

EMABARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 11:00 AM

**People Power:
Leading the Agenda for Progressive
Change**

**2011 MANIFESTO OF THE PEOPLE'S
NATIONAL PARTY**

RESTORING TRUST

The People's National Party (PNP) is opposed to all forms of corruption, whether in public or private life, and will continue to be resolute in the implementation of measures to effectively deal with this very serious issue.

It is for this reason that the Party implemented the **Integrity Commission** to screen prospective candidates before they are able to represent the Party in any local or national elections. This measure will promote the selection of representatives of the people who have the requisite integrity and ability.

In Government, the Party also implemented a number of measures to prevent and expose corrupt practices. These included:

- The expansion of the media landscape
- The opening up of Parliamentary Committees to media coverage
- The separation of Policy and Organisation issues in the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), thus giving the leadership of the JCF, unfettered authority to deal with acts of corruption; and
- The creation of the Office of the **Contractor General**.
- Creation of reporting obligations of Members of Parliament

We will continue to make internal use of our Integrity Commission. We will increase public education on the nature of corruption, the role of citizens in protecting public funds and in ensuring that they receive value for the tax dollars spent.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARTY PRESIDENT

Participation, Accountability and Responsibility

The People's National Party has always sought to improve the quality of life of the Jamaican people and to encourage their fullest participation in making the decisions which impact their lives.

This Manifesto has benefited from wide consultations during the process which led to the creation of the Progressive Agenda and the broad approaches which will guide the policies and the conduct of the next Government of the People's National Party.

It sets out very clearly that we will be a Government which respects the people; and which recognises the value, the rights, and the obligations of all public servants, be they teachers, civil servants, police personnel, health professionals, or managers and staff in the government agencies.

The PNP remains committed to a National Gender Policy and all international treaties relating to gender. Our commitment will be mainstreamed in all our programmes and activities.

We recognise the major fiscal, economic and social difficulties which will confront us, given the experience of the last four years; as well as the continuing uncertainties in the global marketplace.

We therefore, intend as a priority to approach the task of rebuilding confidence in the Jamaican people and in our international partners with all the skills which our team possess, and by dealing honestly and respectfully with all stakeholders.

Our first task will of necessity be the shaping of a new Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), taking into account the present reality of the Jamaican society and the need to facilitate growth in our economy, if we are to make social and economic progress as a people.

The initiatives which we propose to undertake include; among other thing, a realistic, meaningful and sustainable job creation programme using existing resources; the restoration of the health sector to a path of sustainable quality; a new focus on early childhood education; measures to maintain further crime reduction; the provision of more efficient services at the local community levels; and the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to create jobs, improve the quality of services and increased opportunities for the empowerment of citizens.

I encourage you to examine very carefully the details contained in this Manifesto and the commitments which we make. Our record of service to this country has earned your confidence

over the years. The years ahead call us, as Jamaicans, to renew trust between the people and their government, and to work together for our common good for generations to come.

I commend to you our undertaking to stand by the principles of *Participation, Accountability and Responsibility*.

Your empowerment remains our constant goal.

Portia Simpson-Miller
President: People's National Party (PNP)

FOREWORD

As we begin our journey in this our 50th year of independence we are mindful that as a nation, we have made significant strides from our origins in a colonial society to where we are today. We have accomplished a great deal in every aspect of national life – from academics to entertainment and sports.

We are now at a crossroads in our development and we will need to make the requisite effort to move forward. This will, of necessity, have to be a national effort requiring the resolve of all of us. There is no doubt that as a people, we are up to the task.

This Manifesto is being presented at a time of great uncertainty. At the global level, of particular concern is the potential collapse of the Eurozone. A successful resolution of the challenges is an imperative, not only for the member states of the European Union (EU) but for the world economy. However, this resolution will not only be costly but will lead logically to an inward-looking EU for the medium term.

The PNP is mindful of the economic challenges, both global and domestic, and recognises that there will be limited options within which to manoeuvre. However, in developing the path to domestic recovery, the PNP Administration will exploit, to the fullest, its relationships with emerging economic blocs.

We remain committed to **Vision 2030** to making Jamaica, “*the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.*”

The task ahead will not be easy, but the Administration is well equipped to deal with whatever lies ahead. At all times, we will seek to engage the population in the difficult decisions which we will have to make, fully aware that as a country, we stand our best chance of self-actualisation and the achievement of individual and collective goals, when provided with the socio-economic and political environment that is both nurturing and empowering.

This 2011 Manifesto builds on the **Progressive Agenda** which was circulated earlier. It has been constructed within the context of global uncertainty and the absence of full information from the present Administration about the extent of Jamaica’s challenges and the commitments which have been given to the international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

We nevertheless stand by the commitments and the intentions stated within, and expect that they will be modified only in respect of phasing, or on account of major national disasters.

Whatever the unforeseen circumstances, the Jamaican people can rest assured that consultations with them will be a feature of the PNP’s approach to governance.

We stand by our commitment to the principles and practices of Participation, Accountability and Responsibility.

EIGHTEEN STEPS TO FULL PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT

- 1. Negotiate a new IMF Loan Agreement to be in place only for as long as necessary and on terms and conditions that will lead to both the social and the economic development of our people**
- 2. Reform the public sector for efficiency, especially at the customer service level both for citizens and for investors**
- 3. Expand and re-engineer Petrojam through a joint venture partnership to reduce petroleum costs and contribute to increasing national productivity**
- 4. Remove the General Consumption Tax (GCT) on electricity charges to ease the burden caused by electricity bills**
- 5. Establish near-shore ICT industries with the Mandeville University Knowledge Centre as the hub for education, training and job creation**
- 6. Create meaningful jobs using existing resources available to the Government, beginning with the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)**
- 7. Lead in the fight against corruption by example, by the proper use of Parliamentary oversight and by public education**
- 8. Engage the people through community structures in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes which directly affect their welfare and development**
- 9. Enhance community policing capability and forensic management to improve the security of our citizens**
- 10. Introduce new legislation to impact positively on doing business in Jamaica**
- 11. Renew the focus on facilitating small and medium sized enterprises which make the greatest contribution to economic growth and employment**
- 12. Work creatively with the private sector, the youth, cultural, educational sports and entertainment organisations and institutions to socialise and equip the youth for employment and effective citizenship**
- 13. Review the policies on Energy and Information & Communication Technology to ensure sustainability and growth in the manufacturing and service sectors, as well as greater efficiency in government operations**
- 14. Restore the emphasis on Early Education and enhance existing initiatives under the Education Transformation programme**
- 15. Provide an affordable safety net for The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education PATH beneficiaries and members of the disabled community needing educational, hospital and other health services**
- 16. Restore viable partnership structures between the Government and critical stakeholders, including the Private Sector, the Trade Union Movement, the Church, the Media and other Civil Society organisations so that trust is restored; the Development Council will be restored to provide a forum for dialogue and consultation for the framing of economic and social policies**

- 17. Extend the reach and efficiency of Local Government by giving legal personality to properly structured Town and Community organisations and requiring proper reporting relationships on the part of elected representatives**
- 18. Establish a National Council of Justice to formulate the proper administration of Justice and to protect and promote respect for fundamental human rights**

SECTION ONE: THE MACRO-ECONOMY AND STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH

Current Economic Position

Jamaica is facing very severe economic challenges, demonstrated by contractions in national output, severely reduced local and foreign direct investments, a ballooning national debt; as well as, increasing unemployment and widening levels of poverty. The current Administration's inability to meet the performance criteria contained in the Standby Agreement with the IMF has exacerbated the situation. This is further compounded by the continued instability in the global economy. In short, the country lacks a credible medium-term macro-economic programme which would provide confidence to investors and hope to the general population.

The central problem facing the economy is the vicious stranglehold of the national debt. This debt has increased by nearly 70% in the four years of the JLP Administration, with very little tangible benefits to the population. Furthermore, the Jamaica Debt Exchange (JDX), although hailed locally for reducing the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ's) interest bill, has undermined international confidence in Jamaica's long-established reputation of honouring all debt obligations.

The PNP fully acknowledges that there is no easy solution for resolving the economic crisis. There are limited options. The reaction of the private capital markets to the continuing crisis in Europe is clear proof that it will be an uphill task to rebuild investor confidence, both local and foreign.

What is required is a credible macro economic programme which takes into account the following:

- A clear realistic path for the improvement of the main debt ratios, based on tight expenditure management
- A more efficient and equitable tax system
- Reduced corruption and waste and
- Increased support and economic cooperation from international partners

In the face of what may seem as intractable problems, it is important to recall that when the PNP left office in 2007, its macro-economic programme had resulted in consistent improvement in all key indicators. Furthermore, Jamaica's credit-worthiness was established, as acknowledged by major international financial institutions.

The enhanced credibility and predictability of the economic environment was reflected in, *inter alia*:

- Control of inflation, which stood at 5.8% in 2006, and was in single digits in seven of the previous ten years.
- A market-driven foreign exchange system with the Net International Reserves (NIR) in excess of US\$2.3 billion, wiping out the negative reserves inherited from the previous JLP Government.
- Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 3.2% in 2006/2007.
- A reduction in the debt-to-GDP ratio to 108%.
- An unemployment rate of 9.6% and
- A poverty rate of 9.9%.

The country's deteriorating economic situation has grown from the mismanagement of the current Administration which, simultaneously sought to implement election promises, whilst underestimating the impact of the global financial meltdown on the local economy. Having delayed negotiations with the IMF for a Standby Agreement, the JLP Administration agreed to a programme with unrealistic targets. Since September 2010, none of the programmed quarterly "Tests" have been passed. Consequently, draw-downs from the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Union (EU) have ceased, and the Government has failed to develop credible proposals for continuation of the programme, thus putting the country in an economic hiatus.

Under the JLP, the overall competitiveness of the Jamaican economy has nose-dived from 67th position in 2006 to 107th position in 2011, its poorest performance ever. The country's ranking in the World Bank's 'Doing Business' rating has also plummeted from 43rd in 2006 to 88th in 2010, being classified among the world's worst macro-economic environments.

PNP Plans and Strategies:

The PNP recognises that the present crisis demands fiscal responsibility and prudence. However, at the same time, the social crisis requires creative and aggressive growth strategies, which can stimulate the economy and give hope to the people. The PNP recognises that progress in dealing with these challenges will require concerted national effort resulting in meaningful partnerships between the government, the private sector, workers and civil society.

1. We will negotiate a new medium term Agreement with the IMF. This Agreement will place emphasis on stability, growth and development and will be based on credible, and achievable macro economic targets.
2. We accept the need for containment of public spending and the elimination of waste and corruption. Specifically, a PNP Administration will engage with public sector workers in developing an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reduce wages and salaries as a percentage of GDP. We have done this successfully before and commit to doing this again.

3. The PNP believes that **tax reform** is of paramount importance to fiscal sustainability, economic growth and improved social services. An integral part of this reform is the broadening of the tax net and the revamping of the incentives regime as a tool to stimulate growth.
4. We recognise the urgent need for **public sector pension reform**, given the unsustainable burden of pension obligations on the budget. This reform will result from genuine dialogue with the workers and their representatives.
5. Select public assets will be identified and properly packaged for divestment to drive investment, growth and job creation. This will be done in a transparent manner.
6. As a demonstration of the commitment to fiscal responsibility, a PNP Administration will introduce parliamentary processes that will bring greater transparency and participation to the formulation of budgetary and taxation policies. The formulation of the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP) which facilitates the spending of (US)\$400 million, without transparency and accountability or Parliamentary oversight is an example of an approach to be abhorred.
7. There will be a concerted effort to mobilise investments in key productive sectors which will form the basis for the growth strategy. The identified sectors are; ICT, tourism, agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Sector.
8. We will accelerate decision-making on the choice of fuel sources with the principal objective of reducing energy costs for all sectors of the economy.

SECTION TWO: REPOSITIONING THE ECONOMY FOR GROWTH

The focal point of the PNP Administration will be to grow the economy. We are confident that we have the right mix of policies to jump-start the economy in an environment of stable prices. These initiatives should provide the jobs in the numbers needed, reduce poverty levels at a more acceptable pace and improve the quality of life for our people.

To achieve higher levels of production and sustainable productivity, we have identified Energy and Information **and Communication Technology (ICT)** as overarching sectors to reposition the economy for growth.

Energy

No modern economy can operate without energy. It is needed for all aspects of social and economic activity. However, over 90% of Jamaica's energy needs are derived from imported oil, currently, the most expensive source and projected to remain so well into the future.

The high cost of energy has been a debilitating factor for households and businesses alike and has impacted negatively on the country's productivity and competitiveness.

Electrical energy, in particular, is perhaps the most crippling and inimical factor affecting productivity, competitiveness, economic growth and employment. Its impact on all consumers was brought into sharper focus in recent times and has been the subject of several forewarnings by the us.

The PNP Administration will move immediately to ease the burden of the General Consumption Tax (GCT) on electricity bills which was imposed by the current Administration.

Excluding the bauxite and alumina sector, the country uses some 14 million barrels of oil annually for domestic use: approximately 6 million barrels annually each for transportation and the electricity sectors; and close to 2 million barrels annually for a miscellany of other uses. The bauxite and alumina sector, when operating at full capacity uses close to 10 million barrels annually. Whilst the use, by this sector, does not impact directly on the country's balance of payments, it does so indirectly in the volume of production and consequently on the country's export earnings. So, currently, because of the high price of oil, alumina production is at half of its capacity, representing a fall-out of some US\$500 million in gross export earnings.

Previous PNP Administrations have sought to address the energy problems by giving active and consistent leadership with various stakeholders at the national and international levels and will do so when the PNP forms the next Government.

Among the achievements were:

- Initiated **mitigation policies** by suppliers of oil and/or **development financing** from oil purchases. These efforts have been reflected in the **San Jose Accord, the Caracas Energy Accord and Petrocaribe**.
- Encouraged the use of local renewable resources reflected, for example, in the **Wigton Wind Farm**.
- Improved the adequacy and **reliability of electricity supply**, compared to the situation inherited in 1989
- Facilitated a comprehensive **Energy Policy**
- Encouraged **Energy Conservation** through the securing of a **World Bank** loan administered through the JPSCo, for users to **retrofit**: and more latterly, the replacement of more energy-inefficient **incandescent** bulbs with **fluorescent** and/or LED/LCD bulbs.
- Created the **Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)** to regulate the electricity sector, among others.

The rapid escalation of the price of oil since 2006 has had very adverse consequences for the Jamaican economy, affecting the competitiveness of our products (especially bauxite) and the disposable income available to persons for food, clothing, education and health.

The PNP Administration will give effect to the policy to liberalise the Energy Sector. In this context, the role of the Government will be to provide a modern regulatory framework for the sector aimed at stimulating and facilitating private sector exploration and the provision of alternative energy sources.

The re-engineering and retrofitting of the Petrojam Oil Refinery at an approximate cost of some US\$ 1.5 B will be a priority. The Administration will leverage its relationship with the Venezuelan state-owned petroleum company, Petroleum of Venezuela (**PDVSA**) and create a joint venture partnership to access equity and debt financing, hence preventing any need for the GOJ to provide a sovereign debt guarantee. A revamped Refinery will also enable provision of cleaner diesel fuel at a much lower cost. It will also allow for the separation of Petcoke, the cheapest fuel for electricity generation.

The PNP's policy and agenda for energy is guided by a multi-faceted strategy which is consistent with its over-riding objective for.

The PNP is committed to a diversification strategy as an essential element in the reduction of the high cost of energy to include the exploration and exploitation of energy options such as:

- Natural Gas
- Coal, and
- Renewable Sources

Over the medium to longer term, a PNP Administration would be actively involved in the following:

- Giving support to the development of viable renewable energy projects
- Upgrading existing legislation affecting the electricity sector and seeking to alter, to the extent possible, the terms of the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) electricity supply arrangements, to enhance the national interest, to encourage investments by the providers while providing a fair return to them
- Expanding the use of solar energy
- Improving the public transportation system to make it more energy-efficient
- Reviewing and strengthening the OUR to more effectively protect the public interest, while recognising the need for investment in the sector
- Studying the possibilities of introducing nuclear energy as part of the energy supply mix over the longer term.
- Establishing a **National Energy Council** to address relevant issues and affairs of stakeholders.
- Taking the necessary steps to realise earnings from carbon credits.
- Re-activate efforts to explore for oil and gas.
- Reviewing the status of modernisation and expansion proposal of the Petrojam Refinery with a view to early implementation.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project will be re-formulated within the context of a competitive exercise where the market makes a determination as to the fuel sources.

The PNP will lead a national public education campaign in the reduction of the use of electrical energy.

Two of its principal efforts in this regard will be:

- The switching over of its 90,000 street lamps to solar photo-voltaic with the immediate effects of lowering its electricity bill.
- Mandating the increased use of renewable sources of energy and the increased use of energy efficient equipment and processes in government agencies and departments.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Under the previous PNP Administration, Jamaica made giant strides in increasing awareness and access to ICTs. This was achieved through the then Government's bold move in liberalising the telecommunications sector through the dismantling of the Cable & Wireless monopoly on telephony.

The present Government has demonstrated a disappointing lack of understanding of the sector and its potential to play a transformative role in the country's development.

We recognise that the development trajectory for reaping national ICT benefits involves five progressive steps:

- Awareness
- Access
- Diffusion
- Exploitation; and
- Innovation

Plans and Strategies

Short Term

1. Implement effective IT governance framework with clear roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and processes.
2. Exploit digital technologies for governance with emphasis on revenue collection, education, health, poverty-reduction and crime fighting.
 - Greater broadband penetration
 - Extend E-Learning to the primary and basic school system
3. Assume the lead in the creation of a shared service IT framework (G-Cloud) capable of supporting plans for short term cost reductions, improved revenue collection, integrated service delivery and an ultimately seamless government.
4. Encourage and facilitate the use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) to break the stranglehold of proprietary software suppliers and reduce cost, particularly for application software.
5. Remove taxation on selected computers and ICT peripherals.
6. Greater access and use of international best practices.
7. Establishment of a single regulatory authority for the ICT sector given the reality of digital convergence.

Medium Term

1. Implement key elements of the service delivery framework.
2. Fast-track the passage of comprehensive consumer protection provisions that will result in significant savings to consumers and end-users.
3. Promote research and innovation in ICT
4. Deploy resources for training to enlarge the human resource pool.

Long Term

1. Establish the Universal Access Fund (UAF) as an independent entity, similar to the PetroCaribe Fund, under the new Telecommunications Act.

The Fund will also be used to:

- i. Deliver educational solutions at the primary and basic school levels.
 - ii. Create access points at the community level for the transfer of information and community project support
 - iii. Strengthen and widen the country's crime-detection and crime-fighting efforts through the use of technologies, such as public networked camera systems.
2. Position Jamaica as the regional ICT hub.

Government Access to Fibre-Optics

The PNP Government will energise the Government Communications Network (GOVNET) Project dedicated to the infrastructure roll-out for wide-scale broad-band deployment. This project will lead to:

- a. Increasing government efficiency
- b. Reducing the cost of operations for government, particularly in the area of communication through the use of technologies, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephony.

Job Creation

The PNP Administration will place great emphasis on job creation. We recognise the crippling blow to the hopes and aspirations of the general populace dealt by drastically reduced economic activity, job losses and increased poverty. There is recognition of the country's increased indebtedness and fiscal challenges. The private sector is laying off staff and cannot be expected to provide the number of jobs needed. We are of the view that doing nothing is not an option, or this widespread hopelessness could inevitably lead to social chaos.

Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)

It is for those reasons that the PNP has developed **the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)**, which will be implemented in the short term. Funding for part of this initiative will be derived from existing State resources to implement well-designed infrastructure projects, which will simultaneously stimulate economic activity and create employment.

The main source of funding for such projects will be a reallocation of approximately 25% of the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP) budget, complemented by resources from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF). These resources will be channelled into labour-intensive infrastructure projects, such as the construction of retaining walls, paving of gullies and reforestation. Proper systems will be put in place to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency.

The PNP Administration will also provide opportunities for private sector firms to complement the GOJ's JEEP activities in creating employment. Within the context of tax reform, the Administration will act decisively to encourage new investments by existing firms, which create additional employment. The measures to encourage such investments will apply across the board, without sector discrimination. It is anticipated that such special **JEEP Tax Incentives** will be maintained for an initial period of three years, and the programme will then be assessed, particularly in regard to employment and economic growth.

Furthermore, funding will be made available for the GOJ to take equity positions in firms in the MSME sector, on terms whereby the owners can repurchase the shares over a 3-5 year period. It has been discovered that the low take-up of available lines of credit by such firms is directly caused by their limited ability to borrow.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Sector

Special attention will be given to the MSME sector which has the potential for creating a significant number of jobs if provided with the resources.

Based on the November 2010 Labour Force Survey there are 411,000 private enterprises in Jamaica, of which the majority employed fewer than 10 persons. With the majority of firms in the classification of micro, small and medium programmes, policies which support their viability are critical. For the most part, significant elements of the MSME sector tend to be informal economic activities, loosely referred to as micro enterprises.

Micro Enterprises

These are, for the most part, own account activities with 65% of them involved in retail and petty trading. An estimated 11% of these are in the manufacturing sector. While value added is limited, they are important as an element of ‘poverty reduction’ and provide options for those unable to enter the formal sector.

Programme Options

1. The Party is aware of work currently being undertaken in respect of tax reform and our Administration is committed to advancing the process. We accept the value of tax thresholds for key economic activities in the micro enterprise sectors.

This option allows participants to enter the formal sector and make contributions to:

- Payment of NHT
- Payment of NIS

This MSME sector is the most vulnerable and needs to be contributors to both schemes in order to increase access to housing and also to some level of social security payments.

2. Increased Financial Literacy: The new Administration will require that Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) accessing funding from GOJ sources, educate potential clients on borrowing.

Small & Medium Size Firms

Small and medium size enterprises need programme options which are not the same as ‘micro enterprises that are involved in lower value-added activities.’

Programme Options

1. In the case of micro entrepreneurs, the PNP Administration will encourage bringing them into the formal sector thereby allowing for the following gains:
 - Access to credit and other financing options
 - Payment of NHT and NIS
 - Being tax compliant and eligible to register and bid for GOJ contracts.

Focus here would be to encourage formalisation, not so much because of the penalties, but the opportunities.

2. Establish a profit holiday for newly registered small firms to give them an opportunity to stabilise since the first four years of a small firm are the most challenging.

Knowledge-Based ICT Industries

The establishing of near-shore ICT industries has the potential to create significant numbers of higher-end jobs. The Government will seek partnerships with the private sector to build out initially some one million square feet of space for joint venture development of 'plug and play' facilities (configuration of computer hardware-related devices). The provision of land will be the Government's equity in these projects.

The PNP Administration will promote the creation of parish and regional centres of excellence for knowledge-based industries to stimulate local economies and create sustainable jobs. Emphasis will be on the development of education, recreation and health services, ICT, engineering and creative industries as core economic activities.

The Greater Mandeville area has been identified as one location possessing the human resources, health, education and ICT infrastructure which would be suitable for the pioneering of such developments.

Benefits to include:

- i. Increased opportunities for self-employment or job creation especially at the higher end of the range. However, it is in the medium and longer term that the initiatives planned for the sector will result in an explosion of jobs, particularly at the higher end of the range.
- ii. The creative industries as the market for exporting local content
- iii. The public sector will also generate new jobs as a result of the mainstreaming of ICTs into the operations of the Government and its agencies.

The Traditional Productive Sectors

Manufacturing

Despite the challenges faced in recent years, the manufacturing sector remains the largest of the goods producing sectors in the economy, in terms of contribution to GDP (in excess of 8%). The sector also provides employment for just under 80,000 Jamaicans. For that reason, the next PNP Administration will work closely with representatives of the sector to eliminate the main obstacles to growth, as well as to provide an environment more supportive of increased production.

Three areas are selected for special mention.

The first relates to the imperative of reducing the cost of electricity. In the discussion of Energy in this Manifesto, we have outlined the specific steps which will be taken to achieve the objective of reduced electricity costs for the country.

The second initiative will be to guarantee domestic manufacturers the opportunity to supply a minimum percentage of goods being procured by GOJ agencies. Private sector entities will be encouraged to do the same, provided the products are competitive in both price and quality.

The third initiative will be a dedicated, structured programme to increase backward and forward linkages between the manufacture and other sectors of the economy.

The annual food import bill of US\$800 million provides an indication of the possibility of simultaneously saving foreign exchange and increasing output from agro processing activities. A conservative target of the next Administration is to reduce the import bill by US\$20 million per year over the next five years. At the same time, the Administration will establish a formal mechanism to promote such linkages between the tourism, manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

Tourism

Tourism remains a major earner for the Jamaican economy and one which, due to its long-term viability, must be at the heart of any economic programme. The PNP Administration has always implemented, in conjunction with the major sector stakeholders, policies which enhance the tourism product, add value to the vacation of our visitors and promoted a wider and more diverse spread of tourism earnings. The Administration is committed to a mix of options that include all-inclusive resorts, European Plan, villas and apartments and small hotels. This will facilitate related supportive activities to ensure that the benefits are more wide spread.

The growth in the tourism sector during the PNP Administration was guided by the **Tourism Master Plan**, which had been formulated after extensive consultation with stakeholders.

Among the successes were:

1. The unprecedented infrastructural developments, including the expansion of the Sangster International Airport, the Norman Manley International Airport, the North Coast Highway and a number of major water and sewage schemes implemented to support investment in the industry.
2. As part of a policy decision, JAMPRO targeted entrepreneurs in Spain to influence investment in the local industry. This was part of a wider effort to expand the room stock which also saw the construction of the Ritz Carlton and Sandals Whitehouse hotels. As a result of these initiatives, we saw the growth of room stock by more than 7,000 rooms in ten years, financed by the largest inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Jamaica's history. An additional 5,000 rooms were approved and on the "drawing board" when the PNP Administration demitted office, including the Harmony Cove Development.
3. Special emphasis was placed on the diversification of our 'stopover' visitor market, especially with regard to Canada. Since 2004, Jamaica has recorded double-digit growth annually from this market.
4. In cruise shipping, a facility was built in Port Antonio and plans were finalised for a joint venture with Royal Caribbean to construct the port in Falmouth.
5. The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) was established, with a mandate to improve and enhance the tourism product in Jamaica to enable the implementation of the Tourism Master Plan.
6. Plans for the Montego Bay Convention Centre were completed and funding for construction was identified.

Health Tourism

Jamaica is uniquely poised to take advantage of the health tourism market given its international communication system, airports, seaports, climate and unique hospitality industry. A PNP Government will encourage and facilitate private sector investment in this area that has the potential of realising significant economic returns and becoming a major job provider.

The areas to encourage include:

- Spas and wellness centres
- Ecotourism centres
- Medical Health Tourism – Alternative Health/Ethnomedicines
- Convalescent and retirement centres
- Incorporating facilities into existing hotels

Government will continue to explore national and international options for development of spas, particularly in the case of Milk River and Bath Mineral Spas, within the full context of the rights of the people,

Imperatives for the Future

The People's National Party will:

- Ensure that there is **planned integrated infrastructural development of Resort areas**. Consensus will be sought on a plan that outlines development along the North and South coasts which will include all elements such as housing, water supply, sewerage, transportation and environment protection measures.
- Ensure **better and more inclusive participatory governance of the Tourism Sector** by restoring restructured Resort Boards as a tool for consultation and management of the development of the resort areas.
- **Continue the development of the Cruise Ship Sector**.
- Pursue the development of **Harmony Cove**.
- Ensure the protection of the environment to guarantee sustainability of our product.
- **Upgrade, beautify and enhance resort areas** using the TEF following pre-approved plans designed by resort architects.
- Continue to **diversify our overseas markets** by focusing more on the potential of the European, UK and Canadian markets and to explore market activities in the emerging markets particularly Latin America and Asia.
- Continue to **expand airlift** into Jamaica
- Focus on **increasing the revenue earned from the sector**.
- Ensure that **pension schemes and planned housing benefits are put in place for workers** in the hotel industry.
- Deepen and widen tourism linkages with other sectors of the economy and ensure that more tourism dollars stay in Jamaica.
- The **Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF)** will be restored to its original mandate of being a transformational source of funding for the industry.
- **Enhance the visitor experience** by developing, expanding and diversifying, the number of available attractions which showcase our heritage and culture.
- **Community-based tourism** will be promoted by creating a **Heritage/Culture Development Unit** at the Tourism Product Development Company. Community projects will be evaluated, and assistance provided to access loan funds through TEF.
- **Develop the Craft Sector** using TEF resources to upgrade the physical infrastructure of craft markets, expand and diversify their product offerings, assist with training in new methodologies, technologies and marketing.
- **Provide support for the small and medium hotel sector** by funding special dedicated marketing programmes targeting clusters.
- **Pursue the development of specific market segments** of tourism for which Jamaica is ideally suited, e.g. sports tourism, and health tourism.
- **Expand the tourism awareness campaigns** in communities and schools

Mining

Jamaica's bauxite and alumina sector has been in the doldrums since early 2009 when three of the four alumina plants, Ewarton, Kirkvine and Alpart, were closed, largely because of the impact of the cost of oil. The situation improved slightly when the Ewarton plant was reopened. However, this reopening was on terms that greatly reduced the net earnings from the plant. The country's annual unused capacity represents some US\$500 million of potential gross foreign exchange earnings.

With UCRusal now owning 70% of Jamaica's alumina sector and with the proposed sale of Clarendon Alumina Partners (CAP) share of Jamalco to Glencore, this could move to 85%.

In light of the foregoing, the PNP Administration will give priority attention to the following:

- Determine the *modus operandi* to deal with the existence of a dominant player so that Jamaica's best interests can be protected.
- Restore full production at Alpart and Kirkvine, as quickly as possible.
- Give the companies the flexibility to replace fuel oil with cheaper alternative fuel.
- Require that priority focus be given by Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) in identifying at least 30 years of processable reserves for all plants at their maximum production.
- Ensure that priority attention is given by all the companies to supporting agricultural activities on lands before mining, and the rapid restoration of lands after mining, to enable agricultural, housing or other uses.
- Ensure environmental 'Best Practices' across operations.
- Work with the Companies to secure their assistance in training youth in vocational skills to enhance their prospects of employment.
- Ensure that mining companies rehabilitate mined lands within three years after they have been mined.
- Develop a comprehensive land rehabilitation plan for the mining industry, particularly the Bauxite/Alumina Industry.

Non Bauxite/Alumina sectors will receive focus. Limestone is the most common mineral found in Jamaica. The world demand for limestone and limestone products is significant. Its mining and production can be facilitated through an upgrade of the existing rail service, which will link the production centres with major ports. The private sector will be encouraged to lead in this area.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Whilst it is the intention of the PNP Administration to diversify the economy at a faster pace, by exploiting the opportunities afforded in “new” sectors such as ICT, there is no question that agriculture will remain one of the main planks of the national economy. However, the socio-economic development of rural Jamaica is inextricably linked to the growth and modernisation of the agricultural sector. In this regard, the next PNP Administration will focus greater attention on increased food security.

The objective of food security assumes increased significance for small island states such as Jamaica, which are net importers of food. Jamaica’s annual food import bill over the last few years has averaged over US\$800 million. In this scenario, import substitution to boost food security and enhanced rural development and employment, is of paramount importance.

The Administration will focus on the following:

1. Development of starch derived from roots and tubers to support the carbohydrate requirement of the nation. This support will promote the expansion of production of sweet and irish potatoes, cassava, yam and bananas through incentives such as the supply of inputs, extension service and research. An objective of this programme is the production of flour from these products which could be mixed with imported wheat in the production of a variety of products. The Administration will take the lead by mandating the involvement of the school-feeding programme as well as other state institutions such as hospitals and prisons.
2. The development and expansion of herbs such as mint and cerasee, which are used in the expanding tea manufacturing subsector, which now sources herbs extra-regionally. Jamaica has the potential to produce in quantities to satisfy the needs of CARICOM.
3. Resuscitation of the fruit tree crop programme under which government provides seedlings, loans and grants for land preparation to qualified farmers.
4. The orientation of investment promotion activities to exploit the potential of the export of roots, tubers, herbs, spices and fresh vegetables. This could be facilitated by the promotion of strategic partnerships with wholesale and retail outlets in North America and Europe with producers in Jamaica.
5. The Administration through RADA, will:
 - i. Organise farmers to produce for export at the requisite quality and consistency, through the provision of proper technical advisory services.
 - ii. Collaborate with the major retail chains to partner with farmers

- iii. Continue the construction of ‘packing houses’ and offer these to interested investors who are willing to contract with farmers.
6. Develop farmsteads for young graduates of agricultural institutions. These farmsteads would comprise a starter-housing unit on 5-10 acres equipped with irrigation and other infrastructure necessary for modern farming activities. The production on the farmsteads would be driven by available markets which the government will assist the young farmers to identify.
7. Continue the implementation of the **National Irrigation Development Plan (NIDP)** which was formulated and approved by Cabinet in 1998. This is critical to combating the impact of climate change and overcoming marginal productivity associated with rain-fed agriculture. A new component will be added to the NIDP, which is the installation of solar or other alternative energy sources at critical facilities served by JPS in order to reduce the cost of irrigated water and promote efficiency and increase productivity.
8. Promulgation of policy positions as follows:
 - i) A **National Food Security Policy** consistent with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) guidelines that focus on:
 - Food availability
 - Food accessibility
 - Food Safety
 - Effective Utilisation and Consumption
 - Stability
 - ii) A **National Fisheries Policy**
 - Resuscitating inland fisheries
 - Legislation to eliminate poaching
 - Revisit importation policy
 - iii) A **Policy on Apiculture**
 - iv) A **Policy on Nutraceuticals**
 - v) **Policy on Genetically-Modified Foods**
 - Public awareness of safety factor
 - vi) **Policy on Nutrition of Children in Public Schools**, to improve dietary offerings and making use of local produce and products.
9. Finalise the Praedial Larceny Prevention Programme.
10. Develop and implement a strategic programme to, resuscitating conserve and facilitate the orderly development of a viable ruminant Livestock Sector

Programme Initiatives to Enhance Competitiveness

Economic competitiveness must be supported by well-developed institutions that govern how business is conducted. A major focus will be to promote practices that are in keeping with modern business. This will require restructuring institutions that were built to support a period of economic development that is now outdated.

These include the following:

- i. Establishment of a Venture Capital facility, **the Jamaica 50 Growth and Development Fund (J50GDF)**, that will provide entrepreneurs with venture capital, collateral support and capacity building, aimed at facilitating the conversion and transformation of creative ideas into innovative products and services for the local and global markets. Funded by private debt and equity sources, the J50GDF will be an innovative financing approach to overcome the historic difficulty of moving ideas through to practical valuable products.
- ii. **A Council on Competitiveness, Innovation and Creativity** will be established to address Jamaica's long-run productivity that has been in consistent decline for several decades. The Administration will spearhead initiatives to convert Jamaican innovation into the local production of goods and services, thereby spurring economic activity and job creation.
- iii. **A Special ICT Broadband Regime for MSMEs** will be established as a critical infrastructure for sustainability, firm management efficiency, transparency, accountability and integration.
- iv. **The National Export Strategy (NES)** will be reviewed to ensure its alignment with, and relevance to, trends in the global marketplace and to improve the balance of payments deficit.
- v. The PNP recognises the potential benefits of initiatives such as the recently announced **Aid-for-Trade** policy and **Compete Caribbean** programmes and will partner with the private sector, the unions and civil society in leveraging the bilateral/multilateral resources available under these programmes to assist in the further development of the business sector and to build capacity in the relevant agencies and departments of the public sector.
- vi. Research indicates that a major constraint on MSMEs is in basic management skills. Support will be given for the training of MSME business owners in Enterprise Risk Management.
- vii. **Tax policy for the encouragement of innovation.** There is an intense competition being conducted globally for securing innovation-based and knowledge-based

businesses; both from the perspective of retaining domestic innovators who may be attracted away by other firms, as well as in attracting overseas innovators to our shores.

- viii. The imposition of GCT on ICT products in 2009 impacted negatively on the increasing usage of the ICT technology. The existing policy regime will be adjusted as a matter of priority in order to support firms in meeting the challenges of globalisation.

Encouraging Innovation, Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship

Science and Technology

Science and Technology (S&T) will be a central and all embracing feature with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) providing leadership. All sectors of our society and economy will be incorporated in a national preoccupation with the role of science and technology.

It will return to the centre of national focus as the main tools we will use to achieve growth and development. All sectors of our society and economy will be encouraged to focus on research and development and the application of more indigenous and imported science and technology applications to all aspects of our existence.

Apart from the all-embracing role of Information Communication Technologies, a PNP Government will provide incentives to businesses, especially small and medium sized, to become more competitive and efficient through relevant applications of science and technology.

The incoming Prime Minister will resume the chairmanship of the **National Commission of Science and Technology**, as a lead institution along with the Scientific Research Council to drive S and T.

The PNP will support the growth of innovation and entrepreneurship. This is where there will be genuine growth in the national economy.

Special awards for innovation and inventions will be established. And, we will also return to a programme to update our intellectual property rights legislation that will provide more protection for our innovators.

- Special incentives will be provided to support innovation and research and development. This will support not just the development, but market testing, and a full, live roll out of products.
- Intellectual property rights legislation will be updated to provide more protection for innovators.

Global Dimensions

Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Jamaica's regional and international trade and investment policies will require strong support and guidance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), which possesses the relevant diplomatic and negotiating skills and information bases to support effective implementation.

The People's National Party has historically provided leadership in the sphere of international relations and foreign policy. This includes, but is not confined to, the decision by the Administration led by Norman Manley to impose sanctions on the Apartheid Government of South Africa; and the visionary leadership of Michael Manley in opening up relationships with several countries in the Non-aligned Movement such as Cuba, Venezuela and countries of Eastern Europe. His successor, P.J. Patterson engendered mutually beneficial relationships with countries that were considered emerging nations such as China, Brazil and South Africa and which have now taken their place as leading world economies and global decision-makers.

As the world experiences one of its worst financial crises, the PNP is aware that any programme of recovery must be based on building coalitions with other developing countries, nurturing our traditional relationships with countries such as the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America, having a distinctive voice in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and enhancing co-operation with the new emerging economies.

The foreign policy of the next PNP Administration will be bold and visionary, taking cognisance of the seismic shifts that have occurred on the global landscape and will return Jamaica to its once premier position of a respected voice on the international stage.

The People's National Party recognises the pivotal role played by the Jamaican Diaspora, both in terms of their commitment and contribution to the development of Jamaica and their constant advocacy on behalf of our country. Respective PNP Administrations have created active collaborative mechanisms to enable this community to be a part of our development efforts. The next PNP Administration will continue this process and provide new and varying opportunities to give voice to Jamaica's Diaspora.

Our initiatives will include:

- 1) Reviving the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as a regional institution for effective, functional and foreign policy co-operation with renewed emphasis on the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).
- 2) Recognising the BRIC countries (grouping that refers to the countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) as the major emerging global economic and political force, thus pursuing diplomatic and other initiatives to strengthen our mutual relationships.
- 3) Positioning Jamaica to take advantage of the potential for reciprocal technical co-operation and opportunities for investment with the Middle East and the Arab world.
- 4) Becoming an active and effective voice in the global and regional debate on climate change, especially as this affects **Small Island Developing States** (SIDS).
- 5) Continuing to strengthen alliances with other countries in the Hemisphere .
- 6) Reviewing our External Trade Policy and continuing our advocacy at the multilateral level for a rules-based system in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as critical to our approach to economic diplomacy in the search for investment.
- 7) Strengthening our role in the Commonwealth of nations.
- 8) Assuming a leadership role in advocacy for the reform of international financial institutions, particularly in light of the current global financial crisis. This will include stimulating rethinking the question of the treatment of Small Highly Indebted Middle Income Countries (SHIMIC) and the need for sustained diplomatic initiatives with the international community.
- 9) Promote collaboration, especially at the regional level, about transnational issues relating to small arms and drug transshipment, which are critical to the safety and security of our people.

SECTION THREE: GOVERNANCE AND THE CREATION OF AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The PNP Government is committed to building and sustaining a social partnership, which brings together the private sector and labour to work together to achieve our development goals.

We are of the view that the private sector is the main engine of growth and have a special role to play in pursuing opportunities for productive investments.

Public/Private local and international partnerships will be pursued for new investments and for the divestment of select public entities.

Workers and their trade union organisations are important partners and their contribution is crucial for the national drive towards increased production and productivity.

The PNP recognises that Jamaicans stand their best chance of self-actualisation and the achievement of individual and collective goals when they are provided with the appropriate socio-economic and political environment that is nurturing and empowering. These interventions will ultimately provide them with the social and institutional framework within which they can strive and succeed.

In this environment Jamaicans will be connected with, and be a part of a community, which is inclusive and protective of the rights, interests and values of all.

For such an environment to be realised the PNP commits to the following:

- 1) The re-creation of the **Public Service** into a modern, responsive and efficient support mechanism with a new mandate to serve and support all Jamaicans.
- 2) The re-establishment of a fully developed local government structure, as a means of broadening the participatory process in decision-making; and, to promote real and lasting community development. It is a central tenet and principle of the Party that **Local Government Reform** in this context, represents the most effective means of democratising decision-making, thus ensuring that the voice of the people is the guiding principle.
- 3) Enhancing a functional and harmonious relationship between the State, labour, capital, and civil society coalitions. Functionality within these relationships requires sincerity, transparency, effective communication and trust. To this end the Development Council, which was established by the last PNP Administration, and provided a forum for dialogue and consultation for the framing of economic and social policies will be revived.

- 4) Preserving a secure and protective environment to support individual pursuits, economic activity and investment. Recent positive trends in homicide statistics are welcome, but only represent a starting point. The PNP is dedicated to altering and improving institutional arrangements, particularly within the police force; relentlessly targeting organised crime and engendering trust between the critical stakeholders.
- 5) Acknowledging the essential truth in the often quoted refrain that "***there can be no peace without justice,***" the PNP plans to prioritise, the process of law reform and the courts system will be re-arranged and strengthened, particularly in line with the **Justice System Task Force** recommendations.
- 6) **Constitutional Reform** initiatives which were agreed by both sides of Parliament since 1995 will be pursued.
- 7) Encourage and facilitate the use of ICTs nationally aimed at increasing individual and collective productivity levels in the public and commercial sectors.

A New Partnership for Governance

Good governance must be open, accountable, responsive and inclusive. It is best promoted through a partnership which embraces civil society, community groups, citizen associations, sectoral interest groups, church and organized labour.

The PNP is committed to building that partnership which will also result in people centred development. It will contribute to the deepening of the democratic rights of the population by encouraging meaningful civic participation in decision-making.

Through greater involvement of the people in the setting of both national and community priorities, they are empowered. Mutual respect and self esteem are thereby enhanced.

Within the Westminster system of Parliamentary democracy, the PNP will fashion new consultative mechanisms for the meaningful inclusion of civil society, including non-governmental organisations in the constantly changing governance landscape.

The PNP has steadfastly pursued the reform of the electoral system. As a result, we now have in place a credible system with an **Electoral Commission** at the core. In addition, there has been technological and legislative reform making it internationally recognised as one of the best in the world. This has led to the erosion of abuse to ensure... "***One man, one vote, same man same vote.***"

The challenge is to ensure that those communities, which have been stigmatised are included in human and infrastructural development possibilities. This will require the concerted effort, not only by the Government, but from all, including the private sector and civil society groups.

1. The Public Sector

Jamaica, like every modern democratic state requires an effective Public Sector to carry out: enabling servicing and regulatory functions. Successive PNP Administrations have sought to improve the quality of governance through various means.

Among them are:

- The establishment of a **Public Accounts Committee** in 1959 and opening it up to the public in 1991.
- The creation of a **Ministry of the Public Service** in 1973, subsequently a part of the Cabinet Office.
- The conversion of the **Cabinet Office from a Secretariat to an Executive Office**, Ministry Paper #19, 2001.
- The inculcation of a culture of good customer service through agencies establishing **Citizens' Charters** to guide their conduct *vis-a-vis* citizens' customers and the holding of customer service competitions between Agencies, 1994.
- The creation of a **National Contracts Commission** by law in 1999.
- The creation of **Executive Agencies** beginning in 1999.
- The creation of a **National Corruption Commission** with a Corruption Prevention Act in 2002.
- The enactment of an **Access to Information Act** in 2002.
- The creation of a **Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act** in 2002 from recommendations from the Thorburn Committee.
- The establishment of **Guidelines Governing the Conduct of Cabinet Ministers**.

The Party recognises that much more needs to be done within limited resources to meet the reasonable expectations of the society, including facilitating sustainable economic growth, the creation of employment and the reduction of poverty.

The role of the State through the Public Sector includes but is not limited to:

- The maintenance of law and order
- The provision of a good education at the primary and secondary levels and strong support at the early childhood and tertiary levels
- The provision of an acceptable health care system especially with preventive and primary interventions

- The alignment of the national sports policy aligned to the country's health and economic goals
- The development and strengthening of a recreation-friendly environment aimed at advancing physical and mental wellbeing
- The provision of an enabling environment to facilitate appreciable and sustainable economic growth.
- The protection of vulnerable elements in the society - children, the aged, the sick, and infirm, poor and persons mentally and physically challenged.
- The provision of social safety nets
- The protection of the environment
- The mediation of disputes and the mitigation of conflicts
- The empowerment of citizens for democratic governance
- The pursuit of foreign economic and political relations to promote the national interest and contribute to a world of good order, peace, social and economic justice and human right.

In keeping with the economic realities which confront us, the PNP undertakes to maintain a pragmatic balance between its discharge of the roles outlined above and the reality of the Government's budgetary limits.

Relationship with Unions Representing the Public Sector

The present Administration has pursued a policy of autocracy, insincerity, and disrespect for labour and for the respective collective bargaining units, which represent the major public sector professionals and work groups.

This approach has resulted in a significant decline in the trust factor, which is an integral part of a successful industrial relations environment. The Government has reneged on its promise to engage the social partners in discussions on the Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF); as well as, to involve all stakeholders and interest groups in the formulation of the budget.

The PNP's Policy towards labour will be pursued through a commitment to dialogue, negotiation and information sharing among stakeholders, social partners and civil society. It will involve all stakeholders in discussion on Agreements with the IMF and in the formulation of the national Budget.

The PNP will take into account:

- The work of the **Public Sector Transformation Unit (PSTU)** and the **Public Sector Modernisation Division (PSMD)** of the Cabinet Office, which were established before the PNP left office in 2007.

- The need to reduce the allocation for public sector wages and salaries, as a percentage of GDP and total government expenditure. This reduction will be arrived at through frank dialogue with the workers and their representatives, as was done in the development of the historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2003/2004.
- The recommendations of the **Public Administration and Appropriations Committee** of Parliament.
- The reality that 60% and more of the budget is in four important areas of government—Education, Health, Security and Justice.
- The services which may not be provided in the event of staff cuts and the implications for the society.
- The services which can be removed from the budget, but still be provided on a ‘user pay’ basis and the implications for vulnerable elements in our society who must have access to these services.
- How ICT needs can be met within the constraints of the budget.
- The need to strengthen, as a matter of urgency, the capacity of agencies which facilitate investment, production, employment and economic growth.
- The need to be able to attract and retain professionals of the highest levels of competence to the Public Service.
- Ensure that the **Public Sector Monitoring Committee** returns to regular meetings to address the issues and concerns existing in the public service.

2. People Participation: Local Government and Community Development

The PNP remains committed to the deepening of People Participation, the re-establishment of a fully developed local government structure and promotion of real and lasting community development.

This includes accountability; effectiveness and efficiency; participation; transparency; responsiveness; consensus and equity.

Good governance is an essential pillar of economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

And good governance can only be achieved when citizens are empowered on a broad basis to participate meaningfully in the making of decisions which affect their lives, property, interests and communities. This is the critical building block to successful nation building.

The new PNP Administration will:

Establish a **Ministry with portfolio responsibility for Local Government and Community Development**. This Ministry will focus on social transformation in collaboration with other ministries at the parish or municipal levels.

- Create a **modern legal framework**, including the entrenchment of Local Government in the Constitution and a comprehensive revision of existing local government legislation to reflect the new paradigm of participatory governance, local self- management, accountability, openness and transparency.
- Establish **Town Councils**, where appropriate, to enable better management of the affairs of towns and their surrounding communities; and thereby facilitate greater participation of citizens and communities in running the affairs of the towns.
- Officially recognise **Parish Development Committees** (PDCs), along with **Development Advisory Committees** (DACs) and **Community Development Committees** (CDCs), and give them legal status with clearly defined roles and functions

Financing of and Financial Management in Local Government

- Review the **Parochial Revenue Fund** to improve its ability to meet the financing needs of the Local Authorities, and to expand it to include Spirit Licence Fees, as well as other revenue sources.
- Strengthen the financial management system and audit functions for improved accountability.
- Enhance accountability and good governance through the establishment of **Local Public Accounts Committees** by all Local Authorities.

3. Labour

During the previous PNP Administration there was significant improvement in industrial relations, a situation which contributed to the reduction of unemployment and resulted in a stable industrial climate.

The new PNP Administration will resume its mission to ensure that qualified Jamaicans in the workforce are able to obtain decent work and to enjoy the rights and conditions appertaining thereto.

We will also provide the labour relations framework in which investors, as well as owners and managers of enterprises will maintain good relations with workers, optimising productivity and ensuring safety at the workplace.

Opportunities will be sought to create joint venture partnerships with local and overseas interests to expand employment, especially in fields where Jamaican workers have a competitive advantage.

Against this background, the restoration and strengthening of the **National Productivity Council** will be critically important for the thrust towards sustainable economic growth.

Specifically the new PNP Government will

- Re-establish the **International Labour Organisation's** (ILO's) concept of 'decent work' at the core of our industrial relations system
- Restore trust as the centrepiece of our socio-industrial relationships; and
- Promote a socio-industrial model which emphasises the achievement of:
 - Economic growth
 - Infrastructure Improvement
 - Social development

- Establish a **Labour Market Reform Unit** as an important condition to stimulate investment and job creation;
- Promote a culture of productivity through training
- Devise a **Wage Policy** with the participation of the trade unions, which is appropriate to the country's economic reality
- Continue the reform of the **Labour Advisory Committee**, started under the last PNP Administration, to give it legislative support and provide the institutional capacity to effect change
- Ensure adequate social protection for workers.

4. National Security

For many years Jamaicans have lived under the threat of violence and criminality on a scale that has negatively impacted the national psyche, and stymied economic growth and investment.

To effectively address the scourge of violent crime the PNP will pursue a three-pronged approach to national security.

These are:

- Institutional improvements
- Targeting organised crime
- Engendering trust

Focus will be on the following:

The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)

In recognition of its pivotal role in national security, a future PNP Government will strengthen its capacity, both human and institutional, to allow it to maintain its high professional standards consistent with its mandate.

The Police Force

The Police Force is the most important agency in the country's campaign against crime. The PNP has recommended, and the Government has accepted that there should be established a **Police Management Authority (PMA)**, a statutory authority, with jurisdiction over all matters relating to the constitution, management, administration and regulation of the police force. This will necessitate the repealing of the **Jamaica Constabulary Force Act**, the **Special Constables Act** and the **District Constables Act**. Other legislative measures will need to be undertaken in order to transfer the functions of the **Police Services Commission** and the **Police Civilian Oversight Authority** to the PMA.

This change is geared towards the modernisation of the police force to meet the challenges which confront the society.

Modernisation will entail the following:

Targeting Organized Crime

The PNP has a proven track record in the campaign against organised crime. It has led the way in weakening the nexus between politics and organised crime, including through some highly publicised interdictions and interventions, without any external prompting.

In recognising the typical trans-national character of organised crime, the previous PNP Government embarked on a deliberate policy of cooperation between local law enforcement bodies and international enforcement partners, to ensure the extradition of criminal 'dons' to countries with evidentially stronger jurisdictional claims against them. This has always been done without any compromise to our sovereignty; and in practical acknowledgement of the enormous resources available to trans-national criminals; but, with an unrelenting resolve to secure their conviction by all available legal and constitutional means.

Engendering Trust

Many Jamaicans harbour a deep-seated distrust of the police. Within the society this distrust goes hand in hand with the "*informer fi dead*" subculture. These attitudes and counter cultural mores render effective policing very difficult. This dysfunctional feature of ours has evolved over decades and will take time and effort to reverse.

The new PNP Government, in tandem with the police, will seek to change this sub-culture. This change will be directed to the development of a different ethos in the Police Force which is based on a true partnership with the community and by changing the approach of the leadership of the police to one which embraces service, accountability and a de-centralisation of authority.

Within this new paradigm the Police Force will be repositioned as a civilian law enforcement organisation. Special units will be developed and maintained with special capabilities to deal with situations of extreme violence. These units will operate in tandem with the JDF. The fundamental principle of this new approach to policing is the acknowledgement that effective crime reduction will only be sustained if it is based on the citizens reposing trust and confidence in the Police Force, thus conferring on it the legitimacy to operate optimally.

Development of a Forensic Science Programme

The new PNP Administration will oversee the development of a **Forensic Science Programme** at the tertiary level. This will ensure the development of a professional cadre of forensic scientists and crime scene investigators. Presently our law enforcement capacity does not capture the highest levels of training or technology needed to keep pace with the increasing challenges of criminality.

The Correctional System

The PNP recognises that the majority of persons who are incarcerated will eventually re-enter society. It is, therefore, in the interest of the society that these persons be rehabilitated, re-trained and equipped with conflict-resolution skills. We will focus on the improvement of conditions in these facilities and the re-socialisation of inmates.

5. Justice

The PNP is convinced that there is an urgent need to reform and modernise the justice system and its major institutions. A blueprint already exists in the proposal for a **National Council of Justice** on the inclusion of civil society in a structural way within proposals for the justice system that could be a template for national adaptation. It will contribute to the proper administration of justice, as well as the protection and promotion of respect for fundamental human rights.

To that end, a Peoples National Party Government will act on the recommendations embodied in the 2007 **Jamaican Justice System Reform Task Force Report** for the establishment of a National Council on Justice, comprised of a broad cross-section of persons, to include civic, church and grassroots organisations

The National Council on Justice will advise the Government on all major legislative or other changes for the improvement of the Justice System; and receive recommendations on various legal issues, as well as initiate its own recommendations for reform.

The Council will also monitor and evaluate reforms in a series of regularly scheduled analyses of Jamaica's Justice System. By these initiatives, civil society will assist in easing the burden that rests on a forever challenged sector.

The new PNP Administration will undertake the following:

- The establishment of a stronger and more independent law reform vehicle to be named **The National Council on Justice** formulated pursuant to the recommendations of the Justice Reform Task Force.
- Undertake **modernisation of the court system** in such a manner as to achieve greater efficiency in the use of resources; as well as greater productivity and increased accountability. This will be achieved by strengthening the management capabilities of court administrators and by the re-training and re-tasking of court staff. This programme will result in the speedier and more effective disposal of court cases; and, with the ultimate reduction, then elimination of the backlog, which currently makes a mockery of the administration of justice.
- Place strong emphasis on **strengthening the capacity of the Commercial Court** and explore the feasibility of expanding specialist courts or tribunals to deal with matters such as motor vehicle accidents.

6. Parliament and Constitutional Reform

Constitutional And Legal Reform

A People's National Party Government is committed to Jamaica completing the circle of independence. Movement on the constitutional reform initiatives that have been agreed by both sides of Parliament since 1995 has been all too slow. As we approach our 50th anniversary as an independent nation, we pledge to lead the process for Jamaica's detachment from the Monarchy and for our country to assume the status of a Republic with our indigenous President as Head of State.

We will also complete the long journey of de-linking from the Judicial Committee of the **Privy Council** as our final Court of Appeal and fully embracing the jurisdiction of the **Caribbean Court of Justice**.

A PNP Government will move swiftly to enlist the co-operation of the Opposition to implement the recommended arrangements for a consensual approach to the appointment to membership of the Constitutional Commissions and to sensitive positions within the Public Service.

7. Legislative/Administrative Reform

In support of a modern commercial architecture to support higher levels of investment and economic growth, priority will be given to pursuing the following important legislative interventions:

- **Individual and Corporate Insolvency Act** will be pursued to replace the existing Bankruptcy Act and the pre-1948 provisions in the Companies Act in relation to companies which have financial difficulties. The emphasis will be on allowing breathing room for businesses which have the potential to survive if allowed a reasonable period of time in which to restructure their financial arrangements; via mechanisms which encourage orderly arrangements that fairly balance the interests of secured and unsecured creditors, shareholders and employees as against those of individuals and/or companies.
- The urgently needed amendments to the **Companies Act 2004** will be introduced, to eliminate the anomalies which now exist.
- **A Secured Transactions Act** will be pursued, to introduce a clear, modern and low-cost system for taking security over assets other than land, and provide certainty as to available remedies, the rules for resolving competing interests in collateral, and a searchable database to enable existing security interests to be discoverable. This will complement the introduction of **Credit Bureaus**, and reduce the systemic risks associated with secured lending against motor cars and other movable assets. The intended outcomes are easier access to credit, on better terms, for consumers, and enhanced financial flows, especially into the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- A modern **Mutual Funds Act** will be pursued to facilitate securities' dealers reducing their reliance on repurchase agreements, an objective which promotes financial sector stability.
- Legislation will be enacted to facilitate portability for cell phone numbers.

The new Government will effect changes in certain revenue collection areas for speed and efficiency. These include:

- Eliminating the need for company formation documents to be stamped at the Stamp Office. This will be achieved by increasing the registration fee by the corresponding amount.
- Collecting transfer tax and stamp duty on real estate sale transactions and on mortgages at the **Office of Titles** when the transfer is sent for registration, thereby eliminating the need for multiple time consuming excursions in and out of the Stamp Office that currently cause unnecessary delays in completing these basic transactions

Other Priority legislative initiatives which will be pursued include:

- Revisiting the **Fair Competition and Customs Duties Act**, promoting fair competition and market access in the domestic economy.
- **Mergers & Acquisitions Review Clause**, to ensure transparency and oversight
- **Consumer Credit Terms Act**, to provide protection to consumers from unreasonable clauses in contracts.
- **Secured Obligations Act** – to enable full-disclosure to protect lenders.
- **Ratification of the Madrid Protocol**, to enable local innovators to enjoy affordable and timely access to global patent protection of our intellectual property, a key element in new business development and job creation, especially in the creative industries.

8. Information Communication and Technology (ICT)

Jamaica is at that crucial point in the growth of its ICT sector and is well positioned to reap full benefits. The PNP understands this and is capable of leading Jamaica to the next stage of development

This next stage will involve using ICT as:

- An enabler of more efficient government operations
- A source of job creation
- A tool of empowerment for citizens
- A major support for the education sector, and
- A spur to innovation

SECTION FOUR: SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

Quality Education and Health for the 21st Century and Beyond

The PNP affirms its unequivocal belief in the right of access to quality education and health care for all Jamaicans. There is clearly an existing and growing need for additional resources if we are to enjoy the desired standard of services in these fields. We remain committed to ensuring that the access to such services should not be determined by the ability to pay.

A careful review of the factors impacting on these sectors will be undertaken to ensure that administrative and organisational efficiencies are maximised and that standards are not compromised. The health and the education of all our people are the lifeblood of a vibrant and productive citizenry

Education

Our Party has traditionally emphasised the importance of education to the advancement and wellbeing of individuals and their families, as well as to national development.

In 2004, the Task Force appointed by the then incumbent Prime Minister, the Most Hon. P.J. Patterson, presented a **Report on the Reform of the Education System**. The content of this Report was consistent with the mandate given to members of the National Task Force to create a world-class education system designed to generate the human capital and produce the skills necessary for Jamaican citizens to compete in the global economy.

The Report contained some 100 recommendations which were presented in the following categories:

- Governance
- Curricula
- Behaviour
- Stakeholder
- Financing

Since its presentation, the Task Force Report has become the blueprint for the development of the sector and, over the past seven years, has been the source of all attempts to transform the system.

The next PNP Administration will review the status of the implementation of the recommendations; and will make necessary adjustments, consistent with the objective of an

educated citizenry operating at world class levels and enjoying the quality of life which flows from their achievements.

Given the need to accelerate the transformation of the system, in the context of the realities of Jamaica's development demands and the global challenges, the PNP Government will identify those significant interventions that will have fundamental system-wide quality impact.

These will include:

- 1) A laser-like focus on enhancing teacher quality
- 2) Ensuring continued priority to literacy and numeracy
- 3) Interventions for the 200 lowest performing primary schools and secondary schools that fall below an established performance threshold
- 4) Fast-tracking the new institutional arrangements that enable the achievement of the above objectives
- 5) Refocusing on quality and access issues at the early childhood education level
- 6) Reviewing various tertiary education loan financing models - including the one introduced in the United Kingdom - with a view to arriving at the most appropriate model (or mix of models) in consultation with the relevant stakeholders to be introduced on a phased basis in Jamaica.

Improving Teacher Quality

There is growing consensus on the quantum leap that improved teacher quality can provide in underperforming systems. Consequently, the next PNP Government will implement measures to enhance the stature and public regard for teachers.

These will include:

- Implementing the recommendation of the Task Force that an undergraduate degree become the minimum qualification for teachers
- Supporting a technical assistance and financing programme for institutional strengthening and improvement of the infrastructure of teacher-training institutions, to enable them to prepare cohorts consistent with the best professional standards
- Facilitating continuing professional development opportunities for current members of the profession
- Developing a comprehensive programme, including scholarships to the tertiary level and special post graduation opportunities, aimed at recruiting high-performing secondary school leavers into the teaching profession
- Supporting a public education programme to enhance the image and stature of the profession
- Examining the current mandate of the **Jamaica Teaching Council** to ensure that the entity will be effective in enhancing the standards and practice of the teaching profession
- Prioritising the passage of legislation and other enabling mechanisms to make the Council functional
- Establishing a **Virtual Leadership Training Institute** using the ICT model of integrating offerings into the existing institutions

School Improvement

Fundamental to any process of transformation must be the improvement in the academic performance and social mores of the students. This takes place at the school site.

Current data indicate that there are some 200 poor performing primary schools. Analysis of the relevant data can also identify the cluster of secondary schools requiring systematic intervention.

The next PNP Administration will:

- Undertake institutional strengthening of the **National Inspectorate** to enable the entity to undertake comprehensive evaluations of these selected schools
- Establish the **School Improvement Services** at the regional levels
- Initiate a **National Volunteers Call-Up** to identify high performing, competent teachers and principals who have retired, but who possess the experience and competence to lead or be members of school improvement teams. Private sector entities with staff who may be trained teachers would be encouraged to sponsor such persons for a period of work within the education sector.
- Group the identified schools and assign **School Improvement Teams**, mandated to design a full intervention programme for them.

Re-focus on Early Childhood and Early Primary Levels

The requisite policy and implementation plans already exist, based on the extended work of the Task Force and the **Early Childhood Commission**. A product of these has been the creation of the legislative and institutional framework to achieve a quality early childhood sector in Jamaica. Based on the work of the Commission a modern curriculum has been designed. This curriculum integrates the learning, social and values-based skills that are consistent with the development of early childhood level skills.

The next PNP Administration will:

- Provide the necessary support for the introduction of the promulgated standards within all institutions
- Target the **Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE)** Fund and the **Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)** to support the work necessary to certify institutions
- Pursue alternative financing models to increase equity of access and quality across the national early childhood sector.
- Ensure introduction of the recently developed curriculum within all institutions with the necessary oversight to ensure the use of appropriate delivery by classroom practitioners
- Incentivise the training and assignment of qualified teachers to early primary level.
- Enhance the competence and quality of practitioners through the buttressing of the HEART/NTA and the **National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training** programme (NCTVET)
- Introduce a quality assurance body to monitor and certify institutions to minimum delivery standards for the training of early childhood practitioners

- Revisit the nutrition programme piloted by the previous PNP Administration to determine the potential for expansion through a community based focus
- Ensure the introduction of the revised Grade 1 inventory and the use of its findings in determining the teaching and learning of students
- Introduce and strengthen the requisite cognitive and other testing of students to identify any learning exceptionalities they may possess
- Improve the transition from early childhood to early primary learning
- In the shortest possible time, restore the provision of at least one Trained Teacher to each Early Childhood institution.

Universal Literacy

Then next PNP Administration, while ensuring that all school-leavers are literate, is committed to reducing the number of persons who are now illiterate through the Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning with one of its flagship programmes – **High School Equivalency**. We will make use of the HEART/NTA to enrich the process by providing the skills training component in support of early access to livelihood creation or employment.

Higher Education Sector

The PNP recognises that no country can attain sustainable development without a vibrant and modern tertiary sector.

Adequate financing of the sector continues to be one of the most urgent demands with an increasing number of those entering the sector having limited ability to pay. The PNP does not believe that the ability to pay should be the determining factor in accessing tertiary education and will, therefore, explore various options to supplement the funds available through the **Students Loan Bureau** at concessionary rates. This will include seeking private sector partnerships to match public funds.

In terms of repayment of loans, the PNP Administration will introduce the innovative approach of linking this to the level of the income earned by students after their graduation.

The PNP Government will work with tertiary institutions to develop private and public income-generating productive enterprises on their campuses in which students can work to earn income for their tertiary education.

The next PNP Administration will:

- Prioritise the development of the **Tertiary Commission** with its mandate being to stimulate and co-ordinate policy and programme development within the sector
- Provide institutional strengthening for the **University Council of Jamaica**, the **Council of Community Colleges** and the successor organization to the **Joint Board of Teacher**

Education and all other accrediting bodies to enhance their capacity for effective quality assurance of all entities that enter the sector.

- Explore the approach to financing students, as distinct from institutions through vouchers etc. This is aimed at increasing competition and choice for students.

Building Partnerships

Strong and effective partnerships will be forged with the key stakeholders in the sector including faith-based institutions, trusts, the local private sector and Diaspora interests, for both school improvement and the provision of additional facilities.

Explore opportunities with international institutions for exchange programmes aimed at global education experiences to improve our competitive capability in specific fields.

Health Care

We support the position of the **Caribbean Commission on Health and Development** that a healthy population is an essential prerequisite for the economic growth and stability of our country. The incoming PNP Administration is committed to develop and strengthen health policies consistent with that position.

Principles on which we base our health policies:

- Health as a national asset
- Public health oriented
- Balance between preventative and curative care with the emphasis on the former
- Not based on ability to pay
- Appropriate technology
- Innovation in provision
- Public and private partnership in the provision and delivery of health care

Policy Initiatives

Effective Primary Health Care

Continuous care is the key to good health. Primary care emphasises prevention and is delivered at the point of greatest need. It covers some 80% of health needs, is more affordable and more efficient, and would specifically, benefit the most vulnerable, especially our pregnant and nursing mothers, children, elderly, indigent and those physically and mentally challenged.

The next PNP Administration will:

- Introduce a policy of universal free primary care

- Re institute community-based facilities (home visits) with teams consisting of family nurse practitioners, public health nurses and community health aides, aimed at assisting in reducing mortality rates.
- The **National Health Fund** will be used to finance community-based healthy lifestyle initiatives with community health aides playing an integral role.
- Upgrade to include more user-friendly waiting areas in primary health care facilities.
- Improve diagnostic services for primary care in the medium and long term.
- Extend the hours for service delivery in primary care facilities to respond to the anticipated increase in numbers accessing these facilities.
- Increase the number of physicians working in primary care through a combination of improved incentives, and the employment of physicians from overseas where local physicians are not available.
- Seek to modernise primary health care facilities and services by introducing web-based electronic recourse systems over a three-year period.

The next PNP Administration will also:

- Establish appropriate referral systems from primary care centres to secondary or tertiary facilities.
- Establish **Centres of Excellence** within our Regional Hospitals on a phased basis, using a public/private model .
- Establish a clear development plan for specialist post graduate training for health professionals.
- Establish a creative incentive programme aimed at attracting and retaining nurses and other health care providers in the system, to include opportunities for training in varying specialisations.
- Twin our specialist hospitals with comparable overseas facilities, to access significant benefits of equipment, training and exchange of professionals.
- Employ technology in the delivery of telemedicine, reducing overheads and improving medical and patient access.
- Explore local and overseas partnership establishment for the establishment of a children's hospital in Western Jamaica.

In addition, the PNP will take steps to facilitate the reduction of trauma cases, as follows:

Accidents and trauma are now a major burden on the secondary and tertiary health system, in terms of both the cost and the demand on our health professionals. Besides the unsustainable cost to the national purse, most of the injuries sustained are preventable.

- i. The PNP will place a high priority on a collaborative approach with the police, non-governmental and community bodies involved in programmes to reduce the high incidence and prevalence of preventable injuries, such as motor vehicle accidents, interpersonal conflicts and substance abuse.
- ii. The PNP is committed to promoting and enforcing policies and programmes that regulate and or encourage the application of safety action, such as the wearing of

crash helmets and seatbelts; alcohol prevention and other road-safety practices; parenting skills and anger management.

Making the Management of the Health Care System More Efficient

The next PNP Administration will:

- Rationalise the **Regional Health Authorities** to ensure more timely decision-making and effective service delivery.
- Initiate an urgent review of health planning to the delivery of better quality care and build in greater accountability.

Building and Strengthening Private/Public Partnerships

The PNP recognises and accepts that the public sector cannot respond to all the needs of persons requiring care. Given that reality, the PNP Administration will:

- Develop a comprehensive system of incentives to encourage and enable investments by the private sector.
- Collaborate with private providers in designating zones to deliver services in their offices, based on minimal established standards and payment of subsidized fees.
- Provide incentives for these providers such as equipment and rental and/or lease of public buildings.
- Partially divest Radiology Services.

Sports Culture and Entertainment

The economic potential of sports, culture and entertainment will be fully explored and developed.

Sports

The People's National Party has always regarded sports as an integral part of the country's development. Our successes in the international arena have generated pride, reminded us of the best that we possess, increased social harmony for short periods and allowed our performers opportunities to project our country positively across the world. Importantly as well, opportunities to engage in sport for recreational purposes and to support healthy lifestyles, are playing an increasing part in keeping our people healthy. Our recognition of the actual and potential contribution of sports to national development resulted in the establishment of:

- The National Stadium in 1961
- The Institute of Sports in 1978
- The G. C. Foster School of Physical Education and Sport in 1979
- National Sports Council in 1991
- Sports Development Foundation (SDF) in 1995
- The Trelawny Multi-Purpose Stadium in 2007
- The Sports Development Foundation – 1995
- The CHASE Fund in 2002

In addition, it was the People's National Party Government's Sports Policy of the 1990s which assisted many of the sports associations to benefit from more robust structures and more reliable sources of funding to enhance their organisational work and their development programmes. New and improved community sports facilities were also provided in both urban and rural areas.

These infrastructural and administrative developments are largely responsible for Jamaica's current international recognition as a sports destination, particularly in track and field athletics and netball.

The new PNP Government intends to build on this fine tradition by:

- Seeking to intensify all efforts to maximise the country's sports potential
- Developing sports tourism as an integral part of the country's approach to national development
- Taking advantage of the performance of our outstanding sportsmen and women by producing video documentaries and films, which enhance the profile of the indigenous film industry and further promote *Brand Jamaica*
- The introduction, after broad consultation, of a **Revised National Sports Policy**
- Ensuring that the Trelawny Sports Complex is developed into a truly multi-purpose facility
- Establishment a Sports Museum

- Re-establishment the National Sports Council
- Constant interaction and dialogue with national sports organisations
- Strengthening the capacity of schools and community institutions to provide recreational opportunities for children and adults as a contributor to healthy lifestyles
- Encouraging the integration of sports activities with the range of creative pursuits in co-curricular school and youth club programmes for promoting leadership skills, self-confidence, wholesome relationships and pride in country.

Culture

Given the tremendous international achievements of Jamaicans in the arts, it is clear that our country is recognised globally for its remarkable cultural expressions, especially our cultural products which have changed the world forever. Jamaicans have excelled In the creation of music, poetry, speech, language, dance, theatre, film and all the visual and performing arts. The current growth of our culture industry exceeds all other economic sectors. Therefore, the incoming PNP Administration will ensure that full benefits are reflected in the national economy to strengthen the various administrative machinery in support of our arts.

The PNP Administration will:

- i. Establish a inter-sectoral body led by the Ministry responsible for culture to give focus to the strategies for the promotion of cultural activities.
- ii. Focus on the education, conservation and promotion of our culture by facilitating the creation of—museums, hall of fame facilities, theatres, and performance venues; and more active promotion of our culture abroad.
- iii. Facilitate the transfer of grant and loan funding from the EU and other international sources to our creative producers in the sector.
- iv.. Charge the Ministry of Tourism, through public and private partnerships, to develop and or expand our heritage sites, such as Seville, Spanish Town, Port Royal and others as well as establishing museums, halls of fame and other facilities as a platform to display our other distinctive cultural strengths including our music and history of sporting prowess.
- v. Encourage the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) to develop and strengthen its documentation of our cultural achievements not only for educational purposes, but also for marketing purposes.
- vi. Foster and promote cultural expressions through the identification of community spaces for both performing arts and training in cultural activities using the JCDC and educational institutions.
- vii. Protect our cultural products through intellectual property legislation and action.
- viii. Promote and market cultural products consistent with the adherence to global standards.
- ix. Promote exchanges in cultural cooperation through treaties and international agreements, and through our participation in regional and international fora and festivals.

- x. Strengthening and expand our cultural training institutions including **The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts.**

The Entertainment Industry

Over the decades since independence, Jamaica has developed a vibrant entertainment industry, fuelled by our annual festivals, and encompassing artistes, producers, distributors, publishers and agents in the areas of music, drama, film, dance, painting, sculpture, fashion, and other forms of cultural expressions.

It is well known that, Jamaica has spawned music genres from **Mento** to **Reggae** and **Dance Hall**; and that **Reggae Music** has penetrated the world to become a mainstream product. Through local music festivals and a growing recording industry, Jamaica has become a Mecca for singers and musicians from around the world.

Efforts to develop the film industry and other areas of entertainment, are still in fledgling stages; hence, the need for a Council mandated to pursue innovations areas for development.

The new PNP Administration proposes to build on the creative talent and entrepreneurial drive, which exists in all areas of the country's entertainment industry, to create opportunities for employment and income and wealth creation by:

- Establishing a clearly defined **National Policy on Entertainment**
- Setting up an **Entertainment Industry Advisory Council**
- Expand on the ambit of the already established Film Unit under JAMPRO, by setting up a **Music, Film and Entertainment Commission**
- At the same time, the Administration would engender **training and development** for persons in entertainment through existing institutions, such as the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, The University of the West Indies and other relevant institutions.
- In addition, enabling polices will be established to provide financial resources for **investments**, similar to funds made available to small businesses.
- Revisit the existing **Copyright Protection Law** to ensure that it adequately protects the intellectual and creative properties of Jamaican artistes.

Youth: Changing the Game

The People's National Party is cognizant of the role that the youth population must play in the future of our country. Therefore, we are committed to creating an environment in which young people can build their social capacity, harness their creative skills and emerge as good citizens and leaders to contribute to national development.

The next PNP Administration will translate into programmatic action those principles that guide our relationship with all Jamaicans such as:

- 1) Empowerment through active and sustainable participation in an individual's sovereign decision-making
- 2) Preparation for productive life through:
 - a. Formal education and skills-training

- b. Acquisition of social and life skills through partnership with other agents of socialisation -family, church, community
- c. Leadership development
- d. Citizenship education regarding rights and responsibilities

Mainstreaming Youth Policies and Programmes

It has been clearly established that our young people have many of the needs of the adult population, albeit on a different scale and delivered by different means. We also recognise that, in addressing the needs and challenges of our youth population, we must utilise an integrated approach.

Our policies and programmes will include, but not be confined to, addressing the following issues which have been identified by the young people themselves as some of the real world challenges they face:

- 1) Developing a sense of belonging and purposefulness
- 2) Preparation for a purposeful life and the potential for a productive livelihood
- 3) Reducing and ultimately removing the vulnerability of youth-at-risk
- 4) Giving those youth-in-care, real possibilities for independent living
- 5) Engaging and strengthening the first-tier nurturers and agents of socialisation

Developing a Sense of Belonging and Purposefulness

Our young people must believe that:

- They have a stake in the society
- There are opportunities for making a meaningful contribution
- They can earn a livelihood through direct or self-employment.

This belief and understanding will come through:

- Positive engagement from the family, to the community, to the national level
- Opportunities for participation in decision-making
- Translation of programmes into identifiable outcomes
- Identifiable achievements by their peers which will assist in creating a sense of hope.

Opportunities for participation in decision-making will be provided at various levels of the decision-making hierarchy and will include the provision of resources for the operation and strengthening of the **National Secondary Student Council** and other bodies such as the Jamaica Youth Council. The possibility of making the **Youth Parliament** more dynamic and not just an annual 'one-off' event will be explored, with the objective of having an ongoing youth input into national decisions in the drafting of legislation.

Preparation for A Productive Life

- A common thread running through school-based education must be that of lifelong relevance, both in terms of the labour market and social relationships. This must include career planning, counselling and mentorship. The partnership with civil society and the private sector is critical.
- The understanding and application of the **treatment of gender** in the education and training institutions will impact positively on the situation for new entrants to the labour market and will ultimately reduce the high incidence of female unemployment.
- Formation and sustaining of **youth clubs** must resume prominence on the national agenda. The programme for certification of youth club workers developed by the previous PNP Administration must be implemented, so that youth can have support from their own peers who have been equipped with the appropriate skills.

The **National Youth Service (NYS)**, reintroduced by the previous PNP Administration will be revisited, with the mandate to be a programme for young people who can provide valuable civic service, while earning job experience.

This will be achieved as follows:

- NYS workers will provide human resource support for early childhood and health facilities.
- They will also be trained to be youth community workers.
- Similar re-prioritisation will be done for the **Jamaica Values and Attitudes Project for Tertiary** Students programme with the largest number of placements being with social sector agencies, and in particular those delivering services to the youth population.
- The **National Centre for Youth Development**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, will be mandated to develop a specific subset of its job bank with data for job opportunities for the youth population.
- The ‘build-out’ of youth information centres for each parish will be accelerated. The infrastructure for the centres must include both electronic and human capacity, with career counsellors being available on location.
- The PNP Administration will: support the YUTE Programme sponsored by the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ)

Youth-At-Risk

A growing number of young people in the age cohort 15-24 are currently exhibiting risky behaviour, and there is need for interventions to address their needs. In particular, the group designated as ‘unattached youth’ are at greatest risk.

The next PNP Administration will:

- i. Strengthen the capacity of the **Social Development Commission** and other community organisations to identify and guide these at-risk youths into appropriate positive activity.
- ii. **The High School Equivalency Programme** located in the Jamaica Foundation for Life Long Learning, will be resourced to increase its community programme delivery so that out-of-school youths can earn the equivalent of a School-Leavers' Certificate and, thereby, qualify to gain access to upper level training activities available through HEART/NTA and other institutions.
- iii. Internship and apprenticeship programmes will be used to provide work experience and other skills. This will be managed through the National Youth Service which will also be responsible for attitudinal reorientation.

Youth-in-Care

Youth who are in-care, represent a category of the population that has specific issues, but who are frequently ignored. These young people find themselves without any form of care and protection, once they reach the age of 18 when they are required to leave the particular care facility.

The next PNP Administration will begin to address this issue by:

- Creating a halfway house for those who are no longer eligible to reside in places of safety
- Assist with their transition to independent living by providing both social, financial and psychological support. This preparation should commence once the ward reaches the age of 14 and should include career preparation and guidance.

Strengthening First-Tier Nurturers and Agents of Socialisation

The first level of nurturing and protection of youth must be the family and the community.

The next PNP Administration will:

- Lead the strengthening of families to assume the role of the first line of nurturers
- Ensure that:
 - i. **Family Life Education** becomes an integral part of community development programmes.
 - ii. Issues relating to reproductive health and responsibilities of parenting must be given priority in all institutions treating with our young people.
 - iii. Support for such efforts must be available at the community level.
 - iv. Enforcement of the provisions for child neglect and abuse currently embodied in the **Child Development Act**
- Encourage communities to become and there must be a place for peace-building, recreation and retreat for our young people.

- Launch a public information programme to educate our people about the value of minimising the levels of school dropout. Such programmes must include the use of popular and social media.
- Ensure curricula relevance and appropriate delivery methods are at the forefront of the **Education Transformation Programme**.
- Encourage active participation of the representatives of the **National Secondary Students Council** must be an ongoing process in curriculum development and teaching and learning
- Give legislative authority to the National Centre for Youth Development to ensure both its permanence and the enforcement of its mandate to be the overarching co-ordination body for all youth programmes.

Social Protection: Protecting the Most Vulnerable in our Society

The approach to be taken in providing social protection for vulnerable population groups will ensure that they have access to those services that will assist in meeting their basic needs. This will require seamless collaboration between multiple State agencies including health providers, public education facilities and those responsible for the care of the aged and indigent. Community delivery of services by health aides and other social workers will be used to address the needs of the vulnerable.

Gender in Development

The PNP remains committed to the need to use all the available human resources and talents in as productive a manner as possible. And is cognizant that policies and programmes must provide a framework to ensure that men and women play an equal role in national development.

The PNP recognises that as citizens, producers and re-producers of future generations, women's rights and interests are central to all aspects of the development process.

In this regard their equal and full participation in nation building will be ensured.

The PNP remains committed to a National Gender Policy and all international treaties relating to gender. Our commitment will be mainstreamed in all our programmes and activities.

National Insurance Scheme and the National Insurance Fund

The next PNP Administration will continue to prudently manage the **National Insurance Fund** to ensure that any gains made redound to the benefit of the contributors. This is particularly important given the demographic shifts with more members of the population aging over the next decade.

The Administration will also reassess, on a regular basis, the **contribution cap**, both to enhance the Fund and to ensure a greater level of equity among contributors.

Critical to all of the above is the continuous enhancement of the information systems to ensure the availability of high quality information for decision-making to ensure the viability and sustainability of the Fund.

The Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (*PATH*)

PATH beneficiaries will continue to enjoy income transfers, linked to the provision of vital social services such as health and education. In the case of education, students under PATH will continue to have their full tuition fees covered at the primary and secondary levels, their examination fees paid and the provision of at least one meal per day when they attend school. School attendance to be one of the criteria for students continued access to PATH benefits. This is to ensure that they are able to obtain the levels of certification that will ultimately allow them to earn a liveable wage and, thereby, move away from poverty.

Welfare-to-Work

The objective of the welfare-to-work programme designed by the previous PNP Administration, was to facilitate those classified as vulnerable to enter the labour market and to begin to earn an income. This will allow them to become independent and reduce their vulnerability.

The next PNP Administration will accelerate the pace of the training, apprenticeship and job guidance of this group.

Golden Age Homes

The PNP Administration will re-visit the recommendations made by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) for the modernisation and refurbishing of parish indigent homes, including engaging NGO providers where possible.

Special Interest Groups

An estimated 17% of the population has one or more disabilities. The current work environment presents significant challenges which further reduce the opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to be employed. Economic empowerment through enterprise is an even more important option for PWDs. The PNP will work to remove the obstacles which impact negatively on persons with disabilities.

The PNP recognises that this is one of the most vulnerable communities in our society and that the State must lead the process to ensure that those with a disability are not prevented from functioning normally and accessing available opportunities. This must include the field of education.

The Next PNP Administration will:

- Promote education of persons with disabilities as the greatest means of transforming their lives
- Proactively enforce the established policy that all new schools are designed and constructed with necessary access features for persons with disabilities
- By means of a one-off grant, give financial support to persons with disabilities who are pursuing academic studies to purchase appropriate adaptive aids
- Ensure HEART/NTA training facilities and teaching infrastructure and methodologies facilitate the full participation of persons with disability
- Ensure the tuition fees are paid for all needy students with disabilities who matriculate at a tertiary institution

SECTION FIVE: PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & THE ENVIRONMENT

Physical Infrastructure

The improvement of national physical infrastructure is important in raising the standard of living of the population, facilitating increased investments to expand the economy; as well as, raising overall competitiveness. Recognition of this fact by previous PNP Administrations has been amply demonstrated by initiatives taken in terms of investments in water, sewerage, the road network, seaports and airport facilities.

At the same time, the previous PNP Administration recognised that the constraints on the finances of the Government of Jamaica, precluded the State from assuming responsibility for all such investments. Consequently, a deliberate initiative was developed to invite private sector investments in areas which were previously considered as the sole province of the State. Specific examples are the Donald Sangster International Airport, Norman Manley International Airport, Highway 2000 as well as investment in the water sector. A new PNP Administration will continue this approach.

The recognition of the fiscal constraints which presently face, and will continue to face, the country requires the most efficient use of available resources.

A critical aspect of a new PNP Administration will be a total commitment to transparency in the development and execution of all infrastructure projects which have historically been a source of inefficiency and corruption. The experience with the JDIP programme is a good example of the kind of project implementation which should never be repeated. We are confident that, despite the reality of resource constraints, the reduction of corruption and the imposition of greater transparency and efficiency would significantly increase the benefits which will accrue to the population from each dollar of capital expenditure.

A new PNP Administration will closely coordinate the projects being undertaken by various funding sources involved in financing infrastructure development. This will entail a revamping of the current JDIP and other programmes, such as the **Road Maintenance Fund**.

Port Infrastructure: The PNP Administration will continue with the modernisation of **port infrastructure**, consistent with the vision which initiated this programme over three decades ago. The imminent opening of the modernised Panama Canal could provide significant new opportunities for the Kingston Container Port. These opportunities will be maximised, not only in terms of increased trans-shipment business, but as a potential for providing a base for light manufacturing activities.

Public Transportation: A future PNP Administration is committed to continue to invest in **public transportation**. The formation and development of the Jamaica Urban Transport Company (JUTC) represented a major achievement of the PNP Administration. The PNP recognises that there are financing constraints. We, however, remain committed to the objective of providing safe and comfortable movement for ordinary Jamaicans.

The private sector will be encouraged to participate in the sector in special niche areas. The service currently being provided by the **Knutsford Express**, is a good example where the service provided is becoming a viable option for persons travelling to the North coast.

Housing

The following broad areas will be addressed to provide housing solutions:

The PNP Administration will: continue:

- To work through the National Housing Trust (NHT) to implement a more comprehensive policy which results in a better mix of housing solutions. Approaches would include increased financing for schemes which take advantage of improved transportation network outside the major urban centres.
- Creative approaches will be explored to ensure that the lower income groups have greater access to housing solutions.
- A **Sites and Services** type programme will be introduced as the principal means of tackling the problem of the increasing number of unplanned settlements.
- Infill housing wastelands: There are several areas where basic infrastructure is already in place. These will be targeted for redevelopment by the National Housing Trust (NHT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing
- Support will be provided to encourage greater involvement of NGOs and the private sector in housing
- Standard units/prototypes will be developed that can be built by a potential householder at significantly reduced cost. Potential homeowners can buy a package/kit with costing, material and instruction of how to construct.
- Ensure that existing housing stock in older neighbourhoods is maintained. This will reduce the risk of ‘change of use’ as a result of occupants having to convert parts of their housing unit into commercial or ‘rental units’. The use of reverse mortgages will be explored.
- **Youth Build:** Creation of a pool of parish-based construction teams consisting primarily of graduates from HEART/NTA who have had difficulty in obtaining jobs in the construction sector. The size of the various Youth-Build teams will vary based on housing density and available trained persons. The team would be empowered to do basic repairs to indigent dwelling units. This would give them skills and work experience which would **make them employable on standard construction sites**. The programme will be

implemented in conjunction with the current indigent housing programmes and in collaboration with Food for the Poor.

- Provide a Certificate of Possession to Operation PRIDE housing residents who have long occupied and have been making payments on their lots. This will encourage them to be ready to increase their level of investment and generally improve the housing stock.

Land

The issue of land titling will be given greater focus to encourage more land owners to secure titles for their properties, and thereby stimulate more productive use. Several strategies have been used, under the **Land Administration Management Programme (LAMP)** to influence land titling; however, the response to it has been slow.

The new PNP Administration will continue to foster the progressive agenda for land titling, through ongoing education programmes; and direct interventions at the community level, as well as to streamline the actual process.

The issue of titling of land ownership will be given greater focus and attention, as despite its importance for all areas of orderly land use, including housing and agriculture, the required level of effective coordination between various Government different agencies remains elusive. Consideration will be given towards the creation of a special purpose vehicle, with the full responsibility to address this task.

Water

Water is critical for the maintenance of environmental and human health and supporting all human activities—residential, commercial, industrial, electricity generation and agriculture. Action will be taken to maximise the volume of water available and to improvement of water quality.

Comprehensive watershed management programmes will be implemented in all parishes. Such programmes have the potential to be integrated in various economic activities such as forestry and agro-industry, which are integral to job creation programmes. Surface, ground and coastal water resources as well as soil conservation will benefit from the implementation of these programmes.

The utilisation of treated wastewater in irrigation, especially for the production of animal feed, will be encouraged.

Policy Framework

The role and function of the Government will be to create an enabling environment within which water sector agencies can flourish, while providing policy prescriptions, supportive of the sustained viability of the various service providers of water and sewerage.

The policy framework to guide the provision of water and sewerage services will be as set out in the GOJ's Water Sector Policy which was formalised in 2002. With respect to cost-recovery, each provider agency will be allowed to recover its normal costs by way of tariffs authorised by the regulator. Where necessary, the Government will provide subsidies to provider entities.

Financing of major infrastructure ventures will be the responsibility of the service provider with the requisite support from Government in special circumstances. Government will continue to own the NWC but private provision will be accommodated and encouraged.

The Government will continue to support the expansion of water supply to the Jamaican population. At current levels of house-to-house supply of close to 75% of the population, programmed expansion works will see this figure moving to 85% in the next five years. Community systems will provide service to small rural areas.

Although service coverage is considered good by international standards, the reliability of the existing infrastructure is in urgent need of improvement. Subject to the availability of financing, the Government will facilitate the infusion of significant funding into, not only the expansion, but also the rehabilitation of service infrastructure.

Environment

The People's National Party (PNP), remains committed to sustainable economic development and is cognizant of the link between the environment and industrial and commercial activities. The PNP, which pioneered most of Jamaica's environmental management policy initiatives, is committed to ensuring the protection of Jamaica's environment and the conservative use and protection of its natural and historical heritage resources. The PNP recognises that environmental quality bears a strong and crucial relationship to an improved standard of living, human health, economic and social advancement and quality of life for our citizens and visitors alike.

'Reduce, Replenish, Recovery, Recycle and Re-use' will be among the key elements of our policy and approach to strategic environmental management to gain greater efficiencies in resource use and conservation.

Biodiversity: Jamaica's biodiversity, is ranked 5th in endemism among Small Island States internationally. These will be protected. The system of National Parks and Protected Areas, initiated under a PNP Government, will be strengthened to ensure conservation of our genetic resources.

Air Quality: Strategic interventions will be taken to ensure that continued improvements in ambient air quality take place. A major initiative which will be pursued is to significantly reduce atmospheric emission and capitalise on foreign exchange earnings from the trading of **carbon credits**. This will be done through the use of least polluting technologies in energy generation.

Climate Change

Climate change has serious implications for the world's populations.

- Extreme high air temperatures can contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, particularly among elderly people.
- Increasingly variable rainfall patterns are likely to affect the supply of fresh water.
- Floods contaminate freshwater supplies, heighten the risk of water-borne diseases, and create breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects such as mosquitoes.
- Areas with weak health infrastructure will be the least able to cope without professional assistance to prepare and respond.

In 2006 the PNP proposed the creation of a **Climate Change Unit** to help drive Jamaica's coordination and management of the country's climate change efforts. The establishment of this unit will be a priority of a new PNP Administration.

Words from the Founding President:

“I pledge that my party will from now and henceforth reorganise to face the challenge of our time, struggle unceasingly to change those things both in our economic and in our social life which deny to the masses of our people their proper place in the brotherhood of man”

Norman Washington Manley

THE MISSION AND THE WORK CONTINUE

People’s National Party

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