



**OUR  
BLUE  
PRINT  
FOR CHANGE**





# A NEW DAY



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FOR CHANGE



# WHO ARE WE?

## WHO ARE WE?

In 1953, the Founding Fathers of the our great party wrote:

**“We chart our course under the Leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party in the abiding belief that it is dedicated to the service of all Bahamians and not to a privileged few, and will prove its superiority over all parties.”**

The Progressive Liberal Party is committed to nation building; championing the cause of a people who dream, who desire, who are determined to better the lives of the generations that follow.

The Quiet Revolution led by the PLP is the anchor that holds and upon which the foundation of nationhood stands.

The Political Revolution of 1967 ensured the tenets of democracy: One Man, One Vote!

Today no Bahamian is denied the right to participate in the democratic process.

In 1979 the Social Revolution was defined at the 24th PLP National Convention:

- \*Assist the Poor
- \*Comfort the Sick
- \*Guide the Youth
- \*Bring Peace to every heart

Today, National Insurance is invaluable to the life of our nation.

The leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party is now poised to fight and champion the third phase - the Economic Revolution.

**The New Day beckons the Economic Revolution! A revolution that encourages and supports new ideas, ingenuity and creativity. A revolution that will catapult The Bahamas to the rightful place of Progressive and Economic success. A nation where Bahamians can only be mired by an unwillingness to rise to the apex of their God-given gifts.**

The Progressive Liberal Party is the heart and soul of The Bahamas. In the words of Arthur Dion Hanna, we’re “committed to wipe the tear from every eye.”



My Bahamian sisters and brothers,

Our country is facing a health crisis, an economic crisis, and a governance crisis. In nearly every area of public life, we see chaos and collapse. Too many Bahamians are suffering.

There is a better way forward.

Our Blueprint for Change includes our COVID-19 Action Plan, because containing the virus and getting resources to our medical professionals, clinics and hospitals is an urgent priority.

The Blueprint also includes the proposals in our Economic Plan, introduced earlier this year, which will offer relief and dignity to Bahamians, and create a more dynamic, more inclusive economy. The Blueprint and Economic Plan are full of solutions for kickstarting the economy and creating jobs, for revolutionizing education and training, and for incentivizing the creation of new industries and new opportunities.

While we face urgent crises that need to be confronted now, we also need to plan ahead. We spent years consulting with Bahamians from every walk of life to create the National Development Plan, a foundational and comprehensive long-term plan for the country's development and prosperity.

The Deputy Leader and I have worked hard to build an extraordinary team of candidates who are ready to partner with the people of The Bahamas to take the country in a new direction. More than two dozen of our candidates are new to politics, but they earned support from the party and from the people because of their commitment to their communities and their achievements in fields like business, education, and sports.

In The Bahamas, we need big changes, not small ones. But I believe in our collective ability to solve our hardest challenges – as Bahamians, we have the talent, ingenuity and determination required to lift people up and transform our country.

When Sir Lynden marched, he knew it was only the beginning of a long road. He knew a lot of important work lay ahead.

When we come together as a nation to implement this Blueprint, we will deliver on the promise of Independence, and a new day will dawn in our beloved Bahamas.

Join us!

My fellow Bahamians,

The next administration will govern during a time of unprecedented crisis.

The first priority is to address those crises head on, and bring stability to our country, but our goals are much bigger: the country needs transformational change.

This Blueprint contains the vision, policies and plans to bring about the changes that Bahamians want.

The PLP is committed to lifting people up and creating opportunities for Bahamians across the country.

The difference between a good plan and a great plan is execution; I know we've assembled the expertise and experience so that we can deliver.

At the heart of this Blueprint is our Economic Plan, which we launched earlier this year. I know we have what it takes to stabilize the country's finances, turn this economy around, and make sure opportunities reach everyone. We have so much potential in this country – but leadership and planning matter.

Our 10-Point Plan in this Blueprint sets out how we will more broadly empower Bahamians, implement a progressive agenda to support young people, use our national resources to enhance the common wealth, promote and support the health and well-being of Bahamians, revolutionize education which is the bedrock of all progress and prosperity, and ensure that our Family Islands are an intrinsic part of national development.

This Blueprint is a national plan for action.

Our long-term vision has as its foundation the National Development Plan, a plan that was years in the making and included consultation with a broad range of Bahamians from across the country.

This is a roadmap to a prosperous and progressive future, one in which all of our children have the best opportunities the 21st century can offer.

We look forward to partnering with you to bring a New Day to The Bahamas.





# A NEW DAY

PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL PARTY

**PHILIP BRAVE DAVIS**  
CAT ISLAND, RUM CAY & SAN SALVADOR  
**PARTY LEADER**

**I. CHESTER COOPER**  
THE EXUMAS & RAGGED ISLAND  
**DEPUTY LEADER**

## NEW PROVIDENCE



**WAYDE WATSON**  
BAINS TOWN & GRANTS TOWN



**PATRICIA DEVEAUX**  
BAMBOO TOWN



**KEITH BELL**  
CARMICHAEL



**JOMO CAMPBELL**  
CENTREVILLE



**JobETH COLEBY-DAVIS**  
ELIZABETH



**GLENYS HANNA MARTIN**  
ENGLERSTON



**WAYNE MUNROE**  
FREETOWN



**ALFRED SEARS**  
FORT CHARLOTTE



**FREDERICK MITCHELL**  
FOX HILL



**MARIO BOWLEG**  
GARDEN HILLS



**PIA GLOVER-ROLLE**  
GOLDEN GATES



**VAUGHN MILLER**  
GOLDEN ISLES



**RONALD DUNCOMBE**  
KILLARNEY



**LISA RAHMING**  
MARATHON



**McKELL BONABY**  
MOUNT MORIAH



**JAMAHL STRACHAN**  
NASSAU VILLAGE



**MYLES LARODA**  
PINWOOD



**CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**  
ST. ANNE'S



**MICHAEL HALKITIS**  
ST. BARNABAS



**LESLIA BRICE**  
SEABREEZE



**BACCHUS ROLLE**  
SOUTH BEACH



**LEROY MAJOR**  
SOUTHERN SHORES



**DR. MICHAEL DARVILLE**  
TALL PINES



**ZANE LIGHTBOURNE**  
YAMACRAW

## GRAND BAHAMA



**KIRKLAND RUSSELL**  
CENTRAL GRAND BAHAMA



**JAMES ROLLE-TURNER**  
EAST GRAND BAHAMA



**CURT HOLLINGSWORTH**  
MARCO CITY



**GINGER MOXEY**  
PINERIDGE



**OBEDIAH WILCHCOMBE**  
WEST GRAND BAHAMA & BIMINI



**JOHN H.W. PINDER II**  
CENTRAL & SOUTH ABACO



**KIRK CORNISH**  
NORTH ABACO



**LEON LUNDY**  
MANGROVE CAY & SOUTH ANDROS



**LEONARDO LIGHTBOURNE**  
NORTH ANDROS & THE BERRY ISLANDS



**CLAY SWEETING**  
CENTRAL & SOUTH ELEUTHERA



**SYLVANUS PETTY**  
NORTH ELEUTHERA



**TYREL YOUNG**  
LONG ISLAND



**BASIL McINTOSH**  
MAYAGUANA, INAGUA CROOKED ISLAND, ACKLINS & LONG CAY - MICAL

## THE FAMILY ISLANDS

OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE:

WE PLEDGE  
TO WORK  
SMART,  
TO MOVE  
OUR  
COUNTRY  
FORWARD!

## PLP COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

There is a better way forward:

- Expand testing and tracing; free testing for Bahamians exposed to infection.
- Improve public health capacity in clinics and hospitals.
- Equitable distribution of vaccines.
- Public education town halls featuring medical experts.
- Hire, retain, consult, respect Bahamian healthcare professionals.
- Require a negative COVID-19 test for ALL visitors. End the travel visa.
- Make high-quality medical-grade masks available to front-line workers and public.
- Risk mitigation: guidance for reducing airborne transmission in workplaces, churches, homes + schools.
- Support for COVID-19 positive who need to isolate to protect those around them.
- Any restrictions should be justified by science that is shared with public.





“WHERE THERE IS  
**NO VISION,  
THE PEOPLE  
PERISH”**

- Proverbs: 29:18

## STATE OF THE NATION

What we see in our country with governance today is a clear indication of what goes wrong when there is no vision, no plan, and no execution strategy. Long before COVID-19 and before Hurricane Dorian devastated Abaco and Grand Bahama, the people of The Bahamas have been crying out for relief from a government that has placed a heavy burden on the backs of Bahamians. Citizens are rightfully asking the questions, “When will it be The People’s Time?” and “How can we move our country forward?”

Our Blueprint for Change shows there is a better way forward. We’re ready to rescue the nation from crisis and build a 21st century future. It’s time to **Recover, Rebuild, and Revolutionize.**

Our Blueprint outlines our short-term and mid-term plan, while our long-term plan will be bolstered by the National Development Plan.



# OUR 10-POINT PLAN

## RECOVER REBUILD REVOLUTIONIZE

With vision and focused execution, the Progressive Liberal Party commits to build a Bahamas more suitable for the advancement and empowerment of our country and Bahamians.

### 1. Rescuing the Economy:

The PLP will restore the Bahamian economy and foster an unprecedented level of growth while managing the national debt, and ensuring that the people and infrastructural needs are simultaneously met. Economic diversification, digitization and innovation will be key to returning The Bahamas to a path of exponential growth and progress.

### 2. Compassionate Social Relief + Strengthened Security:

We commit to assisting the most vulnerable in our society. Since its establishment in 1953, a fundamental philosophy of the PLP was to uplift the downtrodden. Today, in the midst of Covid-19 and the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, we will guarantee a robust and expansive safety-net for our people. We also commit to enhancing crime fighting methodologies in our aggressive war against crime.

### 3. Reconstruction + Resiliency:

While rebuilding the devastated islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama and Ragged Island, we will execute a comprehensive strategy for disaster management, mitigation and relief. We will make massive investments in infrastructure and energy.

### 4. Bahamian Empowerment:

Launch an aggressive campaign to empower Bahamians, and to create an environment where every Bahamian can thrive. We will unlock our individual and collective potential, and human capability, harnessing the power of innovation.

### 5. Commitment to Sovereign Wealth Fund + Natural Resources:

We commit to a thorough assessment and management of our natural resources for the ultimate benefit of Bahamians. We will establish a robust Sovereign Wealth Fund.

### 6. Revolution in Education:

Refocus our efforts on a 'Shared Vision' for education and life-long learning. Education is still the great equalizer. It is the bedrock of all progress and prosperity.

### 10. National Development:

We commit to good governance with integrity, accountability, and a robust national and economic development agenda that prioritizes Bahamians. The PLP will ensure that the necessary reforms are executed for a progressive Bahamas.

### 7. A Progressive Youth Agenda:

Introduce innovative youth development programs: First-Job Program, National Mentorship Program, Community Youth Service, and Innovations in Education. We will ensure access to opportunities, irrespective of "who you know"!

### 8. A Healthy Bahamas:

Prioritize the health and wellness of our people, with NHI and affordable healthcare. We will implement sustainable national education programs to fight lifestyle-related diseases.

### 9. A Plan for each Island:

Deliver the critical needs of each island. With vision and a masterplan, we will strengthen the entire Bahamas.

# 10.





Rescue our economy and our people in the aftermath of Dorian, Covid-19 and mismanagement of the country's affairs.

# RECOVER

**RESCUE:** History will show that the Progressive Liberal Party is the institution that delivers innovative solutions and landmark achievements for the people of The Bahamas, even in the midst of difficult economic conditions.

Today, the Progressive Liberal Party is ready to hit the ground running to rescue and empower the Bahamian people, stabilize our economy, fix our broken infrastructure, protect our environment, and build a prosperous nation with Bahamians as the priority.

We have developed a short-term economic tactical plan that we will roll out on Day One to restore confidence locally and abroad.

# RESCUING THE ECONOMY:

The PLP will strengthen the economy with a laser focus on economic growth.

# 1

## ECONOMIC REFORMS

- Immediately begin a comprehensive review of the taxation regime in The Bahamas.
- Reduce VAT to 10%.
- Additional VAT Relief.
- Transform the tax system to make it more equitable and progressive, and to encourage national growth and prosperity.
- Create a model for international infrastructure funds with private sector participation through public private partnerships for infrastructure facilities, and air and sea ports.

## STABILIZE PUBLIC FINANCES

- Cause an immediate, full assessment of the true state of the country's finances to be carried out.
  - Prioritize Increasing Revenue:
    - Revive the Revenue Enhancement Unit, comprised of independent professionals, to ensure everyone pays their fair share of taxes.
    - Ensure high-end properties pay their Real Property Tax.
    - Ensure commercial and foreign-owned properties are on the Register and properly valued for tax purposes.
    - Collect revenue from international overflights.
- Lower imports and currency outflows through Buy Local initiatives.

## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Stop financial leakage in our public sector, including insider deals.
- Through fiscal consolidation and modernization of infrastructure, deliver public goods and services in an efficient, transparent, and accountable manner.

## DEBT MANAGEMENT

- Cause a comprehensive debt schedule showing payments due (principal and interest) on both foreign and B\$ outstanding debt on Day One.
- Engage a debt management committee with a private sector component to review and restructure loans where appropriate on Day One.
- Engage international multi-lateral financial institutions, e.g. World Bank, for low interest borrowings.
- Focus on Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and project specific funding.

## BAHAMAS INVEST

- Refocus Bahamas Investment Authority as a nimble promotional arm. "Bahamas Invest" will focus on attracting investment and industry, across all sectors.
- Attract Foreign Direct Investments.
- Enhance Bahamas Invest to fast-track and promote a new model of Foreign Direct and Domestic Investment.
- Establish an Investment Compliance Unit to ensure that international investors comply with all of their obligations under statute and heads of agreement.
- Expand the role of Bahamas Invest to include a Domestic Investment Board to support Bahamian businesses in participating more fully in the Tourism Value Chain.
- Equip and engage embassies, consulates and the diaspora to assist in promotions.
- Partner with international organizations for business, cultural, tourism, educational and humanitarian exchanges.
- Implement a competitive robust "Residency by Investment" Program, in line with international best practice.

## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- Enhance the ease of doing business in The Bahamas.
- Revamp and streamline processes at Bahamas Investment Authority, Registrar General, Department of Inland Revenue and other agencies to become one of the most business-friendly countries for local and foreign investors.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Leverage niches and avoid industry disruption, including adverse listing.
- Repeal the Commercial Enterprises Act, and grant work permits where no qualified Bahamian can be found.
- Take immediate steps to clear all pending matters to be removed from blacklist, with proactive future monitoring.
- Work with BFSB and industry partners to progressively harness profitable niches in the Financial Services Industry, including, but not limited to, Fintech, Insuretech, Supotech, Blockchain and Cryptocurrency.
- Equip and engage embassies to proactively mitigate against adverse listing.

## NEW TOURISM MODEL

- Revamp the tourism model to harness the power of culture, including community-based, creative, entertainment, heritage, sports, religious, educational (including English as a second language), ecotourism and medical tourism.
- Our plan for each island will focus on the island's niche in the tourism market, to promote its unique opportunities. No island will be left behind.
- Provide access to capital for Bahamians to establish boutique hotels, Airbnbs, cottages, fishing lodges and other tourism products.
- Amend Hotel Encouragement Act to better incentivize Bahamian-owned and joint-venture boutique hotels.
- Reposition Bahamasair to service international routes, improving airlift with load-share agreements.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS + TRADE

- We commit to advancing Bahamian interest abroad to create a greater Bahamian footprint abroad.
- Ensure all Embassies have a Trade & Investment Attache to assist in attracting investments to The Bahamas and expanding trade.
- Participate actively at UN with a view to secure non-permanent seat on influential councils.
- Establish Foreign Service Institute with UB for training/development of all foreign representatives abroad.
- Fully implement Foreign Service Orders.
- Actively engage and leverage the Bahamian Diaspora to contribute to national development.
- Implement international secondment programs for international companies who hold Bahamas work permits and others.
- Increase embassies, consulates and airlift with strategic allies in Central and South America, Africa and Middle East.
- Commit to dedicated building for permanent Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Strengthen international cooperation on climate change mitigation.

## IMMIGRATION

- We are committed to progressive immigration reform to protect our borders and allow the orderly growth of industry.
- Commit to clearing backlog of applications within the Department of Immigration.
- We will establish specific deadline for response to applications.

## ECONOMIC CLUSTERS

- Introduce economic clusters through specialized education and sports programs, in conjunction with the University of The Bahamas and sports associations, for appropriate islands to enhance development.

## BLUE ECONOMY

- The PLP will modernize the fishing industry, create opportunities in ocean sciences and seafaring, protect seas, marine plant and animals, as well as further develop and regulate the beach and sea sports industry.
- Strengthen RBDF's capacity to prevent illegal poaching and piracy.
- Encourage renewable energy industries in offshore wind wave and ocean thermal energy.
- Safely and sustainably develop industries around marine biotechnology, aquaculture, and deep-sea exploration.
- As its number one industry, Grand Bahama Island will harness the power of the maritime industry, including transshipment and logistics, with spin-off opportunities.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Strengthen Price Control Department and legislation to provide greater consumer protection.

## AVIATION INDUSTRY

- As an archipelagic nation, aviation plays an integral role in social connectivity and economic stimulus for local communities. We will promote a robust aircraft registry, leveraging our ship registry, our high-end tourism markets, aeronautical school and logistics hub. As we build capacity to manage the sovereign airspace of The Bahamas, we will exponentially increase the contribution of the aviation sector to GDP over the next five years.
- We will continue to negotiate the defined (territorial) region for flights.
- We will seek to attract airlift from non-traditional markets.
- Exuma will become the aviation hub for the Southern Bahamas, from which commuter flights can connect to underserved islands in the South.

## BAHAMASAIR

- Open and promote new tourism markets in the United States, and through guaranteed seat contractual arrangements, provide scheduled air service until the market demand is favourable for other carriers to provide the service.
- Increase and diversify international routes for direct flights from the United States to selected Family Islands.
- Revamp domestic route network to promote linkages to increase tourism connectivity from LPIA to the Family Islands.

## LOGISTICS

- Incentivize maritime and aviation industries to constitute aviation and maritime logistical hubs, based on the comparative advantages of 30 airports within The Bahamas; the deep water harbors for ease of navigation for large commercial vessels; the vast strategic sovereign airspace, proximity to US East coast markets.

## SHIPPING INDUSTRY

- Implement competitive delivery standards to regain lost ground, for The Bahamas Ship Registry.
- The PLP will encourage training and employment on Bahamian registered ships, including technical staff, engineers and captains.
- Promote the establishment of cruise ports from which their cruise will originate, for cruise ships registered in The Bahamas.

## RISING TIDE PROGRAM

- Support partnerships with wealth for the collective benefit of all.
- In conjunction with the 'Residency by Investment' Program, encourage joint ventures with Bahamians on projects for sustained economic development.
- Through Bahamas Invest, we will create the framework to expedite projects under this initiative.

## ORANGE ECONOMY [CREATIVE INDUSTRY]

- As a key component of our economy, we will create a new economic model for culture and the creative industry in The Bahamas.
  - Leverage the benefits of tourism by creating a unit to focus on attracting visitors interested in culturally immersive experiences.
  - The PLP will ensure that Junkanoo, Rake n' Scrape, Folklore and Folk Art are provided with the resources to strengthen the cultural industry that will empower Bahamians to earn a living from what they love to do.
  - Attract and host major international events and festivals, e.g. Carifesta.
  - Establish a National Recording Studio and National Performance Arts Center, through public private partnership.
  - Encourage productions to showcase Bahamian creatives for locals, tourists and global consumption.
  - Promote a virtual showcase of performances, exhibitions, and virtual tours of creatives, and historical and heritage sites.
  - Renovate and resource the National Centre for Performing Arts (Shirley Street).
  - Provide subventions for existing studios.
  - There is much power in the cultural and creative community that can cause The Bahamas to tap into this authentic opportunity. We must support our creatives.
  - Create a 52-week events schedule with major 'world-class' events every quarter for year-round opportunities.
  - Market Bahamian culture as the main tourism product, with cultural ambassadors to promote The Bahamas around the world.
  - Use Junkanoo Culture to drive exports in music, costumes and art.
  - Provide educational and training resources in Bahamian creative industries.
  - Establish a tertiary School of Visual, Performing and Recording Arts in public private partnership.
  - Create a shared work space environment for creatives that allows them to share their work, as a public private partnership.
  - In Heads of Agreements, where applicable, ensure that Bahamian creatives are provided opportunities for collaboration.
  - Incentivize creatives to obtain intellectual property for their creations and to negotiate contracts with international distribution platforms.
  - Create a paradigm shift for Bahamian creatives with reduced taxes for supplies required to execute their work.
- This includes: Music Artists and Producers, Visual Artists, Sculptors, Costume Producers, Artisans, Photographers, Authors, Graphic Artists, Fashion Designers, Comedians, Creative Directors, DJs, Interior Designers, Videographers, Film-makers, Brand Developers, Choreographers, Dancers, Tattoo Artists, Historians, Story Tellers, Host, MCs, Architects, Marketers, Public Relations Professional, Product Developers, Sound Engineers, Audio Visual, Poets, Actors, Models, Culinary Arts, 3D Modelers, 3D Print Specialists, Animators, Art Directors, Game Developers, Media Technologists, Museum Technologists, Projection Mapping Artists, Sound Designers, Theatre Technicians, Virtual Reality Technologists, Visualization Experts, Web Designers, Writers and Publishers.

## 'SPORTS IN PARADISE'

- Re-launch 'Sports in Paradise' to encourage major international sports federations and leagues to utilize The Bahamas as a base, especially during the off-seasons in their home countries.
- Leverage the power of the world's top athletes brands, to reintroduce 'Sports in Paradise'.
- Attract the IAAF Relays back to The Bahamas.
- Encourage college and professional basketball and football to our calendar of events.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

- Make government contracts open and transparent.
- SMEs will be actively recruited to bid for Government contracts and provided with special incentives to assist in successful bidding and fulfillment.
- Require Government agencies and companies with significant equity interest held by the Government to buy goods and services locally.

## CANNIBIS INDUSTRY

- Develop a comprehensive regulatory framework for growing, harvesting, and exporting cannabis so that the industry creates opportunities for many, not just a few. Through Bahamas Invest, encourage joint-ventures in the medicinal cannabis industry.
- Ensure that ALL Bahamians are given full access to development, and have a fair opportunity to become owners in this new industry.
- Develop robust regulations to strictly monitor and minimize the impact on our international reputation.
- Through Bahamas Invest, encourage joint-ventures in the medicinal industry.

## GOVERNMENT ARREARS

- Address arrears with government vendors and salary arrears owed to public servants.

## GREEN ECONOMY

- Facilitate the expansion of the agricultural industry for local and export consumption by offering incentives and funding.
- Explore expansion of salt production on Long Island, Ragged Island and Rum Cay.
- Implement comprehensive program to fell the pine forests, so they grow at maximum capacity, creating jobs and prioritizing lumber for domestic use.

## BUILDING PERMITS

- Use technology to expedite and set specific timeline for the approval of building permits to stimulate economic growth and development.



### E-BAHAMAS REVOLUTION

- Advance The Bahamas as a digital society, inclusive of SMART Technology.
- Further digitization and automation of government departments and agencies.
- Create a digital National ID card.
- Utilization of data mining and analytics to enhance efficiency and decision making.
- Provision of specialized training in the area of technology.
- Provide free Wi-Fi in designated community centers and public parks throughout the islands of The Bahamas.
- Further advance making payments for government services cashless.
- Integration of government services.
- Facilitate FinTech Revolution.
- Encourage culture of online education/training eCommerce, telemedicine, and eGovernment.
- Ensure that disenfranchised Bahamians are not left behind, as we digitally transform.
- Establish and own a national broadband network.

### DIGITAL ECONOMY

- Attract artificial intelligence experts to The Bahamas to augment the Bahamian intellectual capital to produce quality digital products.
- Incentivize the Bahamian owned iGaming industry to compete globally to generate streams of foreign exchange revenue for The Bahamas.
- Ensure access to computers and data with centralized community centres, with private partners, churches and NGOs.
- Provide a regulated environment for cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology.
- Establish a High Technology Zone where technology entrepreneurs are allowed to bring in foreign technology experts to partner with Bahamian expertise to produce video games and applications.

### 'DIGITAL 700'

- The 'Digital 700' will herald in transformational opportunities, including new jobs, new services, new industries and new markets.
- We will innovate and adjust our business models to capture new revenue streams locally and abroad, as digitization will add value across all parts of the Bahamian economy.
- We will help grow the country's digital capabilities by working closely with the industry and workforce on developing digital transformational governance guidelines, making digital policy a priority.
- We will enact the required regulation and legislation to provide the most conducive environment for the facilitation and realization of the 'Digital 700'.
- We will create a comprehensive Economic Digitization Plan.
- We will implement a Digital 700 App, a portal for national news and emergencies.

### DATA ACCELERATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

- Create a new agency to accelerate the digitalization of existing industries to increase productivity, efficiency and new revenue opportunities.
- Mandate all agencies to adhere to a prescribed integration path, with a design plan that spells out the desired outcome of this integration, with a legal framework, leadership structure, and budget allocation. This will be achieved within 3-5 years.

### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

- Bahamas Digital Academy (For Civil Servants)
- E-Complaint Interface
- E-Citizens and E-Business Initiatives
- Smart Card reads with software
- Tax Database for Land, Building Tax and VAT Collection
- E-Work permits and smart cards
- Government Procurement Platform

### COVID-19 PLAN

- Put in place a COVID-19 Plan that goes beyond vaccines and lockdowns, to save livelihoods, as well as lives:
  - Free testing
  - Eliminate restrictions not based on science
  - Strengthen isolation protocols in clinics and hospitals
  - Increase speed of contact tracing to stop new outbreaks
  - Public education on risk mitigation, especially ventilation

### DISASTER VICTIMS

- Provide committed leadership to address the needs of disaster victims to return their lives to normalcy following disruption.
- In collaboration with the private sector and NGOs, implement additional immediate relief measures for the islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama and Ragged Island, as they rebuild.
- We will, with the support of international and local NGOs, provide grant assistance for rebuilding.
- Implement proper programs for social relief post disaster and pandemics.

# 2.

## COMPASSIONATE SOCIAL RELIEF + STRENGTHENED SECURITY:

We will rescue the most vulnerable and discouraged in our society.

### BASICS OF LIFE WITH DIGNITY

- Ensure that Bahamians can hold their heads up high, with dignity, in spite of challenges experienced.
- Through partnerships with Social Services, Urban Renewal and civil society, including the churches, we will work to ensure that every Bahamian has life skills, food to eat, clean water and a roof over their head.

### OUR SENIORS

- We will increase the pension for senior citizens to assist with an enhanced quality of life.
- Through Urban Renewal, we will ensure that those who require assistance are not falling through the cracks.

### COST OF LIVING

- The cost of living is well beyond the means of middle and low income Bahamians. We will review minimum wage to phase in a livable wage.
- Recommend to the National Tripartite Council that they move towards a minimum wage of \$250 per week. Under the previous PLP administration, the minimum wage was increased by 40%.
- With the adoption of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals against poverty, we will develop a framework to guide our fight against poverty.
- After consultations, targets will be established to address the cost of living, to aid in breaking the cycle of poverty.

### RISE PROGRAM

- The PLP will reintroduce the RISE Program which provide substantial benefits to many families. Additional enhancements to social programs will be developed, with innovative solutions that allows the most vulnerable to take control and access assistance with dignity.
- With the RISE pre-paid debit card, cut out expensive bureaucracy, increase dignity in food assistance and increase the food assistance budget.

### MORTGAGE RELIEF

- Work with banks to keep Bahamians in their homes.
- Through public private partnership, devise a plan to waive, or reduce the interest payments on qualifying mortgages.
- Immediately collaborate with banking institutions to find ways to save homes from being repossessed, and amend relevant legislation.

### RENT RELIEF

- Review and augment rental assistance program, and increase funding to social services for rental assistance.
- Work with tenants and landlords to reschedule rent payments in line with short-term ability to pay, providing breathing room until the economy recovers, and avoiding a severe homelessness crisis.

### HOMELESSNESS

- We will work with civil society, including churches to establish a 'Half-Way/Safe House Program' for the most vulnerable in our society.

### THE DISABLED

- The PLP will increase the benefits for the disabled to improve their living conditions.

### TACKLING CRIME

- The PLP will ensure that the necessary reforms are executed for a safe Bahamas.
- We will strengthen the nation's border protection with increased funding to RBDF and Immigration Department.
- We will increase investment in the Community Policing Unit for community policing throughout The Bahamas.
- We will introduce research-based analysis and policies on countering anti-social behavior, violence and crime.
- We will establish partnerships between the Department of Corrections, BTVI, UB and the National Training Agency.

### EXPUNGE RECORDS

- Expunge records of minor offences due to violations of emergency orders.

### 'SECOND-CHANCE' JOBS PROGRAM

- Create a National 'Second-Chance' Jobs Program that allows those who have served time and are rehabilitated to enter the job market to ensure that they contribute to society as productive citizens.
- Prior to start of work, a mandatory life skills/career program must be taken.
- This one year long job placement in the private sector will be subsidized by the government by an amount up to 50% of the wage paid to the participant.

### URBAN RENEWAL + INNER-CITY REVITALIZATION

- We commit to the revitalization of the inner-cities and urban communities, throughout The Bahamas, with a focused agenda on:
  - Abandoned Buildings
  - Street Lighting
  - Housing Programs
  - Derelict Vehicles
  - Clean-Up Programs
  - Utilization of neighbourhood artisans.

# REBUILD

“We must unify our country. Rebirth and Resurgence will follow if we rally around some agreed themes.”

Philip ‘Brave’ Davis, QC  
PLP Leader

**Create a resilient Bahamas, while rebuilding our islands devastated by hurricanes.**

Every initiative set forth in ‘Our Blueprint 2022’ is designed to revitalize our economy, enhance our systems, and focus on strengthening ALL islands for the benefit of our people. The PLP is committed to building a Bahamas that empowers Bahamians.



# 3

## RECONSTRUCTION + RESILIENCY:

We will aggressively rebuild our islands, strengthen infrastructure and build more resiliently.

### DISASTER RECOVERY GRAND BAHAMA

**RAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL:**

Immediately make upgrades to the Hospital to properly service the people of Grand Bahama.

**NEW HOSPITAL:**

Progress development of a new Hospital with an Oncology Center.

**AIRPORT:**

Cause the creation of a development plan for the construction of a new Airport, on higher grounds.

**WATER:**

Mandate that potable water is restored to the rest of the island, immediately.

**OIL SPILL:**

Complete assessment on the impact of the Equinor Oil Spill and related issues.

**ESSENTIALS:**

Partner to assist with basic needs of residents including food, clothing, and essential home appliances.

**HOME REPAIRS:**

Assist residents with much needed home repairs.

**SHELTER:**

Assess the ongoing issue of lack of appropriate shelter, since Dorian.

**DOCUMENT RECOVERY:**

Establish a task force to address the issue of lost documents.

**BUSINESS SUPPORT:**

Provide support to businesses with the ultimate goal of keeping the doors open.

**MASTERPLAN:**

Develop a masterplan, in consultation with stakeholders, for the future development of the island.

### DISASTER RECOVERY ABACO

**REPAIRS:** Assist residents with much needed home repairs.

**HOMES:** Assess the ongoing issue of lack of shelter and homes, since Dorian.

**ESSENTIALS:** Partner to assist with basic needs of residents including food, clothing, and essential home appliances.

**PROPERTY DEEDS:** Establish a task force to address the issue of lost deeds for property.

**POLICE PRESENCE:** Address increased levels of crime with proven, effective crime management measures.

**SMALL BUSINESSES:** Create a marketplace for the sale of products by vendors who have become displaced and partner with NGOs for grants to small businesses.

**MASTERPLAN:** Develop a masterplan, in consultation with stakeholders, for the future development of the island.

### DISASTER RECOVERY RAGGED ISLAND

**CLINIC:** Begin the construction of a new clinic and staff appropriately.

**SCHOOL:** Complete construction of school.

**POLICE STATION:** Begin reconstruction of police station.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S BUILDING:** Begin reconstruction of administration building

**MASTERPLAN:** Develop a masterplan, in consultation with others, for the future development of the island.

### DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Implement disaster preparedness, relief, and restoration standard operating procedures.

Strengthen existing Hurricane Shelters to withstand 220-plus mph gusts and 20ft storm surges on all islands, beginning in Abaco and Grand Bahama.

Incentivize the private sector, to invest in reconstruction.

Strengthen building, construction and enforcement oversight.

Invest in improving critical drainage infrastructure in places like Pinewood Gardens.

Develop an effective evacuation policy that ensures safety of citizens

Invest in coastal infrastructure and the flood proofing of critical infrastructure

Seek international grants to invest in natural dunes, retention ponds, and amphibious vehicles.

Develop a system to conduct vulnerability assessments for our infrastructure and ecosystems.

Streamline management of NEMA and Disaster Authority.

### RECONSTRUCT FOR RESILIENCY

Encourage foreign investment to pilot innovative sustainable development projects.

Re-focus development around the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the Paris Agreement to which The Bahamas is a signatory.

Strengthen and deepen international partnerships to secure most beneficial commercial relationships in connection with Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Seek support from the UN and international bodies for Climate Justice.



## ENERGY POLICY

- Ensure reliable sources of affordable, sustainable energy, and move to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.
- Recommit The Bahamas to a minimum reliance on renewable energy of 30% by 2030.
- Within the first 100 days, we will cause a review of BPL operations to reduce cost of electricity, maintain a reliable supply, and enter into contractual arrangements which would put BPL on a solid financial footing, and most importantly, reduce the costs of living and doing business in The Bahamas.
- Create opportunities and incentives for entrepreneurs in renewable energy sources, especially solar.
- Implement reverse-metering to reduce BPL consumption and incentivize solar energy via tax incentives.
- Engage with all stakeholders to establish a comprehensive business plan for BPL.
- Transition to LNG or some other form efficient, cleaner fuel.
- Provide 100% financing for residential renewable energy systems.

## FOOD SECURITY

- Food security will be a priority of the PLP. After the COVID-19 pandemic, it is evident now more than ever that food security is undeniably critical.
- Set specific targets via the National Development Plan for reducing food imports.
- Establish an Agricultural/ Marine Development Bank to provide farmers with access to credit in exchange for a lien on their crops, as is done in other developing countries.
- Restructure the Bahamas Development Bank to facilitate, through the provision of insurance and guarantees, the scaling up and export capacity of Bahamian agricultural and fisheries exports.
- The PLP will support farmers in developing modern technique to expand and sustain their agribusiness, including assistance with sourcing insurance for livestock and crops.

## BUILDINGS, ROADS, AIRPORTS + PORTS

- Carry out the necessary infrastructural and technological upgrades to all government buildings, major port docking facilities, roads, and airports, throughout The Bahamas, utilizing public private partnerships.
- Utilize best practices and cost-reduction measures in new construction and maintenance of government assets.

# 4.

## SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS

- We will immediately inject 50M to fund entrepreneurial developments, and up to \$250M, over 5 years.
- Create tax relief incentives for SMEs.
- Seek to support cottage industry and home-based businesses, including crafts, by providing unique opportunities for the average Bahamian. This includes a loan system that provides an unsecured loan for every legitimate small business, through Small Business Development Centre.
- Incentivize joint-ventures between foreign and local investors.
- Provide technical support and incubation for new businesses.
- Consolidate all institutions providing service and funding to small businesses, improving service, removing bureaucracy, reducing administration costs, getting more of allocated budget in the hands of business owners.

## EMPOWERING BAHAMIANS:

We will make our economy work for Bahamians

### HOMES FOR BAHAMIANS

- We are committed to housing as a basic right, and will increase access to affordable homes by creating new initiatives including the 'Homes for Bahamians' and 'Rent-to-Own' Program.
- The Ministry of Housing will return to building houses for Bahamians by incentivizing local contractors.
- The granting of Crown Land will be included in this program, especially in the Family Islands.
- Pursue public private partnerships to develop new subdivisions.

### 'HOME-SWEET-HOME' PROGRAM

- Bahamians, including those living abroad, will be encouraged and incentivized to build homes throughout the Family Islands, as an investment opportunity for second homes, rental units, and Air BnBs.
- Develop a program via the Small Business Development Centre to fund Air BnBs.

## LABOUR + PUBLIC SERVICE

- Reestablish harmonious tripartite relations between labour, employer, and government.
- Ensure that labour issues are addressed as a matter of importance, including, but not limited to nurses, junior doctors, and teachers.
- The Public Service needs to be reinvented. We will develop policies to reform the Public Service and place civil servants in areas where their skill sets are most needed, as we aim to revolutionize The Bahamas.
- Develop a Public Service Training program throughout government departments in customer service, technology, and specialized areas to provide efficiency in services.
- Commit to clearing backlog of Public Service Commission for employees who qualify for permanent and pensionable benefits.
- Reassess benefits packages of local government employees, to align with that of government workers, eg. pension.
- Increase employment through expansion of technology platforms and a digital agenda.

### AGRIBUSINESS + MARINE BUSINESS

- Re-energize the agriculture industry so that the youth view it as a viable career option. We will highlight the connections of science and technology to the industry and its career paths.

- Implement a modern day logistical distribution (packing house) system.

- Invest in the modernization of agricultural technology and training.

- Establish a Department of Agribusiness, within the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, to develop comprehensive policies and strategies which reach across government, to successfully develop the agri-business sector.

### BAHAMIAN ENTREPRENEURS + THE SUPPLY CHAIN

- In heads of agreements for development, we will establish a policy to ensure that Bahamians are given every opportunity, in the supply-chain, to provide consumables, agricultural products, artwork, soap, furniture, and other authentic Bahamian products.

### COMMERCIAL FISHING

- Establish joint missions, to more effectively combat poaching.

- We will expand the commercial fishing industry by facilitating larger export markets, create job training initiatives for young entrepreneurial fishermen, create tax incentives to encourage commercial fishing and alleviate red tape that would hinder the expansion of the industry.

- Modernize the permit application to ensure a quick, seamless process for applying for all permits needed for commercial and recreational fishing.

- To ensure sustainable growth in the fishing industry, we will coordinate between The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources and the Ministry of National Security. By working together in joint programs and initiatives, more effective prevention of poaching would be realized.

- We will create the Marine Wildlife Protection Division of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force. The formation of this new division would allow the required focus on illegal poaching and other marine preservation activities, while ensuring the Division has the requisite police powers that are necessary.

### COMMERCIAL BANK LICENSES

- We will encourage the Central Bank to grant commercial bank licenses to Bahamians/Groups of Bahamians. We are committed to *Bahamianizing* the sector with a view to empowerment. We are also committed to finding solutions for the unbanked family islands.

### LAND REFORM + CROWN LAND

- Address the backlog of requests for Crown Land immediately.

- Ensure that developments that bring much needed opportunities for communities are given priority.

- With our plans for each island, we will focus on Land Use Planning, and introduce policies to protect the distribution of land.

- Partner with civic organizations, to develop green spaces for recreation, the arts, craft, cultural entertainment, and revenue generation for small and community-based businesses.

### GREATER EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAHAMIANS IN TOURISM

- Focus on increasing economic benefit through the Tourism Value Chain rather than relying on ever-increasing visitor numbers. Negotiate additional and stronger positions in the hotel and hospitality supply chains for Bahamian businesses to reduce industry reliance on imports, which 'leaks' value out of the economy, and has resulted in the industry becoming increasingly un-competitive because of the high cost to visitors.

- **Community and Heritage-Based Tourism:** The benefits of tourism must reach those in native communities and inner-cities. Communities that have culture, history, creativity, and cuisine to offer should be provided the opportunity to earn revenue from immersive experiences that visitors enjoy.

- Reform subsidies to investors to level the playing field for Bahamians to compete and build wealth in tourism.

- Focus on stop-over visitors and expand opportunities for them to spend more on products, services and activities in the wider community.

- Negotiate greater value from the cruise ship industry, including an environmental levy per passenger.

- Expand Sports, Medical, Religious and Heritage Tourism to grow Bahamian-owned business opportunities.

- Mandate that the Ministry of Tourism's marketing efforts increasingly engage Bahamian talent and local businesses, with a focus on promoting our vibrant Bahamian culture.

"We have achieved political sovereignty.

Economic Empowerment must now be the focus."

I. Chester Cooper  
PLP Deputy Leader

### PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- For infrastructural projects that qualify, develop PPP's to support community development initiatives.

- Developers will be commissioned to build out the subdivision for pre-approved buyers. This will be beneficial to the country as it increases the inventory of available affordable housing.

The status-quo will not work in today's reality. Either we reinvent, reimagine, reinvigorate or die. The business-as-usual approach to governance, the economy, the environment, our people and our islands will not work. Governing with integrity, in a digital environment, to empower Bahamians is a must and economic reforms are critical for long-term growth and development.

On or before the end of a 5-year term in office, the Progressive Liberal Party will execute a strategic agenda, in collaboration with the national development goals to catapult our country to achieve its true potential.

Young Bahamians are losing hope resulting in brain drain. With digitization, ease of doing business and new industries, we will create new opportunities. With our aggressive agenda, we will leap forward to a more progressive Bahamas with improved quality of life for all.

An illustration on the right side of the page shows several hands of various skin tones holding up Bahamian flags. The flags are blue, yellow, and black, and are waving against a bright yellow background with a subtle grid pattern. The word "REVOLUTIONIZE" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image, partially overlapping the flags and hands.

REVOLUTIONIZE

### MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES + ENVIRONMENT

- Provide the legal, fiscal and regulatory framework with the creation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Assess the value of natural resources, throughout The Bahamas.

### EQUITY FOR CONCESSION

- Review current concession regimes for projects. Our policy will be to negotiate an equity stake in projects that request lease or purchase of crown land or seabed.

### MINING AUTHORITY

- We will establish such entity similar to the NAD/ Airport Authority model for all projects involving our natural resource harvesting.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- We will adhere to the highest level of transparency, as it relates to our natural resources.

## NATURAL RESOURCES + SOVEREIGN-WEALTH:

We will work to ensure that our natural resources benefit our people.

### CREATE SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND

- Strengthen legislation that established the Sovereign Wealth Fund to receive royalties for all of our natural resources and spur strategic development and long-term growth for the benefit of generations of Bahamians.
- Hold the government's non-financial assets, including crown land, in this fund and link proceeds from natural resources to the Sovereign Wealth Fund for the benefit of generations of Bahamians.

### VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING

- Encourage the development of value-added industries and sub-sectors so that natural raw materials can be made into finished products, with maximum value in The Bahamas, e.g. table salt.

## 5.

### RENEGOTIATE CONTRACTS

- Review and renegotiate contracts of mining of natural resources.
- Encourage more university research on our natural resources, and renegotiate existing permits, including undersea test and evaluation centers.

### SOVEREIGN INVESTMENT FUND

- The PLP will create a new Sovereign Investment Fund and consider transferring the government's private sector investments with consideration given to investments in APD, Aliv, BTC, Cable Bahamas, Bank of the Bahamas and the Bridge Authority. The Fund would be managed using professional managers and structure. The structure will allow the government to creatively and systematically leverage these holdings to allow them to work for Bahamians.

### CARBON CREDITS

- Secure Carbon Credit Payments for our natural resources.

## 6.

### A REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION: The great equalizer.

#### SHARED VISION

- In line with the PLP's previous posture addressed by the National Development Plan, we will remove political partisanship from educational policies. Eliminate Social Promotion.
- Revamp national curriculum to include Bahamian culture and history, and soft-skills.
- Develop strategic magnet-type public schools that offer specialized studies.

#### LIFE-LONG LEARNING

- The PLP will develop a framework, through the National Training Agency, to provide opportunities for life-long learning for our citizens to be able to continue learning and training throughout life.

Develop the true potential of our children; stimulate their geniuses; work to ensure that they become competitive on the global stage, in any area.

- Nationwide tutoring programme to address learning loss due to the pandemic.
- EdTech - Pathways to Success: We will subsidize new opportunities for Bahamians to pursue accreditations and certificates via online coursework in entrepreneurship, coding, digital marketing, design, blockchain, e-commerce, data analysis and more.
- To support our eBahamas digitization thrust, we will launch a Technology and Innovation Institute, with the assistance of established global networks and the National Training Agency. This Institute will provide a robust suite of courses, including web development, data science and analysis, digital marketing, coding, and user experience design. The institute, through its global network, will connect graduates with hiring partners, where they work from home.
- Partner with the corporate community to create the Bahamas Innovation Awards, within the high schools.
- National Mentorship Programme: expand mentoring and networking opportunities.
- Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Skills Training, beginning in primary school and advancing throughout the school years, with opportunities to learn extended to all who wish to acquire critical understanding of finances.
- Launch a tertiary School of Visual, Performing and Recording Arts, to develop world-class skills in the Orange Economy.
- Partner with corporate community to create the Bahamas Innovation Awards for high school students.
- Expand partnerships with international colleges and universities to increase access to university and graduate-level scholarships.
- Remediation Post-Dorian: Provide extended learning and national tutoring opportunities for students who have fallen behind, led by our college students and graduates. Particular emphasis will be placed on disadvantaged students, as well as broadband access.

## TRADES TRAINING

- Make trade schools more accessible and inexpensive.
- Reposition and re-energize BTVI as a regional leader in training, in partnership with international institutions.
- Bring together trades and technology with the creation of a Center for the Built Environment that promotes sustainable building practices, environmental stewardship and collaborative learning.
- Introduce trades training in grade 10, in collaboration with BTVI, as a viable choice for students.
- Identify skills early and nurture same.
- Establish satellite branches of BTVI at Senior High Schools to increase access by adult learners to technical and refresher training and certification during evenings and weekends in communities throughout The Bahamas.
- Develop BTVI into the University of Technology of The Bahamas, as a regional center of excellence of applied science, technology and innovation in the context of small island nation states, especially in computers and software development.

## STEAM

- The future of careers has changed and we must adapt. The PLP will redesign primary and secondary school curricular to prioritize STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).

## HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION CENTERS

- Develop High School Arts & Creative Program, and a Center for Creatives with workspaces for artists and activities.

## ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES

- The PLP will implement Entrepreneurial Studies beginning in primary school.
- The PLP will ensure the development of The University of The Bahamas' Innovation Park. This will be a student incubator with a focus on ensuring that students with entrepreneurial mindsets receive the necessary training and assistance to start and expand their business ventures.

## INNOVATION COMPETITION

- Sponsor an annual competition, with a \$50,000.00 cash prize for the best app developed by a Bahamian under 25.

## GREEN TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

- Sponsor an annual competition, with a \$50,000.00 cash prize for green technology development.

## GRAND BAHAMA HOTEL + CATERING COLLEGE

- The re-establishment of the Grand Bahama Hotel and Catering College on the island of Grand Bahama.

## BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL + MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE [BAMSI]

- In collaboration with the University of The Bahamas, as an independent institute, eliminate duplication and incorporate the administrative, quality control, instructional, curriculum and research capabilities of the University of The Bahamas behind the national initiatives of food security, agribusiness and the blue and green economy initiatives.
- Address socioeconomic inequalities, including expanding assistance/feeding programmes.
- BAMSI will be further expanded to other family islands to further promote the need for sustainable farming and food security.

## BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS

- We commit to ensure the BCB focuses on public education, cultural preservation and promotion of national unity.
- We commit to providing programming that reflects Bahamian values and artistic creation.
- We commit to facilitating Bahamian talent in production and entertainment.
- We will undertake to develop a comprehensive business plan for the self-sustaining of the BCB.

## MARITIME ACADEMY

- Establish Public/Private Partnership with maritime academies, under the University of The Bahamas, as a center of excellence of training in maritime navigation, engineering, port management, maritime surveying, maritime insurance, port support services and seamanship.

## OUR CULTURE OUR FUTURE

### FOR OUR CULTURE

- Promote a culture of pride in being Bahamian through, the arts, crafts, music, festivals, products, tourism, church, school and all aspects of Bahamian life.
- Instill virtues of national identity, promote Bahamian history, and support all that is good that promotes The Bahamas and being Bahamian.
- Collaborate with local and international organizations to promote Bahamian culture at home and abroad, to create unique opportunities for Bahamian cultural ambassadors.

### NATIONAL HERITAGE TRUST

- Establish a Bahamas National Heritage Trust, as a public private initiative, to inspire a sense of national pride.
- Guided by UNESCO's mission, we will preserve and promote the development of the material and intangible cultural heritage resources of the Bahamian people, such as monuments and protected national heritage.

### PROSPEROUS BAHAMAS

- The goal of the PLP is to develop a Bahamas that thrives as the Bahamian people themselves thrive. The result - fulfilled, healthy, prosperous lives that appreciate and participate in all that the Bahamas has to offer - beauty, culture and an unmatched experience.

### FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

- Create an environment for prosperity built on opportunities and fairness for all.
- Commit to a strategic plan for the growth and development of each island. The PLP will be a government for the empowerment of ALL Bahamians and ALL islands of The Bahamas.
- A hallmark of the PLP administration will be equality for all Bahamians.

### INVESTING IN YOUNG BAHAMIANS

- Create a National 'First-Job' Program that allows young people between the age of 16-25 to gain a one-year government subsidized placement in a field of national priority, including in the new economies and trade.
- Revive the Youth Environmental Corps, a work program for Bahamians ages 19-39, to learn valuable skills in eco-careers such as marine management, botany, conservation, park management, forestry, public parks and beach management.
- Launch the Community Youth Service and offer stipends for young Bahamians providing service to NGOs and community groups, building a bridge between school and the job market.
- Establish a National Youth Guard for young people to receive technical training enabling them to serve in a Disaster Response Corps.

# 7.

## A PROGRESSIVE YOUTH AGENDA:

Accelerate the progress of the gifted and create a path for achievement for all.

### YOUTH WELL-BEING

- Create national programs that tackle new threats to the well-being of young people including issues of mental health, lack of self-confidence and identity, excessive social media consumption, and national identity and unity.

### YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- We will ensure that the Youth of The Bahamas has a seat at the table at all levels of government. This includes having youth representatives on boards and committees, throughout our government system.
- Make the Youth Parliament more meaningful with an 'Issues facing the Youth of the Nation' agenda. Resolutions passed by the Youth Parliament will be considered in the formulation of public policy. Participants may be selected from the Civics Program of the various high schools.
- Initiatives to partner with young Bahamians in economic development can be found throughout this plan, whether in the shared workspace tech hub, the investment in entrepreneurial projects, the EdTech: Pathways to Success program, the National Mentorship Program, the new Trades Training opportunities at BTVI and National Training Agency, the new School of Visual, Performing and Recording Arts, the increased access to scholarships, or the new opportunities in Tourism, and the Orange, Blue and Green economies.

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

- With a focus on the creative industry and generally youth-centric sector including technology, arts, design, cuisine, film, entertainment, media, sports and lifestyle, create an environment for entrepreneurial opportunities for young people.
- Allocate 5% of all Government procurement contracts to businesses owned by young Bahamians.

- Encourage investment in clubs for young inventors.

### NATIONAL YOUTH REGATTA + BOAT BUILDING COMPETITION

- Launch an Annual National Youth Regatta with young sailors throughout the islands.
- Introduce a Boat Building Competition for best built sloop.
- Encourage Youth Sailing Clubs on all islands.

### 'SECOND CHANCE'

- Expunge the records of those convicted of minor offences related to the use of marijuana, so they may more easily rejoin the formal, productive economy.
- Establish programs for tracking and assisting high school dropouts so that action is taken to ensure they continue to contribute to society as productive citizens.

### NATIONAL SPORT

- Make Sloop Sailing the National Sport of The Bahamas.
- Develop programs to teach boat-building and incorporate both sailing and boat-building as vocational studies.

### NATIONAL MENTORSHIP

- Establish a National Mentorship Program where adults can help to guide young people in their fields of interest.

### OUR ATHLETES

- Provide the necessary funding to athletes who represent the country at international events. This includes special funding needs to the various sports authorities.
- Establish a pension fund for athletes who have represented the country internationally.
- Fund training for aspirants and elites.

### THE BAHAMAS GAMES

- In the spirit of unity and showcasing our sports prowess, create the Annual Island Games for each island, and relaunch The Bahamas Games every 2-years.

### LEARNING TO SWIM

- The PLP will introduce swimming classes as a part of the school curriculum.



## A HEALTHY BAHAMAS:

We will focus aggressively on public health and wellness and shoring up the capacity of our health care system.

### HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- We will review and address all pending union and employee relations issues with nurses, junior doctors, consultants, and other healthcare workers, treating our healthcare workers as the heroes they are.
- Create incentives to encourage study of nursing and medical technology.

### PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

- This will be a priority of our government.
- We will implement a universal mass testing regime and a vaccination policy.
- Develop proactive risk management protocols.

### HEALTH + WELLNESS


- Introduce a revamped Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- Focus on tele-medicine, in our thrust for healthy Bahamians.
- Launch, a 'Healthy Lifestyle' initiative, in conjunction with medical professionals, trainers, nutritionists, and other professionals.
- Implement incentives for products, as well as providers of health care programs. The reduction in VAT and other policies will help Bahamians to be able to purchase nutritious foods.
- Focus aggressively on public health and wellness, using BIS, ZNS and other media and medical partners.
- Promote entrepreneurship and incentivize fitness trainers, weight-lifters, coaches and nutritionists for health initiatives at community parks, with the necessary training equipment.

### NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

- Proceed with plans to introduce catastrophic healthcare, throughout The Bahamas
- Review the levels in cost of healthcare to make it more affordable.
- Address the mental health issues in the country, as a priority.

### HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

- Build a new hospital in New Providence, through public private partnership, with simultaneous improvements to conditions at the Princess Margaret Hospital.
- Build a new hospital in Grand Bahama, through public private partnership, to become the medical hub for the Northern Bahamas.
- Make major investments in resourcing mini hospitals in Abaco and Exuma, develop a new mini hospital in Eleuthera, and establish Exuma as the medical hub for the Southern Bahamas.
- Construct new satellite clinics, and refurbish existing ones with tele-medicine capacity for other Family Islands.
- We will seek to redirect capital from other proposed infrastructural projects to support healthcare infrastructure.



**ABACO + CAYS**  
Home of Boating, Sailing, Fishing and Medical Tourism



**ACKLINS**  
Home of Cascarilla



**ANDROS**  
Home of Agriculture + Bonefishing



**BERRY ISLANDS**  
The Fishing Bowl of The Bahamas



**BIMINI**  
Home of Big Game Fishing



**CAT ISLAND**  
Home of Rake 'N Scrape + Boutique Resorts




**CROOKED ISLAND**  
Haven for Adventure



**ELEUTHERA**  
Home of Fishing + Farming

**A PLAN FOR EACH ISLAND**  
Meeting the critical needs of each island; Strengthening the entire Bahamas. The sum of the parts will be greater than the whole.

**EXUMA + CAYS**  
Hub of Southern Aviation, Maritime + Medical Tourism + Sailing



**GRAND BAHAMA**  
Home of Maritime Home of Entertainment 'Innovation City'



**INAGUA**  
Home of Flamingos + Salt



**LONG CAY**  
Original Center of Trade



**LONG ISLAND**  
Home of the Caves, Fishing + Livestock



**MAYAGUANA**  
The Gateway to Southern Shipping



**NEW PROVIDENCE**  
Smart Island of the Caribbean Home of Heritage, Arts + Culture



**RAGGED ISLAND**  
'The Green Island', Eco + Heritage Tourism, Salt Center of Fishing + Livestock



**RUM CAY**  
The Sleeping Beauty + Salt



**SAN SALVADOR**  
Home of 'Discovery'

## FAMILY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

*Unlocking our islands' potential, we will drive overall economic growth.*

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Commit to a strategic plan for each island, in conjunction with the National Development Plan. The Bahamas is not just New Providence.
- Ensure that the critical needs of the islands are given priority, within the scope of the country's other obligations.
- The vision for each island and its immediate benefits will be used to determine how projects are prioritized.

### HEALTHCARE

- Ensure the improvement of healthcare facilities in the Family Islands by placing Resident Doctors in the community, utilizing tele-medicine, implementing supply monitoring systems and resourcing mini hospitals in islands such as Exuma, Abaco and Eleuthera to ease pressure on New Providence and Grand Bahama.

### INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure Family Islands are included in the revitalization and modernization of airports, ports, centers, special facilities, public transportation, health care facilities, etc.

### MINISTRY OF FAMILY ISLAND AFFAIRS + LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Establish a Ministry of Family Island Affairs and Local Government to be responsible for organizing, promoting and implementing development policies and strategies to encourage inclusiveness and family island development within the Bahamas.

- Further decentralise decision making and putting power in the hands of communities, through Local Government.

- Create a Local Government regime in New Providence.

- Increase the budget for Local Government Councils by 10% each year, during the 5-Year term.

- Empower Local Government, to have revenue raising powers and share jurisdiction over local affairs and community management and development.

- Support the development of sister city relationships for business, tourism, cultural, educational and humanitarian exchanges.

### ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

- Ensure that Family Island residents have access to essential government services such as passport, driver's license, police record, fishing licenses, etc. Streamlining these services online will also be a priority, which will increase accessibility, via our e-Bahamas initiative.

### AIRLIFT + FERRIES

- Encourage increased airlift and ferry service to islands, throughout The Bahamas.
- For islands with international airports, promote direct flights to these destinations.





## **REFORM:** Setting the framework for good governance and growth.

Bolstered by the long-term goals of the National Development Plan (NDP), we will embark upon an aggressive strategy for reforming into a more nimble, progressive, and competitive country, with sustained economic development.

During this FNM administration’s term in office, two ministers were judicially condemned, three have resigned under dubious circumstances, the Minister of Finance refuses to account for disaster and pandemic expenditure as required by law, and preferential treatment has been afforded to major donors of the FNM, throughout the states of emergency.

Through implementation of the NDP, Digitization, SMART Technology and legislated reforms, the PLP will create a framework for good governance that restores faith in government and enables our country to thrive.

We will ensure that policies implemented result in a transformed Bahamas that enable growth. This includes electoral, parliamentary, economic, local and central government, immigration and foreign affairs reforms.

The PLP is committed to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals that ensures quality education, life long learning opportunities, gender equality and empowerment for women and girls; quality water, sanitation, and access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.



**We will  
pass anti-  
corruption  
legislation  
within our  
first 100  
days in  
office.**

# X NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Providing good governance that prioritizes Bahamians. 10.

The PLP will implement the National Development Plan, initiated by the last PLP Administration, that provides a coordinated approach for inclusive national development to create a more resilient and vibrant Bahamas.

Vision 2040, provides a roadmap for the future development of The Bahamas, and includes a comprehensive policy framework that will guide Government decision making and investment over the next 19 years. This initiative was developed in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and in close cooperation with the University of The Bahamas and The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation.

The Plan has been guided by extensive research, analysis and widespread public consultation aimed at addressing four main policy pillars: The Economy, Governance, Social Policy and Environment (Natural and Built).

As a part of the National Development Plan, and in alignment with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals for the world, the PLP commits to the 17 goals set out under this initiative to be achieved by the year 2030.

### The 4 Pillars

- The Economy -
  - Environment -
  - Social Policy -
  - Governance-
- NDP = UNITY**

## THE 4 NDP PILLARS

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

- We commit to good governance, with integrity and accountability.
- We commit to fully implementing the Freedom of Information Act, an Integrity Commission Act, Ombudsman Bill, new Public Disclosure Act, Anti-Corruption Act, Campaign Finance Reform, Code of Conduct, Whistleblower Act, Electoral Reform Act, and Procurement Act.
- We are committed to ensuring that the voice of the people is heard and we will create numerous opportunities to enhance citizen governance.
- The PLP has always been a party of inclusion, and it governs with inclusion and consultation. We are committed to ensuring that the voice of the people is heard and we will create numerous opportunities to enhance citizen-governance.
- We commit to strengthen our nation’s borders as a matter of priority.
- We commit to increase investment in Community Policing, to ensure a safer Bahamas.
- We commit to make reforms to the justice system that fully integrates with social services.
- We commit to place more emphasis on preventative and early intervention programs.
- We commit to establish partnership an institutional partnership with Department of Corrections and BTVI.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

- Put measures in place to adapt and mitigate in the face of climate change - a global issue.
- Increase surveillance of cruise tourism and ensure enforcement of penalties for environmental infractions.
- Invest in the restoration of mangroves, green roof technology, backyard farming initiatives.
- Invest in education for preserving the environment, establishing no-build zones and restrictive building regulations in highly vulnerable areas.
- Introduce a National Recycling Program.
- Continue commitment to protected areas.

### THE ECONOMY

- We will focus on economic growth, and ease of doing business reforms.
- Reduce foreign exchange barriers to Bahamian entrepreneurs in accessing global funding and market access.

### SOCIAL POLICY

- In these difficult times, we will roll out a compassionate social agenda.
- The Progressive Liberal Party is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination against men and women in The Bahamas.

# EXECUTION

All plans are laid with good intentions. The difference between a good plan and a great plan is Execution.

## FRAMEWORK FOR DELIVERY

# Road Map:

*How we will get it done!*

For too long, government policies and initiatives have not been SMART (specific, measurable, attainable and result-oriented with timeline).

Our top priorities will be tracked, as SMART goals.

## SHOVEL-READY PROJECTS

Starting now, we will begin to shepherd projects in the pipeline, so that they begin on Day One of our administration.

### A COMMITMENT TO EXECUTION

We will create an enabling framework to execute this short term plan in line with agreed targets. We will complete, relaunch and legislate the National Development Plan on or before our second anniversary in office.

### PLANNING UNIT

Relaunch the Economic Development & Planning Unit.

### FISCAL REVIEW

We will immediately review the fiscal status and the state of the treasury, and reorder and communicate our priorities, based upon the realities, we find.

We will revise budgets, as necessary, for capital work and allocation for key projects.

### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

Establish an execution monitoring system with established KPIs, with target dates for tracking and completing each goal.

### EXECUTION TEAMS

We will identify and appoint the best minds in our country to our Boards to ensure execution of our plans and policies.

### FIRST 100 DAYS

Our critical agenda for execution within the first 100 days in office, will address some of the urgent initiatives we believe are necessary to rescue our people and our country, with **SMART Goals**.

### REPORTING

Requirement for consistent reporting on a party, constituency, ministry level to maximize accountability.

# OUR LEADERS



**PHILIP E. DAVIS**  
LEADER  
CAT ISLAND,  
RUM CAY AND  
SAN SALVADOR

Mr. Philip E. Davis has served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works from 2012 - 2017. He is a seasoned attorney and Queen's Counsel. He is Leader of the Opposition.



**I. CHESTER COOPER**  
DEPUTY LEADER  
EXUMAS AND  
RAGGED ISLAND

Mr. I. Chester Cooper was elected as the MP for Exuma and Ragged Island and Deputy Leader in 2017. He is an accomplished entrepreneur and businessman. He has served as shadow minister of finance, financial services and industry.

# PLP LEGACY

## OUR HISTORY

### PLP ACHIEVEMENTS HISTORICAL 1967 -2017

- Ushered in Majority Rule
- Bahamas Independence
- Secondary Education for All Bahamians
- The Royal Bahamas Defence Force
- National Insurance
- The College of The Bahamas

### PLP ACHIEVEMENTS 2012 - 2017

- Expansion of the Marine Protection Areas

- Implementation of Mortgage Relief Program

- Establishment of Urban Renewal Home Repair Program

- Cellular Liberalization

### 2012 OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Reformation of Social Services (RISE program).

- Revamp of Consumer Commission

- Tax Reformation

- Decriminalization and Reformation of the Gaming Industry

### 2013 OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of Parks and Beaches Authority.

### 2014 OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Construction of Andre Rodgers Baseball Stadium

- Creation of new Radar Center at Lynden Pindling International Airport

- Construction of San Salvador Terminal Building

### 2015 OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Construction of the Bahamas' beach soccer complex

- Purchase of Defense Force Ships

- Increase in Sports Tourism (World Relays, Beach Soccer Championships)

- Establishment of Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival

### 2016 OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Introduction of National Health Insurance

- Creation of National Heroes Day through legislation

- Establishment of BAMSII

- Increase scholarships from \$6 million to \$16 million

- Chartering of The University of The Bahamas

- Passage of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Bill, 2014 and Correctional Services Bill, 2013

- Regained 2% Economic Interest in BTC

- Establishment of National Training Agency

- Implementation of VAT.

### PLP FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS 2012 -2017

### 2017 OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Bahamar
- Bakers' Bay Project
- Children's Bay Project
- Pointe Project
- Albany Expansion
- Bimini Bay Resorts



[plpbahamas.org](http://plpbahamas.org)



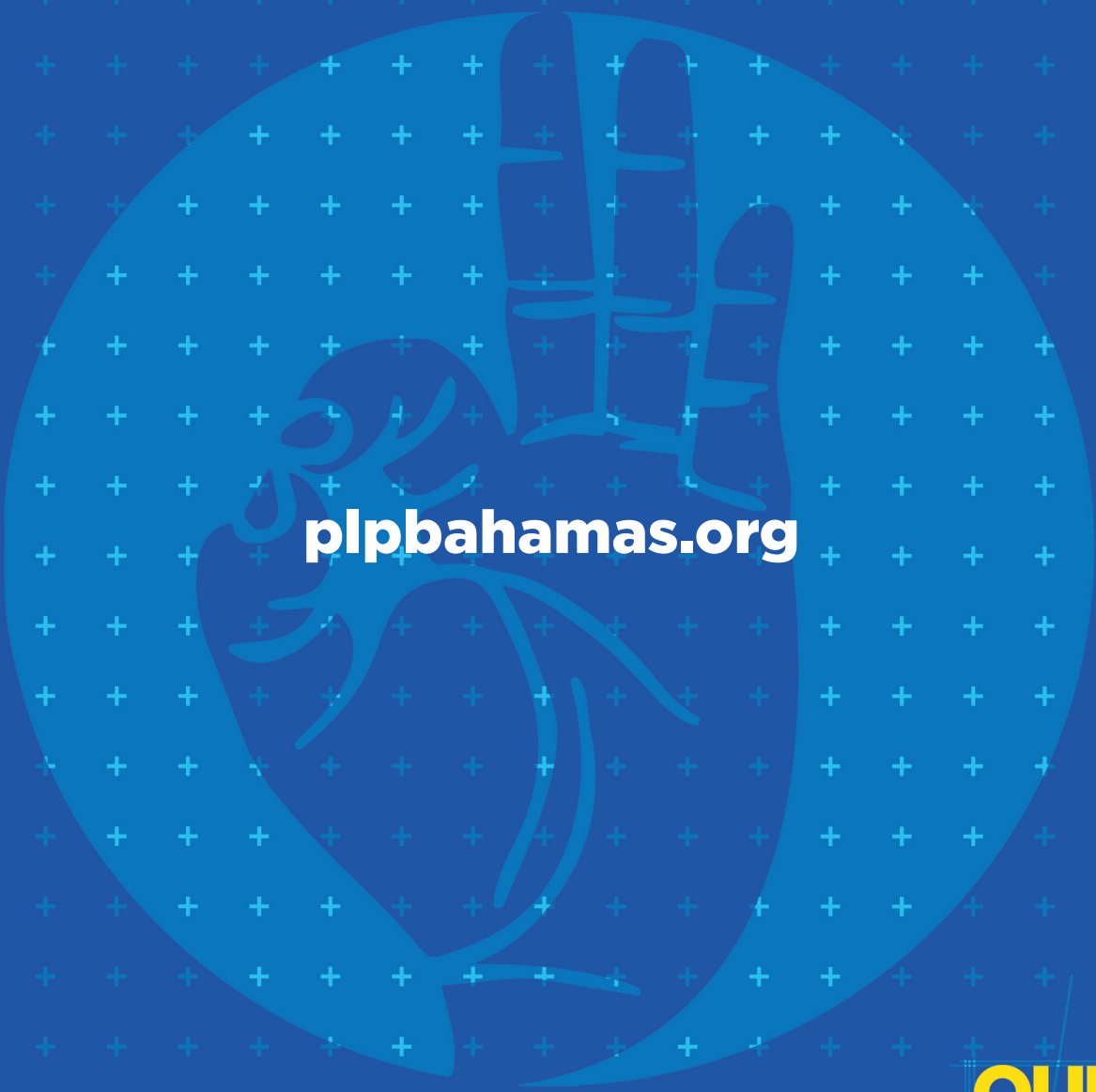
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