



BCP PLATFORM

MANDATE 2012

HOPE FOR BAHAMALAND

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Introduction

“The Constitution is not an instrument for government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government, lest it comes to dominate all our lives and interests.”

Gouvernor Morris, an American Constitutionalist.

The Bahamas Constitution Party is a conservative political party committed to the principles of good governance and democracy, as outlined in the Preamble, and the remaining 37 articles of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

As outlined in the Preamble, we believe that Christian principles and Spiritual Values must be an inherent component of the attitude of leadership, and how we relate to governance and the people we are called to serve.

As the Bahamas Constitution Party prepares to take the realm of the leadership of this Bahamian State after the next general election, we have sought to construct and place together the ideas that will catapult the country back to a place of Peace, Order and Prosperity.

We believe that, in order for Peace, Order and Prosperity to be ultimately realized in the nation, the Rule of Law must be given the respect and honor that was originally foreshadowed by the founders of the nation; as is indicated by the phrase 'an abiding respect for the Rule of Law' outlined in the second refrain of the Preamble of the Constitution.

We trust that this platform document – MANDATE 2012 – Hope For Bahamaland will give you enough information, for you to consider that the leadership of the Bahamas Constitution Party is ready to govern on Day One, and will maintain its focus throughout its entire term in office.

This information is only a summary of what we propose and promise to do, as more detailed information included in the remainder of our working documents, will be brought forward, once we have further access to the Bahamian people.

Based on our commitment to the Preamble and the Constitution, the BCP has Legal Authority towards governance. Due to revelation knowledge spoken to us, as of May 1st, the BCP has been given Delegated Authority for governance of the Bahamas going forward. And after the 2012 General Elections, we shall have Mandated Authority given to us by you the people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The Bahamas Constitution Party comes with a divine mandate and concrete plans to bring ‘Hope to the Bahamaland.’ So join us as we ‘commit ourselves to the preservation of the next generation of Bahamians.’

Message from the Chief Servant Leader

“I Have Come To See About My Children”

Since 1995, I have labored for the children and youth of the nation, to create and provide programs that will enrich and empower their lives, and enhance their socialization into adulthood. These efforts have been for the most part shunned by the government of the day, not because they were not good wholesome initiatives, but because I, as the initiator of those ideas, did not match their image of the ‘status quo’.

Having researched, planned and developed what I believe to be divinely inspired programs which would bring Hope and encouragement to the next generation of Bahamians, I have come forward to make my contribution to bring about what will take our nation to the next level of development.

Having brought forward ‘youth initiatives under successive governments of both the PLP and FNM administrations, and having been met with vigorous opposition, I have decided that it was time for me to ‘See about my children myself.’

Therefore, ‘Here I am, Here I stand!’

The team that has consented to work on the BCP Executive Council has decided that this fight for the children, is now their fight for the children. Therefore, our fight, our commitment, is to ‘secure the nation’ and to ‘preserve the next generation of Bahamians.

As we met in Convention in August 2011 the nation is in crisis. Violent Crime and Murder is at an all time high, and leadership in the nation has no real plans to curb this problem. We believe that the problems that exists are for the most part, due to ‘failed governance’. But there is a solution, there is Hope for Bahamaland! And that hope, that solution is wrapped up in the agenda of the Bahamas Constitution Party.

We promise to serve you, the Bahamian people with pride and honor, and with the sincerest belief that your greatest potential is yet to be realized.

Give us the opportunity to serve you, and with God's help and strength, we shall deliver the governance of this nation back into the hands of ‘the People’, and ultimately, back under the influence of the Almighty God (Elohim), the original architect and founder of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

S. Ali McIntosh

Mandate - THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION

Whereas, four hundred and eighty one years ago the rediscovery of these family of islands, rocks and cays heralded the rebirth of the new world,

And whereas, the people of this family of islands recognizes that the preservation of our freedom will be guaranteed by a national commitment to Self-discipline, Industry, Loyalty, Unity and an abiding respect for Christian values and the Rule of law;

NOW KNOW YE THEREFORE,

We the inheritors of and successors to this family of islands, recognizing the supremacy of God and believing in the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual,

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM IN SOLEMN PRAISE,

the establishment of a free and democratic sovereign nation founded on Spiritual Values and in which no Man, Woman or Child shall ever be Slave or Bondsman to anyone or their Labour exploited or their Lives frustrated by deprivation,

AND DO HEREBY PROVIDE

by these Articles for the indivisible Unity and Creation under God of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Mission Statement

We pledge that with the help of God, we will solicit and draw from the abundant resources, talents and expertise of the Bahamian people to assist with the governance of the Bahamas. We vow to put Bahamians first, and to make available every opportunity for the advancement of our citizenry. We will honour, revere and respect our elders, while committing ourselves to the preservation of the next generation of Bahamians; ensuring that they continue to be a free people, living as first class citizens in the land of their birth.

Philosophy

1. God is Supreme – The Creator Yahweh Elohim.
2. All men are created equal – but Bahamians should have first preference in the Bahamas.
3. The most vital resources of a nation are its people –thus we must make every effort to develop the greatest potential of the Bahamian people.
4. Democratic governance reflects the wishes of the majority of its people, but will also seek to provide for meaningful consensus gathering of the minority.
5. Integrity, more noble than expediency, is never negotiable.
6. Every man’s potential is tremendously abundant and deserves to be vigorously pursued and encouraged, through education, opportunities and affirmation.
7. The greatest leader is one who serves first – Servant Leadership is our philosophy.

Objectives

1. To revive and renew the spirit of the Bahamas Constitution in the hearts of the residents; and to educate people across the Bahamas about these solemn articles, and their role and responsibilities as citizens.
2. To highlight and revitalize the principles of a Christian nation, which is supported by the Preamble of the Constitution.
3. To make government accountable to the ‘Preamble’ of the Constitution, and the moral obligation to promote the principles stated therein; and its responsibility to preserve the freedom and fundamental rights of the inheritors and successors of these islands, the next generation of Bahamians.
4. To take the governance of the country and place it back in the hands of the people of the Bahamas
5. To produce an environment where young people feel there is opportunity and hope; ensuring that the plight and development of young people become the primary mandate of the BCP government.

The Philosophy of Putting Bahamians First

The Cross

The official symbol for the BCP on the ballot is the Cross. You ask the question, why the Cross as a symbol for a political party? According to Parliamentary Registration Department, the Cross is #28 on the Official Gazette of established Symbols for political parties, so we had a right to choose it, if we wished.

As we are all aware, the Cross is one of the most powerful symbols on the earth. In religious circles, the doctrine of the cross is primarily based on the theology of Salvation; but the BCP chose the Cross, because it best represents the agenda of Righteous and Conservative governance, predicated on our mandate, the Preamble of the Bahamian Constitution.

For the BCP, the Cross represents the first core value of the Preamble, Self-Discipline. The core value of self-discipline employs the ideals of self-denial and sacrifice, which is how the leadership of the BCP intends to provide governance to the Bahamian people. Our mandate of putting Bahamian first is predicated on denying our own selfish desires, to commit ourselves to ‘the preservation of the next generation of Bahamians’; by providing opportunities for Bahamians to strive and have first access to ‘justice, social equality and prosperity’ in the land of their birth.

Righteous Governance

The idea of Righteous Governance is predicated on the same ideals of the Cross. According to the nation’s founders, when the Preamble states that the ‘preservation of our freedom is guaranteed by a commitment to ‘an abiding respect for Christian Values’, it established the government’s commitment to govern in ‘*a proper and right way*’.

So when we speak about righteous governance, we simply mean,

Doing the right thing,

Doing it at the right time,

Doing it for the right reasons, and

Doing it for the right people.

Doing the Right thing is always Right, when it is for the people you have been mandated to serve. On that premise, the BCP has an unwavering belief in the principles of both ‘Servant Leadership’ and ‘transformational leadership’ as a primary mandate of righteous governance.

The Principles of Servant Leadership in Action

Therefore, as Servant Leadership is the primary outflow of righteous governance, its effects shall be seen in action under an elected BCP government. The primary element of servant leadership is also based on our mandate. The Preamble’s referral to ‘an abiding respect for the Rule of

Law' brings *'front and center' principled governance'*, which establishes the government's commitment to *'procedural regularity'* and the commitment to *'established precedence'* in the governance of the people.

When a government commits to servant leadership, it says to the people that they can expect that the government will be fair, and that all people will be treated alike, no matter what their 'station' in life. The government also commits to accountability, and gives assurance that its action will be 'principled' and open, and that there will be access to public information by the people.

Thus, *our philosophy for putting Bahamians first is not just a clique, it is a commitment by law and the Constitution.*

The BCP Administration

The Phoenix Project - The First hundred (100) Days in Office

Summary Statement

The naming of our first one hundred days in office as the Phoenix Project speaks directly to the need to ‘raise from the ashes’ of social and moral decay ‘a new Bahamas’ predicated on the ideals of the founding fathers of the nation.

It is the intent of a new BCP government to be ready to govern on Day One, with vigor, strength, focus and a determination, to assure the law abiding citizens of the Bahamas that Order can be expected, Peace is on the horizon, and Prosperity is before us.

The issue of Crime Management and the elimination of the fear of Crime will be the initial items to be tackled. We will confront the overwhelming attitude of disrespect for the Law’ of the land, and impose on all citizens whether ‘Lawless or law-abiding’, the need to ‘respect and fear’ the law or receive the full retribution of its judgment.

The implementation of new crime initiatives, and the execution of existing legislation with little or no exceptions, will entail the new thrust of the government of the Bahamas, towards lawlessness, chaos and rampant criminality. Curfew legislation and procedures will be employed; the release of convicts with minor misdemeanor to serve out sentences with bracelets and community service; and the enforcement of all existing legislations with ‘No Bail for Murder, Armed Robbery and other serious Gun Crimes’, are among other tough measures to be invoked.

The Phoenix Project initiative is expected to produce a new culture of ‘No tolerance’ for crime, and a new attitude of Order and Respect for Authority and the Rule of Law.

The New ‘Revamped’ and ‘Slimmer’ Cabinet

We propose to operate with twelve (12) ministries, in addition to the Offices of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. We shall begin with a fourteen (14) member Cabinet. We have totally eliminated three ministerial portfolios, and combined its departments with other ministries, in order to build focus to several priority areas. No Minister of State and Junior Ministers will be included initially, as we seek to begin the process of debt reduction.

Office of the Prime Minister

- Constitutional Reform Commission
- National Economic & Social Development Plan
- Crown Land Management

The Office of the Prime Minister ("OPM") shall have no specific ministerial portfolio, as the Prime Minister will seek to provide leadership and inspiration in shifting the nation in a paradigm towards transition and reconstruction. In this initial stage, because of the new shift in policy in many areas, the Office of the PM shall provide close evaluation and scrutiny of the existing governing systems and policies, to ensure adherence by all ministries of the new revised agenda going forward.

As practiced by the outgoing administration, we shall keep their policy of “STOP, REVIEW AND CANCEL’ in all cases where we believe that the livelihood of the Bahamian people are at stake, and the sovereignty of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas is in jeopardy.

National Constitutional Reform Commission

The OPM shall also appoint and provide guidance to a National Constitutional Reform Commission, to evaluate, recommend and begin the process towards implementation of constitutional amendments, for the change of the nation’s status to a Republic form of government. This process of Constitutional reform is a strong mandate of a BCP government and shall begin within the initial stages of the new government.

National Development Planning

A strategy for the construction of a National Development Plan has been devised and will be implemented when a BCP government appoints a National Development Plan Commission, early in its first term in office. Their work will be to follow the ‘outlined mandate of the government ’ to canvass all the Bahamas for ideas, and bring the plan to Parliament for ratification, and to the Bahamian people for Referendum. The plan will encompass economic, social, cultural and infrastructural concerns into the future.

Economic & Investment Planning

An Economic Planning & Investment Council shall be appointed to assist the government with new budgetary reduction and cost saving measures, human resources evaluation and changes, foreign and local investment strategies, in order to facilitate the governments new focus. These national planning personnel shall come from both government and non-government personnel. We shall support and adopt the National Economic Empowerment Plan put forward by ‘Bahamian Roots’ to facilitate the empowerment of ordinary Bahamians with Crown Land opportunities.

Office of Deputy Prime Minister

- Consular Division (Transferred from Min of Foreign Affairs)
- Broadcasting, Technology & Public Communication

The office of the Deputy Prime Minister assumes responsibility for matters relating to Foreign missions and relating to Foreign governments on behalf of the leadership of the state. For these purposes, he is considered our Secretary of State. This portfolio keeps these matters close to the leadership of the nation, giving little margin of errors for false or misleading communications of the nation's international agenda.

We propose to bring before Parliament every recommendation for the appointment of overseas offices such as Ambassadors, Consulate Generals, Permanent Representatives, and such high-ranking officers for ratification, before official appointment to such posts.

The office of the DPM shall also be responsible for Broadcasting and all modes of public communication in the nation. The evaluation of new technology and its implementation shall be approved through this office.

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Create an Independent Consumer Protection Agency

Our government in keeping with biblical standards of economics will Tithe its national budget revenue; Contribute another ten percent (10%) to national savings for a National Savings Fund, for contingency against Recession and Disaster. This will require that we reduce government spending, bringing the Operational budget to eighty percent (80 %) of projected annual income.

This ministry shall reorganize to give immediate and long-term focus on debt reduction, and the elimination of deficit spending. Our focus on conservative ideals for budget planning, are to find creative means to rebuild the economy of the Bahamas, while securing Bahamians stake in it.

Local Industries

Economic diversification and individual empowerment will be to focus on giving small Bahamian businesses a renewed opportunity to strive throughout the Bahamas, in the face of foreign competition and globalization, with fast-track licenses and business loans from BAIC and Bahamas Development Bank; and other loan or land programs.

Direct Foreign Investment

While we will continue to seek some source of Direct Foreign Investment, it will be limited to industries that Bahamians cannot initiate, allowing the country the opportunity of finding new ideas and industries to train Bahamian in those fields. Our focus will be rather, to organize and encourage Joint Venture Capital opportunities, in order to keep the Bahamian ownership and involvement strong in the establishment of all industries in the Bahamas. This new focus will be to return the Immoveable Property's Act in some form to protect Bahamian land.

Casino Gambling & Lottery

It is not the BCP government intention to expand Casino Gambling beyond its present state or implement a Lottery in the Bahamas. It is the intention of a BCP government to regularize the present 'Illegal Gambling in the country – called Web Café.' The purpose of the regulation is to bring all these business under strict compliance with the law of the land, and impose a 'Sin Tax', which will help defray the government's cost in dealing with the negativity already in the society created and associated with this activity.

Income, Sales & Value Added Taxes

The time has come for the Bahamas to consider the removal of Custom Duties on dutiable items for resale by merchants, and the imposition of Sales tax instead. While some of these items are already under consideration, we wish to support the full disclosure of information, so the Bahamas can go forward with these measures, if they will benefit and advantage the Bahamian society as a whole.

Banks Regulation

Legislation will be forth-coming for local banks to come under greater regulations for lower rates of interest, and more lenient but prudent lending policies.

Ministry of Education, Training & Life-Long Learning

- Department of Education (Public Schools)
- COB / University of Bahamas, other colleges

The Education of the nation will be the priority of the government. Bahamians are talented and creative, and because their varied educational pursuits, the curriculum will be varied and reconstructed to include the Bahamian children particular interests, giving them the greatest opportunity to succeed.

The rebuilding of sporting facilities on campuses such as gymnasiums, and the repairing of all school campuses must be completed to give the best environment for Bahamian students to strive and be encouraged to succeed, and know that their educational future is important to the government. Custom Duties will be reduced on school uniform materials, school pants, shirts, blouses, and all other school supplies and material relating to school and students, in order to give poor parents the opportunity to educate their children with dignity.

Healthy Breakfast and Lunch programs will be organized and implemented at all public schools with the construction of a Cafeteria; and school bus program will be expanded to include all schools and school age children. There may be some minimal cost to the program for parents.

Tertiary Education

The BCP government will seek to suspend the Government Educational Loan Program, and make it a Government Scholarship Program. Student and Parents will still have to apply and

make its case for the scholarship on a ‘Need Basis’, with the only criteria for repayment, is to ‘return to the Bahamas to help build the country at the completion of their education’.

We will also seek to suspend all fees for Bahamian students at the College of the Bahamas for five to ten years, to facilitate the re-education of Bahamian society. All procedures for entry will still apply, although male students will be given equal access and opportunity for enrollment, to increase their chance of success.

Ministry of Youth & Children Affairs

- Project Renewal (Church Adopt a School Program (CAAS) / After School Initiatives)
- Primary / Senior School Students of the Year Foundations (Support)
- Character Building Program / Value Training Programs (In Conjunction with MOE)

Youth development will be the primary mandate of this administration. The re-naming of the ministry will give emphasis on the development of Youth and Children throughout their life time.

While the Ministry of Education is responsible for their educational pursuits, Ministry of Youth will give further focus on the development of children through varied means such as extra-curricula activities, sports, music, etc. By removing all other departments, it allows youth and children organizations, to flourish in this prioritized environment.

Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Development

- Junkanoo Commission (Liaison)
- National Sports Authority (Liaison)

The purpose of reconfiguring this ministry is to produce a more indigenous culturally- oriented tourism product, and to allow a cultural expressions to permeate the visitors experience.

A BCP government wants the Bahamas to continue to be a destination of choice for family gathering, business, religious and social conventions, and sporting events, highlighting the country as a place of positive and productive fellowship. We will continue to invest and focus our advertising on these kinds of marketing campaigns. We will continue to target these groups to come, and discourage negative and immoral activities on our shores by foreigners, including a strong compliance with a strict Dress code in public places like downtown and city streets where Bahamians do business.

Attorney General Office

- The Judiciary
- Create an Independent Ombudsman Office

The administration of Justice will be better executed with the appointment of a Judicial and Legal Service Commission, and subsequently Justices who have been vetted and ratified by a

Parliament of the people. All appointments should meet the people's scrutiny before official instruments are awarded.

This will allow the Justices to operate without 'fear or favour' in an independent fashion, in the execution of their duties. This is the determination of a BCP government, and we will strive to reorganize the Judiciary and empower them towards effective case management of the overwhelming backlog in the system.

A BCP government will appoint qualified Justices of the Peace to operate small claims and misdemeanor matters, and further seek to employ lay mediators and advocates to be available to the court to assist Judges and Magistrate complete cases on a timely manner.

Capital Punishment and the Death Penalty

To maintain the dignity of life, and exercise humane treatment of criminals found guilty of murder, and who have been given the death sentence, the BCP government shall recommend that a death warrant be read immediately or within 30 days of the sentence. If they have a case for an appeal the convict will be given 18-24 months (two year grace) to make any appeal, before the Death Penalty is meted out. We will also seek to implement death by Lethal Injection, as an alternative to Hanging.

Disbandment of Privy Council

A BCP government will close the door on all Privy Council Ruling, and other Human Rights organizations' intervention, by introducing Legislation before Parliament that will ' suspend the granting of all Leave by any Courts in the Bahamas to take any matter to the Privy Council, and the interference or overturn of any judgment made by the Court of Appeal, and /or the Prerogative of Mercy in the Bahamas.'

Ministry of Labour and the Public Service

The Public Service

A BCP government will provide greater focus to the development of all human resource personnel and labourer in the country, by allowing the unionization of all public service workers into specific categories of workers. The Bahamas Public Service Union can act as an umbrella organization for other Public service workers unions, but allow for all specific service unions to negotiate for their own terms and benefits with the government.

The Public Service and Public officers shall be governed by a moral code and stricter ethical code of conduct, which shall discourage the engagement of impropriety on the job, that will ultimately affect their performance of productivity.

After a review of General Order, and amendments to it, General Orders shall be strictly enforced, and all breaches reprimanded. A reform of the Civil Service shall be carried out after examining the adequacy and efficacy of the work force; and transfers, reposting and reassignments will be affected, where necessary to maximize manpower hours. Flexi-time hours shall also be

employed to accommodate the opening of government offices from 7:30 to 6:30 pm, to eliminate excessive overtime payment, and provide greater efficiency to the public.

Ministry of Defense and National Security

- Royal Bahamas Police Force
- Royal Bahamas Defense Force
- Immigration Department
- Bahamas Customs
- Passport Offices
- National Youth Service (NYS)
- The National Guard (Establish New Reserve Forces)
- Joint Chiefs (RBPF, RBDF, Immigration, Prison, Customs, National Guard, NYS, Passport)

The engagement of all issues and departments relating to the defense and national security of the nation shall finally come under one ministerial portfolio, in order to facilitate the integration of all law enforcement issues including border protection and controls, both physical and logistical.

The disciplinary tribunal responsible for each disciplinary force shall be empowered to recommend immediate dismissal and/or disciplinary action and trial for persons performing acts of Treason against the national security of the state. These acts include but not limited to ‘advising illegal and criminal elements in advance of raids and apprehensions of illegal activities.

A BCP government will introduce Legislation for the introduction of a National Guard (a Reserve Army); and a National Youth Service (Civil and Military branches) to accommodate the disciplinary training of our society and youth in masses.

Police Forces

The BCP supports the work of the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the sitting Commissioner of Police in his articulated vision for the RBPF, and will seek to empower and support his leadership and the RBPF, and in the execution of their duties, within the parameters of a BCP vision for the Bahamas.

Prison

The rehabilitation of convicts will be the continued focus of the Bahamas government under a BCP administration. In keeping with a ‘No Tolerance’ attitude to crime, we propose to implement with legislation a Five-strike policy as relate to convictions and repeat offenders. We want to reduce the Recidivism rate further with this policy. In this regard, we shall build one final prison in the history of the Bahamas, on a remote island property to house those who have been condemned to prison for life. We will support ‘Project Re-Entry’ implemented by the L.E.A.D. Institute, and other support programs for released prisoners.

Citizenship

A BCP government shall seek an amendment to the Constitution to provide for the passing of citizenship to the children of Bahamian women, no matter where they live, whether they are married or single. Children born outside of the country to married Bahamian women and foreign spouses should be entitled to apply for citizenship at the earliest opportunity after birth, once the mother is applying on behalf of the child for domicile in the Bahamas. No law shall be made to grant citizenship to foreigners for the exchange of money or value for money. Foreigners and full time second home owners can obtain Residency and Permanent Residency status based on their financial obligations in the Bahamas.

Illegal Immigration

The problem of Illegal immigration, particularly those from Haiti cannot be resolved by repatriation alone. Many avenues must be employed, of both compassion and the strict enforcement of the law, in order to strengthen our policy of effectively protecting the borders of the Bahamas. It may be necessary to form Humanitarian Missions to those poor sections of Haiti where illegal immigrant come from, to ascertain what will give them motivation to remain in their country.

As relates to the regulation of illegal immigrants,

- Create an effective Immigration Policy based on Constitution and fairplay.
- Provide a registration to regulate those who were born in the Bahamas over the age of eighteen (18) years, to apply for regularization immediately, with a grace period of no more than twelve (12) months.
- Close the door, by enforcing the law for persons to apply at age 18 years and no later than age 19 years.
- Request to leave or deport all illegal immigrants, including their children born in the Bahamas, no matter how long they were domicile in the Bahamas (if they have sought no regularization over the term).
- Continue the forceful repatriation of non-residents who enter the Bahamas illegally.
- Only request for political and religious asylum will be considered on Human Rights grounds.

Ministry of National Development and Social Welfare

- Social Services Department
- Gender Affairs (formally Bureau of Women's Affairs)
- NGOs, Church & Religious Affairs Department
- Urban Renewal Department

The development of the nation through varied means and via different non-government organizations will foster unity and participation on all fronts, to assist the government's agenda on national development. The transition and broadening of the Bureau of Women's Affairs to accommodate specific Gender equality issues for both women's needs and men's concerns, will help specific groups to foster the strengthening of family life in the community, for the overall

development of society. Resource Desks to support community Non-Government Organizations, and Church and Religious services to the community will be available in this ministry.

Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources & the Environment

It is necessary to feed ourselves and become less dependent on Tourism revenue into the next millennium. In order to facilitate that objective, a greater priority must be lend to care for small business industries, local manufacturing, farming and fishing. A BCP government will strengthen these industries with investment of crown land and immediate access to capital investments and continued credit and funding by private sources.

Solar Technology

With more than 355 days of 10 hours of sunlight, the government will seek to monopolize on this natural and free energy source. All investigations shall be ceased and the forward movement towards the testing and implementation of solar technology will commence for implementation for medium to long term. Investments will be made to build and outfit all new power plant to solar powered technology.

No Drilling for Oil in Bahamian Waters

A BCP government will not seek to grant approvals for the exploration of oil in Bahamian waters by the Bahamas Petroleum Company, or anyone other company. We believe that the risks are too great for the disruption of our pristine waters and sea-life for exploitation of our resources by foreigners.

Ministry of Transport and Aviation

A BCP government will continue the discussions with Bahamian public bus owners to the full implementation of an organized public bus system in the Bahamas. The ownership of public transportation in the Bahamas must remain primarily in the hands of Bahamians, thus the provision of legislation to strengthen Bahamian stakes in public transportation, on land, sea and the airways.

While a BCP government does not initially seek to sell the National Flag carrier, Bahamasair, it leaves open the option that if it becomes our policy to divest the people's assets, it will make the majority of shares available to Bahamians, and will seek to employ a Bahamian management company, to manage the government stake in the company.

Ministry of Health & Wellness

It is said, that, *'The Health of a nation is the wealth of the nation'*. Therefore, a BCP government wishes to invest the people's resources in keeping the nation healthy. As the budget allows, a BCP government will continue the investment in the expansion of Princess Margaret Hospital, and seek to strengthen health care facilities on all major islands, with dialysis machines, to eliminate the relocation of sick persons from their homes for critical care. Tele-

medicine will be expanded as the policy of the Public Health Authority ("PHA"), to provide less trauma and travel for critically ill patients.

In addition to conventional medicine, the creation of a Commission and agency for Homeopathic and alternative remedies (Bush Medicine) can be explored for those wishing to explore them, in a safe and legalized environment. The public health care must remain in the hands of the government, in order to ensure that the poor and indigent have access to affordable or free health care. Therefore, emergency assistance and other health services must always be provided by a caring government. There is no foreseeable plans by a BCP government to privatize health care in the Bahamas, but rather to provide affordable National Health insurance for the masses via the National Insurance Board.

Ministry of Public Works and Capital Development

- Public Utilities & Public Corporations
- Housing Corporation

The policy of a BCP government will not be to divest the people's assets in public corporation without the expressed consent of the people. If the public corporations is to be divested, the Bahamian people should have first access to invest, before foreign companies are allowed to purchase significant shares in the corporations. We may seek to open up or liberalize the market to accommodate other companies to the provision of services, thus giving opportunity for the outsourcing of certain services of the corporation to other Bahamian companies.

Basic Minimum Standard of Living Regulations Act

We will seek in the early days of our administration to introduce a Basic Standard of Living Act to require and ensure that all property meets a standard of decency with at least running water and electricity on the premises. The Act will require and demand the eradication of outdoor toilet in the city of Nassau, and will make landlords and homeowners accountable for improvements to their property. We will establish a \$3 million dollar loan program toward the installation of a bathroom; and reduce the deposit required for running water in inner city communities, in order to phase out the street pumps.