OUR BARBADOS
Owning Our Future



BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO 2022



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Dear Friends,

This is an extraordinary time in the history of our country, and truthfully, an extraordinary time in the history of the world.

Three and a half years ago when you overwhelmingly placed your confidence in the **Barbados Labour Party** as your Government and in me as your Prime Minister – your concerns then, were for the most part about national mismanagement. Years of bad leadership and inaction had caused our country's roads, schools, finances, businesses, reputation and people to be in a desperate state.

Fearful for the future of our country, your families and yourselves, you placed a sacred trust in my team and me. In our work, and with our effort, we sought to honour that trust based on the biblical principle that "those to whom much is given, of them much is expected." This is why, from Day 1, my government purposefully set about the mission of rebuilding our country. We sought to restore governance to the standards to which Barbadians had long become accustomed and vitally restore our collective ambition.

The unfortunate reality of 2022 is that it appears that COVID-19 and its variants will be with us for some time. And worse yet, even as we battle a global pandemic, there are other major threats in our immediate future. These are not secure times. Countries are fighting battles on many fronts.

There are major decisions that we in Barbados will need to make this year that will entirely determine what Barbados will be like in 5 to 10 years' time. Major, history defining decisions about:

- The climate crisis; sargassum seaweed; increase in violent storms, climate adaptation financing; freshwater shortages and sea level rise.
- The climate induced degradation of the quality and nutrients of our soils.
- The economic crisis of being unable to create the fiscal space to pay for the urgent infrastructural and citizen development we need.
- An ageing population crisis and people deficit which threatens our ability to improve levels of social security.
- The Global Supply Chain crisis which places Barbados - a small, import dependent island - at the mercies of mega manufacturers and shippers for the goods we need to survive.
- The threat to public safety caused by guns and digital crime.
- The health crisis with our high incidence of NCDs, mental unwellness, and threat of Anti- Microbial Resistance .

It is for this reason that elections were called at the beginning of 2022. Our country simply does not have the luxury of time to delay in making important decisions on the many major issues facing our country or to fail to seize the opportunities which are available, such as using our renewable energy resources to spread ownership and wealth, and using digitisation to create a fairer country for all. These are important decisions that truly require us to put our heads and efforts together. We must act in the collective interest of one Barbados. We must not be tenants in our own land.

If the experience of the last two years has taught us anything, it is that we cannot wait for the world to settle down for us to make it better. It has taught us that we must always be brave and see adversity as an opportunity for transformation.

Over the last few months as I talked with people from all walks of life across Barbados, it became clear to me that you feel very strongly that now was time for us to get out of COVID-19 survival mode.

It is our belief that escaping survival mode can only come about by setting out on a mission of growth and transformation, a mission for Barbados and Barbadians, to become world-class by 2030.

Hence, if re-elected the **Barbados Labour Party** will embark on the most ambitious mission in the history of our island to transform Barbadian:

- Resilience and Safety.
- Ownership and Financial Security.
- Health and Well-being.
- Housing.
- Food and Nutrition.
- Community and Family Life.
- National Identity and Active Citizenship.
- Education and Skill Development.

- Governance and Government Operations.
- Jobs and Work Opportunities.
- Quality of Life.
- Access to High-Quality Transportation.
- Benefits from Renewable Energy.
- Infrastructure and Public Spaces.

This transformation will drive GROWTH - double digit growth for the next two (2) years and then settling sustainably at 5% annual growth for the years after.

Growth made possible by strategically utilising modern technology to tap into God's gift to us of clean and sustainable energy sources - sun, wind and waves. Growth made possible by Government in housing, training, and public infrastructure investments that will directly result in Bds$3 billion to these sectors.

Growth through the largest home building and ownership programme in the history of this country. Growth through digital enhancement of government service delivery and operations. Growth through the modernisation of our foundation sectors - Tourism, Manufacturing and International Business. Growth made possible by Government seeding and facilitating investment in new sectors - Life Sciences, Ocean Economy and the Digital Economy.

Growth through major private investment in mega infrastructural development with projects already past the planning permission stages in locations from Bridgetown to Hastings, to Holetown to Porters, to Vaucluse to Welches and St. Philip - plus others in the pipeline for Oistins, Speightstown, Newton and Greenland.

Growth that is inclusive and sustainable and brings high-quality work and business opportunities to all Barbadians.

This is why the **Barbados Labour Party** is not presenting to you a traditional manifesto. This moment in our history calls for strategic leadership guided by a strategic plan and fuelled by collective action and active citizenship.

This is what this election is truly about - Bajans agreeing and joining in one voice to a collective mission of transformation. This election is about Bajans agreeing to work together to execute a plan that will bring substantial and sustained growth, thousands of new jobs and ownership opportunities while striving to deliver equity and well-being for all Barbadians.

This election is about securing our now and our future by building it together. It is about truly doing what is essential to "Owning Our Future."

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



IT'S SAFER WITH Mia

TEAM BLP 2022

Dear Barbadians,

Three and a half years ago with your mandate, this government set about the mission to rebuild our country, restore high standards of governance and rebuild our collective ambition.

Our government took pride in keeping our word - immediately focusing on and then delivering the 17 "mission critical" areas of deep concern, ranging from saving our dollar from devaluation, to stopping sewage flowing in our streets, to raising non-contributory pensions. For our government, accomplishing these 17 missions was never about just ticking a box; it was and will always be about improving the lives of the people of this country.

It definitely wasn't "an easy road," but by the beginning of 2020 we were just starting to walk with our backs straighter and our heads held higher. We set our sights further, and agreed on a mission of transformation. We said that Barbados and Barbadians would become world-class in all that we do. Barbados was starting to feel like Barbados again - and then came COVID-19. And if a global pandemic wasn't bad enough, 2021 brought with it the freak storm, Hurricane Elsa and heavy ash fall from the eruption of La Soufrière volcano. The last 20 months have been some of the most difficult in our nation's history.

Yet, the simple truth is, as Barbadians we know how to overcome a crisis. We know how to do more than just to survive. We are a people that have always wanted more than just "making do". Whatever the circumstance, it is in our DNA to work, to save, to grow, do well for ourselves and do right by others. More than anything else that is who we are.

Just as you trusted us to deliver for you in a difficult period in the history of our country in 2018, the **Barbados Labour Party** is asking you to trust us again in a difficult period in the history of our world.

Our people, our country and the world, face major issues that will require vision, strategy and action to overcome. Our safety and quality of life will only improve if we are collectively prepared to do today, the work that will shape tomorrow.

The **Barbados Labour Party** stands ready to engage in the task of national transformation. To ensure that every citizen lives with dignity; to ensure every child understands that they are precious and valued and can become whatever they want; to ensure that every senior feels appreciated for their contribution; to ensure a high quality natural and built environment; to create a space at home and abroad for present and future generations of Barbadians; to ensure that the resources to build the nation are available and ensure that Barbados is the best country that it can be for Bajans and for the world.

Our strategic goal as a government will be safety and resilience through transformation and sustainable growth. We can achieve this goal if our country is unified and ready to work together. It is for this reason that the candidates of the **Barbados Labour Party** and its political Leader, ask for your vote on January 19.



VOTE
Mia Amor Mottley, QC
ST. MICHAEL NORTH EAST



VOTE
Santia BRADSHAW
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH EAST



VOTE
Corey LANE
CITY OF BRIDGETOWN



VOTE
Dr William DUGUID
CHRIST CHURCH WEST



VOTE
Toni MOORE
ST. GEORGE NORTH



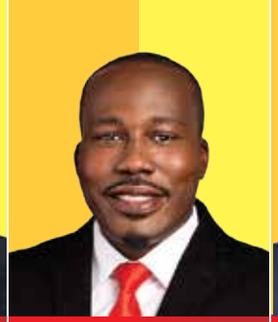
VOTE
Dwight SUTHERLAND
ST. GEORGE SOUTH



VOTE
Trevor PRESCOD, JP
ST. MICHAEL EAST



VOTE
Kirk HUMPHREY
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH



VOTE
Davidson ISHMAEL
ST. MICHAEL NORTH



VOTE
Neil ROWE
ST. MICHAEL NORTH WEST



VOTE
Chris GIBBS
ST. MICHAEL WEST



VOTE
Arthur HOLDER
ST. MICHAEL CENTRAL



VOTE
Ian GOODING-EDGHILL
ST. MICHAEL WEST CENTRAL



VOTE
Marsha CADDLE
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH CENTRAL



VOTE
Wilfred ABRAHAMS
CHRIST CHURCH EAST



VOTE
Ralph THORNE, QC
CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH



VOTE
Adrian FORDE
CHRIST CHURCH WEST CENTRAL



VOTE
Ryan STRAUGHN
CHRIST CHURCH EAST CENTRAL



VOTE
Dr. Sonia BROWNE
ST. PHILIP NORTH



VOTE
Indar Weir
ST. PHILIP SOUTH



VOTE
Kay McCONNEY
ST. PHILIP WEST



VOTE
Charles GRIFFITH
ST. JOHN



VOTE
Cynthia FORDE, JP
ST. THOMAS



VOTE
Sandra HUSBANDS
ST. JAMES SOUTH



VOTE
Kerrie SYMMONDS
ST. JAMES CENTRAL



VOTE
Edmund HINKSON
ST. JAMES NORTH



VOTE
Peter PHILLIPS
ST. LUCY



VOTE
Romel SPRINGER
ST. ANDREW



VOTE
Colin JORDAN
ST. PETER



VOTE
Dale MARSHALL, QC
ST. JOSEPH

CORE VALUES OF TRANSFORMATION

Becoming a Parliamentary Republic was more than a ceremony, and although symbols do matter - it was also more than a symbol.

Becoming a Republic, and the preceding Charter of Barbados, were critical steps in the advancement of Barbadian sense of self, sense of purpose and sense of place in history.

Together, they form a practical framework that builds for the majority while protecting the minority and in doing so, creates a roadmap to realising our future best selves.

The **Barbados Labour Party** believes Barbados is ready for the next stage of this journey, centred on five (5) core values:

1. **People-Centred Leadership Matters**
2. **Government Must Deliver for ALL**
3. **Pride and Industry Through Active Citizenship**
4. **Bajan Ownership Matters**
5. **Innovation Drives Opportunity**



1 STRATEGIC, PEOPLE-CENTRED LEADERSHIP MATTERS

- At this critical moment in our history, Barbados needs government leadership that is not only visionary and decisive but also compassionate and caring. Leadership that keeps Bajans and Barbados safe, despite the uncertainty and threats that our island, region and world face.
- Whether it is:
  - » Exhibiting technical capacity to save the Barbados dollar from the brink of devaluation.
  - » Passing legislation to end discrimination against ordinary Barbadians who make a living as vendors, or for the first time in our history establishing a minimum wage for all Barbadian workers.
  - » Creating the strongest ties between Africa and Caribbean in the history of the two regions.
  - » Overseeing disaster recovery from households who suffered from floods and ash.
  - » Exhibiting vision and decisiveness to create the region's first dedicated COVID care hospital at Harrison Point, or the first country in the Caribbean to have our citizens protected by vaccines.
  - » Showing innovation in developing the Barbados Welcome Stamp to make up for the 90% loss of tourism arrivals.
  - » Global advocacy on issues of climate crisis, or mobilising finance for the development of small islands states.
  - » Displaying social consciousness by restoring free university education to all Barbadians, as well as increasing pensions for our elderly and salaries for public workers.

Good leadership matters now and for the future of Barbados.

2 GOVERNMENT MUST DELIVER FOR ALL

- Barbados has transitioned to a parliamentary republic. The **Barbados Labour Party** firmly believes that the style, substance and standard of Government are pivotal in setting the national tone. **The BLP** will therefore be a model of ethical leadership which inspires confidence and builds public trust.
- Of equal importance is the fact that as the country's largest employer and service provider, the government must deliver to all its stakeholders - employees, customers, and suppliers. Government must deliver!
- First of all, government must deliver on its promises; then on creating a people-centred culture; on transparency; on inclusion, on fairness; on efficiency; on incentivising the public and private sectors and inspiring individual citizens to perform and to embrace excellence.











3 PRIDE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- The new **Barbados Labour Party** government will create a national policy on philanthropy, volunteerism and active citizenship.
- We will create an Active Citizenry Council, which advises the Cabinet on strategies, projects and public campaigns to help Barbados become a more giving, participatory and engaged society.
- Additionally, the Council will oversee the completion and help manage a digital portal which allows Barbadians at home and throughout the diaspora to contribute money, time, efforts, ideas and skills to Bajan organisations, social causes and projects registered on the portal.
- **The BLP** will develop structures to ensure the voices of Bajans are heard, listened to, respected and acted on. Bajans must recognise and be prepared to accept their responsibility to each other and to Barbados, accepting their rights and taking what the country has to offer, but giving their time, skills and resources to make the country better for each other. To this end, Bajans must raise their voices and efforts in ownership and protection of our Republic, and its human, social, economic, environmental, and relational capital.

4 BAJAN OWNERSHIP MATTERS

The new **Barbados Labour Party** government will empower Bajans by creating revolutions in ownership in the following areas:

- Ownership of Voice and Agency - with deeper participation in governance and the democratic process.
- Ownership of Property - through the most ambitious home-ownership programme in the history of this island.
- Ownership of Capital and Wealth - through new opportunities, the better management of government properties and assets, thereby providing returns to all Barbadians.

5 INNOVATION DRIVES OPPORTUNITY

- Bajan people are creative and must be encouraged to put that creativity to use as innovation which is transformational. Even in adversity there are opportunities. Bajans must be skilled enough and nimble enough to look for, identify and seize opportunities from which they and Barbados can benefit. Innovation transforms circumstances, lives and nations.
- The new **Barbados Labour Party** government will formally declare its intent to build a Smart Nation and a full-fledged innovative economy propelled by world-class technologies.
- A declaration that in 2022 and beyond, the adoption of highly advanced technologies (AI, Block-chain, IOT Sensors, Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, etc.) in delivering public goods and services is not merely desirable and optional, but a fundamental standard in pursuit of operational effectiveness and efficiency.
- In addition, we will develop a 5-year plan to meet the United Nations recommended allocation of 1% of a country's GDP spent on STEAM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.)

DRIVERS OF NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

The drivers of transformation are designed to build the confidence of our people, sustain the lives of our people, create an enabling environment for our people and empower our people through ownership.

At the exact same time Barbados and our world are facing so many major challenges, we have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use renewable energy and digital technologies to make Barbados a more prosperous and resilient country. And to do so in a manner that is fair and beneficial to all - spreading ownership across the length and breadth of the country.

There are major history-defining decisions we need to make now to start a long-term transformation of our economy and our communities.

The **Barbados Labour Party** will:

1 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SECURITY BY:

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BARBADIANS TO INVEST AND BUILD WEALTH.

- **The BLP** will divest interest in the Sam Lord's hotel and its surrounding lands to Barbadian institutions such as credit unions and the citizens of Barbados. In doing so, we will provide the opportunity for every single Barbadian to invest, gain an ownership stake and make money from the island's largest tourism project.

MAKING ALL BARBADIANS OWNERS OF PUBLIC ASSETS.

- **The BLP** will complete the development of the Barbadian Wealth Fund. The Fund will put unused government lands and assets to work - using them as stakes for equity in more significant developments. The fund will be equally owned by every single Barbadian over the age of 18.
- Governed by a team using the highest standards, as soon as the Fund generates a surplus on its operations, it will provide every citizen over 18 years an equal dividend cheque and a report of the annual proceeds.
- As the Fund grows, this dividend cheque will become a steady source of income to all citizens.

CREATING "MYECONOMY".

- **The BLP** will provide every Barbadian with a digital account which offers a range of tools, including web-publishing and payment systems to enable them to be producers, sharers and sellers of digital content to the world.
- We will work with financial institutions, including credit unions to create new, safe, low-cost platforms for all Barbadians to manage their savings, purchase and sell local and foreign securities, including new and regulated digital and Crypto currencies.





CRYPTO PARK

- We will become a global FinTech Hub, developing new and amended financial regulatory regimes appropriate for the safe development and rollout of FinTech, decentralised finance, Crypto and other Blockchain and FinTech activities, including Digital Exchanges and Yield Apps.
- We will modernise our corporate laws to support the development and use of digital registries and Decentralised Autonomous Organisations.

MAKING BARBADIANS OWNERS OF THE MEDICINAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY.

- **The BLP** is deeply conscious that a new industry entered into at this point in our national development cannot follow old historical patterns. We are therefore creating new structures of ownership so that average Barbadians can own and have a stake in the benefits and resources generated by the industry.
- Marijuana has now been legalised in multiple countries and has become a world-wide industry for medicinal and recreational purposes. Barbados is in the process of expanding its sources of foreign exchange earnings and has issued licences to investors to give momentum to the local industry.

2 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN BENEFITS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY BY:

MAKING RENEWABLE ENERGY WORK FOR ALL BAJANS.

- **The BLP** will partner with credit unions and other credit institutions to equip 50,000 small homes across the island with solar panels and hurricane resistant roofs.
- This program will not only create hundreds of work and business opportunities for young Barbadians, but will also ensure the significant reduction of electricity costs and increase in home value.

COMPLETING THE GREEN ENERGY PARK AT VAUCLUSE ST. THOMAS.

- The park will have the latest environmental safeguards, eliminate odours from the current landfill that impact neighbours, remove the need for future landfills which pose environmental risks and make green use of abandoned landfills.
- Additionally, it will save substantial foreign exchange by reducing imported fuel and will carry out recycling work, saving the Sanitation Service Authority approximately $13 million per year.

ESTABLISHING A GREEN INVESTMENT BANK.

- Green investment across the globe is now far outstripping investment in the brown economy and the dying fossil fuel industry. Green investment and the Green Economy, which Barbados pioneered in this region in 2007, are the investment platforms of today and tomorrow.
- **The BLP** is creating such investment for sustainable economic growth and to give value to Barbadian lives, creating new forms of livelihood and providing investment opportunities for ordinary Barbadians.
- **The BLP** Government is working with the international Green Climate Fund and other investors and will establish the new Green Investment Bank in Barbados, with digital operations within the next 18 months. Current projections are that the Government and other shareholders will jointly invest up to $10 million.
- The new Investment Bank will initially finance $150 million of investments that support economic sustainability, including hurricane-safe roofs, rain water harvesting small renewable energy projects, Green Bonds and regional transport for cargo and people to support regional self-sufficiency.

3 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN HOME OWNERSHIP BY:

CREATING A HOUSING REVOLUTION.

- We have already started with 1100 home ownership opportunities made available with our HOPE programme. If re-elected, we will take it to an entirely new level and **make 10,000 new homes available to Bajans.**

ELIMINATING LAND TAX ON THE FIRST $400,000 OF YOUR PROPERTY VALUE.

SUPPORTING PROPERTY OWNERSHIP FOR FIRST TIME HOMEOWNERS UNDER THE AGE OF 35 WITH A FIRST HOME GRANT OF $3,000.

- First time homeowners can apply this grant to any related expense, including a down payment on land or a house, mortgage or loan payment, or legal fees.
- This will benefit first-time property owners, which will be particularly bene icial to young people, giving them a start in life on a valuable and tangible asset. It will give more Bajans their own "piece of the rock" and strengthen Barbados as a property-owning democracy.

CONSTRUCTION GATEWAY TO TRAIN ARTISANS.

- We expect a construction boom for 2022, **The BLP** will establish an 8 - 12 week programme of initial training for carpenters, masons, tilers and other artisans to perform the jobs required. The training for artisans will include job attachments to master craftspersons and artisans to better allow the trainees to hone their skills as well as a leasing facility for tools.

4 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN COMMUNITY AND FAMILY LIFE BY:

REVOLUTIONISING BARBADOS' SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM.

- **The BLP** will create a Universal Citizen Services policy and Directorate that combines the work of all government's welfare related agencies and programmes into a single point of engagement for individuals and families who are in need.
- Responsive, caring and e icient the new Universal Citizen Services Directorate will be empowered and held accountable to improve the lives of Barbadians who use its services. This new system will include the restructuring of the welfare services as we now know them.

SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCING THE WORK OF FULLY INTEGRATING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES INTO OUR COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE.

- **The BLP** will resource and empower the Commission for Improving the lives of People living with Disabilities to develop policy, legislation, strategies and interventions to ensure better access in employment, education and the built environment for all Barbadians.

CREATING AFFORDABILITY FOR BAJANS.

- **The BLP** will hold freight costs at 2019 levels for the calculation of CIF values for the payment of duties.
- **The BLP** will remove VAT on Baby Diapers, Sanitary Napkins, Vitamins, Multi-minerals and Anti perspirants.





5 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP BY:

GIVE SECOND CHANCES AND PLACE EQUAL EMPHASIS ON RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Being guided by the principles of the Charter of Barbados, to build our country into a modern, compassionate, peaceful and productive society. We will complete public-led reforms of Barbados' Constitution and our Parliament.
- Moving from a Victorian punitive approach in our criminal justice system to one of restorative justice. We will transform our intervention strategies and systems for managing youth deviance in schools, reforming probation and dealing with young offenders.
- Promoting personal responsibility for health by investing in new technologies that track wellness and personal development of all Barbadians.
- Building alternative interventions for young people with anti-social behaviours – whether it is Coding classes and music production in prisons, art classes after school or training in maritime career opportunities with the Coast Guard - all young Barbadians will be offered multiple paths and options to be more productive and keep safe.
- Developing a more robust approach to addiction rehabilitation and homelessness. We will find more effective ways to fully reintegrate affected persons into their communities and wider society.
- Completing the work started and finalising Barbados' first national policy on philanthropy and volunteerism. We will create a Philanthropy Council, which advises the Cabinet on strategies, projects and public campaigns to help Barbados to be a more giving society.

Additionally, the council will oversee the completion of and help manage a digital portal which allows Barbadians at home and throughout the diaspora to contribute money, time, efforts, ideas, skills to organisations, social causes and projects registered on the portal.

6 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT BY:

TRAINING MULTI-SKILLED BAJANS AND MAXIMISING THEIR TALENT

- Placing life-long, high quality skill development at the centre of education.
- Transitioning our primary to secondary school process beyond the 11-plus examination.
- Developing a new secondary school structure with Middle Schools that transition into Centres of Excellence in Arts, Sciences, Commerce, ICT, Technical Skills and other areas critical to national development.
- Evolving the curriculum to be more focused on problem solving and critical reasoning. Place modern technologies and innovation at the centre of all elements of learning, teaching and education management system and structures.
- Placing special emphasis on training and developing standards for the delivery of high-quality education leadership.
- Placing substantial emphasis on the physical environment of our schools, such as ventilation, public art and outdoor instruction.
- Developing a new, modern Education Act to replace the 1983 one.

7 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN GOVERNANCE BY:

MAKING GOVERNMENT DELIVER FOR BAJANS.

- Reorienting the focus of government's operations to be citizen-centric. The purpose of government's operations is not to serve itself, but to make people's lives better; make processes easier, more efficient and to make policy impactful and valuable.
- Fast tracking the transformation of Barbados into a "Smart Society". A Government Agency will be resourced, mandated and empowered to digitise and improve the delivery of public services.
- Led and staffed by computer scientists, data analysts, UI/UX Designers and software architects will create and/or procure world-class technological solutions locally, regionally or internationally that make the daily experience of citizens using government public products and services easy and enjoyable.
- Undertaking the digitisation of the Barbados Land Registry and the process of land transfer using Blockchain and smart contract technology, in consultation with the legal fraternity.
- When completed, the digital platform will create a single source of proof of ownership status, and history of a property. Purchasers will be assured that the land being bought is the correct plot, and that sellers are unequivocally the owner. In doing so, we will significantly reduce the incidences of legal disputes, as well as the length of time and cost associated with property transactions.
- The public would be better served by government once this mechanism of **Commitment For Results (CFR)** is implemented.
- We have already trained over five hundred senior public servants and employees of SOEs to implement the programme.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. CLARITY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Clear Expectations from all government organisations - **Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)** – know what results are expected from them.

2. TRANSPARENCY OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS:

Expectations from each Ministry Department and Agency are to be documented in the Commitment For Results programme document prepared at the beginning of the year.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DELIVERY OF RESULTS:

Performance of MDAs will be judged against results delivered and agreed in CFRs approved at the beginning of the year.

4. COORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT ENTITIES:

CFRs will incorporate a whole-of-government approach by including team targets for a group of MDAs as well as mandatory targets for all MDAs.

5. INCENTIVISING TO DELIVER RESULTS

Individual performance appraisal will be linked to departmental CFRs and hence all employees work in a coordinated fashion and by a measurable objective standard to achieve approved results in CFR.

6. ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

MDAs will be required to specify the cost of all deliverables in CFR and also report financial performance.

7. SERVICE ORIENTATION

CFRs will include Service Charters and Grievance Redress Mechanisms to ensure MDAs serve citizens more effectively.

Commitment For Results therefore is a mechanism for delivering to the public better results from government operations and services.





8 TRANSFORM BARBADOS JOBS AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW SECTORS BY:

CREATING WEALTH THROUGH OPPORTUNITY AND TECHNOLOGY.

- Developing and investing in large-scale, future-centric projects that create fast-track economic diversification and massive work opportunities for young Barbadians. We will:
  - » Digitise Barbados' Archival Records using world-class technologies and skills and develop a Sir David Adjaye designed Memorial, Museum and Global Heritage District at Newton.
- Develop a Life Sciences Business Park and Campus at Newton Industrial Park - attracting global companies in research, education and production to be based in Barbados.
- Develop a Green Hydrogen Park at Greenland - combining modern clean technologies in Solar, Wind, BioFuel and Wave energy to create Green Hydrogen for local industrial consumption and global export.
- Develop a Film and Digital Content Studio Campus. We will partner with local and global investors to centre the growth of Barbados' creative economy through the development of world-class sound stages, audiovisual suites, design studios and post-production facilities.

9 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN QUALITY OF LIFE BY:

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- Re-commencing the work of building a 52-week festivals and events calendar. We will create an Eventful Barbados Advisory Council, comprising creatives, event professionals and health officials who advise the Cabinet on strategies, systems and projects to fully leverage the strength of our tourism industry. In doing so, we intend to significantly increase the ability of Barbadians to earn well from these locally developed products, services, technologies and experiences sold to visitors, as well as to authenticate and differentiate the Barbados experience.
- Developing Barbados; Night Time Economy (always in keeping with any COVID-19 protocols) to sustainably increase commercial and cultural activity in Barbados after 6pm.
- Substantially improving the ease of doing business for event promoters by establishing a 1-stop event producer licences regime.
- Prioritising Sports and Physical activities. We will complete the work started on the National Sports Policy and Sports Development Act.
- We will complete the re-development of the Barbados National Stadium and the creation of 15 mini stadia across the island.
- We will transform the National Sports Council and in doing so make school sports competitions, elite youth athletes development (including E-sports) and community physical activities major tasks of the new government. We will invest and facilitate the development of a cricket economy.

- Establishing a "spiritual university" at Codrington College, St. John which will be one of 5 such sites in the world. The Communion at Codrington will become a Centre for the Exploration of Faith and the Human Spirit.

10 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BY:

- Prioritising the mental well-being of all our people - especially the youth. We will expand the mandate of the National Task Force on Wellness, which advises the Cabinet on strategies, projects and interventions to help Barbadians be happier, being better skilled in managing the pressures of life and addressing mental illness issues.
- Ensuring every Barbadian community has a community nurse knocking on doors, checking everyone is safe, picking up on medical conditions early, giving nutritional and nursing advice, building client trust and supporting parents. **Prevention Matters!**
- Promoting greater access to medical insurance coverage for our citizens. Equally, we will enhance the transparency and fairness in the relationship between clients and their insurance service providers.
- Expand community support to our seniors to help them tackle the problems of isolation and elder abuse.

11 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SPACES BY:

- Revolutionising the cultural, leisure and commercial experience of our town centres. We will create a City Experience Office which will work with public and private partners to deliver strategies and projects that make Bridgetown, Speightstown, Holetown and Oistins and Belleplaine hubs for enjoyment for all Barbadians.
- Ensuring that all towns and public buildings are accessible to People with Disabilities.

12 TRANSFORM BARBADIAN RESILIENCE AND SAFETY BY:

- Revolutionising water resilience by building a national water harvesting and conservation programme.
- Retrofitting roofs to be able to collect rainwater - which can then be treated and stored in tanks.
- Prioritising Barbados becoming a digitally secure nation. We will invest in people, technologies, infrastructure and partnerships that place Barbados amongst global leaders in Data Management and Analytics, Cloud Technology and Digital Economy Management.









FUNDAMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS

SOCIAL POLICY

As we seek to transform our country, we are deeply conscious that the more vulnerable among us must be supported and protected.

The pandemic has exposed the limitations of the traditional social services and social safety net. COVID increased levels of poverty, inequality, deficits in childcare and educational outcomes along with income and job insecurity. It contributes to a sense of vulnerability and declining mental well-being among many in our society.

It is clear that the provision of single services, even at increased levels however well intentioned, cannot tackle the complex systemic challenges faced by many. In this regard, **The BLP** will develop and deliver.

UNIVERSAL CITIZENS SERVICES (UCS)

- This is an overarching policy and operational framework that will bring all public social services under one Directorate, focused on delivering the best social solutions to Barbadian individuals and families in need.
- **The BLP** will reform the social services system to make it more responsive to the needs of clients and reform the welfare system. This reform will take place after full discussion.
- Empowerment of Families will be at the centre of our reform. Parental education will be a priority undertaken across Barbados.
- We will also enact legislation to allow for paternity leave for fathers who want to be part of the critical first months of their children's lives, while supporting their wives and partners through this sensitive period.

HIGH IMPACT SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY NURSING.

- Globally, such systems have proven very effective in intervening in a number of health conditions and poor attitudes to health care among populations.
- This is a preventative intervention which will save limbs and lives, and help with early diagnosis of illnesses such as cancer, particularly in those men and women who do not readily seek medical care.
- We know that community-based interventions can be effective and improve outcomes. That has been our experience with Public Health Inspectors.
- **The BLP** will train and deploy a cadre of community nurses to support people in communities across the island, improve self-care, health care and health outcomes.

THE AGEING POPULATION

- To support our ageing population, **The BLP** will construct a New Geriatric Hospital to be located in the Botanical Gardens.
- Expand alternative care of the elderly programme to accommodate more seniors in nursing homes.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Our economic strategy is the economic enfranchisement of all Barbadians in a growing, sustainable and diversified economy.

At the core of our strategy is an unshakable commitment to investing in the universal provision of free education and health care. That is why we quickly restored free tertiary education that the last administration took it away. Strategy is about priority. It's why we:

- Committed to new transformational educational reforms.
- Invested heavily in the QEH and polyclinics and spent over $100m in our medical response to COVID. It's why we are now rolling out a transformative system of community nurses.
- Built up a reserve of over $3 billion so that we can respond to any crisis and maintain these core services, whatever hits us.
- Became the world's largest issuer of Government Bonds with natural disaster clauses. These suspend all debt interest and principal repayments for two years if we get hit by a large natural disaster, freeing up almost $1 billion to deal with any future crisis.
- **The BLP** government understands that free, continuously improving, universal services and economic and financial stability are vital, but ownership also matters.
- Real economic enfranchisement requires a different stance towards our citizens and active programmes to lift and deliver higher incomes and opportunities to those traditionally left out.
- In addition, Barbados must address urgently, the reality that it has not replaced its population since 1980. There will also be a reduction in the size of the labour force within 12 years. Accordingly, the Barbados Labour Government will introduce a new immigration policy framework.
- We will introduce a legislative framework to facilitate the introduction of Barbados Free Zone to attract new investment to the island.
- We are pursuing and deepening these economic policies and continuously developing new ones, including:

HOUSING

- The new Small Home Income-Generating Facility Trust (SHIFT) plan turns **50,000** small homes into income-generating homes, giving those who would never otherwise be able to take advantage of renewable energies, the opportunity to do so.
- This programme was designed to meet the needs of Police officers, nurses, teachers and other public officers. In addition, we will have a special Rent-to-Own programme for low income families to escape a lifetime of renting.
- We will continue the work started and significantly improve the conditions for Barbadians living in public housing estates. From the Pine, to Silver Hill and Gall Hill, Haynesville to Deacons - we will upgrade the electrical and plumbing infrastructure. We will additionally take advantage of planning gains and make new housing available for families living in overcrowded conditions.
- We will support property ownership for first time homeowners under 35 years old with a First Home Grant of $3,000. First time homeowners can apply this grant to any related expense, including a down payment on land or a house, mortgage or loan payment, or legal fees. This will be particularly beneficial to young people, giving them a start in life with a valuable and tangible asset. It will give more Bajans their own “piece of the rock” and strengthen Barbados as having a property-owning democracy.







With public and private sector construction, including new housing construction at an all-time high, there will be great demand for workers and artisans in this sector.

To prevent a crisis of skills and to ensure Barbadians fully benefit from this programme, The BLP will establish a 8 -12 week fast training for carpenters, masons, tilers and other artisans to perform the jobs required.

Training classes in construction skills will be open to women. The training will include job attachments to master craftspersons and artisans to better allow the trainees to hone their skills. A leasing facility for tools will also be available.

OTHER INITIATIVES

- Establish a digital retraining fund and a long term plan to boost productivity and earning power and to ensure that Barbados has the right skills mix to achieve world class status by 2030.
- Leveraging Barbados' geographical position establish Barbados as a Logistics Hub of choice.
- Over 2000 people accessed the new NIS Business Interruption benefit. It recognises that the future of work is changing and more of our people will be partially or fully self-employed. A modern social security system must underpin this future.
- Establish an 'Include Me BIM" inititiave to mainstream economic opportunities for People living with Disabilities.
- Establish a Barbados Inclusion Enterprise Partnership with Government, the private sector and academia to support sustainable growth, job creation and shared prosperity.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY

- The **Barbados Labour Party** recognises that good governance is pivotal to maintaining public trust and confidence and convincing members of the public that the political process and public institutions work in their best interest.
- Implement the major initiatives of the Thorne Commission on Local Governance. Given that the last major reform of our Parliament was in 1971, we will establish a Commission on Parliamentary Reform to make it more responsive to Barbados' realities today.
- We will therefore strengthen governance in all of government's affairs, ensuring that our public affairs are managed in a manner that is transparent, participatory, equitable, responsible, responsive, inclusive, and people centred.
- We intend to provide Freedom of Information legislation which will provide transparency to the workings of government and ensure accountability.
- Particularly in the rapidly evolving world of the pandemic and post-pandemic era, the importance of public sector institutions in supporting our social and economic resilience and shaping our future must be prioritised.
- There will be stronger focus on clear communication, timeliness of governmental decisions, accuracy and timeliness of official reports and enforcement of applicable laws and regulations; **The BLP** will maximise value for the entire society through a fair, just and efficient allocation of state resources, guaranteeing availability and access for those with the greatest needs.

- This thrust will encompass an all-of-government approach, including central government, statutory boards, regulatory agencies, State-Owned Enterprises, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and other enterprises in which government has an interest. This infrastructure will also promote enterprise and competitiveness and assist in the enhancement of productivity, growth and investor confidence.
- Building on the passage of the new Prevention of Corruption Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act and the Remediation Agreements (Deferred Prosecutions) Act at the end of 2021, we shall reintroduce into Parliament the Integrity Legislation which failed to pass in the Senate in the last Parliamentary session. The Anti Corruption Agency will now be operationalised.

CARIBBEAN AND GLOBAL RELATIONS POLICY

- Relationships require ownership of perspectives, strategy and personal investment. In 2018, **The BLP** promised that our international, foreign policy and relations, while showing an outward face would also advance the national and domestic interests of Barbados and Bajans. There is no doubt that the work of the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Mottley has garnered for Barbados a new level of international respect. This itself positions us for a new global leadership role. Barbados' star is in its ascendancy, and we will make sure it continues to rise.

In the multilateral system, Sustainable Development is predicated on 3 mutually supporting and intersecting pillars – Society, Economy, and Environment. To this, the **Barbados Labour Party** wishes to add a fourth pillar, that of Relationships. Very often in life, it is the existence of a relationship and the quality of that relationship that can significantly impact outcome.

The building of strategic relationships with like-minded persons, organisations and countries can add value to our foreign policy and national life in addition to creating strong support at the times and in the forums where support is needed. Development in our new republic must be sustainable and built on strong relationships.

- **The BLP** will actively pursue relationship building based on common values; protection of the national interest; commercial and trade diplomacy and global advocacy. We will:
  - » Seek and nurture new bonds with the Mother Continent of Africa; reach out to Asia on grounds of common interests; build new bridges with our Latin American neighbours; deepen our fraternal relationship with CARICOM; while strengthening existing relationships with partners in particular those in the United States, United Kingdom and the .European Union
  - » Position Barbados as an advocate for small island developing states; a model for Black civilisation; and a voice for the common, shared and just destiny of the human family.
  - » Build, strengthen and leverage the Bajan Diaspora, its contacts, skills sets, relationships, and love of Barbados to attract investment, as well as repatriate resources and support in the building out of Barbados' Human, Social, Economic, Environmental and Relational Capital.







» Create a Barbados Global Leadership Immersion Programme – an annual award of the Prime Minister will recognise an outstanding young leader to participate in a summer intensive immersion program attached to one of Barbados Overseas Missions supporting an international or regional institution. This program will focus on exposing our youth to international affairs and diplomacy and building foreign language capacity.

» Establish a Global Diplomacy Accelerator Program which identifies and matches emerging and established talent at all stages of professional development. In doing so, place Bajans in strategic global positions in every international, hemispheric and regional organisation.



TRANSFORMING, WHILE STRENGTHENING OUR BACKBONE

THE BLP WILL MODERNISE OUR MATURE INDUSTRIES:

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

- The Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors are pivotal to Barbados' food and nutrition security. We must become self-sufficient in nutritious food. The **Barbados Labour Party** intends to add greater impetus to the efforts and projects currently underway.
- The market and the future of food as determined by our production is currently being driven by 3 principal factors:
  - **The climate crisis and the state of our soils.**
  - **The changing and growing tastes and demands of the public.**
  - **The changes in technology.**
- The **Barbados Labour Party** will oversee the transition to a modern, technology enabled agricultural sector which makes the lives of farmers easier; attracts young people and contributes to the country's sustainable development through greater food security.
- Barbados' development and that of Bajans will be anchored on the strength and stability of our economy, brought about through the resilience, nimbleness, sustainability, innovation and creativity which **The BLP** will ensure through its policies and programmes with the active engagement of all Barbadians.

SUGAR INDUSTRY

- After almost 50 years of providing support to the sugar industry, and in particular the sugar factories, we will work with the private sector and Labour to facilitate the new ownership and operations of the factories. The profitability of this company will be premised on the factory generating renewable energy year round.
- Having settled the arrangements, we will implement the plan for the Lears Urban land lease project. This will benefit 200 Barbadians.
- Given the chronic shortage of water, we will continue to augment affordable access to water for farmers islandwide. We will also undertake a national regeneration policy for our soils so as to boost agricultural yields.

MANUFACTURING

- Currently, manufacturing in Barbados can be classified as 70-75% bio-based, consisting primarily of wine and spirits, food products, printed materials and chemicals. Our vision is to expand our bio trade capacity through the build-out of a life sciences centric export industry; positioning Barbados' Industrial brand as a global centre for scientific excellence and scientific exports.









- Government will therefore seed and facilitate investment in:
  - New fermentation facilities for wine, spirits and bioenergy production.
  - An International Food Science Centre, to position Barbadian food innovations in the international market to the highest global standards.
  - Establishment of High-Tech, Open Equipment Manufacturer facilities for the creation of Medical Equipment, Clothing & Apparel, Furniture and Home Accessories.
  - Industrial Design and Product Design Centre at Pelican Industrial Estate. BIM, CAD and 3D models equipment, 3D printing equipment and product design prototyping facility.
  - Expansion of production capacity through industrial robotics, automation and significantly improving quality infrastructure.
- **The BLP will build out a diversi ied, knowledge-based, high-tech economy. We will seed and encourage investment in research and development in the private economy.**
- **We will be rolling out two new Special Economic Zones for 'Life Sciences' and FinTech and other technology irms.**

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

- After tourism, the international business sector is our second-largest economic sector. It was resilient to COVID and proved an important source of diversification. The Government will respond vigorously and quickly to external threats against this sector.
- **The BLP** will keep our businesses competitive if the world moves to a minimum corporate tax. We are developing a system of attractive grants for those investing in local research and development. We will protect the 2019 reforms for small businesses that cut their corporation taxes from 25% to 5.5%, one of the lowest corporation taxes in the world.
- Application times matter to all new businesses. The Financial Services Commission has created a fast track system for enterprises that pose little risk to vulnerable consumers or the financial system, bringing down application times from 12 weeks to 4 weeks. It is developing a digital strategy that will further reduce that time frame to 5 days.
- The rolling out of the digital strategy of the Corporate Affairs Office will also cut waiting times for establishing all new businesses and move us toward our goal of a Government that works for the people 24/7.
- **The BLP** has invested heavily in anti money-laundering systems and reporting that has taken us off the lists of uncooperative regimes that we were put on during the last administration. Global business is our business. Barbados will not return to being asleep at the wheel while actions that harm the country, its reputation and its capacity to do business are taken.

BLUE ECONOMY

- We are an ocean state. Though we may spend most of our lives on the land, our maritime inheritance extends 200 km from our coastline, giving us dominion over a body of water up to 400 times greater than the island itself. Our sustainable development is inextricably linked to our ability to harness the potential of, but protect and manage, these bountiful waters.

- The seas not only nourish us, but also power us. In addition to the fishing industry and offshore wind prospects, there is a strong likelihood that we will find commercial quantities of oil and gas offshore, as well as essential rare earth minerals. Recognising that a paradigm shift in the global energy market is required to avoid catastrophic climate crisis, a **BLP** government will prioritise research and development of renewable ocean energy including but not limited to:
  - Wind (with over 150 MW planned to be installed by 2030)
  - Conversion of sargassum to a biofuel
  - Potential production of hydrogen
  - Ocean thermal energy conversion
  - Wave energy conversion and deep-sea oil, gas and mineral wealth.
- **The BLP** is continuing with the planning process for building islands offshore of Barbados.
- The **Barbados Labour Party** will take steps to promote the Blue Economy and its benefits to multiple stakeholders.
- We will expand the job opportunities available to Barbadians locally and internationally in the Cruise Industry and in Shipping. We will reform the Barbados Ship Registry to make it more competitive. We will develop Barbados as a Yachting Hub with all of the supporting services being established.
- We will expand the overcrowded Bridgetown Fishing Harbour.
- We will use the interest savings from the re-purchase of Barbados issued bonds by the Inter American Development Bank and the Nature Conservancy to finance our Marine Conservation Areas and the restoration of our coral reefs.

TOURISM

- The BLP recognises the invaluable contribution being made to the nation by our tourist industry and is particularly pleased at the dedication of workers in this field.
- We will develop a tourism workers protocol which updates the relationship between tourism sector workers and employers and focuses on upskilling, provision of social services for workers including child care and a dedicated framework for benefits.
- It is the intention of **The BLP** to further diversify our economy to ensure that a greater share of tourism business and revenues goes into the pockets of ordinary Bajans. All Bajans must be owners in the tourism sector. Bajans will become owners of tourism through:
  - Establishing Destination Barbados store fronts in major cities around the world where Barbados can pair tourism, diasporic products, services and investment opportunities in cities including London, Washington DC, New York and Toronto.
  - Consolidating Barbados' traditional source markets while opening new source markets with airlift and marketing to Kenya and Ghana in Africa, and in the Middle East, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.
  - Initiating new Community Tourism Villages project across Barbados. The Villages will be focused on creating locally owned tourism spaces within communities. It is intended that these spaces will create substantial revenues for ordinary Barbadians and increase small business and entrepreneurship, thereby moving some of the tourism earnings from the traditional players to ordinary Barbadians. The Community Tourism Villages will also provide tourists with the more authentic, enjoyable, immersive, local experiences which they so often seek.





- Setting up an Aviation Strategy and Civil Aviation Authority of Barbados which will elevate Barbados as an international transport aviation hub for the Southern Caribbean, to attract new carriers and new businesses which generate jobs. We expect opportunities for Bajans in areas such as aircraft maintenance operations and flight training.
- Establishing a bilingual, world class, tertiary hospitality and tourism training institute in partnership with the Pomarine Institute and an international institute. We will train bilingual staff for tourism and retail facilities in Barbados and in the rest of the Caribbean.
- Establishing a Cruise Destination Management Company to connect small businesses, attractions, local taxis and vendors at the community level to the cruise industry. There must be structured business oriented integration of local partners. We will build a new dedicated transit pier and upgrade the current homeporting pier to attract more cruise liners to Barbados for homeporting and transit calls.

SMALL BUSINESS

- Modernising and digitising our small business sector will unlock substantial economic growth. **The BLP** will therefore launch "**MyEconomy**", giving everyone a digital account and address that will provide access to tools for anyone who wants to be a producer and share digital content with the world.
- The Government will work with telecoms and other firms to deliver affordable and easy access to broadband island-wide, especially to urban and rural communities and housing areas. **MyEconomy** will provide a range of tools, including web-publishing, payment systems, and links to specific courses provided by the National Transformation Initiative to support all Barbadians who want to engage with the new digital economy.
- Additionally, the government recognises that the future of work is changing and more of our people will be partially or fully self-employed. A modern social security system must underpin this future. Over 2000 people accessed the new NIS Business Interruption Benefit which **The BLP** introduced to protect small entrepreneurs who cannot withstand the pressures of economic changes.
- To give a further boon to small business, empower workers and strengthen their ownership opportunities, **the BLP** will now create a new deal with public infrastructure workers. **The BLP** Government will transfer ownership of all its construction and maintenance equipment to UCAL, and then lease back the equipment from UCAL on an as-needed basis.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Barbadians must feel that the banking sector works for them, and that they are not its powerless victims. For too long, the public has been offered a narrow range of expensive financial services from their financial institutions. **The BLP** Government will be a modernising force while preserving the financial system's safety and integrity.
- In addition to supporting competition and alternatives, the Government has sent a clear signal that it objects to the current high level of fees in the banking industry. The banks must lower them, or **The BLP** Government will impose new regulations on fees which the sector can charge to the public.
- As the regulator of locally operating banks, the Central Bank and Ministry of Finance have approved the first new retail bank in several years. It will open for business within 18 months. It is a digital bank with local shareholders This should help to sharpen competition in the sector and lower fees.

- **The BLP** Government has just passed a new Payments Regulatory Regime. This will bring new low-cost providers of money transfers, payments, and electronic wallets to the market to offer new financial services to Barbadians.
- We support new, safe ways for Barbadians to earn a decent return on investments in the local economy. The Financial Services Commission has introduced a new regulatory regime for peer-to-peer lending. These new digital savings initiatives can improve investment opportunities for Barbadians.
- We welcome new financial technologies. We were in the first set of countries to establish a joint sandbox for new financial instruments.
- Barbados will seek to encorage particpants in the FinTech sector.

TRADE AND EXPORT

The **Barbados Labour Party** will prioritise commercial diplomacy by building strong global partnerships among the nations of the world to create new opportunities for Barbadian businesses. **The BLP** government will:

- Create targeted incentives focused on supporting market access opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to engage in international trade. MSMEs make up close to 90% of local business and it will be a priority of **The BLP** to expand their export and foreign exchange earning capacity by ensuring they have the tools to integrate into global supply and value chains.
- Establish 'Future Commerce' by building a network of the world's most innovative and forward-looking companies. Develop institutions and 500 local companies, including MSMEs, to access innovation opportunities; identify and access the best disruptive technologies around the globe; and create new Bajan businesses in key global centres.
- Identify outstanding champions of existing and emerging industries from around the world and pair them with local industry leaders or emerging leaders under the umbrella of Global Advisory Councils. We will ensure that we harness the best global and local ideas to transform and grow every sector and position Barbados to be on the cutting edge of every industry through these global engagements.

WE WILL MODERNISE OUR OPERATIONS:

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- The purpose of digitisation and streamlining processes across Government is to empower all our people, provided that is predictable, fast and inexpensive helps all and delivers growth. This will especially help those who are least able to absorb costs, who can't afford to stand up all day in a line without income and child care and who cannot afford the uncertainty of whether they will get their permit or not.
- Our goal is a Government that serves people 24x7. We have already rolled out online digital payments for many Government services, licences, fees and taxes.
- Citizens can apply for and receive passports and Police Certificates of Character from the comfort of their homes. Driving licences and a new digital ID are up next.
- We will digitise all Government certificates and licences.





STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

- Many state-owned enterprises deliver goods and services to the public daily. A major aspect of the functioning role of the Government is carried out through State Owned Enterprises.
- The ultimate purpose of state ownership of enterprises should be to maximise value for citizens and society, through an efficient allocation of resources. In the context of scarce resources, the goal should be to spread the benefit to the greatest number of interests.
- **The BLP** intends to improve the governance structures of SOEs, and ensure that they generate a transparent social and financial return on investment and potentially give employees opportunities to participate in new revenue streams.

WE WILL MODERNISE OUR PARTNERSHIPS

THE THIRD SECTOR

- **The BLP** will increase engagement with the critical Third Sector knowing that volunteerism and philanthropy add value to life and society and are a social investment in their own right. We will therefore complete the work started, and then finalise Barbados' first national policy on philanthropy and volunteerism.
- We will complete the digital portal which allows Barbadians at home and throughout the diaspora to contribute money, time, efforts, ideas and skills to organisations, social causes and projects registered on the portal. In this regard, **The BLP** has already created a "Give Back" platform which facilitates donations in various forms to Barbadian entities.

WORKER AND LABOUR RELATIONS

- The labour of workers who build businesses, our society and economy, who provide goods and services, numerous of whom are on low pay scales and many of whom are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, must be appropriately recompensed. **The BLP** will ensure these workers know their contributions are recognised and valued. They too must be able to own the means and outputs of production.
- The world of work is changing and with it the climate for labour relations. Capital is more mobile. Labour must be able to seize and maximise opportunities in the new marketplace. New rights and norms have to be attained in the protection of labour and the dignity and worth of the worker. These changes and struggles have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Workers in the new Republic must be respected.
- The historic roots of **The BLP** are deep in the Labour movement and this Government will always be on the side of the poor and the worker. We enter this election and the new republic with the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union sitting with **The BLP**, for the first time in 65 years, making for a strong partnership which prioritises the interests of workers and the making of worker-centred policies.
- The **Barbados Labour Party** has consistently empowered workers. Previous BLP Administrations built out the suite of benefits and legislation providing workers' rights, protection, pay and vacations. Indeed, **The BLP** was responsible for measures to empower workers, such as the United Commercial Autoworkers Company Limited (UCAL). More recently **The BLP** Administration introduced a minimum wage that is 35% higher across all sectors, to help safeguard workers and their families by putting more money in their hands.

- **The BLP** recognises the value and importance of the rights of workers and their representatives. A Trade Union Recognition and Collective Bargaining Bill will be brought to the Parliament. A policy will be developed on remote work and the impact of technology on the job security of the Bajan worker.
- We will conduct a comparative analysis of models relating to work life balance to find mechanisms for relieving worker stress.
- The **Barbados Labour Party** will put in place a new deal for Domestic workers, Workers in the Hospitality Sector, migrant workers and workers in the Agricultural Sector. We will consider and amend the Employment Rights Act as necessary for worker protection and for that Act to function in the manner that was originally intended.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

CITIZENS' SAFETY

- Peace and safety for Barbadians are paramount. **The BLP** has significantly invested in scanning facilities at the Ports and increased radar surveillance on the coastlines to reduce the penetration of illegal firearms into the island. Serious crime is down by 24%.
- The **Barbados Labour Party** will increase jobs and improve training for young people to give them a greater sense of purpose and direction thereby avoiding social drift and aimlessness that could lead them into crime.
- **The BLP** has zero tolerance for guns, crime and violence and will seek to reform the criminal justice system while simultaneously combating crime at the community level. We specifically target interpersonal violence, promoting strong community bonds, offering classes in conflict resolution and negotiating skills, and making early interventions with wayward youth.
- A more sensitive justice system intended to rehabilitate the offenders for useful lives is in the process of being developed.
- Similar community based approaches for domestic violence will be pursued, including training, counselling and support to help offenders change, and assist victims.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

The incessant and strident cries of the public, legal professionals, international entities and those overseas who wish to do business with Barbados demand the urgent modernisation of the court system.

This area of public life has experienced prolonged neglect and an absence of investment much to the disadvantage of the country. It is profoundly at variance with the efforts to sell Barbados as an attractive centre of business.

The difficulties in the system have caused litigants delay, embarrassment, financial loss, inconvenience and in some cases, personal distress.

To address these de iciencies The BLP will:

ESTABLISH A SPECIALIZED COURT FOR FAMILY MATTERS

The Family Court will join together, for the first time, all areas and entities affecting the practice of family law. There will be an emphasis on Juvenile Justice legislation, childcare, welfare, probation, domestic violence, and reform to the payment of maintenance. These initiatives are designed to take away much of the toxicity arising from the breakdown of relationships and marriages.
There will be a greater utilisation of mediation designed to salvage and maintain relationships wherever possible. Work is much advanced in this area, and it is anticipated that by July this new system can be implemented.
There will be 3 Family Courts across the island.





UNDERTAKE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS TO BRING SPEED, EFFICIENCY AND RATIONALITY TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

It is proposed to introduce new criminal procedure rules. Sentencing guidelines have been agreed in the areas of firearms and drug offences and these will be presented soon. Other areas that will have guidelines soon include murder, manslaughter and sexual offences. A criminal registry headed by a criminal registrar to drive the process is needed most urgently and that person will be given supervisory management of all Magistrates' Courts.

INTRODUCE COMPUTERISED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

Computerisation will drive the process at the Magistrates' Court with an emphasis on the collection of fines, speeding up time to final dispositions, eliminating antiquated processes and re-training of personnel to manage the new systems.

RATIONALISE THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

This will modernise processes and positions that have not changed since the 1990s. This will involve the creation of the post of Court Executive Administrator (CEA) which will shortly be advertised to facilitate recruitment.

REFORM COURT PROCESSES

The introduction of an enhanced Commercial Division with rules specially designed to facilitate speedy disposal; arbitration and mediation frameworks designed to create parallel pathways for the disposal of civil matters; reformed Probate and Estates Department with a specially assigned Deputy Registrar and the creation of new rules to govern the processes involved, will be hallmarks of the new system

RECOMMIT TO ITS POSITION ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.

As outlined in 2018 Manifesto alternatives to the "fine and confine" approach were established. **The BLP** will build future-altering interventions – whether it be Coding classes in prisons, after school music classes or training in maritime career opportunities with the Coast Guard.

QUALITY OF LIFE

WE WILL MODERNISE AND IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE:

THE ORANGE ECONOMY

A country's culture, heritage and creative expression help to define that country and its people. These features speak to character, foundation and legacy. They are as much a part of the country as its physical landscape and are carried within the bosom and psyche of every citizen.

Culture and heritage are also about quality of life. The **Barbados Labour Party** believes that despite COVID-19 and the pressures of daily life, living in Barbados must always be more than survival; it must be enjoyable and rewarding. Therefore, to significantly enhance the cultural, creative and heritage economy, **The BLP** will:

- Establish "Eventful Barbados" a 52-week event calendar.
- Evolve Barbados' city and main towns into hubs for entertainment and leisure.
- Prioritise the use of indigenous cultural forms such as literature, film, gaming, theatre, animation and dance, among others, in the delivery of education at the nursery, primary and secondary levels.

- Transform Queen's Park into the cultural hub of the island, complete with performance and rehearsal spaces, studios, retail shops, public art and artists-in-residence studios. The administrative offices of the NCF will also be relocated to this site.
- Reclaim Our Atlantic Destiny (ROAD) as the children of the African Diaspora, by fully developing, as a cultural and heritage district, the African Slaves Burial Ground at Newton, Christ Church, with the relocation of the Archives, as well as an appropriate interactive museum with related cultural facilities at this site.
- Complete transformative projects such as the establishment of a state-of-the-art soundstage and production campus at Andrew's Factory, and the Heritage District at Newton. Leverage these projects to enhance Barbados' digital content production (Films, NFTs, Games, etc.).
- Revitalise the Barbados Landship through the establishment of Landship Docks in schools and communities.
- Create a Public Art programme and policy.
- Modernise and scale the annual Crop Over and the Season of Emancipation.
- Expand relationships with the African Creative Economy through partnerships in training, film, festivals and music production and distribution.

SPORTS

The BLP will give new impetus to the sports sector in Barbados to provide communities a real stake and ownership in the development of sports and to ensure sports generate revenues for the communities, young people and sports persons. The new **BLP** government will:

- Complete the work started on the National Sports Policy and Sports Development Act.
- Complete the much-desired redevelopment of the Barbados National Stadium.
- Develop a full-fledged community and national sports economy through investment and modern development of high-quality youth and community championships, merchandising and media products.
- Establish a Secondary School of Excellence for Sports Careers.
- Overhaul the National Sports Council to be the driver of youth and community sports and well-being
- Develop 15 mini stadia across the country as well as regrading, lighting, placing bleachers and maintaining community grounds so as to allow for increased sporting activity at the community level.
- Complete the work already started and establish a regional horse-racing academy to provide an opportunity for young people to gain critical skills which will enable them to secure many of the jobs in the horse-racing sector.
- Prioritise the further development of Wildey as a multi-disciplinary sporting centre in Barbados.
- Develop Road Tennis as an International Sport. Aid in the establishment of a World Road Tennis Federation (WRTF) which will provide an opportunity for athletes in this sporting discipline to earn income - utilising Barbados' overseas missions and diaspora to support and build out Road Tennis internationally.
- Take advantage of the unique global brand Barbados has in cricket and establish a Cabinet working group on the development of a Barbadian cricket economy. Comprising leading minds in cricket, innovation and business, this working group will be tasked with preparing a road map and implementation plan, to be presented to the Cabinet. It is intended that this plan for cricket would take Barbados from "Community Cricket to Global Cricket Careers". Once the final plan is







approved **The BLP** will provide Bds $1 million from the Arts and Sports Fund, as an initial start-up investment in the execution of the implementation plan.

GARDENS GULLIES PARKS AND BEACHES

The Green Economy and environmental protection are important to growth and our way of life as island people.

The **Barbados Labour Party** will preserve our green spaces, particularly our gardens, gullies, parks and beaches. We will:

- Continue the work at the National Botanical Gardens.
- Establish a local policy and fiscal framework for the development and marketing of a new "National Park and Open Spaces of Barbados."
- Develop a community based, Nature and Adventure Tourism brand product.
- Rehabilitate the gullies to ensure they remain natural green spaces for low impact use, the preservation of flora and fauna, and community assets which generate revenue for residents of surrounding areas.
- Become one of the first countries to execute a "debt for nature swap" where environmentally minded investors swap our debt for cheaper debt. In return we will use a large part of the interest savings to protect the marine environment and support more sustainable fishing. Representatives of environmental NGOs will participate in the initiative through a new National Environmental Sustainability Trust.
- Execute the next phase of the national household waste management programme and roll out a National Recycling Campaign fully utilising the bins provided to all households across Barbados.
- Created green spaces for recreation and fostering greater community spirit. These spaces keep Barbados beautiful, allow our citizens to enjoy nature, while building friendships with others.

  Communities have a vested interest in ensuring that environmental quality of their community is of the standard they want for themselves and their children. Community based activities will increase the incomes of the residents in those communities.

ENERGY

- Conscious of how the climate crisis is affecting Barbados, the Caribbean and small island developing states, Barbados is acting on its responsibility to sister nations and the family of humanity, by transitioning to a green economy.
- We will place heavy emphasis on the transport and energy sectors and incentivise the tourism industry to make the shift as well. This will result in savings in foreign exchange expenditure, savings for householders and a reduction in the island's ecological footprint.
- **The BLP** will implement the new national energy policy which is intended to provide reliable, safe, affordable, sustainable, modern and climate friendly energy services to all residents and visitors. **The BLP** will transition to zero domestic consumption of fossil fuels across the entire economy.
- The energy policy will revolutionise both the electricity and transport sectors to provide high paying jobs and opportunities for skilled technicians and engineers, whilst reducing reliance on imported fuel and simultaneously creating a new economic space for local ownership in a sector worth potentially over Bds $500 million per year.

RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Barbados and its infrastructure must be resilient. National standards should allow housing, infrastructure and our major installations to remain safe and protected in the event Barbados suffers an extreme weather event.
- The Roofs to Reefs Programme (R2RP) seeks to create both integration of planning and programmes for the water, energy, housing, agriculture and transport sectors.
- The programme is one of the measures **The BLP** will be employing to reduce the worst impacts of the climate crisis, create greater efficiencies, and build national capacity. Hurricane Elsa showed us the necessity for this.
- **The BLP** will use the Roofs to Reefs Programme to:
  - » Make low and middle-income homes more resilient to extreme weather events, loss of electric power and potable water.
  - » Make critical utility, water, sanitation and road infrastructure climate resilient.
  - » Restore the reduced coral reef ecosystem services particularly on the west and south coasts of the island.
  - » Provide a more resilient housing stock by retrofitting to withstand wind speeds of up to a Category 4 hurricane.
  - » Equip Bajan homes with the storage capacity for potable water, to increase resilience to drinking water shortages and to provide for rainwater harvesting.

THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

- Transport is normally seen in the context of its link to economic growth. **The BLP** believes however, that a good transport system contributes substantially to social cohesion, citizens' safety, security, well-being, social life and recreation.
- The **Barbados Labour Party** team which formed the government in 2018, inherited a public transport system that cried out for a reliable service for our citizens. Initiatives were taken to upgrade the fleet with 49 new electric buses, 31 retrofitted buses and 152 new buses. We increased the participation of the private owners in the Transport Augmentation Programme (TAP), improved labour relations, refurbished some terminals and depots and introduced new routes.
- Notwithstanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Transport Board has realised a reduction in non-labour operating costs and achieved growth in revenue, albeit marginally.
- The next phases of the mission are - to transition to a Barbados Mass Transit Authority that will further improve service; green the Transport infrastructure and upgrade ICT systems for a smarter transport system.
- The **Barbados Labour Party** will improve and modernise the public transport system to align with the national objective of transitioning to a green transport sector.



BUILDING IN THE NEW REPUBLIC

A PROJECT PIPELINE OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAJAN OWNERSHIP & INVESTMENT

The future will not rise up to meet us. Whatever comes against us, we must hold together as one people. We must make our way, create our own fortune and build our own future as the world's newest republic.

There are a number of new projects that will help to create new opportunities, jobs, ownership and wealth for Bajans, reduce foreign exchange expenditure and protect against climate change impacts. The projects will boost the economy and create an improved quality of life for Bajans.

PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS OF $122.5 MILLION

- The Speightstown and Constitution River flood mitigation and beautification, $20.4 million.
- National Road Rehabilitation, $22.8 million.
- Smart energy program putting solar electrical systems on all government buildings, $12.1 million.
- Train Bajans for multiple opportunities and to step into the sectors where the jobs will be generated; $9.7 million will be made available for this purpose.
- Preventing guns entering Barbados and preserving law and order-related equipment such as radars for coastal surveillance, $7.8 million.
- Augment water through the use of temporary and permanent desalination plants. Immediately provide community sewering solutions to persons living in the Belle and Belleview and thereafter Bailey's Alley and Chapman Lane, $7.1 million.
- Investments spread across all ministries, $42.6 million.

PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECTS WITH PLANNING APPROVALS



Hyatt Ziva Hotel $425 million, which will employ 1800 construction workers and 1200 full time staff.



Sam Lord's Castle will be refurbished and built out for $400 million, employing 1000 construction workers and 1200 full time staff.





Sagicor Estates is a construction project of $200 million, which will engage 900 construction workers and later, approximately 200 full time employees.

- Discovery Bay/Royalton in St James will be a $200 million investment using 500 construction workers and 500 full time staff.
- The price tag for the Apes Hill expansion is $25 million, using the services of 75 construction workers and after completion, 20 full time staff.
- Margaritaville Hotel Hastings will cost $100 million, employing 350 construction workers and 200 full time staff.



The Crane expansion is expected to cost $75m, employ 200 construction workers and once completed, over 70 full time staff.



The expansion of Sandals will cost $60 million, employ 200 workers in construction and 75 full time staff when built.

- A cineplex and commercial centre at Welches, St Thomas, costing $75 million will create 275 construction jobs and 200 full time jobs.



Porters Townhouse Development for $25 million, will employ 250 construction staff and later, 150 full time service staff.

These new investments of over $1.4 billion, employing approximately 5000 construction workers for 2 years and generating 3600 full time jobs show that investor confidence has returned and that the future under The BLP is bright.



PROMISES KEPT

•••

CARING & DELIVERING

2018-2021

PROMISES KEPT... CARING & DELIVERING: 2018-2021

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VOTE BLP STAY THE COURSE



PROMISES KEPT

• • •

CARING & DELIVERING

2018 - 2021





Builders of Barbados Wall

This wall commemorates the unsung heroes of Barbados who have built this country over the last 6000 years of its existence.

These persons, each in their way, would have contributed to this island's transition from Ichirouganiam (the original Amerindian name) to Barbados.

It's a wall to recognise and thank those unknown persons that have built our country and continue to do so.



















SAFETY AND SECURITY IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

CRISIS AFTER CRISIS – HANDLED ON YOUR BEHALF

A COUNTRY KEPT SAFE CITIZENS KEPT SECURE

- Governing in the best of times can be a challenge, but the **Barbados Labour Party** has been called on to lead the country in some of the most difficult circumstances of the modern era.
- These were not home-grown problems of the government's own making, but the kind of external, shocks to which small island developing states are vulnerable. The COVID-19 Pandemic, the Ash-fall from St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Climate Crisis.
- The Caribbean is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world.
- Given the urgency, **The BLP** was compelled to formulate and implement solutions for the safety of Barbados and for the security and well-being of Barbadians.
- There were no precedents on which we could draw, no templates we could borrow, no models on which we could rely.
- We had to chart our own way, drawing on the instinct for survival in any circumstance that those who survived the middle passage left wired into our DNA.
- This Administration had to deal with combined crises at a scale and within a time-frame that no other Barbados Government has had to address.
- **The BLP** observed what was happening globally and decided on the path this country would pursue in the protection of the national patrimony and our citizens safety which these crises were putting at risk.
- Our efforts have received international recognition and praise and Bajans have been safer because of the decisive leadership of **The BLP.**

THE CRISIS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- SARS COV-2 or COVID-19 has emerged as the most significant threat to health, the greatest disruptor of health care systems and health care delivery and societies and economies the world over. Some health systems and societies have collapsed under the strain. Barbados has not.
- **The BLP** saw the burgeoning problem of COVID before it reached our shores. Recognising that no country in the world was escaping, we prepared for

its arrival. That came with our first case in March 2020.

- By then we had sourced PPE, essential equipment and supplies, equipped, staffed and opened a world class facility for COVID care at Harrison Point, St Lucy.
- We also prepared the QEH, trained and sensitised health care workers across the system, engaged in public education and developed the capacity to "stand up" or rapidly bring other facilities into use.
- Later, in anticipation of the spread of the virus, we brought privately owned hotels into service in the protection of public health. Critically, we have been able to give the lifesaving vaccine to the almost 70% of our citizens whose age made them eligible to receive the vaccine.
- Further protection for Barbadians resulted from the efforts of the **Barbados Labour Party** in a very competitive global market. Barbados recorded another first. This time, as the first country in the Caribbean to acquire essential vaccine products and start a national vaccination campaign.
- To date the Government has spent some $300 million in our response to COVID-19.
- It is not the expenditure on health care that solely characterises the effort and approach of **The BLP** but the extent to which we have tried to support people in every sphere of life - families, vendors, taxi drivers, tourism workers, the self-employed, the poor and the vulnerable.
- While we have much to be grateful for, the family of the **Barbados Labour Party** joins the country in extending deepest condolences to the families of the almost 300 Barbadians who have succumbed to this dreaded disease.
- Those who have passed on will be recognised with a suitable memorial marking this tragic period in national and global history. May they rest in eternal peace.

THE ASH FELL FROM THE SKY

- COVID-19 was not the only unseen and urgent issue which fell to the **Barbados Labour Party** Government and which warranted intervention. Indeed, the issues that confront us had to be addressed simultaneously if the country was to have a chance at surmounting the challenges and succeeding.
- It was in April 2021, that the La Soufrière volcano in our neighbouring CARICOM country of St Vincent and the Grenadines erupted, spewing lava, rocks and other volcanic materials on to the landscape. Vincentians were forced to flee from the reach of the angry volcano and that island's economy and way of life were disrupted. Barbados was not spared. Ten million tonnes of ash fell on Barbados, turning the skies dark and blanketing the country.
- The situation was urgent, requiring a decisive and effective response. And that is what the country got from **Team BLPStaySafe.**
- This Government had to clean public buildings to protect the health of our public workers and at health care facilities such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, polyclinics, psychiatric and geriatric hospitals, police stations, schools, government offices and other institutions. Public markets had to be made sanitary and fit for purpose, so that food and drinks could be offered for sale.
- Drains, gutters, and waterways had to be urgently cleared. This was of critical importance. With the hurricane season only weeks away, we were in danger of a serious risk of flooding had this government not taken timely and decisive action.





The national clean-up ensured the protection of the health of women, men, children, livestock and domestic animals.

- In implementing these measures, we put our people first, but there was an economic component as well. The air and seaports, and critical infrastructure for doing business with the outside world had to be cleaned and made suitable and safe for employees and the wider public. Parks, beaches, green spaces also had to be cleaned.
- We could do all of this with urgency because we had built up a war chest of $3 billion of reserves. Imagine if we had been hit with this in 2017 while sewage was still spewing in the roads of the south coast!

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- Climate change has been deemed by the world's leading scientists as a "Code Red" emergency for society, economy and environment. The climate crisis is jeopardising economies, citizens and their well-being, threatening the viability of the planet, and compromising the future of our young people.
- Barbados has already been impacted by the climate crisis. The Barbados Water Authority frequently reports low water levels in the reservoirs and appeals to citizens to use water moderately; our beaches are changing and fish catches, especially of reef fish, are smaller.
- To address this issue, **BLPStaySafe** has embarked on a water augmentation programme that will use desalination plants to get potable water to the worst affected areas in St Joseph, St John, St Thomas, as well as parts of St Peter, St James and St Lucy. Other measures for adapting to the climate crisis include transitioning to more technology based, less water intensive forms of agricultural production, rebuilding our reefs, protecting our coast lines and marine flora and fauna and fisheries stocks.

Bajans can rely on The BLP to keep them safe in a crisis.

BEFORE AND NOW
DLP DISASTER VS BLPSTAYSAFE TEAM

SPACE TO BREATHE AND GOVERN

How much of tax revenues goes to servicing debt (%of Revenues)



2018	PRE COVID 2020	2022
68%	22%	30%

Source: Central Bank of Barbados, Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment

SAVING THE DOLLAR

Building reserves against shocks

Foreign Exchange Reserves at the Central Bank

2018	2022
$440 MILLION BDS $	$3,052 MILLION BDS $

Source: Central Bank of Barbados

JUDGMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RATING AGENCIES ON LEVEL OF SOVEREIGN DEBT

Standard and Poors' Barbados Sovereign Rating

2018	2022
CCC+	B-
NEGATIVE	STABLE

Source: Standard & Poors'

REDUCING GOVERNMENT ARREARS TO BARBADIANS

Tax refunds and trade payables owed to citizens for more than 12 months



2018	2022
$1,900 MILLION BDS $	$63 MILLION BDS $

Source: Barbados Revenue Authority

REDUCING GOVERNMENT DEBT AND ARREARS DESPITE COVID

	2018	PRE COVID 2020	2022
BDS $	$16.6 B	$12.7 B	$13.1 B
% OF GDP	176.3	117.4	140.8

Source: Central Bank of Barbados, Barbados Revenue Authority

BEFORE:
DLP DISASTER





NOW:
BLPSTAYSAFE TEAM















REPORT ON OUR URGENT AGENDA

AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE 2018 RESCUE MISSION

The BLP Is Accountable To You

WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BARBADOS AND BARBADIANS SERIOUSLY.

In 2018, **The BLP** identified a list of 17 issues which were irritants to the Barbadian public, a stain on our national reputation, a mar on the system of governance, a poor reflection of how our country's affairs were managed, and a disservice to the people of this country.

These issues affected every aspect of life and government's functions. They impacted all three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment.

We deemed them Mission Critical and determined that these issues had to be treated with priority and would be addressed within the first six months of coming to office. In this manifesto, we report to you on that list of the 17 issues.

Critical Issue 1.

Rebuilding Our Foreign Reserves - to 15 weeks of import coverage

Safety Action – Barbados' import cover now stands at 38 weeks, or over $3 billion, the highest ever in the country's history. Bajans can now hold foreign currency accounts, the Central Bank no longer prints money to erode the foreign reserves. Consequently, investor and international confidence is high.

Critical Issue 2.

Dealing With The Debt Choking Our Economy

Safety Action - The BLP renegotiated the national debt, easing the burden on Barbadian taxpayers, and ensuring that all citizens carried their share of the national obligation. The last Government was spending 63 cents of every tax dollar on debt service. By comparison, since 2018, this Government spends 22 cents of every dollar servicing debt. In the event of a natural disaster, through our negotiated debt relief clauses, we can suspend debt payments and use that money for immediate national relief, support of citizens and national clean up.

- MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Critical Issue 3.

Bringing Tax Relief To Over-Taxed Bajans

Safety Action - The BLP abolished numerous taxes such as NSRL, Road Tax, the Municipal Solid Waste Tax and repealed the need for Tax Clearance Certificates.

Critical Issue 4.

Reducing Threats To The Financial Services Sector

Safety Action - The BLP staved off the threats to Barbados' international financial services sector, negotiated the country's removal from "blacklists" which had damaged our reputation and jeopardised our ability to earn foreign exchange. Barbadians earning foreign exchange received a foreign currency tax credit.

Critical Issue 5.

Helping People To Live & Pay Their Bills

Safety Action- The BLP increased the non-contributory pensions from $155 per fortnight to $225. The reverse tax credit of $1,300 for those earning less than $18,000. Increased funeral grants by $500. Created a Household Mitigation Unit giving a monthly stipend to vulnerable families, protecting their privacy and dignity with the use of a credit card. A minimum wage to ensure workers had a livable income was enacted.

Critical Issue 6.

Addressing Arrears & Refunds Government Owed To People By -

Safety Action - The last government built up $1.9 B of arrears of tax refunds owed to the public. Despite COVID, **The BLP** Government has paid and reduced arrears to just $63M.

Critical Issue 7.

Protecting People's Health

Safety Action – The Accident and Emergency Department was upgraded and made more comfortable for health care professionals and patients. **The BLP** extended the opening hours of the Randall Phillips (Oistins) and Eunice Gibson (Warrens) Polyclinics, providing X-ray and ultrasound equipment, asthma bays and security services. Kept us safe during COVID. **The BLP's** total COVID related expenditure to date has been $300m, of which medical expenses were over $100m, and much of the rest was income support schemes to vendors, small businesses, families, taxi drivers, nail techs, hairdressers, barbers, families, the poor, the vulnerable, People With Disabilities and numerous other groups.

Critical Issue 8.

Fixing The Sewerage Crisis

Safety Action – The BLP repaired both the South Coast and Bridgetown Sewerage Systems and provided adequate resources for the staffs to do their jobs. We developed short and long term plans for the proper management of the two systems, and literally cleaned up the sewage off the streets of the island's South Coast. **The BLP's** effective intervention averted a similar crisis at the Bridgetown Plant.

Critical Issue 9.

Removing The Garbage All Over Barbados

Safety Action – The BLP has bought and deployed 33 new garbage trucks and related equipment on island. Barbadians

are again receiving a frequent, scheduled garbage collection for households and businesses. High quality garbage disposal bins with covers have been distributed island wide and plans are in place for recycling.

Critical Issue 10.

Putting Buses Back On The Roads

Safety Action – The BLP procured 49 new electric buses with free WiFi, repaired 31 existing ones and partnered with the 153 PSV operators to create empowerment and increase the service on bus routes; reinstated or expanded routes. PSV operators have also been given a seat on the Transport Authority.

Critical Issue 11.

Getting Rid of Plus-Sized Potholes

Safety Action – The BLP has built new roads in communities where greater access was needed, cleaned roadways and repaired roads all over the country. The programme is ongoing. Indeed, the horrific state of the roads has been reversed through major road works programmes which are ongoing.

Critical Issue 12.

Alleviating Water Woes

Safety Action – The BLP laid new mains in St Philip to feed water stressed communities in St John, St Joseph, and St Andrew. Construction of two desalination plants, one located at Ealing Park, Christ Church, and the other at Six Mens is underway to increase the supply of potable water to communities in the south and north of Barbados. A sub-plant at Trents will cover the western side of St Joseph and St Thomas.

Critical Issue 13.

Making Bajans Safe

Safety Action – Crime is down over 20%, but acts of random violence have been harder to bring entirely under control.

The BLP has tightened our borders to stem the flow of firearms into Barbados. Radar surveillance of the coasts has increased and the new $33M scanner at the Barbados Port has been put into operation to stem the entry of guns at the Port.

Drug interdiction has increased.

Steps have been taken to eliminate the large number of officers serving in acting positions and appointments have been regularised.

By digitising and automating certain processes more Police officers now focus on policing instead of administrative duties.

Cabinet has agreed to improve the terms and conditions of Special Constables by making them public officers. This puts them on the same footing as other police officers with respect to pensions and gratuities.

Critical Issue 14.

Empowering Young People

Safety Action - The BLP created a National "Job Start" Programme for youth between 16-25 years old to gain a Government subsidised placement at a business in their field of interest.

Guidance counsellors were deployed to help reduce school violence. Monitors were brought in to help with COVID care. A National Mentorship Programme was developed. Since September 2018, **The BLP** government has restored paying tuition fees for Barbadians attending U.W.I. Trained 356 young people in the Barbados Youth Advance Corp.

- Created greater social cohesion through the upgrading of sixteen community centres and the expansion of the Community Arts Programme to include Caricature and Character Creation, Body Art, Automotive Art and Spray Painting, Costume Design and Wire Bending, Ceramics, Sign Painting, Screen Printing. Numerous road tennis competitions and the Inter-parish Community Football Programme formed part of this exercise. The construction of hard-court facilities at Wesley Hall and Eagle Hall Primary schools and Lowthers playing field, combined with the lighting of 37 playing fields has greatly improved the recreational facilities available to citizens across the length and breadth of Barbados.
- Created more welcoming and safe spaces by creating jobs through the Highway Beautification project, including highways 1 – 7.
- Collaborated with Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy, National Conservation Commission and the National Sports Council to teach 1000 persons to swim in the Swim for Life Programme 2020.
- Improved social equality through the implementation of a new policy direction allowing persons to wear religiously mandated head coverings for official photographs. This was a major bone of contention for the Muslim, Rastafarian and Spiritual Baptists communities in Barbados and the new policy was welcomed by them and heralded as a watershed moment in governmental and religious respect and cooperation

DIGITISATION

- Established Barbados' first Records Digitisation Centre and commenced the digitisation of certain documents and services, including Police Certificates of Character, Driver's Licence renewals, Passport Appointment System and Barbados Welcome Stamp Applications.
- Completed first Game Changers Competition in schools to promote the creation and development of electronic games by Barbadian youth. 30 students were selected to receive further training with a view to introducing high potential creations to the marketplace.
- Improved physical infrastructure of schools across the island. Numerous schools benefited from re-painting, refurbishment and the implementation of wireless access on the compounds. Accessing the internet is now available to the students regardless of their background.
- Diversified the school curriculum by introducing coding and robotics and the trained staff to deliver instruction in these areas.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Trained displaced workers to allow them to return to the workplace with new, flexible skills.
- Trained two hundred and fifty (250) Most Vulnerable Families through the IDB's Strengthening Human and Social Development programme in areas of entrepreneurship, educational skills. Family members have been receiving services in health such as pap smears, mammograms and training in parenting.
- Over 60,000 hours in online classes were received by Barbadians during the pandemic, delivered by NTI/Coursera partnership with reputable institutions and international universities for the population during the pandemic.
- Launched a reformulated Barbados National Senior Games in 2019, as part of Government's continued strategy to promote active ageing.
- Hosted the multi-faith National Service of Thanksgiving from 2019 in commemoration of Barbados' Anniversary of Independence.





- Undertook a technical review to propose a new legislative regime for childcare and protection leading to the enactment of a modern Child Protection Act.
- Delivered vital care packages to the most vulnerable in society during the national lockdown in 2020 and the more recent period of pause and increased all categories for cash grants by 40%.
- Approved other forms of assistance-in-kind along with cash grants to allow individuals to reach minimum monthly household income of $600.00.
- Increased the number of rental payments, inclusive of arrears paid on behalf of families.
- Increased burial assistance to allow for the payment of a modest casket up to $3,000.
- Provided approximately 225 persons with temporary accommodation as a result of damage to or destruction of their homes consequent on the passage of Hurricane Elsa.
- Upgraded the Children's Village at Nightingale, Black Rock, St. Michael, by the addition of two (2) new Children's Homes, a Day Nursery and a Contact Centre for family.
- Disbursed $500,000 in grants to organisations advocating for, and working toward the improvement of the circumstances and issues affecting PWDs.
- Enrolled an additional 250 households through a bridge programme for an integrated and holistic approach to reducing poverty.
- **The BLP** restored the reverse tax credit of $1300 for those earning less than $18,000 in 2018. We extended the eligibility to those earning up to $25,000. The first band of income tax has been widened to now cover incomes from $25,000 to $75,000 and their tax rate has been reduced from 16% to 12.5%. And those receiving a non-contributory pension are getting 40% more money in their hands.

JUSTICE

- Increased the number of High Court Judges from 13 to 20. Of this number, the criminal division was increased from 2 to 5 Judges to begin to clear the backlog of over 1000 serious criminal cases. This will allow people to have speedy trials and not languish on remand.
- Created 3 Commercial Courts to provide specialised judicial treatment of commercial matters.
- Removed criminalisation of possession of less than 14gms of marijuana and at the same time, expunged the criminal records of all persons who had been convicted for possession of that amount thereby removing stigmatisation and opening up opportunities for thousands of people.
- Police Certificates of Character are now available online, reducing the waiting time from weeks to hours in most cases.

HEALTH

- Built a world class facility at Harrison Point and brought other facilities into use, spending over $100m on Barbados' medical response to COVID-19.
- Established plans for 24-hour Urgent Care Service at Winston Scott Polyclinic and Extended Hours Service at St. John Polyclinic.
- Refurbished and expanded Out-Patients Clinics in St. Joseph and St. Andrew.
- Constructed a new Accident and Emergency Department at QEH.
- Established the Family Nurse Practitioner Training Programme.

- Established a Community Healthcare Programme at the QEH to combat NCDs.
- Launched the National Cardiac Project and a National Cancer Plan.
- Increased the number of Registered Nurses to alleviate a serious nursing shortage.
- Arranged for certain skillsets and competencies to be recognised against international best practices in nursing thereby enabling a significant improvement in the pass rate of Barbados nurses at Regional Exams.
- Created a Schools Nutrition Policy to sensitise our young children to the risk of diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, high cholesterol and other NCDs to help battle childhood obesity.
- Approved the construction of a new Geriatric Hospital.
- Added Medicinal Marijuana Therapeutics to the National Drug Formulary.

SPORTS

- Collaborated with the Barbados Cricket Association and Cricket West Indies, to host the England, Australia and Pakistan Cricket tours of the West Indies, 2021.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy to implement the Swim For Life Programme which catered to 987 participants.
- Constructed hard-court facilities at Wesley Hall and Eagle Hall Primary Schools and Lowthers playing field.
- Constructed of a pavilion at the Glebe, St. George: Phase Two is ongoing and includes the building of a multipurpose hard court to cater to several sporting disciplines such as basketball, volleyball, netball and road tennis.
- Initiated the acquisition of land at Workman's, St. George, for the expansion of the playing area and the provision of a hard court and a pavilion, for use by the Workman's Primary School and the residents of Workman's, Jericho and Jordan, St. George.
- Lighting of 37 playing fields has commenced with new lights already in place at Byde's Mill, St. George and Princess Margaret Secondary School and St. Margarets, St. John. Work is at an advanced stage at Connell Town, St. Lucy, Foul Bay, St. Philip, Lodge Road, Christ Church and St. Martin's, St. Philip. Work has started at Arsenal and Lears

ECONOMIC SAFETY

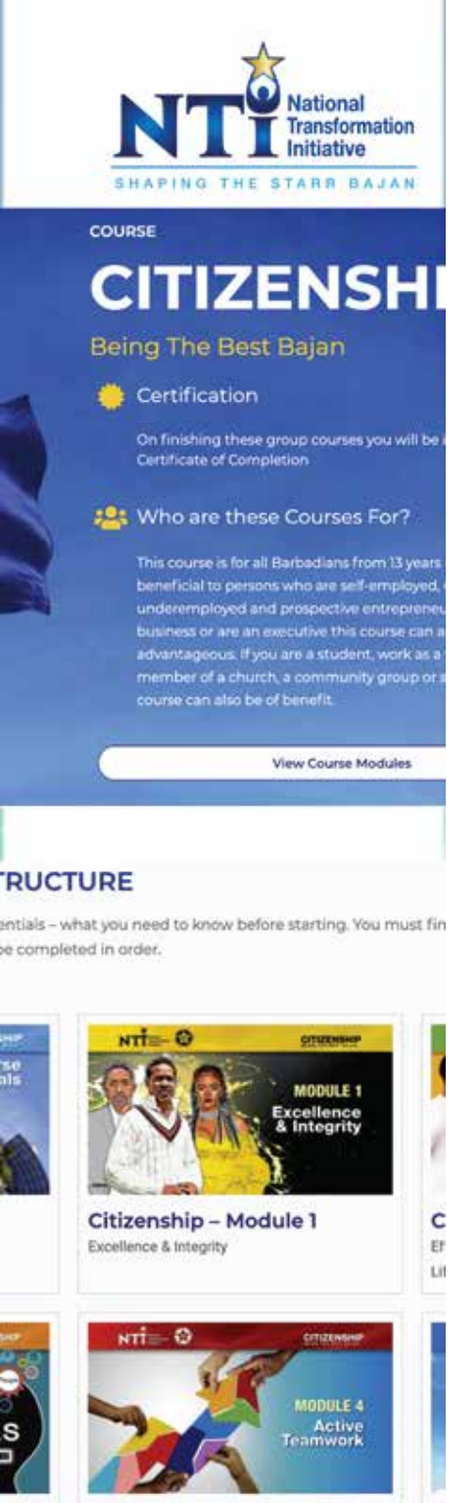
THE BLP IMPLEMENTED A SERIES OF MEASURES WITH ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR BARBADOS AND BAJANS.

- **Saved the dollar, built reserves and restored credibility so the country could face and respond to major shocks, like:**
  - » COVID: resulting in the loss of $600M of tax revenues and $300M of increased expenditures.
  - » ELSA: repairing and rebuilding thousands of homes
  - » Volcano clean up.
  - » South Coast Sewerage system breakdown.

  With - BEST program supporting 2000 tourism jobs.

  Supporting the $115M payout of NIS benefits to 31,000 workers.
- **Reduced debt and interest payments to sustainable levels, making room for progressive fiscal policy:**
  - » Raised the non-contributory pension by 40%
  - » Delivered first public sector wage increase in 9 years.





- Increased welfare, introduced household support, investing over $20M.
- Paid the $1300 reverse tax credit, lowered the first tax band from 16% to 12.5% (making the tax system fairer)
- Paid and reduced Government arrears to taxpayers from $1,900m to $63m, (releasing much needed cash into the economy).
- Eliminated road tax and the NRSL.

- **Restored free tertiary education (approximately $25m) and invested in upskilling and building a knowledge economy outside of university and schools:**
  - 22,000 Barbadians have registered on the National Transformation Initiative.
  - 3700 took a JAVA course.
- Initiated the HOPE Plan that will use $50 M of public money to unlock $200 M of low interest rate bank loans; build 10, 000 new homes and 1,100 low income houses which have already started.
- Rescued the Public Transport system from collapse.
- Rescued the Sanitation system, purchasing a new fleet of 33 new garbage trucks, thereby upgrading service allowing for regular scheduled collections. This also had a positive impact on public health.
- Created the Renewable Energy economy with attractive feed in tariffs (100 MW of renewable *energy projects* on the way).
- **Improved doing business**
  - Digitised licence applications.
  - Facilitated online payments for Government services
  - Eliminated renewals of FSC licences, reduced application from 12 to 4 weeks
  - Digitised CAIPO.
  - Rolled out online payments for government services.
  - Passed new streamlined, quicker application for Town & Country Planning and Renewable Energy licences.
- **Inclusion on the EZ Pay+ System** .The BLP has improved the way Barbados does business and our citizens engage. In response to the national shut down period, CAIPO integrated the EZ Pay system to facilitate online payments. This facility helps to protect citizens who wish to make online payments, avoiding long lines and delays at payment counters.
- The digital corporate registry also provides for an overall increase in the efficiency of the processing of applications and documents.
- BIDC promoted or expanded businesses and give ease to entrepreneurs. 150 businesses were given targeted assistance which resulted in the expansion of their operations during the period. 38 businesses were assisted in starting up new enterprises. 140 new tenants were approved for operations in BIDC's estates. Rent Relief of $1.1M was granted as a result the COVID-19 pandemic. Special Technical Assistance through disbursements for the three-year period 2018-2021 totalled $4.2 million; a 51.3% increase on the previous 3-year period. 204 clients benefited from the programme; 65 more recipients than for the comparative period of 2015-2018.
- Introduced the Foreign Currency Permit legislation to incentivise the earning of revenue in Foreign Exchange
- Issued exploration licenses to global resource company BHP, to explore offshore blocks in search of hydrocarbons.
- Negotiated and executed the Unitisation Treaty with the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of joint exploration and exploitation

of hydrocarbon resources that span our shared maritime boundaries.

- Advanced regional collaboration in significant areas such as CARICOM advocacy against blacklisting, de-risking and the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships; the work of the Caribbean Commission on the Economy; engagement with representatives of the private sector, labour and civil society, and the establishment of the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO) as a non-profit organisation with headquarters in Barbados.
- Increased opportunities for Barbadians across the diaspora. As part of the thrust of enhanced global engagement, Barbados exchanged official and state visits with Ghana and Kenya. Barbados is opening diplomatic offices in these two countries. Barbados' High Commissions in Accra, Ghana and Nairobi, Kenya will be the base for extensive non-resident accreditations for Barbados to several countries in western, eastern and southern Africa.
- Improved trade relations with various countries and enhanced market access globally for Barbados' goods and services.
- Prior to COVID established diplomatic relations with 12 new countries.
- Under the BLP the hosting of Innovate Barbados Conference took place
- Focus on creative problem solving and sustainability with special emphasis on MSMEs.
- Hosted the 15 Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development under the theme, "From vulnerability to equality and prosperity for all."
- Played a pivotal role in the establishment of the new international group AfCar, bringing together Africa and the Caribbean to collaborate on and lobby for issues of common strategic interest.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Protecting our environment and keeping it safe protects our people and our country.

The climate crisis is one of the major challenges facing the global community. Barbados became an important advocate for small island developing states and developing countries generally, played a pivotal role at the climate summit, COP26 and gained major concessions for climate financing in the negotiations. This is invaluable to Barbados and the Caribbean.

Launch and Start-up of BLOOM – Barbados Clean Technology Cluster Project to

- Assist stakeholders in maximising renewable energy investments.
- Support the reduction of energy costs in Barbados and thereby have a positive impact on efficiencies and competitiveness of local businesses.
- Lower transportation costs.
- Save foreign exchange through the reduction of imported fossil fuel.
- Focus Areas: Renewables and Energy Efficiency, Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Wind Power, Bioenergy, Waste-to-Energy, Energy Efficiency, Energy Storage, E-Transportation, Blue Economy.

All Barbadians will benefit from a cleaner and healthier environment as this initiative protects and sustains our Island for present and future generations and presents Barbados as champion of a successful Green Economy.





BLUE ECONOMY

- Renovated Tent Bay, Payne's Bay and Martin's Bay fish markets and installed new equipment at the Berinda Cox Fish market. These upgrades have improved the working conditions of those working at these facilities and have also met the phyto-sanitary international standards, thereby potentially increasing fish sales to international markets and higher income for vendors.
- Constructed modern facilities for vendors, staff and the general public at Pile Bay, in partnership with Barbados Port Inc. Reconstructed Pile Bay fish landing and recreational facilities which enable the users of that area to finally enjoy the amenity.
- Commenced reconstruction of the fuel berths and jetties at the Berinda Cox, Bridgetown and Speightstown Markets.
- Commenced a demarcation process for water sports activities. So far, 31 areas have been demarcated and work is ongoing.
- Engaged with national, regional and international maritime training institutions to establish training programmes in maritime and seafaring skills to ready nationals for employment in the maritime sector.
- Located fish aggregating devices with satellite technology around the island that will attract fish and allow fishermen to find fish with less effort.
- Created a lease-to-own boats initiative for fishermen that will allow these professionals who are usually denied financing, to enter into arrangements to own vessels
- Facilitated training in Aquaponics under an FAO project which saw the expansion of an aquaculture farm and training facility and to date has trained approximately 45 persons.
- Completed engineering drawings for the construction of a modern "haul-out" facility at Consett Bay.
- Acquired new equipment to assist with the "haul-out" of vessels making us better prepared for the hurricane season.
- Facilitated the creation of a Strategic Management Plan to minimise the negative impact of Sargassum Seaweed on our coastline.
- Acquired approximately $35 million in new cargo handling equipment, inclusive of a gantry crane, electric forklifts and straddle carriers at the Bridgetown Port.
- Constructed a new Port Administration headquarters.
- Refurbished Berth 4 at the Bridgetown Port and designed the Shallow Draught Marina Facility.
- Advanced the Energy Smart Fund and Public Sector Smart Energy Projects which saw the phasing out of inefficient streetlights and the installation of solar systems on various Government buildings and other public buildings.

ALTHOUGH THE BLP HAD LESS THAN A YEAR AND A HALF IN OFFICE BEFORE COVID STRUCK, WE FULFILLED THE MAJORITY OF OUR MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO DELIVER ON OUR POLICY AGENDA FOR BARBADOS AND ALL BARBADIANS.

YOU ARE SAFE

YOUR FAMILY IS SAFE

YOUR FUTURE IS SAFE

WITH PRIME MINISTER MIA MOTTLEY

AND

THE **BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY**





OUR TRACK RECORD - CARING AND DOING

SHOWING WE CARE FOR YOU - DOING WHAT WE PROMISED

ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH KEPT YOU SAFE

The BLP "Came Through" For Barbados and Barbadians.

Resilience is toughness. It is the ability to face, resist and recover quickly from disasters of all types. To develop in a sustainable and successful manner, a country must be resilient. The policies of the **Barbados Labour Party** over the last term have been intended to build resilience which underpins sustainable development.

The reality is that for half of the three and a half years the **Barbados Labour Party** has been in office, Barbados has been in the throes of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the constraints and very real challenges presented by COVID, the **Barbados Labour Party** has fulfilled its entire Mission Critical Agenda and the vast majority of its 5-year commitments.

Sustainable development rests on three pillars – society, economy and environment. Our achievements over the course of the last 3.5 years will be presented here under the pillars of sustainable development.

SOCIAL SAFETY

The BLP implemented a series of measures with social benefits.

- Opened the Barbados Trust Loan office in 2019 to provide seed capital to over 4000 small businesses, while simultaneously creating 13 jobs at the Trust Loan division. This created further opportunities for Barbadians to empower themselves and create a sustainable future for their families.
- Trained 356 young persons, ages 16-20 (216 males and 140 females) in various vocations, between May 2018 and March 2021 through the Barbados Youth Advanced Corps. These young people have been afforded a chance to pursue non-traditional areas of interest such as Food Preparation and Cooking, Animation, Entrepreneurship Management, Computer Applications, Carpentry and Joinery, Childcare and Nursery Management, Electrical Wiring, Home Economics, Graphic Design, Interior Decorating and Photovoltaic Design and Installation. Some of the students are also gainfully employed across the public and private sectors in the island.
- Created revenue streams and self-employment opportunities to ex-inmates through the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme "Youth Prison Fellowship Initiative", thereby removing the stigma associated with persons who previously ran afoul of the law and giving a second chance to deserving citizens who earned it.



PROMISES KEPT

• • •

CARING & DELIVERING

2018 - 2021





Builders of Barbados Wall

This wall commemorates the unsung heroes of Barbados who have built this country over the last 6000 years of its existence.

These persons, each in their way, would have contributed to this island's transition from Ichirouganiam (the original Amerindian name) to Barbados.

It's a wall to recognise and thank those unknown persons that have built our country and continue to do so.











