The National Democratic Party

**manifesto 2011**

**putting our country first**

Bridging Generations

---

The National Democratic Party

**Vision Statement**

The National Democratic Party is committed to the advancement of the British Virgin Islands to a level of development whereby all residents will be able to enjoy good health, a high quality of life and personal fulfillment, a high quality natural and built environment, safe communities and opportunity to use their talents in gainful employment and entrepreneurship.

This will be done in an atmosphere where the protection of person, property, personal freedom and human fights will be accorded the highest priority.
# Putting Our Country First: Future Security

## The National Democratic Party Manifesto 2011

- **NDP Vision Statement**: 3
- **Dr. D. Orlando Smith, OBE, President and At Large Candidate**: 6
- **Preamble to the Constitution of the Virgin Islands**: 8
- **100 Timely and Effective Solutions to Improving our Standard of Living**: 10
- **Our Economic Programme**: 18
  - Fix our Economy
  - Make doing business work
  - Improving our Quality of Life
  - Light Manufacturing and Services
  - Sister Island Economic Development
  - Keep more money in our economy
  - Stimulating the Construction Industry
  - Reform the Public Service
- **Safeguarding Our Financial Services Industry**: 22
- **Fixing Tourism**: 26
  - Short term/immediately
  - Medium term
  - Long term
- **Build a Sustainable British Virgin Islands**: 30
  - Creating a Road Map Towards Energy Security
  - Protect our Environment
  - Build a Productive Nation
- **Improve Our Standard of Living**: 31
- **Building a Better British Virgin Islands**: 31
  - Reducing your cost of living
  - Ensuring fairness at work
  - Increasing home ownership
  - Consumer Protection
  - Differently-abled Persons (Physically and Mentally Challenged)
  - Emergency Health Care
- **Our Social Services Programme**: 36
  - Challenge for today’s British Virgin Islands
  - Education
  - Health
  - HIV/ AIDS Treatment
  - Better Care for our Senior Citizens
  - Youth
- **Culture and Heritage**: 44
- **National Heroes**: 45
- **Public Libraries**: 45
- **Sports and Recreation**: 45
- **Law, Order and Public Safety**: 47
  - Making our communities safe and secure
  - Crime
  - Empower communities against anti-social behavior
  - Merge Immigration, Customs and Civil Registry: Securing our Borders
- **Public Sector Investment and Development**: 52
  - Ultimately Economic Development must be about the Development of People
  - Electricity
  - Water and Sewerage
  - Solid Waste Management
  - Roads and Traffic
  - Airports/ Civil Aviation
  - Seaports
  - Sister Island Development
  - City of Road Town
  - Disaster Management
- **Regional and International Relations**: 57
- **Standards in Public Life**: 60

*caption: sunrise over the british virgin islands*
My Fellow Virgin Islanders, Residents of the BVI,

Monday the 7th of November, 2011 will mark the start of the most critical four years in the BVI. It signals the beginning of the restoration of our beloved Virgin Islands to its glory days. Your vote for a National Democratic Party Government on that day will initiate the beginning of an era when together we will set our compass on a course of prosperity for all. I am very excited at this prospect. I hope that you are too.

These last four years 2007 - 2011 have been very difficult for all of us, perhaps the most challenging this territory has faced in many generations. We have all experienced a major slowdown in our economy, many of our businesses have failed or are on the brink of failing, many persons are now working significantly reduced hours while others are not working at all. Additionally, we have seen an increase in foreclosures on our homes and many of us have used up our rainy day savings trying to stay afloat.

What we do as a country in the immediate future as we chart our way through these uncertain times will be critical if we are to survive and see this territory return to some form of economic normalcy and stability. This task has been made even more challenging, complicated and daunting by the fact that most of the world’s major economies with which our economy is so entwined are struggling, including the economies of the United States and the European Union.

We the members of the the National Democratic Party would like to express to you the people of these Virgin Islands our sincere gratitude for your support during the ... as together we sought to develop our country’s potential to a level where we could all enjoy a good standard of living.

During our term in office, we worked hard to fulfill the promises which we made to you as detailed in our 2003 Manifesto. At the end of that term when we reported on our work on your behalf, you were able to compare it with what we had promised, and which we had published as our Legislative Agenda.

It is very important therefore that as we go into this election we select men and women whose focus is all about Putting our Country First. Men and women, who as a team will do what is necessary to re-energize our economy, and to look after the needs of all of the people of this territory. I am pleased that we have done so with five new and relatively young candidates signaling our commitment to youth and fresh ideas for development.

Our team is competent to lead. Our team is well versed in good governance and best practices comprised as it is of the widest possible cross section of disciplines - from commerce, to law, to various medical specialties, to engineering to financial management. Our team is the team that is needed for these challenging times.

As citizens and residents of the BVI you face two choices: either to continue for another four years with a Government that will mismanage our precious resources because it has no plan and because it is lacking in leadership and vision or you will elect a Government that has listened to you articulate your priorities and will now go to work on day one fulfilling those priorities with competence and confidence.

Our 2011 Manifesto which follows contains the ideas, programmes and strategies which we have discussed with you over the past several months. We believe, these programmes are required to rebuild our economy as the foundation to improving the standard of living and the quality of life for all of our citizens. This Manifesto outlines our economic agenda, strategies to educate and empower our people; our plans to rebuild our infrastructure; our agenda to upgrade of social services, our plans to realize the aspirations of our young people, programmes to assist our physically and mentally challenged, our children with special needs and contains programmes to ensure that our elderly spend their golden years in comfort.

As a team, we need your support in bringing this Manifesto to life. We need your vote of confidence as we seek to build a brighter tomorrow for ourselves and future generations of Virgin Islanders.

Thank you and God bless these Virgin Islands.

Dr. D. Orlando Smith, OBE
President and
At Large Candidate
Whereas the people of the territory of the Virgin Islands have over centuries evolved with a distinct cultural identity which is the essence of a Virgin Islander;

Acknowledging that the society of the Virgin Islands is based upon certain moral, spiritual and democratic values including a belief in God, the dignity of the human person, the freedom of the individual and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms and the rule of law;

Mindful that the people of the Virgin Islands have expressed a desire for their Constitution to reflect who they are as a people and a country and their quest for social justice, economic empowerment and political advancement;

Recognising that the people of the Virgin Islands have a free and independent spirit, and have developed themselves and their country based on qualities of honesty, integrity, mutual respect, self-reliance and the ownership of the land engendering a strong sense of belonging to and kinship with those Islands;

Recalling that because of historical, economic and other reasons many of the people of the Virgin Islands reside elsewhere but have and continue to have an ancestral connection and bond with those Islands;

Accepting that the Virgin Islands should be governed based on adherence to well-established democratic principles and institutions;

Affirming that the people of the Virgin Islands have generally expressed their desire to become a self-governing people and to exercise the highest degree of control over the affairs of their country at this stage of its development; and

Noting that the United Kingdom, the administering power for the time being, has articulated a desire to enter into a modern partnership with the Virgin Islands based on the principles of mutual respect and self-determination; Now, therefore, the following provisions have effect as the Constitution of the Virgin Islands.
100 Timely and Effective Solutions to Improving our Standard of Living:

The National Democratic Party recognizes that enhancing the quality of life of our people is our number one priority. Accordingly, a National Democratic Party Government will:

1. Establish mechanisms for regular and constant contact with the business community. This will be via existing business organizations, trade groups and association. Additionally, it will establish as required new formal and informal mechanisms directed at ensuring constant and more effective dialogue with the business community.

2. Conduct a review of existing processes and procedures such as applying for a Trade License (procedures, time and cost) involved in doing business in the territory with a view to reducing and streamlining these critical processes. We must cut the red tape.

3. Further develop the trade/technical skills programmes at the HL Stoutt Community College and will forge a relationship with City and Guilds to enable students to get City and Guilds certification in each subject area.

4. Establish an Agricultural Sales Corporation (“ASC”) as a statutory body similar to the BVI Fishing Complex. The ASC will provide retail distribution locations (farmers’ markets) for locally grown small stock meat and agricultural produce.

5. Ensure that the sister islands, especially Anegada and Jost Van Dyke play an important role in the development of the British Virgin Islands especially as there is limited land space on Tortola.

6. Create economic zones on the islands of Anegada and Jost Van Dyke for any business, with exemptions from taxes and customs duty for 5 to 20 year periods, with supporting legislation with regard to the location, development and type of structure required for any business to operate successfully. Here the focus will be on green and environmentally compatible businesses and business which bring value added in tourism and financial services.

7. Review the existing customs tariff regime, with a view to keeping more money in the pockets of our residents. Such a review to also determine a “Basket of Goods” or basic items (which are critical to living in the BVI) to be imported duty free.

8. Undertake to work diligently with international shippers, with a view to getting shipping cost particularly from the United States mainland to the British Virgin Islands reduced to a more competitive structure as that enjoyed by the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands.

9. Immediately restart the affordable housing programme that commenced during the period 2003 to 2007.

10. Immediately undertake a thorough review of the building permit approval process, with a view to reducing the time it takes to get an approval. Monthly Housing starts will become an important indicator of the construction sector.

11. Introduce a two-step Budget Process whereby the Permanent Secretaries and their Department Heads will present the programmes and projects in Mid-Year, and, Cabinet, with the support of the House of Assembly will pass the Budget at the year end.

12. Recognize the need to create efficiencies in the management of our borders by a merger of Immigration, Customs and Civil Registry departments into a new Border Control Agency.

13. Introduce an “e-Borders” programme under which travelers to and from the British Virgin Islands are checked in advance of travel using data provided by passengers via their airline or ferry operators.

14. Be committed to ensuring that the infrastructure and required human resources of the Commercial Court is at the cutting edge of commercial courts in offshore jurisdictions. Thus ensuring that the British Virgin Islands remain the domicile of choice for offshore commercial litigation.

15. Strengthen the Financial Services Sector so as to enhance and solidify the British Virgin Islands’ reputation as a pre-eminent jurisdiction, while advancing and empowering British Virgin Islanders as prominent stakeholders in the industry.

16. Recognize the need to present the British Virgin Islands as a venue for the hosting of conferences, seminars and training as means to raising profile of jurisdiction amongst global professionals, and thus creating a single “Brand BVI” with tourism.

17. Recognize the need to develop a comprehensive national education programme on financial services so that the populace is informed as to the workings and benefits of the Industry. The programme should be consistent with and compliment a wider National Education Reform Initiative.

18. Recognize the need to officially add the Financial Services Sector to the national curriculum at all levels of the education system. Special emphasis attention must be placed on designing an appropriate curriculum for varying levels, but especially at the Secondary and Tertiary levels.

19. Recognize the need to develop and implement a national policy geared towards placing British Virgin Islanders in a state of readiness, where they are sensitized to the opportunities, and equipped with the knowledge to participate in the Financial Services Sector, not only as employees but also as employers.

20. Recognize the need to create a Job Placement Commission (comprising a cross section of key public sector stakeholders such as Labour, Immigration, Government Training and Placement Officers, FSC and other Financial Service private sector professionals as may be deemed relevant), to facilitate efficient, appropriate and equitable placement in the Financial Services Sector.

21. Establish a Ministry of Tourism. This need not be a standalone Ministry but is instead a part of a larger Ministry of Economic Development.

22. Recognize the need to create a Branding Commission for the British Virgin Islands. The primary mission of the Commission will be to develop and manage a unified Brand for the territory (Brand BVI) in the global marketplace with a primary focus on tourism, financial services and investment promotion – Invest BVI which will be responsible for the encouragement of investing in the BVI – domestic and foreign.

23. Will fast track the expansion of the runway at the Terence B. Lettsome International Airport, with a view to accommodating regional jets and a broader range of private jets. The objective is to position the airport to accept direct flight from North America. Concurrently we will begin discussions with carriers who have the potential to fly this route.

24. Investigate the establishment of a US Immigration and Custom Pre-Clearance facility in the British Virgin Islands at the Airport and at the new West End ferry terminal.
25. Establish an Anti-Litter and Beautification Commission in the territory. Commission a feasibility study into the establishment of a recycling programme in the territory.

26. Develop an overall strategy for the incorporation of the territory’s historical sites into its tourism product. This strategy must address the fact that many of these sites are on private property.

27. Recognize the need to develop a programme for the installation of rest room facilities in the public areas in the territory with a focus on areas frequented by visitors.

28. Develop a first class hospitality training centre with an international affiliation at the H. L. Stoutt Community College and located at Prospect Reef.

29. Dialogue with Educators about establishing tourism education at the primary and secondary levels.

30. Recognize the need to conduct research into and clarify and confirm the ownership expectations of BV Islanders in the tourism sector.

31. Within the first year of taking office install in every household energy efficient light bulbs, which studies have shown will immediately reducing the cost of lighting by some 75% to 90%.

32. Recognize that renewable energy is the future, within its first 9 months in office through the HL Stoutt Community College will commence the training of no less than 10 British Virgin Islanders in various aspects renewal energy in the areas of entrepreneurship, maintenance and light manufacturing.

33. Utilize solar technology for street lights and

34. Recognize that the British Virgin Islands current energy legislation leaves at lot to be desired as it relates to the encouraging alternative energy and is committed to correcting same.

35. Develop/strengthen the Jobs policy “British Virgin Islanders First”

36. Explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

37. Work with businesses/ industry to encourage our young people to develop their skills through apprenticeships, internships and attachments.

38. Review the “Free Tuition” programme at HLSCC for all qualified British Virgin Islanders to ensure that it is working as intended.

39. Recognize the need for improved "Customer Service" across all industries within the British Virgin Islands, and as a national priority will create the institutional framework to support such an initiative. The first order of business being the addition of customer service training as a graduation requirement for all HLSCC graduates, commencing with the 2013 graduates.

40. Give priority consideration to a review of the high cost of living in the Territory, the need for competition laws (eg. wholesaler/retailer), and how the Trade Policy can address the latter. See the section on Consumer Protection.

41. Review the current exemption on payroll taxes with a view to increasing the exemption to $15,000.

42. Review the existing customs tariff regime, with a view to increasing the exemption to $15,000. Review the existing customs tariff regime, with a view to increasing the exemption to $15,000. Review the existing customs tariff regime, with a view to increasing the exemption to $15,000. Review the existing customs tariff regime, with a view to increasing the exemption to $15,000.

43. Determine the extent to which wages have kept pace with inflation, with a periodic review of the minimum wage, and such recommendations as are necessary to enable individuals and families to meet basic needs.

44. Recognizes that the issues transparency, consistency and predictability as related to the status of non-native British Virgin Islanders are broader than the party and hence will start a national dialogue about these matters.

45. Introduce legislation in the form of a Landlord Tenancy Act to protect the rights of landlords and tenants to the disadvantage of neither.

46. Use public feedback to prepare consumer protection legislation.

47. Recognize the differently-abled as possessing protection legislation.

48. Build a modern, efficient emergency health care system that is responsive and cost efficient.

49. Add an emergency wing to the Iris O’Neal Clinic in Virgin Gorda, as the first phase of development of the new hospital for that island, and will construct a helipad at that clinic.

50. Develop and implement an education improvement master plan and programme that is best practice-oriented, and student centered.

51. Commission the education reform initiative and education improvement master plan and programme that is best practice-oriented, and student centered.

52. Complete the development of a National Standards and Life-Based Curriculum that is seamlessly integrated and intertwined with active teaching and learning (learning by discovery, enquiry, reason, and the other higher order skills), and assessment for learning, which is designed to objectively and comprehensively inform the teachers of what the given student knows, does not know, and can and cannot do, for better planning and instructional follow-up purposes.

53. Refine the Ministry of Education & Culture’s organizational structure and operational systems to effectively meet the education demands of the 21st century.

54. Design and build a 21st Century Secondary school on Tortola around a highly advanced total child development plan and programme.

55. Develop recognition and reward projects for students and educators. The educators’ employment packages will be reviewed with a view towards improvement where possible.

56. Complete the development of the National Health Insurance Scheme and implement the proposed scheme and make it work to the benefit of all residence.

57. Ensure the essential prescription medications are always available to the public at affordable prices.

58. Conduct an assessment of the strides made since the introduction of the Health Services Authority (HSA) with a view to making the (HAS) more efficient and responsive to the needs of the community.

59. Finish the new hospital, bring health care into the 21st century and build a culture of volunteerism to support caregivers.

60. Recognize the need to make clinics more functional in local communities in terms of structure and services provided. Extend clinic hours, as well as create an effective network system to enable on-site diagnostics, information sharing.

61. Build and appropriately staff a mini hospital on Virgin Gorda.

62. Establish Community Health care for the mentally ill persons.

63. Recognize the need to improve the methods and efficiency of educating the public regarding chronic and acute health conditions.

64. Focus on training more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals for a variety of roles within the health services.
14

65. Introduce such programmes as necessary to change our approach to young males and having an honest, open dialogue about how to help them:

a. Make them feel less marginalized
b. Address the social ills contributing to this problem
c. Address the family problems by reaching out to their families, or acting as their family when this is not possible

66. Develop a music studio for the number of youth that have found a career in the music industry. One suggestion might be to develop the first one at the high school. This way, musical and theatrical students get firsthand experience in being productive with the systems and instruments associated with that environment.

67. Develop functional and well equipped sporting facility for youth to utilize in all of our communities. These include baseball fields, basketball, and tennis or volleyball courts. Having these facilities available aids in youth developing sporting skills and sportsmanship that can lead to great careers.

68. Review and enhance where necessary the after school programmes. This includes encouraging softball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.

69. Create a national programme for all school leavers. The programme, known as National Citizen Service, will have the following features: Community involvement, Personal development and Challenge.

70. Work steadfastly for the enhancement of the British Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islanders sense of who we are. In this way we will develop in the country as a whole, self-worth and self-confidence through our cultural expressions. This enhancement will encompass not only the arts, including music, dance, poetry and graphic arts, but also those cultural aspects which are distinctly Virgin Islands such as our architecture, folklore, etc.

71. Commence work towards the establishment of the following key cultural institutions:
   a. A National Library
   b. A National Museum
   c. A National Centre for the Performing Arts

72. Work on preserving and restoring our historical sites on all islands and promoting their importance as part of our tourism strategy.

73. Honour our national heroes through national holidays, the naming of national buildings, parks and other facilities etc. This policy is designed to inculcate in our young people, respect for persons, important values and achievements that have helped to shape the community.

74. Recognize that Sports Tourism is integral to the sports development process. It shall constitute one of the primary pillars of this National Sports Policy and will be carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.

75. Recognize that The Government and the various national sports associations must seek out and create training opportunities for administrators, physical educators, officials, sports medicine personnel, coaches and athletes to upgrade their levels of information, skills and general competences.

76. Continue a multi-prong strategy with emphasis on prevention, treatment and education in responding to AIDS. This strategy will involve sectors of society – government, business, civil society, organizations, communities and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

77. Provide all of the necessary tools to prevent crime, including bringing the complement of both the police force and prison staff up to the appropriate level by providing the requisite salaries, benefits and better working conditions to retain such personnel.

78. Recognize the need to improve community policing through the establishment of consultative groups in several communities in order to improve crime prevention and detection and to enhance community and public relations.

79. Recognize the need for improved relations between the youth and the police by having the police actively engaged in the life of the community (schools, churches, events, etc.)

80. Recognize the need for having surveillance cameras in strategic areas of the territory, as has been done in other parts of the world, including in the City of London.

81. Recognize the need to support the emergence and existence of organizations like “CrimeStoppers” who have proven worldwide to be effective in facilitating the anonymous reporting of criminal activity.

82. Recognize the need to create efficiencies in the management of our borders by a merger of immigration, customs and civil registry departments into single Border Control Agency.

83. Introduce an “e-Borders” programme under which travelers to and from the British Virgin Islands are checked in advance of travel/arrival using data provided by passengers via their airline or ferry operators.

84. Introduce policy to encourage renewable energy, with the intention of achieving 20% of supply in the short term.

85. Review all agreements with the multiple water plants operating in the Territory to ensure a sustainable cost effective water supply for the Territory in the future.

86. Recognize the need to improve relations between the youth and the police by having the police actively engaged in the life of the community (schools, churches, events, etc.)

87. Introduce a policy to promote recycling of items like, plastics, glass and other such material that would be of benefit locally.

88. Develop and introduce a road classification system to ensure that the quality of roads are improved over time.

89. Review the current traffic situation in Road Town, with a view to providing relief to the motorists.

90. Recognize the need to make the Paraquita Bay Road more pedestrian friendly and will construct sidewalks to ensure that pedestrians in the area are safe.

91. Aggressively pursue the expansion of the Terrence B. Lettsome International Airport to accommodate direct flights from East coast USA to ensure convenience in travel. This expansion will be done with all of the requisite environmental studies to ensure that the natural environment is not compromised.

92. Aggressively pursue the expansion of the Virgin Gorda Air Port.

93. Aggressively pursue the expansion and improve the appearance and functionality of existing port facilities, notably building a new ferry terminal at West End. On Virgin Gorda it will be the objective to move forward with the separation of cargo dock and the Ferry Terminal. A ferry terminal will also be built at Trellis Bay, Gun Creek and Setting Point on Anegada will be made ports of entry.

94. Recognize the need to develop our sister islands of Jost Van Dyke, Virgin Gorda and Anegada, and will fund the development of roads, sidewalks, lights, recreational facilities and parks.

95. Recognize the need for the City of Road Town to be defined and a Management System set up to deal with the obligations of the Wickham’s Cay Authority, maintenance of the public areas, beautification, waste management etc. Accordingly, An NDP Government will establish a Management Board for the City.

96. Recognize the need for giving vendors opportunities to make a living with minimal impact on our country’s beauty by providing the requisite infrastructure to achieve same.

97. Recognize the need for public restroom facilities to be placed at strategic locations through out Road Town, and surrounding communities.
98. Welcome Her Majesty Government’s (HMG’s) expressed desire for a modern partnership between the United Kingdom and its overseas territories. This relationship will be based on consultation and regular dialogue leading to an enhanced relationship where British Virgin Islanders would continue to progress.

99. Target Ship Registration and as a growth sector for the future.

100. Immediately move to reestablish an International Affairs Secretariat within the Premier’s Office to coordinate all regional and international matters.
Our Economic Programme
Fix our Economy: Make doing business work

The challenge for today’s British Virgin Islands. The National Democratic Party recognizes that enhancing the quality of life of our people is our number one priority. The time has come for a closer union between the two dominant sectors of our economy, Tourism and Financial Services. Such a union would create new opportunities, which would allow British Virgin Islanders to share in the continued economic development of the territory. This marriage will create fresh market opportunities for the territory, recognizing the changing global demographics. It is no longer business as usual; it is business unusual, and we have to position the BVI to succeed in this new global environment. As an example of the new reality, Air Jamaica recently announced their intention to have direct flights from China thus affording Jamaica the potential to tap China’s growing tourism market. The BVI must not be left behind if we are to meet the growing needs of our people.

Our immediate priority has to be fixing our tourism while safeguarding our financial services sector. Tourism is in need of a major strategic overhaul at all levels. This must lead to a national rescue and recovery tourism strategy. This strategy will serve as a road map for the sector, with a laser like focus on implementation. We must reposition the sector in order to be competitive in the global marketplace. The National Democratic Party recognizes that to get our people in the game, doing business in the territory must be simplified. We must end the red tape and roll out the red carpet for business. Government must be more responsive to the needs of business with the objective of keeping more money in our local economy. After all, the private sector drives the economic engine of the territory.

The task ahead will be challenging, and will require a major commitment to “Putting Our Country First”. If we are to see an improvement in our infrastructure, education, health care and social services commensurate with the standard of living we desire, we must strengthen our economy. This starts with a strong and vibrant business community. One that is able to provide the financial resources required to improve our quality of life.

Accordingly, the National Democratic Party recognizes that our immediate focus as a government has to be:

1. Fixing the economy and changing the way we do business,
2. Reducing the cost of living and protecting the rights of consumers,
3. Ensuring the viability of businesses that we rely on for jobs and opportunity which will in turn help improve our standard of living,
4. Ensuring that foreign direct investment is fair and beneficial to our people.

Fixing our economy requires a steadfast focus on the following:
• Make doing business work.
• Doing business in the territory must be simplified.
• Keeping more money in our economy
• Safeguarding our Financial Services Sector
• Fixing our Tourism and make it competitive in the global marketplace
• Building a sustainable economy
• Protecting our Environment
• Building a Productive Nation

Make doing business work: Improve Relations with the Business Community

The majority of businesses in the British Virgin Islands could be considered small businesses. Many of them are “micro” businesses (less than 10 employees). These small and micro businesses provide approximately 50 percent of the 20,000 jobs in the British Virgin Islands. Many of these businesses face many challenges such as access to capital and trained human resources, adequate management skills and limited markets.

A National Democratic Party government will re-establish the National Business Bureau which will provide support to small and micro businesses.

A National Democratic Party government will establish mechanisms for regular and constant contact with the business community. This will be via existing business organizations, trade groups and associations. Additionally, it will establish as required, new formal and informal mechanisms directed at ensuring constant and more effective dialogue with the business community.

Doing business in the British Virgin Islands must be simplified: Reducing the red tape and rolling out the red carpet

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a review of existing processes and procedures (such as applying for a trade license) involved in doing business in the territory with a view to reducing and streamlining these critical processes. We must cut the red tape.

A National Democratic Party government will review and improve the marketing of the investment incentives currently available such as (the encouragement of New Industries, Pioneer States, Hotel Aid and the Commercial Recreational Vessels Act.

A National Democratic Party government through the National Business Bureau will provide administrative and technical assistance such as macro and micro economic data on all aspects of business, legal, financial and demographic information to assist with investment and expansion decisions.

A National Democratic Party government through the National Business Bureau will provide operational and financing support. It will establish a Banking Commission to review commercial banking policies and practices that may be stifling development and economic growth.

A National Democratic Party government will further develop the trade/technical skills programmes at the HL Stoutt Community College and will forge a relationship with City and Guilds to enable students to get City and Guilds certification in each subject area.
The review would give consideration to the calculation of customs duty on the free on board [FOB] 20 age and promote light, environmentally friendly manufacturing and assembly, provide technical, The National Democratic Party 21 The light manufacturing and assembly in the British Virgin Islands is virtually non-existent. 20 A National Democratic Party government will immediately undertake a thorough review of the building permit approval process, with a view to reducing the time it takes to get an approval. Monthly Housing starts will become an important indicator of the construction sector.

Fishing and Agriculture:
Fishing and Agriculture are two traditional industries of the British Virgin Islands that have lost their importance with the advent of tourism and financial services.

There has been much talk about a resurgence of fishing and agriculture; however, this has been limited by a lack of finance, land space and other commitments. A National Democratic Party government will promote the Introduction of Agribusiness Development legislation.

A National Democratic Party government will establish an Agricultural Sales Corporation (“ASC”) as a statutory body similar to the BVI Fishing Complex. The ASC will provide retail distribution locations (farmers’ markets) for locally grown small stock meat and agricultural produce.

The ASC will be responsible for the marketing and administration activities for the farmers. With a consistent supply and better quality produce, the supermarkets, restaurants and hotels will be encouraged to “BUY BVI”.

A National Democratic Party government will review the greenhouse project to assess its viability given the significant investment of tax payers’ dollars.

A National Democratic Party government will reconsider the introduction of a differential duty rate for resellers of goods (two-tier) without increasing the duty paid, so that businesses can become more price competitive and retain more business here in the British Virgin Islands.

Consideration will also be given to the introduction of a differential duty rate for resellers of goods (two-tier) without increasing the duty paid, so that businesses can become more price competitive and retain more business here in the British Virgin Islands.

A National Democratic Party government will undertake to work diligently with international shippers, with a view to reducing shipping cost particularly from the United States mainland to the British Virgin Islands to a more competitive structure as that enjoyed by the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands.

Given the contribution of shipping to the high cost of living in the territory, an NDP government will be prepared to examine new and innovative ideas to reduce these costs.

Stimulating the Construction Industry
A National Democratic Party government will immediately restart the affordable housing programme that commenced during the period 2003 to 2007.

A National Democratic Party government will undertake to work diligently with international shippers, with a view to reducing shipping cost particularly from the United States mainland to the British Virgin Islands to a more competitive structure as that enjoyed by the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands.

A National Democratic Party government will return to the Public Sector Reform.

The National Democratic Party recognizes that a critical item on the Public Sector Reform is Financial Management including Accrual Accounting. The Public Service had prepared for this step by training their Finance Officers with a view to introduce it in the 2009 Budget before it was abruptly halted by the government.

A National Democratic Party government will promote the following strategies to Guide Public Sector Reform:

a) Provide a central framework for Policy and Ministerial Guidelines within which departments should operate
b) Recognize value for money as a prime objective in purchasing by the creation of a Procurement Agency
c) Establish best practices and a well trained staff to improved purchasing performance.

A National Democratic Party government will:

a) Make Permanent Secretaries and their Department Heads directly accountable to Ministers for outputs and efficiency in their departments
b) Establish specific between specific outputs objectives; short medium and long term.
c) Establish Financial Accountability based on accrual accounting.
A National Democratic Party government will introduce a two-step Budget Process whereby the Permanent Secretaries and their Department Heads will present the programmes and projects by mid-year, and, Cabinet, with the support of the House of Assembly will pass the Budget at the year end.

A National Democratic Party government will introduce a Bi-Monthly High Level forum with Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Department Heads, Agencies Heads, Heads of Non-Government Organizations and other invited persons (specialists) to discuss a major topics of National Interest. Permanents Secretaries and their Departments will assist their Minister in identifying the critical policy issues, conflicts and duplications, and will then format the policies for Ministerial review and action.

A National Democratic Party government will ensure that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning and the Chief Planner are charged to ensure that there is a National Physical Development Plan by mid-2013.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for the Budget, the Public Sector Investment Programme and the National Physical Development to be integrated.

Safeguarding Our Financial Services Industry: The Commercial Court:
The establishment of The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Commercial Court has strengthened and deepened the financial services product of the British Virgin Islands. It was implemented at a time when the volume of commercial litigation and insolvency is increasing in the British Virgin Islands. Much of the Court’s calendar is consumed with matters relating to the over 800,000 companies incorporated in the British Virgin Islands (over 400,000 of which are active), currently the leading global offshore jurisdiction in incorporations.

A National Democratic Party government will be committed to ensuring that the infrastructure and required human resources of the Commercial Court are at the cutting edge of commercial courts in offshore jurisdictions. Thus ensuring that the British Virgin Islands remain the domicile of choice for offshore commercial litigation.

Financial Services:
A National Democratic Party government cognizant that these are challenging times in the global financial market coupled with the constant pressure on offshore jurisdictions which provide a financial services product to onshore investors, will continue to diversify and bolster our financial services product offerings. This will be done while being fully compliant with best global practices to safeguard the reputation of the jurisdiction.

The Financial Services Sector is the largest contributor to Government revenue, representing more than 60 cents of every dollar spent by the Government. Moreover, the success of the industry ripples throughout the wider economy and it is an economic driver in other sectors such as construction, real estate, and other consumer related businesses. The National Democratic Party understands the critical importance of this sector to our Territory and therefore its viability will be top priority for a National Democratic Party government.

To this end, a National Democratic Party government is committed to developing a strategic plan for the sector which aims to build on our many successes to date while enhancing the British Virgin Islands’ global reputation as a pre-eminent jurisdiction for global financial services. Such a strategic plan will be formulated in very close consultation with the private sector stakeholders.

The offshore Financial Services Sector globally continues to face significant regulatory and competitive challenges. The British Virgin Islands remain squarely in the crosshairs of, and subject to, regulatory, tax and other policies of national and supra national bodies in the developed world. Global economic and political issues continue to threaten the ongoing successes of our Financial Services Sector. Equally, global competition from new and emerging regions, on and offshore centres also represents a threat.

The British Virgin Islands’ physical, technological and service infrastructure, as well as its human resourcing capacity, has not advanced at the same pace of its financial services industry.

Consequently, the National Democratic Party recognizes that a renewed focus must be given to creating an improved landscape for financial services to continue to thrive.

In order to continue to build and grow our industry, we must mitigate these threats and work hard to eliminate all deficiencies.

A National Democratic Party government aims to strengthen the Financial Services Sector so as to enhance and solidify the British Virgin Islands’ reputation as a pre-eminent jurisdiction, while advancing and empowering British Virgin Islanders as prominent stakeholders in the industry.

This will be accomplished through:
- The development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the advancement of the sector.
- The continuous assessment of the state of the Financial Services Industry.
- The development and implementation of timely policies and legislative initiatives in response to global challenges affecting the sector.
- Compliance with established and emerging global standards and initiatives within the industry.
- An enhanced Private/Public Sector Partnership.
- Greater Governmental oversight in the strategic direction of the Industry.
- Improved Market Development Activities.
- The development of a specific policy to direct the ongoing development of the national human resources of the sector.
- Improve BVI stake-holding in the Industry through greater ownership and employment opportunities at all levels for British Virgin Islanders.

Industry Assessment, and Policy and Legislative Development
A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the sector which will inform the development of a strategic plan for continued development of the sector. This plan will be completed in close consultation with the private sector stakeholders. It will clearly articulate the primary sectoral objectives for the next five years.

Development and implementation of timely policy and legislative initiatives in response to identified gaps
A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement a medium to long term strategic plan including legislative and policy changes that mitigate identified gaps and which will foster the sustainable development of the industry.
A National Democratic Party government will ensure compliance with established and emerging global standards and initiatives within the industry.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop a revised mandate, with enhanced structure, processes, and personnel (with ultimate accountability to the Minister of Finance) to monitor international developments and initiatives by international organizations such as the regulatory Standard Setters, IMF, G20, and OECD.

**Enhanced Private/Public Sector Partnership**

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to:

1. Introduce new initiatives to engage in more formal dialogue that is well structured which takes place on an established schedule with the Financial Services Commission, with a view to keeping the political directorate fully informed of its operations and initiatives coupled with developments in the sector globally.

2. Assume greater ownership of the industry through active governmental involvement in the legislative development process, including, driving the impetus for legislative and policy development.

**Market Development**

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to:

1. Create an Oversight Committee with appropriate representation from the key industry stakeholders to help steer the strategies, operational objectives, and actions of Government’s International Finance Centre.

2. Mandate the development of clear, achievable and structured medium to long term objectives for marketing the Territory’s financial services business.

3. Implement a marketing strategy that focuses on existing markets, but which also aggressively targets emerging markets.

4. Develop and Implement a strategic marketing plan for the sector with a focus beyond private industry engagements. This plan will be designed to raise the Territory’s profile through Regulatory and Governmental meetings, lobbying and strategic relationships.

5. The marketing plan will emphasize the quality of the British Virgin Islands’ flagship products (Companies, Funds, and Trusts) as well as new products (opportunities) arising from the new legislative regimes of Banking & Fiduciary Services, Investment Business (SIBA) and Insurance areas.

6. Ensure more active participation by the product experts from the Regulatory Commission and private sector in developing global understanding and familiarity of the products and the regulatory regime.

7. Increase applicably, the budget and funding to the Government’s International Finance Centre in order to expand its financial, human, and technological resources so as to ensure that it is fully resourced to competently pursue its marketing strategies and initiatives.

8. Institute stringent measures to ensure that proper pre and post analysis is done on marketing initiatives to ensure marketing dollars are properly targeted and are being maximized.

9. Institute regular reporting on the initiatives of the institutions that are charged with marketing to ensure their effective operation.

10. Commission a study with a view to pursuing the development of new value added services within the Industry and develop the human resources locally to provide those services.

11. Present the British Virgin Islands as a venue for the hosting of conferences, seminars and training as means to raising profile of jurisdiction amongst global professionals, and thus creating a single “Brand BVI” with tourism.

12. Target international commercial institutions (particularly in the banking and securities sphere) to lobby them to raise the profile of the jurisdiction and improve the service offerings and provide new employment opportunities.

**Human Resource Development, Financial Services Education and Public Education Campaign**

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to:

1. Develop a comprehensive national education programme on financial services so that the populace is informed as to the workings and benefits of the Industry. The programme should be consistent with and compliment a wider National Education Reform Initiative.

Specific emphasis should be placed on:

a) Officially adding the Financial Services to the national curriculum at all levels of the education system. Special emphasis attention must be placed on designing an appropriate curriculum for varying levels, but especially at the Secondary and Tertiary levels.

b) Developing a website/information bank with a wide range of information on the industry with the sole purpose of educating the British Virgin Islands public about the Industry.

c) Using media and technology (television, webinars) to create a programme where industry professionals speak about the Industry, with the aim of sensitizing the public about the Industry.

d) Become actively involved in building core competencies in the various areas of financial services by launching an internship initiative to partner with the private industry to afford BVI students the opportunity to receive structured professional training and certifications in those targeted disciplines.

e) Review HLSCC’s FSI programme to ensure that it is delivering appropriately trained human capital to the workforce.

**Industry Ownership and Stake-holding by British Virgin Islands Islanders**

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to:

1. Develop and implement a national policy geared towards placing British Virgin Islanders in a state of readiness, where they are sensitized to the opportunities, and equipped with the knowledge to participate in the Industry, not only as employees but also as employers.

2. Create the environment to encourage British Virgin Islanders to start up financial services related businesses.

a) providing relevant incentives

b) providing access to advisory and financial support from the National Business Bureau

c) sensitization of the benefits and opportunities available to British Virgin Islanders through financial services business licenses (such as the Company Management License) that are specifically targeted to reduce barriers to entry.

3. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the industry in order to understand the employment needs and opportunities of the industry, with a view to ensuring that appropriately trained British Virgin Islanders are aware of, and are meaningfully participating in, the available opportunities. Among other things, this would require the development of an “Industry profile”:

a) of all Jobs in the Industry.

b) which identifies qualifications required to hold each job.

c) which identify remuneration levels and benefits associated with each job.

4. Influence the employment process and practices of firms within the British Virgin Islands (through the effective enforcement of relevant labour laws) to ensure that job placement is equitable for British Virgin Islanders.

5. Create a Job Placement Commission (comprising a cross section of key public sector stakeholders such as Labour, Immigration, Government Training and Placement Officers, FSC and other Financial Services private sector professionals as may be deemed relevant), to facilitate efficient, appropriate and equitable placement in the industry.
The National Democratic Party

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to create a Branding Commission for the British Virgin Islands. This commission will be responsible for promoting the BVI - both domestically and internationally.

**Ministry of Tourism**

The Ministry will be the lead policy agency with an overall aim to maximize the benefits to the British Virgin Islands from tourism. The primary role will be to provide strategic tourism policy advice to the Minister of Tourism and the government.

A National Democratic Party government will develop an overall strategy for the incorporation of the territory’s historical sites into its tourism product. This strategy must address the fact that many of these sites are on private property.

A National Democratic Party government will establish a Ministry of Tourism. This need not be a standalone Ministry but is instead a central part of a larger Ministry of Economic Development.

A National Democratic Party government will undertake a comprehensive review of the status of the territory’s tourism and will implement the following strategies which are urgently required to fix our tourism industry. These are separated into three phases: Immediate/short term, medium term and the long term.

**Short term/Immedately:**

- A National Democratic Party government will establish a Ministry of Tourism. This need not be a standalone Ministry but is instead a central part of a larger Ministry of Economic Development.

**Medium Term:**

- The development and implementation of a targeted marketing strategy for the sector – critical to ensuring the maximum revenue and opportunity contribution of the various sub-sectors.
- Make the Territory a captivating and safe destination. Though the natural beauty of our islands is alluring, we must develop attractions to add to the tourist experience while in the Territory. This provides and opportunity for entrepreneurs and established businesses to develop domestic products and services to cater to our visitors. Our islands must provide vibrant activities at all times, year round to match the expectations of tourists while finding ways to sustain and grow our tourism based economy.
- The development of an investment strategy for the sector – the aim of which shall be to ensure that the plant is always well positioned to meet the ever changing needs and demands of the global market.

Accordingly, a National Democratic Party government will undertake a comprehensive review of the status of the territory’s tourism and will implement the following strategies which are urgently required to fix our tourism industry. These are separated into three phases: Immediate/short term, medium term and the long term.

**Long Term:**

- A National Democratic Party government government will undertake a comprehensive review of the status of the territory’s tourism and will implement the following strategies which are urgently required to fix our tourism industry. These are separated into three phases: Immediate/short term, medium term and the long term.
- Brand BVI will be a unifying umbrella under which all BVI products will be promoted. This should be done by developing strategic alliances with the public and private sector.

A National Democratic Party government will immediately develop an aggressive strategy to increase the number of available seats into the destination. This must include provisions for using the existing international hubs surrounding the destination including St. Thomas, San Juan, and St Martin, Antigua and St. Kitts as it relates to the European markets. This strategy must be proactive and farsighted. The strategy must also work in close concert with our neighbours in the United States Virgin Islands.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to fast track the expansion of the runway at the Terence B. Lettsome International Airport, with a view to accommodating regional jets and a broader range of private jets. The objective is to position the airport to accept direct flight from North America. Concurrently begin discussions with carriers who have the potential to fly this route.

A National Democratic Party government will complete the work which has started on the Virgin Gorda airport to ensure that the facility continues to be viable aerodrome which assists in meeting the air transportation needs of Virgin Gorda.

A National Democratic Party government will be committed to developing and expanding the cruise ship pier so that we can attract more ships with a view to building a year round cruise tourism sector.

This will include proper and adequate shore side facilities. This expansion, will provide opportunities to partner with local businesses in offering attractive products and services and will be vital to the success of this expansion.

A National Democratic Party government will investigate the establishment of a US Immigration and Customs Pre-Clearance facility in the British Virgin Islands at the Airport and at the new West End ferry terminal.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to maximize the destination’s marketing mix by fostering closer marketing relationships between the Branding Commission and the tourism sector to plan, develop and implement joint initiatives across all elements of the marketing mix to achieve higher public/private sector spend.

A National Democratic Party government will establish an Anti-Litter and Beautification Commission in the territory. Commission a feasibility study into the establishment of a recycling programme in the territory.

A National Democratic Party government will construct a welcome ferry terminal at Trellis Bay to serve residents and visitors. This will be done in conjunction with the various private sector operators who currently use the area as a departure point for visitors.

A National Democratic Party government will develop an overall strategy for the incorporation of the territory’s historical sites into its tourism product. This strategy must address the fact that many of these sites are on private property.
A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop a programme for the installation of rest room facilities in the public areas in the territory with a focus on areas frequented by visitors.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop an investment strategy for the territory with a view to ensuring that the territory’s tourism product constantly meet the needs of the global market. This will include a review of the territory’s incentive legislation with a view to enhancing its attractiveness in keeping with current legislation regionally and globally.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop an events strategy coupled with an annual calendar of events inclusive of existing events while at the same time developing new events for the destination. The primary objective of this strategy will be to utilize these events to attract visitors to the destination during the shoulder and summer seasons. Once developed this strategy should be implemented and managed by the Branding Commission.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

Medium term:

A National Democratic Party government will develop a strategy for the incorporation of tourism in the primary and secondary school curriculum.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to conduct primary research into the carrying capacity of the territory as it relates to the destination’s physical tourism assets, natural and man-made such as beaches, national parks and protected areas, historical sites etc. This is a critical tool required in the long term management of the environment.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to commission a master plan for the development of Anegada, inclusive of a tourism product strategy for Anegada, which will govern the development of the island thus ensuring that its unique and sensitive environmental features are not destroyed, but will instead ensure the sustainability of tourism on the island. Such a plan must be seen as central to the development of Anegada, and must be done in full consultation with the residents of Anegada both local and overseas.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to conduct research to clarify and confirm the ownership expectations of BV Islanders.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to align labour and Immigration policy with the vision for BV Islanders ownership expectations. A National Democratic Party government recognize that for the British Virgin Islands to optimize growth of the inbound tourism sector it must aspire to meet Platinum Plus Standards. This means the British Virgin Islands must seek to be a regional leader in providing quality and value in tourism products and experiences. As an upscale destination, the British Virgin Islands cannot rely on strategies of price and convenience to grow its market share. The British Virgin Islands will never be the cheapest or easiest destination to get to for most of its market segments. The British Virgin Islands must therefore establish programmes that build its repeat factor by developing and delivering on its reputation for quality, value and enriching experiences.

Long term:

A National Democratic Party government will develop a management system for the territory’s dive sites. This should include provisions for the securing the assistance the various dive operators in the ongoing management of these sites. A National Democratic Party government will develop a strategy for the establishment of a regular high quality ferry service between Beef Island and Virgin Gorda. This strategy should be formulated with the input of the airlines with a view to have the airlines market Virgin Gorda as a serviceable destination.

A National Democratic Party government recognize the need to convene a dialogue with Educators about establishing tourism education at the primary and secondary levels.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop a legislative and management regime for the introduction of a system of Holding Tanks for the yachting sector in the territory. This must include incentives for the encouragement of private sector investment in the provision of these services for the sector.

A National Democratic Party government will enforce the provisions of the recently enacted Physical Planning Act 2004 which makes provision for mandatory public access to all beaches in the territory. This enforcement should include a provision for ongoing public education.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for timely and accurate data and research which is vital to the BVI tourism industry. It provides a foundation for informed decision making and underscores strategic business planning, including new product development and is also critical to public policy planning. The Commission must develop a first rate research and statistics capability.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for investment in the primary and secondary school curriculum. A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to conduct research to clarify and confirm the ownership expectations of BV Islanders.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop a first class hospitality training centre with an international affiliation at the H. L. Stoutt Community College, located at Prospect Reef.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to conduct primary research into the carrying capacity of the territory as it relates to the destination’s physical tourism assets, natural and man-made such as beaches, national parks and protected areas, historical sites etc. This is a critical tool required in the long term management of the environment.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to conduct a review of the mooring fields in the territory with a view to expanding the same for the yachting sector, inclusive of Anegada. This review must also take into consideration the establishment of moorings for mini cruise ships and mega yachts.

A National Democratic Party government will develop a legislative and management regime for the introduction of a system of Holding Tanks for the yachting sector in the territory. This must include incentives for the encouragement of private sector investment in the provision of these services for the sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to develop and implement conversion studies for the destination advertising campaign in North America and Europe.
A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands need to have current and timely information on the Natural Environment that is required for ensuring that renewable energy is the future, with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct the necessary research to develop a comprehensive national policy on energy security, with a view to eventually introducing a "Feed-In Tariffs" system. Feed-In Tariffs are incentives for homeowners, businesses, etc., to become producers of renewable energy, or to increase their production of renewable energy. As such, they increase our overall production and use of renewable energy, and decrease our consumption of fossil fuels.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that renewable energy is the future, that within its first 9 months in office through the HL Stoutt Community College commence the training of not less than 10 British Virgin Islanders in various aspects of renewable energy in the areas of entrepreneurship, maintenance and light manufacturing.

A National Democratic Party government will enact legislation that will provide import duty concessions on all electrical products that are powered by solar, wind or other sources that are considered renewable energy sources.

A National Democratic Party government will utilize solar technology for street lights and public buildings and facilities which will help to reduce demand on the grid and lower long term costs for electricity.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct the necessary research to develop a comprehensive national policy on energy security, with a view to eventually introducing a “Feed-In Tariffs” system. Feed-In Tariffs are incentives for homeowners, businesses, etc., to become producers of renewable energy, or to increase their production of renewable energy. As such, they increase our overall production and use of renewable energy, and decrease our consumption of fossil fuels.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the current energy legislation is inadequate and we are committed to correcting same.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands need to have current and timely information on the Natural Environment that is easily accessible for use in developing and accessing projects and programmes. This information must be accessible to all government agencies and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government is concerned that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government will enact legislation to require developers of properties with a cost in excess of $1,000,000 to set aside a minimum of 3 percent of cost for renewal energy related products such as water heaters.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment/ manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government will work with businesses/ industry to encourage our young people to develop their skills through apprenticeships, internships and attachments.

A National Democratic Party government will review the “Free Tuition” programme at HLSCC for all qualified British Virgin Islanders to ensure that it is working as intended.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for improved “Customer Service” across all industries within the British Virgin Islands, and as a national priority will create the institutional framework to support such an initiative. The first order of business being the addition of customer service training as a graduation requirement for all HLSCC graduates, commencing with the 2013 graduates.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/ manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government will enact legislation to address issues with respect to health and safety in the workplace.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the current energy legislation is inadequate and we are committed to correcting same.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government will review the “Free Tuition” programme at HLSCC for all qualified British Virgin Islanders to ensure that it is working as intended.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for improved “Customer Service” across all industries within the British Virgin Islands, and as a national priority will create the institutional framework to support such an initiative. The first order of business being the addition of customer service training as a graduation requirement for all HLSCC graduates, commencing with the 2013 graduates.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands natural environment is the Territory’s second most important asset coming only after our people and, hence firmly believe that it must be managed and protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A National Democratic Party government will create a “National Employment Agency” thereby improving synergies within the existing labour market, which should reduce the Territory’s current imbalance of British Virgin Islanders to Non-Belongers.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government will review the “Free Tuition” programme at HLSCC for all qualified British Virgin Islanders to ensure that it is working as intended.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for improved “Customer Service” across all industries within the British Virgin Islands, and as a national priority will create the institutional framework to support such an initiative. The first order of business being the addition of customer service training as a graduation requirement for all HLSCC graduates, commencing with the 2013 graduates.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands natural environment is the Territory’s second most important asset coming only after our people and, hence firmly believe that it must be managed and protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A National Democratic Party government will create a “National Employment Agency” thereby improving synergies within the existing labour market, which should reduce the Territory’s current imbalance of British Virgin Islanders to Non-Belongers.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands natural environment is the Territory’s second most important asset coming only after our people and, hence firmly believe that it must be managed and protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A National Democratic Party government will create a “National Employment Agency” thereby improving synergies within the existing labour market, which should reduce the Territory’s current imbalance of British Virgin Islanders to Non-Belongers.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands natural environment is the Territory’s second most important asset coming only after our people and, hence firmly believe that it must be managed and protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A National Democratic Party government will create a “National Employment Agency” thereby improving synergies within the existing labour market, which should reduce the Territory’s current imbalance of British Virgin Islanders to Non-Belongers.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands natural environment is the Territory’s second most important asset coming only after our people and, hence firmly believe that it must be managed and protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A National Democratic Party government will create a “National Employment Agency” thereby improving synergies within the existing labour market, which should reduce the Territory’s current imbalance of British Virgin Islanders to Non-Belongers.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the British Virgin Islands natural environment is the Territory’s second most important asset coming only after our people and, hence firmly believe that it must be managed and protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A National Democratic Party government will create a “National Employment Agency” thereby improving synergies within the existing labour market, which should reduce the Territory’s current imbalance of British Virgin Islanders to Non-Belongers.

A National Democratic Party government will explore the feasibility of enabling the introduction of unemployment insurance benefits to workers, particularly those in the hospitality industry, who are unemployed for extended periods during the off-season.

A National Democratic Party government will conduct a thorough review of the Territory’s employment/manpower needs into the foreseeable future with the intention of ensuring that British Virgin Islanders are provided with the requisite opportunities to develop their skills to meet those job requirements.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that it’s polices are transparent, has integrity, are timely and aligned with Best Practices regionally and globally. A National Democratic Party government will be governed by the same rules and laws it establishes for the people and the private sector.
our focus would be on those pressing issues that have troubled you for a very long time.

Based on our discussions with you, our focus over the next four years will be:
- Reducing your cost of living
- Ensuring fairness at work
- Building an inclusive British Virgin Islands
- Increasing home ownership
- Consumer Protection
- Introduce legislation concerning Differently-abled persons
- Emergency health care

Reducing your cost of living: Assisting our people to make ends meet:
In the midst of our ongoing development in the British Virgin Islands, there is poverty. Poverty retards social and economic development. The most recent “Poverty Report” showed that 22 percent of the population in the British Virgin Islands was regarded as living below the poverty line.

Factors contributing to poverty are seen to be low wages, inability to earn income due to old age, inadequate support for the elderly, increasing rate of single parent units which is usually accompanied by a lack of financial resources, substance abuse, mental illness and family related problems, for example domestic violence.

A National Democratic Party government will give priority consideration to a review of the high cost of living in the Territory; the need for competition (e.g. wholesalers/ retailers), and how the Trade Policy can address the latter. See the section on Consumer Protection.

A National Democratic Party government will amend the Public Assistance Act; redefine the “poor and destitute” to include coverage for physically disabled, and other challenged persons, etc.

A National Democratic Party government will review the current system which allows the public to seek funds from three sources – Social Development, the Ministry of Health, and members of the House of Assembly.

A National Democratic Party government will create a seamless system of retirement for the public sector where eligibility for pension and social security benefits would be at the same age.

A National Democratic Party government will review the current exemption on payroll taxes with a view to increasing the exemption to $15,000. A National Democratic Party government will within 9 months of taking office install in every household energy efficient light bulbs, which studies have shown will immediately reduce the cost of lighting by some 75% to 90%.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the difficulty of getting around is bad for business, bad for families and bad for everyone’s quality of life. Accordingly, a National Democratic Party government will review and improve the existing public transport system with a view to connecting major institutions like HLSGCC, Banks, BVI Electricity to our main communities with subsidies wherever possible to be provided to students and seniors.

Zero Import Duty on a “Basket of Essential Goods”
A National Democratic Party government will review the existing customs tariff regime, with a view to keeping more money in the pockets of our residents, with such review to provide a “Basket of Goods” or basic items to be imported duty free.

A National Democratic Party government will review and work with the business community to put such systems in place to negate the need for residents to spend their hard earned dollars in St. Thomas on certain essential goods that should be made available in the British Virgin Islands at reasonable prices, with a view to strengthening the local economy.

Ensure fairness at work: Reduce youth unemployment while promoting “British Virgin Islanders First!”
Having due regard for the need to strengthen the link between education, the labour market and immigration to ensure that British Virgin Islanders take more control of developments in the labour market, a National Democratic Party government will restructure the Labour Department to ensure the Department’s ability to address workforce placement for British Virgin Islanders and Belongers

A National Democratic Party government will determine the extent to which wages have kept pace with inflation, with a periodic review of the minimum wage, and such recommendations as are necessary to enable individuals and families to meet basic needs.

A National Democratic Party government will vigorously promote the concept that Virgin Islanders who meet job requirements will be hired.

A National Democratic Party government will seek to synchronize the retirement age with the receipt of pension benefits.

A National Democratic Party government with particular focus on our Youth will cultivate work ethics at an early age.

Build an Inclusive British Virgin Islands: Promote social integration
The nature of economic development in the British Virgin Islands brings with it some peculiar types of social problems -- economic growth that is largely dependent on imported labour in tourism and financial services, the nature of social relations, and national cultural growth and identity.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that for sustainable development to be achieved, there needs to be a balance between the protection of the British Virgin Islands identity and the assimilation of settlers into the society.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the inculation of a cultural identity must form part of the educational curriculum at all levels of our school system to safeguard inter-generational spread of the British Virgin Islands culture.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that the issues transparency, consistency, predictability, inclusion and status of non native British Virgin Islanders are broader than the party and needs to be looked at more thoroughly by involving all nationals and non-nationals in an ongoing dialogue.

Increase home ownership: Provide for Safe, De- cent and Affordable Accommodations
Shelter is a basic human need. All individuals yearn for a place that they can call their own. The rising cost of land, as well high rents is of concern to Virgin Islanders especially those who have just begun working.

Additionally, ways must be found to facilitate the provisioning of suitable shelter on an ongoing basis, at an affordable rate to meet the needs of both Belonger and non-Belonger, to the disadvantage of neither.

A National Democratic Party government will recognize that every British Virgin Islands resident should have access to good quality, affordable and safe housing.

A National Democratic Party government will introduce legislation in the form of a Landlord Tenancy Act to protect the rights of landlords and tenants to the disadvantage of neither.

A National Democratic Party government will as a means of reinforcing support for local businesses, as well as strengthening the local economy, institute a regime of duty free exemptions for first time home owners who have purchased their supplies through locally based British Virgin Islands businesses.

A National Democratic Party government will establish a land bank to facilitate the preservation of British Virgin Islanders and Belongers home ownership.

Consumer Protection: Secure value for money when you shop:
A National Democratic Party government will hold public consultations with consumers (government with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association and other trade organizations) and the public to get the public’s perspective on issues of concern to them.

A National Democratic Party government will give priority consideration to a review of the high cost of living in the Territory, the absence of competition, and how the Trade Policy will address the latter. A National Democratic Party government will use feedback to prepare consumer protection legislation.

Differently-abled Persons (Physically and Mentally Challenged): Ensuring a decent standard of living for all citizens:
A National Democratic Party government recog-
nize the differently-abled as possessing potential which will be developed for the wellbeing of the individual and the entire nation. We will fully integrate persons with disabilities into the society and provide the highest standards of specialized education, health care and social services to assist them to achieve personal independence, reach their fullest potential and enjoy a decent standard of living.

In this regard, a National Democratic Party government will collaborate with Non-government Organizations, and the private sector to deliver programmes to address the needs of the differently-abled.

A National Democratic Party government will ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full equality, especially in the areas of education, (for example facilities including access to classrooms, washrooms, seating, public buildings and spaces etc.) employment and accessibility to, services, land, air and sea transportation.

A National Democratic Party government will institute a regime of tax concessions on devices and apparatus used by the disabled. A National Democratic Party government will enhance the support systems for families which have to care for differently-abled members.

**Emergency Health Care:** Expand and improve coverage to make a difference, one life at a time

There are several medical clinics located in communities around Tortola and clinics located on the islands of Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. There are doctors stationed at the Iris O’Neal Clinic in Virgin Gorda, but the other clinics are largely staffed only by nurses.

The clinics normally open for care to the public during normal working hours and the medical staff is on-call on a rotational basis, usually not stationed at the clinics during extended hours. There is no established ambulance service to transport the sick or injured from the sister islands to hospital. Residents of the sister islands of Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost Van Dyke and the smaller cays are largely left to hire private individuals with boats, sometimes at great expense, to get their loved ones to hospital. Observably, these private opera-
It can be agreed that a seamless education system is one in which there is an adequate articulation at all levels and the rationalization of the competencies and outcomes expected of every stage.

Further, a major challenge is to engage young people in education in ways that they find exciting and which inculcates a strong desire to learn, to think critically and to improve themselves. We can only achieve this if we are ultimately able to make learning fun. To make learning fun requires a simultaneous reinvention of curriculum and the encouragement of new pedagogies of engagement and discovery.

As the value of education increases in a highly competitive world, qualifications and certification becomes even more critical. Assessment can no longer simply be a test of academic ability or retention of knowledge; it must attest that the student demonstrates the knowledge, skills and competencies reflective of the role of a functional citizen.

Health systems must not become just concerned with improving people’s health but with protecting them against the financial costs of illness. The challenge facing governments in low income countries is to reduce the regressive burden of out-of-pocket payment for health care by expanding prepaid health insurance schemes, which spread financial risk and reduce the worry of catastrophic health care expenditures. What should be a realistic goal for health care? Preventative care and total quality care remain top priorities, against the backdrop of the need for more British Virgin Islanders to be trained as skilled medical and nursing specialists and, pharmacists. There is a need to reduce the high attrition rate of the health personnel.

Articulating a philosophy of education is an essential first step which establishes the vision and purpose of education. Accepting that education is central to any national development strategy, and taking account of the unprecedented changes that have taken place in the world over the past decade in particular, and the serious challenges as well as opportunities posed to developing countries, we must start with basic principles.

The recognition of the increasing numbers of “mentally ill” persons on the streets, the growing obesity problem among children and adults and the dire need for a blood bank are realities which must be addressed.

**Education: “Build a dynamic, caring and learning community”**

In developing our educational system, the National Democratic Party recognizes that it is imperative that we first focus on its foundation with a view towards improving its quality and strength as a matter of urgency. The core of the Virgin Islands’ quality education product has to be characterized by the following:

1. A National Democratic Party government will conceptualize, design, develop, and implement an education improvement master plan and programme that is best practice-oriented, and student centered. In this regard, the following agenda will delivered within the first 100 days:

   A. The core of a strategic needs and evidence-based master plan to lead the education reform initiative.

   B. A. The core of a strategic needs and evidence-based master plan to lead the education reform initiative.

   II. Reform of the system’s organizational structure, and operational systems and processes in order to enable and empower the success of the education reform master plan and initiative.

   III. Needs-based and well-resourced educational system (including training) necessary to empower all teachers to be optimally effective, efficient and successful, and have no excuse if they fail to consistently provide quality education to their students.
IV. Highly effective and efficient accountability system designed to ensure that Government, educators (at the central and school levels), parents, community and students all know what the success indicators are, and are all being held accountable in order to assure success.

B. Declaration and challenge to both the Public Education System and HLSCC to produce a draft plan to joining-up and integration all public education levels and institutions (Pre-Kindergarten through College).

C. Establish a range of education policy that will be necessary to enable and empower the new strategic education master plan (e.g. formalization of the new standards based curriculum-oriented system as the official curriculum (e.g. standards guides, active teaching and learning, and assessment for learning), and authorization of the structural and operational reform of the Ministry of Education & Culture, Department of Education, Educational System etc., in order to enable and empower the new best practice-oriented reform programme.

D. Directly involve parents in education improvement matters throughout the Territory based on collaboration and cooperation.

E. Continue the push for Accreditation of all Public schools, and College.

F. Continue to clarify and report on progress related to the reform throughout the Term via a quality marketing programme.

Accordingly:

1. A National Democratic Party government will formally commission the start of the education reform initiative and provide clear roles, responsibilities to all stakeholders, as well as the benchmarks to be watched re: progress.

2. A National Democratic Party government will complete the development of a National Standards and Life-Based Curriculum that is seamlessly integrated and intertwined with active teaching and learning (learning by discovery, enquiry, reason, and the other higher order skills), and assessment for learning, which is designed to objectively and comprehensively inform the teachers of what the given student knows, does not know, and can do and cannot do, for better planning and instructional follow-up purposes.

3. A National Democratic Party government will refine the Ministry of Education & Culture’s organizational structure and operational systems to effectively meet the education system’s 21st Century demands.

4. A National Democratic Party government will design, and build a 21st Century Secondary school on Tortola around a highly advanced total child development plan and programme.

5. A National Democratic Party government will be dedicated to formally and critically continuing the reform work started in between 2003 - 2007 in order to optimize; quality, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, productivity, and general success, as well as expansion of the system along all lines. Data emanating from that evaluation will be used to refine the master plan as necessary, as well as refine structures, systems, processes and plans where necessary.

6. Objectively review and work to further improve student growth, development and achievement in the intellectual, socio-emotional, and physical realms, as per the referenced master plan. We will seek to achieve these objectives system wide nationally including the private and parochial schools where there is an interest.

7. Complete the comprehensive upgrade of the remaining public schools that were not upgraded in the first term/cycle.

8. Conduct an extensive study re: on, when and where to build new schools in accordance with 21st Century international standards.

9. Where applicable, utilize the data from the capital improvement study to guide the commencement of design, development, funding and construction phases for new schools in the Territory, if and where necessary.

10. If possible, there could be a review of all schools in the territory re: working to assist all local schools public and private to succeed given the fact that they are all a part of the Virgin Islands’ education system.

11. Push to complete the Accreditation programmes at the HLSCC and public secondary schools.

12. Commence work on the Accreditation of the primary schools.

13. Measure the Virgin Islands’ educational performance against international levels via the TRENDS in INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY (TIMSS), and join the TIMSS programme in order to measure our performance against international standards.

14. Fully integrate Educational Technology into instruction across the system.

15. Review the National Curriculum for currency, relevance, and teacher training and improvement needs, and improve where necessary.

16. Develop recognition and reward projects for students and educators. The educators’ employment packages will be reviewed with a view towards improvement where possible.

17. Assist private and parochial schools to attain the standards set for the public.
The National Democratic Party recognizes that the attainment of good health is a priority. For comprehensive health to be achieved, sexual health must be promoted and maintained. The AIDS epidemic and the treatment of persons affected by this disease will continue to receive focused attention by a National Democratic Party government.

A National Democratic Party government will review emergency network, including that among the sister islands.
A National Democratic Party government will build and appropriately staff a Mini hospital on Virgin Gorda.

Allied Health
A National Democratic Party government will make available to the public necessary allied health services such as physiotherapy, medical imaging, laboratory testing.

Mental Health
A National Democratic Party government will establish community Health care for the mentally ill persons.

Infectious and Non-Communicable Disease Management
A National Democratic Party government recognize the need to employ mass education awareness counseling, screening, mass treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, safe blood supply.

A National Democratic Party government recognize the need to ensure that selected early screening and secondary prevention services are available to residents.
A National Democratic Party government recognize the need to improve the methods and efficiency of educating the public regarding chronic and acute health conditions.

Environmental Health
A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to review the current environmental health strategy, together with the need to improve the methods and efficiency of educating the public regarding environmental health issues.

HIV/AIDS Treatment
The National Democratic Party recognizes that the attainment of good health is a priority. For comprehensive health to be achieved, sexual health must be promoted and maintained. The AIDS epidemic and the treatment of persons affected by this disease will continue to receive focused attention by a National Democratic Party government.

A National Democratic Party government will continue a multi-prong strategy with emphasis on prevention, treatment and education in responding to AIDS. This strategy will involve sectors of society government, business, civil society, organizations, communities and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Human Resources and Training
A National Democratic Party government will focus on training more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals for a variety of roles to meet the current and future needs of the territory’s the health services system.

Better Care for our Senior Citizens
They have made a sterling contribution to building this country and we will not forget them.

The National Democratic Party values and respects our senior citizens as a great national resource and believes that in them resides a vast reservoir of history, customs, character and culture of the British Virgin Islands. We believe that our senior citizens must continue to play a critical role in assisting us to rebuild the strong family bond we once enjoyed as a people and need it today. We also believe that our senior citizens will also be instrumental in assisting to preserve our culture and history for generations yet unborn.

Accordingly, a National Democratic Party government will implement the following specific programmes to assist our senior citizens.

An NDP Government will:
• Build a New Home for the Elderly at Spooners Estate
• Appoint a Director of Senior Citizens Programmes and Services to ensure the coordination of all programmes and services established for senior citizens.
• Create opportunities to utilize the skills and energies of an increasingly healthy and active senior citizens population.

• Institute special incentives and concessions to promote and make alternative care, flexible and residential services available for the elderly.
• Provide community care where necessary to help those elderly persons who live alone at home.
• Encourage the rehabilitation of the extended family, with a view to building better social and economic support for the elderly.
• Establish a Geriatric Ward in the Hospital
• Provide free prescription drugs and eyeglasses for seniors in financial need
• Utilize the community centres to implement programmes directed at assisting senior citizens in the various districts
• Develop a Senior Citizen’s Bureau to offer such programmes as services to assist seniors with home modification, to act as advocates for the elderly, to offer safe driving courses and tests for senior drivers, to conduct surveys into the status, needs and concerns of the elderly, to offer programmes to help seniors repair to their houses, institute a programme to give seniors access to cell phones (to dial 911) and alarms and develop a system of volunteers to help the elderly with errands, etc.
• Establish a programme to record the oral history and folklore of the Virgin Islands from our seniors for posterity.

Our young people have said to us that the increase of crime among our youth can be attributed to many of the issues that our youth are facing - lack of skills and education, lack of job opportunities and lack of recreational activities in the territory.

The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to replace the concept of the “deviant individual” with the concept of the “oppressed community.” This goes against the grain of our society, which resists seeing oppression anywhere in this land of opportunity. But it will be most helpful to face this reality and begin to deal with it. It is not that particular individuals have failed and need help; it is that whole communities are under such pressure that only the exceptional people succeed. The majority of our young people need new systems of opportunity and support.

Accordingly, over the next four years a National Democratic Party government will focus on the following areas to address the immediate concerns of our youth.

1. Helping them grow their passions into careers that can provide living wages, security, upward mobility and a sense of accomplishment: (unmotivated boys just looking for a quick buck and quit after first paycheck).

2. Opening the door to opportunities that allow them to determine their own destiny.

3. Providing opportunities to utilize the skills and energies of an increasingly healthy and active senior citizens population.

4. Institute special incentives and concessions to promote and make alternative care, flexible and residential services available for the elderly.

5. Provide community care where necessary to help those elderly persons who live alone at home.

6. Encourage the rehabilitation of the extended family, with a view to building better social and economic support for the elderly.

7. Establish a Geriatric Ward in the Hospital

8. Provide free prescription drugs and eyeglasses for seniors in financial need

9. Utilize the community centres to implement programmes directed at assisting senior citizens in the various districts

10. Develop a Senior Citizen’s Bureau to offer such programmes as services to assist seniors with home modification, to act as advocates for the elderly, to offer safe driving courses and tests for senior drivers, to conduct surveys into the status, needs and concerns of the elderly, to offer programmes to help seniors repair to their houses, institute a programme to give seniors access to cell phones (to dial 911) and alarms and develop a system of volunteers to help the elderly with errands, etc.

11. Establish a programme to record the oral history and folklore of the Virgin Islands from our seniors for posterity.

Youth: “Tell me – I forget; show me – I remember, but involve me and I will understand.”

Challenge for Today’s British Virgin Islands
The National Democratic Party recognizes that to ensure that our youth are recognized as the seeds that can help grow this country into what the community always dreamed it could be, they must realize their full potential. The National Democratic Party values and respects our young people as a great national resource and believes that in them resides a vast reservoir of history, customs, character and culture of the British Virgin Islands. We believe that our youth are the seeds that can help grow this country into what the community always dreamed it could be.

The National Democratic Party recognizes that our young people are pleading for jobs, and that some of the issues prohibiting this include not enough skills or experience to obtain available positions being offered, scarcity of many jobs, and youth being “stereotype” when seeking work (unmotivated boys just looking for a quick buck and quit after first paycheck).

The National Democratic Party recognizes that many youth desiring to be self-employed are unable to secure loans for their businesses. As of recent, we have seen a steady increase of youth criminal activities. These include gun possession, drug related offenses, assault charges and burglary.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

7. Implement a multi-prong strategy with emphasis on prevention, treatment and education in responding to AIDS. This strategy will involve sectors of society government, business, civil society, organizations, communities and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.

Future Security
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to build a fully functioning facility that will accommodate the all the daily needs of our students with disabilities.
The National Democratic Party

A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Strengthening existing trade programs for recognized certification of trades regionally and internationally. (City and Guilds) This way, attending trade schools, both secondary and advance, would not be time wasted.

2. Offer incentive programs for those doing secondary trade programs. These include job placement after completion of studies, internship opportunities that allow them to enhance their skills in the trade and scholarship opportunities. This will not only serve as a motivator for all students in the trade program, but it would let the rest of the territory know that the government is building a world class trade program to benefit all the youth of the territory.

A National Democratic Party government will continue, and will introduce such programmes that will change our approach to young males, and having an honest, open dialogue about how to help them.

2. Make them feel less marginalized
3. Changing our approach to young males, and having an honest, open dialogue about how to help them

4. Inspiring the British Virgin Islander youth:

Technical/Trade Programs:
A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Community involvement – With the support of the voluntary sector, young people will be allocated a placement or a team project which will benefit their community. They will be given appropriate training and time to plan in order to make the most of their experience. Young people can also choose to create their own community-beneficial task.

2. Personal development – Young people will work together to solve problems and learn teamwork. They will also have the opportunity to explore their thoughts, feelings and actions in relation to becoming young adults.

3. Challenge – Young people will undertake arduous tasks that will challenge them both individually and as a team so that they generate confidence in themselves and others. The only requirements will be the willingness to work together and the determination to push themselves. We hope that the military, public services, sporting organizations, businesses and outdoor organizations will be able to offer young people a challenging experience.

Youth and a New Direction
A National Democratic Party government will continue, and will introduce such programmes that involve the community to combat crime. These initiatives will include recruitment of members of small community based organizations, those of religious organizations and community members. The focus of these members being recruited shall be to implement programs and recreational activities for at-risk youth. A National Democratic Party government involvement and its support, especially financially, is intended demonstrate government’s commitment to the fight as well as motivate community members to try harder in securing the future of our youth. Funding will also allow them to be more creative with alternative, long-term, community programs

A National Democratic Party government will continue, and will introduce such programmes and certain recreational facilities in the community that can spark a generation of revenue making talents for the territory. These include:

1. Strengthening existing trade programs for recognized certification of trades regionally and internationally. (City and Guilds) This way, attending trades schools, both secondary and advance, would not be time wasted.

2. Offer incentive programs for those doing secondary trade programs. These include job placement after completion of studies, internship opportunities that allow them to enhance their skills in the trade and scholarship opportunities. This will not only serve as a motivator for all students in the trade program, but it would let the rest of the territory know that the government is building a world class trade program to benefit all the youth of the territory.

3. Review and enhancing where necessary the after-school programme. This includes encouraging soft-ball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.

4. A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Developing a music studio for the number of youth that have found a career in the music industry. One suggestion might be to develop such a facility at the Elmore Stoutt High School. This way, musical and theatrical students get firsthand experience in being productive with the systems and instruments associated with that environment.

2. Functional and equipped sporting facility for youth to utilize in all of our communities. These include baseball fields, basketball, and tennis or volleyball courts. Having these facilities available aids in youth developing sporting skills and sportsmanship that can lead to great careers.

3. Review and enhancing where necessary the after-school programme. This includes encouraging soft-ball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.

4. A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Developing a music studio for the number of youth that have found a career in the music industry. One suggestion might be to develop such a facility at the Elmore Stoutt High School. This way, musical and theatrical students get firsthand experience in being productive with the systems and instruments associated with that environment.

2. Functional and equipped sporting facility for youth to utilize in all of our communities. These include baseball fields, basketball, and tennis or volleyball courts. Having these facilities available aids in youth developing sporting skills and sportsmanship that can lead to great careers.

3. Review and enhancing where necessary the after-school programme. This includes encouraging soft-ball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.

4. A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Developing a music studio for the number of youth that have found a career in the music industry. One suggestion might be to develop such a facility at the Elmore Stoutt High School. This way, musical and theatrical students get firsthand experience in being productive with the systems and instruments associated with that environment.

2. Functional and equipped sporting facility for youth to utilize in all of our communities. These include baseball fields, basketball, and tennis or volleyball courts. Having these facilities available aids in youth developing sporting skills and sportsmanship that can lead to great careers.

3. Review and enhancing where necessary the after-school programme. This includes encouraging soft-ball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.

4. A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Developing a music studio for the number of youth that have found a career in the music industry. One suggestion might be to develop such a facility at the Elmore Stoutt High School. This way, musical and theatrical students get firsthand experience in being productive with the systems and instruments associated with that environment.

2. Functional and equipped sporting facility for youth to utilize in all of our communities. These include baseball fields, basketball, and tennis or volleyball courts. Having these facilities available aids in youth developing sporting skills and sportsmanship that can lead to great careers.

3. Review and enhancing where necessary the after-school programme. This includes encouraging soft-ball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.

4. A National Democratic Party government recognizes that in an effort of preparing youth in receiving a proper trade education, it is imperative that these and other issues be rectified. Some suggestions from our youth include the following:

1. Developing a music studio for the number of youth that have found a career in the music industry. One suggestion might be to develop such a facility at the Elmore Stoutt High School. This way, musical and theatrical students get firsthand experience in being productive with the systems and instruments associated with that environment.

2. Functional and equipped sporting facility for youth to utilize in all of our communities. These include baseball fields, basketball, and tennis or volleyball courts. Having these facilities available aids in youth developing sporting skills and sportsmanship that can lead to great careers.

3. Review and enhancing where necessary the after-school programme. This includes encouraging soft-ball teams and basketball teams to recruit secondary school youth through try-outs, create matches and competitions to encourage less popular sports such as tennis, gymnastics and field hockey, and building an Olympic swimming pool and hosting matches to encourage swimming as a top sport.
The National Democratic Party integrated computer network

2. Create a public library system anchored by a fully

So as to support improved literacy and to promote and support a culture of continuous learning, your National Democratic Party government will:

1. Build a National Library building

Public Libraries:

- At least three annual exhibitions on some aspect of our heritage and culture, and will continue to offer our local artist exposure via our London Office.
- A National Library
- A National Museum
- A National Centre for the Performing Arts

A National Democratic Party government will mount a comprehensive document the British Virgin Islands history, culture, ethnology and art.

A National Democratic Party government will:

1. Create a national policy on culture designed to promote an understanding of our cultural heritage, ensure its preservation and encourage an appreciation of diversity in culture and will empower our citizens to function in the global community.

2. Establish a National Museum which will comprehensively document the British Virgin Islands history, culture, ethnology and art.

3. Ensure the effective cultural development of the territory at all levels. This will be achieved via a partnership with the private sector.

4. Make available scholarships to talented national in the fields of art, drama, music, literature and dance.

5. Establish a Center for the Performing Arts

6. Provide benefits to those who contribute artwork to the National Art Gallery section of the museum.

A National Democratic Party government will:

- Enact legislation to require that all cultural property be recognized, classified and registered.
- Enact preservation of antiques legislation

9. Establish a Cultural Commission as an advisory body to the Minister, to advise the Minister on all pertinent matters and to generally promote and ensure respect for cultural property.

10. Encourage the presentation of local culture in our hotels and resorts

11. Promote a programme of recording on audio and video oral histories of the British Virgin Islands and its culture as recalled by our seniors, so that their memories, experiences and knowledge can be preserved.

Our primary objective will be the preservation, enhancement and promotion of our culture by defining and supporting those aspects of our cultural heritage that are unique.

A National Democratic Party government will:

-Create a national policy on culture designed to promote an understanding of our cultural heritage, ensure its preservation and encourage an appreciation of diversity in culture and will empower our citizens to function in the global community.

- Establish a National Museum which will comprehensively document the British Virgin Islands history, culture, ethnology and art.

- Ensure the effective cultural development of the territory at all levels. This will be achieved via a partnership with the private sector.

- Make available scholarships to talented national in the fields of art, drama, music, literature and dance.

- Establish a Center for the Performing Arts

- Provide benefits to those who contribute artwork to the National Art Gallery section of the museum.

- Enact legislation to require that all cultural property be recognized, classified and registered.
- Enact preservation of antiques legislation

- Establish a Cultural Commission as an advisory body to the Minister, to advise the Minister on all pertinent matters and to generally promote and ensure respect for cultural property.

- Encourage the presentation of local culture in our hotels and resorts

- Promote a programme of recording on audio and video oral histories of the British Virgin Islands and its culture as recalled by our seniors, so that their memories, experiences and knowledge can be preserved.

As British Virgin Islanders, we have a responsibility to recognize our own. The National Democratic Party believes that as a territory we must recognize those persons who have contributed in building our territory. As such, a National Democratic Party government will honour our national heroes through national holidays, the naming of national buildings, parks and other facilities etc. to inculcate in our young people, respect for persons, important values and achievements that have helped to shape the lives of us all.

Public Libraries:

So as to support improved literacy and to promote and support a culture of continuous learning, your National Democratic Party government will:

1. Build a National Library building

2. Create a public library system anchored by a fully integrated computer network

A National Democratic Party government will work on preserving and restoring our historical sites on all islands and promoting their importance as part of our tourism strategy.

Sports and Recreation: Building a Fit Nation

The National Democratic Party recognizes that in the development of physical education, sports and recreation, training shall be according priority status.

The National Democratic Party recognizes that our various national sports associations must seek out and create training opportunities for administrators, physical educators, officials, sports medicine personnel, coaches and athletes to upgrade their levels of information, skills and general competences.

Sports Tourism

“Sports Tourism” has become a philosophical and entrepreneurial development of the eighties and nineties. There are a number of reasons for this: The increased worldwide popularity of sports events, such as the Olympic Games and professional “Super Championships”.

The concept of health through physical activities for all age levels has sparked renewed interest.

The National Democratic Party recognizes Sports Tourism is integral to the sports development process. It shall constitute one of the primary pillars of this National Sports Policy and be carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the media.

Having given consideration to the benefits to accrue to the economy national sports associations shall be encouraged to submit bids to host regional and international Physical Education, Sports and Recreational activities - meetings, seminars, courses, camps and competitions, having gained approval from the government.

National representative teams shall travel with appropriate tourism materials on the British Virgin Islands and shall be encouraged to wear distinctive uniforms with the Country’s name clearly identifiable.
One of the most serious and strategic challenges facing many societies the world over is that of the upsurge in crime and criminal activity.

As a territory, it is very important that we do not allow the incidence of crime to escalate further and get even more out of control, where it can be a deterrent to our economic growth and a threat to the citizens and visitors alike.

According to recent statistics coming out of the Royal Virgin Islands Police the commission of certain offenses have significantly risen between 2006 and the end of 2010. The statistics show that in 2006 there were 283 instances of burglary and at the end of 2010, those instances rose to 405. There were 28 robberies in 2006 and this number rose to 37 in 2010. Theft nearly doubled between 2006 and 2010, increasing from 278 counts to 522 by the end of 2010.

These recent murders, robberies and burglaries are also experiencing a steady increase. If as a territory we do not tackle this problem of crime head on, it will reduce our confidence in ourselves as citizens and will surely deter the willingness of local and foreign investors to invest in our territory. It will undoubtedly also cause our territory to be less attractive to visitors.

As a community we need an action plan to put a halt to this upsurge in criminal activity. A plan that will be firmly led and executed by the government and law enforcement agencies, but one that is formulated with the input of the wider community. This must include the business community, the Clergy, our youths, the wider church, community organizations, social and civic groups, all residents of this community and yes all Members of the House of Assembly.

As a community, we must hold the National Security Council fully accountable for the effective implementation of this strategy and action plan. Maintaining law and order in this territory is the highest responsibility of the National Security Council, and since its inception in 2007 it is not meeting the target. Immediate change must begin at that level.
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to improve community policing. A National Democratic Party government will provide the necessary resources and tools to prevent and fight crime, including bringing the complement of both the police force and prison staff up to the appropriate level by providing the requisite salaries, benefits and better working conditions to retain them up the appropriate level by providing the requisite salaries, benefits and better working conditions to retain them.

Finally, we must find a way to engage our young people so that they are disciplined and can focus their enormous energy on matters such as protecting our precious environment. Our proposed National Citizen Service programme is one such idea. After all we say that the youth are our future. Let’s us all as a community walk that talk.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to: • Reduce the high incidence of crime, especially among young criminal offenders • Develop a Crime Prevention Plan following community-based hearings on the matter and inviting suggestions for solutions. • Establish a Parole Board • Support the anonymous reporting of criminal activity.

Police community relations is a critical component in modern policing and a deterrent to criminal activity. In this regard, the re-establishment of the local constabulary will increase the eyes and ears of the police in all areas of the community while building a critical rapport with the community. It is time for more officers to take to the streets and leave the desks behind for a while.

As a community we must reach out to our young people in a sustained manner. In reaching out we must go far beyond the age old approach of just blaming all of the world’s ills on “those young people.” We must see them as a critical part of the solution and the future. We must engage them in our economic development. We must listen to them and their concerns. We must direct the required resources at addressing their problems in a manner where Balsam Ghut will not be able to compete and is eventually downsized because of non-use.

We must place emphasis on those young people who are in desperate need of our help and that of the community. It is time to end the lip service and get real.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for improved relations between the youth and the police by having the police actively engaged in the life of the community (schools, churches, events, etc.)

Crime

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to have a 5 – 7 year national policy and strategy which will deal with crime prevention, the judicial system, establishing a rehab programme, re-structuring prison system, early detection for at risk individuals, strengthen truancy programme and establish a detention centre for boys and girls. We will also focus on the development of stronger training programmes and community relations programme for Royal Virgin Islands Police Force.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to establish youth committees in the various communities, to mentor and support each other, with the assistance of an adult advisor whom they select and respect.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for having surveillance cameras in strategic areas of the Territory, as has been done in other parts of the world, including in the City of London.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for having surveillance cameras in strategic areas of the Territory, as has been done in other parts of the world, including in the City of London.

Police community relations is a critical component in modern policing and a deterrent to criminal activity. In this regard, the re-establishment of the local constabulary will increase the eyes and ears of the police in all areas of the community while building a critical rapport with the community. It is time for more officers to take to the streets and leave the desks behind for a while.

Finally, we must find a way to engage our young people in a sustained manner. In reaching out we must go far beyond the age old approach of just blaming all of the world’s ills on “those young people.” We must see them as a critical part of the solution and the future. We must engage them in our economic development. We must listen to them and their concerns. We must direct the required resources at addressing their problems in a manner where Balsam Ghut will not be able to compete and is eventually downsized because of non-use.

We must place emphasis on those young people who are in desperate need of our help and that of the community. It is time to end the lip service and get real.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for improved relations between the youth and the police by having the police actively engaged in the life of the community (schools, churches, events, etc.)

Crime

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to have a 5 – 7 year national policy and strategy which will deal with crime prevention, the judicial system, establishing a rehab programme, re-structuring prison system, early detection for at risk individuals, strengthen truancy programme and establish a detention centre for boys and girls. We will also focus on the development of stronger training programmes and community relations programme for Royal Virgin Islands Police Force.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to establish youth committees in the various communities, to mentor and support each other, with the assistance of an adult advisor whom they select and respect.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for having surveillance cameras in strategic areas of the Territory, as has been done in other parts of the world, including in the City of London.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for having surveillance cameras in strategic areas of the Territory, as has been done in other parts of the world, including in the City of London.

Police community relations is a critical component in modern policing and a deterrent to criminal activity. In this regard, the re-establishment of the local constabulary will increase the eyes and ears of the police in all areas of the community while building a critical rapport with the community. It is time for more officers to take to the streets and leave the desks behind for a while.

Finally, we must find a way to engage our young people in a sustained manner. In reaching out we must go far beyond the age old approach of just blaming all of the world’s ills on “those young people.” We must see them as a critical part of the solution and the future. We must engage them in our economic development. We must listen to them and their concerns. We must direct the required resources at addressing their problems in a manner

where Balsam Ghut will not be able to compete and is eventually downsized because of non-use.

We must place emphasis on those young people who are in desperate need of our help and that of the community. It is time to end the lip service and get real.

A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need for improved relations between the youth and the police by having the police actively engaged in the life of the community (schools, churches, events, etc.)
Punishing criminals
We must review sentencing guidelines with a view to toughening sentences for violent crime and all gun-related crimes.

Unsolved violent crimes:
The newly formed National Security Council will work with the Commissioner of Police to bring the perpetrators of the several unsolved murders to justice by bringing in whatever external resources are needed to assist the RVIPF.

- Making sure crime does not pay
- Those who commit crimes should not profit from them. We will further toughen laws that enable the courts to confiscate the assets and property of drug dealers and other major criminals.
- Supporting the victim
- The legal system must dispense justice to the victim as well as the accused
- We will improve the way the courts work by establishing a Victims Support Unit.

Merge Immigration, Customs and Civil Registry: Securing our Borders
A National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to create efficiencies in the management of our borders by a merger of Immigration, Customs and Civil Registry Departments into a new Border Control Agency.

The new agency will be developed as the primary border control entity at the ports of entry managing and monitoring people and goods entering the country.

The new agency will be divided into a unified command structure with three centres of command under the management of a Director responsible to a Commissioner.

A National Democratic Party government will introduce an “e-Borders” programme under which travelers to and from the British Virgin Islands are checked in advance of travel using data provided by passengers via their airline or ferry operators.

National ID Database:
As security becomes a major problem globally, many countries large and small are implementing some form of a National Identification Database to help in the fight against crime. Such systems are fully integrated with all law enforcement agencies and can become an integral tool in fighting crime. Here in the BVI no such system currently exist, although the Post Office has developed an Addressing Database which was conceived by the Postmaster General in 2006 in line with International guidelines.

It includes physical and mailing address, photo, contact numbers and finger prints. It has the ability to serves a number of uses such as information for first responders (i.e police, fire, ambulance), disaster management, utility companies, traffic, elections office etc. The database also provides a platform for GPS capability.

The National Democratic Party recognizes that the matter of security has become a matter of major concern by the people of the BVI. This has been driven by a considerable increase in criminal activity over the last several years. Accordingly, a National Democratic Party government will give careful consideration to the implementation of a national identification database as part its overall crime fighting and security strategy.
The National Democratic Party recognizes that ultimately economic development must be about the development of people, and as a consequence, will spend the next 4 years modernizing the following areas that affect the lives of British Virgin Islanders well into the future. Attention to these areas will also be critical in positioning the territory for long term economic and physical growth.

- Electricity
- Water and Sewerage
- Solid Waste Management
- Roads and Traffic
- Airports/Civil Aviation
- Seaports
- Sister Island Development

Electricity

The National Democratic Party recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate supply of electricity and accordingly, will ... to their plans for the expansion of their capacity to meet local demand. Through conservation, investment and other means we will ensure that the generating capacity is of such that allows for rotation to allow for preventative maintenance.

Water and Sewerage

The National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to provide a clean and reliable source of municipal water throughout the territory, and accordingly will upgrade reservoirs (8 Tortola, 2 Virgin Gorda, 1 Anegada and 1 Jost Van Dyke) as well as upgrade the distribution network. A major effort will be directed at detecting and leak detection. A National Democratic Party government will ensure water is connectable to 95 % of homes in the Territory.

A National Democratic Party government will review all water production agreements with government to ensure a sustainable and cost effective water supply for the Territory currently and in the future.

The National Democratic Party recognizes the issues of sewerage are many as documented in the 1980 Water and Sewerage proposals for Tortola which pointed out that the ... waste that will be generated thus the sewerage development priorities for all built communities must be sewerage system.

One of the principal national areas of focus for an NDP government will that of completing the sewerage systems in Long Look/East End and Road Town and its environs. This ... for expanding the sewerage system territory wide with initial focus on the Sea Cows Bay area and the Valley Virgin Gorda.

Challenge for Today’s British Virgin Islands

Literature relating to small developing states and in particular small island developing countries or territories, suggest that their long-term stability cannot rely merely on economic achievements. It is held that an essential determinant of economic resilience requires sound governance, which is evidenced by: peace and political stability, market and economic efficiency, rule of law, human rights, government transparency and accountability, and popular participation in democratic and political institutions.

Deficiencies in these areas are indicative of deficiencies of governance. So that even though economic expansion can take place without good governance, in the end it will not be resilient and therefore not lasting. Growth and structural transformation are necessary, but not a sufficient condition for sustained economic development. The development process must be “internalized” into the human and natural fabric of the community.

Too often the most frequent cause of project failure in economic development schemes has to do with a lack of integrated project planning. An economic system is somewhat similar to a clock. The cogs have to mesh if there is to be effective time keeping. In the same way, projects undertaken must contribute to national output productivity. For example, although one might argue that the Cruise Ship Dock may not be ideally located, nonetheless, it is fair to state that the new ferry jetty associated with the dock contributes to output productivity and efficiency within the Road Harbour area. However, while the need for some projects may appear to be obvious, effective justification of such an undertaking should be justified from an objective needs analysis evaluation.

One of the major criticisms of the hospital now under construction has to do with how it will be staffed. Maybe there is a plan, but the public is not aware of such a plan.

This project is also a prime example of how the failure to communicate with the potential beneficiaries could negatively impact the project through loss of community support. If the intended beneficiaries are not kept informed, their support will not forth-coming.

The community must feel a sense of ownership of the planned economic development initiatives. A typical lack of community support for an economic development initiative is the “Green House Project”. The farmers see it as a foreign concept, being undertaken by foreigners to the detriment of the local farmers and producers. Economic development initiatives must be marketed to the local community if the community is to buy into them.

The easiest way to un-develop a country is by inept financing of intended economic development projects. Ultimately all sustained economic development comes from within. Unless economic development results in wealth being accumulated within the country, then sustained growth leading to an enhanced quality of life will not be take place.

The method of financing the Bi-Water Project by creating a sustained out-flow of funds generated from services within the country is precisely the type of financing that leads to negative economic growth.

It is essential that economic development initiatives have a positive impact on the quality of life of the citizenry. Being able to identify and delineate such benefits has to be an integral part of marketing the economic initiative.

The National Democratic Party recognizes that ultimately economic development must be about the development of people, and as a consequence, will spend the next 4 years modernizing the following areas that affect the lives of British Virgin Islanders well into the future. Attention to these areas will also be critical in positioning the territory for long term economic and physical growth.

- Electricity
- Water and Sewerage
- Solid Waste Management
- Roads and Traffic
- Airports/Civil Aviation
- Seaports
- Sister Island Development

Electricity

The National Democratic Party recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate supply of electricity and accordingly will continue to provide full support to BVIEC to fund their plans for the expansion of their capacity to meet local demand. Through conservation, investment and other means we will ensure that the generating capacity is such that allows for rotation to allow for preventative maintenance.

Additionally, an NDP government will encourage and foster the development and use of alternative energy by citizens retaining the right that if demand to the Electricity Corporation drops below a point that will endanger their viability all consumers could be ordered back on the grid in a phased manner. A National Democratic Party government will introduce policy to encourage renewable energy, with the intention of achieving 20% of supply in the short term.

Water and Sewerage

The National Democratic Party government recognizes the need to provide a clean and reliable source of municipal water throughout the territory, and accordingly will upgrade reservoirs (8 Tortola, 2 Virgin Gorda, 1 Anegada and 1 Jost Van Dyke) as well as upgrade the distribution network. A major effort will be directed at detecting and leak detection. A National Democratic Party government will ensure water is connectable to 95 % of homes in the Territory.

A National Democratic Party government will review all water production agreements with government to ensure a sustainable and cost effective water supply for the Territory currently and in the future.

The National Democratic Party recognizes the issues of sewerage are many as documented in the 1980 Water and Sewerage proposals for Tortola which pointed out that the soils cannot cope with the waste that will be generated thus the sewerage development priorities for all built communities must be sewerage system.

One of the principal national areas of focus for an NDP government will that of completing the sewerage systems in Long Look/East End and Road Town and its environs. This will include the establishment of treatment plants for both areas and the completion of the connections to businesses and houses. Additionally, an NDP government will start the planning work for expanding the sewerage system territory wide with initial focus on the Sea Cows Bay area and the Valley Virgin Gorda.
A second area of attention for an NDP government will be to review and establish a long term management structure for the Water and Sewerage Department with a view to establishing a Water and Sewerage Authority – a Statutory Board. Such a structure will ensure the foundation for the long term growth of this vital public service.

Solid Waste Management
A National Democratic Party government will introduce a policy to promote recycling of items like, plastics, glass and other such material that would be of benefit locally. The new incinerator will be reviewed with a view to exploring the possibility for using the steam generated by the facility to generate electricity.

A National Democratic Party government will provide for all new roads to be appropriately engineered and designed for 25 year flood design capability.

A National Democratic Party government will seek to build or improve 8 miles of major roads per year, build or improve 12 miles of secondary road per year and build or improve 20 miles of access road per year.

A National Democratic Party government will review the current traffic situation in Road Town, with a view to providing relief to the motoring public. A National Democratic Party government will construct rest areas/lookout points on select routes on the major road network.

The National Democratic Party recognizes the need to make the Paraquita Bay Road more pedestrian friendly and will construct sidewalks to ensure that pedestrians are safe.

A National Democratic Party government will aggressively pursue the expansion of the Terrence B. Lettsome International Airport to accommodate direct flights from East Coast USA to ensure convenience in travel. This expansion will be done with all of the requisite environmental studies to ensure that the natural environment is not compromised.

Virgin Gorda Airport
A National Democratic Party government will aggressively pursue the expansion of the Virgin Gorda Air Port.

Seaports
A National Democratic Party government will aggressively pursue the expansion and the improve the appearance and functionality of existing port facilities, notably building a new ferry terminal at West End. On Virgin Gorda it will be the objective to move forward with the separation of cargo dock and the Ferry Terminal. A ferry terminal will also be built at Trellis Bay. Gun Creek and Setting Point on Anegada will me made ports of entry.

As such we have added this new Sister Island section to our Manifesto designed to clearly outline and articulate our specific programmes and policies designed to advance the development of the primary sister islands. We see these programmes as a top priority.

Accordingly an NDP Government will:

Virgin Gorda
- Implement District Nine Action Plan
- Build a mini hospital
- Build a Help pad for emergency evacuation
- Promote the development of environmentally compatible resorts on the Sister Islands
- Develop a separate cargo pier on Virgin Gorda
- Start planning work for a sewerage system
- Establish a transportation system to transport solid waste to Tortola and establish a time frame to close the Solid Waste site on Gorda Peak
- Secure land in the Valley for First Time Home Owners
- Develop a strategy for the establishment of a regular high quality ferry service between Beef Island and Virgin Gorda.

Jost Van Dyke
- Secure the services of a medical Doctor to be stationed on Jost Van Dyke
- Improve the road and drainage network on the island
- Continue the development of the port facilities
- Increase government support for the expansion of BVI ownership of high-end boutique-style hotels, villas, guest houses etc.
- Build a Visitor Centre in Great Harbour
- Build a Help pad for emergency evacuation

Anegada
- Fully upgrade the Electricity generating Station
- Improve air service to Anegada
- Seek strengthen the ferry service to Anegada
- Increase government support for the expansion of BVI ownership of high-end boutique-style hotels, villas, guest houses etc.
- Build a Help pad for emergency evacuation
- Continue the expansion of the portable water system
- Continue the surfacing of roads on Anegada.

City of Road Town
The National Democratic Party recognizes the need for the city of Road Town to be defined and a Management System established properly deal with the obligations of the Wickham’s Cay Authority. The capital of the Virgin Islands Road Town needs a better management system to ensure its appearance and activities reflect its historic and economic importance to our territory. As such, a National Democratic Party government will establish a Management Board that will be charged with working with citizens and government to provide a comprehensive development plan for our capital. The Board will be responsible for the overall management of of the city. This will be done in a collaboration with the Fifth and Sixth District Representatives to ensure all businesses and activities that are considered to be in the capital are given the support needed to be successful.

The National Democratic Party recognizes the need for public restroom facilities to be placed at strategic locations through out Road Town and surrounding communities.

The National Democratic Party recognizes the need for giving vendors opportunities to make a living with minimal impact on our country’s beauty by providing the requisite infrastructure to achieve same.

Disaster Management:
As part of a National Disaster Preparedness Plan, the protective services and civil society must engage in continuous “response training”. The Citizens and members of our entire community must be constantly sensitized to their role. Such a plan must also be acceptable to the Police and Fire Services as part of an integrated plan to which all are committed in a situation of disaster.
A healthy and productive relationship between the British Virgin Islands and the rest of the world is fundamental to our quality of life and it is more critical now more than ever. The effectiveness of this relationship will determine our economic and by extension social success here at home.

Regionally, a National Democratic Party government within the context of its Associate Membership status will continue to work with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on matters of mutual interest. The Government will review the areas of functional cooperation to assess those that can be further developed to add value to the social and economic sectors of the territory. Each Ministry will have a senior official responsible for regional matters coordinated the Premier’s Office. A National Democratic Party government welcomes Her Majesty Government’s (HMG’s) expressed desire for a modern partnership between the United Kingdom and its overseas territories. This relationship will be based on consultation and regular dialogue leading to an enhanced relationship where British Virgin Islanders will continue to progress. Areas where there will be consultation and collaboration will include security and crime issues, student affairs including fees and scholarships, and continued assistance in the health programme established years ago for Overseas Territories. In addition to these traditional areas, we must engage HGM to afford us the ability and latitude to engage with the dominant emerging economic economies of BRIC countries, Brazil, Russia, India and China.

The Caribbean Overseas Territories – Bermuda, Caymans, Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla and the British Virgin islands share a number of common issues – including increasing crime, on the one hand
growth in international financial services and on the other hand face challenges from supra national organizations such as the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A National Democratic Party government will collaborate with the Governments of these territories to arrive at common positions against these attacks and challenges. Through dialogue and regular consultation, a National Democratic Party government will agree with its counterparts areas of mutual cooperation and assistance.

There has been significant ‘slippage’ of the British Virgin Islands reputation internationally. This must be halted. The Economist for mid September, 2011 names the British Virgin Islands as a country that provides a “license to loot”. This is not an isolated description in recent times. A targeted campaign to include internationally respected journalists, competent public relations firms and financial services experts, will be mounted as a priority with the objective of restoring and constantly safeguarding the international reputation of the British Virgin Islands.

With the emergence of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) as the new profit centres for financial services, a National Democratic Party government will carry out a comprehensive review of the promotional/public relations strategy of the International Finance Centre in the context of ‘Brand BVI’ with a view to deriving more business and revenue from these countries.

The British Virgin Islands shipping Registry attained Category One status largely due to the efforts of the then National Democratic Party government. The anticipated revenues from this sub-sector have not been realized although the potential remains very high. A National Democratic Party government will immediately review this facility to ascertain the drawbacks to its profitability and put in place measures to correct this and grow the sub-sector.

A National Democratic Party government will target Ship Registration and as a growth sector for the future. Following the ‘blue print’ of the London Office which was firmly established by the National Democratic Party government, An NDP government will establish similar offices in the United States, Brussels and in Hong Kong or Shanghai with the objective of attracting more business to the BVI by promoting its social and economic objectives. Furthermore given the importance of doing business in “real” time, a British Virgin Islands presence in dominant economic time zones is essential.

A National Democratic Party government will continue the policy promulgated in its 2007 manifesto of providing structured attachments at the London Office and other such offices for mid to senior level public servants with the objective of honing their international skills. Furthermore, two Virgin Islanders will be trained annually over the next four years in areas negotiating and diplomacy so that there would be a cadre of professionals to act on behalf of the British Virgin Islands. Additionally, a National Democratic Party government will establish a global internaship programme for British Virgin Islands students studying abroad. The objective of this programme will be to prepare our students and future human resources talent to be in a better position on their return to the British Virgin Islands to play a more substantial role on entering the workforce be it in the public or private sector.

Having initiated and successfully established an All Party Parliamentary Group in the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands London Office will give priority to establishing a similar group in the European Union that would actively represent the interests of the British Virgin Islands in Europe. An NDP government will also seek to establish similar groupings with a business focus in all of the areas where overseas offices will be established.

A National Democratic Party government will immediately reestablish an International Affairs Secretariat within the Premier’s Office to coordinate all regional and international matters. The Secretariat will also review all TIEA’s signed some of which were negotiated years ago with significant benefits accruing to the BVI. The Secretariat will work with the Government of the Virgin Islands and its treaty partners to obtain these benefits.
Standards in Public Life

The National Democratic Party believes that the traditions and institutions of a democracy are the most precious of a nation’s assets. In this regard, the Legislative Council of the British Virgin Islands and those elected freely and fairly to serve therein to represent the interest of the people and to provide for and ensure the national wellbeing, are given a special responsibility and a sacred trust.

It is regrettable that standards of behavior in public life are not universally high, even though in recent times, standards of behavior are more rigorously scrutinized than in the past, by the press and by the population at large.

The National Democratic Party believes that it is the personal responsibility of every Member of the Legislative Council to maintain those standards of conduct which the Legislature and the electorate are entitled to expect, to protect the good name of the Council, the British Virgin Islands and to advance the public interest.

Similar standards of conduct are also expected of senior public officers whose responsibility it is to implement the laws of the British Virgin Islands and the policy directives of Executive Council.

Accordingly, the National Democratic Party believes that Members of the Legislative Council should be expected to observe the following general principles of conduct.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

Selflessness
Holders of public office should take decisions solely in the public interest. They must not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefit for themselves, members of their family, or their friends.

Integrity
Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity
In carrying out the public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability
Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness
Unnecessary secrecy in government leads to arrogance in government and defective policy decisions. Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly so demands.

Honesty
Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising, in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership
Holders of public office should promote and support these principles through leadership and example.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT

The National Democratic Party further believes that Ministers of Government must be held to the highest standards of constitutional and personal conduct. In particular, they must observe the following principles of Ministerial conduct:

• Ministers must ensure that no conflict arises, or appear to arise, between their public duties and their private interests;
• Ministers must not mislead the Legislative Council. They must be as open as possible with the Legislative Council and with the public;
• Ministers are accountable to the Legislative Council for the policies and operations of their departments and agencies;
• Ministers should avoid accepting any gift or hospitality which might, or might appear to, compromise their judgment or place them under improper obligation;
• Ministers must keep separate their roles as Ministers and as District or Territorial Representatives;
• Ministers must keep their party and ministerial roles separate.