TOBAGO FORWARDS

TOBAGO’S BUSINESS ON TOBAGO’S TERMS

PLAN FOR 2015 - 2022
# Table of Contents

**Foreword** ................................................................................................................................. 2
**From the Desk of the Political Leader** ......................................................................................... 3
**Island Plan Matrix** .................................................................................................................... 5
**Forward Speak - on self Determination and Internal Self-Government** ...................... 7

1. **INTERNAL SELF GOVERNMENT AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY** ............. 8
   **Internal Self Government** ........................................................................................................... 8
   **Governance Reform** .................................................................................................................. 9
   **Lobbying THA and The National Parliament** ...................................................................... 10

2. **MOVING THE ECONOMY FORWARD** ............................................................................. 11
   **Tourism** .................................................................................................................................. 12
   **Agricultural Resuscitation** ..................................................................................................... 14
   **Fishing and Marine Industry** .................................................................................................. 15
   **Improving Travel and Communication Infrastructure** ..................................................... 16

3. **DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPACITY THAT ENABLES INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT** .................................................................................................................... 18
   **Educational Development** ..................................................................................................... 18
   **Attracting Returning Residents** .......................................................................................... 19
   **Twinning Communities with International Industry** .......................................................... 20

4. **ENSURING SUSTAINABLE WELL BEING** ...................................................................... 21
   **Supporting Village Councils and Community Groups** .................................................... 21
   **Security of Tenure** .................................................................................................................. 22
   **Providing Housing and Service Lots** .................................................................................... 23
   **Sport and infrastructure development** .................................................................................. 24
   **Internal Security: Making Tobago Safe and Secure** ............................................................ 25
   **Supporting Health Care** ......................................................................................................... 27
   **Re-engineering the CEPEP Program** .................................................................................... 29
One Issue, One Goal, One Position: Tobago First

We will ensure that at every parliamentary sitting your voice will be heard: on matters as personal as land registration to matters as global as budgetary allocation.

We demand that all Government policies and laws have a considered and articulated Tobago position. We will not support any policy, Bill, Act or Paper unless Central Government has considered the impact of that document on every Tobagonian. . . . No impact assessment equals No support. For too long, Tobago and Tobagonians have been an afterthought in the planning and development plans originating in Central Government. Tobago Forwards, through its Representatives, will be the Tobago Voice! “Tobagocentric” will be the new buzz words in the Parliament and Tobago issues will be at the core of all future development in Trinidad and Tobago.
Tobago Forwards. We are Tobago. We are family.

The Tobago Forwards’ Island Plan reflects aspirations of the people of Tobago and our responses to these aspirations.

As an organisation that is relatively new to the political landscape, it was imperative of us, in creating a manifesto, to demonstrate our long-term plans for governance, and development in Tobago. Our visioning is not limited to the goals of parliamentary representation in this 2015 elections, but it goes well beyond that, to outlining the party’s intentions as we march towards the 2017 Tobago House of Assembly elections.

This manifesto is a blueprint of how the Tobago Forwards will represent you through lobbying and advocacy on a national level, and how we intend to serve, and make real improvements in Tobago when we win the Tobago House of Assembly Elections in 2017.

Yes this is bold. Yes it is revolutionary but these are times that demand boldness. These are times that demand fresh ideas, and men and women of courage that will not be distracted by phantoms.

All over the island Tobagonians are demanding more of their parliamentary representatives and more for their island’s governance - we are the only Party that has responded to these demands. There is no need to wait until 2017 to learn of our intention, our plans are ready to be shared now. These plans will no doubt be refined and amplified over the next 2 years as you continue to dialogue with us, but today we stand ready. Today we already have a road-map to Tobago’s governance and development that is both national and domestic in its approach. If we are ready today, imagine where we will be in two years.
We urge all of Tobago to start the journey with us; to make a step towards a Tobago where governance is fair, transparent and uncorrupted. Together we can add our undiluted voice to the issue of internal self governance ensuring good governance within the Tobago House of Assembly and good governance for Tobago. Tobago, let us lead by example and become the center of the world.

Tobago’s Business on Tobago’s Terms

Christlyn Moore
Political Leader
Tobago Forwards
The Tobago Forwards will:

1. DEMAND INTERNAL SELF GOVERNMENT AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY
   - Providing a strong Voice in the Parliament
   - Strengthening the relationship between Parliamentary representatives and Tobago House of Assembly
   -Pressing for Governance Reforms

2. ENABLE THE ECONOMY TO MOVE FORWARD
   - Strengthening of the Tourism Sector
   - Resuscitation of the Agricultural Industry
   - Increasing and Improving Support to the Fishing Industry
   - Improving Travel and Communication Structure within and to and from Tobago

3. DEVELOP HUMAN CAPACITY
   - Educational and People Development
   - Strengthening of the Tourism Sector
   - Attracting Returning Residents
   - Twinning Communities with International Companies and Industries
4. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE WELL BEING

- Supporting Village Councils and Community Groups
- Promoting Security of Tenure
- Providing Housing and Serviced Lots
- Advancing Sport Development
- Ensuring Internal Security
- Formalising the organisational structure within CEPEP
- Formalising the CEPEP budget as a line item in Recurrent Budgets
- Ensuring that CEPEP staff rights to paid leave and end of contract gratuity is secure.
On Self-Determination and Internal Self-Government

“It is safe to say that no single island in the Caribbean, however large or small, would accept Tobago’s present status. I challenge anyone to contradict that statement. Tobago does not accept it. Let the people of Trinidad know, let the people of the Caribbean know, let the people of the world know; Tobago does not accept its present status.”

“I end by emphasising that whatever the fate of this motion, whether the Honourable Members opposite oppose it or accept it, it will be on the national agenda from today and it will continue to be on the national agenda until – with the help of Almighty God – justice and internal self-government are brought to the people of Tobago.”

A.N.R. Robinson
14 January 1977
House of Representatives
Port of Spain
Democracy

Internal Self Government

The Internal self-government question has been on the front burner for Tobago since 1977 when A.N.R. Robinson moved his now famous motion for internal self-government for Tobago in the parliament. Since then any motion for internal self-government for Tobago has been met with resistance at all turns. Its time has now arrived.

The Tobago Forwards will continue and conclude Tobago’s long march to Internal Self-government by vigorously pursuing constitutional legislative authority for the day-to-day responsibilities delegated to the THA.

The Tobago Forwards would demand a guaranteed share of the national Budget of at least 6.9%; thus increasing our ability to implement long term development projects.

The Tobago Forwards seeks to strengthen Tobago’s role and voice in the national Parliament, by insisting that all laws be considered for its particular impact on Tobago, its culture, biodiversity, economy norms and peculiar condition – No consideration of our position, no support.
The Tobago Forwards believes that meaningful representation of Tobagonians in the National Parliament, including the Senate, should be the immediate objective of participation in the next national elections. Representatives elected by the people of Tobago to the Parliament should fill this role until certain fundamental goals are achieved.

Tobago agrees that legislative and administrative reforms are needed in the THA to drive social and economic progress. Reform is also needed with reference to the role of the public and the communities in decision-making and oversight of the Executive Council.

**WE WILL DEMAND**
Reform 1: Introduction of a privatization program in conjunction with a private sector development program to address widespread disguised unemployment in the THA and set new foundations for development.

**WE WILL DEMAND**
Reform 2: Budget reforms to target education reform along with economic renewal in Tobago’s communities.

**WE WILL DEMAND**
Reform 3: Introduction of a joint policy process, official hearings and public expenditure reviews in effect, consistent with the Rio+20 Outcome Document.

**WE WILL DEMAND**
Reform 4: Introduction of a distinct and independent Legislative (Senatorial) Chamber in Tobago, armed with the veto powers needed to ensure effective oversight of the Executive Council and give full effect to Reforms 1, 2, 3.
Lobbying
As Your Representatives, elected by the people of Tobago to the Parliament,
WE WILL AGITATE and lobby within the Parliament until certain fundamental milestones are achieved, including:

- Reforms 1, 2, 3, and 4 as listed above.
- Constitution Reform in Trinidad and Tobago with a view to achieving.
  - Sufficient powers and jurisdiction for the Tobago House of Assembly on all matters that have a direct and decisive bearing on Tobago’s development and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Tobago to enjoy democratic and non-corrupt government.

The Tobago Forwards proposes to rectify the relationship between the Tobago Members of Parliament and the THA.

WE WILL LOBBY FOR CHANGE THAT ALLOWS:

- The two Tobago Members of Parliament to be made ex-officio members of the Tobago House of Assembly in order to optimize coordination between the Parliament and the THA,
- The Tobago Members of Parliament be accorded the following rights and privileges:
  - non-voting membership rights in the Tobago House of Assembly,
  - the right to speak during select Debates in the Tobago House of Assembly,
  - the right to participate in Q&A sessions at the Tobago House of Assembly,
  - the duty to interface between the Parliament and the Tobago House of Assembly.
The Tobago economy is characterised by:

- A tense relationship between the Tobago House of Assembly and Central Government
- Absent legislative provisions mandating a relationship with Tobago Members of parliament and the THA
- Small land mass, small population and small market
- Declining availability of fertile agricultural lands,
- Low level of private sector investments
- High Youth unemployment levels
- Low availability of technical skills; and training institutions;
- A reliance on the Tourism industry to stimulate the economy and generate revenue
- Narrow tax base which limits the scope for revenue collections;
- High dependence on the inter-island transportation links
- Challenges to maintaining economic viability and sustainability for small businesses.

The Tobago Forwards intends to address these challenges head on.
a) Tourism- Strengthening the sector

Tobago has for several decades placed the highest priority on the Tourism Industry to stimulate its economic and social transformation. The depression of the world economy, growing competitiveness from existing and new tourism destinations, international violence and safety factors, cruise ship all-inclusives, among others, have had negative effects on Tobago Tourism. The result has been declining occupancy rates for Hotels and Guest Houses, and declining incomes for taxi drivers, food suppliers and other service providers to the sector looking to 2017 and beyond.

WE WILL:

- Produce a comprehensive five (5) year Tourism Development Strategy Plan. This plan will articulate how the Tobago Forwards intends to improve the Tourism Economy in a coordinated approach. The Comprehensive Tourism Plan will be developed through collaboration with ALL stakeholders. This plan is our mandate to you, the people of Tobago.

This plan will include:

- **EXPANDING** and enhanced use of the Tobago Hospitality Institute to provide courses in book-keeping, food labelling, principles of account, marketing and other courses critical in assisting the entrepreneur in sustaining and expanding on small businesses.

- **ASSUMING** control of the Tobago 1677 Documentary project pertaining to the sunken ships in the Scarborough Harbour.

- **LOBBYING** for the declaration of the Scarborough Harbour as a World Heritage Site.

- **DEVELOPING** Biking Paths in southwest Tobago.
EXPLORING Zip line construction through the Rainforest.

DEVELOPING the original motion picture sets and site locations for “Fire Down Below” at Grt. Bacolet Bay, and “Swiss Family Robinson” at Belle Garden, Richmond & Goldsborough Bays as Visitor destinations.

PROMOTING the Hosting of festivals, including Tobago Sea Food Festival and Tobago Pork and Wine Festival.

DEVELOPING AND ENCOURAGING of Trinidad Carnival Band Launching Fetes in Tobago to boost Tobago’s visitor arrival capacity.

HOSTING Agricultural Village Green Fairs in conjunction with the Tobago Agricultural Society.

DEVELOPING a Tobago Craft Sales and Producers Market.
b) Agricultural Resuscitation

Agriculture in Tobago has declined from export crops to small and micro production. The small average sizes of Tobago farms and the low level of technology render Tobago’s cost of production uncompetitive. The Tobago Forwards recognises the need for more technological know-how and State support for inputs into Tobago’s Agriculture.

**WE WILL** revive Tobago’s agricultural industry by permitting access to greater acreages of unused State lands.

**WE WILL** advocate the accessing of State-owned estates to produce high volumes of selected priority agricultural products and the setting of Food Security targets.

**WE WILL** procure and commission support for the storage and export of agricultural produce via:

- Adequate and state of the art sorting and storage facilities.
- Staffing of these facilities by internationally recognised trained personnel.
- Educating agricultural producers about production standards and storage baselines.
- Sourcing of markets whether domestically, regionally or internationally.

The Tobago Forwards Strategy for Agriculture includes:

- Providing financial grants and low interest loans to farmers wishing to upgrade technology on the farm.
- Working with the Chamber of Commerce and all stakeholders to develop, market and implement a ‘Buy Local’, creating sure markets for the Tobago Farmers.
- Rejuvenating the Marketing Board so that all produce from Farmers are bought, with the Marketing Board assuming responsibility for marketing and distributing the produce locally, nationally and regionally.
- A system of farm support and insurance to protect farmers from natural hazards.
- Management of surplus produce through the opening of a canning factory that will preserve food for marketing and export.
- Resuscitating the Cocoa Industry.
- Resuscitating the coconut industry.
- Promoting the year round production of vegetables and herbs
- A vigorous system-wide food and nutrition education programme;
- An enhanced effort to develop agro processing and market expansion utilizing the fruit and raw food resources generated on the island.
- Processing dairy products to reduce the dependence on imported dairy products.
c) Fishing & Marine Industry

The Fishing Community in Tobago is significant and their importance to the islands cultural and economic space cannot be undervalued. The Tobago Forwards supports the Fishing industry, boat owners, operators and fisher-folk whose entrepreneurial spirit and their assumption of the risk of business ownership and the hazards of the sea make them the unsung heroes of our economy.

WE WILL

- DEMAND a fuel dispenser at the Speyside Fishing Jetty to provide fuel for fishermen and other pleasure craft operators in the Speyside, Charlotteville districts.
- PURSUE the development of a fish landing and fuelling depot at the Richmond River and Bay where the river and its lower course provides a safe inland location.
- EXPLORE an onshore Marina for Goldsborough Bay subject to the commissioning of an environmental impact assessment.
- OPEN AND OPERATIONALIZE of Fishing Depots in communities that require such, and ensure their handover to the various village fishing associations.
- REHABILITATE AND CONSTRUCT jetties that have been neglected.

WE WILL PURSUE

- The Development of modern fishing facilities around the island including Charlotteville, Friendship and Parlatuvier.
- A program for the utilization of ALL beaches to prevent conflicts which occur as a result of multi utilization of the coastal areas around the island.
- A system of fishing support and insurance to protect commercial fishermen from natural hazards and vandalism.
- Fish processing facilities using state of the art equipment.
Christlyn Nathalia Moore is a cherished member of the large Moore family of Tobago and is a past student of Lambeau Anglican School and Bishop’s High School.

She has been a practicing attorney for the last 20 years. Christlyn was appointed the first Tobagonian Minister of Justice in 2012 and has been recognized for her contribution to the development of the first ever National Youth Justice Policy, the first of its kind in Trinidad and Tobago which guides the development of policy and systems to treat with children who have come into conflict with the criminal law.

Mr. Regis Caruth is a member of the respected Caruth family of Roxborough and a past student of Ebenezer Methodist, Roxborough Secondary and the Bishop's High School.

He pursued his tertiary education at the University of the West Indies where he read for a degree in Economics, Political Science, and Spanish then he attended The National University of Colombia where he undertook post graduate studies in the teaching and learning of the Spanish Language, He also did courses in Computer Literacy, Effective Clinical Supervision in a healthy Industrial Relations Climate among others and at present is pursuing a degree in Law with the University of London.
TOBAGO FORWARDS

The colours of the party are blue, white and gold with blue being the predominant colour.

The colour blue represents the sky and sea above and around Tobago, the potential of the island, and the limitless possibilities available to its residents.

The colour white represents our aspirations, creative energies, warmth and integrity as a people.

The colour gold represents the abundance of natural resources with which we have been blessed and our collective wisdom to sustainably manage and use these resources to the benefit of all.

WE ARE TOBAGO, WE ARE FAMILY.
d) Improving Travel & Communication Infrastructure

Travel Infrastructure

As an island, the movement of people, goods and services within Tobago and outside Tobago is central to the development and cementing of the prosperity of Tobago. The accelerated circulation of economic factors, people, goods and services will multiply incomes and facilitate its distribution. It is vital therefore, that efficiencies be maximized in the process of moving economic factors and goods. This matter does not solely rest with the Central Government as the Tobago House of Assembly has scheduled responsibility for sea and air ports on the island.

The daily horror of domestic travel must and can be eliminated. The goal of domestic travel must now be seen through the eyes of Tobagonians who are compelled for work/school and medical exigencies, to travel to Trinidad.

The ANR Robinson Airport

For visitors to any tourist centric island the air and sea ports are the first introduction to the island and their last view on departure. It is our opportunity to make a lasting first impression. In this light,

WE WILL

- LOBBY for the elimination of delays on the route, the implementation of a system that recognises and favours residents of the island (particularly students, children and persons with disabilities,) for priority listing, and that mandates staggered flights that respond to peak travel seasons and dates.

- REBUILD the Airport to reflect our aesthetic and to signal our readiness for international travellers.
The Seaport in Scarborough

● WE WILL redesign and rebuild The Ferry Port in Scarborough to meet international standards.
● WE WILL CONSTRUCT walk-in passenger access to the Ferry Port in Scarborough making it safer and more accessible.
● WE WILL support the purchase by the Tobago House of Assembly in collaboration with central government of two additional fast ferries built to take the rigours of the waters between Trinidad and Tobago.
a) Educational Development

The Tobago Forwards recognises that Education is the key to economic development and sustainability. A number of factors plague education in Tobago. These include: paucity of technical training facilities; scarcity of opportunities for Apprenticeship and work attachments; insufficient number of Teachers at all levels of the system, an exporting of student talent to Trinidad and beyond, & worrisome national performance.

- **WE WILL PRIORITIZE** raising the level of achievement in Tobago.
- **WE WILL DEMAND** increased access to complete educational opportunities located on the island of Tobago, keeping costs to students down, increasing the numbers of students and trainees, and lowering the potential for brain drain and talent export.
- **WE WILL PURSUE** the establishment of University Campus in East of Tobago, which will twin with external institutions to facilitate exchanges of students and faculty, attachments and research.
- **WE SUPPORT** an education system that empowers the differently abled, autistic and challenged to dignity and independence
- **WE INSIST** that short term contracts for teachers be abolished restoring the profession to its nobility and giving Teachers stability and certainty of tenure
- **WE WILL EXPAND** and deepen the teaching of Life Skills throughout the society and the education system.
- **WE WILL** support the integration of the less-abled through on-the-job training with government and private companies through incentives such as stipends ensure access for the less-abled at all government facilities.
- **WE WILL** undertake targeted Family Education Programs that will enable parents to support their children with school work, emotional and personal development increasing every child’s potential to be all that they can be.
b) Strengthening human capacity by attracting returning residents

At present we export talent to the first world; we export engineers, doctors, lawyers, skilled labour, world class athletes and inventors. They do not return because they are told they are over qualified, and when they do they are pressured and victimised and forced to leave. There are no systems in place to welcome them or to use their skills and talents.

The Tobago Forwards supports the repatriation of talent back to Tobago and the creating of an enabling environment where our sons and daughters now experts round the region and the world in various fields of endeavour, can return. They are Tobagonian Enough!

With regard to our already exported talent, while we acknowledge that our size may not encourage everyone to the return, we intend to reach out to them and their international employers. Our brothers and sisters work at MIT; at GE, Microsoft and Google; at universities, at colleges, at teaching hospitals and other professional institutions around the world. We intend to build a skills and knowledge bank to partner with their employers. Think about the benefits of a partnership between the village of Bethel and General Electric, a company dedicated to new and sustainable ways to generate and deliver electricity and water.

WE WILL:

- Build Support structures to promote repatriate family integration
- Develop a repatriate Unit that takes primary responsibility for Repatriates needs and issues
- Develop a placing process that does not penalise the repatriate for overseas placement and advancement but preserves his opportunities for career advancement at home and abroad
- Provide repatriate counselling to the repatriate and family
- Promote the use of repatriates as trainers to bring organisations up to international standards
- Bear the costs of the Repatriate’s return
c) Twinning Communities with International Companies and Industries

We support partnering with the international industries conglomerates, hospitals and institutions of learning that our sons and daughters have lent their talent to over the years.

The Tobago Forwards intends that the island maximise its global contact by entering into fixed term partnerships for training and development in areas such as water resource sustainability, solar sustainability, tropical healthcare solutions with an emphasis on lifestyle disease management, sport management, light industry and ICT. We have already made these links through our fellow Tobagonians abroad. It is now time to bring both them and their global partners home.

**WE WILL** seek international and multinational partners in particular areas of endeavour to support grass roots development efforts.

**WE WILL** address Gender Inequalities through mainstreaming of Gender in all Tobago House of Assembly policies and practices and the development of vibrant community focal groups.
4. Ensuring Sustainable Well-being

a) Supporting village councils and community groups

Though Tobago is small, there are different social and cultural emphases in different communities. These differences can be highlighted to achieve the mosaic and strength of the society. The involvement of residents with their community inputs into the social and economic fabric of the island. Community-led community projects add strength to the projects and fosters lasting commitment and buy-in at an organic level.

- **WE WILL REVIVE** and strengthen the Village Council system

- **WE WILL ENSURE** that Community centers and other community-based spaces be given back to the Village Councils for administration under more modern rules and administrative guidelines.

- **WE WILL PROMOTE** a restored relationship between the THA and the respective community groups and organizations, erase any taint of political partisanship regarding the use of community spaces, and allow for transparency in governance and a further decentralization of governance back to the people. The Community-centered model offers Tobago the opportunity to developing a system of people led governance.
b) Security of Tenure

80% of Tobagonians still have no security of tenure over their lands. This omission places Tobago in conflict with the Millennium Development Goals as articulated by the United Nations. The Securing of Social Tenure requires the establishment of land policies that achieve equitable land distribution, and fair laws that are pro-Tobagonian and pro poor. Any device to provide security of tenure that cannot be accessed by the poor will result in further social imbalance.

The Tobago Forwards supports land reform for Tobago that:

- Promotes inward investment and economic growth;
- Achieves poverty reduction;
- Decreases community conflicts;
- Militates against corruption and land grabbing.

The Tobago Forwards will not support the alienation of large tracts of land to foreign entities or the large scale ‘land banking’ of Tobago lands by government without any articulated policy for using these lands to achieve poverty eradication.

**WE SUPPORT** Government subsidy for Land Regularization under the Real Property Act in the short term.

**WE PROPOSE** an integrated land management system that recognizes and values Community rights and ancestral ownership in addressing tenure.

**WE SUPPORT** the cadastral mapping of the Island to guard against the claims of “new” ancestral rights by rogues.
c) Housing

The challenges with security of tenure and the slow pace of the delivery of housing units to Tobagonians has created a ‘homeless & landless’ class of persons both young and old. Housing presents a challenge to the State as an increasing number of persons look to the State for the supply of accommodation.

The Tobago Forwards proposes in the first instance a return to the “Robinson model” launched with great success at Sou Sou lands. This model is characterised by:

- The provision of serviced lots,
- Ensuring of access to all qualified persons by being subsidised,
- Distribution of serviced lots only to the landless to guard against land grabbing and hoarding,
- Encouraging the house building tradition and supporting community involvement.

**WE WILL** partner with financial institutions to guarantee financial support to successful applicants who are ready to construct.

**WE WILL**

- boost the supply of completed units;
- accelerate the pace of production of housing units;
- work with Contractors to utilize systems of construction that will significantly raise their productivity and output.

The Tobago Forwards will provide a mix of housing units including whole single units, apartments and townhouses and starter houses. As part of its community strengthening policy, the Tobago Forwards will explore and utilize community-based teams and contractors including self-help in the construction of units within a community, particularly where land is available. Financial support and assistance will be configured to meet the capability of families, both to facilitate and configure the acquisition of the units and to ensure repayments. The Tobago Forwards will ensure better supervision of the Home Repair and Home Improvement programmes to ensure better value for money and avoid wastage.

Consistent with the Millennium Development Goals and with reference to existing homes the Tobago Forwards proposes to eradicate outdoor toilet facilities from the face of the island and bring all our residents to a consistent and dignified baseline of developmental measure. The Community Development Division will work with new housing communities to maximize social integration efforts and activities to build in the new community.
d) Sport Development

The Sports Sector is now seen as an instrument of socio-economic development. Sports builds character and personal well-being. It provides widespread joy and entertainment, builds national pride, and brings economic and financial rewards to the individual and the society.

The Tobago Forwards embraces Sport as a fundamental part of its public policy approach aimed at health, character development, entertainment, community development, tourism, employment creation, social integration, and economic development.

WE WILL BUILD the infrastructure for sport development.

The Tobago Forwards intends to embark on an aggressive programme of building the matrix of infrastructure and support for Sport and recreation development. This infrastructure would include:

- An international standard cricketing pitch
- Indoor sport complexes
- A Cycling track

The Sports policy of the Tobago Forwards includes the

- Promotion of physical exercise throughout Tobago
- Development an elite athlete training and mentoring facility
- Encouraging physical exercise for health and fitness for all ages and persons with disabilities.
- Encouraging and supporting the establishment of gyms and sporting clubs at community, and corporate levels.
- Adopting an annual calendar of Tobago School Sports.
- Embarking on a program of training of Physical Education teachers and coaches to build a cohort of coaches, physiotherapists, trainers, sport medical personnel, sport psychologists, exercise physiologists, nutritionists, match officials, administrators and other personnel necessary to cultivate our local sportsmen and women;
- Developing a Tobago Sports and Fitness Policy that will support School and Community level activities.
e) **Internal Security: Making Tobago safe and secure**

The internal security of Tobago aims at protecting the people and property of the island. It takes on additional attention because the Tourism industry, with its international exposure, is particularly sensitive to crime and personal safety. While over the years, Tobago has been very safe and secure, recent incidents have roused the society into awareness of the need for greater action.

As such, **TOBAGO FORWARDS IS COMMITTED TO:**

- Fortifying the capability of all the security services,
- Optimizing coordination, intelligence and information sharing,
- Initiating measures to pre-empt crime,
- Giving greater priority to crime prevention; partnering with the community to solve and prevent criminal activity,
- Eliminating the legal impediments that create friction between the Police and the Communities,
- Upgrading crime solving capabilities, with greater use of modern equipment, Systems, enhanced infrastructure, (equipment including security cameras, mobility, communication) and building expertise,
- Providing greater marine and beach protection including the provision of security for the equipment of fisher-folk,
- Promoting a functioning relationship between the Community and with Law Enforcement Agencies,
- Promoting the Community as the first level of (police) vigilance,
- Establishing a Central Coordination Information system for pooling and sharing and information

**Policing and Communities:** "Policing is for each of us." The Tobago Forwards holds to the philosophy that effective and successful crime prevention and crime fighting in Tobago must be based on a close working relationship between the Community and the Security agencies.
In addition to the community, there are a number of agencies that exercise community and local level inspection services with varying safety, security and legal powers. They include Lifeguards, TEMA, Traffic Wardens, Litter Wardens, Game Wardens, and Public Health Inspectors. They constitute a potential force for coordination to a central security system. WE WILL partner with these groups to enhance policing, intelligence, crime prevention and detection.

In order to support our security services and the community,

**WE WILL:**
- Promote a functional relationship between the Community and Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Promote the Community as the first level of (police) vigilance,
- Encourage early reporting of suspicious misbehavior.
- Establish a secure mechanism for accepting and cumulating community reports and information.
- Establish a Central Coordination Information system for pooling and sharing of information increase vigilance on the ground,
- Construct two new Police Stations at Grange and at Roxborough.
- Installation of surveillance cameras around the island to assist in crime and traffic control.
- Increase in mobile patrols in villages and along roadways.
- Development of a Safety At Sea System to allow for greater safety of coastal users of the offshore space.
f) Healthcare

Tobago is challenged by lifestyle diseases and a retiree population.

The Tobago Forwards is committed to developing a health care service that is steeped in education and prevention. Empowering individuals to look after their own health will provide increased well-being for all.

The Tobago Forwards intends to utilize our brand new state of the art hospital to ensure accredited clinical programs are taught on the island and in so doing build the capacity among Tobagonians. Becoming a teaching hospital will encourage experienced clinicians and clinicians with specialist interests to come to our shores and improve our chances of recruiting and retaining the best clinicians.

There is also the opportunity for income generation using Tobago as a venue for Medical Tourism. The Tobago Forwards believe that in developing systems that make our hospital the best for Tobagonians has the added benefits of creating a health care service that people will come to Tobago to receive.

WE SUPPORT

- Mobile Out Patient Clinics with Pharmacy Services.
- Community Exercise, Fitness, Nutrition and Massage Therapy Services.
- One FREE annual Medical and Dental Checkup for each resident.
- A more transparent and responsive access to the necessitous grant.
- Improving Access to Preventative Health Services closest to home.
- Public Private Partnerships to increase access to rehabilitative and palliative care.
- Enhanced Public Health Service to include better waste management and mosquito and rodent eradication.
• Development of Medical Tourism in Tobago.
• Collaborative, Inter-agency and Partnership working to develop a comprehensive frame work that will protect, enable and develop vulnerable people including children, victims of abuse, the less abled and the elderly.
• Improving Accessibility and Equity in Healthcare.
g) Expand and enhance the CEPEP Programme

We are committed to removing the legacy of the current administration of creating and then exploiting a class of working poor. This working poor class are paid well beneath the national minimum wage, are not entitled to sick leave or maternity leave, have no contracts or job letters and are used as political tools every five years. Because CEPEP is run on a contingency budget there is no institutional planning or budgeting for these employees.

The Tobago Forwards will advocate for
- A formalized structure for CEPEP
- A formalized CPEP budget. This would contribute to job security and improve the livelihood of workers by:
  - Allowing workers to qualify for contracts and loans.
  - Secure maternity leave for workers.

The Tobago Forwards has realized the need to improve the working conditions in the CEPEP program. We will work assiduously to ensure that
- At the end of contract employment worker are entitled to gratuity for the period worked.
- During the terms of employment that employees can enjoy access to paid leave.

CEPEP cannot continue to provide non-transferrable skills to our population and as such we will lobby for and eventually implement a skills and training component ensuring that CEPEP is a transitional point in the employment ladder for Tobagonians who can work and train with dignity and take their new skills elsewhere with pride.
We know that Tobago is looking for a stable and committed group of leaders to vision, implement and manage transformative change on the island; to take you from subsistence living to substantial living; to move your children from landless to landed; to protect and not abandon pillars of history, culture and heritage; to provide an administrative machine that responds; to empower our people for success; to move Scarborough from blah to Ahhhhhh!

Join the Tobago Forwards as we commit to these ideals, and pledge to make Tobago the center of the world!
GET INVOLVED

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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