

Gateway
TO THE
Future

MANIFESTO 2004

Trevor
Walker

The Candidate
Barbudans can Trust

BARBUDA PEOPLES' MOVEMENT

"While Barbuda faces a number of constraints deriving from the small size of its population and its ecological fragility, it has considerable potential to pursue a development strategy geared to its own needs and circumstances" .

GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE

Barbuda stands at a very serious crossroad in its history. The Antigua Labour Party Administration has been able to divide the political leadership on the island and as a result denied Barbudan's the implementation of the recommendations of the Commonwealth Report.

These recommendations had serious implications for improved infrastructure, the expansion of airport facilities, creation of a port of entry, the construction of roads, the improvement of public utilities and the complete restructuring of the Financial and Administrative arrangements between the islands.

Importantly the Commonwealth Report implicitly recognized the Land Rights Claims of the islands people, when it stated "no development should take place without the consent of the people".

The ALP Administration has completely frustrated the implementation of/the report and as a consequence caused stagnation, decay, and delayed the development of the island. Its actions have caused young people to suffer. Many are unable to find employment and appropriate educational opportunities.

The BPM will find ways to overcome all these negatives and open the doors to a Bright future for all Barbudans young and old. We believe what the Commonwealth Report said;

"While Barbuda faces a number of constraints deriving from the small size of its population and its ecological fragility, it has considerable potential to pursue a development strategy geared to its own needs and circumstances" .

The BPM will invest in the future of Barbuda. We will ensure that Barbuda is developed according to the needs and wants of the Island's People.



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BARBUDA PEOPLES' MOVEMENT

LAND

We strongly believe that the lands in Barbuda belong to the people of Barbuda. The traditions and customs developed over the past one hundred and fifty (150) years since the end of slavery will be maintained. We believe that Barbudans now have Absolute Title over these Lands and that these rights and interests should be clearly recognized in the Law. We will continue to stand up for this belief so that all Barbudans can determine the way the development of the land proceeds. We will also utilize the lands in Barbuda for development purposes so that our people can have a higher standard of living.

TOURISM

"In Barbuda you will see a Caribbean island that is unspoiled by tourism, it is renowned for its beaches which are natural, sprinkled with pink sand and miles long. The island has the deep blue Atlantic on one side with wild beaches full of driftwood and shells and the calm Caribbean Sea on the other, perfect for swimming and snorkeling, with plenty of opportunities to see turtles and many varieties of tropical fish undisturbed in the turquoise water. The beauty of the island is its natural, peaceful way of life".

We will promote locally owned hotels and guesthouses where Barbudans will be the prime beneficiaries. We will also encourage the development of eco-tourism sector so that we can enjoy

the benefits of an up-scale market and protect our environment. Expansion of the Five Star Hotel sector, similar to Coco-Point will be encouraged urgently.

WATER

We will improve and manage our water production capacity to fulfill our responsibility to make available safe, clean water to all our people. Any excess production will be used to help our Sister Island in their time of need. Any profits generated will be applied to the Barbuda Council consolidated fund for the benefit of all Barbudans. We will not adopt the "Build Own Operate Transfer" (BOOT) approach favored by the ALP government in recent years. This BOOT approach results in private individuals reaping tremendous benefits at the expenses of present and future generations.

ELECTRICITY

Denmark and other countries established the production of generated electricity. We feel Barbuda has the ideal conditions for this technology and therefore the cost of electricity will be considerably lower. The use solar and sea energy forms will also be explored.

ROADS

The BPM will embark on a program to construct and improve roads on Barbuda. To undertake this programme we will seek to get a percentage of all funds accessed

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by Central government. This will include providing proper drainage and sidewalks where necessary and the training of young people in Road Construction and Maintenance.

AGRICULTURE

We will create a viable agricultural sector where most of our efforts will be placed on organically grown produce. We intend to assist small farmers by accessing financial resources so that they can increase production and access regional markets. The Party will put into place a farmers' development programme that will include the clearing and fencing of lands for cooperative usage of farming lands.

This programme will provide, technical assistance, equipments, seedlings and a marketing outlet. In the future we will develop a food processing plant that will enable those in the agriculture and fisheries sector to add value to their produce.

SMALL BUSINESS

The BPM is committed to the establishment of a successful business sector on Barbuda. We will again provide the avenues where financial resources can be accessed so that they can increase capacity and productivity. We want to create an economic environment where the movement of goods and service will directly make a positive impact on the life of every Barbudan.

We will approach and collaborate with developmental research agencies in

FISHERIES

The BPM will seek further investment in this sector of the economy. Action will be taken to access funding for the greater mechanization of boats operating in the Lobster and Fishing Industry. Also we will continue to pressure Central government to improve the facilities at the Lagoon and Pearl Harbor wharfs to ensure that docking, cold storage and distribution facilities are improved. The funds that the Japanese have allocated to Antigua and Barbuda will be used for these purposes, if this avenue fails the Party will seek other sources to fully develop the Fishing industry.

SPORTS CULTURE & YOUTH AFFAIRS

The Sports Complex in the village will be completed based on terms and conditions that are favourable to the people. We will use our own labour force to make this dream a reality for the youth.

The BPM will continue to promote Sporting Scholarships overseas for young people who demonstrate talent in the areas of Basketball, Track and Field Athletics and Cricket. Improvements will be made to existing facilities; which include the fencing of the Football and Athletics field. Relationships will be developed with the Leeward Island Cricket Association, the

Olympic Association and the Athletic Association.

The New Tennis Court will be built with assistance from guests at the Coco Point Lodge Hotel and will form a part of a programme to promote the development of tennis on the island. The plan is to bring a tennis professional on an annual basis to train our youngsters.

YOUTH AFFAIRS

A Youth Affairs Committee will be established. Young people will be made members of this committee. The aim of this committee is to provide a forum where young people will be able to channel their ideas of how the island should be developed directly to the Council. It will also encourage, leadership, management and tackle issues of Alcohol and Drug abuse in the community.

It will also be an important forum through which the youths will be able to get access to the comprehensive Education and Training programme proposed by the Party.

CARABANA

Will be upgraded and improved for the coming Festival Season. One hundred years of Land Rights and the first Barbudan government in 1904 will be the focus of the celebrations.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The BPM will work with the various Community Organizations such as the Basketball Association, Cricket, Turf and Athletics Clubs to make sure they have a say in how monies are spent in developing these areas of community activity.

SAND & THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The BPM is committed to maintaining employment in this area of economic activity. However, the party will take the necessary steps to ensure that Environmental Impact Studies are done before areas that have sand are opened for excavation.

Also, we are committed to oversight by the community and an Investment programme that will provide meaningful long benefit for all islanders from the sand industry

In addition to the above the Party will seek over the next five years to introduce industries based around other Natural Resources. This will include the introduction of stone crushing machinery, a hot mix plant for Roads and Block making equipment. We will also introduce training in these areas that will enable Barbudans and the whole community to develop the skills required to operate in these areas.

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

We will build and manage a technical/vocational training institute in Barbuda. This is essential if our people are to have equal access and opportunities with our brothers and sisters in Antigua. Barbudan students are at a severe disadvantage when attempting to access such training opportunities in Antigua. We will also demand that graduates from the Holy Trinity School be allotted the necessary space and opportunities at the Antigua State College.

The BPM is committed to Education and Training. Apart from the building of a Technical and Vocational facility, the Party will continue to promote the Educational development of all Barbudans. Our programme and policies in the past have produced graduates at the highest level. Education and Training will be extended to include all Council workers so that qualifications are achieved that will benefit the holder whether he/she seeks employment in the region and abroad.

The Party will concentrate on/ in the areas of New Technology, Agriculture, Fisheries, Mechanical Engineering, Water Engineering, Marine Biology, Biology, Sports Development, Health Professions, Pre-school and Childcare, Road Engineering, Construction, Electrical Engineering, Tourism, Tourism Promotion & Development. Special emphasis

selecting and encouraging young people to choose a career path while their are in Secondary school.

CONSTITUTION

The Party will continue to press for the constitutional upgrading of Barbuda's status. Barbudans must be allowed to control completely all their internal affairs. Including the collection of all taxes and have the power to raise Revenue with Banks without the interference of Central government.

BANKING

The BPM is seriously concerned at the low level of public and private investment in the island. To counter this we will fight for greater private and public investment. The establishment of a Barbuda Development Bank is an urgent priority to bring progress to people and the island.

PORT OF ENTRY

The Party will continue to build on the foundations already established at River. This is an Area of public investment that should have been undertaken by the Central government in line with the Commonwealth Report recommendations. No country can properly develop without a Port of entry.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

This was an area identified under Public Utilities that could be a growth area for the Barbuda



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economy. The BPM will take the necessary steps to ensure that the people benefit from the growth of this industry in the state. This was one of the issues left unresolved in the aborted Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) as per the Commonwealth Report of 2000. The island is entitled to its portion of the License fees and taxes collected by Central government.

RADIO STATION

The Party will press for the establishment of a Secular Radio Station on the island. Antigua currently has nine Secular and Religious Stations within its borders. We need a Secular Station controlled by Barbudans.

HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE

Great progress has been made in this area over the past several years under BPM stewardship. The two most important aspects have been the establishment of a Resident Doctor, Building of a Dentistry and the sending of two persons to Train in general Medicine and Pediatric Medicine. A Registered Pharmacist will be an urgent priority for Hannah Thomas Hospital. The Party will continue to Train more persons in general Medical care and seek to extend the facilities that are available on the island.

A Day Centre for the elderly will be re-established. New services for disabled members of the community will be developed by the Health Committee of Council.

TRANSPORTATION

The Party is pledged to urgently bring into operation a new system of Transportation between the island of Barbuda and Antigua. This we hope will bring the cost of transportation between the two islands to a reasonable level.

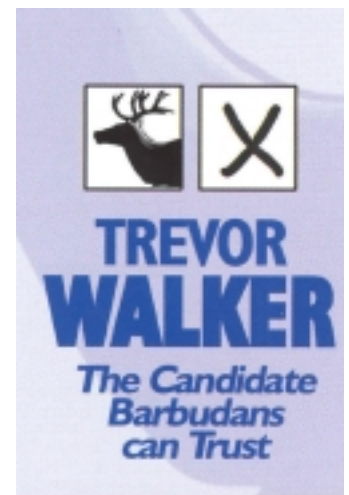
ENVIRONMENT

The BPM is committed to upholding the integrity of the environment in Barbuda. The Party will ensure that independent impact assessments studies are completed before any major projects are undertaken that could adversely affect the islands flora, fauna and eco-systems. We will abide by the world and UN conventions in this area.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Party will establish such a committee to further formally strengthen community participation and oversight in its activities in Council or any other forum. This committee will utilize the expertise of individuals and groups whom may be able to advise Council on a particular project, subject area or

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