THE BLP

EVERY BAJAN A WINNER

AGENDA 2003 · 2008

Building a First World Society	2
Economic Charter	5
Lower Taxes, Increased Benefits	6
Opportunity for All in Tourism	10
A Thriving Business Sector	13
Culture and the Creative Economy	16
Better for Business, Better for Consumers	18
Information and Communications Technology	20
Partnering with the World	21
Homes Within Reach of All	23
Life Long Learning	27
A Quantum Leap in Health Care	32
Growth in Agriculture	38
Relief for Road Users	42
Water, with Care	43
Eradicating Poverty through Social Transformation	44
Physical Development and Environment	51
Justice, Peace and Security	54
Social Partnership	60
Governing Barbados Well	61
Proven Leadership	63

PUBLISHED BY THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY,
111 ROEBUCK STREET, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.
PRINTED BY COLES PRINTERY LIMITED
DESIGNED BY ACUTE VISION INC



EVERY BAJAN A WINNER

BUILDING A FIRST WORLD SOCIETY

THE RT. HON.
OWEN ARTHUR
*Prime Minister
Leader, Barbados Labour Party*

**Sons and Daughters of Barbados, Fellow
Barbadians, Citizens, Residents and Friends:**

To my enduring gratitude, you have given me two terms in our nation's highest elected office. I now seek your mandate for a third.

Whatever might have been my private aspirations and intentions, and my perspectives on tenure in political office, the challenges of the times dictate that I again offer myself for office in your service.

I do this willingly.

At this time of global turmoil, trauma and escalating threat of terror, the obligation falls to every Barbadian to commit to every contribution that can serve the common good and propel our nation's cause.

It was generally felt that the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, had changed the world forever.

Not even that sombre reality, however, could have prepared us for the raging storm that surrounded and will be sequel to the war in Iraq.

Vital links between powerful nations have been tested and the passions of untold millions around the globe ignited, making the world now frighteningly combustible.

The challenging times that currently confront us allow no place for the whimsical, the timid or the tentative.

Barbados must be confident.

Barbados must be brave.

Barbados must be bolder than we have ever dared to be at any time in our history.

Survival in an increasingly harsh international environment demands no less.

Success in that environment demands considerably more.

Small and faltering steps will not serve us on the daunting road that lies ahead.

Nothing less than a quantum leap will assure Barbados a future so secure that every Bajan will be a winner.

During the next five years, the most complex, challenging and far reaching changes ever, will have to be made to the Barbados economy.

Beginning in 2005, Barbados will have to function as part of a single Caribbean market and economy.

In that same year, a Free Trade Area of the Americas is scheduled to come into being, launching a totally new relationship between all of the economies of the Western Hemisphere.

Negotiations to create a new economic cooperation agreement with Europe are scheduled to be completed by 2007, ushering in an entirely new economic and financial framework with the European Union.

Anew set of negotiations, which will affect our manufacturing services and agricultural sectors under the auspices of the WTO, is set to be concluded by and implemented after 2005.

We also have very good reason to expect that the revolution in information and communication technology, which has so dramatically transformed the way business is organised and conducted, and which has done so much to make the entire world function as one global economic village, will gather pace and intensity.

In every instance, powerful forces will be geared to the dismantling of the means by which Barbados has provided protection for our industries, will expose us to having to compete on equal terms with much more advanced economies in the same liberalised markets, and will require that we master the use of modern technology.

We will have to ready ourselves to function as part of the global economy, on terms that bear no resemblance to those which have conditioned our relationship with our regional and global economic partners in the past, and in circumstances where no one owes us a living.

Yet, this new situation presents Barbados with exciting and unprecedented economic opportunities.

Participation in the Caribbean Single Market and the Free Trade Areas of the Americas will enable us, for the time being, to be able to plan our economic development free of the limitations historically imposed on us by geography, small population and market size.

The effects of technological change and the opening of virtually unlimited markets for services present Barbados with significant opportunities for becoming a premier producer of high quality services as never before, a country rich in human capital and resources.

Our nation comes to this juncture of global development as one of the world's successful middle income countries.

We rank high and out of all proportion to our size in the universally accepted Human Development Indices.

We lead the developing world in the scale and sustainability of our economic development and our economy has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity to respond to external economic shocks.

This did not come about by accident.

The Barbados Labour Party Government has carefully nurtured and developed our human resources and our social capital.

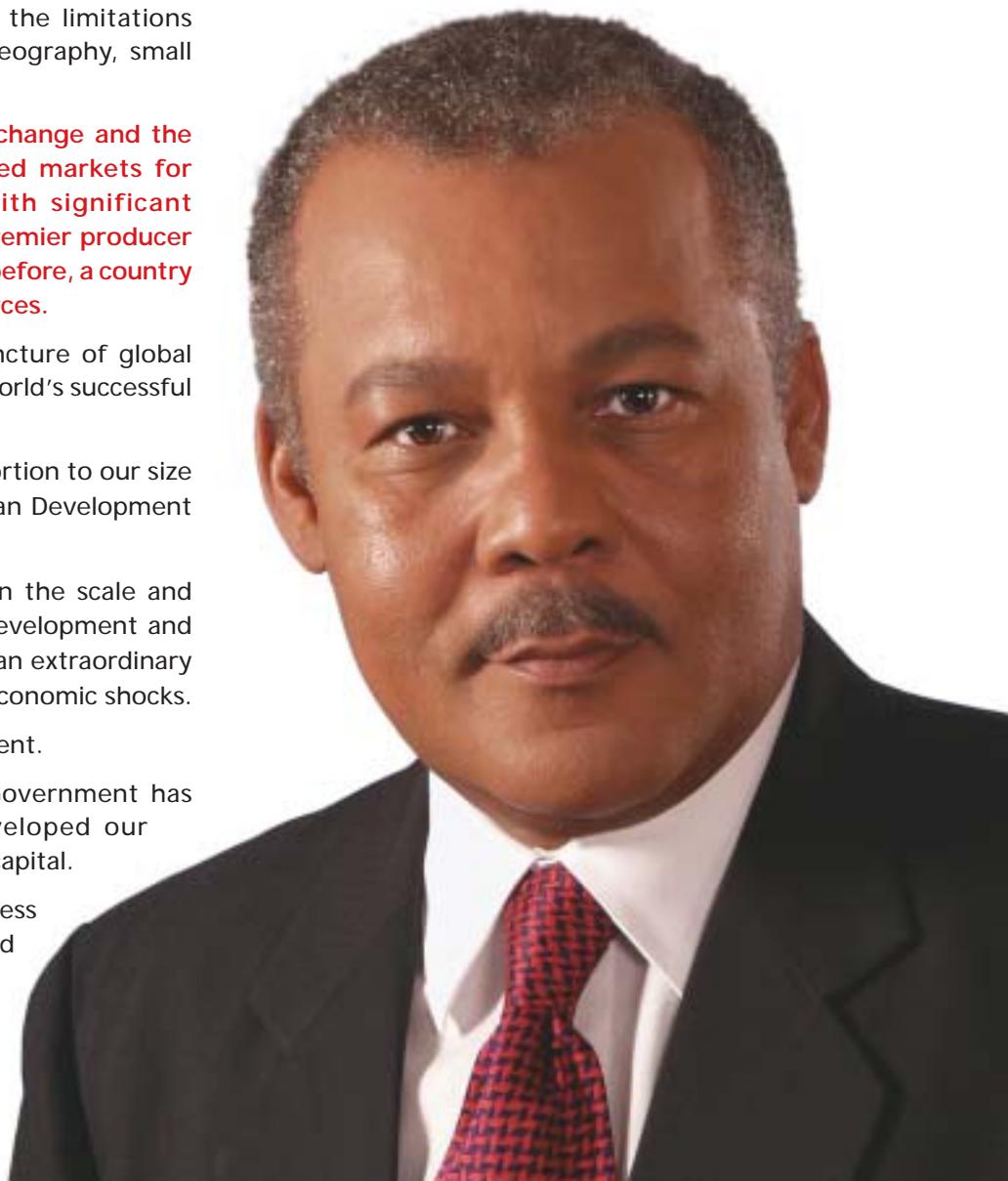
We have built our economic progress on a tradition of strong and sound

macroeconomic policies and management strategies that have shaped a climate of investor and consumer confidence, and that have driven Barbados' sustained economic growth.

Above all, over the course of the past two terms, we carefully and progressively introduced new strategies, new polices, new programmes to prepare us for this defining and transforming moment in our national development.

We have carefully and deliberately created a new legal framework within which a new modern, competitive economy will emerge and function.

- Tourism Development
- Consumer Protection
- Consumer Guarantees
- Fair Trading
- Telecommunications Reform



- Insolvency Legislation
- Small Business Development
- Special Development Areas
- Electronic Commerce
- eGovernment
- Intellectual Property protection
- Competition Policy
- Trade Liberalisation
- Utility Regulation
- International Business
- Securities Market
- Financial Institutions
- Pension Reform
- Social Security
- Caribbean Single Market and Economy
- Direct and Indirect Tax Regime

All of this has been the subject of major, radical new legislative initiatives since 1998, to reposition and transform our economy.

We have devised new means to afford new forms of support and protection to our enterprises, especially in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

We have created, for each productive sector, new financial arrangements by which funds can be secured to carry out the restructuring and modernisation required to deal with contemporary challenges.

- The Agricultural Development Fund
- The Tourism Development Fund
- The Small Hotels Fund
- The Industrial Employment and Investment Fund
- Fund Access
- Enterprise Growth Fund
- Innovation Fund
- Urban and Rural Enterprises Funds

We have directed enormous new investment to building a new physical infrastructure, to connecting to the information wave, to transforming our education and training facilities and to democratising the use and effects of modern productivity enhancing technology throughout the entire society.

We have provided technical assistance and financial support to build institutional capacity in our private sector organisations and the labour movement, to enable them to better gear their constituents to participate effectively in a globalised economy.

By these and other means, we have established the platform from which we can launch Barbados to the next level of economic accomplishment.

We will further diversify our economy through intense focus on a new sector, "The Creative Economy."

This will mobilise, for economic reward, the creative capacities of our country's artists, artistes, artisans and other generators of intellectual property will be a significant contributor in reaffirming identity and self worth in all Barbadians even as it presents unprecedented economic opportunity to those who epitomize the term, :100% Bajan.

Parallel with the economic framework, we here present other strategies to embrace and empower every Barbadian.

All that the Barbados Labour Party has delivered to date, all that we propose, subserve our fundamental mission, to make life better for everyone.

In this context, I take the licence to adapt to my principal personal purpose, the declaration made by Nobel Laureate, Maya Angelou, the African-American poet:

"All my conscious life and energies have been devoted to the most noble cause in the world: the liberation of the Barbadian mind and spirit, beginning with my own."

Central to this purpose is my conviction that every Barbadian should be accorded every opportunity to live in human dignity.

This means that no longer should any Barbadian be imprisoned in poverty; it means that excellence in education, well paying and secure jobs, the highest quality health care, peace and safety in comfortable homes of their own, and security and attention in their golden years, should be the right of all Barbadians.

Building a First World Society, continued on page 62

The Economic Charter

SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND FULL EMPLOYMENT

To achieve our national development goals we will spur on the recovery from the recent recession and utilise a mix of fiscal, monetary, trade, interest rate, exchange rates, energy, sectoral and capacity building measures to restore the economy to a sustainable path of realising an annual real growth of at least 3% per year.

We:

- Will not devalue the Barbados dollar and we will continue to boost our foreign exchange reserves to make this possible.
- Will maintain the current regime that has ensured that interest rates remain at historically low levels.
- Having reduced taxes on energy products to levels competitive with any in the Caribbean, we will support and implement a pricing policy to hold energy prices to the lowest levels consistent with international crude oil prices.
- Will institute policies to contain our overall fiscal deficits to no more than 2.5% of the GDP and the overall public debt to no more than 60% of the GDP.
- Will in the next term progressively REMOVE EXCHANGE CONTROLS on capital transactions, first in the context of our obligations under the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, CSME, and secondly in relation to our obligations under the FTAA.

FULL EMPLOYMENT

We have in our first two terms successfully reduced unemployment to historically low levels. The reduction of unemployment to negligible proportions is a goal that is now within our grasp.

To achieve it we will:

- Implement measures to stimulate investment to create new enterprises and expand existing ones.
- Exploit export market opportunities made possible by new trade arrangements, especially for financial and professional services.

■ Implement strategies to diversify our economy into special market niches to take full advantage of the quality of our human capital.

■ Fully leverage the benefits of our location and our tradition for economic stability.

■ Put in place new financial, technical assistance and capacity building and institutional support measures to enable small and medium sized enterprises to thrive and create new employment opportunities.

■ Continue the aggressive development of our human capital to meet local, regional and global requirements.

■ Continue to promote measures to boost productivity so as to enhance the competitiveness of Barbadian workers and enterprises.

■ Institute new policies to facilitate economic expansion through the export of Barbadian technology, intellectual capital, enterprise, brands and the products of our cultural industries, to take advantage of opportunities created by CSME and FTAA.

■ Implement, through the Commission on Competitiveness, the programme to remove encumbrances and to reduce the cost of doing business in this country.

■ Phase out existing surtaxes and other extraordinary protective tariff mechanisms in the interest of creating a better climate for tourism and international business.

■ Provide manufacturing and agriculture with subsidies and income transfers that are compatible with our regional and trade obligations.

■ Restructure the taxation regime to make Barbados the preferred location for doing business in the Caribbean.

The policies we present in this manifesto are informed by and anchored to economic reality. They were formulated with the level of serious research that goes into a national five year plan.

Every proposal is people centred and predicated on extensive consultations with the Barbadians whose lives it will impact.

The charts on the inside covers of this publication demonstrate the strength of the Barbados economy and the formidable record of the BLP in managing and governing well.

Lower Taxes, Increased Benefits

A BLP Government will modify the tax system to respond to a set of new economic forces, and to enable us to achieve powerful social and economic goals.

Insofar as Barbados will function as part of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) after 2004, we must structure our tax system to be the most competitive in the region, and to make Barbados the preferred business centre in the Caribbean.

After 2005, our tax system must accommodate removal of import duties in accordance with FTA, European Union, and WTO trade agreements.

Our fiscal system must also feature attractive incentives to spur personal initiative, promote high levels of savings and investments, and provide fair and reasonable returns as stimuli to private investment.

It must provide attractive concessions for families, pensioners

and the physically challenged as well as for small business and other enterprises that offer special opportunities for our youth and others in need of a helping hand.

The BLP will reform the income tax system through a number of new measures.

LOWER INCOME TAX, INCREASED ALLOWANCES

The BLP recently amended the Income Tax Act to:

- Increase personal allowance from \$15,000 to \$25,000 over four years by annual increments of \$2,500, starting in income year 2004.
- Reduce the basic rate of income tax from 25% to 22.5% in 2003 and to 20% in 2004.

- Reduce the top rate applicable to taxable income in excess of \$24,000 from 40% to 37.5% in income year 2005, and from 37.5% to 35% in income year 2006.

A BLP Government will review the personal income allowance in 2007, and increase it as financial circumstances allow.

MORE WILL BENEFIT FROM HOME ALLOWANCE

In 1992, the DLP abolished the allowance for mortgage interest, a benefit that brought welcome relief to lower and middle income home owners.

- The BLP reinstated the Home Allowance, set first at \$3,500, then further increased to \$6,000, which is to be expanded to

David Gill

ST. MICHAEL SOUTH CENTRAL

He holds a B.Sc degree from Concordia University in Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. In his professional career, he has been a manager with two major international pharmaceutical companies. Elected to Parliament in 1999 as M.P. for St. Michael South Central, he has been an acting Minister on many occasions. He says: "With Owen Arthur, Billie Miller, Reginald Farley, Mia Mottley, Noel Lynch, Liz Thompson and people like that, the BLP is truly the Team for the Times".



\$10,000 from income year 2004.

We expanded this allowance to give taxpayers a tax credit for expenses for installing water storage facilities, solar water heaters, storm shelters, and for home repairs and improvements, and for home insurance premiums, as well as interest on mortgages.

We will review this allowance in 2006 and will increase it as the country's financial circumstances permit.

■ We pledge that the **Home Allowance** will be a permanent component of a BLP Government's tax system.

GENEROUS CONCESSIONS TO ENCOURAGE SAVINGS

A BLP administration will introduce a consolidated savings allowance that will offer generous concessions to encourage savings, while allowing freedom in how

taxpayers organise their savings and investments.

INCREASE IN REVERSE TAX CREDIT

In 1998, the Barbados Labour Party introduced the **Reverse Tax Credit** to provide relief to those who whose income did not exceed \$13,000 and who therefore could not benefit from income tax concessions.

Parallel with our programme to increase the personal income to \$25,000, **we will progressively extend the number of taxpayers enjoying this benefit from the present income level of \$13,000 to \$25,000**; and we will increase the quantum of the Tax Credit as circumstances allow.

LOWER CORPORATION TAX

We amended the Income Tax Act to reduce the Corporation Tax from the current 40% to 25%, by 2006.

The next stage in our reform of Corporation Tax will be the removal of the differential between rates paid by domestic enterprises and those in the International Business and Financial sectors.

LOWER TAX RATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Under the Small Business Development Act introduced by the BLP, small businesses pay tax on profit at a rate of 25%.

The next BLP administration will **reduce the Small Business Tax Rate to 20%** when the General Corporation Tax rate reaches 25% in 2006.

TAX BREAK FOR HOME CONSTRUCTION

To encourage home building, we will establish a special corporation tax rate of 20% for firms engaged in housing construction.

“NO VAT ON COMPUTERS

To propel our thrust to make Barbados a First World society, we must ensure that information technology is available to all Barbadians, as a learning tool and as a business option.

To this end, a BLP Government will remove the VAT on computers and computer supplies. //

TAX CONCESSIONS FOR SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Special development concessions have played a major positive role in the redevelopment of Speightstown, Carlisle Bay, St Lawrence Gap and the Scotland District.

We will extend concessions to such locations as Baxters Road, Tudor Street, Roebuck Street and other areas designated for urban renewal.

WE WILL PHASE OUT IMPORT DUTIES

To fulfil our obligations under the FTAA and WTO agreements, Barbados will, from 2005, begin phasing out import duties.

This will be a **major tax adjustment**, as import duties currently range between 20% and 45%, and yield \$170 million in revenue.

The removal of import duties, while reducing Government's tax revenues heavily, will be of major benefit to consumers and to the economy.

Their removal will lead to substantial reduction in prices, and will assist in reducing the cost of doing business; especially in the tourism and international services sector.

The BLP administration will stimulate economic activity to replace the significant loss in revenue that will result from these adjustments.

NO VAT ON COMPUTERS

To propel our thrust to make Barbados a First World society, we must ensure that information technology is available to all Barbadians, as a learning tool and as a business option.

To this end, a BLP Government will remove the VAT on computers and computer supplies.

FURTHER EASE ON PROPERTY TAXES

We will exempt the first \$125,000 in property value from payment of land tax, place a ceiling on the value on which land tax will be charged and permit property owners to pay annual land tax charges in quarterly instalments.

REDUCING PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

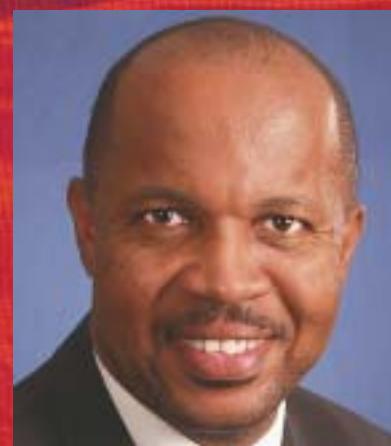
A BLP Government will reduce the property transfer tax vendor rate from the current 10% to 7.5%.

Whereas existing legislation provides for payment of property transfer tax on leases in excess of one year, we will amend the Property Transfer Tax Act and Stamp Duty Act to exempt leases of up to 25 years.

Errol Crawford

ST. JOHN

Errol Crawford is a man with a mission. His mission is deliverance from the Dems for St. John. As a member of a governing BLP team, Errol would be in a position to make sure that there is reparation for St. John following its decades of loyalty to a party that treated this community with callous neglect.



INCREASED PENSIONS

Pensioners earning income that makes them liable to tax already enjoy major concessions that are not available to other taxpayers.

They enjoy a personal allowance of \$30,000, which ensures that any pensioner living only on a National Insurance pension is free of tax liability on such pension.

We will maintain a personal allowance for pensioners that will free National Insurance pensions from tax liability and we will increase it as circumstances allow.

Pensioners over the age of 60 enjoy the concession of paying land tax at half the rate of other property owners.

Such pensioners will now further benefit from exemption of the first \$125,000 in property value from payment of land tax, as well as from the increase in home allowance.

The Barbados Labour Party administration has removed the tax on interest on savings for pensioners, a concession that will remain in place.

We will increase the grants to non-contributory old age pensioners and persons with physical and other disabilities.

CENTRALISING REVENUE COLLECTION AGENCIES

The BLP will establish a Revenue Authority, which will centralise all revenue departments, except Customs, in order to improve the collection of revenue, and generally enhance efficiency.

DEPOSIT INSURANCE FOR YOUR PROTECTION

We will establish a statutory Deposit Insurance Corporation, which will insure and protect people's deposits in banks and other financial institutions up to prescribed limits.



“The next BLP administration will reduce the Small Business Tax Rate to 20% when the General Corporation Tax rate reaches 25% in 2006.

We will inject \$150 million in projects for tourism product development.”

Opportunity for All in Tourism

Through the swift intervention of the Government in mobilising the social partners in a unified mission, and by providing special financial incentives to the industry, Barbados was unique in averting the social and economic dislocation that other tourism economies experienced after the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

Tourism now faces profound challenges that include volatility in the airline industry, the emergence of new and dangerous threats to security and safety, and new business alignments that will affect investment decisions and airlift capacity.

To further promote tourism, we have established a legal and regulatory framework that offers attractive incentives in virtually all aspects of the industry.

In the next term, the BLP's priorities will include:

- Further broadening the appeal of our tourism product in all of its facets.
- Ensuring that tourism is the prime catalyst energising other sectors of the economy, in such a way as to involve every citizen, in every community.

The BLP will work vigorously to ensure that Barbados is a destination of choice for discriminating travellers.

A BLP Government will inject \$150 million in projects for tourism product development.

Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., (BTII) will continue to drive product development and will partner the private sector in selected joint ventures.

Projects will include:

- Completion of the second phase of the Bridgetown Board Walk along the Careenage Inner Basin.
- Reconstruction of the Chamberlain Bridge.
- Dredging of the Careenage Inner Basin. This will form part of the new civic space, along with the Independence Square upgrade.
- The Constitution River will be brought up to acceptable environmental standards and maintained.
- The Salt Pond Drainage and streetscape project in Speightstown will be completed.
- Redeveloping and upgrading the Fish Market and Esplanade at Speightstown.

Noel Lynch

ST MICHAEL SOUTH

A marketing executive and management consultant by profession, Noel holds a B.A in English and Spanish and a B.Sc in marketing. He was appointed to the Senate in 1994 and elected to the House in 1999. He was appointed Minister of Tourism and International Transport in 2000. He says: "Prime Minister Arthur's agenda "Every Bajan a Winner" and his exhortation to the nation to "Go for the Gold" got my vote."



- Constructing of a Public Car Park at Speightstown.
- Streetscape improvements in Speightstown.
- Constructing a multi-storey Car Park in Bridgetown at Bethel and Cheapside.
- The erection of a Police Station, Sports pavilion and Public Car Park at Dover in Christ Church.
- Completion of the Dover Beach Redevelopment at St. Lawrence Gap.
- Completing the Dover Watercourse Redevelopment as well as the St. Lawrence Swamp Redevelopment.
- The second phase of St. Lawrence Gap refurbishment will also be completed.

The BLP will also support a number of Heritage Tourism projects which will generate income and jobs in the sector.

These projects include:

- The completion of the restoration of George Washington House,

FUNDING TOURISM

Our industry is mature and a significant portion of our hotel plant is in need of renewal. Our challenge is to provide the capital necessary to refurbish, rehabilitate and refresh the existing plant while creating the new capacity to make us competitive.

The BLP Government has provided finance to the tourism industry with the establishment of the \$30.0 million Tourism Loan Fund and the \$5 million Small Hotels Investment Fund.

We have reviewed the operation of these Funds and will make them more readily accessible to the industry.

We also will develop joint venture initiatives, provide technical assistance and/or additional financial resources to:

- Facilitate the export of Barbados' branded activity in the sector.
- Support business activity specifically directed at ownership of the cruise sector and specific linkages

“Our tourism development product efforts will promote new niches; heritage tourism; retirement villages, boating and yachting facilities and extend the calendar of cultural and sporting events.”

to the cruise and boating and yachting sector.

- Assist with the upgrading and expansion of smaller hotel properties.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We will develop and promote a series of world class sporting and cultural events. Tourism must also be the major catalyst for growth in agriculture, manufacturing, culture and other economic options.

NEW INVESTMENT

In less than six months since the passing of the new Tourism Development Act, the Private Sector has already submitted proposals to start up or expand projects, with an aggregate value of approximately \$300m.

Development planning applications currently being processed by the Town and Country Planning Department include:

- The construction of another 500 rooms at Needhams

Point in addition to the Hilton Hotel.

- The integrated Sugar Hill Project resort complex of a Hotel, Villas and a Golf course.
- The Apes Hill Project offering a mix of accommodation and recreational facilities
- The Schooner Bay Project at Speightstown, offering upscale Villa accommodation
- Completion of the second phase of the Crane Beach Resort Project with an additional 60 upgraded rooms
- The 120-room Mango Bay Resort at Aquatic Gap
- A new 50-room hotel at Pavilion Court, Hastings.
- A 200 room Hotel and Condominium development at Lansdown, Christ Church. Refurbishment and upgrading will also be carried out at a number of existing properties including Accra, Asta, Coconut Creek, Royal Pavilion and Glitter Bay.

- Construction of new Restaurants and the refurbishment and upgrading of existing facilities.
- Refurbishment and upgrading of many properties, including Accra, Asta,
- To facilitate these developments, we will modernise the Condominium Act and introduce new Time Share Legislation.

COMMUNITY TOURISM

It is imperative that all communities own and participate in tourism. We have therefore developed our brand of “Community Tourism” to integrate tourism into our communities.

Community Tourism has the potential to add significant value to the Barbados product.

We will therefore implement a programme to foster heritage tourism in communities across Barbados.

Reginald Farley

CHRIST CHURCH EAST

Reggie is a UWI honours graduate with a BSc. in Economics and management. He joined the BLP in 1981 and was Party Chairman from 1999 through 2002. He was Leader of Government Business in the Senate (94-98), Minister of Industry, Commerce and Business Development (99-2001) and Minister of Economic Development (2001-03). He says: "Thanks to the visionary leadership of a bold Prime Minister, Barbados is poised for a swift transition to First World Status".



This Community Tourism will produce a significant number of new stakeholders, individuals and communities in tourism.

The economic impact of this programme will be substantial, immediate and continuing.

This concept of a more indigenous brand of tourism will continue to be promoted through projects such as:

- The Springvale Eco-Heritage museum and tours
- The Slave Route project
- Harrison's and Cole's Caves
- Welchman Hall and Jack-In-The-Box Gullies
- Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary.

We will promote inland tourism as the future wave of investment in the industry



A Thriving Business Sector

ENERGY

Safe, reliable energy products at the lowest possible prices remains the anchor of our energy policy. While we will continue to ensure the availability and efficient use of petroleum products, we will also vigorously pursue the

development of renewable energy sources.

Given the existence of the Caricom Single Market & Economy, our energy policy will be geared to regional realities and opportunities.

In pursuit of this, a BLP Government will:

- Increase production of petroleum both on-shore and off-shore.
- Intensify the \$30 million capital programme to double the number of households with access to natural gas (from the current 13,000 to 26,000)

“We will exempt the first \$125,000 in property value from payment of land tax, place a ceiling on the value on which land tax will be charged and permit property owners to pay annual land tax charges in quarterly instalments.”

- Reduce taxes on energy products to match the lowest in Caricom and improve Barbados' competitive position.
- Create an Energy Stabilization Fund to neutralise the volatility in energy prices
- Establish a Renewable Energy Centre
- Construct an \$80 million industry terminal as a hub for the import and distribution of petroleum products
- Harness wind energy to produce approximately 7% of our electricity.
- The first phase in this project will be the construction of a 10mw wind farm at Lamberts, St. Lucy
- Participate in the proposed programme of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago to extend their natural gas resources to the region.
- Support representation to the Fair Trading Commission for the abolition of the

- electricity fuel surcharge in order to keep electricity prices low.
- Maintain the tax regime for the use of energy efficient fixtures and appliances.
- Maintain the duty-free regime on diesel for manufacturers.
- Enact modern Energy Efficiency Legislation.
- Offer shares to the public in the state owned companies in the energy sector.

professional services sector.

A BLP Government will:

- Support measures to reduce costs and increase capacity in international telecommunications.
- Create a new incentive regime to encourage the export of professional and cultural services.
- Phase the relaxation of exchange controls for businesses engaged in export of services consistent with our obligations under the CSME and FTAA.
- Provide incentives for the provision of foreign language training and market intelligence
- Implement an aggressive joint public/private sector marketing programme, targeted especially at the insurance industry.
- Expand the range of Double Taxation Treaties and Bilateral Investment Treaties.
- Establish a dedicated legal unit with the support of the private and public sectors

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

A BLP Administration will ensure that Barbados becomes the premier centre for the production and export of competitive high quality services in CARICOM and the wider hemisphere. Our aim is to achieve a growth rate for the sector of about 5% per year with a substantial increase in employment. In maintaining the dynamism of the financial services sector we will also seek to diversify the non-financial and

Lynette Eastmond

ST. PHILIP WEST

An attorney-at-law, Lynette has an LLB and LLM degree in law and has worked in private practice as a senior International Tax Manager and from 1999 to 2002 was Director of International Business in the Ministry of Economic Development. Deeply involved in community and the church, she says: "The BLP is committed to the goal of there being at least one university graduate in every family by the year 2020".



to facilitate further development.

MANUFACTURING

Though facing unprecedented challenges, the manufacturing sector will continue to be a major contributor to national output as well as provide opportunities for small and medium enterprises.

The BLP government will:

- Encourage entrepreneurs to focus on production for local and regional markets
- Provide protection consistent with our international obligations.
- Expand the financial resources of the Industrial Investment and Employment Fund.
- Expand the technical assistance programme established at a cost of \$15 million. This programme is designed to enable enterprises to find industrial solutions to industrial problems and lift themselves to world class levels in areas such as

- Productivity improvements
- Attainment of international quality standards such as ISO9000, ISO14000 and HACCP
- Intellectual Property protection for locally manufactured products
- Corporate restructuring
- Provide continued support for the 100% Bajan campaign and extend its coverage. Government will lead by example as a model purchaser in supporting local manufacturers through the use of its buying power to expand the market for locally manufactured products.
- Expand resources available to the recently created Joint Public/ Private Export Trading Enterprise to enable it to mount an aggressive export marketing programme

TELECOM-MUNICATIONS

The Barbados Labour Party Government has successfully broken the Telecommunications monopoly which had inhibited our growth as a centre for international services.

The recent grant of three new licences for the provision of cellular telephone services marks the dawn of a new day for telecommunications in Barbados.

The Barbados Labour Party will

- Introduce competition in domestic and international telephone services.
- Ensure that there is a wider range of telecommunication services available to the public.



■ We will introduce Cultural Industries Development Legislation to ensure the sustainability of these industries.

We will establish a Festival and Events Bureau to market cultural products and services. ■

Culture and the Creative Economy

A Creative Economy will harness the knowledge, imagination and passion of the uniquely talented Barbadian people. The fusion of the arts with business and technology will give us a new economic sector with the potential to propel the economic growth of our nation.

Cultural Industries can be a key component of the Creative Economy.

They include:

ARTS AND CULTURE: Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Literary Arts, Photography, Craft, Libraries, Museums, Galleries, Archives, Heritage Sites, Festivals and Arts supporting Enterprises.

DESIGN: Advertising, Architecture, Web and Software, Graphics, Industrial Design, Fashion, Designer Fabrics, Communications, Interior and Environmental.

MEDIA: Radio, Television and Cable, Digital Media (including Software and Computer Services) Film and Video, Recorded Music and Publishing.

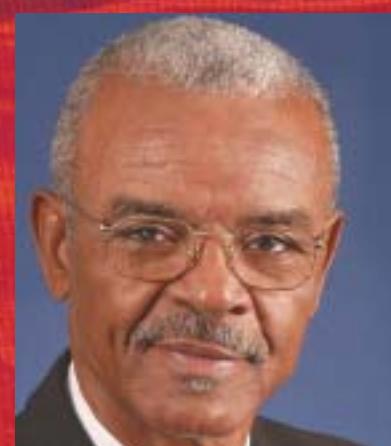
We will:

- Utilise arts, design and media within the school curriculum as learning tools for all levels of education
- Expand technical and artistic education at the level of the University of the West Indies, Barbados Community College, TVET, Erdiston Teachers' Training College and Polytechnic
- Create a National Performing Arts School as a forerunner to the establishment of a National Performing Arts Company
- Establish Creative and Craft Centres
- Introduce Cultural Industries Development Legislation to ensure the sustainability of these industries. This new legislative and regulatory framework will:
- Increase the range of tax incentives offered to practitioners and investors in the Cultural Industries to encourage greater participation by the private sector.
- Grant tax incentives for individuals and corporations purchasing local art.
- Establish a Fund to promote the creation of public art in Barbados, to finance the performing arts and media and software development and design.
- Allocate 1% of the total cost of new government buildings to the acquisition of local artwork

Mark Williams

ST. MICHAEL NORTH WEST

Mark, a legendary impresario has been an outstanding parliamentary representative who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of the people of St. Michael North West. "Every Bajan will be a winner with the new opportunities that will come with the BLP's plans for culture and the arts."



A BLP Government will establish:

- A National Art Gallery
- A Cultural Project Management Office at the National Cultural Foundation
- A National Cultural Resource and Documentation Centre
- A Public Broadcasting Service for the Arts and Arts Education
- A Film Production Unit
- A Cultural Archive and Registry Institute including electronic archives, to prepare all creative works produced in Barbados
- A Festival and Events Bureau to market cultural products and services

PRESERVING THE 100 % BAJAN WAY OF LIFE.

The Barbados Labour Party has introduced a number of initiatives that have fostered renewed respect for and new pride in Barbadian culture.

We have taken various initiatives to preserve our traditional Bajan cultural values, including rejuvenating NIFCA as our premier national festival. We also now celebrate National Heroes Day and Emancipation Day as public holidays.

The BLP will:

- Continue to support the unique 140-year old Barbados Landship Movement
- Make a strong case for Bridgetown to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Publish for use in our schools the "Social History of Barbados", commissioned in 2001
- Ratify International Conventions for the protection of our Cultural Heritage
- Refurbish the facilities at Queen's Park and at the Empire Theatre.
- Continue our programme for the revival of traditional Bajan customs, proverbs, games, cuisine and other

activities such as the Service of Song, Tea Meetings and Christmas Scrubbing

- Create a Walk of Fame to honour our cultural heroes
- Commission a book on Folk History and practices

"A Creative Economy will harness the knowledge, imagination and passion of the uniquely talented Barbadian people."

“The BLP will double the maximum loan that can be granted by Fund Access from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and extend the repayment period from 5 years to 10 years

We will also reduce the interest rate charged by Fund Access from 11.5% to 6% come year 2006. ”

Better for Business, Better for Consumers

The global economy is now characterized by a new set of rules governing international trade and business.

As a consequence, the Barbados Labour Party introduced a new regime of laws for the protection of the consumer and regulation of utilities.

The re-elected Barbados Labour Party Government will:

- Complete the legislative framework for the creation of a market-driven competitive economy and will provide all necessary institutional and financial support
- Enact a Computer Misuse Act to outlaw illegally accessing computer systems and the information contained therein
- Enact a Data Protection Act

to protect the privacy of individuals and businesses;

- Put regulations in place to ensure that individuals and businesses can fully enjoy the benefits of the provisions of the Electronic Transactions Act such as the use of electronic signatures and the security of transactions;
- Provide financial and other institutional support to enable a strong and vigorous consumer movement to take root and flourish as part of the market economy.

CHARTER FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES

The BLP will build on its impressive record of small business financing by further

strengthening the institutions set up for that purpose. We will establish a financial charter for small and medium enterprises to strengthen the relationship between Government financial institutions and the Small Business sector.

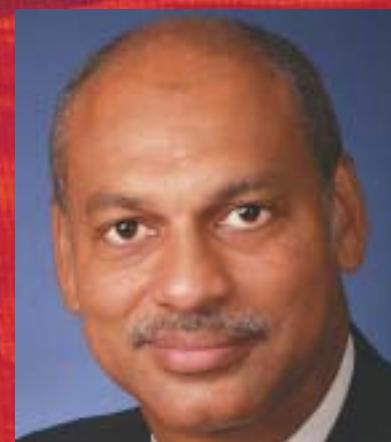
The BLP will:

- Expand the capitalization of Fund Access
- Expand the capitalization of the Enterprise Growth Fund from \$4.7 to \$10 million
- Double the maximum loan that can be granted by Fund Access from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and extend the repayment period from 5 years to 10 years
- Authorise the Enterprise Growth Fund to grant loans of over \$100,000
- Reduce the interest rate charged by Fund Access from 11.5% to 6%

Ronald Toppin

ST.MICHAEL NORTH

An attorney-at -law, Ronald was elected to Parliament in 1994. He was Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport and has been Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development since 1999. He says: "Under new legislation introduced by the BLP, consumers will have new and enforceable rights."



- Establish clear guidelines for loan evaluation as a means of causing transparency, fairness and objectivity
- Enhance the protection of the intellectual property and other proprietary interests of small business
- Establish a joint public sector Consultative Group for Small Business Financing which will periodically review operations of the Government financing and technical assistance agencies
- Continue to fully fund the Small Business Association

CREDIT UNIONS

The Credit Union Movement has provided a unique opportunity for general self-help and for the mobilization of savings from all strata of society for the provision of service to members of the movement.

Since 1994, total membership has increased from 44,000 to 106,287, total assets from \$178.2 million to \$580.1 million and total savings from \$138.7 million to \$480.0 million.

The BLP will continue to support the movement and facilitate and promote its continued growth and development.

In refining the concessions for personal income tax, the BLP Government will review the savings concessions as they relate to credit unions in order to make them more attractive.

After full consultation we will amend the Cooperatives Societies Act to:

- Strengthened the regulatory framework for Credit Unions; and
- Introduce modern prudential standards to better protect the assets and savings of members.

Since 1994, total membership has increased from 44,000 to 106,287, total assets from \$178.2 million to \$580.1 million and total savings from \$138.7 million to \$480 million.

With the assistance of the private sector, we will make available for sale, more than 8,000 lots resulting in 10,000 housing solutions.

Some 2700 lots which are currently being rented will be made available for purchase in the old estates. //

Information and Communications Technology

In an age where economic systems and entire societies are being shaped more and more by technological factors, the BLP will implement its science and technology plan.

We will:

- Commit 1.5% of GDP to research and development in Science and Technology.
- Re-fashion the National Council for Science and

Technology to make it the premier national institution in the area of Science and Technology conducting research in a number of areas critical to national development, including renewable energy sources; genetic improvement of crops and farm animals and efficient use of water resources and the conversion of sea water to fresh water.

- Encourage study and research in science and technology;
- Enact legislation to give greater certainty to Science and Technology activities.
- Fund research in Information and Communications Technology at institutions such as the Community College (University College of Barbados).

Maritime delimitation agreements with Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and France (Martinique) will be a key priority.

Billie Miller

CITY OF BRIDGETOWN

An attorney-at-law, Billie has distinguished herself across the globe as a knowledgeable, energetic and fearless Foreign Minister. Her outstanding political career began in 1976 and she was Barbados' first woman Cabinet Minister. *“Always proactive, always strategic, never less than bold, Prime Minister Arthur recites a mantra that provides clear insight into the character of his leadership: We have to find new ways of doing things.”*



Partnering with the World

The catastrophic events of September 11th, 2001, and the extraordinary actions they have propelled in the fight against terrorism, have injected a new and profoundly disturbing level of uncertainty and unpredictability into the conduct of international affairs. Global insecurity has heavily impacted Caribbean economies, and has presented and will continue to present serious challenges to our vital tourism and financial services sectors.

As a consequence, the Barbados Foreign Service must strengthen and diversify its diplomatic coverage, particularly in the hemisphere, and must create strategic alliances with like-minded states to advance shared interest globally. It must also remain in the forefront of the continuing efforts to build an effective and cohesive small states lobby to energise the

debate on that constituency's concerns in all the corridors of power.

The central objective of trade policy will be to position Barbados to secure a viable place in the global economy, exploiting to the fullest our human capital endowments.

The BLP Government's diplomatic and negotiating effort will give priority:

- Pursuing in our Caribbean neighbourhood deeper, broader and faster liberalisation among ourselves as the foundation for liberalisation with the wider world;
- Maintaining Barbados' leadership in the effort to bring into force the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy (CSME);
- Working closely with the Private Sector to exploit to the maximum the economic and trade benefits provided by the CSME;
- Concluding maritime delimitation agreements with Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and France (Martinique);
- Promoting the establishment within CARICOM of a Common Fisheries Regime to allow for the rational and sustainable exploitation of the region's shared living marine resources;
- Positioning Barbados to exploit the opportunities of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, through the development of new and non-traditional economic linkages, in tourism, financial services, trade and

II We will increase personal allowance from \$15,000 to \$25,000 over four years by annual increments of \$2,500, starting in income year 2004.

We will reduce the basic rate of income tax from 25% to 22.5% in 2003 and to 20% in 2004. II

investment, with our developing country partners in South and Central America;

- Diversifying our diplomatic coverage through the establishment of a resident mission in Brazil, and giving consideration to a further resident presence in a selected Central American Country;
- Consolidating our valuable partnerships with Canada, the United States, the People's Republic of China and Latin America, with particular emphasis on trade, financial services and investment;
- Promoting and defending small states issues and concerns internationally, at the Commonwealth, the

International Financial Institutions and in the FTAA, EU/ACP and WTO negotiations;

- Participating actively in the negotiations to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by 2005, revise the trade provisions of the Cotonou Agreement between the ACP and EU countries by 2007, reforming existing WTO Agreements and fashion new multilateral rules; and working to ensure that Barbados benefits from the outcome of these trade negotiations;
- Promoting Barbados as a source of knowledge-based services and seeking to ensure that international trade agreements provide

avenues for the export of services;

- Coordinating the efforts of the Country Team abroad to promote Barbados' development priorities as well as to brand and market the Barbados model internationally;
- Expanding the network of Honorary Consuls in strategic locations throughout the world;
- Maintaining and building upon the successful facilitation programme for Returning Nationals, focusing in particular on initiatives to encourage overseas nationals to invest in Barbados, or participate actively in other aspects of its economic development.

Gline Clarke

ST. GEORGE NORTH

A graduate teacher by profession, Gline has a BSc in Social Science and Certificates in Education and Industrial Relations. He worked with the Farm Labour programme in Canada (83-87) and was elected as M.P for St. George North in 1994, when he was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works. He was Minister of Housing from 1999-2003. He says: "The BLP has made sure that even the very poor are assured of comfortable public housing below market value".



Homes Within Reach of All

To fully house the nation stands out as one of our greatest challenges of the first decade of the 21st century.

The BLP administration recognises that this challenge must be met through a combination of policies and programmes:

- New measures to facilitate access to land at affordable prices.
- A dramatic increase in the provision of housing to low and lower middle income persons
- New measures to address security of tenure
- The championing of new partnership arrangements with the private sector to provide housing for other sectors of the population

ACCESS TO LAND

With the assistance of the private sector, we will make available **for sale, more than 8,000 lots resulting in 10,000 housing solutions.**

- Priority will be given to first time homeowners in the lower and middle-income bracket.
- We will continue to give priority to the use of existing Government-owned lands for housing.
- To fully address demand we will, in the next term, acquire each year, approximately 75 acres of land from the private sector.

RENTAL OF LOTS

- We will continue to rent lots to persons whose income is

below \$1,500.00 per month, with part of the rent paid going towards the purchase of these lots.

- We will continue to make lots available for letting to persons who have been evicted.

LEASE OF LOTS

Long-term lease arrangements of lots owned by the National Housing Corporation will also be introduced to provide another option guaranteeing security of tenure.

Eligible persons will be able to enter into arrangements for a 30-year lease with an option to purchase. Such leases will allow persons to build wall structures on the land.

■ Some 2700 lots which are currently being rented will be made available for purchase in the old estates.

More than 10,000 families principally in the Greater Bridgetown and St. Michael area will benefit from the entitlement and right to purchase. ■

WE WILL SELL RENTAL UNITS

The BLP Government commenced a programme to sell its rental units and lots on a phased basis. This "sale of units" programme affecting property in all the estates will be executed over a two-year period.

The concessions to which prospective homeowners will be entitled are:

- The basic purchase price will be 75% of the value of the properties as established by the Land Valuation Department.
- Persons eligible to be potential home purchasers will be entitled to reduce that basic price by offsetting rents paid, up to a maximum of \$25,000.
- Potential homebuyers will be entitled to a concession to further reduce the basic price by claiming a credit of up to a maximum of \$5000 for agreed repairs to the unit to be undertaken at their own expense.

It is expected that three thousand six hundred and fifty (3,650) households will benefit from the sale of rental units.

2,000 HOUSE LOTS ON SALE

Some 2700 lots which are currently being rented will be made available for purchase in the old estates.

The sale of these lots will be accompanied by a concession which will allow the beneficiaries to offset the purchase price by a credit of up to \$100 per year of rent paid, up to a maximum of \$2500.

1,000 HOMES

Over the next five years a joint venture housing programme with the private sector will be carried out in these areas - Blackmans, Coverley, Deans Town, Ellerton, Groves Phase 2, Lancaster, and Upton. Overall the combination of these measures will generate 10,000 housing solutions in the next five years.

This programme is aimed at the lower middle and middle income earners.

TITLES FASTER

In order to speed up the process, reduce cost and guarantee a good and marketable title in all land transfers, the BLP administration will complete the computerisation of the search system and accelerate the Land Registration process for the 14,000 adjudicated lots.

MORE LAND AT \$2.50 PER SQUARE FOOT

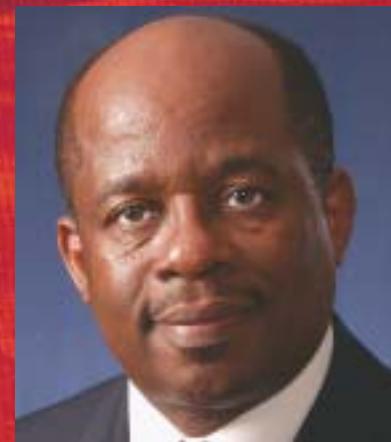
Since 1981 more than 4,500 persons have bought their lots in the Plantation Tenancies under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. This has had a tremendous transforming effect on Rural Barbados **conferring not only the right to purchase but also the right of development.**

In the last term we began the transfer of title to tenants in

George Payne

ST. ANDREW

An attorney-at-law, George has been the Member of Parliament for St. Andrew since 1991. He was Minister of Public Works, Transport and Housing (94-99) and Minister of Tourism and International Transport (99-2000). A former national athlete, he has been active in a number of community and service organisations. He says: "In every Ministry in which I have worked the BLP has been changing the face of Barbados. It is the same with every Ministry of this government."



urban and rural non-plantation tenancies at subsidized prices. Under this programme more than 10,000 families principally in the Greater Bridgetown and St. Michael area will benefit from the entitlement and right to purchase.

Such beneficiaries will be allowed to purchase their lots at a price of no more than \$2.50 per square foot, **with government meeting the difference between that price and fair market value.**

The Tenancies Act will be amended to give single lot tenants the entitlement to purchase a lot from the Crown in the event that they are evicted.

Provision will be made for first-time owners, whose total household income is less than \$15,000 per year to purchase lots from the NHC at \$2.50 per square foot (including land and development cost) under restrictive covenant.

NEW HOUSING STANDARDS

- Minimum standards for housing will be introduced to ensure that private rental accommodation must provide basic amenities like running water, water toilet and electricity.

LOTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ENTERPRISES

The BLP Government will make available lots for rental with an option to purchase, to small entrepreneurs who provide services such as spray painting, mechanics, wrought iron *inter alia* to meet an expressed urgent demand for space and to perform such services and to relocate them from the streets.

ACCESS TO FINANCING

The Barbados Labour Party introduced in 1998 the programme where first-time homeowners earning up to \$3,000 per month could obtain mortgages of \$100,000 at 6% from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company.

During the period \$50 million in mortgages was disbursed to six hundred and eleven (611) applicants under this programme.

The BLP will further expand this programme to bring benefits to other potential first time homeowners.

- **The loan limit will be increased from \$100,000 to \$150,000**
- **The earnings qualification base will move from \$3,000 to \$4,000**
- **The earnings qualification category will be broadened**

“As a first measure the Government will allow the raising of \$50 million for the HCF through the issuance of National Housing Bonds”

“The upgrading of facilities at Belleplaine and the implementation of plans for Centres in St. Lucy and St. John will be a priority.”

thus ensuring that those persons who earn between \$4,001 and \$5,000 would benefit from concessionary mortgage loans as follows:

MONTHLY SALARY	INTEREST RATE
Up to \$4000	6%
\$4 001 - \$4 500	6 1/4%
\$4 501 - \$5 000	6 1/2%

Funds for these facilities will be available from financial institutions through the Housing Credit Fund.

BENEFIT FOR SENIORS

At present, persons can borrow mortgage funds up to the age of sixty-five (65). We propose to increase this to age seventy (70).

GENERAL WORKERS LOAN FUND

Between April 1986 to March 1994 under the previous DLP administration \$5.7 million only was lent to 821 persons under

the General Workers Loan Fund to conduct repairs and to purchase land.

\$45 million dollars was lent under the same programme to 3,891 persons.

During the next term the BLP administration will inject a further \$30 million to service the needs of an additional 3,000 persons who have applied for loans.

HOUSING CREDIT FUND

The Housing Credit was established in 1985 with a USAID loan of U\$10m, and has so far disbursed approximately BD\$157 million for mortgages to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, Credit Unions and other financial institutions who then on-lend to individuals.

In 2003 the Housing Credit Fund (HCF) will be incorporated as a fully-fledged secondary mortgage institution administered by the Central Bank.

■ To expand the resources available to it. The HCF will

be allowed to raise funds by way of bond issues under Government guarantee.

- As a first measure the Government will allow the raising of \$50 million for the HCF through the issuance of National Housing Bonds
- We will continue to provide the HCF with an interest rate subsidy on funds borrowed to enable the institution to continue to make loans available to clients at concessionary rates.

TOWN CENTRES CROSS COUNTRY

The creation of Town Centres as a means of bringing vital services to local communities is a critical part of the effort of the Government to ensure balanced and equitable development. The BLP administration sets as a strategic goal the establishment of a main civic center in each parish by the end of the first decade of the 21st century.

The creation of such Town Centres will involve building

Cynthia Forde

ST. THOMAS

A graduate teacher with 20 years professional experience, "Cinthy" has a long and distinguished record of committed service to St. Thomas. She was appointed to the Senate in 1994 and made Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport. She was promoted to Minister of State in the same Ministry in 2001. She says: **"The Dems should be severely punished for their stated intention to dismantle Edutech. That would be nothing less than a slaughter of the innocents."**



facilities to provide a cluster of services including Post Office, Library, Resource Center and Market in strategic locations.

■ Such centres at Warrens and Glebe are now functional.

- Work has started on the transformation at Six Roads.
- Plans for Centres at Cane Garden and Horse Hill have been completed and will shortly be implemented.

■ The upgrading of facilities at Belleplaine and the implementation of plans for Centres in St. Lucy and St. John will be a priority.

Life Long Learning

We have set for ourselves the objective of transforming our nation into a fully developed society in the shortest possible time. Central to the achievement of this will be the transformation which we will undertake to develop every capacity in our educational system.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

OPERATION HEADSTART

The most critical period of a child's development is its early years.

At present only 80% of the children benefit from formal pre-school education. We will ensure that ALL children of pre-school age have access to early childhood education.

EDUTECH - REVOLUTIONISING EDUCATION IN OUR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Barbados Labour Party will complete the implementation of the Edutech programme which has been designed to bring about a revolution in education in our schools. This programme has been conceived to produce students who:

“ The BLP is committed to the goal of there being at least one university graduate in every family by the year 2020.

The major initiative in education by the BLP in the next term will be the establishment of a University College of Barbados.. ”

- Are creative thinkers – that ask what, how, why, when and where
- Possess effective communication skills
- Are technologically competent
- Are trainable and readily retrainable
- Are confident and acknowledge and understand their social and civic responsibilities
- And have the potential to become future leaders.

The key components of the programme, as conceived, are:

- Curriculum reform
- The modernisation of the school-plant
- Institutional strengthening of the sector; and
- The introduction of technology in the schools.

We will:

- Complete the implementation of the new curriculum at the primary and secondary levels.

- Implement a system of continuous assessment, so that a child's performance over a 4-year period will constitute 40% of the overall "eleven plus" assessment
- Complete the process for the issuing of a new National Secondary School Certificate.
- Establish an Academy of Excellence in Sports and Culture to enhance the skills in sports and culture of those young people with potential.
- Complete the refurbishing of our school plant and develop partnerships with communities, PTAs and other interested NGOs to maintain the plant.
- Expand and strengthen training at Erdiston Teachers Training College for teachers and school administrators at all levels, through partnerships with internationally renowned universities.
- Fully implement, in partnership with the private sector, a system wide National Teachers Award

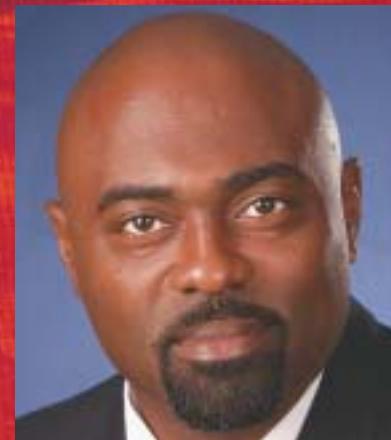
Scheme to recognise and reward excellence within the teaching profession.

- Expand the highly successful Parent Volunteer Support Programme in Early Childhood Education from the current 55 primary schools to all primary schools.
- Establish a Centre for Behavioural Adjustment in partnership with NGOs to provide a rehabilitative residential setting to address the serious behavioural problems of children referred by the Edna Nicholls Centre, while satisfying the academic needs of these students.
- Offer day care and other support to school age mothers that will enable them to re-enter the school system.
- Provide the remaining computer and other technological tools to support the learning process in both academic and vocational studies.

Rudy Grant

CHRIST CHURCH EAST CENTRAL

Rudy has a B.A. in economics and has displayed his skills as senior consultant in the Ministry of Economic Development. He is looking forward to creating opportunities for the people of Christ Church East Central to develop themselves and their communities. He says: "The Barbados Labour Party is resolutely committed to eradicating poverty and to providing opportunities for marginalised persons in our country".



TERIARY EDUCATION

A key indicator of a country's development in today's world is the number of persons successfully completing tertiary education. At present only 28% of our students move from secondary school to university. While this is the highest in the region, we need to urgently increase the intake to enable us to reach our national objectives and offer wider opportunities to our young people. The BLP is committed to the goal of there being at least one university graduate in every family by the year 2020.

We also renew our pledge:

- To meet the tuition cost of Barbadians attending the University of the West Indies; and
- Fully support the development programme at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, to make it a centre of excellence.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BARBADOS

The major initiative in education by the BLP in the next term will be the establishment of a University College of Barbados.

More Barbadians are seeking education at the tertiary level than can be currently accommodated at the Barbados Community College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Erdiston Teachers Training College and the University of the West Indies.

We will establish the University College of Barbados that can fully meet our existing and future training needs, broaden the scope of educational opportunities, and offer training in areas not previously given recognition. That will widen the services presently offered by the Barbados Community College, Erdiston Teachers Training College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

MORE FUNDS FOR STUDENTS

Through the Student Revolving Loan Fund, the Barbados Labour Party will continue to provide funding for young persons who could not otherwise afford a tertiary education.

A new BLP Government will:

- Continue to make more funds available for lending while constantly keeping the loan limits under review.
- Include distance learning education as a category entitled to funding through the Student Revolving Loan Fund.
- Review the repayment arrangements in order to reduce hardship on borrowers from the interest on student loans.

“We will implement a comprehensive programme of adult education and retraining at the community level in partnership with NGOs.”

“Expand and intensify the work of the Block Committee to develop and implement programmes for re-integrating “marginalised” young people into the mainstream of society.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

We are committed to a Special Needs Education Policy to accommodate both the gifted and those who are challenged, whether physically or mentally.

The BLP will:

- Institute Individual Education Plans, (IEP) for every child assessed as having special needs.
- Increase the training for teachers in special needs education.
- Increase the financing of the equipment and resources available to private sector schools.
- Expand the number of Special Needs Education Units in primary schools.
- Provide technological tools to the physically challenged.

ADULT EDUCATION

We believe that persons who have not benefited fully from education must be given the opportunity to continue their education.

We will:

- Implement a comprehensive programme of adult education and retraining at the community level in partnership with NGOs.
- Expand the existing evening classes at secondary schools to meet the growing demand.

of the Barbados Youth Service Programme to 4 months and we will introduce new programmes.

- Expand the financial and technical assistance provided through the Youth Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) to reach even more young persons.

■ Expand the YES Juniors Programme of entrepreneurial education and sensitisation and go beyond the initial pilot to include all primary and secondary schools in Barbados.

- Provide basic training at the community level to 2,000 young people per year in a range of sports and cultural disciplines.

■ Provide Sports and Organisational Leadership training for community groups.

- Transform the National Summer Camp Programme into a new National Camp Programme to include the Easter Holidays and cater for 3,000 children per year.

YOUTH AFFAIRS

Barbados' most precious asset is our young people, our future.

In 1994 for the first time, the BLP established a Division of Youth Affairs. Through this initiative we introduced programmes for the entrepreneurial, training and creative needs of our young people.

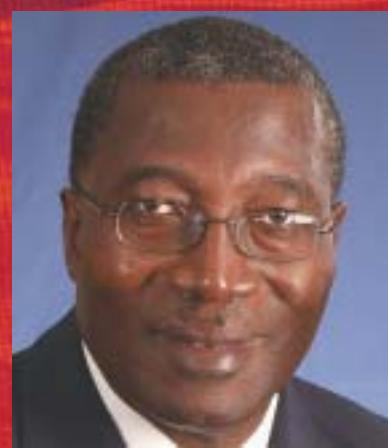
We will:

- Expand and intensify the work of the Block Committee to develop and implement programmes for re-integrating “marginalised” young people into the mainstream of society.
- Extend the Residential Phase

Rudolph Greenidge

ST. PHILIP NORTH

"Cappy" is an attorney-at-law with a B.A. and LLB from UWI. He has been a school teacher in Barbados and abroad. A former Minister of Labour, his most recent ministerial assignment was as Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports. He says **"The major initiative in education by the BLP in the next term will be the establishment of a University College of Barbados"**



- Set up a national task force with a view to establishing a National Youth Service.

ALL SPORTS

More than any other field of endeavour, sport provides the opportunity for talented Barbadians to develop themselves as global citizens, while offering avenues for personal development and fulfillment.

In recognition of this, a BLP Government placed increased emphasis on sport as a developmental and economic tool.

CRICKET

A BLP government will lend its full support to the Barbados Cricket Association to ensure that Kensington Oval is developed and the environs improved in keeping with international standards, to make Barbados an attractive venue for the hosting of the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

PLAYING FACILITIES

It continues to be the policy of the BLP that every major community must have a playing field.

LIGHTING

The Barbados Labour Party will accelerate and expand the programme to provide lighting of playing fields and hard courts.

NATIONAL STADIUM

The Barbados Labour Party will redevelop and modernise the National and the Netball Stadiums to bring them up to world standards.

SWIMMING

The pool at Wildey, while providing a valuable service, is totally inadequate for the numbers of persons, particularly Primary School students, interested in swimming.

We will construct additional public swimming pools, including one in the north of the island. We will also increase the number of swimming coaches and training opportunities.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION FUND

The BLP has established a Sports Promotion Fund. We will continue to build up the Fund and use the proceeds to promote road tennis as a world sport, to support national sporting organisations and to assist national athletes with their preparation for regional and international competitions.

NATIONAL SPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Not all of our national sporting associations are able to adequately support their members because of a lack of appropriate central support facilities.

A new Community Services Facility will be built on the grounds of the National Sports Council Headquarters to serve as a secretariat for those associations which now operate without an office or home.

“The BLP sees access to health-care as a fundamental right of every Barbadian and insists that it should be funded principally through public finances, as an investment in our country's social capital.

We will add medication to treat glaucoma and lupus to the list of special benefit drugs.”

A Quantum Leap in Health Care

The BLP sees access to health-care as a fundamental right of every Barbadian and insists that it should be funded principally through public finances, as an investment in our country's social capital.

We will continue to provide high quality, modern, health-care facilities and services and make them easily accessible to all.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

A New Beginning

A key objective will be to improve the capacity of the QEH to deliver the most efficient and highest quality health services. A Board of Management has been appointed and the rights and interests of all staff will be protected.

The QEH has remained in its

essential physical form for the past forty years. It will now be substantially upgraded and modernized.

This project will include:

- Upgrading and modernising the entire physical structure.
- Increasing the number of beds to reduce overcrowding on a number of wards.
- A new, spacious out-patient department.
- Upgrading the Departments of Cardiology, Oncology, Paediatrics and Neuro-Services as centres of excellence within the region.

The entire Hospital will be computerised to improve efficiency, enabling staff to access information, and to provide timely laboratory and X-ray reports. The QEH will then be linked to the Polyclinics to provide a continuum of care.

Heart disease is the major cause of death in our Island. The BLP will therefore establish a state of the art Cardiac Centre.

Funding of BD\$7m has already been sourced. This Centre will provide facilities for investigating and treating all types of heart disease.

- There will be a new angiographic suite to enable assessment of blood flow to the heart and limbs.
- Angioplastic facilities will now be provided at the QEH.

The BLP will fully support the total recapitalisation of the QEH.

We will move immediately in 2003 to enable it to acquire all the equipment necessary to allow this institution to replace obsolete and non-functioning equipment, and to provide for new emergency generators and a new incinerator.

Jerome X. Walcott

CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH

Dr. Walcott holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees from UWI and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh University. He worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for many years until his appointment as Minister of Health and Leader of Government Business in the Senate in 2000. He has contributed to national development in many spheres of activity. A supporter of the Barbados Labour Party since he was at school, he says: "The health of our Nation is the wealth of our Nation".



We will:

- establish a Department of Oral-maxillary surgery and expand the utilization of telemedicine in both clinical care and medical education.
- provide an expanded Dialysis Unit and a Kidney transplant programme at the QEH.

NURSING

The nursing profession in Barbados has made tremendous strides over the years. However changes within the health-care environment have made restructuring of nursing services necessary to meet the needs of the population.

GREATER EMPATHY FOR OUR NURSES WILL BE A HIGH PRIORITY

We will:

- train nurses in sufficient numbers to fully meet local needs, cognisant of the fact the global demand for such services.
- expand the specialist training of nurses in neuro-sciences, neo-natal intensive care,

medical and surgical intensive care.

- establish a Department of Nursing Research.
- deploy more nursing personnel within the Polyclinics to facilitate the Public Health Nurses visiting and providing care within their Districts.
- provide accommodation for nurses and a day nursery will be established where their children can be cared for during working hours.
- expand the flexi-time programme for nurses, now been carried out on a pilot basis, to all health-care institutions.
- revamp the General Nursing Council and establish a full-time secretariat.

promotion rather than mental illness.

The BLP Government will:-

- develop a new legislative framework for dealing with mental health.
- implement a pilot project to reform mental health and to destigmatise mental illness.
- strengthen the Community Mental Nursing Programme.
- refurbish the physical plant of the Psychiatric Hospital over the next five years. Seven units have been completed and we will refurbish the remaining ten buildings.
- continue to increase funding over the next five years for the public/private sector partnership in the provision of drug rehabilitation services.

MENTAL HEALTH

There is significant disability and loss of productivity associated with mental illness. It is therefore necessary to reform the Mental Health Services to focus on mental health

CHRONIC DISEASES

Life-style related illnesses are the leading causes of death in Barbados. Programmes of change must be guided by a health education approach,

■ The entire Hospital will be computerised to improve efficiency, enabling staff to access information, and to provide timely laboratory and X-ray reports. The QEH will then be linked to the Polyclinics to provide a continuum of care. ■

emphasising community partnerships and creating supporting environments.

The BLP will establish a National Council on Physical Activity. We will also support the establishment of the Diabetes Centre to educate, treat and research all aspects of this disease.

BARBADOS DRUG SERVICE

This service is unique in the Western hemisphere and has served as a model for various countries.

The BLP Government will:

■ reform the BDS to ensure that its resources fully meet the client class for which it is intended. Greater efficiency will be achieved by full computerization of all Government pharmacies, the provision of adequate staff and by regular audits of public and private pharmacies.

- introduce electronic transmission of data from private pharmacies to the BDS and thus remove one of the main irritants of this service.
- add medication to treat glaucoma and lupus to the list of special benefit drugs.

POLYCLINICS

Polyclinics are vitally important being the facilities at which health-care interacts directly with community needs.

The BLP Government will:

- make polyclinics more amenable to the public, by extending their opening hours.
- introduce men's health clinics at all polyclinics.
- complete the construction of a new Gall Hill Polyclinic and Community Services Centre.

DENTAL HEALTH CARE

We will:

- develop and implement a National Oral Health Policy within the next five years.
- strengthen Dental Care in our polyclinics by the acquisition of new dental equipment and the recruitment of additional dental officers.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE

We will:

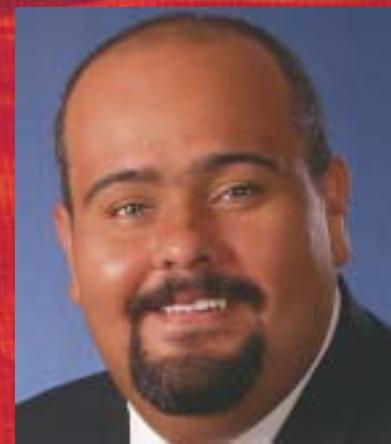
- strengthen food safety programmes and ensure that international standards are maintained.
- encourage new approaches to the control of dengue fever, including programmes to control the mosquito population.

Dr. William Duguid

CHRIST CHURCH WEST

A dental surgeon, William is a long-standing member of the Christ Church West constituency group. He is a hometown boy who can identify and understand the needs of his constituents.

He says "The government success in transforming St. Lawrence Gap into the wonderland we now have, can extend all along the south coast. Where St. James has the West Coast, Christ Church can become Barbados' 'Best Coast'".



SANITATION SERVICES AUTHORITY

We intend to provide a reliable, affordable island-wide service. Hence we will make provision for acquiring new equipment to facilitate more efficient collection, and new depots will be constructed at Reid St. in the City and at Vaucluse in St. Thomas.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Government has established a comprehensive solid waste management programme. It is multidimensional with many components already operating:

- The Mangrove Pond Landfill, St. Thomas.
- The pulverisation plant at Workmans, St. George.
- The bulky waste facility at Bagatelle, St. Thomas.
- The asbestos disposal site at Harlington, St. Philip.

- The blood and grease disposal site at Lonesome Hill, St. Peter.

We are committed to managing solid waste in accordance with international best practices, and mindful of our limited landspace.

We will give urgent attention to a "total solutions" option, which includes:-

- Waste diversion using recycling.
- Aerobic composting.
- Anaerobic digestion.
- Incineration.

We will:

- implement a National Recycling Policy. In addition, composting at the household as well as national level will be part of our strategy.
- begin a landfill-gas to energy project.
- revisit incineration bearing in mind the cost and the concerns regarding air pollution and ash deposition.

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

We established the Alternative Care of the Elderly Programme in 1999, by contracting services for the elderly from private nursing homes.

In the last term we reviewed and expanded this programme, and private nursing homes are now being paid between \$65 and \$75 per day for the care of the elderly. We remain committed to this venture, as we believe that these persons who helped to build our nation deserve to be treated with dignity.

We will:

- undertake a phased refurbishment of the Geriatric Hospital and construct a modern rehabilitation unit, day-care centre, administration block and food service area.
- complete refurbishment of the District Hospitals.

“The re-elected BLP Government will intensify its programme of prevention, treatment and care while focusing on converting the current discrimination against persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to a positive, caring support from the entire national community.”

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

We will partner with the private sector for this Hospital to become the first tourism related International Medical Centre in the Caribbean, with an estimated investment of US\$35 million and the creation of approximately 150 jobs.

The proposed specialist centre will have an accident and emergency department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The BLP will continue re-training of all Emergency Medical Technicians.

We:

- will provide more advanced emergency training for the Police and Fire Service.
- are committed to a de-centralized ambulance service.
- will expand the fleet of fully equipped ambulances and will recruit more staff.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

We will:

- develop a rehabilitation system based on acute, secondary and community care. These services, currently available at our health institutions, will be reorganized and upgraded.
- establish community based rehabilitation programmes, and provide prostheses to our amputees.

CHILDRENS' DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The purpose of this project is to protect the rights and enhance the quality of life of the physically and mentally challenged.

We will coordinate services for disabled persons on a National basis, and also gradually introduce community-based programmes for these persons.

CANCER RESEARCH

We will continue to support the Barbados Breast and Prostate cancer research project which, over the next five years, should produce critical information for the treatment and prevention of these diseases.

HEALTH INSURANCE

We will investigate the feasibility of establishing a National Health Insurance Plan for Barbados.

CARE, COMPASSION FOR HIV/AIDS

A Programme of Hope for managing the challenge of AIDS

HIV/AIDS is not only a health concern, but a significant developmental issue. We have therefore adopted a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional strategy to deal with it.

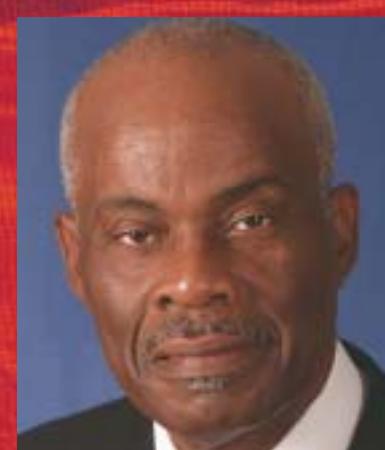
The National Expanded HIV/AIDS programme was centralized under the Prime Minister's Portfolio and the National HIV/

Louis Tull

ST. GEORGE SOUTH

An attorney-at -law, Louis got a B.A in classics at Manitoba University and a Master in Law at Oxford. Appointed a Senator in 1971, he was elected to the House in 1976. He was Minister of education and Culture (76-81), Foreign Affairs Minister and Attorney-General (81-85) and Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs (85-86).

He remains committed to the upliftment of the people of St. George South and says "I am proud to be the senior member of a Party which continues to work assiduously to made Barbados a better place"



AIDS Commission was set up to coordinate the national response.

Barbados' HIV programme embraces treatment, care, support and counseling for those infected and affected by HIV/ AIDS, as well as prevention.

In the first year of our programme deaths in clinic patients from AIDS have been reduced by 56% and total hospital days have fallen by 59%.

The re-elected BLP Government will intensify its programme of prevention, treatment and care while focusing on converting the current discrimination against persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to a positive, caring support from the entire national community.

This will involve:

- Strengthening capacity to provide reliable information for policy planning and programming and by upgrading management information systems.
- Awareness campaigns on issues specifically related to gender and HIV/AIDS.

- Upgrading existing polyclinics to provide additional counseling services.
- Expanding the voluntary counseling and testing programmes at polyclinics and in communities to encourage more Barbadians to be tested in a confidential and supportive environment.
- Developing an HIV/AIDS education "train-the-trainer" programme for private sector organizations.
- Expanding HIV/AIDS education in our schools system to sensitise schools en bloc and embracing teachers, students and parents.
- Continuing prevention campaigns which target the most vulnerable groups.
- Promoting behavioural change at the community level and expanding the number of HIV/AIDS Community Committees.
- Continuing the successful mother - to - child transmission prevention programme.
- Implementing a programme to provide care and basic social support to Persons With AIDS within their home environment
- Establishing a Drop-In Centre and Food Bank facility which will offer enhanced material, recreational skills training and psycho-social support to Persons Living With HIV/ AIDS.
- Upgrading the Elroy Phillips Centre Hostel, which provides shelter to Persons With Aids by expanding and rehabilitating the physical facilities to include space for occupational therapy.
- Continuing to supply the full drug therapy programme of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HART) at no cost.
- Strengthening existing legislation to protect the rights of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS.

Richard Arthur

ST. LUCY

A graduate of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and Miami Tech, Richard runs his business, RDA Refrigeration Service Inc. Involved in community service all of his life, he has served as District Commissioner of the Boy Scouts. Richard wants the chance to work with the BLP government to provide housing, recreational facilities, an improved road network, street lighting and a Town Centre that will house a pharmacy, doctors and dentists offices, a library, post office, a Welfare Department office and an ATM.



Growth in Agriculture

In consequence of the new international trade and economic arrangements our agricultural enterprises will have to face stiffer external competition and operate in a less assured domestic market environment.

We will continue to build a vibrant and dynamic agricultural sector, comprising largely small and medium sized market-driven agro-business enterprises; focused on maintaining an adequate level of food security. This will involve the efficient use of land and appropriate technologies, ably supported by an effective marketing system.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The challenge of the European Sugar Protocol and the "Everything But Arms" initiative

requires a fundamental restructuring of our sugar industry.

We will:

- Support the restructuring of the sugar industry at the factory level by replacing three antiquated factories with one modern factory.
- Maintain financial support to BADMC, price support to independent growers and the Cane Replanting Scheme, until the new sugar programme takes effect.
- Diversify into greater value-added products and services for domestic and international consumption:
- Look to a future in which we sell Barbadian sugar as a branded product
- Implement programmes and support private initiatives to strengthen the linkage

between sugar cane and tourism.

THE COTTON INDUSTRY

The BLP considers that the development of an integrated cotton industry should be seen as the best way of diversifying the sector around sugar.

We will:

- Establish a private sector led, vertically integrated, sustainable Barbados cotton industry producing exclusively 100% West Indian Sea Island Cotton based products and services to be marketed globally.
- Continue to assist the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Association (WISICA) to establish its right to its trademark, whilst at the same time facilitating the

Anthony Wood

ST. PHILIP SOUTH

A graduate of Cambridge University with a master of philosophy in Economics, an M.Sc and B.Sc(First Class Honours) from the University of the West Indies in economics, he was a lecturer in economics at Cave Hill. He entered the House in 1999 and was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. He has an outstanding record of involvement in community work in St. Philip. He says: "The BLP's rural development programmes have the potential to transform all of Barbados into an urban island."



transformation of that organisation into a contemporary corporate structure.

THE PIG INDUSTRY

There is a strong and growing demand for pork products. Revitalisation of the pork industry will be a high priority for a BLP administration and we will increase pork production to 3.0 million kilograms by the end of 2008.

POULTRY INDUSTRY

Poultry is now the largest agricultural industry in Barbados. The industry has an estimated total annual turnover of \$128 million, with a capital investment of approximately \$100 million. The industry supports more than 400 farmers and provides more than 80% of the total poultry consumed in Barbados. We will take necessary measures to neutralize the effects of trade liberalization and provision of incentives to improve its technology and to enhance productivity.

BLACK BELLY SHEEP

This is one of the chief areas where agricultural production can be increased through niche production. We see the future of the sheep industry revolving around the establishment of a sustainable linkage with our tourism industry.

We will:

- Designate and market Barbados Black Belly Sheep as a signature product in collaboration with Barbados Sheep Farmers Inc. Barbados Agricultural Society, BADMC, and Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association.
- Protect Barbados Black Belly sheep as a national genetic resource and establish this unique animal as a Barbados brand.

DAIRY INDUSTRY

We will:

- Expand the existing pilot feeding programme to all primary schools by the year 2006.

- Support the initiatives of the industry to have a new marketing arrangement central to which is fair pricing and supply arrangements with the Fair Competition Act.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

The fishing industry provides jobs for over 6,600 Barbadians and there is scope for expansion.

A re-elected BLP will:

- Vigorously promote a regional fishing environment in which Bajan fisherfolk and their CARICOM counterparts will share the resources of the Caribbean Sea
- Update the incentive programme to support not only investment in larger and more modern fishing vessels and modern fish harvesting techniques, but also in the provision of ancillary facilities such as ice making.
- Build a new fish landing facility at Six Men's, St. Peter.

“ Continue the market decentralisation programme by constructing vending facilities at Six Roads, Redman’s Village, Belleplaine, Bathsheba, Jackson, Crab Hill, Gemswick and Gall Hill, St. John. These projects will follow those at the Glebe, Speightstown, Oistins and Gall Hill, Christ Church. ”

- Rehabilitate the older fish landing facilities like Oistins and Bridgetown and bring the recently completed ones fully into operation.
- Promote the production of value-added products - fish leather, fish fingers, burgers and sausages and salted, dried and smoked products
- Construct “Sea Food City” at Princess Alice Highway. This project will develop linkages between the fisheries sub-sector and tourism.

THE SCOTLAND DISTRICT: - A SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA

The Scotland District covers one seventh of the land area of Barbados. Over the past few years, The BLP government has spent on average \$6 million per year in stabilizing the area; and over \$2 million per year in improving its infrastructure.

In the new term we will invest over \$60 million on its further development and conservation.

WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

The greatest constraint to the viability of agriculture in Barbados is a reliable supply of water at affordable prices.

We will:

Fully implement a \$7 million irrigation project over the next three years.

This will see:

- The refurbishment of irrigation systems at Ruby, Jackmans, Spring Hall, St. Patricks, Friendship, Marchfield, Marshall, Poyer, Kirtons, Heddings and Gibbons Boggs.
- Establishment of 11 new irrigation districts over the next three years at Three Houses, Sedge Pond, Diamond Valley, Bath, South District, Pine Basin, Burnt House, Back River, Spencers, Sweet Vale and Newcastle.

- Provide greater incentives for investments in water storage and distribution systems for farms.

LAND FOR THE LANDLESS

Through the Land for the Landless Programme arable land, both private and public, is made available to bona fide farmers who, otherwise, would not be able to access lands. Since August 2002, 370.4 hectares has been made available to 92 small farmers who now provide employment on their farms for 69 persons.

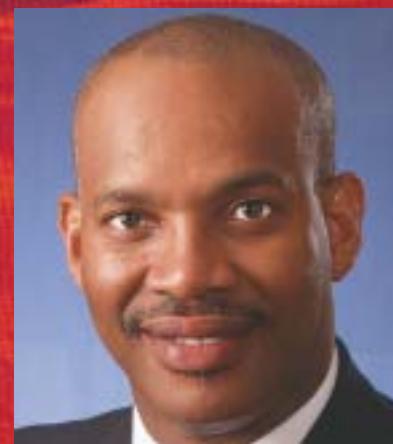
We will:

- Expand this Programme to bring 1 215 hectares of arable public and private agricultural land into production by the year 2007.
- Provide a package of technical support services to participating farmers.
- Facilitate commercially competitive long-term leases for all lands made in the Programme.

Dale Marshall

ST. JOSEPH

An attorney-at-law and hemispheric expert on e-commerce. Dale joined the Party in 1996. He has an outstanding record as Chairman of a number of statutory boards and was appointed to the Senate in 1999. He says: "There is no question that there is no leader other than Owen Arthur, and no Party other than the BLP to take this country to First World standards and status."



PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES

We will:

- Inject additional capital into the Agricultural Development Fund to facilitate investment in capital equipment.
- Increase disbursement of funds under the Rural Enterprise Fund, Livestock Development Fund and Fruit Orchard Development Fund for small farmer agricultural activities.

In order to increase investment in agriculture and reduce the cost of production, we will:

- Enact an Agricultural Development Act to provide incentives on a scale, similar to those given to tourism
- Amend the Incentives Regime to allow agricultural producers to claim rebates for costs incurred in accessing professional business services.

YOUTH AND GENDER

We recognize the need to engender a new perspective to participation in agriculture. We will:

- Continue to contribute both financial and human resources to the 4H movement;
- Facilitate the involvement of young agricultural graduates in local educational institutions, in commercial agriculture by providing dedicated access to land under the Land for the Landless Programme and providing financial assistance. Act.

CHANGES AT BADMC

The BADMC will be converted from a state trading monopoly to an agri-business organisation to facilitate greater investment in the agricultural sector.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The BLP Government will intensify the drive for the transformation of rural Barbados and for the creation of enterprises and opportunities for rural folk.

We will:

- Use a minimum of fifty percent of the financial resources of the Rural Development Commission for the creation of rural enterprises.
- Expand the Rural Enterprise Fund, Livestock Development Fund and Fruit Orchard Development Fund to assist small entrepreneurs in the development and expansion of sustainable enterprises.
- Provide more resources for the development of craft and other community tourism projects

“The Barbados Labour Party is resolutely committed to eradicating poverty and to providing opportunities for marginalized persons in our country.

We will Increase the Reverse Tax Credit to those who earn less than \$13,000 per year. “

- Intensify and expand training programmes for small entrepreneurs.
- Continue the market decentralisation programme by constructing vending facilities at Six Roads, Redman's Village, Belleplaine, Bathsheba, Jackson, Crab Hill, Gemswick and Gall Hill, St. John. These projects will follow those at the Glebe, Speightstown, Oistins and Gall Hill, Christ Church.
- Divest the management of community market facilities to communities and citizens.
- Increase the volume of local produce purchased by government institutions.
- Provide loans to low-income earners in rural Barbados for home improvements through the establishment of a Housing Credit Fund.
- Continue to upgrade rural housing for the poor and in particular to construct bathroom facilities for those remaining households in rural Barbados.
- Expand the asphalt and concrete road construction and improvement programmes to ensure that every major rural community has a paved road.
- Expand the street-lighting programme to ensure that all communities in rural areas.

Relief for Road Users

Barbados ranks sixth among all countries in road density in proportion to land mass. Growing numbers of motor vehicles are a reflection of increasing prosperity and business activity in Barbados.

Some 100,000 vehicles on our roads, with steadily increasing numbers call for an upgraded, modernized and expanded national road system.

To this end, a BLP Government will continue this work, with a

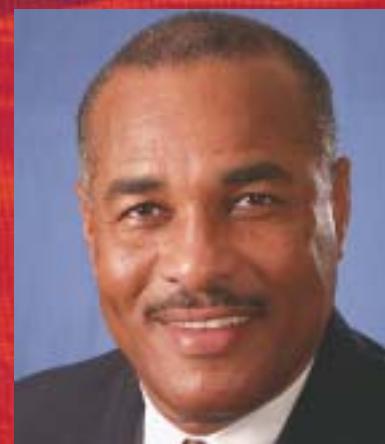
heightened focus on traffic management and a road enhancement programme that will include:

- Expansion of the ABC Highway from two to four lanes

Rommell Marshall

ST. MICHAEL WEST CENTRAL

He won numerous awards in the life insurance industry for outstanding sales over a period of 25 years. Elected to the House in 1994, he has been an outstanding representative of St. Michael West Central and an energetic Minister of Public Works and Transport. He says: **"The Government's road enhancement programme has brought many benefits to Barbadians, not the least being safety and savings in motor vehicle expenses."**



- Rehabilitation of roads in the Scotland District
- The sidewalk programme for pedestrian safety in the vicinity of schools, major hotels and tourism related facilities
- Encouraging the Private Sector to construct multistory car parks on the outskirts of Bridgetown.
- The establishment of a Transport Authority.
- Paved roads for every community by the end of this decade.
- Re-equip the Transport Board to enable it to extend service to short routes in the greater Bridgetown as well as rural areas.
- Support a Park and Ride System
- Facilitate water transportation linking Bridgetown; with Oistins, Holetown and Speightstown.
- Investigate the feasibility of monorail and subway systems of transportation
- Cap the subvention paid to Transport Board
- Free Travel for old age pensioners

Water, with Care

A safe, reliable and adequate water supply is one of the greatest challenges facing the country and a new BLP government intends to carry out the following:

- The desalination plant, which is currently producing at 50% capacity, will be operated at

full capacity to meet the needs of central Barbados, and particular areas such as Bagatelle and its adjoining districts.

- The feasibility two additional desalination plants to service the Northern and Southern section of Barbados

- Improving the water network.
- Approving new investments in ventures such as Golf Courses only on the condition investors invest in desalination plants for their own use.

“ The BLP will make 50% of the resources allocated to our Urban Development Programme available for enterprise development within low-income communities at an attractive interest rate of 4%. ”

- Development of a waste-water sector
- Ensuring that the Water Authority becomes FTC related
- That all bus fares should be set by the Fair Trading Committee
- Acceleration of the drainage programme, with a focus on retention ponds and check dams.
- Enhancement of the general signage across the country.

.....

Eradicating Poverty through Social Transformation

The Barbados Labour Party is resolutely committed to eradicating poverty and to providing opportunities for marginalized persons in our country.

We will ensure that all Barbadians are equipped to take on the challenge of self-development rather than depend on the social services.

Our Poverty Eradication Plan will involve participation of all sectors of civil society: the public and private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations and

Community Based Organisations.

The eradication of poverty remains our number one priority on the Barbados Labour Party's agenda.

The main aspects of our programme will be based on building community enterprise and urban renewal. The Community Enterprise and Empowerment Programme, as demonstrated by the "Deacon's Model" will provide opportunities for Barbadians to establish businesses for their self-development.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

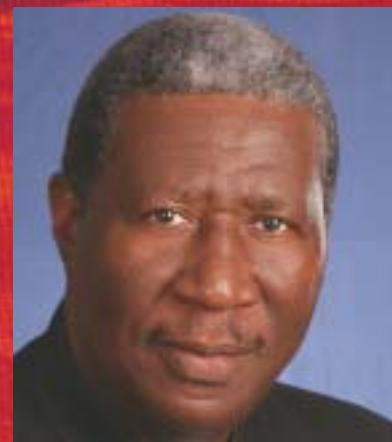
The BLP will:

- Make 50% of the resources allocated to our Urban Development Programme available for enterprise development within low-income communities at an attractive interest rate of 4%.
- Make resources under the Urban Development Enterprise Programme available to Community Based Organisations for enterprise initiatives.

Hamilton Lashley

ST. MICHAEL SOUTH EAST

A social worker, "Hammie la" has been lavishly praised as a dedicated and hard-working Minister of Social Transformation. His efforts have changed for the better the lives of thousands of the poor, the old and the vulnerable. He says: "Because of the BLP, my living will not be in vain for every day since my appointment as the first Minister of Social Transformation the region and anywhere else, I've been able to help somebody"



- Increase the amount allocated to the Poverty Fund to allow greater access to a wider cross-section of households and communities.
- Increase the Reverse Tax Credit to those who earn less than \$13,000 per year.
- Expand our Welfare to Work Programme as a Family Support Measure.
- Increase Old Age Pensions whenever public servants receive a wage increase.
- Offer the elderly a transportation allowance to enjoy a choice of travel.
- Take affirmative action to ensure that Persons with Disabilities receive appropriate benefits.

URBAN RENEWAL

A re-elected BLP government will transform the lives of more Barbadians through the Urban Renewal programme.

We will:

- Continue to deal with squalor in urban Barbados by repairing and replacing the homes of the poorest of the poor.
- Continue to provide special assistance for the purchase of house spots by those persons who cannot afford to pay their portion of the market value of the land.
- Accelerate the programme of converting almost 2,000 derelict properties into new housing solutions with the cooperation of existing land owners.
- Transform Cats Castle, Greenfields, Nelson Street, New Orleans and the Barracks through a Comprehensive Community Upgrade Project that involves repairs to houses and roads, improved streets lights, building of community facilities and business kiosks.

COMMUNITY DIVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Placing community centers and other facilities under the control of CBOs

We will implement a community initiative whereby the operation of government facilities such as markets and resource centres, will be placed under the control and management of Community Based Organisations.

We will:

- Provide training in management and maintenance for community leaders.
- Provide increase funding for enterprise development through the Rural and Urban Development Enterprise programmes.
- Assist community leaders with the marketing of their income generating products and activities.
- Provide Computer training and access for low-income communities.

“ We will continue to provide special assistance for the purchase of house spots by those persons who cannot afford to pay their portion of the market value of the land.

We will construct additional Senior Citizens Villages, one each in the centre and North of the island. ”

- Establish additional Resource Centres
- Enact legislation to ensure the highest level of accountability, transparency, financial prudence and non-partisanship in NGO operations.

GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

The Gateway Development Concept will use Sports as a means of providing educational opportunities for gifted and disadvantaged youth. This will be implemented by way of a partnership between local CBO's and our overseas missions.

BUILDING SOCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

We will:

- Continue to give subventions to the Church, NGOs and CBOs to expand their programmes and to reach more people.
- Make the Poverty Eradication Fund more community-oriented.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY A WAY UP FROM POVERTY

The Barbados Labour Party has already started to make the entire society technologically literate by making computer training and internet access available to communities as a measure of self employment and building job skills.

WELFARE TO WORK

We will continue to remove persons from welfare, and provide them with equal access to enterprise loans at good interest rates, so that they can establish their own businesses.

CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The BLP will:

- Implement a National Policy for children.
- Formulate a Mentorship Programme in collaboration with the University of the

West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, BARP and other agencies for children in care.

- Implement a Youth Development skills training programme for adolescent children.
- In partnership with civil society, provide shelter for children, adolescents leaving residential care, and give them the life skills and transitional counseling necessary to enjoy quality living and re-integration into society.
- Establish mechanisms to make reporting of child abuse mandatory.
- Encourage In-Camera hearings for incidents of indecent sexual assault.

CARING FOR OUR ELDERLY

In creating a society for all ages we will pursue a programme that allows our senior citizens to participate in productive and stimulating activities and to live out their lives in conditions of dignity.



Trevor Prescod

ST. MICHAEL EAST

Graduated from the UWI with a B.A. in Sociology and History. He is much admired across Barbados for his unwavering commitment to social justice and poverty eradication. He says: "Nothing resonates better with me than the BLP theme, "we shall leave no one behind". I see that as Owen Arthur's mission."



A BLP government will:

- *Enact Senior Citizens Safety and Protection Legislation.*
- Facilitate education and retraining for older workers who wish to upgrade their knowledge and skills.
- Establish a National Meals on Wheels Programme in partnership with CBO's and NGO's which would ensure that indigent persons, shut-ins, as well as the elderly, who live alone, have access to at least one hot nutritious meal each day.
- Continue to promote the Senior Citizens Games as an important event on the national calendar.
- Complete the Vauxhall Senior Citizens' Village and Day Care facilities, which provide a range of services for our elderly.
- Offer incentives to the private sector to build senior citizen villages.
- Construct additional Senior Citizens Villages, one each in the centre and North of the island.

HOMELESSNESS

A BLP Government will:

- Create additional temporary accommodation for victims of fire and flood.
- Work in partnership with civil society to implement developmental and rehabilitative programmes at its shelters.
- Improve accommodation at the Sir Clyde Gollop Night Shelter and provide a 24hr service in collaboration with other NGO's.
- Offer incentives to the Private Sector to build shelters for the homeless.

- Provide smoke detectors and other safety devices for those senior citizens who need them.

DEALING WITH DISABILITIES

Barbados now has an agreed National Disability Policy and Programme, which was approved by Parliament.

We will:

- Implement safety measures, and encourage self reliance among persons with disabilities through skills training, enterprise development and by expanding employment opportunities.
- Improve and expand transportation services for the disabled.
- Create a Disabilities Foundation for persons with disabilities to ensure that they have access to a wide range of social and economic services.
- Strengthen Disability Organisations through

IN-HOME CARE

The BLP has:

- Restored the Home Care Programme to a five-day workweek, which was reduced by the last DLP administration to a three-day workweek. **We now offer service seven days per week for those who need it.**

■ The Gateway Development Concept will use Sports as a means of providing educational opportunities for gifted and disadvantaged youth. This will be implemented by way of a partnership between local CBO's and our overseas missions. ■

provision of increased subventions.

- Give persons with disabilities expanded political and social opportunities.
- In collaboration with NGOs, develop Communal Farming Projects for persons with disabilities .
- Ensure that all public buildings, curbs and sidewalks are accessible for persons with disabilities.
- Create a Special Envoy for Persons with Disabilities.

WELFARE TO WORK

The Welfare to Work Programme was started in the last term and a number of persons were trained and offered assistance with job placements. We will use the Unemployment Fund to provide training, retraining and assistance in job placements for redundant workers. Grants will be given for this purpose to workers and employers organisations.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Barbados' stable industrial relations climate has contributed substantially to social conditions in which we have sustained development.

The workplace of the future will be significantly different from that of yesterday. Thus the relationships between labour and capital must be so structured as to encourage improved productivity and strike a happy balance between wages and an equitable return on investment.

Within this framework, the re-elected BLP will:

- Promote policies and practices in industrial relations conducive to the attainment of full employment in our time.
- Provide additional training for workers in general and also re-train redundant

workers to refit them for new careers.

- Enact the new Occupational Safety and Health Bill.
- Introduce a Trade Union Registration Act and a Protective Employment Act after consultation with the Social Partners.
- Enact Minimum Wage legislation, in selected areas after consultation with the Social Partners.
- Modernise the Holiday With Pay Act.
- Update the Shops Act, particularly in relation to rates of pay for Sundays and Off Days.
- Enact a Sexual Harassment Bill.
- Ratify ILO Conventions after full consultation with the Social Partners.

Rawle Eastmond

ST. JAMES NORTH

An attorney-at-law, Rawle has a B.A. (Hons) University of the West Indies, a Diploma in Education UWI and LLB (Hons) from London University. He was a secondary school teacher for 17 years until becoming the Member of Parliament for St. James North in 1991. He was Minister of Agriculture (94-99), Energy (97-2001) and Labour and Social Security (2001-2003). A member of the Barbados Labour Party for 30 years, he says: "This government has made the Social Partnerships a vital instrument for economic advance and good governance. One reason why Prime Minister Arthur was the first CARICOM leader invited to address the ILO General Assembly."



TVET COUNCIL

The BLP will:

- Implement the National Vocational Qualification system.
- Use part of Unemployment Fund to finance re-training of redundant workers and prepare them for re-entry to the workplace.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The BLP believes that qualifications enhance the workers' competence and capacity.

Through the Barbados Vocational Training Board, the BLP will:

- Increase the number of training opportunities to an even wider cross section of the Barbadian public in keeping with our decision to extend the retirement age.

- Implement a retraining programme targeted to the large segment of the labour market which is at risk of being marginalized by technological advancements.
- Actively support the partnership between Government and the Private Sector with respect to Enterprise Training.
- Revamp the Apprenticeship Programme to increase the number of participating employers.
- Develop Service Clusters to accommodate grouped trades, aimed at facilitating income-generating projects.

PENSION REFORM

In our 1999 Manifesto we pledged to institute new measures to ensure that the Public Sector Pension Schemes were fully funded. We also made a commitment to safeguard the

continued viability of the National Insurance Scheme.

In respect of private pensions a new Occupational Pensions Bill has been laid in Parliament and its enactment will be a priority in the new term.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

The National Insurance Scheme is on its soundest footing in its 35 years of existence.

However, the Scheme has had to face problems arising from demographic change, falling fertility rates, improved medical care and an aging population. As a result, the BLP Government set in train a comprehensive consultative process with civil society

We give the clear commitment that pensioners will share fairly in the rising prosperity of the nation.



This Bajan is a Winner

The BLP introduced Social Transformation as a strategy and as an objective central to which is a transformation of the spirit, a sense of pride. In modest surroundings at Kensington Lodge, Bridgetown, homemaker Angela Kirton has transformed her environment into a Shangri la.

She epitomises the theme and title of this publication... Every Bajan a Winner.



Elizabeth Thompson

ST. JAMES SOUTH

An attorney-at-law, Liz has been an outstanding constituency representative and Minister of Health, and more recently Physical Development and the Environment.

A renowned fighter for social justice, she has remained committed to making a difference in St. James South and across Barbados. She says: "I see the BLP under Owen Arthur as a laboratory for principled politics, good governance and character, and leadership development."



Physical Development and Environment

KEEPING BARBADOS BEAUTIFUL

Barbados has a special and unique beauty, the preservation of which is paramount to the quality of life of all our citizens.

Our way of life and economic viability are predicated on well ordered physical planning and preservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment.

A re-elected BLP will:

- Ensure that there are adequate green and recreational spaces within all communities, thereby improving our aesthetics and landscapes while giving residents a sense of pride in their surroundings

- Promote programmes to empower communities to take care of their surroundings
- Enact comprehensive Environmental Legislation
- Enact comprehensive Noise Pollution Legislation
- Implement measures to control littering and illegal dumping
- Ensure that vacant lots in residential developments are kept clean by their owners so as to maintain the amenity of the development, reduce health hazards and crime risks
- Establish an annual "Minister of the Environment National Award to promote greater environmental awareness

NO BARRIERS TO OUR BEACHES

A BLP Government will seek to preserve the marine environment by:

- Enforcing the law against blocking access to beaches.
- Integrating into the planning process those communities which live on or make a living from the sea. Where applicable, the PAHO-Six Men's Model will be utilised for developing projects with coastal communities
- Protecting our coral reefs
- Building a West Coast Sewerage Project
- Reducing pollutants which enter the marine environment from landbased sources
- Develop Carlisle Bay Marine Park.

“The Welfare to Work Programme was started in the last term and a number of persons were trained and offered assistance with job placements. We will use the Unemployment Fund to provide training, retraining and assistance in job placements for redundant workers. Grants will be given for this purpose to workers and employers organisations.”

\$98 MILLION FOR SPECIAL MARINE PROJECTS

The BLP will implement strong coastal infrastructural and protection programmes. The BLP government will, with support of an IDB loan, spend BDS\$98.4 million to:

- improve the waterfront from the Drill Hall to Rockley
- improve beaches at Holetown and Welches
- carry out headland protection at Woman's Bay, Silver Sands, Christ Church
- restore and enhance Crane Beach, St. Philip
- construct a boat access and slipway at Tent Bay, St. Joseph
- implement an aeration system at the Holetown Lagoon, St. James
- carry out dune restoration at Walkers, St. Andrew
- Increase beach accesses and windows to the sea - by compulsory acquisition of

land where necessary - at Archer's Bay, Frysers Well, Maycocks Bay, Gibbes, Fitts Village, Cove Bay, Speightstown.

- New or improved beach facilities will be constructed at Pebbles, Silver Sands, Foul Bay, Worthing and Bay Street (Browne's Beach).
- Kiosks for small vendors will also be provided at Holetown, Brandons and Enterprise Beaches to expand opportunities for small business people and those aspiring to be self-employed.

CLEAN AIR

Recognising that everyone has a right to clean air, especially having regard to the high incidence of asthma in Barbados, the BLP Administration will, among other initiatives, start a national air quality monitoring programme and establish indoor air quality programmes, especially at workplaces

THE LAND WE LOVE

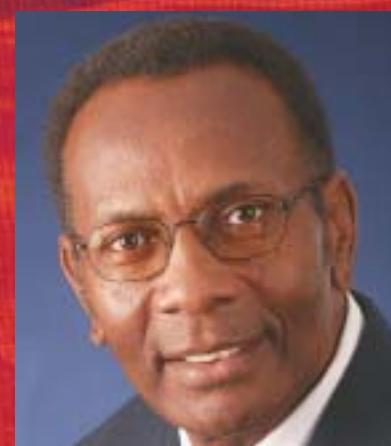
The BLP will:

- Develop protocols for the sustainable use of our gullies.
- Build new community recreational facilities all over Barbados starting with Church Village, St. Philip, Belleplaine, St. Andrew, Carrington Village and Bayville in St. Michael, and Crystal Heights in St. James.
- Create management regimes and protocols to protect sites of special ecological significance and ensure that they are not the subject of arbitrary commercial activity. Such sites include natural Wetlands at Graeme Hall, Coastal Sand Dunes at East Coast and Chancery Lane, River Bay, Joes River and Turners Hall Woods.
- Implement a number of projects to add to local sites of beauty and interest, as well as increase places for recreation and diversification of tourism services/attractions.

Joe Edghill

CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL

A pharmacist by profession, his professional career and strong community commitment have made him an outstanding .M.P. for Christ Church West Central since 1994. He says: " While there are still too many poor in our society, the BLP has improved the lives of the majority of Barbadians. We walk taller today."



A NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

The lush land of Waterford, St. Michael will be developed into a National Botanical Garden — a multiuse facility containing landscapes, waterscapes, plants indigenous to Barbados and the Caribbean.

HARRISON CAVE

Redevelopment of Harrison Cave will be undertaken at a cost of BDS\$7.6 million. A short-term improvement programme will also be initiated to upgrade existing facilities. Persons whose land forms part of the Cave will be compensated and members of the surrounding community will be provided opportunities to develop businesses as a spin-off from activity at the Harrison's Cave.

PHYSICAL PLANNING

Barbados' beauty will be preserved and competing interests for land use managed by the application of the Physical

Development Plan and best practices in physical planning.

The BLP will establish a Citizens Charter between the Town Planning Department and its users.

That Charter will guarantee:

- well ordered physical development
- increased public consultation and community dialogue in areas where large developments with the capacity to affect communities are proposed to be located
- a comprehensive computerisation of the department to better track files, make more speedy decisions and to allow members of the public on-line access information about their applications.
- that all housing developments have adequate recreational and green spaces for residents to enjoy

- improved time and efficiency for processing of Town Planning applications.

GREEN BUSINESSES

There are niches for Bajan products and services in the new global market place

The BLP will:

- Implement a package of incentives for businesses with a "green ethic and business culture."
- Give incentives to businesses which manufacture value-added indigenous products diverted from the waste stream and which have the potential to earn substantial foreign exchange.
- Give incentives to businesses to use recognised low-energy technology and equipment
- Institute the "Greening of Government" involving measures to reduce waste and effect cost savings
- Give incentives to promote "Green Globe Certification" and reduce waste in the hotel and tourism sectors

“ Kiosks for small vendors will also be provided at Holetown, Brandons and Enterprise Beaches to expand opportunities for small business people and those aspiring to be self-employed. ”

A BLP Administration will:

- Promote environmental education and programmes at every level of the community
- Give funding and technical assistance to community groups seeking to start environmental projects

.....

Justice, Peace and Security

Barbados is confronted in today's world with a range of non-traditional security threats of a pervasive nature. We will not yield to these threats.

Adopting a policy of zero tolerance, the BLP intends to ensure that Barbados remains a safe country where social and legal justice are assured.

Although the Barbados Crime Survey, conducted in 2002 established that we have one of

the lowest crime rates in the world, fear of crime is a central concern of all Barbadians.

A Draft National Plan on Justice Peace and Security has already been prepared and is now the basis for the widest possible consultation by the National Commission on Law and Order.

We are committed to:

- Maintaining a peaceful society in our communities and our homes

- Creating conditions for the full attainment of social justice

- Enforcing strict accountability under the rule of law

- Instilling in our citizens a sense of social responsibility

- Reinforcing traditional cultural and spiritual values

- Providing timely and affordable access to legal justice.

Mia Amor Mottley

ST. MICHAEL NORTH EAST

An attorney-at -law with an LL.B from the London School of Economics, Mia entered Parliament in 1994 after serving in the Senate from 1991. When she was appointed Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture, she became one of the youngest ever Cabinet Ministers. Appointed Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs in 2001.. She says:" We must do all in our power to unleash the talent abounding in Barbados while creating a secure future for our young people."



THE ROYAL BARBADOS POLICE FORCE

A BLP Government will bring about a reinvigorated Royal Barbados Police Force crucial to the preservation of law and order.

We will:

- continue to increase and strengthen the Police Force.
- Spend \$26 million to completely upgrade its telecommunications system.
- Use Island Constables and Special Constables primarily to maintain the peace while allowing police officers to better focus on the fight against crime and keeping the island secure.
- Improve the capability of the Police Force by focussing on comprehensive training and retraining in community policing, problem solving, victim support and intelligence-led approaches to policing.
- Accelerate computerisation of the Force and its critical databases to improve its efficiency.
- Evolve partnerships with communities island-wide through the establishment of Parish Committees to assist in maintaining peace and fighting crime.
- Introduce Closed Circuit Television initially in Bridgetown and St. Lawrence Gap to assist specifically reducing robbery and other crimes.
- Expand the anti-burglary project piloted in the Bush Hall/Grazettes districts to other areas.
- Activate the work of the independent Police Complaints Authority.
- Complete construction of the new station at District "E" Speightstown, jointly funded by BTII and Government
- Construct a new station at Crab Hill
- Construct Police stations through public/private sector partnerships at Dover, Wildey, Cane Garden, Six Roads and Hastings/Rockley

FOR THE POLICE

A re-elected BLP Administration will:

- Continue refurbishing Central Police Station and District "A"

REGIME FOR THE WELL-BEING OF MEMBERS OF THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The BLP Government in consultation with the various stakeholders started a comprehensive and service-wide Job Reevaluation research project that is due to be completed in June 2003.

A new BLP Administration will:

- Address recommendations coming out of the comprehensive Job Reclassification Exercise.

II Defence Force Pensions

The Defence Force Bill, legislation to provide pensions for all members of the Defence Force, past and present, has been drafted and will be presented to Parliament as one of the first orders of business of the new BLP government. //

- Establish dedicated day nurseries for children of members of the protective services.
- Establish Resource centres to afford officers 24-hour access to the Internet.

FORENSIC SCIENCES CENTRE

We recently opened a new \$24 million Forensic Centre. We will bring this centre fully into operation to enhance the detection capability of the law enforcement agencies as well as to strengthen scientific investigation in other key areas. The BLP will introduce in Parliament a Forensics Procedures Bill and a DNA Investigations Bill to support present and future national forensic activities.

MODERNISING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

There has been a substantial increase in both the range and number of legal matters involving the Government of Barbados. The BLP is committed to the modernisation of all aspects of our justice system.

We will:

- Construct a new Judicial Centre at Whitepark Road through a public/private sector partnership.
- Implement a computerised integrated justice information system (JITS) to link the Police, the Prison Service, the Courts, Immigration, Customs and Probation Departments.
- Convert the National Task Force on Crime Prevention into a National Criminal Justice Planning and Research Unit.
- Restructure the Chambers of the Office of the Attorney General to address the following areas:
 - International Law and International Trade Law, Financial/Revenue, Litigation/Advisory and Non-Contentious matters.
 - Introduce modern technology and reform processes to enhance the efficiency and speed of conducting Government's legal matters.
 - Establish a National Prosecution Service responsible for all public prosecutions under the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
 - Enact a new Legal Profession Act.
 - Place the Laws of Barbados and subsidiary legislation on the Internet.
 - Legislate a new Court Process Act
 - Establish Community Legal Aid Clinics in partnership with the Law Faculty of the University of the West Indies.
 - Expand access to legal aid.
 - Establish a dedicated parliamentary drafting facility.

Rev. Joseph Atherley

ST. MICHAEL WEST

Joe has a B.A in biblical Studies and a BSc in Political Science. His strong desire to service his community at the decision-making level attracted him to the Barbados Labour Party. "Whereas the Dems had devalued Barbados and Barbadians, the BLP has brought purpose, prosperity and pride to this blessed nation. Barbadians are largely better off now than 9 years ago."



MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The global financial community within recent years has placed increasing emphasis on money laundering and terrorist finance.

A re-elected BLP will:

- Defend and preserve Barbados' international reputation for the highest integrity in relation to the conduct of its financial sector.
- Strongly support the fight against terrorism, money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal gun-running and other threats to our stability and security.
- Continue our support for the National Council on Substance Abuse

PENAL REFORM

The process of penal reform has been started by the BLP with passage of the Penal Reform Act

1998 which broadens the range of sentencing options available to the Courts.

The BLP will:

- Establish a Department of Corrections to provide a framework for coordinated and integrated delivery of penal services.
- Construct a maximum security prison and designate a refurbished Glendairy as a minimum risk facility.
- Implement a modern system of parole and conditional day release.
- Encourage greater use of alternative sentences to imprisonment

IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The Immigration Department is now required to play a more pivotal role in national development and security than at any other stage in its existence.

The BLP will:

- Introduce modern Immigration and Citizenship legislation to ensure effective control of Barbados' borders.
- Ensure the integrity and security of Barbados passports by upgrading them to the new international standard for travel documents.
- Introduce Smart Cards for Barbadian nationals and permanent residents to expedite immigration clearance.

BARBADOS POSTAL SERVICE

The Barbados Postal Service will be converted into a corporate entity and run along commercial lines. Postal workers, credit unions and trade unions will be offered shares in the corporation.

New post offices will be built at Tamarind Hall, St. Joseph, Belleplaine, St. Andrew, Six Cross Roads, St. Philip and Bentham's, St. Lucy.

II Ports Authority Police

We will establish a Ports Police Unit to strengthen security at our ports of entry given the threat of terrorism, arms smuggling and narco trafficking facing our borders. II

EMERGENCY RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

A BLP Government will:

- Establish a National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to expand substantially upon functions now carried out by CERO.
- Establish and operate a national Emergency Relief Supplies warehouse to provide immediate emergency relief supplies to persons affected by localised or minimal impact events.

FIRE SERVICE

We will:

- Replace the Airport Fire Station with a modern complex compliant with international civil aviation requirements;
- Establish a Fire Station at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip and Nesfield, St. Lucy.

- Increase the number of Fire Officers and establish an Auxiliary Fire Officers Unit through community partnerships.

- Convert Channel 8 to 80% local and regional programming. These measures will reinforce national identity while creating economic opportunities for the cultural and sports industries

CREATING OUR MIRROR IMAGE

The BLP government recently recapitalised the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and guaranteed a loan for conversion to a digital platform.

The BLP will:

- Divest shares at the CBC to employees, credit unions and members of the public.
- Complete the conversion of the broadcast platform at CBC from analog to digital to increase from 34 to 70 channels on cable
- Dedicate six channels to broadcast local and regional content to counter balance foreign programming, much of which is overloaded with gratuitous violence.

- Broadcast Channel 8 across the Internet and satellite so as to create a presence globally for Barbados to further enhance the country's leadership role and its economic prospects.
- Issue additional free to air licenses within 3 years.

INITIATIVES IN THE BARBADOS PUBLIC SECTOR

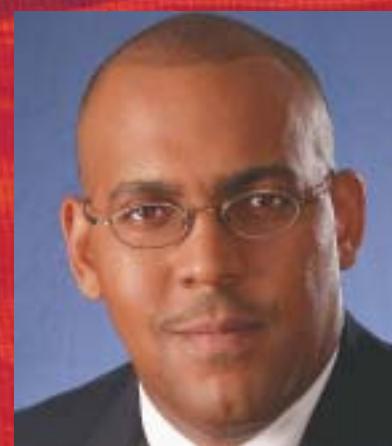
The Barbados Public Service is highly respected at home and internationally for quality, integrity and professionalism and for the excellent service it has rendered our people.

We seek to develop a public service that responds to this

Kerrie Symmonds

ST. JAMES CENTRAL

An attorney –at-law with a first degree in Political Science and History, he was made a Senator in 2001. He has demonstrated expertise as a writer on International Affairs and says: "The BLP has a unique understanding of the growing intricacies of global affairs and the visionary leadership to tackle them and keep moving Barbados forward."



challenge while offering high quality service to the public and providing excellent career opportunities for the most talented and creative in our land.

A BLP Administration will continue programmes that are fundamental to the creation of the new work culture to ensure efficient, timely and improved public services.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

We will replace the present Annual Confidential Report with a Performance Review and Development System. This is designed to lift the morale of public officers' and boost productivity across the Public Service.

JOB RECLASSIFICATION

In consultation with the various stakeholders, the BLP

Government started a comprehensive and service-wide Job Reclassification research project that is due to be completed in June 2003.

In its new term of office, a BLP Government will implement the recommendations coming out of the comprehensive Job Reclassification exercise.

WAGE SETTLEMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

The BLP is committed to the satisfactory conclusion of two-year wage settlements for public servants, on terms that improve the standard of living of our public servants, and that also include provisions to spur productivity.

BETTER PENSIONS

We will:

- ensure that sound pension arrangements are put in place for all who serve the public and where none exist,

as is the case with the BDF, they will be created.

- reform the public service pension arrangement to make it more secure.

BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS

We have been constantly improving the physical and environmental conditions under which our public servants work. This programme will be intensified and any adverse physical environmental problems will be addressed.

E-GOVERNMENT

If Barbados is to be a regional ICT centre, the government must connect to its citizens through modern communications technology. Within this framework, the BLP will establish an e-government Task Force to provide the road map for full and rapid transition to e-government.

“ The BLP remains committed to Barbados’ transition to a Republic within the Commonwealth; with a native son or daughter always as our Head of State; and with the supremacy of the people impregnably enshrined in our centuries-old tradition of parliamentary democracy. ”

Governing Barbados Well

The last 50 years of our history have been characterized by an unwavering commitment to democracy, the rule of law and social justice.

The challenge facing Barbados is to modify our terms of governance to better meet the needs of our changing society, to protect our sovereignty and to respond to non-traditional threats to our security.

The Barbados Labour Party reaffirms the values that define the character of our nation.

We see it as our mission to defend and advance the following:

- Integrity in all areas of governance and public life, with the public interest paramount in all decisions, which should be transparent

and carried out in accordance with the law.

- There shall be effective mechanisms of accountability
- Parliament shall retain its essential role as a balance against executive power.
- An independent judiciary shall be a crucial bastion for the interpretation of the law and the settlement of disputes, and shall ensure that Government should never be above the law and that all citizens be treated fairly.

The BLP remains committed to Barbados’ transition to a Republic within the Commonwealth; with a native son or daughter always as our Head of State; and with the

supremacy of the people impregnably enshrined in our centuries-old tradition of parliamentary democracy.

We shall, in the next term, settle the key elements of our republican form of government and parliamentary reform, thence to proceed to a Constitution of our independent sovereign state that is a proclamation of the people and the Parliament of Barbados and not that of the United Kingdom.

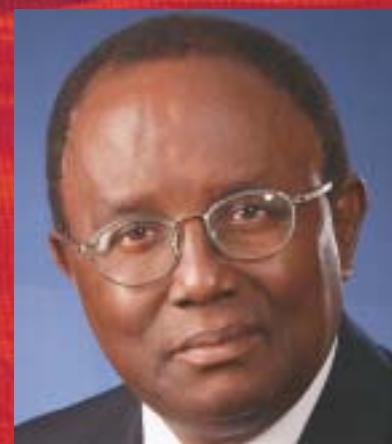
A BLP Government will give effect to the principal recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission.

We will strengthen the Charter of Rights for the better functioning of Civil Society.

Ishmael Roett

ST. MICHAEL CENTRAL

A graduate of the University of the West Indies, Columbia University and BIMAP, Ishmael has been a school teacher and lecturer at Erdiston College and founder and Principal of the O'Level Institute. Elected in 1994, he has been Speaker of the House ever since. He was awarded the Gold Crown of Merit in 2001. He says: "The BLP majority in no way compromised the Parliament's role in our democracy. The government used power with sensitivity and restraint and accomplished a great deal more than would otherwise have been possible".



SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

This partnership was born out of a need to stabilize the economy, but has grown into a developmental mechanism that contributes to social cohesion and stability.

The re-elected BLP Government will:

- Entrench the Social Partnership in the Constitution.
- Extend the scope of its remit so that the Social Partnership becomes a vital instrument for the expansion of participatory democracy, and enhanced standards of civil governance, and resolution of industrial conflict.
- Refine the protocols under which the Partnership functions.
- Broaden the role of the Partnership to involve it fully in the negotiations with the CSME, the FTAA, the WTO, and all other major international economic and trade talks.

The majority you gave to the BLP in 1999 ensured that the nation's business was never in gridlock.

We were therefore able to achieve considerably more for a greater number of Barbadians of all circumstances, in every parish, without regard to political affinities.

Barbados was the winner, decisively so.

To meet these goals, Barbados needs leadership of the calibre that led our country's rapid recovery from the economic shambles, massive job loss, public servants pay cuts, widespread destitution and deep national distress of the Thompson/Sandiford regime.

Now, more than ever, Barbados needs the productive partnership between the Barbadian people and the BLP that so effectively protected our population from the devastating global aftershock of the terrorist attacks on America.

Now, more than ever, Barbados needs a unified nation, building one another together to overcome the obstacles to growth and prosperity that are directly ahead, as well as those yet unknown that are likely to be placed in our path.

Now, more than ever, Barbados needs the national consensus and cohesion that propelled our nation forward during the trying times of the last four years.

The majority you gave to the BLP in 1999 ensured that the nation's business was never in gridlock.

We were therefore able to achieve considerably more for a greater number of Barbadians of all circumstances, in every parish, without regard to political affinities.

Barbados was the winner, decisively so.

We never exercised the power you vested in the BLP with anything but sensitivity, never with anything but great circumspection, never with anything but genuine humility.

When put to the test when stakeholders voiced concerns, we did not press for passage of Employment Rights legislation.

Nor did we proceed with constitutional transition to a Republic when Barbadians reacted with alarm at the confrontation between the President and the Prime Minister in a neighbouring CARICOM Republic.

Never was the odium of arrogance a concomitant to the decisive majority you entrusted to us in 1999.

We exercised salutary restraint in every area of governance and we took every major legislative initiative to the Barbadian people before its introduction to Parliament.

You can therefore trust us with another majority sufficiently large to enable us to fulfill our pledge to make every Bajan a winner.

To implement our Agenda for Barbados for the next five years, the Barbados Labour Party offers a team of candidates that is the right blend for the task of governing in these uniquely challenging times.

I ask that you give them your support.

In setting out a detailed blueprint for transforming the Barbadian society and stimulating individual and corporate enterprise, this Agenda goes where no election manifesto in this country has ever gone..

As you will see, no group is left out, no one left behind, as we continue the work for equitable distribution of Barbados' resources.

This country's economic performance since 1994 has opened up new opportunity and has encouraged rising expectations and new aspirations for all Barbadians.

We want all boats to continue to rise on the wave of prosperity that brought Barbados out of the 'nineties into a new century and a new millennium in a strong position to be an acknowledged leader among all nations, beyond the constraints of geography and population size.

Undaunted by the challenges that confront us, prepared to seize the opportunities that surround us as well as those that are ahead, fully confident of our capabilities and the worth of the Barbadian people, we set out in this Manifesto, the BLP Agenda to move Barbados from a middle income to a **FIRST WORLD** economy, in which, without regard to social circumstance, every Bajan will be a winner.

Barbados must not settle for bronze.

Barbados must not settle for silver.

Barbados must go for the Gold!

I am confident that you will find this Agenda worthy of your ringing endorsement.





PROVEN LEADERSHIP

A Man for All Barbadians

By The Hon. Billie Miller
Chairman, Barbados Labour Party

From his dramatic entrance to frontline national politics in the 1984 St. Peter By-Election, to the global turmoil and trauma surrounding the "Regime Change" in Iraq in 2003, Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Owen Arthur, has manifestly been the man destined to lead Barbados into and in the 21st century.

The Barbadian people gave Owen Arthur that opportunity when they re-elected the Barbados Labour Party to government in 1999 with the most resounding endorsement ever conferred upon a governing party and the biggest parliamentary majority ever given to any party and party leader in the history of this country.

So definitive a vote of

Leader demonstrates the extent to which Barbadians have placed their faith in Owen Arthur and the extent which they trust him to manage our country's affairs to the greatest good for the greatest number of our citizens

The Prime Minister earned such trust through the visionary, bold and decisive leadership he brought to the major crises confronting Barbados during the last decade.

His economic wizardry led Barbados out of the shambles and the pain inflicted on the Barbadian people by the ineptitude, callousness and recklessness of the Thompson/Sandiford regime in the early '90s.

The BLP Leader's genius, clear vision and worldview came

confronted and indeed threatened Barbados and other small developing states in the late '90s.

At the end of that decade, it fell to Owen Arthur to lead our country through the global economic downturn that resulted in significant contraction and plummeting consumer and investor confidence in a number of OECD countries.

The Prime Minister of Barbados was notably successful in leading the response that turned back the OECD onslaught against Barbados and other jurisdictions, which were deemed to present unfair tax competition to the major industrialized nations.

His swift and innovative response to the terrorist attacks



September 9, 2001, effectively protected Barbados from massive job loss in the public and private sectors and from the resultant social dislocation experienced by many other countries, including the sole remaining global superpower.

In a period of back-to-back international crises and unprecedented challenge and change, Owen Arthur's leadership has guided Barbados from strength to greater strength.

Through all of this, Owen Arthur began every day - as he has confided - looking for new ways to help Barbadians, to ignite Barbadian pride and enterprise, and to move our nation forward.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Prime Minister from the day I spoke at his nomination in the By-Election which brought him to Parliament; and in government, then in opposition, and in government again, from 1994.

I have been in a good position to observe close-up and personal what Barbados' second Prime Minister, Tom Adams, famously

described as "One of the finest minds of the century" in action.

Always proactive, always strategic, never less than bold, Owen Arthur recites a mantra that provides clear insight into the character of his leadership: **"We have to find new ways of doing things".**

He has proceeded to take the lead in doing precisely this not only in Barbados, but in the Region, in the Hemisphere and in the Commonwealth, as well.

It was inevitable that Prime Minister Arthur would be the primary advocate for and the principal architect of a protocol for the sustainable development of small economies, in a joint initiative of the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

He inspired the resurgence of the Barbadian spirit and the renewal of our nation in less than a decade.

Prime Minister Arthur has given new meaning to Independence with the annual community Independence celebrations, has restored Barbadian identity, pride and self confidence and has awakened a new spirit of

enterprise in all sections, at all levels of the society.

He has, understandably, inspired deep affection in the hearts of all Barbadians.

This is well exemplified in the determination of an elderly woman awaiting his arrival at an event with the publicly stated and implemented pledge to **"Hug he and put One Kiss 'pon he"**.

Other elderly Bajan women of similar disposition are legion.

They respect and trust and love their Prime Minister.

It is generally taken without dissent that there exists between Owen Arthur and his fellow Barbadians, across all boundaries, and through the best of times and the worst of times, a mutual and enduring love affair.

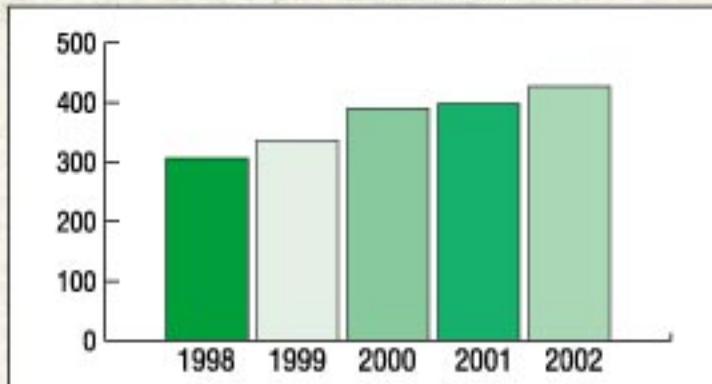
Prime Minister Arthur is a proven leader for all seasons, and, in delivery of his policy of inclusion, a leader for all Barbadians.



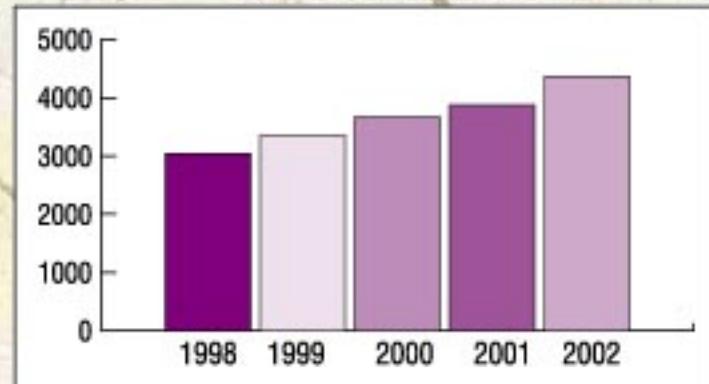
Proven PERFORMANCE

GROWING DOMESTIC DEPOSITS

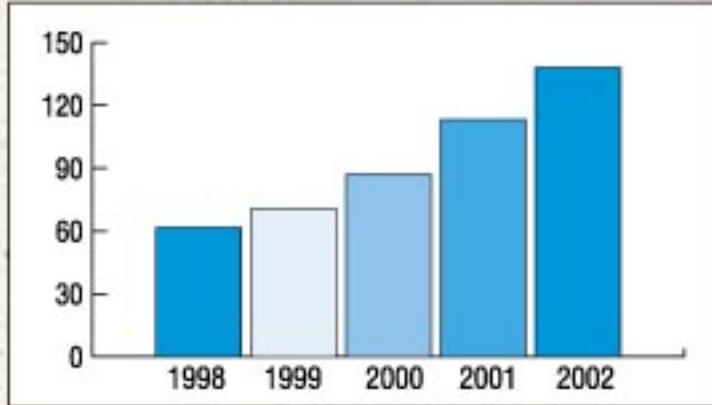
Trust Companies (\$Millions)



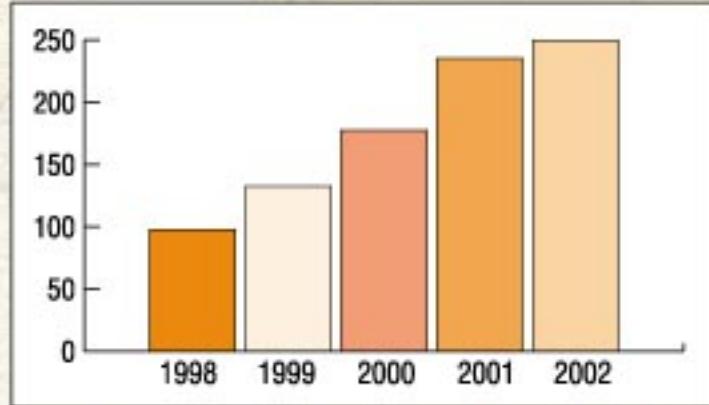
Commercial Banks (\$Millions)



Credit Unions (\$Millions)



Finance Companies (\$Millions)



	\$	1998	\$	1999	\$	2000	\$	2001	\$	2002
Trust Companies	\$	305.9M	\$	336.8M	\$	390.5M	\$	398.3M	\$	426.8M
Commercial Banks	\$	3,043.8M	\$	3,351.5M	\$	3,665.5M	\$	3,871.0M	\$	4,371.2M
Credit Unions	\$	61.7M	\$	70.9M	\$	87.1M	\$	113.2M	\$	138.1M
Finance Companies	\$	97.5M	\$	132.5M	\$	177.8M	\$	235.6M	\$	250M
TOTAL	\$	3,508.9M	\$	3,891.7M	\$	4,310.9M	\$	4,168.0M	\$	5,187.0M

Robust growth in all categories of Domestic Deposits confirm that the average Bajan is sharing the new prosperity that the BLP has brought to Barbadians



RE-ELECT THE BLP

EVERY BAJAN A WINNER



AGENDA

2003 · 2008

PUBLISHED BY THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY,
111 ROEBUCK STREET, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.
PRINTED BY COLE'S PRINTERY LIMITED