



SEVEN PILLARS

For Relief Recovery & Shared
Prosperity **2023**



The Right Choice

CONTENTS

PREFACE 1

MESSAGE FROM THE POLITICAL LEADER..... 2

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY POLITICAL LEADER..... 4

7 PILLARS FOR RELIEF, RECOVERY & SHARED PROSPERITY..... 6

POST COVID RELIEF 9

ENERGY, TRANSPORT & SUSTAINABILITY 11

JOBS, BUSINESS & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT 13

WATER..... 17

ROADS & OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE..... 19

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT 21

EDUCATION 23

HEALTH & WELLNESS..... 26

THE REDEEM TEAM 30

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION..... 32

NATIONAL SECURITY & JUSTICE..... 34

IMMIGRATION 37

ENVIRONMENT & AESTHETICS 38

TOURISM, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT 40

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & LAND USE 44

AGRICULTURE 47

SPORTS..... 50

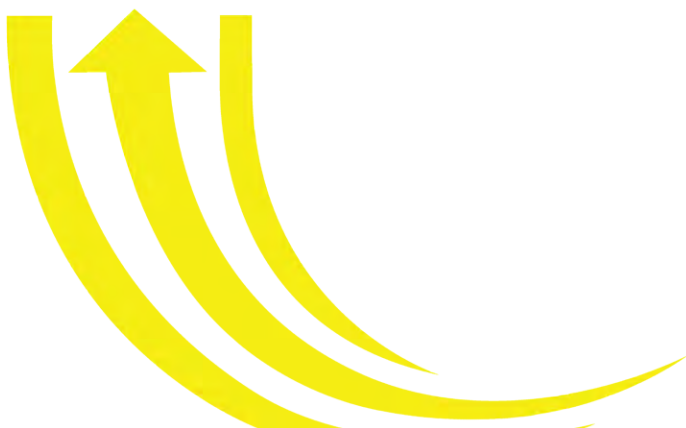
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION..... 53

DIASPORA 55

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & INVESTMENTS..... 56

BARBUDA..... 57

MY UPP



- 1
- 2
- 4
- 6
- 9
- 11
- 13
- 17
- 19
- 21
- 23
- 26
- 30
- 32
- 34
- 37
- 38
- 40
- 44
- 47
- 50
- 53
- 55
- 56
- 57





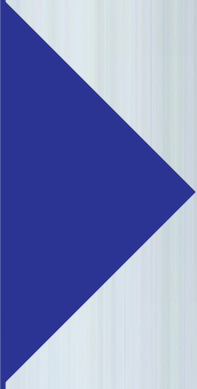
PREFACE

The reality of a smaller world/global village is that, more than ever, outside forces and events have a direct influence – often negative – on our economy, social relations, and even political independence.

With this acknowledgment, a United Progressive Party (UPP) Administration pledges always to put the People of Antigua and Barbuda and their interests first in all our national, regional and international decisions, while respecting our Constitution, the rule of law, and the principles of democracy, and enhancing our image within the comity of nations.



MESSAGE FROM THE
POLITICAL LEADER
HAROLD **LOVELL**





Why a Manifesto?

This is a question we are asked, sometimes, given the way that political campaigns have evolved and, especially, given the immediacy and agility of social media.

Well, the United Progressive Party (UPP) believes that a document like this is important for three main reasons.

First, as the “People First” Party, our Manifesto acknowledges that we have a social contract – not only with our supporters – but with all the people who call Antigua and Barbuda home.

It is our solemn undertaking, our handshake, on what we will deliver to you, the voter, in return for the faith you have demonstrated in us with your “X”.

Second, it is our policy program. In it, we capture the most important plans we have for this country’s development and our people’s prosperity. Our Manifesto presents to you our vision for the future and what we intend to get done in these five years to realize that vision.

Since the Manifesto is a collaboration between us and you, you can check here to see how well we listened and understood the change you want to see take place.

Third, our Manifesto is a report card. As our term advances, you can use this document as a checklist to see which promises have been honoured, so far, or to inquire about the progress of a program. How we have managed will determine the grade you give us and whether you believe we deserve another term in office.

To make this document available to every voter, and to ensure maximum penetration, we have decided to make it available online, so that you can make that “right choice” an informed choice – about Health, Education, Social Services, Prison Reform, Entrepreneurship, Pensions... the works!

Now, every single plan or program of the UPP is not contained here. To include everything would have made the document too long. However, be assured that the Party has considered and formulated plans for every important sector of the society and of the economy.

Other policies – such as Constitution Reform – will require further consultation with, and additional action from, The People. And so, critical decisions on matters like a fixed election date and the possible inclusion of religious ministers in electoral politics will require not simply Manifesto promises, but sit-down sessions with Civil Society.

However, once elected, this is an area of high priority for a UPP Administration.

In the meantime, I invite you to carefully peruse, analyze and adopt the policies and programs we have so carefully crafted to realize our commitment to Relief, Recovery and Prosperity as your right!

I am confident that, having done so critically and objectively, you will agree that your best life depends on your choice ... of the UPP.

HAROLD LOVELL
Political Leader - UPP



MESSAGE FROM
THE DEPUTY POLITICAL LEADER
JAMALE PRINGLE

*On behalf of the
Candidates of the United
Progressive Party, I am
pleased and proud to
present to you our charter
for Relief, Recovery and
Shared Prosperity and
the seven pillars on which
these will be built.*



These past nine years have been difficult for most Antiguan, Barbudans, residents and businesses; no objective person can gainsay that. And we have all had to weather the storms pretty much on our own, with little attention or assistance from the Browne Administration.

What we and you have gone through has served to inform the changes that must be made to ensure that The People are never again abandoned by their Government.

This Manifesto is how, together, we will create the climate needed for all to endeavour – from preschooler to pensioner, farmer to business executive, immigrant to Diaspora member – and all to achieve, whether a college degree, a home renovation, a business expansion or the creation of a brand-new industry.

Listening to you, The People, we have done our homework and, in this document, we have laid the groundwork and shown the side work. Now, it is all up to you, the Electorate, to give us the job.

We, the 16 Candidates of this great United Progressive Party, stand ready to take on the task of redeeming Antigua and Barbuda and taking it forward into a brighter day.

After the past nine years of the Browne Administration's neglect of The People (while Government Ministers practised self-enrichment) will our task be easy? No. Will it be achievable? Yes! Yes! We did it before and, with God's help and your patience and support, the UPP will do it again.

Together, we will clean up Government's image and this Nation's reputation. We will put you first in business and in opportunities for youth and entire families to become upwardly mobile. We will make Antigua and Barbuda a place of peace and pride and prosperity for all who are willing to work hard.

So, I invite you to carefully go through this Manifesto and see the plans and programs we have put in place, so that your vote for the UPP on Election Day is well placed.

Let us walk into that bright Blue future together.

JAMALE PRINGLE
Deputy Political Leader

7 PILLARS FOR RELIEF, RECOVERY & SHARED PROSPERITY

The new UPP Government will usher in a new era of prosperity, people's empowerment and inclusive development based on 7 strategic pillars:

▶ Pillar 1

VISION 2040 *A National Master Plan*

Through a robust consultation process, create a shared **National Vision and Strategic Plan** to transform and modernize Antigua and Barbuda by 2040.

Leverage the ideas, creativity and potential within the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Foster collective responsibility and action among nationals at home and across the diaspora to achieve this bold national vision.

▶ Pillar 2

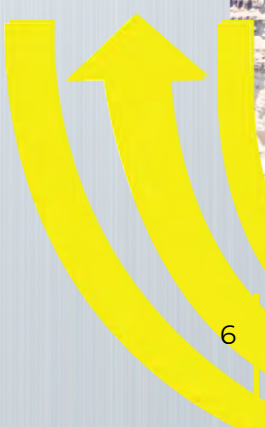
JOB CREATION *and* *Expanding Our Economy*

Expansion of Tourism and the branding of Antigua and Barbuda as a destination for exclusive Tourism and exclusive products.

Creation of new industries in the areas of agribusiness, high-end tourism, sea island cotton production and manufacturing.

Create a niche international banking center that will include digitization of the financial system, cryptocurrency, etc. Financial experts will be brought together to create a task force that will submit recommendations for transforming the banking sector.

MY UPP





► Pillar 3

HOUSING *Security*

Create housing security, give dignity to low-income families and empower middle-income families through a bold new home ownership program “**Homes for You**” using **three pathways to home ownership: Rent to Own, Buyer Assist and Community Construct.**

End the waste and inefficiency that exist today by creating a transparent and accountable new National Housing Entity, merged from CHAPA and the present National Housing. This new entity will give the new UPP Government the synergies and economies of scale to deliver the most affordable high-quality housing solutions ever in our twin island state.

Harness community pride to further reduce the cost of housing to the most budget conscious or vulnerable, without compromising on quality, using an innovative new Community Construct model.

► Pillar 4

EDUCATION REVOLUTION *Education as a Right*

In light of the changing global job market, we will create an environment where every citizen and resident is adequately educated and trained to seize the opportunities of today.

Create an education system to match the shared National Vision and Strategic Plan.

Train a modern workforce to deliver the National Vision.

Education relief from pre-K to tertiary level.

► Pillar 5

ECONOMIC DIGNITY *Putting More Money In The People's Pockets*

UPP will put more money back into the pockets of every citizen and resident by increasing wages, lowering the cost of living and ensuring the availability of sufficient well paying jobs for every able bodied individual.

Deliver a National Living Wage and ensure that both private sector and government wages keep up with inflation.

End the late payment of Social Security pensions and other benefits and place the scheme on a long-term sound footing.

Pillars of Hercules – Cover Photo

Pillars are a natural formation of strength, and the UPP's 7 Pillars are the platform for meaningful Relief, Recovery and Shared Prosperity.

These formations located on the southeastern side of Antigua have withstood the harsh elements of the weather over thousands of years and have fashioned the distinctive columns we see today.

▶ Pillar 6

WATER STABILITY
*Sound Infrastructure,
Clean Environment*

The new UPP Government will leverage the latest technologies and most prudent management practices to solve the deficiencies in our water supply, roads and other critical infrastructure.

▶ Pillar 7

YOUTH
Empowerment

The new UPP Government will make bold and unprecedented moves to boost the participation of youth in both economic prosperity and decision-making.



The Right Choice

POST COVID RELIEF



UPP will lower the cost of living and raise wages in line with inflation, ensuring everyone can enjoy a proper standard of living and provide for their families.

We will also ensure that workers receive their severance obligations and back pay in a timely manner.

UPP will introduce “People First” measures to lower the cost of living:

Reduce the prices of food by reducing customs duty on essential food items, including salted fish, pickled meats, breakfast cereals, cooking oil and others.

Reduce the cost of construction by reducing customs duty on building materials produced outside Caricom.

Repeal the Unincorporated Business Tax (UBT) and replace it with a flat fee based on the business size.

Negotiate special fuel arrangements with oil-producing nations like Venezuela, Trinidad, Guyana, etc.

Pass on savings when the world oil price is low, enabling consumers to enjoy fair gas and electricity prices.

Immediately lower electric bills by adjusting the fuel variation charge as the cost of fuel goes down.

Make **strategic investments in new solar power electricity generation** that will result in the reduction of electricity bills.

Encourage community wind and solar power generation to bring down the cost of electricity.

Make access to cheap renewable energy easy by partnering with credit institutions to equip over 10,000 small homes across the island with solar panels. APUA bills will be reduced by solar power generation.

Government workers will be paid the two months salary ABLP took away during the vaccine mandate.

Grant 100% duty free on importation of electric motor vehicles.

UPP will raise wages and salaries and pay workers what they are owed:

Raise the national minimum wage and reform the operations of the Minimum Wage Review committee to ensure that all citizens and residents are always afforded a **National Living Wage**.

Raise the wages and salaries of government workers to a fair level, in line with inflation.

Service providers will be paid the majority of the debts owed by government within one year.

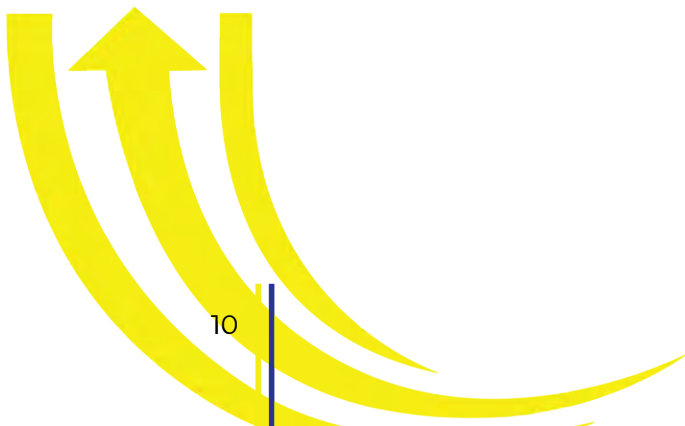
Government workers will be paid the majority of their back pay within one year.

Former employees of LIAT, CAS (Caribbean Airport Services) will receive their severance payments.

Government workers will be paid the two months salary ABLP took away during the vaccine mandate.



MY UPP



ENERGY, TRANSPORT & SUSTAINABILITY



The New UPP Government will significantly reduce the energy bill and cost of fuel to every household and business and lower the carbon footprint per citizen.

The New UPP Government will:

Incentivize more solar power investment.

Convert all government offices, facilities, the public market, the fish market, school plants and hurricane shelters into energy efficient "smart buildings".

Provide incentives for a more efficient Barbuda Sea Bridge which lowers the cost of travel between our twin islands.

Improve the quality, comfort, maintenance and security of all bus stops. Install security cameras and implement a GPS solution that allows passengers to know the buses' location along the route.

Reduce bus fares and improve environmental sustainability by phasing out internal combustion vehicles over time, and securing e-buses for public transportation. Bus owners will be able to trade in their old vehicles

for credit towards acquiring new e-buses, which the UPP government will subsidize.

Provide hundreds of new jobs in the building and maintenance of new solar and renewable energy infrastructure.

Provide tax incentives within the tourism sector to incentivize the adoption of solar powered AC units to replace current inefficient equipment.

Introduce a **No More Oil Policy** which mandates:

- 1. No more new constructions of fossil fuel based power plants.*
- 2. All future plants will be powered by renewable energy.*
- 3. The UPP Government will create the incentives and enabling environment to attract local, diaspora and*

foreign investors to develop renewable power.

- 4. Current energy workers will be retrained to work in the renewable energy economy.*

Introduce incentives to encourage green energy adoption on farms.

Introduce incentives to encourage the phasing out of old inefficient refrigerators.

Pursue greater recycling and reuse of plastics.

The UPP Government will **keep the consumption tax on gasoline and diesel at a reasonable level to pass on maximum savings to the people.**

Develop a **National Renewable Energy Policy** with collaboration among professionals from APUA, Department of Environment, additional relevant

government agencies, the private sector, interested individuals and NGOs.

Make all renewable energy policy and concessions public knowledge and ensure easy access to the concessions laid out for renewable energy equipment.

Increase public education on the benefits of owning electric, hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles, including transport cost savings, and savings on maintenance servicing.

Transition a large portion of the government vehicle fleet to electric.

Fast-track the installation of vehicle charging stations, working in conjunction with APUA, Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Public Works and vehicle dealers.

Provide training and incentives to service stations to enable their rapid participation in the electric vehicle market.

Remove all taxes on the importation of electric vehicles.

Provide hundreds of new jobs in the building and maintenance of new solar and renewable energy infrastructure.

MY UPP

JOBS, BUSINESS & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



The UPP will support the private sector, enabling it to expand, create new employment and export businesses, particularly in new industries.

A UPP Administration will also promote and nurture a culture of entrepreneurship, especially among young people, lessening the dependency on Government for employment, and expanding the range of products and services offered locally.

A UPP Administration will get foreign direct investment (FDI) back on track, delivering major projects and thousands of jobs, contributing to economic and revenue growth.

As a result government revenues will grow steadily and compensate for the decline in CIP revenue.

The UPP will:

REVIEW ALL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AGREEMENTS to ensure they are beneficial to the society, and the investor, and that they do not create an unfair advantage for their promoters, or conflict with the sovereignty of the State and its agencies.

RESTRUCTURE THE NATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY (NAMCO). NAMCO is opaque, provides another needless layer of bureaucracy and doesn't serve a useful purpose. NAMCO shares will be sold to Antiguans and Barbudans.

IMPROVE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS TO SUPPORT GROWTH & JOB CREATION
Use tax incentives to encourage larger businesses to **create more entry level jobs.**

Implement a **fair and transparent corporate tax regime. Incrementally reduce the corporate income tax rate from 25% to 15%.**

Incentivize increased livestock production. Provide a property tax credit allowance to farmers for land under cultivation or in use for livestock.

Pursue enabling policies to substantially increase agriculture and aquaculture production.

Support local production and manufacturing by **charging no ABST on ALL processed and unprocessed local produce and products.** Charge a standard 12.5% ABST on imported substitutes which are not already in the zero-rated basket of goods..

Immediately reduce the corporate tax rate on businesses engaged in the export of goods or services to 15%.

Support light manufacturing and agro-processing by **zero rating tax on imports of capital goods, equipment and intermediary products for use by productive sectors and manufacturing businesses.**

Repeal the Unincorporated Business Tax (UBT) and replace it with a flat fee based on the size of the business.

Repeal the Entertainment Tax (“Fete Tax”).

Modernize tax filing and allow for **all reports, taxes and statutory contributions to be filed and paid electronically.**

Create a one-stop shop for the registration of new businesses. All information required by the statutory corporations and agencies of government will be

submitted electronically, with each agency receiving only the information relevant to it.

Grant automatic Duty Free to all registered Carnival service providers.

Pay the money government owes to service providers. Most of this debt will be settled within the first year of the new UPP Administration.

CREATE A PRO BUSINESS & PRO JOBS ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that major investment projects give locals first preference for employment in all positions at all levels.

Where suitably qualified locals can't be found to fill middle and upper management positions, local trainees must be placed in deputy positions, until they can assume management roles.

Empower the ABIA to attract more successful foreign investments which create well-paying jobs.

Fast track private sector investment projects to spur employment and economic activity within our first 100 days.

Consult with the commercial banks and credit unions with a view to encourage

the **urgent introduction of loan moratoria** and other measures to reduce home, property and business closure losses.

In consultation with the financial sector, legislate a **Borrowers' Insurance Policy** which protects personal and business borrowers from property loss and bankruptcy. Borrowers will be required to pay a premium within their loans which offers protection up to a certain level of loss.

Revitalize the **Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA)** by empowering and expanding its role to **improve the “ease of doing business”**.

Establish a **Public Private Investment Partnership (PPIP) Incubator Unit** within the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) to identify, establish and fast track new public-private partnership investments.

Support entrepreneurship and small business growth as a tool of job creation and poverty reduction.

Restructure concessions arrangements to **increase the share of concessions available to smaller businesses.**

Working with the Antigua & Barbuda Investment

MY UPP

Authority (ABIA), empower thousands of micro and small **businesses that went under during the COVID-19 pandemic to re-establish themselves** through special concessions.

Expand the **Small Business Unit** within the ABIA.

Implement our **ACCESS (Acquiring Capital and Capacity for Economic Stability and Sustainability)** small business development programme. The UPP will:

Capital: Set up a **grant fund of \$10M** to fund small business and entrepreneurial developments and provide tax relief incentives.

Capacity: Create borrower training and financial literacy programs, provide technical assistance and the resources to build capacity to help community small businesses compete in the marketplace.

Economic Stability: Position ABIA to consolidate all institutions that provide

services and funding to small businesses.

Sustainability: Position Antigua and Barbuda as one of the most business-friendly countries for community businesses. We will create a cooperative environment, where businesses in the community work together to stimulate growth in the community, and support cottage industry and home-based businesses by providing opportunities to enhance their sales and marketing efforts. Create year round opportunities for small businesses to gain **ACCESS** through networking events, community-led forums, small business pop-up shops, educational series and an annual Community Awards Gala.

Establish the **Young Entrepreneurs' Set-up (YES)**, an incubator for new micro and small businesses. YES will provide **government guaranteed business loans**

in addition to free training and support services, enabling registered owners to concentrate on developing their trade/product, while professionals manage the administrative side of their operations **for 18 months**. **Business Grant Funding** will also be available under this programme for qualifying enterprises.

Encourage the establishment of a **Small Business Chamber of Commerce** whose responsibility is to digitize the business processes of small enterprises in addition to offering other enabling business services.

Encourage and incentivize local IT experts to develop a local **Small Biz App** which connects businesses to consumers and businesses to businesses. This app will allow for easy searching of products and services, searching business reviews, and easy business-to-business purchasing of goods and services.

NAMCO is opaque, provides another needless layer of bureaucracy and doesn't serve a useful purpose. NAMCO shares will be sold to Antiguans and Barbudans.

Encourage and incentivize local IT experts to create a **regional trading platform** dedicated to small and micro businesses, to increase business exposure at the regional level.

Actively pursue the **revival of vibrant manufacturing and agri-business industries**, particularly that of Sea Island Cotton to include manufacturing of high end fabric and clothing products which are **A&B branded**, for consumption by fashion industries, and in the area of Agro-Processing, including the development of the Antigua Black Pineapple.

Renovate, expand and modernize the Department of Analytical Services, formerly Dunbars Laboratory, to include **an agro-processing centre**.

Conduct feasibility studies and take steps to position our port to become a **Shipping Logistics and**

Transshipment Hub serving the Eastern Caribbean. Position the Antigua & Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS) to boost our market share in the Maritime Registration Industry.

Establish an **Export Development Fund** within the Antigua and Barbuda Development bank to help SME's develop their production and marketing capacity.

Actively support entrepreneurs through funding and incentives in exploring opportunities for business growth in the areas of education, health, sports, environment, housing, energy and infrastructure.

Provide even greater support and expand concessions to small business owners in strategic industry areas, including Agriculture, Digital/IT, Clean Energy and Crypto/Blockchain.

ELIMINATE UNFAIR COMPETITION BY Government, particularly Ministers of Government and their affiliates competing with local businesses (particularly in the construction and farming industries).

Implement an **online fully transparent public procurement portal**.

Make every effort to **allocate 25% of all Government procurement contracts to small businesses**. Special focus will be placed on the creative industries and generally youth-centric sectors.

Upgrade our existing Free Zones to establish **Green Economic Zones** as a new class of special eco-friendly business areas designed to transform the country into an attractive and dynamic trade and investment hub.

MY UPP

Implement a fair and transparent corporate tax regime. Incrementally reduce the corporate income tax rate from 25% to 15%.

WATER

The UPP is committed to putting water production and delivery in Antigua on a long term sustainable footing for the future, with improved service to all consumers:



Treat water availability in Antigua and Barbuda as a human right.

Audit APUA to eliminate waste, corruption and inefficiencies.

Empower APUA with new technologies and innovative solutions which boost its efficiency and sustainability.

Seek technical assistance from experts in other nations with near 100% reliance on reverse osmosis technology.

Give APUA all the support required to build a more effective water production, storage and distribution system.

Introduce the **Water Tank and Equipment Relief (WATER) Programme:**

For a period of 12 months, we will remove all taxes related to the importation of water storage tanks, water pumps, pressure tanks, and electrical and plumbing fixtures for businesses and service providers.

Make a minimum of EC\$5 million available to the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank (ABDB), specifically to be disbursed in low-interest loans.

Households earning less than \$4,000 a month, small businesses earning less than \$10,000 a month, and bona fide farmers will be eligible to apply.

Once they meet the conditions – the ABDB would approve a loan for the purchase of water tanks and the necessary fittings.

Loan recipients will select from approved plumbing and electrical contractors to set up their water collection and distribution.

The bank will make direct payment to retailers and service providers.

Ensure that every house has at least 1 water tank, by providing low interest loans and 1 free tank to any household where pensioners, single mothers or members of the differently abled community reside.

Make groundwater part of our water production plan once again. Use advanced technology to determine the quantity and quality of our groundwater resources.

Upgrade our water treatment infrastructure to treat groundwater so it can be used in agriculture and homes, at a lower cost than water from reverse osmosis.

Properly enforce land use policies to reduce groundwater pollution.

Improve the maintenance of current water catchments and build a comprehensive dam network, including Body Pond and others, to provide water for agriculture and offset the higher costs of reverse osmosis production.

Properly maintain our dams to maximize rainwater collection and provide cheap water to the agricultural sector, freeing up more RO water for the general public.

Ensure Potworks and all other dams have a proper maintenance schedule.

Implement a **Water System Fund**. Any investment over a certain value must include an allocation to the Water System Fund. Hotel investments will contribute as one of the terms of the investment.

Encourage and incentivize major hotel projects to invest in greywater treatment systems which improve water sustainability.

Set mandatory surplus water production targets to ensure we are always over the needed capacity.

Guarantee consumers will no longer be billed for air in their water pipes by implementing new technology.

Develop, staff and fund a proper **Research Unit** within the APUA.

In consultation with APUA, local and international experts, craft and publish a comprehensive **25-Year National Water Plan**, in 5 year phases.

Accelerate the replacement of leaking pipes and build capacity for the future.

Mandate that APUA's future planning includes expanding the delivery network, locations for additional storage tanks, future RO plants, future dam locations, and groundwater resources.

Beef up APUA's **Capital Improvement Program** to ensure timely deployment of new RO capacity, improvement of pipelines, dam construction, maximizing groundwater production, increasing greywater treatment etc.

Conduct a spatial analysis to map all APUA assets to include pipes, valves, pumps and all equipment to improve efficiency.

Improve coordination between APUA and the Public Works Department by implementing an integrated plan that takes both water works and road works into account.

Fully computerize the water management system to ensure more efficient water distribution, quicker detection of leaks and more responsive customer service.

Impose no increase in water prices, (as Gaston Browne has threatened to do). We will leverage technology to improve the efficiency and lower the cost of water production.

Improve water access for farmers.

Increase access to water conservation technologies in the home, consumer and other sectors, including agriculture, and increase public education about modern water conservation techniques.

Reconfigure the APUA Board to include stakeholders from diverse backgrounds (and not just political appointees), such as farmers, faith leaders, the business community, and trade unions.

Build an **Expanded Water Storage System** which utilizes Potworks dam and other dams to capture water to a growing agriculture and agri-business industry. Invite hotels to contribute surplus water from their localized RO plants into this system. Create a Water Management Board comprising all stakeholders to oversee this specific part of the nation's water storage and distribution system.

Deploy small-scale, low impact and modular community water relief systems to build out a **Local Water Grid**, which directly services communities and farmers in distress. Take all necessary actions to **mitigate against the environmental harm of discharged brackish water**. The UPP plan for diversification away from an RO-exclusive approach will protect biodiversity by reducing brackish discharge.

MY UPP

ROADS & OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE



The Right Choice

*All public infrastructure, including roads, drains, government buildings, sports facilities and community spaces will be improved to support our economic productivity. **Local Empowerment Programme.** All infrastructure projects will be supported by technical studies.*

A UPP government will:

Introduce a National Infrastructure Renewal project to modernize the entire national road network.

Conduct a comprehensive **Road Integrity Audit** to ascertain the physical condition of all roads, and inform which roads require urgent attention.

Continue the refurbishing and upgrade of all major highways.

Implement quality control and procurement policies to ensure the use of repair materials, required to effect lasting roadworks.

Reduce congestion on our roads through better planning and management of our road network.

Our road rehabilitation program will be equitably distributed, as part of a **National 20-Year Infrastructure Plan.**

Rapidly install lights on all major highways and within communities. An estimated 10,000 solar powered lights will be installed over the next 5 years.

Upgrade all community fields and sporting complexes to include lights and rest rooms.

Community beautification will be a major part of our agenda. Creating green spaces and public gardens for our families to enjoy will be a major focal point. The upkeep and maintenance will be the responsibility of the community management groups.

Implement road clearing programs to address the overgrown bushes and unsightly garbage that presently exist in various communities.

Implement a **Flooding Prevention Program** prioritizing communities with bridges and gutters.

Upgrade all police stations to ensure that our police officers live and work in a safe and comfortable environment.

Pursue constituency development programs to address convenient public access, parking spaces, pedestrian only walkways, vending, farmers' markets and traffic congestion.

Develop out-of-town centres for economic activity in each of the four corners of the island, to include new public produce markets, fish markets, craft markets and retail business spaces. These will be multi-use tourist-friendly 24/7 spaces.

Bring satellite offices for APUA, MBS, Social Security and other services within easy reach of all population centres.

Carry out the necessary infrastructural and technological upgrades to all government buildings, major port docking facilities, roads, and airports, throughout Antigua and Barbuda, utilizing public private partnerships.

Upgrade all police stations to ensure that our police officers live and work in a safe and comfortable environment.

Complete the Sunshine Hub multi-use facility on Independence Avenue to provide a solution to the congestion in St. John's, new business rental space and upgraded waiting and restroom facilities to the commuters at the East Bus Station.

Improve the availability of public bathroom facilities, especially in areas where there is a high concentration of foot traffic or public transport.



MY UPP

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



UPP will develop and fully implement a new, more relevant and more effective **National Youth Development Policy** and will ensure that a **Youth Budget** is allocated for the implementation of all youth initiatives.

Youth Development Fund

UPP will channel 10% of all CIP revenues into the **Youth Development Fund** which will facilitate investments into sports, education and training and other areas of youth development.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

The UPP will make a **New Approach** to Young Antigua and Barbuda which increases the participation and decision-making power of the youth at all levels of National Life.

All areas of government decision making will have youth representation.

Youth Representation in Governance

A UPP Government will Increase Youth Representation at all levels, targeting:

- *At least 25% in the Senate*
- *At least 25% across All Boards*

- *At least 10% of Chairs or Vice Chairs of boards*
- *At least 25% on all major committees*

National Youth Council

A UPP Government will:
Meet with the National Youth Council once per quarter to capture the concerns of the youth and account for our performance.

Give consideration to the recommendations of the National Youth Council.

National Youth Parliament

A UPP Government will:
Ensure the National Youth Parliament has a greater role in national decision-making.

Give consideration to recommendations and bills presented by the National Youth Parliament.

National Youth Advocates

A National Youth Advocate will be appointed to every Ministry to ensure that the needs of the youth are being

met and promised time-lines are kept.

National Youth & Student Organization

Create a National Youth & Student Organization, to promote and protect the rights, responsibilities, welfare and privileges of young people.

Student councils will be made mandatory in all secondary schools. This will teach youth how democracy works.

Expand the responsibilities of the Ministry of Youth Affairs to include Youth Jobs, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and the Youth Economy.

This new more robust Ministry of Youth Affairs will administer the programmes and activities of the Youth Economy, and will supervise the YES Programme and other training and support initiatives.

YOUTH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Provide greater support for youth mental health. Hire more counsellors in schools to tackle social issues and safeguard the future of stressed and at-risk youth.

Improve the training and number of social workers.

In consultation with the National Youth Council and National Youth Parliament, create programs that tackle new threats to the well-being of young people, including issues of mental health, lack of self-confidence and identity, cyber bullying, excessive social media consumption, and national identity.

YOUTH JUSTICE & REHABILITATION

Overhaul the operations and improve the physical plant of the Boys Training School and strengthen our relationship with the Sunshine Home for Girls.

Speed up reform of the justice system to provide more diversionary sentencing options, avoiding incarcerations and long term harm to young people's futures.

Introduce a new Youth Hostel Program to provide accommodation for at risk youth.

Provide increased training to current and former prison inmates to ensure their successful reintegration into productive society.

Implement a **New Beginnings Program** which provides a simple mechanism for

expunging the criminal records of young-adult offenders who have not re-offended for a particular period, to be determined after consultations with the relevant authorities. This programme will apply only to offenders who have not committed capital or particularly heinous crimes.

Provide lifelong opportunities to all youth who did not complete a primary, secondary or tertiary education, especially for boys and dropouts.

Strengthen financial support and training for the **Youth Intervention Unit** of the Police Force.

YOUTH SERVICE

Establish a **National Service Corps** which will enlist hundreds of young volunteers in service and support to communities and service organizations island-wide. This will improve both civic pride and inter-generational understanding. This body will work closely with the Youth Department in shaping its projects and service focus. It will become a valuable partner to youth development initiatives and bodies such as the Boys Training School.

Incentivize youth participation in the National Service Corps, NGOs and other service organizations by providing tuition grants to those who serve for at least 1 year. This will be implemented in consultation with the National Youth Council.



EDUCATION

We will create an environment where every citizen and resident is educated and trained to seize the opportunities of today.

The UPP recognizes that our education system can do more to meet the needs of all students, including adult learners, and is committed to ensuring that early childhood education gets the attention it deserves.

Children with learning disabilities have no access to early-intervention programs or to schools that specifically cater to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Traditionally, the focus has been on academics, with an emphasis on passing theoretical subjects. We are lagging in skills education, special-needs education, and adult education.

To correct and improve these shortcomings, A UPP Government will:

Offer FREE education for children 2-4 years old in private pre-K centres through a means tested voucher system.

The UPP Government will pay the costs to sit five CXC subjects, inclusive of Maths and English, for all CXC students determined to need such assistance.

Increase the number of uniforms provided under the **School Uniform Grant** programme, from Kindergarten to Form 4.

Foster a closer working relationship between the Ministry of Education and the Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) to ensure that the needs of educators are met and to secure input and greater buy-in to policies and program.

Work with the Teachers Union to **improve the status of teachers** and the culture of education by settling long outstanding compensation issues and establishing High Standards of Teaching.

CONSTRUCT A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL TO

REDUCE OVERCROWDING

This secondary school to serve the communities within the St. John's Rural West & St. John's Rural South constituencies will reduce the strain on the Ottos Comprehensive and Princess Margaret Schools.

MODERNIZE THE EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Ensure that the **Rights and Obligations of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda** are taught in schools, within the context of a new discipline called **Civics**.

Encourage all students to learn a foreign language.

Provide on-going training for staff in early childhood centres - both public and private.



Provide More **Entrepreneurial Skills Training and Financial Literacy Training** within the Business Curricula.

STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Modernize the pre-schools at Simon Bolivar Park and the Grays Green communities and collaborate with private crèches to update their operations.

Construct four (4) **FREE Early Childhood Centres** to assist lower-income families, commencing with St. George's, and expanding to St. Mary's, St. Paul's and St. John's Rural South.

Establish a **National Diagnostic and Learning Centre** that allows every learning-challenged student to maximize his or her abilities to learn; to live independently, as far as possible; and to earn and contribute to the economy.

Ensure that adequate developmental tools are available in all day-care centres.

Provide on-going training for staff in early childhood centres - both public and private.

Collaborate with Ministry of Education administrators, teachers, therapists and parents of **special-needs youth**.

INCREASE FOCUS ON STEM EDUCATION

Introduce and emphasize Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) Education from an early age.

Expand the curriculum to include new high-demand areas such as Artificial Intelligence.

Institute remedial programs in Mathematics and English, in primary and secondary schools, and institute an on-going Mathematics Boot Camp.

Create and incorporate **Entrepreneurship Studies** (theory and practicum) as a *mandatory* part of the Business and Agricultural Sciences Curricula.

Improve and enhance the professional qualifications of all our educators, with the view of enhancing their remuneration package.

Launch a program of summer schools led by retired educators for enhancing practical education skills of teachers (improving delivery of the syllabus) and the provision of remedial classes for students.

Rebrand ABICE to create a diploma-granting **School of Careers** with Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ). Develop a cadre of highly skilled Technicians in the building trades; small-engine repairs; garment manufacturing; upholstery and sewing; and agricultural science. Internships of six to nine months will be part of the practicum requirements for graduation.

A UPP Government will establish an **Education Park** - for academic institutions, located in the Coolidge/ Dutchman's Bay area. The UPP Administration will provide special incentives for education institutions operating in the Park. There will be a strong focus on **Aviation Technology**. We will make Antigua the Aviation Centre of the Caribbean.

Update the curriculum to promote Antiguan and Barbudan History, Geography and Cultural Studies that will be taught in tandem with the CSEC-CXC curriculum. This is aimed at inculcating in our youth an understanding and appreciation for history and legacy of Antigua and Barbuda.

On a means-tested basis, provide more full scholarships to students of ABICE and Antigua State College.

MY UPP

Provide scholarships to the National Yachting Academy to drive more local participation in our Yachting Industry.

Restore financial stability and fairness to the scholarship programmes.

Online and distance-learning in identified programmes will be encouraged and will enjoy scholarship support.

Reintroduce, expand and actively **promote the annual College Fair** to ensure that our students are exposed to both existing and emerging courses of study and careers.

Revive the National School Meals Programme to meet its original objectives of providing **“Nutrition for Learning”** and improve the partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Enhance the nutritional value of meals provided by the School Meals program.

Deploy more Educational Technology (Ed-Tech) in schools, including Fiber Internet and Smartboards.

Provide adequate high quality and long lasting computer tablets for teachers and students.

NATIONAL SERVICE CORPS

Replace Bonding with an obligation to serve in the National Service Corps by phasing out the current

practice of scholarship recipients having to “work out” a bond.

Beneficiaries of the scholarship programs will be expected to “give back” via a National Service Corps by allowing them to serve as coaches or mentors in schools; teachers in the new Adult Education Program; volunteers at the senior centre, hospital or prison; or contributors in other public ventures.

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

Friday and Saturday classes will be held for **inmates of Her Majesty’s Prison** recommended for such program.

Facilitate convenient lifelong education via an online e-Education platform and place most of the new courses to prepare citizens and businesses for the new digital economy on this platform. We will collaborate with education partners.

Pursue a **Maths and English Proficiency Policy** to enhance national productivity.

Offer the opportunity for all citizens and residents to access free Maths and English classes up to the CXC level.

Mandate the Ministry of Labour and the Statistics Department to establish a Human Resource Productivity Metric that meets the World Bank metrics and launch a national education program which helps all workers to boost their productivity in their areas of work.

Ensure our education initiatives drive us to emerge as one of the top countries when it comes to human resource productivity.

Work with UWI and our tourism stakeholder partners to initiate the offering of Business Degrees with a concentration in Tourism Business Management, and the establishment of a Tourism Management Chair at UWI Five Islands.

Establish a National Performing Arts Academy to include the areas of Visual Arts, Dance and Music. Establish a School of Carnival Creativity within the National Performing Arts Academy to strengthen the performing arts sector and create a Carnival curriculum.

The UPP Government will pursue an “Education For All” Policy where all children will be granted school access, on a first-come-first-served basis, without immigration checks or the discretion of the Ministry of Education, once space is available.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The UPP recognizes that all healthcare facilities – from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre to the community clinics – are in need of repair, refurbishment and equipment upgrades. The two new polyclinics donated by the People’s Republic of China also need to be staffed, equipped and properly operationalized.

The UPP commits to tackling these problems, with the active assistance of the Medical Benefits Scheme and the Ministry of Works.

A UPP Administration’s priority areas include:

NATIONAL STRATEGIC

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

EXPLORE MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Exploring the feasibility of a comprehensive Medical Insurance Plan for civil servants.

Settling outstanding payments to healthcare personnel.

Increasing the number of nurses, doctors, specialists, and support staff in the public-health system.

Deploying enough personnel and supplies to the community clinics, so that their daily/nightly operations are more efficient.

FOCUS ON MENTAL WELLNESS

A UPP Government will pursue three approaches to mental health simultaneously: before the crisis, during the crisis, and after the crisis policies.

Establish a focus on Mental Wellness NOT Mental Illness and seek to redirect the care of the mentally challenged, where possible, from institutions to community/home based care.

Construct a new modern mental healthcare facility

that vastly improves on the service delivered by the Clarevue facility.

Reassess the conversion of the Sir Cuthwyn Lake Medical Center (formerly NTTC Building at Nugent Avenue) with a view to creating **a non-residential mental-health treatment facility for at-risk youth.**

Making wellness a priority, with an emphasis on **reducing obesity** among our youth and **mental deterioration** among our seniors. Establishing dedicated exercise centres within outdoor spaces, with the input of the national sporting bodies.

Within 100 days of taking office, pass comprehensive Mental Health Legislation which codifies the rights of mental health patients, the ethical responsibilities of mental health professionals,

MY UPP

punishments for professional misconduct, the rules and responsibilities for the guardians of mental health patients and expands the powers of the Ministry of Health.

Conduct a review of current policies towards students' mental health, including mental health education, the availability of mental health professionals and teachers' responses to students' mental health challenges.

Intensify mental health public awareness campaigns working with The Ministry of Health and mental health professionals, using radio, television, and social media.

Facilitate more scholarships for the training of mental health professionals.

**NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER:
Create a center for
recreation, education,
and engagement of
the retired population.**

Convert a significant part of the Holberton Hospital compound into the **Cynthia Boone-Thibou Senior Centre** with the aim of keeping our senior citizens mentally and physically active. Residents of Fiennes Institute will have access to these activities.

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

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

**COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH
CARE SERVICES**

Conduct an immediate assessment to **reduce wait time at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre** so that corrective measures can be implemented as quickly as possible.

Healthcare must be comprehensive and looked at holistically. We will expand and **strengthen the education program on preventing substance abuse and non communicable lifestyle illnesses.**

Place more emphasis on the management and provision of treatment for Non-Communicable Diseases such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Kidney Failure, Asthma, Sickle Cell at the Poly Clinics.



Upgrade, fully equip and properly maintain all community health clinics and extend operating hours to 10 p.m.

Improve the functioning of Poly Clinics and upgrade their services to include the provision of Urgent Care into the night. Polyclinics will be equipped with the necessary equipment and specialists.

Expand Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) coverage to include **free dental treatment** for persons under 18 and everyone in full-time education.

Expand MBS coverage to include **free eye-care** for children and everyone in full-time education.

Further expand MBS coverage for illnesses, NCDs, diagnostic procedures and medications within our first 5 years.

Set up a public-private partnership to establish an independent **Medical Endowment Fund** to assist with critical illnesses. Use tax and other incentives to encourage investors to contribute, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. The fund will be administered by a National Board of Trustees.

Establish a standard **minimum response time for ambulance services** and establish ambulance HQs to meet time requirements. Establish similar response time standards to ensure timely fire and police response.

Establish a **medical air-bridge** between Barbuda and Antigua, in collaboration with airplane and helicopter operators.

Improve maternal services across the healthcare system.

Make paternal leave available in line with international standards.

INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO MEDICINE ... A PARADIGM SHIFT

Include provision for traditional, contemporary medicine and preventative health. Offer nuclear/radiology medicine to address increase in demand for cancer treatment.

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

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

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

Healthcare must be comprehensive and looked at holistically.

MY UPP

REDUCE CHILDHOOD NCDS:

The shocking rise amongst the child population of chronic diseases, particularly Diabetes and Obesity, makes corrective action imperative.

We must inculcate in our children the merits and imperatives of wholesome eating and daily exercise. To this end, A UPP Government will:

In collaboration with the MBS, twin a well-planned, fun-to-do exercise regimen with the School Meals Programme. This dual approach to

bettering our children’s lives will redound positively to their long-term wellness.

The UPP will support mental wellness among students by increasing the availability of trained counsellors, making such personnel accessible to all government primary and secondary schools.

CANNABIS INDUSTRY

Increase the amount of cannabis allowed for personal possession from 15 grams to 1 ounce (28 grams).

In consultation with the National Youth Council and

wider society, legislate further decriminalization of cannabis to protect our youth from senseless prosecution.

Boost the effectiveness of public health campaigns, the availability of anti-addiction support and the prevention of underage use.

Reduce the cannabis license fee to support the participation of more Antiguan and Barbudan entrepreneurs in the medicinal cannabis industry.



THE REDEEM TEAM



HAROLD LOVELL
ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST



JAMALE PRINGLE
ALL SAINTS EAST & ST. LUKE



FRANZ DEFREITAS
ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH



ALEX BROWNE
ST. PHILLIP NORTH



RICHARD LEWIS
ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST



GLADYS POTTER
ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH



TEVAUGHN HARRIETTE
ST. PETER



ANTHONY SMITH JR.
ALL SAINTS WEST



PEARL QUINN-WILLIAMS
ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH



SEAN BIRD
ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST



ALGERNON WATTS
ST. GEORGE



SHERFIELD BOWEN
ST. PHILLIP SOUTH



KELVIN SIMON
ST. MARY'S SOUTH



JOHNATHAN JOSEPH
ST. MARY'S NORTH



DR. CLEON ATHILL
ST. PAUL



ALISTER THOMAS
ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST

The Leadership and Executive of the United Progressive Party present, with great pride, the Candidates nominated to contest the January 18, 2023 General Election on its Slate: The Redeem Team.

We commend these 16 men and women who answered the call to duty and who – with their families, Party Branches, and supporters – have rebuilt national confidence in our brand through their representation of our values; commitment to Party and Country; passion for the well-being of The People; and significant personal and financial sacrifice.

We are confident that their diversity – of age, gender, education, occupation, and life experience – is representative of the electorate and has resulted in the broadest sense of “identification” ever experienced by this country’s voters.

We are just as confident that these qualities will be of the greatest assistance to them in their roles as servant-leaders, once the Party is victorious at the polls and forms the next Administration.

The Leadership, Executive and Candidates also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank those who helped to pave the way – who, in local parlance, “cut the cassi” on this road – including Brother Cortwright Marshall and the late Brother Michael Burton and other departed soldiers.

May Almighty God bless you, our Candidates, and crown your work with success.

D. GISELE ISAAC
Chairperson



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Even before the pandemic, the ranks of the vulnerable and the socially dislocated were increasing alarmingly.

A society is judged by how it treats those who are most disadvantaged.

Accordingly, a government must do all it can to strengthen families and enhance their abilities to help their own. But it also has the obligation to assist those who cannot help themselves.

The UPP Administration pledges to:

IMPROVE SOCIAL SECURITY:

Work assiduously to **improve the financial health of the Social Security Scheme** in an effort to ensure that monthly pensions and other Social Security benefits are paid on time.

Immediately inject \$20 million into Social Security to stabilise the scheme and end late benefit payments.

In our fight against poverty in the post-COVID economy we will work towards **implementing inflation-indexed pensions** and other social services.

Ensure that Social Security conducts timely actuarial analyses to ensure prudent fiscal management of continued timely payments to beneficiaries..

Honor all payments on the bond issued in 2010, to keep Social Security on a long term stable footing.

Introduce the **Maintenance Of Minors (MOM) Program** to protect single-parent households from financial hardship. We will allocate 1 million dollars to a revolving fund. Low income and unemployed custodial parents can access child support payments from the fund.

Work through the Ministries of Health and Social Transformation, along with faith based organizations and civil society to **relocate and rehabilitate persons living on the street.**

Develop the capacity of the Probation Department to teach

life skills, to ensure prisoners' successful reintegration into society.

Work with international agencies to recruit and train personnel to adequately staff all departments dealing with Court matters, including drug education, domestic abuse, and runaways.

Establish a **Victims Trauma Unit** within the Ministry of Social Transformation to increase the physical and psychological assistance provided to victims of crime and disasters.

Properly fund and expand the outreach of the **Board of Guardians.**

Actively promote, support and facilitate the fostering and adoption of children.

A UPP Government will maintain or implement the following plans and programmes:

MY UPP

The UPP Administration will maintain and improve the programmes it instituted — the School Meals, the School Uniform Grant, the Dollar Barrel, the PDV/CAB People’s Benefit Programme and the Senior Citizens Utility Subsidy.

Any qualifying person who was removed, arbitrarily or politically, from the People’s Benefit Programme will be reinstated.

Index-link the People’s Benefit Card to ensure greater protection to meet basic food-security standards.

Expand access to existing social programmes including the People’s Benefit Programme and

the Food Voucher Programme under the Ministry of Social Transformation

Ensure that all social programmes are conducted in a fair way, with no discrimination.

Reconstitute the School Meals Program to provide wholesome and nutritious meals, including water, for the critical development of young bodies and minds and Introduce a **School Vitamin Program.**

Working with NODS and the Red Cross, the Ministry of Social Transformation will create and operate a **Fire Relief & Resettlement Program.** This is aimed at helping displaced families to be resettled with

human dignity, as quickly as possible, and assisting them in recovery efforts. The former Barrymore Hotel will be used as temporary housing.

It will also be mandated to work more closely with NODS in the annual identification, inspection, and basic provisioning of emergency shelters, and other critical functions.

Recognizing the critical role of church ministries in social transformation, the UPP Government will **provide scholarships to assist people who qualify to pursue undergraduate degrees in religious studies** at approved universities.



NATIONAL SECURITY & JUSTICE

Public trust in the justice system has significantly eroded. While the Police and Judiciary are recognized as independent, the UPP Administration will be committed to ensuring that all residents have easy access to justice.

Prison reform will be a priority and we will focus on rehabilitating prisoners and reducing recidivism rates. While we work toward the construction of a modern prison complex, we will strive to keep persons out of prison, especially out-of-work fathers and petty criminals in need of employment.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A UPP Government will:

- Rename the Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force the **Antigua and Barbuda Police Service**, to reflect a new social ethos which focuses on clients and customers.
- Establish a **Civilian Complaints Review Board**.
- Establish a **Small Claims Court** so that claims under EC\$5,000 can move more quickly through the system.
- Re-establish the Magistrates' Courts in All Saints and Bolans Villages and in Parham Town.

- Increase the number of Magistrates, placing one in Barbuda.
- Facilitate year-round criminal trials in the High Court of Justice.
- Enact legislation that mandates that all hearings be held within the constitutional timelines.
- Enact legislation that provides a uniform, fair and balanced approach to the granting of bail in the Magistrates Courts.
- Work diligently to introduce **alternative sentencing** — in particular community service — for youth, first-time offenders and non-violent offenders.
- Make **skills training available to inmates** of Her Majesty's Prison through the new ABICE School of Careers and also provide online education options.
- Implement a strong pre and post-release counseling programme to ensure a smooth transition back to productive society.
- Give qualifying former inmates access to scholarships to pursue tertiary education and technical/vocational education and access to entrepreneurship programmes.
- Set up a **Landlord-Tenant Dispute Resolution Board**.
- Require all police stations to be 24/7 operations.
- Enhance the Highway Patrol Unit to better regulate the increasing road traffic and to make our roads and highways safer.
- Upgrade our Coast Guard's training and personnel and work with regional and international governments and other bodies, including the RSS, to boost our border security capacity.
- Utilize specially developed drones to secure our borders.

MY UPP

- Build a police station with a holding facility in Barbuda.
- Provide mandatory training (including refreshers) for all police officers in the **handling of persons living with mental illnesses**.

Further, the safety of our people is a priority, and so a UPP Government will:

- Implement an **internationally recognized street-address system (post and/or zip code system)** within the first two years of our Administration.
- Establish **First-responder Centres** (fire tender, EMS, Police Unit) in Johnson's Point, Carty's Hill and English Harbour, to ensure that all four corners of Antigua and Barbuda can enjoy rapid response.
- **Increase the fleet of fire tenders** to no less than seven working units and ensure they are properly maintained.
- **Complete the separation of the Fire police and regular Police into two professional bodies.**
- **Establish a mutual communications platform between the EMS and Fire Department .**
- Facilitate the set-up of **auxiliary neighbourhood-patrol** units in each parish.
- Increase the number of **working street lights** throughout the constituencies, phasing in solar street lights.
- Exempt all home-security equipment from ABST.
- Ensure there is regular clearing of bushes on vacant lands in residential areas.
- Create a **Service Corps within the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force** which deploys appropriately trained soldiers to tackle civic work and service initiatives to include maintenance of government buildings.

The UPP will empower the Police Service to:

Establish a highly specialized **Anti-Crime and Narcotics Unit** using the best personnel in those fields from the Police Service and the ONDCP, with the mandate to lead the fight against serious and organized crime.

Establish a modern **Forensics Laboratory**.

Increase training in modern crime-fighting and detection methods.

Increase the number of officers within the Police Service.

Require the Police Service to organize an ongoing nationwide **Crime-Prevention Education Program**.

Implement **mandatory polygraph testing** and **psycho-social testing** of police officers before entry into the Police Service, and otherwise as required, with court sanction.

Implement continuous and rigorous physical training, mental aptitude training and medical evaluation programmes among all ranks in the Police Service, and establish training and evaluation as essential prerequisites for placement and promotion.

Provide police **full medical insurance coverage** for injuries sustained in their course of duty.

Undertake a review of the management structure and operations of all police stations.

Youth Justice

The UPP is fully committed to reducing the rising incidence of juvenile delinquency.

A New UPP Government will:

Expand the **Youth Diversion Programme** in the Police Service.

In the medium term:

Construct a modern Smart Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility - the Youth Offender Development Center - to help rehabilitate and empower both young males and females.

Enact legislation which states that offenders under the age of 21 who have not

committed a capital crime, violent crime, or gun crime, can have the opportunity, subject to appropriate conditions, of not being in detention.

Enact legislation that will **make petty offences violations, rather than crimes**, thus preventing our youth from being criminalized.

Apply existing legislation and, where necessary, **enact new legislation that provides for alternative sentencing**

options including curfew, house arrest, community service, and probation.

Domestic Violence

Enforce a **zero tolerance policy on domestic violence** against women and children.

Work with international and regional agencies to **establish a dedicated safe house** for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Implement an internationally recognized street-address system within the first two years of our Administration.

MY UPP

IMMIGRATION

Conscious of the discrimination that some immigrants – Caribbean nationals, in particular – have endured, the UPP will enact relief measures and strengthen the systems by which they may be more comfortably incorporated into the Antigua and Barbuda society.

The UPP Government will:

Reduce the cost of passports by 50% for citizens aged 65 years and over.

OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Consistent with our commitment to promoting unity with our Caribbean Brothers and Sisters, as demonstrated by our 2004 Millennium Naturalization Act, the New UPP Government, under our **One Caribbean Programme**, will move to **amend the Constitution to allow individuals born outside of Antigua and Barbuda, who have an Antiguan great-grandparent born in the country, to secure their Antigua and Barbuda passport by descent.**

Create a **Department of Immigrant Affairs** that is guided by a board of directors composed of prominent persons including from within immigrant communities.

Establish an **Immigrant Affairs Desk** within the Department of Immigrant Affairs that will promote the well-being of communities by overseeing the implementation of policies and programs that facilitate their successful integration.

Activate the Immigration Appeals Tribunal.

Increase the staff at the Immigration Office to target a quick turnaround time of no more than 90 days for all citizenship applications.

Allow for the application for **Family Citizenship** under a skilled migration program, where children who are minors are jointly considered with their parents. We will fast track family applications where minors are involved.

Persons who broke their residency period due to their unavoidable absence, caused by the COVID pandemic, will have no adverse immigration consequences.

WORK PERMITS

Under the “One Caribbean” Act, effective 1st March 2023, the new UPP Government will waive all work permit fees for nationals of Caricom and the Dominican Republic, who have been working and resident in Antigua and Barbuda on or before January 1st 2023.

Work permits for nationals of Caricom and the Dominican Republic will be replaced by the “One Caribbean Employment



Stamp”, which will be transferable from one employer to another, within the same industry and same job class.

Undocumented immigrants who came to this country as minors and have lived and attended primary and secondary school here, and consider Antigua and Barbuda their home, will be fast-tracked on a pathway to citizenship upon attaining the age of 18, as part of the “One Caribbean” Act.

Lower the cost of the Extension forms to \$25.00.

Discontinue the practice of requiring \$300 Extensions for specialist workers and church personnel who are seeking Work Permits, when they are already legally landed and have time in their passports.

For applications for Residency, grant a minimum of 1 year, to begin from the date the applicant’s passport is received.

ENVIRONMENT & AESTHETICS

Both residents and returning nationals complain that “this is the worst Antigua has ever looked.” And on Barbuda, there still remain remnants of the 2017 Hurricane Irma.

*Residents and visitors **deserve** to live and vacation in an environment that is clean, healthy and attractive.*

*The UPP Administration, working with communities island-wide, will ensure that the Ministries of Public Works, Health and Agriculture; the Department of Environment; the DCA; St. John’s Development Corporation; and community and civic groups undertake a five-year campaign called “**Bring Back Beautiful.**”*

*There will be **zero tolerance for littering, illegal dumping**, and erecting structures that put safety and health at risk. Littering and misuse of the beaches and marine resources will not be tolerated.*

*Antigua and Barbuda **MUST** reclaim its reputation as a place “where land and sea make beauty.”*

Therefore, A UPP Government will:

Implement the “WHERE LAND & SEA MAKE BEAUTY” CAMPAIGN.

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

Ensure that schools and health facilities operate in a clean environment, free of litter/garbage, overgrown grass, uncleared drains etc. so as to support the wellness of students, staff and patients.

Provide employment at the community level to **ensure the streets, drains and public areas are regularly cleaned**, particularly in the City of St. John’s.

Incentivize the business community through tax trade-offs to repair and **refurbish their downtown properties.**

Work with the private sector to **transform Independence Avenue** so that it becomes not only a gateway to the business district but a “parkway” worthy of its name.

Pursue partnerships to clean, restore and transform the areas of the Country Pond and the Tanner Street gutter into an **Urban Green Space and a Joint Heritage Landmark** with foliage, benches, space for small businesses such as eateries, ice cream shops, local juices, crafts etc., and new tourism attractions.

MY UPP

Create partnerships and provide incentives to businesses, including street vendors, to **improve the overall appearance and sanitation of St. John's** as the centre of commerce, working through the St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC) and the Chamber of Commerce.

Properly maintain the St. John's Harbor as an attractive waterfront for residents and tourists to enjoy.

Maintain the environs of the V.C. Bird International Airport to provide an attractive welcome for visitors and returning residents.

Improve the maintenance and aesthetic appeal of all cemeteries, our ancestors' resting places.

All new home constructions will be encouraged to plant at least two new trees on their allotted land.

Increase the number of recyclable refuse collection sites across the country, where people can dispose of perishables, paper and plastic, etc., in separate receptacles.

ESTABLISH PARKS & COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES IN VILLAGES ACROSS THE ISLAND

Establish a Public Parks Authority (not to be confused with the re-imagined National Parks and Heritage Authority) that is responsible for the development and maintenance of well maintained and safe parks for the empowerment of youth, the well-being of senior citizens, the advancement of cultural activities, and the promotion of sustainable tourism.

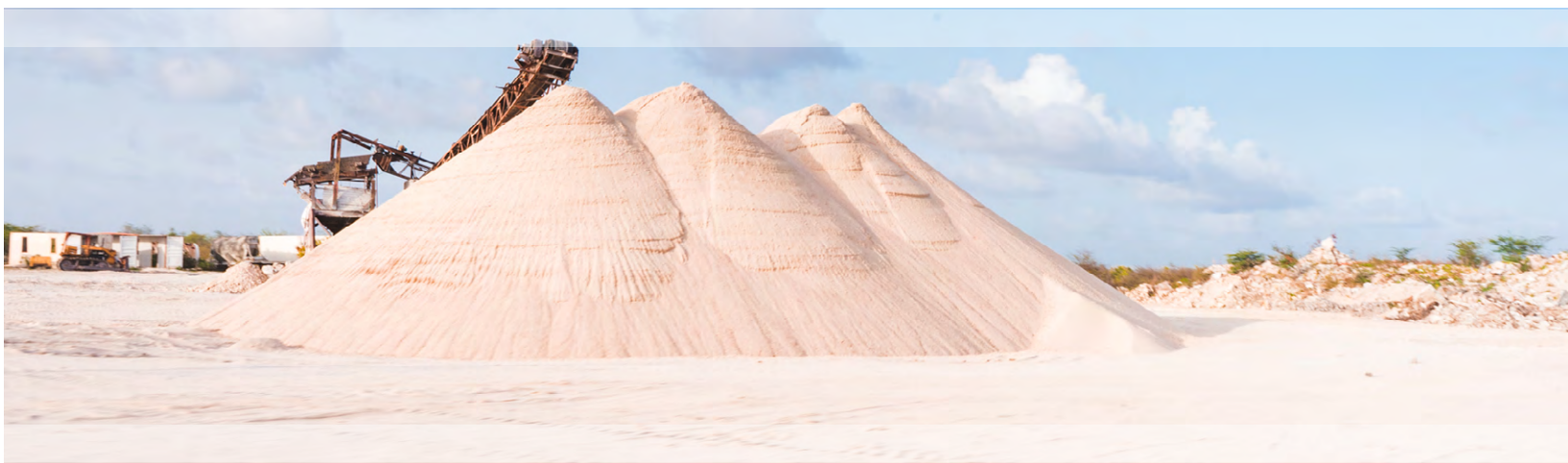
Develop Heroes Park into an actual park deserving of its name – to include a memorial to the 88 enslaved Africans executed in the 1736 rebellion and a museum exhibiting legacy materials of past political leaders.

Revitalize the Botanical Gardens as an attractive public green space to include installing displays of sculpture, placing markers identifying our unique plant life, the holding of annual exhibitions of aromatic and flowering plants and the provision of designated areas for entertainment and refreshment.

Plant a Million Trees Campaign. This will be an exercise to substantially reforest Antigua, where individuals, schools and other organizations will be encouraged to engage in ongoing tree planting exercises throughout the country.

Pursue a public/private partnership to fund the building of a **public open-air performing arts theatre.**

Work with the Transport Board and bus associations to **enhance both bus terminals** to include the installation of technologies such as using GPS to indicate the arrival time of buses.



TOURISM, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

The UPP recognizes the urgent need to expand the stay-over tourism industry and create year-round demand for accommodation, entertainment, and festivals. The Summer slump in tax revenues will be minimized or eliminated.

There needs to be a greater synergy between Tourism and festivals such as Carnival, Homecoming, Mango & Pineapple Fest; Sailing Week; Sports; and Wellness, and this will be pursued as a matter of economic priority, linking the respective Ministries, the Overseas Missions, and the local Hotel Associations.

In collaboration with tourism stakeholders, work towards the establishment of a 52-week festival and event calendar, to provide a holistic tourism experience for both international and regional tourism. We will create an **Event Advisory Council** which will comprise artists, promoters and other creatives.

Marshall the Event Advisory Council to hold at least **one major national event, capable of attracting**

regional and international visitors, every quarter.

These can be created by expanding and enhancing current calendar events.

Give our musical artistes and other creatives more marketing and promotional support to boost their local, regional and international success.

Tap into our 3 diaspora centres (US, UK and Canada) to establish **at least one major new diaspora event on our official event calendar to be held within each of these countries.**

Establish a week-long **Cultural and Historical Festival** around Independence or other suitable time, celebrating the history of Antigua and Barbuda, which will attract

more Diasporans home during this period. One day of this festival will focus on our Cricket greats, featuring tours and insights into where they grew up.

Annual **Community Cultural Festivals** will be encouraged and developed to showcase steelpan, choirs, film, drama, dance, costume-building and the culinary arts.

Through the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority, A UPP Government will incentivize and actively assist entrepreneurs who create visitor experiences and tours, particularly in the areas of heritage tourism, including the sugar estates and windmills; historic churches; amateur cricket matches and cricket iconography that incorporate the ARG and the Sir Vivian Richards Ground.

MY UPP

Upgrade and revitalize the historic Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) to become a **state of the art sports and events venue** which also serves as the Home of Football in Antigua and Barbuda; and transform it into a **Sports and Cultural Museum Park** with audio visual displays including Carnival and strong tie-ins to tourism.

Make St. John's shine again. Particular attention will be paid to the lower half of St. John's City, as a point of entry and entertainment for Cruise visitors, especially in the matter of sanitation and safety.

Create new vending and cultural areas in various locations around St. John's, providing more incentives for tourists to leave the ships and spend money.

Undertake aesthetic and commercial revitalization of the Parham waterfront, as a tourist attraction.

Concurrently, the UPP will work assiduously with the hotel associations and the airlines to develop new markets, including among the French Caribbean and South America, and to secure greater airlift during the Summer months from North America.

The after-Carnival period in August will be promoted as the **Three R's: Reunion, Reconnection & Rejuvenation**, targeting family and village reunions and the smaller hotels and guest-houses.

Visitors to Antigua and Barbuda in the high season do not get a chance to experience our Carnival. We will launch the **Carnival Love Festival**, a new cultural street fair, to be staged in the high season, showcasing our cultural offerings. The Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Education will assemble Mas' band leaders, steel bands, costume builders and crafts persons.

September and October will be used to target North American seniors/retirees and will be marketed as **Wellness/Well-being Tourism**. The emphasis here will be on hotel and private spas; marine tour operators.

Create a unique destination-redefining brand that focuses on **Green Luxury**, environmentally friendly properties that create linkages with other sectors, such as agriculture and culture.

Accelerate the development of an exclusive **health and wellness tourism** product which includes services such as Ayahuasca, yoga, weight loss services, etc, to leverage the newly established Green Economic Zone. Position Antigua and Barbuda as an **Asian Fusion** destination, with offerings palatable to high end Asian tourists, to attract new visitors from areas in the US and Canada with high Asian populations, who often travel as large family groups.



Working with ABIA, incentivize and find the right investors to realize the construction of a 6-star wellness hotel.

In the culinary sector: incentivize the attraction of famous chefs to make Antigua and Barbuda the center for great food from good produce.

Strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's position as the **Sailing Capital of the Caribbean** by working closely with all stakeholders to create stronger linkages with heritage tourism, upgrade docking facilities, increase attractions and create an exciting year round calendar of yachting events.

Revolutionize our Yachting Sector by pursuing more co-branding partnerships with global brands, maintaining a greater branding presence throughout the international regatta circuit.

Encourage the Yachting Sector to pursue "Marina Sisters" relationships with

other popular marinas around the world and introduce membership cards.

Collaborating with the Antigua Hotels & Tourism Association and the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority, **create a new paradigm to promote and market both Antigua and Barbuda more effectively to new niche tourism markets**, eg eco-tourism, sports tourism, faith tourism, education tourism, medical and wellness tourism.

Institute a **Resort Development Initiative** that will encourage the current owners of some of our legacy properties, which have aging plants, to move these projects to upgrade or completion status.

Create fresh incentives and opportunities for local ownership in the hospitality sector. In 2007, a new category of small locally owned hotel accommodations emerged - with over 50 new home-grown investors. The UPP will reintroduce a similar programme to help cultivate the "**Authentic Antigua**" brand of locally owned tourism facilities.

Incentivize smaller, locally owned properties and tour operators to **offer package deals to the diaspora**, with a local rate, cultivating wedding, funeral and reunion tourism.

Attract more cruise visitors and boost commerce generally with the addition of **five new duty-free zones** in English Harbour, Jolly Harbour, Redcliffe Quay, Parham Harbour and Barbuda.

Resuscitate the failed Willoughby Bay Project and pursue the **Heritage Train Ride** development as a top priority.

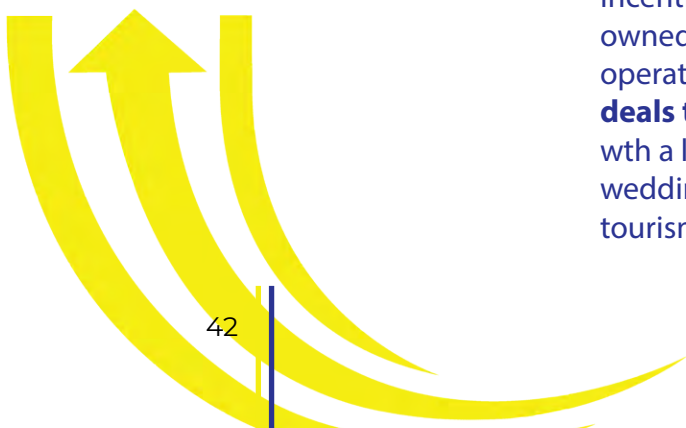
Develop an inter-ministerial **Tourism Linkages Unit**, with the additional participation of key public and private-sector partners, to create, facilitate and sustain linkages between productive industries.

Establish a **Buy Local Policy** within the tourism sector. Work with hotels, the Tourism Linkages Unit, and the CMC to ensure that local produce which meets quality standards and culinary requirements are given first preference for purchase.

Create **virtual and virtual reality (VR) travel experiences** as part of our digital marketing campaigns to better pre-sell our tourism product.

Setup a system for pre-clearance of passengers traveling from the US, Canada and United Kingdom. which allows tourists faster transit from airside to curbside.

MY UPP



Empower more Antiguan and Barbudans to enter the **Airbnb** space and directly benefit from tourism.

Pursue the development of new tourism markets such as Latin America and South Africa to provide an increased customer base for the growing Airbnb sub-sector.

Establish a strong **Community Tourism product** which offers immersive experiences such as community food tours, lessons from locals (e.g. preparing a coal pot dinner) and homestays with locals. This will drive more direct community participation in and benefit from tourism.

The UPP will empower Antiguan to drive the growth of the cultural, leisure & entertainment industry.

Establish a National Performing Arts Academy to include the areas of Visual Arts, Dance and Music. Establish a School of Carnival Creativity within the National Performing Arts Academy to strengthen the performing arts sector and create a Carnival curriculum which includes training in mas making.

Repeal the Entertainment Tax to spur greater growth

in the sector. This measure will motivate promoters to expand their activities and create new jobs for support services.

Boost regional and international Event/Festival Tourism guided by the Event Advisory Council, to **make Antigua the Entertainment Capital of the Eastern Caribbean.**

Support the establishment of Zonal "Festival Style" Fetes, with mini fashion shows, chef demonstrations, pop up restaurants, mixology demonstrations, pop up shops, arts and craft exhibitions and other creative offerings integrated into the events.

Develop an action plan to guide the expansion, marketing and utilization of cultural goods and services in the digital domain.

Promote the export of locally created content and provide support for intellectual property protection.

Launch Carnival Out-of-the-Box / Carnival For The Senses – In this exciting concept everything needed to create a Remote Carnival Experience will be packaged for sale on local and international markets: souvenirs, recipe books, local products like sauces

and rums, listings of online stores where one can order costumes, art, music, etc.

Upgrade the National Parks Authority to become the **National Parks and Heritage Authority**, which will have additional responsibilities to manage Beach Parks and Marine Parks, preserve our culture, inspire national pride and harness our tangible and intangible cultural assets.

Create the required policy framework and launch a pilot program facilitating the opening of **regulated Cannabis Lounges** as a way to differentiate our tourism product and provide new employment opportunities. These will be similar to the coffeeshops in Amsterdam. Cannabis Lounges will be patronized primarily by tourists - cruise and stay-over passengers.

Develop and promote **Barbuda as a carbon neutral green sustainability model island** and attraction - the first carbon neutral island in the western hemisphere.

- *Over time, make Barbuda an e-transport island, with 100% solar power and virtually zero carbon footprint.*
- *Develop and promote 1 night stays in Barbuda to stay-over tourists in Antigua.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & LAND USE

The UPP is extremely concerned about the dramatic spike in construction costs and what this means for those who aspire to home-ownership, including low-income earners and youth who are looking to start their families. We will create housing security and give dignity through three innovative pathways to homeownership.

With the rapacious land-grabbing and indiscriminate selling of Crown lands by the ABLP Administration, affordable land is in short supply. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, the new UPP Government will undertake a forensic audit of lands.

The UPP is committed to housing as a basic right, and will increase access to affordable homes by creating new initiatives, including the “Homes for You”, “Buyer Assist” and “Rent-to-Own” Programs. The Ministry of Housing will incentivize local contractors to participate in the program. Crown land will be included in this program.

Consistent with our promises to make home-ownership more accessible to more residents, a UPP Administration will:

Develop a **National Housing Plan** to build smart communities that will accelerate and improve the implementation of major housing developments across the country.

Pursue public private partnerships to develop new subdivisions.

Merge National Housing with the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) to create one **National Housing Agency** which functions as a public authority.

Broaden and accelerate the **Construct Antigua & Barbuda Initiative** with the objective of **reducing the cost of building by at least 25%**. First time home-owners and young entrepreneurs will have preferential access and treatment.

Establish public-private partnerships within the construction sector to create **RENT TO OWN housing**, which eliminates the need for substantial downpayment/collateral.

Introduce the **Buyer Assist Programme** which will provide **Home Ownership Grants** to first time home owners pursuing traditional mortgages. These grants will be applied to your down-payment. Grants will also be made available to first time home owners on existing government programs.

MY UPP

First-time Antigua and Barbuda residents who purchase homes valued at \$300,000 or less will **pay no stamp duty**. Sellers of homes valued at \$300,000 or less will **pay 5% stamp duty** (reduced from 7.5%).

Provide an ultra-low-cost pathway to home ownership through our **Community Construct** programme, which supplies housing lots, materials and training, while the home owner and their community colleagues construct the house, under the supervision of an approved contractor.

Introduce a **Flexi-Mortgage Program** which enables up to four co-applicants to apply for affordable housing mortgages through the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank (ABDB).

Provide young homeowners (up to age 35) whose homes were constructed under any of our affordable housing programmes a **\$3,600 APUA voucher to be applied to utility charges for one year**.

Facilitate the building of a very substantial number of affordable homes by 2025.

Ensure that at least 30% of new homes are reserved for women, police, ABDF and Coast Guard officers, teachers, nurses, single-parent families and people with disabilities.

Pass legislation to encourage the development of housing subdivisions through public-private partnerships.

Facilitate the development of housing subdivisions by Antiguan and Barbudans in the diaspora.

Embrace and incentivize the construction of **modern cooperative living**, which utilizes vertical space: i.e., **attractive high-rise apartments** that offer common amenities, such as recreation areas, secure parking, and laundromat facilities. This solution will first be developed in Booby Alley and other urban areas.

Enter into public-private partnerships for the construction of condominiums for members of the diaspora of Antiguan and Barbudan descent, and provide the option to purchase leases for a minimum of 99 years.

Introduce the **Opportunity Knocks (OK)** initiative: an **urban revitalization programme**, through which

derelict and/or abandoned houses in already-established neighbourhoods will be refurbished and brought back into the housing stock. This will be done in partnership with property owners and the Ministry of Works.

- *This initiative will utilize local tradesmen, particularly those graduating the School of Careers (formerly ABICE), and incorporate workers from the new **National Housing Agency**.*
- *The purpose is to provide employment and experience for the workers; income for the home-owners; and housing for persons who are without transportation and wish to live close to their jobs.*

Institute and empower a **Rent Control Board** that promotes and monitors fair pricing and serves as a deterrent to price-gouging, the exploitation of the vulnerable, and discrimination based on nationality, race, ethnicity, etc.

Enforce zoning laws and promote environmentally friendly land use in new areas of development.

Pass regulations to promote solar powered and climate resistant home construction.

LANDS

Lands are a limited and non-renewable resource. A UPP Government will immediately address two pressing needs:

1. *An immediate audit of the remaining acreage of Crown holdings*
2. *Strictly enforcing reforms in the allocation and use of land, including the protection of remaining farmland from incursions by manufacturers and residential developers*

Our patrimony must be protected from speculators and non-performing investors, while also providing a fair pathway to land ownership to all citizens and residents. The current practice of “check your Minister” regarding the purchase of government land will AGAIN be rejected by the UPP.

The UPP Will Create a **Land Commission** tasked with improving the functioning of CHAPA and other agencies. This will give citizens fast and fair access to land at reasonable prices, without the involvement of politicians.

Implement a special programme to make it easy for first-time applicants to quickly acquire residential land at **\$3 per square foot**.

Make the necessary administrative improvements to **ensure faster installation of infrastructure**.

Enforce a new policy where all new housing developments must have DCA approved plans for the timely installation of road, water and electricity infrastructure.

Grant leases of no less than 25 years to farmers who are fully engaged in the profession.

Enforce the correct use of land according to the zoning ordinances and laws within the **National Land Use Policy**.

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

Where investors, foreign or local, propose large-scale projects that might threaten existing communities, both consultations and environmental impact assessments will be undertaken and shared in a manner that is transparent and collaborative.



MY UPP

AGRICULTURE



Agriculture has the potential to sustain our people and our economy. The UPP recognizes that we should not only grow what we eat, but our citizens should turn to local food sources to eat what we grow. This practice will also enhance the health and wellness of our people.

Today, agriculture is appealing and profitable through agro-processing. The UPP's transformational agriculture policy will focus on food security, building resilience, enhancing the lives of farming communities, attracting the youth to agriculture and agro-processing.

By creating synergies among the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Marketing Corporation, and the Ministry of Health, the UPP will make radical changes in the sector to ensure that food production is maximized for business, health and food security purposes.

The objectives of maximization of food production are:

Increasing Agriculture's contribution to GDP via increased exports of specific crops, including carrots, onions, pumpkins, pineapples, melons and sea-island cotton.

Lessening dependence on food imports, particularly in poultry products and pork.

Establishing sustainable links with tourism to maximize farmers' earnings from our number one industry.

A UPP Government will implement the following programs:

Make food security a top priority. This is necessary to reduce our food import bill, eat healthier, and support local production.

Establish a **Buy Local Policy** within the tourism sector. Work with hotels, the Tourism Linkages Unit, and the CMC to ensure that local produce which meets minimum quality standards and culinary requirements are given first

preference for purchase within the hotel sector, ahead of international imports.

Give support to farmers to rehabilitate abandoned agricultural and livestock lands.

Develop an **Agro-Processing Services Unit** which will be established to assist entrepreneurs to develop and package their products and to provide advisory and coordination services to entrepreneurs.

Implement incentives and support programs to expand the production of our local hatcheries, and strengthen consumption by the tourism sector.

Explore and develop new areas of seafood farming such as deep sea fish farming and freshwater lobster and prawn farming to service the hotel industry and encourage greater usage of locally produced seafood in hotel menus.

Encourage the private sector to invest in the agriculture sector, especially strategic growth areas such as agri-business and agro-processing, Antigua Black pineapple production and Sea Island Cotton.

Introduce and promote the use of modern technology, modern methods of farming, labour support and mechanization of the sector including through **Agriculture Mobile Apps**, designed to help farmers improve productivity.

Provide support and incentives for the development of cottage agro-processing.

Utilize more local agricultural and agro products within the School Meals Program, increasing the domestic market for farmers' products while enhancing nutrition among students.

Through a revitalized Central Marketing Cooperation, provide more agricultural support, marketing and procurement services in collaboration with farmers and cooperatives.

Establish a **Praedial Larceny Court** with mobile hearings in the evening, with the intention to deliver decisions within 7 working days.

Modify praedial larceny laws to ensure that those convicted either pay back or provide farm labour services to the affected farmers.

All bona-fide farmers cultivating five or more acres of leased land will be encouraged to register with the Ministry of Agriculture for the expediting of concessions and other benefits and also to register with the Central Marketing Cooperation.

Offer farmers **Legacy Farming Leases**, with the ability to renew their original 25 year leases and pass them down to family members who are registered farmers.

Grant farmers permission to homestead on a minimum of 5 acres or more, constructing non-permanent structures.

All backyard farmers will be encouraged to register with the MoA and to participate in formal farming courses such as soil carbon management and the preservation of produce.

The Government will aggressively recruit, from the upper-secondary level and ABICE, students interested in careers in the various sectors of agriculture.

Initiate an **Urban Agriculture Programme** whereby idle plots of land in urban areas will be utilized for cultivation of vegetables and leafy crops by youth as interested individuals and as Youth Agricultural Cooperatives.

Convene an annual conference, with workshops and demonstrations, for farmers and fisherfolk to promote best practices and modern improvements,

MY UPP

particularly in hydroponics and other greenhouse technologies.

Capitalizing on the trends in fitness and the naturopathic lifestyle, the Medical Benefits Scheme will create and promote an **“Eating for LIFE” (Longevity, Independence, Fitness, Energy)** ethos. This will boost local demand for fruits, vegetables and our organic poultry products.

Institute and promote profitable agro-industry and the preservation of seasonal crops, such as mangoes, tomatoes, and avocados; and, along with the Ministry of

Trade, pursue new markets within CARICOM and further afield.

Aggressively pursue the acquisition of appropriate machinery and equipment, technical support and training, and technology from donor countries and organizations, working closely with MoA, CMC, IICA and FAO.

Create new feeder roads and improve existing ones in the agriculture zones, enabling farmers to access their lands even in adverse weather conditions. Our **Feeder Road Initiative** will be based on the requirements of our farmers.

Build more dams and water catchments in the agricultural zones to provide a zero cost backup water supply for irrigation and maintaining animals.

Acquire more grass-cutting and baling machines for the harvesting and storage of grass in anticipation of periodic droughts.

Within the tourism high-season create a new **Christmas Local Food Festival** week-end event, within the agricultural belt, to put our farmers, local produce and recipes on display for tourists and boost local consumption of produce.



SPORTS

A new UPP Government will revolutionize sports and increase its contribution to health, economic empowerment and national development. We will brand Antigua & Barbuda as one of the Top 5 sporting destinations of the Caribbean and market Sports Tourism as a key component of economic development. Among other benefits, Sports Tourism will create employment opportunities and economic pursuits for our youth and establish entrepreneurial opportunities.

The growing population demands more and better facilities in communities. We commit to increasing the number and the quality of maintenance of all sporting facilities, including making the venues accessible to the disabled.

Capitalizing on our superb weather and accessibility to international flights, the UPP will work to develop a number of venues to international standards. This is to allow professional teams to partner with Antigua & Barbuda as an off-season training venue.

The UPP Government will:

Improve cooperation among the Ministries of Youth, Sports, and Culture to maximize the positive contribution of youth to our society, and encourage the development of strong identities and healthy lifestyles through sports and culture.

Within 100 days, commission a study on the contribution of sports to our country's GDP.

Within 100 days, implement the **National Sports Policy** and Introduce a **Sports Development Act** to give life to a new way forward in the administration of sports. The first draft is already in our possession for the incoming Attorney General to review and prepare for an early sitting of Parliament.

Implement a **"Sports For All"** policy which ensures that more sporting and

recreational activities are made available to all citizens, especially the aging population and persons with disabilities.

Re-introduce the **National Sports Council** to advise the Government on sports policies; this will be chaired by the Prime Minister because of the national importance the UPP Government attaches to sports development. We will **target at least 50% youth representation** on the National Sports Council.

MY UPP

Mandate the National Sports Council to Implement a **Code of Ethics** for local sporting bodies which maintains the integrity of sports in the areas of transparency, accountability and good governance.

Create a comprehensive **Sports Sponsorship Policy**, with clearly laid out incentives and concessions, to encourage businesses to increase their sports sponsorship at both club and national levels.

Reduce duties on sporting equipment.

Upgrade the Yasco Track into a **National Athletic Centre** to include an 8 lane Athletic Track.

Build a **National Aquatics Facility** with a 50m, 8 lane swimming pool, 10m dive tower and springboards.

Upgrade the Cedar Valley Golf Club facilities and environs to include an upgraded club house and hotel accommodations through a public-private partnership.

Refurbish and upgrade the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and National Tennis Centre to a level fit to host international events like the Pan American Games.

Enter into a public-private partnership to establish, within our first term, a **High-performance Training Centre** for athletes.

Develop at least **one high quality multi-purpose sports facility in each of the six parishes** after consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Develop our Drag Racing Track and Rally Track to international standards

Develop Sports Tourism by marketing Antigua as a high quality events venue and a high quality training venue.

Allocate adequate funding to upgrade and properly maintain all sporting facilities throughout the country.

Develop a **database of all Antiguan and Barbudan athletes** who have represented the country and offer necessary support to ensure them an acceptable standard of living.

Give special consideration and tangible assistance to elite athletes in the form of nutritional, insurance, medical, transportation, accommodations and other needs.

Ensure that all athletes selected to represent the country are **provided with the necessary insurance coverage** to ensure speedy medical and rehabilitation treatments.

Restructure and enhance community sports through a new **Community Sports Department**.

Restructure school sports and pay coaches based on their qualifications.

Increase the complement of trained technical staff to assist all schools in a wide range of sporting activities.

Launch Biennial Parish Games starting in 2024.

Launch National Under-20 Games starting in 2024 with events including athletics, cricket, football, netball, basketball, and swimming.

Hold an Annual Games Day for the physically challenged and visually impaired.

Ensure that sports become a key component of all after-school programmes.

Hold more village sports and games competitions to improve the sense of community pride.

Hold an Annual Triangular Cricket tournament, partnering with the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) and invite teams like USA, Canada, South Africa, and other associate ICC members.

Hold an Annual Futsal Tournament in Barbuda.

Develop programmes which use sports to combat anti-social and self-destructive behaviour among the youth in vulnerable communities.

Place sports and recreation at the forefront of efforts to reduce crime and lawlessness in Antigua & Barbuda.

Launch programs to encourage increased participation in sports and physical activities among government workers and private sector workers to boost workforce health and productivity.

Place major emphasis on sports for the differently-abled community, such as Paralympics and other events for the physically challenged and visually impaired.

Working with the various sporting bodies and the Association of Persons with Disabilities, we will introduce the first **National Differently Abled Games**. Furthermore, to accommodate persons with disabilities within the government's general sports policies and programs.

Make sports an activity from which citizens could create viable job opportunities in coaching, physio, professional playing, training etc.

Boost talent development by identifying our elite athletes from a young age by way of a **structured talent-recognition program**, and secure scholarships for such athletes.

Partner with the Football Association to semi-professionalize the sport by 2025.

Encourage sports entrepreneurship in areas such as the designing and manufacturing of sports uniforms and clothing, sports management and sports marketing, facilities management and upkeep, sports counseling and sports journalism.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



A UPP Government will revolutionize e-government operations and ease of doing business through several initiatives and a U-Conomy Digital Hub that makes government available to the people 24/7, 365 in all areas, including e-Government, e-Payments, e-Commerce, e-Procurement, e-Health, e-Education and e-Security.

We will introduce a National Electronic ID Card (EID) which stores data, including name, date of birth, medical records, allergies, next of kin and other critical information, which grants digital access to information from all government services: Social Security, Medical Benefits, Drivers License, Health information, etc. This card will also empower cashless payments of government and other services.

Through the U-Conomy Digital Hub, citizens and residents will be able to use the single National ID to access:

Personal records and information e.g. Social Security and Medical Benefits.

Online filling of prescriptions and other health-related transactions.

Online payment features for APUA bills and taxes to Inland Revenue.

Online renewal of passport and driver's license.

Online application and access to birth, marriage, divorce and death certificates and other government documentation e.g. food handler's certificates.

Online voting to weigh in

on matters put up for public consideration.

An online complaints mechanism to report issues of service delivery or broken infrastructure.

Easy reporting of crime, environmental breaches like littering or industrial pollution.

Easy participation in volunteering opportunities listed online, including the ability to easily make pledges and donations.

Under the Smart Society Project, we will digitize and improve the delivery of public services and information to *The People* via the U-Conomy

Digital Hub. Young local IT trainees and experts will be hired to drive this process.

*Introduce greater work flexibility in the public service to allow for a remote-work component, and minimum hours per week, as opposed to a mandatory 5-day work week. Every public worker will be equipped with a smart card and ID which enables them to login and logout of the **Smart Work System**.*

*Under the **Total Transparency Program**, all government information will be easily available through the U-Conomy Digital Hub.*

This will include, among other things: government borrowings, CIP reports, statistics on social programs and information on land availability. This complete transparency will lead to improved accountability-powered performance.

*The U-Conomy Digital Hub will also have an **online database of government tenders and bids**. This e-Procurement information tool will ensure a fully transparent tendering process on all projects.*

A UPP Government will also:

Ensure that ALL internet speeds advertised by telecoms companies must be delivered as advertised.

Strengthen the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division with the relevant legislation and mandates to aggressively ensure that Internet-service delivery matches what is promised by providers.

Reduce the cost of internet access by removing ABST.

Accelerate the deployment of high speed fiber internet to the outstanding areas.

Encourage hotels to sponsor/adopt public WIFI hotspots within communities, through public-private partnerships driven by corporate social responsibility, to ensure every Antigua and Barbudan and every home has basic internet access and digital connectivity.

IMMEDIATELY GRANT 100% concessions on ABST on all cell phones and tablets, and 100% tax concessions on laptop and desktop computers for private use.

Install community “wireless hotspots” to ensure everyone, regardless of economic status, has access to the Internet.

Construct a **Digital Technology Park** within our **Free Trade Zone** to attract top technologies and companies in the space and train our locals in new areas of technological education, innovation and business. Some highlights are: 10,000 square foot facility, 20 rooms for innovation and entrepreneurship, available spaces for Antiguan and Barbudans to facilitate the operations of their own businesses, and dedicated rooms for the development of Community Mobile

Technology & Innovation Incubators.

The **Digital Technology Park** will be leveraged to attract tech IBCs and also serve as the home for the Avionics Training Hub and supporting infrastructure for multiple innovative industries and jobs: Crypto, App Development, Aviation, Clean Energy, Film and Digital Content, Green Energy, Agri-Tech, Light Manufacturing and many others.

Technology for National Security

Technology will be used to support crime fighting:

The use of CCTV technology to deter crime and to identify criminals.

The efficient application of Technology in Case Management at the Law Courts.

Access to an online, mobile-integrated database on criminals.

Deploy new e-Security technologies to improve border control, enhance the security of fishermen, including search and rescue, and reduce the incidence of praedial larceny suffered by our farmers.

DIASPORA



Through its campaign, the UPP has advanced relations with Nationals living abroad, in particular in the United States. Our outreach will be expanded, consciously, to Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe to foster a greater sense of interest, inclusion and cooperation with the Antigua and Barbuda communities there.

The long-term objective is the creation of two offshore “constituencies” that will play an active role in the economic, social and political life of the Nation.

A UPP Government will create a number of national initiatives built on shared development objectives between the government and the Diaspora. It will include the “Right” policies, administrative structures and incentives to create an enabling environment for mobilizing Diaspora resources (expertise, investments, entrepreneurship and corporate affiliations) around critical growth pillars. We will debunk the myth that there are no opportunities for the Diaspora to invest in Antigua and Barbuda.

Our Diaspora Plan for Contribution to Nation Building will call for the UPP Government to implement the following policies and initiatives:

Reinstate the Consular Offices in New York to address the needs of the Diaspora, facilitate investment and coordinate nation building initiatives and activities.

The **Non-Resident Antigua and Barbuda Secretariat** will be set up as part of the Consulate and will serve as a point of contact and facilitation of services to the Diaspora. It will be staffed and armed with the requisite budget allocations to carry out its mission.

Establish a **Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.**

Forge lines of communication and cooperation with all formally recognized Diaspora groups, with a view to involve them in nation building.

Launch the **Linking Experts and Advocates in the Diaspora (LEAD)** project to engage highly qualified experts, professionals and advocates to help Antigua and Barbuda gain from the skills and expertise of the Diaspora. As virtual experts, LEAD will be nurtured as a network to render services through virtual interactions.

Create the **Antigua Barbuda Connect (ABC)** online hub, a one-stop shop to promote local public and private-sector investments among overseas citizens. This hub will also facilitate cooperation in the area of philanthropy and allow for easy dissemination of critical information.

Within the ABDB, create a **Diaspora Development Fund** that will invest in Antigua and Barbuda only projects, providing a return on investment.

Conduct an **Annual Diaspora Survey** to provide the UPP Government feedback on the concerns and recommendations of the Diaspora.

Pursue the establishment of a **retirement village** for nationals wishing to spend their golden years in the land of their birth.

Enter into public-private partnerships for the construction of condominiums for members of the Diaspora of Antigua and Barbudan descent, and provide the option to purchase leases for a minimum of 99 years.

Facilitate the development of homeownership subdivisions for Antiguan and Barbudans in the Diaspora.

Reintroduce the event known as "**Homecoming**" to coincide with Independence. Antiguan and Barbudans who return home for this festival will be entitled to a **Diaspora Discount Card** which entitles them to discounts at participating local restaurants and local bars.

Explore the issuance of **Diaspora Bonds**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & INVESTMENTS

A New UPP Administration will again restore the standard of excellence in diplomacy and international relations, ensure that our diplomatic services achieve the goals and objectives of serving the interests of Antigua & Barbuda, asserting our sovereign rights in the international community and reestablishing the good name of our beloved country. The new UPP Government is committed to the regional and international promotion, advancement and protection of the national interest:

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

Ensure that Antigua & Barbuda receives its fair share of benefits that can be derived from regional and international organizations.

Take immediate steps to **restore visa-free travel to Canada** and maintain visa-free travel to Great Britain and other nations.

Pursue full adoption of the standards outlined in the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) to keep Antigua and Barbuda clean and green.

Strengthen international relations and seek wider cooperation with countries assisting with border

MY UPP

protection against the trafficking of narcotics and firearms.

Strengthen legislation and seek international assistance in fighting human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Ensure that our financial and banking regulations are

compliant with international standards so we can have a de-risking framework that will stimulate and strengthen correspondent-banking relationships.

Vigorously seek out new and expanded opportunities for assistance and cooperation, and new avenues for trade,

tourism and investment.

Optimize the opportunities available to Antiguan and Barbudans under the OECS, CARICOM and the CSME and maximize the benefits that can be derived from our relations with friendly countries.

BARBUDA

The devastation of Hurricane Irma provided a rare opportunity to rebuild and reposition Barbuda for a brighter and more prosperous future. The ABLP Administration has completely missed the mark.

A UPP Government will work with the Barbuda Council to build a stronger, safer, greener, more sustainable and more resilient Barbuda.

Lands and Housing

Respect the principle that lands in Barbuda belong to Barbudans and repeal ABLP's Barbuda Land (Amendment) Act, 2017.

Take the necessary legislative actions to entrench the original Barbuda Land Act.

Fast-track all aspects of the Hurricane Irma recovery, including the completion of all outstanding hurricane-damaged homes, and implement an oversight committee with Barbudan representation.

Governance

Encourage the Barbuda Council to lead an initiative called **Barbuda 2050**, which will plan for rapid yet sustainable future development and include all national and international stakeholders.

Establish a **Joint Consultative Committee** composed of experienced Antiguan and Barbudan leaders and headed by the Prime Minister, to supervise and monitor development plans and projects in Barbuda, in partnership with the Barbuda Council.

Facilitate greater integration of Barbudans in the administration of the country, including more appointments to statutory boards and the invitation of Barbuda Council representatives.

Conduct a review of the funding arrangements with the Barbuda Council with a view to reverse the ABLP's 40% cut of transfer payments and permanently eliminate late payments. Provide the Council greater authority to collect revenues.

Work with the Barbuda Council to implement a green and sustainable development

plan to rebuild and transform Codrington, and upgrade infrastructure.

Equip all public-service buildings with generators.

Complete the construction of the **Barbuda Justice Complex**.

Tourism and Environment

- Upgrade the ports of entry at the River and Codrington and equip both ports with adequate infrastructure.
- Improve air and sea transport between Antigua and Barbuda and take the necessary actions to reduce the cost of travel.
- Provide a dedicated Coast Guard vessel for patrol of Barbuda's coast.
- Encourage direct cruise arrivals and cruise stop-overs, prioritizing smaller cruise lines.
- Support the establishment of a National Park and the preservation of historic sites.

- Source technical support to help preserve the Frigate Bird Sanctuary and provide scholarships for Barbudans in the area of environmental studies.
- Make Barbuda a duty free island.

Education and Technology

- Upgrade and improve the primary and secondary schools.
- Expand access to vocational education on the island.
- Make a special allotment of at least 10 yearly scholarships for Barbudan young people to attend ASC and university in Antigua and other countries.
- Establish a Public Library equipped with internet access.
- Make Barbuda a **carbon neutral country** and a Digital Free-Zone, where everyone receives free high speed internet.

Agriculture

- Provide the financing and secure the technical assistance required to increase the economic benefits of Barbuda's agriculture and fishing industries.
- Modernize and upgrade the fisheries complex to

include seafood processing technology.

- Provide grants, incentives, fuel subsidies and micro-loans to fishermen to purchase, repair and upgrade fishing vessels.
- Provide duty-free concessions to individuals and companies investing in the Barbudan fishing and agriculture industry.
- Enforce zoning laws to protect and expand Barbuda's fishing industry.

Clean Energy

- Rebuild Barbuda with green-technology based infrastructure and make Barbuda a 100% Green Island.
- Install a wind farm and expand solar power production to diversify the generation of renewable energy, and make the Barbuda Council integral to the management of renewable energy on the island.
- Explore the feasibility of Barbuda becoming a **renewable energy exporter**. Enable the selling of energy to Antiguan consumers, via a subsea cable, to provide electricity savings to Antiguans.

Right Choice
SMALL BUSINESS PULL-UP

MAKEDA'S ITAL SHOP
"If Yha' Wan' Trang' Nyam From The Land"
Mondays- Fridays
12pm Until
+12687739826
+12687769826
*Ital Rice
*Ital Soup/ Sauce
*Vegan Finger Food

CAMI'S
Tel: 734 1665
Tel: 728 5652

KC'S Delight
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner

ELVIE'S POTTERY
Mon-Sat 7am-6pm
Tel: 463-1888

Illusionz BAR & LOUNGE

Blackgyal SNACK SHOP

Delicatessen
(268) 771-44...
www.delicatessenjamaica.com

RITE A SO CHILL SPOT
0561-5959

MARILUZ Bar
Nothing is less. Everything is Special.
OPENING HOURS
11:00am - 11:00pm, Everyday

NATURAL VEGAN FOOD LIVITY
Tel: 736-9550 - 8pm - 7:00 - 5:00pm
- KITT WELLS - PRINCE WELLS

NeNe Candy
Frozen Treats
717-1200

Alfa
(268) 771-44...
(268) 771-44...

GENERATIONS 2 GENERATIONS supermarket
OFFERING BREAKFAST & LUNCH TEL: 268-562-2327
OPEN 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

SMALL BUSINESS PULL-UP

SUNKISS SMOOTHIES

TUCKER ON THE GRILL
With Nica
JE
JAMAICA

WB World of Bargains
Tel: (268) 562-6404 / 77

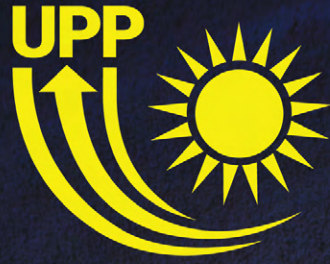
REAL CLEAN CAR WASH & RENTALS
CAR WASH
• ENGINE WASH
• WAX & POLISH
• HEADLIGHT RESTORATION
• INTERIOR & EXTERIOR CLEANING
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
736.4697 | 717

ROTI KING
268-462-2328

What's Express LAUNDROMAT
[268] 788-0410 / 721-0510

Christal Floral
Tel: (268) 771-6656

Jules Beat
Tel: 1(268) 4...
Jules Beat
Jules Beat



The Right Choice

because.

