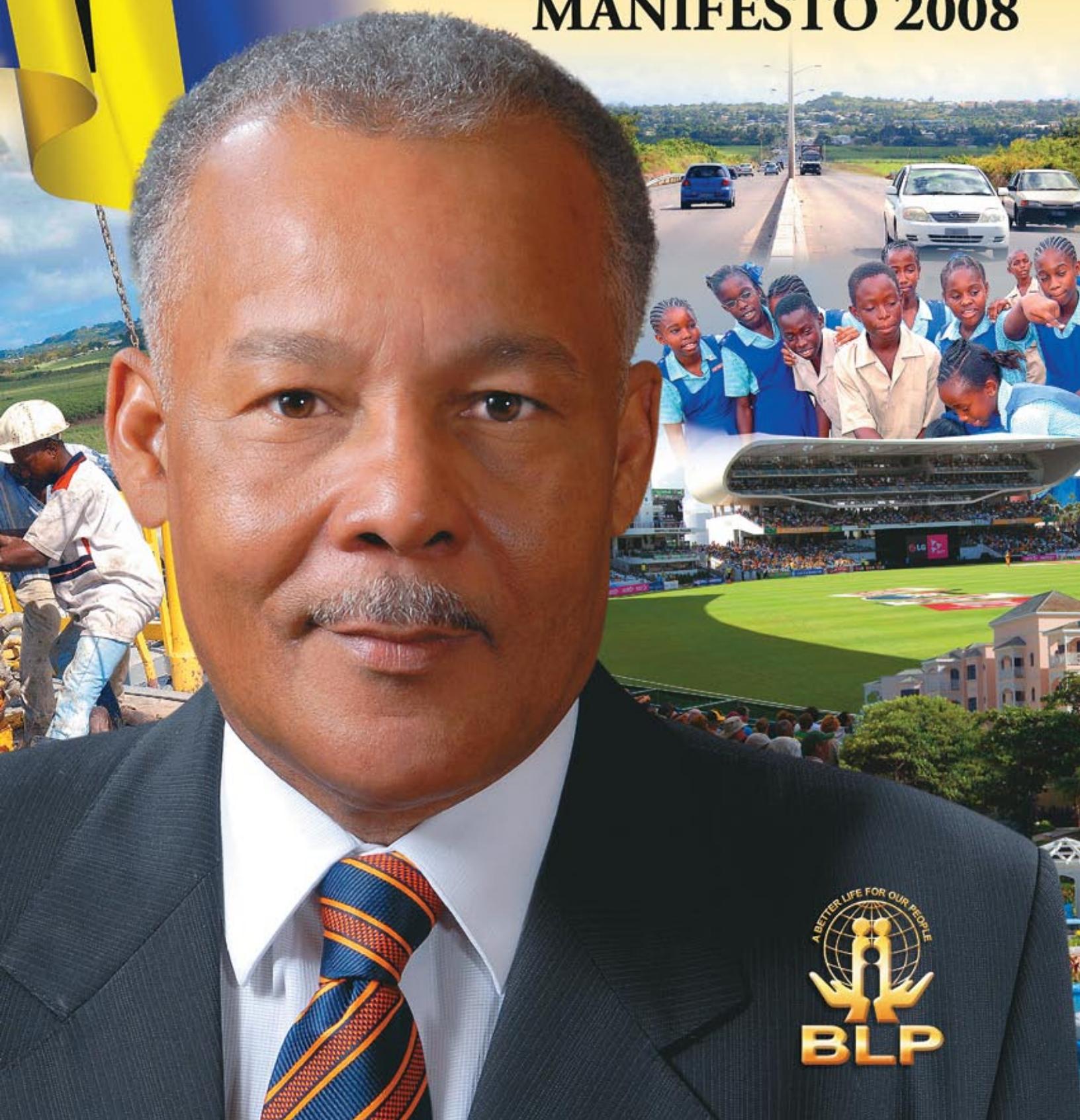


ONLY THE BEST FOR BARBADOS

BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY
MANIFESTO 2008



The Vision For Barbados

The BLP administration initiated the national dialogue in the National Strategic Plan, took it through the Parliamentary process, has begun implementation of its strategies and embraces the Vision for Barbados which represents the national consensus.

“A fully developed society that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive”

The fully developed Barbados that we envision by 2025 will be:

- ❖ A society driven primarily by a services economy fuelled by a steady rate of export growth, with a state-of-the-art information and communications technology infrastructure, a high savings rate, widespread material prosperity, full employment, an equitable distribution of income and wealth and enhanced quality of life.
- ❖ A premier world tourism destination and a centre for high quality financial, information and other services augmented by reinvigorated manufacturing and agricultural sectors.
- ❖ A society that places people at the centre of development and, through economic enfranchisement offers each and every individual the freedom and opportunity to develop their talents to their full potential.
- ❖ A society symbolized by creativity, innovation, industry, productivity, entrepreneurship and intellectual excellence, in which all enjoy a rich cultural, social and economic life.
- ❖ A society that is an integral part of the Caribbean family of nations.
- ❖ A truly literate society whose people are educated, rounded human beings, possessed of sophisticated skills and so imbued with social justice and equity that no one is left by the wayside.
- ❖ A sustainable society that co-exists in harmony with a beautiful, clean and healthy physical environment and physical infrastructure, and whose people enjoy good health and high life expectancy.
- ❖ A society of religious and enduring moral values, diversity and tolerance, imbued with a strong sense of public spiritedness and an abiding sense of trust and community.
- ❖ A fully democratic society with enhanced freedoms and rights for all and governed by the rule of law, in which citizens participate in self governance and enjoy a rewarding public life.
- ❖ A society of order, self-discipline and respect for law, relatively free from the scourges of illegal drugs, corruption, crime and violence.



ONLY THE BEST FOR BARBADOS

BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO 2008

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IDENTITY CONFIDENCE COUNTRY

With sound justification, Barbadians are among the most confident people on the planet.

The elements igniting the brimming confidence that distinguishes the Bajan spirit are a strong sense of identity; an immutable conviction of unbounded individual capacity; and the unshakeable belief that Barbados is the best little country on God's earth.

Whatever our calling, whatever our affinities, wherever we are in the Diaspora, we want only the best for Barbados.

This attitude and these beliefs are critical factors in our country's surge to the position of respected powerhouse among the small developing states of the world; and to Barbados' stature among all nations.

These very elements helped to shape my character and to instil within me a burning desire for a good education; an unwavering obligation to crusade for social justice; and an embedded resolution to work to make our country strong, secure and just.

By God's generous blessings and by the collective will of the Barbadian people, I have been permitted the privilege of serving

Barbados in the position of Prime Minister for three terms.

Had I not earned the trust of the Barbadian people, had the BLP's policies not improved the people's lives, had our performance not matched our promises, the people would not have twice renewed the BLP's mandate, or mine.

A notable dimension to BLP administrations of the past thirteen years is that to an unprecedented extent, in tangibly and generously giving to the vulnerable in our society through targeted social programmes, we endowed governing with heart

Now, to continue the work we have been assiduously carrying on your behalf, the Barbados Labour Party seeks a renewal of your mandate.

Never have we taken the Barbadian people for granted.

Prior to this Election, we meticulously reported to you on the delivery of our manifesto undertakings; as we did prior to the General Elections of 1999 and 2003.

Not many governing parties so report.

Working to ensure only the best for Barbados is the noblest purpose that can propel any person vested and blessed with the privilege of leading our country.

I regard the office the Barbadian people have permitted me to occupy with respect, and the responsibilities attached to this office with reverence.

As Prime Minister, I have had the good fortune to be able to draw from the collective confidence and capacities of the Barbadian people; to whom I express my enduring gratitude.

I have also had the good fortune to work with Cabinet teams endowed with the capacities for the most demanding jobs in Barbados; and imbued with the commitment to give everything in serving the Barbadian people.

Had I not had access to outstanding and committed public servants, my administrations would have accomplished little.

I am in their debt and I place my gratitude on public record.

Now, as we enter the closing years of this eventful first decade of the twenty-first century, the world faces daunting challenges; with intimidating implications for all nations, large and small.

We face the escalating threat of terrorism; climate change; spiralling oil prices; and increasing diversion of grain from food to fuel, with mounting demand for these commodities from the rapidly expanding economies of China and India.

These perspectives are formidable for industrialised countries, as well as for the developing world.

The challenge for Barbados is not only the need for surviving in the impending international environment but rather for excelling, simply to sustain our present place.

Barbados' resilience in the face of significant crises in the decades bridging the millennia is widely recognised.

This BLP came to government with the fortunes and the future of this country in intensive care with the International Monetary Fund.

This prompted, as one of my early executive actions, an invitation to the IMF to entrust to Barbados the responsibility of finding the required solutions to our problems.

Those problems were not inconsequential.

The country was crippled by an ailing economy; we were down to two weeks import cover; public servants had been sent home by the thousands; and the infamous eight percent pay cut was inflicted on those fortunate to be holding on to their jobs.

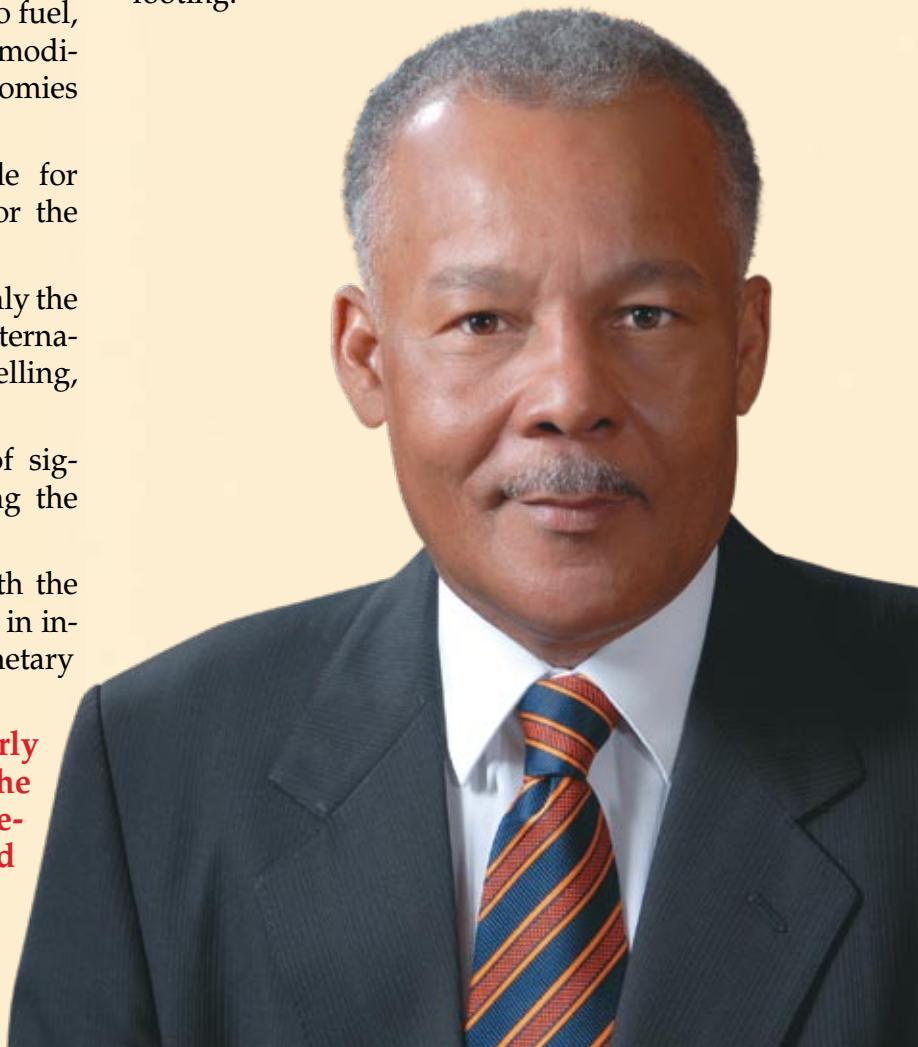
Local financial institutions were calling mortgages and repossession notices for furniture, household appliances and cars dominated the country's newspapers.

Unemployment was close to twenty-five percent, with women and young people disproportionately represented among the jobless.

It was the worst of times for Barbados.

We considered ourselves under obligation to ease the squeeze on those who were hurting most.

Parallel with this, we had to deal with the job of putting the economy on a sound footing.



The extent to which we met that objective is reflected in the facility with which Barbados was able to survive external shocks such the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

In contradiction to IMF prescriptions, the BLP Government proceeded to increase and enhance benefits for the poor.

Indeed, a notable dimension to BLP administrations of the past thirteen years is that to an unprecedented extent, in tangibly and generously giving to the vulnerable in our society through targeted social programmes, we endowed governing with heart.

The Barbados Labour Party has been resolute in balancing the economic scale to favour our country's vulnerable citizens, and our seniors.

Even at the worst of times, BLP policy is to cushion our vulnerable from adversity.

To sustain our country's current position in the world, and if, consistent with our national strategic plan, we are to realise our shared vision of developed nation standards and status by 2025, we will as a people, have to commit to intensified entrepreneurial effort from our private sector social partners and increased productivity from our workforce.

In the Economic Charter in our 2003 Manifesto, Every Bajan A Winner, we set out a precise blueprint for the measures we would employ to move Barbados forward, strengthen and grow the economy, create jobs and lift the poor from poverty.

In the face of skyrocketing increases in the price of oil internationally, my administration has intervened to keep the prices constant at the pump.

Among the undertakings of the Economic Charter was the security of the integrity of the Barbados dollar.

Our dollar remains secure.

Current investment in education and training surpasses all previous levels.

This reflects the priority Barbados Labour Party attaches to the development of our human capital.

Optimum development of our human capital is our key development strategy.

Our policies have broadened the entrepreneurial base in Barbados; and a cadre of new small business operators has emerged to create jobs and add considerable value to the economy.

Foreign Reserves now stand at an impressive US\$2.2 Billion; direct foreign investment is flowing in; the best brands in the global hospitality industry are interested in doing business in Barbados; and we are home to the number one hotel in the world.

Sandy Lane's principal assets are its location on one of the most breathtaking shorelines anywhere, and Barbadian staff who are among the most capable and gracious people on the face of the globe.

Sandy Lane is a sign of success for all Barbadians.

The Barbados Hilton, a government investment, is, in addition to being a sign of success, is a source of immense pride for the people of Barbados.

We promised to remove exchange control on capital transactions within the Caribbean Community, and we are now poised to go beyond that undertaking in the new term.

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

We said we would restructure the tax regime to make Barbados the preferred location for doing business and we are taking it further by meaningful tax breaks, intended

The world faces daunting challenges; with intimidating implications for all nations, large and small

for implementation upon the re-election of the Barbados Labour Party.

The Barbados Labour Party has governed well, to every Barbadian's benefit.

Never have I deviated from respect for our institutions, people centred leadership, and principled leadership.

I have worked conscientiously to strengthen democracy, and I have neither sought nor extracted any particular advantage from the convincing parliamentary majorities the Barbadian people have entrusted to the BLP in successive terms in government.

We have never abused the power you have vested in successive BLP Governments.

Now, I ask your mandate for a fourth term.

The Barbados Labour Party has so managed our country's affairs and so nurtured the human capital in our society, that few would challenge the assertion that it is Better Than Ever In Barbados.

We move now to the next level, Only The Best For Barbados.

This calls for visionary, trusted and proven leadership as we face a gathering storm of rising global prices, unpredictable effects of climate change and the sequential impact of terrorism.

What may now be the best of times for Barbados can well become the worst of times if we make the wrong decision when we go to the polls on January 15.

A majority of Barbadians have expressed the view that Leadership will be the key determinant to their voting decisions when we go to the polls.

In that context, I offer my candidates, your government and myself for your intense scrutiny.

We might have done better, but we could not have worked harder or attempted to do more.

I ask you to hold our opponents to similar scrutiny.

Barbadians will permit no compromise of our nation's sovereignty.

I invite you to consider very carefully the implications for Barbados adventurism with external sources by those seeking power with no regard to the possible consequences to our nation.

All that Barbados has achieved can be at risk if we lose the trust and respect of the international community.

Some say that it's time for a change, that the other party should be given a chance at government.

Change to what?

The choice and character of this country's government should not be a matter of chance, charity, or change for change sake.

As the calypso says, you know what you have; you don't know what you will get.

It has never been better for Barbados.

I ask you to make sure that your vote will ensure only the best for Barbados.

I ask you to vote for the BLP candidate in your constituency.

I ask you to vote wisely.

Barbados asks that of us all.



Prime Minister
The Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur
Leader, Barbados Labour Party



A STRONG ECONOMY

Benefits For All

The Barbados Labour Party believes that only the best will do for Barbados.

We aim to deliver a fully developed society that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive. Since the establishment of the World Trade Organisation in 1995 and more recently CSME, this task has become more challenging. International competitiveness has increasingly become the sole basis upon which Barbados can build prosperity. Our response has been to transform our economy into a centre for high quality services whose standards of excellence are global and, at the same time, rooted in the best of Barbadian traditions. This strategy has borne bountiful fruit.

HONOURING THE PROMISE

The BLP Government came to office with the primary goal of reducing unemployment. Today, Barbados enjoys the lowest unemployment rate in our recorded history, at 7.1%; down from almost 25% in the last year of the last DLP government. The number of people employed in Barbados, at 134,500, is also at an all-time record.

Today, Barbados enjoys the lowest unemployment rate in our recorded history, at 7.1%; down from almost 25% in the last year of the last DLP government

We have achieved this economic success and transformation by creating a cluster of tax, regulatory and infrastructure policies that reward work, encourage investment and stimulate enterprise. These policies have been directed towards the creation of an entrepreneurial society, an economy based around services and exports, one that is globally integrated and is at the cutting edge of information and communications technology.

JOB # 1 IS STILL JOBS

The job is not over. **Developing new strategies to protect jobs and expand employment creation at existing and new enterprises remains our central priority.**

Going forward, we are committed to enhancing the conditions for enterprise in general, expanding our existing tourism and financial service base and to supporting the creation of new export services such as cultural, sports, education, professional, construction, computer and health services.

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We have created **Invest Barbados** and are in the process of completing the establishment of **Export Barbados** to promote and leverage existing and new policies.

UNLEASHING THE SPIRIT

We are the party of empowerment, enfranchisement and entrepreneurship. We will :

- Further support enterprise by lowering the cost of doing business, improving our road and transport infrastructure
- Give further help to small companies, manufacturing companies, companies operating on special development areas and approved developers of low income housing by lowering corporate tax on them to 15%
- Raise the turnover threshold for VAT registration to \$100,000.
- Increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the tax allowance for individual investments in Credit Unions, new shares in public companies and mutual funds or a combination of these.

NEW DEVELOPMENT FRONTIERS

The West and South coasts of Barbados have been at the centre of the development of our

nation in recent decades. The capacity for further high growth in these areas is now limited.

To ensure that the next higher level of development is more balanced, **a BLP government will open up new areas of development in St Lucy and south eastern Barbados.** We will now broaden the Special Development legislation to include these new areas. We will examine the feasibility of reclaiming land from the sea without effecting our coastal integrity for our future social and economic development. We will plan environmentally and socially sustainable housing development that integrates and supports local communities.

Sport creates economic growth. We will introduce a Sports Development Act to promote the development of motor sports; horse racing, volley ball, netball, community football and other sport industries particularly in Special Development Areas.

We will increase the personal income tax allowance from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the tax allowance for individual investments in Credit Unions, new shares in public companies and mutual funds

TRANSFORMING THE RETAIL SECTOR

The world economy is in the grip of a commodity crisis. Since 2003, international oil prices have risen by 300%, natural gas prices by 400% and the IMF's food price index has



increased by 200%. The BLP recognizes the need to mitigate the impact of higher prices on consumers.

A BLP government will pursue an aggressive programme to shield consumers and the productive sectors from cost increases.

The BLP has already directly intervened to lower duties and to encourage vendors to lower price mark ups for a basket of basic food items. Duties on fuel have also been lowered and on energy-efficient and environmentally preferred products, while there has been a direct intervention to protect residential consumers from rapidly increasing electricity prices

To further protect consumers we will:

- Enact Anti-gouging and Price Fixing Legislation
- Remove the surcharge from a number of items not locally produced
- Remove duties on a Health and Wellness basket of goods
- Establish a Consumer Protection Committee to monitor prices
- Develop measures to encourage Barbadian entities to invest in CARICOM projects established to export less expensive food and other agricultural products back to Barbados.
- Support the use of renewable energy and household generation through solar and wind power
- Expedite the development of off-shore oil and gas production
- We will develop measures to transform and modernize the retail and distributive

sectors, making them more dynamic and competitive.

- We will pass on to consumers the benefits of lower prices a result of the new trade arrangements Barbados has entered with North America, Europe and the Caribbean
- We will develop Barbados as the preferred place to shop for Barbadians and others in the region. Developing Barbados into a shopping Mecca will deliver scale economies that will lower prices for all Barbadians and ignite new entrepreneurship in the national community

LIBERALISING EXCHANGE CONTROL

For Barbados to attain global leadership in international services requires a further liberalization of our exchange controls and deeper regional integration of our local stock exchange and capital markets.

Confidence in the Barbados economy by overseas investors has led to the further strengthening of foreign exchange reserves to \$2.2 billion at the end of 2007, up from \$47m when the DLP left office.

This provides both an opportunity and a robust foundation from which to continue the process of exchange rate and capital market liberalization. We will pursue further liberalization of exchange controls in accordance with our CARICOM obligations, and the rest of the world as soon as reasonably practicable. Simultaneously, we will strengthen the laws governing securities and the functioning of capital markets.



RESPONSIBLE DEBT MANAGEMENT

The substantial strengthening of our foreign exchange reserves over the past few years is a measure of the confidence the international financial community has in our strong and sustainable macroeconomic position.

The ratio of external debt to our GDP was 28% in 2006, unchanged from the level in 2002 and the average for the region. GDP, even when conservatively measured, is 12 times the cost of servicing external debt - a safe multiple.

As a result of extensive investment in public services, our domestic debt has risen and the overall level of debt (domestic and external) is 85% of GDP. This is not an unsustainable level, but we are not satisfied. A BLP government will bring total debt to GDP down to 60% as soon as practicable.

We will achieve this by growing our economy, by making responsible choices, keeping a tight lid on government expenditure and using the internationally accepted model of Public Private Partnerships to invest in public infrastructure.

Such arrangements have become an accepted model for governments to fund roads, hospitals and schools because the

Confidence in the Barbados economy has led to the further strengthening of foreign exchange reserves to \$2.2 billion at the end of 2007, up from \$47m when the DLP left office

financial risks are shared with the private sector. We are committed to using public-private partnerships responsibly to create a first world infrastructure while achieving our debt targets.

SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE

Economic success provides us the revenues to support social justice. Promises that cannot be afforded are empty promises, undelivered. The BLP is proud to have introduced the Reverse Tax Credit - a revolution in income support to the less well off that is the envy of many nations.

The BLP will widen the eligibility for this credit by

raising the income threshold from \$13,000 to \$18,000 over a three year period and we will raise the reverse tax credit from \$800 to \$1100 in 2008 and to \$1300 in 2009.

We have already increased the Welfare stipend paid to severely disabled persons to \$96.00 per month and will further increase it to \$100 commencing from February 2008.

To ensure that no Barbadian lies below the poverty line, we will co-ordinate the range of income transfers to the needy, including the reverse tax credit, Old Age pension and welfare stipends.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS ALLOWANCE

A more prosperous Barbados is a busy Barbados where individuals do not always have the time and resources to make healthy life-style choices. Poor life style is contributing to a high prevalence of preventable diseases that are costly to treat.

The BLP will support individuals who wish to make better health and wellness choices through the introduction of a new Health and Wellness Allowance.

Individuals will enjoy to a tax break on up to \$5,000 on health related equipment, activities and gym memberships out of untaxed income.

We will further reduce duties on health related food and other items.

INCREASED BENEFITS FOR PENSIONERS

Our nation owes a debt to our senior citizens. They have built our nation with pride and industry.

The BLP government will increase the tax-free personal allowance for pensioners from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

This is in addition to other measures to support pensioners, such as existing concessions on medicines and transport, the 50% land tax concession and an increase in the allowance for Registered Retirement Savings Plan and Registered Annuities to a maximum of \$10,000.

A pensioner whose sole income is an NIS pension will pay no tax.

We will increase the child allowance from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child

CUTTING BACK ON TAXES

A BLP government will continue to reform the tax system to ease the squeeze on the vulnerable and the middle class, to stimulate enterprise and to support individual choice and savings.

The Barbados Labour Party delivers value for money to Barbadians through efficient public services and lower taxes. Twenty-six thousand deserving Barbadians have already been taken off the tax roll. We will do more.

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We will:

- Lower the top tax rate of personal income tax from 35% to 25% for those on incomes of less than \$7,000 per month or \$84,000 per annum.
- **Further widen the lower tax band of 20% to be levied on the first \$30,000 of taxable income, up from \$24,200.**
- Abolish the higher 35% tax band as our circumstances permit.
- Increase the personal allowance by the

We will lower the top tax rate of personal income tax from 35% to 25% for those on incomes of less than \$7,000 per month

rate of inflation every three years to protect low wage Barbadians from creeping into paying tax by virtue of general inflation alone

Increase the child allowance from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child.

Increase the threshold for land tax from \$125,000 to \$150,000 and review these rates whenever there are new land valuations.

- Enable persons with incomes below the personal allowance to recover tax withheld on interest income.

The BLP will widen the eligibility for the Reverse Tax Credit by raising the income threshold from \$13,000 to \$18,000 over a three year period and we will raise the reverse tax credit from \$800 to \$1100 in 2008 and to \$1300 in 2009



COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Our businesses must be productive and globally competitive in order for our consumers to be better off. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs will play a leading role in a number of initiatives to transform the retail sector into a more competitive and dynamic space.

We will

- Mount an aggressive programme to shield consumers and the productive sectors from cost increases.
- Enact Anti-gouging Legislation
- Strengthen our capacity to measure compliance and enforce new competition rules.
- Remove the surcharge from a number of items not locally produced
- Remove duties on a Health and Wellness basket of goods
- Support Barbadian investments in other Caricom countries to import back to Barbados less expensive food and other agricultural products.
- Develop measures to transform and modernize the retail sector, making Barbados a first choice destination for shopping for Caricom Nationals and visitors to the region.
- Commit that the benefits of lower prices, as a result, of new negotiated trade

arrangements, will be passed on entirely to consumers

To support these initiatives we will upgrade the Department's collection and analysis of price data, increase staff numbers with an economic, statistical and analytical background and upgrade the training of existing staff. We will also establish a new Legal Metrology Laboratory to ensure the accuracy of compliance with standards.

STANDARDS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AND SUPPORT EXPORTERS

The development of accepted and effective standards is required for consumers to reap the full benefit of a liberalised world economy. The meeting of internationally accepted standards by local business is critical for expansion into new markets.

We will therefore work to strengthen and upgrade Barbados' National Standards Institution. In particular, we will invest in human resources development, the greater use of information technology and upgrading of the administrative offices as well as the laboratory facilities.

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMALL BUSINESS

Our vision is to create an entrepreneurial society. A dynamic small business sector is a vital ingredient of that. In addition to the small business tax rate of 15%, the BLP Government will expand the technical assistance fund for approved small business to assist them to invest in productivity tools and methods.

On top of our support to small businesses through government procurement rules, and to small businesses in the manufacturing sector, we will support the development of new domestic and export markets for small businesses.

We will develop additional measures to facilitate the financing of small businesses.

CREDIT UNIONS

We have long been supporters of the credit union movement in Barbados. We have given

incentives to encourage investment in them. The increased combined tax-free savings allowance is one such instrument.

It is important that credit unions are modern, well-regulated and safe institutions. We will develop measures to help credit unions modernize their technology to help them meet their regulatory requirements.

SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Our vision is of a society symbolised by creativity, innovation, industry, entrepreneurship and intellectual excellence that benefits all. A critical component of that vision is supporting innovation in science and technology.

The BLP Government will implement a comprehensive innovation system and strengthen the institutional framework that administers and facilitates science and technology development.

In addition to the small business tax rate of 15%, the BLP Government will expand the technical assistance fund for approved small business to assist them to invest in productivity tools and methods



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Previously Barbados was incorporated into the international economy on passive terms that were not our own. The revolution in information and communication technologies has changed all that. Today the opportunity is to integrate into the global economy on terms crafted by us to reflect our strengths and needs. One way in which we have grasped this opportunity is the development of Barbados into a significant international business centre, with international business now contributing almost two thirds of corporate tax revenues.

In addition to the direct tax benefit to Barbados from international business, the sector creates opportunities and jobs. Opportunities for domestic businesses abroad have also widened as a result of the CSME and other trade liberalising agreements. In no small part, the business of Barbados is international business.

In conjunction with Invest Barbados and other agencies, the BLP Government will develop Barbados into the best International Business Centre in the hemisphere with a sound regulatory environment, a highly skilled workforce and appropriate tax and other concessions

In conjunction with Invest Barbados and other agencies, the BLP Government will develop Barbados into the best International Business Centre in the hemisphere with a sound regulatory environment, a highly skilled workforce and appropriate tax and other concessions.

We will:

- Complete reforms to increase capacity and competition in the provision of telecommunication services
- Undertake further investment to enhance capacity and efficiency of the corporate registry and immigration
- Establish a Financial Services Authority for the effective and appropriate regulation of the non-banking financial sector.

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- Review our legislation that governs the operations of the international business sector to ensure that we are able to provide financial products that meet the needs of the international market place
- Increase our network of international tax and investment treaties
- Support the UWI and Barbados Community College in establishing and flexibly providing programs to train Barbadians in the international and export sectors
- Support the creation of new export services in the areas of culture, sports, education, legal, technology and health
- Facilitate the establishment of international educational centres that will position Barbados as a global centre of excellence in targeted areas of professional and international education that offer international certifications to Barbadians and which will generate foreign exchange.
- **Enact a new Sports Development Act that will provide incentives for the development of international motor sports, horse racing, netball, volleyball, community football and other sport activities**
- Further develop Barbadian cultural exports especially in the music and fashion sectors.
- **Leverage our strong traditions and reputation in the rule of law to establish an international arbitration centre under the auspices of the London Court of International Arbitration.**

We are committed to creating an enabling environment for the manufacturing sector that will help to raise domestic exports to \$1 billion and employment in this sector by 700 persons per year

EXPANDING MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing sector plays a vital role in securing Barbados' future prosperity. We are committed to creating an enabling environment for this sector that will help to raise domestic exports to \$1 billion and employment in this sector by 700 persons per year.

Trade liberalisation within the region and globally presents significant challenges for this sector, as well as new opportunities. It requires existing producers to adopt and change to be globally competitive. To support this process and to develop new opportunities, we will:



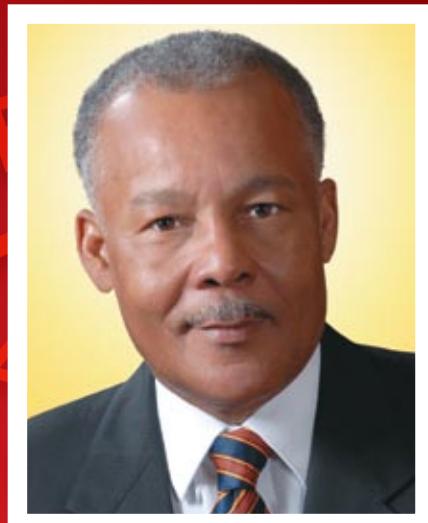
- Operationalise the Export/Import facility to reduce the risks of Barbadian exporters and investors in new markets abroad
- Implement a loan guarantee, financing arrangements with delayed repayments to help qualifying projects get off the ground
- Make investments and offer significant incentives to support the development of new manufacturing businesses and the exploitation of new technologies by existing businesses
- Provide special support for environmentally sustainable investment.
- Facilitate the introduction of reduced energy rates for off-peak house usage
- Fund energy audits through the Special Technical Assistance Fund
- **Promote research and development by increasing the Research and Development tax allowance**

to 200% and facilitate the establishment of a new Research Centre to facilitate collaboration between the Private Sector, UWI and Government in the commercialization of new products

- Implement an annual "Skills Needed" study to be coordinated by the National Industry Training Coordinator and to involve all major training and skills bodies
- Develop blue Prints for Sea Island Cotton, Value Added Sugar and Black Belly Sheep leather
- **Implement the programme of Export Barbados to position the Barbados Brands as one of traditional quality and high value**

The BLP will facilitate the establishment of international educational centres that will position Barbados as a global centre of excellence in targeted areas of professional and international education that offer international certifications to Barbadians and which will generate foreign exchange

The BLP Leadership Team: North



Owen Arthur
ST. PETER



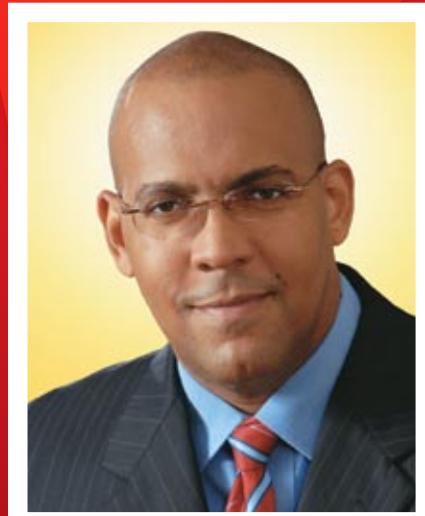
Rawle Eastmond
ST. JAMES NORTH



Peter Phillips
ST. LUCY



Elizabeth Thompson
ST. JAMES SOUTH



Kerrie Symmonds
ST. JAMES CENTRAL



EDUCATION

A fully developed society cannot be achieved solely on the basis of the enhancement of a country's material resources. Human resources are equally or even more important. Education represents the single largest investment in our human capital and must therefore remain the bedrock of national development in Barbados.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

The BLP will continue to support tertiary education by continuing to meet the cost of Barbadians enrolled in degree programmes at the University of the West Indies and the soon to be established University College of Barbados.

We will:

- Support the thrust of UWI Cave Hill to become a research driven institution with the establishment of the CARICOM Research Park at the Campus.
- Expand online and distance education for Barbadians to access programmes at U.W.I. and the UCB.

We will provide a tax allowance for contributions to education savings plans up to \$10,000.00 per year

- **Support the establishment of an Evening Campus at UWI, Cave Hill, so that working persons can complete their degrees by attending evening classes and without having to seek leave from their jobs to do so.**
- Provide a tax allowance for contributions to education savings plans up to \$10,000.00 per year.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

We will:

- Construct three (3) new secondary schools to bring the enrolment per school to more manageable levels.
- **Expand the Sixth-Form Programme to the St. Michael and Foundation schools.**

We will construct 3 new secondary schools to bring the enrolment per school to more manageable levels

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BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY

MANIFESTO 2008



- Expand diagnostic testing in emotional, physiological and educational areas.
- Establish in partnership and the civil society after-school programmes across Barbados to provide care, support and mentorship for children whose parents are still at work.
- Expand the school to work programme to include four (4) additional schools.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

We will:

- Formalize a system of community organizations to support primary schools
- Provide support for tutorial programmes administered by community groups
- Systematically upgrade the resources and facilities at low performing schools to equalize the performance in and the demand for schools across Barbados.
- **Expand the national reading programme.**
- Place greater emphasis on literacy.
- Expand diagnostic testing for 3 and 5 year olds in hearing, speech and sight.
- Expand such testing in emotional, physiological and educational areas.

NURSERY EDUCATION

We will expand Nursery Education in Barbados so that every child three years old is guaranteed a place in a preschool environment.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Persons who desire to continue their education or to embark on new career paths must be given the opportunity to do so.

We will:

- Expand the access to adult education opportunities by increasing the number of schools offering continuing education programmes.

We will expand Nursery Education in Barbados so that every child three years old is guaranteed a place in a preschool environment

EDUTECH

We will complete all remaining aspects of Edutech under the current funding arrangements by 2009. However, other aspects of Edutech, Special Needs Education, Teacher Training, curriculum reforms and ITC will continue as a central component of a restructured ministry.

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

A re-elected BLP will:

- **Establish a new alternative educational institution for**



students requiring greater levels of intervention than what is currently provided by the Edna Nicholls Centre.

- Implement the new Special Needs Education Policy.
- Provide appropriate access facilities and technological tools for disabled persons at all schools

TEACHER EDUCATION

We will:

- Ensure that all teachers meet minimum requirements for teaching in Standard English.
- Expand teacher training and preparation to meet both local and international demand.
- Implement a mentorship system for new teachers

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

We will establish a National Institute for School Leadership to address professional development, standards for schools and principals, mentorship of school leaders and succession planning across the education system.

ICTS IN SCHOOLS

Learning must become exciting and enlightening for students. This goal is partly achieved when ICTs are integrated into the teaching and learning process.

In addition, having achieved full access to nursery, primary and secondary school for all Barbadian students, we must now focus on the introduction of Initiatives for Strengthening Teachers and Resources for Ultimate Quality (INSTRUQ). This will ensure that the full dividends from Edutech can be realised.

We will:

- Continue the education reform process with the introduction of the Initiatives for Strengthening Teachers and Resources for Ultimate Quality (INSTRUQ) Programme.
- Provide one (1) computer per student by 2012.

We will float an education bond of \$100 million to continue major upgrading of the school plant

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CURRICULUM REFORM

The delivery of a high quality and relevant curriculum remains critical to enhancing the quality of student outcomes.

We will:

- Strengthen the provision of gender sensitive curricular offerings to maximise the potential and interests of all students, especially boys.
- Expand the Schools' Health and Family Life Education Curriculum to complement the national thrust in health and wellness
- Place greater emphasis on entrepreneurship, citizenship, education, science and technology and arts, culture and creative industries.

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

To support the provision of technology and to ensure that our children are provided with the kind of facilities conducive to learning, our school plant must be adequately maintained.

We commit to:

- Spending at least \$2.5 million annually on the summer domestic programme for primary schools.
- Floating an education bond of \$100 million to continue major upgrading of the school plant.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE



YOUTH AFFAIRS

The BLP through its Youth Affairs Division has implemented a number of projects and programmes which have responded to the diverse needs of the young people of Barbados. We recognise that the future of the nation rests with its young people who are its most precious assets.

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

The BLP recognises that traditional values are under threat by the rapid changes in the global economy and its impact on human society. This has significant impact on our young people and has weakened traditional values.

For that reason the BLP will establish a new National Youth Service to promote concepts of service, community and citizenship among our young people.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Social cohesion is often developed through community activity. There must therefore be a strong focus on community sports training programmes to engage our young people and to build community pride.

The BLP will establish a new National Youth Service to promote concepts of service, community and citizenship among our young people

We will:

- Establish four (4) Youth Centres across the island to engage our young people at the community level.
- Provide young people with more opportunities to participate in structured activity.

- Facilitate the development of Junior Youth Clubs across the island.

We will also promote the awareness of self-employment as a viable option to succeed in life.

To that end we will:

- Expand the Project Oasis Programme to embrace all unattached youth
- Expand the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) and implement a special programme in business management .
- Expand the coverage of the YES Juniors Entrepreneurial Education programme to the five (5) remaining Secondary Schools and the fifty-two (52) Primary Schools.
- Develop National Youth Camps that focus on entrepreneurship education for persons between the ages of 8-17 years.

CULTURE

An important aspect of unleashing the spirit of the nation is providing the environment for the emotional, cultural and creative development of the society.

It is critical that we the strengthening of the Barbadian Identity as central to our national development strategy.

Who we are, what matters to us, what inspires us guides our actions and determine the kind of society we live in, the quality of our public space and the strength of our economic prospects.

CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

We maintain that cultural industries must be a key component of the creative economy.

To facilitate the maintenance of our heritage we will:

- Enact the Preservation of Antiquities Legislation.
- Establish a management mechanism for the development and marketing of our Heritage assets in order to ensure their fullest and sustained contribution to our economy.
- Provide incentives to property owners to give access to their property for the purposes of excavation/exploration on these properties as historical or archaeological sites.

- **Establish, in collaboration with UWI, a National Records centre to enhance information management delivery.**
- Facilitate the development of preservation and conservation skills.
- Establish a National Endowment Fund for the development and strengthening of institutions and training in the cultural industries.

NEW FRONTIERS

We will:

- Give support to the newer areas of Art and Culture such as film production, graphic design and multi-media production building on the already established base of the community technology programme.
- **Offer national development scholarships in the areas of: cultural/arts administration and management, sound engineering, lighting, film production, writing for film and television, choreography, and theatre in education.**



- Establish a Film Commission to market Barbados as a preferred production location for Movies, Television and Photo Shoots.

NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

We will revamp the NCF so that its focus is on the strengthening of the Barbadian Identity along other key government agencies and institutions of Civil Societies.

Development programming at the community level.

Continued cultural/artistic programming in the areas of visual arts, dance, literary arts, music, and theatre.

Business facilitation and providing an advising role to the artistic and cultural community.

Foundation publishing as the NCF's publishing arm.

We will:

- Create and initially invest in a Festival and Events Bureau which will have a commercial and marketing mandate to maximize foreign exchange earnings from its market driven cultural festivals and events and from the sale of its services throughout the region.
- Widen the mandate of the Enterprise Growth Fund to include the provision of

equity and loan financing for approved entities operating in the cultural sector.

- Establish closer links between cultural industries and tourism at level production and marketing
- Provide assistance to artists so as to ensure that they are properly compensated for their intellectual property rights
- Maximise revenue from the sale overseas of broadcasts, video and internet rights in respect of Barbadian festivals and events

ENTERTAINMENT

We will:

- Build an additional venue for the performing arts.
- Restore and refurbish the Daphne Hackett Theatre and the Empire Theatre as performing arts centres.
- Facilitate the growth of an industry around costume production and will provide concessions on raw material imports for costume making.
- Facilitate the forging of stronger partnerships between the entertainment sector and land and cruise tourism sectors.
- **Seek to host Carifesta XI in 2010.**



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E-GOVERNMENT & E-COMMERCE

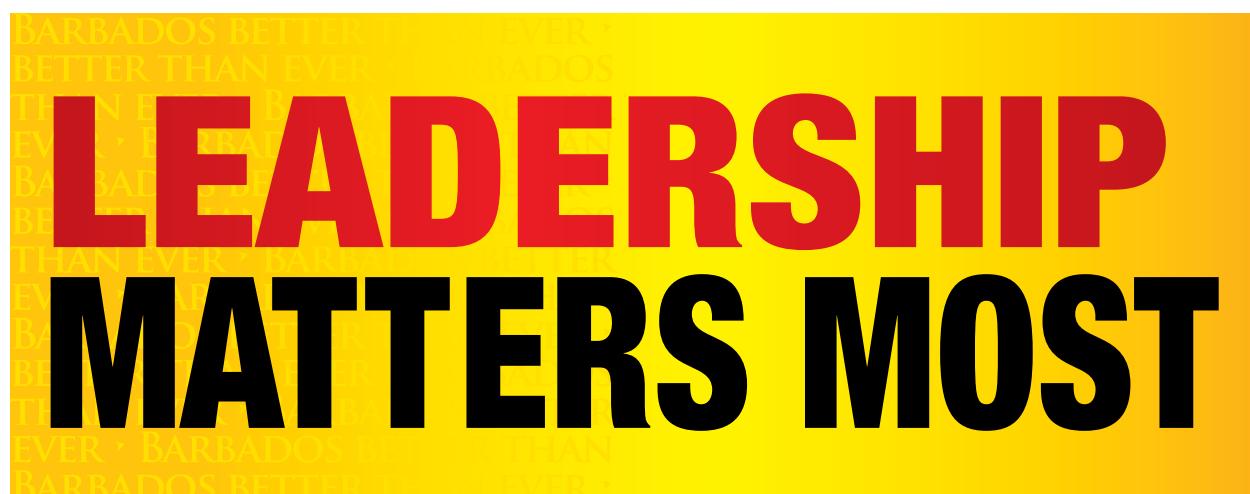
A new internet e-business enabled portal is to be designed and incorporated into the Barbados e-government portal to facilitate on line transactions.

Special grants are to be given to entities wishing to create e-business platforms for their cultural goods and services.

COMMISSION FOR PAN AFRICAN AFFAIRS

We will:

- Facilitate Partnership and Venture Capital & Equity arrangements between micro-entrepreneurs in Barbados and capital interests located in the Diaspora.
- Pursue bilateral arrangements with African States through functional Cooperation in areas of culture, sports, tourism, transport and education.
- Establish a centre for multi-ethnic studies and research.
- **Stage AfoFest – a Barbados/ African Culture event and trade exhibition.**



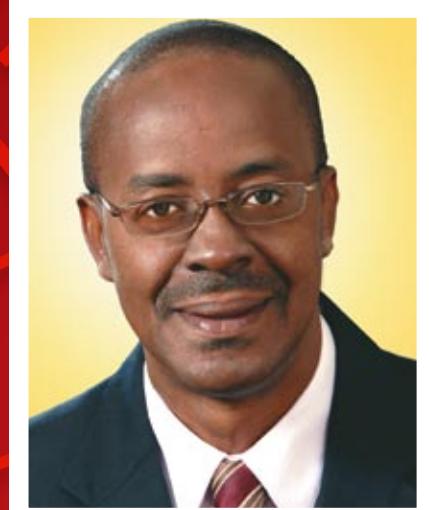
The BLP Leadership Team: St. Michael



Mia Amor Mottley
ST. MICHAEL NORTH EAST



Ronald Toppin
ST. MICHAEL NORTH



Clyde Mascoll
ST. MICHAEL NORTH WEST



Trevor Prescod
ST. MICHAEL EAST

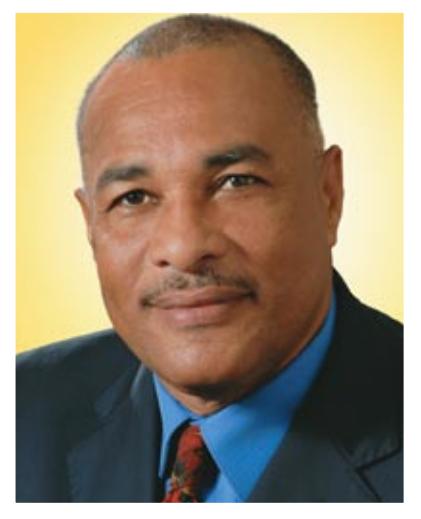


Joseph Atherley
ST. MICHAEL WEST

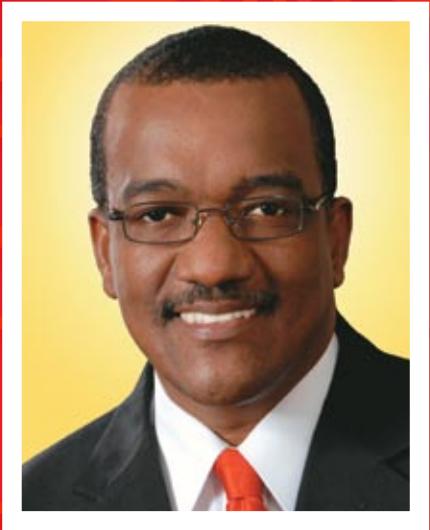


Noel Lynch
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH

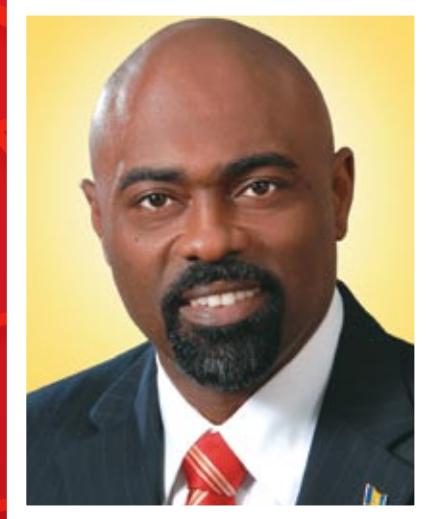
FOR OUR LIFE



Rommell Marshall
ST. MICHAEL WEST CENTRAL



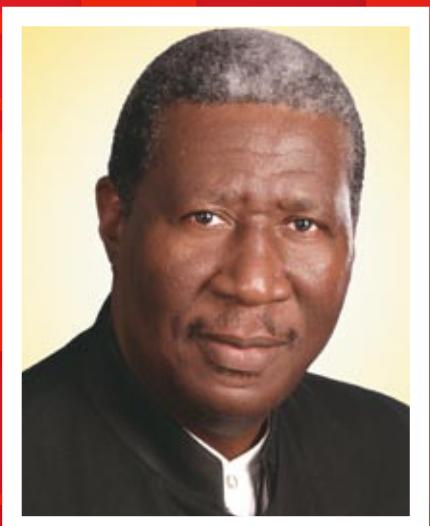
Jeffrey Bostic
CITY OF BRIDGETOWN



Rudy Grant
ST. MICHAEL CENTRAL



David Gill
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH CENTRAL



Hamilton Lashley
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH EAST

BLP



GLOBAL SPORTS CENTRE

Barbados' illustrious pantheon of cricketing icons has endowed our country with an enduring aura as a centre for excellence in sports.

This has translated into significant economic benefit; with every test match between the West Indies and England a sold-out event for our hotels, as well as for Kensington.

The new Kensington Oval is now seen as the show piece of all cricket grounds.

The BLP is poised to position Barbados as a global sporting centre with motor rallies, horse racing and full marathons as major components in a thrust to make Barbados the regional leader and a major international player in various sporting disciplines.

With a strong year round international sporting calendar Barbados will ensure that all participating in competitive sports in this country will adhere to a code of fairness that will reflect the character of the Barbadian people.

The BLP is poised to position Barbados as a global sporting centre with motor rallies, horse racing and international marathons

A re-elected BLP will bring the Ministry of Sports into the Office of the Prime Minister

In consonance with the National Strategic Plan for Barbados 2006 – 2025 a new Barbados Labour Party Administration will treat sports as a separate socio-economic sector with the vision of creating a passion in the population for active participation and the pursuit of excellence by all athletes.

It is proposed to complete and adopt a National Sports Policy as well as a National Strategic Plan for Sports in 2008.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT ACT

We will enact a new Sports Development Legislation which will establish the requisite policy and strategic framework and detail the fiscal regime for the development of the Sports Sector to maximise its contribution to national socio-economic development.

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We will also:

- Establish a National Sports Academy. The Academy will act as the structured entity through which outstanding athletes develop their full potential.
- Continue to upgrade of facilities across the country and ensure that there are sports and recreational facilities in all major communities by 2012.
- Empower the National Sports Council to administer community sports programme, particularly football.
- Develop and implement a range of sporting activities to support the national health and wellness programme.
- Strengthen the administrative and technical capacity of the National Sports Council to effectively execute its mandate of facilitating sports development at all levels.
- Establish new headquarters for the National Sports Council.
- Establish a technical assistance fund to assist national associations in building capacity in sports administration and strategic planning.
- Intensify and expand training programmes for coaches across various disciplines.

The BLP will grant Duty Free concessions on sports equipment

- Provide a new fiscal regime under the Sports Development Act to assist sporting associations in the development of their athletes.
- Collaborate with the BCA to support the provision of dedicated cricket coaches at all secondary schools.
- Provide duty free concessions on sports equipment.
- Establish a Community Football tournament to be administered by the National Sports Council.
- Expand the Community Sports Training Programme to ensure greater participation in sports and physical activity within the communities.

NEW NATIONAL STADIUM

The Barbados Labour Party recognises that there is a need to replace the existing National Stadium which was constructed during the period 1968 to 1970 with a new modern facility.

We will:

- Erect a new National Stadium providing facilities for football, cycling, and track and field.

A new National Stadium will be erected providing facilities for football, cycling, and track and field



NEW INDOOR MULTI-SPORTS COMPLEX

We will construct a new indoor multi-sports facility at Waterford, St. Michael to facilitate netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton and boxing.

HORSE RACING

Following the grant of planning permission to develop horse racing at a new location, a new BLP administration will support the Barbados Turf Club in its efforts to develop world class facilities to promote the further sustainable growth of the sport.

MOTOR RACING

Motor Racing is the most popular spectator sport in Barbados.

Anew Barbados Labour Party Administration will facilitate the acquisition of lands at Bushy Park, St. Philip for use by the Motoring Federation as the circuit and drag-racing facility for the island.

Multi-purpose Mini Stadium at Checker Hall, St. Lucy

“North Stars” in Checker Hall, St. Lucy will be upgraded to a mini stadium to provide facilities for cricket, football, hockey, basketball, netball, volleyball and road tennis

MINOR SPORTS

Minor Sports will also be embraced under the new Sports Development Thrust and the new Government will work with the various representative organisations in these disciplines to promote and enhance their development.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE



DOUBLING TOURISM REVENUE

Over the last five years, Barbados has enhanced its position as one of the premier tourism destinations in the world. **A re-elected BLP Government will consolidate the island's status as a destination of choice, and aim to increase tourism receipts from \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year in the next term.**

Measures to promote further growth in the industry will include:

- Completion of a Tourism Master Plan as indicated in the National Strategic Plan.
- Further enhancing infrastructure and beautification in Bridgetown, Speightstown, Oistins, St. Lawrence Gap, and surrounding areas;
- Introduction of new legislation to expand the range of activities that are eligible for fiscal concessions;
- Introduction of standards and a National Tourism Education Initiative;
- Establishment of a special investment and duty-free area within the environs of Bridgetown

- Refinement and strengthening of the community tourism programme.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION

We will redevelop the Church Village area of Bridgetown will provide for a car park and retail and office facilities

In the next term of the BLP, the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. (BTII) will continue its efforts to redevelop and beautify the urban areas and those recreational parts of the island frequented by visitors and Barbadians alike. The projects to be undertaken by BTII include:

- Construction of public bathroom facilities in Bridgetown, Speightstown, and Oistins;
- Redevelopment of the Church Village area of Bridgetown to provide for a car park and retail and office facilities;
- **Provision of civic and recreational facilities in Bridgetown and Speightstown including comprehensive greening**



and shading components, installation of streetlights, and closed circuit television to provide enhanced protection and security for visitors and locals;

- Completion of the third phase of the Bridgetown Boardwalk from the Pierhead to Needham's point;
- Completion of the second phase of the Salt Pond Drainage and Streetscape Project in Speightstown;
- Completion of the second phase of the Constitution River Redevelopment Project from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the Globe Cinema;
- Construction of the Careenage Breakwater that will protect our capital city in the event of storm surge in adverse weather conditions and that will also serve as an enhancement for the Pierhead Marina Project;
- Together with private sector partners, implementation of the Pierhead Redevelopment Project that provides for the construction of the Pierhead Marina, a

Construction of the Careenage Breakwater will protect our capital city in the event of storm surge in adverse weather conditions and will also serve as an enhancement for the Pierhead Marina Project

hotel, and commercial facilities;

- **Construction of a car park in the St. Lawrence area and completion of the St. Lawrence Swap Redevelopment;**
- Together with the Barbados Port Inc. and private sector partners, construction of a dry docking and safe harbour facility for the hauling out, docking, and repair of small pleasure boats
- In collaboration with the Barbados Tourism Authority and Needham's Point Development Inc., the implementing of appropriate infrastructural improvements from the Needham's Point Peninsula to Bridgetown.
- Construction of the Harrison's Point Resort in St. Lucy. This resort will be marketed under the Rosewood brand; and
- Construction of tourism facilities on the sites of the former District D and District E police stations, the old St. Peter's Boys' School site, the Fort Denmark site in Speightstown and the site of the former District Hospital and public offices in Oistins, Christ Church.

As part of the urban renewal programme we will seek to promote the pedestrianisation of Broad Street and to improve traffic

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management in Bridgetown and other urban areas. Urban renewal will also be promoted and highlighted by tours of Bridgetown and Speightstown.

NEW PROJECTS

The 2002 Tourism Development Act has served as the catalyst for several tourism projects undertaken in the last five years. This Act will be amended to introduce new incentives and benefits for retirement villages, golf courses, and other recreational facilities.

We will:

- Amend the Special Development Areas Act to promote the Fontabelle, Shallow Draught, and Brandons areas as locations suitable for the development of tourism related recreational activities.
- Enact a new Condominium Act to provide for the comprehensive regulation of condominium developments.
- Provide incentives for development in the South Eastern Corridor and Northern St. Lucy and for investment in certain niche areas that can contribute to the growth of the industry.

SPECIAL INVESTMENT AND DUTY-FREE AREA

Retail shopping by visitors contributes to the growth of the Barbadian economy.

We will:

- Establish a special investment and duty-free area at the Pelican Village site and surrounding areas.
- Provide incentives for the establishment of speciality shops that carry all the world's leading retail brands to serve as an attraction for both long-stay visitors and cruise ship passengers.

THE COMMUNITY TOURISM PROGRAMME

Promotion of community tourism is critical for providing opportunities to all those Barbadians who are desirous of participating in the tourism industry.

The BLP will:

- Refine and strengthen the policy initiatives and incentives for this sub-sector.

The 2002 Tourism Development Act will be amended to introduce new incentives and benefits for retirement villages, golf courses, and other recreational facilities.



- Enhance the incentives available for the home accommodation and bed and breakfast sub-sector.

INVESTMENT IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

We will continue to provide financial resources for investment in tourism plant and facilities. We will replenish the Tourism Loan Fund with \$20 million and the Small Hotels Investment Fund with \$5 million.

OTHER INITIATIVES

We will provide incentives to expand and diversify the range of tourism facilities in the island. We will also strengthen the agencies responsible for promoting the tourism industry. These initiatives will include:

- Expansion of the home porting concept to include North American based cruise lines;
- Further development of the coastal pleasure boat sector
- Amendment of the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) Act to provide for a more commercially flexible agency.
- Conducting a review of the Value Added Tax regime as it applies to restaurants in hotels

We will conduct a review of the Value Added Tax regime as it applies to restaurants in hotels

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events play an important role in diversifying the island's tourism product. Following on the heels of the successful hosting of the World Golf Cup and ICC Cricket World Cup finals, a BLP Government during its next term will promote and host a series of world class sporting and cultural events, with the target being one event for every quarter of the year. Kensington Oval will be used as the venue for some of these events. We will complete the additional work required for making the venue a full multi-use facility that can be used year round for recreational and entertainment activities, other than cricket.

VILLA TOURISM

Within the 166 square miles of land that forms Barbados there are a number of luxury villas that provide accommodation for a number of visitors to the Island.

These villas make a significant contribution to the tourism plant in Barbados. A re-elected BLP Government will review the tax incentives to the villas under the Tourism Development Act to provide impetus for further development.

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OUR BEACHES, OUR BIRTHRIGHT

The beaches of Barbados are the birthright of every Barbadian. Every citizen, or every visitor, shall have continuing and expanded access to the beaches that surround Barbados.

This commitment will be reflected in the constitution of Barbados.

We shall achieve this through the following measures:

- Every effort will be made to enhance existing access to and views of the sea
- Expanded access and views will be achieved during the approvals process for

redevelopment and new development

- New developments shall not impede existing public access routes and pathways to the sea and in no case shall existing public beach access be removed
- Where beachfront lots are being amalgamated or redeveloped, new beach access points will be required as a condition of approval
- The Chief Town Planner will be charged with securing additional public pathways to beach areas around Barbados.

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KEEP BARBADOS SAFE & STRONG



THE GREEN ECONOMY

Barbados faces an exciting challenge in building a Green Economy. This is an absolute necessity and a valuable legacy for future generations of Barbadians.

This means protecting our environment, strengthening our physical infrastructure and transforming our economy from one fuelled by oil to one based on the substantial use of renewable energy.

In order to build a green economy we will put in place a number of innovative policies.

We will:

- Allow energy generation from various renewable sources for sale to the Barbados Light & Power Company.
- Implement a Greening of Government project that will incorporate green building principles and conservation practices.
- Establish a Green Procurement Policy for Government.
- Offer concessions for persons setting up green businesses.
- Ensure that external lighting in Government buildings, residences and

commercial buildings are powered by photo voltaics.

- Provide tax incentives to encourage the manufacture of green products, and establish Barbados as a centre for green business.
- Examine the feasibility of waste to energy projects.
- Require irrigation to come from recycled sources.
- Require sewerage for all developments, commercial and residential.
- Review the existing water zoning policy so as to put land within the prescribed urban corridor into use by using modern technology solutions to afford us the same protection as the present zoning system.
- Develop extensive protocols for the disposal of waste from the construction industry, using recycling wherever feasible.
- Vigorously enforce illegal dumping and littering laws.

We will purchase the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary to ensure that it remains part of the national patrimony and implement programmes for its better care and protection

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- Continue the programme of beautifying Barbados by landscaping, planting trees and creating green spaces across the entire country
- Establish an Environmental Protection Trust Fund into which developers of projects thought likely to cause environmental harm will be required to place deposits to meet restoration costs in the event of environmental damage.
- Purchase the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary to ensure that it remains part of the national patrimony and implement programmes for its better care and protection

We will establish a Marine Management Authority to balance the wider interest of all beach users so as to reduce conflict and promote beach protection

BOTANICAL GARDEN

We will move urgently on the development of the National Botanical Gardens at Friendship, St. Michael

SCOTLAND DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

Having passed the Scotland District Authority Act, we will ensure that the National Park is fully established.

BEACHES Coastal Protection

Our coastlines need protection. This is especially critical for Small Island States. The Coastal Infrastructural Project has already rehabilitated Rockley, Hastings and Welches Beaches. The BLP will now extend the project to the West Coast, Crane and other beaches.

We will:

- Establish a Marine Water Quality standard to ensure our beach water remains of high standard.
- Establish a Marine Management Authority to balance the wider interest of all beach users so as to reduce conflict and promote beach protection.
- Conduct coastal sensitivity mapping aimed at identifying risk hazards and vulnerable areas.
- Develop a National Ocean Policy for the management of Barbados' marine territory and the hydrocarbon and mineral resources within that territory
- Develop a Coral Reef Action Plan to evaluate protect and where necessary transplant corals which are vital habitats for marine species and central to the protection of the coastline from intense wave action.



HARRISON'S CAVE

Harrison's Cave is Barbados' premier tourist attraction. The BLP has started work on its rehabilitation and redevelopment. The BLP will now do the following:

- Develop a sustainable agricultural project for the protection zone around the Cave and develop the area as a special heritage site. This will allow residents to earn revenue while protecting the Cave's Ecosystem.
- Build vendor kiosks at Allen View to further involve the community and develop business opportunities for residents.

GULLIES

Our gullies are important ecosystems for plant and animal life and they also help in preventing and reducing flooding. They also have the potential to be used for recreational or business activity, as has been done at Welchman Hall.

A re-elected BLP administration will promote Public and Private Sector Partnerships, using the Gully Ecosystem Management Project's findings and recommendations.

DEBUSHING

All across Barbados there is concern about vacant lots covered with overgrown bush. These are mainly owned by Barbadians living here and abroad. In order to improve maintenance of these lots the BLP will:

- Develop an environmental inspectorate that will have the responsibility for ensuring the reduction and prosecution of illegal dumping, littering and to oversee the maintenance of vacant lots.
- Establish a Community Oversight and Monitoring Committee to meet regularly to address uses relating to Debushing, Town Planning Application, noise and other complaints.

LEGISLATION

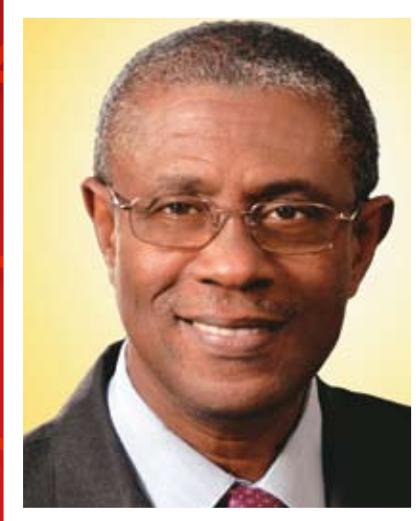
During the coming term, the BLP will introduce legislation to protect the environment. This will include a Clear Air Act, a Noise Pollution Act, an Environmental Management Act and an Energy Efficiency Act.

We will develop a sustainable agricultural project for the protection zone around the Cave and develop the area as a special heritage site. This will allow residents to earn revenue while protecting the Cave's Ecosystem

The BLP Leadership Team: East & Central



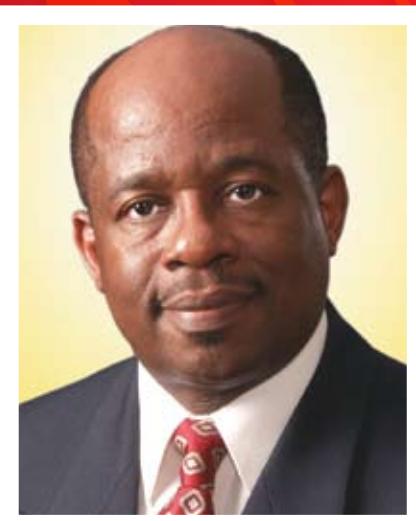
Cynthia Forde
ST. THOMAS



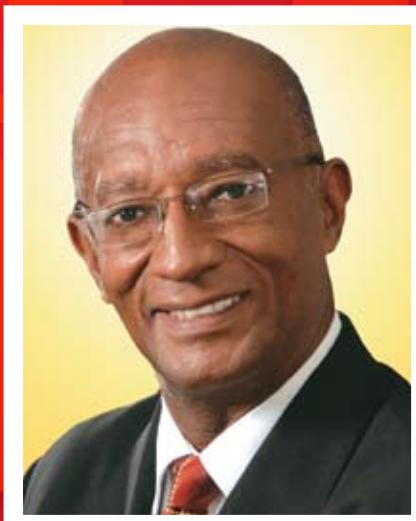
Gline Clarke
ST. GEORGE NORTH



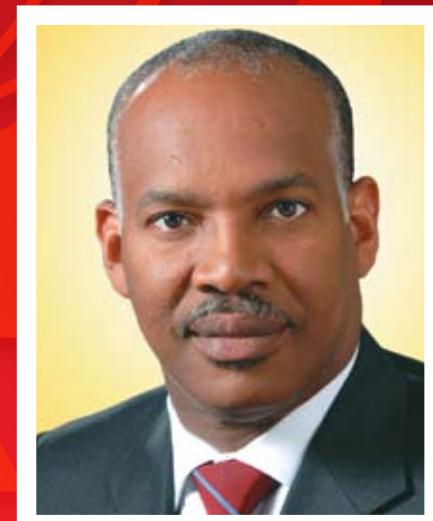
Ian Gill
ST. GEORGE SOUTH



George Payne
ST. ANDREW



Tyrone Power
ST. JOHN



Dale Marshall
ST. JOSEPH



THE NEW AGRICULTURE

The agriculture sector faces competition from low cost and often subsidized producers from around the world. Barbados has certain specific advantages and opportunities which, if developed, could ensure a bright future for the sector. The BLP will position Barbados to benefit from the available opportunities.

Food security, food safety, use of contemporary technology, good agricultural practices, modernisation and institutional reform in the public and private sectors will be the focus of the BLP's policies for the agricultural and fisheries sectors.

We will restructure and modernize the agricultural sector to enhance productivity and product quality, reduce cost and post harvest losses and create value-added to increase local consumption and export potential.

To achieve this we will

- Revitalize the Sugar Industry by radically transforming the local industry to sugar

We will construct a new multi-purpose facility at Bulkeley, St. George to produce 25,000 tonnes of Speciality and Branded Sugar, 20 megawatts Electricity, 23 million litres of ethanol, over 36 tonnes "A'grade Molasses and Other value added products

cane based production with emphasis on utilizing modern technology to produce by-products for export such as fuel, molasses, branded and speciality sugar such as, Muscovado Gold and Plantation Reserve.

- Construct a new multi-purpose facility at Bulkeley, St. George to produce 25,000 tonnes of Speciality and Branded Sugar, 20 megawatts Electricity, 23 million litres of ethanol, over 36 tonnes "A'grade Molasses and Other value added products.
- Re-structure the West Indies Sea Island Cotton Association (WISICA) in order to secure the trade mark.
- Ensure that cotton production reaches the target of 4 000 acres over the next five years to meet the demand which will be created by the new arrangements.
- Support the expansion of the Pig and Poultry Industries.

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- Continue the scientific work now being done by Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and UWI on the DNA profile of the Black Belly Sheep in order to secure its unique intellectual property for Barbados.
- Provide the necessary institutional framework, policy initiatives and incentives that will lead to an expansion in the production of the Black Belly Lamb.
- Establish a Dairy Development Board
- Ensure that fresh milk gets into all of the schools to create a further opportunity for the expansion of the industry.
- Continue with the upgrading of all fish landing sites and markets in order to meet international standards.
- **Construct a new fish market at Six Men's.**
- Support an expansion in our fisheries by facilitating investment in mari-culture and aquaculture both in the sea as well as on land.
- Expand the sea moss project as a result of the great success at Consett's Bay. These projects are to attract lobster and conch and are managed by the surrounding communities which will harvest the sea moss to develop drink and other products for sale.

- **Expand the Land for the Landless Scheme.**

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A restructured Rural Development Commission will continue to improve the infrastructure of rural Barbados through the construction of tenantry roads installation of street lights and repairs or construction of new houses but will focus more on rural enterprise development.

The establishment of vibrant enterprises across rural Barbados will therefore be the main focus of the RDC.

The BLP will ensure that cotton production reaches the target of 4,000 acres over the next five years to meet the demand which will be created by the new arrangements

We will encourage the establishment of back yard gardens and RDC will organize an annual parish competition for those engaged in backyard farming and other enterprises. The winner of this competition will be sponsored at Agrofest in the following year.

YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

We will:

- Continue to provide financial and technical support to the 4H Movement and assist all of those young persons who are interested in a career in modern agriculture to do so successfully.



AGROFEST

We will continue to provide financial support to Agrofest and ensure that it is developed in a manner to meet the expectations of the large number of persons who support it and to demonstrate that modern agriculture can succeed.

FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY

We will:

- Ensure through appropriate incentives that Barbados becomes self-sufficient in vegetables, root crops, onions, fresh milk, poultry and fresh pork and that we produce at least 15% more in lamb, beef and fruit
- Follow trade policies that will support our food security and food safety objectives.
- Expand the programme of Government agencies purchasing at least 60% of local produce.
- Upgrade all of the Laboratories under the Ministry to meet international standards and will modernize the pesticides legislation to regulate the importation and use of pesticides.
- Promote the production and greater use of bio-pesticides

SCOTLAND DISTRICT

Through the Scotland District Authority we will:

- ◆ Implement a number of new projects aimed at creating economic opportunities. These will include forestry development, agro forestry, agro-tourism, forage, fruit and agro-processing activities.

- Implement a comprehensive stabilization programme throughout the entire Scotland District during the next five years.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY

We will:

- Strengthen the legislation dealing with praedial larceny and will provide also for the issuing of receipts, the registration of farmers including livestock owners and vendors of agricultural produce.
- Establish a designated praedial larceny Force.

CROSS-BORDER INVESTMENTS

We will encourage and facilitate cross-border investments and joint ventures within CARICOM where appropriate to supplement agricultural production and to develop agri-businesses.

STRENGTHENING FARMERS ORGANISATION

We will:

- Work with all farmers' organizations to ensure that the necessary institutional strengthening is undertaken. Financial support will be given to improve them. An Agricultural Fund will be established to enhance the sector as a whole.

HORTICULTURE

We will support the horticultural industry to meet market demand and to take advantage of the exposure which it receives annually at the Chelsea Flower Show in London.

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ENERGY

Escalating world oil prices continue to affect consumers at all social levels. However, energy remains an integral part of economic development, hence a reliable supply at affordable prices will be critical. The overarching goal is therefore to generate from renewable sources 20 per cent of national energy consumed by the year 2026.

Having successfully completed all marine boundary enquiries, a re-elected BLP will:

- Develop an offshore Oil Programme which will fully exploit any petroleum deposits in our Exclusive Economic Zone;
- Vigorously screen companies seeking to enter the Barbados oil exploration programme before entering into a strategic partnership agreement;
- Apply and follow best practices in choosing any development partnership.

SHARING POTENTIAL OIL WEALTH- TRANSFORMING THE SOCIO ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

In keeping with its declared policy of economic enfranchisement for all classes, a re-elected BLP will:

- Set up a public company to offer shares to all Barbadians to offer them the opportunity to be part owners with government of successful oil well

The share issue will be in blocks of such size and cost that will be affordable to all Barbadians

PROTECTING AND SECURING OIL INTEREST

It is essential that safeguards are put in place to protect oil revenues for future generations.

The BLP will:

- Establish a Petroleum Heritage Stabilisation Fund

We will develop an offshore Oil Programme which will fully exploit any petroleum deposits in our Exclusive Economic Zone



- Create job opportunities by providing specialized training both locally and overseas in the energy industry;
- Capitalise a Technical Assistance Fund of up to \$20M to assist small businesses seeking to service the Offshore Petroleum sector

MAINTAINING AFFORDABLE PRICES

In order to shield Barbadians from the worse effect of spiralling world crude prices, the BLP will:

- Constantly review the sources of our petroleum product supply
- Maintain a low tax regime on petroleum products
- Ensure greater competition in the retail sector by issuing new licences for gas stations as dictated by demographic changes

CONSERVATION IS VITAL

Oil prices increased from US\$30.00 a barrel in March 2004 to US\$100.00 in January 2008. It is therefore essential that every citizen is made aware and practices conservation in one form or other as energy consumption can have a severe negative impact on socio-economic development.

The BLP will:

- Develop a National Energy Conservation Programme for domestic and commercial use

- Provide incentives for the use of energy efficient appliances and applications

LOCAL AND ALTERNATE ENERGY RESOURCE

As world oil prices increase almost unabated, available local energy resources must be utilized to the fullest so as to lessen the use of foreign exchange in energy consumption.

We will:

- Expand the availability of natural gas to domestic households
- Support the use of alternative fuels such as ethanol
- Promote the use of hybrid vehicles
- Develop programmes aggressively to expand the supply of renewable energy from wind, sun and particularly biomass to generate electricity
- Promote the conversion of public sector vehicles to alternate forms of fuel.

PROMOTING BARBADOS AS A GREEN CENTRE

In addition to the policy initiatives set out under the heading of the Environment in this Manifesto, we will promote Barbados as the Green Centre of the Caribbean and a World leader in green initiatives.

This will draw on the progressive provisions contained in the Barbados National Energy Policy such as renewable energy technologies, research and application.

We will expand the availability of natural gas to domestic households

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

We will install passenger boarding bridges for more efficient embarking and disembarking of aircraft

After extensive expansion of our ports of entry at the Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) and the Bridgetown Port, further growth in tourism arrivals demands that we further increase capacity at these ports:

We will:

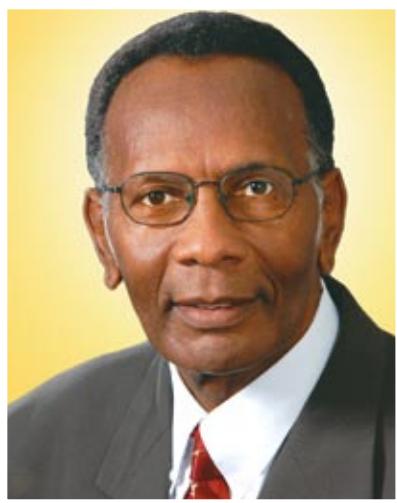
- Expand the Departure Hall at GAIA
- Designate land space at GAIA for facilitating dedicated private jet parking, and for the construction of hangars for these planes.
- Construct new wide bodied parking positions to accommodate the continued increase in larger aircraft from our major markets
- Install passenger boarding bridges for more efficient embarking and disembarking of aircraft

At the Bridgetown Port we will:

- Expand the cargo handling operation by constructing a new Berth dedicated to cargo operations.

- Install enhanced integrated Information Technology systems for greater operational efficiency.
- **Introduce a 24 hour work regime involving 3 shifts, at straight times 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This is vital to ensure that more vessels are handled and in the shortest possible time.**
- Develop a more aggressive marketing strategy to promote Barbados as a feeder port, especially targeting the north-south trade lane between North and South America.
- Pursue the option of establishing a regional ferry service to promote regular low-cost movement of people and cargo in the sub-region.
- In conjunction with the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, develop a free trade zone for manufacturing in the precincts of the port.
- Conduct an economic impact assessment of the cruise sector to establish its future potential in all areas.
- Develop a dedicated cruise pier.
- **Upgrade the duty free cruise terminal and implement a new ownership model for the facility.**

The BLP Leadership Team: South



Joseph Edghill
CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL



Reginald Farley
CHRIST CHURCH EAST



Jerome Walcott
CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH



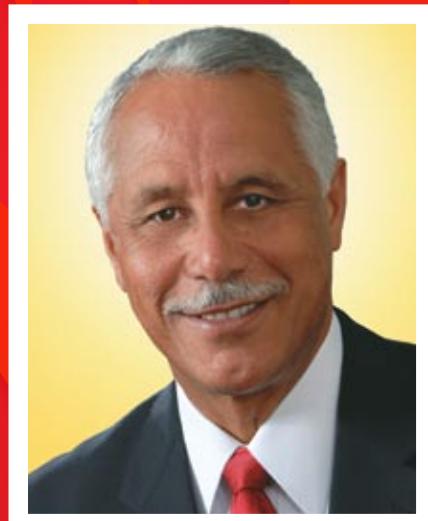
Dalton Tyrone Lovell
CHRIST CHURCH EAST CENTRAL



William Duguid
CHRIST CHURCH WEST



Lynette Eastmond
ST. PHILIP WEST

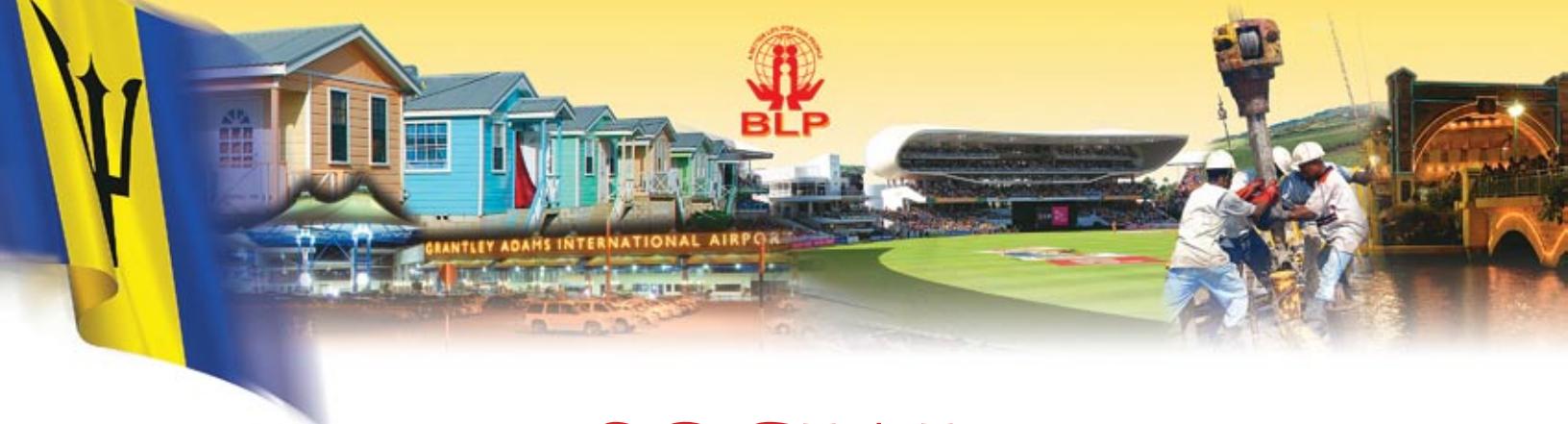


George Griffith
ST. PHILIP NORTH



Anthony Wood
ST. PHILIP SOUTH

BLP



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

POVERTY ERADICATION

If we are to transform the social landscape and provide a decent standard of living and a high quality of life for all, the problem of poverty must be tackled aggressively.

We will:

- Expand and extend the reverse tax credit raising the income threshold from \$13,000 to \$18,000 over 3 years and increasing the tax credit over this period from \$800 to \$1,300.
- Introduce measures to ensure that those on incomes under \$25,000 will receive a tax rebate on withholding taxes paid on interest.
- Coordinate all income transfers to ensure that no Barbadian will fall below the poverty line
- Strengthen the Welfare to Work Programme
- Implement a National Poverty Mapping and Assessment initiative to identify those persons and communities most in need.

- Replenish the Social Investment Fund to provide additional resources for persons who may fall below the poverty line

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

We will:

- Support community based cultural activities and programmes aimed at facilitating interaction between the youth, the aged in the community and community role models.
- Expand the Community Based Technology Programmes so that all Barbadians will be equipped and exposed to access to computers and the internet.
- Continue and upgrade our annual subventions to civic organizations such as Salvation Army, YMCA, YWCA and other community-based organizations
- Construct at least three additional community facilities in the next term

We will expand and extend the reverse tax credit raising the income threshold from \$13,000 to \$18,000 over 3 years and increasing the tax credit over this period from \$800 to \$1,300

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

The BLP Government will commit to measures that will ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to have greater and easier access to education, housing, transport, beach facilities, employment, social services and benefits, and rehabilitation services.

SUPPORTING THE ELDERLY

We will:

- Develop a Bill of Rights for the Elderly, to protect their safety, protection, health care access, and physical and social needs.
- Provide Enhanced Home Care Services through an expanded programme of Community Nurses.
- Expand our Senior Citizens recreational programmes.
- Construct three Senior Citizens Villages, in the parish of St. Philip, central and northern Barbados
- Support our pensioners through a number of tax initiatives
- **Expand the National Senior Games to create even greater participation**

GENDER AND PARENTING

The participation of women as equal partners with men is critical to national development and the achievement of a just society.

We will:

- Reform and revise the Family Reform Act and review sentencing for non-payment of maintenance
- Require the inclusion of Children's Day Care Centres in future government buildings that cater to multiple government departments.
- **Implement paternity leave for fathers to be**
- Institute programmes to educate parents about their role in raising their children.

**We will construct
three Senior
Citizens Villages,
in the parish of St.
Philip, central and
northern Barbados**



HEALTH

The BLP is committed to providing resources to improve the health and well being of all Barbadians. We maintain that the health of our Nation is the wealth of our Nation.

The BLP is unswerving in the belief that health care should be funded principally through public finances, and this will be the area where the greatest investment will be made, by a BLP Government in the next 5 years.

We, however, do recognise that there is a role of insurance in the provision of healthcare. Accordingly, we will create a regime is conducive to every person holding a permanent job having access to health Insurance.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMME

We recognise the paradigm shift in health care, where individuals are being encouraged to play a more responsible role in their care. The BLP will provide an enabling environment to empower individuals to take more

responsibility for their health, through the implementation of a health and wellness programme.

We will:

- Provide a Health and Wellness allowance of up to \$5,000 to cover fees to gyms, cost of exercise equipment, and the cost of an annual physical examination for adults
- Provide resources through the Ministry of Social Transformation to outfit and develop community based gyms and health clubs in existing community centres.
- Increase the subventions to Unions to assist them in promoting health and wellness programmes for their members
- Remove import duty and VAT from a basket of goods which support healthy eating, to include diabetic supplements, low sugar and low fat snacks, cereals, peas/beans, food supplements, multivitamins, and vegetarian burgers, tofu, etc

We will remove import duty and VAT from a basket of goods which support healthy eating, to include diabetic supplements, low sugar and low fat snacks, cereals, peas/beans, food supplements, multivitamins, and vegetarian burgers, tofu, etc

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- Make it mandatory through Town and Country Planning Regulations for all new housing developments to provide safe recreational spaces, e.g. playing fields, walking tracks, bicycle paths or gym facilities.
- Enact legislation to ban smoking in public places

The BLP will provide X-ray and Ultra-Sound facilities and asthma bays at all polyclinics

TERTIARY CARE

Recognising there is no sense financially and in terms of patient care in completely refurbishing the present QEH, we will build a new state of the art Hospital, outfitted with the latest medical technology.

Currently the Randall Phillips and Maurice Byer Polyclinics are open to 8:30 p.m. These ours will be extended to other polyclinics

POLYCLINICS

We will continue the development and refurbishment of our polyclinics, so that a greater variety of diagnostic and treatment services can be provided.

The BLP will:

- **Construct the polyclinic in St. John**
- **Provide a modern IT system so that the Polyclinics will be integrated with the new hospital**
- **Extend opening hours at all polyclinics**
- **Provide X-ray and Ultra-Sound facilities and asthma bays at all polyclinics**

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

We recognise the role played by our seniors in building our Nation. To properly reward their contribution to building Barbados, we will:

- Expand the Alternative Care of the Elderly programme
- Provide an allowance to persons to offset the cost of providing care for their elderly and physically challenged relatives.
- Establish a sub-acute unit at the Geriatric Hospital , thereby reducing the number of elderly who need to be referred to the QEH

REHABILITATION SERVICES

We will:

- Establish a National Rehabilitation Centre.
- Develop policies and programmes for the provision of Institutional and Community based services to include NGO's

BARBADOS DRUG SERVICE (BDS)

The Barbados Drug Service is an outstanding component of our health system. There will



be continued reform of the BDS, so that it is better able to serve its client base and to meet their needs in a cost effective manner.

MENTAL HEALTH

The BLP remains committed to mental health reform and will:

- Establish a Mental Health Commission to oversee the very important process of reform
- Improve and expand the drug rehabilitation programme in conjunction with the private sector
- Establish a half-way house pilot project as an integral part of the mental health reform programme

EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE (EAS)

The EAS continues to provide outstanding service, with its fleet of new ambulances, medical director, trained paramedics (first in the Eastern Caribbean), EMT's and dispatchers.

We will continue decentralisation of this service which we started at Arch Hall, St. Thomas. The service will now be decentralised to the eastern part of the Island. There will be continued training of our staff to the level of paramedic. We will be committed to providing

We will relocate and expand the Elroy Phillips Hostel

an adequate number of ambulances as the expansion of the services continues.

NURSING

The BLP will ensure the implementation of the nursing strategic plan, which was developed by this Government. We will now focus on the specialist training of nurses.

We will enact a Nurses Bill that will provide for (a) A revamped General Nursing Council with a Secretariat (b) For mandatory continuing nursing education and (c) Lowering of the age at which one can start the nursing programme

MEDICAL PROFESSION

A BLP Government will enact a medical registration Bill that will provide for, Specialists registration, a revamped Medical Council and mandatory continuing medical education as a prerequisite for continued registration

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

We will construct a new Leptospirosis Laboratory. We will implement an electronic port health information system as part of the implementation of the International Health Regulations of the WHO.

A new animal control centre will be constructed.

HIV/AIDS

The BLP will provide continued support to the HIV/Aids programme as we see HIV/AIDS as a developmental

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issue. In this regard we will:

- Relocate and expand the Elroy Phillips Hostel
- Strengthen our surveillance and counselling programmes
- Commence HIV viral resistance testing in Barbados at our new Molecular Biology Laboratory

SANITATION SERVICES AUTHORITY (SSA)

The BLP, through the Authority, will:

- Maintain an efficient and modern collection system whereby 90% of the public will get a twice weekly collection.
- Move towards the sorting of garbage. Householders will be encouraged to remove organics, plastics and paper.
- Encourage recycling and incentives will be given to entities involved in this process, i.e. recycling of paper, plastics, glass and building and demolition debris.
- Undertake major refurbishment of public cemeteries with a plan to establish the cemetery at Bushy Park as a National cemetery.

The BLP will introduce a legislation and enforcement programme for littering and illegal dumping.

We will provide
the Belle area with
a sewerage system

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

We will implement an integrated solid waste management programme using the retrofitted sanitary landfill at Greenland along with the facilities at Vaucluse.

We will construct a materials recovery facility and transfer station, an in-vessel composting facility and a chemical waste storage facility at Vaucluse.

BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY (BWA)

We will:

- Continue to provide a safe water supply to all Barbadians. In this regard water treatment plants will be established at the Belle and Ashton Hall.
- Fully capitalise the mains replacement programme which forms the main plank of the BWA's water augmentation plan.
- Facilitate the construction of the West Coast Sewerage Treatment Plant.
- Provide the Belle area with a sewerage system.
- Use cutting-edge technology to provide for waste water re-use for agricultural and other similar purposes.



HOUSING

Housing our citizens has always been a top priority for the BLP. Among the core values of the Barbadian, is the desire to own his or her own home – a piece of the rock. Private initiative has shared substantially in the effort of achieving this goal. That initiative has received and will continue to receive strong support from a re-elected BLP Government.

We will facilitate the development of up to 2,000 housing solutions per year (10,000 over five years) by the combined efforts of private individuals building on their own, property developers building houses or lots for sale or apartments for rent, and the Government selling or renting houses or land.

In the next term of office the BLP will:

- Approve, within the context of our political development plan, the subdivision of additional lands to meet the housing needs of the nation.
- Pioneer the use of high rise housing communities, complete with all amenities and services in order to better utilize our land.

The BLP will pioneer the use of high rise housing communities, complete with all amenities and services in order to better utilize our land

- Use fiscal incentives to stimulate the developers of low income housing.
- Implement a subsidy programme to help low income families own their homes.
- Implement a National Building Code.
- Restructure the National Housing Corporation to make it more efficient in fulfilling its mandate.
- Encourage the use of new technology in housing construction.

MORE LAND FOR HOUSING

The Land Use Policy of the BLP presented in the Physical Development Plan has identified land in locations all over Barbados which is suitable for housing.

- 535 acres of Crown land will be used to provide 4,000 housing solutions.



- **Housing developments by private developers will be encouraged and developments of 40 or more units or lots will be required to dedicate 25% of the lots to affordable housing.**
- The NHC will be required to sell its land for \$2.50 per square foot plus the development cost.

RENT TO OWN PROGRAMME

Most families rent housing at some stage of their lives and may even be lifelong tenants. The rental sector is a key part of the housing sector and must be seen as complementary to the policy of home ownership and not as a competing policy. With over half of the rental stock of the NHC being sold to tenants the time is ripe for a major drive in building rental accommodation.

We will:

- **Build units for rent with the option to own in several housing developments starting with Stuarts Land, Carrington Village and Eckstein Village in St. Michael.**
- Introduce Minimum housing standards for rental accommodation along with the building code.

**535 acres of
Crown land will
be used to provide
4,000 housing
solutions**

FISCAL INCENTIVES FOR THE HOUSING SECTOR

We will:

- Use concessions in the new Housing Incentives Act to reduce the cost of building affordable homes. The benefits include:
 - VAT refund on building materials.
 - No import duty or excise taxes on imports.
 - Low 15% corporate tax on profits of developers of affordable homes.

NEW MORTGAGE PRODUCTS

We will introduce reverse mortgages so as to enable persons of pensionable age to benefit from the equity built up in their homes.

We will also facilitate the establishment of a secondary mortgage market to add greater flexibility to an already dynamic housing finance sector.

SUBSIDIES FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

- **Families earning less than \$20,000 per year will be eligible for a subsidy of \$10,000 to assist in buying or constructing their own home.**



UPGRADING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Communities can be stabilized and strengthened by comprehensive upgrading of facilities and amenities. The BLP will:

- Implement neighbourhood upgrades at Cats Castle, Greenfields, Garden Land and Allen View plus 15 other communities across Barbados. The programme includes improved access, security of land tenure, flood prevention, and greater community space.

RESTRUCTURE THE NHC

The National Housing Corporation has served this country well for decades.

We have already restructured the finances of the NHC by eliminating its debt and placed it in a solid financial position.

We will further revamp its operations to:

- Carry out proper and timely maintenance of its rental units and estates.
- Undertake more of its own direct construction activities.
- Along with the Ministries of Housing and Public Works form a Building Brigade to maintain and upgrade all Government properties.

- Speedily and efficiently administer the allocation of land and houses whether for rent or for sale.
- Support the formation of Tenants Associations in all NHC housing communities to be the voice of the tenants. The NHC will be required to meet at least quarterly with these associations.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

In order to meet our ambitious targets for housing we need to reduce the time taken to construct houses in Barbados.

The housing sector is ripe for the infusion of modern technologies.

Special Partnership Arrangements supported by fiscal incentives will be entered into with private sector companies which can build houses using new construction technologies to reduce both the time and cost of construction, whilst meeting rigorous environmental standards including hurricane resistance.

Along with the Ministries of Housing and Public Works, the BLP will form a Building Brigade to maintain and upgrade all Government properties



URBAN RENEWAL

Between April 2003 and October 2007 the BLP made a substantial dent in urban renewal, through the work of the Urban Development Commission. We will aggressively implement policies to reduce urban squalor and expand land and house ownership for our less well-off citizens.

A re-elected BLP administration will:

- Continue its Derelict Properties Programme so as to eradicate the 440 listed derelict properties within the urban corridor for use as house lots.
- Increase the loan portfolio so as to facilitate the growth of small business and enterprises and provide opportunities for an additional 2,000 small business persons.
- Intensify the training programmes for small entrepreneurs setting up new businesses thus providing them with the fundamental tools and practical skills to develop their business areas.
- **Accelerate the programme for the purchase of house lots thus transferring the ownership of land to some additional 2,500 qualified tenants.**
- Accelerate the current tenantry road construction programme to ensure that by 2013 every urban and sub-urban community has access to proper road infrastructure, drainage and footpath accesses.
- Pursue the programme of maintaining and improving the current stock of houses which are made available to those most in need. Currently, there are over 1,000 houses available for welfare and poverty cases.
- Continue the programme of providing housing solutions to needy Barbadians in the urban areas. In addition to replacing old houses with new ones.
- Complete the programme for the eradication of all pit toilets and ensure that all sanitary facilities are upgraded within the Greater Bridgetown area.

EXTENDING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE CRITERIA

Our experience has revealed that there is a need to provide housing solutions for single mothers with large families.

Whilst improving the living conditions of the elderly and indigent within our jurisdiction, the Commission has found that large family units situate themselves in these households thus creating serious situations of overcrowding, health and critical social problems.

We will over the course of the next five years, implement an appropriate response to address this evolving phenomenon which has the potential to threaten the safety of elderly persons as well as to impact on the resource allocation needed to resolve these problems.



LABOUR

TOWARDS MAINTAINING HARMONIOUS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The maintenance of good and stable industrial relations is a key component in the development of Barbados as it makes a vital contribution to national productivity and competitiveness. Such relations are indicative of good dialogue between employers and workers and of decision-making which takes account of the interests of both sides. In addition, they contribute to national consensus and the enhancement of participatory democracy in Barbados.

A BLP Government will therefore:-

- Strengthen and enhance the Social Partnership as an instrument for civic engagement, productivity improvements and for building social cohesion.

We will strengthen and enhance the Social Partnership as an instrument for civic engagement, productivity improvements and for building social cohesion

- Compile a comprehensive and consolidated framework of laws and labour standards to govern industrial relations practices and to improve and protect workers' rights where necessary.
- Promote management/labour cooperation between employers and workers in industry

- Strengthen capacity of the Labour Department to ensure the effective delivery of core functions such as conciliation, inspections and complaints investigation.

MIGRATION

The establishment of the CSME will provide opportunities for employment of Barbadians. Likewise, in member countries it is anticipated that other Caricom members will seek employment in Barbados and will be accommodated on a needs basis. In order to address these factors a BLP Government will:

- Ensure that Barbadian workers have priority of place before migrant workers are accommodated



- Establish in law a Guest Workers Programme that will address issues of worker exploitation, illegal employment of non-nationals and provide a means of prompt response to the fluctuation demands of the labour market so that workers are recruited on a needs basis.
- Implement a policy framework and protocol to ensure that the laws of Barbados are not infringed and the rights of migrant workers are protected in accordance with ILO.

SETTING STANDARDS FOR TRAINING

In this dynamic environment it is essential that our labour force is well equipped to meet the challenges of competition in today's work force. Mindful of these ongoing requirements a BLP administration will:

- Promote and set standards for TVET Training.
- Introduce Occupational Standards, Certification and Funding of TVET related areas.
- Establish and implement procedures for the training and certification of artisans in Barbados to enable them to meet

The BLP will ensure that Barbadian workers have priority of place before migrant workers are accommodated

the requirements for registration with the Barbados Building Authority.

- **Implement a policy to integrate persons with disabilities into the Skills Training Programme.**

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The BLP is ever conscious that today's competitive workforce demands both practical and theoretical skills.

Over the last decade or so, the Barbados Vocational Training Board has made a significant contribution to the development of the human capital of our country through implementation of vocational training programmes aimed primarily at the youth. This successful programme will be continued and a BLP Government will:

- Continue to review the quality assurance system to ensure that vocational training programmes meet national standards and are relevant.
- Develop and update occupational standards and National Vocational Qualifications to meet identified needs in the sectors of tourism and

hospitality, customer service, information technology, and construction and building related services.



EXPANDING HOUSING FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Additional training facilities are required to house trainees. Currently, trainees working under the supervision of their instructors are in the process of upgrading and expanding centres.

A BLP Government will:

- Complete the training facility now under construction at Sayers Court in Christ Church.
- Complete renovations of the existing buildings at St. Lukes and construct a new one.
- Construct a new facility at All Saints site in St Peter.

SPECIAL SKILLS: BOAT BUILDING AND FISHERIES

It is essential that support be given to sustain the boat building and fishing industry generally. To this end a comprehensive training programme in seamanship and related disciplines is being developed to:

- Ensure that all fishing crews and captains have access to the training required.
- Attract young Barbadians to a profession which offers new and exciting prospects and rewards
- Establishment of a marine steam ship fishing division where graduates acquire certified skills that are transferable to all aspects of academic use of our marine space.

- Formalise training to enhance safety at sea.

PENSION REFORM AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE

In its review of Pension Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) was high in its praises for the National Insurance Scheme and the various legislative proposals introduced in its pension reform. Noting that Barbados is the only country in the region that has introduced automatic adjustments to correct cost of living increases, the IADB Report asserts that the Barbados NIS Pension Reform makes it more advanced in time.

A BLP Government will:-

- Continue the policy of flexible NIS retirement ages.
- Pursue the policy of annual increases known as "indexing" to the NIS insurable earnings limit. Its supervision will be undertaken by the NIS Board.
- With 92 percent of people over 65 years receiving a pension, arrangements will be made to ensure quick and ready dispatch of monthly pensions.

BEST OF TREATMENT FOR OUR PENSIONERS

Those who have laboured in development of the standard of living which we now enjoy must at all times be accorded the best of treatment in the sunset of their years.

Under a BLP Government pensioners will:

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- Not be subject to withholding tax on interest from savings
- Continue to pay land tax on 50 percent of the improved value of their prime residence
- Have access to a Senior Citizens' Village which will be constructed.
- Be entitled to claim further allowances under the Wellness Health Programme
- Have their personal allowances increased from \$40,000 to \$50,000

BUILDING WORLD CLASS EXCELLENCE IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICE

In the global market, product and service differentiations are being quickly eroded, and consequently, the ability to meet and

exceed customer expectations is assuming a critical dimension that sets an organization, and indeed a country apart from others.

Service delivery will therefore assume a very significant role in Barbados's efforts to achieve and maintain a competitive margin in the global business environment.

We will:

- Gather on a continuous basis, empirical information on the nature, causes and effects of the perceived customer service delivery deficiencies
- Develop a range of standards that must be in place for Barbados to attain the status of a world-class provider of service
- Implement service quality training across all sectors of the economy
- Build public awareness to generate interest and inspire action relative to service excellence within the entire population
- Create a framework of incentives, recognition and rewards for service excellence
- Build the institutional capacity to develop and promote service excellence
- Make further funding available to the NISE project to allow it effectively to carry out its programme



PUBLIC SERVICE

THE GREATEST DEAL FOR PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICERS

Security of tenure in office is a fundamental right of every worker. We have consistently sought to improve the conditions of service of public officers. In fact we amended the Constitution to prevent any DLP administration from ever cutting their salaries again.

From December 1, 1998 over 4000 casual workers and public employees were appointed as Public Officers. In 2007 we passed the new Public Service Act, effecting major reformation of the Public Service. Among other improvements, the Act provided 3000 persons in acting and temporary positions to be appointed. The BLP will continue to emphasise an accelerated development thrust for major changes in the service. These are designed to:

- Cause the Service to play a larger and more obvious role in the national developmental process.
- Lead to increased satisfaction among officers and improve job performance.
- Introduce more flexibility and efficiency.
- Reward both useful experience, efficient performance, relevant qualifications and demonstrated promise.

To achieve these objectives the BLP will introduce the following measures:

- Establish without delay an accessible inventory of the talents, qualifications and experience of each civil servant.
- Set up a Public Service Institute for the continuous training of public officers.
- Re-write in conjunction with the unions new regulations for the public service (including an accepted qualification by experience (QBE))
- Significantly strengthen the office of the Chief Personnel Officer to improve efficiency
- Provide for suitable members of the private sector to serve for limited periods in Government and for public officers to serve with the private sector with no loss of pay, rank or break in service.
- Improve and enlarge the categories of public servants entitled to car and travel allowances, overseas leave and study abroad.
- Provide by way of incentive a tax allowance for public officers who acquire Government securities. This allowance will be equivalent to that provided by way of a tax allowance given to private sector workers as part of a productivity bonus.



ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Barbados' roads, highways, and bridges provide needed mobility for commercial and personal travel. As critical elements of our development, greater improvements are needed, particularly to our major highways, to help boost economic activity and maintain a high level of social satisfaction.

First - World Infrastructure: Modern Roads

The BLP will:

- Complete the widening of the ABC Highway into four lanes from Warrens to Graeme Hall.
- Construct six flyover bridges.
- Extend and widen to four lanes the Ronald Mapp Highway from Simpson Motors to St Thomas Parish Church and the ABC Highway to Waterford.
- Upgrade Highway 5 from Six Roads to Bussa and construct a new link road between St. David's and Dash Valley.
- Improve Content Road, St. Thomas and the road from St. Thomas Parish Church to Highway 1.

We will extend and widen to four lanes the Ronald Mapp Highway from Simpson Motors to St Thomas Parish Church and the ABC Highway to Waterford.

- Upgrade and resurface the road from Belleplaine to Bathsheba to Bath, St. John as we complete the programme of resurfacing all roads in the Scotland District area.

- Complete roundabouts at District "B" and at Groves in St. George, at Orange Hill, St. James, at St. David's Junction, Christ Church, at Waterford and the National Stadium.
- Upgrade all tenantry roads before 2012.

PUBLIC SAFETY

We will:

- Provide sidewalks in areas leading to schools, churches and communities and ensure that they are safe for the disabled community
- Complete our National Signage Programme and improve our road markings



- Continue the synchronisation of traffic lights throughout Bridgetown and St. Michael.
- Continue the process of computerization of the Licensing Authority and the Police Department to upgrade the delivery of service to the public.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We will:

- Complete the study and consultative process on a mass transit system, including an examination of the use of ferries.

- Continue a replacement policy for the Transport Board by providing 50 new buses per year.
- Improve bus lay-bys and shelters.
- Upgrade the Bus Terminals at the Constitution River, Fairchild Street and Speightstown.
- Foster a safe and reputable taxi service.
- Provide adequate parking space in Bridgetown and at other locations in the island for taxis and review the rates currently charged by them.
- Examine the Feasibility of a domestic ferry service from the north and the south of the island to move people and goods.





FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Barbados' international profile is at its highest and most positive ever. Our reputation for political and social stability, good governance, high human development, eradication of poverty fiscal prudence, and for the execution of a principled and consistent foreign policy has never been stronger.

The "Barbados model" is admired and thought worthy of emulation by small states throughout the developing world.

We have built a firm base on which the gains made by the strength of the Barbados diplomatic and negotiating effort can be increasingly translated into exciting new economic, social and cultural opportunities.

We will further protect and preserve our national sovereignty and our international reputation through:

- Marketing a principled foreign policy
- The full exercise of our jurisdiction over the fisheries and mineral resources within the extensive marine space that has been awarded to us by international arbitration in the southern and eastern sectors
- Finalizing our maritime boundaries through negotiations with France (Martinique and Guadeloupe) in the north and St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the west

We will Submit to the United Nations Commission by 2009 a comprehensive claim for an Extended Continental Shelf which will secure for future generations of Barbadians a patrimony of potentially mineral-rich seabed as far as 350 miles from our coast



- Submitting to the United Nations Commission by 2009 a comprehensive claim for an Extended Continental Shelf which will secure for future generations of Barbadians a patrimony of potentially mineral-rich seabed as far as 350 miles from our coast;
- A modern legislative and strategic policy framework for integrated oceans management

Enlarge Barbados' Regional Economic Space by:

- Full and effective participation in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy by December, 2008;
- Aggressively pursuing all available commercial opportunities within the CSME for Barbadian entrepreneurs, service providers and skilled nationals;
- Further promoting functional cooperation among the members and associate members of the Caribbean Community to bring the benefits of integration to all of our citizens.
- Continuing our advocacy and leadership of the initiatives which Barbados pioneered in respect of a CARICOM Common Fisheries Regime and the recognition by the international Community of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development;
- **Conclusion by 2008 of the negotiations for bilateral fisheries agreements with Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana;**
- Effective participation in the negotiation and implementation of a new and

improved hemispheric trade and economic arrangement in which Barbados' goods and services have relatively free access to all markets in the hemisphere;

- Active participation in the design and implementation of new and enhanced trade and economic partnerships between CARICOM and the USA and CARICOM and Canada to replace the CBI and CARIBCAN arrangements respectively;

Equip Barbados to Secure its Future in the Global Economy by:

- Active and beneficial participation in a fully functioning Regional Economic Partnership Agreement (REPA) with the European Union in which Barbados' goods and services enjoy duty free treatment in the EU market;
- Integration of Barbados into the emerging global economy by 2012, on terms of trade that provide special and differential treatment and adequate transitional arrangements for the small economies of the Caribbean.
- Partnering with the UWI (Cave Hill) to provide the institutional strengthening and human resource development in international trade policy.
- The establishment of a Trade Investigations and Compliance Unit and the enactment of anti-dumping, subsidies, countervailing and safeguards legislation

Establish and Preserve harmonious relations with foreign governments by:

- Continuing to reposition Barbados globally, through the expansion of our diplomatic coverage. To this end, we will give priority to the early opening

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of resident Embassies in Brasilia, Beijing, Havana and Georgetown to service our growing bilateral commercial and consular interests

- Consolidate through the Commission for Pan-African Affairs our cultural and commercial outreach to Africa, with special emphasis on Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Botswana
- Enhancing the international competitiveness of Barbados' goods and services through an expanded and well-structured capacity for the setting, observance and management of Standards, and of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) rules

Promote the political economic and cultural interests of Barbados in other countries and in international organizations by:

- The creation of a strategic alliance within the United Nations, the International Financial Institutions and the Development Agencies for Millennium Developed Goals and Middle Income Developing Countries
- Maintaining strong leadership in international negotiations to influence policies supportive of the Caribbean's vital interests on issues of fundamental importance such as the response to

Consolidate through the Commission for Pan-African Affairs our cultural and commercial outreach to Africa, with special emphasis on Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Botswana

climate change and global warming, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic

- Strengthening our interaction with the newer members of the European Union.

Promote and protect the interests of Barbadians abroad by:

- Formalising channels to engage the Barbadian diaspora and to encourage their active participation in the Barbados' development efforts through investment, the transfer of skills and through advocacy in their countries of residence for policies favourable to Caribbean interests
- Further expanding the network of Honorary Consuls in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Promote Barbados as a Leading International Centre for Business and Diplomacy by:

- Rationalising and updating the regime of privileges and immunities governing the operation of regional and international agencies in Barbados; ensuring that Barbados remains the preferred choice for the regional Headquarters of such Agencies;
- Establishing a partnership with an recognised academic institution a residential centre for research, dialogue



and advocacy on the security, economics and development and governance of small states, utilising Barbados's internationally recognised attributes.

Restructure, modernize and strengthen the Barbados Foreign Service by:

- Revising the 1972 External Service Orders to reflect the realities of a modern Foreign Service
- Implementing the recommendations of the Inspection Team on the Conditions

of Service of diplomatic and local staff overseas

- Creating a Foreign Service Institute or Diplomatic Training Academy for the orientation, and training of its Foreign Service personnel at all levels, and for the training of the wider public service in those aspects of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy relevant to their portfolios.
- Constructing a new Headquarters building for the Ministry.

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KEEP BARBADOS SAFE & STRONG



LAW AND ORDER

STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT

In contradiction to global trends, Barbados is a safe low crime country, and a safe place to be. The changing face of crime has required the BLP Administration to adopt innovative approaches in fighting this menace and to work collaboratively with other governments. In 2007 Barbados hosted the 2007 Cricket World Cup, one of the outstanding legacies of which has been the strengthening of our domestic crime fighting capacity and the creation of regional institutions that will enable us to pursue a more aggressive approach to fighting transnational criminal activity.

According to the World Bank 2007 report, Barbados has the 3rd highest number of police per 100,000 of population coming only after Italy and Mauritius. Despite this statistic, this administration has made the largest investment in policing of any administration in this nation's history and this, for the expressed purpose of making the job of policing safer for those

We have strengthened their capability to effectively police our territorial waters against drug traffickers and other transnational criminal activity.

brave officers. We have strengthened their capability to effectively police our territorial waters against drug traffickers and other transnational criminal activity.

THE ROYAL BARBADOS POLICE FORCE

Recruitment of new officers and the retention of serving policemen and women continue to be a serious challenge facing the Royal Barbados Police Force. The good health and well-being of the members of the Force are critical, especially given the physically demanding nature of policing.

In the next term a BLP administration will tackle these issues by not only continuing to improve the physical conditions and environment in which members of the Force currently work, but also by introducing innovative policies which will enhance the recruitment and career conditions and prestige of the Force, making the profession a career of choice.



We will:

- **Improve salaries of police constables at entry-level**
- Introduce a hazard allowance on a graduated scale which will reflect the level of risks to which members of the Force are exposed
- Expand the existing Wellness Programme to include a Contributory Medical Assistance Scheme
- **Give the members of the Force the option to take early retirement at age 55 or at age 60 or upon completion of 26 years of service**
- Provide adequate resources for the continual upgrading of the skills and competencies of members of the Force
- Pursue an intensive recruitment drive to maintain the Force at the full strength required
- Focus on training and re-training at the technical and managerial levels. Particular attention will be paid to further enhancement of the problem-solving and intelligence-led approaches being used
- Support the acquisition of specialist skills and the development of a competency related scheme to encourage the pursuit of knowledge within the Force
- **Construct new stations at Worthing, in Christ Church, Six Roads in St. Philip, Belleplaine in St. Andrew, Cane Garden in St. Thomas**
- Construct an ultra modern Headquarters at Central Police Station
- **Convert the existing Magistrate's Court at St. Matthias into a Police Station;**
- Intensify the ongoing refurbishment programme started at District "A" and Central Police Stations and extend it to other stations islandwide
- Intensify community policing and the empowerment of communities, including the strengthening of the Neighbourhood Watch groups
- Continue the acquisition of cutting edge technology so necessary in modern policing
- Extend Closed Circuit Television to Bridgetown and Speightstown and other sensitive areas
- **Create an Anti-Corruption Unit**

EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Expanding access to justice is fundamental in a well developed functioning democracy. It is a critical element in the preservation of citizens' rights, the dispensation of justice and the preservation of Barbados as a safe haven and a place where its citizens as well as non-citizens would wish to conduct business and make investments.

We have substantially improved the efficiency of the justice system. We have made significant progress in the restructuring and modernization of the Courts, the Registration Department and the Court Process office.

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We have implemented and continue to implement new rules of procedure thereby simplifying court procedures and improving the judicial management of cases. We will shortly complete the building of the new Hall of Justice. We are among the first members of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

A new BLP administration will create an Integrated Justice System in which areas of law enforcement, Courts and Penal Institutions are functionally connected, *inter alia*, through greater sharing of information and a coordinated approach to ensure law and order.

We will establish:

- A Drug Court to deal primarily with first time substance abusers who are capable of being rehabilitated through a supervised drug treatment programme;
- **A Night Court to deal with traffic offences which can be disposed of through the payment of fines and minor summary cases;**
- A Small Claims Court, a less formal court where individuals can go to settle certain cases up to a value of \$25,000;

We will:

- **Construct new Magistrates' Courts at Belleplaine, St. Andrew, Cane Garden,**

We will establish a Drug Court to deal primarily with first time substance abusers who are capable of being rehabilitated through a supervised drug treatment programme

St. Thomas, Tamarind Hall, St. Joseph and Coleridge Street, Bridgetown;

- Use Alternate Dispute Resolution, including mediation and arbitration, as a cheaper and viable way of settling differences;
- Modernise the Maintenance laws to provide new arrangements for maintenance actions and payments, including the attachment of salaries, thereby rescuing mothers from enduring demeaning conditions in order to collect maintenance payments due under court orders.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

The existing system does not adequately address the needs of young persons who come into contact with the formal justice system. Current legislation does not afford a sufficient range of remedial options. Our new measures will make offenders more responsible and accountable for their actions and will foster an understanding of the impact of crime on victims, and on society in general.

A re-elected BLP administration will adopt a more integrated approach to the management and treatment of Young Offenders which will include:

- A new Young Offenders Act providing a range of custodial and non-custodial sentences;



- The construction of a new Young Offenders Institution;
- The construction of a Crisis Intervention Centre which will offer a range of treatment and training interventions designed to address the underlying problems of its clients;
- Support services for families of affected youth as well as the youth themselves.

BARBADOS PRISON SERVICE

Barbados now has a state of the art prison facility which meets many of the international standards for the housing of persons deprived of their liberty. To complement the new physical plant at HMP Dodds, programmes aimed at further enhancing the professionalism of the Barbados Prison Service and rehabilitation of inmates are top priority.

A re-elected Barbados Labour Party government will:

- Intensify training and skills development programmes and opportunities for the members of the Barbados Prison Service;
- Develop and implement well structured rehabilitation, educational and skills training programmes for inmates;

Barbados now has a state of the art prison facility which meets many of the international standards for the housing of persons deprived of their liberty.

- Upgrade the range of counselling services offered;
- Reconstitute the After Care Committee given the vital role that it will play in supporting inmates transition and re-integration into society;
- Develop partnerships with community-based and volunteer groups whose interests are consistent with our penal reform goals;
- Work with the private sector to develop and implement pilot programmes aimed at providing gainful employment for former inmates.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

A new BLP administration will:

- Implement a programme of institutional strengthening of the Probation Department
- Provide increased opportunities for training and skills enhancement for Probation Officers to ensure that the Department is able to fulfill its mandate.

BARBADOS FIRE SERVICE

We will:

- **Construct a new station at Six Roads, St. Philip to meet the needs of the South Eastern Barbados,**

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including the Grantley Adams International Airport;

- **Give Officers the option of taking early retirement at age 55 or retire at age 60 or upon completion of 26 years of service**
- Continue to upgrade the skills and competencies of members of the Barbados Fire Service through training and development opportunities.

BARBADOS POSTAL SERVICE

The BLP will:

- **Construct new post offices at Tamarind Hall, St. Joseph, Belleplaine, St. Andrew and Six Roads, St. Philip;**
- Relocate the post office at Bentham's, St. Lucy to Nesfield as part of the proposed new town centre;
- Intensify action on the conversion of the Postal Service into a corporate entity.

Enhancing Community Resilience to Natural Disasters – the new Department of Emergency Management

The new Department of Emergency Management came into being on April 1, 2007 with an expanded mandate. Experience from natural disasters regionally and internationally has shown that well prepared communities are the first line of defence when a disaster occurs.

In the next term, the new Department of Emergency Management will:

- Undertake a national vulnerability assessment which will inform the designation of specially vulnerable areas, buildings and communities;
- Develop national risk reduction and mitigation strategies which will identify and implement concrete plans to ensure national resilience;
- Provide training opportunities for the District Emergency Organisations, community based organisations and volunteers who support its work
- Establish a Social Response Unit to coordinate the community response to disasters
- **Develop a programme of temporary accommodation for persons displaced by disaster**

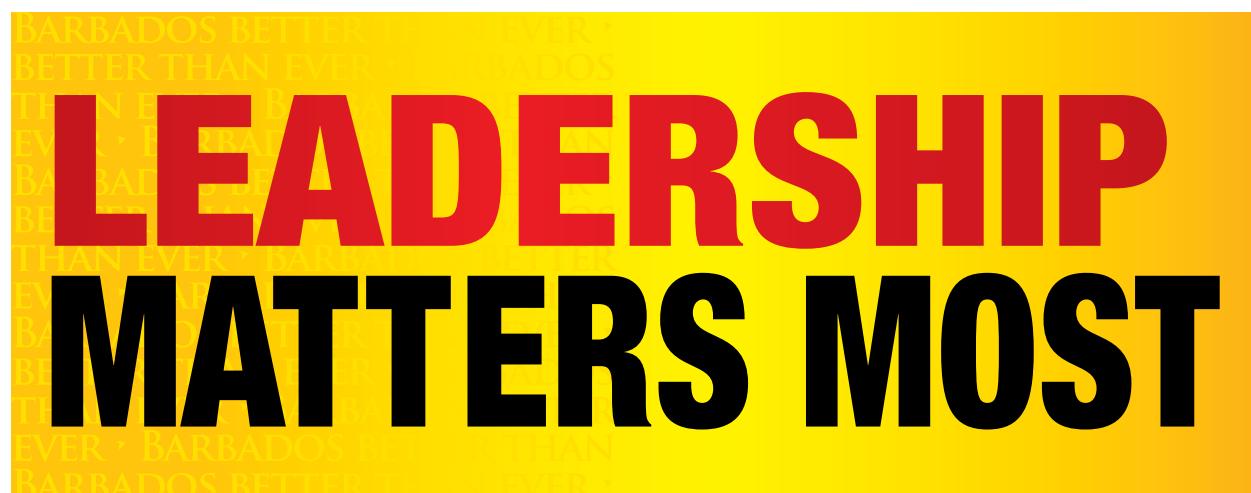
Barbados now has a state of the art prison facility which meets many of the international standards for the housing of persons deprived of their liberty.



INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

We will:

- Establish a joint production company through CBC and the GIS that will have an emphasis on the creation of indigenous programming content with significant cultural and commercial value.
- Modernise the regulatory framework for Broadcasting so as to both facilitate and capture the new emerging technologies.
- **Liberalise the television market by the introduction of competition in television for both wire and wireless service.**
- Develop a new broadcast policy framework which takes into account issues of media convergence, domestic culture and the technological context.
- **Launch a public broadcast service.**
- Restructure the Barbados Government Information Service in such a way that it will comprise a Public Affairs Unit, Barbados News Bureau and a Library Research and Marketing Unit.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications offers tremendous opportunities for new investments, growth and job creation. For Barbados to launch itself completely into the information age, the development of and access to telecommunications is a key stepping stone.

Barbados has successfully commenced its liberalisation in telecommunications. The results are strongest in the mobile cellular market and that of internet access.

The World Bank, International Telecommunications Unit has assessed Barbados as number three in the hemisphere in respect of internet penetration, surpassed only by Canada and Bermuda.

The remaining aspects of the agenda for liberalisation must now be urgently completed.

We will

- Provide for basic access to the internet at 128kps islandwide
- Strengthen the linkages between telecommunications, information

technologies and the other sectors of the economy

- Promote access to basic telecommunications and information services.
- Provide choice to the domestic market as to who should be their international service provider
- **Promote the development of e-commerce, e-government and e-business**
- Facilitate greater competition, development and innovation in telecommunications in order to expand the range of services and to increase value for money in the sector through reduced costs to consumers
- Improve the institutional and human resource capacity of the telecommunications sector

We will provide choice to the domestic market as to who should be their international service provider



GOVERNANCE OF BARBADOS

Barbados is a well governed nation. That is the objective opinion of our citizens and the regional and international communities.

Transparency International in its 2007 Index on Corruption Perceptions has ranked Barbados 23rd among the 190 nations of the world, and fourth among those in the Western Hemisphere. We aim to move ahead of the three countries ranked ahead of us in this hemisphere – Canada, the USA and Chile.

We have sought to make Government for the people and by the people a reality. We have widened the participation of Civil Society in all areas of national activity. We upheld and enhanced the fundamental rights of all of our citizens and sought to ensure that everyone shares in the country's growing wealth.

During our next term we will maintain and further these values. In particular, we will:

- **Widen the participation of the people and their communities by the establishment of community based organisations to**

We will intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and integrate into mainstream society the poor and vulnerable who may now be marginalised

work with government departments and statuary boards on the delivery of services at the local level. It will be mandatory for these organisations to report on a quarterly basis

- Further strengthen and enhance the tripartite arrangement between the Government, the Labour Movement and the Private Sector

- Facilitate the integration of civil society in all areas of national activity
- Involve Civil Society in facilitating the practice of good democratic governance
- Intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and integrate into mainstream society the poor and vulnerable who may now be marginalised

We pledge to:

- Modernize and strengthen the role of Parliament as the main plank of our democracy

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- Rebalance power between Parliament and the Executive to enable Parliament better to hold the Executive accountable
- Strengthen the Standing Orders to ensure timely, responsible and effective transaction of the people's business
- Place a duty on public bodies to involve local communities in major decisions
- **Enact Freedom of Information legislation thereby increasing transparency and the ability to hold the Government to account.**
- Strengthen the human rights entitlements of our citizens and strengthen the entrenchment of those rights in the Constitution, modernizing them both in wording and content

Barbados played a leading role in the U.N. discussions on corruption in public life and on proposals for the universal enactment of legislation on Integrity in Public Life and the eradication of corruption among political and public officials and parties and in corporate life. We have signed the UN Convention and draft legislation is being prepared for consultation and thereafter this will be presented to Parliament in the new term.

We will:

- Update and expand the human rights entitlements which are embedded in our Constitution, and we will reframe the related wording to make it more citizen friendly
- **Enact a new modernized Corruption and Bribery Act**
- Update the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission and enact a modernized Integrity in Public Life Act
- Update the Constitution Review Commission recommendations on replacing the Crown with a Barbadian President and proceed to consult the public fully by way of a referendum
- Enact a new Barbados Constitution
- **Consult fully with the Opposition, the Social Partners, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the Public on legislation to regulate the funding of political parties.**

We will update the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission and enact a modernized Integrity in Public Life Act



DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The BLP will continue to improve the terms and conditions of the men and women in our disciplined forces.

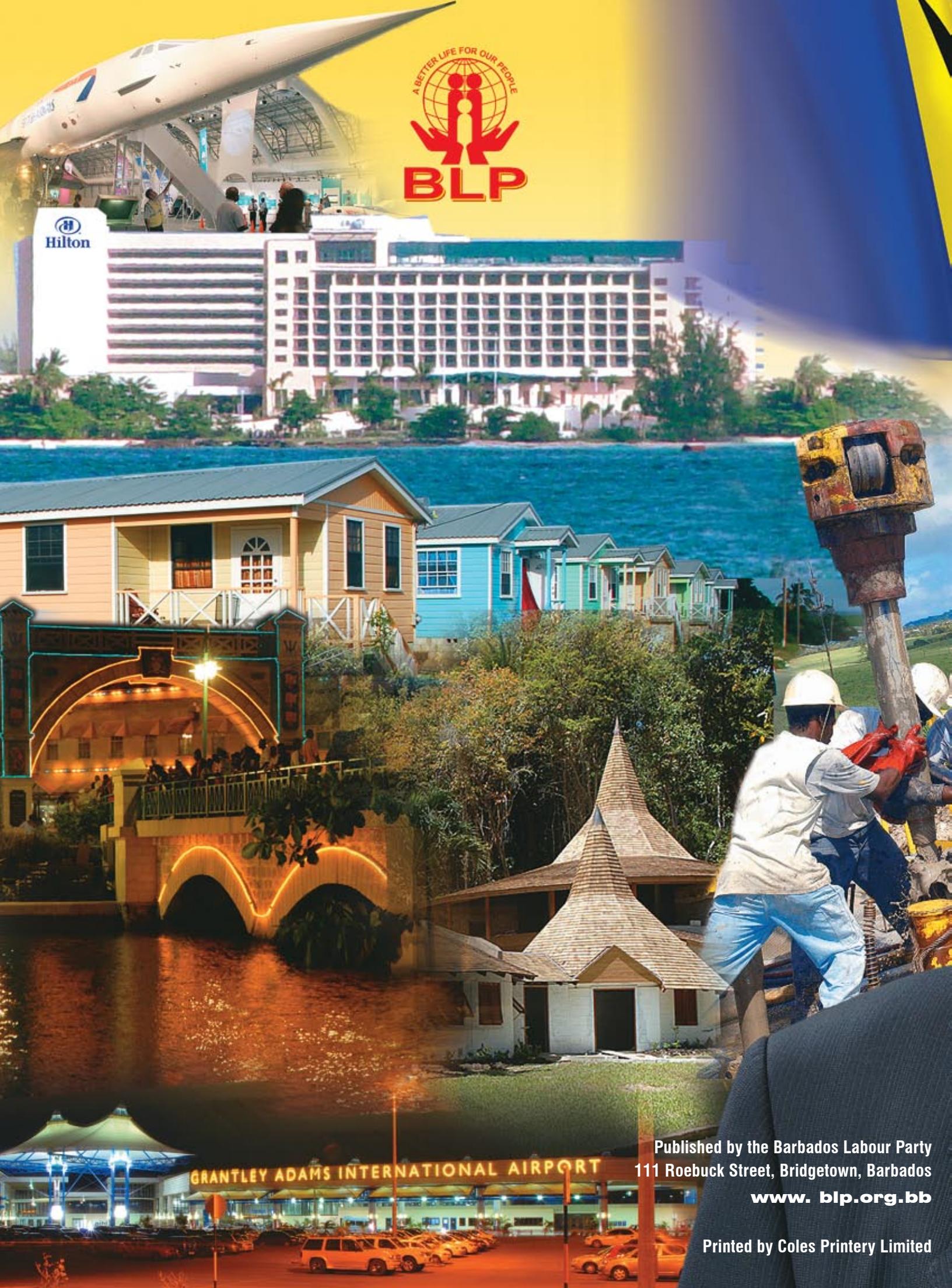
Pensions will be granted to approximately 775 persons, including retirees, of the Barbados Defence Force.

We will:

- Expand, on a phased basis, the Barbados Defence Force by 300 persons and the Barbados Coast Guard by 100 persons.
- Significantly upgrade the equipment of the Defence Force and the Coast Guard.
- Establish an air wing of the Barbados Defence Force.
- Strengthen the wellness and counselling programme available to members of the forces who work outside normal duties.
- Refurbish the Barbados Defence Force headquarters, retaining its historic characters.

We will expand, on a phased basis, the Barbados Defence Force by 300 persons and the Barbados Coast Guard by 100 persons.





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Published by the Barbados Labour Party
111 Roebuck Street, Bridgetown, Barbados

www.blp.org.bb

Printed by Coles Printery Limited