

*One*  
**BARBADOS**

**PEOPLE  
PROGRESS  
PROSPERITY**

**PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**



**2022**

**DLP MANIFESTO**

**The People's Manifesto,  
Investing in Your Future**



**PEOPLE  
PROGRESS  
PROSPERITY**  
**PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**



**DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY**

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Engineering a different Barbados



# *One* **BARBADOS**

“

This Vision of the DLP of One Barbados, is for the long-term, focusing on anticipating and adapting to change in both the present and future...

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# President's Remarks

## Verla De Peiza



### *My fellow Barbadians:*

Throughout the world, people want the same things such as affordable and sustainable access to clean air and water; economic opportunities; a safe and healthy place to raise their children; shelter; lifelong learning; a sense of community; and the ability to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

As a visionary Party seeking to achieve a sustainable development community, the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) considers and addresses multiple national human needs, not just one to the exclusion of all others. When

basic survival needs are met, individuals and groups can thrive and achieve other human needs required for self-actualization and living their best life. The DLP recognises and seeks to promote Barbados as a place where people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives feel welcome and safe, where every group has a seat at the decision-making table, and where prosperity is shared, with no one left behind. This Vision of the DLP of One Barbados, is for the long-term, focusing on anticipating and adapting to change in both the present and future.

Given our country's place in a globalising and increasingly technocentric world, driven by advancement in science and technology - what is now known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution - our perspective and approach take into consideration guidelines from our international obligations:

- ▶ The New UN Decade of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Restoration for improved livability.
- ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals (2030).
- ▶ The New Urban Development Agenda. UN Habitat 111 endorsed by the UN in Quito, Ecuador, 20 October 2016.
- ▶ Integration of Techno-Centric and People Centric Design Thinking for Smart, Green and Energy Efficient and Resilient Cities and Communities based on the needs of the citizens.
- ▶ The need for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Planning and guidelines from green buildings and the accommodation of the Circular Economy for Recycling and Smart Waste Management Infrastructure.
- ▶ The presence of 5G technology and the Internet of things promoting digitization and a new Digital economy and citizenry.
- ▶ The provisioning of COP26 ideals.

**Our people cannot be left behind! The DLP will not allow it!**

According to the World Economic Forum's Expert Network, (2020),

"More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and many urbanites reside in one of the 33 "megacities" with at least 10 million inhabitants. Urbanization can threaten the quality of life, but cities also provide the testbeds needed to come up with related solutions. Cities everywhere have been dramatically impacted by COVID-19, which has closed businesses and prompted a reassessment of public spaces. It will only be through the collective efforts of

governments, the private sector, and the public - and by harnessing transformative technologies - that we will be able to rebuild in ways that realize the true potential of cities".

It is now more important than ever that thought leaders, knowledge seekers, transfer practitioners, educators and the all-round community of practice for sustainable community development and livelihoods, act in partnership for the change we must all work together to achieve for the sustainable development of the peoples of this world but more so for the people of Barbados.

The Democratic Labour Party's 2022 - 2027 Manifesto focuses on the following Thematic Areas of the 2021 -2026 Strategic National Development Intervention. It is designed to Refocus, Reengineer and Re-imagine a different Barbados: one that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Beyond; that is centred on effective and efficient governance; economic development that will support inclusive and sustainable livelihood for all citizens in One Barbados; while promoting sustainable natural resources, with use that guarantees national ecosystem conservation.

Our over-arching theme One Barbados is the goal that the DLP keeps in the forefront of our minds as we craft policies and initiatives to propel our nation forward. The DLP chose the by-line "People, Progress, Prosperity" to underscore the means by which we intend to reach that goal. Our people's development spurs us to action: it is their development which makes our nation progress; and the prosperity of both nation and citizen will result in a more contented society.

To this end, we present to you these proposals which are designed to create a different Barbados, that builds a new consciousness for:

- ▶ healthy lifestyles, through pedestrianization and increase walkability in the urban communities.
- ▶ social resilience
- ▶ livelihood sustainability



- ▶ people and sector engagement for ecosystem conservation and restoration manifested through systematic conservation planning
- ▶ a sustainable-people centred partnership for economic and social transformation
- ▶ climate adaptation and mitigation planning for the built environment,
- ▶ improved resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change and encouragement of low carbon environment.
- ▶ collaborative partnerships between the public, private and community-based sectors.
- ▶ people-centric development that focuses on no one left behind in sharing in the indices of development.
- ▶ intergenerational collaboration strategies, connecting everyone in the development effort focused on women, seniors and youth collaborative engagement.
- ▶ development intervention that focuses on women, youth (particularly our young men) and the differently abled.

The DLP spent its time since 2018 first in quite introspection and reflection; consulted and invited the harsh but pointed criticism necessary for growth; and immediately set about making the necessary adjustments to ensure our credibility going forward. One of the main pillars of that evolution was the selection of candidates, with a strong emphasis on ideas development. I present to you our Team DLP, united in its determination to bring transformational change and the ultimate goal of One Barbados.

You will notice immediately a different look and feel from traditional manifestos. This is because the DLP actually wants you to read and critique this document, to appreciate the transformational change it envisions, and to draw you towards wanting to engage actively in this new direction for nation-building, towards our common goal of One Barbados. It also is indicative of the new direction of the DLP. We want to trigger the imagination of our people to want something better and to be prepared

to make the fundamental changes necessary to achieve those goals.

This also is a collaborative effort. We entered into discussions with a variety of sectors, received proposals from our candidates, who present with all of the skills and competencies necessary to execute this plan; we issued statements over time to allow for your direct critique to inform and shape the vision. And we went further: international consultation with experts was a necessary component of ensuring that what we offer was achievable within our present framework of mounting debt, IMF obligations and an economy which leans on one peg, with seemingly no energy from the outgoing administration to diversify our revenue streams.

And that is truly what leadership in these times requires: not a one-man show, not tone-deaf directives, and certainly not knee-jerk reactions. This election will offer you the opportunity to weigh your last three-and-one-half years and evaluate, and ask yourself the question: "Am I better off now?" If your answer to that question is "no!" as I expect it is, the solutions are within this manifesto, the roadmap to achieving One Barbados and a more fulfilled and contented society. I invite you on this journey with the DLP as it focuses on its People, their Progress, and their Prosperity.

Looking forward to the opportunity to serve you,



**VERLA De Peiza** (Mrs)  
**President, Democratic Labour Party**

# Vision

The DLP is determined to ensure that you and your children have a Barbados where everyone benefits, not just the moneyed class and a select few. We will build a society on a foundation of inclusive economic growth and development. A society with cohesion among all races, socio-economic backgrounds, creeds and political stripes. It is time that we create One Barbados, for we are One People. This envisions a Barbados where every Barbadian can be confident that he/she can achieve his/her aspirations. The DLP will foster One Barbados that is more socially democratic, much more than a cosmetic republic. One Barbados where all Barbadians can have trust in their government and the institutions of the State that are meant to improve their quality of life. One Barbados where the rule of law is applied equally, and Barbadians

can live in peaceful communities where justice and fair play is a way of life. A Barbados where the government is responsive to the needs of the people.

The DLP recognises the importance of underwriting Barbados' social progress with a diversified economy that ignites sustainable economic development for all Barbadians. We will forge One Barbados where all Barbadians play a pivotal role in determining their destiny, where people, businesses and our best minds and craftsmen and women work together to create a knowledge-based technologically driven society. We will build One Barbados that works for you, as you toil to build this nation.

# Core Values

## **01. OUR PEOPLE, OUR GREATEST ASSET; THEIR DEVELOPMENT, OUR ULTIMATE GOAL**

From the development of our Constitution until now, the DLP remains focused on this goal. What matters now is how it translates in the Twenty-first Century. This encompasses nation-building, education, job and wealth creation. It is the crafting of a contented citizen under One Barbados.

## **02. AN ORDERLY SOCIETY, BUILT ON INTEGRITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

No society is fully developed without having structures which are endorsed by all. Our National Constitution with a comprehensive Bill of Rights must form the bedrock of our society. The parameters of our Republic must be known universally; what we expect of our leaders must be guarded jealously; how we relate to each other must be governed by sound sociological provisions and welded together by a justice system that works.

## **03. EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT**

The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us that our education system is no longer fit for purpose. This is more than the cosmetic removal of the Common Entrance Examination.

The DLP is committed to transformational change in education, where our people's best potential is moulded for the benefit of our nation-building process.

## **04. ECONOMIC POLICY AND ACTIVITY TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF ALL**

One Barbados is our ultimate goal. Towards this end, there must be initiatives planned to promote personal growth as well as the emergence and expansion of businesses of all sizes. The stimulation of the economy, especially while in the throes of a pandemic which shows no signs of easing, must make room for our natural citizens alongside our corporate citizens.

## **05. ECONOMIC ENFRANCHISEMENT AS A TOOL TOWARDS SOCIAL BETTERMENT**

The DLP views economic enfranchisement as one of the tools which must be developed and employed to continue the journey of nation-building. Your dreams must be given room to develop and the capital to expand. The marrying of vision and capital is often elusive. Finding ways to bring them together is one of our primary goals. The progress and prosperity of our people matter to the DLP.

## **06. A SOUND LABOUR RELATIONS CLIMATE**

Social unrest stifles growth. The concerns of our people matter to the DLP in its drive towards One Barbados. Your concerns are valid and relevant. We pledge to listen to you and find solutions with you.

## **07. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

As a Small Island Developing State, Barbados must proceed with its capital works programme in a deliberate manner. While we endeavour to build out our national capacity and our industries, this must be done in a responsible manner, protecting our blue and green spaces for the benefit of future generations, and indeed our own benefit.

## **08. SOCIAL SERVICES AS A MEANS OF SECURING EQUALITY**

Barbadians have come to expect social services that work. Our health system must be protected and revitalised to ensure equal and equitable access under One Barbados.

Our transport system must be fit for purpose and accessible to all. Our National Insurance Scheme is in need of a re-think, to ensure it is agile enough to respond to shocks and also capitalised sufficient to fulfil its purpose.

## **09. MAINTENANCE OF A SOCIAL SAFETY NET TO ASSIST THE DISADVANTAGED**

Our welfare system needs to be re-designed with an aim to break the inter-generational poverty trap and raise the heads of our people. This is essential in our drive towards One Barbados, and a determination to ensure that no one is left behind.

## **10. THE ULTIMATE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

We only are as strong as our weakest link. The DLP is committed to ensuring that the strength of our nation, measured in the contentment of our people and their freedom to imagine and bring to life their dreams, remains the ultimate goal in our nation-building exercise – moving our people forward, in prosperity.



ST. MICHAEL  
NORTH WEST



**Where we  
are at.**





# PREAMBLE

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In the 2020 Errol Walton Barrow Memorial Lecture, the President of the Democratic Labour Party invited us to Imagine a Different Barbados. This Manifesto is a blueprint to giving that vision life. It is appreciated that no significant change can happen overnight. Therefore, this document is not designed to be overly ambitious and unrealistic, but to prevent a sufficient framework to chart that different course.

We are in unusual times, and special emphasis will be placed on COVID management, on our pressured and struggling National Insurance Scheme, and on the high cost of living that strangles our ability to provide adequately for our families.

Change comes easier when a framework is outlined and when the roadmap is before you. This document is the Democratic Labour Party's contract with the people of Barbados, our guide to achieving One Barbados, where all have opportunity to flourish and to realise their dreams. This is the template this country needs at this point in our development.

# Managing Covid

In October 2021 the Democratic Labour Party released its policy for the management of the Covid-19 pandemic. It represents a distillation of considerations based on our lived experience with virus, and the realisation that we must learn to live with Covid-19 for the foreseeable future. In re-opening our economy, we must do so while keeping our people as safe as possible. "Following the science" is more than a pithy catchphrase; it requires listening to experts such as the World Health Organisation and Caribbean Policy Health Agency, and most certainly the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners.

That policy is repeated here and singularly addressed as we face managing a general election campaign in the midst of the spike of a virulent variant, Omicron. The Democratic Labour Party is calling on the to implement a targeted COVID containment plan that allows commerce to continue in Barbados but with tougher restrictions:

- It begins with the critical management of our borders, to ensure as much as possible that COVID is contained at source.

- We need to limit, not curb, interactions at night for a period of time. Since there is a maximum 14-day period for infection to show, 3 weeks should be a good benchmark for tougher targeted COVID management protocols.
- Implement capacity limits on offices, retailers, civil society and recreational gathering, with government leading by the example of its institutions
- Mandate work from home quotas for industries that can function effectively with enhanced remote working and incentivise adoption of the ICT technology that enables effective remote work;
- Temporarily prohibit indoor dining at all restaurants that do not have open air seating accommodations with well-ventilated natural air flow while continuing to permit outdoor dining;
- Allow all financial institutions, supermarkets, pharmacies, healthcare providers and manufacturers to open as long as they desire to open without restrictions on days or hours of operation but with capacity limits.

There is every intention in this plan to balance economic activity with the preservation of life. Our health care system is under pressure from the COVID realities, and other critical areas of health suffer as a consequence. Families are separated both in life and in death. We need a sharp focus and a determined will as we learn to live with COVID.

# Cross Cutting Themes

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Throughout this Manifesto, there will be special attention paid to particular interest groups:

1. Women in development
2. The engagement of Seniors
3. The development of the Youth
4. The integration of the Differently abled, from birth to employment

In the creation of One Barbados, the intentional raising of the profile of these groups is directed at redressing the imbalance in society at present, where their voices are unheard, and where at times they are virtually invisible. There is a role for them to play in nation-building; and the Democratic Labour Party is determined to harness their energies and aspirations.



# KEY PILLARS OF DEVELOPMENT

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We want to trigger the imagination of our people to want something better and to be prepared to make the fundamental changes necessary to achieve those goals.

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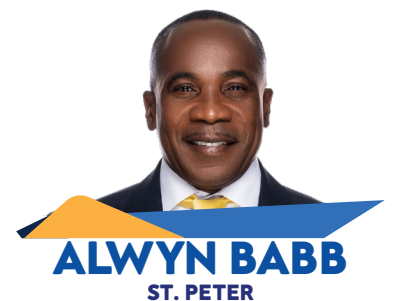
**Our people cannot be left behind! The DLP will not allow it!**

”



**Where we  
want to  
go.**





# Effective And Efficient Governance

## **The Republic Conundrum Solved**

In November last year, Barbados moved to republic status. What initially was billed as a mere cosmetic change has morphed into a major project with fundamental and foundational changes already made. Of significance, our Constitution is set to undergo a sea-change, with a controversial but non-legally binding Charter mooted.

Most concerning, this all proceeded within a vacuum of consultation with and consensus of the Barbadian people. We were promised that beginning January 2022 the consultation process on a new Constitution would begin. Instead, we are plunged into a premature General Election. The Democratic Labour Party intends to make the Republic provisions a central pillar of our platform. A country touting and adhering to democratic principles never should be in doubt with respect to its inalienable rights.

To this end, a new DLP administration will:

1. Embrace the move to Republic status by finalising the name of our country, to The Republic of Barbados, or Barbados for ordinary usage.
2. Present for consideration and critique a revised Constitution. Major planks would include:
  - Selection of President for a period of 7 years
  - Fixed term period of 5 years for the House of Assembly
  - An elected Senate
  - Devolution of government
  - A modernized Bill of Rights
  - Referendum on major constitutional changes
3. Finalise the Constitution within the first year of our leadership.

## **Decentralisation of Government**

A new DLP administration is committed to the return of the Constituency Councils. These provided a direct link to services, reduced red tape and are an important tool in fighting the apathy setting in in Barbados. The repeated calls for assistance for easy fixes such as assistance for the indigent, overgrown lots, bus shelters and street lights are more efficiently addressed at the local level. For instance, the distribution of the care packages during the second lockdown was an operation well within the competence of a local government structure. It will require a rethink on management and accountability, and this will be a priority.

## **Integrity in Public Life**

It is time that we get serious about integrity in public life. Setting standards and keeping them is important for social direction and cohesion, and critical to the development of One Barbados. There are now two versions, passed by Parliament but not proclaimed. Within the first 90 days, the DLP is committed to the complete enactment of the suite of legislation. This timing is chosen to accommodate the critical Estimates exercise, while honouring the urgent need to restore confidence in our processes.



### **Management Plan for a Safer Society**

Over the last three and one-half years, Barbados was plagued by increasing violence. The news cycles were rife with reports of gun and knife crime, as well as personal crimes such as robbery and rape. A gun amnesty did not work. Increased personnel in the criminal justice system did not work. Increase in punitive provisions with onerous obstacles to bail and lengthy sentences have not worked.

At each step the DLP cautioned that the root cause lay in the social ills which were present but exacerbated by the economic pressures. The presence of COVID-19 and increased joblessness and hopelessness particularly in the youth did not assist. It is time that our national focus changes and the country adopts a different model design to rescue at-risk youth and families before they collide with the justice system. This is one of the stepping stones towards that One Barbados to which the DLP aims.

### **A new DLP administration will:**

1. Introduce Good Citizen studies at all levels of the education system
2. a Management Plan to structure intervention techniques, including a best practices manual
3. foster the creation and establishment of support groups and provide assistance to them, dedicated to early intervention in antisocial behaviours
4. make community centres available for learning of skills and basic training at the community level and for the purposes of community outreach
5. create family-centred services to provide support and build resiliency and coping skills of parents
6. employ dedicated specialist support of clinical psychologists, psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers
7. establish linkages to receive and evaluate referrals
8. re-institute community policing as a matter of urgency
9. update the Penal System Reform Act and include sentencing guidelines
10. re-institute the Drug Treatment Court to address misuse of drugs and rehabilitation

# Economy

## The framework

Barbados' finances are in a precarious position. Truth be told, it has been this way for a while. For decades we borrowed to pay debt, never getting ahead of our obligations, whether domestic or external. This reached a peak in 2018 when for the first time as a sovereign nation Barbados defaulted on its debt. We have not recovered since.

The home-grown recovery plan styled Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Programme (BERT) received the sanction of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF described it as "ambitious"; the DLP always interpreted this to indicate that it would be impossible to achieve. It certainly represented significant pain and suffering for our people, who found their investments in government paper virtually worthless overnight. Job losses followed, and the IMF's requirement for pension reform is continually postponed. But that day of reckoning is coming.

There were ongoing struggles with the OECD as well, with constant moving of the goalposts to avoid blacklisting, crippling and decimating our International Business sector. Our country already was in this dire mire when COVID-19 upended our economy. Tourism, our main plank of foreign exchange earning ground to a virtual halt, despite efforts in keeping our borders open. The sector was supported first with sunset legislation amending the Severance Payments Act to the detriment of workers, and a Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) programme to inject a potential \$300 Million stimulus package.

It was shocking therefore in that climate for government to undertake an aggressive campaign of borrowing. From May 2018 to December 2020 the outgoing administration

recorded approximately \$2 Billion in loans from various external sources, including the IMF. There is to date no articulation of a payment schedule. It is estimated that our annual debt service over the coming 5-year cycle will rise from \$700 Million to \$1.5 Billion.

At present, according to the IMF Article IV consultation in December 2021 Barbados is running a primary deficit of -1% of GDP for the 2021/2022 financial year. According to the IMF, Barbados is supposed to start moving towards a 6% primary surplus from the year 2022/2023 and achieve it by the 2024/2025 financial year.

What is evident is that Barbados needs to tighten its belt starting now. In our fiscal landscape, the by-words now must be discipline, accountability and transparency. This is not a General Election for wild and fanciful promises; this is the moment of truth.

A new DLP administration will commit to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and prudent management of the public finances of Barbados. It will feature a fiscal policy anchored by Debt to GDP ratio of 60% by 2035, a more manageable time frame. But it can only be achieved by commitment to fiscal responsibility law, encompassing:

- Primary Surplus of at least 1.5% of GDP.
- Capital spending for productive purposes.
- An annual debt ceiling.
- Debt to GDP Target of 60% of GDP.

The accountability principles and objectives outlined under Governance are most pertinent at this time. The Integrity legislation will be strictly adhered to; and there must be Ministerial response to issues raised in the Auditor General Reports.



### Assessing our present situation

It will not be possible to manage an economy without first getting a sense of where we are. To this end there must be a Strategic Review of the Economic Performance of Barbados using performance indicators 2018-2021. Without a doubt the global pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy, but it also has been impacted by errors of judgment by the outgoing administration.

A new DLP administration pledges to report to the nation within 6 months sector by sector, so that there is an understanding shared with you of where we are at this stage.

### Tourism

Tourism will remain the primary driving force of our economy. However, it is ripe for a rethink. This process was interrupted in the last 3 ½ years but must be re-ignited as a matter of urgency. Heritage tourism, eco-agro tourism, the yachting community and community-based tourism are all strategies which need to be employed to make our product offering more robust and resilient.

Heritage tourism as a concept needs to be built out. More needs to be done to exploit the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison with focused on heritage tours, targeting both the hotel and cruising groups. The Air BnB concept needs support in the middle range. This can be addressed with a concerted effort to market community-based tourism, partnering to establish bed and breakfast houses with government-backed quality assurance standards. This will allow for a more standardized product and also permit more Barbadians to participate in the tourist industry – a significant step in the move towards One Barbados.

A new DLP administration with foster the development of synergies between the tourism and agricultural sectors through organic greenhouse food production and with farm to table initiatives, partnering farmers with tourism interests. The yachting community, so neglected in the last 3 ½ years, will be revived.

### Entrepreneurship and Employment

Our present economic climate has taught us that tourism cannot be our only economic driver and revenue earner. In fact, it is evident that it is the micro, small and medium-sized businesses which have the potential to transform our ailing economy. What is required is economic diversification through innovation and creativity, and the exploiting of our cultural and heritage industries.

Our present economic environment will present challenges. But promotion of economic development through innovative PPP approaches and innovation Financing. Economic development investment, through innovative partnership financing approaches between the public and private sectors and between the private and private partnerships, encouraged by the Government, guarantees and provides incentives for funding. A new DLP administration will permit credit unions to provide a wider range of financial products and services to its members. This will create a platform for growth of Barbados' indigenous credit union movements while providing Barbadians with more access to financial services. This is a route to economic empowerment and enfranchisement. This is part of our commitment to creating One Barbados.

The access to capital from government sources also needs to be modernised. The cap of \$5,000.00 in start-up capital has long been inadequate and arbitrary. The sum allowed will now be determined upon assessment of the business plan.

The DLP recognises that entrepreneurship is not a concept but a deliberate strategy towards wealth creation and building a legacy of value. We need to foster the mindset for wealth creation in our people and it must start in our schools.

To this end, a new DLP administration with offer at the secondary level new courses:

- Youth Entrepreneurship, E-Commerce and Marketing in The Digital Age
- Skills Trade: The New Agenda for Economic Development
- Work Readiness Skills

A new DLP administration will allow up to a \$100,000 foreign exchange allowance for individuals trading of financial assets internationally and regionally. This has the potential to unleash a new area of entrepreneurship for persons across the economy.

There are several sectors which are primed for building out: the energy sector, the waste management sector, agriculture will be of priority for a new DLP administration.

### **Transport**

The present administration has made public transport less affordable for Barbadians while increasing the costs of providing public transportation. Road tax was swapped for fuel tax, and it proved more burdensome than its predecessor. Bus fares increased by 75%. And despite the landing of 33 additional buses, there has been no commensurate improvement in the bus service, especial in rural Barbados.

It is time that the transport system is rationalised to reflect fairness, the hallmark of One Barbados. The new DLP administration will propose a transfer system and transport cooperatives to make public transport more affordable and reliable for Barbadians. It also will assist those invested in that service industry to realise economies of scale.

### **Managing the Environment**

A new DLP administration will remain committed to the Green and Blue Development Agenda. The following pillars will be the main focus:

1. Sustainable forestry and landscapes, protection of our marine life in particular our coral reefs and fishing stock
2. Green buildings and industrial development, with universal adaptation for disabilities
3. Climate adaptation planning and design for Smart Cities and infrastructure. The initial focus will be on reduction in vulnerabilities to hurricanes and storm surges. But there will be an intentional move towards smart city design. After all, Barbados is as big as an international city
4. Solar Energy as Efficient clean and green alternative to fossil fuel in CO2 emissions.
5. Waste management and the circular economy- Monetization of Waste
6. Sustainable Transportation -Electrification system

### **Monetising Agriculture**

There has been a lot of commentary in recent years about reducing our food import bill. But there needs to be deliberate steps taken to achieve this goal. Idle plantation lands lying fallow, including the former CLICO lands, need to be pressed into service, utilizing the land lease scheme. Co-operatives must be encouraged, and technology implemented to improve both quality and yield. Specifically, green agricultural development through greenhouse food production will be a focus of a new DLP administration.

Special attention needs to be paid to secondary and tertiary industries which can be created from agricultural produce, not just for local consumption but with a view to eventual export of foreign exchange generation.

## Addressing Our Water Woes

Barbados has long been identified as a water scarce country. In recent times, this is exacerbated by prolonged drought conditions and by an ancient mains system which is no longer fit for purpose. Burst pipes are a common occurrence. Several rural parishes suffer frequent water outages and the water quality is poor. There is a need to diagnose and address these issues as a matter of urgency.

There is a need to create a culture of water conservation and harvesting in Barbados. We also must create and institute a plan for water supply enhancement during emergencies and droughts. There must be a system for tracking non-revenue water.

A new DLP administration will:

- Revive the mains replacement programme
- Explore the viability of desalination plants in critical areas
- Conduct an annual water audit to identify non-revenue water
- Implement leak detection systems
- Implement water harvesting programmes, with planned collection of water
- Create a new band of water rate for agricultural purposes, falling between residential and commercial.

## Waste to Money

It is time that Barbados embraces the concept of putting waste to work. This is not simply a notion of recycling, but a deliberate policy of carving out new revenue streams from the creation of by-products from waste products – new commodities can be created, including energy. Barbados needs to be the vanguard of development in the region and draw on the width and depth of expertise to create solutions to our mountain of garbage.

## Foreign Policy

A DLP government will move away from the outgoing administration's begging bowl foreign policy and instead place emphasis on exports-led economic growth and attracting foreign direct investment. This will demonstrate and facilitate economic growth through diversification. The DLP will shift the Barbados economy towards export led growth.

A greater focus and support for growth led by the export of goods and services. A more effective agency with the technical expertise to promote and support export led growth will benefit from greater economies of scale and a mandate for success. For the purposes of exports promotion, a new DLP administration will create an integrated Exports Development Agency that positions Barbados with a sharper export focus. We will review and evaluate the effectiveness of Invest Barbados and BIDC's export promotion departments with a view of creating a successful export thrust that fuels economic growth.



# AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## **Energy**

The goal of a new DLP administration is to shift Barbados' energy dependence to 100% renewable energy. It represents one of the most significant developments in Barbados and one of the best opportunities to advance economic democracy. It also represents a return to a drive which was aborted several years ago.

To stimulate the drive, a new DLP administration will

- Distribute and install Solar PV panels and electricity generation systems to households earning less than \$25,000 annually to allow more Barbadians to participate in the Renewable Energy Revolution started by the DLP. This program will be phased in over several years.
- Facilitate the distribution and installation of 2 to 3 KW systems to low-income households. This will generate approximately \$175 per month in income that allows households to generate enough income to cover their electricity and water bills. The government will partner with International Agencies, BNOC and financial institutions (Credit Unions, Enterprise Growth Fund, Fund Access etc.) to structure the financing and execution of the program.

## **National Insurance Scheme**

The outgoing administration's debt restructuring under BERT resulted in the writing off of some \$1.3 billion of debt the government owed to the NIS. This impaired the viability of the Fund and its ability to provide your pensions, unemployment benefits and other social security benefits. Compounding the issue are the limitations by statute on the type of investment in which the Fund is permitted to engage. Recent actuarial studies suggest that the Fund could be depleted in 20 years.

In order to ensure that the NIS portfolio is adequately diversified and to safeguard the future viability of the NIS, it must modernise and rationalise its investments.

To achieve this, a new DLP administration will make the following provisions:

1. By right of law, provide an annual Forex Allowance to NIS that allows the NIS to meet the foreign investment threshold outlined in its investment guidelines over the next 10 years, to adequately diversify the Fund and increase the Fund's return on investment.
2. Ring-fence the NIS by force of law from excessive exposure to domestic government debt.

## Housing

The Democratic Labour Party is proud of its stellar record in providing housing solutions across a wide spectrum of income brackets, both for sale, rent and rent-to-own. Many of our citizens are locked out of the private housing market as a result of an inability to meet financing qualification standards. There is, however, a backlog of applicants reckoned by decades, and a dearth of housing solutions on an island with limited land mass and competing land use interests. In particular, the incursion into arable land is worrisome as we struggle as a nation to reduce our food import bill.

On the other hand, there are hundreds of houses abandoned in Barbados. Often, they are the subject of contentious estate claims. Sometimes, there is no funding available for upkeep and repairs. All could assist in alleviating the housing shortage in Barbados.

Of great concern as well is the abandonment of the initiative to transfer ownership of housing units to long-standing tenants in good standing with their rental obligations. This policy had the effect of empowering

an additional class of our citizens, transforming them virtually overnight to asset-owners. It was collateral which could be used to improve other aspects of their lives.

There is significant duplication in the management of housing portfolio. Urban Development Commission, Rural Development Commission and National Housing Corporation all have a remit to provide housing solutions within our country.

Under a new DLP administration,

1. Collapse UDC and RDC into the National Housing Corporation
2. The search for rab land suitable for conversion to housing will continue
3. The appropriate Ministry will enter into agreements with homeowners to lease their properties to National Housing Corporation
4. Affected staff will be deployed to other government departments as suitable



# Cost Of Living Corrective Measures

## **Garbage and Sewage Contribution**

The BERT-IMF primary fiscal surplus of 6% of GDP equals about \$654 million. When the current IMF Extended Fund Facility program ends in October 2022, fiscal space will be created as we move away from the IMF imposed fiscal targets. While recognizing that domestic debt service payments will also ramp up around that time, there will be some fiscal elbow room to shift our economic priorities towards the interest of ordinary Barbadians.

With this in mind, the new DLP administration will offer relief from the heavy tax burden by reducing the charge on the water bill for Garbage and Sewage Contribution by 50%.

## **Taxes and duties at the port**

Supply chain issues brought on by the pandemic, in particular supply shortages and bottlenecks in the face of a resurgence in global demand has been fuelling sharp price increases on a broad range of products and commodities such as appliances, oil, corn etc. since July/August 2021. With a high import duty regime in Barbados and a high level of taxation on gas and diesel imposed by the Mottley administration, there are fiscal policy levers to provide some temporary price relief to Barbadians until the high import price inflation falls to normal levels (projected by the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of England and the Bank of Canada to normalize by August 2022).

To address this, as a temporary measure a new DLP administration will reduce import duties on a wide range of select goods and waive freight from the calculation of import duties AND reduce the excise tax on fuel at the pump by up to 25 cents per litre.

## **Foreign exchange fee**

The Foreign Exchange Fee on transactions denominated in foreign currency and the purchase of foreign exchange, wire transfers etc. has imposed a higher financial burden on a large number of small and medium-sized businesses. It has contributed to increasing the cost of living and the cost of doing business in Barbados. It is distortionary and imposes all of the costs of a devaluation of the Barbados dollar without the theoretical benefits. Imports have been made more expensive by the FXF without making exports cheaper.

A new DLP administration will abolish the Foreign Exchange Fee.

For decades, thousands of pensioners have taken their retirement gratuity and retirement savings and invested in government paper. They saw government paper as a safe investment with a reasonable rate of return. The heavy-handed manner in which the Mottley administration pursued a restructuring of government debt has undermined the faith and confidence of Barbadians in bonds and treasury notes issued by the government of Barbados. We must restore that confidence and ensure that government honours its obligations, especially to those that lend to government in good faith.

A new DLP administration will compensate pensioners for the losses they suffered from the BERT debt restructuring.

## **Asset Tax**

Having decided to do the debt restructuring in a heavy-handed manner, banks and other financial institutions have been increasing banks fees to recover some of their financial losses from the debt restructuring of the bonds and treasury bills bought from the Government of Barbados. The outgoing administration's decision to maintain/renew the Asset Tax has also been a catalyst for higher bank fees.

A new DLP government will phase out the Asset Tax on Financial Institutions while robustly regulating bank fees to better protect customers. Work with financial institutions to accelerate the adoption of a wider variety of online banking services. A DLP government will rely on new legislation to secure all of the objectives of this policy.

## **Universal Basic Income**

We have heard your complaints about the indignities suffered when on welfare. There was a need to find a way to guarantee vulnerable citizens a basic income to sustain them or to provide basic capital for young, budding creatives and entrepreneurs.

We will phase in a Universal Basic Income (UBI) during the first term in office of a new DLP administration. UBI is a regular modest income or cash payment or direct deposit for individuals. UBI can replace an assortment of welfare assistance such as welfare cheques, food vouchers, food hampers, bus fare vouchers, uniform grants, benevolent funds, part-rent payments as the centrepiece of welfare reform. A UBI program will be targeted to the population below the poverty line, the unemployed population, residents with annual income of \$0 to \$25,000 a year, or residents aged under 30 and above 60.

# Education

Our vision for education is that of a sector that supports strategies that respond to the needs of the 21st century world of work, upskilling the needs of the 21st century. Its end-product is an education that is relevant; that includes a connection to the diverse passion and talents of our children and youth; that gives inclusive and equal opportunity and affordable access to them based on their innate talents. We envisage access to the creative arts and science and technology such that no child is left behind because of biases in the traditional education training focus and contents.

It is an entire paradigm shift, making education fit for purpose.

We wish to ensure that all our students have access to training in the relevant skills for the 21st century. It requires the collaborative effort of government, teacher, parent and student. It will focus primarily on the following competencies:

**Foundational Literacies-** How students apply core skills to everyday tasks. Besides literacy and numeracy, ICT, scientific and financial literacy also are important. There also will be a reintroduction of cultural and civic literacy.

**Competencies-** How students approach complex challenges. The objective of education must change focus, to embrace critical thinking/problem-solving; creativity and innovation; effective communication skills; and collaboration. This combined with soft skills and learning emotional intelligence, will create better citizens, prepared to contribute to the One Barbados ideal.

**Character Qualities-** How students approach their changing environment. Our young citizens must be curious, persistent, adaptable and demonstrating initiative.

## **Youth Apprenticeship and Experiential Training**

Not everyone learns in the same way. For some, practical experiential learning is their trigger. This is of particular relevance to skills training, and to the cultural arts. It also will be employed in the creation and implementation of renewal and reintegration programmes for youths in conflict with the law, and those who did not have opportunity to finish formal education in the existing school system.

## **Re-engineering and Re-imagining Teacher Professional Education**

In order to achieve this agenda, the modality of teaching must shift. There will be a deliberate focus on teacher professional development training to include blended learning strategies, mindfulness in classroom management culturally responsive education and child-centered learning.

## **Tertiary education**

At this stage, the Democratic Labour Party focuses on corrective measures in primary and secondary education. It pledges to maintain the status quo on tertiary education and will hold the UWI to the delivery of a high quality of education in a cost-efficient manner. A new DLP administration will partner with the UWI to commercialise intellectual property and develop cutting edge research projects in the areas of bio-technology, climate resilience and renewable energy.

## **Parental Training strategies**

The collaborative effort includes the engagement of parents and guardians. Through the Parent-Teacher Associations and public/private sector organisations, the new DLP administration will implement training strategies targeted towards raising resilient children, competent volunteers and productive citizens.

It is anticipated that these changes, implemented and the primary and secondary level, will set the stage for active citizen participation and an enhanced commitment to focused tertiary development, both skilled and academic as both are essential for nation-building.



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**Our vision for education is that of a sector that supports strategies that respond to the needs of the 21st century world of work**

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# Empowerment Through Wellness

## Our general health

Barbados represents a success story in the health care and despite challenges we have been able to maintain a world ranked health care system.

As we go forward we must have an increased focus on prevention as distinct from care or cure. Our people must take better care of themselves. We must become more active and eat better.

Globally, unhealthy diet is the leading risk for premature death and the second leading risk for disability. Excessive salt intake is the most harmful of the dietary risk factors, associated with >3 million deaths and the loss of 70 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2017. It is a well-established cause of high blood pressure and increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and kidney disease. The close relationship between COVID-19 and Non-Communicable Diseases brings into sharp focus the need for a dedicated national policy on Wellness and Healthy Lifestyles. It is more than a cliché that the health of the nation is the wealth of the nation. There must be a focus on prevention and the reduction of incidence of NCDs.

Taxing unhealthy food and drink such as those high in sugar and salt content has been shown to be an effective means of influencing what people eat and improving population health. The DLP lead the way and introduced a tax of 10% on sugar and artificially sweetened drinks.

A new DLP administration will go further and create:

1. Create a Civil Society and expert led "Preventive Health Care Trust" to coordinate and guide initiatives around healthier lifestyles and preventive health care.
2. Use government procurement to help create a critical mass in the supply of healthier foods by seeking expert advice to guide food purchases for government entities such as hospitals and school meals among others;
3. Create a basket of healthy food items based on expert advice that will be zero rated for VAT and Excise taxes;
4. Pursuing a water initiative, to promote drinking water as an alternative to sweetened beverages.

## Schools

The reinforcement of these policies must begin at the earliest opportunity for the development of healthy habits. Our schools have a major role to play in practical education of the benefits of wellness through:

- Balanced, locally sourced and produced meals by both the School Meals Service and canteens
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles within the school curriculum
- Get fit, be active policy with established goals for nutrition and physical activity
- Developing a plan for measuring the implementation of a wellness policy in each school

## **Sports**

For too long, we have basked in the glory of our athletes who come to international attention, and marvel and the prowess of the citizens of our neighbouring islands. Barbados never has understood or undertaken the measures necessary to discover and develop our home-grown talent, for sport to become a viable career path for our citizens. It is time to redress that balance.

A new DLP administration is committed to

- The research and development of a National Sports Policy designed to focus on the creation of opportunities for our young people to explore their options in sports
- Provision of and maintenance and management of sporting facilities, including our National Stadium and Gymnasium complex

## **Mental health**

- A focus on mental health, with a determination to remove the stigma and raise awareness
- Promoting the benefits of physical activity: greater contentment, increased productivity, less spent on health care

## **Human Resources**

The DLP recognises that no policy geared towards health and wellness can be effective with a discontented and disrespected staff. The ongoing dispute with the nurses is painful for several reasons: their concerns are legitimate, long-standing and deserving of resolution; and their treatment by the outgoing national leader was knee-jerk and deplorable.

To this end, the DLP pledges as first order of business to bring the strike to an end, meet with their representatives, and discuss and settle a phased implementation of their recommendations

- Provide the nurses with the conditions of work, uniforms and equipment, and compensation that they have been agitating for – phased in (beginning in first 14 days on the job) and completed within 12 months of a new DLP administration.
- Make the maintenance and management of government-owned plant a primary focus.
- Commit to ensuring that all public servants are paid on time by making the administrative and financial systems changes that are required to put this indignity of workers working and not being paid, behind us as a nation.

# Engaging the iGeneration

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The young generation exhibits is a brand new way of thinking. It is their world that we are formulating and their voices need to be heard. As part of our people-centred engagement strategies, the new DLP administration intends to involve the youth in policy creation and decision-making; ensure that the state systems responsible for children and young people are well-resourced and staffed appropriately.





**Roadmap to  
achievement.**

# Engineering a different Barbados

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The re-development of Barbados for the 21st Century requires all sectors working together to ensure the success of Barbadians being equipped for the new world of work. The reshaping of our education product at all levels will have an important role to play in rebuilding Barbados, and positioning it to meet its Sustainable Development Goals.

This Manifesto represents people-centric development, that focuses on One Barbados with no one left behind in sharing in the indices of development. It strides in a bold new direction, underpinned by fiscal prudence and integrity. It is intended that these traits, demonstrated by our leaders, will become the hallmarks of a Barbadian society in the near future. The Democratic Labour Party looks forward to joining with you on this journey of nation-building.



[www.dlpbds.org](http://www.dlpbds.org)



**A STRONGER  
MORE UNIFIED  
BARBADOS**