

MANIFESTO OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP FOR A UNITED PEOPLE  
TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



# PROSPERITY FOR ALL MANIFESTO 2010

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MANIFESTO OF  
THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

FOR A  
UNITED PEOPLE  
TO ACHIEVE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FOR  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Establishing a Partnership with the People  
to Build Unity and Prosperity for All

**we  
will  
rise!**



## POLITICAL LEADER'S OVERVIEW



**T**his General Election comes at a defining moment in our Nation's history. The oil and gas boom of the last decade has fizzled out and the hard work of building a sustainable economy stands before us.

The past few years of PNM leadership have resulted in a deterioration in almost every area of our society, from inadequate infrastructure to high levels of crime, poor social services and the lack of meaningful job creation.

The political crisis arising from the UDeCOTT scandal has undermined the relationship between the government and our people. This crisis, more than anything else, has brought the PNM Government to its knees.


The task facing our new government now will be to stabilise the economy, rebuild our society and restore trust in the government. My immediate goal will be to introduce greater transparency and accountability in government and to ensure that our oil and gas wealth is truly used for the development of our nation and our people.

This manifesto summarises the plans and initiatives which we intend to pursue after May 24, 2010. The key part of our programme will be mobilisation and engagement of

communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago so that everyone can make a contribution to our nation's success with everyone benefitting from it.

The task will not be easy. We are now faced with a troubled global economy, with its negative impact on ordinary people everywhere, and our Caribbean neighbours, a market for goods and services exported from Trinidad and Tobago, are facing serious economic problems. Nevertheless, we are confident that our people have the will and capacity, as we have demonstrated in the past to overcome these challenges.

I am confident in our ability to build a new society, to establish a strong economy and to nurture engaged communities – and I encourage you to join with me in realising this new vision to fashion and construct a more secure and sustainable future for Trinidad and Tobago.

  
**Kamla Persad-Bissessar**



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**Framework  
for Sustainable  
Development**



## FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Initiatives for a Secure, Prosperous and Sustainable Nation

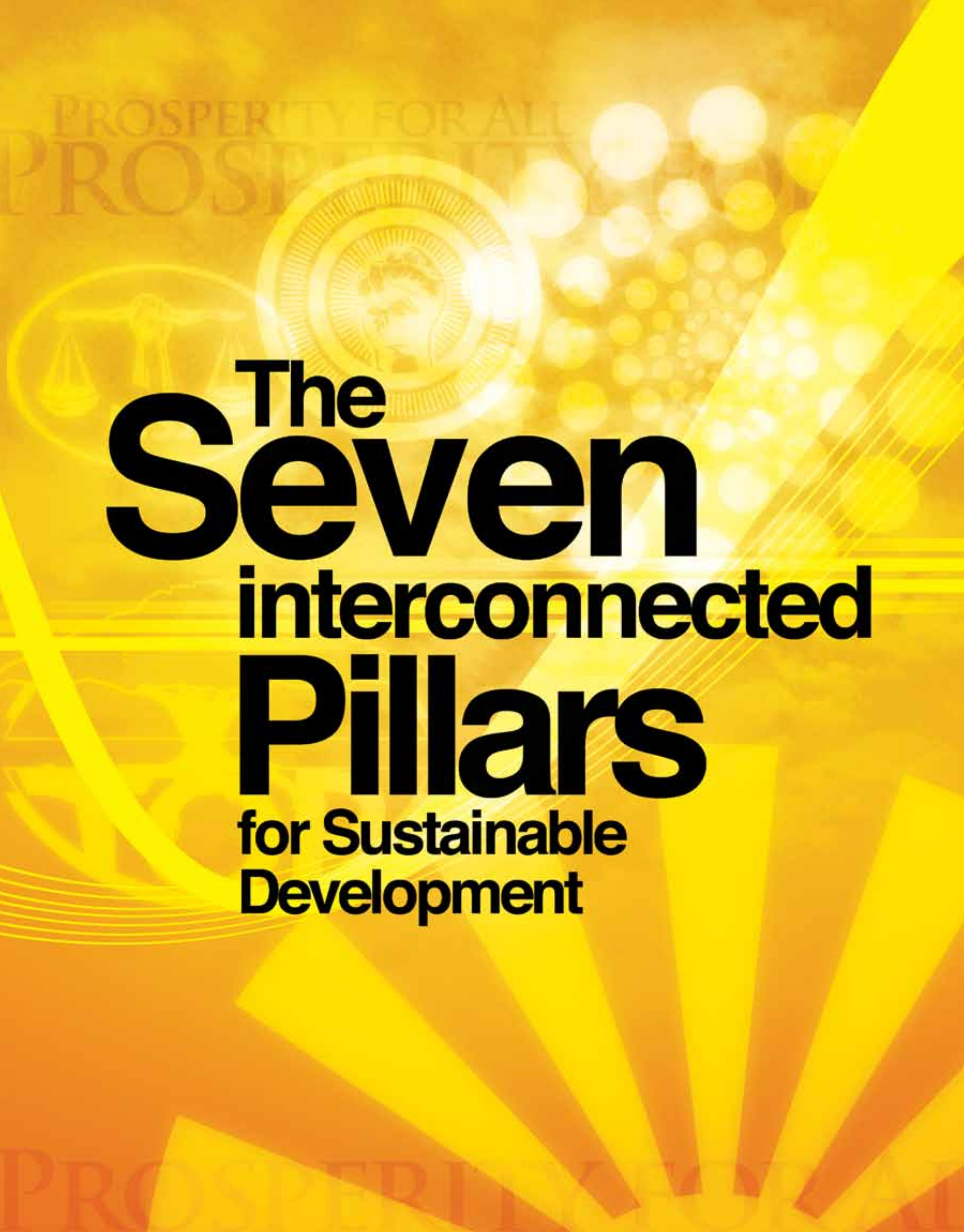
**W**e are guided by the principle that the highest mission of society is the development of its citizens. Accordingly the commitment of our government is to promote a process of people-centred development.

To achieve our mission, we have built our policy on seven (7) Development Pillars, which are interconnected and which constitute the cornerstones of our strategy for sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago.

Our government will embrace the richness and beauty of our people's great diversity to nurture a more humane and cohesive society. Unity in Diversity will inspire the harmony which is so vital to national progress. Our commitment to the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago is informed by our commitment to our Declaration of Principles and our Declaration of Values.

We understand sustainable development to mean that we leverage our resources and apply our effort in such a way that we produce more than we consume, that our development strategy will take fundamental principles of environmental sustainability into account and that as we accelerate the pace of development in the society we will also secure the best interest of future generations.





**The  
Seven  
interconnected  
Pillars  
for Sustainable  
Development**



## SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### **PILLAR 1: People-Centred Development – We Need Everyone and All Can Contribute**

In a country of 1.3 million people, the optimum contribution of each and every citizen is crucial. In a knowledge-driven economy, a strong basic education system and significant participation in tertiary education make a decisive difference. Accordingly, we commit to making human development a central thrust through the education system and through the creation of other infrastructure to support lifelong learning, skills building, institutional strengthening and the building of a competitive economy.

### **PILLAR 2: Poverty Eradication and Social Justice – Preference for Poor and Disadvantaged**

The number of people who continue to live under the poverty line is about 20%. For an energy-rich nation, this is totally unacceptable. Social Justice demands that abject poverty be reduced and ultimately eradicated. All our citizens are entitled to a sustainable livelihood and the gap between the haves and the have-nots must be closed. The issues of poverty eradication, closing the divide between the rich and the poor and providing a safety network for the poor and vulnerable, are fundamental to the strategy of development that we embrace.

### **PILLAR 3: National and Personal Security – Human Security for Peace and Prosperity**

This is a critical area for our country and has been for some time. Trinidad and Tobago will not be able to design a desirable future unless law and order, and security of the person and of property can be addressed in a context in which all citizens can feel that justice can and will be done.

We will seek to transform the society to create a just and fair environment. We recognise that lawlessness and disorder contribute to the atmosphere in which criminal activity thrives and we will address this challenge head on. But we will also focus on addressing social issues which nurture an environment where crime tends to flourish. We will rethink the prison system, reorganise the justice system and make interventions of a proactive and preventative nature. At the centre of our focus will be human security and the establishment of a regime of peace, security and prosperity on a sustainable basis for our nation.

### **PILLAR 4: Information and Communication Technologies – Connecting T&T and Building the New Economy**

Information and communication technologies (ICT) and the systems that they can create are fundamental to the development of every modern, progressive society.

The ICT backbone, linked to the competencies of a well educated population, provide the required support for effective communication, information sharing and knowledge management. We will expand the country's internet connection capabilities so that every citizen will be able to have access and conduct business for a wide range of governmental services. IT-based learning

will be infused in education at primary and secondary levels to support and complement other forms of teaching, learning and basic research.

### **PILLAR 5: A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy – Building on the Native Genius of Our People**

In a world in which innovation is the decisive competitive advantage, human initiative and creative capacity represent an enormous asset. Institutional frameworks need to be established to make human capacity building possible on a sustainable basis. In this context, we will create a society in which creativity and creation are encouraged and rewarded. We will thus encourage and develop strong linkages among our creative sectors, technological sectors, design sectors and our education and academic sectors. The energy economy, while vital to our sustenance now, cannot be viewed as the basis of our sustainability. Already the services sector contributes more to employment than any other sector and significantly to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Therefore, it is vital that we provide critical support to this sector, infusing elements of the creative economy in all other sectors while seeking opportunities for the establishment of niche, skills-intensive manufacturing in order to ensure that our economy is resilient and that there are long-term economic opportunities for our people – opportunities which will lead to higher standards of living and a better quality of life for all.

### **PILLAR 6: Good Governance – People Participation**

The focus in this area will be on three (3) key elements for the purpose of ensuring transparency, accountability, participation and effective representation as essential principles of good

governance. These are:

- strengthening existing institutions
- enhancing democracy
- strengthening execution and delivery capacity.

We will enhance democracy by strengthening existing institutions and by establishing new institutions or appropriate infrastructure to support accountability, transparency, consultation, participation and consensus-building and more meaningful representation. We will emphasise restructuring of government delivery systems to make government more responsive to the needs of the people.

We recognise that the people are sovereign and that the government is the servant of the people. We will support the separation of powers among key institutions in the society such as Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary and we will strengthen the autonomy of institutions, which have been systematically undermined over time, to support a functioning democratic governance system. We will promote a climate of national dialogue within a framework of civility and consensus-building. We will initiate a process of consultation to rewrite the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The objective of constitution reform will be to establish a framework for good, responsive governance and to nurture and build a participatory culture and to strengthen democracy. This will move us away from the culture of maximum leadership and develop a politics of inclusion, rather than the present system of winner takes all.

### **PILLAR 7: Foreign Policy – Securing Our Place in the World**

Trinidad and Tobago is a small state, an archipelagic island-state. We are part of CARICOM, which



consists of a number of other small island states that share a common history, as well as aspirations for progress and achievement. We are one of 84 countries in the world with population size of under three (3) million and it is imperative that we structure our foreign policy to support and advance our objectives for sustainable national development, progress, peace and security for our 1.3 million people. From a foreign policy perspective, we will work in concentric circles, beginning with CARICOM, in an increasingly connected and interdependent world, to secure space and opportunity in the world for our country and our region. We will strike an appropriate balance

between bilateral and multilateral initiatives. The entire thrust of our international relations strategy will be to achieve the national goals and objectives that we set for ourselves and to work with others, wherever and whenever mutual interests and objectives meet, to advance common cause. We see the international arena and the world system as a space of opportunity to build partnerships, to leverage resources and to influence the direction of decision-making regionally, across the hemisphere and globally. We appreciate fully the need to harness talent, knowledge and experience and to build competence to achieve foreign policy goals.





**The First  
120  
Days**





## 120 DAYS OF IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Every child going on to secondary school from the SEA will be provided with a laptop to begin their secondary school education.
2. We will begin addressing the issue of securing and expanding GATE.
3. We will rescind the property tax.
4. We will establish a working committee to review all programmes targeted at poverty alleviation and social support to make recommendations to:
  - a. Strengthen synergy, reach and impact through rationalisation and integration
  - b. Help households to step up to prosperity and to reduce the number of people classified as poor by 2% each year.
5. We will begin an aggressive programme to fix all leaks in WASA's pipelines, and establish an emergency response unit for monitoring system dysfunction, unplanned disruptions and crisis management.
6. We will coordinate integrated action on water resources management, drainage, irrigation, flooding, water capture, conservation, sustainable food production and food security through synergistic deployment of human resources and equipment under state control in collaboration with private contractors.
7. In partnership with CBOs and NGOs our government will release appropriate resources from the Green Fund to reforest areas that were burnt during the past dry season.
8. We will simultaneously begin the rehabilitation and paving of existing access roads and construction of new ones.
9. We will begin the process of establishing a Ministry of the People.

10. We will begin a review process for the minimum wage.
11. We will prepare an immediate action plan for containing criminal activities and reducing the number of murders – this first phase will be from June 2010 to December 2010.
12. We will begin to identify and address the fundamental challenges to the effective management of law and order.
13. We will deploy police on the streets, on the beat and in the communities and increase police presence everywhere.
14. We will initiate a process to make every police station a centre for crime containment and reduction, crime fighting, community policing, statistical information gathering and communication linked to the National Operations centre and we will establish five (5) model stations as the pilot.
15. We will begin the process of reviewing the laws and institutions, which address white-collar crime with a view to strengthening the laws.
16. We will strengthen the National Security Council to link intelligence gathering and assessment with strategy and execution in crime fighting.
17. We will replace the Senior Citizens' Grant with Old Age Pension and increase it to \$3,000.
18. We will look at the immediate challenges of each hospital and determine what needs to be done to make an immediate difference in the lives of citizens seeking care and we will act immediately on these – whether it is 50 more beds in a hospital, a vital piece of much-needed equipment or improving the effectiveness of delivery of emergency patient care.
19. We will establish a LIFE fund for life-saving surgery for children (\$100m). This fund will be administered by an independent board in a fair, equitable, transparent and accountable manner.
20. We will begin the introduction of camera technology at traffic lights and set into motion an efficient system of ticketing offenders.
21. Each minister will be required to present a one-year action agenda for consideration and approval by Cabinet after consultation with senior ministerial staff within thirty (30) working days of swearing in. Each ministerial action agenda, once approved, will be included in the next budget.
22. Each ministry will be required to begin work on a five-year strategic plan within the first 60 days for completion by February 2011 within the framework of our manifesto.
23. We will establish an Economic Development Board which will consult with stakeholders and play an advisory role in policy formulation.
24. We will establish a Civil Society Board, to strengthen the voice and influence of NGOs and civil society organisations.
25. We will initiate consultation to develop a coherent export strategy, an industrial policy linked to knowledge formation and a national services industries competitiveness strategy with key stakeholders.





26. We will initiate a forensic audit of Petrotrin and other state bodies, where there are grounds for suspicion of misconduct similar to what transpired in UDeCOTT.
27. We will establish a legislative agenda, aligned to our one-year action plan to establish the sequence of flow of bills to Parliament in the first year.
28. We will establish a timetable for constitution reform beginning with consultations.
29. We will work with the Central Bank, CSO and the public service to determine the true condition of the country's finances and the state of the economy and the condition of projects to share that information with our citizens.
30. Within the 120-day period, we will also share with our citizens our priorities for action during our first budgetary period.
31. We will formulate a project plan for completion of all infrastructural projects currently in train in Tobago.
32. We will establish a Ways and Means Committee to formulate a project plan on a phased basis to make all government public services more accessible to residents of Tobago.





# **Good Governance**

**t h r o u g h e f f e c t i v e**

**Representation,  
Transparency  
& Accountability**





## PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

### The People are Sovereign

Our government will create a continuing awareness among our People that they have a right to participate in the Governance of our country. We will incorporate mechanisms which will permit the Voice of the People to be heard and to be taken into account in the Policies which we adopt as a Government. Some of the actions that we will take are:

#### Constitutional Reform

As a matter of urgency, our government will engage the population in consultations for Constitutional Reform. We will observe the bedrock principle that the Constitution should emerge out of the collective aspirations, will and judgment of the people of Trinidad & Tobago. The difference will be that consultations will inform and influence documents produced and positions taken by Government. Our Government will

table amendments to provide for and/or strengthen provisions for the following, as may be required:

- Checks and balances to safeguard against the abuse of power
- Respect for the voices of minorities, while acknowledging the will of the majority
- A free press unfettered by government intimidation and uncompromised by government preference
- Access to official information
- Integrity in public life
- Containment and Eradication of corruption
- The introduction of Procurement Legislation which is fair, efficient and transparent
- Mandatory provisions for making Local Government an integral part of the governance process
- A right of recall for non-performing parliamentary representatives
- Fixed election dates for national and local elections

- Mechanisms for a referendum process
- Limiting the Prime Minister to two successive terms as Head of Government
- Rules governing the conduct of the Government



and political parties during an election period.

We will establish a Constitution Commission to engage in the widest possible consultation as a pre-requisite to constitutional reform. We strongly believe that the relationship between the Tobago House of Assembly and the Central Government needs to be revisited, with particular reference to the aspirations of the people of Tobago. The terms of the Constitution Commission will extend to the legislative provisions touching upon the THA as well as examination of the best way to achieve a mutually respectful and satisfying relationship between Tobago and Trinidad within the framework of a sustainable unitary state.

### **Local Government**

Genuine democracy requires effective representation, transparency, participation, accountability to change the lives of people in our Communities and to alter their relationship with government.

We will provide citizens and communities with the

opportunity to determine what priorities, projects and services will be delivered to their respective communities to ensure that Regional Corporations and Municipalities discharge their responsibility for basic infrastructure, maintenance, services and other facilities and support systems.

We will provide Local Government with the necessary funding and other resources from the Central Government, within the current legislative and regulatory framework to enable them to deliver quality services to the communities.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION**

#### **Actions our Government will take**

- Devolution of authority and resources, within national policy guidelines, from central government ministries such as Community Development, Housing, Social Welfare, Sports, Planning, Environment etc.
- Equitable financial allocation to regions
- Adoption of a much more decentralised model for regional development planning
- Collaborative governance procedures
- Regional coordination of the delivery of water, electricity, telephones and other basic infrastructure and services
- Community-based security and rehabilitation arrangements
- Expanded responsibilities and increased compensation for local representatives
- Establish mechanisms to ensure high performance and accountability.

### **PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE**

#### **Mechanisms our Government will introduce -**

- Establish a Civil Society Board voted for by delegates of civil society organizations



- Civil Society Board to consult with Stakeholder Advisory Councils with respect to key civil society sectors
- The Stakeholder Advisory Councils will provide a vehicle for sector experts to make a meaningful contribution to economic development and foster commitment to implementation of specific strategies for development
- The Stakeholder Advisory Councils and the communities will be consulted by the Economic Development Board on matters related to the relevant sectors.



#### **Direct Citizen Participation**

- Establish an internet portal, "E-view", for the people to express their views on development
- Ensure that Broadband service is available countrywide
- Establish government-funded, free internet cafés in communities across the country

#### **Local Government Involvement of the People**

- Promote a system of Local Government which empowers the people in their respective communities
- Communities will define community problems

- and priorities and propose solutions
- Local Government bodies will consult with and take into account the facilities and services which each community considers to be matters of priority.

#### **Equitable Distribution of State Resources**

- Establish an independent Economic Development Board (EDB)
- EDB to consult with stakeholder advisory councils
- EDB to make recommendations on:
  - fair and equitable distribution of national revenue among Central Government, Tobago and Local Government Bodies
  - establishment of a Natural Disaster Fund and LIFE Fund to support life-saving surgery for sick children
  - prioritisation and optimisation of government expenditure
  - appraisal of feasibility studies for proposed capital expenditure

#### **Consensus Building**

- E-view will have a section dedicated to each Local Government region to enable community members to voice their opinions and make recommendations.
- The Local Government bodies will present reports to the Central Government outlining the needs of the communities for incorporation into the National Development Plan and will be held accountable for execution of matters under their jurisdiction.
- Every Local Government authority will prepare a strategic plan based on the National Development Plan for Execution.



## TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

### Strategic Planning

- Each ministry will prepare a draft strategic plan.
- Cabinet will approve and publish the strategic plans of each Ministry.
- Cabinet will determine policy guidelines for operation of each ministry.
- Ministers will have full authority and responsibility for accomplishing approved strategic plan within the policy guidelines.
- Ministers will submit periodic reports to Cabinet and to Parliament so that implementation of strategic plans can be monitored and so that ministries are accountable for performance.
- Cabinet will take collective responsibility for the implementation of strategic plans by ministries.
- All plans will be aligned to a national framework for sustainable development and together constitute an action agenda to achieve prosperity for all.

### Procurement

- Prioritise the passing of procurement legislation and appropriate rules and regulations
- Establish equitable arrangements for an efficient procurement system ensuring transparency and accountability by all government departments and state enterprises.

## ENSURING INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT

### Auditor General

- Empower the Auditor General to conduct compliance, financial, operational, forensic, performance and value audits
- Ensure that adequate resources are made available to the Auditor General
- Empower the Auditor General to engage external auditors to assist in performance of these functions
- Strengthen the Auditor General's office generally and empower it to perform its watchdog role and to ensure good governance.

## STRENGTHENING REPRESENTATION

- We will strengthen the committee system of Parliament to play a more effective role in matters such as foreign policy and energy policy.
- We will encourage full parliamentary debate on controversial issues.
- We will establish a Ministry of the People within the first 30 days in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Minister of the People shall be a member of the Cabinet. This ministry shall interface with every other ministry to expeditiously resolve issues which are, in particular, time sensitive but which are not adequately being handled by the bureaucracy. Each ministry will be mandated to designate an appropriate officer at Director level or higher to be the liaison between that ministry





and the Ministry of the People.

- We will strengthen the responsive capacity of Parliamentary representatives by strengthening their constituency offices and establishing a link with the Ministry of the People.

### **SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT IN AND OF THE COMMUNITY**

Initiatives will be taken or mechanisms put in place to facilitate what is deemed feasible among the following:

- Support for charitable causes in the community
- Maintenance of homes for the aged, as well as support to homes for battered and abused women and children
- Lifestyle campaigns to achieve healthy lifestyles, to fight social ills, including drugs, HIV/AIDS and

domestic violence amongst others

- Environmental campaigns to effect a more harmonious relationship between human beings and nature
- Facilitate youth development programmes
- Partnership with the NGO community
- Celebration of festivals and national holidays
- Neighbourhood development policy
- Attract investments to local communities in collaboration with regional business organisations and relevant government agencies
- Crime fighting and the enforcement of laws for example, praedial larceny and neighbourhood watch
- Poverty alleviation
- Traffic planning and management.

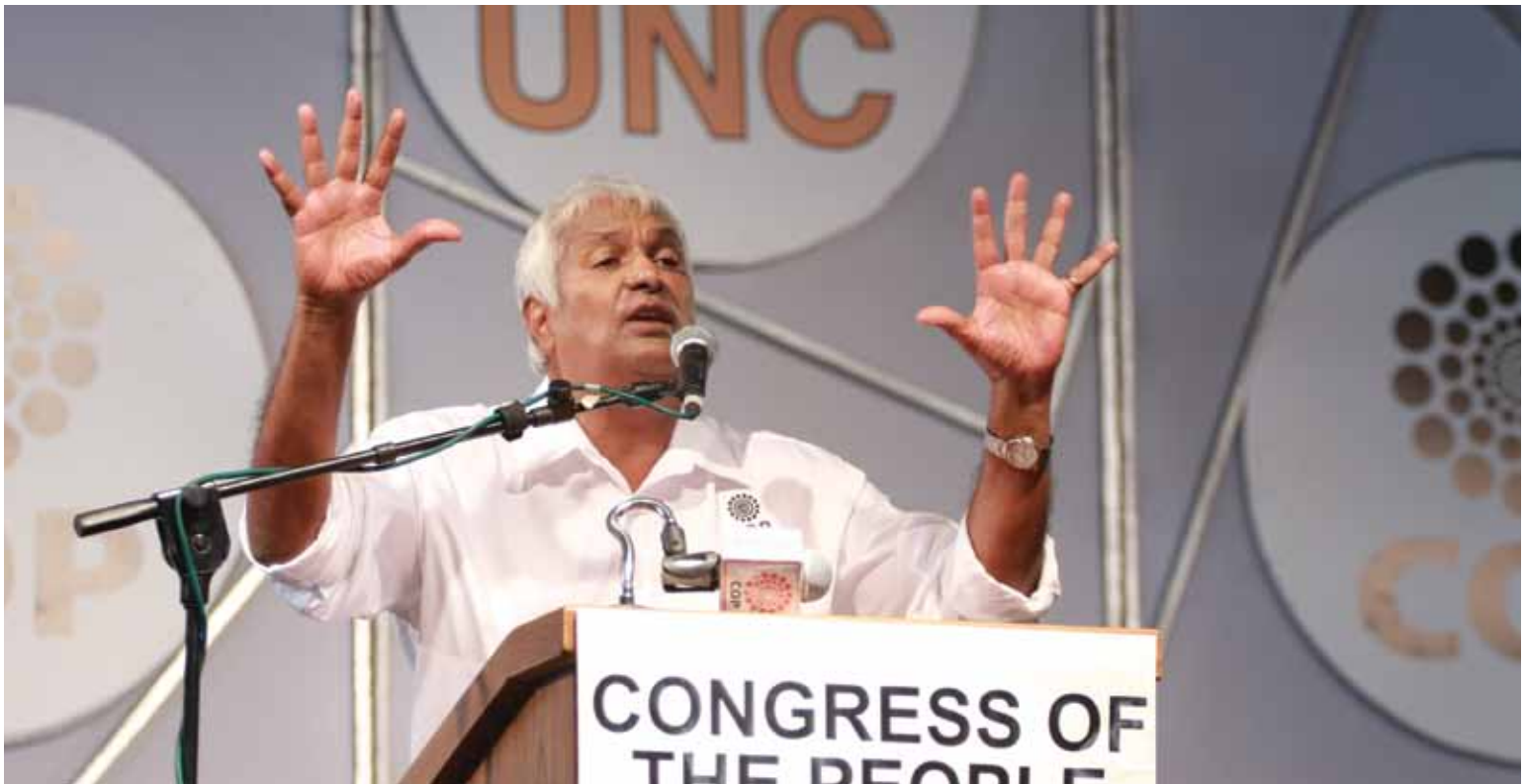






# **Economic Transformation**





## INITIATIVES TO TRANSFORM OUR ECONOMY

### Ensuring Fiscal Sanity

The current government has pursued ill-conceived policies, which have resulted in distortion in the economy and mismanagement of our resources. Our approach to development will be different. We will build sustainability into the process, begin a restructuring of the economy, and immediately reorganise our economic strategy. We will ensure that strategy and policy achieve the following:

- Maximum development of our people ensuring that the needs of the poor and disadvantaged are given priority
- An enabling environment for growth and expansion of locally-owned businesses
- A sense of ownership and belonging by everyone

in our society

- Economic opportunity for all so that individuals and families can establish a firm basis to control their destiny by building sustainable livelihoods and being productively involved in their own economic development
- The principles of self-reliance, entrepreneurship and competitiveness will inform approaches to economic participation and development
- Sustainable growth and diversification of the economy will be key objectives
- The quality of life of our people will improve with general prosperity in our country and a more equitable sharing of the wealth generated from such prosperity
- Outside of Energy, our foreign investment approach will be to link investment to throughput from the tertiary sector to create information-based knowledge and creative industries that will tap the creativity of our people and provide high-end, more rewarding jobs
- The Energy sector, the focus will be on investment and partnership opportunities in third- and



fourth-generation renewable energy alternatives linked to research.



widening, expanding and deepening domestic value-added production and by managing to achieve a low rate of inflation. Beyond creating an appropriate environment, we will:

- Encourage local and international firms to list on the stock exchange
- Create and nurture a competitive business environment
- Develop long-term investment instruments like tradable deposit certificates
- Identify strategic sectors and incentivise them to elicit private sector investment to enhance and accelerate the diversification process
- Consult with the credit union movement to strengthen credit unions through legislation and effective supervisory mechanisms

**Economic, Monetary and Fiscal Policy**

We are committed to the following as essential components of our economic, monetary and fiscal policy:

1. **Fiscal Probity.** There will be zero tolerance of corrupt practices and unwise and wasteful expenditure. We will strengthen and make more efficient the Board of Inland Revenue and Customs.
2. **Enabling Environment.** As a prerequisite for investment and growth we will facilitate an enabling environment. We will review and redress regulatory barriers to investment, as well as processes and procedures that unnecessarily increase the cost of doing business.
3. **Aligning Policy.** We will establish a framework for government's fiscal policies and Central Bank's monetary policies to be more effectively aligned to achieve national goals and objectives.
4. **Investment Environment.** We will develop strategies to create an environment for investment by increasing domestic savings, facilitating competitive interest rates, securing property rights, by establishing good governance practices, by

5. **Research and Innovation.** We will foster a culture of research and innovation by allocating resources and providing incentives for research and development particularly in the non-energy and services sector. Here our target will be to increase R&D spending to at least 3% of GDP over the next 10 years. We will establish a Council for Competitiveness and Innovation.
6. **Balancing Spending.** We will seek to find the balance between consumption and savings. Consumption satisfies present needs, while savings provides for the needs of future generations. We



must cater to both to support a thriving economy as well as achieve sustainable development.

7. **Equitable Distribution.** We will address strategies to ensure more equitable income distribution to contain and correct the weakening of the social structure and the climate of instability that it engenders.
8. **Resource Allocation.** We will emphasise and seek to promote the efficient use of resources, including human skills, natural resources and capital, to enhance productivity, which is vital to economic growth and the creation of meaningful and sustainable jobs.
9. **Diversification.** We will develop innovative strategies to achieve sustainable growth and diversification of the Economy in order to reduce our dependence on energy, create good jobs and generate new sources of wealth creation.
10. **Financial Crisis.** We will take action as required to address issues such as the financial crisis in C L Financial and the HCU in the best interest of people in a timely and transparent manner.

11. **Economic Planning.** The focus will be on sustainable development, competitiveness, integration and synergy, diversification, strengthening existing sectors and clusters and creating new ones and linking research to wealth creation, innovation and competitiveness.

**12. Institutional Arrangements:**

- Establish an Economic Development Board (EDB) to be staffed by nationals on a merit basis drawn from academia, the professions, civil society, labour and industry to advise on economic policy after consulting with the Communities and stakeholder advisory councils
- Revisit the legislation establishing the Stabilisation and Heritage Fund with a view to delinking the two funds. The mechanisms for contributions and withdrawals will be established for transparency and clarity.
- Strengthening, resourcing and reorganising the Central Statistical Office to ensure provision of accurate and meaningful information in a timely and efficient manner.





**Crime  
Reduction  
and Human  
Security**





## ATTACKING CRIME, NURTURING HUMANITY

### Making Our Society Safe and Our Citizens Secure

Economic progress on a sustainable basis and meaningful democracy are not possible unless crime is brought under control and there can be some assurance of human safety and security. There are structural problems that facilitate crime. Among these are illegal drugs, alienation from the political process, the lack of participation and consultation, the economic arrangements which have led to a growing divide between the haves and have-nots, in addition to a very obvious moral and spiritual malaise. Unhappiness in the society is not only reflected in crime but also in increased mental illness, vagrancy and homelessness, as well as the number of protests and demonstrations, which have developed for several years now.

The current government neither has the will nor the competence to deal with the lawlessness and indiscipline pervading our society and which feeds the environment within which crime flourishes. The current situation speaks to a moral decay that now pervades the society propelled by a corrupt and ineffective leadership, which considers the loss of lives “collateral damage”. Unless we remove this nightmare, investment in education, investment in the promotion of sports, the arts and social services will have limited impact and the transformative benefits we seek will never be fully realised.

Our government will take a multipronged approach that will address the political, economic, social, technological and managerial dimensions required to reinstate safety and security. Punitive sanctions alone will not solve the crime problem. The first step we will take involves addressing the issue of white-collar crime and corruption, the second addresses the fundamental challenges of effective management of the institutions of law and order, the third requires the reorganisation of our education system, the fourth requires us to design productive sectors to provide viable alternatives



to criminal activities and the fifth, revolves around the set of initiatives listed below.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

- We will support the management of the Police service to ensure that there are proper levels of policing and hold it accountable for effective delivery through the establishment of clear measurable benchmarks for crime reduction and containment
- We will establish a National Security Operational Centre (NSOC), involving use of technology to set up a real-time centralised system for tracking crime. This will involve equipping every Police vehicle with a Global Positioning System (GPS) and linking with every police station through an appropriate technology platform. Abuse of equipment will not be tolerated
- We will enforce traffic laws. A majority of crime involves the use of vehicles. Enforcement of road traffic laws and regulation would serve as a major deterrent to such illegal activity. A variety of mechanisms including Radar Speed Detection Guns will be used in this
- We will use GPS bracelets on offenders who are on probation but are still deemed a security risk (so that their movement can be monitored) and if legislation is required, we will take the necessary steps
- We will guard our coastline through the 360°

radar linked to all branches of the security services. Connectivity will be monitored and we will insist on staying connected.

- We will establish the National Security Protective Services Training Academy to improve capacity of our police officers to perform at their optimal levels
- Training programmes and merit systems will be established to motivate police to new ideals of justice
- We will strengthen the National Security Council to link intelligence, strategy and execution in crime fighting
- We will modernise physical infrastructure and amenities to boost morale and improve productivity
- We will implement the criminal injuries and compensation laws and adjust the measure of compensation

## RESOCIALISING AWAY FROM CRIME

- Human Security – The basic necessities of food, shelter and work must be accessible to all.
- Schooling – We need to strengthen the secondary system to ensure that students move on to further education or to productive roles in the economy.
- Recidivism – The prison system is replete with young offenders and more seasoned offenders who keep passing through a revolving door.



Young, first-time offenders convicted of relatively minor offences could be paroled and engaged in community service. We must move to a serious strategy for rehabilitation and reintegration into the society and an economy that is linked to education and skills building.

- Community Policing – This is important for policing, community building, and crime prevention and will be executed as a strategy that acknowledges that police presence in the community is an important deterrent to crime.
- A Household by Household Approach to Poverty Reduction – It has been established that there is a link between poverty and crime. Our crime reduction strategy must be supported by a poverty reduction strategy that is different in that it would tackle the different age groups within a household to ensure education and skills for the young, second chances for dropouts that bring them into productive endeavour, special programmes for women, skills programmes for the unskilled willing to work and targeted programmes for the elderly and persons living with disabilities

## OVERHAULING CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### From arrest to determination to release

- We will re-engineer the justice system in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure swift justice from the point of arrest to the final determination of all criminal matters
- Introduce and implement legislation which will rebalance the justice system in favour of victims with emphasis on protection for the rights of victims, witnesses and jurors
- Restructure the justice system to ensure that criminal and civil matters are separately addressed and that there are appropriate resources and linkages between the Ministry of National Security and the relevant legal

ministries to ensure effective management of criminal cases. There may be need to streamline the Attorney General's office to address these multiple functions and to achieve multiple objectives for prosecution of criminals and streamlining the justice system for efficiency

- Expand and implement Community Service sentencing for certain categories of crime
- Overhaul the penal system so that prisoners have a real opportunity to turn around their lives reducing the revolving door syndrome of repeat offenders
- Facilitate the further establishment of half-way houses in conjunction with NGOs to assist in reintegration of past offenders into society.

## NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

As part of a National Disaster Preparedness Plan, the protective services, defense force and civil society must engage in continuous "response training". The Citizens and members of our entire society must be sensitised to their role. Such a plan must also be acceptable to the Police and Fire Services as an integrated plan to which all are committed in a situation of disaster.





**Human  
Development,  
Inclusivity,  
Diversity,  
Wellness  
& Competitiveness**





## EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**Building the Foundation for an Intelligent  
Nation and a Creative Economy**

### EARLY CHILDHOOD, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

**E**ducation is one of the major pillars of our economic development given that knowledge, information and human capital are the main economic assets of advanced nations. We will change our approach to ensure that our young people are literate, numerate and possess critical thinking skills. We will embark on curriculum reform to address the needs of 21st century development and the labour market needs of the society.

At the pre-school level, self-confident, creative, enterprising children must be the goal. As they learn and play, work independently and with others to make

progress, we must build the foundation for personal achievement, as well as co-operation and collaboration with others to achieve mutually satisfying goals. The primary school must ensure that our children are literate, numerate, and aware of e-learning and internet-based opportunities. The foundation must be laid so that they will have a love of learning and become critical thinkers, use their creativity and have an entrepreneurial outlook. We will also ensure that there would be a focus on all learners not just the academically gifted.

We will, therefore, embark on curriculum reform to address the needs of 21st century development and to build a foundation for responsible citizenship and the optimisation of multiple talents, including talent in the arts and sports.

At the secondary level, skills learnt in primary school will be strengthened and enhanced and a more participatory education strategy that is problem-based and dedicated to producing problem solvers and solution providers will be introduced.

- We will rework curricula for the early childhood care and education and the primary school to prepare the ground for seamless transition between the two. The focus will be on building self-confidence, the development of social skills, strengthening attention span and the ability to focus, and on promoting creativity at the early childhood level to build the foundation for 21st century literacy, critical thinking, creativity and entrepreneurship through general knowledge at primary level



- We will reform the curriculum at secondary level to ensure that the school environment is more conducive to learning, intellectual development, creativity and the development of critical thinking skills and will include music, art, drama, creative arts, information technology, science and technology, sports, the history and culture of all our peoples and develop a sensitivity for ecological concerns in our young in addition to building absorptive capacity to go on to further learning

- We will incorporate learning diversity, lifelong learning, general knowledge about our people and our history and civic responsibility into the curriculum
- We will promote character-based education, ethics, strengthen the work ethic and introduce value-balanced programmes as critical components of the curriculum
- We will strengthen the range of technical vocational offerings to increase options and choice across the system
- The curriculum for all other certification programmes for teachers (including Secondary Education Management Programme (SEMP)) will be reviewed to evaluate philosophy, relevance and competence-building concerns. In keeping with the philosophical underpinnings of diversity in teaching/learning, teacher education to support a curriculum for transformation will be strengthened. We will work with higher educational institutions to strengthen teaching quality and relevance in the secondary and primary system
- The connected classroom will be central to educational transformation, as well as teacher education. Connectivity technologies will be tapped to link teachers with teachers, teachers with students, and students with students
- Mathematics, language skills and competence in English, as well as science and technology will receive special attention
- We will provide specialised and targeted support for troubled students, students with disabilities and families to reduce and remove some of the barriers to full participation in the learning process

**Focus on Literacy Development**

- We will provide increased government funding to NGOs working on literacy programmes.





- We will expand the meaning of literacy to include a second language in the curriculum at primary, secondary and tertiary level drawing local linguists into the system.
- We will encourage reading as a pastime and enhance the image of reading in the eyes of young people by creating an infrastructure of support and of incentives.

#### **Community partners in education**

- We will deploy lifelong skills within the community through existing delivery programmes within the teaching and learning curriculum to strengthen the skills base of the country through adult learning opportunities.

#### **A “Work Study” Learning System**

- A system of entrepreneurship and apprenticeship will be encouraged whereby all major industrial firms will be encouraged to operate apprenticeship programmes for

youths so inclined and to engage interns from the educational system. This will support learning and skills transfer, strengthen workforce competence, support industry and promote workplace readiness in the young.

#### **Facilitating Persons Living with Disabilities and Special Needs**

- We will develop an effective special education programme.
- We will establish a system with infrastructure to ensure early detection and treatment of learning disorders, medical, psychological, social and other problems that may hinder the learning process.
- We will encourage and partner with all schools to develop adequate facilities and procure equipment to enrol differently-abled students. A programme to provide financial, emotional and mentoring support for the students will be initiated.



- We will expand the number of guidance counsellors available to meet the demands of these challenging times and we will establish a system of psychological support for children in schools.

**Improve the Administration of Education**

- We will establish a clearing house in the Ministry of Education to swiftly address the backlog of vacancies for teachers and administrators at the primary and secondary level to facilitate expeditious action by the Teaching Service Commission.
- We will implement a system that allows for the seamless replacement of teachers who are proceeding on pre-approved leave or retiring.
- We will strengthen the administration of our schools by allowing for more senior staff to be retained in schools with large populations.
- We will strengthen the partnership between state and denominational boards and revitalise the funding formula for capital and recurrent expenditure in all these schools.
- We will decentralise the current education system by establishing autonomous regional authorities that can effectively coordinate, manage and improve performance in the schools.
- The Ministry of Education will establish national

policy, collaborate regionally and internationally to constantly improve and strengthen a quality regional system and support and monitor the achievements of national goals.

- We will strengthen community participation on a school by school basis to improve quality, relevance and responsiveness and to support educational achievement for all at the school level.
- Given a more decentralised and participatory process, principals will have more authority to manage their schools and principals and staff will be held accountable for performance based on established performance targets agreed by the school within the framework of national policy. The emphasis will be on quality education.

**Facilitating Access to Education**

- We will expand the Public Transport System dedicated to the education system especially for young people in remote areas.
- We will link food and nutrition strategies, and health strategies to human development strategies through the school system.

**Quality in Teaching and Learning**

- We will strengthen quality in teaching and learning by ensuring that teachers are trained, educated and certified at all levels of the system from pre-school up. Our aim is to further



professionalise the Teaching Service.

- We will strengthen the system, work with the union on professional upgrade and professional standards and offer a system of incentives to attract the best teachers to the system.

### **Addressing Known Weaknesses**

- At primary school all children will be pre-tested to address various challenges which individual students may have such as poor eyesight, dyslexia and other challenges that can be overcome. Counseling and psychological support will also be provided in schools.
- At secondary school level we will strategically address the issue of school dropouts and the need for improved performance at the CXC level on a school by school basis.

### **TERTIARY EXPANSION LINKED TO ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**

Human development is central to our overall strategy for sustainable development. In this regard, tertiary education has been identified consistently as one of the most important factors in human capital development.

Human capital output at the tertiary level is a major contributor to economic growth and sustainable development. Our principal strategy, therefore, in tertiary education is to expand and develop tertiary education until we achieve a 60% participation rate, to rationalise the tertiary sector to avoid duplication, wastage and needless overlap, to build efficiencies and effectiveness in the system and to support accountability and synergy in the sector. Concurrently, we will rationalise programmes to provide graduates who meet the needs of key development sectors and

areas in which the business community has identified shortages.

Two vital imperatives are necessary – strengthening of the primary and secondary levels to ensure that enough students are adequately prepared to go on to further studies and transforming a haphazard and fragmented tertiary sector into a system.

Twelve thousand (12,000) students take the CXC examinations every year, half of them secure less than five (5) CXC passes and an almost equal number



also fail Mathematics and English. The preparation of students at basic education level, therefore, needs to be strengthened and performance levels of larger numbers of students need to be raised, in order to make tertiary education meaningful to at least 60% of each graduating cohort. To address the needs of a diversified group of students graduating from the secondary system, the tertiary sector must cater for this diversity in programme offerings, as well as in learning systems and in teaching methodology.

The fragmented tertiary sector, therefore, must be



rationalised and harmonised into a national tertiary system and steps must be taken, working with other countries in the region and with CARICOM to create a functional and responsive regional tertiary system. UWI as a regional institution and UTT and COSTAATT as national institutions will be central to this strategy as distinct institutions with different mandates but collaborative possibilities.

Beyond strengthening the system, emphasis will be placed on linking tertiary education to a diversifying economy moving in the direction of service-oriented, knowledge-based and creative industries. In fact, we view the throughput from the tertiary sector as creating a skills and talent pool, which will be attractive to investment in knowledge-intensive industries and graduates with the inclination could be guided into entrepreneurial ventures in the knowledge sector with appropriate incentives. Technical and vocational programmes will be integrated into the sector at post secondary and tertiary levels. Emphasis will be placed on practice, as well as theory and tertiary institutions will be encouraged to strengthen their curricula through service learning and other forms of out-of-classroom learning.

A National Commission for Higher Education will guide the sector and we will work with CARICOM and other governments of the region, as well as the Association of Tertiary Institutions to establish a Regional Qualifications Framework and to strengthen quality in a diverse system across the world.

We will leverage an enhanced tertiary system to attract foreign students, and faculty (where appropriate) to deepen the development of the education sector and to build an enhanced research capacity to support the development of a strong knowledge sector and to support the creation of a national innovation system. The vision beyond tertiary expansion supported by





GATE is for a diversified economy, a strong knowledge sector, the proliferation of entrepreneurial initiatives yielding higher end jobs and a better standard of living. To this end, a collaborative strategy with the private sector will be developed to financially support research and innovation. We will maintain and seek to expand the free tertiary education programme.

### **EDUCATION CITY IN ST. AUGUSTINE**

The St. Augustine region will be developed as an integrated centre for academic excellence. We will also develop this region to provide for the establishment of a vibrant service sector linked to the academic community. This will entail facilitating investment in university-related services, such as publications, technology parks, internet cafés and a shopping village plaza specifically geared towards a local and regional student community.

This region is home to the prestigious University of the West Indies (UWI), the Hugh Wooding Law School, Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, the Cipriani Labour College, the School of Accounting and Management, the School of Business and Computer Science and other venerable institutions of higher learning. This region will be developed into a university town in the spirit of Cambridge or Oxford in the United Kingdom or Ithaca in upstate New York but, of course, as a Trinidad and Tobago education city with a distinctly Caribbean flavour.

We will establish a policy framework at the Ministry of Housing to provide subsidies on rent to all students residing in this region and registered at any of those tertiary centres. With the collaboration of the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) we will develop a transport shuttle service for all students coming into this region from the southern and eastern regions so that your children can be taken safely to and from rural communities on the weekends.

We will enter into discussions with all institutions for higher learning to establish a security infrastructure in this area utilising a partnership between the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the private security industry (PSI) to provide a comprehensive, well equipped and strong police presence in this academic village. Our children and our future leaders must be nurtured and protected. Our children must not be the victims of robberies, which are so prevalent today, or kidnapping. Our children must concentrate on their books not bandits; they must think of big ideas not big ransom; they must have dreams not nightmares!

### **GATE**

GATE will be expanded and strengthened and made sustainable to achieve a 60% participation rate at tertiary level in a diversified range of programmes linked to skills building, tertiary expansion and diversity of offerings.

### **TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL**

A large percentage of our workforce is unskilled (upwards of 60%). A significant portion of our high school graduates find themselves at a dead end. Experts indicate that for the 21st century economy we need to create, we require a broad range of technical vocational skills and a large number of people in the workforce attaining at least two more years of education beyond the secondary school level. We will rationalise and expand technical/vocational choices for students at post-secondary and tertiary level and facilitate seamless movement upwards and across the tertiary system through a range of people-friendly, worker-friendly initiatives.



# 2010 Candidates

OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP



**Kamla Persad-Bissessar**  
Siparia





Winston  
Dookeran  
Tunapuna

Makandal Daaga  
Laventille West

Errol McLeod  
Pointe-a-Pierre

Dr. Delmon Baker  
Tobago West

Vernella  
Allyene Toppin  
Tobago East

Jack Warner  
Chaguana West

Dr. Fuad Khan  
Barataria  
San Juan



Annabelle Davis  
Port-of-Spain  
St. Anns West

Gizelle Russell  
Port-of-Spain  
South

Kwasi Mutema  
Laventille East  
Morvant

Herbert Volney  
St. Joseph

Prakash  
Ramadhar  
St. Augustine

Dr. Rupert Griffith  
Toco  
Sangre Grande

Dr. Surujrattan  
Rambachan  
Tabaquite



Rudranath  
Indarsingh  
Couva South

Anil Roberts  
D'abadie  
O'Meara

Anna Maria Mora  
Arouca  
Maloney

Jairam Seemungal  
La Horquetta  
Talparo

Dr. Lincoln Douglas  
Lopinot  
Bon Air West

Rodger Samuel  
Arima

Collin Partap  
Cumuto  
Manzanilla



Nela Khan  
Princes Town

Stacy  
Roopnarine  
Oropouche West

Dr. Roodal  
Moonilal  
Oropouche East

Nyahuma  
M. Obika  
Point Fortin

Nizam Baksh  
Naparima

Clifton De Coteau  
Moruga  
Tableland

Winston  
"Gypsy" Peters  
Mayaro





## TAKING HEALTH CARE TO THE PEOPLE

### From Conception to Exit

Health care is a basic right. The economic development of a country is dependent on the physical well-being of its citizens — your health is your wealth. We will overcome the human and infrastructural constraints to the sector, placing emphasis on wellness and promoting a system which emphasizes preventative medicine.

We shall bring together all the partners inclusive of practitioners, payers, government and patients. We shall encourage investments in health care service delivery. We will establish a universal, all inclusive, health care insurance system for citizens.

#### **We Will Ensure First Class Health Care for the People by:**

- Re-evaluating and implementing a Professional Health Care Management System that makes the best use of existing resources

- Following strengthening of delivery, quality and impact increase the funding of the Public Health Care Sector beyond the 6% of GDP now allocated
- Implementing a country wide Air Ambulance Service, (to function under the National Helicopter Service)
- Establishing Mobile Diagnostic Testing Units.

#### The LIFE Fund

- Set up a special LIFE Fund for life-saving surgery for children (\$100 million). This fund will be administered by an independent board in a fair, equitable, transparent and accountable manner
- Private Sector Incentives will be established to encourage contributions to the LIFE Fund
- Establish Partnership Arrangements with foreign specialist hospitals to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology over time.

#### **Support Patients' Rights**

- Establish a Patient's Authority to investigate allegations of malpractice and patients' complaints
- Implement the Charter of Patient's Rights and Obligations, to ensure the Rights:





- To be seen within 1 hour of your arrival at any public health institution, including emergency rooms.
- To have access to written information for all recommended investigations, treatment options, and post-treatment care
- To obtain non-emergency medical and surgical treatment within 3 months from the time of diagnosis
- To file a complaint to the Patient's Authority and receive satisfactory redress within 60 days
- To choose approved alternative medical treatments within public health institutions.

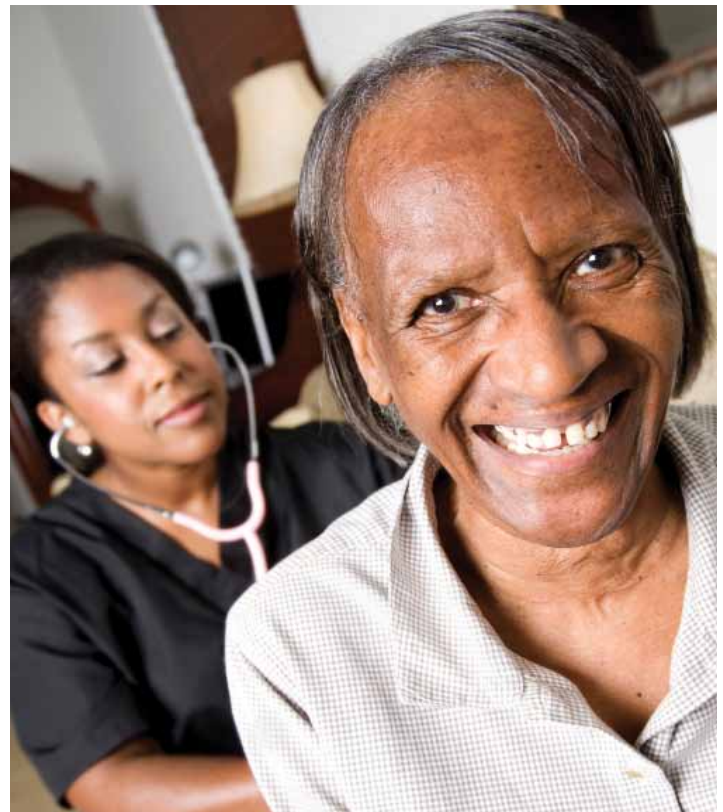
#### **Improve Physical Infrastructure of Public Health Care Facilities**

- Construct new hospitals in the catchment areas of Point Fortin, Arima and Chaguanas and its environs and to upgrade and modernize the Caura Hospital
- Complete construction of Scarborough Hospital
- Upgrade the Port of Spain, San Fernando and Sangre Grande Regional Hospitals and the Arima

- Health Facility
- Fast track completion of Burns Unit at the San Fernando General Hospital and Oncology Centre at Mount Hope
- Ensure Patient-Friendly physical facilities equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment
- Upgrade the Children's Unit at Mount Hope Hospital.

#### **Improve the Operation of Community Health Centres by:**

- Establishing a National Nurse's hotline (24/7)
- Extending opening hours
- Integrating social services with the health services
- Providing community-based specialist clinics, screening programs and multidisciplinary teams



- to provide holistic care
- Providing free medication and glucose testing instruments and supplies including insulin injections
- Establishing preventative health care wellness centres
- Upgrading district health facilities with special emphasis on remote areas
- Expanding and integrating the use of midwifery in the community health systems to provide wider and better neonatal and antenatal care.

**Lifelong Commitment to Health**

- Implement Accreditation Standards for the Health Sector to improve quality and strengthen systems



- Set standards and targets for outsourced medical services and facilities
- Improve capacity within the Ministry of Health to communicate the plans and operations of the Public Health Care Sector to the general public
- Develop a policy to promote healthier lifestyles, with emphasis on sport, nutrition and exercise to tackle the growing problems of obesity, diabetes and hypertension and HIV/AIDS
- Emphasize early diagnostic screening

- Improve benefits to Health Care Workers by:
  - Upgrading benefits offered to nurses and allied health care professionals which would encourage them to remain within the public sector
  - Providing certified customer service training to health care workers.

**Responding to Chronic Diseases, Cardiovascular, Cancer, Diabetes and HIV/AIDS:**

- Wide scale public education program to reduce the incidence of Chronic Diseases
- Provide free care and treatment, including counselling services for persons with Chronic Diseases
- Establish workplace policies with respect to Chronic Diseases with a focus on care for the aged
- Strengthen implementation of the national HIV/AIDS policy
- Develop culturally relevant public sensitization programmes designed to change behaviour and lifestyles and eliminate fear of Chronic Diseases
- Collaborate with NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations in care programs
- Establish the National Aids Coordinating Committee (NACC) as a Statutory Authority
- Strengthen the system of preventative care and early detection throughout the school system
- Review progress on the Oncology Centre with a view to establishing a fully functioning entity within the first term of office.

**Responding to the Mental Health Crisis**

- Mental Health Care will be incorporated into all levels of the Health Care System
- Emphasis will be placed on reintegration of former patients into Society
- The St. Ann’s Mental Hospital will be upgraded.





## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Every Human Being is Important

Mutually agreed policy positions on important issues of concern to all citizens are absolutely necessary to provide the basis for the development and implementation of a new plan of action for the governance and development of Trinidad & Tobago, and its people regardless of race, religion, gender, age, geographical location, sector, or party affiliation.

### AGING POPULATION: LIFE BEGINS AT 60 – A fair deal for older people

There must therefore be a social security system that guarantees to retired persons a decent life. We owe it to our seniors to reward them for their contribution to our nation.

Our Government will:

- Protect the rights of the Elderly.
- Provide incentives for medical students to specialize in Geriatric Medicine to care for our aging population in Trinidad & Tobago.

- Develop school-based programmes to promote interaction between the young and the elderly in their communities.
  - Reinstatement of the Old Age Pension Act. Pensions must be an entitlement and not a grant.
  - Pension laws must be amended to provide for the national and regional portability of pension benefits and for improved pension benefits.
  - Remove all restrictions and qualifications for people to receive an Old Age Pension and thus every citizen will automatically receive a State-funded Old Age Pension upon the attainment of pensionable age.
  - Increase the value of the monthly old aged pension entitlement to \$3,000.

### CHILDREN: RIGHTS AND PROTECTION – Children are the World

Our Government will:

- Implement the provisions of the Children’s Act and operationalize the Children’s Authority.
- Train more pediatricians and make their



services more available in the public health care system.

- Increase measures for early identification and treatment of HIV infected children.
- Strengthening NGOs at the community level to enable them to provide adequate support for intervention with Central and Local Government.
- There is a need to create facilities for displaced youth and youth at risk. No child below the age of sixteen shall be incarcerated for minor offenses.
- Review the National Youth Policy and strengthen it for currency and value to youth and for youth inclusion.

- Institute a regime of tax concessions on devices and apparatus used by the disabled.
- We will also revise the disability grant with a view to increasing benefits.
- We will enhance the support systems for families which have to care for differently-abled members.

### **EMPOWERING THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED**

We recognize the differently-abled as possessing potential which should be developed for the well-being of the individual and the entire nation. We will fully integrate persons with disabilities into the society and provide the highest standards of specialized education, health care and social services to assist them to achieve personal independence, reach their fullest potential and enjoy a decent standard of living. In this regard, our Government will collaborate with NGOs, FBOs and the private sector to deliver programmes to address the needs of the differently-abled.

Our Government will:

- Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full equality, especially in the areas of education, (for example facilities including access to classrooms, washrooms, seating, etc.) employment and accessibility to sites, buildings, services, and land, air and sea transportation.
- The necessary regulatory legislative framework shall be established to ensure equal access to all public spaces and to ensure equity in employment opportunities.







## GENDER EQUITY AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

**Here Every Gender, Creed and Race  
Find an Equal Place**

Our vision is to create a more gender sensitive society with a greater awareness of women's issues and rights. We will shape public policy and implement practices which are gender-sensitive.

Our Government will:

- Champion the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women by promoting gender equity enforced by strong Equal Opportunities Legislation and informed by a National Gender Policy.
- Ensure that the language of all legislation and

- public documents is gender-sensitive.
- Champion the rights of women and mandate that women be adequately represented in the boards of all state-related entities and as commissioners in all statutory authorities.
- Pursue policies to allow women to have flexible working hours in recognition of the dual burden of women at home and at the workplace.
- We will enact legislation which makes it mandatory for all public and private enterprises to have private spaces which are available to mothers who are nursing their children.
- Enact specific legislation to combat sexual harassment in the workplace, enforced by a Sexual Harassment Commission attached to the Ministry of Labour. Public and private corporations will be held responsible for failure to take adequate steps to protect employees from sexual harassment.
- Champion legislation with particular relevance to women's needs including equal pay for equal

work; equal opportunity in the workplace; and universal maternity benefits.

- Provide required resources to the Labour Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour to eliminate exploitation of women in the workplace and to promote decent work and work conditions with appropriate pay.
- Strengthen legislation relating to domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and children; health and safety issues; access to premium health care; antenatal care; and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Promote legislative and cultural reform to ensure that men are protected from abuse as effectively as women.
- Implementation of a comprehensive programme of services to protect victims of domestic violence including:
  - Resurrection and revitalization of the Community Policing Section.
  - Maintenance of homes for battered and abused women and children in a similar manner to assistance provided to drug prevention and rehabilitation matters.
  - Revamping the Domestic Violence Unit within the Gender Affairs Division.
  - Increase the number of domestic violence safe houses and apartments to house victims of domestic violence.
  - Create a special department in the Legal Aid Services to attend to domestic violence victims seeking protection.
- Strengthen the social service delivery sector to protect women's rights and enhance women's welfare.
- Establish Maternal Health and Support Units at every public health facility in a decentralized health system to provide information and education on the causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of all diseases and illnesses that

affect women. Services will include screening, treatment, medication and counselling for gender specific physical and mental illnesses.

- Establish a regular mobile clinic programme to reach women in rural communities.
- Review of the curriculum to provide education, awareness, support and guidance to young persons, particularly girls, on reproductive health and life decisions.
- Develop lifestyle campaigns to achieve healthy lifestyles, to fight social ills including drugs, HIV/AIDS and domestic violence amongst others.
- Establish special programmes through the Gender Affairs Division and in collaboration with other organizations for women to develop and enhance their leadership skills and qualities.
- Develop male-specific training and employment programmes especially in at-risk communities.
- Revise the mandate of the Gender Affairs Division to serve also as a monitoring unit for the implementation of gender-specific initiatives, conduct gender research and to develop measures to address emerging challenges.
- Conduct gender-disaggregated studies of youth employment which assist planners in job creation for boys/men and girls/women as alternative to idleness, deviant behaviour, or criminal employment. These findings should also be used to guide to curriculum development.
- Day care centres will be made an essential element of all Government work places and tax incentives shall be provided to the private sector to achieve same.





## NATIONAL YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

**“Tell me – I forget; show me – I remember, but involve me and I will understand.”**

In an effort to harness the energy, imagination, intelligence and initiative of the youth in Trinidad and Tobago in overcoming the challenges facing them and our society, we will:

- Recognise youth as an important partner in its social development programmes in Trinidad & Tobago
- Review and amend the National Youth Policy (NYP) to make it relevant today (given that it was drafted in 2001) and implement it in such a manner that all stakeholders who interface with young people are guided by it
- Create a National Task Force that will research and investigate a range of issues that affect youth which will serve as an advisory body of the National Youth Assembly. This Task Force will also review all relevant legislation that treat with children and youth and make recommendations for the creation of alternative approaches/spaces to address the needs of delinquent youth

- Recognise youth as leaders today through action; appointments to decision-making bodies of government and visible respect will be afforded to the leadership of legitimate youth organisations.
- Create community-based programmes that encourage and empower social workers and psychologists who will be responsible for smaller, manageable areas/communities to provide support services to youth
- Faith-based and community youth organisations actively engaged in value-creating community work will be supported by the state to achieve desirable goals
- Facilitate and promote the notion of youth entrepreneurship in schools, communities and nationally







## EMBRACING THE ARTS

### Man Cannot Live by Bread Alone

A nation cannot seek its development exclusively in political and economic matters. We believe that it is in the arts that the spirit of our people emerges and that the possibilities inherent in artistic endeavour need to be nurtured. A cultural environment that frees up our people for creative expression will strengthen national identity, without in any way, stifling individual expression and diversity.

We will develop this vital sector on the following pillars:

- Respect the work of our creative people
- Use the arts to strengthen our national identity and to foster the spirit of unity in diversity
- Generate sustainable livelihood for persons directly involved in the arts
- Allow for the sharing of our creative products and talents with the rest of the world

To achieve this we will:

1. Create a clear policy for the arts
2. Create decentralised spaces for the expression and performance of the arts
3. Facilitate the establishment of festival villages.
4. Provide fiscal incentives for the promotion of the arts
5. Strengthen the enforcement of the copyright laws
6. Establish an independent body for the endowment of the arts to give financial and other support to individual artists, artistic organizations, productions and festivals
7. Make cultural promotion an essential function of Overseas Missions
8. Support the development of a network of community museums, equipped with efficient systems for archiving and protecting our legacy of artefacts, documents, buildings, and cultural skills, both traditional and new
9. Enhance training of arts administrators, curators, art historians, archivists, and tutors, creative and technical practitioners. The schools'





curricula will be revised to recognise and include exposure to the plastic and performing arts, the history, development and practices of our local traditions

10. Facilitate research and development of the arts
11. Encourage the financial sector to introduce a window for the development of the arts
12. Enhance and facilitate the environment through which there is reciprocity between local and foreign art forms
13. Work with the sector to develop Business opportunities and partnerships and to channel investments

**Culture**

- Release for public comment on the Draft National Cultural Policy, which will regulate the cultural sector, creating protocols for relationships between the ministry and representative groups, policy for arts institution and funding for the sector, amongst other things
- The proper resourcing of Trinidad & Tobago Film Company and the T&T entertainment Company
- A percentage of National Lottery money will be directed towards a transparent grant scheme administered by a properly constituted Foundation for Arts.
- Ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) and the Convention

for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).

**The National Instrument / The Steelband Movement**

In collaboration with Pan Trinbago, Inc. and the steelpan fraternity we will :

- Establish a viable steelpan industry/pan factory using local expertise and knowledge, including the manufacturing of drums for the specific purpose of producing the national instrument
- Establish a chrome and powder coating facility
- Facilitate on going research and development programmes on the steelpan
- Upgrade of tuning facilities to support and expand the current cadre of tuners and pan builders through training and mechanisation.
- Encourage the establishment of a cooperative type business venture for persons in the steelpan fraternity
- Complete the construction of the National Headquarters for Pan Trinbago, Inc. at the Trincity site and develop the site in collaboration with Pan Trinbago



## SPORTS AND RECREATION FOR LEISURE AND COMPETITION

### Developing a Fit and Healthy Nation

Trinidad and Tobago is a sport-oriented society which must be recognised as an essential aspect to the development of our social and human capital. We believe sports can form the foundation of a thriving industry and be an important component in the diversification of the economy.

We will:

#### **Develop Our People through Sport**

- Sport is integral to the promotion of healthy lifestyles of our People

- Sport will be an integral part of curriculum from Early Childhood to Secondary
- Implement Policies to develop both recreational and competitive dimensions of Sport for all levels of individual ability
- Create an environment in which citizens of all ages are encouraged to participate in sport, whether recreational or competitive
- Mandate implementing agencies of the Ministry of Sport to seek and develop linkages with external bodies, including academic institutions, sports academies and sports clubs and teams to provide greater opportunities for our upcoming athletes to hone their skills
- The Ministry of Trade will work with sporting associations to encourage sportsmen and sportswomen to take advantage of various trade agreements, which afford them greater access to foreign markets.





### **Sport as an Industry – Making Sport Self-Sufficient**

- Facilitate research and development in sports science
- Develop a National Sport Policy with rewards and incentives based on meritocracy with reference to working documents laid in Parliament
- Enhance regional sporting events in areas such as football, cricket, boxing, golf, swimming, fishing and auto racing to build tourism sport industry
- Encourage individuals to pursue sports medicine, including psychology and physiotherapy
- The development of our growing sports tourism industry will be a priority

### **Sporting Facilities**

- Establish sporting academies to optimise the training of our sportsmen and women
- Provide first-class training and management skills for our national coaches and sports managers in all disciplines
- Channel the best sporting individuals from the schools into the sport academies
- Key sporting facilities will be maintained and

managed by cubs/associations

- Design state-of-the-art facilities, such as swimming pools, and other summer sport to attract athletes from North America and Europe to rent our facilities during winter months
- Competitive sport and sports facilities will be managed and administered by independent national sporting organisations (NSOs) within each community in accordance with national sports policy
- NSOs to be registered with the Ministry of Sport



## WORKERS AT THE CENTRE

Working to Build a Productive Nation



Labour within Trinidad and Tobago should be organised as a positive force for economic development. We will partner with labour unions to work beyond the frontiers of traditional collective bargaining of higher wages and better working conditions. These considerations, important in themselves, must be seen within the framework of workers taking up their responsibility to participate in decision-making and control at the level of the firm, as well as the national level. The major emphasis of organised labour then, would be the economic development of country, ensuring this development

so that workers' rights can be protected and their conditions improved. We further declare that there should be decent jobs and job security for all. In this regard, the following general principles should be adhered to.

### **Achieving a more equitable distribution of wealth**

- Ensure that the objective of decent work, which includes the right to join a trade union and the right to collective bargaining, focusing especially on workers in the security sector, fast food industry, retail sales and those employed by contractors, who are particularly at risk, benefit from a more equitable position of wealth
- Adhere to the general objectives of the ILO position on Decent Work

### **PROPOSALS**

#### **Amendments Will Be Made to the Industrial Relations Act (IRA)**

The existing legislation is severely limited and will be reviewed with the intention of striking an appropriate balance between all the parties involved, ensuring that necessary action is taken within an appropriate timeframe.

Two matters need to be clearly addressed with urgency:

- i) The right of workers to join a trade union of their choice is to be enforced and protected
- ii) Currently the status of certain classes of workers, (including domestic workers, gardeners, amongst others) is not fully protected. The rights of these workers require legislative attention and this will be done

#### **Process of Decertification of Trade Unions**

This extreme provision is to be removed and replaced with more equitable measures to ensure that infractions by parties are dealt with more objectively.



**Appointment of Judges to the Industrial Court Will Be in Keeping with the Following Principles**

- The need for an independent Judiciary
- Removal of ministerial/political interference in the process of appointment of judges
- The need for security of tenure for judges to ensure fearless Judiciary

The following pieces of legislation will be reviewed for improvements, commensurate with a modern, enlightened society.

- Retrenchment and Severance Benefits Act
- Companies Act
- Repeal of Workmen's Compensation Act
- Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Supplemental Police Act

**Maternity and Paternity Protection**

- The Maternity Protection Act, 1/2000 will be amended to provide for 14 weeks maternity leave – the international standard
- Provisions for paternity leave will be made

**The Minimum Wage**

- The minimum wage will be reviewed for appropriate improvement
- The minimum Wages board will be appointed without delay
- Unions will be engaged to play a constructive role in productivity and competitiveness

**The Master and Servants Ordinance**, which is an old colonial law, and contrary to the Decent Work policy of the International Labour Organisation, will be repealed.

**Migrant Labour**

- Implement a proper policy on migrant labour
- Establish an authority to monitor migrant labour
- Ensure that migrant Labour is **not** to be used to the *disadvantage* of local labour





## MANAGING OUR ENVIRONMENT

**There Can Be No Sustainable Development without Respect for the Environment**

We recognise that the environment, in all its dimensions is an issue that encompasses across ministries, and society. As a result, an individual ministry should be set up to treat with issues related to the environment as opposed to its current status as an appendage to another ministry. It must be central to sustainable human development.

We need to review the approved National Environmental Policy (NEP) integrating its various dimensions to conform to international commitments, including Copenhagen.

We shall effectively utilise the Green Fund for the

restoration of areas that have been damaged by poor and dangerous practices of development and to strengthen community-based environmental projects. This is to be administered by an independent body with well defined and publicised criteria for the disbursement of funds.

Our government will discourage the development of any industry that threatens the environment to the detriment of human development. Additionally, we will heed the concerns of our citizens as related to environmental issues.

- We will introduce the Planning and Development of Land Bill (PDLB) with appropriate adjustments as may be required, to govern land use planning and development so that development can take place in a coherent and sustainable manner and housing development will be located within the context of the land use plan. This will also mean that land suitable for agriculture and



- food production will be identified and that areas requiring protection for environmental or ecological reasons will be clearly designated
- We shall create an action plan for sewage treatment and clean water for all, as well as immediately lay in Parliament the Draft Air Pollution Rules and the Draft Solid and Hazardous Waste Rules which are mandatory requirements of the Environmental Management Act
  - We will formulate a work plan to ensure that drainage and flooding problems are solved once and for all
  - We will develop and implement an integrated coastal zone management strategy, which requires a synergy between Government agencies and coastal community stakeholders for protecting, restoring, enhancing and developing our coastal and marine resources, in a sustainable manner. The NEP would be reviewed to provide for no loss of mangroves
  - We will continue and enhance the programmes of reforestation and the beautification of all highways and public places by the planting of trees and flowers and we will strengthen conservation practices across the country
  - We will provide incentives to develop a recycling industry, thereby creating employment and encouraging entrepreneurship, starting immediately with the Beverage Container Bill, which has already been prepared by the EMA.
  - We will establish parks and other initiatives to encourage community and family wellness. Furthermore, we will set up a National Parks and Recreation Authority, for the purpose of conserving, protecting and maintaining environmentally sensitive areas
  - We will strengthen and promote efforts at nature conservation, in particular the conservation of bio-diversity regimes

- We will increase the energy efficiency of our industries to combat climate change.
- We will establish an incentive scheme that will support individuals, companies, and in particular heavy industry and buildings which engage in energy-saving measures. "Green" buildings will be encouraged



PROSPERITY FOR ALL  
PROSPERITY FOR ALL

# Action

For a thriving  
**Economy**  
and a  
**Sustainable  
Future**

PROSPERITY FOR ALL



## MANAGING OUR ENERGY ASSETS

### Winning for Today and Tomorrow

**R**ecognising the continuous decline of our hydrocarbon resources, our government will introduce a number of policy initiatives. We will guide the exploration, exploitation, utilisation and monetisation of our Energy Resources for current and future generations, while safeguarding and protecting the environment.

We will ensure that the following are achieved:

- Establishment of a gas utilisation and pricing policy based on a national consultation, which will be initiated immediately
- Immediate re-establishment of a project evaluation unit with the necessary capacity to evaluate all gas-based projects with a view to ensuring that citizens are informed of the opportunity cost and the maximum benefits from such projects
- Comprehensive review, revision and updating of the laws, taxation, regulations and practices governing the energy industry, so that there will be transparency and accountability in all matters. Before new energy-based industrial plants are given final approval, stakeholder consultations will be required. Our government will immediately implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)
- Expansion of the skill sets for national development with a view of transferability to other sectors and the capacity of existing tertiary sector institutions to provide this will be reviewed to determine a way forward for expanding capacity
- Development and implementation of a natural gas allocation policy to ensure national energy security
- Energy security by addressing the exploration and

proving-up of new reserves in order to maintain a healthy reserves-to-production ratio

- Provide incentives for research and development on alternative energy sources with a view to the establishment of an alternative energy industry
- Resolve the issues of marginal field production, heavy oil recovery, tar sands and small operators in order to stimulate these sectors
- Continuation of the modernisation of the retail marketing sector
- Increase in the local content, participation and ownership in energy projects, throughout the value added chain and the services sector
- Resolution of outstanding issues of collaboration with other energy producers in the Caribbean and Latin American region, with special attention to Petrocaribe and CSME
- Review and evaluation of the role, functions and overall management of the Ministry of Energy and its related agencies to determine the extent to which they satisfy the national energy needs and contribute to national development
- We will also proactively seek investment and partnership opportunities in third and fourth generation renewable energy alternatives. This will link our energy policy, research and development initiative and provide new, high-value jobs for our people, while simultaneously contributing to our nation's energy security





## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### The Life Blood of the Economy

**T**he guiding principles of our trade policy will be that trade must result in economic and social benefits for our people. We recognise that the role of government is to facilitate trade but that it is the private sector which engages in trade.

An effective trade regime, therefore, requires strategic linkages amongst relevant ministries such as the Ministries of Trade, Agriculture, Tourism, Energy and Foreign Affairs through their trade delegations and foreign missions and the private sector.

An industrial policy is critical in creating the platform upon which international trade takes place. The industrial policy will identify the areas in which we will diversify the economy; amongst which the following have been already identified. Knowledge-based industries, cultural and entertainment industries, ethnic products, food processing, the maritime industry, services industries, biotechnology, information technology, high-tech manufacturing,

pharmaceuticals, food production, processing and alternative energy and third and fourth generation renewable energy industries.

Within the first year in government, we will consult, develop and begin the implementation of a National Export Strategy, an Industrial Policy, and a National Services Industries Strategy.

We will therefore:

- Implement existing trade agreements in collaboration with our CARICOM partners and continually ensure compatibility with existing trade treaties and arrangements with CSME, WTO requirements
- Ensure continuous dialogue with the private sector and other stakeholders in order to effectively pursue international arrangements which are likely to result in greater, beneficial economic activity
- Pursue a more aggressive trade policy with Central America and South America in particular
- Leverage the Caribbean diaspora to provide "beachheads" into developed country markets and leverage human capital assets and



- investments for wealth creation at home
- Strengthen the institutions (e.g. Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards; Customs; Food and Drugs) that facilitate trade and protect our consumers
  - Strengthen linkages between institutions of research and development with productive sectors in order to develop mechanisms for market penetration (linking domestic production to export markets)
  - Link the producer with the market via strengthening the Trade Directorate to ensure delivery in four major areas: trade negotiations, trade facilitation, market intelligence for industry, and a vehicle for attracting direct foreign investment into the non-energy sector. This will require:
    - Strengthening human resource competence in trade negotiation through intensified and targeted training. In this regard, we will seek to ensure continuity and backup in subdivisions of the ministry.
    - The creation of a functional linkage between the Trade Directorate, Ministry of External Affairs and foreign missions by attaching Trade Promotion Officers to select, strategic missions.
    - Support for the Private Sector's efforts to penetrate new markets by facilitating market feasibility studies and other forms of intelligence.
    - Development of an appropriate incentive scheme to encourage local and foreign investment in sectors of focus for economic diversification and for investment in new sectors especially those that can be supported by a well-educated workforce based on throughput from the tertiary sector.





## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

### Capitalising on Our Diversity – People and Natural Assets

**T**ourism is an important platform through which we will create sustainable employment opportunities for our people, create international relationships and allow the world, a taste of the finer things of Trinidad and Tobago. Because of our plurality and rich cultural diversity, maximising our tourism potential requires multiple approaches to development. This includes the exploration and expansion of all the variety of tourism products including but not restricted to recreation, sport, health, leisure, business, festivals, culture and eco-tourism. While, indeed, the global crisis has negatively affected this sector worldwide, signs of international turnaround auger well for a well positioned and implemented programme that casts T and T as a choice destination.

Our goal will be to increase the contribution of tourism to the GDP and to critically examine the recently developed National Tourism Policy of Trinidad and Tobago with a view to implementation after modification to achieve sustainable expansion of the sector. We further commit to developing the industry in consultation with all major stakeholders. We see carnival, cultural diversity and festivals constituting an anchor around which a significant, year-round tourism industry can be developed. We will strengthen and develop local tourism centres across rural Trinidad to enhance local tourism and to achieve a more diversified range of tourism products in order to support a rural industrialization thrust. We will set targets for the sector and incentivise their achievements. We will work collaboratively with the House of Assembly and the tourism sector in Tobago to ensure that tourism is sustainably developed in Tobago.



## FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

### Creating a Food Secure Nation

**F**ood security is a prerequisite to people-centred development. Agriculture with the right policy framework, a targeted focus on identified challenges and encouragement to farmers can make a huge contribution to economic growth. The sector comprises small- and large-scale farming, floriculture, niche markets such as the cocoa industry, fisheries, livestock, agro-forestry and agro-processing. A report by the Food and Agriculture Organization in 2006 indicated that appropriate policy and financial support can solve the problem of food production and significantly increase food security in Trinidad and Tobago. Increased food production and food security will decrease our food import bill and lower the price of food, while at the same time increasing prosperity for our farmers and providing sustainable livelihoods for more workers.



#### KEY INITIATIVES

- Comprehensively address support infrastructure challenges to food security in the first year of government
- Initiate integrated action on water resources management, drainage, irrigation, flooding water capture, conservation, sustainable food production and food security
- Increase agriculture's contribution to GDP from less than 0.6% to 3% in 5 years
- Identify an umbrella institution to synergise all existing institutions and information on research and development for agriculture. This will include issues of tissue culture, product identification and development, pest control, quality improvements and appropriate science and technology.

#### Pillars of Development for Agriculture

1. Respect for agriculture, the farmers and the land
2. Affordable food on a sustained basis
3. Sustainable livelihood for farmers
4. A mixture of traditional and technology-driven platforms
5. Regional and extra-regional joint ventures to achieve economies of scale and export competitiveness
6. Functional linkages between research and development and the sector to strengthen knowledge applications

The objective is to make Trinidad & Tobago a food-secure nation.

- Strategically link extension services to farmers as part of a sustainable system
- Link state temporary work programmes with rural development need, so we will look into the possibility of expanding CEPEP and URP to provide labour and infrastructure support to the farming community
- Once support infrastructure challenges are addressed, we will manage, monitor, maintain and sustain support system for food production
- Introduce incentives to foster a multi-sectoral approach to agricultural development such as agriculture/tourism, agriculture/culture. Tobago is already leading the way
- Where necessary to propel the sector, the state will partner with the private sector in strategic areas. Similar to approach taken to energy
- Strengthening institutional marketing to support farmers for domestic and international penetration
- We will introduce a wage support mechanism for farmers hiring labour in specific food production activities to encourage and attract youth of every race and region to agriculture depending on their interest and inclination.
- Incentivize the banking sector to provide a window for agricultural investment
- Working with tertiary education sector to strengthen curriculum to provide trained human resources in areas such as technology, harvesting techniques, farm management, agro-processing, agro-entrepreneurship
- Introduce a national "agricultural land" information inventory system which documents all allocations by the state and soil profiles to enable government to optimize state land usage
- Effect a National Land Use Policy that specifies and protects land to be used exclusively for agriculture
- Regularise "squatter farm lands" on the basis of co-operative efforts
- Fast-track the transfer of deeds and titles to farmers frustrated over the years by impediments to legitimate ownership and inability to use land as collateral in financial transactions
- Introduction of a crop insurance system
- Training of farmer in HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) and other sanitary and phytosanitary requirements
- Implement a zero waste policy where the by-products from agro-processing can be used as a feed stock for farmers
- Design and implement a package of incentives to encourage value-added beyond primary production
- Management of marine resources and the coastal communities that depend on them





## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Both an Enabler and a Consequence of Development

**W**e recognise that physical infrastructure is both an enabler and a consequence of development. While the current government has spent billions on infrastructure, some of its key components, which are critical to improving the quality of life of our people, remain woefully inadequate.

We see infrastructure as the basis for developing human capital, indigenous capacity and expanding our skills base. When foreign firms are involved in infrastructure projects, knowledge transfer arrangements will be negotiated into contracts. So, too, will local content quotas.

Our policy on infrastructure will be based on ensuring quality, reliability and maintenance of existing infrastructure while adopting transparent and fair procurement practices. We commit to making significant improvements to the nation's infrastructure, with a special focus on the following:

- **Water** – We are committed to pursuing water security for the nation through effective water catchment management policies. this will include water for the people, agriculture, industry and the protection of the environment
- **Transportation** – The most effective modes of transportation will be adopted to move people and goods within Trinidad, within Tobago and between Trinidad and Tobago, all guided by a national transportation study.
- **Roads & Bridges** – A National Roads and Bridges Authority will be established to determine the appropriate network of major roads, highways, underpasses and overpasses and



the construction of new bridges and the re-construction of existing bridges.

- **Housing** – We commit to the provision of quality housing for citizens, to be distributed in a timely manner and in a fair and equitable manner. Our housing policy will be based on the development of homes, families and sustainable communities and will be aligned to an overall land use policy.
- **Land Tenure and Title** – Our government will resume the programme of regularisation of unplanned settlements in accordance with the provisions of the Regularization of Land Tenure Act, No. 25 of 1998. We also recognise the issues of land titles, particularly in Tobago, and we commit to effectively addressing this issue.

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

### Infrastructure for Human Connectivity and Backbone of the Knowledge Economy

In order to be a competitive nation in the global knowledge economy we will link our diversification strategy to the creation of knowledge industries in order to create high-end jobs. This will be achieved by installing basic, technology-driven infrastructure so as to create the information superhighway to connect us locally, regionally and internationally. We will take all necessary steps to ensure that access to ICT is extended to every household – making Trinidad & Tobago a connected nation.

Our ICT plan will be focused on creating opportunities for our people and enhancing the quality of their lives. To do this, we will create productive and sustainable employment opportunities on a large scale by accelerating human development via vastly improved and expanded education and health care services, which will be supported by IT platforms; make Trinidad cyber secure; give T and T's IT industry a boost in the domestic economy and create export capacity; and use IT to assist with eliminating corruption.

Specifically, we will take measures to:

- Implement an e-Citizen's card with citizen identification number to eventually replace electoral ID card and all other identification systems. This will allow citizens to be able to authenticate themselves for online services from government, resulting in the more efficient delivery of government services to the population

- Promote the use of IT in SMEs and the informal sector to increase productivity, decrease expenditure and to increase sales channels
- Integrate internet-enabled education throughout the school system
- Increase broadband internet coverage
- Lower telecommunications costs, including high-speed internet access
- Video conferencing to be made affordable and universally accessible to promote less commuting and therefore less traffic
- Establish within the Police Service, a Digital Security Agency, to detect, combat and protect against cybercrime in both the private and public sectors.
- Recognise the IT industry as one of the pillars of our economy
- Improve the operation of the Central Statistical Office, collecting additional information relevant to today's digital world (e.g. number of internet users, information on services industry, number of persons involved in the services sector, service sector exporters etc.). Use electronic means to collect data and disseminate information, so that it is available in weeks, rather than years.
- Review all relevant legislation to enable a thriving, secure digital environment, specifically, the Data Protection Bill, Electronic Transaction Bill, Amendments to the Telecommunications Act, Amendments to the Exchequer and Audit Act.





## TOBAGO SIDE BY SIDE

### Side by Side and Together, Not One Behind the Other

The people of Tobago will have a major role in determining their present and future development. Before negotiating international treaties of major importance, in particular those affecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Trinidad and Tobago, and in matters which particularly affect Tobago, the Government will partner with the Tobago House of Assembly.

Our sustainable development approach for the country at large addresses the major sectors of development, which in large measure covers the requirements of both islands, Tobago and Trinidad.

In collaboration with the people of Tobago we will, however, attend to these specific areas:

- Revisit the provisions of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, and in particular, the Fifth Schedule, with a view to granting greater autonomy and responsibility to the people of Tobago over matters that directly impact on Tobago
- Define the Housing and Land Settlements Programme while taking into account the cultural preferences of the people of Tobago
- Implement measures to regularise land titles in Tobago based on a review of the recommendations of recent reports on this matter
- Provide the resources for Tobago to undertake a sustainable development plan which seeks to achieve the full potential of the people of Tobago
- Complete all infrastructural projects currently in train
- Strengthen air and sea transport between

Tobago and Trinidad

- Facilitate the establishment of institutions to deal with social issues, such as juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and rehabilitation
- Ensure that all government public services will be accessible in Tobago
- We will also take steps to mitigate the negative impact of the higher cost of living in Tobago
- We will strengthen democracy, participation and inclusion by the people of Tobago in local and national affairs

Our approach to national sustainable development emphasises competitive industries, inclusion of the people, partnership through participation in governance, higher paying and more sustainable jobs with human development and social support for people, families and communities being at the centre of the development process. These very principles will guide our approach to development in Tobago as it will in Trinidad. However, we recognise that Trinidad and Tobago may be one nation but Tobago and Trinidad are separate islands and that special initiatives are required to address this reality.



## FOREIGN POLICY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Leveraging the World to Support National Development



#### We recognise and uphold:

- That foreign policy's primary function must be the pursuit of national development objectives and interests, i.e. the sustainable human development and human security of all the people of Trinidad and Tobago
- That foreign policy and its implementation must be guided by the principles of good governance, i.e. transparency, accountability, participation and effective representation
- The call for a new approach to foreign policy, based on the principles of good governance for the benefit of the people and not for the prestige and self-aggrandizement of a few
- The call also for a cohesive approach to foreign policy planning and implementation, as against a day-to-day decision-making process, often

erratic, at times contradictory and supported at best by a few selected policy-makers.

These fundamental policy directives lead to the adoption of the **following policy proposals:**

- Foreign Policy formulation and implementation will be subject to **parliamentary debate** and oversight, possibly in the context of the annual budget debate. The Special Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, will as established in the Standing Orders, will be activated to consult with various stakeholders on matters related to Foreign Policy.
- International Treaties and other **Government to Government Agreements**, including Trade Agreements especially those imposing heavy financial burden, will be subject to public information and scrutiny before final signature.
- International treaties of major importance, in particular those affecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Trinidad & Tobago will be subject to a **popular referendum**
- A proper **balance** will be struck in the pursuit of foreign policy objectives **between bilateral and multilateral** channels, whereby a certain priority will be given to multilateral diplomacy, at the regional level through CARICOM, and at the interregional level through the Inter-American system, the European Union, and the Commonwealth
- **On CARICOM more specifically**, Trinidad and Tobago will re-engage fully with the regional integration process and contribute to the strengthening of the overall CARICOM framework, including the CSME. In this context, the recent initiative of establishing economic and political union between Trinidad & Tobago and some States of the Eastern Caribbean is considered divisive and will be reversed.
- Also, Trinidad and Tobago will promote, as



much as possible, a **common and proactive policy stand** among the CARICOM Members with regard to critical issues such as the “forced returnees” from the United States and the UK, the reconstruction of Haiti, the “Bolivarian Alternative” (ALBA), climate change and sustainable development

- In order to strengthen and deepen the relations with CARICOM and its various institutions, Trinidad and Tobago will appoint a **special envoy/ambassador to CARICOM**.
- A more active, but selective participation will be pursued in the work of the **United Nations System of Organisations**, in particular in those areas which are directly in line with Trinidad & Tobago’s national development objectives, i.e. the environment, poverty reduction, the millennium development goals, human rights, drugs and crime, and world trade.

**Institutional Requirements/Implications:** A new approach to governance in foreign policy and foreign affairs, will require:

- Establishing a **Trinidad and Tobago Council on Foreign Relations**, composed of prominent persons from in and out of government, from civil society and academia, with a distinguished international relations background, to act in an advisory and monitoring function with regard to foreign policy formulation and implementation
- Redefining the **role, mandate and function of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to make it the primary agency responsible for the implementation and coordination in the conduct of foreign policy and foreign affairs
- **Rebuilding the foreign relations capacities** of the ministry, which is grossly understaffed, undertrained and underequipped, by bringing in, at least temporarily, the necessary expertise of senior and experienced people easily available

in Trinidad and Tobago

- Engaging in a significant **recruitment drive and training effort** at all levels, to build and strengthen capacities in the field of international relations and diplomacy, and for this purpose, use and expand as necessary existing institutions, among them the Institute of International Relations (UWI, St. Augustine)
- Assessing the locations and staffing of **Foreign Missions and Embassies** with a view to making appropriate changes so as to make them more effective in the implementation of the Country’s foreign policy
- Reactivating, in the Ministry of the Attorney General, a properly staffed **Human Rights Bureau** with the mandate to monitoring the implementation of the various international human rights instruments, including the periodic reporting to the international human rights community
- Establishing, a joint unit between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A properly staffed **Trade Delegation** which will be in the lead in terms of trade and investment promotion and the various trade negotiations, thus dealing with aspects of major importance in Trinidad and Tobago’s current development scenario
- Strengthening our High Commission in India and establish a full-fledged mission in China in recognition of the growing influence of these two countries in world affairs and their emergence as major world economic powers and centres of influence



## WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL A MANIFESTO MAKE?

What will be the policy shift that will occur if development of our country is guided by this manifesto and what will be the impact of this policy shift?

In general, the economy will be transformed and the political system will be more responsive and participatory but we mention nine specific differences.

1. All development would take place in the context of a land use and physical planning framework and that sustainable development principles will apply. There will be order and purpose in development strategy and execution.
2. People would be central to the development process; not in word but in deed. Education for all will be a reality. Sixty percent tertiary participation will be realised; a poverty reduction strategy will be set in motion, social welfare support will be integrated for impact and jobs will be created on a sustainable basis in a thriving economy which reduces our dependence on energy and creates jobs through new industries that pay better.



3. The crime and personal security issues will be decidedly improved and the justice system overhauled resulting in faith that justice will be done and seen to be done. Poverty will also be reduced on a systematic basis and the quality of life in individual homes will be further improved by our home-focused strategy. More people will be empowered to achieve sustainable livelihoods and more children will achieve in school.
4. We will achieve food security as a reality and in the process effectively address the issue of water resources management, including flooding and water security and that will have a direct effect on our quality of life and the price of food. By linking workers to the productive process and to sustainable initiatives, we will improve productivity and enhance sustainable development practices throughout the country.
5. We will be strengthening our energy industry, but we will also be building for a sustainable future linked to alternative energy and new knowledge and creative industries such as sport, entertainment, festivals, information technology, biotechnology, high-tech manufacturing, light manufacturing, tourism, agro-industries and knowledge industries. Sustainable diversification of our economy will therefore become a sustainable goal.
6. Local government will be more meaningful to people and more impactful on community development and there will be many more opportunities for participation and influence by citizens.
7. We will have clean, responsible and responsive government with legislative changes and constitutional amendments to curb excesses and abuse of power. There will also be an emphasis on transparency and accountability.
8. We will have immediate action in specific areas identified in our 120-day plan that will begin to make a difference immediately such as measures for water resources management, flood control, irrigation and fixing all leaks in the WASA system.
9. The tone of the country will change and barriers will be broken down through consultation, participation, involvement and consensus-building. This will help us to achieve unity of purpose in our efforts and partnership and trust in the society.

We invite you to be a part of the economic and political transformation of Trinidad and Tobago.

We recognise that a holistic and synergistic approach to sustainable development is necessary to achieve meaningful and lasting results. Accordingly, structures, mechanisms and institutions will be created as may be required to effect coordination, integration and optimum impact in the right places so that policy implementation yields the maximum direct benefit to our citizens.



**The  
People's  
Partnership  
Government**

**for the People,  
of the People,  
by the People**



## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. **Partner with the People** in establishing the conditions in which everyone can fulfil his/her true potential so that our country can flourish on the basis of sustainable development – everyone counts and everyone is needed
2. **Provide a safe, secure and sustainable environment** where all people can live, work and play without fear and in which their quality of life is optimised. The partners will seek to transform the society and end the lawlessness and disorder which contributes to criminal activity thrives
3. **Ensure that the disadvantaged** in our society are provided with the tools to enable them to become productive and make reasonable provisions for those persons who, by reason of illness, old age or disability cannot work
4. **Provide an education and training system** that enhances mutual respect and esteem, in order to help bring about a peaceful and fraternal coexistence between people of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions within a framework which is relevant to the needs of the modern world, with particular emphasis on civics, moral and spiritual values and the need to become a knowledge-based economy and to introduce a platform for young people to engage in entrepreneurial activity
5. **Build a diverse and democratic society** that respects human rights, in which all people live in dignity and security, free of all forms of discrimination on the basis of religion, colour or gender, where labour is respected, and which fosters the culture of dialogue to facilitate an increase of understanding and mutual trust between individuals and groups, for these are the premise of authentic peace
6. **Not tolerate any form of corruption** and should not politicise the civil service, commissions or state enterprises
7. **Promote legislation for the registration and funding of political parties** subject to review of an independent body
8. **Support a system of governance** which upholds the rule of law and the separation of powers and the independence of the Judiciary in its administrative and adjudicative functions under which all major sectors of the population are represented and which encourages the participation of women at all levels of governance
9. **Invite international observers** to oversee every general election and whose report is promptly laid in Parliament

## DECLARATION OF VALUES

### 1. **Selflessness**

*Make decisions based solely in terms of the public interest. Members should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends*

### 2. **Integrity**

*Not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties*

### 3. **Objectivity**

*Make choices based on merit in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits*

### 4. **Accountability**

*Be accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office*

### 5. **Openness**

*Be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands*

### 6. **Honesty**

*Declare any private interests relating to their public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest*

### 7. **Dialogue**

*Commit to frank and patient dialogue, refusing to consider their differences as an insurmountable barrier, but recognizing instead that to encounter the diversity of others can become an opportunity for greater reciprocal understanding*

### 8. **Leadership**

*Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example*





## THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

### A Partnership for Sustainable Good Governance in Trinidad and Tobago

1. **WHEREAS** the People of Trinidad and Tobago in their Constitution –
  - a) have affirmed that the nation of Trinidad and Tobago is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in fundamental human rights and freedoms, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions, the dignity of the human person and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed by their Creator;
  - b) respect the principles of social justice and therefore believe that the operation of the economic system should result in the material resources of the community being so distributed as to subserve the common good, that there should be adequate means of livelihood for all, that labour should not be exploited or forced by economic necessity to operate in inhumane conditions but that there should be opportunity for advancement on the basis of recognition of merit, ability and integrity;
  - c) have asserted their belief in a democratic society in which all persons may, to the extent of their capacity, play some part in the institutions of the national life and thus develop and maintain due respect for lawfully constituted authority;
  - d) recognise that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law;

#### 2. **AND WHEREAS**

The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago has been dissolved and the **General Election** will be held on 24th May 2010. This General Election is a decisive and a historic turning-point and watershed in the development of our great twin-island Republic and the following political parties recognise and acknowledge that our nation needs men and women of selfless dedication, firm resolve, integrity and national commitment to take our beloved country forward.

#### 3. **AND WHEREAS**

The Partners herein, in the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago agree and subscribe to this historic Partnership and to pool their considerable talents and resources in the national interest at this critical juncture in the history of Trinidad and Tobago.

#### 4. **AND WHEREAS**

The Partners believe that the opportunity exists for the people of Trinidad and Tobago to vote for a people-oriented and participatory government committed to social justice and implemented by an effective, results-oriented team whose national objective is to put into practice collaborative leadership to achieve good governance.

#### 5. **In this PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP the partners are:**

- 1) UNITED NATIONAL CONGRESS, ('UNC');
- 2) THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, ('COP');
- 3) TOBAGO ORGANISATION OF THE PEOPLE, ('TOP');
- 4) NATIONAL JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE, ('NJAC'); AND
- 5) MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, ('MSJ').

6. **NOW THEREFORE** the Partners agree and declare as follows:

a. **LEADER OF THE PARTNERSHIP AND PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE:**

The Partners agree that the Leader of the Partnership and Prime Ministerial Candidate is and shall be Mrs. KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR.

b. The Partners agree to select candidates and only one candidate from the Partnership shall contest the General Election in each constituency in Trinidad and in Tobago and such candidate shall be the standard-bearer for the Partners in that constituency.

c. The Partners commit to adopt Principles and Codes of Conduct whereby the interest of our beloved country is and shall be put before party and individual self-interest and as a government comprising the Partners they will implement a public policy programme to improve the quality of life of the People of Trinidad and Tobago based on shared principles of national development and national unity. Together these constitute the foundation for sustainable government. The said Principles and Codes of Conduct include but are not limited to the matters set out in the Appendix hereto attached and marked as "A".

d. The Partners have established **Collaborative Teams** to develop a common **Public Policy Programme** to be shared on a **Common Platform** and have agreed to establish mechanisms for the achievement of **Consensus**.

e. The Partners agree that they will abide by the spirit and letter of the Constitution and law of Trinidad and Tobago and to propose legislative changes as are necessary to give effect to the will of the people.

**FOR and on behalf of  
UNITED NATIONAL CONGRESS**

***Kamla Persad-Bissessar***  
Political Leader, UNC

**FOR and on behalf of  
THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE**

***Winston Dookeran***  
Political Leader, COP

**FOR and on behalf of  
TOBAGO ORGANISATION OF THE PEOPLE**

***Ashworth Jack***  
Political Leader, TOP

**FOR and on behalf of  
NATIONAL JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE**

***Makandal Daaga***  
Political Leader/Chief Servant, NJAC

**FOR and on behalf of  
MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

***Errol K. McLeod***  
Chairman, MSJ

Dated this 21st day of April, 2010







PROSPERITY FOR ALL  
PROSPERITY FOR ALL

# THE FIRST 120 DAYS: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL

*No big promises...  
Just sustainable development with  
you the citizen at the centre –  
and a commitment to inclusion and to equity*

**Accountability**

**Transparency**

**Representation**

**Consultation**

**Participation and Inclusion**

**Prosperity and Equity**

**Planning and Development with the Future in Mind**

**Quality of Life Today, Sustainability Tomorrow**

