2015
“LET’S DO THIS TOGETHER”

PNM
PEOPLE’S NATIONAL MOVEMENT
MANIFESTO
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It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the People’s National Movement to present to you our comprehensive Manifesto for the upcoming General Election.

As is our practice when in Opposition, we have spent the last five years developing the necessary policies and programmes to rebuild our country and our economy, restore confidence, equity and social justice, and enhance and improve every area of national life. The party in all its forums, including a special convention held in 2014 at the Hyatt Hotel, has spent countless hours in the formulation of policy and in the review and examination of proposals from a myriad of experts and professionals.

The end result of this exhaustive exercise is a wide-ranging and broad based suite of detailed policy initiatives, projects, programmes and measures that will lift us out of the chaos that has been created by the present Government, and put Trinidad and Tobago on a path to growth, development, social peace, economic stability and transformation, where all citizens will get their fair share of national resources and receive good, honest, equitable and transparent Government.

Where specific details of individual policy are not covered in this Manifesto, we will rely as a starting point, on the policy prescriptions in our party’s comprehensive and well-documented Vision 2020 Plan, much of which is as relevant today as it was five years ago.

In summary, we in the PNM envision a society where integrity and morality in public life is of the highest priority and the Government serves the public good above all else, and where decisions are made and actions taken by the Government in the best interest of all concerned.

Our approach to governance in our next term will be data based, scientific, holistic and evidence driven, paying due attention at all times to the need for compassion, sensitivity and the respect for the rights and freedoms of all citizens in all matters of state.

May I also present to you our 41 outstanding candidates who are drawn from all sectors of our society; represent the highest ideals and qualities of our people and possess the integrity, competence and commitment that is obligatory for elected representatives.

May God bless you all and may God bless our Nation.

LET’S DO THIS TOGETHER. LET’S RESCUE OUR COUNTRY
THE PNM’S CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
A Brief Summary

The People’s National Movement has taken Trinidad and Tobago from a colonial backwater through Independence and Republican status to become a modern, progressive, industrialised, stable and democratic country that is the envy of many countries in the developing and developed world.

Under the PNM, our country became the economic powerhouse of the Caribbean, achieved a relatively high level of human development, and became a regional leader in virtually every area of endeavour.

It is a matter of record that virtually every institution in this country was created, nurtured and developed by the PNM. Our education system, our manufacturing, industrial and energy sectors, our road network, transportation systems, primary infrastructure, social services, public sector, state enterprise sector, creative industries, health services, public housing and system of governance, among so many other things, were all given life by the PNM, and built through the hard work, dedication and commitment of our people.

Every other political party that has temporarily assumed office in this country has merely flattered to deceive and has made no lasting impact or substantial improvement in the quality of life of our citizens. Over the last 59 years, only the PNM has had the resilience and commitment to stay the course, in and out of Government, to accept the will of the people, and on each occasion that we have been tested, put our shoulders to the wheel and emerge stronger and better equipped to serve our people.
As we approach the September 2015 election, it is appropriate to examine what has passed for Government in Trinidad and Tobago since May 2010. The so-called People’s Partnership, which for all intents and purposes is, and was, in effect a UNC Government, came into office promising an immediate 120-day action plan. They promised to deal effectively with crime, alleviate poverty, eradicate corruption and “serve the people”.

After 5 years of a failed “partnership” and betrayal of the people’s trust, the hallmarks of this failed administration are injustice, discrimination, favouritism, corruption and deception. Having achieved precious little in the last 5 years, they are now subjecting the population to another barrage of rhetoric and meaningless clichés, like “zero tolerance on crime”, shamelessly promising again in 2015 what they promised in 2010, but failed to do.

After 5 years, crime remains the most serious problem affecting our citizens today, closely followed by corruption, which has now reached previously unimagined levels. In fact, officially sanctioned corruption has become a feature of this discredited UNC-led regime. Far from serving the people, they have only served themselves and their financiers.

To illustrate, let us examine just a few areas of their non-performance:

**What is their record on crime?**

- Violent crime is out of control, while white collar crime, especially money laundering, bribery, corruption and theft from the people’s purse, has reached epidemic levels.
- The murder total has exceeded 400 for the last two years and there has been no reduction in the murder rate for this year with over 250 murders in the first 7 months of 2015.
- Under the UNC-led regime, Trinidad and Tobago has been determined by the United Nations to be the 10th most homicidal and violent country in the world, with more murders per capita than Iraq.
- Trinidad and Tobago has been downgraded by the US State Department in its Trafficking in Persons 2015 Report.
- Guns are being smuggled into the Port-of-Spain prison, an unprecedented armed jailbreak has taken place, with the shooting death of a police officer, and the capital city plunged into fear and panic.
- The country has no offshore patrol capability or border protection.
- There is no effective surveillance of criminals and unacceptably low detection of crime.
- Low morale has weakened the Police Service, caused by insecure leadership.
- There is a proliferation of illegal handguns and small arms and sophisticated high powered weapons are in the hands of criminals, who are not afraid to brazenly display and use them for nefarious purposes.

**What is their record on transparency and accountability?**

- No modern, equitable or transparent public procurement system is in force after 5 years of Government.
- Multi-million dollar illegitimate contracts have been awarded to unqualified party financiers, friends and family members in flagrant breach of tender rules.
- The Parliament has been manipulated to favour party financiers – the infamous Section 34.
- Billions of dollars are not properly accounted for in the public accounts.
- Over $400 million has been misspent in legal fees in 5 years to hire friends and associates to pursue ill-advised lawsuits.
- Millions of dollars have been stolen or wasted in useless or corrupt programmes, such as the $500 million squandered in LifeSport.
What is their record on the economy?

- Economic stagnation – no significant growth since 2010.
- 5 years of chronic budget deficits – no effort to balance the national budget.
- Shortage of US Dollars – capital flight.
- Irresponsible, election-related squander mania, despite the loss of over $7 billion in Government revenue in 2015 due to the collapse in oil prices.
- No attempt to diversify the economy/no innovation.
- A 25% reduction in oil production since 2010 and curtailment of production of natural gas supply for gas-based industries, resulting in over $10 billion in lost revenue at Pt. Lisas since 2010.

What is their record on controlling the cost of living?

- In the last 5 years, inflation has spiralled out of control – the Central Bank’s data shows that food prices have increased by 92% since 2010, i.e. the price of food has almost doubled during their tenure.

What is their record on the distribution of national resources?

- Since 2010, there has been gross inequity in the distribution of national resources in any area of Trinidad that supports the PNM, which, since 2013, is two-thirds of all regions in Trinidad.
- The entire east-west corridor, our two cities, the deep south, the north-east and south-west, and Tobago have been marginalised.
- Persons or businesses associated with the PNM have been targeted and victimised.

What is their record on public expenditure and fiscal management?

- The public debt has increased by 70% over the last 5 years, from $65 billion in 2010 to over $110 billion in 2015.
- Over $300 billion has been wasted in profligate expenditure in 5 years with no transformation or modernisation of the country or improvement in the quality of life of ordinary citizens.

What is their record on traffic management?

- After 5 years, our road network is clogged with over 750,000 motor vehicles, crawling in endless bumper to bumper traffic.
- Thousands of productive man hours are wasted every day in non-stop grinding traffic jams, even at non-peak hours.
- No mass transit, national transportation or traffic management plans have been produced. Just empty talk about more buses, which will have to use the same congested roads and compete with existing vehicles for space.

What is their record on electricity and water supply?

- Power outages and breakdowns in our electricity supply system are now commonplace. In many areas, power failures are now a monthly occurrence and are the “new normal”.
- Acute water shortages and leaking pipelines abound, especially in north Trinidad and in Tobago and several communities are without a proper water supply for months on end.

What is their record on flooding?

- Rivers and watercourses all over the country are clogged with silt, bush and debris, and have been left unattended for several years in many areas. Forested areas are denuded.
- Massive flooding and destructive landslides now occur in North, South and Central Trinidad with just a few hours of rain.

The above are but a few examples of the reasons why this incompetent and corrupt UNC-led regime should not be given a second chance to damage this country further. Their record in health care, infrastructure, education, sport and the myriad of other Governmental activities is equally dismal, bogged down by corruption and ineptitude. This is why their 2015 “manifesto” should be ignored, as it is an exercise in deception and trickery.
The task to rebuild our economy and restore a system of good values and faith in our public institutions will not be easy, but the PNM is up to the task. We have 60 years of experience, the necessary expertise, the institutional knowledge, the commitment and the integrity required to undo the damage done by this unethical UNC-led regime. Once again, the PNM is being called upon to rebuild our country, and we will do so in all sincerity, with humility and honesty.

CODE OF CONDUCT
One of our first tasks will be to restore Integrity and Morality in Public Affairs, which has been almost permanently destroyed by the UNC-led PP, and to introduce and enforce a Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Parliament.

In the last 5 years, UNC MPs have been accused of offences ranging from driving under the influence of alcohol, smoking marijuana, consorting with prostitutes, sexual assault, bodily assault, bribery, using their office for personal gain, conflict of interest, corruption, witness tampering and attempts to pervert the course of justice, among other immoral and unlawful acts. Some UNC MPs are before the courts while others are under active investigation by the Police.

This inexcusable behaviour on the part of UNC/PP MPs has caused the public to lose confidence in politicians and our system of governance. The PNM will seek to reverse this pernicious trend by implementing a code of conduct and ethical behaviour for all Parliamentarians, with sanctions and penalties for non-compliance, following the guidelines published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Members of Parliament are public officers and must thus act in the best interests of the nation. Accordingly, MPs must put the public interest above all others.
Under the PNM Government, the following general principles of behaviour will apply for all Parliamentarians, from both Houses:

**SELFLESSNESS**
Members of Parliament should act solely in terms of the public interest.

**OBJECTIVITY**
Members of Parliament must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**
Members of Parliament must account to the public their decisions and actions and submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

**INTEGRITY**
Members of Parliament must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work, or act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose to Parliament all potential conflicts of interest.

**HONESTY**
Members of Parliament should be truthful.

**LEADERSHIP**
Members of Parliament should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

**OPENNESS**
Members of Parliament should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner.

**REFORMING THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Integrity and morality in public affairs has been a core principle of the PNM from its inception. Any member of a PNM Government who engages in corruption involving public money or breach of public duty will face the consequences. Corruption will not be shielded or protected by a PNM government.

It is a matter of record that the PNM supported the passage of the Integrity in Public Life Act of 2000. However, since that legislation became operational 10 years ago, the Integrity Commission has itself been dogged by scandals. As recently as this year, the Commission virtually collapsed because of disagreement over the propriety of its actions with respect to the emaligate investigation.

In fact, there have been no less than 6 Commissions in the last 10 years and in reality, the Commission has had a minimal impact on reducing corruption since its formation. Our ranking in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index has continued to slide, especially since May 2010.

To counteract this negative perception, the Integrity Commission is seeking additional powers to more effectively discharge its mandate. However, public confidence in the Commission is now so low, that there is clearly a need for restoration of public confidence before the Commission can go forward with enhanced powers. Since it is an independent body, we expect that the President will exercise due care and diligence in the appointment of members of the Commission in the future.

The reforms we propose are to:

- Strengthen the investigative powers of the Integrity Commission and broaden its reach.
- Increase the budgetary allocation to the Integrity Commission so as to increase the staffing of accountants skilled in fraud examination, officers trained in investigation of white collar crime and attorneys skilled in prosecution of such offences.
- Institute a new offence of “unjust enrichment” whereby a person in public life who has a standard of living or controls property disproportionate to his present or past income must be able to satisfactorily explain his situation, or face prosecution.
- Introduce, as a priority, whistleblower protection legislation, to allow exposure of corrupt activities.
- Require all persons who provide service to the public sector on the boards of state enterprises and statutory bodies to declare their all interests, and make these declarations available for public scrutiny.
The Productive Sector

RESTORING GROWTH, DIVERSITY AND CONFIDENCE TO THE ECONOMY

ECONOMIC POLICIES

Our economic policies are framed in the context of realities such as:

- Our heavy dependence on the energy sector for foreign exchange earnings and for 50% of government revenues
- The decline in crude oil production and stagnation of natural gas production
- Sharp cyclical swings in oil and gas prices
- An increasingly competitive global economy
- Our vulnerability to global climate change and natural disasters
- Policies instituted by developed countries which impose significant costs of compliance on small states such as Trinidad and Tobago.

However, despite the damage to the economy done by the outgoing UNC-led Government, we believe that there are several intrinsic areas of strength in our economy, which if properly harnessed and properly incentivized, will allow us to achieve sustainable growth.

Some of these potential areas of strength are:

- A mature energy sector
- A reputation, until recently, as an attractive destination for investment in both the energy and non-energy sectors
- Creative, adaptable and resilient people with appealing artistic and cultural expressions
- A strong manufacturing base
- A vibrant services sector
- Strong traditional links with the rest of the Caribbean, including Cuba, the United States and Canada, and the United Kingdom through our West Indian diaspora, as well as our ancestral connections with India, Africa, Europe, China and the Middle East.

The key objectives of our economic policies thus include:

- Macroeconomic stability, strong institutions and investor confidence
- Sustainable growth and diversification
- Job creation and promotion of social justice
STABILITY AND INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

Sustainable growth and economic transformation are best secured in an environment of macroeconomic stability. This is achieved through proper economic planning, accurate, timely and robust data collection, low inflation, effective debt management and manageable debt ratios, adequate foreign exchange reserves, low exchange rate volatility, public confidence in the management of the foreign exchange market, and interest rate levels which protect against excessive capital outflows, while providing a good return for domestic savings.

Under the UNC-led Government, Trinidad and Tobago was recently downgraded by Moody’s Investment Services, due to the absence of economic planning, poor debt management, lack of economic diversification and woefully inadequate data collection, among other things.

It will be a priority of the incoming PNM administration to reverse this downgrade by proactively addressing all of these areas of economic weakness, which have been left unattended by the present Government.

The general lowering and harmonization of income tax rates that occurred during the PNMs years has proven to be effective in increasing revenues, and the PNM will thus continue with a programme of reducing and rationalizing taxes where feasible, while strengthening revenue collection.

In this regard, in consultation with the representative Trade Unions, the PNM will move expeditiously to establish the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority, which will institute more effective tax administration by coordinating databases across Customs and Excise, VAT and Corporate and Individual Taxes, training the staff of the Revenue Authority and, subject to appropriate legislative and judicial safeguards, liaising with criminal law enforcement and a reformed Integrity Commission.

The need for economic diversification has been a standard policy prescription for many years, as successive oil shocks have shown. Led by the International Monetary Fund and supported by local stakeholders, the call has become more strident in recent years, because of structural changes taking place in global energy markets and new uncertainties about remaining oil and gas reserves. The PNM Government will move aggressively to diversify and turn around our economy.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

One area of diversification with great potential is the financial services sector. Trinidad and Tobago had already been recognized as the de facto financial centre of the English-speaking Caribbean and the PNM Government will seize the opportunity to widen our horizon and look towards Asia, China in particular.

We will seek to encourage branches of the New Development Bank and the two state-owned Chinese banks to be anchor tenants in the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (TTIFC). These branches would then serve as intermediaries, channelling the resources from the lending agencies to fund projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The expanded TTIFC will in turn lead to a significant increase in demand for the back-office and capital market that are currently being offered, thus contributing to diversification through the creation of a high value-added knowledge-based financial services sector.

JOB CREATION AND PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

The preamble of the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago affirms our belief as a people in “the principles of social justice” and the belief that “the operation of the economic system should result in the material resources of the community being so distributed as to serve the common good, that there should be adequate means of livelihood for all, that labour should not be exploited or forced by economic necessity to operate in inhumane conditions but that there should be opportunity for advancement on the basis of recognition of merit, ability and integrity”. The PNM government will give life and effect to these aspirations in the formulation and conduct of economic policies.

Over the years, the labour market has become distorted because of the employment of large numbers employed in government-funded low wage, low productivity jobs, such as URP and CEPEP. There are also an increasing number of university graduates who are not finding jobs at salaries consistent with their expectations. Our competitiveness, economic prosperity and social stability depend on the creation of highly productive jobs which pay decent salaries and which will allow the middle class in society to expand.

Accordingly, the PNM will establish an appropriate set of minimum wage rates, based on updated data from the household budgetary surveys and the cost of living index. We will ensure through employment exchanges managed by the regional corporations that workers can transition with job-specific training to self-employment and better paying jobs in the public and private sector. We will seek to match the supply to the increasing need for residential care of the elderly, for nursing assistants, and for skilled trades using information technology managed at the local government level by the regional corporations.

Decentralization of certain government services will require additional managerial jobs at the local and regional level as well as for planners, lawyers, accountants, and other professional skills. But our university graduates have to be coached into opting more for self-employment, than employment with government and state enterprises.

TRIPARTITE RELATIONSHIPS AND COOPERATION

Poor or contentious relationships between Labour, Business and Government are not conducive to high productivity, good industrial relations, and observance of prescribed standards of occupational safety and health. Conflict and contention in the workplace is a drag on economic growth and development. We will commence working immediately with Labour and Business to establish forums for the discussion and elaboration of national economic policies generally and particularly as these policies may impact productivity and business confidence.
A PNM government will support private sector businesses, large and small, firstly by helping to provide a trained, functionally literate and numerate labour force, as well as a substantial cadre of professional skills — accountants, attorneys, managers — to support the growth of business. We will support reasonable initiatives developed by the business sector or by trade unions which seek to improve productivity and in particular, business initiatives which support women in the workplace and the care and supervision of children during working hours.

**EXTENDING THE ECONOMY: THE WEST INDIAN DIAPOSA**

If Trinidad and Tobago is to develop successfully, we need to have a critical mass of our best and brightest citizens working in industry and in government. We need scientists, engineers, economists, artists and musicians and film producers. Another key differentiator in the diversification thrust of a PNM administration is extending the economy by viewing the regional economy and the West Indian diaspora as part of the domestic economy. One aspect of this will be the harnessing of the knowledge and skills of the diaspora, especially our young professionals who have benefited from education here and who now live and work abroad.

**EFFICIENT AND ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION – REFORM OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (CSO)**

The CSO has been neglected for many years, especially in the last five years under the UNC-led administration where that important institution. The data published by the CSO has not been reliable nor timely and is quite often of questionable quality, leading to a loss of confidence in this important institution.

The PNM understands the critical importance of data-driven decision-making in both the private and public sectors. Accordingly, we will implement the draft Statistics Act, and create an independent Statistical Institute with a board comprised of representatives drawn from the public sector, including the Central Bank, the private sector, the universities, market research organizations and professional statisticians. This independent institute will be led, managed and staffed by competent professionals and will be funded by the Government.

**BUDGETARY REFORM**

This country has been operating with a system of budgeting that has remained unchanged for many years. There are now several areas where it is clear that the budgeting and expenditure control systems need to be reformed.

The following are the reforms we propose:

- Implementing the Revenue Authority
- Instituting a General Accounting Office which will be an independent office of Parliament and which will provide contemporary analysis of actual performance against budget as well as projections of budgetary outturns in light of budgetary or extra-budgetary developments.
- Providing the Judiciary and Parliament with the authority to manage their approved appropriations including instituting their own procurement for goods, services and capital expenditure consistent with the overarching procurement legislation and accountability to Parliament.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

The annual Budget Statement by the Minister of Finance has tended to dominate discussion of issues of economic growth and development. However, the short-term focus of the Budget shifts attention away from the medium and longer term focus which is essential for economic development and transformation.

To correct this, the PNM Government will establish an Economic Development Board whose main responsibilities will be to develop and maintain dialogue with the government, the private sector and the labour movement on the articulation of long term economic and social goals for the country; develop and maintain a model of the economy that would permit analysis of the short and long term impacts of alternative policies and investments; coordinate the development of data series with the independent Statistical Institute; make recommendations to Government on the feasibility and impact of proposed government policy initiatives across all policy areas — the economy, society, the environment, and science and technology -- to the extent that these have a bearing on the country's development.

**REGULATORY REFORM**

There are several regulatory institutions whose activities have significant implications for the efficient and effective operation of the financial services industry. These include the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), the Central Bank and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). While these are independent institutions, it is the government’s responsibility to ensure that these institutions are led and staffed by persons of the highest calibre and integrity, selected on merit, so that they are effective in discharging their legislative mandates. The PNM will ensure that the required action is taken to achieve this.

The current model on which the FIU is based also needs to be re-examined for relevance, since it is perceived to be ineffective.

**PROCUREMENT REFORM**

The UNC-Government has spent 5 years avoiding the implementation of a modern, transparent, fair and equitable public procurement system. In its dying days, merely as a public relations exercise, it has partially proclaimed certain sections of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, which are just symbolic in nature and of no real effect.

The PNM will no waste no time addressing this very important issue. We will move swiftly to make the necessary improvements to the Public Procurement Act, in order to remove loopholes, limitations and weaknesses that currently exist in the legislation, and, in consultation with all stakeholders, establish and implement a realistic timetable for the full implementation of the Act.

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

As an urgent priority, and to put an end to the pernicious scourge of “political investors”, once and for all, the PNM will draft, enact and implement appropriate campaign finance legislation, drawing on the experience of models successfully in use in developed countries such as the UK and the USA, before the next General Election.
The UNC-led Government has been an abject failure at controlling crime and ensuring the security of our citizens. One of the reasons for its failure is its decision to dismantle the national security apparatus painstakingly put in place by the PNM.

On assuming office, for no good reason, the UNC-led Government arbitrarily terminated the OPV contract and did not properly maintain the 6 Fast Patrol Craft which had arrived just before the 2010 election, thus destroying morale in the Coast Guard and wasting hundreds of millions of taxpayers’ dollars spent in equipment, training and other critical areas, leaving our maritime borders wide open and vulnerable to drug trafficking.

However, the UNC-led Government arbitrarily terminated the OPV contract and did not properly maintain the 6 Fast Patrol Craft which had arrived just before the 2010 election, thus destroying morale in the Coast Guard and wasting hundreds of millions of taxpayers’ dollars spent in equipment, training and other critical areas, leaving our maritime borders wide open and vulnerable to drug trafficking.

The Repeat Offenders Programme, responsible for identifying street gangs, their membership structures and turf was scrapped.

Of great significance is the fact that the PNM understands that our country’s location has made us a transhipment point for illegal drugs: between the supplier countries of South and Central America and the consuming countries of North America and Europe.

To address and eliminate this problem, the previous PNM Government had taken the necessary steps between 2002 and 2010 to stem the flow of drugs and guns into our country by increasing the Coast Guard’s fleet by over 300% through the acquisition of Fast Patrol Craft, Coastal Patrol Vessels and Interceptors.

The final pieces in our naval arsenal were the three 90-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) which were being acquired through a Government-to-Government arrangement with the United Kingdom. These vessels each had the capability to carry over 100 men and stay out at sea for several weeks, patrolling Exclusive Economic Zone, with a range of several thousand miles. Together with the other military vessels and the armed helicopters also acquired by the PNM, this sophisticated fleet would have made Trinidad and Tobago virtually impenetrable to drug traffickers.

However, the UNC-led Government arbitrarily terminated the OPV contract and did not properly maintain the 6 Fast Patrol Craft which had arrived just before the 2010 election, thus destroying morale in the Coast Guard and wasting hundreds of millions of taxpayers’ dollars spent in equipment, training and other critical areas, leaving our maritime borders wide open and vulnerable to drug trafficking, thus facilitating the attendant crime during its entire 5-year term in office.

The new PNM Government will move swiftly to rebuild our Coast Guard, restore confidence in the armed forces and protective services, and reconstruct our anti-gang, forensic, and criminal surveillance systems. However, unlike the incompetent UNC-led regime, we will not simply abandon what little national security capacity they have put in place, but we will keep whatever is of value, while rebuilding our national security apparatus.

Our strategy will include the following components:

1. **Protecting Our People – Whole of Government Approach**

   The PNM will adopt a whole-of-government approach to national security. All Ministries and agencies will thus share responsibility and be accountable for the security and safety of the State.

2. **The Police Service**

   It is generally accepted that our Police Service suffers from a lack of secure leadership. There has been an acting Commissioner since 2012 and the use of foreign leadership prior to this was a failed experiment. As a result, the leadership of the Police Service has been in a state of instability for the last 5 years and despite having a special majority in Parliament, the UNC-led regime made no effort to improve the system.

   Without security of tenure at the top, there can be no meaningful improvement in the Service. One of the first priorities for the PNM Government will be to immediately go to Parliament to amend the present cumbersome procedures for the appointment of a Police Commissioner and his Deputies, so that permanent appointments to these critical offices can be made by the Police Service Commission in the shortest possible time.

   The PNM will simultaneously reform, upgrade, modernise and transform our Police Service and utilise the strength of partnerships through an inter-agency approach.

   The new approach to fighting crime will focus on Regional Corporations and Municipalities. This will facilitate the establishment and operationalisation of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
The police and their partners (local government, probation department, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Planning, the Fire Service and other people centred organisations) will provide community security and safety surveillance. The CSP will address the following:

- Drug and Alcohol Abuse;
- Local Crime;
- Reoffending; and
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

For maximum efficiency, the Police Service will be strengthened at all levels by the establishment of an appropriate Police Management Agency, which will:

- Develop the necessary leadership expertise
- Uphold accountability;
- Develop the skills and professionalism of the workforce;
- Enhance the capability to plan and execute police operations;
- Implement effective operational processes, practice and doctrine;
- Set and maintain the ethics and values that need to be embedded in the service’s professional culture;

- Ensure that service delivery is optimised, and
- Ensure that strategic and scientific resource management is deployed in all areas.

### Border Protection

Our porous borders are a major source of the proliferation of illegal guns and drugs, which are primary drivers of crime in Trinidad and Tobago. To address this threat, the PNM will:

- Establish a Joint Border Protection Agency that will manage the security and integrity of Trinidad and Tobago’s borders;
- Ensure that appropriate military assets are acquired, deployed and maintained;
- Utilise information, integration, and rapid response of all agencies to meet all external threats.

### Disaster Management

To promote an integrated and resilient whole-of-government approach to disaster risk management and to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in line with the PNM’s vision for developed country status by the year 2030, the PNM will strengthen national capacities to reduce risk, and build community resilience to disasters and will:

- Develop a Disaster Risk Management Policy for Trinidad and Tobago;
- Focus on reducing the risk of disasters, especially to those sections of the population who are most vulnerable due to poverty and a general lack of resources; and
- Facilitate partnerships between State Agencies and the private sector, NGOs, communities and volunteers in disaster risk management.

### Taking Early Action to Prevent Crime

The PNM will tackle Youth Criminality head-on through the implementation of preventative actions that take into account the broad range of underlying personal (low attainment, problematic behaviour, bullying), parenting (inconsistent parenting, poor mental health, domestic violence) and family (socioeconomic stress, poor neighbourhood conditions) risk factors involved in youth offending and antisocial behaviour in an attempt to tackle emerging problems before they become serious and entrenched.

This strategy will address causes rather than symptoms of crime and use the Police Youth Club, Cadet Force, the Citizens Security Programme and the like to:

- Identify programmatic and strategic prevention, intervention and suppression activities that target three critical areas affecting juvenile violence – guns, drugs and gangs;
- Embed pro-social development strategies towards preventing any young person from becoming involved in offending behaviour; and
- Implement an aggressive public outreach campaign on effective strategies to combat juvenile violence.

### Putting the Public in the Driver’s Seat

To ensure accountability to the public, the PNM will establish a Police Service Inspectorate, which will have responsibility for quality assurance and quality control. This agency will measure, evaluate and report regularly to Parliament on the performance of all Police Divisions.

### Improving Police Science

Our Scientific Investigation Strategy crystallises the changes that will occur as part of our new model, including the increased collaboration and operational/investigative integration between frontline police officers, crime scene investigators, detectives, the Forensic Services Division and Intelligence Agencies. The model envisages transforming the way information, evidence, knowledge and science is used establishing the office of a DNA custodian and pursuing ISO certification of the Forensic Science Centre.
These reform initiatives will also seek collaboration with criminal justice institutions other than the prison service, such as the judiciary, director of public prosecutions and police service and will address prison legislation and prison rules, and seek to engage NGOs to become more involved in the reintegration of ex-offenders.

A New Intelligence Architecture

To ensure that our security forces have timely and accurate information on criminal activities, the PNM will adopt an Intelligence-Led National Security Model

Developing an Adaptable Defence and Security Posture

The traditional role of the military has to be integrated with the new important roles of ensuring the security of the state. To address this, the PNM will ensure that the military has the capacity to effectively address:

- Its core mandate of defence of the State;
- Disaster management and response to natural hazards;
- Search and rescue capacity;
- Protection of critical infrastructure (water, power, roads, telecommunications etc.);
- Enhanced border/territorial security.

As a priority, to address the imminent breakdown of our prison system and to forestall a revolt by prisoners because of inhumane conditions, the PNM will immediately develop a Policy on Prison Management that will address the overall Correctional System; Physical facilities; Health services at the Prisons; Rehabilitation of offenders; Security management services; and Prison officer security.

The most important initiatives and objectives for our embassies and consulates will be:

- addressing the interests of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of trade and investment policies of other countries which are likely to adversely impact our interests;
- reaching and maintaining strong contacts with the West Indian diaspora, and promoting projects of mutual benefit to the diaspora communities; and
- projecting our specific interests in oil, natural gas and energy services and supporting the efforts of the local private sector and state enterprises in marketing their products and services overseas.
Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is recognized as the international best practice for management of the water sector. IWRM is based on three (3) pillars namely the Enabling Environment of policies and legislation, the Institutional Framework to give effect to policies, strategies, and legislation, and the Management Instruments that include water allocation, assessments, and economic tools. Actions are undertaken through a stakeholder participatory approach.

The present institutional structure that exists for water management in Trinidad and Tobago does not reflect international best practice. International best practice dictates that the water resources of a country should be managed in a holistic and integrated approach (i.e. IWRM) by an organization that is independent of the service provider (Water and Sewerage Authority) or any other user of the water resource.

Management of the water resources of the country to provide not only a reliable water supply to meet present demands of all but to ensure sustainability of supply and the available water resources of the country to meet the needs of future generations. Proper management of the water resources in terms of water quality is critical to avoid detrimental effects on public health. Water and sanitation have also been identified as significant variables in determining disease incidence. Hence inadequate access to water resources and sanitation services by the population could also lead to negative health impacts in the country.

To achieve this the PNM will:

- **Intensify our relations with Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Chile in Latin America; Panama in Central America; China; Kenya and Tanzania in Africa; Russia and Eastern Europe; Qatar and Dubai; and Cuba, Curacao and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.**

- **Restructure the Foreign Service to reflect a focus on an issues-based paradigm with an emphasis on: economic diplomacy; trade and investment promotion; energy diplomacy; the diplomacy of security and terrorism; the diplomacy of the environment, in particular climate change; public diplomacy; health diplomacy; digital diplomacy; sports and cultural diplomacy; and human rights diplomacy.**

- **Conduct a manpower audit to identify vacancies, and skills gaps, as well as the restoration of effective inspectorate capability.**

- **Repair relationships in CARICOM that have been damaged over the last 5 years, such as the relationship with Jamaica.**
In recognition of the foregoing, to improve the Water Sector, the PNM will:

- Adopt and Implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- Create an appropriate Institutional Framework and Organizational Structures for effective water management including the establishment of a Water Resources Agency (WRA) as a separate organization to manage the country’s water resources.
- Develop and maintain an effective water resources/hydrological monitoring network, reliable data collection and water resources assessment, and development and maintenance of a national water data and information system.
- Implement a Water Loss Reduction Programme
- Improve security of water supply by upgrading the water infrastructure to extend the water supply service to areas underserved or unserved and increasing service storage.
- Develop and implement Flood Management Plans, including mitigation, response and adaptation measures.
- Implement a Wastewater Management Programme.
- Implement approved projects addressing specific concerns or issues to improve water supply and/or water management which have been identified by ‘stakeholders’ at national and community levels.

Land, climate and biodiversity reveal close linkages to our development. We must therefore manage our lands through good farming practices and modern techniques.

In the PNM vision our environment underpins a profitable industry in which to create new jobs, wealth and growth. We will therefore foster the efficient use of resources by introducing alternative energy technologies such as solar and wind, support recycling efforts and encourage private sector investment in such areas as low carbon technologies to create jobs within local communities and reduce our carbon footprint.

To preserve and protect the environment, the PNM will:

- Put environmental considerations at the heart of development so that they will guide every decision we make as a Government.
• Develop climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to safeguard those most affected.

• Reconnect people with nature by increasing the acreage for green public spaces and enhancing our physical amenity to promote the enjoyment, cultural and spiritual enrichment of all citizens.

• Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources including wind and solar as the means to increase energy security and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to power our economy.

• Award financial incentives to ventures that create jobs and businesses in green financial products, renewable green energy and improved resource efficiency.

• Integrate all interventions involving the environment and natural resources within our social, economic and land use policies taking account of the international conventions we are a party to.

• Establish incentives for households and businesses to conserve water to contribute to the enhancement of our natural resources.

• Halt deforestation as a means to protect biological biodiversity and wildlife and habitats from destruction.

• Develop and implement a Flood Resilience Policy to protect against the risk of flooding and the spread of diseases.

• Intensify environmental awareness programmes among our children and youth, within our schools and in our villages and rural communities to promote an understanding of the central role of the environment in securing our survival and our future.

The energy sector continues to be the main driver of the Trinidad and Tobago economy, contributing 50% of our GDP and almost 60% of Government revenues. Over the last 5 years, the management of the energy sector has been a colossal failure. Through bungling incompetence on the part of the UNC-led Government, we have lost 25% of our oil production since 2010, and the sector has been characterised by natural gas production shortfalls and extremely poor decision-making.

In addition, the cancellation and abandonment of several projects and the violation of contractual agreements, all of which supported the continued growth and expansion of the energy sector, have created a difficult situation that we must now confront head on.

To reverse this destructive trend, we must create partnerships and innovations that foster self-reliance and a resilient energy sector through an ethical, efficient and evolving regulatory framework. To achieve this, the PNM will:

• Upon assuming office, immediately commence open, transparent and formal discussions with all major players in the Trinidad and Tobago energy sector, upstream, midstream and downstream, to achieve consensus on appropriate improvements to our oil and gas taxation regime, incentives and gas pricing regime.
• Ensure that we have an attractive, competitive and responsive fiscal and regulatory environment, that will maximise recovery of our hydrocarbon resources and national income, and put us back on a path to sustained growth in the sector.

• Support and encourage local professionals and service companies to export energy services to new and emerging oil and gas producing countries, within CARICOM, in Africa, and elsewhere.

• Encourage and facilitate partnerships, investment and joint ventures with oil and gas companies and state agencies overseas, focusing in particular on Guyana and Suriname, Ghana and Tanzania.

• Utilise the National Gas Corporation as an investment vehicle for new energy and hydrocarbon based industries, both in Trinidad and Tobago and overseas.

• Facilitate and encourage the growth of locally owned energy sector companies through appropriate fiscal and monetary incentives and concessions.

• Maximize local content and local value added through appropriate guidelines and legislation.

• Ensure that the local private sector obtains a larger share of the activity generated by the energy sector, especially in exploration and production, in addition to more traditional areas such as fabrication, remediation, construction, design, logistics, well services, platform operations and maintenance and support services.

• Maximize efficiency in the use of natural gas in the downstream sector.

• Promote the development of new industries and innovation and foster awareness and acceptance of new technologies.

• Maximize, where practicable, the use of renewable energy (such as solar, wind and wave energy) through incentives, concessions and enabling legislation, and make reduction of Trinidad and Tobago’s carbon footprint a priority by setting appropriate renewable energy production targets, as has been done in the European Union, where EU countries have been mandated to achieve a target of 20% of energy production from renewable energy sources by the year 2020.

• Work in partnership with business and labour to maximize output, while ensuring fair wages and equitable wealth distribution, appropriate economic returns and social justice.

• Rebuild our reputation for integrity, transparency and respect for signed contracts and agreements.

• Create an environment in which producer companies, both existing and new, become aggressive about seeking new discoveries in oil and gas.

• Accelerate and conclude negotiation of new gas supply contracts, to replace long-term contracts that are due to expire in the next few years, in the best interest of the country and all stakeholders.

• Develop appropriate strategies to monetize the discovery of reserves of natural gas found in deep waters, which are classified as expensive gas.

• Create an appropriate fiscal regime and incentives to encourage the production of “stranded” oil and gas, both on land and offshore.

• Ensure that the gas intensive industries, such as petrochemicals and heavy industry, remain competitive and are encouraged to expand and modernise existing operations.

• Develop strategies to counter the major difficulties which the LNG industry of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) now faces, including renegotiation of arrangements for a more equitable share of the revenue for all players from the sale of LNG in our major markets in South and Central America, Europe and the Far East.

• Recover the projects that have been abandoned with respect to downstream industries that are still relevant, in order to provide the country with the basic building blocks for the manufacturing industry.

• Attract and retain first class professionals to the management and boards of state enterprises in the energy sector, while minimizing political risk and ensuring job security for these individuals.

• Restore Trinidad and Tobago’s reputation as a preferred destination for investment in the energy sector.

• Overhaul and revamp the institutional framework of the state agencies in the energy sector to ensure that they can meet the demands of the global energy environment and respond promptly, transparently and effectively to proposals from potential investors.
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Under the present Government, the contribution of manufacturing in Trinidad and Tobago to the economy has been declining since 2012. This is in stark contrast to the 2002 to 2010 period, under the PNM, when real output in the manufacturing sector grew by 100%, from US$4 billion in constant (2000) prices in 2002 to US$8 billion in 2010.

To rebuild growth and sustain this sector, the PNM will:

- Ensure that appropriate strategies are developed in partnership with local manufacturers to create and sustain a more enabling environment to facilitate increased global competitiveness of local businesses.
- Implement a system of constant dialogue and feedback with all stakeholders in the commercial, manufacturing and industrial sectors to proactively address challenges such as shortages of skilled labour, difficulties in obtaining foreign exchange, reduction of bureaucracy, speedy processing of customs documentation, trade liberalisation and other regulatory issues affecting competitiveness and the ease of doing business.
- Encourage and facilitate linkages between local manufacturers and exporters with the diaspora in Canada, the USA and the UK, as a catalyst to entry and penetration in these markets.
- Create synergies between our energy, manufacturing, services and creative sectors to promote diversification of the economy.
- Assist manufacturers to gain entry into the huge Latin American market, through trade facilitation, negotiation of market access, investment treaties, promotional tours, trade diplomacy and Government to Government arrangements.
- Improve and streamline operations at our air and sea ports for easy import and export of materials and goods.
- Complete and fully operationalise the Tamana Intech Park and the Piarco Aero Park, upgrade all existing industrial estates and establish new industrial estates in designated new growth areas throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

CARICOM and the CSME

Trinidad and Tobago has always played a leading role in the promotion of the regional integration movement and the development and growth of CARICOM:

Accordingly, a PNM administration will:

- Revive and rebuild the CSME process, which has stalled.
- Pursue bilateral agreements with Guyana, Suriname and Belize, among other CARICOM countries, in the Agriculture and Energy sectors.
- Facilitate the controlled movement of skills and labour within the region.
- Maximise benefits under the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union.
- Support regional initiatives and joint action for diplomacy and commercial relations with extra-regional markets in South and Central America, Asia and Africa.

Sustainable Growth and Diversification

Diversification is not easily achieved in a small country of limited land mass and a relatively small population. It requires the building up of several different capabilities, such as entrepreneurship, management, a culture of innovation and an ability to adapt quickly to changes in the global economy. However, a stable growing economy under the new PNM Government will allow all industries and businesses to flourish. Specifically, there are certain industries which we have identified as having many of the ingredients necessary for successful penetration of international markets, which the PNM Government will support, including:

- Agriculture and Agro-processing
- Maritime Services -- shipbuilding, ship repair, dry-docking and yachting services
- Fishing and Fish Processing
- Aviation Services - aircraft maintenance and repair
- The Creative Industries -- film, music, entertainment, fashion and design
- Financial Services – making Trinidad and Tobago a regional financial centre
- Software Design and Applications – making Trinidad and Tobago a technology and innovation centre
INFRASTRUCTURE

The PNM believes that modern and strategically planned infrastructure is essential for the future development of Trinidad and Tobago. Our infrastructure development programme will be wide-ranging and multifaceted and will include the following elements:

As priorities, we will focus on the following specific projects in the first instance:

- Development of an immediate implementation plan, in conjunction with international agencies, for an appropriate and feasible railway system linking East, West and South Trinidad. This will build on the work already done under the previous PNM administration. Once constructed, the new railway system will allow transit times of from Port of Spain to Arima in less than 30 minutes and Port of Spain to San Fernando in 45 minutes. It is expected that the railway system will transport in excess of 200,000 persons per day and allow for the removal of over 100,000 cars from our congested roads, thus significantly reducing the annual fuel subsidy. Because of the number of travellers involved, we see a railway system as the only viable solution to our chronic traffic problems, and we remain convinced that any other mass transit system which requires use of our already clogged road network, such as a bus system, is uneconomical, unrealistic and impractical.

Specifically, as priorities, the PNM will:

- Implement a comprehensive programme of construction and maintenance of all roads and bridges throughout Trinidad and Tobago.
- Implement a comprehensive National Drainage Plan.
- Establish a Transit Authority to regulate all forms of public transportation.
- Develop, once and for all, a national transportation plan.
- Improve the efficiency of air and sea transport to Tobago, with participation by the THA in the design and provision of the service, including the acquisition of new fast ferries.
- Construct a new first class road to Toco and a new fast ferry port in Toco, thus providing a faster alternative sea route to and from Tobago from east Trinidad and opening up the entire northeast region of Trinidad for new industrial, residential and commercial development.
- Construct a new first class road to Moruga and a modern fishing port in Moruga.
- Construct a new world class container Port in Port of Spain.
- Construct new world class international Airport in Tobago.

- Complete the San Fernando to Pt Fortin Highway in a manner that best serves the national interest and the interest of all affected parties and stakeholders.
- Construct the San Fernando to Mayaro Freeway.
- Construct the Wallerfield to Manzanilla Highway and a ring road around Sangre Grande.
- Construct a ring road around Chaguana.
- Construct the Port of Spain to Chaguaramas Causeway/Highway.
- Remove all traffic lights and construct overpasses and interchanges from Port-of-Spain to Sangre Grande.
The PNM has been at the forefront of every major advance in Education in this country. Despite the false claims of others, no other political party has come close to achieving what we have done to educate and train our population and to provide easy access to education. Before the advent of the PNM in 1956, education was the preserve of the privileged few.

From free primary and secondary education to free university education, from the establishment of UWI to UTT, the John Donaldson and San Fernando Technical Institutes, to GATE and HELP, all PNM innovations, we have done it all.

Others have tried to claim credit for our achievements, but the reality is that the PNM has built the vast majority of schools and educational institutions in Trinidad and Tobago and increased the number of educated persons in Trinidad and Tobago exponentially. In particular, in the 2002 to 2010 period, we increased the participation rate in tertiary education by over 400%.

We will build on this proud legacy as we continue to make education the highest priority by ensuring that we:

- Preserve, maintain, and expand where necessary, our system of free education and training at all levels.
- Ensure that the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) system, which we created in 2004, remains relevant, easily accessible and available to all citizens who need it.
- Support our two public universities, UWI and UTT, to achieve maximum efficiency and high standards, while avoiding duplication and waste.
- Develop a culture of Discipline, Production and Tolerance in all schools and emphasize these core values in the curriculum.
- Implement a comprehensive, efficient, targeted, timely and sustainable school maintenance programme to cope with our ageing school infrastructure, utilizing Local Government bodies to implement the works, where feasible.
- Replace all outdated or old and dilapidated schools with new modern buildings and facilities and construct new schools in areas where they are most needed.
- Emphasize the richness of our cultural diversity and eliminate any dissonance that may arise from ethnic, cultural, religious and class differences.
- Emphasize the teaching of our country’s history and geography in schools.
- Mobilize the artistic community to take a leadership role in cultural diversification and cultural education.
- Ensure that our system of education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels prepares our young people for the challenging world of science and technology.
- Ensure that the education and training of our teachers is adequate to meet the challenges that face our young people including penetration of foreign cultures, technological devices and social media.
- Foster, develop and encourage best practices in the administration of the educational system.
- Provide clear prospects for advancement by all teachers in their career and profession.
- Equip all schools to benefit from technological innovations.
- Ensure that all students in all schools have free and easy access to fast Broadband Internet in all schools (not just laptops).
- Ensure that our post-secondary and tertiary education is relevant.
- Ensure that our school curriculum and teaching methods are relevant and continuously updated and lead to innovation, entrepreneurship and wealth creation.
- Develop and encourage a culture of research and development in all tertiary level institutions, both public and private.
- Maintain first world standards in terms of enrolment and participation of our citizens in post-secondary and tertiary education.
- Provide appropriate mechanisms for second chances for students at all levels.
- Ensure universal early childhood education, and maintain and continue our system of universal secondary and tertiary education, while ensuring access to the highest levels of education in all areas of the country, especially Tobago.
- Promote and encourage continuing education and adult education.
- Fully integrate sports, culture, language arts and physical education into the education system.
- Harmonize, rationalize and modernize the legislation governing the education sector.
The UNC-led Government clearly believes that the arbitrary construction of expensive and unnecessary buildings with questionable value for money and dubious fitness for purpose is the solution to the provision of adequate and affordable health care in Trinidad and Tobago.

It is an egotistical and wasteful approach to the use of taxpayers' money. In Trinidad and Tobago, we struggle to provide the required staffing to support our existing public health facilities, and many of our key facilities, such as the 150-year old Port of Spain General Hospital and the Victorian-era St. Ann’s Mental Hospital are in dire need of refurbishment and reconstruction. There are chronic shortages of doctors and nurses and other medical personnel in virtually every institution, hence the reason why successive Governments have found it necessary to go overseas, to India, Cuba, Africa and the Philippines, among other countries, to recruit doctors and nurses to work in our hospitals and health centres.

Our hospitals and health centres suffer from perennial shortages and inadequate funding for maintenance, equipment and essential supplies, and it is well known that many facilities are not operating at their optimum level.

Yet despite this, the UNC-led Government has chosen to spend billions of dollars on narcissistic hospital buildings that will remain empty or underutilised, while existing institutions continue to deteriorate. In addition, areas such as Pt. Fortin, which have been crying out for new health facilities for many years, have been ignored in terms of new hospital construction, simply because they are represented by the PNM.

The PNM’s approach to health care is quite different. Rather than spending billions of dollars on white elephants, our focus will be on using the substantial resources allocated to the health sector to aggressively expand the training opportunities for our citizens in all areas of health care, including support staff in professions allied to medicine, particularly nurses, so that can deal with our shortage of medical personnel once and for all.

We will also refurbish and modernise our existing ageing hospitals and construct new health facilities where they are required, based on a scientific evidence-driven Hospital Construction and Refurbishment Plan, in contrast to the whimsical approach of the UNC-led Government.

We believe in a holistic, scientific and practical approach to health and wellness, as opposed to medicine by vapse, which is the hallmark of the UNC-led Government. We know that many factors combine together to affect the health of individuals and communities. To a great extent, where people live, the state of their environment, genetics, income, education and their relationship with friends and family, all matter to their health. The greater the difference between the richest and the poorest in the society, the greater the difference in their health. Safe water, clean air, healthy workplaces and communities all contribute to good health.

Our “Health in all Policies” approach which thus gives our Ministry of Health the power to influence activities in other sectors that have adverse impacts on population health.

Under the PNM, the modern health system will have at its foundation up-to-date evidence-based public health principles, practices and services supported by regional and national institutions.

One of the desired goals of our health system is achieve to “Universal Health Coverage”. In this region we have always pursued this universal approach by establishing free health services at health centres and hospitals. The requirement at present is for us to assess where gaps exist in service type, complexity of service, service integration, volume and quality. It is for us to close those gaps so as to complete the access to a “Universal Health Package” for the national community.
Higher Standards of Health Care

A key feature of a modern health care system is ‘objective standards of care’. Many of the complaints of our citizens using the public and private services relate to standards of care and the accountability of medical professionals.

The PNM will thus ensure that proper standards of care for the national health care system (public and private) are established, supported by the appropriate legislation, regulations and guidelines to make them binding on all health care practitioners and institutions, to improve service delivery and accountability, and to protect the public interest.

Primary Health Care

Complementary to Population and Public Health approaches, Primary Care will be strengthened as the key strategy to promote efficient, equitable, accessible and cost-effective approaches to address issues and factors that constitute a significant disease burden to our population. An effectively functioning Primary Care System is resilient, responsive, promotes equity and is functionally sustainable. Changing historical, political, epidemiological and socio-economic factors have influenced the delivery of Primary Health Care in Trinidad and Tobago. As such, there is a need to review and reinvigorate Primary Care Policy to promote the values and core principles that support continuous individualised and holistic patient centred treatment in a rapid, convenient and accessible manner.

A focus on using RHA led primary care services to promote population engagement and social participation as a means of enhancing the empowerment of individuals to cultivate favourable health seeking behaviours will be encouraged and promoted.

Priority Areas of Focus, based on current available epidemiological data on Trinidad and Tobago’s health status and a life course approach will include: Standards of Care for clinical treatment and patient care such as client care medical and nursing management protocols, waiting time for specialist appointments, waiting time at health centres will be formulated for the above mentioned areas in keeping with evidence-based guidelines and international best practice. Quality Assurance Mechanisms to assess adherence with standards of care and client feedback will be implemented via comprehensive audits.

As a persistent gap, since the creation of the Regional Health Authorities in 1994, the last two decades has seen a proliferation of professionals at RHA executive and management levels who are not trained in primary care and public health. This has occurred without the corresponding recruitment in the Ministry of Health of professionals with qualifications and experience in Public Health, Health Management, Health Policy and Research.

As a result, decision making is based largely on hospital data, as opposed to primary health care data. It is also based on mitigating negative publicity and avoiding increasingly litigious patients, rather than utilising data from proper investigation, surveillance and robust research.

The proposed Primary Care reform will be supported by competent and qualified leadership appointed through transparent processes. Stringent Performance Management Systems will promote the highest level of accountability from decision makers at the Ministry of Health and the Boards of the RHAs to the public. Financial expenditure planning and reviews from cost benefit, option appraisal and other approved procurement approaches will seek to achieve the highest return on taxpayers and government’s investment in primary health care.

The PNM will therefore ensure that professionals with contemporary public health and health management backgrounds will have a much greater role in the executive decision making processes in the Ministry of Health and in the RHA system.

Efficiency and Value for money in the Public Health Care Delivery System

There has been a 300% increase in the money spent in the public health care system over the last 10 years, with the present Government spending billions of dollars annually. However, when compared with some of our Caribbean neighbours, the consequent improvement which was expected from this heavy expenditure has not materialized. Money is wasted and inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement abounds. There had been no proper accounting for the billions of dollars that have been spent over the last 5 years in our public health system, and when called to account, the Minister of Health has responded with frivolous remarks.

To correct this, the PNM Government will hold officials, managers and Boards accountable for the performance of the national health care system, with serious consequences for malpractice and maladministration.
The PNM will also strengthen and build the programmes that we put in place prior to the 2010, such as the Free Surgery and Free Diagnostic Procedure Programme.

The Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP), introduced by the PNM in 2003, through which citizens are provided with medication free of charge, will be expanded and improved.

The Medical Aid programme, which provides financial assistance to the elderly, indigent and children will be upgraded and expanded, as well as the Renal Dialysis, Oncology and Organ Transplant Programmes, among others. The Children’s Life Fund will be reviewed, audited and reformed to eradicate the rampant corruption that has been a feature of this programme under the UNC, to ensure that this Fund is used for the purpose intended, i.e. saving children’s lives, rather than finding its way into the pockets of corrupt agents.

Community involvement and empowerment

There must be national policy to inform the population about health risks and the ways of protecting themselves and minimizing these risks for themselves and their families. This will allow for positive health heath behaviours to develop in addition to reducing the use of health services.

Financing the Modernization of the Health System

The PNM believes that a multi-sectoral, shared approach is required to deal with health threats to the population. It is thus essential that we move swiftly to introduce the long-awaited universal health insurance programme, especially for vulnerable groups.

This will require partnership with the insurance companies and the private health care providers, to establish suitable costs, accountability, quality assurance and standards of care for medical procedures.

Modern Health Information System

A foundation pillar of all modern health care systems is a Modern Health Information System. Far too often we hear complaints from members of the public, which are treated with scant courtesy by officials and administrators, simply because the required information is just not available in an accurate and timely manner.

The PNM will thus modernise and open up the health information systems and processes, to ensure that patients are allowed easy access to information for health advice and timely appointments, and the information needs of medical professionals and administrators are served, for referrals, the sharing of diagnostics and the monitoring of costs, quality and outputs.

Agriculture

Our priority therefore is to create a strong, modern, prosperous and competitive agriculture sector, in order to improve the nation’s food security.

Agriculture also forms the cornerstone of the PNM’s thrust towards rural development and we intend to transform this sector into an Economic Growth Sector.

To achieve this the PNM will:

- Establish an appropriate unified structure and governance arrangement for the state agencies responsible for agriculture.
- Develop a comprehensive Agricultural Sector Plan with the view to significantly increasing the sector’s contribution to GDP and employment.
- Consult with farmers on changes to agriculture policy.
Introduce a wide-ranging programme of tax and duty concessions, subsidies and waivers for agricultural chemicals, vehicles, fishing vessels, equipment and pest control.

Improve compensation to farmers for losses from natural disasters.

Upgrade, expand and modernize wholesale markets in north, central and south Trinidad.

Restore land administration to the ministry of agriculture.

Improve the delivery of land leases to give farmers security of tenure.

Accelerate construction and maintenance of access roads, drainage and irrigation systems.

Improve technical assistance and extension services for farmers.

Provide financial assistance and financial support, including readily accessible credit facilities and fiscal incentives, including reduced rates of taxation for farmers.

Improve the system of payment of subsidies to farmers.

Provide incentives and support to allow farmers to combine production, and establish cooperatives for mechanization, processing, packaging and delivery to consumers, including the export market.

Provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of abandoned or underperforming estates.

Promote agriculture entrepreneurship particularly among rural youth as a key element of socioeconomic development in rural communities.

Introduce effective measures to counteract praedial larceny.

It is a matter of record that only the PNM has demonstrated genuine interest in providing affordable high-quality housing for our citizens, as a major policy initiative. Other administrations have focused on indiscriminate land distribution, which has proven to be a failed policy and has led to the creation of slums.

Under the PNM, hundreds of thousands of persons all over Trinidad and Tobago have been given quality housing, which they could not have afforded otherwise.

In particular, during the 2002 to 2010 period, in stark contrast to failed housing programme of the previous UNC Government, the construction of over 25,000 houses was initiated by the PNM. When we demitted office many of these houses were complete or nearing completion. Since 2010, all the UNC-led Government has done is to distribute houses built or started by the PNM.

Some of the specific programmes that have been introduced by the PNM during its tenure and will be continued and improved include:

- The Accelerated High Density Housing Programme
- The Rent-to-Own Programme - introduced to assist low income households, to start with a rental property, which would be converted to home ownership as their circumstances improve
• New Home Subsidies – to encourage first-time homeowners to build their own homes
• Subsidised mortgage loans – very low interest rates (2%) to facilitate housing loans
• Housing Grants – including the Home Improvement Grant and the Home Improvement Subsidy, designed to assist families experiencing financial difficulties
• The Second National Settlements Programme – designed to regularize squatters and give them proper title to the lands that they occupy. This programme was virtually abandoned by the UNC-led regime, and during their 5-year term, not a single squatter was given a statutory lease. This will be a major area of focus for the next PNM Government, to ensure that squatters get Security of Tenure and can secure loans and grants from the State to improve their properties. Additionally, under the PNM, the LSA will be mandated to resume and intensify the PNM’s programme for improving living conditions for persons occupying State Lands, providing targeted cash support to families in need for the repair, upgrade and rehabilitation of homes, as well as essential infrastructure, such as roads, drainage, electricity, water and sewerage.

As part of its wide-ranging policy, the PNM also introduced the concept of creating “new towns” through targeted housing construction, in targeted growth areas, such as Wallerfield, La Brea, Princes Town and Chaguanas. This programme of “new towns” and new population centres will continue and be intensified under the next PNM Government.

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Arts and Culture Sector is of great significance in Trinidad and Tobago. The cultural industries create value, generate income, produce goods and services and create employment. They also drive innovation and create growth in the overall economy

The PNM believes that all local cultures should be encouraged and supported to create a national cultural enterprise that has the support of the entire country.

To achieve this, the PNM will:

• Customize policies for the arts and cultural industries to fit the complex characteristics of the sector.
• Promote and encourage commercial viability and commercial vision in creative enterprises and cultural practitioners, as a priority.
• Develop programmes to professionalize the sector.
• Evidence-based decision-making must be integrated into the planning and development of the cultural sector.
• Establish incentive programmes to support innovation of cultural products and processes.
• Develop a cohesive vision and agenda for the cultural sector.
• Leverage the creative sector to enhance the economy.
• Create a progressive taxation and fiscal incentive scheme that caters for the different needs of the various enterprises in the sector.
• Develop purpose-build venues to host entertainment activities, to accommodate small, medium and large activities, shows and events.
• Develop a cohesive tertiary level training and education strategy in two complimentary areas, namely the core creative arts as well as the business of the arts.
• Adopt a whole of Government approach to the sector to ensure better coordination of state policy and action within the sector.
• Develop of a cohesive strategy to assist in the trade of cultural goods and services.
• Promote the culture of Trinidad and Tobago nationally and internationally.
• Make the Government a Patron of the Arts.
• Provide access to world-class facilities for artistes, media operators, film-makers and other participants in the creative industries.
• Promote and encourage world-class standards in art and culture.

• Facilitate the participation in and enjoyment of all forms of national cultural activity by promoting widespread adoption of new media platforms, especially online and mobile communications, in an effort to create a viable local market for our creative industries that will be the base for an international thrust.
• Facilitate the growth of the media and the creative industries by providing an enabling legislative environment free of unnecessary regulatory and bureaucratic restrictions that encourages private sector participation and competition while diminishing the direct role of the state.
• Encourage the participation of local communities through schools and local government bodies as a means of growing and refining the raw talent that is abundant across the country, while incubating the next stream of creative capacity.
• Promote internationally accepted standards in all aspects of cultural expressions and media endeavours, including access to funding and enhancing the role of private capital formation in the creative industries as a major element of our diversification thrust.

The PNM’s vision for Local Government seeks to remove all of the red tape and bureaucracy that prevent local government bodies from doing their work in an effective and efficient manner. Full details are contained in our 14 Local Government Manifestos produced in 2103, each of which are tailor-made to suit the specific needs of our 14 Municipal Region.

The PNM also believe that there are several tasks and functions now managed by the Central Government that can be more effectively handled by Local Government bodies, especially social services and community development functions.

Additionally, the PNM sees no need for a Ministry of Local Government. We believe that the Regional and Municipal Corporations should have a direct relationship with the Ministry of Finance in similar manner to the THA, to ensure adequacy of funding, and they should be given the autonomy to develop and implement their own regional policies, plans and programmes, within the framework of national policy. To ensure no job losses, the staff in the Ministry of Local Government will be redeployed within the Ministry of Finance and Municipal Corporations, as required.
To achieve this transformation, the PNM will:

- Completely restructure and decentralize the system for the implementation of local infrastructure projects, to allow Municipal Corporations to engage directly, suitably qualified local contractors for drainage and roadwork, among other infrastructure projects, to allow work on these projects to commence in a timely manner.

- As first respondents in the event of a natural disaster, allow direct collaboration between Local Government bodies and Central Government agencies without the need for intervention of a Minister.

- Foster and create a formal consultative process and forum where NGOs, CBOs and other civil society groups and interested parties can comment on and critique the projects, plans and programs of Local Government bodies before they are implemented, and make recommendations for improvement.

- Utilize the detailed regional development plans prepared for the 14 Municipal Corporations under the previous PNM Government, suitably updated, as the basis for future development.

- Amend the relevant revenue and taxation laws to allow Local Government bodies to retain certain taxes collected within their boundaries. This dedicated source of funding will allow Corporations to acquire the resources to empower their workforce to operate at maximum capacity.

- Amend the Municipal Corporation Act to give Local Government Corporations a level of autonomy and executive authority similar to what is now enjoyed by the Tobago House of Assembly.

- Ensure that as a matter of policy that first preference for the award of contracts for work done by Local Government bodies is given to contractors and service providers from within the geographic boundaries of Corporation, rather than from outside, thus stimulating local economic activity and construction capacity, as well as the development of skills within local communities.

- Give greater responsibilities and authority to the Municipal Police.

- Provide the Local Government Bodies with additional responsibilities as it relates to planning and building approvals for dwelling houses, simple buildings and small developments, thereby decentralizing the approvals process.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The PNM intends to establish a Ministry of Rural Development to focus exclusively on rural areas and their speedy development, so as to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people living there. The intent is to bring all aspects of rural development now scattered in many ministries under one roof to ensure that there is coordination of the plans, projects and activities in rural areas and that rural development is given the highest priority.
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Development of small business is key to job creation and economic growth. Taken overall, small businesses are among the largest employers of people worldwide and no country can grow and develop without a vibrant and healthy small business sector.

The PNM thus has a clear policy of support for small and micro enterprises through the provision of financial, technical, marketing and business development assistance.

We will boost entrepreneurship and small business development in the short, medium and longer term on 7 critical platforms:

- Institutional strengthening
- Enhanced legislation
- A new and enhanced suite of tax incentives
- More in-depth small business training
- Expanded and customized funding facilities
- The establishment of new business clusters
- Actualizing the “fair share” programme

Our policy initiatives and measures will include:

- Inclusion of entrepreneurship and innovation in the school curriculum
- Strengthening of all state institutions that play a role in funding, training and developing markets for the SME sector and removal of duplication and overlap among all these agencies
- A new regime of fiscal incentives, preferential tax rates and concessions, specifically designed to encourage the growth and development of small businesses
- Comprehensive, targeted training programmes as an integral part of loan facilities
- Small business windows in all public and private financial institutions
- Grant funding, start-up capital and seed money, where required
- Creation of business clusters within communities
- Protection for local manufacturers against unfair competition from foreign manufacturers and imported goods
- Active monitoring of awards of contract by government agencies to ensure that the tenets of the ‘fair share’ programme are strictly upheld in the current term and further developed and expanded in the short, medium and longer terms
SOCIAL SECTOR PROGRAMMES

The PNM believes that the main aim of Social Sector Policy is to reduce poverty and improve social justice with the objective of ensuring a more stable society. The party has always stood for a caring society and believes that the state has a role to play in protecting the elderly, persons with disabilities, children and the other vulnerable groups in society.

To achieve this, the PNM intends to implement policies to engender radical, social change in a way that all groups will benefit through the creation of a more harmonious society.

While we recognize that the state has an important role to play in this effort, we are fully conscious that governments are not always most efficient or effective in implementing social programmes.

Our new policies will seek a transformation in terms of poverty reduction, gender equality, education, penal reform and the creation of a new social compact, by relying heavily on community based and non-governmental organizations, including, in particular, faith based organizations, to implement policies and programmes aimed at improving social justice.

The PNM Government will thus ensure:

- Independent and scientific monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- Promotion of access to well paid, sustainable employment as the only way to achieve upward social mobility away from a life of poverty while dissuading dependence on social assistance as a form of long term sustainability;
- Focus on prevention and early recovery in social programmes, rather than the current focus on maintenance which offers no assistance in lifting persons out of poverty;
- Emphasis on social impact studies and feedback to help formulate government policy;
- Focus on the needs of the elderly, children, disabled people and other disadvantaged groups;
- Adoption of a system of restorative justice as an important element of the penal and judicial systems so as to transform our prisons from being incubators of career criminals to preparing inmates for a more productive and purposeful engagement with society;
- Incorporation of civil society, including CBOs, NGOs and religious bodies, especially at the community level, as partners in the development of a new system of social justice and the provision of social services to the poor and indigent;
- Promotion and protection of the family as the preferred unit of social organization.

- Better targeting of social programmes by greater consultation with those for whom they are intended;
Our youth are vital to the future development of Trinidad and Tobago. They must be nurtured, listened to, protected and encouraged, given proper guidance and easy access to education, personal development, health care and meaningful employment. They must be supported and provided with the means to grow and develop and there must be forums for their voices to be heard and their ideas, plans and programmes incorporated into national policy. They must be given opportunities to participate in Government and the public and private sectors at the highest levels.

The PNM Government will thus:

- Promote and encourage the participation of the youth in all aspects of sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago.

- Foster a greater understanding of the needs of young people and provide guidelines for youth development.

- Create an enabling environment for Youth Micro Enterprise including grant funding and loan financing and develop a culture whereby young people desire and involve themselves in entrepreneurship by owning their own business.

- Create a system where the intellectual property rights of our Youth are developed and respected.

- Encourage the private sector through fiscal incentives to increase its level of youth employment.

- Develop of a comprehensive Youth Employment Policy which addresses the specific needs of unemployed youth including preparation for the job market and the varying needs of youth in diverse communities.

- Devote special emphasis to the Rehabilitation of Young Offenders as well as a proper support system to assist in their reintegration into society.

- Encourage Youth to become Leaders in their communities by exposing them to training in Civic Responsibility.

- Establish a Youth Leadership Development Institute that will provide training and interactive seminars on leadership.

- Highlight the positive aspects of youth using young role models to assist in restructuring the perception of young people and using that avenue to disseminate information on critical issues such as sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS).

- Develop an annual Youth Expo and special Radio and Television programmes to allow youth to discuss the issues which affect them and focus on youth upliftment.

- Encourage young people to be more politically minded and provide opportunities and facilities for dialogue on youth issues.

- Create a forum for the youth arms of the national parties and independent young voices to debate and discuss issues.

- Provide youth facilities in villages and regions of Trinidad and Tobago that will allow positive recreation and healthy life styles among the young, so as to give vulnerable youth a safe haven to socialise, while receiving coaching, counselling and acquiring information on civic responsibility.

- Mobilise youth in their natural setting (their communities) through village.
SPORT

The PNM believes that as many citizens as possible should be involved in Sports and Recreation and that Trinidad and Tobago must strive to be a world class sporting nation satisfying local, regional and international needs while providing sustainable employment and contributing to national wellbeing.

To achieve this, the PNM will:

- Increase the pool of talent from which world champions can emerge for International Recognition.
- Promote Sports as a way to curb crime and build social skills.
- Use Sports to reduce the high incidence of chronic lifestyle diseases prevalent in Trinidad and Tobago
- Use Sports to foster greater communication and understanding amongst different communities, races, creeds in Trinidad and Tobago

- Use sports as a means of dealing with aggression and other forms of youth delinquency in communities and schools in Trinidad and Tobago
- Increase sports involvement in educational institutions, in particular primary schools.
- Inculcate a physical education programme for all educational levels and increase the hours allocated to sport and recreational activities per week.
- Improve the transportation system to sporting facilities and events.
- Foster greater diversity and improve quality of community sporting programmes to capture skills of people within the communities.
- Improve the availability of physical therapy.
- Increase participation opportunities for underrepresented groups in particular disabled persons, women, girls and the vulnerable youth and improve physical facilities to cater for this targeted group of persons.
- Develop an advocacy programme which would not only highlight the need for total participation but will also stress on improvement of mental, social, spiritual and financial benefits that can be derived from an active lifestyle.
- Improve the availability of information of sports involvement by conducting a National Sport and Recreational Census.
- Create an online information pool to allow easy access to sporting information and schedule of various activities throughout the country.
- Emphasize the growth of an effective Athlete Development System by empowering people to adopt the “cradle to grave” development of an athlete.
- Foster and develop involvement in sport in schools at all levels by encouraging and supporting inter-school competitions across Trinidad and Tobago.
- Offer tax incentives to private and other interest groups to adopt amateur community sporting clubs.
- Promote Trinidad and Tobago as an attractive location for major international sporting events
- Actively develop and promote Sports Tourism.
- Promote Marine Sporting Activities.
- Provide incentives for the growth and development of professions allied to Sport, such as Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy and Sports Media.
• Develop Trinidad and Tobago as a **Sporting Brand**, like Jamaica has successfully done, and form strategic alliances with countries and organisations to enhance penetration into the international sports market.

• Develop a formalised talent identification and recruitment scheme and establish a sports marketing mechanism to promote sports locally.

• Develop and promote a range of activities to maximise facility usage and commercial return.

• Develop a **Domestic Sport Research Database** by performing a bi-annual survey which will establish benchmarks, improvements to the local sports industry and provide a comprehensive data for sports and recreation locally.

• Encourage industry creativity and development by cultivating innovative strategies to create career opportunities and an apprenticeship system for skills acquisition and research initiatives towards creating marketable products for building the Sports Industry.

• Improve Sports Infrastructure and Facilities across the country, ensuring it is up to the highest international best standards.

• Offer local athletes workshops on how to speak to the media and to become a PRO of local Sports.

• Create a **Sports Institute of Trinidad and Tobago** that will capture and hone the skills of young athletes while growing and modernising the Sports Industry.

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**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Disabled people make up about 15% of the global population, and many of the world’s poorest are people with disabilities or have a family member with disability.

The PNM recognises that disability and poverty reinforce and perpetuate one another, and must thus be addressed in a meaningful way. Although Trinidad and Tobago has signed and ratified a number of UN and ILO conventions and treaties over the years, what is required is more substantive action, rather than symbolic gestures, since persons with disabilities are encountering significant barriers to employment and full inclusion in all aspects of society.

This inequity is also perpetuated by the paucity of research in the field and the lack of tangible, reliable data on the socioeconomic status of persons with disabilities in the country.

To address these shortcomings, the new PNM Government will:

• Immediately undertake a national review of all programmes and services directed to the disability sector to determine what is available and where the gaps are in the system prior to embarking on any new initiatives.
• Engage the CSO or other appropriate agencies to conduct a national census on the sector of persons with disabilities to determine the size of the population and specific needs. We view the collection of research data and statistics to support the formulation of evidence-based policies as key to all aspects of the implementation of disability-inclusive policies and programmes in line with the UNCRPD.

• In consultation with organisations representing disabled people, interest groups and concerned individuals, develop appropriate strategies, programmes and policies to allow disabled people to fully integrate into society, gain easy access to all public buildings, facilities and services, be respected and treated equally and maximize their full potential in any and all spheres of activity and national endeavour.

LABOUR

To rescue our country from the despotic anti-labour UNC-led regime, we need all hands on deck, sharing a common purpose and vision, and we thus view this election as a timely juncture in our nation’s history to deepen and strengthen our relationship with Labour and to actively involve Labour in the decision-making process.

To this end, the P.N.M. specifically pledges itself to give special emphasis to the following objectives:

• Encouraging proper industrial Relations practices and effective democratic Trade Unionism.

• Ensuring that the population is up to date and informed of international labour engagement trends, as a consequence of globalization and the need for Employers and Industry to become more flexible and competitive.
• Providing a clear Framework of the Rights and Responsibilities in the Workplace.

• Protecting the Health and Safety of workers, which will require amendments to the OSHA to deal with the environmental aspects of occupational health and safety.

• Promoting sustainable economic growth.

• A comprehensive and immediate review, in consultation with the Trade Union Movement, of all Labour Legislation, such as the Industrial Relations Act, Retrenchment & Separation Benefits Act.

• Simplification of the Recognition Process for Trade Unions.

• Timely Settlement of all outstanding public sector wage and salary negotiations.

• Dialogue, regular consultation and interaction with the Labour Movement on all areas of policy, plans, projects and programmes affecting the rights and interest of workers and Labour generally.

• Ensuring meaningful and active representation by Labour in the decision making process at all levels, in all important Government Committees, State Boards, Task Forces and the like.

• Formulating and implementing a Policy on Migrant Workers.

• Timely revision of Minimum Wage Rates, consistent with the Cost of Living.

• Inclusion of Labour in the Fifth Schedule of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, to give responsibility for industrial relations and labour matters in Tobago to the THA.

• Review and reform the use of Contract Labour in all sectors.

• Review the Appointment Process for Judges to the Industrial Court to provide for greater security of tenure.

• Facilitate Tripartite Engagement between Government, Labour and the Employer, to foster and develop a peaceful, competitive and productive Industrial Relations climate.

The status of women in Trinidad and Tobago compares favourably with many middle income developing nations. The equal rights of men and women are guaranteed under the 1976 Republican Constitution and the PNM has always been and remains committed to promoting gender equity and equality.

Under the PNM, women’s overall participation in national leadership and decision-making has increased exponentially. In fact, women’s political participation within the PNM is far ahead of other political parties and even exceeds international benchmarks.

The 2009 Draft National Policy on Gender and Development, formulated by the PNM, will be used as the basis for incorporating gender perspectives in all activities of government and civil society, thereby promoting the full and equal participation of men and women in the development process. It is noteworthy that after 5 years of endless empty talk, dithering and procrastination, the UNC-led Government has been unable to finalize a Gender Policy.

The PNM firmly believes that development strategies are more equitable when they consider the different needs, constraints, opportunities and priorities of men and women. We believe that there must be due recognition and appreciation of the differences between men and women; differences that are based on physiological and biological realities, as well as social ones, in order to achieve gender equality and equity.
The PNM believes that Tobagonians must be primarily responsible for the growth and development of the island of Tobago and its people. We do not support interference from the Central Government in the management of Tobago’s affairs, as has been the case under the UNC-led regime that has put the THA and Tobago under pressure over the past 5 years.

We have thus created and operationalised the Tobago Council of the PNM as an integral part of the Peoples’ National Movement. The Council has full autonomy under the PNM Constitution to administer the political affairs of Tobago and is dedicated to the service of our island and the advancement and well-being of all people resident in Tobago.

Under the PNM, PNM Members of Parliament are mandated by the Tobago Council to pursue the following objectives:

- Engage the national government to facilitate efforts to achieve Democratic Self Government for Tobago, in keeping with the aspirations of the people of Tobago;
- Collaborate with the Tobago House of Assembly in the achievement of its objectives;
- Preserve, protect and defend the autonomy and territorial integrity of Tobago;
- Safeguard and advance the freedom, rights, dignity and wellbeing of Tobagonians;
- Serve their constituents faithfully and fearlessly and be accessible and available to the public at all times;
- Promote sustainable development, economic growth and development, best environmental practices, and social and cultural fulfilment in Tobago, and
- Create the best opportunities for all Tobagonians to achieve their optimum potential.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TOBAGO

The PNM Government will encourage and provide adequate support for the implementation of the Tobago Comprehensive Economic Development Plan, 2013-2017 which presents a roadmap for the sustainable development of the island.

The goal of this Plan is to achieve increased and sustained economic growth; diversification and revitalization of the Tobago economy through private sector development; and the transformation of its people, communities and institutions through the provision of the necessary enabling environment.
The PNM Government will provide the support required for the following Strategic Priority Areas for Tobago:

- **Social Development and Resilience**
  - Reducing poverty and vulnerability and building resilience by providing social and other services and ensuring that none is left behind

- **Improved Infrastructure and Utilities**
  - Development and upgrade of infrastructure to address Tobago’s development needs, while at the same time reducing risks associated with climate change and disaster management

- **Enhanced Safety and Security; Strengthening the policing system in Tobago and community involvement in securing their communities and neighbourhoods**

- **Environmental Sustainability**
  - Managing the Tobago environment through legislative reform and building institutional capacity by improving waste management and effectively addressing climate change and disaster management.

### KEY INITIATIVES FOR TOBAGO

The PNM Government will provide the support and resources to facilitate the implementation and achievement of the Assembly’s key initiatives, including:

- **Support for the THA in the further development of the Tobago Tourism Sector in order to increase employment opportunities for Tobagonians and grow the Tobago economy.**

- **Provision of the required resources in support of the THA’s Urban Renewal Programme, which in the short term will target Scarborough and Roxborough.**

- **Support the increased diversification of the Tobago economy through sustainable development of the Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park, the expansion and development of a robust private sector and the continued development of an entrepreneurial sector.**

- **Facilitate and support the THA in its effort to diversify and stabilize the Tobago economy by pursuing one of its primary objectives of improving food security and reducing the cost of agricultural produce in Tobago, through an Enhanced Agricultural Incentive Programme (EAIP) in Tobago, with special emphasis will be placed on the fishing sub-sector.**

- **Construct a new International Airport in Tobago.**

- **Support for an Accelerated Housing Development Programme in Tobago, including, including approved Public Private Partnership Initiatives and other appropriate funding Initiatives.**
• Implement an efficient and effective coastal surveillance programme in Tobago;

• Construct Modern Police Stations at Roxborough and Old Grange and a location in North East Tobago;

• Construct Fire Service Regional Headquarters at Roxborough and fire station at Courland;

• Construct a Modern Correctional Facility at Hope;

• Support the THA in the implementation of an Island Wide Waste Water Collection and Treatment Programme and Integrated Solid Waste Management Programme in Tobago, including remediation of the Studly Park Landfill and related solid waste management operations that negatively impact the island’s ecosystem; establishment of robust and comprehensive waste collection and recycling programme that would support the development of recycling businesses.

• Support the THA to implement an Integrated Water Security Programme for Tobago.

• Support the THA in meeting the needs for Post-Secondary and Tertiary Education in Tobago; including establishment of the Tobago Training Agency (TTA).

• Converting the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTI) into a full-fledged university.

• Amending “The Green Fund Regulations, 2007” to ensure that Tobagonians are not disadvantaged in their efforts to access the Fund, with focus reforestation, coastal rehabilitation and protection of marine resources.

• Support the THA in Pursuing special Initiatives to enhance the Economic Development of Tobago including designating specific areas in Tobago as Duty Free Zones; Establishing Economic Development Zones at selected locations in Tobago.

• Facilitate Implementation of Sustainable Land Reform Measures in Tobago.

• Collaborate with the THA to formalize land rights in Tobago as a prerequisite for improved security of land tenure and sustainable economic development.

• Facilitate and support the Establishment of Marinas at suitable locations in Tobago.

• Facilitate and support the THA in the establishment of dedicated cruise ship berths, capable of accommodating the Oasis Class vessels, the largest class of vessels today, thus enhancing Tobago’s competitiveness in the cruise industry and creating additional employment opportunities for Tobagonians.

• Facilitate and support the THA to construct an Industrial Port in Tobago, thus increasing marketing opportunities; lower prices for consumers; and increasing job opportunities for Tobagonians.

• Support the THA Regional Development and Revitalization Programme in Tobago. The Programme is intended to promote balanced Social and Economic Development throughout Tobago.

• Support for the THA to continue its thrust to protect and care for the most vulnerable of our society through the implementation of projects and programmes aimed at development of the social sector.

• Support the THA’s policy position that young people must be given a strong voice in policy formulation and decision making in Tobago since they are very much part of the present and inheritors of Tobago’s future.

• Endorse the THA policy of designating sports as a primary mechanism for engaging individuals and communities in healthy living; channelling youthful energy; developing discipline, self-esteem and self-confidence; and sharpening social skills.

A significant number of households in Tobago are headed by females. The THA therefore acknowledged that women’s empowerment is critical to the sustainable development of the Tobago society and economy. The PNM fully supports the THA’s empowerment of women as essential to the realization of Human Rights for all and necessary for the realization of equal opportunity for all people.

Finally, social and economic development in Tobago East has not kept pace with South Western Tobago. The PNM will therefore facilitate and support the THA in the implementation of special development initiatives for Windward Tobago in order to promote balanced development throughout the island.

Let's do this together.

People's National Movement Manifesto 2015

LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER
INCREASE THE ANNUAL PERSONAL ALLOWANCE to $72,000 for all taxpayers, to put more disposable income in the hands of citizens.

REVIEW NIS AND OLD AGE PENSIONS with a view to increasing the cap on pension payments, thus putting more money in the hands of pensioners.

Reduce VAT to 12.5% to provide much-needed relief to all consumers and lower the cost of living, while aggressively improving tax collections.

DESIGN AND INTRODUCE A RETIREE BENEFITS programme similar to Panama’s Pensionado Programme, involving free or subsidised public services for retirees, such as free driver’s permits and free passports, a wide range of discounts and exemption from certain taxes.
EXEMPT AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, such as approved chemicals, pest control, approved vehicles, fishing vessels and equipment, from all duties and taxes

PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO LANDOWNERS to revive abandoned agricultural estates.

PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR to provide training for workers in the building trades and initiate construction of facilities necessary for national development, such as affordable housing, recreational, sporting and community facilities and multi-story car parks.

INITIATE THE PROCESS FOR A FREE ISLAND-WIDE PUBLIC BROADBAND WIRELESS NETWORK, starting with free public hotspots in popular areas.

INCREASE THE STIPENDS FOR OJTS to meaningful levels.
PROVIDE EASIER ACCESS FOR THE POOR AND INDIGENT for targeted home repair and home improvement grants and conditioned cash support.

SUBSIDISE AND PROMOTE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES in the residential and commercial sectors for heating, cooling and lighting (solar power and wind power).

INTRODUCE LOCAL CONSTABULARIES IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGION.

PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO HOMEOWNERS to install personal CCTV and alarm systems.

ISSUE 10-YEAR PASSPORTS and remove the requirement for immigration forms at ports of entry for citizens.