

THE  
PEOPLE'S  
MANIFESTO



2018



## Building The Best Barbados Together



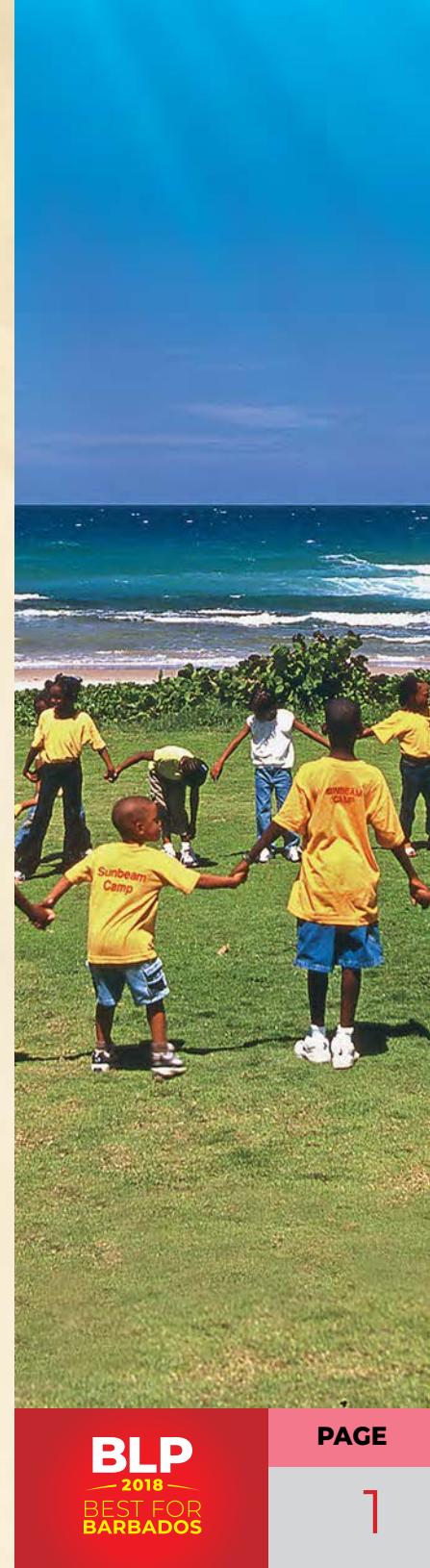


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# THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS TOGETHER

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# DREAMING · DARING · DELIVERING

Fellow Barbadians,

It is my deep honour to share with you, on behalf of **TeamBLP2018, THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO: BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS TOGETHER.**

The policies and ideas in this Manifesto are not just ours; they are yours. **TeamBLP2018** "rubbed shoulders", consulted widely, listened to your fears, concerns and suggestions. We paid attention when you told us of your dreams for yourselves, for your children and for our country. It was on this basis that we formulated a Manifesto with two parts, ***Mission Critical – Our Urgent Six-Month Agenda*** – and ***Our Five-Year Transformational Agenda***.

The items under ***Mission Critical*** are those national crisis issues on which we will make immediate intervention on assuming office. ***The Five-Year Agenda*** contains our proposals for the sustainable development of Barbadians and Barbados; it is our plan and strategy to create lasting prosperity for all Barbadians.

In this Manifesto, **TeamBLP2018** pledges that as your Government we will work to restore confidence at home and abroad, return well-being to Barbadians, rebuild the Barbados brand as a model among small states in the international community, and create

opportunity for all Barbadians. In **THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO**, we lay out our vision for the future.

This Manifesto is about national transformation and a bright future for all Barbadians. It is about defining our future as a nation. It's about YOU, Your Opportunities Unleashed. That is how I see the role of the **Barbados Labour Party** Government that I will lead.

**THE BEST BARBADOS** can only be built with unity and with hard work toward a shared national purpose. It must be built on the understanding that loyalty to and love of country mean loyalty to and love of each other. Improving our country means also improving ourselves. The reality is that what happens to Barbados happens to all of us because – **WE ARE BARBADOS.**

I dream of a better Barbados, one symbolised by excellence; a respected, world-class country in which our economy is strong, sustainable and resilient; in which our society is just, stable, cohesive and vibrant; where our built environment is properly maintained and our natural environment is preserved and protected. I dream of a Barbados in which Barbadians are safe, united, confident, kind, caring, innovative, productive, optimistic and happy.

I want for history to record that this was the moment when Barbadians dared to re-imagine their country and their future and decided that nothing but the best was good enough for them as individuals, for each other as a people, or for Barbados. May history record that by good will and hard work, we delivered on our dream for ourselves and for Barbadians yet unborn.

I am ready.

**TeamBLP2018** is ready.

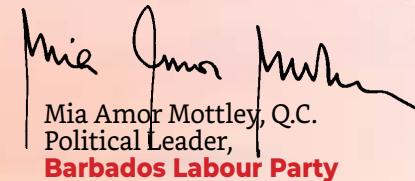
We are ready to serve you.

We are ready to serve Barbados.

**TeamBLP2018** and I regard the confidence you repose in us as a sacred trust. We seek your blessing and ask you to enter into covenant and partnership with us, to work with us in **BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS TOGETHER.**

We will not let you down.

It is in this spirit that I present to you, ***The People's Manifesto*** and ask you to embrace it.



Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C.  
Political Leader,  
**Barbados Labour Party**



# WHAT THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY STANDS FOR

## OUR COVENANT OF HOPE

In 2016, after extensive national consultation, the **Barbados Labour Party** launched *Our Covenant of Hope*. This document outlines who we are, what we stand for, and what we will fight for as a political Party on behalf of all Barbadians. This Covenant represents our philosophical vision for Barbados and our core principles as a Party.

A Partnership for **BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS TOGETHER** requires every Barbadian to renew the spirit of patriotism, to embody the ethic of national service, every day to pursue excellence as our national standard in order to make this “rock” the best country in the world.

These guiding principles are pivotal to shaping a confident, caring, happier and more just society. They will give every Barbadian, at home and in the Diaspora, a greater say in how our country is run, strengthen our society, revitalise our economy, provide fair and ample opportunities for the growth and development of all citizens within their natural capabilities and create a decent quality of life for every single Barbadian.

In return, we invite all Barbadians into partnership with us. This partnership will be based on our common heritage, mutual respect, trust and shared responsibility for each other and for the country. These principles build on our finest traditions and strengths as a nation and as a people.

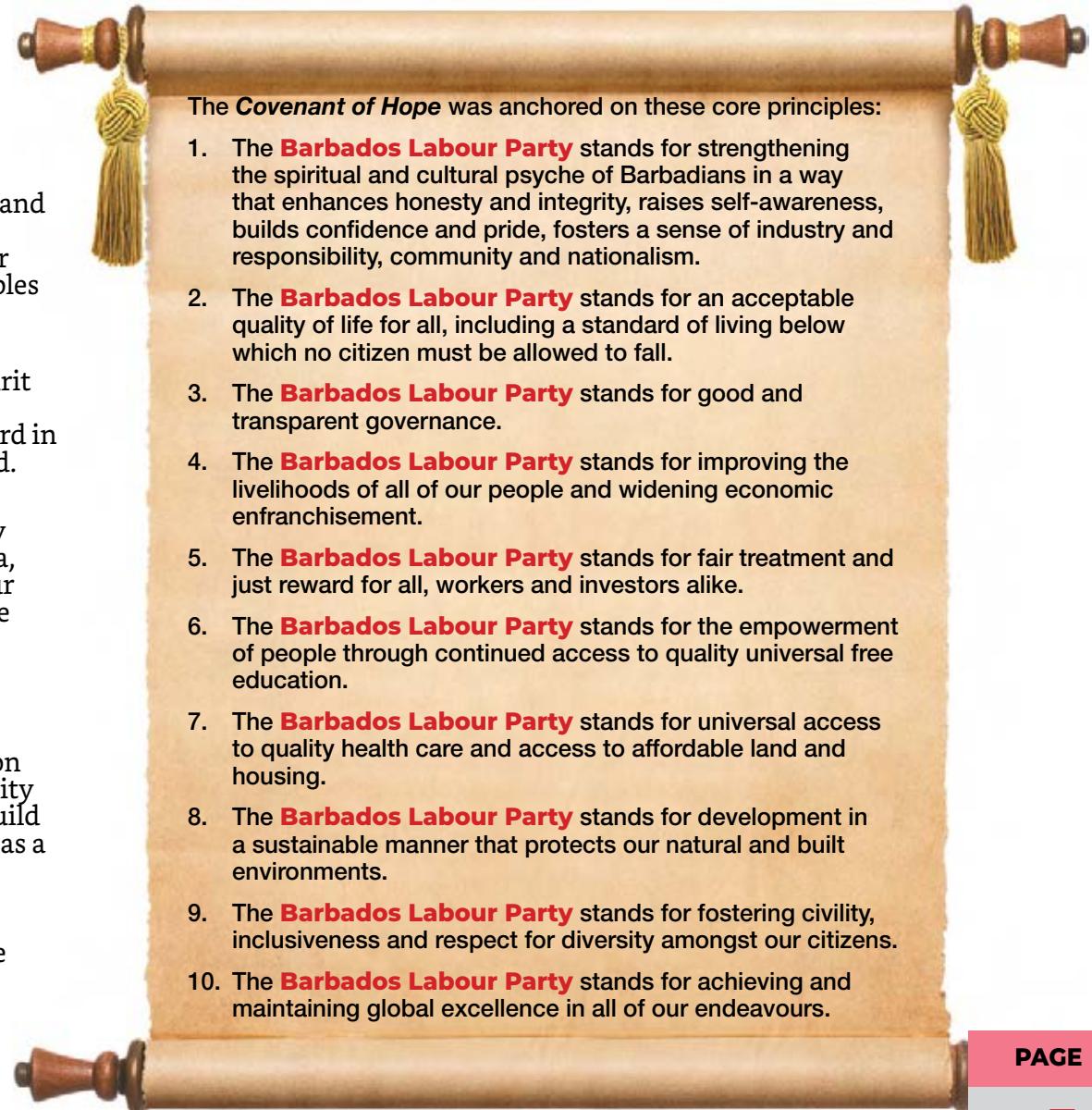
*We choose the path of hope.*

We believe that better can and must be done. With the help of the Almighty and working together with all Barbadians, better will be done.

The **Barbados Labour Party** gives you our commitment and we ask for yours.

The *Covenant of Hope* was anchored on these core principles:

1. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for strengthening the spiritual and cultural psyche of Barbadians in a way that enhances honesty and integrity, raises self-awareness, builds confidence and pride, fosters a sense of industry and responsibility, community and nationalism.
2. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for an acceptable quality of life for all, including a standard of living below which no citizen must be allowed to fall.
3. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for good and transparent governance.
4. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for improving the livelihoods of all of our people and widening economic enfranchisement.
5. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for fair treatment and just reward for all, workers and investors alike.
6. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for the empowerment of people through continued access to quality universal free education.
7. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for universal access to quality health care and access to affordable land and housing.
8. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for development in a sustainable manner that protects our natural and built environments.
9. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for fostering civility, inclusiveness and respect for diversity amongst our citizens.
10. The **Barbados Labour Party** stands for achieving and maintaining global excellence in all of our endeavours.





# TeamBLP2018

The **Barbados Labour Party** Government will respond courageously to the social and economic crises now facing the country. We will make the tough choices between what is essential, what is highly desirable and what is optional. We are offering Barbadians the bold, decisive and visionary leadership that our country needs at this time. We are the only party in this election that has had the experience of turning a country around in tough times and transforming the economy.

The first task of a new **Barbados Labour Party** Administration will be to halt the decline and decay of the last ten years, restore confidence and hope and set clear guidelines and timelines for finding and applying solutions. As a parallel action, we will give our full attention to broader issues of governance and national transformation.

The Manifesto is divided into two broad parts that lay out the **Barbados Labour Party's** approach to the task of **BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS**.

**First, we have identified Mission Critical areas that require our undivided and immediate attention.** This will be our urgent six-month agenda of necessary interventions, aimed at tackling the multiple crises confronting the country, wrestling them to the ground and defeating them.

**Mission Critical Teams** will be set up to ensure delivery. Action on these items will not necessarily end in six months. Over the course of the five-year term, proper management structures to address these issues will be put in place in order to ensure they do not become problematic again.

**Second, simultaneous with Mission Critical, our urgent Six-Month Agenda, will be the policy formulation and actions to implement Our Transformational Five-Year Agenda.** That agenda is developed around *Making People Matter; Doing It Right, Getting It Right and Believing In Barbados And Each Other*.

We will accomplish this aspirational agenda for Barbados' sustainable development by mooring it on seven action pillars for national transformation –

**1. Society, 2. Economy, 3. Governance, 4. Infrastructure, 5. Environment, 6. Engaging the World**, and creating a stronger sense of self, shared responsibilities and partnership through the final pillar which we call, **7. A New National Consciousness**.

In this Manifesto, we aspire to be world class in all that we do, but anchored by the best of Barbadian values.

**In this Manifesto, we place all who are Barbadian - by birth, marriage, descent or choice - at the centre of our country's national sustainable development.**

**BLP**  
2018

# THE FIRST SIX MONTHS



BARBADOS - SOUTH COAST  
PHOTO BY RICKY CHASE



## OUR URGENT AGENDA

### MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

# OUR URGENT AGENDA

## MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

**Mission Critical** issues are those initiatives we believe are necessary to preserve the value of our dollar, stabilise the economy, protect our environment, reverse the decline in our institutions, rebuild and repair crumbling infrastructure, halt social decline, alleviate suffering and build the foundation for new national growth.

The issues on our Mission Critical Agenda will be addressed within the first six months of a new **Barbados Labour Party** Administration.

This will require us to bring together Civil Servants and highly experienced professionals in **Mission Critical Teams**. These teams will come to work every day with no other focus than to solve the particular crisis to which they have been assigned. They will be dedicated to delivering.

**Mission Critical Teams** will be an important part of how we will make the difference and get the job done. All **Mission Critical Teams** will be tasked to deliver within a fixed time and will then be disbanded.

**The Mission Critical issues on which there will be immediate interventions by the **Barbados Labour Party** are:**

### 1. REBUILDING OUR FOREIGN RESERVES

**WITHOUT ADEQUATE FOREIGN RESERVES, BARBADOS CANNOT PROTECT THE VALUE OF ITS DOLLAR AND CANNOT PAY ITS BILLS OR ITS WAY IN THE WORLD. WE WILL URGENTLY REBUILD BARBADOS' FOREIGN RESERVES.**

- Restore Barbados' foreign reserves to at least 15 weeks of import coverage through policies that -
  - » allow Barbadians to hold foreign currency they have earned in foreign currency accounts in Barbados, thereby boosting the amount of foreign currency in the country.
- Pass legislation to prohibit the Central Bank of Barbados from the printing of money that is threatening the Barbados dollar and draining the foreign reserves.
- Stimulate investor confidence.

## 2. DEALING WITH DEBT

**THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGH DEBT IS CHOKING THE LIFE OUT OF OUR ECONOMY AND LIMITING NATIONAL GROWTH. WE WILL WRESTLE WITH THE NATIONAL DEBT AND BREATHE LIFE BACK INTO THE ECONOMY.**

Re-profile Barbados' debt by renegotiating existing obligations. The Government spends over \$500m per year on interest payments. Re-profiling the debt will give us elbow room to address the country's Mission Critical issues. It will ensure that the burden of economic adjustment is shared fairly and does not, as is usually the case, fall disproportionately onto workers.

Along with other sources of funding and savings, the fiscal space achieved through debt re-profiling will be used to finance an immediate capital works programme, to cover:

- fixing the South Coast and Bridgetown sewerage plants.
- acquiring additional buses for the Transport Board.
- addressing problems with garbage collection.
- providing the equipment necessary for the Ministry of Public Works to embark on an immediate road repair programme and clean up of the country.
- providing for the expansion of Accident and Emergency and the expanded opening hours of 2 polyclinics.
- preparing ourselves to face the 2018 Hurricane Season.
- paying fees for Barbadian students at the UWI.

## 3. BRINGING TAX RELIEF

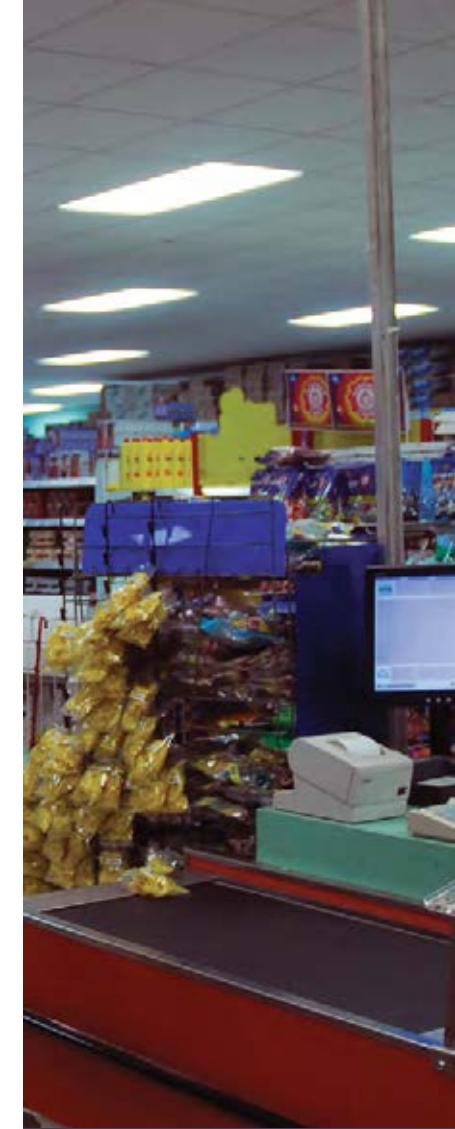
**A COUNTRY CANNOT BE TAXED INTO RECOVERY. BARBADIANS ARE OVER TAXED. THE TAX BURDEN WILL BE EASED.**

- Abolish the NSRL, which will lower the cost of living and stimulate consumer spending.
- Abolish Road Tax, given the level of non-compliance and replace it with a more equitable tax on petroleum products including gasoline.
- Repeal the oppressive requirement for tax clearance certificates.
- Return VAT to 15% within 18 months.
- Repeal the Municipal Solid Waste Tax imposed in 2014. Those who paid will have their money returned via a tax credit over a phased period.

## 4. THREATS TO THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

**THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR WAS BUILT BY THE BLP UNDER PRIME MINISTER TOM ADAMS. IT IS CENTRAL TO OUR ECONOMY AND THE BLP WILL PROTECT IT.**

- Enact a legislative framework by December 2018 that will remove Barbados from the lists of uncooperative jurisdictions and from facing sanctions from the OECD and EU.
- Extend a foreign currency tax credit to Barbadian residents for all foreign exchange earned.



# OUR URGENT AGENDA

**MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS**



## OUR URGENT AGENDA

### MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

## 5. HELPING PEOPLE TO LIVE

**BARBADIANS CANNOT NOW PAY THEIR BILLS OR MAKE ENDS MEET. THE BLP BELIEVES ALL BARBADIANS MUST BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES AND LIVE WITH DIGNITY.**

- Provide a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) to Civil Servants if negotiations on salaries and benefits are not completed with the Trades Unions within 3 months of being elected to Government.
- Raise the non-contributory pension from \$155 to \$225 per week, payable every fortnight. We will maintain the relativity between contributory and non-contributory pensions.
- Raise the minimum wage from \$6.25 per hour to \$8.00 and extend it to all categories of workers across the economy.
- Reduce the number of homes being foreclosed on, by working with the banks to establish a Troubled Mortgage Relief Programme.
- Pay the reverse tax credit of \$1,300 for those earning less than \$18,000.
- Put in place a programme to eliminate the 5,000 pit toilets still remaining across Barbados. The work in this programme will be carried out via contracts to small contractors and community-based businesses.
- Increase funeral grants by \$500.
- Give priority within the Government's existing \$400m budget to the purchase of goods and services from small businesses, those run by economically disadvantaged or community-owned groups and young people.
- Establish a social safety net for families by ensuring a minimum household income. This will be accomplished by co-ordinating payments of the

minimum wage, reverse tax credit, and welfare benefits, as well as by the use of other policies and instruments. We are determined that no Barbadian family should fall below this minimum.

## 6. ARREARS AND REFUNDS

**CITIZENS AND COMPANIES HAVE SEVERE CASH FLOW CHALLENGES PARTLY BECAUSE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PAY WHAT IT OWES THEM. THIS IS NOT FAIR. WE WILL PUT AN END TO IT.**

- Assign a dedicated team to work with individuals and companies toward settling Government's bills, by the payment of arrears or refunds of income tax, VAT, NIS, as well as sums outstanding to entities like UCAL, UWI, the sugar industry and others.
- Establish a structure for regular on-time payment of money owed by Government to citizens and corporations. When the system is established and functioning well, Government will be required to pay interest or penalties when payments are not made on time, in just the same way that citizens and companies are penalised with interest for making late payments to Government.
- Appointing a dedicated team to sensitively work with individuals and companies toward settling the arrears owed to the Government.

## 7. PROTECTING PEOPLE'S HEALTH

- Expand the Accident and Emergency Department of the QEH.
- Extend the opening hours of the Randall Phillips (Oistins) and Warrens Polyclinics, providing X-ray and Ultrasound equipment, asthma bays and security services.
- Allow the use of medical marijuana.

## 8. OUR SEWERAGE SYSTEMS MUST WORK

**THE FLOW OF RAW SEWAGE ON THE STREETS OF THE SOUTH COAST THREATENS PEOPLE'S HEALTH, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY AND IS A NATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT. WE WILL STOP THIS.**

- Within our first week in office, we will convene a **Mission Critical Team** on the South Coast sewage crisis. We will utilise the best local and international expertise and knowledge available to thoroughly investigate the problem, identify resources and develop a plan for the long-term resolution of the problem. The Plan, which will be required to be delivered to Cabinet within four weeks, will include milestones for taking action. Progress will be monitored by Cabinet to ensure that the matter receives appropriate resources and attention.
- Prior to the delivery of the report and the long-term action plan being ready, **the BLP** will ensure that the situation on the South Coast is properly managed by supporting the BWA, the **Mission Critical Team** and the contracted experts, as well as by instituting a number of measures to contain the problem. We will -
  - put in place a comprehensive sanitisation programme for the protection of the public and to mitigate the risks of nationals or tourists coming into contact with untreated sewage.
  - find the points of blockage and leakage in the sewerage network leading to the outfall and urgently fix them.
  - put in place temporary solutions using proven methods and technologies, while preparing the permanent solution.
- Take immediate proactive steps to avoid a similar catastrophic failure at the Bridgetown plant.

## 9. GETTING RID OF GARBAGE

**WE MUST NOT ACCEPT AS COMMONPLACE THE SIGHT OF CORNERS AND COMMUNITIES STREWN WITH GARBAGE. THIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL WRONG. WE WILL REMEDY IT.**

- Acquire a fleet of new collection trucks and re-establish frequent, reliable, scheduled garbage collection services for households and businesses.
- Eliminate the Tipping Fee for solid waste disposal which results in illegal dumping.
- Hold National Clean-Up and Beautification Campaigns which will include households, businesses, NGOs, and Government.

## 10. PUTTING BUSES BACK ON THE ROADS

**A RELIABLE TRANSPORT SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR CITIZENS' SAFETY, PRODUCTIVITY, AND OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL GET BARBADOS ON THE MOVE AGAIN.**

- Convene a **Mission Critical Team** within our first month in office, to develop a plan to fix Barbados' broken public transport system and restore efficient and reliable service to all parts of Barbados.
- Conduct an urgent repair programme to bring as many buses back into service as possible, while procuring an adequate number of new buses to make the transport system functional and viable.
- Give PSV operators a seat on the Transport Authority in recognition of their role as important stakeholders in the provision of transportation to the public.



# OUR URGENT AGENDA

**MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS**



## OUR URGENT AGENDA

### MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

## 11. REPAIRING OUR ROADS

**IT IS MORE THAN AN INCONVENIENCE WHEN PLUS-SIZED POTHOLE OUTNUMBER ROADS, WHEN WALKING OR DRIVING PUTS PEOPLE AT RISK AND WHEN ROADS COLLAPSE. ROAD REPAIR WILL BE TACKLED.**

- Immediately procure funding and equipment to carry out a costed road repair and rebuilding programme.
- Meet urgently with all relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive 10-year road rehabilitation and building action plan, undertaking to place our utilities underground, thereby ensuring greater resilience to disasters. The work on this action plan will start with Barbados' most heavily trafficked roads.

## 12. ALLEVIATING WATER WOES

**BARBADOS IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY. WE WILL PLAN AND PREPARE TO PUT AN END TO WATER WOES AND IMPROVE ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY.**

- Establish a Revolving Fund managed by the BWA to assist householders in the purchase and installation of water tanks, to allow for greater resilience at the household level.
- Hurricane-proof all pumping stations and reservoirs by transitioning to renewable energy and back-up power. This will allow for continued service during emergencies when the main power is lost. It will also secure access to water.

## 13. CITIZENS' SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

**CITIZENS NOW LIVE IN FEAR AT THE LEVEL OF CRIME IN BARBADOS. THE BLP WILL ENSURE THAT BAJANS FEEL SAFE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OUR HOMES ONCE AGAIN.**

- Appoint two temporary judges to help clear the backlog of serious criminal cases.

- Free police officers from carrying out non-law enforcement and administrative duties to enable them to better focus on policing.
- Put an end to the low morale now crippling the RBPF, by appointing officers at every level, as a matter of urgency.
- Encourage greater emphasis on community-based policing.
- Ensuring street lights are working to make communities safer.
- Work with the Church, community groups and Government agencies responsible for social services to reduce gun violence and support safe communities.
- Reduce the number of firearms in the hands of civilians and in communities by offering a six-month gun amnesty and buy-back programme for legal and illegal firearms.
- Hold a Referendum on the decriminalisation of recreational marijuana. The Referendum will be held after a period of public debate.

## 14. EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

**WE MUST AND WILL PRESERVE OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND EMPOWER THEM TO HAVE THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE OUR COUNTRY CAN GIVE THEM.**

- From September 2018, a **BLP** Government will pay the tuition fees for Barbadians to attend The University of the West Indies.
- Create a National "First Job" Programme for youth between 16 and 25 years old to gain a Government-subsidised placement at a business in their field of interest.
- Develop a National Apprenticeship Programme in which adults and professionals can help to guide young people.
- Convene an emergency session of professionals dealing with the welfare of children to agree on

an immediate plan of action to end the current epidemic of violence in schools.

- Address violence and bullying among school children by placing more guidance counsellors and social workers and starting anger management and conflict resolution classes in schools by September 2018.
- Engage Civil Society and faith-based organisations to support school programmes targeted at reducing conflict, bullying and indiscipline, equipping students to deal with anger and conflict in non-violent ways and to reduce the incidence of violence in schools.
- Ensure a reliable and timely school bus service and, from September 2018, placing safety officers on buses and at places where students and young people congregate in large numbers.

## 15. STAMPING OUT CORRUPTION

**CORRUPTION IS A STAIN ON OUR SOCIETY, A DRAIN ON OUR ECONOMY AND REDUCES GOVERNMENT REVENUES. WE WILL MOVE SWIFTLY TO END CORRUPTION.**

- Introduce comprehensive Integrity Legislation immediately upon forming the Government, to fight and punish corruption and hold Ministers and Board Chairpersons accountable for their actions.
- Require politicians and key public officials to disclose their assets.
- Provide stiff penalties for those who try to bribe politicians and public officials.

## 16. SUGAR INDUSTRY AND WORKERS

**SUGAR MAY NO LONGER BE KING, BUT IT HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE MAINTENANCE OF**

## OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND BARBADOS' ECONOMY.

- Settle outstanding monies owing to sugar farmers and meet urgently with all relevant stakeholders to agree on the future of the industry.
- Meet with all stakeholders to draw up a plan for the future viability of the industry and set milestones to ensure accountability for realising the plan.

## 17. PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

**RECENT EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND PREDICTIONS OF A HIGHLY ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON DEMAND SERIOUS, STRATEGIC AND PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION. WE WILL TAKE IT.**

- Ensure the Department of Emergency Management is located in an appropriately equipped building capable of withstanding a hurricane of Category 5 strength.
- Work with the insurance industry to develop a publicly supported catastrophe and risk insurance product for chattel houses valued \$125,000 and under.
- Institute a 2018 Rapid Roof Replacement Programme to support homeowners replacing non-hurricane resistant roofs and carry out other hurricane proofing of their homes.
- Develop a national storage capacity of generators, water, food and medicine to last 7 days.
- Upgrade hurricane shelters so they can resist a Category 5 hurricane.
- Require and facilitate farmers and owners of large parcels of land to clean up their lands and clear drains and wells to allow freer water run-off during and after heavy rains.



**OUR URGENT AGENDA**  
**MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS**



## DELIVERING ON MISSION CRITICAL

Our country, nationals and Government must set high targets and together work hard to attain our goals. **The BLP** fully understands that given the state of our economy, the public may be cautious about aiming high and financing ambitious policies and programmes. Below, we set out how we intend to fund our Mission Critical plan. We will fully utilise the power of Government to effect change through laws, planning and incentives.

### WHERE WILL **THE BLP** FIND THE MONEY TO DO ALL THE THINGS PROMISED IN THE MANIFESTO?

**The BLP's** policy agenda as presented in this Manifesto is a realistic one. The truth is that the country's money has been wasted and mismanaged and tax revenues have been badly spent. Every dollar that our country loses through corruption is a dollar that was raised through taxation and should have been spent on providing social services and fixing our broken infrastructure. The current Government has collected more taxes than any other Government in the history of the country. Yet no one can see where the money has gone and there is no evidence to show it was used to improve Barbados or benefit Barbadians.

### WHAT WILL **THE BLP** DO?

- We will put an end to wastage and corruption. As a result of greater efficiency and improved management, savings will be created and more money will be available to spend on relief for the most vulnerable Barbadians.
- The Government spends \$500 million on interest payments every year. We will re-profile our debt to free up cash flows and create elbowroom for the implementation of new spending on infrastructure that will result in economic recovery.
- We will simplify the indirect tax system, change the incidence of taxes, tighten loopholes, enhance compliance, and appoint dedicated personnel to collect taxes.
- We will remove the taxes that are strangling the economy and acting as a disincentive to individuals and businesses.
- We will fuel private sector-led growth by using the other powers of a Government to legislate, facilitate, regulate, invest and empower.
- We will rebuild national and international confidence, such that the pipeline of projects and private investment is urgently unblocked, bringing new revenues and foreign exchange.

## OUR URGENT AGENDA

### MISSION CRITICAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS

BLP  
2018

# THE FIVE-YEAR TERM OUR TRANSFORMATIONAL AGENDA

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES,  
CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS



## LASTING PROSPERITY

THE PLATFORM  
FOR A BRIGHT  
FUTURE

PAGE

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**BLP**  
2018  
BEST FOR  
BARBADOS

# LASTING PROSPERITY

## THE PLATFORM FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

### THIS IS ABOUT YOU

### YOUR OPPORTUNITY UNLEASHED

The majority of Barbadians are decent, law abiding, hard working people. There was a period during which our society was characterised by widespread and entrenched poverty, with its painful, embarrassing features and symbols. Today, regrettably, many Barbadians have returned to a state of poverty without the tools to break the cycle, no matter how much they want to do so, or how hard they work. They do not choose poverty; poverty chooses them.

**THE BEST BARBADOS** cannot be built using yesterday's ideas or yesterday's tools. It will not be created using old economic models or divisive social structures. Nor can it be business as usual, or politics as usual.

The **Barbados Labour Party** will work to reclaim our economic independence. We will confront unemployment and underemployment. We will build a more prosperous society characterised by high skills and entrepreneurship, in which all of our people are given the tools to build wealth, well-being and security.

We have set out several new avenues for every Barbadian to build and share capital. We will create new economic sectors and we will modernise existing sectors. The country, including Government, the private sector and individuals, will become more

skills based, more technology-intensive, more professionalised, more entrepreneurial and more customer centred. In short, we will set Barbados on a new development trajectory, where every Barbadian matters and in which every Barbadian will be given the chance to be the best they can be and to produce the most they can locally.

#### EDUCATION

At the core of our development model will be our commitment to and our reform of Barbados' system of education and training.

While we have embarked on reforms in the past, reform in education is a generational project and cannot be started and stopped at will. Our educational system has focused heavily on academic-based learning that does not adequately take into account the multiple ways or various stages at which children and young people learn and grow. Our system does not utilise the many stimulation methods required to excite students about learning.

The one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and learning does not provide a sufficiently nurturing environment for all of our children and young people. Neither does it provide adequate motivation for bright, gifted, non-



**X VOTE**  
**Mia Amor**  
**MOTTLEY**  
**ST. MICHAEL**  
**NORTH EAST**



academic children. It provides little or no support to children who do not learn at a fast pace to realise their full potential. When left behind, some of our children never find their way. Many are captured by negative elements in our society. Invariably, they remain without the opportunity or the means to improve themselves and their lives.

This Manifesto is constructed on the fundamental belief that all of our children are precious, a gift to their parents, their families and to our nation. This Manifesto speaks to ensuring appropriate education and training for our children to live happy, fulfilling lives and our young people to be world-class citizens, grounded in Barbadian values, using their skills to showcase what Barbados has to offer, build the Barbados brand, support themselves and benefit our country.

- We will resume the diagnostic approach to allow us to effectively assess the learning capacity of each child, because each child matters.
- All children will be given the opportunity to excel at academics if that is their choice.
- For those who are not academically inclined, more flexible teaching and learning systems will be put in place.
- Secondary schools will become centres of excellence for both traditional disciplines, including the arts and sciences, and technical and creative disciplines. This is intended to give students genuine and beneficial choices and wider career options and remove any sense of failure attached to pursuing a non-academic path.

## CITIZENS CAPITAL

Education and skills are critical to the transformation of society and individuals, but ownership of capital also matters. The economic enfranchisement of Barbadians is at the core of our development model.

Through several initiatives, we will place capital in the hands of Barbadians. We therefore must also ensure that Barbadians are equipped to manage capital and savings. We will amend the school curriculum to teach every Barbadian young person about money management and investing, in order to encourage a more financially independent Barbadian. We will also establish Regional Advisory Bureaus to assist Barbadians in their financial literacy and commercial decision-making.

## THE BARBADOS SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND

A Barbados Sovereign Wealth Fund (BSWF) will be created to ensure national wealth is available for present and future generations of Barbadians.

The BSWF will hold Government assets, including real property (on and offshore) and non-tangible assets such as trademarks, patents and intellectual property.

The Fund will ensure appropriate, professional, long-term management, development and returns from these assets.

A percentage of the revenues of petroleum products will flow to the Fund, to ensure oil and gas earnings are not squandered or frittered away, but become a source of funding for Barbados' long-term development.

After its establishment, every Barbadian, upon turning 18, will become entitled to a stake in the Fund. Over time, this stake will produce an income or could be used as collateral for loans for housing and other specified purposes.

## SPREADING THE WEALTH – ENABLING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Many capitalist economies rely on trickle-down methods of economic growth from the haves to the have-nots. Our approach will stimulate the economy

from the bottom up. We will create new wealth that results in a national cascade triggered by the following measures -

- **Trust Loans - The BLP** Government will provide \$10 million per year for each of the next 5 years to seed a Trust Loans Fund to give to all small businesses or business owners, security-free loans of up to \$5,000 each. When this loan sum is paid off in full, and the borrower has built a good credit profile the business/owner will become entitled to a loan of up to \$10,000.  
Trust Loans will be available to all legitimate small business owners in every category of business, from nail technicians and hairdressers to well diggers, from painters to graphic artists, from tattoo artists to mechanics, from musicians to air conditioning technicians, from tradesmen and shopkeepers to caterers, creatives, florists and others. Barbadians understand the concept of a "meeting turn." Let us think of Trust Loans as being similar in concept, but with Government putting in the first turn on your behalf.
- **Procurement Policy and Legislation** will be put in place to prioritise Government contracts of \$250,000 and under, for small, community-based, youth businesses and those owned by vulnerable groups, such as Persons Living With Disabilities. Training will be given to such businesses to help them manage, engage with Government structures and fulfil the formal requirements of doing business with Government.
- **Increased Entrepreneurial Activity** - our goal will be to build a more entrepreneurial citizen and excite our young people about getting involved in business in a borderless world where the technology opens new opportunities that were unavailable to previous generations. All Barbadian businesses must realise that technology gives them direct reach into global markets and they must be prepared to access those markets.

- **An Entrepreneur in Every Home** - we will encourage an entrepreneur in every Barbadian household so as to maximise income earning potential, stimulate economic activity and increase the penetration of the Barbados Brand into the Caribbean and international markets.
- **Prime Minister's Innovation Award** will be given quarterly. The prizes will be worth \$250,000 each and are intended to spark new ideas, innovations and new business. These prizes will allow Barbadian innovators, particularly those without access to funding, to generate new wealth, jobs and bring foreign exchange into the economy.
- The **Youth Innovation Award** worth \$150,000 of prize money, will be for all youth. When won by school students the prize will be allocated between the winning school, teacher and students.

## CREATING NEW FRONTIERS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We will expand our frontiers and economic opportunities. We will facilitate the development of new islands and peninsulas. We will revise the Special Economic Zones to include all of our town centres. We will re-purpose and breathe new life into our plantation houses as productive heritage assets, as part of tours linked to sugar and rum production, for use as restaurants, tourism accommodation, exclusive boutique hotels, offices for high-end businesses and for the hosting of conferences, meetings and events that will be part of our new 52-week entertainment calendar. These houses are part of our history. These initiatives will spur economic activity and will be addressed with speed and transparency through the provision of streamlined pre-approval for certain developments that meet clearly stated, objective and transparent criteria.

- We will work to promote our new islands and Special Economic Zones in the global marketplace in order to attract inward investment, high-value jobs and new opportunities.





**X VOTE**  
**Dwight**  
**SUTHERLAND**  
**ST. GEORGE**  
**SOUTH**

## CELEBRATING BARBADIANA

All of **the BLP**'s policies and programmes will celebrate Barbadiana. From that celebration of our culture, we will offer our unique cultural products to a global market. From Barbadian Rum and Barbadian Falernum to Barbadian furniture; from Bajan sugar to Bajan cricketing Legends; from Bajan Black Belly and Bajan Peppers to Bajan talent, from Sir Gary, to Gabby, to Rihanna, we will celebrate existing Barbadian brands to help us build new ones.

## BRINGING JUSTICE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Those who go to our Courts or are in the criminal justice system must feel that there is justice. This extends to those working in the system, those who are victims of crime and those who are perpetrators. Our systems must be made more efficient, transparent and less time consuming.

We will move from colonial models of justice that focus on punishment. We will concentrate on creating a framework for restorative justice. We will move away from the imposition of criminal convictions for a number of breaches of the law and allow a system of civil penalties to be imposed. Further, for non-serious and traffic offences, we will introduce a system of ticketing, community service orders and fines. Ankle monitors and curfews will be encouraged as alternatives to custodial sentences or remand. In all matters where there is a victim, we will seek to bring about restoration by the perpetrator to both the community and the victim.

There will be a 'sea change' by establishing a Family Court with a hybrid jurisdiction in all family matters. There will be a number of judges assigned to the Family Court and sitting in different parts of the island. These courts will have the jurisdiction to hear maintenance and other matters relating to all families, whether married or not and will not force single women to go to the Magistrates' Courts. The Family Court will work

in consultation with the new Department of Family Services to prioritise and protect families.

## HEALTHY BAJANS

More than a quarter of Barbados' population suffers from one or more of the chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, cancer, or heart disease. The NCDs are the major cause of death and disability in Barbados and consume approximately 70% of the budgets of the QEII and the Barbados Drug Service.

These diseases destroy bodies, lives and families. Many of the NCDs are diet and lifestyle related and the national epidemic of obesity, even among school children, is a significant contributor to this health profile. The cost of these diseases is told in lives and dollars. Our country cannot afford their high price, neither can our citizens, nor our national public expenditure.

We will ensure that our health-care system is capable of effectively treating those afflicted with NCDs. But we will place greater emphasis on promoting wellness and well-being, instead of solely fighting sickness. To create the shift from a system that is exclusively based on treatment to one that is geared toward prevention, we will establish ***Health Is Wealth Grants***.

These grants will be awarded to Barbadians who change their lifestyle and through exercise and improved diets, reduce the severity of their chronic disease and reduce their need for expensive drug therapies and surgery. We will work with doctors, dietitians and other health care professionals to establish appropriate, objective criteria for qualification for the grant.

## REMEMBERING FORGOTTEN GROUPS

This Manifesto addresses many sectoral interests and the needs of those who contribute at every level of our society. We have identified and singled out

for particular attention, groups of workers to whom insufficient attention is paid.

- **Gas Station Attendants** – twice annually, gas station attendants will be required to have health checks through the polyclinics, at no cost to them. Owners of gas stations will be required to provide employees on the forecourt with raincoats and head covers to protect them from the elements.
- **Employees In Industrial Estates** – we will allocate space in industrial estates for privately owned child-care facilities. Parents will be close to their children, saving them money and multiple trips a day to take their children to care facilities.
- **Mechanics, Auto-Body Repair Men and Technicians** – will be allocated rental space at specially designated locations and in industrial estates to give them more space to carry out their work and to stop the clutter and fumes in residential neighbourhoods. This will allow for the development of clusters to facilitate the efficient use of plant and equipment in this sector.
- **Police Officers** - we will progressively reduce the retirement age of Police Officers, given the health profiles, stress and the physical demands placed on them.
- **Special Constables and Island Constables** - will have their terms and conditions of service upgraded to bring them in line with sound human resources best practice, from how we deal with sick leave for them to Pensions.
- **Workers of Statutory Boards** – we will level the playing field and provide gratuities for workers of all statutory boards upon retirement.
- **Customs Officers** - will remain employed in a Central Government Department in recognition of the Customs Department being fundamentally a Border Security Agency, as opposed to being transferred to the Barbados Revenue Authority.

- **Rastafarian Brethren & Sistren** – we recognise and respect the members of the Rastafarian Community as valued and contributing members of Barbadian society. We will facilitate access to large lots of land for farming and reserve space at new vending sites for the sale of the community's fruit and vegetables. Space will be provided at vendors' malls and other suitable locations for the sale of art, craft and ware made by the Community. Temple Yard will be fixed and repaired and water, electricity and proper sanitation facilities provided. We will meet to discuss concerns about the treatment of Rastafarian youth in the educational system and hold a Referendum to consult on the decriminalisation of the use of recreational marijuana.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL SPECIALISATION

- Master Teachers and Senior Specialist Nurses - we will create a number of posts classified as Master Teacher and Senior Specialist Nurse, as a reward for the attainment of excellence in these professions. Good teachers and nurses will no longer have to be promoted into administration and out of teaching and nursing in order to receive a better salary.
- Nurses and teachers are only two of the categories of Civil Servants affected by the absence of technical promotion streams in their field. We will review all affected areas in an attempt to keep our other technocrats in their fields of specialisation and strengthen delivery in the Civil Service.

THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY IS COMMITTED  
TO ENSURING A FAIR OPPORTUNITY, A HIGHER  
QUALITY OF LIFE AND LASTING PROSPERITY FOR ALL  
BARBADIANS.





**X VOTE  
Gline  
CLARKE  
ST. GEORGE  
NORTH**

# MAKING PEOPLE MATTER

## A BETTER SOCIETY EVERY BAJAN MATTERS

### PILLAR I

The **Barbados Labour Party** believes that **Every Bajan Matters**. Our policies as a Government will reflect that belief. **The BLP** will ensure that every Barbadian has a life of dignity, the opportunity to realise their potential and excel, irrespective of their birth, class, race, gender, or if differently abled.

Barbados will become a model for the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our social policy will be predicated on ending poverty and building new national partnerships in which Barbadians work together to achieve the goals of national and personal prosperity. We want to build a united country in which people are safe, proud, innovative, industrious, kind, caring, optimistic and happy. Barbadians will feel safe in their homes and on the streets. They will have equal access to social justice and economic opportunity. Simply put, **the BLP** wants to build a just, stable and sustainable society.

We will put an end to the compartmentalisation of the delivery of social services. We will fight poverty by finding and tackling its root causes, lift people out of

poverty and vulnerability and help them to become so independent that they, in turn, are able to give back to society.

Universal access to free tertiary training, high-quality universal healthcare, affordable land and public housing are not just services for which our taxes pay. They are also social and economic assets and drivers that promote equality, enable opportunity, reduce poverty, anchor stability, and fuel our country's productivity and efficiency. They cannot and must not be abandoned or compromised. **The BLP** will ensure this.

**The BLP will ensure that our social policy architecture is well integrated and the delivery of social services becomes caring, people-centred and efficient.**

Our social development strategy will meet needs, solve problems and create opportunities for the advancement of Barbadians. It will ensure that Barbadians have access to universal health care and that our educational system serves the needs of a modern country, utilises the talents of its citizens and reflects their varied interests.

# LEADING IN & WITH EDUCATION

*Our mission is to create the most accomplished Barbadian citizen who operates successfully on the global stage, but remains rooted in Barbadian values.*

**The BLP** will empower Barbadians by providing continued access to high-quality universal free education. We believe that transitioning to **THE BEST BARBADOS** will take place only by transforming the attitudes and aspirations of Barbadians and by equipping them to excel, nationally and globally, through access to formal and non-formal education. In the Mission Critical section of the Manifesto, we have already given our commitment to paying for Barbadians to attend the University of the West Indies.

We will further empower our nationals and restore Barbados as a leader in education.

## ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

### EDUCATION

The **Barbados Labour Party** recognises there must be an extensive national conversation about the reform of Barbados' educational system.

Decisions on the future of Barbados' educational system must happen through a national discussion that takes place parish by parish, with the people of Barbados deciding where the system should go in the next several decades. These national conversations will inform the transformation of Barbados' educational system.

### THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

#### **THE BLP WILL -**

- Recognise and reward teachers who excel, with a Master Teacher designation and an increased salary in order to support excellence in teaching and greater mentorship. Teachers who want to continue teaching will now be able to do so without having to go into administration in order to earn higher remuneration.
- Resume the diagnostic approach to allow us to effectively assess the learning capacity of each child because each child matters.
- Introduce coding and robotics in the curricula of both primary and secondary schools.
- Broaden the educational system, school curriculum and teaching methods to ensure equal opportunity for personal growth and achievement for every child, empowering rather than excluding those who are non-academic.
- Ensure that more psychologists and schools' guidance counsellors are employed by the Ministry of Education to assess and cater to the needs of children.





**X VOTE**  
**Edmund**  
**HINKSON**  
**ST. JAMES**  
**NORTH**

- Strengthen school and community-based parental education to support parents in improving the learning environment in their homes.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRIMARY

- Ensure access to early childhood education for children aged 3 to 5.
- Re-establish a system for early testing of children between ages 3 and 7 years old, in speech, language, hearing and sight, in order to identify and address any disabilities at an early stage and facilitate testing between the ages of 7 and 9 for dyslexia.

## OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Develop every secondary school into a Centre of Excellence and a top school in a specific area of specialisation in academic, non-academic and technical disciplines.
- Appoint a representative of the PTA, a priest and young people between the ages of 18 and 21, to serve on school boards.

## TERTIARY EDUCATION

- Establish a University College of Barbados comprising the SJPP, BCC and Erdiston, in order to train young people in applied arts and sciences, the creative economy, and technical disciplines.
- **The BLP's** commitment to financing education at UWI has already been given under Mission Critical. We stand by it.

## NON-ACADEMIC TRAINING

- Placing greater focus on the expansion of technical and vocational education and training.

## SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

**The BLP** will develop modern policies for the education of children with learning difficulties, disabilities, special needs and behavioural challenges. Our goal is to ensure that all Barbados' young people, especially those with special needs, are able to achieve their full human potential with a sense of dignity and self-worth.

## THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY WILL ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES BY -

- Refurbishing, improving the resources and expanding the Edna Nicholls Centre to accommodate a wider number of young people.
- Reopening the Alma Parris School.
- Ensuring that children with learning or other disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of their disability and adapting the curriculum appropriately.
- Providing through the University College of Barbados specialised training for those interested in teaching children with learning disabilities and special needs.
- Ensuring transportation of children with disabilities by including wheelchair accessible buses as part of an upgraded bus fleet.

## TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

- A redesigned school curriculum will prioritise STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and establish a national innovation programme within schools.
- A Youth Innovation Award will be introduced to encourage students to create and showcase new technologies of all kinds. The award, which will be worth \$150,000 of prize money, will be for all youth. When won by school students the prize will be allocated between the winning school, teacher and students.

# INVESTING IN THE HEALTH OF BARBADIANS

*The BLP stands for universal access to high-quality health care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and within the network of Barbados' polyclinics. A previous **Barbados Labour Party** Government introduced the Barbados Drug Service. We continue to support the existence and subsidisation of the Drug Service.*

*The thrust of our health care policy will be on promoting wellness and well-being. Chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure are the main causes of death and disability in Barbados. They are also the largest single area of expenditure in the national health care budget. The promotion of healthy eating, healthy lifestyles and reducing the incidence of the NCDs will be a major priority of the BLP.*

## ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

A new **BLP** Government will implement a number of policies over the short, medium and long terms that are aimed at addressing current challenges. These policies will restore Barbados' reputation for high-quality health care and facilitate the transition from a system that is overwhelmed with the high cost of treating disease, to one that is proactive, preventive and promotes health, wellness and well-being.

### PRIORITISING WELLNESS

**IN ORDER TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE PROMOTION OF WELLNESS AND SHIFTING OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO PREVENTION, THE BLP WILL -**

- Target chronic non-communicable diseases by encouraging and incentivising Barbadians to take greater responsibility for their own health. This will be accomplished through the provision of **Health Is Wealth** Grants to those who change their lifestyle and, through exercise and improved diets, reduce the severity of their chronic disease and reduce their need for expensive drug therapies and surgery. We will work with doctors, dietitians and other health care professionals to establish appropriate criteria for qualification for the grant.
- Work to make healthy foods and essential items more affordable for Barbadians by exempting a basket of goods, food, and medication from VAT.
- Embed healthy lifestyles in schools, communities and the education system by fusing the production of fruit, vegetables and healthy produce with some aspects of the school meals programme.

**IN ADDITION TO EMPHASISING PREVENTION AND WELLNESS, THE BLP WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SENSITIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY DELIVERS THE BEST QUALITY CARE IN THE CARIBBEAN TO THOSE WHO ARE ILL.**



**X VOTE**  
**Sandra**  
**HUSBANDS**  
**ST. JAMES**  
**SOUTH**



**X VOTE  
Cynthia  
FORDE  
ST. THOMAS**

## THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL THE BLP WILL -

- Expand the Accident and Emergency Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to deliver better emergency services for patients.
- Provide families with proper space and amenities at the QEH, where they can gather in comfort or meet with medical personnel while their loved ones are treated. Families are stakeholders and an important part of patient care.
- Fully utilise the cardiac unit and establish a stroke management unit at the QEH.

## THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

- Develop a health financing strategy for Barbados.
- Place emphasis on people-centred health care delivery with a focus on families.
- Ensure an adequate number of ambulances is available for the expansion of services, including decentralisation by the provision of ambulances services outside of Bridgetown.
- Review the Drug Formulary to stop chronic shortages of drugs and to again include combinations of drugs that are in the best interest of those who need the medication.
- Apply greater use of technology and national information systems that allow for better capture, monitoring and data storage to improve patient services and care delivery.
- Rebuild or repair, as necessary, crumbling health architecture and facilities.
- Work to incentivise the establishment of a national rehabilitation centre for those who have been injured in motor vehicle accidents, or have suffered disability as a result of stroke, other illness or violence.
- Incentivise local organisations, including those spearheading the efforts to improve the quality of

life of Barbadians suffering with diseases such as Alzheimer's, to establish day care and other facilities.

- Work with nursing and other organisations in the Diaspora, such as the Barbados Association for Cancer Advocacy (BACA), on health initiatives, including a hospice for palliative care.
- Upgrade Barbados' mental health facilities and modernise the delivery of care for those with mental illness.
- Increase community-based mental health services provided by mental health nurses and persons trained in psychosocial and psychogeriatric disciplines.

## NURSES IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

**The BLP** recognises that a good nursing network and nursing care are central to health care delivery and systems. In upgrading Barbados' health care system, nurses will have improved conditions and play an enhanced role. In the past, Barbados was regarded as a centre of excellence in nursing. It is our intention to ensure we regain this status.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Establish the post of Senior Specialist Nurse to encourage highly skilled nurses to remain in patient care rather than moving into administration in order to be promoted or receive better pay.
- Ensure adequate nursing capacity at the QEH.
- Strengthen community-based health care initiatives and interventions by deploying more public health officers and nurses at the community level.
- Establish a School of Nursing as part of the University College of Barbados, linked to a credible international school, to attract Barbadians, as well as students from the Caribbean. This will encourage more young people to choose nursing as a career option.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

### THE BLP WILL -

- Provide proper accommodation for EMTs.

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Significant strides have been made in the use of marijuana in pain management and for the treatment of a range of medical complaints. **The BLP** will not deny Barbadians access to modern treatment modalities.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Legalise the use of medical marijuana.

## BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN BARBADOS

## STRONG COMMUNITIES

Our sense of self, social identification and our commitment to caring for each other should start in the communities where we live.

### THE BLP WILL SEEK TO FOSTER GREATER SOCIAL COHESIVENESS BY -

- Protecting families by nurturing our young people, strengthening social and community relations and enhancing livelihoods.
- Working with the Church and community-based organisations to address the needs of families and communities, as well as to help people help themselves.
- Supporting innovative community-driven projects that empower young people, individuals and families.

## GENDER EQUALITY

### THE BLP WILL SEEK TO CORRECT REMAINING GENDER IMBALANCES BY -

- Enacting legislation to provide equal pay to women who are doing the same work as men.
- Introducing legislation to provide for paternity leave.
- Encouraging greater participation by males in tertiary education.
- Encouraging female entrepreneurship.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE, VIOLENCE & PROTECTING OUR WOMEN

Domestic abuse and violence against women have reached crisis levels in Barbados. Policies are urgently needed to stem this tide of violence and loss of life. We also recognise and concede that although the vast majority of victims are female, men are also abused. **The BLP** will treat the issue of domestic abuse as a social and public health matter.

### TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, THE BLP WILL -

- Ensure the development of protocols aimed at effecting interventions in situations of abuse and preventing their escalation to crisis level.
- Ensure strong penalties for offenders.
- Provide short-term housing so that victims may escape from their abusers.
- Introduce classes in primary and secondary schools, sensitising young people to the issue, instilling respect for self, others and the sanctity of life, improving their negotiating skills and teaching anger management and conflict resolution.
- Provide classes on anger management and conflict resolution for adults, delivered in the community setting.
- Provide extensive public education and information so that victims and children know how to access help.



**X VOTE**  
**Dale**  
**MARSHALL**  
**ST. JOSEPH**



- Provide community-based counselling for families in situations of abuse.
- Provide counselling for batterers.

## FAMILIES & SOCIETY

**FAMILIES ARE THE BEDROCK OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE FOUNDATION OF OUR NATION. GOOD SOCIAL RELATIONS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY.**

### THE BLP WILL -

- Reorganise existing services to create a Department of Children and Family Services, provide coordinated support to families and strengthen child protection services.
- Promote a national breastfeeding initiative and allow for private breastfeeding stations in buildings and facilities used by the general public.
- Utilise the empty space in industrial estates to establish privately run nurseries and day care centres.
- Require large employers to offer a workplace creche.
- Utilise technology to create a central beneficiaries' register so that no person or family needing health, social or financial support will fall between the cracks.

## EMPOWERING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

**The BLP** is firmly of the belief that if given the opportunity, our young people have the energy and creativity to solve many of our island's problems and take our country to a prosperous future.

Our vision is to create new policies that empower Barbados' young people socially and economically and ultimately transform Barbados into the best place in the world for young people to live, have a family, work and do business.

### IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE COMMIT TO:

- Facilitating the development of a vibrant Youth and Creative Economy through the resourcing and promotion of youth-centric industries such as the arts, design, cuisine, film, entertainment, media, sports and lifestyle.
- Allocate 5% of all Government procurement contracts to businesses owned by young Barbadians.
- Create a National "First Job" Programme that allows unattached youth between 16 to 25 years old to gain a one-year Government-subsidised placement at a business in their field of interest.
- Reposition the Vocational Training Board to embark on new programmes of apprenticeships, internships and training in collaboration with community businesses, master craftspeople and international bodies.
- Establish a National Mentorship Programme through which adults can help to guide our young people within communities and in their fields of interest.
- Create a dynamic and highly empowered Ministry of Youth, whose mandate will be driven by annually held national youth consultations.
- Implement a Young Citizens' Service Programme where young people up to 18 years old give voluntary community service to organisations, NGOs or community groups.
- Fully involve young people in the national decision-making process by installing at least (1) young person on major Government Committees and Statutory Boards
- Create and evaluate national programmes that tackle new threats to the well-being of young people including issues of mental health, lack of self-confidence and identity, and excessive social media consumption.

## BAJAN YOUTH AS GLOBAL CITIZENS

The BLP will ensure that all Bajan youth will be multi-skilled and excel at home and abroad.

- By giving every young person the opportunity to speak a second language, learn to swim, learn basic first aid, take part in a sport at a competitive level, engage in art, music and other creative disciplines, travel to a foreign country and be exposed to entrepreneurial training, including financial literacy. Our target date for achieving this is 2030.

Additional information on our policies and commitment to young Barbadians and, by extension, to Barbados' future - are laid out in our *Youth Manifesto, "Future Forward"*.

## BAJAN SENIORS

The measure of any society is the way it treats its weakest and most vulnerable citizens. Our senior citizens should be respected and allowed to live out their years with the gratitude of the society they helped to build. Barbados must again become a more caring society for "all ah we."

The BLP will put in place a number of new policy measures that reflect Barbados' gratitude for the service and contribution of our seniors; such measures will be aimed at improving the quality of life of our senior citizens.

## RETIREMENT

The official retirement age in Barbados is 67, but this has never been comprehensively put into law. Two problems result. Persons who want to continue working can be forced out of the workplace before reaching 67 and those who want to retire early often find that they are not eligible to receive the full suite of benefits and entitlements.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Enact appropriate legislation in respect of the age of retirement in Barbados.
- Ensure that all persons retiring from statutory corporations, such as the Transport Board, receive a gratuity.

## MORE MONEY FOR OUR SENIORS

### THE BLP WILL -

- Increase non-contributory pensions from \$155 to \$225 per week, payable every fortnight, maintaining the relativities between non-contributory and contributory pensions.
- Enact comprehensive legislation to facilitate the provision of reverse mortgages as a means of enabling senior citizens to access the equity in their homes for their urgent needs.

## THE CARE & COMFORT OF BAJAN SENIORS

### THE BLP WILL -

- Urgently introduce policies and appropriate legislation to stamp out all forms of senior abuse – financial, sexual, physical and/or psychological.
- Expand the joint private-public sector nursing home programme known as the Alternative Care of the Elderly in which Government subsidises the care of senior citizens in private nursing homes when the district hospitals are full.
- Promote independent living, including incentivising home improvements and home adaptations to improve the day-to-day quality of life of our seniors, helping them live with dignity and maintain their autonomy for as long as possible.



**X VOTE**  
**Peter**  
**PHILLIPS**  
**ST. LUCY**



**X VOTE  
Colin  
JORDAN  
ST. PETER**

- Offer training to home help personnel, utilise health aides for community health outreach, together with recruiting a cadre of retired nurses on a contractual or part-time basis, to facilitate the care of the elderly in the home and community settings.
- Incentivise and support churches, credit unions, trades unions and BARP to set up retirement homes, day-care facilities, recreational centres and the delivery of meaningful cultural, social, intellectual and physical activities for our nation's seniors. This will also provide relief to caregivers who often burn out from the physical and emotional stress of continuous care giving.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Working with those in the forefront of concern for and care of those who are differently abled, the **Barbados Labour Party** will conduct a census of Persons With Disabilities (PWD) in Barbados and introduce a Charter for The Disabled. These two instruments will allow us to properly understand both the numbers of the disabled and the nature of their disabilities in order to provide them with the programmes and support best suited to their challenges.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Enact full Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Discrimination legislation to more fully integrate PWD into society.
- Provide respite care through Civil Society to support caregivers of PWD.
- Include the representatives of the community of PWD on the newly formed Social Committee of the Social Partnership.
- Implement affirmative action to raise employment of PWD in the public sector.
- Develop a phased programme to make the island's public buildings, sidewalks and main highways fully accessible to PWD.

- Creating an Accessible Economy that incentivises people, firms, entrepreneurs, Government and Civil Society to meet the needs of PWD.
- Providing small grants to adapt work environments for people with disabilities.

## TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY & DISABLED

The mobility and quality of life of our senior citizens and PWD are often severely compromised by lack of access to transportation that is suited to their needs.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Incentivise the transport sector to equip public service vehicles to carry wheelchairs and to meet the needs of PWD and the elderly.

## HOMELESSNESS

- Provide transitional accommodation, counselling and social assistance to people displaced by eviction, fire, flood or other natural disasters.
- Work with NGOs and, where necessary, mental health professionals to provide support and programmes for the homeless, including feeding, emergency housing, livelihood and skills training.
- Develop appropriate mental health interventions for those who are homeless as a result of mental illness.

## YOUR PROPERTY & THE GOVERNMENT

- Complete conveyancing of properties under the NHC's 20-year programme and return deposits to those people whose homes were not appropriately finished.
- Complete conveyancing of land for people who were moved to alternate sites due to disasters.

- Complete the system of land registration and the land title transfer process.
- Start the process of reviewing the list of people across Barbados whose land has been compulsorily acquired by Government without receiving their lawful compensation. In due course a plan will be developed to pay such persons when resources become available.

## HOUSING

**The BLP's housing policies can be found under Pillar IV on Infrastructure.**

## SPORTING SOCIETY

In the past, national socio-economic policy treated to sports primarily for recreational value, focusing mostly on the health and social benefits. In this environment, bright and talented young people have had to choose between their dream of a career in sports and academic training, in order to make a living. **The BLP** is determined that no young person should have to make that choice.

Under **the BLP** there will be general development of sports. Our thinking is to elevate sports as a central pillar of Barbadian national identity, social development and economic prosperity.

In order to develop a sustainable, high-performance system aimed at producing and maintaining world-class Barbadian sportspersons and a viable sports industry, **the BLP WILL** -

- Launch a national participation project to encourage all Barbadians - especially young Barbadians - in life-long engagement in sports by -
  - » Expanding school based sports programmes and supporting greater levels of senior, community and work-based participation in sports.

- » Equipping sports facilities with solar lights to improve capacity for training of teams and sports persons.
- Develop a secondary school as a specialist sports centre with strong emphasis on training a cadre of world-class coaches, athletes and sports professionals.
- Facilitate the establishment of Barbados as a leading destination for sports tournaments, sports science, injury rehabilitation and training camps.

## SPORTS GOVERNANCE

**The BLP's** sports policies will be supported by appropriate governance frameworks which are essential to the development of a cohort of international sporting professionals. In order to create an enabling governance environment for the administration and development of sports in Barbados, **the BLP WILL** -

- Create a new model for the governance and administration of sports in Barbados, including repositioning the Ministry of Sports with a new Sports Development Act to better facilitate the development of sports as a true economic earning sector.
- Increase the levels of support to national sporting organisations (NSOs) to enable them to deliver high-performance leadership, strategy, planning and performance that achieve international success.

*The economic component to sports is discussed in Pillar II, A Strong Economy.*

**THE BEST BARBADOS IS A STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE COUNTRY, BUILT THROUGH PROGRESSIVE POLICIES THAT UNDERGIRD NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; THE TWO ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED IN A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP.**



**X VOTE**  
**Trevor**  
**PRESCOD**  
**ST. MICHAEL**  
**EAST**



# MAKING PEOPLE MATTER

## A STRONG ECONOMY

### PILLAR II

#### REBUILDING THE ECONOMY, FINANCING NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

*A stable society that offers opportunity for all is created and sustained only when a country gets its economic fundamentals right. We have laid out our most urgent economic intervention strategies in our six-month agenda. We will stop the bleeding. We will stop the sale of the “family silver” at knock-down prices.*

After the **Barbados Labour Party** has rescued and restored our economy, we will turn to transformation.

A country cannot be taxed into recovery. **The BLP** will lift the tax burden, where and when we can. We will incentivise private investment and innovation, employ policies and take actions to build a strong skills-based, competitive economy, put people back to work, ensure a fair share for workers and adequate returns on private investment. We will restore growth, rebuild our foreign exchange reserves and return our national credit rating to investment grade.

## ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

International agreements on the elimination of trade and tax preferences and the new threats of climate change and environmental degradation mean that many of the tools previously available to build our country will no longer be available to our Government. We recognise that and have crafted a development plan centred around investment in the skills of our people. To help refine our plans and identify new sectors and new ways of upgrading existing sectors, **the BLP WILL -**

### A) MODERNISE OUR ECONOMIC DRIVERS & TRANSFORM THE ECONOMY

- Establish a National Development Council of eminent and respected persons, bringing a wide range of perspectives, experiences and disciplines.
- Introduce unsecured Trust Loans of up to \$5,000 in the first instance, for all legitimate small businesses.
- Place the Government's assets in a Barbados Sovereign Wealth Fund for the building of sustainable wealth. The Fund's capital will be held by Government, but the income and surplus income from the fund will be shared equally by all Members. Membership will accrue to all Barbadians who turn 18 after the Fund's establishment. An annual report on the Fund will be published and laid in Parliament for transparency.
- Facilitating the establishment and regulation of new financial instruments such as crowd-funding platforms where Barbadians and the Diaspora can back local entrepreneurs and earn better yields.

- Encourage companies to give shares to employees at all levels. Where the equity holding of non-managerial employees is greater than 15%, the company will receive tax rebates.
- Raise the Minimum Wage to \$8.00 per hour and extend it across all sectors of the economy.
- Recognising that for multiple reasons a number of people cannot access the formal financial system, we will bank the un-bankable by offering basic banking services through the Post Office to facilitate the transactions of those who have this difficulty.
- Restore a minimum deposit rate to encourage banks to put deposits to work in the economy and restore their loan-to-deposit ratios to economically sustainable levels.
- Facilitate the creation of the Sharing Economy.
- Pass a Procurement Act to ensure greater transparency in the Government's annual expenditure of \$400 million on goods and services.
- Ensure that small community firms, small businesses, and those owned by Persons With Disabilities (PWD) have preferred access to Government contracts of \$250,000 and below.
- Remove those obstacles that prevent credit unions from playing a greater role in the financial sector and competing with banks for savings and investment.
- Set up Regional Advisory Bureaus to help PWD, young people and small businesses access the new business opportunities, assist Barbadians in their financial literacy, commercial decision-making and investments.
- Enable greater access to capital by the small business sector through the recapitalisation of Fund Access and the Enterprise Growth Fund and allowing borrowers to provide more reasonable and flexible means of security and collateral.



**X VOTE**  
**Col. Jeffrey**  
**BOSTIC**  
**THE CITY OF**  
**BRIDGETOWN**



## B) LAY NEW ECONOMIC PLANKS FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Building a new economy necessitates laying new planks for economic growth or modernising old ones, making them fit for purpose in today's competitive, open and global economy.

### BUILDING ISLANDS, EXPANDING BARBADOS

Barbados' marine space is 400 times greater than its land space. Over the years, we made strategic investments in our marine space. The Deep Water Harbour, Trevor's Way and the recently constructed cruise piers at the Bridgetown Port are all built on reclaimed lands. A new **BLP** Government will sustainably develop our country's maritime space by -

- Creating the necessary regulatory and fiscal environment to promote the creation of a small number of new islands and peninsulas off the west and south coasts of Barbados, through the reclamation of 3000 acres of land over the next decade. This will result in new tourism, economic, and cultural hubs and hundreds of jobs. An Environmental Scoping Study will first be done to determine feasibility. An appropriate Social Impact Study will also be required.
- Putting in place policy and legislation to ensure that Barbadians maintain freehold of this new land space while providing long commercial leases to those investing.

### SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

We will create new high-quality jobs by establishing six special economic zones. We will make Heritage Bridgetown a Smart and Creative City and put in place all that is required to facilitate its conversion. This will be a precursor to Barbados becoming a "Smart Country."

We will also designate and promote the other following areas:

- Speightstown as a Heritage, Artistic and Culinary Centre.
- Holetown as a Tourism and Entertainment District.
- St Lawrence Gap as an Entertainment District.
- Oistins as the epicentre of Barbados' fishing industry.
- Six Roads as an Industrial Corridor.

We will also pursue wider tourism activities in education, health and sports tourism that can be developed in the centre and east of the island from St. Lucy to St. Philip.

### DIGITISE GOVERNMENT AND BARBADOS

An essential component of our future economy will be Barbadians exporting professional services to the world down a high speed internet connection. To fast track this new economy, Government, the private sector and individuals will need to embrace the digital economy. **The BLP** Government will lead this transformation by -

- Providing all Barbadians with a digital ID
- Facilitating the creation of free, basic Wi-Fi, across the island. The provision of universal access to a minimum threshold of high-speed broadband Internet, is a means of powering the new national digital economy, Smart Cities and a Smart Barbados. This will also be an enabler for growth, connectivity, innovation and fully integrated platforms for social and economic activity.
- Digitising the Barbados dollar in order to allow Barbadians to conduct their business using existing or digital methods. This will make payments quicker and cheaper.
- Working with the private sector to create an Innovation Hub around UWI, housing global

research and technology companies. We will follow the examples of best practice, such as Scotland's CivTech Programme.

- Prioritising the effective use of technology within the public service to increase accountability, eliminate unnecessary duplication, bureaucracy, wastage and corruption.
- Creating a centralised Digital Services Committee to play the lead role in delivering people-centric public services. This will serve to co-ordinate and rationalise several existing units such as the Data Processing Department, e-Government Unit, e-Commerce Unit, Telecommunications Unit, and the many ICT units of individual Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

## DOING BUSINESS WITH EASE

**The BLP** will use technology to improve the quality and speed of the delivery of high-demand services -

- Facilitating online payments for a wide range of Government activities and services.
- Renewing drivers' licences.
- Clearing goods through Customs.
- Obtaining passports.
- Applying for and obtaining liquor and public entertainment licences.
- Obtaining police certificates of character and accident reports.
- Integrating systems at the QEH to seamlessly provide patients with medical reports, facilitate the efficient processing of records and the payment of bills.
- Obtaining Town and Country Planning Permissions.
- Facilitating the payment and collection of money for maintenance while allowing for privacy and sensitivity in the management of this process.

- Putting in place a new system of tickets and fines, for certain offences, such as traffic. These fines and tickets will be payable online.

## COMMERCE AND THE COURTS

Central to doing business with ease, is the settling of commercial disputes in a time frame and manner that does not jeopardise the viability of enterprises, business profitability, the production of goods or the delivery of services.

### THE BLP WILL FACILITATE THIS BY -

- Introducing a Commercial Court, funded by its users, to facilitate the speedy, efficient, and transparent resolution of commercial disputes.
- Working with all established international centres of arbitration and promoting Barbados as a Centre for International Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

## FINTECH

- **The BLP** will support and leverage new technologies, such as Blockchain, wherever such technologies have the proven ability to boost foreign reserves, democratise the economy, create economic empowerment for Barbadians and build wealth. We will also consider the capacity of this and other nascent technologies to mitigate the impact on economic activity of the termination of correspondent banking relationships between international banks and indigenous Caribbean banks.
- We will develop a Sandbox Regime for regulation. This will be put in place for FinTech start-ups and other innovators, to enable the easy, yet safe and contained experimentation of new technologies and approaches.
- **The BLP** will monitor the development and regulation of cryptocurrencies to determine what role they may have in the crafting of Barbados' new economy.





**X VOTE**  
**Ian GOODING-  
EDGHILL**  
**ST. MICHAEL  
WEST  
CENTRAL**

- We will work with regional and educational institutions to provide more opportunities for training in software development and Fintech.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ROBOTICS

The rise of artificial intelligence and robotics is transforming the work-place and economies across the globe. This trend will continue to gain momentum and the new workplace will be very different from what now exists. Technology can be both a threat and an opportunity. Barbados will be affected and it is the responsibility of the Government to prepare Barbados to minimise adverse impacts of these disruptions and to maximise the opportunities and wealth inherent in the development and ownership of these new technologies for all Barbadians.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Commission a study to determine the sectors, industries, jobs, manner and the likely time frames in which the Barbados job market and economy will be impacted and ways in which we can ensure that all Barbadians benefit.

## CYBER SECURITY

We will create a robust cyber security environment to keep Barbadians and Barbadian institutions safe and to add value to our brand as a global domicile for international business. Our policies will be based on the following pivotal interventions:

- A National Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan.
- A National Cyber Security Centre that rationalises Government's existing cyber security frameworks and strengthens its capacity to respond effectively to cyber threats at all levels. There will also be a division that will collaborate with the private sector, to help address threats as they emerge and support research.

- Cutting edge policies, laws and regulations to align Barbados with global cyber security best practice, including with respect to data protection and protection of individual privacy.
- A national cyber security and safety awareness campaign geared toward protecting our citizens, especially our youth and elderly, from cyber-bullying, cyber-predators and cyber-stalkers.

## MAKING ALL BARBADIANS INVESTMENT PROMOTERS

**The BLP** will encourage all Barbadians to promote new investments in Barbados.

- In the interest of transparency and anti-corruption, we will establish a register of promotions and promoters. If a registered investment takes off, promoters will be entitled to a pre-set introduction and success fee. Our aim is to encourage every Barbadian to be an investment promoter and to act against corrupt practices in the promotion of investments by people who have special access to Government ministers, Board Chairmen and senior public servants.

## OIL & GAS

In 2007, **the BLP** rolled out the first National Green Economy Policy in the Americas and one of the first in the world. We are committed to a Green Economy as part of Barbados' wider approach to reducing our carbon footprint and our mitigation and adaptation strategies to the threat climate change poses to our sustainable development. We are aware, however, that other countries are not so committed and that it will take many years to put a Global Green Economy in place.

- In that regard, Barbados will give consideration to the careful exploitation of its oil and gas resources for export, in accordance with the high environmental standards and legislation that we put in place in 2007.

#### **THE BLP WILL -**

- Explore for oil and gas offshore Barbados, permitting extraction only by qualified and experienced companies using the highest environmental standards.
- Put a specified percentage of the revenues from oil and gas resources into the Barbados Sovereign Wealth Fund for the benefit of future generations.
- Invest in the necessary training programmes to ensure that an increasing number of nationals provide the goods and services to the oil and gas sector and obtain the available jobs.

#### **CREATIVE ECONOMY & CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

**The BLP** recognises the value of Barbados' cultural industries as a vital source of national identity, entertainment, expansion of the tourism product and for their economic potential.

#### **THE BLP WILL NOW ACT IN FURTHERANCE OF THAT RECOGNITION BY -**

- Creating a new model for culture and the creative industries in Barbados, commencing with a transformation of the National Cultural Foundation, the Crop Over Festival and NIFCA.
- Evolving the Barbados Cultural Industries Development Authority to become one that nurtures, showcases, markets and exports the products of Barbadian creative professionals to the world.
- Facilitating the production and promotion of a 52-week calendar for arts, entertainment and sports including at least, one world-class festival, every two months.
- Establishing a world-class contemporary arts, design and creativity festival.

- Promoting within the 52-week calendar, events that tap into the international market for food and cocktails, showcasing the work of Barbados' local chefs, mixologists and baristas.
- Making Barbados the location of choice for major international entertainment events through the infrastructural redevelopment of the National Stadium, the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, the Empire Theatre, Kensington Oval, the Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium and the National Botanical Gardens.
- Designating entertainment zones on the island that have extended curfews for loud music.

#### **SPORTS MAKE MONEY**

**The BLP** will establish sports as a real professional career option for our nationals and as a major revenue and foreign exchange generating pillar of the Barbadian economy. **THE BLP WILL -**

- Facilitate the establishment of Barbados as the Caribbean's premier location for regional, international and semi-professional tournaments, training camps, sporting exhibitions, sports conferences, sports science and injury rehabilitation.
- Collaborate with UWI to establish new initiatives and more scientific approaches to sports, basing policy on sound academic research and empirical data.

#### **WATER AND BEACH SPORTS**

- Barbados has wonderful flat, sandy beaches that are ideally suited to beach sports. **The BLP** will develop niche markets in tourism, new opportunities for all Barbadians to play, compete in and attract those interested in beach and water sports, including surfing and volley ball, beach soccer, coastal rowing and boating.





## CRICKET

- Barbados has already achieved excellence in cricket. This game enjoys sustained national interest, infrastructure, a critical mass of players and a strong network of ancillary services. **The BLP** will promote in the international community the skills and services of our cricketing professionals, among them, players, coaches, match officials, scorers, curators, grounds-men, medical personnel and other service providers.
- We will use available electronic and digital technologies to expose our cricketing professionals to a large global audience - particularly in India, which is hungry for all types of cricket.
- Collaborate with the private sector for the development of a "drop-in pitch" at Kensington Oval.
- Promote Barbados as a prime location and global centre for development, technology, science and training in cricket.

## ROAD TENNIS

- Road tennis is part of Bajan culture. **The BLP** will further develop road tennis as a community-based sport at the amateur and professional levels, as well as for national, regional and international competition. We will work to have road tennis recognised as an Olympic sport.

## C) BOLSTERING THE TRADITIONAL SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY

There are traditional planks of our economy which served Barbados well in the past and on which, given the appropriate strengthening, we will continue to rely.

## THE BARBADOS VISITOR ECONOMY (TOURISM & HOSPITALITY)

The Tourism and Hospitality Sector is the biggest contributor to the creation of jobs and the earning of foreign exchange for the Barbados economy.

If Barbados is to realise the optimal benefits from the sector, we must broaden our understanding of and approach to tourism and hospitality, to embrace the idea of the visitor economy. This concept encompasses broader economic activity such as events, sporting competitions, festivals, conventions, exhibitions as well as education and health tourism.

### A BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT WILL RETURN REAL GROWTH TO THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY SECTOR BY -

- Working with our international development partners, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and others, to help create a National Tourism Refurbishment and Attractions Facility for the concessional funding of environmentally-friendly construction, refurbishment and retrofitting of the local tourism and hospitality sector.
- Developing the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. into a Public-Private Partnership.
- Establishing a focal point and single electronic window for investment in the tourism sector in order to streamline the speed and efficiency of the investment process.
- Working with the international Green Climate Fund and similar agencies to establish a Barbados Green Fund to help shift the tourism and hospitality sector toward using renewable energies, water collection and food storage and the development of low-impact, sustainable eco-tourism.
- Levelling the playing field with fair regulation for all players in the sector, including "villas" and new economy players such as AirBnB.

- Actively promoting the development of Barbados as the home-port for cruise ships in the southern and eastern Caribbean and establishing positive linkages with the hotel, agricultural and other sectors.
- Linking the renewal of, or newly awarded concessions in tourism to engagement and stimulation of the local economy. For example,
  - » tax concessions can be linked to using a national booking platform to ensure foreign exchange is brought into the country.
  - » the grant of work permits should be linked to a requirement to train locals for jobs.
  - » exemptions on the importation of food and furniture must be linked to the provision of greater opportunities for local farmers, furniture makers and restorers.
  - » new build investment could be linked to community-based projects or enhancements.
  - » Promote community tourism by working closely with community based businesses to refine their product and to provide a platform for the promotion of their offering.
- Promote the development of nature trails and green spaces or upgrading watercourses, thereby creating opportunities for community-based entrepreneurs. Such activity will include the establishment of low impact camp-sites in the Scotland District for eco-tourism and the use of churches in scenic locations as an additional attraction.
- Provide incentives for the redevelopment of our plantation houses as locations for the conduct of international business, tourism and heritage assets.

## NICHE TOURISM

Barbados is a mature and internationally recognised destination with a variety of tourism product offerings. We believe that from St Lucy to St Philip, we can develop these offerings in order to enhance our

competitive edge within the sector. The niche areas we will consider will rely not only on the traditional sun, sea and sand but on their own inherent capacity and potential to attract more visitors to Barbados.

The niche areas **the BLP** will develop include, but are not limited to -

- Agro
- Arbitration
- Destination Weddings
- Eco
- Education
- Entertainment
- Food/Culinary
- Health
- Heritage
- Sports
- Yachting

We will establish Barbados as a highly desirable destination for foreign nationals seeking various kinds of services. We will support the private sector in providing these high value services.

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

**THE BLP WILL -**

- Improve Government's capacity to respond quickly to new threats and challenges to the international business sector.
- Consult with the private sector and settle the policy framework on international business by December 31 2018, so as to pre-empt Barbados being listed by the OECD and EU as an uncooperative jurisdiction.
- Redefine Barbados globally as a centre of excellence for certain niche sectors in international business.



**X VOTE**  
**Marsha**  
**CADDLE**  
**ST. MICHAEL**  
**SOUTH**  
**CENTRAL**



**X VOTE**  
**Dr. William**  
**DUGUID**  
**CHRIST**  
**CHURCH**  
**WEST**

- Establish a special framework that will include legislation and a network of influential 'Friends of Barbados', to cultivate high-net-worth individuals, motivate them to use Barbados as their second home and the principal domicile of their business.
- Attract substantive international businesses to establish their headquarters and/or their administrative and supporting infrastructure, for example, the financial, IT, customer service, sales, marketing and distribution departments, which service their international operations.
- Take urgent steps to address the long-standing problems of the failure to create and maintain a more business-enabling environment through the establishment of a single focal point for all Government permissions and licences for investors.
- Continue the expansion of the Treaty Network.
- Develop a new multi-pronged Investment Attraction Strategy to diversify our International Business Sector and make Barbados a magnet as a regional hub for high-end niche services. We want to attract people who are developing intellectual property, who are in the business of FinTech, or in the business of maritime affairs and shipping. In addition, we will continue to promote Barbados as an internationally recognised domicile for wealth management.
- Ensure that Barbadian small businesses producing high value goods and services, are able to access international markets and where possible, benefit from global value and supply chain integration.
- Ensure markets for Barbadian goods and services by prioritising and expanding trade access. Review relationships with traditional partners such as post-Brexit UK, Canada and the EU.
- Strengthen our presence in and air routes to Central and South America as a means of boosting international business and tourism.

## BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPOS)

- **The BLP** will enact a legislative and incentive framework for special economic zones to encourage Barbados' establishment as a Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) Centre for information, data management, medical transcriptions and similar type companies.

## FOOD & AGRICULTURE

The **Barbados Labour Party** recognises that a thriving and productive agricultural sector is important to national food security and vital to the economic and social development of our country. We must incentivise new entrants into the sector, capitalise the industry and bring innovative approaches to cultivation and production, as well as ensure that agriculture becomes a viable career option for young people.

We believe that with appropriate land use policies and the application of modern technologies and innovative agricultural practices, Barbados can make significant strides in growing healthy foods for our own needs. This can be accomplished while simultaneously preserving a balanced environment and reducing agricultural imports, thus saving foreign exchange.

A **BLP** Government will incentivise and stimulate the business of agriculture in Barbados by -

- Holding urgent meetings with all stakeholders to develop a five-year plan for the sugar industry, restoring trust and transparency between the industry and the Government.
- Promoting the development of one or more, state-of-the-art privately operated sugar factories, depending on feasibility, in which Barbadians have a stake and from which they benefit.
- Revitalising the sugar cane industry by promoting the production of sugar for domestic consumption,



more profitable specialty sugars, molasses for rum production, other by-products of sugar cane and biomass for energy production.

- Moving to stamp out the plague of praedial larceny using targeted enforcement, deployment of law enforcement personnel and surveillance technologies.
- Convening a Select Committee of Parliament to consult with all stakeholders as we re-examine and revise the badly drafted Protection of Agricultural Products and Livestock Act 2017, to ensure it now addresses existing problems in a fair and equitable manner, protecting the rights of large-and small-scale farmers, vendors, and back-yard producers.
- Establishing an Allotment Programme to bring lands into production by providing small leaseholdings and incentives for growing food.
- Encouraging backyard vegetable production and fruit cultivation by every Barbadian household.

- Allocating unused Government lands to bona fide landless farmers to support the production of vegetables, fruits, tree crops and livestock.
- Incentivising the use of green-houses, hydroponics and new, efficient technologies low in water use for crop production, to ensure food security.
- Developing an industry using Bajan Black Belly sheep for the production of meat, leather, and value-added products, while protecting the genetic stock of our indigenous breed.
- Encouraging the breeding and raising of rabbits, particularly for those in urban Barbados with an interest in animal husbandry.
- Strengthening the link between agriculture and tourism by promoting agrotourism, incentivising the development of tours linked to sugar routes, sugar museums, plantation houses, a functioning sugar factory and then to the rum distilleries.



**X VOTE**  
**Wilfred**  
**ABRAHAMS**  
**CHRIST**  
**CHURCH**  
**EAST**



**X VOTE**  
**Ralph**  
**THORNE**  
**CHRIST**  
**CHURCH**  
**SOUTH**

## FISHERIES

This **BLP** Administration will facilitate the creation of a modern, environmentally sustainable fishing industry and take the industry to the next level of development by:

- Broadening the ownership of fishing vessels and ensuring that experienced and knowledgeable fishermen who want to own boats can do so. We will make funding for the purchase of boats available through easily accessible rent-to-own mechanisms.
- Upgrading Barbados' fish markets to world-class facilities that meet international phytosanitary standards which will allow Barbadian fisher-folk to export fish to international markets. We will start the retrofitting programme with the Oistins Fish Market.
- Upgrading and maintaining existing landing sites and harbours, starting with the badly overcrowded Bridgetown Fishing Harbour and Pile Bay.

## BOOSTING MANUFACTURING

Due to our small size and labour force, **the BLP** believes that Barbados' manufacturing sector must be premised on the areas in which we have a competitive advantage. That is the creation of high-valued, highly exportable products that require highly skilled labour to produce it. These include rum, sugar, peppers, Black Belly sheep, West Indian Sea Island cotton and traditional Barbadian furniture.

We must work to maximise the value-added on all of these products in order to build sustainable industries that are appropriate to Barbados' peculiar skills and cost profile.

### THE BLP THEREFORE WILL –

- Leverage our educational skills and our stability as a nation to attract international manufacturing entities in the areas of pharmaceuticals, design,

information and communications technology (ICT) and Centres of Research.

- Work assiduously to ensure that the cost of energy for our industrial sector is significantly reduced within the context of a policy for clean and renewable energy.
- Work with the private sector to recreate a public-private sector initiative with dedicated capacity to promote and expand the value of Barbadian exports.

**The BLP's** broad economic policies set out in this Manifesto will support all of the productive sectors.

## CARIBBEAN SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

Barbados benefits substantially from the CSME, 52% of our trade is with CARICOM. In addition, 1 in every 4/5 visitors is from CARICOM. Our 2nd largest source of investment is from within CARICOM. Our destiny is inextricably linked with CARICOM Members.

- In an attempt to reduce capital constraints, **the BLP** will work with our Caribbean neighbours to develop an international payments clearing union. This is intended to diminish the need to use hard currencies for the importation of goods from countries to which we export.
- We will promote a single common domestic space for telecommunications and information.
- We will pursue greater harmonisation of regional and sub-regional regulation of utilities and in the area of competition policy.
- We will make it easier for people to travel around the region, including on inter-island ferries with their vehicles.

**THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY WILL REBUILD OUR ECONOMY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR CITIZENS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETY. A STRONG, STABLE RESILIENT ECONOMY IS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH THE BEST BARBADOS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED.**

# MAKING PEOPLE MATTER

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

### PILLAR III

#### MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR ALL BAJANS

The **Barbados Labour Party** recognises that *HOW* we do things is as important as *WHAT* we do. Barbados needs a Government capable of setting and performing with standards of excellence and of engaging on Barbados' behalf at the highest international levels. Members of the Government must put country before self and narrow partisan interests. As your Government, **ALL** of our decisions and actions will rest on our commitment to the well being

of Bajans. Most of all, **the BLP** is prepared to be held accountable for our actions and decisions.

*The principal organs of governance as outlined in our Constitution need to be modernised. We will bolster respect for the rule of law, strengthen the independence of the judiciary, weed out corruption, restore confidence in the administration of justice and revive responsible decision-making in our Parliament.*

*Voting every five years is not enough. Barbadians will be given a greater say in the policies and decisions that affect them and the way in which their country is governed.*



**X VOTE**  
**Adrian 'Medic'**  
**FORDE**  
**CHRIST**  
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BARBADOS

*The **Barbados Labour Party's** governance model will be far more inclusive and will be predicated on 5 central questions:*

- 1. What is the public interest that the Government must seek to protect?*
- 2. What is the public mischief against which the Government must guard?*
- 3. How might the use of technology help the Government achieve national goals?*
- 4. What are the social justice issues which the Government needs to take into account?*
- 5. What structures and processes can Government put in place to obtain the views of Barbadians and include them in decision-making?*

### **ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**

#### **STAMPING OUT CORRUPTION**

*Lawmakers cannot and must not be lawbreakers.* Discipline and accountability must start at the top if Barbados is to reclaim its world-class reputation. **The BLP WILL PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE BY -**

- At the First Sitting of Parliament, laying the Integrity Commission Bill to fight corruption, protect whistleblowers and usher in a new period of transparency in the governance of our national affairs.*

- Immediately after the Election, require Ministers to declare their assets.*
- Implementing a policy of zero tolerance for corruption.*
- Introducing election campaign finance reform.*
- Establishing an Anti-Corruption Unit to investigate incidents of corruption and make recommendations for prosecution or other appropriate action.*

#### **KEEPING BARBADOS SAFE**

In the past, our social stability and security have been among Barbados' greatest assets as a nation, built our social capital and have set us apart from many of our neighbours. **The BLP** shares the nation's anguish at the rising tide of criminality and lawlessness. Everything we do as a Government to stabilise the economy, will be jeopardised if we do not treat to the crisis of serious crime, gun violence and general lawlessness.

#### **SUPPORTING OUR POLICE & IMPROVING POLICING**

**The BLP** will address violent crimes and guns in Barbados by -

- Coordinating with regional security agencies to control the flow of guns with a view to building an effective Caribbean partnership to tackle this scourge.*
- Increasing the size of the RBPF by appointing administrative staff to perform non-policing functions so as to allow our police officers to focus on their primary role in maintaining law, order and the protection of citizens.*
- Addressing the appointment of police officers as a matter of urgency.*
- Equipping police officers with smartphones, outfitting police cars with tablet computers and dash-cams and expanding the use of CCTV cameras in high traffic areas, in order to enhance the RBPF's detection rate and enforcement capability.*

- Progressively reducing the retirement age of police officers, given their health profiles, stress and the physical demands placed on them as they carry out their role to protect Barbadians.
- Investing in the upgrading and renewal of plant, equipment and vehicles for the RBPF as to allow them to do their jobs in an efficient manner.
- Completing the transitioning of Special Constables into the full membership of the Police Force.
- Improving the terms and conditions of Island Constables to provide greater security of tenure for them.

## AN IMPROVED JUSTICE SYSTEM

Making a shift from a legal and justice system built on the colonial approach of punishment and incarceration, to more modern thinking and approaches, with a focus on rehabilitation and restoration for minor and victimless offences.

The Administration of Justice must be fair. The justice system must work for everyone. Ordinary Barbadians must not face jail for possession of a spliff, while Barbadians witness people who have committed murder and white-collar crimes walk free.

**The BLP** will review and reform the justice system, including the Police Force, Law Courts, Prison Service, and Welfare Department by -

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Treating the criminal justice system as a separate and discrete project for review and reform over a 5-year period and seeking external funding for the implementation of the recommended reforms.
- Reviewing, widely consulting and repealing those aspects of the 2018 amendments to the Police Act that are repugnant to our fundamental rights.
- Providing inter-connectivity across the criminal justice system by ensuring that decisions are shared in real time – from the Courts, to the Police,

the Immigration Department, the Prison and the Probation Services.

- Properly resourcing the Community Legal Services Department to make legal services readily available to those in need.
- Introducing innovative case management regimes in criminal cases that separate and fast track the hearing of serious offences, ensuring that such matters start within 6 months.
- Simplifying the process for the expungement of criminal records, creating certainty and thereby helping those who have genuinely reformed to get a job and be fully integrated back into society.

## FAMILY LAW

Creating a decentralised, multi-jurisdictional, specialist Family Court under the Family Law Act.

- The Family Court will work in conjunction with the social sector agencies in order to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families.
- We will remove the discrimination shown to single mothers who are only allowed to apply to the Magistrates' Court for the maintenance of their children, by giving them access to the High Court.
- Utilising technology and electronic banking systems to allow privacy in the payment, distribution, and collection of maintenance.

## GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Increasing the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts to encompass the entire island, for a more effective and efficient sharing of the caseload with the Supreme Court.
- Ensuring free public access to all of the Laws of Barbados across multiple platforms including social media, and introducing a public education programme to teach people their legal rights, especially in relation to new laws.
- Establishing a permanent Law Reform Commission.



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## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & VICTIM SUPPORT

**IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, VICTIMS ARE OFTEN FORGOTTEN. IN ORDER TO SERVE SOCIAL OBJECTIVES, THE BLP WILL ORIENT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM MORE TOWARD RESTORATIVE JUSTICE BY -**

- Strengthening the support available to victims of criminal offences such as rape and armed robbery, to help them recover from the trauma associated with the event and the stress of undergoing court proceedings.
- Instituting legislation to facilitate proceedings and Court Orders, by which persons guilty of serious crimes will have to pay financial compensation to their victims or the families of their victims.
- Introducing an approach, particularly for juvenile and some adult offenders, that will include engagement with community leaders, community mediation, community service and the introduction of fixed community penalties for minor offences.
- Introducing new, targeted approaches for juvenile offenders focused on prevention and early intervention.
- Introducing alternatives to imprisonment such as curfews and ankle monitors for minor offences.
- Introducing new structured educational and vocational programmes for rehabilitation of juvenile and short-term offenders to help them become productive members of society.

## WE PLAY FAIR

Governments are judged by what they do, not by what they say. **The BLP** will restore Barbados' reputation for fairness and transparency and pursue genuine transformation by -

- Introducing a Freedom of Information Act to release to the public all information not restricted on the grounds of national security, personal privacy or

commercial sensitivity. This will allow greater public oversight of the decisions and actions taken by Government.

- Creating a Committee on Social Justice as part of the Social Partnership, which will be broadened to include Civil Society and the Church.
- Bringing legislation to create a more equitable and fairer environment for rental properties that protects both landlords and tenants.
- Addressing the decriminalisation of vending while taking into account and balancing the interests of those who want to earn a living and support their families, as well as the interests of competing store and property owners.
- Streamlining immigration processes for transparency, fairness and efficiency to fast track the applications of those who have lived in Barbados most of their lives, but have no legal status.

## PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT

There was a time when Barbados was regarded as having one of the best public sectors in the Caribbean. Our Civil Servants were known for their superior quality, efficiency and professionalism.

The **Barbados Labour Party** is determined to rebuild a professional public service suited to delivering on the vision, policy directions and innovations that will characterise our tenure in office. New governance and management structures that reflect the new vision and policy direction of the Government will be put in place.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Enhance timely and effective human resource management in the public service by providing for a qualified, full-time Executive Chairman of the Public Service Commission.
- Establish separate administrative support for each of the Service Commissions - the Public, Teaching, Police, Judicial and Legal Services. Each Service Commission will be led by a Director. The Directors of the new Service Commissions will be qualified,

human resource professionals. The Chief Personnel Officer will retain overarching responsibility.

- At the same time, restructure the Personnel Administration Division to allow for more transparent, fair, efficient and timely decision-making across the entire public service.
- Work with the Trades Unions to obtain greater levels of productivity, for which we will appropriately remunerate public officers.
- Establish a College for the Public Service with an established educational tertiary institution for the strategic retraining of our public servants.
- Review, with a view to improving, the terms and conditions of public officers, including police and fire officers, teachers, nurses, customs and immigration officers, as well as those in the general service.
- Introduce technical promotion grades across the Civil Service to allow for specialists to remain in the technical streams rather than moving into administration.
- Rescind the decision to incorporate Customs into the Barbados Revenue Authority and maintain our position of 2007 that the Customs Department should remain a separate entity.

## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT & TRANSPARENCY

### THE BLP WILL –

- Establish the office of Contractor General as an independent entity to review the contracts of central Government and statutory corporations. The Contractor General will have the responsibility to report to Parliament annually.
- Establish a College of Negotiators to allow our Government to negotiate the best possible agreements and contracts in the public interest.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Public Accounts Committee to carry out its oversight role while

ensuring full transparency through the broadcast and streaming of its hearings.

## GIVING BAJANS A GREATER SAY IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The empowerment of people is central to the mission of the **Barbados Labour Party**.

Greater responsibility must be entrusted to our citizens and communities in ways that foster fairness and deepen democracy. Our vision for Barbados includes Barbadians who are confident and knowledgeable enough about matters of state to make contributions to civic affairs, community development and national governance.

A **BLP** Government will empower Barbadians by establishing new governance structures and expanding existing ones. This will increase opportunities for inclusive dialogue and transparency and for nationals to speak directly to their political representatives. Barbadians will have a greater say in national affairs through:

- Establishing **People's Assemblies**. These will be elected and will be directly engaged in activities to strengthen and protect our communities. These Assemblies will increase the participation of our citizens in civic affairs and assist in the role of oversight of key statutory entities. They will enhance communication between communities, Members of Parliament and Government and also act as effective enablers for resource mobilisation on behalf of communities and citizens who are in genuine need.
- Establishing, through the **People's Assemblies**, outreach programmes to improve the well-being of citizens, promote health and wellness and lead to a sense of greater citizen security and safer neighbourhoods.
- Introducing National Dialogues, National Referenda and consulting with Barbadians on major national issues, such as the decriminalisation of recreational marijuana.





- Continuing to engage directly with the public through initiatives such as *Rubbing Shoulders*.
- Obtaining the views of the public on issues such as Parliamentary Reform, fixed dates for elections and term limits for Prime Ministers.

## WORKERS' RIGHTS

The Trade Union movement in Barbados and the strong culture of workers' rights that has resulted came directly from the bosom of the **Barbados Labour Party**. Our greatest development as a country has always taken place during periods when the workers' voices were at their strongest.

**The BLP** abhors recent attempts to muffle and mute the voices of the workers' representatives. **The BLP** is also aware of the stress borne by workers between 1991 and 1994 and, more recently, over the course of the last 10 years.

**The BLP** is committed to open dialogue and collaboration with the Trades Unions movement as a partner in national stability and transformation, as was intended by the establishment of the Social Partnership.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Provide a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) to Civil Servants if negotiations with their Trades Unions are not completed within 3 months after the election of a **BLP** Government.
- Enact Recognition of Trades Unions legislation.

## THE THIRD SECTOR

There are more than 1,000 registered Third Sector organisations in Barbados in the form of not-for-profits, operating outside the spheres of the public and private sectors. Third Sector organisations cater to children, youth, the elderly, people with mental and physical disabilities, the poor, people in abusive relationships, the homeless, the unemployed, care givers, substance abusers, artists, other creatives, environmentalists and even animals.

- The BLP** recognises the meaningful impact a progressive 'Third Sector' policy might make in helping to meet growing social needs, accelerating entrepreneurship and social impact investing. In addition, the Third Sector will be instrumental in generating new jobs and foreign exchange, building a more caring society and serving as a partner in the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- A **BLP** Government will establish and work with a steering committee of Third Sector groups to promote and facilitate the development of a thriving, connected, engaged, energised, and effective Third Sector in Barbados, capable of strong social and economic impact and of positioning Barbados as an international centre for Third Sector engagement and collaboration.

## LEARNING HOW TO...

One of the difficulties faced by Barbadians in their daily lives, is not knowing "how to" navigate a number of important spaces. The question of "how do you" get any number of things done, is asked by Bajans of all walks of life. For example, "How do you - pass land "seed to seed", find information on scholarships, get help for a disabled child, get a licence to play local music at a fete, write a job application or a C.V, are all examples of this information and knowledge gap. **The BLP WILL -**

- Establish a strong public education and information programme that will inform Barbadians "how to" carry out a wide range of activities, adopt appropriate social skills, and navigate Government departments and formal processes.

**AT THE HEART OF THE GOVERNANCE OF THE BEST BARBADOS, ARE EMPOWERED CITIZENS, JUST AND EQUITABLE SYSTEMS AND A SOCIETY THAT WORKS FOR ALL WHO LIVE IN IT.**

# GETTING IT RIGHT, DOING IT RIGHT

## FIXING OUR BROKEN INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND RENEWAL

### PILLAR IV

*Good infrastructure is pivotal to national development, economic growth, international competitiveness and the livelihoods of our citizens. Investing in infrastructure is not only sound. It is the social, economic and moral obligation of any caring, elected Government.*

*Barbadians are horrified by the current condition of our country. Crumbling infrastructure, sewage on our streets and beaches, piles of garbage in gullies, fields and neighbourhoods, taps remaining dry for months or spewing dirty brown water. We stand at bus*

*stops surrounded by bush, waiting for hours on buses that never come, having our vehicles and shoes ruined by roads full of potholes, and street lights that no longer work. This is not the standard of the modern, efficient infrastructure that Barbadians expect.*

**A Barbados Labour Party**  
*Government will immediately address Barbados' infrastructural challenges as laid out in our six-month Mission Critical Agenda, found at the beginning of this Manifesto. Our mid and long-term policy reach will be wide and comprehensive. **The BLP** believes*





*there are exciting opportunities and benefits to upgrading and expanding Barbados' physical and technological infrastructures to meet the demands of the 21st century. It is the quality of our infrastructure that will contribute significantly to the attractiveness and competitiveness of Barbados as a premier tourism destination.*

## ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

**Sewerage, Sanitation, Roads, Public Transport and Water** are all on the list of the 17 Mission Critical issues on which we will act within the first six months. We know that the remedies to these problems will require sustained action beyond the initial six-month period and we are committed to doing what is necessary to get these issues right. Much is at stake. We have therefore crafted a further set of policy approaches on infrastructure on which we will act.

### SEWERAGE

**THE SEWERAGE SYSTEMS ON THE SOUTH COAST AND BRIDGETOWN REQUIRE URGENT ATTENTION AND STRONG MEASURES. THE BLP WILL -**

- Implement the interventions detailed in our Mission Critical Agenda for the South Coast and Bridgetown sewerage systems.
- Seek concessionary financing to convert the Bridgetown and South Coast sewage treatment plants into wastewater reclamation plants, using that water for the replenishment of our aquifers and for irrigation.

- Prevent the problems at the Bridgetown plant from further escalating to the level of the South Coast.
- Put proper management structures, maintenance programmes and resources in place for the South Coast and Bridgetown sewerage systems.
- Ensure that our sewerage systems and infrastructure are more resilient to climate change.
- Construct the West Coast Sewerage System.

### SANITATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT

**IN THE AREAS OF SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT, WE WILL -**

- Put in place an efficient, cost-effective plan for integrated solid waste management, including reduction of landfill space, energy recovery, and incentivising or mandating recycling.
- Remove derelict vehicles and dumped appliances and establish an effective system and location for bulky waste collection so as to keep communities clean.
- Review Waste To Energy and other modern technologies to determine from a social, economic and environmental perspective the appropriate waste disposal methods best suited to a modern, tropical, environmentally-conscious island. Explore existing opportunities such as those within the sugar industry and factories.

### ROADS

**LOCAL ROADS ARE IN NEED OF REPAIR OR REBUILDING. WE WILL -**

- Consider the feasibility of constructing a redesigned system of flyovers at heavily trafficked roundabouts to improve the flow of traffic on major road arteries.

- Provide appropriate lay-bys with facilities for conducting wayside vending in an orderly, safe, and sanitary manner.
- Review and replace recent, confusing and unworkable amendments to the Road Traffic Act.
- Reconstruct the major bridges that are under threat in the Scotland District and along major traffic arteries.
- Construct a new bypass highway from the Grantley Adams International Airport to St Thomas.
- Develop an alternate route to move traffic off the coast from between Holders Hill and University Hill.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SECTOR NEEDS FRESH PLANNING AND REVITALISATION. WE WILL -**

- Build a 21st century public transportation system by modernising existing infrastructure and working with all stakeholders to develop an economically sustainable 15-year master plan for the sector, inclusive of the use of vehicles powered by green fuels.
- Improve the quality of the bus terminals, facilities and amenities used by the traveling public, including installing and converting the terminals to clean energy sources.
- Re-engineer, retrofit or replace Government's existing public service vehicle fleets to switch to clean energy vehicles.
- Incentivise private companies with vehicle fleets, to convert their fleets to clean energy vehicles, over time.
- Allow duty-free concessions for the importation of minibuses and ZRs and incentivise the private sector providers of public transport to invest in a fleet of modern vehicles including units powered by clean energy and kneeling buses for the differently abled and the elderly.

- Rationalise the Road Traffic Act and Regulations to amend the legal definition of minibus and other public service vehicles, as well as the number of passengers they can lawfully carry.
- Incentivise and facilitate private sector investment in a regular, scheduled ferry service along the West and South Coasts, covering Speightstown, Holetown, Bridgetown, and Oistins.
- Advance regional efforts to establish a viable inter-island ferry service for the transport of people, goods and vehicles. (Also discussed under CSME in A Strong Economy).

## WATER

**BARBADOS IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY AND SERIOUS WATER WOES HAVE AFFECTED MANY BARBadian HOUSEHOLDS. THE BLP WILL -**

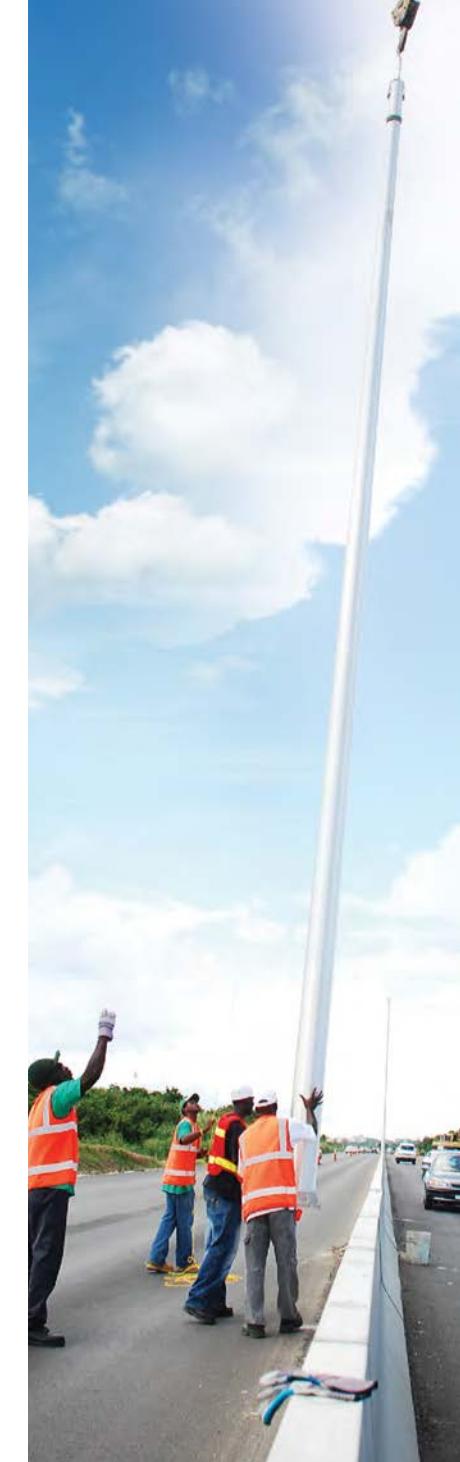
- Develop a comprehensive long-term programme, including grants and loans, to augment water supply to include rain-water collection, domestic wastewater collection, treatment and reuse for irrigation in agriculture, golf courses and other non-potable uses.
- Integrate rainwater harvesting, filtration and purification systems at all public buildings as part of the national disaster management strategy.

## WATER & DEVELOPMENT

**BARBADOS HAS LONG HAD A WATER ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTION POLICY THAT HAS SERVED US WELL IN THE PAST.**

**THE BLP WILL -**

- Continue to be mindful of environmental safety and best practices, while reviewing the national water zoning policy in the light of modern technologies that make a less strict zoning policy possible in some areas of Barbados.





## HOUSING

**OUR NEW NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF MODERN BARBADOS.**

### THE BLP WILL -

- Implement programmes to eliminate pit toilets and replace them with water-borne facilities, over a 5-year period, starting this work under our Mission Critical Agenda.
- Work with property owners to transform Barbados' more than 15,000 unoccupied properties and 20,000 vacant lots, all of which are already serviced by roads and utilities, to viable, livable and affordable housing solutions.
- Provide persons affected by the severe overcrowding in predominantly pre-1970 public housing found in areas such as those in the Pine, Grazettes, Silver Hill and Gall Hill with nearby house spots with basic services and approved designs.
- Facilitate sites and services arrangements for basic income earners who want to own properties and are willing to undertake their own construction. Provide rental and rent-to-own properties.
- Allocate public housing transparently and on the basis of those with the greatest needs.
- Make it mandatory for new housing developments to provide safe recreational spaces, including playing fields, walking tracks, bicycle paths, and gym facilities.
- Encourage hurricane-resilient design, especially roof design, through concessional financing and legislation.

## RENEWING URBAN & RURAL BARBADOS

The urban corridor of Barbados – stretching from Paynes Bay in St. James to Oistins in Christ Church – is central to our recovery and transformation. **The BLP** stands for deepening our communities and providing access for Barbadians to quality, affordable homes in a pleasing natural and built environment.

### THE BLP WILL -

- Provide those who live in severely overcrowded areas, with nearby house spots with basic services and approved designs. We will utilise the 35 000 unused housing solutions in the urban corridor and thereafter, create of ribbon developments.
- Use community labour to build homes and hold development costs to a minimum to ensure affordability.
- Provide concessional financing to property owners upgrading their homes in accordance with approved, climate resilient designs or methods.
- Resume the tenancies subsidisation programme in urban tenancies.

## URBAN UPGRADING

- Improve drainage, sewerage, sanitation, street lighting and road construction for Baxters Road and its environs, Wellington Street and its environs, Cat's Castle, Greenfields and Country Road.
- Review and regularise the sub-standard living conditions of residents of Licorish Village, the Belle and Bellevue, in respect of access to water, sanitation, electricity and tenure.
- Facilitate the provision of low interest financing for housing repair and upgrading in disadvantaged communities within the urban corridor.

## RURAL UPGRADING

- Resume the tenancies subsidisation programme in rural tenancies.
- Improve roads and work with financial institutions to put concessionary financing in place for house repair and upgrading, using community labour.
- Carry out an upgrading programme which will include entrepreneurial opportunities, at **Allen View, St Thomas**.

The residents of **White Hill, St Andrew** live in high-risk conditions with almost constant land slippage.

### THE BLP WILL –

- Urgently address the needs of the residents of White Hill, institute a road repair programme and relocate the most vulnerable houses.

## OUR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT – TRANSPARENT & EFFICIENT PROCESSES

Barbados is a small island with a limited land area. It is vital for the Government to regulate and oversee the orderly and progressive development of land use to preserve an acceptable and sustainable balance between the competing demands of housing, tourism, commercial and industrial activity, agriculture, community facilities, recreation, physical infrastructure and the need for adequate green spaces.

### THE BLP WILL MODERNISE OUR APPROACH TO PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

- We will convene within our first month in office, a **Mission Critical Team** to review the Town and Country Planning Act and related regulations, development planning and controls, including the active use of planning gains, or the increased value of land following the grant of a planning permission. The Team will be mandated to make urgent recommendations to the Cabinet on ways to

streamline and expedite the planning process. (See also Pillar III, Governance).

- We will make the development control process transparent and accountable by -
  - » Providing for neighbours and other interested parties to comment on proposed development applications.
  - » Introduce public hearings and appeals on major new physical developments and planning applications.
  - » Publishing Ministerial decisions in the media and online, together with the reasons for the approval or refusal of planning permissions.
- We will work with the construction industry to promote the transition to climate-resilient (hurricane and earthquake resistant) buildings, accessing capital for such work through international climate funds.
- We will pursue a balanced physical development policy for housing and lands that ensures the preservation of adequate acreage for agricultural purposes and food security, as well as green spaces, national parks and nature trails using our gullies, woodlands, beaches and coastal areas.

## GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

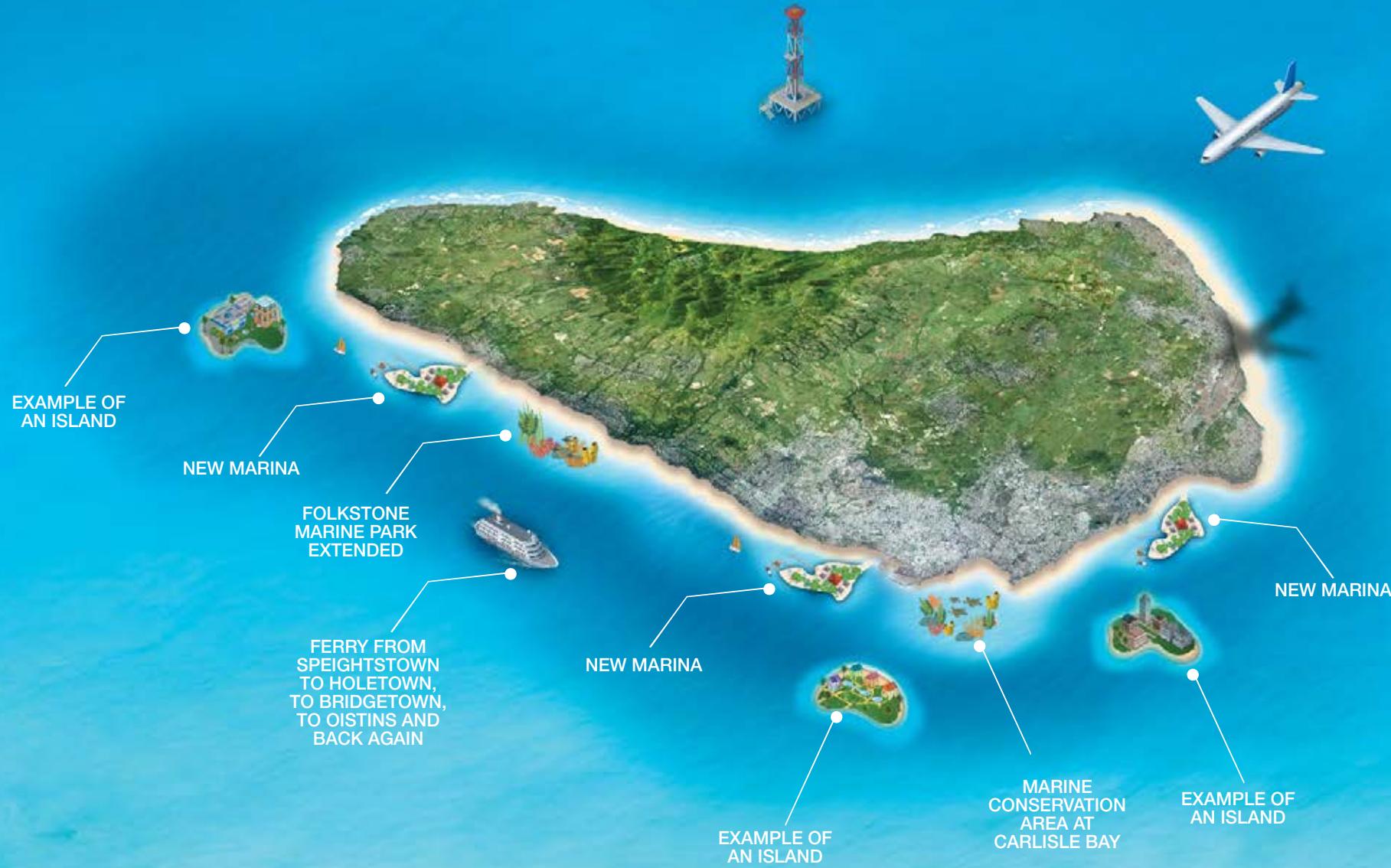
It has become routine to hear complaints about “sick buildings”, poor environmental conditions, sub-standard maintenance of Government property and the impact on workers’ health and productivity.

- **The BLP** will establish by law, a “sinking fund” into which Government will be mandated to put a fixed percentage of Government’s budget for the maintenance, upkeep and repair of buildings owned by the Government.

**A MODERN AND PRODUCTIVE COUNTRY IS ACHIEVED ONLY WITH MODERN AND RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE. BETTER NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO CREATE THE BEST BARBADOS.**



# Artist's Impression of Future Barbados



# PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

## THESE FIELDS, HILLS AND SEAS THE BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMIES

### PILLAR V

*Barbados' air, land, water, biodiversity and sea are beautiful and valuable and must be protected and preserved as part of our national patrimony and for the sustainable use of Barbadians. Our environment is important to our society and economy. We must not compromise or destroy the natural resources on which our comfort, culture, way of life, economic security and growth depend.*

*At the international level, environmental issues are increasingly discussed in the context of the Green Economy and the Blue Economy. It is in*

*Barbados' long-term economic, social and environmental interest to pursue these new policy directions.*

*When Barbados' 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone is considered, our marine space is 400 times that of our land space. Barbados' Blue Economy therefore has tremendous potential. In this Manifesto, we lay out our policy to power Barbados from renewable energy sources. This will be part of the transition to the Green Economy.*

*Our policies will pursue the path to sustainability. Sustainable Development*





*has three intersecting and mutually reinforcing pillars, society, economy and environment. In Barbados, our sustainable development will be anchored on the principles of the Blue and Green Economies. These approaches will also create new high-paid jobs and decent work. We will adopt a holistic conservation approach that considers climate and hurricane resilience from our roofs to our reefs.*

## ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

A **BLP** Government will support a circular, resource efficient economy that minimises or eliminates negative environmental impacts. In that regard, we will ensure that our planning, policies and programme implementation are well coordinated, duplication eliminated and opportunities for interconnected approaches fully embraced. This is known as the Nexus Approach. It promotes greater policy coherence, enhances synergies, creates efficiencies, effects savings and benefits society, economy and environment. An example of a Nexus approach is diverting used tyres from the landfill and substituting them as a material for road building or a fuel for a kiln, such as that operated by the Arawak Cement Plant.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change represents a significant global challenge and poses serious jeopardy to the societies, economies and natural environments of Small Island Developing States. Barbados is no exception. In the Caribbean, climate change is manifested in unpredictable weather, more frequent and destructive

hurricanes, disappearing coastlines and threats to our reefs and marine life. **The BLP**'s policy approach will be anchored on adaptation to and mitigation of the impacts of climate change on Barbados' society, economy and environment and building resilience against this threat.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

**The BLP** will treat to those environmental issues that need urgent intervention, such as the management of our water resources and supply, sewerage and solid waste collection and disposal, and other activities that create nuisances and health risks for the public. General environmental challenges and the grave threat of climate change demand that our principal efforts should be in the area of transformation. In order to effect this transformation and fund climate resilient initiatives, we will access resources available at the international level, such as those in the Green Climate Fund.

## BARBADOS' BLUE ECONOMY

**The BLP** will preserve Barbados' coastlines, our marine environment, the health of our reefs and the habitats of our marine plants and animals. We will ensure sustainable use and development of marine assets, resources, minerals and species for sustainable recreation and decent livelihoods for those who make a living from the sea. These protections are at the centre of a Blue Economy.

Barbados' Blue Economy will be built on these principles –

- Best practices for sustainability and the preservation of the marine environment.
- The protection of our reefs and coastlines.
- National Security.
- Research for informed policy-making.
- Food security.

In exploiting our Blue Economy in a socially responsible, environmentally and economically sustainable way, **the BLP** will pursue these activities -

- Conclude the process begun in 2006 to complete the delimitation of Barbados' Extended Continental Shelf in order to fully exploit fisheries, the wider marine ecosystem, minerals, and oil and gas resources.
- Fully, but sustainably, exploit our Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf.
- Promote marine tourism and recreation including yachting and boating.

## TRAINING IN MARITIME SKILLS

- **The BLP** will facilitate the establishment of a Maritime Institute to train nationals in a range of maritime and seafaring skills for local and international employment. Courses to benefit our fisherfolk will also be available.

## THE GREEN ECONOMY

The Green Economy seeks to promote resilient societies and prevent the destructive overexploitation of natural resources. It promotes the sustainable use of natural capital and natural assets for the long-term economic growth and benefit of the society by which they are owned. The Green Economy is "low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive."

In 2007, **the BLP** developed the first National Green Economy Policy in the Americas. We will fully implement this policy and develop national sustainability indicators to monitor Barbados' progress at achieving sustainability and our transition to a "Green Island."

## GREEN ENERGY

- By 2030, transition Barbados to the first 100% green and carbon neutral island-state in the world. We will use Nexus policies and approaches to save

money, be resource and operationally efficient, and effect economies of scope and scale. This will require greater collaboration and integration across Government ministries and the island's social and economic sectors.

- Require all Government vehicles and street lighting to run on clean energy by 2025.
- Give duty-free concessions to PSV operators to import vehicles powered by alternative energy sources.
- Incentivise the use of green energy by commercial properties within the time frame to meet national deadlines.
- Incentivise the use of clean energy vehicles by businesses and individuals.
- Introduce grid-tied and/or off-grid/standalone renewable energy systems at public schools and shelters to mitigate the effects of disasters due to climate change.
- Utilise a research and development framework that allows for domestic innovation of renewable technologies.
- Monitor the development of new technologies such as floating wind farms and OTEC to determine their suitability for Barbados.

## BEAUTIFICATION & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### THE BLP WILL -

- Develop the National Botanical Garden at Waterford as a safe habitat for biodiversity, a place of beauty, art, culture, recreation and low impact entertainment.
- Facilitate the restoration of the Old Railway Line to create a beautiful and accessible public space.
- Make beaches, gullies, and public spaces more welcoming and safer by beautifying and utilising them as part of our national culture, heritage, and community assets.





- Introduce an annual competition for the Best Kept Neighbourhood to encourage people to keep their neighbourhoods clean and beautiful.
- Hold National Clean-Up Days every quarter, to encourage Barbadians to participate in community clean-up programmes.
- Implement an anti-littering campaign accompanied by the provision of adequate litter bins in public spaces and mandate their use at all public events.
- Implement a ticketing system for littering and for overgrown lots. Such areas are unsightly and are a health and environmental hazard. The fines imposed will go towards paying the staff employed to carry out inspection activities.

#### **THE BLP WILL -**

- Consider debt-for-nature swaps, reducing our official debt through commitments to our marine environment.
- Become an advocate for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in seeking agreement on and adoption of a UN and multilateral financing instrument based on the maritime space and the capacity of their seas as carbon sinks. Such a mechanism will be to SIDS what REDD+ is to states with large forests.

## **OUR AIR**

- Enact a Clean Air Act to reduce harmful industrial and vehicular emissions, as well as to stop the indiscriminate burning of garbage, yard waste and other materials at all hours of the day and night.
- Develop measures to address noise pollution and curb the operation of noisy equipment in residential communities before 8am and after 8pm and all-day Sunday, our God-given day of rest.
- Establish designated entertainment zones on the island with extended playing times for music.

## **OUR LAND**

- Ban single-use plastics and styro-foam containers.
- Introduce a national recycling programme.
- Work with land owners to enhance and open up a gully in each parish for low impact use and the enjoyment of the community.
- Open up our communities and develop green spaces for recreation, the arts, crafts, low-impact entertainment and revenue generation for small and community-based businesses and creatives.
- Use fiscal incentives to spur the creation of new industries and small businesses designed to reduce the national carbon footprint through reuse, recycling, packaging or other innovations.
- Utilise fiscal incentives to accelerate green economy investments and activities by households and businesses.
- Without compromising the planning process, expedite Town Planning approvals for green, low energy projects and buildings.

## **OUR BEACHES**

**The BLP** believes in the right of Barbadians to access, use and enjoy all of Barbados' beaches. Our beaches are part of our national patrimony and will remain public under a **BLP** Government. **The BLP WILL -**

- Develop new public recreational facilities at Worthing, Dover, Accra, Bay Street (Old Fish Market site), Brandons, Batts Rock, Fitts Village and Speightstown.
- Extend the South Coast (Richard Christopher Haynes) Boardwalk.
- Encourage and support research and development of innovative technologies that solve environmental problems such as Sargassum seaweed, producing an economic solution where possible.

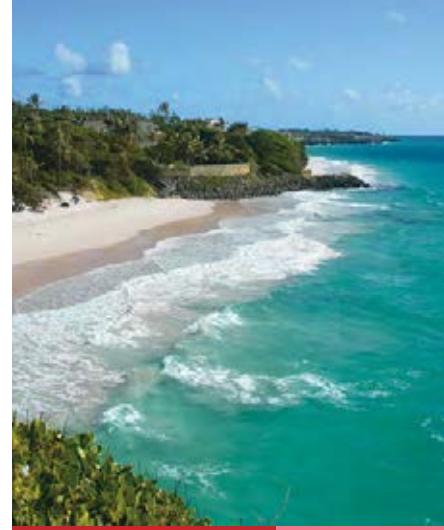


## OUR SEA

- Extensively restore our coral reefs and build new ones to increase the habitats of marine species, protect our coastlines and provide for increased and improved snorkelling, dive sites and fishing.
- 2018 is International Year of the Coral Reef. We will promote Barbados as a global leader on coral reef conservation and rebuilding.
- Create new marine conservation areas to the west and north of the island to protect our coral reefs and fish stocks and develop revenue generating opportunities, particularly in tourism.
- Declare Carlisle Bay a Marine Protected Area and rationalise the legislation governing marine protected areas.

- Establish more berths for fishing vessels at the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour.
- Work with the private sector to provide alternatives to sunscreens containing oxybenzone which is toxic to marine life.
- Transform Barbados' Ships' Registry into a viable economic asset.

**THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY WILL DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES CONSISTENT WITH BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS. OUR FOCUS WILL BE ON SUSTAINABILITY. OUR NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT WILL REFLECT OUR NEW LEVEL OF NATIONAL EXCELLENCE.**





# BELIEVING IN BARBADOS AND EACH OTHER

## ENGAGING THE WORLD

### PILLAR VI

*Visionary domestic policies when matched with strategic external relations will transform Barbados. New geopolitical alliances and our external relations with traditional partners must be equally visionary in the promotion of Barbados' interests. They should leverage international best practices and access appropriate resources to achieve our goals as a Small Island Developing State with a highly open economy, seeking to pay our own way in the world, showcase the skills, talents, innovative capacity of our citizens and engage the world.*

*Barbadians must be fully equipped with the skills, boldness and confidence to take risks, seize all available opportunities and compete in the dynamic, international economy of the 21st century. Our international relations, like our domestic policy will be geared toward moving Barbados to the next level of its economic growth and social development and helping to build, **THE BEST BARBADOS**. A **Barbados Labour Party** Administration will launch the new 'Brand Barbados' to the world.*

## ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

### BARBADOS AT ITS BEST

A **Barbados Labour Party** Government will take immediate action to reclaim and restore Barbados' hard-earned, international reputation as a model small state in the global community of nations. We will do so through an enhanced professionalised, diplomatic and trade representation, able to defend our national and regional interests in all traditional and emerging centres of power and influence.

#### THE BLP WILL -

- Reaffirm our relationships with traditional partners and forge new partnerships for trade, business, advancing the CSME, the agenda of small and vulnerable economies and Small Island Developing States, including in regional and international initiatives and discussions on mitigating the impacts of climate change, sea level rise and resilience.
- Rationalise our foreign policy to position our nation for the next 10 years by matching domestic goals with international best practice and strengthening relationships with bilateral, regional, multilateral organisations and International Financial Institutions.
- Establish a Diplomatic Academy to equip our diplomats, trade representatives and public officials to excel at representing Barbados at the national, regional and international levels and repatriating the benefits to Barbados.
- Increase and intensify diplomatic relations, cultural exchanges, trade and economic links with Africa, Asia and Latin America, as some of the fastest growing economies in the world.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Re-engaging the private sector in order to determine what might be necessary to better position Barbados to benefit from the market access provisions in the EPA with Europe and any other trade agreements to which Barbados is a party.
- Take full advantage of preferential trade arrangements with our principal trading partners, such as Canada, the US and the EU.
- Undertaking comprehensive assessments to determine the potential to attract business from emerging European centres, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and South America.
- Reassessing Barbados' relations with its long-standing allies the United Kingdom and the United States to take account of developments such as Brexit and the apparent dismantling of the concept of the Third Border with a view to repositioning Barbados to capitalise on possible new opportunities.
- Helping to position our citizens, companies and entrepreneurs in the global society and new cyber marketplace in recognition that our small size is not a barrier to the success of our citizens and the full development of our island
- Partnering with leading educational players to develop and deliver relevant degree and certificate courses to prepare persons for positions in the international business sector.
- Establishing an incentive regime to provide tax rebates for companies which finance specialised training for both potential and current employees.





## RELATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, CARICOM

Barbadians are Caribbean people. The shores of our islands are washed by the Caribbean Sea. Our Caribbean identity is intrinsic to our values, our culture and our way of life. The people of the Caribbean share common relationships and trading partnerships through the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. Our region shares a common history and our strength, survival and success lie in a common and shared future.

Conscious of this, Barbados, and the **Barbados Labour Party** in particular, has always played an important role in forging stronger Caribbean links, from the Federation to CARICOM and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). Consequently, throughout the Manifesto we have included areas for collaboration with our Caribbean neighbours. **The BLP** will further build on Caribbean relationships and opportunities by -

- Working with CARICOM to complete the built-in agenda of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, so as to enable Barbadians to fully benefit from the opportunities to move capital and to have certainty as to the scope of rights to be enjoyed by persons moving within the region.
- Reasserting Barbados' leadership in the CSME and working with our regional partners to get the integration effort back on track.
- Deepening Barbados' representation and opportunities for cooperation across CARICOM and the OECS with an honorary consular presence in member-states.
- Collaborating with regional neighbours and institutions on matters of security, the movement of illegal drugs and illegal firearms.
- Harmonising policies and protocols that will allow Caribbean island states to realise economies of scope and scale, increase critical mass and attract investment.

## BAJAN DIASPORA CAPITAL

The “navel strings” of Bajans “over in away” are buried here too. Our Diaspora is an untapped and under-used asset. **The BLP** will make space for them to feel welcome, facilitate their contribution to local society and economy, and to advance our interests abroad through the utilisation of their networks, skills and resources by -

- Deepening the involvement of the Barbadian Diaspora in social and economic development opportunities in Barbados, whether or not they choose formally to relocate home.
- Leveraging the power of the Barbadian and Caribbean Diaspora in diplomacy, investment and trade.
- Creating and mobilising a network of Barbadians in the Diaspora who have served or are serving in International and Regional Organisations or who have excelled in their respective fields.
- Utilising increased services through our overseas consulates, to ensure Barbadians living in the Diaspora, are mobilised to serve as an effective lobby for the promotion and protection of Barbados' interests in their countries of residence.

## BAJANS RETURNING HOME

A previous **BLP** Administration established the Facilitation Unit for Returning Nationals. We sought to create a welcoming environment in order to encourage more Bajans to return home and contribute to Barbados' development.

- **The BLP** will now enact legislation and protocols to create greater certainty in the rights and benefits to which returning nationals are entitled.

**THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY WILL HAVE ONE COMMON OBJECTIVE, BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS FOR BARBADIANS FIRST AND FOREMOST AND THEN FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO INVEST, WORK, LIVE IN OR VISIT BARBADOS.**

# A NEW NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

## BAJAN BOUNDARIES, BAJAN MINDSETS

### PILLAR VII

*The Constitution of Barbados gives to every Barbadian a set of rights.*

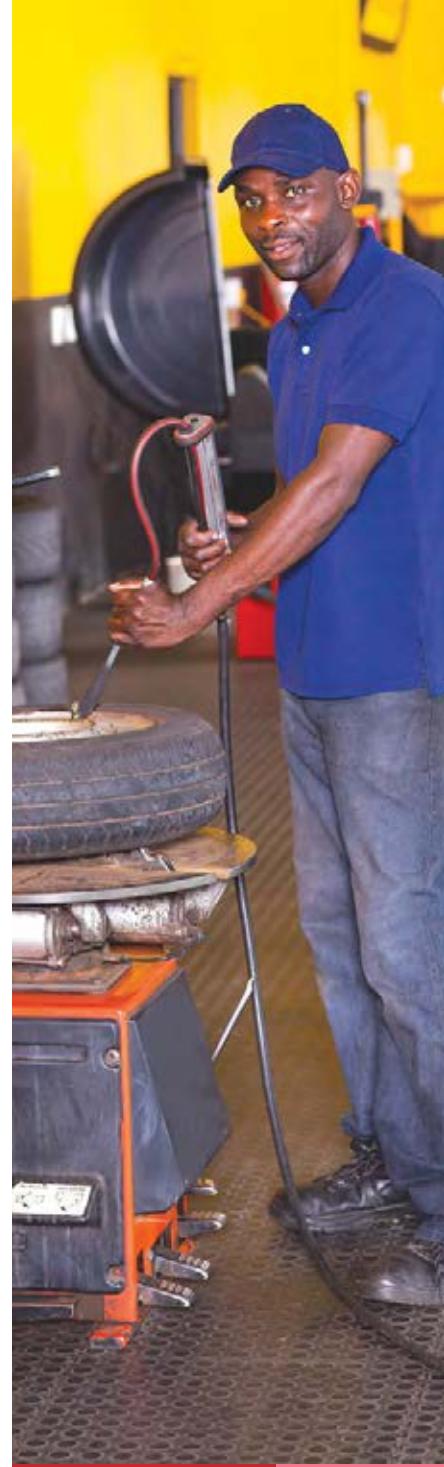
**The Barbados Labour Party**

*believes that every Barbadian also has responsibilities to our country and to fellow Barbadians. Just as we enjoy and benefit from our rights, we must act on our responsibilities toward each other, our families, our communities and our country.*

*Transforming Barbados will require Barbadians to have a clear and renewed understanding of who we are and who we need to be. This clear sense of self is pivotal to creating the kind of lives we all want, building the type of country in which we want to live and securing the nation we will leave for future generations of Barbadians.*

*If we are to achieve this, we must address directly the issue of national identity.*

*The **Barbados Labour Party** has a vision for a new national consciousness. This vision encompasses a Barbadian who is motivated by achieving personal and national excellence. We see a Barbadian who is confident, happy and wise to moral, spiritual and cultural values. This individual has a strong work ethic, is productive, honest, compassionate, understanding, kind, caring, optimistic, sensitive to diversity, possesses integrity, multicultural and multi-ethnic awareness and is willing to take risks in the pursuit of important personal and national goals.*





*This individual is kind and caring towards fellow citizens, regional neighbours and visitors to our shores and recognises that our natural environment is part of our home.*

## PROUD TO BE BAJAN

We will root ourselves in the traditional Barbadian values that have served us well. We will live out the principles enunciated in our national motto, our pledge and anthem. On this foundation of tradition, **the BLP** will build an enhanced sense of national identity, presenting to the region and the world, a Barbadian who, by virtue of personal excellence will stand out anywhere, a Barbadian who is not afraid, to dream, to dare or to do extraordinary things for country, community, family and self.

## WE ARE A PEOPLE OF FAITH

Barbados is a faith-based society. Our national anthem highlights that faith. **The BLP** will respect the diversity of religious traditions in our country, recognizing the critical role of the Church and other faith-based organisations as important social institutions.

In that regard, in our effort to rebuild Barbados, **the BLP WILL** -

- Establish a Social Committee of the Social Partnership, on which faith-based organisations will be invited to serve and to join with Government in important social interventions and new community-based initiatives. Throughout the Manifesto, we have identified specific initiatives to ensure that the Church and faith-based organisations are central to our effort at social rebuilding.
- Seek the support and partnership of the Church at the national level in our effort to rescue, restore and rebuild Barbados, to build strong communities and

enable Barbadians to live better lives.

To give further weight to this approach, just as there has traditionally been a Chaplain to the Parliament, **the BLP WILL NOW** -

- Appoint Chaplains to the Cabinet and the Judiciary, inclusive of judges and magistrates.

## BAJANS WITH POSITIVE MIRROR IMAGES

Our consciousness as a people is anchored in our understanding of ourselves, and our culture is the expression of that understanding in everything we do and in the way we live. **The BLP WILL** -

- Facilitate the re-imagination, modernisation and conversion of iconic elements of Barbados' culture (Landship, folktales, Spouse, folksongs, architecture, recipes, proverbs) through art, dance, music, toys, cartoons, video games, and other media, to be made accessible to a younger generation and a global audience.
- Ensure the telling of our story in the curricula of Barbados' schools, so that as Barbadians we can see positive mirror images of ourselves.
- Bring together an Annual Convocation of the Creative involving the leading artists, musicians and intellectuals of the region to discuss the challenges facing our Caribbean and how these challenges might be solved in a manner that transforms our region for the common good.
- Expand the use of Arts and Sports as key elements within the school curricula, to instil virtues of national identity, self-expression, self-awareness, self-discipline, cooperation, teamwork and fairness in young Barbadians, with emphasis on the Barbadian and West Indian cricketing legacy of success. We will reinstate the PEACE programme - Personal Empowerment through Arts and Creative Education at the primary level.
- Introduce a National Volunteer Programme where

young people contribute at least one (1) year of their time and skills in service to a community or institution. This may be counted as part of their professional experience or academic credit for a degree or diploma at a tertiary institution.

## BAJANS AS DREAMERS, INNOVATORS & CREATIVES

Our people must be supported in their cultural expression, both in the creation of a competitive sector and as a key part of individual growth and educational attainment.

### A BLP ADMINISTRATION WILL:

Make Barbados a place where big ideas and creativity thrive, positioning Barbados as a desirable place for the best and brightest 18 - to 30 year-olds to dream, live and work.

- Create a National Public Art initiative that facilitates beautification and the painting of murals on Government-owned properties and infrastructure.
- Establish a National Art Gallery that acquires, houses, protects and displays important works by Barbadians and provides workspace for collaborative activities.
- Re-Establish a National School for Dance, and National Dance Company, as well as a National School for the Performing Arts and a National Performing Arts Company.
- Resourcing the National Film Commission to play a lead role in repositioning Barbados as a welcoming jurisdiction for film and video productions and strategic co-productions, as well as supporting the further development of an indigenous film industry.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH BAJANS

- Convene a National Dialogue on Barbados in which a wide cross section of the public, faith-based and

Third Sector organisations will address Barbados' challenges and its future development. This will be part of a first step at open and continuous dialogue with Barbadians.

- Attendance at the dialogue will be open to the public. The Opposition and Third Parties will be invited. The National Dialogue will also be live streamed to allow for wide participation by Barbadians at home and abroad.

## UNLEASHING BAJAN INNOVATION

All Barbadians must be encouraged to invest at home and abroad, to research, innovate and become pioneers.

### A BLP GOVERNMENT WILL -

- Establish The Prime Minister's Innovation Award worth \$250,000 per quarter.
- Establish a Youth Innovation Award worth \$150,000 of prize money, for all youth. When won by school students the prize will be allocated between the winning school, teacher and students.
- Create a world-class Contemporary Arts and Ideas Festival, inviting Barbados and the Caribbean's best and brightest, asking them to apply their minds to contemporary Caribbean challenges and allowing for the free flow and cross fertilisation of ideas about solutions.

## STRETCHING OUR PHYSICAL HORIZON

Barbados is a small island, but we must not let our size constrain how we see ourselves or what we are able to achieve. Technology can erase many of Barbados' limitations of size and geography. We must innovate, see our boundaries as wider than the physical construct of a small island and be prepared to take the important steps to help create a new national consciousness. This is the reason we see it as equally important to build new islands as it is to build A New National Consciousness. They will combine to transform our economy, strengthen our society, protect our





heritage, natural and built environment, create new opportunities and establish Barbados as the best place in the world to live, work, visit, play, raise a family and do business.

## A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SEA

Although Barbados is an island nation, many Barbadians cannot swim. As island people, we must develop a stronger love of the sea, viewing it not just for recreation, but also for economic opportunity. We must also never forget its destructive potential and hence we must protect ourselves and our built environment from this vulnerability.

### **THE BLP WILL -**

- Capitalise on our large coastline and our geographical location, lying between the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, by training nationals in a range of maritime, technical and specialist skills in seafaring, yachting, boating, fishing, sail making, navigating, and the full suite of nautical and marine services. This will create new opportunities. We will seek the support available through the International Maritime Organisation.
- Put a programme in place to ensure that every Bajan child learns to swim.

While some of these initiatives have been mentioned in previous sections, it is important to see them in the

context of broadening our thinking and expanding our vistas and horizons.

Our New National Consciousness will include our attitudes to work, each other and our country. It will cause us to recognise the potential in each other, the value and importance of decent work, of high productivity, the worth of our country and our role in building up each other and Barbados. This is the mindset that will create **THE BEST BARBADOS**.

This New National Consciousness will entail expanding our physical boundaries and the way in which we see ourselves. Our renewed sense of self will give Barbadians pride; it will motivate us to set excellence as our personal and national benchmarks for the way we live and work, dream and achieve. Ultimately, it will help us to together build, **THE BEST BARBADOS**.

The **Barbados Labour Party** is excited to share ***The People's Manifesto*** with you and enthusiastically looks forward to working hand in hand with all Barbadians, to achieve our objectives of first, restoring the Barbados we know and love and then, of taking our country to the next level of development.

**THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY INVITES YOU AND BARBADIANS EVERYWHERE, TO JOIN WITH US - INDEED, TO COVENANT WITH US IN BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS TOGETHER.**

# A BRIGHTER TOMORROW, THE BEST BARBADOS

## CONCLUSION

The **Barbados Labour Party** is confident that whatever our current challenges, Barbados can be transformed if we work hard and Believe In Barbados and in each other.

This is the Manifesto that will guide Barbados from the precipice of peril to a new prosperity. We hope that it has found favour with you. The 30 of us cannot do it alone. Barbados needs the joint effort of a committed Government, its institutions and all of its citizens.

The task of moving our beloved country from stagnation to transformation is not beyond us as a people. We must embrace our responsibility to our country and to each other. **TeamBLP2018** adopts excellence as the new national watchword and benchmark for how we as Barbadians will live our lives and govern our public affairs. It is the tool we will use in **BUILDING THE BEST BARBADOS TOGETHER**. We must work together to make sure our country is the best it can be. Put simply, we must aspire always to be world class without sacrificing who we are as Bajans.

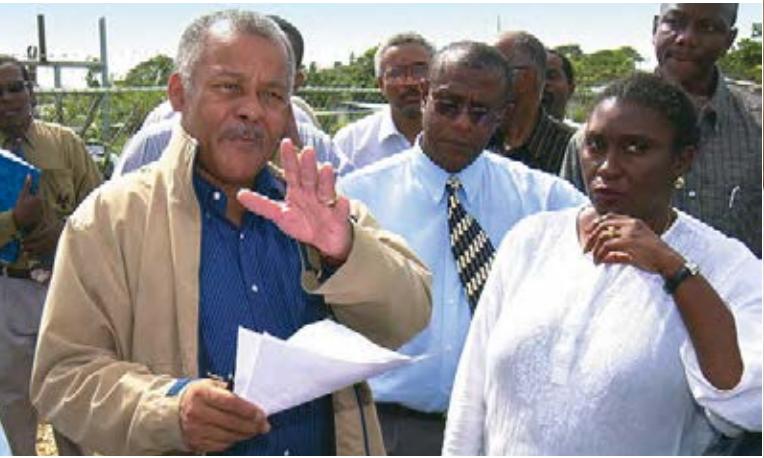
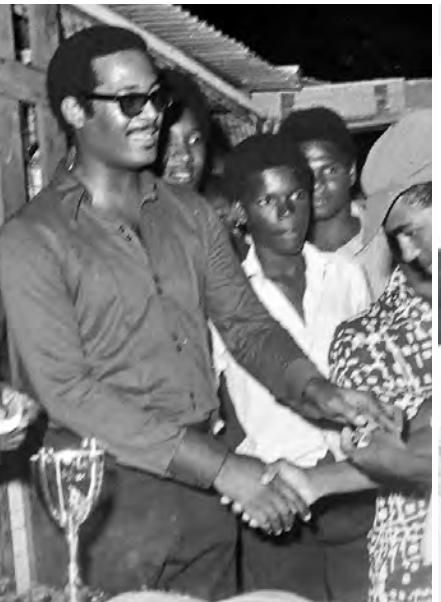
Our forefathers had faith that the future of Barbados would be safe with us. We cannot let them down. We must not let them down. The **Barbados Labour Party** will not let you down. We will deliver on *The People's Manifesto*.

Let us today, rise up together, and do our part to create a sustainable future for our children and their children.

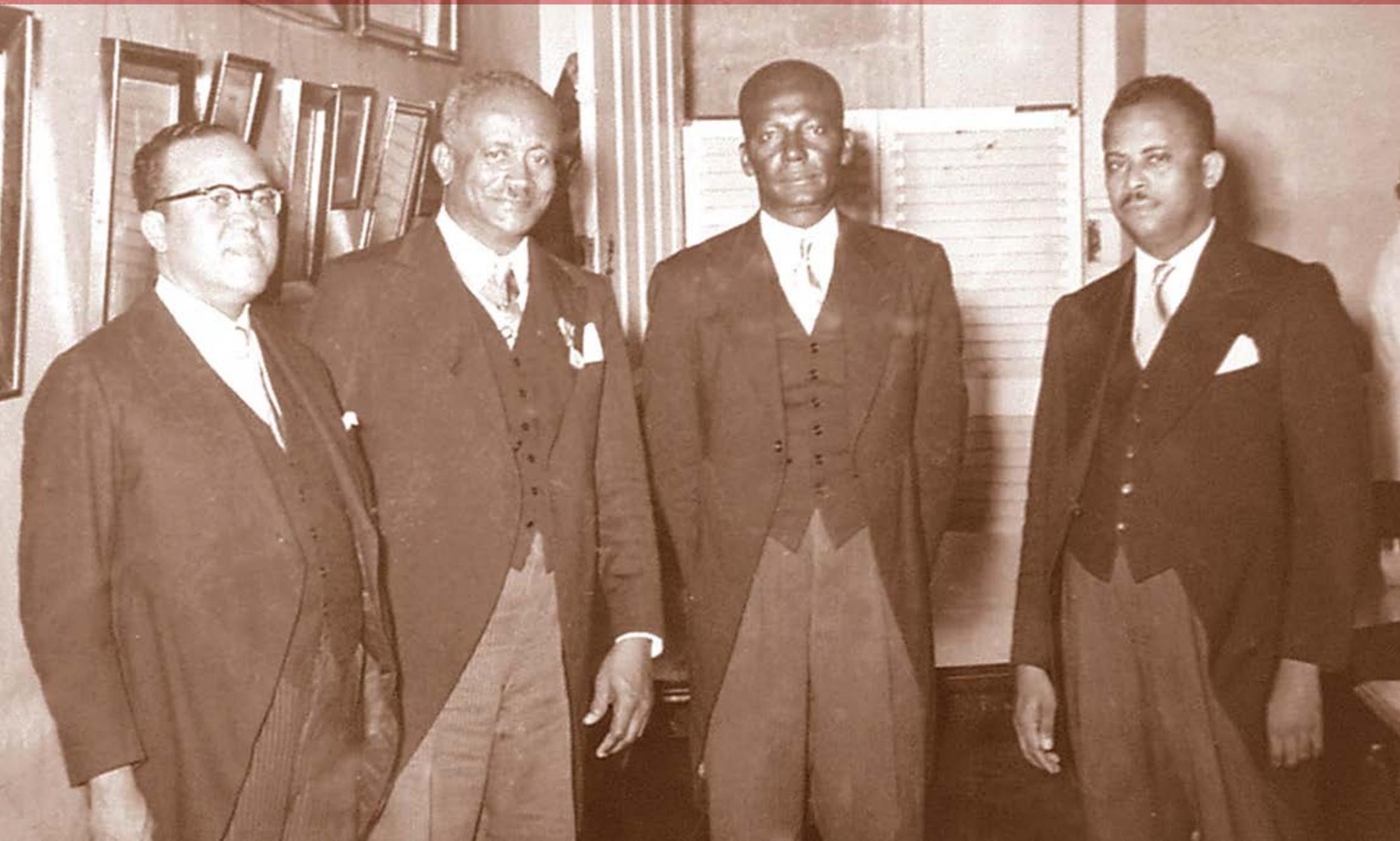
With new daring, firm determination, and decisive action, let us as a united people assert afresh and justify the confidence of our forefathers as captured in these words from our national anthem:

*"Upward and onward we shall go,  
Inspired, exulting, free,  
And greater will our nation grow  
In strength and unity."*





# BLP LEGACY





# STANDING ON A PROUD HISTORY

The social and economic policies of the **Barbados Labour Party** have always been progressive and transformational. **BLP** policies have lifted thousands of people out of poverty and built a modern Barbados.

## A FEW BLP ACHIEVEMENTS 1951 – 1961

- Gave the **right to vote to all people, including women**, when the UK and US were still only allowing a moneyed class to vote and women were excluded from voting.
- Developed the **blueprint for the NIS Scheme**.
- Designed and did the **initial work on the QEII**.
- Purchased lands at Rockley (opposite where Chefette is now) for the use and benefit of the public and **started the policy of having all beaches free to the public**.
- Started comprehensive secondary schools. We built the Princess Margaret, St Leonard's and West Joseph as they were then called and **started free secondary education** there.
- **Constructed the Deep Water Harbour** (Bridgetown Port) on reclaimed land.
- Developed the **Seawell Airport** that preceded the Grantley Adams International Airport.

- Opened the Enmore Public Clinic and **started the national system of health clinics** which became or preceded the polyclinics.
- **Started the light manufacturing sector** and the Industrial Development Corporation.
- Introduced legislation that **improved working conditions** for sugar workers, shop assistants and domestic workers.
- Introduced **holidays with pay**.
- Introduced **compensation for workmen injured on the job**.
- Introduced **maternity leave and maternity benefits**.
- **Developed the country's first public housing** at Pine, Sayers Court, St Matthias, Lammings, Gall Hill St John, Grazettes, Ellerton, and many other locations.
- **Barbados' first female parliamentarian** was elected under the BLP during this period.
- Developed the **Barbados Development Bank** to promote funding for business and the tourism sectors.
- **Started the Trade Union Movement**.

## A FEW BLP ACHIEVEMENTS 1976 – 1986

- Introduced the revolutionary **Tenantries Freehold Purchase Act** giving land ownership rights to poor people living on tenancy lands.
- Modernised the **Grantley Adams Airport**.

- Explored and opened **Harrison's Cave**.
- Sunk ships to **create coral reefs, protect the island's coast-lines, create diving and fishing opportunities**.
- **Started the offshore financial services** and international business sectors which are now the second largest revenue earning sectors of the economy.
- **Started the Barbados Drug Service**.
- In a country where the majority of children are born outside of formal marriage, **outlawed the concept of bastardy and illegitimacy and gave all children equal legal rights** of inheritance from their parents/fathers.
- Introduced modern family laws that **recognised common-law unions and the offspring of such relationships**.
- **Opened up the bus service, civil service, fire service and police force to women** and appointed the first female Permanent Secretaries and senior female leaders in these institutions.
- **Appointed the first woman to the Cabinet**.
- Have had more women as candidates and appointed more women to the Senate and Cabinet than any other political party.
- **Built new bus terminals at Fairchild Street and Harbour Road**.
- **Built the ABC and the Spring Garden Highways** which modernised our road infrastructure and opened up the centre of Barbados for further development in places such as Warrens.
- **Built new housing areas** at Haynesville, Bonnets, Ferniehurst, Kensington Lodge, West Terrace, Husbands and other middle-income locations.
- Built the vast majority of **Government constructed low and middle income housing** in Barbados.

- **Development of the polyclinics** – Speightstown, Wildey, Oistins, and Black Rock with satellites clinic in St Andrew, St Joseph, St John, reconstruction of Enmore Health Clinic.
- **Built the industrial estates** at Christ Church, Pine, Grazettes, Newton and Wildey.
- **Built, upgraded or extended the majority of Barbados' primary and secondary schools**.
- Provided incentives and impetus for the development and national demand for an **indigenous solar water heater industry**.
- Developed **new fish markets** at Bridgetown and Oistins.
- Started the **Oistins Fish Festival**.
- Founded the **NCF** and started **the modern Crop Over Festival**.

## A FEW BLP ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1994 – 2008

- Created the **most jobs, highest foreign reserves and highest ever employment** in Barbados.
- **High ranking on the UN Human Development Index**.
- Gave financial support for the **purchase of land in urban tenancies**.
- Introduced **Edutech**, creating more technologically savvy youth, irrespective of the financial circumstances of their families.
- Gave impetus to the **cultural industries**.





- **Project Oasis trained young people** in theatre and visual arts, film and digital media and as heavy-duty drivers.
- More than **doubled places** at SJPP, BCC and UWI.
- **Recognised by the United Nations for policies that reduced poverty.**
- Developed the policy and started the programme for the **transfer of Government's units to the residents.**
- **Gave AZT to HIV+ pregnant women** and reduced mother to child transmission of HIV and AIDS by 95%.
- Established the **Caribbean's first hostel for persons living with HIV and AIDS.**
- Increased rights and protections for consumers through the introduction of the **Public Counsel** and the **Fair Trading Commission.**
- **Redevelopment of Harrison Cave as a green facility.**
- **Built the South and West Coast Boardwalks.**
- **Sunk additional ships to create coral reefs,** increase dive sites, fishing and protect our coastlines.
- **Greened the ABC Highway.**
- Introduced the partnership between Government with private nursing homes for the **Care of The Elderly.**
- **Redeveloped Kensington Oval.**
- **Extended the Deep Water Harbour and built a new cruise pier.**
- **Beautified Bridgetown.**
- Brought large numbers of paying tourists and had **high tourism receipts.**
- Brought "Mount Stinkeroo" under control and seweraged the South Coast.
- Introduced Barbados' first alternatively fuelled cars and the **National Sustainable Energy Policy.**
- Created the platform for the **development of Barbados' oil and gas sector.**
- Passed **new protective labour legislation.**
- Enabled the country's largest ever **private sector housing boom.**
- Constructed new **Government housing developments and middle income housing** at Bay Street, (London Bourne, Bay Street), Glenburnie, Lancaster, Mount Poyer, Fairy Valley, St George, St Peter, St James, St Thomas, St Michael St Philip, St Joseph, St Andrew.
- Embarked on a programme to put **street lighting and proper roads in rural and urban Barbados.**
- Promoted the policy of **a UWI graduate in every household** for upward personal and family mobility and national growth.
- **Repealed legislation for the offence of loitering which was an undesirable relic of colonial society.** The offence of loitering restricted free movement and allowed persons to be arrested for "liming."
- Developed and introduced the globally applauded **National Green Economy policy which was the first in Latin America and the Caribbean.**
- **Upgraded the fish market at Paynes Bay.**
- **Introduced new tax credits and capital for individuals and businesses.**



Sonia E. Bonne

William Argall

H. W. S.

*[Signature]*

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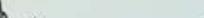
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# TeamBLP2018

## *This Is Our Commitment To You*

## *This Is Our Sacred Trust With The People of Barbados*

in December

  
Edmund F. Hinkson

✓ 11. 10. 1968 Rafe G. Wiss

15th Avenue

Barbara

*Baker*

John

Q

Affolder

✓ ✓

Cynthia Torde



