

Out
of
Many
One
People



PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY
MANIFESTO
FEBRUARY 16, 2016

SECURING A BETTER FUTURE FOR JAMAICA



MANIFESTO 2016

Our vision is of a renewed Jamaica in which the entire nation is mobilized to achieve greater levels of sustainable and equitable growth and an improved quality of life for all. A society that provides every citizen with the opportunity for personal advancement and to make a contribution to nation building.

The foundations have been well laid for universal access to quality education and training in order to create a productive and globally competitive labour force and a capable service oriented public sector.

Let us continue to build a Jamaica where social and economic progress will be underpinned by public order and shared values and principles.

Our manifesto is a blueprint of the path along which we will travel to a more prosperous and equitable Jamaica.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PARTY PRESIDENT

THE MOST HON. PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER ON, MP

Portia Simpson Miller is Jamaica's first female Prime Minister and has been a champion for the poor.

The outcome of the coming general election will decide Jamaica's future for generations. The choice that faces the electorate is to keep moving forward and seize the opportunities to build on the solid foundations we have laid for our economic and social development or to dismantle these foundations which we have built at great sacrifice. Every Jamaican who wants the best for their country and future generations will choose to move forward.

No one can deny the PNP's impressive record of performance in returning the economy to growth and restoring hope. Even as we recognise the wide range of achievements in every sphere of national life we are particularly proud of the new legislative framework which offers our children greater protection from abuse and creates a more caring and nurturing environment for their development.

The PNP's Election Manifesto is firmly rooted in the reality that the Jamaican economy has returned to positive growth after eleven consecutive quarters of negative growth under the Jamaica Labour Party. Prosperity, which we all ultimately desire, will not be attained by the waving of any number of magic wands. Only consistent hard work within the framework of realistic policies and programmes can

secure a bright future for us and for future generations. The platform that has been laid for national development will generate the levels of sustainable and equitable growth required to provide the Jamaican people with the opportunities for employment and greatly improved standards of living for all.

Understanding the urgency of continuing on this path is central to our commitment to the people of Jamaica. We will not be swayed by snake oil vendors. We will continue to ensure that the investments which have already started, and which are rapidly increasing, will generate high levels of employment. People remain at the centre of our development and with continued hard work the people shall prevail.

Our progress in moving the country forward would not have been possible without the sacrifice and generous support of the Jamaican people. The partnership between the Government and the people has successfully met every challenge and has established beyond any doubt that Jamaica can and will do better.

The team I will be leading in these elections is one that combines experience and youth with a shared vision of Jamaica's possibilities for greatness in every field of endeavour. It is a team which understands the need for determined fixity of purpose and continuity of effort. We are only too aware of the challenges we face in a highly competitive global community, but we have every confidence in the capacity of the Jamaican people to overcome.

The groundwork has been laid, the platform is in place, as we move forward with determination and optimism, confident in the knowledge that we are on our way to building a more equitable and prosperous Jamaica of which we and future generations can be justly proud. There is much more to do to realise the massive potential in Jamaica. We are well on the way and we cannot stop the progress.



21 FURTHER STEPS TO PROGRESS

In the next term the People's National Party will:



1

Add at least 100,000 new jobs over the next five years. This will include improving the room stock in the hotel industry by over 14,000 in the next decade, creating more than 40,000 permanent jobs, as well as a special youth employment programme that will place 10,000 persons in new jobs.

2

Continue to actively support a National Security Policy that increasingly empowers citizens, promotes security, peace and safety in communities, while reinforcing a culture of lawfulness and public order.

3

Establish a single anti-corruption agency to replace the Parliamentary Integrity Commission, the Office of the Contractor General and the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, to enable the more effective and efficient fight against corruption in Jamaica.

4



Eliminate the shift system at both primary and secondary schools to allow maximum contact time for teaching and learning, thus contributing to the push to raise educational standards. Accelerate the expansion of the school feeding programme as part of poverty alleviation, to respond to the needs of more students and in support of regular attendance at schools..

5

Increase investments in order to develop a better trained and more productive labour force to help achieve our national development goals. Our focus will be on the increased application of science and technology and integrating training programmes appropriate to the 21st Century.

6

Continue the extensive modernization of the country's physical infrastructure in order to expand the opportunities for agriculture, tourism, housing and commercial development as part of our growth agenda.

7

Accelerate the programme to build a logistics-centred economy, develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and remove constraints in doing business, while placing emphasis on integrating manufacturing with other sectors in the domestic economy.



8

Facilitate investment in the provision of increased space for Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) through the combined efforts of the Factories Corporation, the Port Authority and the Development Bank of Jamaica.

9

Transform MSMEs into competitive enterprises, by building capacity, expanding entrepreneurship through training in marketing, leadership, communication and technical skills, and providing financing through the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ).

10

Accelerate the modernization and expansion of the agricultural sector that will be supported by increased investment and the repair and rehabilitation of forty-one farm roads across the island.



11

Continue the programme to diversify sources of energy - solar, wind and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) technologies.

12

Create and facilitate housing solutions to increase substantially, the number of Jamaican families who own and live in their own homes. Special priority will be given to satisfying the demand in the lowest income bracket.

13

Improve the quality, of health care in our major hospitals, while upgrading community health care facilities across the country. Emphasis will be placed on access and affordability of health care for all with special attention to children and senior citizens, improving the benefits available through NHF, JADEP and NI Gold. We will also establish a full integrated medical cannabis and nutraceutical.

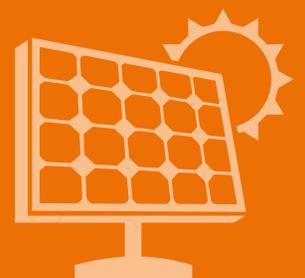


14

Develop a National Shelter Strategy for victims of gender-based violence. This will include the construction of four shelters for the protection of women who experience sexual or physical abuse.

15

Establish a Cultural and Creative Industries Enhancement Fund, develop a Creative Economy Policy and an overarching Master Plan to support the creation of an enabling environment for the growth and development of the cultural and creative industries.



16

Create a modern Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities to direct and guide the programmes and policies impacting people with disabilities, and establish a Disability Rights Tribunal to adjudicate complaints of discrimination.



17

Establish a National Agency for Meteorology and Climate Change Resilience, while implementing an integrated approach to restoring and managing our Watershed Management Units.

18

Continue as a matter of priority the implementation of tax reform to further lower the rates of taxes including income tax, both personal and corporate as well as GCT, transfer tax and asset tax as the fiscal situation improves. Expand the range of tax relief measures available under the Urban Renewal Act for the Kingston Metropolitan Area and extend relief to significant urban centres in rural Jamaica.

19

Expand new and existing sewerage systems in the KMA and in twenty-two major towns and parish capitals at a cost of US\$750 million to be expended in Phase 1. This will be undertaken while improving solid waste management through regionalized collection, separation at source and composting of garbage, and implementation of the Waste to Energy Project. The National Water Commission will implement seventeen major projects aimed at fulfilling the delivery of potable water. Over the next five years, US\$1.2 billion will be invested in these projects.



20

Continue the transformation of the Public Sector to make it a more efficient customer service oriented sector, providing an enabling environment which supports the further growth and development of Jamaica. Expedite the programme of privatization for select public sector entities as a vehicle for stimulating investment and broadening the base of ownership, including through listings on the Jamaica Stock Exchange and Junior Market.



21

Continue our work in foreign affairs and foreign trade while strengthening our relationship with Jamaicans in the diaspora.

RESCUING JAMAICA FROM THE BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY

WHAT WE FOUND

When this Administration took office in 2012 Jamaica was experiencing the greatest challenge in its modern history. The economy was close to the brink of bankruptcy with no access to the international capital markets and faced the risk of prohibitive interest rates on the local market. The JLP Administration (2007 – 2011) had presided over eleven consecutive quarters of negative growth and the country's debt had almost doubled from \$970 billion in 2007 to \$1.6 trillion in 2011.

The JLP failed to honour its commitments to the IMF, the World Bank, IADB and the EU and abandoned the IMF agreement. As a consequence Jamaica lost the trust and respect of the international community. Such was the damage caused by the previous JLP Administration.

WHAT WE DID

Return to stability, Engendering trust and confidence

After taking office in 2012, the immediate priority of the Administration was to launch a rescue mission to pull Jamaica back from the brink of bankruptcy and restore economic stability and Jamaica's credibility, both locally and internationally. This administration took immediate steps to re-engage both our local and international partners, including the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The administration also made it a priority to inform the Jamaican people of the state of the country's affairs and the sacrifice necessary to save the country from further crisis.

Over a sixteen month period we were successful in gaining the support of a wide cross-section of stakeholders which included public sector workers, bondholders, pensioners, taxpayers

as well as our three primary lenders, that is, the IMF, the World Bank and the IDB. The prior conditions that had to be met before the IMF would consider approving another arrangement with Jamaica were extensive and impacted the entire society.

In May 2013 Jamaica entered into a four year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the IMF. The country also received a joint commitment from the World Bank and the IDB to provide support over the four year period. This agreement with our international partners also served to unlock much needed support from the European Union. Since May 2013, Jamaica's credibility and respect in the international community have been restored as all ten consecutive quarterly reviews have been successfully completed.

This has allowed us to re-enter the international capital markets. Since doing so, we have improved the country's credit ratings, secured the lowest interest rates ever achieved by Jamaica internationally, and supported the repurchase of the country's Petro Caribe debt. Inflation was reduced to its lowest rate in forty eight years. We achieved sharply reduced domestic interest rates. In short, we returned the country to growth by the end of 2013.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The progress must continue as we pursue the following goals:

- Sustained Economic Growth;
- Job Creation;
- Poverty Reduction and
- Improved Living Standards.

It is in this spirit that we advance our platform for sustainable and equitable Growth.

THE PLATFORM FOR **SUSTAINABLE** AND **EQUITABLE GROWTH**

This platform can only be built on the following pillars:

- a stable macro-economic environment,
- modern infrastructure,
- a trained and productive labour force,
- an efficient and facilitatory public service, and,
- the effective management of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Macro-Economic Framework - The Economic Reform Programme (ERP)

It took the Administration 16 months to bring the country from the brink of bankruptcy and restore Jamaica's credibility. The Government has since then laid the foundation for a stable macro-economic environment and implemented an Economic Reform Programme, the main features of which are low inflation, low interest rates, sustainable balance of payments, adequate international reserves, fiscal consolidation and improved debt dynamics.

As a result of implementing the **Economic Reform Programme** this administration has achieved a number of milestones on the road to improving the business environment and ultimately improving the lives of all Jamaicans. These include the following:

- The debt to GDP ratio has been reduced from 145 percent at the start of the ERP in 2013 to 126 percent, with a planned further reduction to 124 percent by the end of the current fiscal year.
- Our Net International Reserves (NIR) have increased from US\$800M at the start of the ERP programme in 2013 to US\$2.3 billion now.
- Inflation has been significantly reduced from 9.5 percent in 2013 at the start of the ERP and now stands at 4 percent, the lowest rate in forty eight years.
- Domestic Interest rates have declined, and
- The employed labour force has increased by 46,500 between January 2012 and October 2015.



**GOING FOR
GROWTH -
Staying the
Course**

Tax Reform

This Administration successfully implemented a number of Tax Reform objectives to broaden the tax base; lower rates; ensure equity and fairness; increase compliance, and improve efficiency of tax collection and administration.

SOCIAL EQUITY	STIMULATE INVESTMENT & JOB CREATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised the threshold applicable to Personal Income Tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowered Corporate Income Tax Rate for unregulated companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCT - reduced the standard rate from 17.5% to 16.5% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented an Employment Tax Credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced customs rates on consumer goods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented Customs Duty Relief on consumables; machinery and equipment

Looking to the future, the Government intends to continue its process of Tax Reform with improved tax compliance and an increase in public finances. The Administration will:

- Continue to increase tax free portion for individuals by raising the threshold applicable for Personal Income Tax;
- Reduce the Personal Income Tax Rate for individuals;
- Reduce the GCT rate further while continuing to protect certain items; and
- Further reduce the customs rates on consumer goods.

both local and international private capital and reduces the risks to the government. This approach will be used to construct the Southern Coastal Highway Project and effect the further modernization of our seaports and airports.

Modernizing the Physical Infrastructure

The extensive modernization of the country's physical infrastructure will continue to be a major plank in the platform for growth. The policy approach is to finance these investments through public/private partnerships (PPP). This encourages and facilitates the use of

A Better Trained and more Productive Labour Force

Increased investments will be made to develop a better Trained and more Productive Labour Force. This is an important building block in reducing unemployment and achieving competitiveness in the global economy. Our focus will be on the increased application of



Opening of New Court Session

Science and Technology and integrating training programmes with national development goals.

An Efficient and Facilitatory Public Sector

A critical underpinning in the platform for growth is a transformed and modernized public sector which is efficient, flexible, responsive and accountable. It should be capable of facilitating both the public and private sectors - whether small, medium or large businesses. It should also be able to efficiently deliver essential social services, such as education and health.

Public Order and the Effective Management of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

A cornerstone for the achievement of our economic and social goals is the effective management of crime and anti-social behaviour. However, success will require proactive law enforcement, intelligence gathering, employment of cutting edge forensics, social intervention, and, the building of crucial partnerships with the citizenry.



THE GROWTH AGENDA

What are the Elements

The government has developed a comprehensive Growth Strategy which mobilizes our productive assets and unleashes entrepreneurial dynamism to generate sustainable and inclusive growth. We will continue to strengthen Public/Private partnerships, with the Government providing the enabling environment while Private Sector investments will drive economic growth. The major components of the Growth Agenda are:

- Strategic Investment projects;
- Integrated resort development;
- Logistics Hub;
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which will improve the capacity and resilience of the country;
- Institutional reform; and
- Business Environment Competitiveness Reform

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Kingston Container Terminal (KCT)

The expansion and upgrading of the Kingston Container Terminal initially at a cost of US\$459 million will increase the country's maritime capabilities through the dredging of the access channel and the development of new and deeper berths. This will accommodate larger ships transiting the Panama Canal.

It will also create investment opportunities for the development of facilities near the container terminal for logistics and value added services such as unpacking, manipulating, re-packing and transforming cargo for transshipment or for local consumption.

Norman Manley and Sangster International Airports

The Public/Private Partnership model is being utilized in the modernization and expansion of both the Sangster and Norman Manley International Airports. The extension of the runways at both airports will accommodate direct traffic from Europe and Asia.

North South Leg of Highway 2000

The Highway to be completed in March 2016 will greatly reduce travel time and serve to position the capital city Kingston as a cultural and tourism destination. It will also open a range of exciting investment opportunities for hotel, housing and commercial development.

Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP)

The improvement of the southern coastal corridors of the island from Harbour View to Port Antonio, and Negril to Mandeville will link the entire island and expand the opportunities for major hotel, housing and commercial developments along that corridor. The SCHIP is divided into two Segments: Segment 1 – Harbour View to Port Antonio (106.4 km) and Segment 2 – Negril to Mandeville (131.4 km) Work is expected to begin on Segment 1 in the first quarter of 2016.

Agro Parks

Expansion of Agro-Parks into new areas will continue to integrate domestic agriculture with the tourism and manufacturing sectors and provide new opportunities for import substitution. The areas targeted for the expansion of Agro Parks are Enfield in Westmoreland; Shettlewood in Hanover; Nonsuch/Unity in St. Mary; Hounslow Phase 2 and Spring Ground in St. Elizabeth; Mafoota and Seven Rivers in St. James and Spring Gardens in Portland.

TOURISM

The impressive growth in tourism has positioned the industry as the lead sector in Jamaica's economic recovery. Our record-breaking 3.65 million total visitor arrivals in 2015, an increase of 5.4% over the previous year, was in large measure due to the strong partnership forged between stakeholders including major European tour operators and aggressive pursuit of new airlift out of the US market.

Over the next term the Ministry of Tourism will take full advantage of the extraordinary beauty of our country, its hospitable people and vibrant and unique culture, combined with creative and innovative marketing skills to make tourism an even stronger pillar of the national economy.

The PNP has created a sound economic framework that has strengthened investor confidence and has ensured an accelerating pace of investment flows from local and foreign investors totalling \$64 billion.

We will continue to review our fiscal policies and recommend the implementation of tax reforms to enhance the attractiveness of the tourism sector. We are confident that this will result in a major increase in the number of tourism entities which are now enjoying incentives under the new regime. With the broadening of eligibility, the benefits will become increasingly available to small properties as well as to the attractions and transportation sub-sectors.



The PNP has created a sound economic framework that has strengthened investor confidence and has ensured an accelerating pace of investment flows from local and foreign investors totalling \$64 billion.

Room Stock

Over the next term this new enabling economic environment will lead to an investment boom in the tourism sector which will create a substantial increase as well as a wider variety of available accommodation. Some 2,500 additional rooms are now under construction with some 14,000 planned over the next decade. These new hotel rooms will create some 40,000 permanent jobs in addition to those which will be created during construction.

Linkages

A new and critical aspect of our work over the next term will be our focus on ensuring that the benefits of tourism are felt across all sectors and in communities across Jamaica. The potential for local businesses to supply the hotel sector with a range of goods and services that can be produced locally has been estimated at \$70 billion.

The manufacturing sector and sub-sectors such as food and agro-processing, textiles and apparel, and the creative and performance sectors, are excited and energized at the prospect of this ready market for their products. Many have already increased their business significantly with the sector.

The innovative initiatives, implemented over the last two years, have brought hoteliers in direct contact with local suppliers of products and services. These contacts have resulted in contracts for manufacturers and farmers. Negotiations are in progress with the owners of properties now under construction as well as those in the planning stages. Local businesses are clearly poised to profit from this new market leading to considerable job creation as well as contributing greatly to stemming leakages from the sector.

Product Development

Jamaica's rich cultural heritage continues to attract a new generation of visitors and the Tourism Enhancement Fund has expended millions on the upgrading of heritage sites island-wide. The certification of the Blue Mountain and Cockpit Country as a UNESCO Heritage Site, as well as the designation of Kingston under the Creative Cities Programme as a Music City, subsidized by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), will have a positive effect on Jamaica's tourism competitiveness rating.

We are building on our world renowned reputation as an athletics superpower, and our prowess in other sports. The Sports Tourism



Jamaica's rich cultural heritage continues to attract a new generation of visitors and the Tourism Enhancement Fund has expended millions on the upgrading of heritage sites island-wide.

Committee will continue to give support to such major events as the Reggae Marathon, one of the largest such promotions worldwide.

Community tourism is increasing and has been boosted by the small projects which have seen the creation of new community attractions developed under the Tourism Improvement Programme (TIP). The Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) and the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) will continue to provide training and assist with the upgrading and subsequent licensing of small tourism entities across Jamaica.

A welcomed development in the tourist industry is the emergence of a bed and breakfast programme that fills a marketing niche for the young and adventurous who are attracted by Jamaica's popular culture and want to share the life of the Jamaican people. There are already more than 2,000 rentals of one to six or more bedrooms located in Jamaican communities island-wide listed on the internet. This is a major step towards creating a more inclusive industry.

Tourism Enhancement Fund

The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) has funded a number of transformational projects in our resort towns - Ocho Rios, Falmouth and Montego Bay - while plans are well advanced for further projects in these towns and for major upgrading in Negril in addition to projects that have already been completed there.

Beaches

Tourism is not an enclave sector that benefits only selected segments of the population but must have a direct and positive impact of the lives of citizens across Jamaica. To this end, the TEF has earmarked \$250 million to fund state of the art facilities at some of our best beaches, across the island, at least one in each parish. These will include changing rooms, bathrooms, picnic areas, children's play areas, gazebos and life guard posts.



DUNN'S
RIVER
FALLS

Marketing

Our record breaking visitor arrivals have increased earnings from the sector. We will continue on our market diversification path and negotiate for additional airlift to meet growing demand. Partnering with international and local investors has brought new life into the sector brightening the prospects for continued growth.

Looking Ahead

Work is well advanced in the creation of a pension scheme for tourism workers, beginning with those in the accommodation sub-sector, with the full collaboration of hoteliers. This scheme is expected to become operational by 2017. Tourism workers will also benefit from a housing programme currently being planned with the National Housing Trust.

These major advances for our tourism workers, generally acknowledged as being among the sector's best assets, are being implemented through strong and positive collaborative relationships forged with the private sector.

Over the next term, we will continue to build on this foundation that has created a robust and economically profitable industry with concentrated focus on making better provisions for the workers in the sector, and spreading the benefits of tourism across all sectors and all communities.





Craft display
at the Craft
Market in Ocho
Rios.

Entertainment UNESCO designation of Kingston as a Creative Music City

UNESCO designated Kingston as a creative music city on December 11, 2015. On the basis of this designation, the Ministry will work with the KSAC, UDC, National Gallery as well as international partners, to develop various sites across Kingston to showcase our rich music and cultural heritage and share information with other creative cities across the world.

Entertainment Registry

The Entertainment Registry is an inclusive database for practitioners in the cultural and creative industry. This database is designed to benefit registered practitioners by facilitating application relating to tools of the trade and other benefits. So far 372 individual entertainers and forty companies have been registered.

Arts in the Park

Arts in the Park seeks to increase the quality of entertainment offerings in resort towns, while providing opportunities for new and emerging

talent to be exposed to international talent scouts and booking agents. The programme has seen positive results with local talent being offered scholarships and contracts.

Establishment of entertainment zones

Collaboration between various government entities, including the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment, the Ministry of National Security, UDC and NEPA have resulted in the establishment of entertainment zones in Downtown Kingston and at Palisadoes/Fort Rocky. All are subject to environmental review. Some areas can be used for events without any time restrictions.

Amendment of Noise Abatement Act

Cabinet approved the amendment of the Noise Abatement Act in December 2014, to amend Section 5 to allow for the establishment of Parish Extension Committees which will allow time extension on permits for holding events. More than half of the Councils have voted to implement the provisions of the Act.

Jamrock Summer: 90 Days/90 Ways

Jamrock Summer: 90 days/90 ways was launched in July 2014 to provide marketing

cohesion around events held across the island from May 15 to August 15 each year. Trademark protection was secured in Jamaica during the first year despite an IP challenge to use of the name Jamrock. There are currently nine signature events promoted under the Jamrock Summer banner including JCDC Festival events across the island, Calabash Literary Festival, Kingston on the Edge, Dream Weekend, Styleweek, Caribbean Fashion Week and Dover Race meet.

INTEGRATED RESORT DEVELOPMENT

Integrated Resort developments are a critical component of the growth agenda. Provisional development orders have been issued for two such developments. The order requires the investors Harmony Cove Limited and Celebration Jamaica Development Limited to begin construction by the middle of this year and to complete in each case 1000 new rooms within three years. These developments represent strategic initiatives to catapult Jamaica into a prominent position in the high end segment of the tourism market and are expected to generate thousands of new jobs.

LOGISTICS HUB AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

Jamaica will accelerate the program to build out a logistics-centred economy. The objective is to create a modern platform which will facilitate the efficient flow of business activity. It will take advantage of the country's geographic and strategic location, its natural endowments and its human resources in attracting new industries.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will facilitate linkages between the global and domestic markets to drive economic growth. They will also provide commercial space for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to participate in global supply-chain

networks. The first of the Special Economic Zones will be established in Spanish Town, St. Catherine. Activities here will include refining and regeneration of petroleum products, manufacturing of composites and insulation material, vehicle assembly, auto parts remanufacturing and distribution, manufacturing of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products, as well as research and manufacturing of tobacco products.

The second will be the Caymanas Special Economic Zone which consists of 1,700 acres of prime real estate between Kingston, Portmore and Spanish Town. This zone is designated for light manufacturing, assembly and distribution industries.

Third is the Portland Bight Development Project for which a Framework Agreement has been signed for port, industrial and logistics facilities within the Portland Bight and associated areas. This is subject to the approval of the competent authorities of both Parties.

Other specialized zones are being planned to cater to ship repair, ship stores and chandelling, as well as aircraft maintenance.

BUSINESS PROCESSING OUTSOURCING

Jamaica is increasingly becoming a preferred location for investments in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector. It has attracted new and major players including Xerox, Tele performance, Vistaprint, Hinduja Global Solutions and Sutherland Global Services.

This sector has grown by 20 percent over the past two years, and is the fastest generator of jobs in the country. It has been particularly attractive as a source of employment primarily for secondary school graduates whilst offering part time employment for tertiary students enrolled in degree programmes.



Jamaica, the third largest English speaking country in this hemisphere after the USA and Canada is well positioned to use this competitive advantage to double the over 18,000 jobs now in the sector, in the next three to five years. Investments in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and call centre operations particularly in Kingston and St. James are opening up new opportunities for our young people.

The new BPO strategy calls for the attraction of back office work further up the value chain to include knowledge process outsourcing, business process management and other high value work.

With increasing demand for Information and Communications Technology (ICT)/Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) plans are in place to provide adequate space for expansion.

The Factories Corporation Naggo Head Tech Park will deliver 750,000 square feet of space. The first phase will see the construction of 120,000 square feet and employ 4,000 people.

The Port Authority of Jamaica will add a new 63,000 square foot building in the Montego Bay Freezone to facilitate an expansion in BPO operations. Construction is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2016. In the Portmore Informatix Park the Port Authority of Jamaica will add 150,000 square feet of new BPO space to its current 50,000 square feet. The project is expected to be completed in 2016/17.

The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) is facilitating the growth of the industry, offering a loan facility at an interest rate of 4.5 percent for the construction of large BPO facilities. The Development Bank of Jamaica has approved loans totalling over US\$26.7 million to create 38,000 square feet of new BPO space, generating up to 11,000 new jobs.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

We will continue the programme of Institutional Reform to ensure that a stable, predictable and resilient macroeconomic environment is maintained which is a prerequisite for high levels of long term foreign and domestic investment. Under this programme further reforms will be instituted in the areas of Tax Reform, Central Treasury Management, Fiscal Rules, Pension Reform and Public Sector Transformation.

Business Environment and Competitiveness Reform

These ongoing reforms involve the removal of constraints in the business environment and include the following: Business registration process, Development application review process, Collateral reform and Insolvency reform.

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMY

Support for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise sector (MSME)

The critical importance of this sector to sustained economic growth and job creation in Jamaica is well established. The priority during the next term of office will be to transform MSMEs into competitive enterprises which will create wealth. This forms the backbone for private sector growth and expansion and the following strategies and policies will be pursued in support of these goals:

Building Capacity, Expanding Entrepreneurship

During the next term existing programs will be strengthened and new strategies implemented to provide MSMEs with training in marketing, leadership, communication and technical skills. This will strengthen their capacity to avail themselves of the support services offered by the government and the private sector. These include:

- **Access to collateral for mobilizing investment capital**

The present programme to provide access to arable land and to process titles for new land owners will provide small entrepreneurs with collateral for securing capital. In addition, the passage of the Security Interest in Personal Property Act and the establishment of a National Collateral Registry will allow MSMEs to register movable property as collateral that could then be mobilized for bank loans.

- **Credit Bureaus**

A major incentive for MSMEs to maintain a good credit rating is the role now provided by Credit Bureaus, to provide financial entities with credit information which assists in their assessment of the credit worthiness of MSMEs, as well as their ability to service loans.

- **Access to capital**

The pool of capital that will become available to MSMEs will be considerably expanded as a result of initiatives being pursued by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ). EQUITY FINANCING is being promoted as a viable financing option for MSMEs through mechanisms such as the JAMAICA VENTURE CAPITAL PROGRAMME (JVCP) and Angel Investor Community. Equity financing provides access to long-term financing that is required by potential small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and innovative start-ups, for sustained growth and development.





More vehicles for community safety

NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The PNP will continue to actively support a National Security Policy that increasingly empowers citizens to work with the various institutions which promote security, peace and safety in their communities, while reinforcing a culture of lawfulness and public order. We will build a broader coalition against crime and violence in Jamaica. We will promote greater citizen participation and cooperation between the public and private sectors, and NGOs.

We will reduce crime and violence in a sustained way by developing and implementing public safety policies that balance crime prevention and law enforcement actions. We will continue to rebuild and deepen cooperation with our international partners towards combating violent extremism, transnational and organised crime, human trafficking, and financial crime.

We will continue to rally the nation to advance our fight against crime and violence as 'One Nation with One Mission.' Through public education and leadership, we will win the cooperation of our communities and families to defeat Lottery Scamming and significantly reduce violent crimes.

We will increase resources to the Police to boost mobility and crime prevention, even as we systematically address issues of corruption inside the JCF and restore public trust and confidence. We will provide strong policy and strategic support to the Police 'Get the Guns' Campaign to reduce the number of guns on the streets and to stem the flow of illegal weapons into the country through the 'guns for drugs' trade.

The gains we have made in combating praedial larceny in our rural communities will continue through increased surveillance and intelligence operations to protect the livelihood of our farmers and their families and dependents. Critical to our success will be the continuing work to deepen collaboration among all the National Security agencies and departments and to win the public trust and confidence.

The People's National Party is the best option to lead the re-building of peace and respect for the rule of law that will lead us to prosperity and growth.

We believe the people are central to this culture of lawfulness we seek for the country. Individual citizens, the private sector and members of civil society groups are all invited to join in this process of transformation. Together we can overcome the fear that crime brings to our society by working together as a united front against crime to create a gentler, safer and more caring society.

MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS

A. MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MIDP)

This project, currently being implemented, focuses on the island-wide rehabilitation and construction of several major roadways and road infrastructure. The project involves the rehabilitation of 430 km of roads; twenty seven critical bridges; retaining walls, and other protective works. The programme is being implemented over a three-year period with local and international contractors, and is divided into three components as follows:

Major Works - This component totals US\$220 million. Designs are far advanced for major road improvement works.

Medium Sized Works - This component totals US\$83 million and will be undertaken by Jamaican contractors.

JEEP Works - This component totals US\$50 million and is to be undertaken by small Jamaican contractors.

Both Medium Sized works and JEEP Works will be implemented by way of a tender process to ensure transparency and equity.

A. FARM ROADS

A number of farm roads are being rehabilitated under the National Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme. Phase 1, already underway, involves seven roads in Manchester, St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. James and St. Elizabeth. In Phase 2, twenty-two roads will be upgraded in Portland, St. James, Hanover, St. Mary, Clarendon, St. Thomas, St. Ann, St. Catherine, Westmoreland and Trelawny; while the third Phase will include all

parishes except Kingston. By the end of the programme, forty-one farm roads across the country, will be rehabilitated at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

ENERGY

Over the past four decades the high cost of energy has been the main barrier to competitiveness of the economy in general and the manufacturing sector in particular. The comprehensive upgrading of the island's electricity generation plant to reduce both production costs, and the average price of electricity to consumers, is well underway.

A new electricity framework was put in place with the tabling of an Electricity Bill: The Bill

- defines the roles and responsibilities of the regulator and the Ministry;
- provides for a modern codified system of regulation of generation, transmission, supply, distribution and dispatch of electricity;
- reforms the Government Electrical Inspectorate (GEI) functions to facilitate more efficient certification; and,
- promotes energy efficiency and encourages the proliferation of renewable energy and other energy sources.

A programme to diversify sources of energy and reduce costs is being pursued. This is resulting in major investments in solar, wind and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) technologies, which will further reduce our traditional dependence on oil and reduce the cost of energy for all Jamaicans. An Energy efficiency conservation and public education/communication programme is now in place.



An Electricity Sector Enterprise Team (ESET) was appointed with responsibility for guiding the process to inform the replacement of base load capacity. Plans for Rapid Assessment and Generation Expansion have been completed and ESET is facilitating the replacement of approximately 330 Mega Watts (MW) of base load capacity to the grid.

A new agreement with the USA provides for the export of LNG to Jamaica and is designed to promote cooperation between both countries on energy conservation and efficiency, the development of the renewable energy sector, fuel diversification and the introduction of Liquefied Natural Gas. This allows the US-based New Fortress Energy to provide JPS with LNG for its 120 MW power plant at Bogue in Montego Bay, St James. The existing diesel operated plant is being converted to utilize natural gas. This has far reaching implications for the country's development and is likely to be the catalyst for establishing Jamaica as an energy hub for the Caribbean and Latin America.

Renewable Energy:

The following renewable energy projects totalling approximately US\$200M (J\$23 billion) are underway and are scheduled for completion over an 18 month period:

- Licences and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for 80.2 MW of renewable energy;
- two (2) wind projects – WIGTON WIND FARM (24 MW) and Blue Mountain Renewables (36.2 MW) for which ground has already been broken;
- A Solar Project in Content Village, Clarendon (20MW) – the largest solar project in the English-speaking Caribbean, is being developed by WRB Enterprises.

In addition, a number of Pre-Feasibility Hydro Studies have been completed.

Apart from contributing to Jamaica's sustainable energy policy and the protection of the environment, employment has been provided to local residents.

Rural Electrification

The Rural Electrification Programme is being transformed and rebranded as National Energy Solutions (NESol). NESol Limited is now mandated to pursue a number of new strategic initiatives including energy audits, conventional electrical infrastructure for new housing developments and renewable energy solutions for governmental and private sector clients.

WATER AND SANITATION

The critical importance of an adequate and consistent supply of water for national development was reinforced by the prolonged drought between 2014 and 2015 and

exacerbated by climate change and the El Nino phenomenon. The Administration has completed an updated Water Sector Policy together with a Water Supply Development Strategy to be implemented in the next financial year. The objective of the strategy is to provide universal access to potable water by 2030.

The National Water Commission's (NWC) 2015-2030 Capital Investment Plan (CIP), has identified seventeen major projects for infrastructure development which will provide a roadmap for satisfying and fulfilling the delivery of potable water. Over the next five years, US\$1.2 billion will be invested in these projects. The CIP will be supported by a combination of financing strategies inclusive of internally generated revenues, concessionary loans/grant financing from Development and Commercial Banks, Multi/Bi-Lateral Institutions and Public/Private Sector Partnerships (PPP).

The reduction of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Island-wide will continue to be a major priority of the Administration. Over the next five years, we intend to reduce the NRW in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) to half the existing level. This will lead to significant water savings which will increase the availability of potable water and maximize revenues.

Wastewater Treatment has not kept pace with the development of the country. The NWC will be leading the expansion of new and existing sewerage systems in the country's twenty-two major towns and parish capitals inclusive of the Kingston Metropolitan Area. In the next term US\$750 million will be invested in the implementation of the programme. This will lead to enhanced operational efficiency of the Soapberry Wastewater Treatment Plant, maximization of revenue and protection of the aquifer of the Liguanea Plains.



The Rural Water Supply Ltd will provide technical support to the NWC and the Parish Councils in the implementation of the water supply development strategy. This will increase the availability of potable water to rural communities using various modalities such as rainwater harvesting, upgrading and refurbishing of catchment tanks and entombment of springs.

The Water Resources Authority (WRA) will in 2016/2017 upgrade the National Water Resources Development Master Plan to include climate change scenarios and environmental allocations to accurately identify water availability. The WRA will also in 2016/2017, begin implementation of the Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR) by expanding and upgrading the hydrologic monitoring network to provide reliable hydrologic data for forecasting and modelling climate change impacts and water availability.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Building on the achievements of the JUTC over the last four years, a program will be implemented to further improve the efficiency of the public transport system. This program includes:

- the acquisition of additional buses and spare parts to guarantee reliability and punctuality at the operational level;
- The introduction of new procedures supported by technology and innovation to further streamline operations and heighten efficiencies.

The Transport Authority which regulates the public and private sectors, will enforce established standards and fit and proper criteria for the benefit of commuters, operators and all road users. The Authority is currently working with local stakeholders to enhance the utilisation of the system by students and to identify strategies to improve the viability and efficiency of the rural school bus system.

TECHNOLOGY

Spectrum Allocation

The Spectrum Management Authority will maintain its focus on creating the environment for the radio frequency spectrum to become the preferred medium of communication. The provision of wireless communications systems in Jamaica is critical to accessing information for development.



We will be implementing strategies to ensure the unrestricted long term growth of those services, through innovation and the allocation of new bands, utilizing technology to ensure more efficient operation of the spectrum.

Cellular companies will continue to be the major users for spectrum through expansion of existing networks as well as diversification into the provision of broadband services. Jamaica will continue to implement the strategies required to keep pace with the global trends in the application of technology to development.

Cyber Security: Jamaica will continue to update its National Cyber Security Strategy in order to improve its capacity to address the real and potential risks to the increased access to the Internet which include intrusions, hacking and economic fraud.

The design for the development of GovNet to interconnect Government entities to facilitate shared services has been completed. The new network will provide cost effective and efficient services to citizens.

Open Data: The Government of Jamaica will continue to actively pursue an Open Data policy. This includes the release by Government of non-sensitive datasets (weather, tourism, agriculture) for others to use in a controlled manner. It is free, machine readable, accessible to all, with license for commercial use. Sensitive, security and personal data will however remain protected.

Jamaicans continue to reap the benefits of the Number Portability initiative which enable them to eliminate some of the costs, inordinate delays and inconvenience that businesses and individuals encounter when changing from one telecoms provider to another.

The establishment of the Universal Access Fund (USF) will enable us to expand connectivity to the approved island-wide broadband network. Work has commenced to complete a pilot wireless broadband Internet project to provide internet service to rural communities and educational institutions island-wide.

PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The expansion of both export and domestic agriculture remain critical to increasing employment opportunities in rural Jamaica. Building on the achievements of the 2012-2015 programmes in the agricultural sector our objective is to expand growth, enhance food security and further reduce the food import bill. The next administration will:

- **Accelerate** the pace of the implementation of the National Irrigation Development Programme, by:
 - establishing irrigation systems in highly productive areas that are without water;
 - supporting traditional and greenhouse farmers with water storage systems such as earthen ponds, mini and micro dams, storage tanks, to be filled by appropriate rainwater catchment systems;
 - retrofitting existing systems with energy saving devices and ensuring all new systems use as much as is possible, renewable and alternative sources of energy to ensure that irrigation systems are cost efficient; and,
 - establishing loading bays in critical drought stricken productive areas.
- **Build out export platforms** under which local producers are directly tied to overseas markets/buyers to support new markets for banana in Britain and Canada; sweet potato in Britain; mangoes, hot pepper, breadfruit, dasheen, and yams in Canada, the United Kingdom and the US.

- **Resuscitate the coffee industry** to regain lost ground in export through the implementation of a cess on imported coffee for development and expansion of production.
- **Resuscitate the cocoa industry** through finalization of the divestment of government assets and deregulation of exports.

The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) will be established in 2016 for all commodity boards.

- **Modernize the fisheries sector** through the promulgation of the Fisheries Bill in 2016, the creation of a new licensing authority, expansion of aquaculture in and outside of our agro-parks, development of the Basa specie and exploitation of new deep water species through the establishment of appropriate management regimes. Given the tremendous success of existing sanctuaries, the government in partnership with NGO's will expand these. A new management regime for the Pedro Cays will be established.
- **Rehabilitate and Maintain Farm Roads** A number of farm roads are being rehabilitated under the **National Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme**. By the end of the programme forty one farm roads across the country will be rehabilitated at a cost of J\$1.2 billion.
- Accelerate the strengthening of the nation's **food safety and traceability infrastructure** through the accreditation of labs, completion of the tagging of animals, construction and operation of duly certified abattoirs through Public/Private Partnerships (PPPs), certification of all agro-parks and continuous training and capacity building of our farmers and exporters.

Cold Chain Logistics

The next PNP Administration will pursue investor interest in establishing facilities for Cold Chain Logistics to increase the shelf-life of fruits, vegetables, meats, fish and other perishables. The effect of this will be to revolutionize the Agriculture Sector and with it the livelihood of farmers and hoteliers.

These LNG-fuelled temperature controlled warehouses will ensure that agricultural produce gets to Market via an unbroken cold chain in the best condition, thus significantly reducing post-harvest losses.

MINING

Bauxite and Alumina

Throughout the challenges faced in recent times the PNP administration has continued to facilitate the execution of the best available options in Jamaica's bauxite and alumina sector. Economic bauxite reserves, sufficient to last more than thirty years, a well trained workforce and conveniently located operating assets have allowed this important industry to stay alive, notwithstanding the stressful developments that virtually crippled the industry in early 2009.

JAMALCO in which the Government owned Clarendon Alumina Production (CAP) has a 45 percent stake is the only refinery that remained in operation throughout the entire difficult period. The strategic long term energy initiatives developed under this administration attracted the Noble Group as a partner to avert the closure of the JAMALCO operation. The Government, CAP and Noble also intend to position the plant as a highly competitive independent alumina producer. Importantly, the administration negotiated an arrangement which made it unnecessary for CAP to seek support from the budget.

In December 2014, as an interim measure, an agreement was reached with UC RUSAL to restart bauxite mining at Alpart, the largest of the country's alumina refineries. The port and rail system was

renovated and the export of bauxite was restarted in July 2015. The continued reduction in the price of oil will increase the prospects of a full reopening of the refinery in the near future. The government will continue to pursue discussions with a view to a timely conclusion for an early return to full alumina production at Alpart.

In the next term the Government will give priority to the following:

- Short and Long term energy alternatives, especially taking into account the current dynamics in the oil market;
- Identifying, grading and measuring of, and facilitating access to reserves;
- Rapid restoration of and alternative use of mined out lands;
- Facilitation of titling for relocated land owners;
- Timely fulfilment of commitments to mining and refinery communities;
- Maintenance of best practices in environmental management;
- Working with the companies in search of assistance in developing vocational and skills training;
- Maintaining compliance with land rehabilitation guidelines and targets;
- Pursuing opportunities in the rare minerals industry that is a potential spinoff of the alumina industry;
- Encouragement of opportunities to diversify production in the alumina industry;
- Putting usable idle refinery assets such as power units, water tanks and lime facilities to smaller scale productive use where feasible, for the benefit of communities.

Other Minerals (Industrial and Metallic)

The National Minerals Policy will be finalized in the next term. The policy will provide the framework for the continued expansion of the Industrial Minerals Sector and export of increased quantities of value added products. The mapping of critical mineral resources such as gold, copper and limestone will serve to attract investors to ensure continued expansion.

MANUFACTURING

The expansion and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector will be a major area of focus during our next term. Based on opportunities for linkages with the rapidly growing tourism industry and the revitalisation of agricultural output, the government is deliberately facilitating the deeper integration of manufacturing with other sectors in the domestic economy. This sector is one of the major beneficiaries of economic reforms especially the overhaul of the tax incentive system. The sector will continue to benefit from the reduction in the cost of energy from 40c per kilowatt hour to 24c per kilowatt hour.



JOB CREATION

This administration has committed itself to a target of providing 100,000 jobs over the next five years.

Job creation remains the primary focus of this administration and the acceleration of the growth agenda is the means to increasing the number of employment opportunities across various sectors of the economy including the Business Process Outsourcing sector, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and construction. This is critical in a society in which unemployment inevitably gives rise to anti-social behaviour and undermines the rule of law.

The following sectors are expected to generate a significant number of jobs:

- **Tourism** - 8000 rooms expected to come on stream over the next 5 years. Some 30,000 jobs will be generated from the construction of hotel rooms and in addition each hotel room constructed is expected to generate 3 jobs.
- **Business Process Outsourcing** - 20,000 jobs over the next 3 years.
- **Construction** - thousands of jobs will also be created during the construction of
 - Hotels
 - Highway
 - Agro Parks
 - Residential housing
 - Other infrastructure development projects such as port and airport expansion and BPO facilities.

- **Manufacturing**

This sector has traditionally been a significant employer of labour and is expected to continue to do so as it is revitalized.

- **MSMEs**

A major source of job creation is also expected to come from the entrepreneurial efforts of the people which will be reflected in the growth of the MSME sector.

- **JEEP** is one of the strategies that the Government of Jamaica has implemented to respond to the chronic unemployment status of some Jamaicans, particularly those in the lower socio-economic stratum; persons with special needs; those with low skills levels and those from under-served communities. JEEP's mandate is to create employment while improving the physical infrastructure of the island. The programme was launched on March 22, 2012 and as at September 30, 2015, approximately 61,407 persons have been employed with an estimated expenditure of J\$9.204 billion.

- **Overseas Employment Programme**

The PNP will continue to grow the Overseas Employment Programme. To support this thrust, potential applicants will be trained in farming skills through Community Colleges to provide them with a competitive edge on the job. In addition special efforts will be made to recruit and place disabled persons with the requisite skills.



SOCIAL SECTORS

The social well-being of the individual will continue to be an absolute top priority for the PNP. Jamaica has maintained a level of investment in social services that is unique among countries implementing IMF Programmes. By successfully completing the Economic Reform Programme (ERP) Jamaica will be well on the road to achieving sustainable and equitable economic growth to provide the revenues required for increased investments in social services, which will contribute to building a more caring society and improving the quality of life for all.



Land - Min. Pickersgill presents land title in Bog Walk, St. Catherine

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The record of a People's National Party Government on education is unchallenged. We believe in the protection of the people's right to education without partisan political control. We will continue the gains made and intensify the pace of providing and delivering quality education at all levels from early childhood through to adult continuing education. Our party, as government, will monitor for accountability every dollar spent on education as we remain committed to our people and move Jamaica towards becoming a participant in the global knowledge based economy. Knowledge exploitation and the use of technology are key to development. Every Jamaican deserves a good education. It is the best benefit any government can offer to its people. It adds value to lives.

In order to grow the economy, in order for individuals to achieve their personal goals, in order for Jamaica to achieve our 2030 vision, all our people must be well educated and trained to their full potential. This means that our education system has to be at world-class standard. Although we have achieved much, we must continue to pursue relentlessly, even higher and better standards for all our students.

During the next term as government, we will –

- Legislate and implement the Revised Code of Regulations and the Jamaica Teaching Council Bill to ensure accountability.
- Eliminate the shift system at both our primary and secondary schools to allow students maximum contact time in teaching and learning.
- Having already met the universal targets set by UNESCO for literacy, we will meet the target for numeracy in our

primary schools, focussing especially on the underperforming male students.

- Provide more access to better trained teachers and resources at our early childhood institutions.
- Provide more quality places at the Early Childhood Level by creating infant departments in primary schools and constructing new infant schools.
- Implement a special grant in aid programme at the Early Childhood Level with our partners providing Early Childhood Education.
- Continue the expansion of the school feeding programme to respond to the needs of more students as part of poverty alleviation and in support of regular attendance at schools.
- Improve the physical learning environment at our schools, including the eradication of pit latrines, infrastructure provision and the provision of adequate student furniture.
- Increase access to special education by providing additional learning facilities and collaborating with private providers.
- Specifically target our out-of-school youth population for skills training and certification for employment.
- Implement a scholarship/grant programme at the tertiary level for our brightest and most economically challenged students. We will provide 500 additional scholarships in the first year for training of teachers of Mathematics, Science and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

- Charge interest on the reducing loan balances for new and returning students of tertiary institutions, which will result in them paying 20 percent less in interest charges to the Student Loan Bureau (SLB) from April 1, 2016. (The SLB has already disbursed \$4.2 billion in loans to approximately 12,500 beneficiaries for the current academic year, satisfying 93 percent of total applications. This has been financed by inflows from the increased Education Tax, the Petro-Caribe Fund, a revolving loan from the HEART Trust/NTA and increased collections from loan repayments).
 - Target teacher preparation at our Teacher Education Institutions to ensure the implementation of the revised Common Curricula from Grades 1 – 9 at all schools.
 - Fully roll out the Education Broadcasting Network (EBN) to support teaching and learning, the emersion into wholesome values and good citizenship in our society.
 - Operationalize the Department of Schools Services (DSS) to ensure accountability, proper monitoring and supervision of the school system.
 - Deepen relationships with existing government agencies/institutions and private organisations such as JSIF, CHASE, FFP and other non-government organizations to provide improved learning environments at our schools.
 - Mandatorily monitor school attendance to prevent students dropping out.
 - Increase the number of social workers assigned to the Regions, to assist parents to cope with the socio-economic challenges of educating their children.
 - Expand and fully roll out STEM in our schools to increase the number of students sitting science subjects and mathematics in exit examinations.
 - Consolidate and invest in new areas of TVET such as the BPO Sector to make the graduates more marketable.
 - Introduce climate change as an important aspect of the new curriculum given the adverse effects of global warming and other environmental conditions.
 - Expand the centres throughout the island in every parish, major town, and in other accessible venues to offer the High School Diploma Equivalency, thus giving an opportunity to anyone who did not complete or wants to pursue secondary education to do so.
 - Introduce the Alternative Pathways in high schools to ensure that all students are given a fair chance to reach their full potential.
 - Give priority to oral and written standard English in our schools to improve examination results and fully prepare our students for its use as the international language of communication.
- There is need for greater cooperation in the area of behaviour management as it relates to some of our children. While the Ministry of Education is implementing a suite of behaviour management programmes, we call on teachers, parents, the church and members of civil society to play your part as mentors and counsellors to our young people.
- Education makes you trainable. Training makes you employable. Employment makes you productive. Productivity makes you prosperous. Step up the progress.



HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

The PNP government recognizes that health is an important element of national development and will continue to build a health service that is proactive, responsive, efficient, evidence based, client centred, user-friendly and communicative. To achieve this objective we will be expanding the areas of collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international and regional partners, to develop our investment in health care institutions and training facilities and expand our cadre of health professionals and workers in order to satisfy the growing demands of quality health care to the population.

We will continue to give high priority to strengthening the governance framework and introducing treatment technologies to improve the quality of service and enhance the health of our people.

Since 2012 we have:

- Strengthened primary health care services;
- Launched the National Health Card;
- Improved the system for delivery of pharmacy services;
- Made significant investments in the vehicle fleet
- Improved cancer care;
- Established smoke free public spaces;
- Integrated the national HIV Programme into national family planning services; and
- Strengthened oral health services.

These improvements are reflected in a Life expectancy of 73.1 years in Jamaica, the same level as most developed countries.

During the next term of office our major focus will be the modernization of the health care services to suit the growing needs of the population in accordance with the WHO through:

- improved leadership and governance at all levels,
- implementation of systems for appropriate health financing,
- continuation of training of our skilled and dedicated health workforce and implementation of mechanisms for their retention and growth,
- increasing equitable access to medicines and health technology,
- expansion of health research and increased access to evidence based health information,
- increased access to efficient and effective health service delivery to include facility upgrade and expansion.

We will continue to review the governance structure of the Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Authorities as well as the areas of service delivery at the University Hospital of the West Indies in order to:

- Strengthen accountability at all levels of the health care delivery system;
- Establish clear and ongoing feedback systems from users and stakeholders;
- Complete and implement a new ten year development plan as a road map for the delivery of health care to the population.

We will seek to develop sustainable financing for the health sector to include:

- trade services through health education;
- health tourism;
- public/private partnerships for diagnostics and delivery of healthcare;
- partnerships with training institutions so that selected health facilities are used as clinical sites for health care professional development;
- strengthening collaboration with the Diaspora;
- revisiting the possibility of a national health insurance scheme; and
- continued encouragement of medical missions including the Chain of Hope, among others.

We will be increasing our investments in the health sector in order to:

- strengthen emergency medical services and improve access to our emergency departments to include the implementation of the North Coast Corridor Trauma Plan;
- continue the upgrading of Health Care facilities, including redefining the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) as a centre of excellence for trauma management and chronic non-communicable diseases;
- expand the bed capacities in the hospitals and increase the number of beds in these facilities beginning with KPH, Spanish Town and May Pen.
- Continue to roll out the health information system and e-health services establishing electronic health records at the four regional hospitals and Spanish Town Hospital.



- continue the process towards establishing a child and adolescent hospital in Montego Bay;
 - redefine Victoria Jubilee Hospital as the centre of excellence for women's health including continuation of the Programme for Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) which will also be introduced in other hospitals island-wide. PROMAC, valued at \$2.6 billion and funded by the European Union, will facilitate the training of specialist physicians and nurses;
 - upgrade community hospitals including Chapelton and Alexandria and establish facilities at the Linstead Hospital;
 - complete the project for the establishment of two linear accelerator machines for the radiotherapy treatment of cancer at St. Joseph's and Cornwall Regional Hospitals. This will be funded by the National Health Fund, CHASE, the Vincent Hosang Family Foundation and the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce;
 - establish improved systems for the early diagnosis and management of cancer and continuing with the introduction of advance treatment technologies, training of staff, and the establishment of at least one facility for chemotherapy in each of the Regional Health Authorities; and,
 - partner with the University Hospital of the West Indies as the centre of scientific research, as well as with UTECH, NCU and others.
- Over the next five years we will also be:
- completing and rolling out electronic medical records systems;
 - developing comprehensive care health centres, in keeping with the Primary Health Care Renewal Plan;
 - strengthening the cadre of community health workers, public health inspectors, environmental specialists, nutritionists and nurses;
 - continuing to support the introduction of vaccines for the Human Papilloma Virus;
 - renewing focus on the health needs of those over 55 and the disabled;
 - strengthening oral health services as a priority area in primary care;
 - continuing to be vigilant in monitoring trends and improving the coordination and management of emerging epidemics and pandemics;



New Ambulances

- sharing information through interactive websites and social media platforms to promote public education and transparency;
- encouraging the development of nutraceuticals;
- maintaining the Jamaican-Cuban Eye Care program (Operation Milagro);
- continuing to craft a sustained HIV response despite reduction in external funding. Jamaica has been lauded for this approach and now covers more than 60 percent of the annual HIV budget compared to 5 percent in 2012.
- continue to maintain accessibility to retroviral drugs to facilitate further reduction of the HIV transmission rate in our country. The next goal is to eliminate mother to child transmission by year 2017.

AN EMERGING CANNABIS INDUSTRY

The People's National Party is committed to establishing a fully integrated medical cannabis industry encompassing the entire value chain from cultivation to the manufacturing of a wide range of medicinal and nutraceutical cannabis products. The final legal regulations covering Industrial hemp and ganja for medical, therapeutic and scientific purposes will be issued in 2016. They will cover cultivation, transporting, retail (teahouse and therapeutic services), manufacturing/processing, and research all of which will lead to more jobs.

This will provide the basis on which Jamaica can begin the development of a legal ganja industry and the export of products to international markets. Traditional and new growers as well as processors will benefit from higher returns. We are committed to engaging the international community through diplomatic channels to bring about changes to international drug policy affecting the development of this important Medical and nutraceutical industry.





HOUSING

We will continue to build on the proud record established by every administration of the People's National Party, of creating and facilitating housing solutions to increase substantially the number of Jamaican families who own and live in their own homes. This will be achieved by:

- Working 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 networks outside the major urban centres;
- adopting creative approaches to ensure that the lower income groups have greater access to housing solutions;
- reintroducing a Sites and Services type programme as the principal means of tackling the problem of the increasing number of unplanned settlements;
- targeting infill housing wastelands where basic infrastructure is already in place for redevelopment by the National Housing Trust (NHT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing;
- facilitating the involvement of NGOs and the private sector in housing;
- Encouraging potential homeowners to use the standard units/prototypes developed that can be built at significantly reduced cost;
- Ensuring that existing housing stock in older neighbourhoods is maintained;
- Exploring the usage of reverse mortgages;
- creating a pool of parish-based construction teams consisting primarily of graduates from HEART/NTA and providing them with the skills and work experience to make them employable on standard construction sites.

- providing 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.

The National Housing Trust (NHT) will redouble its efforts to fulfil its mandate to make it easier for Jamaicans to own their homes. During the current fiscal year 2015/16, the NHT will complete approximately 2,160 housing solutions and will have disbursed over \$22.4 billion for construction and mortgage financing activities. An increase in the loan ceiling to \$11M for applicants buying or building new houses was recently introduced. Over the next two years the Trust will be increasing the number of housing solutions which will be available to contributors. This will be done through a mix of NHT-directed schemes and joint financing projects with private developers. During this period, the Trust will provide 7,900 housing solutions directly and another 1,455 will be provided through interim financing which will be made available to private developers. A mix of houses and residential lots are already under way in forty two developments across the island. There is ongoing collaboration with other agencies of government as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations such as Food for the Poor (FFP), to provide solutions to satisfy the housing needs of different levels of income earners.

The Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ) will be developing and/or facilitating the construction of approximately 5,000 housing solutions over the next four years. This will be done through the execution of Public/Private Joint Venture Partnerships as well as through the HAJ's targeted affordable housing programmes.

Low income housing

We will create special programs such as the **First Step Housing Programme** (GOJ/FFP/NHT Project) for the construction of concrete

units to be designed in keeping with the FFP's wooden unit model. These units are being built to satisfy the demand in the lowest income bracket (less than \$10,000 per week).

Another is a Partnership with **Food for the Poor (FFP, JEEP/GOJ)** to construct 1,200 two-bedroom housing units for the indigent island-wide over the next twelve months. A total of 2,782 units have already been built.

Plans are also in place for the provision of 2,760 residential serviced lots to facilitate the construction of housing units under the Government of Jamaica/Food For the Poor Programme (FFP) and the NHT's Small Contractors' Programme.

National land titling programme

The next PNP administration will also be accelerating its land titling initiative to provide those in need with the collateral to access financing for a house. The Programme is geared towards getting all land titles being held by a number of Government entities into the hands of the landowners. The programme aims to get an estimated 45,000 Certificates of Title currently in the Government's possession to beneficiaries.

Work on the National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan will be completed and the development of a policy framework to address squatting across the island will be accelerated.





YOUTH

The PNP is cognizant of the role that the youth population must play in the development of the country. It remains committed to creating the nurturing environment which will harness their creative skills and allow them to realize their full potential.

Youth today are living in an exciting time – full of opportunities and promise. Technology and data have significantly changed the landscape and the traditional modes of employment and the way jobs are created is different, bringing challenges with a more globally competitive environment in a world without borders.

Despite our best efforts, we are concerned that still far too many young people who, despite enrolment in primary and secondary schools remain unprepared for the world of work. We will be creating special programmes to reclaim our youth for responsible and productive citizenship.

We are fully aware that there are a number of social development issues such as poor family structures, intergenerational inequities, poverty and limited job opportunities, are challenges which will have to be addressed.

The National Strategic Plan for Youth Development has been promulgated and provides a clear guide for relevant stakeholders to improve the situation for our youth. The National Youth Service (NYS) and other government agencies have engaged approximately 600,000 young people during the period 2012-2015 in the following programmes:

- Summer Employment
- Graduate Work experience Programme
- Empowerment programme
- Access to Success through Knowledge Initiative
- Financial Assistance programme
- Volunteer Programme

In the area of Child Care and Protection the PNP will continue to implement a number of changes to its institutional and legislative framework on children's issues and the

establishment of support systems geared towards embracing an integrated response to issues related to child protection.

We will continue the development of a national programme with the NYS for youth at risk.

Funding and technical assistance for a New Employment Opportunities (NEO) Initiative have been finalized with the IDB. Under this initiative 10,000 young people will receive mentorship, training and job placement in specific skills. Over a three year period Government lead agencies including the NYS, HEART Trust, and the Ministries of Youth and of Labour and Social Security, in conjunction with the PSOJ/YUTE, and other private sector entities will execute the programme.

As a response to the psychosocial issues being faced by our youth, the PNP will implement a Youth Empowerment and Re-integration Programme which will target youth and adolescents between the ages of 12-29 years. The Programme will be implemented in tandem with the National Youth Policy as a driver to promote positive youth development through focused attention on youths in need of nurturing and attention.

Going forward, the PNP will ensure that all strategies impacting youth will be guided by the following priority areas:

- Increased educational access and benefits to all young people to improve capacity and capability to enter the world of work;
- Improved health access and services to ensure the holistic well-being of young people;
- Improved employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth;
- Establishment of a safe, nurturing and secure environment for youth to thrive;
- Heightened Youth participation in Nation building; and
- Established support and equitable provisions for young people in special circumstances



SPORTS

The PNP will continue to improve on its proud record in the area of sports development, to build on the extraordinary performance of our athletes across several disciplines. Internationally, our profile befits a country much larger and with far more resources than we have available.

A National Sport Policy coordinates the development of sport through the promotion of a structured programme that supports athletes. We have established a Jamaica Athletes Insurance Plan to further ensure their development and physical well-being.

Through the Sports Development Commission, we continue to provide support for forty-six sporting organizations to the tune of some \$300 million per year. An even greater sum is spent annually on sporting Infrastructure island-wide.

During our next term of office we will:

- Complete the construction of a National Sports Museum on lands identified across from the National Stadium next to the Bob Marley statue. This museum will be operated as a public/private partnership;
- expand the High School Sport Infrastructure Improvement Project and install a solar energy plant at the National Indoor Sport Centre, which will significantly lower the energy cost associated with usage of the facilities;
- complete the upgrading of the National Stadium to provide for the construction of concession stands, additional restrooms and the installation of sky boxes;
- complete the upgrading of the physical facilities at the Stadium pool including its electrical system;
- complete the upgrading of the physical facilities at the Trelawny Stadium, which will be developed as the premier sports facility of Western Jamaica, including the installation of an irrigation system to provide first class conditions for the hosting of National, Regional and One Day International Cricket matches;
- continue to explore the idea of collaborating with our super athletes and the JTB in the promotion of Brand Jamaica.



Culture - Unveiling of Bob Marley Statue at Trench Town Culture Yard

CULTURE

As with sports, the impact of Jamaica's popular culture on the international stage remains unprecedented for a country of its size and population. In a bid to establish internationally competitive industry structures, we have placed significant emphasis on the development of the cultural and creative areas.

Our achievements include

- UNESCO's designation of Kingston as a Creative City of Music and its inscription of the Blue and John Crow Mountains as a National Heritage Site;
- the Building of the Bolivar Culture Centre in Downtown Kingston;
- the completion and continued development of the National Creative Economy Policy Framework and an Animation Policy; and the
- revision of the Craft Policy.

We have also established a film festival, passed critical intellectual property legislation and staged several programmes for technology, animation and innovation start-ups.

Jamaica is recognised globally for its cultural expressions particularly in the areas of music, poetry, dance, theatre and film. A framework for the business of culture and heritage is being developed to help identify economic opportunities for culture, cultural and creative practitioners as well as to allow for professional development as appropriate.

In our next term we will complete the Creative Economy policy and an overarching Master Plan based on a thematic approach to support the creation of an enabling environment for the growth and development of the cultural and creative industries (CCI) sectors. We will focus on carving out an even greater niche for our cultural products in the global economy and in the process ensure that our artists, writers and indeed all the creators of our cultural products participate fully in the rewards from the cultural industries in which they are involved. Steps will also be taken to engage a number of public and private stakeholders to explore and implement the economic opportunities for communities, including those in proximity to heritage sites.

Specifically, we will:

- develop financing structures for the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) by establishing a Cultural and Creative Industries Enhancement Fund;
- launch the re-vamped and expanded Artists Registry for Cultural and Creative Practitioners;
- promote Youth employment in cultural and creative Industries through the development of 2D and 3D Animation Training Programmes; develop strategic policy for the animation industry and develop strategic plans for youth employment across all primary sectors of the CCIs;
- rationalize the institutional framework for governance of cultural and creative industries;
- strengthen the capacity for data gathering and research for cultural and creative industries;
- build the national human resource capacity for CCI's through coordinated training and development programmes;
- expand and improve the infrastructure for the cultural and creative industries;
- advance the current work to develop Kingston as the creative capital of the Caribbean through the
 - continued re-development of Downtown Kingston;
 - designation of Downtown Kingston as a protected cultural landscape;
 - establishment of Creative Special Economic Zones;
- staging of large scale entertainment festivals annually in Kingston, and in targeted and domestic and overseas markets.

Further, in an effort to maintain an authentic and transformational culture, we will

- preserve, develop and promote Jamaica's cultural heritage;
- propose Seville heritage park and Port Royal as World Heritage Sites;
- nominate Reggae to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
- establish the Jamaica Music Museum;
- expand and upgrade public museums;
- strengthen culture and creative education and entrepreneurship in primary and secondary education;
- strengthen performing and visual arts offerings of secondary schools by advancing STEAM curricula;
- digitize cultural content to preserve heritage;
- establish a national programme to promote core values and attitudes; and
- build parenting capacity through the development and implementation of a parenting programme.



GENDER

Significant strides have been made in enhancing gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Jamaica has been ranked as the country with the highest proportion - 59.3 percent - of women managers globally, ahead of the United States (15th) and the United Kingdom (41st). For the first time in the Senate, 28 percent of the members are women.

Legislation on Sexual Harassment

The Bill is far advanced and is expected to be passed into Law shortly, following numerous stakeholder consultations. The National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence has been finalized. The Plan will incorporate children and vulnerable groups. An advocacy campaign was launched to promote awareness of the issue of violence against women and girls and other forms of gender-based violence.

National Shelter Strategy for Victims of Gender-Based Violence

Work has commenced on developing a national shelter strategy for victims of gender-based violence. The first phase of the programme is to identify and establish four main shelters across the island in the parishes of St. James, St. Ann, Kingston and Manchester.

Helping women

Nineteen community-based groups received financial support for income-generating activities for economic and social empowerment, under the Inspiring Change Initiative of the Bureau of Gender Affairs. Capacity building, institutional strengthening and leadership training were provided to the Jamaica Household Workers' Union through the Management Institute for National Development (MIND).

The Next PNP Administration will

- expand physical infrastructure through the construction of four Shelters for the protection of women who experience sexual or physical abuse;
- continue to take special measures to increase the number of women in decision making positions in the Public Sector;
- institute special measures to enhance women's economic empowerment, including access to land;
- strengthen the capacity of the Bureau of Women's Affairs to meet its mandate;
- amend relevant laws to allow for Legal Aid assistance to women who have been threatened with domestic violence;
- increase access to legal aid for economically vulnerable women;
- take all necessary measures in keeping with the ILO Decent work Agenda;
- increase employment for women through various Government programmes;
- review the Equal Pay legislation to identify any gaps which have emerged since its passage and take necessary action to reflect current realities;
- seek international support to ensure Jamaica's compliance with conventions and treaties; and
- enact legislation to unify the definition of a 'child' in all instruments, policies and legislation, relating to children and youth, including the age of consent.

Responding to the plight of our boys

Special incentives will be offered to boys to encourage them to become productive members of the society. These include access to some form of National Service.

SOCIAL PROTECTION – CARE OF THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Consistent with our objective to become a more caring society we support every initiative to provide better care of the poor and vulnerable. These include, providing earning opportunities for more than 60,000 persons during the next term. A number of other social programmes will also be implemented or expanded to address the concerns of this group. These include the following:

- the Social Investment Fund (JSIF) which has implemented a number of building programmes;
- the PATH programme which has ensured increased allocations and improved services for beneficiaries;
- the Welfare to Work Programme which offers training, job matching and business development skills to PATH beneficiaries;
- the Rehabilitation Grant Programme which has been redesigned and provided with increased funding to improve its impact on the unemployed.

Additionally,

- new houses with modern amenities have been provided for Sugar workers and their families;
- government pensioners continue to receive annual increases in their pension benefits;
- the National Minimum wage as well as the minimum wage for Industrial Security Guards have been increased three times in the current term;
- funding was approved for the Abilities Foundation to improve its operations;
- the National Disabilities Act which makes provision for safeguarding and improving the well-being of persons with disabilities was passed.



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Derrick Kellier (left), presents a gift to Japanese Embassy representative, Hiromoto Oyama (right), during a courtesy call at the Ministry's North Street offices on Thursday (June 18), by members of the Japanese Funds Special Monitoring Mission. Others from (2nd left) are: Principal Technical Lead and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Representative, Japan, Kazushige Taniguchi; and Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance, Japan, Nobuyuki Imamura

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The Disabled

During the next term the People's National Party will continue its progressive approach towards persons with disabilities, by:

- creating a modern Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities to drive the programmes and policies;
- establishing the Disability Rights Tribunal to adjudicate on complaints of discrimination;
- continuing to make the educational system more accessible;
- creating a mega training facility to train and improve the skills of persons with disabilities;
- providing scholarship opportunities for needy persons with disabilities attending tertiary institutions;
- expanding the services of the Early Stimulation Programme (ESP), including the establishment of an office in Western Jamaica to cater to the needs of children with disabilities;
- establishing a mechanism to assist persons with disabilities to secure assistive aids such as computers and the appropriate software for educational and employment purposes through the Universal Service Fund (USF);
- expanding self-employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by increasing the allocation to the Economic Empowerment Grant being administered by the JCPD;
- creating special incentives for employers who employ persons with disabilities in the private sector;
- using the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) to drive the improvement of sidewalks to make them more accessible to persons with disabilities;

- making all new buildings accessible to persons with disabilities through the promulgation of the Building Act;
- establishing an incentive mechanism within our Parish Councils to encourage entities to make established facilities more accessible;
- improving access to our various tourist attractions with the aim of promoting Jamaica as a Disabled Friendly Tourist Destination;
- ensuring that persons with disabilities are included on statutory boards, including those of public educational institutions, so that their concerns can be included in the policy and programmatic framework of government;
- creating a mechanism whereby persons with disabilities can get medical assistive aids through the National Health Fund (NHF);
- ensuring that a percentage of the Government's social housing is reserved for persons with disabilities; and
- encouraging private transportation operators to purchase motor vehicles that are accessible to persons with disabilities.

These initiatives will go a far way in transforming the lives of persons with disabilities. They will also serve to increase the participation and inclusion of this vulnerable population in the society and protect them against discrimination.

The passage into law of the landmark and historic National Disabilities Act 2014 will go a far way in facilitating the fullest development of this group. We will also be expanding our efforts to protect them against exclusion,

disadvantage, stigma, abuse, violence, and hate crimes.

Senior Citizens

Our Senior citizens currently make up 11.9 percent of the total population. This is projected to increase to 25 percent by 2050. We will therefore commit more resources to protect them from the challenges they will inevitably face. In the short term we commit to the following:

- increased benefits to senior citizens under PATH;
- increase in budgetary allocation to senior citizens;
- budgetary increases for the Golden Age Home and the National Council for Senior Citizens; and
- improving the following programmes:
 - JADEP (Jamaica Drugs for the Elderly)
 - The National Health Fund (NHF)
 - The National Insurance Scheme (NIS)
 - The NI-Gold Health Scheme for NIS Pensioners
 - Free health care at public hospitals and health centres.

The Indigent

During the next term of office the PNP will continue to increase the level of care and assistance which is afforded to the indigent population through closer collaboration between the agencies of government as well as with the private sector and civil society.

We need to inculcate a spirit of caring in the wider society which will be supportive of every



initiative which endeavours to take better care of this group as well as the mentally ill, children at risk, substance abusers and the homeless.

LABOUR MARKET REFORM

The Government of the People's National Party (PNP) is now well on its way to carrying out the necessary reforms of the labour market in Jamaica consistent with, and in support of, the national Growth Agenda. In the last four years, we have implemented the most far-reaching labour policies and legislative changes in nearly three decades. These progressive changes have begun to affect positively the texture of the labour market, the status of the Jamaican worker, and the capacity of the state to protect the most vulnerable in the population.

The Labour Market Reform Commission (LMRC) composed of Government, the trade unions, and the private sector was established. It is a catalyst for achieving and sustaining long-term growth and development to enhance our innate ability to compete globally. The LMRC under a PNP Government within the next five years will become an effective policy tool, impacting our national recovery in the areas of education and training, productivity, technology and innovation, labour policies and legislation, social protection, and industrial relations. We commit to achieving this within the context of the challenges of globalization,

and in keeping with the ILO's **Decent Work Agenda** and our aspirations for **Vision 2030**.

Our long-term goal as a government in the next five years is to create the conditions in the labour market leading to a productive and happy work force. We are well aware that if we are to successfully compete in the global space we have no choice but to drastically improve our levels of productivity and employment. This is why we took the bold and decisive decision and passed legislation that brought into being the historic **Employment (Flexible Work Arrangements) (Miscellaneous) Provisions Bill – or Flexi Work Arrangements Act**. This is designed to liberate all impediments to flexi-work and further enhance the goal of nation-building.

We will continue the fight for a safer and healthier working environment for all Jamaican workers. Our desire is to see far fewer situations which lead to the loss of man hours at the workplace. Safer and healthier workers will make Jamaica more competitive and productive. We are going to project unto the global community the awareness that our workers can be competitive in any economy and are capable of operating at the highest standards in the international labour market. We will make this happen by passing into law the **Occupational Safety and Health Act**.

LAND, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

LAND

The governing principles of the PNP Land Policy is that Jamaica must use its land for the benefit of the people as a whole to provide work and economic security for all.

This Administration's policy is to facilitate land tenure, land titling and to build the national cadastre of Jamaica. The Land Administration and Management Programme, LAMP, will be modernised to increase title delivery and significantly improve customer service. Over 8,000 titles will be delivered to Jamaicans in the next five (5) years.

The PNP is aware of the vexed issue concerning bauxite lands and will continue to partner with bauxite companies to ensure that security of tenure is realized for the many Jamaicans who have been relocated. This administration established nine Adjudication Committees to hear and settle land disputes throughout the island. We aim to have 30 Adjudication Committees in the next five (5) years.

We intend that the National Land Agency (NLA) will become a client-focussed organization which will work assiduously to further reduce turnaround time for services to the public by implementing computerized solutions. Amendments will be carried out to the Registration of Titles Act to allow for easier and better business practices. In the next term we will complete the work on the National Land Policy and continue to stream line and modernize land administration practices.

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The People's National Party remains committed to discharging its mandate for sustainable development through effective town planning and environmental management.

In keeping with this commitment the Party will

work with local and international partners to secure grant funding to implement the various national environmental programmes. We are committed to actively engaging the participation of all stakeholders to promote a high level of compliance with relevant legislation. Over the next five years we will work to improve resource mobilization. Over the next three to five years the GOJ will implement strategies to address several national priority initiatives:

- We will improve and strengthen a coastal response strategy and implement activities for the improvement of coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass. We will also develop and implement a Beach Management Plan. Another ten beaches will be earmarked for further development as part of our program to give access to public beaches for all Jamaicans.
- The PNP will continue to work with the NEPA, along with the Mines & Geology Division and Quarries Advisory Committee to develop a Beach and Sand Policy. This policy will include guidelines for sand importation and will be accompanied by an accounting framework. The government will also develop a framework for these entities to collaborate and streamline the approval processes for the mining and quarrying of deep sea sand, limestone, aggregates and other minerals.
- We have started to tackle the challenge in the Yallahs/Hope Watershed areas which account for 40 percent of the water supplied to the KMA. In accordance with our commitment to improve access to clean water, and to have effective water use and management, we will be implementing an integrated

approach to restoring and managing the 26 Watershed Management Units within the country which have suffered significant degradation.

- We will develop and adopt guidelines and standards to support orderly expansion through the implementation of the National Spatial Plan. We are committed to ensuring that by 2017 the entire country will be covered by Development Orders and will be managed under one framework. NEPA will work with the local authorities to streamline the application processes (AMANDA) in support of the national thrust of orderly development. This framework will contribute to creating a strong foundation for economic development.
- We will continue improvement of the management of Protected Areas by investing in areas to ensure safety of people from the devastating impacts of climate change. In this respect we will conduct a national assessment of ecologically sensitive areas, complete the overarching Protected Areas legislation and policy, and fully establish the National Conservation Trust Fund to improve the financial and operational sustainability of the

National Protected Areas System.

- In keeping with the development of the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation, a national programme to conserve and improve the wildlife population will be implemented. Additionally, the National Biosafety Policy will be completed. It will manage the risks and threats to biodiversity, human, plant and animal health as well as the socio-economic consequences of introducing Genetically Modified Organisms and their derivatives into the environment or the marketplace.
- We will focus on the management of all categories of waste. In addition, over the next two to five years we will complete the preparation of emission standards as a means of controlling air pollution. We will implement a green business certification programme, to manage plastics, Styrofoam and other forms of packaging.

In the area of Development, we will:

- Amend the Local Improvements Act and the Town and Country Planning Act to allow for electronic filing of applications and documents and parallel processing through an expanded AMANDA system.



Distribution of Land Titles

- Develop more robust planning policy guidelines as required to improve the Development Approvals Process.
- Implement a programme of training for regulators and practitioners in the modernized Development Approvals Process and the implementation of the soon to be tabled Building Bill (2014) to give effect to the Building Code.
- the provision of New radar equipment for forecasting extreme weather events;
- support for farmers to adapt and build resilience in the Upper Rio Minho watershed; and
- instituting a grant financing mechanism (over \$560 million over five years) for resilience building at the community level. Low cost loans will also be provided for small and medium sized enterprises in agriculture and tourism.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Jamaica's development agenda is greatly challenged by the effects of a changing climate on extreme weather, food security, water availability, and health. With climate change, Jamaica must change its development strategies. The People's National Party has responded to this call. We established the Climate Change Division and approved the Climate Change Policy Framework that will guide national efforts towards building resilience for the next five years and beyond.

To improve the efficiency of the national response, we will establish within the next 5 years a National Agency for Meteorology and Climate Change Resilience. The Meteorological Services of Jamaica and the Climate Change Division will be merged to form a new Agency which will develop and implement weather related and climate change resilience strategies. This Agency will promote information sharing and ensure the efficient use of resources. Work to establish the Agency has already begun.

Climate change considerations will be further integrated in all government policies, plans and programmes. Sector strategies and action plans are in train for twelve most vulnerable sectors over the next three years. This process will bring Ministries together to work towards greater coherence.

Over the next five years, we will assess the status of vulnerable areas and provide interventions including:

In the next term we will also implement a low emission development strategy that builds on the successes of the National Energy Policy and Jamaica's recent commitment to the UN. We will devise and implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions to foster climate-conscious development – accelerated growth with lowered emissions.

To more effectively harness international funding to achieve national goals, and to improve access to climate finance for all Jamaicans, we have identified a National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This NDA will act as a focal point to enable the country's public and private sectors as well as civil society to access grant and other funds from the GCF. This follows from Jamaica's foreign policy and international interventions which contributed to a 2015 global agreement on climate change in Paris, which secured greater access to climate finance for developing countries. This agreement was hailed as a triumph for small island states, due to the effectiveness of the "1.5 to Stay Alive" campaign.

URBAN/RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Urban Development Corporation, the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing and the local authorities, will continue to lead the process of planning urban development. Efforts will be made to correct the worst effects of a largely unplanned urbanization that has

mushroomed, creating centres of urban blight and squatter settlements.

In the next term we will expand the range of tax relief measures available under the Urban Renewal Act of the Kingston Metropolitan Area. Further, the scope of the Act will be extended to cover significant urban centres in rural Jamaica.

Downtown Kingston Revitalization

During our next term the continued transformation of downtown Kingston will restore the levels of commerce, tourism and cultural activities as befits a capital city. The continued divestment of Government assets will provide investment opportunities for the private sector. Collaboration between the UDC, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the local authorities will ensure a better planned and orderly process of urban development.

We will intensify our comprehensive programme of urban renewal in downtown Kingston which is being implemented by the government, private sector and NGO's. As indicated earlier, we will broaden the range of incentives for investors to ensure the fullest restoration and revitalization of the commercial and cultural life of downtown Kingston. This will include tourist attractions and cultural facilities for the performing arts.

One area of focus in the central business district of Downtown Kingston will be the rationalization of the use of the space earmarked for transportation and attendant facilities.

The arrangements will see improvements in the operations of JUTC buses and the Transport Authority regulated public passenger vehicles at the following locations in Downtown Kingston: Pechon Street; Darling Street; Water Lane North and South; and North and South Parade. The arrangement will also create a reduction in the JUTC buses waiting in the Parade area, as the buses will be stored away from the site and dispatched to Parade on an "as-needed" basis.



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

In furtherance of our commitment to participatory democracy and the creation of a range of institutions to give the people a greater say in the decisions that affect their daily lives, we will continue to take the steps required to ensure transparency and accountability and by so doing remove all taint of corruption from the conduct of government.

We take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to creating opportunities for the positive transformation of every facet of Jamaican life and to the nurturing of a society in which the primacy of the value of life and the value of a clean, orderly and sustainable environment is subscribed to by every citizen.

UNDERPINNING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION WITH POSITIVE VALUES AND ATTITUDES

The economic and social transformation of the society can only be sustained by reinforcing the society's core values. The most fundamental of society's core values is the value of life, and the social order can only be sustained by inculcating the value of a clean and orderly environment.

Even as the effective management of crime and anti-social behaviour remains the highest priority for law enforcement, the entire society must be mobilised to support these efforts by inculcating a more caring attitude to the elderly and infirm, our women and our children in the society. Our drive to create employment opportunities, particularly for the young, is the recognition that regular work is the most critical factor in the development of self-esteem, self-respect and social responsibility.

Over the next term the administration will be working more creatively and systematically with the institutions from which the society adopts their values and learns the norms of social behaviour, in particular the school, the media, the church and the family, to strengthen the efforts of these institutions in the inculcation of the society's core values.

JUSTICE – LEGISLATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The PNP has made significant strides in implementing the much-needed reforms of the Justice system, and has established an impressive record in transforming the legislative framework to modernize outdated laws that hamper the efficient disposal of cases, and ensuring that every Jamaican has equal access to justice. It has also achieved improvements in the physical facilities and support infrastructure of Jamaica's courts. However, much work remains to be done.

As we move forward, the most urgent need is to provide additional resources to ensure that the large volume of cases entering the justice system can be dealt with expeditiously. This will require a continued programme of upgrading and expansion of the physical facilities of our courts, as well as an increase in personnel at all levels of the judicial system.

This investment must be supported by continuing the reform programme to modernize the rules which govern justice processes, eliminating unnecessary inefficiencies without compromising the rights of persons before the courts.

It must also be buttressed by complementary measures to reduce case flow by using alternative processes, such as restorative justice and child diversion, which can provide more sustainable resolutions of certain categories of disputes than through the formal justice system.

We are committed to this process.

We will enable the much-needed expansion of the Court of Appeal and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, by providing additional space and amenities for that purpose. We will also provide new court facilities for the Corporate Area Traffic Court and the Coroner's Court, and at least one new Regional Court Complex, at premises already secured for that

purpose.

We will establish a single anti-corruption agency to replace the Parliamentary Integrity Commission, the Office of the Contractor General and the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, to enable the more effective and efficient fight against corruption in Jamaica.

We will continue to improve the efficiency of the Justice system, by deepening the use of technology and the implementation of identified case flow process reforms. We intend to pursue Constitutional Reform in areas where there has been bipartisan agreement.

We will also intensify our efforts to create greater public awareness of the need to establish the Caribbean Court of Justice as Jamaica's final court of appeal, and seek to unite the Parliament to pass the necessary legislation.

We will enact legislation to formalize the recognition of Restorative Justice in the Justice system, and expand Restorative Justice across Jamaica.

We will enact legislation to enable the Child Diversion Programme to be operationalised, so that children in conflict with the law via minor offences can benefit from more appropriate interventions supervised by Parish Diversion Committees rather than prosecution in the Courts. We will pass legislation to expand the range of minor offences and small disputes that can be speedily adjudicated by Justices of the Peace in the Petty Sessions Courts.

We will pass legislation to protect our children by strengthening the penalties for adults who commit violent crimes against children.

We will continue to support the Criminal Case Management process being undertaken by the Judiciary and the Bar, which seeks to avoid unnecessary adjournments and delays in the criminal justice process by proactively managing cases in a collaborative manner. We will pass legislation to modernize the rules governing the joinder of offences, so as to eliminate long-standing jurisdictional anomalies which currently require separate trials of offences arising out of the same incident.



Modern road network

We will enact legislation to adjust the Plea Bargaining system, so as to make it more user-friendly and impactful in the effort to dispose of criminal cases more quickly.

We commit to continuing the pursuit of Jamaica's detachment from the Monarchy and the assumption of Republic status with its own indigenous President as Head of State.

MODERNISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The PNP will advance the process of empowering citizens, driving economic development in communities and institutionalizing a 21st Century approach to service delivery. A strong and vibrant system of local government is an essential pre-requisite for a society where citizens participate directly in the decision making processes that ultimately lead to positive growth and development of communities. This is the enabling environment within which sustainable national development can be achieved and the promise of making Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business is realized. Local services, which affect the quality of daily life of citizens, depend on the level of investment, which is only guaranteed if government ensures sustained economic growth.

The next PNP administration will ensure:

- the rehabilitation of over 5,000 km of the parochial road network;
- the modernization of our markets, including an upgrading of the sanitary facilities, solar systems and rain water harvesting;
- an expansion of solid waste management services and more efficient disposal of solid waste;
- the facilitation of the further development of waste to energy enterprises;
- the Equipping and expansion of the

fire services;

- completion of the conversion of our streetlights to LED;
- improved maintenance of drains and gullies; and the
- enforcing of municipal laws.

Already, the PNP has significantly advanced the process of transforming local governance with the development of a primary legislative framework evidenced by the historic entrenchment of local government in the constitution.

Local Government is a strategic partner with Central Government in the regulation of the built environment and as first responders to disasters. The PNP's commitment to increasing citizens' participation in community development is clearly seen in the continuing support of such participatory mechanisms as the

- Parish Development Committees (PDCs),
- Development Advisory Committees (DACs) and
- Community Development Committees (CDCs), with clearly defined governance structures.

Further deepening of the participatory mechanisms has been achieved with the development of the Town Management Programme, while the Local Public Accounts Committees have been re-established to strengthen the accountability and transparency framework.

Local Government at the Centre of Development

In the next term, the Local Economic Development Programme will be expanded. This will encourage community engagement in identifying entrepreneurial opportunities and will fund community and individual

business projects which focus on sustainability and local collaboration.

The Business Improvement Districts Programme (BID) will transform specific physical spaces within urban areas, implementing the agreed initiatives for upgrading and development. This will improve the quality of the environment and facilitate partnerships between business interests, individuals and the Local Authorities.

All Local Government authorities will have expanded responsibility for sustainable development within their jurisdictions through Local Sustainable Development Plans.

We will ensure high quality service with revised organizational arrangements, collaboration in delivery of shared services, implementation of institutionalized training programmes, use of innovative technology solutions and development of performance management and monitoring systems.

We will move solid waste management into the 21st Century, with regionalized collection, separation at source and composting of garbage, and implementation of the Waste to Energy Project. Efficiency of waste management will be improved by the purchase of new compactors and garbage trucks as well as the separation and storage of tires and development of modern landfills.

New mechanisms to encourage greater compliance will result in greater efficiency in the collection of property tax, and the construction of three new municipal buildings in Westmorland, St. Thomas and Portmore will add to the gradual improvement in the infrastructure of Local Authorities' facilities.

Additionally, we will:

- increase the number of fire stations, fire trucks, water tankers, ambulances and fire boats.
- expand the construction of concrete parochial roads;
- strengthen disaster risk resilient communities' activities through an

improved programme of monitoring the building code and employing climate change adaptation and risk reduction strategies; and

- expand the number and improve the quality of infirmaries and drop-in centres to benefit the vulnerable.

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

The process to reform and modernize the public sector will be advanced by focusing on the following areas:

- Trade, Business Facilitation and Customer Service
- Integrated Information And Communication Technology
- Human Resource Development And Management
- Accountability
- Financial Management.

The objective is to create a public service that is more open, flexible and agile, doing fewer things better, partnering where necessary and finding the most efficient ways to deliver quality service whether directly or indirectly.

The public service is both a service and an enabler for development. In seeking to harness the productive talents of its workers and to ensure that they are not encumbered by a system that is hardened and slow, we will seek to adopt global best practices by

- nurturing talent,
- flattening organizational structures,
- reducing unnecessary bureaucracy,
- focusing on cost management and not just budget management,
- managing accountability and consequences based on the principles of fairness and justice, revising compensation and reward in keeping with new ways of working and

New Restorative Justice Centre



- focusing on output rather than effort.

Business facilitation and customer service, Integrated information and communication technology

The Government has already made significant progress in this regard and during the next term we expect to complete the one stop shop for export/import facilitation.

We will also implement a Port Community System (PCS) which will be implemented to electronically integrate and streamline export and import procedures. ASYCUDA, already in operation, will provide support and all systems will ultimately be integrated to provide a complete trade and logistics solution for Jamaica. Both the Jamaica Customs Administration and Tax Administration Jamaica have upgraded their computer systems to allow the public to conduct their business with the agencies on-line.

Public sector human resource development and management

Our efforts to create a more efficient public service will be considerably enhanced by the

following measures:

- the natural process of attrition;
- voluntary separation to those who choose to exercise this option; and,
- the divestment of services more appropriate to be carried out by the private sector.

Accountability

In our efforts to increase transparency and accountability across Government, the public financial management reform team will continue to implement a number of projects.

In the next term of office we will:

- implement the Electronic Tendering System;
- continue the expansion of the Central Treasury Management System (CTMS); and
- expedite the programme of privatization



for those public sector entities that lend themselves readily to this activity. This will include the Jamaica Stock Exchange and Junior Market as modalities in its privatization programme.

Other strategies such as private/public partnerships will be pursued for efficient delivery of services and administrative functions such as human resources, accounting and payroll, legal and para-legal services which will be centralized and shared where appropriate.

Financial management

The Administration legislated a new process for the National Budget to be tabled and approved by Parliament before the start of each Fiscal year to improve the planning, funding and implementation of Government projects. In managing the resources of the Government more effectively we will commit to providing even more accessible and accountable leadership and reforming the public sector to deliver services efficiently, and in a customer focused environment.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

The PNP Administration is cognizant that accessible, accurate and timely information (in particular, that which relates to its policies, programmes and services) is necessary to enable Jamaicans, including those in the Diaspora, to participate more meaningfully in the democratic process and the realization of the national development goals.

Jamaica has an enviable record in relation to Press Freedom and is ranked ahead of a number of developed countries in terms of access to information and communications. One of most impactful occurrences on the local media landscape was the passage of the amended Defamation Act 2013.

The PNP will continue work to build a modern information and communication system which is capable of delivering content and information to a broad cross section of the citizenry

These include:

- the acquisition of state of the art equipment;
- creation of a National Media Centre – JIS TV, CPTC and PBCJ;
- creation of PBCJ radio, and PBCJ TV to be offered as a free to air service;
- the implementation of the Digital Switchover (DSO) policy to facilitate movement from analogue to digital broadcasting;
- promulgation of a modern policy and regulatory framework which delivers access to diverse sources of information, education and entertainment across platforms;
- creation of a special universal service/ access type programme to support small, community operators who are providing service to socially and economically challenged communities, especially those that fall within the poverty map;
- an expanded and sustainable public service broadcasting system which guarantees high quality, informative, entertaining and culturally relevant content, which is not dependent on the ability to pay; and
- policy measures that are responsive to, and strike a fair balance between business interests, the needs of the creative sectors and desires of Jamaican citizens and users of media. This will be achieved through transparent, consultative and inclusive policy making.

In addition a State of the Art Digital Archival System will be implemented to allow conversion to digital format and maintain the integrity of our video and photographic material for years. The Jamaica Archives and Records Department will be upgraded to facilitate the development of a comprehensive Record and Information Management Policy (RIM).



OUR PLACE IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

USING FOREIGN POLICY TO FURTHER ADVANCE JAMAICA'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

While recognizing the current international economic environment which is characterised by unprecedented volatility, rapidly changing production and consumption patterns, and policy measures in the areas of trade, finance and banking, our options are limited, and the room within which we will continue to pursue our national policy goals and objectives are reduced. Success will require that we continue to have a strong and persuasive stance in the international arena in order to promote and protect our interest.

For this reason the PNP remains committed to working collaboratively and responsibly with local stakeholders and the international community in helping to shape an international environment that is supportive of our growth and development agenda.

We will seek to build coalitions with emerging markets and key developing countries while nurturing our traditional relationships with countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom. We will continue to develop and build relationships with other partners such as China, Brazil and Japan. We will continue to focus on economic diplomacy in our bilateral, regional and multilateral affairs and will continue to position Jamaica as an influential and respected voice in the international arena.

The Party is cognizant that Jamaica as a small economy is heavily dependent on Foreign Trade as the main source of dynamic economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. Our foreign trade policy will continue to focus on measures to make trade more efficient with the objective of expanding trade significantly in both goods and services. We will continue to ensure that our external trade relations, including our growing network of multi-lateral, inter-regional and regional trade agreements, take full account of our interests through improved and effective market access

for the goods and services we produce, while facilitating measures to build competitiveness and strengthen the productivity of our domestic producers.

DIASPORA RELATIONS

- The PNP will continue to ensure that priority is accorded to promoting and protecting the interest of our nationals overseas. Focus will be on the following:
- Mainstreaming Diaspora affairs into national development plans and programmes
- Promoting Diaspora involvement in trade and investment in Jamaica for mutual benefit
- Expanding outreach to the Diaspora community in locations other than the UK, US and Canada
- Expanding Consular networks particularly in the Caribbean, Central America and the United States.

BRAND JAMAICA

Jamaica has an iconic brand that is well known and easily recognized across the world. From sport to cultural expression, science, technology, language, cuisine, our natural hospitality and our assertiveness, the characteristics of Jamaica and Jamaicans are well known and celebrated globally.

In our next term we will implement plans to employ Nation Branding strategies to leverage the elements of the brand and to deliberately shape the world image of the country.

We will review the best practices of nations that have successfully implemented Nation Branding strategies and seek to create a competitive identity based on the real advantage seen in unique national products and services that are specifically differentiated in the global market. We will use this approach in transforming the nation, its economy and social infrastructure; the psyche and attitudes of the people and to herald the accomplishments of our economy.

OUR COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE

The PNP's election manifesto is a binding covenant with the Jamaican people. The economic targets we have set are realistically based on the platform we have built, and the social outcomes we envisage are well within our capacity to achieve.

We remain committed to the Five Principles which were agreed with our social partners:

- Fiscal Consolidation - continuing the work to "balance the books while balancing people's lives;"
- Price Stability- - maintaining low inflation;
- Social Safety Net –protecting the most vulnerable in the society;
- Public/Private Partnerships – maintaining the established collaborative governance model;
- Ease of Doing Business – continuing to improve the business environment and creating an environment which will increase growth and create jobs.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

We have in place a binding code of conduct for all present and future Parliamentarians who represent the People's National Party. Each must be of the highest integrity and must commit to the following:

- Upholding the Constitution and the Laws of Jamaica
- Abiding by the National Code of Political Conduct as signed by all Candidates
- Abiding by the Party's Code of Ethics

Our goal is to make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, do business and raise families - a Jamaica in which our people live harmoniously with each other in safe and secure communities, participating to the fullest in the governance and life of the country. This is a national endeavour in which success is only assured when each of us plays our part. We are committed to providing the leadership that will motivate our people to unite around this task of nation building and sacrifice for the national good. We are confident of your support and look forward to another term in office to complete the job that we have started.

May God guide our steps on this historic journey and bless our people now and evermore.





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