



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

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VOTE
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STAY_{THE}
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SAFETY AND SECURITY IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

CRISIS AFTER CRISIS – HANDLED ON YOUR BEHALF

A COUNTRY KEPT SAFE CITIZENS KEPT SECURE

- Governing in the best of times can be a challenge, but the **Barbados Labour Party** has been called on to lead the country in some of the most difficult circumstances of the modern era.
- These were not home-grown problems of the government's own making, but the kind of external, shocks to which small island developing states are vulnerable. The COVID-19 Pandemic, the Ash-fall from St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Climate Crisis.
- The Caribbean is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world.
- Given the urgency, **The BLP** was compelled to formulate and implement solutions for the safety of Barbados and for the security and well-being of Barbadians.
- There were no precedents on which we could draw, no templates we could borrow, no models on which we could rely.

- We had to chart our own way, drawing on the instinct for survival in any circumstance that those who survived the middle passage left wired into our DNA.
- This Administration had to deal with combined crises at a scale and within a time-frame that no other Barbados Government has had to address.
- **The BLP** observed what was happening globally and decided on the path this country would pursue in the protection of the national patrimony and our citizens safety which these crises were putting at risk.
- Our efforts have received international recognition and praise and Bajans have been safer because of the decisive leadership of **The BLP**.

THE CRISIS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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



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

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

THE ASH FELL FROM THE SKY

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





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

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

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

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

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

BEFORE AND NOW

DLP DISASTER VS BLPSTAYSAFE TEAM

SPACE TO BREATHE AND GOVERN

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



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

SAVING THE DOLLAR

Building reserves against shocks
Foreign Exchange Reserves at the Central Bank



Source: Central Bank of Barbados

JUDGMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RATING AGENCIES ON LEVEL OF SOVEREIGN DEBT

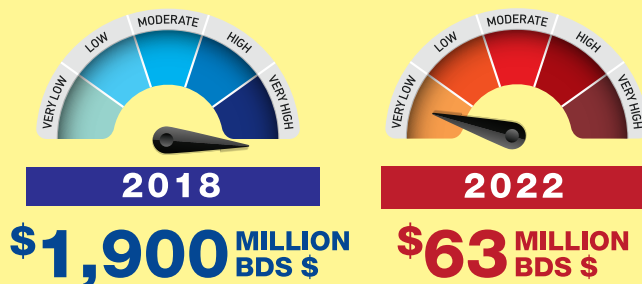
Standard and Poors' Barbados Sovereign Rating



Source: Standard & Poors'

REDUCING GOVERNMENT ARREARS TO BARBADIANS

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



Source: Barbados Revenue Authority

REDUCING GOVERNMENT DEBT AND ARREARS DESPITE COVID

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

Source: Central Bank of Barbados, Barbados Revenue Authority



BEFORE:
DLP DISASTER





**NOW:
BLPSTAYSAFE TEAM**



REPORT ON

**OUR URGENT
AGENDA**

AN IMPORTANT
COMPONENT OF THE 2018
RESCUE MISSION

The BLP Is Accountable To You

WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BARBADOS AND BARBADIANS SERIOUSLY.

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

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

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

Critical Issue 1.

Rebuilding Our Foreign Reserves - to 15 weeks of import coverage

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

Critical Issue 2.

Dealing With The Debt Choking Our Economy

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

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Critical Issue 3.

Bringing Tax Relief To Over-Taxed Bajans

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

Critical Issue 4.

Reducing Threats To The Financial Services Sector

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

Critical Issue 5.

Helping People To Live & Pay Their Bills

Safety Action - The BLP increased the non-contributory pensions from \$155 per fortnight to \$225. The reverse tax credit of \$1,300 for those earning less than

\$18,000. Increased funeral grants by \$500. Created a Household Mitigation Unit giving a monthly stipend to vulnerable families, protecting their privacy and dignity with the use of a credit card. A minimum wage to ensure workers had a livable income was enacted.

Critical Issue 6.

Addressing Arrears & Refunds Government Owed To People By -

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

Critical Issue 7.

Protecting People's Health

Safety Action - The Accident and Emergency Department was upgraded and made more comfortable for health care professionals and patients. **The BLP** extended the opening hours of the Randall Phillips (Oistins) and Eunice Gibson (Warrens) Polyclinics, providing X-ray and ultrasound equipment, asthma bays and security services. Kept us safe during COVID. **The BLP's** total COVID related

expenditure to date has been \$300m, of which medical expenses were over \$100m, and much of the rest was income support schemes to vendors, small businesses, families, taxi drivers, nail techs, hairdressers, barbers, families, the poor, the vulnerable, People With Disabilities and numerous other groups.

Critical Issue 8.

Fixing The Sewerage Crisis

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

Critical Issue 9.

Removing The Garbage All Over Barbados

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

MISSION CRITICAL - PROMISES KEPT

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

Critical Issue 10.

Putting Buses Back On The Roads

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

Critical Issue 11.

Getting Rid of Plus-Sized Potholes

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

Critical Issue 12.

Alleviating Water Woes

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

Critical Issue 13.

Making Bajans Safe

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

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

Drug interdiction has increased.

Steps have been taken to

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

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

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

Critical Issue 14.

Empowering Young People

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

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

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Critical Issue 15.

Stamping Out Corruption

Safety Action - The BLP has brought to this country the most comprehensive suite of legislation to tackle corruption in almost 100 years. We enacted The Prevention of Corruption Act, modernising the law relating to how we deal with acts of corruption, including stiff penalties and giving law enforcement strong investigative powers. For the first time in our history, a Whistleblower Protection Act was passed into law and its sole purpose is to give strong protection to persons who come forward to disclose acts of corruption.

The BLP passed the Remediation Agreements (Deferred Prosecutions) Act which allows for deferred prosecution where persons involved in corruption can, if they fully cooperate with the law enforcement agencies and disgorge the benefits derived from their corrupt actions, avoid prosecution.

We brought an Integrity in Public Life Bill to Parliament which benefited from perhaps the most

extensive public consultation in a Select Committee of Parliament, and it received 100% support in the Lower House. It was defeated in the Senate.

We enacted the The Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism Agency Act to establish a dedicated anti-corruption agency to focus in investigating acts of corruption, including past acts of corruption.

Recognising that we do not have the experience in investigating acts of corruption, we brought in a team of international experts to begin the investigations into allegations of corruption under the last Administration. That work began but had to be paused because of COVID. That investigative work has now resumed.

Critical Issue 16.

Revitalising Sugar

Safety Action - Settling the monies owed by government to the industry, which employs approximately 5,000 Barbadians. Following consultations, stakeholders have drawn up a plan for the future viability of

the industry and set milestones to ensure accountability for realising the plan.

Critical Issue 17.

Preparing Barbados For Hurricane Season

Safety Action - The BLP has developed a national storage capacity of generators, water, food and medicine to last 7 days. Upgraded hurricane shelters to resist a Category 5 hurricane.

We can pronounce the Mission Critical Agenda as - Mission Critical. Promises Kept. Mission Accomplished.

We also commit to ensuring that there will be no neglect, lack of funding or inappropriate processes to address national problems, especially those which affect our citizens safety, daily life and general well-being.

Whatever, the issue, we will face it and fix it.

OUR TRACK RECORD - CARING AND DOING

SHOWING WE CARE FOR YOU - DOING WHAT WE PROMISED

ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH KEPT YOU SAFE

The BLP “Came Through” For Barbados and Barbadians.

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

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

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

SOCIAL SAFETY

The BLP implemented a series of measures with social benefits.

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

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

DIGITISATION

- Established Barbados' first Records Digitisation Centre and commenced the digitisation of certain documents and services, including Police Certificates of Character, Driver's Licence renewals, Passport Appointment System and Barbados Welcome Stamp Applications.

- Completed first Game Changers Competition in schools to promote the creation and development of electronic games by Barbadian youth. 30 students were selected to receive further training with a view to introducing high potential creations to the marketplace.
- Improved physical infrastructure of schools across the island. Numerous schools benefited from re-painting, refurbishment and the implementation of wireless access on the compounds. Accessing the internet is now available to the students regardless of their background.
- Diversified the school curriculum by introducing coding and robotics and the trained staff to deliver instruction in these areas.

SOCIAL SERVICES

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





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

JUSTICE

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

HEALTH

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



BEST

BARBADOS EMPLOYMENT AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME



TOURISM SECTOR

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

SPORTS

- Collaborated with the Barbados Cricket Association and Cricket West Indies, to host the England, Australia and Pakistan Cricket tours of the West Indies, 2021.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy to implement the Swim For Life Programme which catered to 987 participants.
- Constructed hard-court facilities at Wesley Hall and Eagle Hall Primary Schools and Lowthers playing field.
- Constructed of a pavilion at the Glebe, St. George: Phase Two is ongoing and includes the building of a multipurpose hard court to cater to several sporting disciplines such as basketball, volleyball, netball and road tennis.

- Initiated the acquisition of land at Workman's, St. George, for the expansion of the playing area and the provision of a hard court and a pavilion, for use by the Workman's Primary School and the residents of Workman's, Jericho and Jordan, St. George.
- Lighting of 37 playing fields has commenced with new lights already in place at Byde's Mill, St. George and Princess Margaret Secondary School and St. Margarets, St. John. Work is at an advanced stage at Connell Town, St. Lucy, Foul Bay, St. Philip, Lodge Road, Christ Church and St. Martin's, St. Philip. Work has started at Arsenal and Lears

ECONOMIC SAFETY

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

- **Saved the dollar, built reserves and restored credibility so the country could face and respond to major shocks, like:**
 - » COVID: resulting in the loss of \$600M of tax revenues and \$300M of increased expenditures.
 - » ELSA: repairing and rebuilding thousands of homes
 - » Volcano clean up.
 - » South Coast Sewerage system breakdown. With - BEST program supporting 2000 tourism jobs. Supporting the \$115M payout of NIS benefits to 31,000 workers.
- **Reduced debt and interest payments to sustainable levels, making room for progressive fiscal policy:**
 - » Raised the non-contributory pension by 40%
 - » Delivered first public sector wage increase in 9 years.

COURSE

CITIZENSHIP

Being The Best Bajan

Certification

On finishing these group courses you will be issued a Certificate of Completion

Who are these Courses For?

This course is for all Barbadians from 13 years and above. It is beneficial to persons who are self-employed, underemployed and prospective entrepreneurs, business owners or are an executive in this course can also be of benefit. If you are a student, work as a member of a church, a community group or a course can also be of benefit.

[View Course Modules](#)

STRUCTURE

Prerequisites – what you need to know before starting. You must finish these modules in order.



Citizenship – Module 1
Excellence & Integrity



MODULE 4
Active Teamwork

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

- » Eliminated road tax and the NRSL.

- **Restored free tertiary education (approximately \$25m) and invested in upskilling and building a knowledge economy outside of university and schools:**

- » 22,000 Barbadians have registered on the National Transformation Initiative.
- » 3700 took a JAVA course.

- Initiated the HOPE Plan that will use \$50 M of public money to unlock \$200 M of low interest rate bank loans; build 10, 000 new homes and 1,100 low income houses which have already started.

- Rescued the Public Transport system from collapse.

- Rescued the Sanitation system, purchasing a new fleet of 33 new garbage trucks, thereby upgrading service allowing for regular scheduled collections. This also had a positive impact on public health.

- Created the Renewable Energy economy with attractive feed in tariffs (100 MW of renewable energy projects on the way).

- **Improved doing business**

- » Digitised licence applications.
- » Facilitated online payments for Government services
- » Eliminated renewals of FSC licences, reduced application from 12 to 4 weeks

- » Digitised CAIPO.

- » Rolled out online payments for government services.

- » Passed new streamlined, quicker application for Town & Country Planning and Renewable Energy licences.

- **Inclusion on the EZ Pay+ System**. The BLP has improved the way Barbados does business and our citizens engage. In response to the national shut down period, CAIPO integrated the EZ Pay system to facilitate online payments. This facility helps to protect citizens who wish to make online payments, avoiding long lines and delays at payment counters.

- The digital corporate registry also provides for an overall increase in the efficiency of the processing of applications and documents.

- BIDC promoted or expanded businesses and give ease to entrepreneurs. 150 businesses were given targeted assistance which resulted in the expansion of their operations during the period. 38 businesses were assisted in starting up new enterprises. 140 new tenants were approved for operations in BIDC's estates. Rent Relief of \$1.1M was granted as a result the COVID-19 pandemic. Special Technical Assistance through disbursements for the three-year period 2018-2021 totalled \$4.2 million; a 51.3% increase on the previous 3-year period. 204 clients benefited from the programme; 65 more recipients than for the comparative period of 2015-2018.

- Introduced the Foreign Currency Permit legislation to incentivise the earning of revenue in Foreign Exchange

- Issued exploration licenses to global resource company BHP, to explore offshore blocks in search of hydrocarbons.

- Negotiated and executed the Unitisation Treaty with the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of joint exploration and exploitation

of hydrocarbon resources that span our shared maritime boundaries.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

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

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

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

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

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





BLUE ECONOMY

- Renovated Tent Bay, Payne's Bay and Martin's Bay fish markets and installed new equipment at the Berinda Cox Fish market. These upgrades have improved the working conditions of those working at these facilities and have also met the phyto-sanitary international standards, thereby potentially increasing fish sales to international markets and higher income for vendors.
- Constructed modern facilities for vendors, staff and the general public at Pile Bay, in partnership with Barbados Port Inc. Reconstructed Pile Bay fish landing and recreational facilities which enable the users of that area to finally enjoy the amenity.
- Commenced reconstruction of the fuel berths and jetties at the Berinda Cox, Bridgetown and Speightstown Markets.
- Commenced a demarcation process for water sports activities. So far, 31 areas have been demarcated and work is ongoing.
- Engaged with national, regional and international maritime training institutions to establish training programmes in maritime and seafaring skills to ready nationals for employment in the maritime sector.
- Located fish aggregating devices with satellite technology around the island that will attract fish and allow fishermen to find fish with less effort.
- Created a lease-to-own boats initiative for fishermen that will allow these professionals who are usually denied financing, to enter into arrangements to own vessels
- Facilitated training in Aquaponics under an FAO project which saw the expansion of an aquaculture farm and training facility and to date has trained approximately 45 persons.
- Completed engineering drawings for the construction of a modern "haul-out" facility at Consett Bay.

- Acquired new equipment to assist with the "haul-out" of vessels making us better prepared for the hurricane season.
- Facilitated the creation of a Strategic Management Plan to minimise the negative impact of Sargassum Seaweed on our coastline.
- Acquired approximately \$35 million in new cargo handling equipment, inclusive of a gantry crane, electric forklifts and straddle carriers at the Bridgetown Port.
- Constructed a new Port Administration headquarters.
- Refurbished Berth 4 at the Bridgetown Port and designed the Shallow Draught Marina Facility.
- Advanced the Energy Smart Fund and Public Sector Smart Energy Projects which saw the phasing out of inefficient streetlights and the installation of solar systems on various Government buildings and other public buildings.

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



YOU ARE SAFE
YOUR FAMILY IS SAFE
YOUR FUTURE IS SAFE
WITH PRIME MINISTER MIA MOTTLEY
AND
THE **BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY**

