

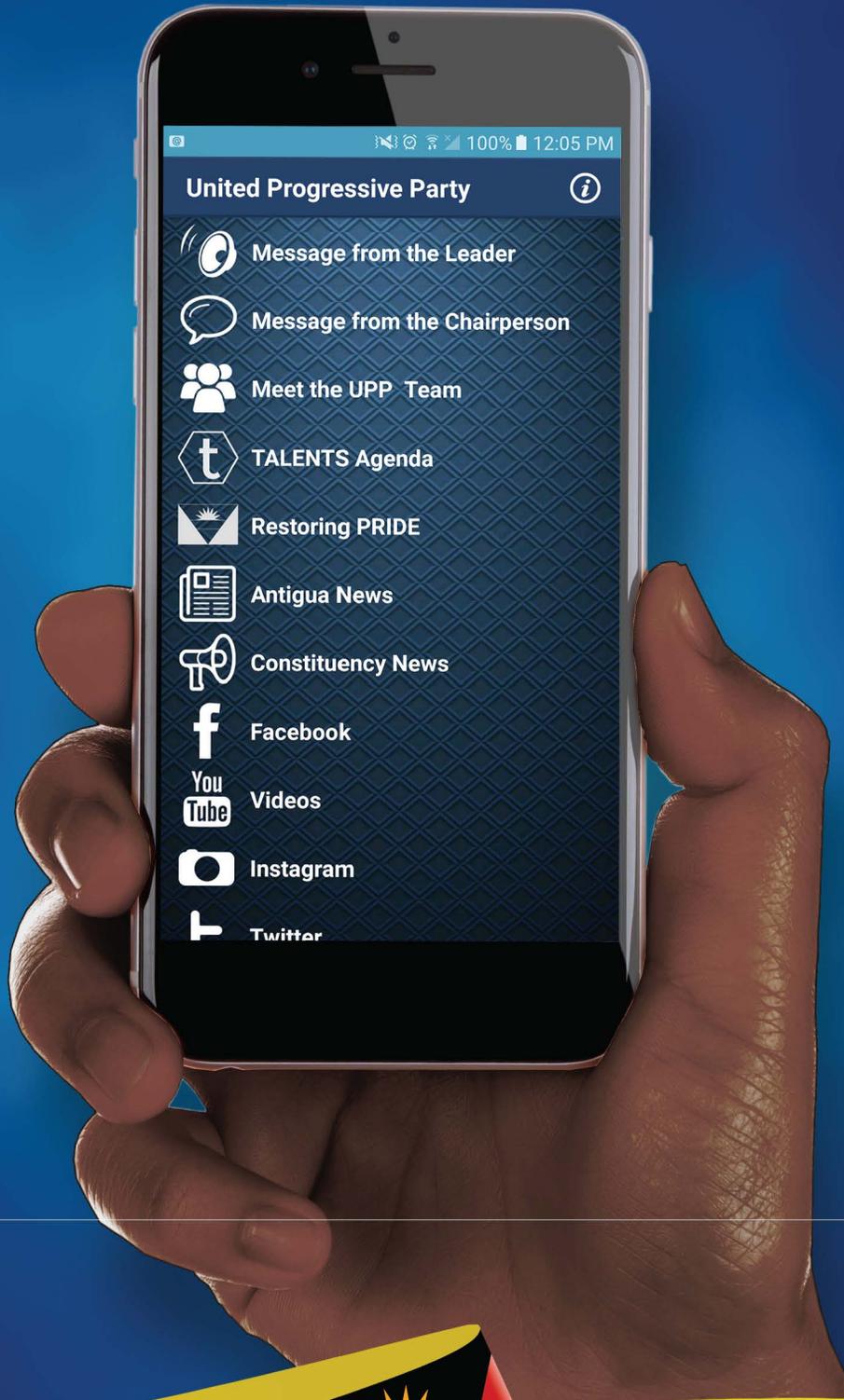
Delivering



Manifesto
2018



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ELECTION *Message*

Fellow Citizens and Residents of Antigua & Barbuda:

Here we stand, on the threshold of not just another election, but a seminal election that either will pull us back from the brink or hurl us over the precipice.

The election has been called in 2018, one year earlier than would be normal, simply because things are NOT normal. Those of us who live here know that the current administration, led by Gaston Browne, has failed to deliver on its 2014 election promises, deeply disappointing even the die-hard supporters of the Labour Party and victimizing the faithful supporters of the United Progressive Party.

Despite his penchant for tossing around numbers, the truth that all of us – outside of the Browne circle – know and live is that life is harder than ever after nearly four years of this wicked government.

The world enjoyed the lowest oil prices internationally in more than a decade. But Antigua & Barbuda never felt the benefit. This country raked in more than a BILLION dollars in profit over the three years of its CIP prominence. But Antiguan and Barbudans never enjoyed the benefit. Tourism soared in the Caribbean, in particular in neighbouring St. Kitts and St. Lucia. But our twin-island state enjoyed no similar surge. We fell on the happiness index, crashed on the nutrition scale, and sank on every other meaningful indicator of prosperity and well-being.

Meanwhile, as things got better, brighter, and more prosperous for the Brownes and the Members of Cabinet, you, my Fellow Citizens and Residents, were forced to do without the basic things a good government, in great financial times, is expected to provide: A reliable water supply; decent roads; good preventative health-care; vibrant and competitive education; and the care of seniors, the disabled, and the vulnerable.

We had a right – a right – to those services and to more. Including the right not to have our name – the name that the UPP toiled to restore to decency – sullied in the international press by accusations of bribery at the highest levels in the Odebrecht scandal; The Syrian Smuggling scandal; the Peter Virdee scandal and Xiao Jianhua scandal. We had the right, as well, to not have our image sullied by the indiscriminate issuance of our passports to questionable investors and other shady characters. And we had the privilege of visa-free access to Canada, our good friend and benefactor since

Independence, revoked.

We had a right, as Antiguan, to not live under a two-tiered system of taxation where the so-called super-rich, like YIDA, can exist for life without contributing a penny to the Treasury, while hard-working civil servants get a paltry raise that does nothing to raise their standards of living or lower their debt.

We had a right, as Barbudans, to not have the Government take away the communal ownership of our island and replace it with a house-plot-for-a-dollar, while the mega-rich from large continents get thousands of acres for a song. Barbudans had a right to speedy resettlement and to all the benefits that international donor-support afforded them.

And, most recently, we certainly had the right to hear a Throne Speech and a Budget Speech that were not leftovers, the skin and bones of speeches past, that were nothing but comedic recitations of 500 homes, projects in the third quarter of yet another year, and the blaming of the UPP, Harold Lovell and Hurricane Irma. More promises! Still no performance....

This election offers you, my Fellow Citizens and Residents, the chance – the once-in-a-lifetime chance – to be a part of the redemption and rescue of Antigua & Barbuda, which, in less than four years, has descended into a virtual police state, a place where Parliament is routinely used to abuse citizens, a country where immigrants are manipulated for political expediency, a nation in which fear stopped the mouths of the clergy, the union, and the media.

The United Progressive Party is the only viable option to what now passes for government. We did the best in the best of times; and in the worst of times, we went above our first-term efforts and held this nation together – with broken and bloody hands; with rope, twine, iron; cutting and contriving; to the point where, once again, we rose to assume our leading role. When we left office, Antigua & Barbuda was poised to become rich! That was the prediction in international financial circles!

I can tell you – with pride and satisfaction – that, with the help of God Almighty, I and my team of bright young Antiguan pulled off a miracle in those recession years. Did it without CIP money! Did it without Lazard money! Did it without excessive fuel taxes! Did it without raping Social Security and ravishing Medi-

by: **Harold Lovell**

UPP Political Leader

cal Benefits! Did it without taxing the butcher, the baker, the hairdresser and the barber! Did it without doubling work-permit fees for struggling immigrants! Did it without wasting scarce resources on concerts-without-conscience....

WHAT IS GASTON BROWNE'S EXCUSE FOR HIS FAILURE?

... This election, the United Progressive Party brings you a team that is united in its purpose and progressive in its remedies to revive our economy and restore our national pride. A team that is representative of our communities, our religious beliefs, our traditions and culture, our educational diversity. We are YOU. YOU are us, represented here.

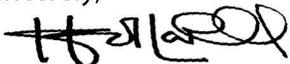
We stand on the Platform of TALENTS that we have been articulating to you these past months. We offer you the formula in the key areas of rebooting our economy, especially in Agriculture, Tourism, and Entrepreneurship, and the way forward in Education, Healthcare, Creative Industries, Technology and Innovation. And all of this has been crafted in consultation with YOU, the people, because the UPP continues to be the "people first" Party. We present ourselves to you both on our record of Performance and on the Promise of even better performance....

Use this General Election opportunity to vote wisely. Consider what you had yesterday, how much you have lost today, and whether you and your children will lose or gain tomorrow.

Antiguans & Barbudans, your lives and your livelihoods, and this country's future are in your hands. On the left there is Hopelessness. On the right, there is HOPE: Happiness; Opportunity; Prosperity; and Empowerment.

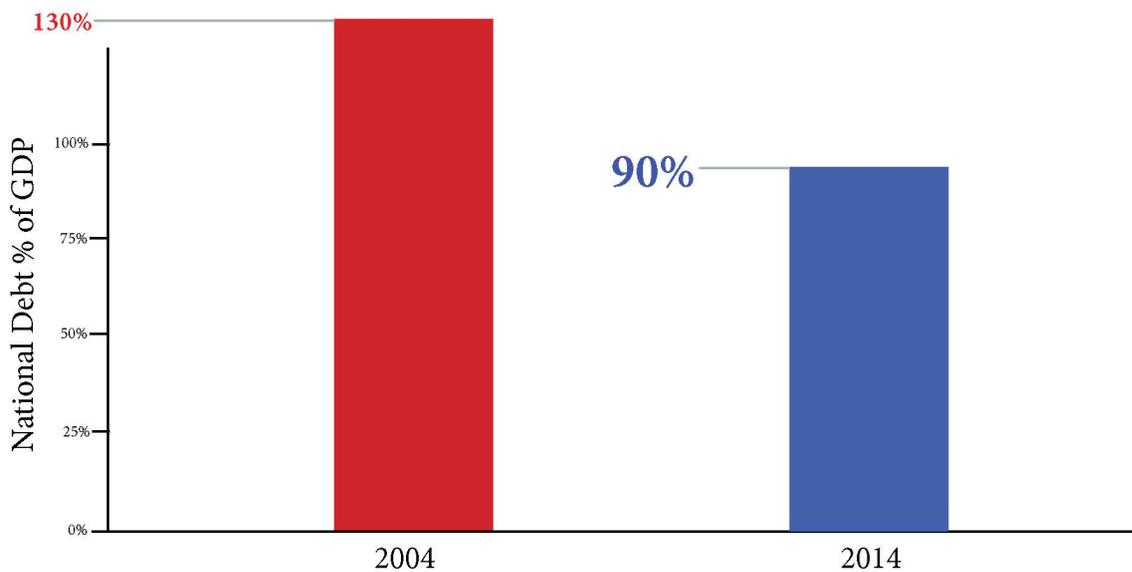
The choice is clear: **Your VOTE WILL deliver HOPE. Vote the United Progressive Party....**

Sincerely,



Our Economic Management

Figures do tell a Tale!



The UPP's tenure in government (2004-2014) saw a 47% reduction in the ratio of National Debt to GDP. What further makes this remarkable and noteworthy is that it was achieved despite the huge shock to the economy emanating from the 2008/09 international financial crisis – the world's worst – and the subsequent collapse of our single largest private sector employer, The Stanford Group of Companies.

From 1981-2003, Antigua & Barbuda was branded and treated as an international pariah, a financial outcast, and its name and creditworthiness were severely sullied and damaged.

Under the UPP government, with much effort and determination, our name and integrity were restored. We moved from a blacklisted position to being highly respected among regional and international financial institutions and nations who became willing to engage with us.

As the UPP prepares to assume the control of the **affairs of the country again, we find ourselves confronted** with a similar mission of Rescue and Restoration of Antigua & Barbuda's credibility and creditworthiness.

Since assuming office in June 2014, the inept ABLP claims they have reduced the Debt to 76% of GDP. A layperson would assume that if debt is reduced, it

means that money was paid to reduce said debt. Not so in the case of this ABLP mismanagement.

What they have NOT told us is that they used what may be termed as an "accounting sleight of hand."

Medical Benefits Illusion:

They transferred ownership of Mount St John's Medical Centre AND the Cancer Centre to Medical Benefits, as settlement of \$125 Million of government debt to those entities. So no money was involved. Instead, Medical Benefits got saddled with a liability NOT an asset since BOTH properties will require significant outlays of cash for upkeep, e.g. insurance, maintenance, etc., and there is NO income to be generated by EITHER property to offset such expenditure.

Social Security Illusion:

Approximately \$100 Million of the debt due to Social Security was exchanged by the government for vesting the title/ownership of the US Navy & Airforce Base at Coolidge in the name of Social Security. Similar to the Medical Benefits illusion, this property has NO current income-generating capacity. Meanwhile, the costs for its upkeep will now be firmly on the shoulders of Social Security.

What makes this so egregious is that, currently, Social Security is severely cash-strapped and unable to



pay pensioners and other beneficiaries on a timely basis.

On November 20, 2017, Prime Minister Browne, speaking ahead of a CARICOM-UN High-Level Pledging Conference, said that “ordinarily you would have had to depend on borrowings. But we have another problem. Antigua & Barbuda is a very highly leveraged country in that our Debt to GDP stands at about 76% and therefore if we had to borrow now the US\$200 Million, clearly we would not be able to pay back that loan, or those loans, if there are several loans. So borrowing clearly is not a sustainable option.”

This was his pitch for funding based on his estimation of what it would cost to rebuild Barbuda.

He subsequently appealed to the donor nations for loan forgiveness, stating that a significant portion of Antigua & Barbuda’s existing debt portfolio is a hangover from colonial days and, in fact, was primarily Interest due on loans that had been borrowed 20-30 years ago!

Noteworthy is the fact that this narrative changes drastically when Mr. Browne speaks at home. He then falsely asserts that the UPP is responsible for the incurrance of our huge National Debt. You draw your own conclusions.

So, as per Mr. Browne, the country is cash-strapped and heavily debt-laden, and unable to service any increased debt, but what does the ABLP Administration, with the finance whiz-kid at its helm, do? Incur more debt.

\$243 Million Loan for Port Rehabilitation

\$108 Million Loan for road repairs and reconstruction

\$85.86 Million Loan for Barbuda Reconstruction PLUS a Loan for the cost of the Solar Electricity Plant

All of the above debt must be viewed in the context of a deficit (expenditure exceeding revenues collected) in 2017 of \$285.3Million. This is projected, according to the 2018 Budget, to increase to \$448.4Million!!! So this massive deficit will have to be financed IN ADDITION to the servicing of the above loans AND the debt currently existing.

Now you understand the dire situation our Nation faces, the financial precipice at which Antigua & Barbuda has once again been placed. Upon assuming office, the UPP government, in an effort to generate additional revenues without relying on debt financing, will, among other things:

- judiciously use legitimate revenues from the CIP programme to retire the debt burden
- concurrently reinvigorate the Tourism Sector via foreign direct and local investment
- increase Agricultural production to play a more significant role in the economy
- spur private-sector investment by creating an enabling environment, especially for entrepreneurship.

The records show irrefutably that the UPP Administration cleaned up after the ALP’s mal-administration, and this allows us to say proudly and confidently, **“We did it before and we will do it again.”**

Professional Triber



Platform Developer



Business Transform
Practitioner

Cloud Architect



Neuro Implant Technician



Industrial Network Engineer



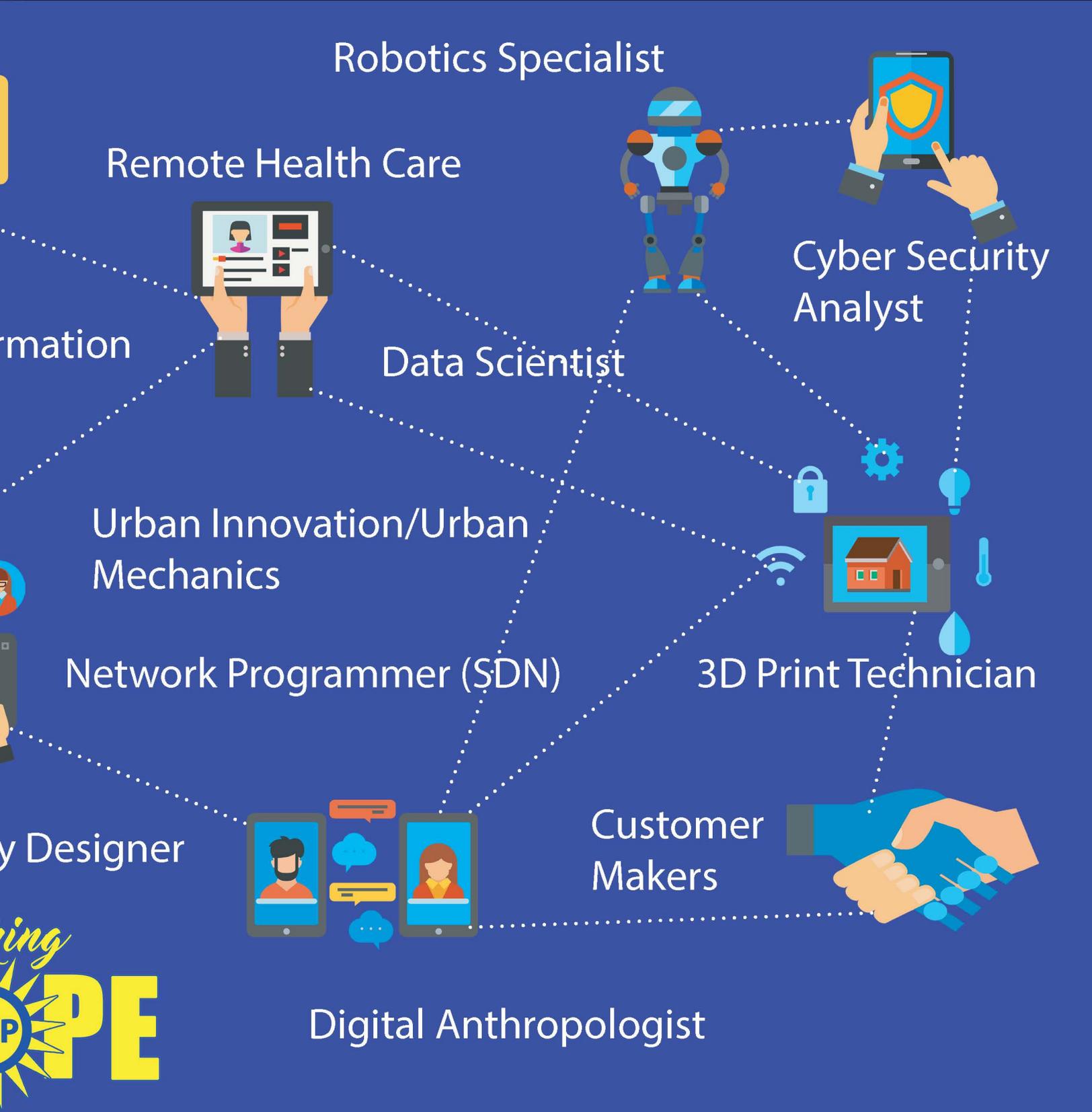
Virtual Reality



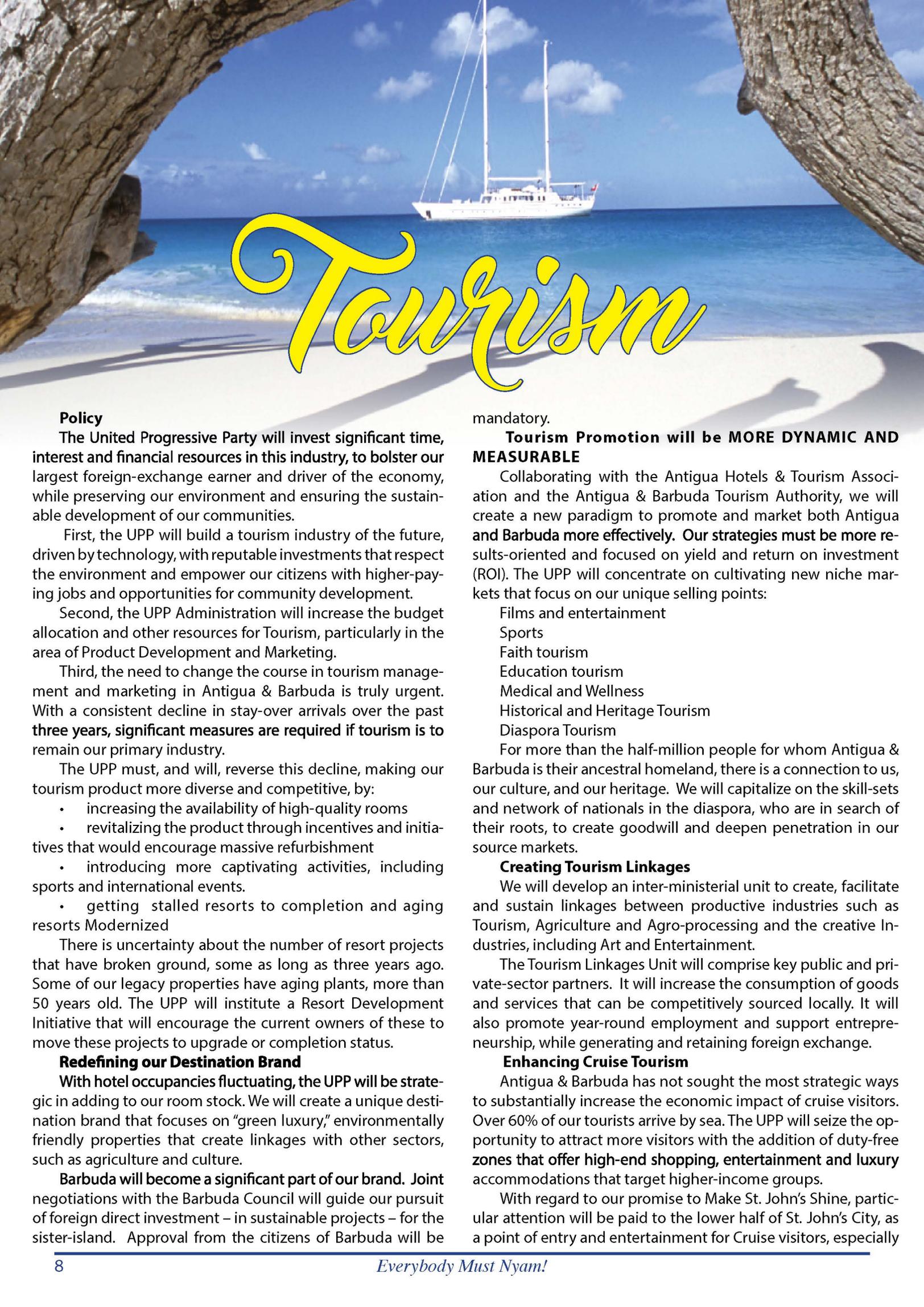
Machine Learning Scientist



New Technology and



and Innovation Jobs



Tourism

Policy

The United Progressive Party will invest significant time, interest and financial resources in this industry, to bolster our largest foreign-exchange earner and driver of the economy, while preserving our environment and ensuring the sustainable development of our communities.

First, the UPP will build a tourism industry of the future, driven by technology, with reputable investments that respect the environment and empower our citizens with higher-paying jobs and opportunities for community development.

Second, the UPP Administration will increase the budget allocation and other resources for Tourism, particularly in the area of Product Development and Marketing.

Third, the need to change the course in tourism management and marketing in Antigua & Barbuda is truly urgent. With a consistent decline in stay-over arrivals over the past **three years, significant measures are required if tourism is to remain our primary industry.**

The UPP must, and will, reverse this decline, making our tourism product more diverse and competitive, by:

- increasing the availability of high-quality rooms
- revitalizing the product through incentives and initiatives that would encourage massive refurbishment
- introducing more captivating activities, including sports and international events.
- getting stalled resorts to completion and aging resorts Modernized

There is uncertainty about the number of resort projects that have broken ground, some as long as three years ago. Some of our legacy properties have aging plants, more than 50 years old. The UPP will institute a Resort Development Initiative that will encourage the current owners of these to move these projects to upgrade or completion status.

Redefining our Destination Brand

With hotel occupancies fluctuating, the UPP will be strategic in adding to our room stock. We will create a unique destination brand that focuses on “green luxury,” environmentally friendly properties that create linkages with other sectors, such as agriculture and culture.

Barbuda will become a significant part of our brand. Joint negotiations with the Barbuda Council will guide our pursuit of foreign direct investment – in sustainable projects – for the sister-island. Approval from the citizens of Barbuda will be

mandatory.

Tourism Promotion will be MORE DYNAMIC AND MEASURABLE

Collaborating with the Antigua Hotels & Tourism Association and the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority, we will create a new paradigm to promote and market both Antigua and Barbuda more effectively. **Our strategies must be more results-oriented and focused on yield and return on investment (ROI).** The UPP will concentrate on cultivating new niche markets that focus on our unique selling points:

- Films and entertainment
- Sports
- Faith tourism
- Education tourism
- Medical and Wellness
- Historical and Heritage Tourism
- Diaspora Tourism

For more than the half-million people for whom Antigua & Barbuda is their ancestral homeland, there is a connection to us, our culture, and our heritage. We will capitalize on the skill-sets and network of nationals in the diaspora, who are in search of their roots, to create goodwill and deepen penetration in our source markets.

Creating Tourism Linkages

We will develop an inter-ministerial unit to create, facilitate and sustain linkages between productive industries such as Tourism, Agriculture and Agro-processing and the creative Industries, including Art and Entertainment.

The Tourism Linkages Unit will comprise key public and private-sector partners. It will increase the consumption of goods and services that can be competitively sourced locally. It will also promote year-round employment and support entrepreneurship, while generating and retaining foreign exchange.

Enhancing Cruise Tourism

Antigua & Barbuda has not sought the most strategic ways to substantially increase the economic impact of cruise visitors. Over 60% of our tourists arrive by sea. The UPP will seize the opportunity to attract more visitors with the addition of **duty-free zones that offer high-end shopping, entertainment and luxury accommodations that target higher-income groups.**

With regard to our promise to Make St. John's Shine, particular attention will be paid to the lower half of St. John's City, as a point of entry and entertainment for Cruise visitors, especially



in the matter of sanitation and safety.

Sailing - Yachting and Marine

Through creativity and innovation, we will strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's position as the "Sailing Capital of the Caribbean." We will work closely with all stakeholders to create stronger linkages with heritage tourism, upgrade docking facilities, increase attractions and create an exciting year round Calendar of events to bolster this important sector.

Creating Greater Opportunities for Local Ownership

In 2007, a new category of small locally owned hotel accommodations emerged as a result of the World Cup Incentives Act. The UPP will reintroduce a similar programme to help cultivate a brand of locally owned tourism facilities and services.

We will also incentivize these smaller, locally owned properties and tour operators to offer package deals to the diaspora, introducing wedding, funeral, and reunion tourism.



Revitalising Our Current Attractions

In particular, we will seek investment in the restoration of historic sites, such as Betty's Hope, Wallings Dam, the Bethesda Tamarind Tree, and the remaining Estate Houses, to augment and refresh the tourism offerings.

We will utilize technology to enhance existing tours with digital reenactments. This will facilitate the creation of new self-guided tours and curated experiences: For example, a Tour of Windmill Ruins through Antigua & Barbuda that studies Trade Wind patterns. Visitors will be able to download apps that provide historical and geographical information that will elevate the experience.

Creating Synergies Between Tourism and Mariculture Parham Bay Boardwalk

The UPP will work closely with all stakeholders on a redevelopment initiative from Parham Harbour to Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and surrounding areas.

Parham is the oldest town in the country (established in 1632) and was once the capital of British Antigua & Barbuda. Parham Harbour is a well-protected anchorage and sailors utilize the docking facilities.

Attractions will include:

- Parham Hill, a well-preserved colonial home.
- Great Bird Island in Parham Harbor
- St. Peter's Church, as built in 1840 by eminent English architect Thomas Weekes.
- Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
- Cricket, Drag Racing, Soccer

- St. George's Anglican Church

Creating Synergies Between Tourism and Culture

Working with the Festivals Office, we will create and market new activities designed to facilitate greater linkages between our culture and tourism product.

Visitors to Antigua and Barbuda in the high season do not get a chance to experience our Carnival, one of the destination's most authentic cultural offerings. The Carnival Love Festival, a new cultural street fair, will

be staged in the high season, thereby giving the destination an opportunity to showcase our cultural offerings during the period when we have our highest levels of visitor activity.

The Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Education will assemble Mas' band leaders, steel bands, costume builders and crafters to stage the Carnival Love Festival. It will celebrate Antigua & Barbuda's heritage, culture, and people and become a spectacular family-friendly festival that captures all the excitement of our Carnival product.

Beneficiaries

Some of the beneficiaries of a revamped tourism plant with linkages to other sectors will be:

- The Antigua Christian Council
- Performance artistes
- Tour operators
- Taxi owners
- Local crafts people and artisans working in sea-island cotton, straw, wood, ceramics and beadwork, as well as confectioners and manufacturers of local produce.
- Farmers
- Programmers
- Promoters
- Event planners

Agriculture



Policy

The UPP will make Agriculture its second priority. As the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, in 2017, has proven, Antigua & Barbuda is the victim of food insecurity when the Dominica boats and the Miami containers cannot get here. Our government is about learning from the past and creating future opportunities. Hence, by creating synergies among the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC), and the Ministry of Health, the UPP will make radical changes in the sector to ensure that food production is maximized for business and health purposes.

The objectives of maximization are:

- Increasing Agriculture's contribution to GDP via increased exports of specific crops, including carrots, onions, pumpkins, pineapples, and sea-island cotton
- Lessening dependence on food imports, particularly in poultry products and pork
- Establishing sustainable links with tourism
- Promoting healthy eating to improve nutrition

standards and reduce obesity and other lifestyle diseases

Programs

- All bona-fide farmers cultivating five and more acres of leased land will be encouraged to register with the Ministry of Agriculture for the expediting of concessions and other benefits and, with CMC for purposes of marketing and classification.
- In collaboration with the GARD Centre, MoA and CMC staff will be trained (in inventory control, assessment, supply and demand, etc.) to achieve the policy objectives of the government.
- All backyard farmers will also be encouraged to register with the MoA for purposes of education and benefits and to take advantage of training in preservation of produce.
- The Government will aggressively recruit, from the upper-secondary level and the EACH Program, students interested in careers in the various sectors of agriculture.
- Convene an Annual Conference, with workshops and demonstrations, for farmers and fisherfolk



to promote best practices and modern improvements, particularly in hydroponics and other greenhouse technologies.

- Capitalizing on the trends in fitness and the naturopathic lifestyle, the Medical Benefits Scheme will create and promote an “Eating for LIFE” (Longevity, Independence, Fitness, Energy) ethos.
- In collaboration with the Central Marketing Corporation, the Ministry of Agriculture will actively work with IICA and FAO to institute and promote agro-industry and the preservation of seasonal crops, such as mangoes, tomatoes, and avocados; and, along with the Ministry of Trade, new markets will be pursued within CARICOM and further afield.
- To that end, the UPP will aggressively pursue the acquisition of appropriate machinery and equipment, technical support and training, and technology from donor countries and organizations.
- Secure funding, via the Department of Public Works, for the creation and improvement of feeder roads in the Agriculture Zones, enabling farmers to access their lands even in adverse weather conditions.

- Secure funding for the creation of dams in the Agriculture Zones.
- Secure funding for grass-cutting and baling machines that will harvest grass and for storage facilities in anticipation of periodic droughts.

Benefits:

- Wipe off all arrears on APUA water bills for Farmers.
- Leases of five years minimum and up to 25 years to performing farmers, creating security of tenure.
- Permission to long-lease farmers to build dwelling houses on the land as an incentive to increased production and a deterrent to praedial larceny.
- Empowerment of the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) to act as a clearinghouse for exports; for supply to the hotel sector and government institutions; and for manufacturing.
- Utilization of CMC to link crop and livestock farmers, recycling produce as feed and reducing waste.



Land Use and Housing

Policy

Given what has happened in the last three years with our lands – a limited and non-renewable resource – there clearly is a pressing need for two things: An immediate audit of the remaining acreage of Crown holdings and strictly enforced reforms in the allocation and use of land.

First, the UPP can boldly assure Barbudans that the ABLP practice of leasing hundreds and hundreds of acres to speculators and investors will be a thing of the past. Further, all leases granted must have the safeguard of a Performance Clause.

The UPP will continue to protect the lands of Barbuda for Barbudans and their generations, and to honour the requirement of consultation with, and approval by, the majority of Barbudans on how their island will be developed.

In that regard, the Paradise Found Act of 2015 and the Barbuda Land (Amendment), 2017 will be repealed.

Antiguans' patrimony must also be protected. The current practice of "check your Minister" regarding the purchase of government land will AGAIN be rejected by the UPP.

As more and more citizens and legal residents seek to acquire land for commercial, farming, and residential use, it is absolutely imperative that we respect the strictures and guidelines of the National Land Use policy. We will observe and enforce the correct use of land according to the zoning ordinances and laws.

When allocating lands for sale, we will go even further to ensure that, with the increasing ferocity of hurricanes in our islands, we move to protect human life, animals, and property by respecting the natural waterways; desisting from the practice of backfilling ponds; and implementing other disaster-mitigation measures.

And, finally, where investors, foreign or local, propose large-scale projects that might threaten existing communities, both consultations and environmental impact assessments will be undertaken and

shared in a manner that is transparent and collaborative. We will promote social partnerships and not dictatorship.

Programs

Utilizing public-private partnerships, the UPP Government will introduce and promote multi-level RENT-TO-OWN low-cost housing in the urban areas, adhering to strict safety standards.

Construction of these two- and three-bedroom apartments will begin in the constituency of St. John's City West and be expanded to St. John's City South and St. John's Rural West, as far as feasible. We will keep communities intact, provide collective facilities, and enhance existing green spaces for residents' enjoyment.

This is for the express accommodation of resident low-income families and is intended to give them a sense of security and permanent ownership of property without their having to meet the exacting requirements of a bank.

CHAPA will be integrally involved in this program.

In urban communities where derelict properties now pose a threat – to sanitation, safety and aesthetics – the UPP Government will actively seek to correct that situation and safeguard the value of neighbouring homes.

Through the OK Program (Opportunity Knocks), owners of the abandoned properties will be located, and incentives offered to them and to young entrepreneurs in the construction and property-management businesses. These incentives will be geared toward ensuring the renovation and profitable occupancy of these houses in a win-win arrangement.

The ABIA will operate this program along the lines of that ultra-successful stimulus, the Construct Antigua & Barbuda Initiative.

Beneficiaries

- Farmers
- Low-income families
- Property owners and young entrepreneurs
- Urban neighbourhoods

Education

Early Childhood Development

In the UPP, we love children and we want to be a positive contributor to their development. There are currently about one hundred (100) day-care centres in Antigua & Barbuda and a UPP Government is committed to ensuring that early childhood education gets the attention it deserves.

The UPP's checklist for current action in Early Childhood Development includes:



- Modernizing the pre-schools at Simon Bolivar Park and in the Villa and Grays Green communities and collaborating with private crèches to help them update their operations, as well.

- Constructing five (5) FREE Early Childhood Centres to assist lower-income families, commencing with St. George's, and expanding to St. Mary's, St Paul's and St. John's Rural South.

During the construction phase of these Centres, approximately two hundred and seventy-five (275) persons will be employed and small contractors will be empowered. Later, during the operations phase, each Centre will employ fifteen (15) to twenty (20) persons (teachers, caregivers, early childhood specialists) – totalling approximately 100 new jobs.

- Allocating up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) annually to ensure that adequate developmental tools are made available in all day-care centres.

- Providing on-going training for staff in these centres – both public and private. In addition, the necessary technology upgrades will be provided.

Broad-based Education and our Schools

A gift from the Government of the People's Re-

public of China, the Five Islands Secondary School was constructed in keeping with the School Location Plan, commissioned by the Antigua & Barbuda Government and prepared by UWI Consulting Inc. and Profiles Antigua Inc. Consortium. The UPP government will open the Five Islands Secondary School and redirect it to function and satisfy the purpose for which it was built.

In addition, we will:

- Institute remedial programs in Mathematics and English, in primary and secondary schools, in an effort to improve performance in these subject areas.

- Institute an on-going Mathematics Boot Camp.

- Teach and support "Entrepreneurship" as part of the Business curriculum in all Secondary Schools and our College.

- Identify Forms 4-5 students with a proclivity for Agriculture as candidates for the relevant YEP program.

Widely celebrated for its progressive technology programs, the UPP Government will **again facilitate technology exposure and use** in the schools.

Some initiatives will be:

- smart boards in the classrooms, starting with Forms 3-5 and at the Antigua State College

- high-speed fibre to every classroom

- computer tablets for teachers and students

- charging stations for computers in classrooms and staffrooms

- curriculum on Artificial Intelligence

Further, the Ministry of Education, collaborating with the Festivals Office, will develop and stage an annual exhibition called BOAST, showcasing the "Best of Arts, Science and Technology" projects created by students and teachers, for the appreciation of parents and the public. Outstanding projects will be put on display in public spaces, including at the V.C. Bird International Airport, MSJMC, and the High Court of Justice.

Tertiary Education

Antigua State College

A UPP Administration will:

- Completely overhaul, expand and modernize



the Antigua State College and commit to completing the construction of the Resource Centre and operationalizing that facility

- Establish a work-experience program for recent graduates
- Establish an Audit Program through which adult learners may attend and participate in classes (not for credit).



University

There is only one plan that exists for the establishment of the University of Antigua & Barbuda. This was commissioned by the United Progressive Party Administration and developed by some of Antigua & Barbuda's finest minds. All it needs is execution. For partisan political reasons, the Minister of Education and the ABLP Administration decided against its implementation, even though they have no feasible plan of their own. The UPP will implement the plan.

A UPP Administration will continue working towards establishing a UWI-linked university at the former US Naval Facility in the Education Park at Coolidge. The UWI Open Campus will be incentivized to relocate there from its current location.

Education Park

The UPP will establish an **Education Park** – 1.5 square miles of academic institutions located in the Coolidge/Dutchman's Bay area.

Three (3) education institutions are currently located there: the American University of Antigua College of Medicine, the Antigua & Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) and the Antigua & Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI). The University of Antigua and Barbuda, as detailed in the plan, fits comfortably and sensibly in this location.

The UPP Administration will provide special incentives for education institutions operating in the Park.

Avionics

In the Education Park, there will be a strong focus on Aviation Technology. We will make Antigua the Aviation Centre of the Caribbean, thereby creating numerous educational, research and employment opportunities.

Scholarships

Under a UPP Administration, the Student Loan Fund will evolve into HELP (Higher Education Loan Programme).

We will restore financial stability and fairness to the Board of Education and Prime Minister's Scholarships programs. Online and distance-learning in identified programmes will be encouraged and will enjoy scholarship support.

In Year 1, the UPP Administration will provide scholarships across those disciplines that fill the national skills-gap, including in Technical and Vocational Education, and reserve at least 25% of these scholarships for teachers.

Bonding Relief

The current practice of scholarship recipients having to "work out" a bond will be phased out. New beneficiaries of the scholarship programs will be expected to "give back" via a National Service Corps. This will allow them to serve as coaches or mentors in schools (primary or secondary or after-school programs); teachers in the new Adult Education Program; volunteers at the senior centre, hospital or prison; or contributors in other public ventures where their skills/qualifications are applicable.

A Registry will be compiled by the Board of Education and activated by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Improvement.

Special Needs

Under a UPP administration, Special Needs Education will be given the urgent attention and priority it deserves, including a dedicated headquarters by Year 2 of a UPP Administration. The department will be adequately equipped and staffed and requisite training will be provided.

National SECURITY

Crime Prevention, National Security and the Preservation of Law and Order are the pillars for sustainable development in any contemporary democratic society. A new UPP Administration is committed to creating and maintaining safe streets and secure communities for all citizens, residents, visitors and the business sector.

To achieve this, we will lead a collaborative effort that includes the Police, the Defence Force, the criminal justice system, our corrections agency and you, the people, to successfully reduce and solve crime.

Antigua & Barbuda Police Service

The Royal Antigua & Barbuda Police Force will be renamed the Antigua & Barbuda Police Service, reflecting a change in the focus of policing – from being a “force to be reckoned with” to providing service.

The Police Service will seek not only to prevent and detect crimes, but greater emphasis will be placed on community policing. The aim is to build an alliance between the officers and the people, fostering a sense of safety, security and comfort for all. On this new platform of police-community partnership, we can proactively and collectively address crime and deter criminals.

The UPP will empower the Police Service to:

- Establish a National Crimes Commission comprising a cross-section of community organizations
 - Establish a highly specialized Anti-Crime and Narcotics Unit using the best personnel in those fields from the Police Service and the ONDCP, with the mandate to lead the fight against serious and organized crime and drug trafficking
 - Establish a modern Forensics Laboratory
 - Increase training in modern crime-fighting and detection methods
 - Increase the number of officers in the Service
 - Require the Police Service to organize an ongoing nationwide Crime-Prevention Education Program
- It is an admitted fact that corruption runs through-



out the current Police Force, with accusations of sexual harassment and drug- and human-trafficking making the integrity of the Force highly questionable. This is untenable.

The new UPP Administration will take measures to eradicate the corruption that tarnishes the many officers of good character and integrity. We will attempt, as far as possible, to ensure the Police Service comprises officers who adopt

and exhibit zero tolerance for corruption of any nature.

Under the UPP Administration, the Police Service will:

- Implement a security vetting system that includes the use of polygraph and psycho-social testing for all persons coming into the Service
- Implement a continuous and rigorous training programme among all ranks in the Police Service, and establish this as an essential component for promotions and placement
- Undertake a review of the management structure and operations of all police stations
- Require all police stations to be 24/7 operations
- Enhance the Highway Patrol Unit to regulate the increasing road traffic and to make our roads and highways safer for drivers and other users

Protecting our Coastal Borders

There is no question that our coastline is the most vulnerable of our borders and presents the greatest challenge to our security.

A New UPP Government will:

- Upgrade our Coast Guard training and personnel
- Work with regional and international governments to boost the capacity of the Coast Guard to patrol, monitor and track the movement of all vessels in our waters

The Judiciary

It has long been held that justice delayed is justice denied; and if punishment is not swift it cannot



be effective. However, swift punishment is not the same as unjust punishment. Our constitutional mandate that everyone accused of a crime must be given a fair hearing within a reasonable time must be respected. In the Magistrates Court, however, summary matters often go on for long periods before they are disposed of.

The New UPP Administration will:

- Enact legislation that provides guidelines for hearings to be held within the constitutional framework timelines
- Re-establish the District "B" Magistrates Courts in Parham Town and Bolans Village
- Enact legislation that provides a uniform approach for bail in the Magistrates Courts

Youth Justice

The United Progressive Party is fully committed to reducing the rising incidence of juvenile delinquency.

A New UPP Government will:

- Fully implement the Child Justice Act
- Expand the Youth Diversion Programme in the Police Service
- Upgrade the administration of the Boys Training School and the Good Shepherd Home for Girls

Corrections

All sanctions imposed by our Courts must satisfy the goals of punishment if they are to be meaningful. However, among these goals, rehabilitation is the primary objective of the UPP.

A New UPP Administration will:

- Enact legislation that will make petty offences violations rather than crimes, thus preventing our youth from being criminalized
- Enact legislation that provides alternative sentences to incarceration: Curfew; house arrest; community service; and probation
- Provide for furlough, work release, and parole



Domestic Violence

The United Progressive Party has zero tolerance for domestic violence. Recognizing that there is no well-structured or managed facility to provide the sanctuary needed by victims, especially in emergencies, the UPP Administration will work with international agencies to establish a dedicated safe house for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Deliver



WILLMOTH DANIEL
St. John's City West



CHESTER HUGHES
St. Phillip South



COLLIN ISAAC
St. Peter



MICHAEL BURTON
St. John's City South



SHAWN NICHOLAS
St. Phillip North



CORTHWRIGHT MARSHALL
St. Mary's South



TREVOR YOUNG
St. John's Rural East



RICHARD LEWIS
St. John's Rural West



LAMIN NEWTON
All Saints West



Dr. McCHESENEY EMANUEL
St. John's Rural North



GREGORY SHOY ATHILL
St. Paul

ON MARCH 21ST

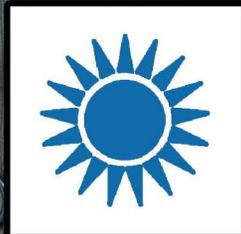


ering
UPP UPP



HAROLD LOVELL
UPP Political Leader
St. John's City East

VOTE UPP



Technology & Innovation

The UPP, during its two (2) terms in office, brought modern technology to the fingertips of all citizens and residents. We intend, once again, to be the Caribbean home for technologically-driven businesses and industries of the future. “We did it before and the UPP will do it again!”

We have a comprehensive plan that will be detailed in a policy document later; but, briefly, the UPP Administration will introduce, within six (6) months, faster Internet speeds at lower rates, comparable with what now obtains in neighbouring islands. This will certainly enhance the operations of existing companies. In addition, it will allow young entrepreneurs, especially, to set up “home” businesses; facilitate educational studies; and permit better marketing and greater uptake of online services. A collateral benefit would be reducing the volume of traffic into St. John’s.

It will encourage what the UPP calls the “Uconomy”- a YOU-centered, personalized approach to business. Here, citizens can utilize creative strategies to build a new economy where YOU are in command of what you create, build and earn. We will champion a bold business strategy where all you need is a great idea and Internet connectivity. This new approach has the potential to make every connection a part of your business network.

The additional benefit is intended to make Antigua & Barbuda more attractive to investors – onshore and offshore – who may wish to capitalize on a technologically literate population, creating highly-paid local employment.

Today, youth unemployment stands at about 35%. To lower this figure drastically, we have to incentivize our young people to be both entrepreneurs and the employer of others. Using a specially designed Uconomy website, the ABIA will be charged with the implementation of the Young Entrepreneurs Set-Up (YES) (see Entrepreneurship), which will promote this dual purpose.

Our Technology and Innovation strategy will support the development of the new Uconomy and will position Antigua & Barbuda as an emerging global technology space. The Uconomy – one of the pillars of our global brand – will be the catalyst that delivers the benefits of a better quality of life, globally competitive jobs and foreign-exchange earnings.

It is imperative that a UPP Government expedite the implementation of Technology and Innovation

- to the public service to support e-Health, e-Government, e-Learning, e-Innovation, and e-Capacity Building, thus allowing the public 24/7 access to Government services
- to allow the introduction of an e-Commerce policy, with the required legislation, which would enable the delivery of 24/7 trading, and permit secure online financial and business transactions
- to provide community “wireless hubs” where people can have ready access to the Internet
- to introduce digitalisation of cultural products for promoting the design and creative industries of film, music, and audio works. This thus allows the promotion of STEM studies and graduates as a means of supporting innovation, technological advancement, manufacturing growth and diversification, and new product/industry development.

A UPP GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Provide FASTER, CHEAPER & MORE RELIABLE INTERNET, featuring:
 - o Underground fibre technology, capable of withstanding hurricanes
 - o 50-100 megs to homes, businesses and educational institutions
 - o Super high-speed Internet to hotels and yachts in all major harbours
 - o ALL speed advertised by telecoms companies must be delivered, as advertised.
- Ensure the availability of a MODERN CABLE TV SERVICE, offering:
 - o Multiple channels in High-Definition



- o Additional sports and movie channels
- o Video-on-Demand services
- Construct a DIGITAL PLUS ANTIGUA & BARBUDA; some highlights are:
 - o a 10,000 square foot facility
 - o 20 rooms for innovation and entrepreneurship
 - o available spaces for Antiguan and Barbudans to facilitate the operations of their own businesses
 - o will also serve as the home for the Avionics Training Hub
 - o dedicated rooms for the development of Community Mobile Technology & Innovation Incubators
 - o Every & All Things Digital Plus
 - Brand Antigua & Barbuda as a DEVELOPER OF GLOBAL MOBILE APPS:
 - o by providing financial and material resources to young people for APP DEVELOPMENT
- The UPP started the APP DEVELOPMENT program. Our opponents stopped it.
- The UPP will reintroduce it!
 - TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSPORTATION:
 - o Bus commuters, by using the Global Positioning System (GPS), at any time can ascertain the location of buses on their specific route and the time of arrival at bus stops.
 - o Modernize all bus stops and outfit them with the latest available technology
 - INVESTMENT IN THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SECTORS:
 - o Under a UPP administration:
 - EC \$67.5 Million - the investment in Year 1
 - EC \$35 Million annually for the ensuing four (4) years
 - o GOVERNMENT ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY ENDEAVOUR (GATE) will be expanded.

- o Create and Implement the ICT Cadet Programme for:
 - Computer repairs, upgrades and diagnostics
 - New media technologies
 - Web journalism and editing
 - Photography, videography and editing
 - Voice-overs
 - Script-Writing
- All ICT cadets will participate in a Government Technology Internship Program and receive a monthly stipend during the course of the training.
 - TECHNOLOGY FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, supporting:
 - o the use of CCTV technology to deter crime and, where it occurs, to identify the criminals
 - o the efficient application of Technology in Case Management at the Law Courts
 - o access to an online, mobile- integrated database on criminals
 - TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE, supplying benefits via:
 - o the creation of a Free-Zone Agriculture Technology Park
 - o support for the creation and utilization of Agriculture Mobile Apps, designed to help farmers improve productivity, enhance quality control and proactively minimize pest attacks
- Your UPP Government:
 - will DELIVER faster, stable Internet connectivity which will allow you to work and communicate more easily and effectively
 - will IMMEDIATELY GRANT 100% concessions on ABST on all cellphones and tablets, and 100% tax concessions on laptop and desktop computers for private use
- Deliver HOPE through a tech-driven programme that connects the people's servants to the people

Social Improvement



Policy

“People First” continues to be the motto of the UPP, which has a proven track record for instituting social programmes that take care of the most vulnerable. We will continue to do that in a manner that is equitable, making sure that those most in need get most of their needs met.

Consequently, the Ministry of Social Transformation will be renamed the Ministry of Social Improvement, making the focus more results-oriented.

The UPP is proud of the difference it made, during its tenure, in improving the quality of life for thousands of persons, including the indigent, the disabled, seniors, low-income households and single mothers. Initiatives that benefited women, in particular, have ensured that any disadvantages arising from gender differences have effectively been removed. We will build on that record.

In order to prevent recidivism and help inmates to reintegrate into the society, the UPP is committed to the rehabilitation of prisoners. We are, therefore, determined to improve the number of persons qualified to work along with the Prison and Courts in meeting this objective, particularly as it relates to juvenile offenders.

Programs

- Going forward, the UPP Administration will keep and improve, where possible, the programmes it instituted – the School Meals, the Uniform Grant, the Dollar Barrel, and the Senior Citizens Utility Subsidy.

- Any qualifying person who was removed, arbitrarily or politically, from the People’s Benefit Card will be reinstated. Further, we will increase the value

of the card to \$250 within three (3) months of taking office, in consideration of the steep rise in the cost of living these past four years.

- All phases of the Cynthia Boone-Thibou Second Life Centre (see Health) will be fully operational by the end of the UPP Administration’s first term.

- Under the patronage of the Prime Minister, we will institute the annual Seniors’ Fitness Challenge in which participants will contend for the Danny Oliver Memorial Cup and a cash prize.

- Liaising with NODS and the Red Cross, the Ministry of Social Improvement will create and operate a Fire Relief Resettlement policy and program. This is aimed at helping displaced families to be resettled, with human dignity, as quickly as possible and assist them in recovery efforts. Once the Barbudans have been resettled, the former Barrymore Hotel will be used as temporary housing for this and similar purposes.

No longer will persons who already have lost so much be further traumatized by having to throw themselves on the public’s mercy for the basic requirements of life, nor families split up for lack of accommodation.

- The Ministry of Social Improvement also will be mandated to work more closely with NODS, especially in the annual identification, inspection, and basic provisioning of emergency shelters.

Beneficiaries

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Students | Single Parents |
| Retirees | Low Income Families |
| The Disabled | |
| The Indigent | |
| The Displaced | |

Everybody *Must* Nyam!

YOUR UPP VOTE WILL

- 1) Reduce ALL ENERGY PRICES within TWO WEEKS: gasoline to \$10 per gallon, diesel to \$9.90 per gallon, 25% reduction in APUA fuel variation and permanently peg energy prices to world oil prices.
- 2) Conclude negotiations for Public Service salary increases within 90 days AND will settle all back-pay before December 31st, 2018.
- 3) IMMEDIATELY remove the ABST on all cell phones and tablets. 100% tax free concession on all laptops and desktop computers.
- 4) Aggressively pursue a cheaper, faster, more reliable Internet service for both consumers and businesses.
- 5) DROP annual vehicle license fees by 50% and ELIMINATE inspection and radio fees.
- 6) IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ALL TAXES on prescription reading glasses and spectacles.
- 7) ELIMINATE TAXES on ALL funeral expenses.
- 8) IMPLEMENT inflation-indexed Social Security pensions.
- 9) IMMEDIATELY REDUCE the cost of water, electricity and internet to bona fide farmers by 50%.
- 10) IMPLEMENT a Rent-to-Own option on public housing.
- 11) EXPAND the food basket of goods that are under Price Control.
- 12) Incrementally REDUCE corporate tax to 12.5% within our first term.
- 13) Establish Duty Free zones in English Harbour, Jolly Harbour, Redcliffe Quay and Barbuda.
- 14) REDUCE work permit fees by 50%. Issue work permits on an industry basis.
- 15) REPEAL the Paradise Found Act and the Barbuda Land (Amendment) Act of 2017.

Delivering

HEPE



**ON MARCH 21ST,
VOTE UPP!**

UPP Wellness

Caring About Your Health-Care & Delivering to the Nation



Wellness and economic prosperity are mutually dependent; thus an investment in the former is critical to the UPP's success in restoring the latter. Our people are living longer but, regrettably and concomitantly, there is an increasing prevalence of chronic degenerative diseases like hypertension, obesity, and diabetes.

A responsible UPP government is challenged to place more emphasis on the prevention and maintenance of lifestyles in wellness. So, Wellness Promotion, in the context of an integrative approach to medicine, will be at the core of our policies. These will be people-centric – individually and collectively – and encourage personal responsibility for one's wellbeing.

The UPP will consult and collaborate with the public and private sectors, NGOs, communities and special interest groups to formulate a National Strategic Plan on Wellness to devise solutions to current and expected challenges.

We are fully committed to the investment of necessary resources to improve the wellbeing – wellness plus economic prosperity – of all citizens of Antigua & Barbuda.

Services

- Immediate assessment of the wait time at Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) so that corrective measures can be implemented as quickly as

possible. The sick are vulnerable persons and timely attention to their needs must be a priority.

- The Polyclinic in Rural West will reactivate its night services within one month. Within a year, ALL other urban clinics will have extended hours of operation in an effort to reduce the pressure on MSJMC.

- We will expand and strengthen the education programmes focused on preventing Substance Abuse.

Our Children

The shocking rise amongst the child population of chronic diseases, particularly Diabetes and Obesity, which are lifestyle/behavioural diseases, makes corrective action imperative. We must inculcate in our children the merits and imperatives of wholesome eating and daily exercise. To this end, the UPP will:

- Reconstitute the School Meals Program, including the provision of water, to provide wholesome and nutritious meals for the critical development of young bodies and minds.

- In collaboration with the MBS, vigorously twin a well-planned, fun-to-do exercise regimen with the School Meals Programme. This dual approach to bettering our children's lives will redound positively to their long-term wellness and a reduction in spending on remedial health services.

- Improve advocacy to our youth against communicable diseases, e.g. STDs, HIV/AIDS, and Substance Abuse.



- There is a rising incidence of suicide, self-mutilation, depression, drug use and drinking among our young people. The UPP will support mental wellness among students by increasing the availability of trained counsellors, making such personnel accessible to all government primary and secondary schools, within our first term.

Environment

- Immediately, the UPP will institute a month-long clean-up campaign. This is to reduce the severe health risks which the excessive, unsightly and illegal dumping of garbage, country-wide, is posing to our collective health.

- Ensure that schools operate in a clean environment, free of litter/garbage, overgrown grass, and un-cleared drains, etc.

- Healthcare employees must have sanitary and proper conditions in which to work. A UPP Government will ensure that the environment in ALL healthcare facilities supports the wellness of staff and patients.

Society's Challenged

- After consultation with the relevant bodies, implement measures that will make life much easier for the challenged persons in our society, be that challenge mental or physical.

- Establish a focus on Mental Wellness NOT Mental Illness and seek to redirect the care of the mentally challenged from institutions to community/home-

based care.

Our Seniors... our Treasure

- Holberton Hospital will be rehabilitated and retrofitted as the Cynthia Boone-Thibou Second Life Centre, a modern Senior Citizens facility. This will offer daily non-resident services – games, reading and movie rooms, a chapel, physical exercise, gardening, craft, dance and choir – all in an effort to enhance the quality of life for retirees and the elderly, generally.

These activities will include the permanent residents of the Fiennes Institute wherever feasible.

Free transportation, utilizing the School Bus Fleet, will be provided for seniors needing it.

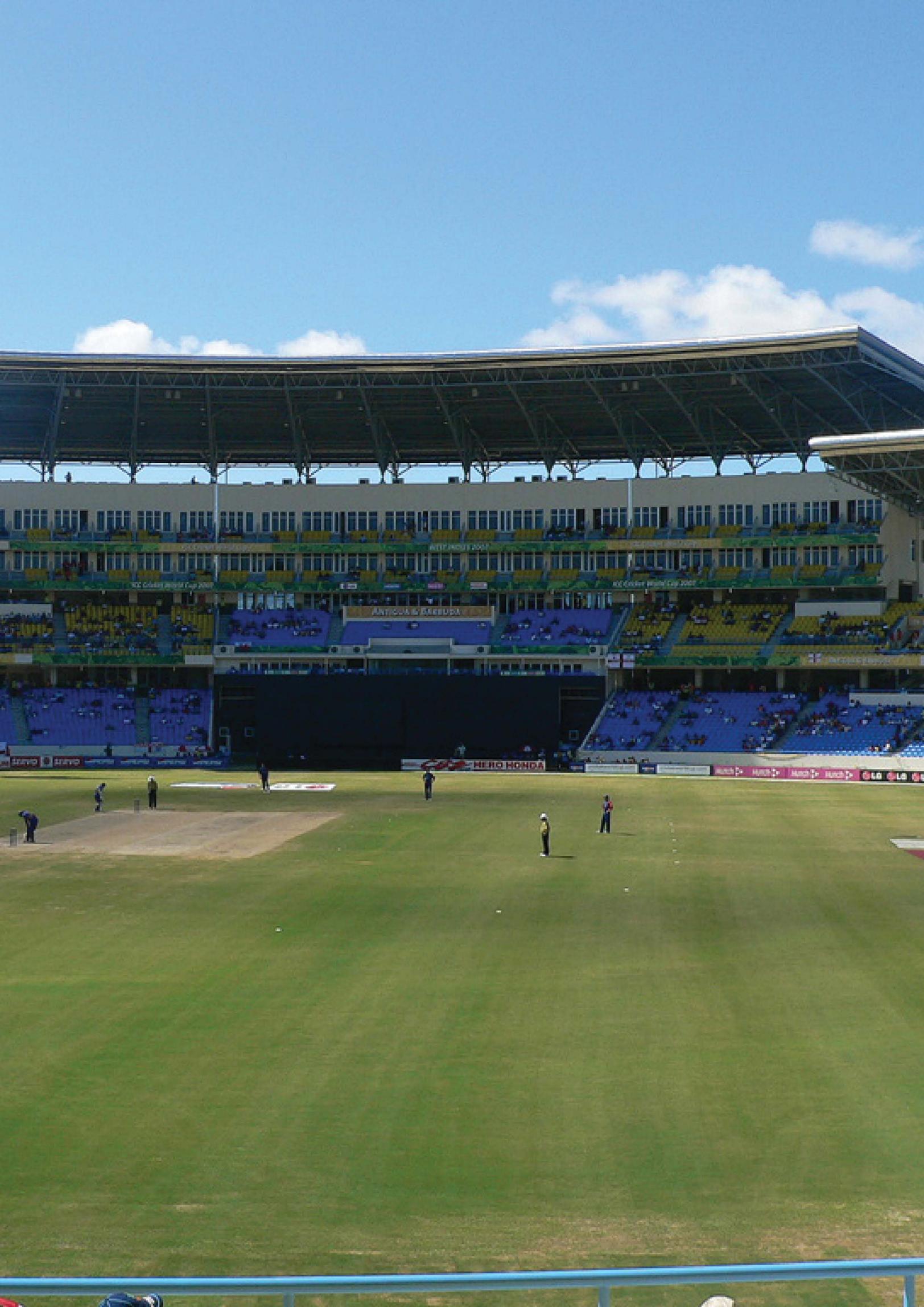
- Establish an accreditation programme for ALL long-term care institutions, public and private.

Integrative Approach to Medicine ... a paradigm shift

- Invite practitioners to present a comprehensive policy paper on an integrative approach to wellness that educates the public on all relative components of lifestyle, including diet, exercise, stress management, and emotional wellbeing.

- Collaborate with stakeholders on how to integrate the best of complementary medicine with the best of conventional medicine.

- Institute and implement a path to accreditation for bona fide, qualified medical persons trained in complementary medical therapies.



Sports

Policy

A Sports Development Act for Antigua and Barbuda

The UPP Administration will introduce a Sports Development Act to give life to a new way forward in the administration of sports. The first draft is already in our possession for the incoming Attorney General to peruse and prepare for an early sitting of Parliament.

The new Administration will immediately revamp and revitalize The National Sports Council for greater participation and meaningful support from central government. The Council will be the engine for the running of sports and be given the legal framework to do so. Some of its main objectives will be to:

- Carry out Government's policy on sports
- Establish relationships with stakeholders, i.e. other ministries, national associations, funding agencies, and international bodies
- Implement a Code of Ethics for local sporting bodies
- Maintain the integrity of sports: i.e., transparency, accountability and good governance
- Develop a database of all Antiguan and Barbudan athletes who have represented the country and offer necessary support to ensure acceptable standards of living
- Place sports and recreation at the forefront of efforts to reduce the level of crime and lawlessness in Antigua & Barbuda

A new UPP government will brand Antigua & Barbuda as one of the Top 5 sporting destinations of the Caribbean and market Sports Tourism as a key component of economic development. Among other benefits, Sports Tourism will:

- Create employment opportunities and economic pursuits for our youth
- Establish entrepreneurial opportunities for the local manufacture of sporting goods, e.g., uniforms and other equipment.

The Ministry of Sports will establish a team of professionals to secure and vet contracts for our elite athletes, working alongside their agents and management team to ensure they get the best deal possible. We will also ensure that all athletes selected to represent this country are provided with the necessary insurance coverage to ensure speedy medical and rehabilitation treatments in the event of injury or other misfortune.

A UPP Administration will enter into a public-private partnership to establish a high-performance centre within our first term. Further, capitalizing on our superb weather and accessibility to international flights, the UPP will work to develop a number of venues to international standards. This is to allow professional teams to partner with Antigua & Barbuda as an off-season training venue.

The growing population – especially of youth – demands more and better facilities in communities; we commit to increasing the number and the quality of maintenance of the sporting arenas within the first term, including making the venues accessible to the disabled.

Programs

In order to identify talent and develop both athletes and officials professionally, the Government and Council will:

- Allocate resources to the Antigua State College to deliver education and training programs for sports personnel and athletes at various levels
- Increase the complement of trained technical staff to assist all schools in a wide range of sporting activities
- Facilitate the introduction of annual workshops and seminars on a range of sports-related topics
- Identify our elite athletes from a young age by way of a structured talent-recognition program and secure scholarships for such talents

Promoting Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The new UPP Administration will place major emphasis on sports for the community of persons with disabilities, such as Paralympics and other events for the physically challenged and visually impaired. Working with the various sporting bodies and the Association of Persons with Disabilities, we will introduce the first National Differently Abled Games within our first term in office.

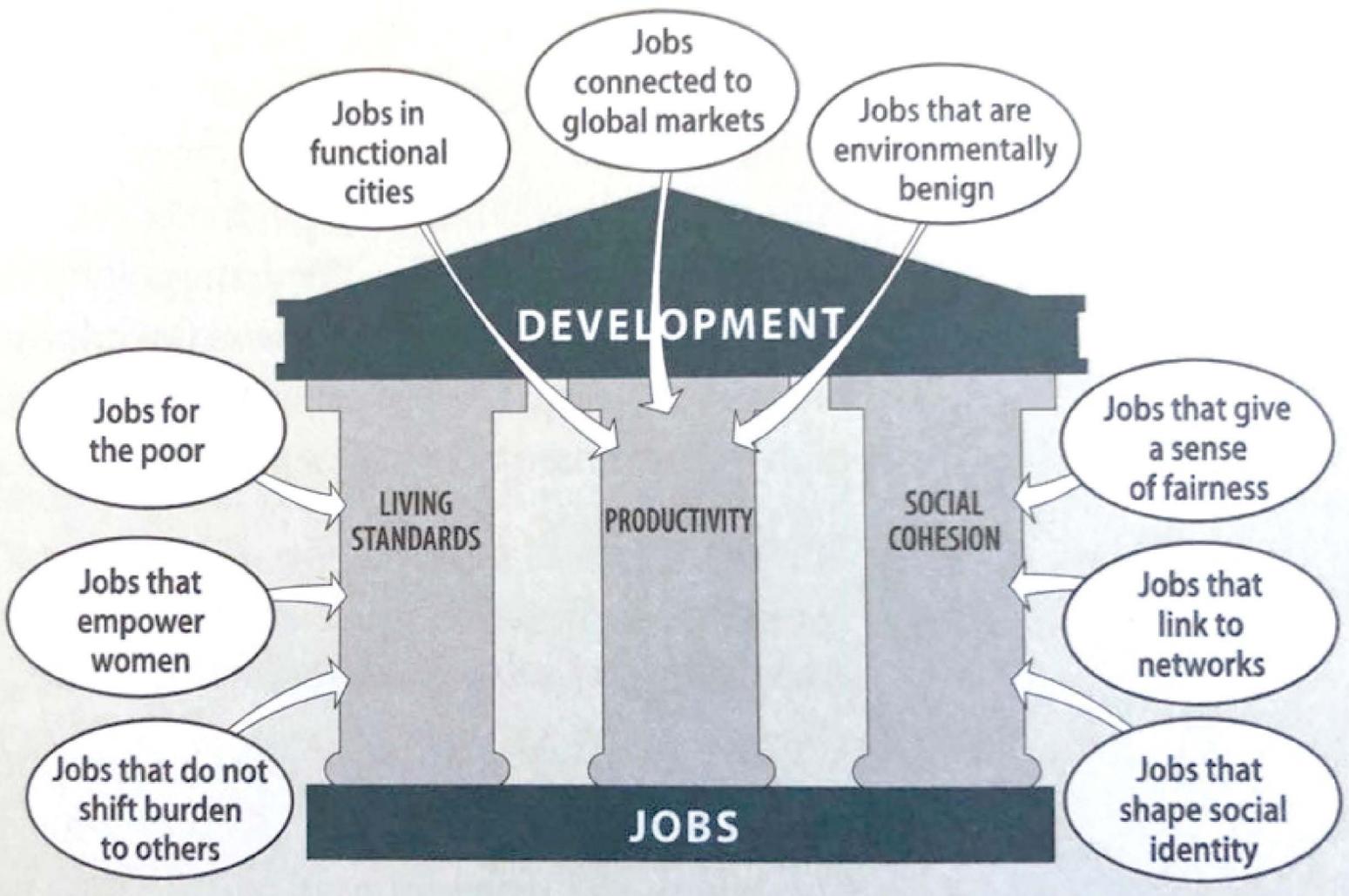
Notwithstanding the foregoing, every effort will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities within the government's general sports policies and programs.

Beneficiaries

- Athletes
- Trainers, Coaches, Managers, Therapists, Legal Counsel
- Sports Associations
- Persons Living with Disabilities

YEP

The Youth Empowerment Programs



The Enterprise Achievement Program (EACH) was an entrepreneurship and skills-development program initiated by the UPP in 2013. It targeted jobless and unskilled young people between 18 and 35 years old, with the objective of making them more employable.

EACH worked by immersing these young people in several areas of specialization, based upon their interests, and resulted in their addition to the labour market in the following areas of skills:

- Auto-body repair
- Automotive electrical repair
- Auto mechanic
- Carpentry
- Clothes-making
- Electrical wiring and installation
- Horticulture and landscaping

- Joinery
- Plumbing
- Sewing-machine repair
- Shoe repair
- Upholstery
- Welding

When the UPP returns to office, we will re-introduce EACH as a complement to the programs now offered at ABICE, specifically for persons who intend to enter the job market within one year.

The program will run for nine months, and it will include hands-on training, as well as internships with experts in the various trades.

The classroom sessions are designed to enhance what are called "soft skills," since these are currently in short supply in the labour force. These will include

EACH PRIDE YES REAP

training in:

- Business Communication
- Customer Service
- Business Development
- Money Management

In addition, EACH students will be trained to be more sensitive and courteous in their relationship with other workers and with customers. So the program will also feature:

- a) Conflict-resolution strategies
- b) Interpersonal development skills
- c) Leadership-development training

Now, you might be saying to yourself, "Sounds good; but what is the value of investing nine months of my life?" Here is the value:

As participants, you will be signed on to the CARICOM Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) program, which means that – once certified by the proper agency (the NTA) – you can work in your field anywhere in the region.

However, we know that most of our people would prefer to stay right here and work, build up a customer base, and open their own business. So how does EACH help you to do that?

The UPP will link EACH to PRIDE, which stands for the "Partnership for Reform and Intercommunity Development." The trainees in the EACH program will become the talent pool of skilled persons the Government will call upon to execute various community projects that PRIDE will undertake. In other words, you will become the Government's Yellow Pages.

PRIDE projects will include:

- Refurbishing public buildings, such as clinics, schools, and libraries, etc., across the island
- Installing guard rails, where necessary, on structures like bridges and culverts
- The Horticulture and Landscaping trainees will hone their skills, under expert supervision, in public spaces, like parks and playing fields.
- Bus sheds will be constructed or repaired, where necessary, as part of the courses like welding and carpentry.

Now, once you have mastered your craft, many of you will want to become self-employed, while others may want to become employers, themselves. And this is where YES comes in.

YES is just what it says: An affirmative answer to the questions you ask yourselves when you want to take that next step to empowerment. YES stands for "Young

Entrepreneurs Set-up." And while we know you have the skills to ply your trade, you are going to need help in setting up your own business.

The Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) is going to be expanded to accommodate the YES Program. We have already identified the old House of Culture building, on Parliament Drive, as the future headquarters of the YES Program. It is located in an easily accessible place, close to the East Bus Station and the highways, and large enough to accommodate not only offices, but a training centre.

The ABIA staff will be responsible for holding

your hand and walking you through the various aspects of successful entrepreneurship: Creating a Viable Business Plan; Coaching you on Best Practices and International Standards of Operation; Advising you on Branding and Marketing Strategies; Hooking you up with Banks and Credit Unions;

and Helping you to Negotiate Financing.

Once you qualify for a business loan, then the Government will guarantee your loan – in other words, become your surety.

In short, our plan is to make it extremely difficult for your business enterprise to fail.

The final link in this chain will be the REAP Initiative. What is REAP? The Real Enterprise Assistance Program. Just like YES is affirmative, REAP is designed for harvest.

The UPP has identified a number of areas that, with proper development, will not only increase employment opportunities, but add significant value to the economy. Among these areas is Agriculture, specifically in expanded Pineapple production; the export of Onions, Carrots and Yams; Agro-processing of mangoes, avocados and tomatoes; and, in particular, the revival of sea-island cotton, first, as a crop, and, subsequently, in the manufacture of fabric and the eventual production of high-end apparel.

Other areas to which REAP applies include Technology (app design and software development); the Visual and Performing Arts; and new Tourism activities, such as tours, entertainment, or niche restaurants utilizing local produce.

Entrepreneurs qualifying for REAP are eligible to apply for grants – not loans – from a fund of \$7 million to be used as seed money for sustainable ventures that will generate profits and provide employment, particularly of young people.



International

Relations



Recognizing its importance in the community of Nations, the United Progressive Party is committed to repairing the good name of Antigua & Barbuda regionally and internationally, restoring its image and prestige, so it will gain the respect it rightly deserves.

After enjoying 10 years (2004-2014) of admiration, goodwill and respect from other nations for its efforts in good governance, transparency, accountability and building participatory democracy, our country is once again being regarded as a rogue state.

The ALP Administration is known in the international community for scandals, corruption, and undemocratic practices. As a result, our citizens presenting their passports at the borders of other countries are subjected to heightened suspicion and greater scrutiny.

A New UPP Administration will again restore the standard of excellence in diplomacy and international relations, ensure that our diplomatic services achieve the goals and objectives of serving the interest of Antigua & Barbuda and reestablish the good name of our beloved country. To this end, the New UPP is committed to the following goals and objectives, designed for regional and international promotion, advancement and protection of the national interest:

Respecting all treaties and protocols signed with the sub-regional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), while not compromising the sovereignty of our state and the independence of our people, the UPP will:

- Ensure that Antigua & Barbuda receives its fair share of benefits that can be derived from regional

and international organizations

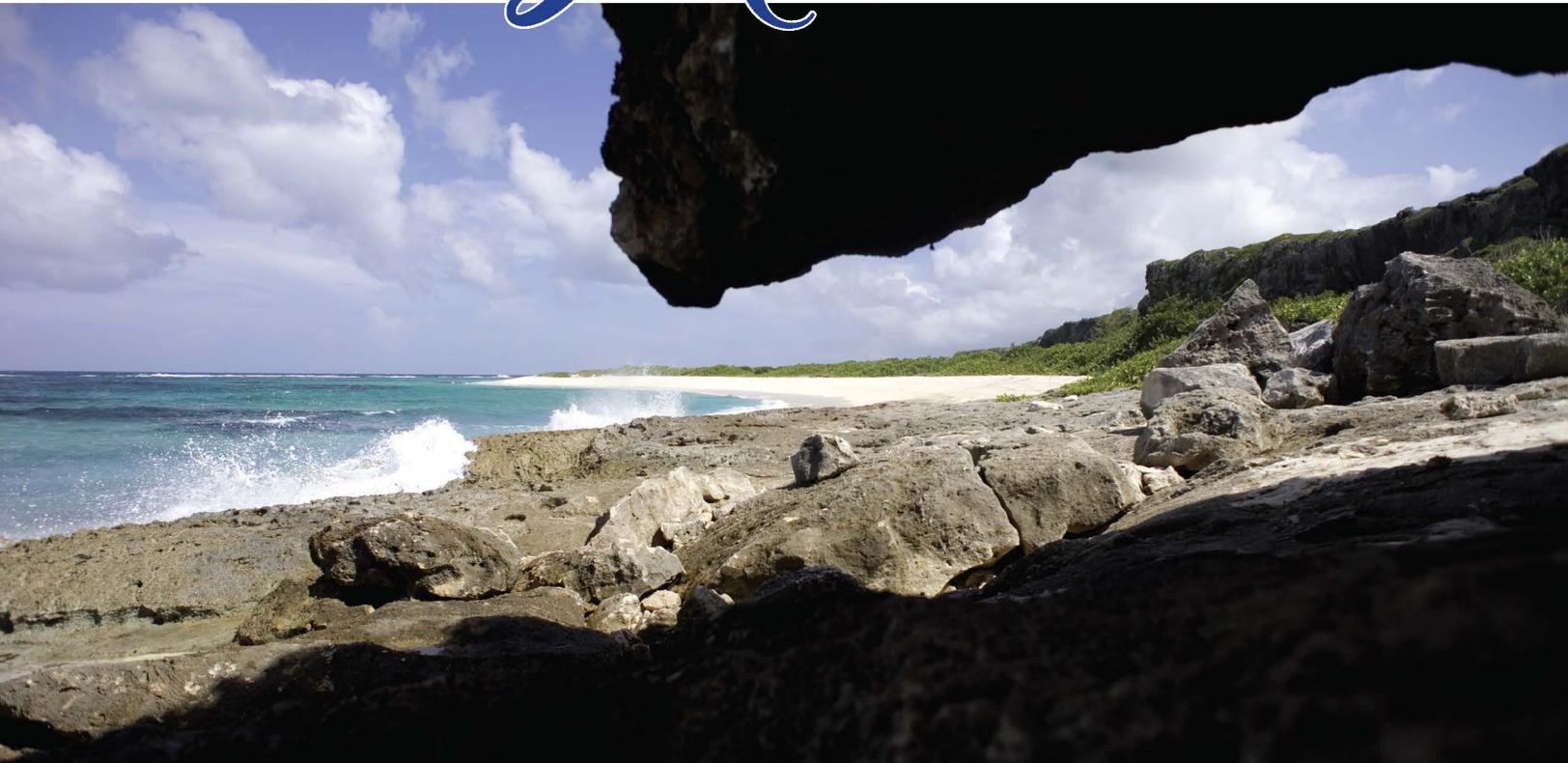
- Take immediate steps to restore visa-free travel to Canada and maintain visa-free travel to Great Britain and other nations
- Address the mitigation of climate change and sea-level rise
- Strengthen relations and seek wider cooperation with countries assisting with border protection against the illicit trafficking of narcotics and firearms
- Strengthen legislation and seek international assistance in fighting human trafficking and migrant smuggling
- Review legislation aimed at developing better correspondent-banking relationships and de-risking Foreign direct investment

The New UPP will:

- Vigorously seek out new and expanded opportunities for assistance and cooperation and new avenues for trade, tourism and investment.
- Maximize the opportunities available to Antiguan and Barbudans under the CSME and under CARICOM relations with Japan, South Korea and other countries
- Engage the Antigua & Barbuda diaspora to leverage their talents, expertise and investments in the cause of National Development

A New UPP government will expand and strengthen Antigua & Barbuda's relationship with its traditional partners while seeking new friendships for economic development.

Barbuda



The devastation of Hurricane Irma has created a rare opportunity to rebuild and rebrand Barbuda as stronger, greener, safer, sustainable and resilient.

The UPP will work with the Barbuda Council to implement a development plan to rebuild Codrington, upgrade the infrastructure, revitalize the Barbudan economy and improve the quality of life of its people.

In consultation with Barbudans at home and abroad, the development plan will specifically address:

- Repealing the Barbuda Land (Amendment) Act, 2017
- Fast-tracking the rebuilding phase and the resettlement of Barbudans
- Rebuilding with green technology-based infrastructure
- Managing the environment through legislative reform to address climate change and disaster management
- Improving air and sea transport between Antigua and Barbuda
- Strengthening democracy, participation and national affairs

Reconstruction of Codrington

There is clear inertia in the current Barbuda recovery efforts. For example, APUA is weeks behind in

meeting articulated time frames in restoring electricity.

The UPP will ensure that:

Material importation is expedited.

All public-service buildings are equipped with generators.

APUA restoration of electricity and water is expedited

A comprehensive assessment by trained engineers/quantity surveyors is commissioned. This is to determine how many homes can be brought back to habitable condition in a one-year time frame.

An independent oversight committee, with Barbudan representation, is established to manage intake and spending of



Barbuda Frigate Bird

relief funds.

Rebuilding the Barbudan Economy

The historical and cultural significance of fishing will be a significant driver in the rebuilding efforts. Accordingly, the UPP Administration will:

- Enforce zoning laws to protect and expand the fishing industry
- Provide grants, incentives, fuel subsidies and micro-loans to fishermen to purchase or repair fishing vessels
- Develop a marketing campaign to develop domestic and regional markets for Barbudan seafood

Restoring P.R.I.D.E.

PATRIOTISM

It is not about race or where you come from: It is about loving the country we are in and expecting everyone to do their best to make it a great home. Patriotism is the love and support that all our people feel for Antigua & Barbuda. We believe that our national identity, value system and desire come together in persons striving for personal excellence.

We must honour the words of our national anthem:

"...To safeguard our native land.
We commit ourselves to building
A true nation brave and free.
Ever striving, ever seeking
Dwell in love and unity."

We must recommit to honesty and the dignity of hard work. We must build a sense of patriotism and national identity among the youth in the hope that this will guide their behaviour into the future, based on the principles found within our Constitution. Our State has a responsibility to educate its people on the important principles that are part of our Constitution.

Mark Twain said, "Loyalty to country always. Loyalty to government when it deserves it." One should therefore learn to separate the two: The State and the Government are not synonyms. We must think objectively, regardless of political affiliations, about what is done by the Government and call on Government to act for the greater good of the state.

Rights & Responsibility

Progress starts with taking charge of ourselves and playing our part in families and communities. We must know our rights and learn our responsibilities as good citizens. We are all part of the national society. We must understand that each of us is responsible and answerable for what we do. Our personal actions will either adversely or positively impact our lives and others. Our responsibility as good citizens of this country is to care for the society and to unite our society and country.

Any initiative to change our country, or change our society, starts with personal responsibility. Our collective responsibilities as good citizens would be to make our society a safe and equal place for all

and our own living spaces both green and connected to the wider world. We need to live life without fear and with self-determination, education, family housing and affordable health. We also must ensure that our society's rules are justifiable and equal for everyone.

We need to end corruption. This eats away at the wellbeing of our families and the society. As good citizens, we must do good and right for and by all.

Integrity

Keeping one's word no matter how big or small the job.

Integrity is easily identified in good, honest, patriotic and selfless citizens who bring candour, value and honourable acts to their communities and the nation at large. The word "integrity" is derived from a Latin adjective, "integer," meaning "whole" and "complete." It means that what you say and what you do are one and the same thing. A person of integrity is accountable and responsible for his or her actions. Integrity is often manifested in the way and manner a person maintains principles and public/private actions.

No nation can be built on deceit and hypocrisy. Our transformation agenda of TALENTS and PRIDE will test the attitude and aptitude of citizens and encourage those who are striving to be men and women of integrity by creating various types of job opportunities, where the citizens can contribute to the nation in their different areas of expertise.

Democracy

Everyone has a say; everyone has the right to equal opportunity in a healthy democracy.

Our democracy is a type of government utilised by our people to pursue their collective goals and aspirations. This means that nation-building cannot happen unless we are all equally free and entitled to move forward.

We must elect decent, fit and proper people to office; establish accountable institutions; and inculcate enlightened habits that protect our sovereignty and honour our common democratic values.

Our democracy is based particularly on equality, where the poor and the well-off are treated equally



and the majority rules, since both groups have equal authority to rule. Our social, political, economic and religious institutions must be protected and strengthened. We must improve our capacities that will deepen our democracy. We must jealously protect our separation of powers, the rule of law, and our freedoms. We owe it to ourselves to safeguard a free media.

Empowerment & Accountability

Empowerment and accountability are critical elements of our PRIDE position. They are closely linked. Empowerment addresses how people can gain access to national resources, assets, and capabilities. Through our social, political and economic empowerment, we can enhance people's abilities to improve their quality of life.

Greater empowerment also gives us the confidence

to demand greater accountability. By empowering our less fortunate people, we will give them greater control over their own self-development. Our empowerment programs will work to build accountable and responsive government institutions that can satisfy the needs of the less fortunate. Our inclusive political institutions will seek to address everyone's interests through meaningful representation.

Civil and political society can also strengthen the demand for accountability. They play a key role in providing, collecting and analysing information to inform advocacy, as well as citizen engagement in issues of common concern. Civil-society mobilisation is a way of supporting citizens' political empowerment. Promoting political participation is an important way of improving state accountability and responsiveness.

Todos *Deben* Comer!

VOTE UPP PARA

Reducir el precio de la energía entre dos semanas después de las elecciones. La gasolina llevarla a \$10 por galón, el Diesel a \$ 9.90, rebaja de 25% del costo de variación de Combustible APUA y apegar los precios de energía al precio mundial de combustible.

Concluir las negociaciones para aumentar el salario de todos los trabajadores públicos en 90 días y pagar todos los salarios atrasados.

Remover de inmediato el itebis (ABST) sobre los Celulares y Tabletas, 100 % libre de impuestos para las Laptops y Computaras desktop.

Gestionar agresivamente un servicio de internet más rápido, más barato y más eficiente para las casas y negocios.

Rebajar el marbete de vehículos a 50 %, eliminar el costo de inspección y de radio.

Inmediatamente remover los impuestos sobre los lentes de leer y espejuelos

Eliminar los impuestos sobre los costos de funerales.

Implementar un sistema indexado de pensión de cara a la inflación.

Inmediatamente rebajar el costo de agua, electricidad e internet para los granjeros que califiquen en 50 %.

Implementar un sistema de Renta y Compra de viviendas.

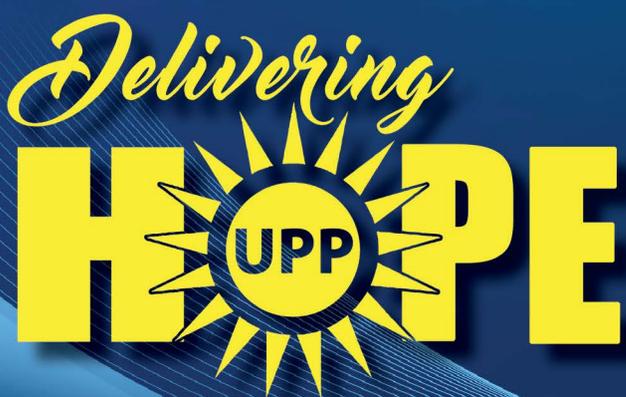
Expandir la canasta familiar

Reducir de forma progresiva el impuesto corporativo a 12.5 % en nuestro primer mandato.

Establecer zonas libres de impuestos en English Harbour, Jolly Harbour, Redcliffe Quay y Barbuda,

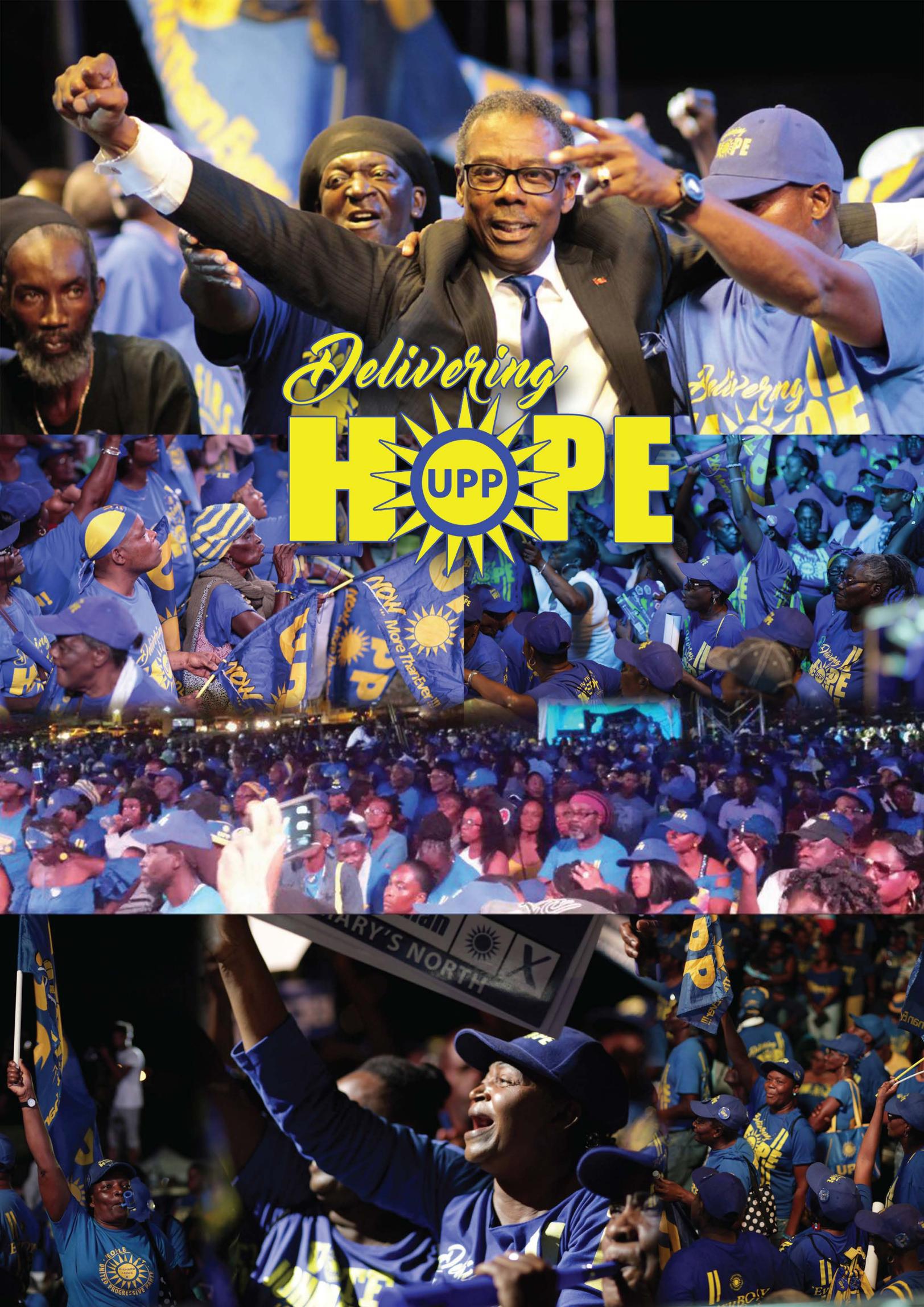
Reducir los permisos de trabajos en 50%, expedir los permisos de trabajos basado en la industria.

Repelar la nueva ley sobre terrero en Barbuda, repelar la ley emendada Paradise Found sobre la tierra en Barbuda 2017.



el 21° de marzo
VOTE UPP!





Delivering
HOPE

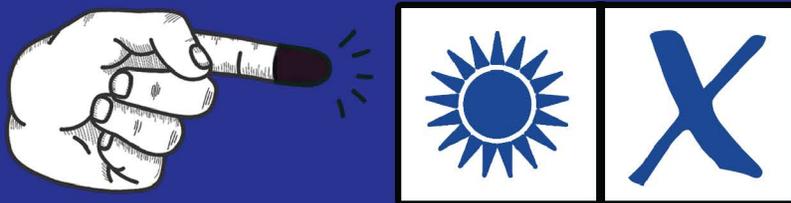


...Y'S NORTH



“EveryBODY Must NYAM!”

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