



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA LABOUR PARTY

2023 MANIFESTO



↑ ABLP
**NEXT
LEVEL =**
OF PROGRESS AND
PROSPERITY FOR ALL





Marina Village Beach

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MY COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BY GASTON BROWNE

LEADER OF THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA LABOUR PARTY

The January 18th 2023 general elections will shape our country for the future.

It will determine if our economy and standard of living plummet, as they did disastrously under the UPP especially between 2009 and 2014, or they ascend to higher levels. My objective, as leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) is to work diligently and passionately to ensure that our country climbs to the next level of progress and prosperity.

That is my commitment to all Antiguan and Barbudans, and every person who has chosen to live and work in our country.

Our nation lives amid difficult global times. The latest authoritative report says:

“Global economic activity is experiencing a broad-based and sharper-than-expected slowdown, with inflation higher than seen in several decades. The cost-of-living crisis, tightening financial conditions in most regions, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the lingering COVID-19 pandemic all weigh heavily on the outlook. Global growth is forecast to slow from 6.0 percent in 2021 to 3.2 percent in 2022 and 2.7 percent in 2023. This is the weakest growth profile since 2001 except for the global financial crisis and the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Naturally, these circumstances impact our country. Yet, we have performed better than many others. While global growth was 6.0 percent in 2021, we enjoyed greater growth of 7.43 percent. In 2022, as growth in the world is projected to decline by 3.2 percent, we defied the odds and are forecast, by international financial institutions, to grow by a whopping 8.3 percent. Of all the Caribbean countries, only Guyana, with its newly found wealth in oil and gas, is projected to surpass our performance.

Accomplishment and success came from sound management

Our accomplishment came from sound financial planning, preparation, and delivery. Our nation was successfully brought through the ruinous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021, the lock-downs and border closures and the severe blows to the global economy. Not one worker in the public sector was dismissed; my government ensured that there was at least one breadwinner in every family.

Whereas the pandemic caused our economy to decline by 20.19 percent in 2020, strategic thinking, solid planning and creative actions recovered our economy in 2021 with strong growth of 7.43 percent. Our people went back to work and were earning incomes while, in most parts of the world, businesses remained closed, and populations were shuttered in their homes.

Very importantly, planning, foresight, and strategic allocation of scarce resources, safeguarded the health and lives of our people. At mid-December 2022, the death toll from COVID-19 stood at over 6.6

million persons; in Antigua and Barbuda the total number of deaths was 146 or 0.15 percent of our population. Few countries effectively managed the economic and health impacts of the pandemic as well as we did.

Safeguarding our people's lives from the most frightening disease the modern world confronted, together with ensuring economic challenges to our survival and growth, were the most awesome combination of tests any government has ever faced. The ABLP government met those tests successfully in the interest of every person and the entire nation.

Experienced financial management and sound leadership made the crucial difference. Those qualities were needed then, and they are needed now.

On the issue of water, while there is impatience and frustration over interrupted supply, we have worked hard to resolve the problems, and endurance will shortly be rewarded. No other administration in the history of our country has invested more in water infrastructure than the ABLP government of the last 8 years. One hundred and thirty million dollars (\$130 million) has been invested in building out Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants throughout the country.

Another plant – already purchased - will be installed by the end of March 2023. By then the water issue will be fully resolved.

My personal vision of Antigua and Barbuda as an Economic dynamo

My personal vision for our nation is that it should be an economic powerhouse, which drives robust growth and sustainable development to achieve developed country living standards. That is why steering our affairs to the next level of progress and prosperity is my driving ambition. Every Antiguan and Barbudan has a right to a better, more productive, healthy, and happy life.

The ABLP has guided the process by which our country has been uplifted despite arduous circumstances. It has the experience, knowledge, and vision to continue our people's advancement to new heights. In this Manifesto, we lay out our plans for the "Next Level" of development. They are all achievable with strong, capable, and experienced government.

The Choice that now lies before us: UPP mismanagement again or Next Level progress and prosperity

Presently, we have before us a fork in the road, and a choice of two paths to

take. One is a path that was risked before with disastrous consequences, including economic failure, represented by a 25 percent decline in the economy and high unemployment; bank failure which cost taxpayers over \$300 million to resolve; fiscal failure that included burdensome debt with over 50 percent in arrears; the imposition of personal income tax; late payments of salaries, wages and social security pensions; and expanded poverty. That was the UPP government with Harold Lovell as the Minister of Finance.

The other path is the one that has always taken our nation to higher heights of employment, economic growth, and development; that has attracted investments; improved health services; expanded education facilities; increased home, car and business ownership; delivered high speed broadband facilities; created opportunities for all; and - most significantly - successfully lifted us up as a nation. That is the ABLP government.


My commitment to good governance and accountability

The ABLP government, under my stewardship, has been firm on accountability and good governance. It is well-known that, as Prime Minister, while I have assumed every person to be innocent until proven otherwise, I have not tolerated any credible wrong-doing ascribed to anyone in my Cabinet or government generally. I have removed them from their positions, pending a Court or some other like authority, affirming their innocence.

I also hold myself to a high standard of accountability. That is why I recuse myself from all Cabinet decisions that decide contracts and government procurement. I keep the Office of the Prime Minister above the fray, so that I can validly hold all officers and officials accountable.

I intend to continue my position on good governance and accountability.

I am committed, as your servant-leader to work diligently, passionately, and accountably to take our country to the NEXT LEVEL which our people have a right to expect, and which they richly deserve.



Gaston Browne
Leader, Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party

To adopt legislation that will match the retirement age for all workers in the public and private sector with the age at which social security pensions are payable. In this way, there will be no gap in the period between retirement and receipt of social security pensions.

To remove duty on security systems and alternative green energy products for homes and businesses.

To bring down the cost of electricity and water using renewable and green sources of energy such as solar power.

To increase the income and pensions of public servants immediately after the current negotiations are completed.

No personal income tax

No increase in ABST.

To incentivise further the agriculture and fisheries sectors to provide locally grown and more affordable food.

To continue no ABST on essential food, and no ABST on items of hygiene and for infants.

Where possible to reduce ABST on more products and, in any event, to continue programmes to reduce or remove ABST on goods at seasonal times.

To introduce a system of mandatory review of the minimum wage every two years to ensure that all persons in the public and private sectors are earning a living wage.

PLEDGES OF THE ABLP ON REDUCING COST OF LIVING

In guiding our nation to the next level of progress and prosperity, the ABLP pledges:

PLEDGES OF THE ABLP ON WATER, ELECTRICITY, AND INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

The ABLP fully recognizes that guiding our nation to the next level of progress and prosperity must prioritize the supply of water, electricity, and internet technology. Therefore, the ABLP pledges:

✓ To continue - and accelerate - the programme of expanding and improving water supply by installing more Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants and replacing the existing delivery system with pipes made of larger and more durable material. The ABLP is determined that the water difficulties, which have plagued our drought prone country for decades, will not continue.

✓ To provide incentives to hotels, resorts and other large users of water and electricity to build and install their own RO water plants and solar power plants to reduce their demand on the Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and so contribute to a greater and uninterrupted supply of water and electricity to homes and small and medium sized businesses.

✓ To expand the plants for delivering electricity so as to surpass demand in order to have spare capacity to cater for breakdowns, maintenance, and repair. Particularly, the ABLP will encourage private sector investment, including by home and business owners, in renewable energy sources such as solar power. Agreements will be pursued with private sector partners, and home and business owners, to produce and sell excess power generation to the national grid. Incentives will also be provided to homes and businesses that install solar power and green alternative energy systems.

✓ To continue to construct the broadband network to promote social progress, equality, and sustainability. To help achieve these goals, the ABLP is building out high-speed fibre broadband to every home, business, farm, and school. This programme will be accelerated, including by APUA buying its own space on undersea fibre optic cables that allow large amounts of data to be transmitted swiftly. Costs will be considerably reduced by cutting out the external “middle companies” that charge APUA large sums to utilize their space on the cables.

✓ In recent years, there has been a worldwide rise in cybersecurity threats to all Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems as many cybercriminals shift to techniques that evade detection and go after high-value targets as well as identity theft of any individual. The ABLP government will implement strategies to mitigate cybersecurity threats by addressing prevention, detection, and remediation.

PLEDGES OF THE ABLP ON ROADS

It is evident to all that, since 2018, when the ABLP was elected for a second term, the roads and highways have considerably improved. The Sir George Walter Highway, Friar’s Hill Road and other major roads have been expanded, rebuilt, and resurfaced. However, the ABLP is conscious that more remains to be done on community roads.

Careful attention will be paid to maintaining the main arterial roads and highways that connect the country.

Antigua will be zoned for priority work on community roads, which will be carried out by first repairing or rebuilding those in the worst condition, and then, on an equitable basis across the island until all are addressed.

A continuous programme of repair of community roads is being implemented to ensure that road deterioration is remedied as it occurs.

THE ABLP PLEDGES THAT:

Friars Reverse Osmosis Plant



PLEDGE OF THE ABLP ON EMPLOYMENT

A central focus of the ABLP's "Next Level" development is more and better employment. Barring any unforeseen natural disasters or externally generated impact on the economy, the ABLP pledges to:

- ✓ Create conditions for full employment, including self-employment, on a graduating basis over the next five years, providing improved salaries and wages. The programmes and projects by which this pledge will be fulfilled are detailed in the various sectors covered in this Manifesto.



PLEDGE ON SAFETY AND SECURITY

"Next Level" development includes a social environment of safety and security where all, especially women, girls, and schoolchildren, are safe from violence. Antigua and Barbuda's crime rate is low, but every crime affects a person and their family, engendering fear and insecurity. The ABLP pledges:

- ✓ Zero tolerance for guns and every form of violence against persons. The penalties for illegal gun possession and use will be strengthened.
- ✓ The activities of gangs will not be tolerated. The rule of law will be enforced. Continuing gang actions, particularly against schoolchildren, will result in prosecution. Laws will be amended to deter participation in gang activities. At the same time, greater attention will be paid to offering young people the opportunity to utilize their time productively and to focus their energies on areas of achievement in sport, in education, and in the creative arts, including music.
- ✓ Facilities and equipment for the Police will continue to be upgraded, renewed, and expanded to give them the capacity to carry out their task – to serve and protect.

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↑ ABLP
NEXT
LEVEL =

CHAPTER 1

GOVERNMENT THAT HAS
DELIVERED FOR THE NATION

GOVERNMENT ON WHICH YOU CAN RELY

The economic and social improvement of Antigua and Barbuda today stands above many countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific.

Our people enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world; our society enjoys great freedom of expression, a free media, and the right to disagree; investment by the public and private sectors have enlarged and employment has increased; the level of poverty is low; more people own homes, motor vehicles and businesses now than at any time in our history; health services are also at a level never before experienced in our country; and our access to education from primary school to University has never been so great.

HIGH INCOME PER PERSON IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Of 192 countries in the world, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rates Antigua and Barbuda at number 56 in terms of average high income per person in the total population. For instance, among the countries whose income per person is less than our people's, are Russia, Colombia, Chile, the Peoples' Republic of China, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mexico, Panama, Serbia, South Africa, Thailand, and Venezuela.

LESS TAXES, MORE TAKE HOME PAY FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

In the Caribbean, only the people in Barbados, The Bahamas, St Kitts-Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago earn more per person than Antiguan and Barbudans. But it must be recalled that, except for The Bahamas, the people in the other three Caribbean countries pay personal income tax, interest income on savings, and several other taxes which are not applied to Antiguan and Barbudans. In other words, Antiguan and Barbudans keep a greater portion of their earnings in their pockets and bank accounts. They can invest and spend more on their needs.

Our nation has steadily climbed the ladder of improvement and development since our independence in 1981. For 31 of the 41 years since our independence, it is the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) that has piloted our constant progress and growing prosperity.

TEN YEARS OF HARDSHIP UNDER THE UPP: RETARDED OUR GROWTH

The ten-year period of hardship and regression from 2004 to 2014, was under the mismanagement of the United Progressive Party (UPP). The ABLP recovered our nation from the precipice of disaster to which the UPP pushed it. The economy was rebuilt; jobs were restored; public safety was secured; private sector confidence in the country soared; investment increased; more employment was created; opportunities were opened to all; and the economy flourished.

ABLP GUIDED NATION SAFELY THROUGH COVID

Between 2020 and 2022, the ABLP government confronted two of the biggest challenges any government has had to face – the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and revenue loss of up to 50 percent from the global policies to close borders and lock down work-places.

The ABLP government implemented policies and programmes that protected the lives of our people and preserved their livelihoods. Antiguan and Barbudans emerged safe, secure, strong, and vibrant – ready to resume the upward momentum of their lives.

Sound management, visionary leadership and caring government are the hallmarks of the ABLP's stewardship of the nation's affairs. It is tried and tested leadership that has proven its dependability, reliability, and capacity to deliver.



ECONOMY AND EARNINGS RESTORED RAPIDLY UNDER ABLP

The ABLP steered the economy upwards from a decline in 2020 of 20.19 percent, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, to spectacular growth of 7.43 percent in 2021. In 2022 we are forecast to climb even higher to 8.3 percent, bringing more jobs, more investment and more upward movement of our entire nation.

This Manifesto details many of the initiatives and investments already underway to create jobs and to empower Antiguan and Barbudans in tourism expansion, in profitable service industries, in improved roads, expanded water supply, affordable homes, in higher education, in the use of modern technology and, essentially, to continue to provide the conditions for a better and happier life for all.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA READY FOR THE LEAP TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND PROGRESS

Antigua and Barbuda now stands on a springboard to leap to the next level of Economic Diversification and progress which includes:

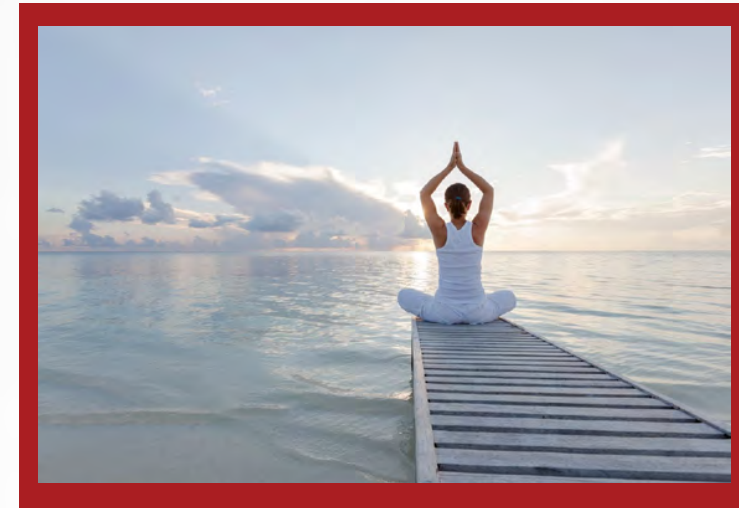
Stem cells therapy and cannabis therapy as contributors to health tourism.



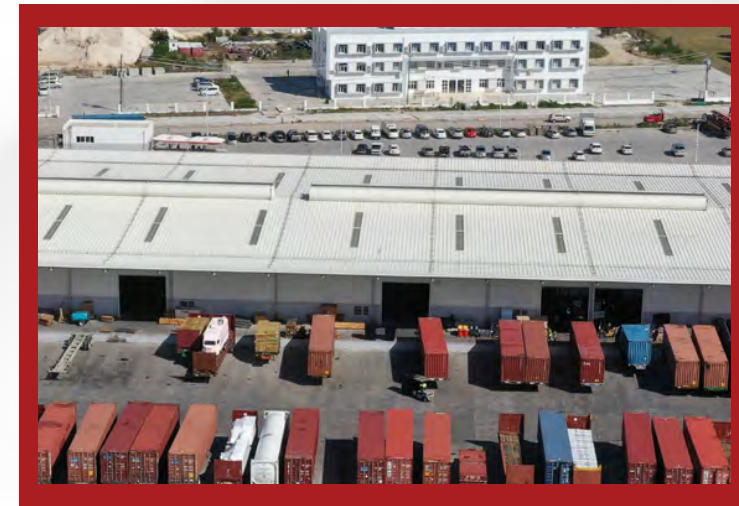
Crypto/block chain systems within a strong regulatory framework.



Diversification of our tourism product to include luxury properties and wellness tourism.



The rapid development of logistics and maritime transportation, utilizing the facilities of our modern Airport and Cargo Port facilities.



Restoring and expanding air transportation services through the expansion of LIAT, CalvinAir helicopters and other air transportation businesses to make Antigua and Barbuda a regional air transportation hub.

CHAPTER 2

MORE INVESTMENT IN THE
LAST 8 YEARS THAN ANY TIME
IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY



Antigua and Barbuda has enjoyed more investment in the last eight years than in any previous period in its history.

From 2014 to 2022, there has been the highest investment in both Antigua and Barbuda by the foreign and local business community, showing a high level of confidence in the economy and the ABLP's policies.

Massive Public Sector Investment

Investment by the ABLP administration of EC\$852.7 million directly from the Treasury, plus more than EC\$550 million from statutory bodies, have resulted in public sector investment of more than EC\$1.4 billion over the last eight years in the development of Antigua and Barbuda: These investments include:





Dredge Bay



The construction of more than 1,000 new homes in locations at Dredge Bay, Denfields, Lightfoot, Paynters, St. Phillips, and Friar's Hill – over EC\$300 million was spent by National Housing to provide houses and land to citizens.



Paynters



Dredge Bay



North Sound



Lightfoot Development



Olivers Development



Lightfoot Development



Barbuda Housing Support



John Hughes



Denfields



Denfields



The building of a modern Cargo port at a cost of EC\$250 million.



Sir Sidney Walling Roundabout



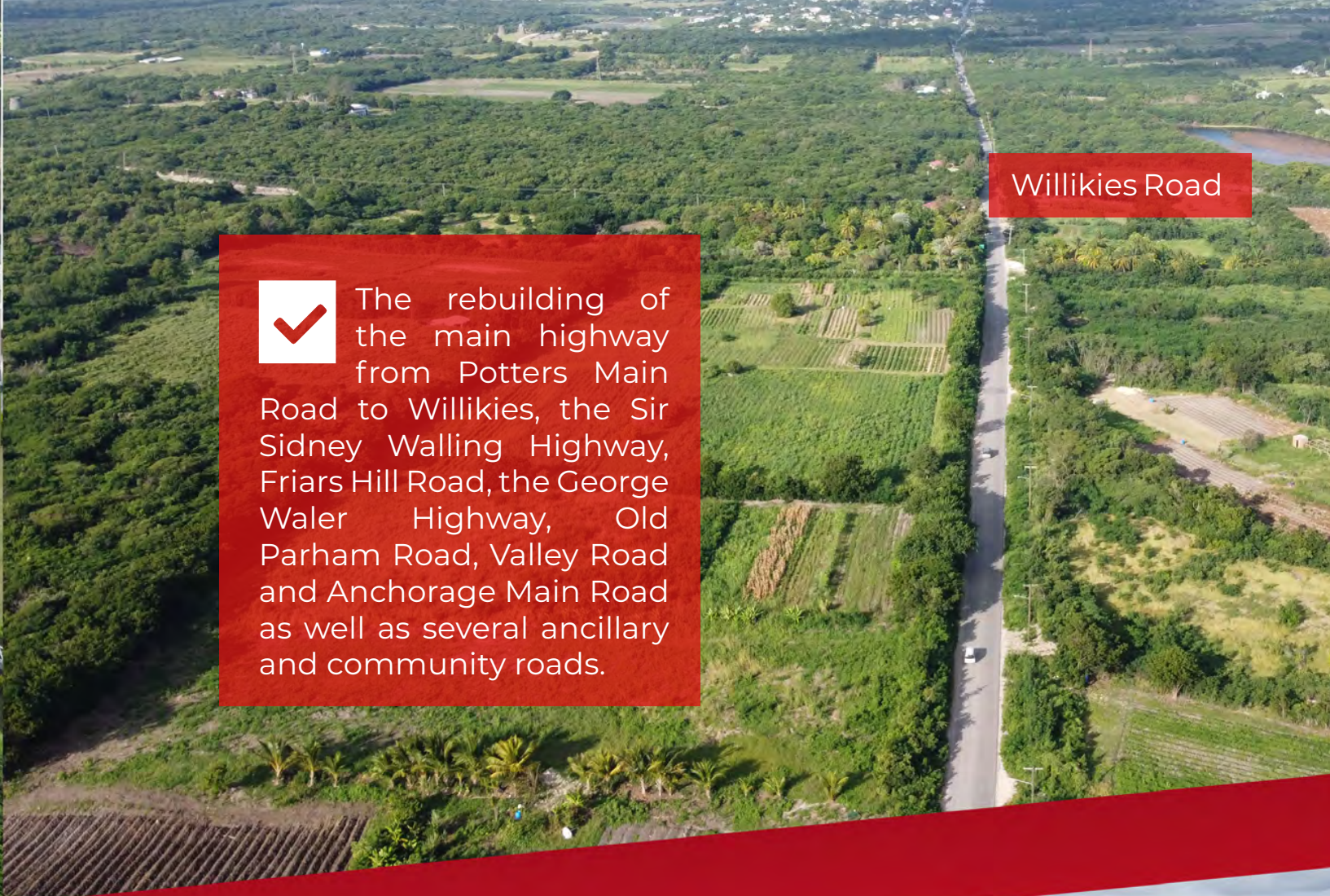
Lower Friars Hill Roundabout



Friars Hill Roundabout



Willikies Road



✓ The rebuilding of the main highway from Potters Main Road to Willikies, the Sir Sidney Walling Highway, Friars Hill Road, the George Waler Highway, Old Parham Road, Valley Road and Anchorage Main Road as well as several ancillary and community roads.

Friars Hill Road



Community Roads



Valley Road



Old Parham Road





The development of the Five Islands Campus of the University of the West Indies.

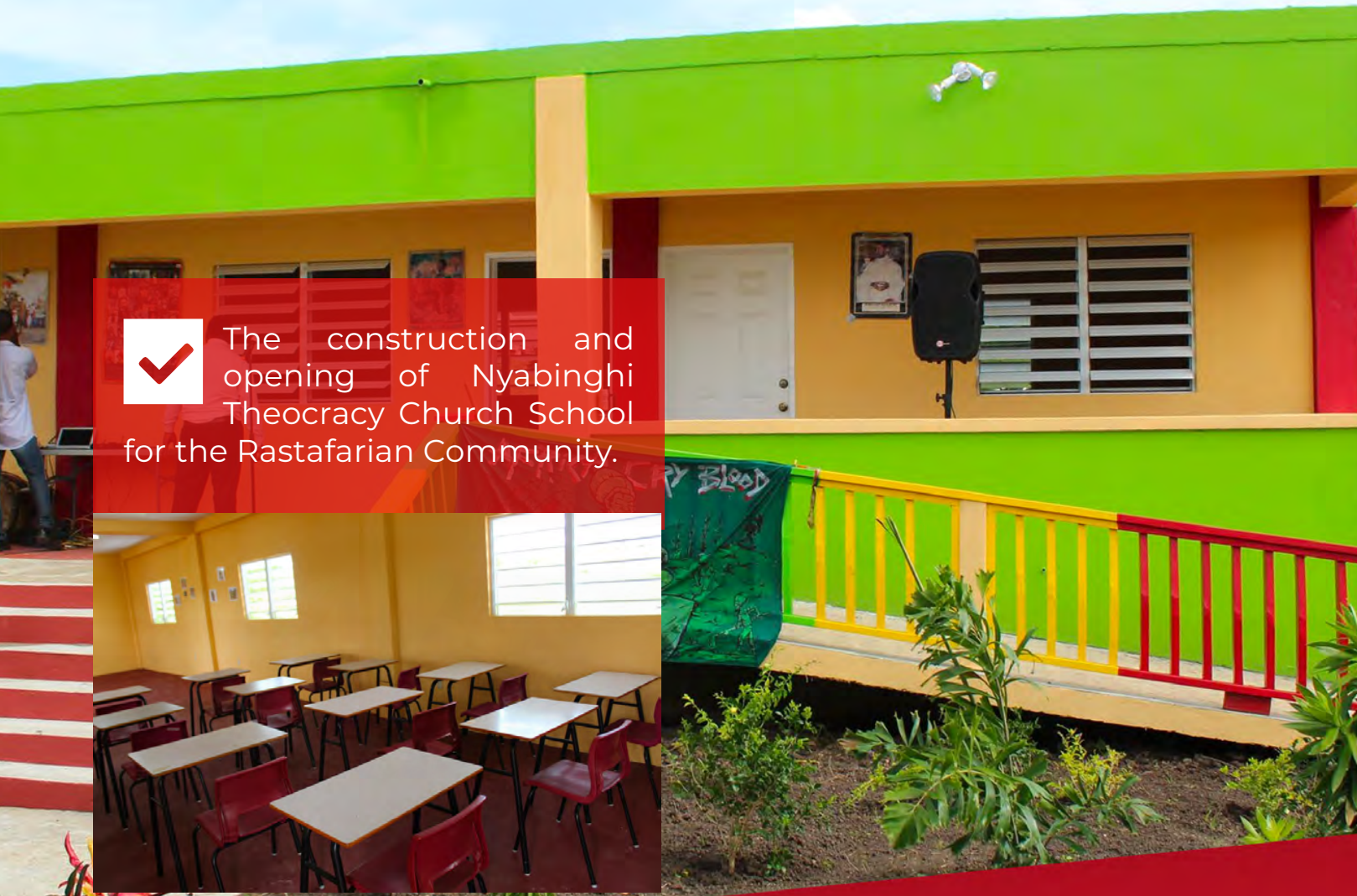


Investments of more than \$200 million by the West Indies Oil Company, expanding its operations and improving its capacity to serve the needs of the population.



The expansion of the Cruise Ship port to 5 berths, including one to accommodate the largest Cruise Ships in the world.





The construction and opening of Nyabinghi Theocracy Church School for the Rastafarian Community.

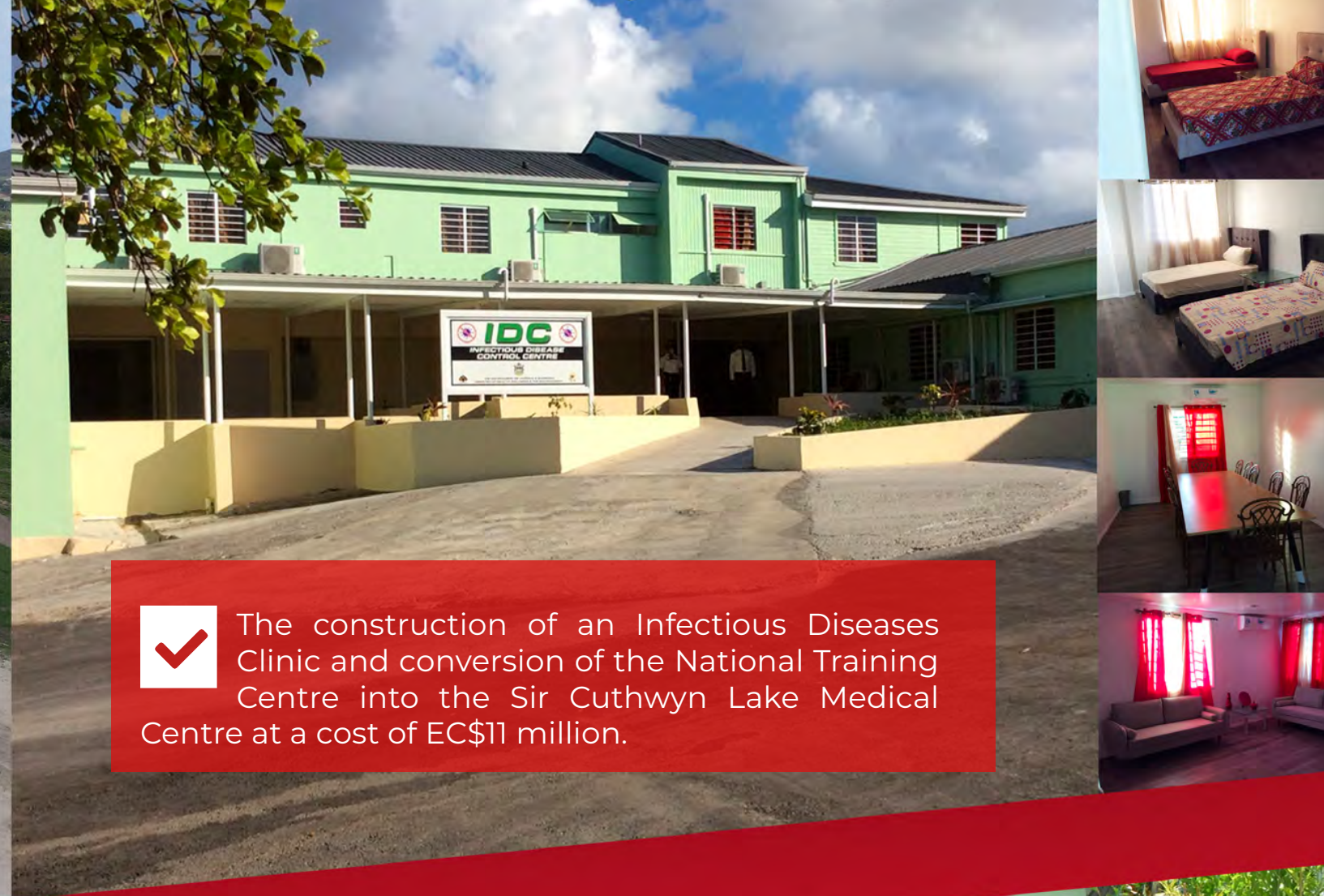


Expansion of the Antigua and Barbuda technical and vocational Centre currently under construction.





The construction of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy and Science Laboratory.



The construction of an Infectious Diseases Clinic and conversion of the National Training Centre into the Sir Cuthwyn Lake Medical Centre at a cost of EC\$11 million.



The repair and refurbishment of several schools and government buildings, including Police stations.





Construction of mini dams in support of the Agricultural Sector.



A New Tower and radar equipment at the V.C. Bird International Airport.



The building out of a fibre optic network directly to homes and businesses throughout Antigua.



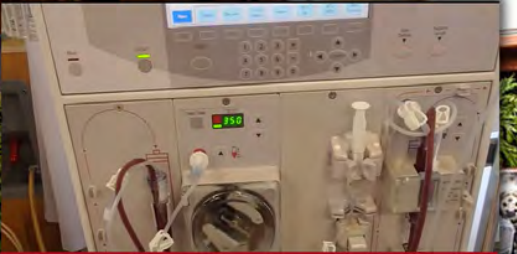
The building of two new major Polyclinics.



The expansion of the facilities at the Sir Lester Bird Mount St John's Medical Centre.



Hyperbaric oxygen therapy



Kidney dialysis treatment



A new Athletics Track at the YASCO Sports Complex.





A new and expanded Airport in Barbuda at a cost of EC\$65 million.



Building energy resilience in Barbuda through the establishment of a solar voltaic energy plant and battery storage at a cost of EC\$27 million.



The reconstruction of homes, schools, and hospital in Barbuda at a cost of EC\$29 million.





The rebuilding of the sea landing in Barbuda.



BUSINESS COMMUNITY SHOWED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Over the last eight years, the business community – both local and foreign investors, and private citizens – have shown immense confidence in the ABLP government and in the economy. They have formed a partnership with the government in which their investment is encouraged by tax and duty-free concessions.

Between 2014 and 2022, the private sector companies and individuals invested billions of dollars in Antigua and Barbuda.

Instead of banking their profits abroad, the private sector has been investing their money in Antigua and Barbuda, adding to greater growth, more jobs, and expanded national wealth.

VISIBLE INDICATORS OF PRIVATE SECTOR CONFIDENCE IN THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE ABLP GOVERNMENT INCLUDE:

- ✓ The number of new businesses constructed and opened on Friar's Hill Road, All Saints Road, the Falmouth/ English Harbour area, Blue Waters Main Road, Perry Bay Main Road, Powells, Factory Road, and Sir George Walters Highway.
- ✓ The construction of Canada Place, the Global Headquarters of Business Mogul Calvin Ayre at a cost of US\$30 million.



- ✓ The large number of new homes and apartment buildings that have been constructed throughout Antigua at a value of over EC\$600 million.
- ✓ The opening of new restaurants, retail stores, and mechanic workshops.



- ✓ The investment of hundreds of millions of dollars by Global Ports Holdings in upgrading, expanding, and improving the Cruise Ship port in Antigua.



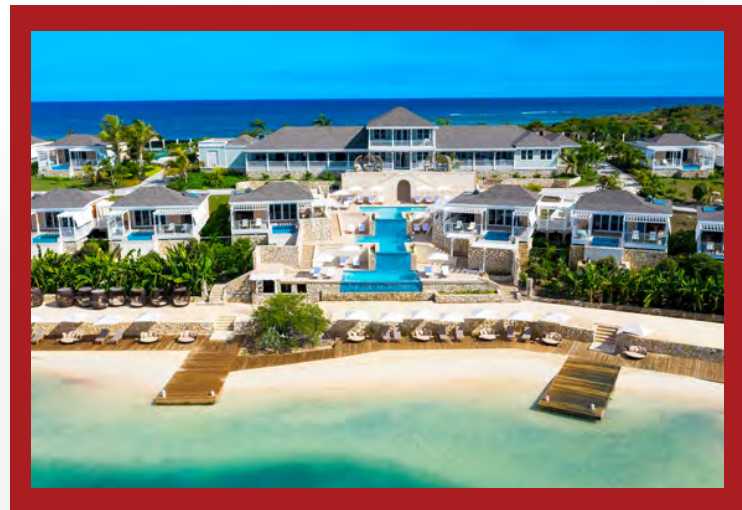
✓ The continuing expansion of the American Medical University of Antigua.



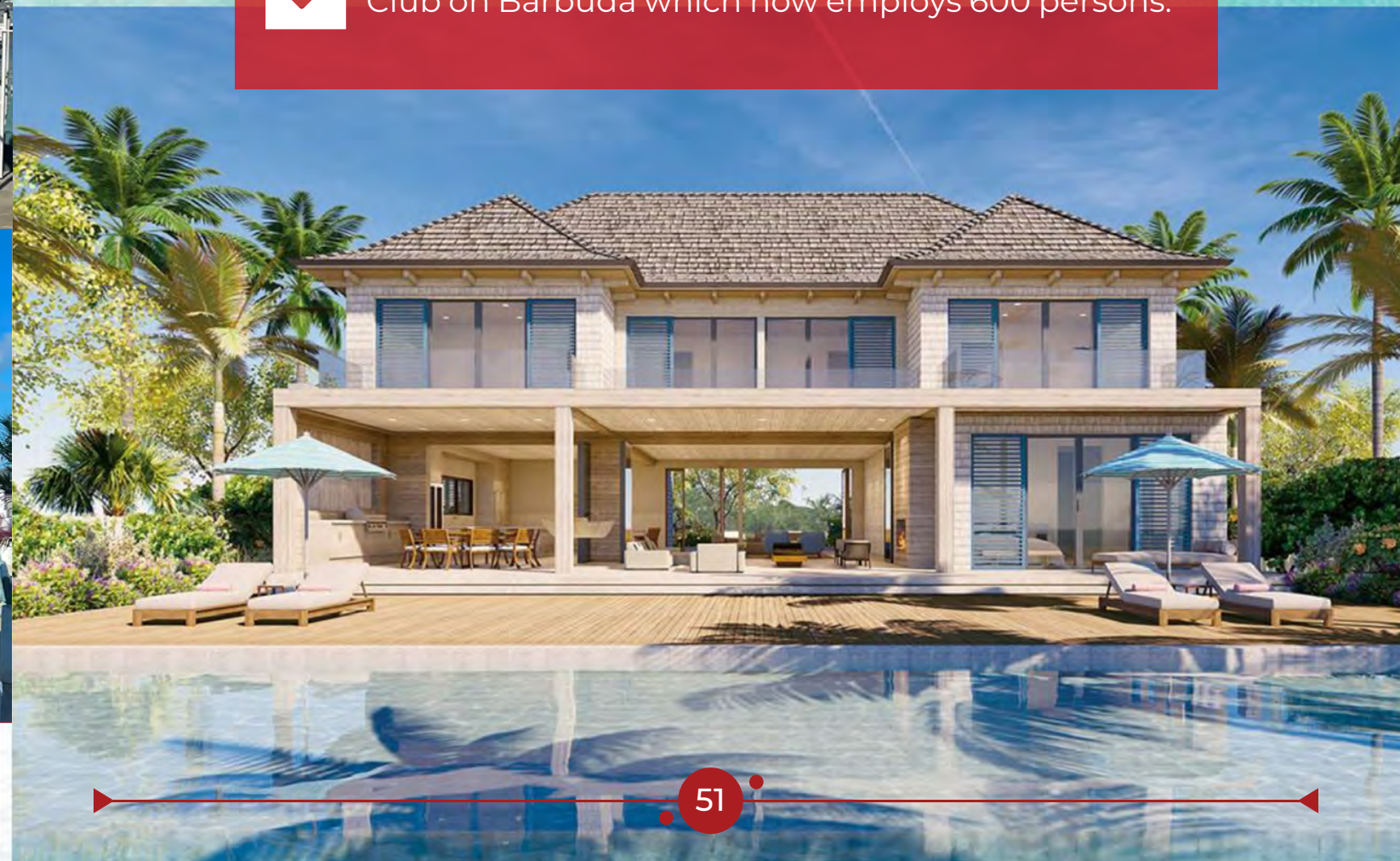
✓ A 535 feet Superyacht Dock at locally owned Falmouth Harbour Marina, accommodating the world's largest superyachts, at a cost of EC\$9 million (with government concessions). It is the only dock of this size in a marina anywhere in the Caribbean.



✓ The expenditure of almost EC\$300 million on luxury properties at several locations, including Jumby Bay, Windward Beach, Pearns Point, Galley Bay Heights, and Mill Reef Club.



✓ The investment of over EC\$1.5 billion by PLH Ocean Club on Barbuda which now employs 600 persons.





LARGE INVESTMENT OF BUSINESSPEOPLE SHOWS TRUST IN THE ABLP

No businessperson or private individual invests money in any country in whose government and economy they have no confidence. The business community put their money where their confidence is – in the Antigua and Barbuda economy and the ABLP government.

It is with this private sector confidence, and their trust, that the ABLP government will continue to build the economy of Antigua and Barbuda, bringing more employment, greater growth and more social progress and economic prosperity for all.

SHIPPING AND CARGO PORT

The Cargo Port has been expanded and modernized at a cost of US\$100 million to place Antigua as the only modern transshipment point in the Eastern Caribbean. The massive vessels which transit the Panama Canal, carrying thousands of cargo containers, will discharge cargo in Antigua for onward shipment to Caribbean nations. To facilitate this, the Port Authorities of Panama and Antigua and Barbuda have already signed a cooperation agreement.

The Cargo Port has been built to take advantage of Antigua’s well placed geographical location to serve as a transit point for cargo destined for the Northern Leeward Islands and several Southern Windward Islands.

Even without this utilization of the Port, which was formally opened in December 2022, its revenues had already increased substantially. It is expected to earn record revenues of more than EC\$55 million for the year 2022.

Once the Port’s utilization for transshipments starts, revenues will increase considerably, as will the expansion of jobs.



WATER

The nation’s potable water-production has been doubled and delivery has improved significantly, since the ABLP took office in 2014.

The quantum of reverse osmosis (RO) water production has moved from 3.0 million gallons daily, in 2014, to more than 7 million gallons daily, in 2022. The ABLP has spent EC\$130 million to buy and install new RO plants.

At Pigeon Point, Ivan Rodrigues, Ffryes Beach, and Fort James, new plants were added for water production, adding upwards of 4 million gallons to daily supply. APUA has completed the purchase of yet another RO plant which will be constructed in Bethesda, producing an additional 3 million gallons daily.



ELECTRICITY

Under the UPP, electricity production and its provision to homes and businesses was a disaster. The UPP purchased the so-called, Wadadli Power Plant, at a cost of \$150 million, claiming it would provide 30 megawatts of power for 50 years. It did not work beyond a couple of years and failed to reach its potential output. Yet another wastage of scarce financial resources; all 5 engines are destined for the Cook’s landfill.

APUA today is collaborating with the Antigua Power Company to provide more electricity from a 40-megawatt LNG plant, over several decades, for a competitive cost. Improved electricity supply is also possible because of the replacement of the rotten KV-9 transmission lines. Although the cost of inputs, especially fuel, has increased, the basic cost of electricity to homes has been subsidized and remains unchanged. Further improvements in electricity delivery are planned to cater for the demands of an expanding and growing economy.



ROADS

Despite the shortfall in government revenue, generated by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the ABLP Government invested significant amounts in repairing roads.

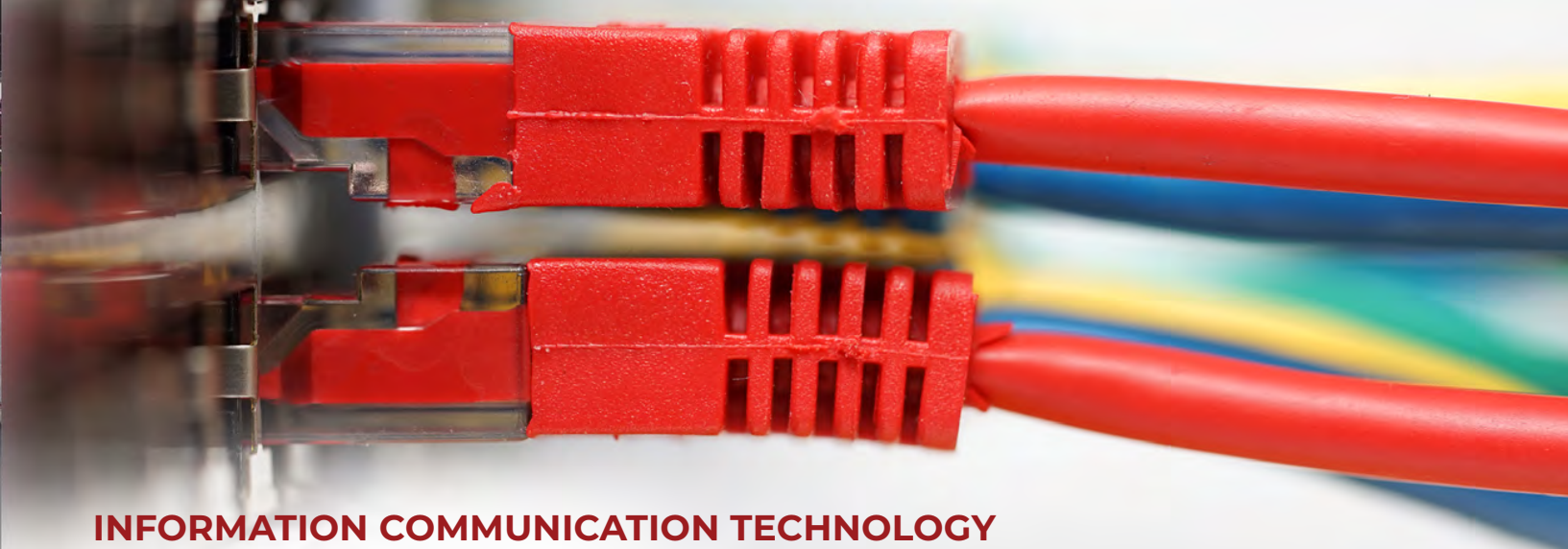
On November 8 and 9, 2020, more than 21 inches of rain fell on Antigua. The poorly constructed roads built during the UPP regime showed all their weaknesses by the potholes and deep crevices which appeared after the rainfall.

Today, four miles of Old Parham Road - from Government House to Airport Road - have been rebuilt and resurfaced. The southern highway from Golden Grove School to Urlings - a ten-mile stretch of roadway - has also been rebuilt and resurfaced. Several bridges that allow a flow of runoff from downpours, along the way, have been replaced. Repair work was completed on Crabbe Hill Road, where the sea undermined the foundation, requiring significant

engineering to restore the roadway.

The main highway from Potters Main Road to Willikies, nearly twelve miles long, has been repaired and resurfaced. The Sir Sidney Walling Highway has also been refurbished. Friars Hill Road from the Blue Waters Junction to Cross Street, or five miles of a commercial stretch, have been repaired and resurfaced. Airport Road from the junction of Factory Road to V.C. Bird International Airport and the George Walter Highway, have also been repaired and resurfaced.

Secondary roads within villages and communities are being repaired, making surfaces smoother. This is an ongoing task. As part of its Next Level development plans, community roads will receive steady focus.



INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The upgrade of the nation's Information and Communication Technology systems (ICTs) must match the same level of effectiveness and innovativeness as in the developed world.

The competition is global; therefore, the Antigua and Barbuda standard must also be global.

Laying its own undersea fibre-optic cable at a cost of \$50 million, APUA will be on an equal footing with the two other giant organizations offering identical services. APUA-INET was placed on the chopping block by the UPP, and it was saved by the ABLP to enable a great future; now, the Labour Party administration intends to take INET to the next level, bringing down its prices and forcing the foreign competitors to drop theirs as well.

Recognizing that, in recent years, there has been a worldwide rise in cybersecurity threats to all Information Communication Technology systems by cybercriminals, whose techniques can evade detection and easily go

after high-value targets as well as steal the identity of any individual, the ABLP government will implement strategies to mitigate cybersecurity threats by addressing prevention, detection, and remediation.

These developments are already 'next level' upward movements on the pathway to greater progress and prosperity for all. They include e-government operations, business operations, long distance, and remote learning for people resident in Antigua and Barbuda; digital nomads and others providing IT services remotely; tele-medicine in hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices; and for home entertainment.

Therefore, the ABLP government spent \$45 million ensuring that fibre optic cable reaches every community. Next Level digitization and digitalization depend on rapid broadband services as offered in the most developed countries in the world. The ABLP is determined to provide that instant connecting bridge to the world.



MANUFACTURING

Over the last two years, manufacturing has contributed over EC\$100 million to our nation's gross domestic product.

The sector is capable of much more. The ABLP government will continue to promote the sector, especially now that both a modern Airport and a large, modern Cargo port have been added to the box of tools available to attract manufacturing industries, geared for exports. Goods can be shipped by sea from Antigua and Barbuda to the Caribbean, North America, Central America, and South America more easily than ever before.

Local entrepreneurs will continue to be encouraged, through tax incentives and the provision of development land at \$3.00 per square foot, to go into manufacturing.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VENTURE CAPITAL SUPPORT FOR LOCALS

The Entrepreneurial Development Fund (EDF) and Venture Capital Fund (VPF) are ready to continue to provide financial support to local persons to launch small and medium-sized business into profit-making enterprises.

The EDF will give loans repayable over 10 years at interest rates of between 1 and 3%, depending on the type of business. Successful applicants will also benefit from development land at \$3.00 per square foot, as well as tax and duty-free concessions.

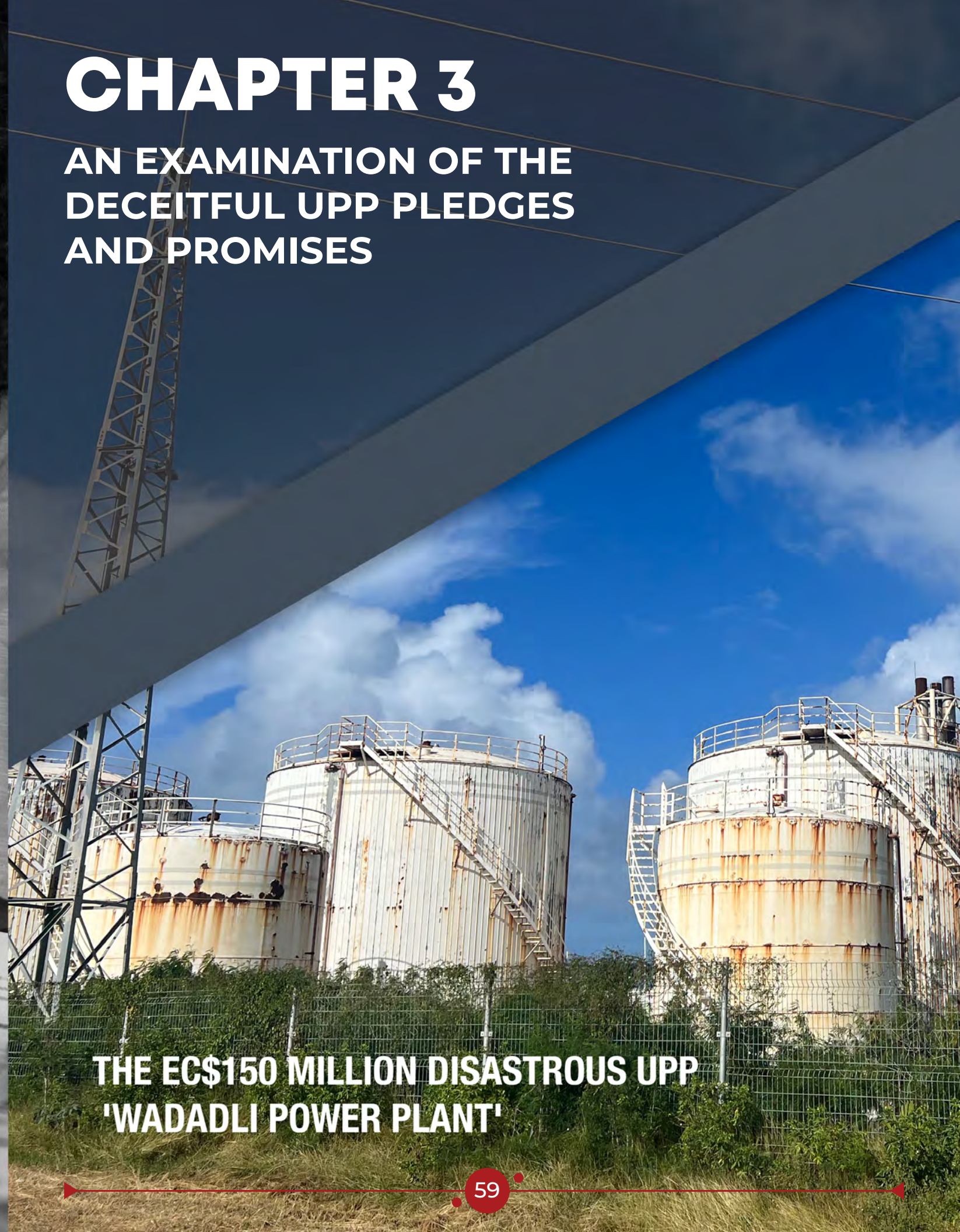
So far, activity in 5 key sectors have benefitted: tourism, fishing, agriculture, construction, and retail services. The EDF aims to create an entrepreneurial class among those persons, who have creative ideas and good business plans but have been unable to raise the financial support they need.

The ABLP government's resolve is to help local people command a significant place in the nation's economy.



CHAPTER 3

AN EXAMINATION OF THE DECEITFUL UPP PLEDGES AND PROMISES



THE EC\$150 MILLION DISASTROUS UPP 'WADADLI POWER PLANT'

AN EXAMINATION OF THE DECEITFUL UPP PLEDGES AND PROMISES

Before we go any further in recounting the many ways in which the ABLP administration has successfully expanded and improved the economic and social conditions of Antigua and Barbuda and all its inhabitants, it is worth examining the empty promises and false pledges that the UPP has made in the efforts of its leadership to get power.

The UPP promises the following immediately on attaining government:

1. To pay severance and all outstanding monies to All of the severed LIAT employees. LIAT (1974) Ltd in liquidation, is a private, limited liability company, in which the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is only a 32% shareholder and has no legal obligation to pay severance (even though it has already made available 50% of the demands by way of cash and land to workers in Antigua and Barbuda). The cost of this UPP plan to the Antigua and Barbuda Treasury is one hundred and twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000.00)

2. To pay all debts due to companies and businesses by the Government for goods and services. This cost is four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000.00). Three hundred million of this was credited under the UPP when in

government, and the balance of one hundred million was under the present government.

3. To immediately roll back the price of gasoline and diesel to their original cost, thereby subsidizing the driving habits of all vehicle owners, from the drivers of Mercedes, BMW, and Lexus to those driving the Vitz. This promise will cost the taxpayers EC\$5 million per month, or sixty million dollars per year (\$60,000,000.00).

4. To immediately pay the severed Jolly Beach workers, all sums owed to them by a private company in liquidation. This will cost the Treasury another seven million dollars (\$7,000,000.00). In any event, the ABLP government which did not owe these workers and had no obligation to pay them, has already dealt with this issue by giving EC\$12.9 million to the Liquidator to pay the workers through their Union. Those payments have been made.

5. To eliminate the unincorporated business tax, which will result in direct revenue loss of \$8 million and further revenue loss by undermining the \$70 million corporation tax yield through the conversion of taxable corporate profits to non-taxable unincorporated profits.

6. To pay those persons who declined to be vaccinated against

COVID-19. The total sum is approximately two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00)

These are empty promises and reckless giveaways. If they were to be kept, the UPP would cost the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the National Treasury over \$600 million, in the first year in office, or the first 100 days as is the UPP boast. That money does not exist, nor can it be magically pulled out of a hat. When the government's wage bill of four hundred and twenty million dollars (\$420,000,000.00) is added, the cost blows up to over one billion dollars, significantly more than the government's annual revenue

intake.

The question has to be asked where is the six hundred million dollars coming from? The UPP clearly believe that the people of Antigua and Barbuda are uninformed. But any secondary school child can figure out that these are unattainable and false pledges, designed only to secure votes based on lies and deception.

Fortunately, the electorate of Antigua and Barbuda has been educated by successive ABLP governments to reason for themselves and to calculate figures.

UPP AND LOVELL LIED BEFORE; THEY ARE LYING AGAIN

In the lead-up to the 2004 elections the UPP promised no new taxes. Yet, within a short time, they imposed personal income tax and other taxes that placed severe strain and suffering on the people of this country.

The UPP also said they would not go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to borrow money. But they did, accepting all the harsh conditions including, collapsing the economy thereby, forcing people out

of work, increasing taxes, and cutting benefits.

People can be fooled once, but the UPP is known by their deeds of incompetence, mismanagement, and failure. They would see Antigua and Barbuda wrecked, if only to rule over its ruins. Personal power not public service is what the UPP wants. That must not happen again, and not at the expense of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.



CHAPTER 4

THE UPP AND CONTEMPT FOR WOMEN



The leadership of the UPP, has shown absolute contempt for women in our society.

Among the ranks of the UPP candidates are a known murderer, who killed one of our young women and her unborn child; two rapists and other known criminal activists who are known women abusers.

Remarkably, even the women leaders in the UPP, who claim to be feminists, and those who are trying to compete as candidates in the January 2023 general elections, have been silent at the abuse of their sister women in our society.

Any person, seeking to represent a constituency and to play a role in government, should mirror the values and principles by which the constituency and the people of Antigua and Barbuda stand. By their utterances and behaviour, the UPP candidates have no regard for our grandmothers, mothers, aunts,

ABLP UPHOLDS AND PROMOTES WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By contrast with the evident UPP disregard for women in our society, the ABLP enjoys a record of respecting and promoting women, and of continuing to advance them. It was the ABLP that advanced women into leadership roles in the public service, such that today many of the Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Key agencies, including the Chairman of the Port Authority, the Chief Immigration Officer, the Labour

sisters, wives, and women as the equals of men. They believe that our women and girls should be insulted, disrespected, and abused.

In this connection, Harold Lovell and the women leaders and candidates of the UPP, bring themselves into question, concerning their lack of commitment to standing-up for the rights of women in Antigua and Barbuda.

What, therefore, will the UPP's real position be on gender equality; on equal pay for women; on recognition that women carry children to birth and must, therefore, be accorded rights?

This is a question that the electorate of Antigua and Barbuda must seriously analyze. On the present evidence, the UPP team does not even pay lip service to women's rights. They downright encourage women-abuse.

Commissioner, the CEO of the Airport Authority, the Chief Medical Officer, Supervisor of Elections, the Chief Health Inspector, and the CEO of the Citizenship by Investment Unit, are women.

Additionally, the ABLP implements a policy of gender balance among its appointed representatives to the Senate, and openly encourages women to seek election to the House



of Representatives.

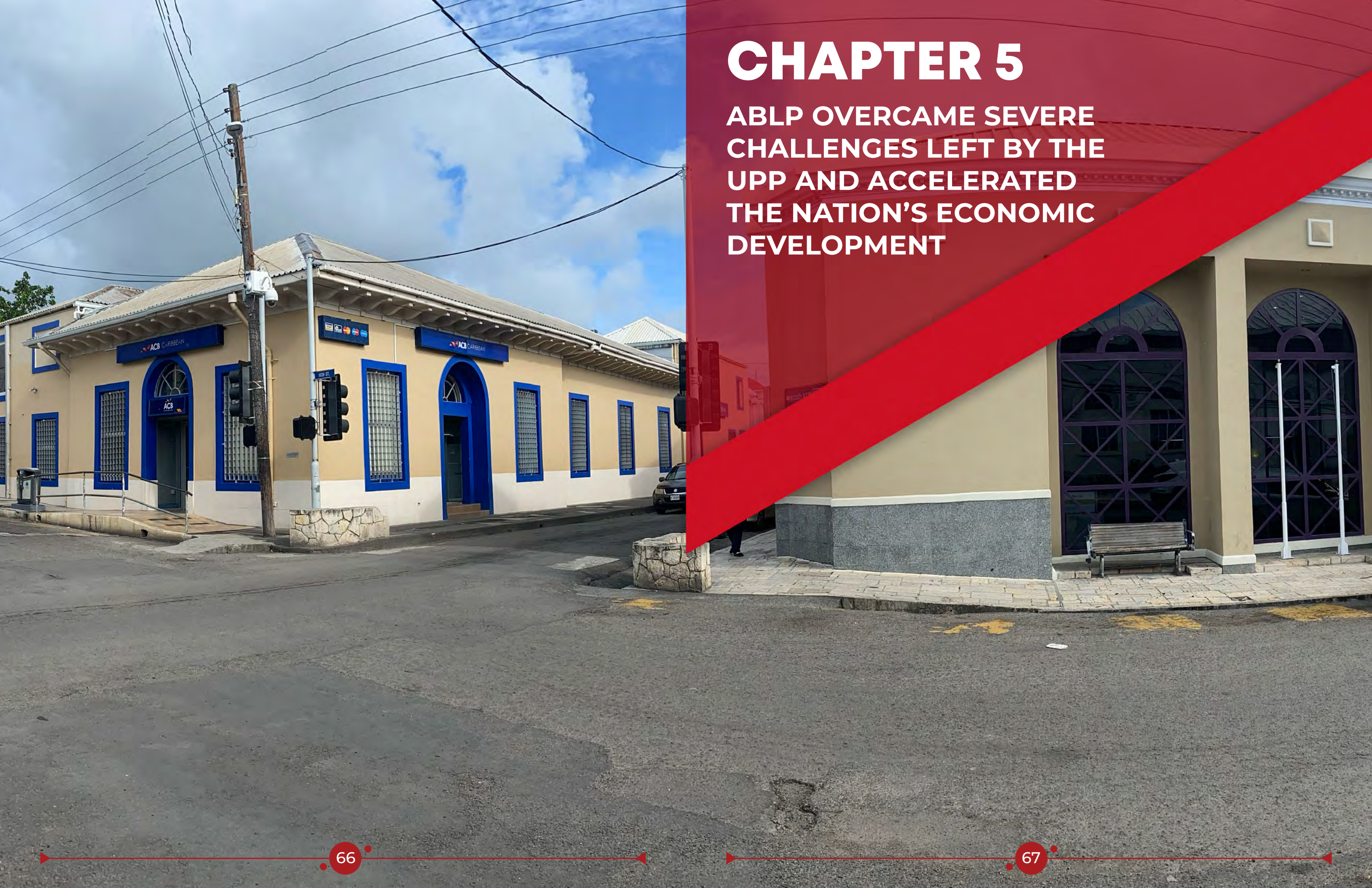
The ABLP leader has already announced that, when the party's four women candidates are elected by their constituencies in the January 2023 general elections, they will all be appointed as Cabinet Ministers. This is consistent with the ABLP's strategic goals for Next Level development which includes: Improvement of social protection services, gender, and youth empowerment to alleviate poverty and reduce vulnerabilities.

In the context of social protection, the ABLP is also resolved to implement a policy of continuing to promote gender equality so that neither gender is left behind. These positions already form part of the ABLP government's medium-term development strategy.

Women will continue to be recognized and advanced by an ABLP administration. Next Level development is respectful of the crucial and equal role that women play in all aspects of our nation's life.

CHAPTER 5

ABLP OVERCAME SEVERE CHALLENGES LEFT BY THE UPP AND ACCELERATED THE NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





GAIL CHRISTIAN
St. John's Rural West



RAWDON TURNER
St. Peter



KNACYNTAR NEDD
Barbuda



CHARLES FERNANDEZ
St. John's Rural North



LENNOX WESTON
St. Phillip's South



CHET GREENE
St. Paul



COLIN JAMES
All Saints East & St. Luke



MICHAEL BROWNE
All Saints West



DARYLL MATTHEW
St. John's Rural South



MOLWYN JOSEPH
St. Mary's North



ROBIN YEARWOOD
St. Philip North



STEADROY BENJAMIN
St. John's City South



MARIA BROWNE
St. John's Rural East



DEAN JONAS
St. George



MELFORD NICHOLAS
St. John's City East



SAMANTHA MARSHALL
St. Mary's South



GASTON BROWNE
St. John's City West

★ ★ ★
↑ ABLP
NEXT
LEVEL =



The ABLP government came into office in 2014 confronting three severe economic challenges, among others left by the UPP administration. No government before the present ABLP administration had to overcome three massive economic

ABLP FIXED THE BANKING FAILURE AND STRENGTHENED THE BANKING SYSTEM

The Antigua and Barbuda Investment Bank failed, placing at risk the banking system in Antigua and Barbuda and the system in the entire Eastern Caribbean Currency Union to which our country is linked. Further, three hundred million dollars (\$300 million) of life savings by Antiguans and Barbudans were threatened.

This was entirely due to UPP policies, including poor regulation and supervision; its own over-borrowing from the local banks; cronyism; and its inability to pay its debts.

The ABLP government intervened, saved the banking system, established machinery for guaranteed payments of the savings of Antiguans and Barbudans, through the creation of the deposit protection trust.

The ABLP administration also acquired almost 80 percent of the shares of the Caribbean Union Bank to save it from collapse. Today, the bank is profitable and is one of the best capitalized banks in the region.

These achievements were due entirely to the banking and financial experience of ABLP Leader, Gaston Browne, who had the knowledge and expertise to devise the mechanisms

issues concurrently. These were: fiscal failure with a significant fiscal gap and high loan delinquency; economic contraction of 25 percent; and banking failure, requiring \$300 million of taxpayers' monies to save customer deposits.

to save the situation.

Subsequently, when in an unrelated development, two foreign banks – Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank of Canada – sought to sell their lucrative financial operations in Antigua and Barbuda to foreign enterprises, the ABLP government, at the insistence of its leader, Gaston Browne, intervened to demand that these bank branches, built in Antigua and Barbuda, on money generated in this country, should be sold to local banks.

Today, the two local banks – the Antigua Commercial Bank and the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank - that were encouraged to purchase the Canadian operations are strong and healthy, and the banking system is secure. The savings of Antiguans and Barbudans have enlarged and are safe under better capitalized banks and robust supervision and regulation.

ABLP FIXED THE UPP FISCAL FAILURE

In 2014, the ABLP inherited from the UPP and its Finance Minister, Harold Lovell, a bankrupt government unable to pay its debts, including

monies owed for the supply of water, oil and electricity that were about to be cut-off by the suppliers, Sembcorp, West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) and Antigua Power Company (APC), respectively. There were even occasions when APC would initiate blackouts to force payments by a then bankrupted APUA.

Antigua and Barbuda was facing a grave crisis for all of its people.

The unpaid debts amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars with little prospect of any further borrowing, including from the IMF.

Not only did the ABLP resolve this huge debt crisis, but it also successfully purchased the WIOC

operations and all its lands in a piece of financial wizardry and partnerships that transformed the situation, resulting in the people of Antigua and Barbuda owning all the land and the controlling shares of the company.

Today, WIOC is a significant contributor to the revenues of the State, not only by its payment of taxes on its profits but also by the dividends which the government earns from its investment.

Even the IMF debt incurred by the UPP was delinquent. The ABLP government paid off the debt earlier than scheduled, freeing the people of Antigua and Barbuda of the harsh conditions that the IMF had imposed.

ABLP TURNED UPP ECONOMIC FAILURE TO ECONOMIC PROGRESS

In 2013 under the UPP, and its Finance Minister Harold Lovell, Antigua and Barbuda's economy did not grow by even 1 percent. The growth recorded was a minuscule 0.60 percent. The economy was in the doldrums and the UPP had no plan to fix it or any prospect of doing so.

Through a series of interventions designed to attract investment and make better use of government resources, the ABLP Government rapidly grew the economy from 2014 to 2019. Economic growth averaged approximately five percent per annum between 2014-2019.

At the end of 2019, the country was on the cusp of even further rapid growth, with several projects in the pipeline, when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged and spread

throughout the world, collapsing tourism, investment, and paralyzing commerce. In the context of a global shut down, the economy contracted by 20.19% in 2020.

The ABLP acted with foresight to utilize the crisis to prepare for its end. Tourism plants were incentivised to refurbish and prepare for the pent-up travel demand that would follow, and the government, having contained the spread of the Coronavirus, decided to open its borders. There was an immediate influx of the wealthy. Rows of private planes decorated the V.C. Bird International Airport even as commercial airlines remained grounded. Active work was also done by the ABLP Government and Global Ports Holdings to prepare for the return of Cruise Ships.

ECONOMY GREW BY 7.43% IN 2021 AND 8.3% IN 2022

Hence in 2021, the economy grew by 7.43% and is on track for 8.3% growth in 2022.

The UPP's disastrous stewardship of the economy was reversed and the ABLP restored it to its upward path, benefitting employment, creating more jobs, stimulating investment, and setting business activity abuzz.

NO CARIBBEAN ISLAND MATCHED THE GROWTH OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Over the last five years, no Caribbean Island has matched the growth of direct foreign investment in Antigua and Barbuda, or the rise of economic opportunities and employment for its people.

The larger resort-based developments, as well as the smaller high-end investments in foreign residential development, have sent a strong signal in international circles about the attractiveness of Antigua and Barbuda as a place to invest money. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and its leadership are responsible for the regard which the international investors accord the country. One telling example of this leadership is the actions of the ABLP government in meeting the challenges of COVID-19 head on.

While other countries shut their doors for almost 2 years, Antigua and Barbuda was the only major Caribbean tourism destination that opened its borders, becoming a haven for wealthy travellers as evidenced by the great number of private planes that gathered at the V.C. Bird International airport.



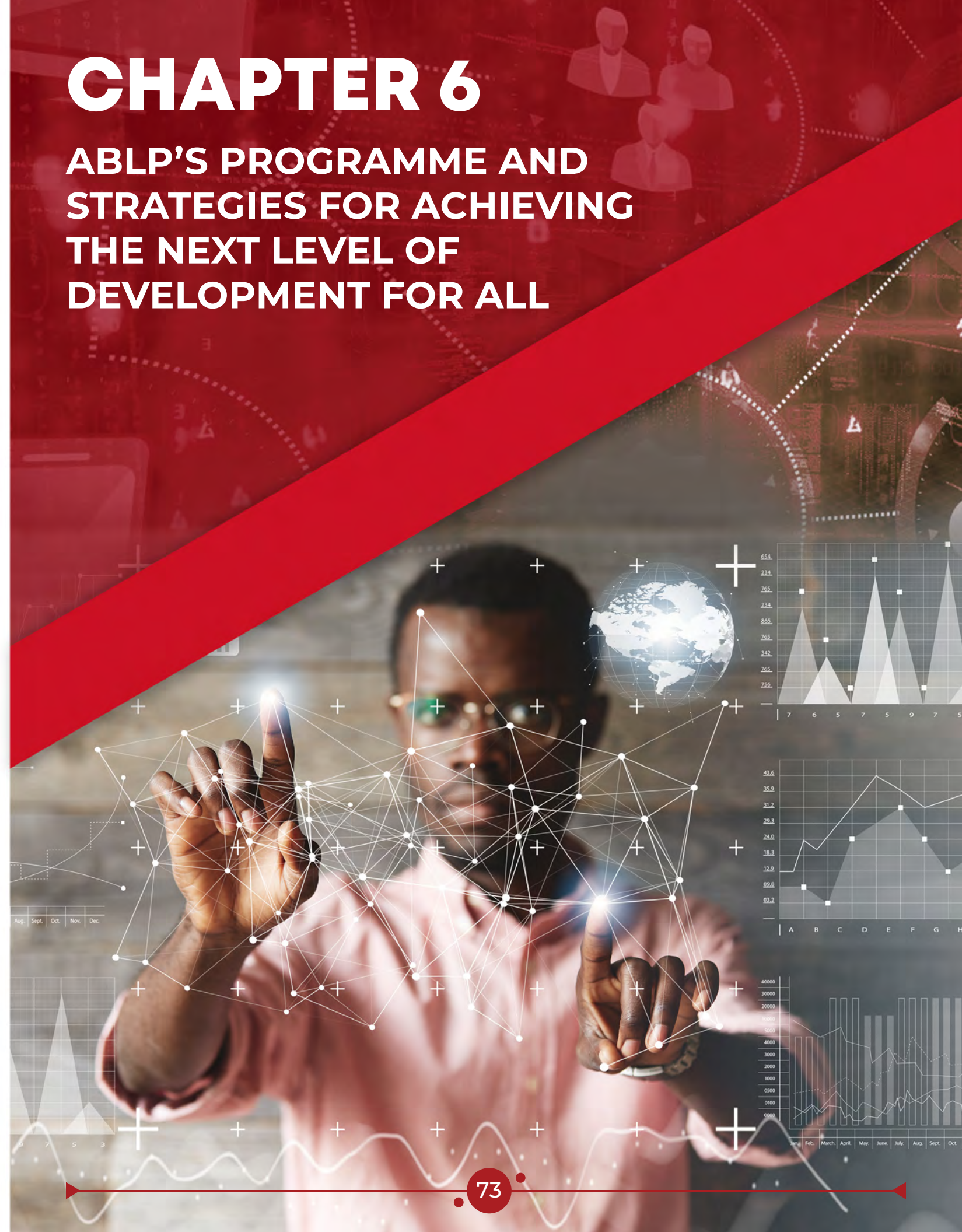
This was no small feat. It promoted Antigua and Barbuda to the vanguard of tourism and investment, and readied it for economic recovery and take off.

Wealthy travellers, anxious for sun, sea, and relaxation (and to get away from the restrictions of COVID-19) were grateful to Antigua and Barbuda for opening its borders in bio-secure conditions. The relationship those wealthy visitors made with the country, during the harrowing pandemic period, is boosting the country's fortunes now, as they, and others in their circle, come to the country as visitors, buyers of second homes, and as new investors.

Under the administration of the ABLP, Antigua and Barbuda has become a shining example of what a small nation-state with a stable democratic system and courageous leadership can accomplish for the benefit of its people.

CHAPTER 6

ABLP'S PROGRAMME AND STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE NEXT LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL



The ABLP has set the ambition to improve the quality of life for all Antiguan and Barbudans now and in the future by taking the nation's development to the next level of progress and prosperity.

To achieve this, a new ABLP government will implement programmes and policies that promote resilience, inclusive and broad-based economic development.

AVERAGE 6% GROWTH OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

The overall objective is to attain and sustain GDP growth over the next 5 years of at least 6%, which is inclusive, generates jobs, and reduces vulnerability and poverty.

Five strategic objectives will be pursued as follows:

✔ Strengthen the macro-fiscal foundation for economic diversification, growth, job creation and a more resilient business environment.

✔ Continue to invest in the socio-economic infrastructure (especially in Education and Health), by promoting digital innovation systems.

✔ Improve social protection services, gender, and youth empowerment to alleviate poverty and reduce vulnerabilities.

✔ Further expand the subjects of study leading to a degree at the UWI Five Islands Campus. Provide more scholarships for higher education.

✔ Enlarge facilities for vocational skill training and provide certification for the skills learned.

✔ Adapt for climate change - Invest in climate resilient infrastructure (ICT, Utilities, Roads, etc.) and promote environmental sustainability.

DIGITIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION

As part of the leap to Next Level development, the ABLP government will:

✔ promote digital innovation by improving the provision (i.e., access at affordable prices) of high-speed Internet; increased networking within the health sector; widespread use of technology within the classroom; and digitization of more government services to increase efficient public access and use.

✔ accelerate the process of digitization of government ministries, departments, and statutory bodies to maintain records in a digital form, and to allow the public to complete forms, applications, pay bills and secure receipts via the internet. This will avoid persons having to travel to

government offices, enduring long waiting time. Records can also be tracked online and downloaded as needed.

✔ advance the development of digital business, giving individuals and companies access to high-speed digital technologies that will modernize their business

models and provide new revenue and value-producing opportunities. These exciting new opportunities will incorporate traditional businesses, but it will also include persons in Antigua and Barbuda who want to market their creative work and services across the globe.

DIGITIZATION TO PERMIT NATION TO MONITOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PROCUREMENT

An extremely important factor in the digitization of Government records and activities is to give every person in Antigua and Barbuda access to all government revenues and expenditure, including procurement and the award of contracts.

The objective of Next Level digitization is for any person to access government transactions for good governance and accountability. Every person must have access to transactions that give detail of every line item of government income and every line item of expenditure. We

know this process can work because we have accomplished it with the revenues and expenditure of the Citizenship by Investment Unit which is fully accessible online.

We recognize that it will take time to construct the digital platforms for full accountability of all government offices, but each phase will provide more information until the platform for accessibility is fully built out.

The ABLP government is resolved to be accountable to the people and to provide them the information to monitor performance.

PROVIDING GREATER SOCIAL PROTECTION

The ABLP recognizes that greater social protection is required to ensure that advantage is not taken of the poor and vulnerable and that obligations to workers are satisfied by the public and private sectors.

In this regard, the ABLP government will:

✔ Adopt legislation to increase retirement age in both the public and private sectors to the age at which Social Security Pensions are payable. Thus, the present gap between retirement and payment of Social Security pensions will be closed.

✓ Fully implement the terms of the Social Protection Act of 2020.

✓ Undertake an enhanced Country Poverty Assessment Survey. Develop and implement adaptive social protection strategies to respond to economic or health shocks that are externally generated or are the result of natural disasters.

✓ Continue to promote gender equality such that neither gender is left behind.

Develop more second chance programs to capture persons who fall through the social safety net.

RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Recognizing that Climate Change and its impacts are real, and that small island states must do their utmost to mitigate harmful effects, the ABLP government will:

✓ Reduce our country's carbon footprint by 50 percent by 2030 and will become carbon neutral by 2040.

✓ Update the Building Code and enact measures that promote the adoption of renewable energy and backup storage systems for new homes.

✓ Expand financial incentives to promote the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient practices and technologies across leading sectors.

✓ Promote climate-proof homes in Antigua and Barbuda to withstand category 5 hurricanes.

✓ Invest in climate-proofing other critical infrastructure such as clinics, hospitals, and schools, so that they can continue to operate fully during and after a hurricane, severe rainfall events, and during severe drought and excessive heat conditions.

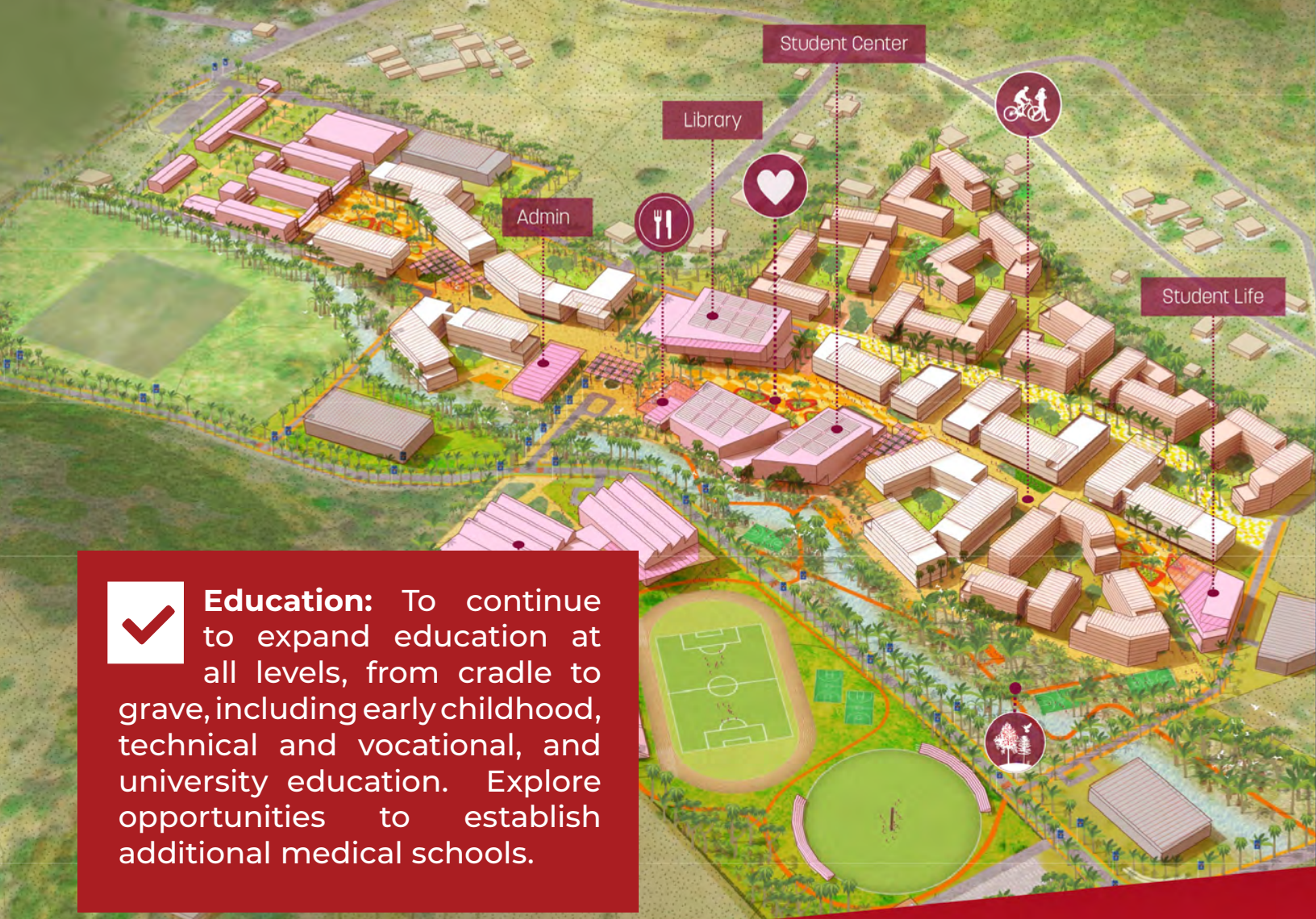
✓ At the same time, the ABLP will continue its leadership role in advocating for climate justice, including compensation for loss and damage, as well as for limitations on the greenhouse gas emissions of major polluting countries that cause Climate Change.

PRIORITY SECTORS FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM

The priority sectors for the medium term ahead will be:

✓ **Water:** To complete the build-out of the water supply system so that from early in 2023, water will not be an issue.

✓ **Tourism:** To enhance the tourism product to leverage international competitiveness and transform Barbuda into a green, low-density, luxury tourism destination, with improved linkages to sport, agriculture, education and healthcare services, including stem cells and cannabis therapies.



✓ **Education:** To continue to expand education at all levels, from cradle to grave, including early childhood, technical and vocational, and university education. Explore opportunities to establish additional medical schools.

✓ **Blue Economy:** To develop a national ocean policy that is aligned to the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy. Explore export opportunities in the fishing, yachting, and shipping sectors. Also exploit rights to access Antigua and Barbuda's maritime jurisdiction and monetize its oceanic resources.



✓ **Health:** To implement key policies and strategies such as the National Policy and Action Plan for Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Establish renal and cardiac centres and promote medical tourism initiatives.

✓ **Agriculture:** To increase surface water for irrigation links to grow food and build food security. In addition, strategies will be implemented to facilitate resilience of the agricultural sector from the impact of Climate Change. During the COVID-19 pandemic many persons turned to farming. Backyard gardens were turned into farms, and existing farms increased their production. The ABLP government has incentivized farmers by subsidising water costs by 25%. To ensure some degree of food security, the ABLP administration will increase the subsidy next year, while feasibility studies are conducted on sustainable and affordable means of water supply. The ABLP government is also examining ways of increasing the export of fish which already contributes 50% of Antigua and Barbuda's agriculture income. The ABLP government is committed to continue working with the farming and fishing communities to utilize modern technology to maximise production and earnings with links to hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets. Our government will also invest with local farmers and fishermen by taking a redeemable equity stake in their business. The ABLP will also establish a Chicken Abattoir for the benefit of farmers and consumers.



Creative Arts:

The ABLP government will open a Performing Arts Centre at the site of the old Deluxe Cinema in St. John's which it purchased to provide the nation with its first National Theatre and Concert Hall.

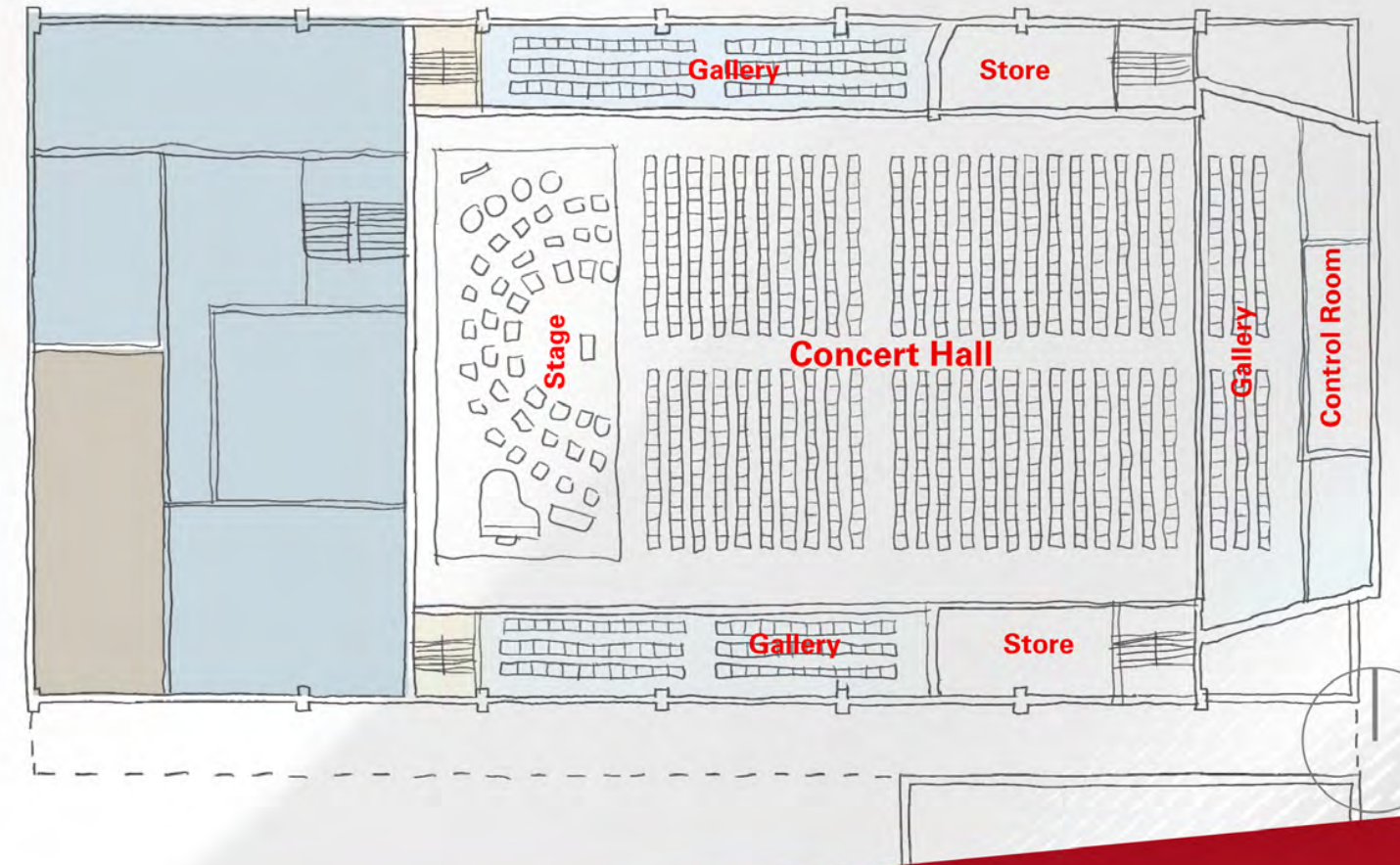
The hall will have up to 1,000 seats on the ground floor and galleries. It will be used for performances of plays, musical events, poetry readings by both local groups and visiting foreign artists, including orchestras.

The facility will also be used to build a National Orchestra, and to facilitate the development of professional musicians, actors, producers, directors and designers of costumes and stage-sets.

The Performing Arts Centre will become the forum for artistic development and expression – and entertainment – in the Next Level development of music and drama productions.

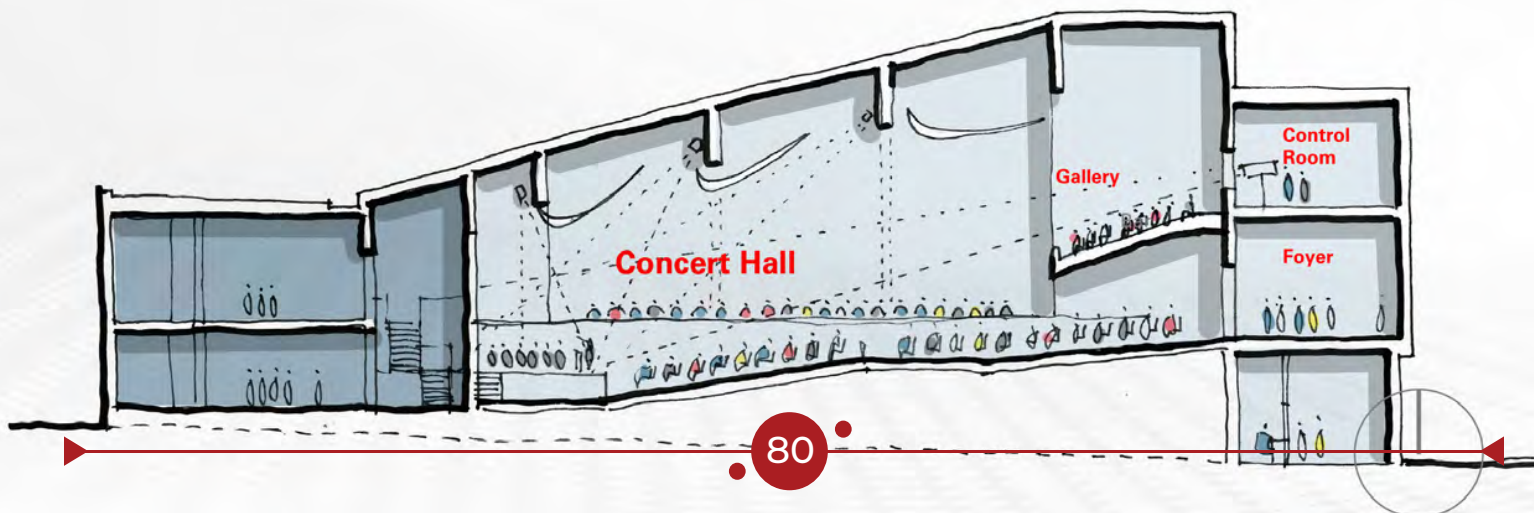
Scenario 2 – Upper Ground Floor Plan

750 – 900 Seats



Performing Arts Center – Cross Section

900 -1000 Seats





Sports:

To expand national programmes and facilities to foster talent and potential benefits for young people, including the operationalization of a new aquatic centre with an appropriate size international swimming pool. The centre will accommodate a 25-meter, 10-lane competition pool with a warm-up pool, a gym, two spectator stands with a 600-person capacity, and facilities for both male and female competitors. Cricket is our national game and our cricketing heroes brought fame for Antigua and Barbuda and pride to every citizen. The ABLP government will continue to promote Cricket, giving our young men and women the opportunity to earn more money in the regional and international premier leagues, while restoring our West Indian Cricket teams to the top of the game. Football, athletics, netball, basketball, baseball, and other sports will continue to receive attention. Additionally, the ABLP government will construct a multi-purpose, well-equipped indoor Sports centre that will prepare our young people for success in regional and international competition.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AQUATIC CENTRE



PROGRAMMES FOR ADVANCING YOUTH AND HEARING THEIR VOICE

Youth are the primary focus of the large sums of money that the ABLP administration has spent on education, including the Five Islands Campus of the University of the West Indies, the construction of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy on Antigua, and the expansion and renovation of schools in both Antigua and Barbuda.



YOUTH HAVE BENEFITTED FROM FIVE ISLANDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Youth are also the beneficiaries of the \$240 million that the ABLP government has spent over the last 8 years, providing scholarships for higher education both at Five Islands and overseas.



YOUTH HAVE GAINED FROM LAND AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An especial effort has also been made to ensure that young people are the beneficiaries of the Entrepreneurial Development Fund and the Venture Capital Fund that assist young people to start-up businesses or expand existing ones. Qualifying young people have received development land at \$3.00 per square foot, and 10-year loans at between 1 to 3% interest – terms that are available nowhere else.

Young people have also been given the opportunity to own their own homes at the several housing estates that the ABLP government and its agencies have constructed. Many of them have taken advantage of this opportunity to own their first homes.

SPORTS FACILITIES DIRECTED AT YOUTH

The many facilities for sports activities across the country have also been built for the benefit of young people, not only for their recreational activities but also to help prepare those who are interested in participating in regional and international games.

As has been mentioned in the “Sports” section of this Manifesto, the ABLP government has already broken ground for the construction of a new aquatic centre with an appropriate size international swimming pool, and it will construct a multi-purpose, well-equipped indoor Sports Centre that will prepare our young people for competition in regional and international games.

All this underscores the commitment of the ABLP government to provide opportunities for the growth, development, and empowerment of our youth.



A NEW SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO HELP DEVELOP YOUNG MUSICIANS

Adding to this, the ABLP will invest in facilities to give our youth a chance to develop their musical talent and to export their music around the world. In the past, we have had musicians who have made regional and international names, among them Sir McClean Emanuel (King Short Shirt) and, as far back as the 1940's, the "Brute Force Steel Band". The facilities today, via modern technology and the Internet, are multiplied significantly. To contribute to this still further, the ABLP proposes to equip secondary schools with music laboratories to promote and hone musical growth, development, and expression.

GIVING YOUTH A POLITICAL VOICE

In 2014 and again in 2018, the ABLP government put young women in their 20s into the Senate, the National Assembly, and the Cabinet. Again, in the January 2023 general elections, women in their 30s are among the ABLP candidates. The Prime Minister has also indicated that a re-elected ABLP government will include 22-year old Caleb Gardiner in the Senate. He is a graduate of UWI Five Islands and was a member of the National Youth Parliament. He has the capacity and knowledge to ensure that the views of young people are heard in the highest decision-making body in the land. Young persons will also be appointed to Boards of Statutory Corporations.


That is the kind of Next Level commitment which the ABLP government is making – and will continue to make – to the Youth of our country who are part of our present, and integral to our future.

CHAPTER 7

EXPLANATION OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

CHAPTER 8

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE



The Blue Economy is the entire Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of Antigua and Barbuda in the waters that surround it. In effect, the EEZ is the sea area contiguous to Antigua and Barbuda, which extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

However, because Antigua and Barbuda borders other island states some of which fall within 200 nautical miles, the EEZ will be measured equidistantly between the islands. In any event, Antigua and Barbuda's EEZ will be much larger than the land mass of the two islands, giving the government and people the opportunity to exploit the marine resources and opportunities within the EEZ.

The resources and opportunities that will be exploited include fisheries, tourism – both coastal and sea-connected, such as Cruise Ships and Yachting; minerals in the seabed; aquaculture, for example, fish farming; transportation of goods and persons; biotechnology that

contribute to medicines; and oil and gas exploration.

Another almost immediate economic benefit of the Blue Economy is the tonnes of Carbon stored in our EEZ. This carbon is as much a natural resource as gold, diamonds, or oil. The difference is that Antigua and Barbuda can be paid for protecting it, instead of mining or extracting it.

Stored Carbon can be traded between governments and with companies as Carbon Credits and Carbon Offsets.

The ABLP government will seek to align with private sector partners to map our EEZ to establish the approximate amount of Carbon it holds. Once that information is known, the new ABLP government will create a Carbon Market Financial Platform to trade not only the Carbon we possess but also the Carbon retained by other Small Island States.

This is the kind of innovative approach that will take our country to the Next Level of progress and prosperity.



For the ABLP, the people of Antigua and Barbuda always come first. While the ABLP's policies are inclusive and do not discriminate negatively against any section of society, the poor and vulnerable receive special attention.

The ABLP knows well that the routes out of poverty and deprivation are good education and good health. That is why the ABLP administration, led by Gaston Browne, has invested heavily in education and health, making facilities accessible by all.

Critically important to the knowledge base and intellectual expression of a people is a university, particularly one located within the country. Such a university can be more easily attended. It is less costly, and committed students can pursue a degree while still earning a living by part-time work.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the University of the West Indies (UWI) campus at Five Islands plays the dual role as a pathway for the educational empowerment of individuals and as the creator of a continuous pool

INTEGRATION OF CENTRES OF HIGHER LEARNING WITH UWI FIVE ISLAND CAMPUS

All the institutions of higher learning will be integrated with the UWI Five Islands Campus. These institutions include Antigua State College, Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, and Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of

of qualified human resources upon which the country's development depends.

The ABLP government recently successfully negotiated a loan of \$216 million from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia specifically for the Five Islands Campus. That money assures the continued physical build out and equipping of the campus as well as its capacity to educate our people to a higher level.

The ABLP knows that it is a matter of great pride to the people of Antigua and Barbuda that our country has a university at last. The ABLP wants to satisfy the ambition of every family to have at least one University graduate before 2030.

To feed the University student body with undergraduates of excellence, since 2014 the ABLP administration has built out the secondary school infrastructure. The number of classrooms has doubled over the last eight years. Practically all but two secondary schools have been expanded and a new Academy built.

Technology.

The point of this is to ensure rapid growth in the number of citizens and residents with formal tertiary qualifications.

NO LIMIT TO AMBITION

The ABLP operates on the position that no one should limit their ambition. Everyone should pitch for the stars. That is how we reach the next higher levels, attaining improvement and development that benefits all. To help our people to achieve the highest level of education and knowledge, the Gaston Browne ABLP administration invested EC\$240 million over the last eight years in scholarship grants. It is a programme

HEALTH INVESTMENT FOR PEOPLE

Regarding health, the ABLP government has invested heavily and steadily in health care. The Sir Lester Bird Medical Facility is fully equipped with modern technology and qualified staff. The number of beds per 1,000 persons of our population has increased to 3, surpassing the capacity of many other developing countries worldwide. When two field hospitals, which are in the government's possession, are added,

NEW RENAL AND CARDIAC UNITS

A renal unit for kidney patients is now being constructed at the old Holberton Hospital site, and a cardiac unit will be built at the Medical Centre to provide pacemakers, stents, and other non-invasive heart treatments. The ABLP's ambition is to pursue heart and liver transplants in the future.

The establishment of the renal unit is being driven by the increasing number of persons with kidney disease. While dialysis maintains life, it is not a sustainable solution. Kidney

the ABLP will continue and expand in the future.

Convinced that no one is ever too old to learn, and that missed opportunities can be seized anew, the ABLP government has also introduced "its second chance" programme, permitting anyone to acquire the certification necessary to enter university and emerge with a degree.

the number of beds per 1,000 persons rises to 4 should there be any need.

The ABLP administration also developed the Infectious Diseases Centre, constructed during the COVID-19 pandemic, to manage future epidemics and pandemics. A new hospital facility was established at Nugent Avenue, and two new Polyclinics have been built to serve immediate and expanded health needs.

transplantation offers a better quality of life and longer life expectancy. To increase access to kidney transplants, the ABLP government will expand the living-donor programme and explore kidney donations from persons who consent to do so in the event of their death.

These facilities are being provided at no cost to any patient. The ABLP regards health care as a public good and a right. Investment in health is investment in people. And people come first.



CHAPTER 9

TOURISM NEXT LEVEL: JOBS, JOBS, JOBS AND EMPOWERMENT



The vision for Tourism at the next higher level extends way into the future. Aware that tourism development requires planning not just for the immediate but also for the medium-term, the ABLP administration has worked out a plan, starting the day after the electorate has spoken on January 18th 2023 - the date of the general elections.

The objective of this plan is to create more jobs and better paying jobs. It is also to allow Antiguans and Barbudans to empower themselves by taking advantage of the many ownership opportunities in the provision of ancillary services, that will be presented by the major projects which will be implemented. The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism

Authority will be charged with ensuring that, by 2028, travel and tourism will contribute US\$1 billion directly to the economy, and the country will be among the most recognized destinations worldwide.

To achieve this objective, the ABLP administration will work closely with its private sector partners, particularly Global Port Holdings, on the development of the Harbour front. Global Ports will spend, at least US\$100 million on the shops, restaurants, boardwalks, and entertainment facilities including an amphitheater – all of which are available to Antiguans and Barbudans to operate. There will also be a world-class terminal building, a casino, and a spa.

GOVERNMENT WILL OFFER LOCALS 25% OF THE CAPITAL TO START PROFITABLE BUSINESSES

Construction of a yacht marina in the St. John's Harbour, will also be encouraged, and local entrepreneurs can invest in its development and operation as owners. The ABLP government will assist local business ownership through its Venture Capital Fund by putting up 25% of the capital, to help potential owners raise a mortgage from the banks. While government will retain equity in the business to facilitate borrowing and

start-up, the owners can buy out the government's shares, using the dividends from profits. Government's role is not to be an owner; it is to facilitate ownership by locals.

The ABLP government anticipates that these facilities, especially when they are linked to Cruise Ships, which will use Antigua as their home port, will double the current tourism spend.

ANTIGUA WILL BE A PREMIER DESTINATION FOR CRUISE TOURISM

Cruise tourism will be bolstered by the investment of US\$100 million by one of the world's largest cruise ship companies, Royal Caribbean International (RCI). An agreement had been signed with RCI in March 2019 to establish a Beach Club at Fort James to be utilized by the passengers on their ships, calling at Antigua. The project was deferred because of the COVID-19 pandemic

which crippled the Cruise Industry until 2021. However, RCI is now ready to proceed.

Given the heightened activity of Global Ports Holdings, which has already been responsible for bringing an increased number of larger cruise ships to Antigua, together with RCI, Antigua will become a premier destination for cruise tourism globally.



AIRLIFT HAS ALREADY INCREASED AND WILL EXPAND FURTHER

The great majority of tourists to Antigua and Barbuda arrive by airplanes. Maintaining close relations with all airlines is, therefore, essential to growing the tourism industry and taking it to the next higher level. Figures up to November 2022 confirm that airlift was significantly higher than 2021 and, in 2023, could return to the 2019 level which was Antigua

and Barbuda's record-breaking year in stay-over arrivals. The ABLP will ensure that marketing strategies and policies are pursued and implemented to increase airlift to fill the rooms that will come on stream as new hotels and resorts are built, and existing ones are expanded.

NEW HOTELS AND RESORTS

The ABLP has attracted investment in several new hotels and resorts that will catapult Antigua and Barbuda's rise to the next higher level. These include:

✓ An investment of \$773 million by Robert De Niro and James Packer in a new resort to be built on the old K Club Resort site, complementing the Caribbean's only Nobu restaurant located on Barbuda.

✓ Moon Gate Antigua: a 49-suite all-inclusive boutique hotel and spa at Half Moon Bay.

✓ The Peace Love & Happiness (PLH) Resort will complete its first 60 luxury homes and condominiums on Barbuda in 2023.

✓ An 18-hole Tom Fazio designed golf course is now nearing completion. Part of the PLH resort, it will be one of the finest golf courses in the entire Caribbean. (Pictures of PLH development /Golf course are shown on this page)

✓ Nikki Beach: A luxury beach club with residences founded by Jack Penrod will be built on Antigua's Jolly Beach.

✓ Royalton Chic: A 350-room luxury 5-star adults only property will open in November 2023 on Dickenson Bay, replacing the old Halcyon Cove Hotel. (An artist's impression shows the layout of the property)

✓ A US\$130 million luxury resort in Barbuda at the old Dulcina hotel site. This project is being developed by a group of local and foreign investors.

NEW HOTELS AND RESORTS

✓ Sandals Grande Antigua will begin expansion of its property in early 2023, employing an additional 300 persons.

✓ Tamarind Hill: A luxury boutique resort has completed its 3rd phase expansion with 43 single bedroom suites and a combination of villas along with a new restaurant, bars, and spa.

✓ Hawksbill Hotel: The property will be fully refurbished and enhanced with added facilities to reopen on 1st November 2023.

✓ Siboney Beach Club: Features 12 recently refurbished Caribbean-style deluxe suites and 18 all-new Executive Rooms.

YACHTING: BUILDING ON OUR SOLID REPUTATION

Antigua's reputation as a key Yachting centre in the world is already well established. Compelling evidence of Antigua's leading position in global yachting are: the huge attendance at the many international regattas in Antigua, including the RORC 600; the international participation in the annual "Sailing Week" event; and the great number of yachts, including superyachts, that choose to come to English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour year after year.

The recent construction of a 535 feet dock at Falmouth Harbour Marina (a fully owned local company) and its immediate utilization by superyachts, show the confidence of the international yachting community in Antigua as a haven, and in the quality of skills of Antigua and Barbuda workers.

The ABLP will take Yachting to the next level of development by encouraging and incentivising the consolidation and expansion of the facilities at English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour, including the upgrading of the quality of the marinas and the building of tasteful and appropriate restaurants, retail shops, and accommodation for businesses that service Yachts. Discussions have already started with Maritime Colleges for the training of our people in many aspects of the industry, including varnishing, rigging, and welding. Further, encouragement and incentives will be given by the ABLP administration for the building of two more marinas, open to local ownership. One will be in the St. John's Harbour, close to Perry Bay.

HIGH-END RESTAURANTS AND TRAINING FOR LOCALS

Antigua and Barbuda has a few 'high-end' restaurants for fine dining and international cuisine. As the tourism facilities expand and upgrade, the number of tourists will multiply, including the very wealthy. This will cause a demand for more upscale restaurants and varied cuisine.

The ABLP is determined that local persons should participate in the ownership and operation of these upmarket, elegant restaurants and it will ensure that locals are trained to provide the next level quality of



service that is required. Therefore, the government will support training opportunities locally and overseas, to build up a cadre of persons who can deliver the quality of service that will be required.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP AVAILABLE IN THE EXPANSION OF TOURISM

The expansion of the tourism industry in all its sectors will open myriad opportunities to meet the needs of the industry in various disciplines.

These include executive management, sales and marketing, human resource management, finance, and information technology. Additionally, maintenance and technical support services for small and medium contractors will be available in both the construction and operational phases of all the projects. These range from general construction, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, waste removal, cleaning services, pool maintenance, and the provision of transportation services.



Next level tourism is about increasing the money earned from the industry and providing more and new jobs for Antiguan and Barbudans. It is also about opportunities for local persons to grow their own businesses to provide services, and to empower themselves through ownership.

CHAPTER 10

ABLP WILL PROMOTE HEALTH SERVICES, MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND WELLNESS FOR TOURISM



The next level of progress in the provision of tourism services is medical education, medical services and wellness.

HEALTH EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The American Medical University of Antigua (AUA) has brought great benefit to Antigua, reflected in the large number of services utilized by the University and its student body. These services include supermarkets, car rental companies, rental of houses and apartments, gas stations, banks, taxis, and a host of retail stores.

There is no doubt that commercial activity has been significantly bolstered by the presence of the AUA students, who are “resident visitors”. Additionally, the presence of this large body of “resident visitors” is

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEXUS

In the next level tourism development, the ABLP administration will promote Antigua and Barbuda as an ideal location for “Wellness Tourism”.

There is a difference between “Medical Tourism” (such as offered by the Stem Cell Clinic) and “Wellness Tourism” which is focused on non-surgical and proactive treatments. “Wellness” treatment is designed to help clients maintain a healthy lifestyle, reduce stress, prevent disease, and enhance wellbeing. Lifestyles in developed countries, including enduring long winters, create conditions in which people seek opportunities to promote

helping to justify the cost of building-out our country’s Information Communication Technology system, including fast-speed broadband. The payment by the students, and other ‘resident visitors’, for access and use of the technology reduces the unit price to locals and helps to repay the capital cost.

ABLP is determined to attract other large, external Universities of this kind to increase the number of “resident visitors” in the country.

their own wellness.

“Wellness tourism” is the powerful connection between the tourism and wellness industries, now generating over US\$8 trillion in revenues. Hotels that build spas and clinics for wellness treatment can tap into this lucrative market.

The ABLP will actively promote these three facets of tourism to attract more visitors, and to expand the related spend in the Antigua and Barbuda market, creating more jobs, more income, and the expansion of existing service providers.



DEVELOPMENT OF WELLNESS CENTRES

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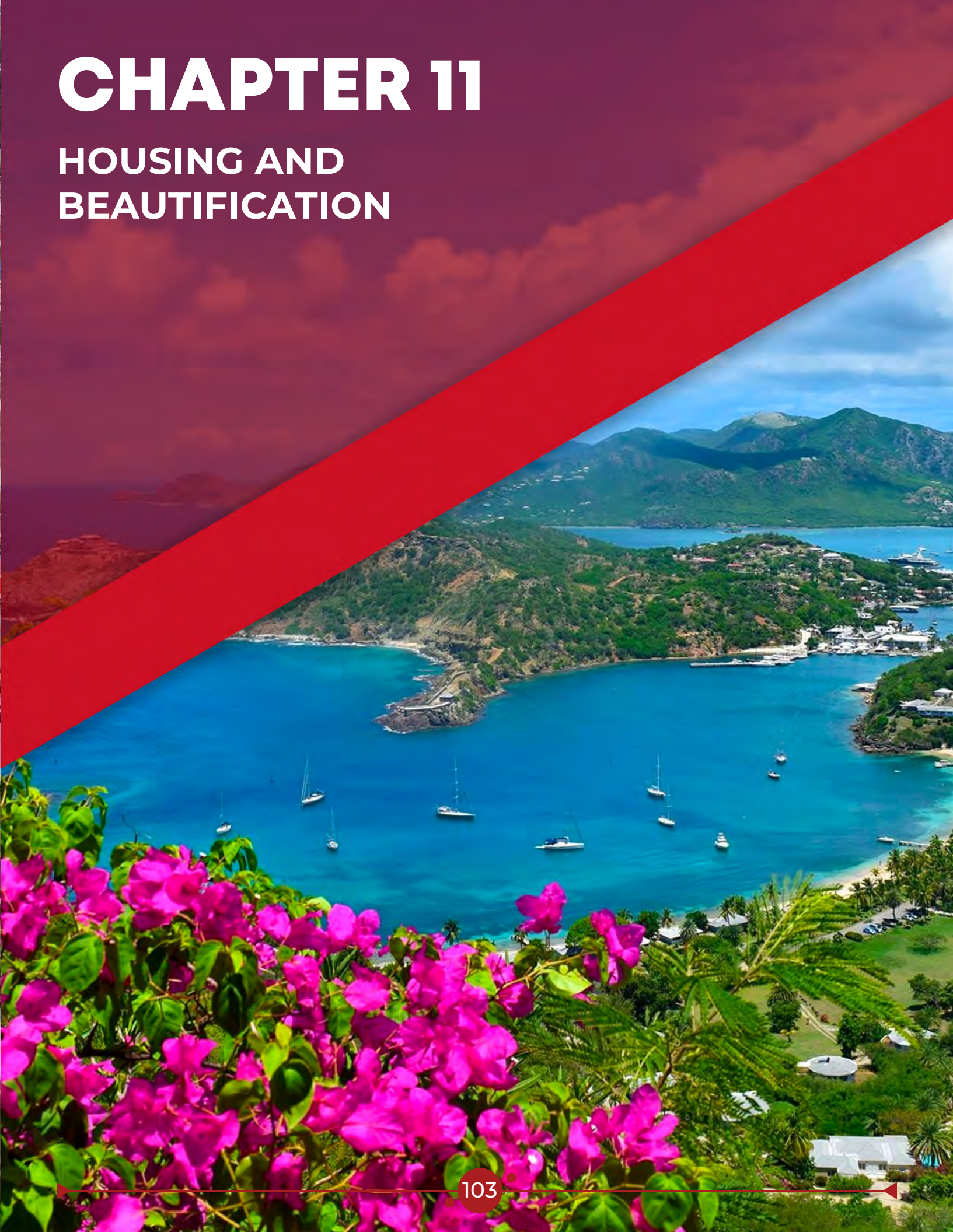
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CHAPTER 11

HOUSING AND BEAUTIFICATION



A housing revolution is taking place in Antigua and Barbuda. Thousands of houses have been constructed on both islands over the last 8 years. Construction and development have been done by government,

✓ National Housing and CHAPA have delivered over one thousand homes and currently have 125 more homes under construction. They will scale up the provision of new homes to satisfy the national demand for homes. To this end, they will invest in a Structural Integrated Panel System (SIPS) homes to speed up the construction and delivery of homes and will increase the construction of two-bedroom starter homes for \$125,000.00.

✓ A grant of EC\$90 million, from the People's Republic of China, will be utilized to construct low-

private sector companies and private individuals.

With respect to public sector contribution to the housing boom, the following has occurred:

income, climate resilient homes in Point, Jennings, and Barbuda. These homes will have a rent-to-own option.

✓ The ABLP administration will enhance its urban renewal program to include improving the aesthetics of the Central Business District and improve the housing stock in neighboring communities including, Point, Villa, Grays Farm, Green Bay, Ottos, and Perry Bay by operationalising the home improvement loan programme in early 2023.

BEAUTIFICATION OF ANTIGUA

Barbuda is not mentioned in this section, because an entire Chapter of this Manifesto is devoted to the transformation of Barbuda, which is presently in process, making it a luxury world destination.

The beautification of Antigua's interior, its Capital City and towns, has been hindered by perennial drought conditions. There has simply not been enough non-potable water to nurse trees and plants to full growth.

Contributing to making our streets

and highways appear unkempt and untidy, are the numerous persons who litter by dropping their left-over bottles, paper utensils, and other material on the roadways in violation of litter laws, and guidelines for disposing of garbage.

Next level development requires the beautification of Antigua for the enjoyment of its people, the enhancement of tourism, and the general appearance of the island.

In this regard, the ABLP government

will implement the following measures:

Strengthen legislation for enforcing

✓ litter laws, including by stiffening the monetary penalties and empowering police and special constables to charge and ticket violators caught littering; the same will apply to persons who dump their garbage in places other than designated garbage dumps.

✓ One million trees and flower plants will be made available annually for planting. Highways will be identified for tree and flower plants, and, in return for advertising and name association, private sector companies will be invited to pay for their own contracted teams to maintain the stretches of highways and roundabouts that they choose. Additionally, the Public Works Department will maintain groups of persons to maintain and nurture plants and trees on roads and highways which they will be assigned to keep clean and attractive.

✓ An inter-Island school competition - at separate primary and secondary levels - will be started under which schools will vie for the best "Inter-School Trophy" for their contribution to growing plants and flowers, and nurturing them within a one mile radius of their school location.

✓ Prisoners, who have not been confined for grievous crimes, will also be required as part of

their sentences to give supervised community service by contributing to the Island-beautification process.

✓ Existing laws, requiring unused land, to be kept free of bush, weeds, and other growth, will be strengthened and implemented. Owners will be fined for allowing overgrowth on their land and for any intrusion on public roads and pathways, and on neighboring property. Public works will clear such land should owners continue to neglect to clean them, and charges will apply.

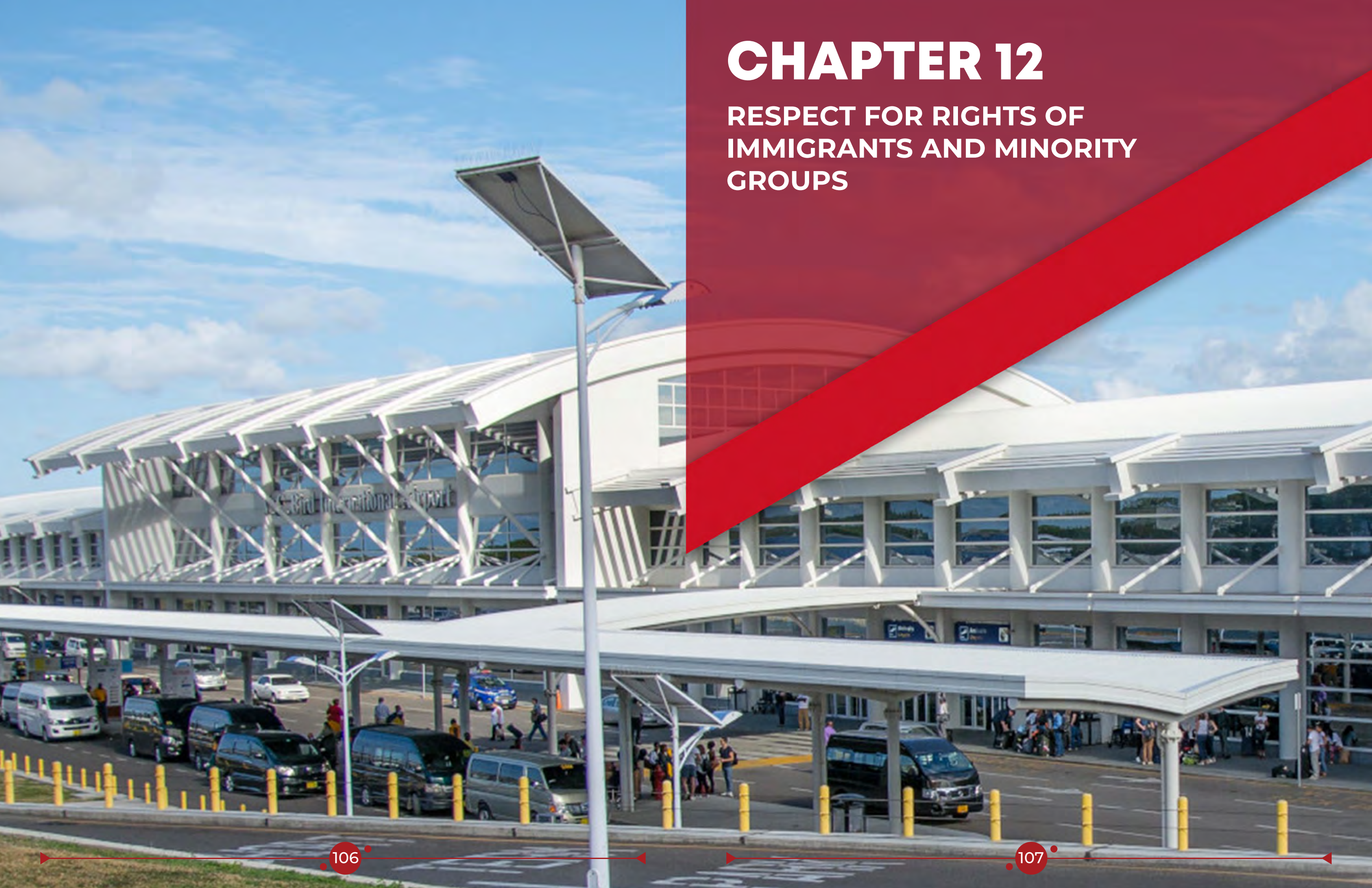
✓ The Village competition will also be revitalized and re-energized to restore the pride that villagers had in their communities, and their keenness to profile the attractiveness of their surroundings.

✓ Service organizations, such as Lions and Rotary, will be invited to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Development Control and Environmental authorities to recommend and organize ways in which the beautification of Antigua and Barbuda can be made continuous and sustainable.

Beautification of Antigua is essential to our sense of pride and dignity as a people. Previous generations worked hard to maintain the attractiveness of our homeland and to make it stand out in the Caribbean. It is that sense of pride and dignity that Next Level development seeks to achieve.

CHAPTER 12

RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS AND MINORITY GROUPS



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: THE MOST WELCOMING AND WELL-INTEGRATED COUNTRY IN THE CARIBBEAN

The ABLP states, without fear of contradiction, that Antigua and Barbuda is the most welcoming and integrated country in the Caribbean. our country, enriching our society while simultaneously building good lives for themselves.

The proof of this is manifold, but its first demonstration is the large number of Antiguan and Barbudan young people and children who have, at least one parent, whose place of birth is another Caribbean or foreign country. Since the 1960s, there has been a steady influx of persons from Montserrat, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These young people – who are born Antiguan and Barbudan - and their parents, play a full part in the life of

The second demonstration is that persons, who have immigrated to our country, have been welcomed into our churches, workforce, schools, athletic teams, hospitals and into our homes. In truth, many of the persons working in our construction industry, in tourism, in agriculture and in mechanical workshops, are either immigrants or children of at least one immigrant parent. They are contributing to the economic viability of our country of which they have chosen to be a part.

UPP DECEPTIONS IN DESPERATION FOR MIGRANT VOTES

Recently, the UPP, in its desperation for votes in the January 2023 general elections, has resorted to its tactics of false promises, invented scenarios, and downright lies, to promote the notion that immigrants face discrimination in Antigua and Barbuda. The UPP has published what they call their “Immigration Policies”. Careful examination of them will reveal that they are a tangled web of deceptions.

For example, the UPP says:

✓ It “will waive visa requirements for CARICOM nationals”. This is a deliberate deception because there is NO visa requirement for CARICOM nationals, all of whom are entitled

to enter the country for a period of 6 months under the law. For bona fide persons, who find employment and are issued a work permit, their extension requests are approved once all application requirements have been satisfied, creating a pathway to residence.

It should be noted that it is the last UPP government that misapplied the law in 2009 to insist that if there were gaps (of any kind) in the 7-year period of qualification for citizenship, immigrants had to “start over”, making the process longer. Now the UPP pretends to be champions in their frenzied desperation to get votes.

Further, the Cabinet of the ABLP Government has already made the decision to apply the automatic extension of visas to migrants from the Dominican Republic if they find employment or can show that either they, or their relatives, can maintain them from their own resources.

The UPP also says:

✓ It will make work permits transferable to allow workers to change employment without a new work permit. The ABLP has long since allowed the transferability of work permits within certain industries, giving migrants mobility of employment. However, it is unrealistic, for example, to allow a work permit for a hotel worker to be automatically transferred to other positions which may require different skills or qualifications. So, the UPP promise is empty, meaningless and unrealistic.

✓ It will introduce an “Education for All” policy and greater access “for free public education for immigrant children”. The Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda requires all children, who have not reached school-leaving age, to be in school. Therefore, in compliance with the law, children of migrant children are admissible to all schools with available places. Further, ABLP operates a policy of “Children Education for All”, which embraces children of migrants. Again, the UPP pledge is meaningless and meant to distort reality and create disaffection.

✓ It will amend the Constitution to allow eligibility for citizenship by persons with an Antigua and Barbudan great-grandparent. Again, there is nothing new in this. The ABLP government had already made a Cabinet decision to allow for citizenship by decent from a great-grandparent based on two factors: The first is driven by the Citizenship by Investment Programme which has contributed greatly to our nation’s social and economic development. Our competitors in other jurisdictions have already introduced this measure, and to remain competitive and retain a substantial share of revenues, Antigua and Barbuda has to do the same. The second factor is Antigua and Barbuda’s need for a larger population, especially of skilled persons, who can enlarge the contributions to our social security, education levy and medical benefits schemes, as well as strengthen our base of human knowledge and creativity to boost the economy. This measure was already slated for introduction after the general elections, and it is good to know that the UPP fully supports it. We will remind them of this declared policy position.

✓ It will “activate” the Immigration Appeals Tribunal to ensure quick settlement of immigration disputes. This is again an empty promise by the UPP which they could have implemented when they were deceiving and abusing the migrant communities

FOUR INDISPUTABLE FACTS: UPP ABUSE OF CARIBBEAN NATIONALS

Lest it be forgotten, we should all recall the following facts:

FACT ONE: Under the UPP, between 2004 and 2014, migrants were picked-up (sometimes in the dead of night and in their nightdresses) and carted off to the Airport to be unlawfully deported without a hearing and without a Court Order.

FACT TWO: UPP spokespersons publicly abused migrant communities without cause.

FACT THREE: Completely deceiving the migrant community, on 28th June 2004, the UPP passed the so-called "Millennium Naturalisation Act 2004", which granted citizenship only to migrants who were continuously resident from 1st January 2000. It

did not grant citizenship to spouses and children who were subject to be deported, leaving husbands, wives, mothers and fathers bereft of their families and helplessly and hopeless unable to do anything about it. Such was the deception and abuse by the divisive UPP. They separated families.

FACT FOUR: It was in response to the UPP record of these human rights abuses that the ABLP government in 2014 introduced a mechanism, by law (see, the Immigration and Passports Act 2014) allowing for migrants to appeal any disputes to an Immigration Appeals Tribunal. The ABLP will hold the UPP to the commitment of mobilizing the Tribunal – something that had to be created to address UPP abuse.

ABLP MIGRATION POLICIES TO CARIBBEAN NATIONALS, CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION OF OUR NATIONAL HEROES

The ABLP policies on Caribbean migration over the years are rooted in the positions of two of our National Heroes – Sir Vere Cornwall Bird and Sir Lester Bryant Bird, and in the example of a third, Sir Vivian Richards, who led one of the most magnificent West Indian Cricket teams, consisting of nationals from across our region.

V.C Bird was a committed regionalist who founded CARIFTA that led to

CARICOM. He frequently stated that our people descended mostly from the same African tribes that were brought in the same disgusting ships and dropped off into slavery throughout our region. As far as he was concerned people of the same ancestry became different nationalities through colonialism and forced separation.

Lester Bird was also a committed

regionalist. He not only worked diligently to maintain the unity of CARICOM, but he was also a founder of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States which, today, has freedom of movement of people without a need for a work permit.

And Sir Vivian preached the merits of a "West Indian" team, made up of persons from across the Caribbean, whose origins were the same, and whose experience of slavery, indenture, and exploitation were similar.

The ABLP's present leader, Gaston

Browne, is also a committed regionalist as evidenced by all the actions he has taken to lead the peoples of the Caribbean, as the Prime Minister in the quasi-CARICOM Cabinet responsible for financial affairs and his leadership in resisting the dislocation of Caribbean people by Climate Change.

The ABLP has no interest in discriminating against or victimizing Caribbean migrants in Antigua and Barbuda. That is the UPP's actions which are a matter of indisputable record.

ABLP GAVE THREE AMNESTIES IN 7 YEARS; THE UPP GAVE NO AMNESTY AT ANY TIME

It is the ABLP that gave amnesties in 2015 and again in 2018 to keep open the pathway to residency and citizenship that the UPP denied migrants. The UPP never gave a single amnesty at any time, so draconian, harsh and unthinking were their attitudes.

It is the ABLP that introduced another amnesty in 2022 to waive

arrears on work permits, paying only a processing fee of EC\$200. This decision eased the burden on migrants, but the ABLP recognises that there have been difficulties in the smooth implementation of the process. Therefore, it has already put in place plans to overcome the obstacles.

THE ABLP POLICY PLANS FOR MIGRANTS IN NEXT LEVEL PROGRAMME

In summary, the ABLP will:

✓ Introduce a “Work Permit Amnesty” by which payment will be waived for all work permit fees up to 31st December 2022.

✓ Reduce waiting time for the processing of applications for Citizenship to 60 days. More personnel will be employed to accelerate the process.

✓ Mobilise the Immigration Appeals Tribunal that the ABLP introduced in response to UPP abuse of migrants between 2004 and 2014.

✓ Nationals of the Dominican Republic will be accorded the same right of entry of 6 months as accorded to CARICOM nationals with the opportunity of extension, provided they do not become a charge upon the state.

✓ Amend the constitution to allow eligibility for citizenship by great-grandchildren of an Antiguan and Barbudan citizen, including persons who became Citizens by Investment.

ABLP RESPECTS RIGHTS OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS

The ABLP Government is committed to fairness, justice, and respect for the rights of all people. Just as we expect the rights of our own people to be honoured both at home and abroad, so we will respect the rights of others.

TREATMENT OF OTHER MINORITIES, INCLUDING THE LGBTQI COMMUNITY

The ABLP government, over the years, has subscribed to many international and hemispheric conventions that respect the human rights of all peoples, under the law, including the LGBTQI community. Within the laws of our country, the rights of all minority groups will be respected as part of our Next Level development of inclusion.



RASTAFARIAN COMMUNITY

In this connection, the ABLP government has apologized to the Rastafarian community for the discriminatory actions that were taken against them in the past. By way of restitution and reparation, the ABLP Government built a School for Rastafarian children; it has decriminalized the use of cannabis for Rastafarian religious ceremonies; it has outlawed any form of discrimination against Rastafarians, especially in schools and workplaces; and it has appointed members of the Rastafarian community to posts in government. Every due respect is being accorded to the Rastafarian community, who historically suffered because they refused to surrender to colonial domination and maintained their spiritual connection to their ancestral home in Africa.



CHAPTER 13

GENDER AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
– STAGE SET FOR NEXT LEVEL
DEVELOPMENT



Antigua and Barbuda is a model for the Caribbean in the legal infrastructure for promoting the safety and security of the family, particularly women.

Our country is the home of two important exemplary institutions in the Eastern Caribbean: The first ever Family Division of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and the first Sexual Offences Model Court.

SEXUAL OFFENCES MODEL COURT

The establishment of the Sexual Offences Model Court is exemplary because it improves the quality of justice. The Court ensures that sexual offence cases are dealt with expeditiously, mitigating the level of trauma experienced by the victim of a sexual offence. Equally, it provides the opportunity for any persons

THE FAMILY COURT

The Family Division of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court is designed to deal with problems arising out of family relations, including men who neglect their responsibilities to look after their children or to pay for their support. It also allows for domestic disputes to be managed in a manner beneficial to all parties involved. As identified by the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, the set of progressive rules governed by the Family Division “will comprehensively provide for the practice and procedure in relation to

Antigua and Barbuda now also has a Sexual Offences Registry.

These three developments represent a leap forward in the protection of the rights of women and their children. They were made possible by the readiness of the ABLP Government and its legal department to promote and strengthen the values to which our modern society is committed.

accused of a sexual offence to prove innocence.

Since most sexual offences are directed at females, including children, the Court is an additional protection for the safety of women in our society.

matters such as divorce proceedings, applications for interim remedies, wardship, care and adoption of children, the care and protection of children, maintenance and domestic violence”.

Both these Courts are change agents, giving women and children particularly greater security. But men also benefit if they are also victims of domestic violence of wrongly accused. Altogether, the structure now exists for greater protection of women and children in our society.

SEXUAL OFFENCES REGISTRY

The ABLP government established the Sexual Offences Registry Bill and encouraged a bipartisan effort of the National Assembly to do so. Members of the urged to support the adoption of the Registry, after public consultation that took place over several months in 2022. The Registry will publicly list convicted rapists and violators of sexual offence legislation.

The objective is to reduce the incidents of sexual re-offending, by monitoring convicted sex offenders and by sharing information with participating jurisdictions within the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Also, our female population can consult the register should any suspicions arise about any individual.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS – FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY INCREASE IN PERIOD OF PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

In further promotion of women’s rights and family welfare, the ABLP Government of increased paid maternity leave from 6 weeks to 14 weeks in September 2022.

Maternity leave is essential, not only for the healthy development of our nation’s infants but also to ensure that the mother’s physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being is

safeguarded and strengthened.

Over 50% of our nation’s workforce is women. Our government is committed to the social inclusion of our women in all aspects of our Next Level development as a society and a nation.

CHAPTER 14

THE PUBLIC SERVICE: NEXT LEVEL

TREASURY
DEPARTMENT

The ABLP is fully committed to increasing the wages and salaries of public servants. The Party regrets that the negotiations with the Unions, representing public servants, were so protracted that the matter could not have been settled before the general elections of January 18th, 2023.

Obviously, it would have been to the ABLP government's benefit for

ABLP GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO INCREASING INCOMES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

The ABLP simply records here, once again, that it is fully committed to increasing the incomes of public servants and looks forward to

ABLP ALSO WANTS TO INCREASE PUBLIC SERVANTS' PENSIONS



The ABLP also registers here that the interest of pensioners from the public service are recognized and appreciated. These are persons who supported the execution of government programmes, projects, and policies throughout their working life. In their years of retirement, every effort must be made to ensure that

public servants to be paid before the elections. The ABLP blames no one for the delay in the negotiations. As a political party, which was born out of the oldest trade union in Antigua and Barbuda, the ABLP understands that the Unions must represent its members to the best of their ability.

the successful conclusion of the negotiations early in 2023, after which payments will begin immediately.

their pensions are sufficient.

Therefore, the ABLP government has instructed its negotiators to engage the pensioners' representatives, as soon as possible after the general elections, to reach a consensus on an increase in pensions and an early date for payment.

RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVANTS



The ABLP takes this opportunity to thank all public servants for their service. The ABLP is sure that all will agree that, throughout the stresses and strains of the COVID-19 pandemic, the nation owed a special gratitude to certain types of public servants, including nurses, doctors, teachers, customs officers, immigration officers, members of the police force, soldiers and officers of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy.

These persons were required to work even during lock-downs; they were on the front-line providing services and valiantly combatting the Coronavirus and stopping its spread. In this connection, they were more exposed than others, and faced a greater risk of infection. This situation may be repeated in different circumstances and in different ways and extent in the future. And, if we do face a similar crisis, these same categories of public

servants will be required to assume a greater burden.

Therefore, the ABLP proposes to reclassify these categories of public servants not only to compensate them for the trying tasks they undertake, but also to keep their skills and knowledge available to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

By the second half of 2023, barring any grave externally generated shock to the economy or any major damage by a hurricane or other natural disaster, the ABLP government will initiate measures to reclassify these categories of public servants and adjust their incomes.

Retaining our trained and skilled people is integral to lifting our country to the Next Level.



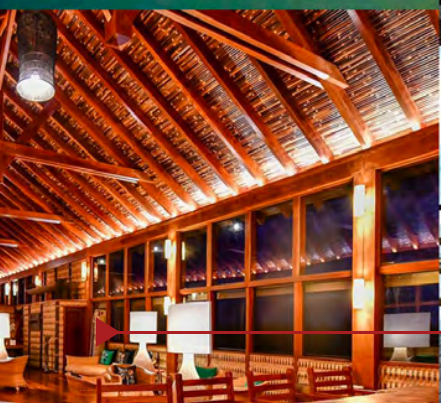
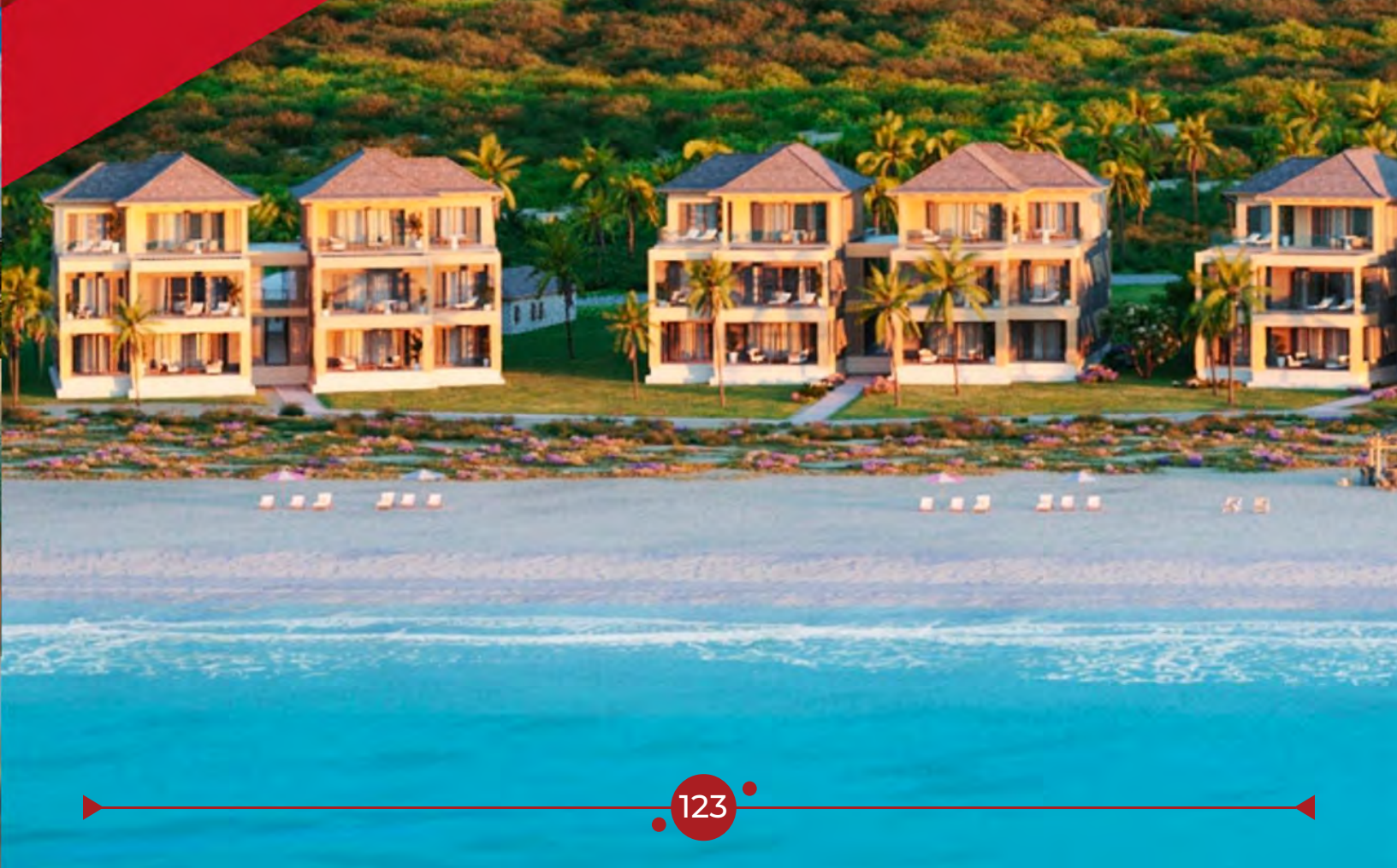
Barbuda Ocean Club

CHAPTER 15

BARBUDA: TRANSFORMATION FROM DECIMATION TO THE LEADING PREMIER GREEN, LUXURY DESTINATION IN THE WORLD



Barbuda Belle



It is difficult to believe that Barbuda, as it exists today, was completely decimated in 2017. A ruined island with little left standing, is today on the cusp of becoming one of the world's leading resort destinations for the wealthiest people in the world.

The Barbudan residents are living in new, or greatly refurbished homes; new buildings have been constructed for schools and a hospital; a modern airport is being constructed; a world

FULL EMPLOYMENT ON BARBUDA

There is full employment on Barbuda and workers had to be imported to undertake the massive construction on the island. Power on the island is generated mostly from renewable sources which will be fully renewable within 18 months, making the island a green sustainable island community.

Significantly, residents of Barbuda can now purchase properties, on which they have lived informally, for a peppercorn sum of one dollar. In

DEEMED UNINHABITABLE, NOW BECOMING LUXURY TOURISM DESTINATION

Under the stewardship of the ABLP government, Barbuda, which was deemed uninhabitable five years ago, is now repositioned as a luxury tourism destination. The wages and salaries that will be available to Barbuda residents will permit them to purchase homes, cars and other amenities that will considerably improve the quality of their lives.

class 18-hole golf course has been laid; and a major luxury resort is being built by Peace Love & Happiness (PLH) at a cost of over US\$2 billion. The internationally known Nobu restaurant is providing fine dining to visitors, and a multi-million dollars investment resort, by Robert De Niro and James Packer, will start construction in 2023. The cargo port will be rebuilt starting in January 2023.

In addition, each adult Barbudan will be given one acre of land for one dollar. Their ownership of the property can be used to raise loans from financial institutions to set up businesses to sell services to the resorts and their guests. Amongst those businesses, the ABLP government is promoting the establishment of farms to grow organic foods for use by the resorts and restaurants.

Within a generation, the economic activity on Barbuda can lead to the opening of legal and accounting offices to service both residents and the visitor-resident community. The ABLP government will construct a business hub with satellite offices to deliver the services offered by Transport Board, Medical Benefits, Education Levy, Social Security, APUA and other agencies.



BARBUDA: A GREEN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD

The ABLP government nursed Barbuda from its devastation and the dislocation of its residents to the vibrancy it now enjoys, and the bright future that lies before it.

Barbuda is being developed as a green, organic island, rebuilt to be resilient to the type of hurricane that brought destruction to it in 2017.

It is anticipated that the amount of investment that will take place in Barbuda, including the installation of a broadband sub-sea cable, will encourage the use of information

communication technology, high speed internet and artificial intelligence that will take the island and its inhabitants to the next higher level of development rapidly, making them an example to the world.

Those on Barbuda, who selfishly resisted the ABLP government's plans and ambitions for Barbuda, have now joined other residents of Barbuda in enjoying the benefits of visionary governance.



IRFAAN ALI
PRESIDENT OF GUYANA

CHAPTER 16

NEXT LEVEL: RELATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEAN AND THE WORLD



Under the Gaston Browne led ABLP administration, Antigua and Barbuda has gained international regard that far outstrips its size.

SMALL STATE: BIG VOICE



Antigua and Barbuda is known and respected as a leader in the battle to curb the impact of Climate Change and to seek climate justice for small island states that have suffered loss and damage without compensation. Few leaders of small countries have the courage to challenge powerful nations, but Gaston Browne displayed that courage in the interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda and all small states.

This was particularly true when the ABLP leader, as Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, was brave enough to be a co-founder and co-

chair of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS). The purpose of the Commission is to seek Climate Justice from the world's worst and longest polluters, by taking them before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) as a first step in seeking compensation for loss and damage. ITLOS has agreed to oral hearings of the case, and States have until March 2023 to make their submissions. The international system is listening and acting because, small Antigua and Barbuda, had the courage to stand-up and raise its voice.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA PUNCHES GREATER THAN ITS WEIGHT

Antigua and Barbuda has also become known for its leadership role of the Alliance of Small Island States at the United Nations and for the principled positions it adopts on international issues at the Organization of American States (OAS).

Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, served as the co-chair of the UN expert panel to develop the multi-dimensional vulnerability index, designed to bring more inclusive financial assistance to small island developing states.

Uniquely, Antigua and Barbuda has twice chaired the Permanent Council of the OAS and contributed to conflict resolution and constitutional restoration in several countries.

The ABLP government has maintained close relations with sister states of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Antigua and Barbuda has led CARICOM's work on financial services, particularly on warding off the threat of the withdrawal of correspondent banking relations.

BENEFICIAL RELATIONS

Under the ABLP government, Antigua and Barbuda has maintained or developed close relations with over 145 nations with which it enjoys visa-free access, allowing its people to travel hassle-free to most parts of the globe.

Beneficial economic relations have also been maintained with traditional friends such as the United States, Canada, the People's Republic of

China, Cuba, the United Kingdom, the European Union and Venezuela. These relations have each contributed to one aspect or another of Antigua and Barbuda's infrastructural development.

Recently, closer relations have been developed with Middle Eastern countries with beneficial results.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA WILL CONTINUE TO STAND FOR RIGHT AND JUSTICE

In its determination to take Antigua and Barbuda to the next level of progress and prosperity, the ABLP government will continue to stand for principle, justice and right in

international affairs while working for a more equitable international financial system that would benefit the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

CHAPTER 17

A COLLECTIVE MESSAGE
FROM GASTON BROWNE
AND TEAM LABOUR



We, the candidates of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, are offering ourselves, individually and collectively, to represent you in the National Assembly and to advance your interests in the constituencies in which you live and in the entire country.

In offering ourselves, we are aware that our country, like all others in the world, exists in difficult times, caused by many factors whose origins are outside our borders. Yet, they impinge on us, and we must be ready to deal with them to keep all the people of Antigua and Barbuda safe and strong.

We overcame the worst trials to recover our country

When we were elected in 2018, none of us could have envisaged the frightening development of the COVID-19 pandemic which swept across the world, killing millions, and paralysing many millions more in fear. No one foresaw the crippling economic effects of the pandemic that ruined economies or weakened them considerably. There was no manual, setting out the rules of how to deal with it – how to keep people safe, how to maintain livelihoods, how to stay alive.

Fear and inaction were unacceptable options: ABLP acted swiftly

We were troubled by this

development, but we could not afford to be daunted. Waiting and hoping were unacceptable options. Action was needed. Therefore, we grappled with the problem immediately with one objective in mind – to save our people's lives and to preserve our economy. In our efforts, we made mistakes. Every government everywhere made mistakes. This was virgin territory and even the vast resources of rich countries did not spare them errors.

But we, in Antigua and Barbuda, did better than most other countries in the world. To date, only 146 persons or 0.15 percent of our population were claimed by the Coronavirus. We so contained the dreaded disease that we opened our borders ahead of many other countries, and while commercial aircraft were grounded, we offered a haven for the world's wealthy who, gratefully, took the opportunity to come to our shores in their private planes for rest and recreation and to escape the constraints of the pandemic in their own countries. Thus, we kept our economy buoyant, even as the Government's revenues dropped by as much as 50% in 2020, and our economic growth declined.

No person was dismissed. Jobs were preserved

To preserve the well-being of all our people, even amid considerable loss of revenues, not one public servant

was dismissed. We knew that every family had to have at least one breadwinner. We went further, we arranged with banks to give extended time to persons to resume payment of their loans and mortgages so that there would be no foreclosures on homes, cars, and other property. We also introduced a programme to make food and other essentials available to all families in need. No one was deprived of medicines and medical care. These are all indisputable facts.

We stopped disconnections of water and electricity to help families whose income had been adversely affected and we discounted 25% on domestic electricity accounts for all households. For more than a year, we instituted the Dollar Barrel Initiative, foregoing government taxes and duties, to allow for the importation by families of food, clothing, toiletries, and hygiene products.

We emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic better off than most, both in terms of health and in our capacity to return to earning incomes and rebuilding our lives. Today, we have better hospital facilities, better skilled medical personnel, and more hospital beds.

Visionary leadership was our salvation

None of that happened by accident. It required visionary thinking, planning and prudent allocation of scarce

resources. Strong financial skills, experience and creativity were the main ingredients in the strategies that allowed our nation to arise from the pandemic, strong and ready to roll.

We decided to open our borders ahead of many other countries because we were confident in our ability to contain the coronavirus and to cope with tourists who we needed to re-ignite the economy. It was that action that resulted in spectacular economic growth in 2021 and again in 2022, putting us back on our feet. It was not fearful governance; it was not dithering over decision-making; it was a strong, informed and imaginative government, working for the interests of all in our country.

We took the same approach to the worldwide shortages of food stuffs and high costs of oil and gas that followed the Russian aggression against Ukraine. We immediately instituted measures to spare the population the worst effects of higher prices by absorbing costs, where we could, and not passing them on to the consumer. Measures that we introduced softened the blows. And the government did all this, while still providing all the goods and services the people of Antigua and Barbuda have a right to expect – roads, electricity, water, police services, airport, seaport, and most of all employment and opportunities to own.

Our people own more than any other time in history

Today, more citizens of our country own their own homes, businesses, cars, and land than at any time in the history of our country; the banks in Antigua and Barbuda are now majority-owned by nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and WIOC is majority owned by the government and people of our country.

The next level ownership will see the listing of more government owned enterprises on the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange to enlarge share ownership by Antiguan and Barbudans.

Our people are more empowered today than they have ever been. What is more they can clearly see the path to the Next Level of progress and prosperity.

The Choice: A return to disastrous mismanagement or your continued well being

You now have a choice before you. You can opt to stay with our tried, tested, and proven team, or you can risk disaster with a team of inexperienced and unskilled persons, led by Harold Lovell – a man who personally superintended the worst economic collapse of Antigua and Barbuda when he was the UPP Minister of Finance between 2009 and 2014.

In that calamitous period, Lovell and the UPP gave our nations almost 30% unemployment; insolvent banks that threatened our entire banking system; a government with enormous debt, unable to pay its bills; water and energy companies Sembcorp, WIOC and APC, were set to cut off supplies to the entire nation.

Additionally, the UPP imposition of a range of taxes, including personal income tax, caused many persons to lose their property to banks when they could not pay their loans and mortgages. Parents had to choose between buying food and paying their children's school fees. Such was the terrible hardship this country suffered.

UPP team worse than any hurricane or pandemic

The UPP administration did more harm than any hurricane and ruined more lives than the COVID-19 pandemic. The UPP is disaster in and of itself.

Today, the UPP team is even worse; it is a group consisting of unskilled and inexperienced persons and dishonest pretenders with no record of success in management, financial capacity, or organization. This UPP group would retard our growth and stifle the future prosperity of our people for decades. The UPP did that before. Can anyone trust them not to do it again – especially with the type of

persons they are proposing?

Next level of progress and prosperity

We offer ourselves to steer our people to the Next Level of greater progress and prosperity. We have detailed our plans in this Manifesto, and we know that we have a strong, proven and skillful leader in Gaston Browne to guide the implementation of our programmes for the benefit of all.

We ask for your support in this enterprise which is about the prosperity of this generation and the progress of our children and grandchildren. We extend our hands to hold yours as we climb together to the Next Level of our beloved country's development. And we commit our energies to serving you in every accountable and answerable way.

God bless you, and God Bless our beloved country.





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