# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PARTY LEADER 6-9  
VIRGIN ISLANDS PARTY LEGACY 10-11  
OUR PLEDGE 12-13  
A RENEWED VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS VIRGIN ISLANDS 14-15  
15-POINT GLANCE 16-19  
DECENTRALIZATION, DIGITALIZATION & DIVERSIFICATION DIAGRAM 20-21  
SHORT TERM PRIORITIES – Critical Actions 22-23  
REBUILD UNDER STRONG LEADERSHIP 24-25  
A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE 26-27  

1. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY 28-49  
   Prudent Fiscal Management  
      A Platform for Strong Economic Development and Growth  
      Recovery & Development  
   TOURISM - Enhancing, Blazing New Opportunities & Linking Other Sectors  
      Effective Tourism Management & Policies  
      Rebuild & Revitalize for Sustainable Growth  
      Investment in Tourism  
      Training & Blazing New Opportunities  
      Special Tourism Initiatives  
   COMPETITIVE & SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SERVICES  
      Commitment to the Financial Services Sector  
      Growth & Sustainability  
   FOOD SECURITY, FISHING AND AGRI-TOURISM  
      Our Commitment  
      Programmes & Projects  
   SMALL BUSINESS, JOB CREATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
   A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO LAND AND HOME OWNERSHIP  
      Our Philosophy  
      Programmes & Projects  
   DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS – Capital (Road Town) Improvement and Economic Vitalization  
   CONTINUOUS ECONOMIC RESEARCH, PLANNING AND MARKET REFORM  

2. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT 50-53  
   Human Capital Development Policy  
      Education Legislation  
      Teacher Education  
      Schools & Facilities  
      Tertiary Education  
      Secondary Education  
      Primary/Pre-primary Education  
      Early Childhood Education  
      Technical & Vocational  
      Life-Long Learning  
      After School Programmes  
      Public Libraries  

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES 54-55  

3. HEALTH & WELL-BEING 56-59  
   Our Philosophy  
   Accessible & Affordable Healthcare  
   Programmes & Projects  
   SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
   Our Seniors, Disabled & Special Needs
4. NATIONAL YOUTH SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT  
Our Philosophy  
Youth Land Bank  
Technical Training and Apprenticeship Programme  
Youth Membership on Statutory Boards  
Youth Payroll Tax Waiver  
Annual National Career Convention  
Attractive Career in Policing  
National Aid for Tertiary Education  
Youth First Home Financing Term  
Youth Pension Jumpstart Programme  
Youth Centres

5. SPORTS

6. HERITAGE, CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL VALUES

7. RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE  
Road Network  
Sea Transportation  
Air Travel  
Water & Sewerage  
Information Communication Technology (ICT) – A Digital Future  
Waste Disposal & Community Beautification  
Electricity

8. GOVERNANCE  
Our Commitment for Good Governance, Transparency & Accountability  
Participation of Stakeholders  
Wider Consensus  
Accountability to the People  
Transparency  
Responsiveness  
Effectiveness & Efficiency  
Equity and Inclusivity  
Rule of Law  
Constitutional Development  
Enhancing the Operations of the House of Assembly  
Security and Safety for a Peaceful Society  
Strengthening the Public Service  
Sister Islands

9. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICIES  
International Affairs  
Strengthening our Presence Overseas  
Maintaining a Sensible Policy for Immigration  
A New Comprehensive Immigration Policy  
A New Comprehensive Legal Framework for Immigration  
Labour Policy for Sustainable Development  
Strengthen the Labour Code  
Ensuring Smooth Industrial Relations

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY  
Environmental Management  
Energy  
Risk Management

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Message from the Party Leader
Hon. Andrew A. Fahie
VIP Chairman

Without a doubt, this is the most important election in the history of the Virgin Islands. Its outcome will shape the future of our Territory and the lives of generations yet unborn. History has entrusted us with this moment to make the choice as to whether we ascent to the full potential God has ordained for this nation or we give in to the forces that seek to keep us in mediocrity. I stand firmly on the position that our tomorrows will be better than our yesterdays, that we are better than what we have been and that God’s will for us will ignite in our hearts and we will rise. However, we must choose as to, as we are endowed with free will.

There is much going on and has gone on to make us realise we are living in a pivotal time in the history of this little nation and indeed the wider world. In the international arena the Virgin Islands economy is threatened by the European Union blacklisting of our financial services and the United Kingdom Parliament proposed passing of an Order in Council requiring a public register of beneficial ownership which could undermine our financial services sector. The outcome of Brexit could significantly impact the relationship of the Virgin Islands with both the United Kingdom and the European Union.

On the domestic front, the Virgin Islands is still recovering from the most devastating hurricanes in recorded Atlantic history and massive floods, both of which set our development back 20 years. Today, many of our people are still struggling to get back into their homes or get the homes they are in back to normal. Our children remain under tents on half day schooling, our roads remain in a state of disrepair, our civil servants work in premises still in need of repair, our ports remain closed and the list goes on. Our tourism sector is limping back to recovery, especially the accommodation sector. Many still remain out of work as major hotels are still rebuilding.

Many look to Government but there are challenges there as well. Our level of Governance is called into question with issues of lack of transparency, misspending, misappropriation, no accountability, poor due diligence and a host of issues and incidents. Our administrative systems are broken and have become unresponsive to the demands of an economy engaging in global trade, our social systems are struggling to meet the needs of a diverse population and our economy is fighting to support the standard of living and quality of life we know.

We have reached the proverbial fork in the road and must choose the right direction that will lead us to the vision of the Virgin Islands we wish to create: A united Virgin Islands where we celebrate and embrace our diversity; a compassionate Virgin Islands where we care for the most vulnerable among us; a proud Virgin Islands where we embrace our rich cultural heritage and share it with our guests; a prosperous Virgin Islands where opportunity abounds for all; a strong Virgin Islands that is a model of climate change resilience; a smart Virgin Islands where we embrace innovation in education; a healthy Virgin Islands where we enjoy a high standard of living; a clean Virgin Islands where we cherish our environment and a peaceful Virgin Islands where we live by the rule of law.

The Virgin Islands Party believes that the direction should be forward and has assembled a full slate of candidates we believe have the experience, character, skills and love of country to help us fulfill the vision: We are a TEAM (Together Each Achieve More) that believes that teamwork achieves more than individual ability. We believe that people should come before projects. We believe that empowering people is key to unleashing the creative ability of our people. We believe that a Government should work only in the best interest of the people.

The Virgin Islands Party believes that with courageous leadership we can overcome our challenges and move this Territory forward and restore hope and prosperity for all!

Hon. Andrew A. Fahie
Chairman of the Virgin Islands Party
Mensajes del líder del partido

Hon. Andrew A. Fahie
Presidente del Consejo del Partido de las Islas Virgenes

Sin lugar a dudas, estas son las elecciones más importante en la historia de las Islas Virgenes. Sus resultado darán forma al futuro de nuestro Territorio y las vidas de las generaciones aún por nacer. La historia nos ha confiado este momento para decidir si ascenderemos al potencial que Dios ha ordenado para esta nación o si nos rendiremos ante las fuerzas que buscan mantenernos en la mediocridad. Me mantengo firme en la posición de que nuestras mañanas serán mejores que las de ayer, que somos mejores que lo que hemos sido y que la voluntad de Dios para nosotros se encenderá en nuestros corazones y nos levantaremos. Sin embargo, debemos elegir hacerlo, ya que estamos dotados de libre albedrío.

Pasas muchas cosas, y nos hemos dado cuenta de que vivimos en un momento crucial en la historia de esta pequeña nación y, de hecho, del mundo en general. En el ámbito internacional, la economía de las Islas Virgenes se ve amenazada por la inclusión en la lista negra de la Unión Europea de nuestros servicios financieros y la aprobación por parte del Parlamento del Reino Unido con una Orden en el Consejo que exige un registro público de beneficiarios reales que podría socavar nuestros servicios financieros. El resultado de Brexit podría impactar significativamente la relación de las Islas Virgenes con el Reino Unido y la Unión Europea.

En el frente interno, las Islas Virgenes aún se están recuperando de los huracanes más devastadores en la historia registrada del Atlántico y de las inundaciones masivas, lo que retrasó nuestro desarrollo 20 años atrás. Hoy en día, muchas personas todavía están luchando por regresar a sus hogares o recuperar las casas en las que están de vuelta a la normalidad. Nuestros niños permanecen en tiendas de campaña durante su media tanda escolar, nuestras carreteras permanecen en mal estado, nuestros funcionarios trabajan en instalaciones que aún necesitan reparación, nuestros puertos permanecen cerrados y la lista continúa. Nuestro sector turístico está volviendo a la recuperación, especialmente el sector de alojamiento. Muchos aún permanecen sin trabajo debido a que los principales hoteles aún se están reconstruyendo.

Muchos miran al gobierno, pero también hay desafíos. Nuestro nivel de gobierno se cuestiona por cuestiones de falta de transparencia, gastos indebidos, apropiación indebida, falta de responsabilidad, escasa diligencia debida y una gran cantidad de problemas e incidentes. Nuestros sistemas administrativos están rotos y han dejado de responder a las demandas de una economía que se dedica a intercambios globales, nuestros sistemas sociales luchan por satisfacer las necesidades de una población diversa y nuestra economía lucha por apoyar el nivel de vida y la calidad de vida que conocemos.

Hemos llegado a la bifurcación proverbial en el camino y debemos elegir la dirección correcta que nos llevará a la visión de las Islas Virgenes que deseamos crear: Unas Islas Virgenes unidas donde celebramos y abrazamos nuestra diversidad; unas Islas Virgenes compasiva donde cuidamos a los más vulnerables entre nosotros; unas orgullosas Islas Virgenes donde abrazamos nuestro rico patrimonio cultural y lo compartimos con nuestros huéspedes; unas Islas Virgenes próceras donde abundan las oportunidades para todos; unas Islas Virgenes fuerte que sean modelo de resiliencia al cambio climático; unas Islas Virgenes inteligente donde abrazamos la innovación en la educación; unas Islas Virgenes saludable donde disfrutamos de un alto nivel de vida; unas Islas Virgenes limpias donde cuidamos nuestro medio ambiente y unas Islas Virgenes pacíficas donde vivimos según el estado de derecho.

El Partido de las Islas Virgenes cree que la dirección debe avanzar y ha reunido una lista completa de candidatos que creemos que tienen la experiencia, el carácter, las habilidades y el amor del país para ayudarnos a cumplir la visión. Somos un EQUIPO (Juntos, cada uno logra más) que cree que el trabajo en equipo logra más que la capacidad individual. Creemos que las personas deben venir antes que los proyectos. Creemos que empoderar a las personas es clave para desatar la capacidad creativa de nuestra gente. Creemos que un gobierno debe trabajar solo en el mejor interés de la gente.

¡El Partido de las Islas Virgenes cree que con un liderazgo valiente podemos superar nuestros desafíos y hacer avanzar este Territorio y restaurar la esperanza y la prosperidad para todos!

Hon. Andrew A. Fahie
Presidente del Consejo del Partido de las Islas Virgenes
Virgin Islands Party

A Legacy of Empowerment, Education and Development
Our
Pledge
VIP

The Virgin Islands Party pledges to place the people first, and acknowledge unconditionally that the people are our greatest asset.

We pledge full commitment to integrity, the rule of law, transparency, accountability, stability, democratic principles and prosperity for the Virgin Islands. A VIP Government will do everything in our power to safeguard the rights of all who call the Virgin Islands home and ensure that those rights are fully respected and protected. We are united in our stance and will face all challenges with fortitude and determination.

One BVI
One People
One Direction
FORWARD
A Renewed Vision for a Prosperous Virgin Islands
We believe in a government that puts its people first by empowering them and helping the vulnerable.

We believe in a government that encourages and supports, individual and private enterprise initiatives.

We are committed to being a model nation recognized for its good national conduct, harmonious environment, great governance and economic prosperity.

We are committed to a Virgin Islands that is inclusive and is an integral part of the Caribbean community forging stronger relationships and support for each other.

We are committed to a high quality and premier sustainable tourism destination that lives in harmony with the environment.

We are committed to human resource development to improve the quality of life of our people and to achieve sustainable economic growth in our country.

We believe in the rights and freedoms of all people and justice for all.

We believe in a government that encourages and facilitates its people through incentives rather than limit their potential through burdensome bureaucratic rules and heavy taxes.

We believe in freedom of expression, through religion, and association. We also believe in personal responsibility and the protection of the rights of all individuals and groups.

We believe in a fair and ordered society in which the rule of law and the value of the family and its relevant institutions are maintained.

We believe in equal access to opportunities for all Virgin Islanders and Belongers, and the development of a market oriented economic system so that all may enjoy a high standard of living, education, health and justice.

We believe government, through their initiatives, should not compete with the private sector. Businesses and individuals should be encouraged to create wealth, jobs and income.

We believe that government has a most critical leadership role to play in positioning the Virgin Islands on the various platforms of development locally, regionally and internationally.

We believe that given the nature of globalization, government has a responsibility to ensure that the Virgin Islands has a voice where its interests are affected and the tools with which to navigate the world’s landscape.

We believe government has a primary responsibility to preserve and protect the natural assets and environment of the Virgin Islands. It has a further responsibility to ensure that these assets are used sustainably to provide benefits for future Virgin Islanders and Belongers.

We believe that development should be of the people, for the people and include the people.

We believe that our country has much to gain from relevant regional and international relationships. We should only engage in such when they are mutually beneficial.

We believe in the firm establishment of a democratic government that consults its people on the full range of issues and takes their participation into consideration on all decisions.

We believe in a beautiful, clean and healthy environment and high-quality physical infrastructure built in harmony with the environment.

We are committed to comply with global standards in financial services and other economic sectors in which we participate.

We believe that the Virgin Islands Party is the best party for the present and future governance of the Virgin Islands.
1. We will rebuild our schools, education system and a new state of the art central public library with great urgency. Our education system will be revitalized with:
   - Improved teaching capabilities and support base.
   - The establishment of a national education inspection body.
   - The establishment of a national parenting support policy in all schools.
   - The establishment of after school programmes in all nine districts.

2. We will accelerate completion of the recovery process and upgrade, transform and revitalize our economy. This is imperative so that we can improve the quality of life for our people, sustain economic growth, create new jobs and other opportunities and increase the wealth of the Virgin Islands. A focus on housing and getting our people back to work will be major priorities in the recovery process for a Virgin Islands Party Administration.

3. We will fix and upgrade our infrastructure to international standards in line with our main industries: Financial Services and Tourism, and future economic substance-based industries. Throughout the territory, we will repair and expand the national road network, water distribution, sewerage-collection-treatment-disposal and the maintenance and cleaning of our blocked drainage system to prevent flooding. We will improve road signs, have adequate street lights and beautification to be proud of. We will regularly groom the roadways and ensure that our streets are garbage free.

4. We will give the tourism sector the attention and level of priority it deserves by establishing a Ministry of Tourism, Transport and Environment. On an immediate priority basis, we will appoint a senior Tourism Coordinator reporting to the Minister of Tourism who will focus on speeding up the recovery of the accommodation sector, bringing new hotel investment and supporting the marine sector in its further recovery. We will also launch the National Tourism Strategy consultancy and start the process of establishing stronger linkages between tourism and our productive sectors such as fishing, agriculture and our cultural heritage products.

5. We will strengthen the institutions of governance, transparency and accountability by
   - Ensuring that a framework of good governance is established and maintained to safeguard the institutions of government.
   - Ensuring that the Auditor General completes the auditing of outstanding Financial Statements and that future audits are conducted in a timely
fashion.
• Bringing expenditure in line with revenue collection to curtail spending at unsustainable levels and in a reckless manner.
• Ensuring value for money by enforcing proper due diligence, financial controls, proper checks and balances and professional guidance on major projects.
• Ceasing reckless spending and ensuring better fiscal restraint with taxpayers’ hard-earned dollars.

6 WE WILL DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH, DIVERSIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF OUR ECONOMY WITH INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY as the platform, especially for new economic substance-based financial services activities and sectors such as renewable energy and in various niche areas for small businesses. We will streamline bureaucratic processes to advance economic development by facilitating local and foreign investment in a more efficient and business friendly manner using a one-stop shop approach. We will strengthen public service support for the economic sectors to help businesses succeed. This includes financial and technical support to small businesses to help them capitalize on the emerging opportunities arising out of the recovery and the new economic substance law.

7 WE WILL MANAGE CRIME FOR A PEACEFUL SOCIETY by swiftly restoring full control of our borders to curb gun crime, illegal entry and the importation of illegal drugs into our country. The Virgin Islands Party will work in collaboration with the Governor and the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force to support plans for community policing, hotspots, ubiquitous police presence and other strategic actions for the significant reduction of crime within defined time frames. We recognize that crime arises out of social ills, breakdown of family values, and lack of opportunity and feelings of hopelessness.

We therefore believe that a strong focus on youth, values and leading by example will get to the root of the problem.

8 WE WILL BE BETTER PREPARED FOR FUTURE DISASTERS The reality of climate change is real and more natural disasters will occur. A Virgin Islands Party Government will ensure that the great work of our Disaster Management Department is fully supported in making the Territory more prepared by
• Providing more resilient building codes and stronger and consistent enforcement.
• Building adequate weather resistant emergency shelters.
• Implementing Disaster Risk Insurance Management / Resilience Fund and establishing a disaster risk management committee to ensure we have an effective insurance risk strategy in place which will reduce
15 Point Glance

the potential impacts on life, property, business and the environment.
• Enhancing environmental tools for mitigation measures.
• Using climate change adaptation measures and systems to reduce impact.
• Implementing a microcredit scheme to assist small businesses recovery.
• Providing direct public assistance for the most vulnerable and those at risk.
• Improving emergency response on all islands, with particular attention to the sister islands.

9. WE WILL PROTECT OUR Cherished Environment AND CLEAN UP THE BVI BY:
• Strengthening enforcement of environment legislation and policies.
• Working with the RDA to quickly implement the various adaptation and mitigation measures to lessen impact of future hurricanes.
• Legislate the protection of key environment assets such as salt ponds, beaches, coastal areas, coral reefs, mangroves, etc.
• Implementing a waste to energy programme.
• Implementing a recycling and reuse programme in collaboration with community organisations.

10. WE WILL BRING FOOD SECURITY TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND LINK AGRICULTURE AND FISHING TO OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY. This will be achieved through a combination of support for farmers and fisher folks, training for sustainability, strong Government regulation and support from the tourism sector. We will provide incentives for the development of the food sector, research and technological advancement, the establishment of public-private partnerships and the facilitation of efficient handling of investors. A Virgin Islands Party Government will also ensure that the Virgin Islands once again can feed itself and build successful businesses from food production.

11. WE WILL PROTECT AND MARKET OUR CULTURAL heritage and natural resources throughout the Virgin Islands. Restoration of historical sites, development of cultural attractions, mapping of nature trails and support of small tourism businesses in crafts, entertainment, retail, dining and other areas will all be emphasized in our tourism industry. The building of a world class aquarium and event centre will be explored to showcase our diverse marine life, particularly to our cruise visitors.

12. WE WILL MAKE THE NHI SCHEME/PROGRAMME SUSTAINABLE, RAISE HEALTHCARE STANDARDS AND STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET by reviewing its cost to bring in line with its income. We will reduce cost by embarking on aggressive preventative care education and awareness programmes to reduce non-communicable diseases such as obesity, alcoholism, cancer, blood pressure, diabetes and others. Prevention will reduce the cost of care and increase the quality of healthcare. A Virgin Islands Party Government will also strengthen the social safety net to ensure our seniors, youths, special need persons and most vulnerable are provided with the services for their health and wellbeing. Strong partnerships with community and special interest
WE WILL ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR HUMAN CAPITAL AND SUPPORT MODERNISATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEMS by investing in education and training to reduce the importation of labour and opening meaningful opportunities for our people in our main economic pillars. Using the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College as the foundation, we will develop centres of excellence in marine, hospitality and financial services training and studies through the Marine Centre, Culinary Centre and the Financial Services Institute, respectively. The Labour Department will play a critical role in identifying deficiencies in the local market and these will define training needs.

WE WILL STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR OUR YOUTH THROUGH THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

- We will establish a youth land bank through the wholesale purchase of land which will be subdivided and sold to qualified youths at an affordable retail price with reduced stamp duty thus giving them a vested interest in the society and extending the Virgin Islands’ value of land ownership.

- We will develop Youth Centres throughout the Territory including in Virgin Gorda, West End, Road Town, East End, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada. We will also create a virtual youth centre: www.virginislandyouths.vg. Our plan is to strengthen our communities by encouraging and supporting our youth to the maximum for their own development, health, confidence, security and entertainment.

WE WILL WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAKE OUR CAPITAL ONE THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF AND THAT COMPLEMENTS OUR WORLD CLASS TOURISM AND FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFERINGS. The reduction of congestion with proper parking facilities, sidewalks, walkways and other amenities will be a priority to make the capital one of a top tier tourism destination and financial centre. A VIP Government will seek proposals from the public for the construction of high rise parking in Road Town. Conversion of Main Street to a historic pedestrian mall and addressing the long overdue sewage problem are some of the long-standing issues that will be resolved.
DECENTRALIZATION

DIGITALIZATION

DIVERSIFICATION

ECONOMIC PLANNING
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT + SUCCESS
HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
CULTURAL HERITAGE
ENVIRONMENT
GOOD GOVERNANCE
NATIONAL SECURITY AND BORDERS
AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

INCREASE ECONOMIC VOLUME + ACTIVITY
DIVERSIFY ECONOMIC BASE
INDUSTRIES - JOBS - ROOMS
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

EXPORT OF LABOUR + EXPERTISE
STABLE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
DECREASE WAGE-EXPENSE GAP
Short Term Priorities

CRITICAL ACTIONS

Our work begins with restoring good governance, transparency and accountability in our Government and assiduously working to improve the standard of living for all of our people.

We recognize that there will be an immediate need to create a budget for 2019 after understanding the current situation. With this process in mind, an elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Conduct a full assessment of government finances to determine the true position of the country.
- Meet with RDA to agree on plans and a timeline with particular focus on rapid rebuilding of our schools, a central library, public service offices, recreational facilities and other key infrastructure.
- Remove the impediments under the control of Government so that we can get our residents back into their homes and jobs.
- Begin the process of establishing a Ministry of Tourism, Transport and the Environment to strengthen our tourism support structure.
- Assign a senior Tourism Official to direct the sector’s recovery with emphasis on helping the accommodation sector to accelerate its recovery.
- Initiate a one-stop-shop for local and foreign investments to attract and help businesses set up in the Territory for tourism, financial services, outsourcing services and other areas such as businesses seeking to establish a physical presence for economic substance requirements.
- Meet with senior civil servants to develop a legislative agenda for the next four years from this manifesto.
- Establish a centralized Public Debt Management Unit within the Ministry of Finance to monitor all financial activities of the Government and provide regular updates.
- Start a commission of inquiry on the BVI Airways deal that costed taxpayers $7.2m for no air service in return.
- Conduct a health and safety check in all public schools to assess status.
- Conduct a health and safety check in all Government offices to assess status.
- Establish a gun crime reduction committee.
Enforce the Code of Conduct for all elected members of the House of Assembly to ensure they are held to the highest ethical standards in conducting the people's business.

Establish an immigration and labour reform committee to ensure that our systems are fair but always putting BVIslanders and Belongers first.

Enforce the regulations for Project Management, Consultants and Procurement.

Fast track Consumer Protection Legislation to protect our people from being taken advantage of by businesses.

Ensure that critical pieces of legislation are being attended to in a responsible and timely fashion such as the Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act and the Regulatory Code.

Fast track Whistleblower Legislation to protect persons who report on illegal activity within an organization or Government.
REBUILD UNDER STRONG LEADERSHIP

We must restore trust and hope and that requires strong leadership.

The Virgin Islands has a legacy of strong leadership that answered the call of the people and allowed the Territory to blossom into a thriving and prosperous democracy. Leaders like Theodolph Faulks who led the March of 1949 that resulted in the restoration of the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands, Noel Lloyd who led the Positive Action Movement that caused the return of Wickham’s Cay and Anegada lands to the people of the Virgin Islands and H. Lavity Stoutt, a Virgin Islands Party stalwart and the Territory’s first and longest serving Chief Minister, whose vision and inspirational leadership ushered in the modern BVI. There are countless others whose leadership in all aspects of Virgin Islands life contributed to the high standard of living for the people of this Territory. Leadership matters!

Today, we are living in a Virgin Islands that is recovering from two catastrophic category 5 hurricanes, the strongest in recorded history, and massive floods that stripped away decades of development and exposed every deficiency of our society. They left our lives, livelihoods, environment and economy in shambles, especially our tourism sector. But we are a resilient people and overcame adversity before. So, on September 7th, 2017, the day following the hurricanes, we set out to rebuild the Virgin Islands. On the way we were faced with the threat of blacklisting our financial services by the EU which was piled upon UK demands for public registries which could undermine our financial services and the uncertainty of Brexit which could affect our constitutional relationship with the UK. We have challenges!

Overcoming the challenges the Virgin Islands faces at this time will take strong leadership! The Virgin Islands Party, under the Chairmanship of Andrew A. Fahie, brings this kind of leadership. It is the same kind of leadership that re-established our legislative council, returned our lands to our people and built a prosperous society. VIP brings leadership that is people focused and based on a genuine love and care for their well-being and future. It is leadership with a clear vision for the Virgin Islands with a history of demonstrating courage and commitment in carrying out the people’s business during his time in the opposition. It is leadership that has operated with integrity and respect for the rule of law, and abiding by the principles of transparency, fairness and justice in carrying out the people’s business. It is the leadership carried on by the first Premier of the Virgin Islands and VIP stalwart, Hon Ralph T. O’Neal, OBE.

History often calls forth a leader for a specific time in the life of a nation. It is usually a time when the needs of the nation and the qualities of the leader are perfect compliments for each other. The Virgin Islands Party believes that history is calling forth its leader and his team to lead this nation through this difficult transition as it recovers from the most destructive hurricanes in history. The Virgin Islands Party offers inspirational, god-fearing and caring leadership that will unite people the people of this Territory to work together for the common good. VIP leadership will lead with humility and makes decisions in the greater interest of the people and their future. VIP leadership empowers people to make their lives better and provides them with the tools to create their own success.
A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

National Integrated Development Strategy and Plan

A vision without a plan is just a dream and dreams will fade if those plans are not implemented. A renewed vision for recovery and development is essential for the economic future of this territory. The Virgin Islands Party commits to the development of and implementation of a National Integrated Development Plan to provide a roadmap for the quality future we desire for this nation. The plan will incorporate some of the work developed under a Virgin Islands Party administration back in 2000 in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS). The National Integrated Development Strategy (NIDS) produced then is still relevant today and will be used to assist in the formulation of a new and improved National Integrated Development Plan (NIDP) to map the way forward in the development and growth of this territory for the next 20 years.

The NIDP will integrate and coordinate the economic, environmental, physical, and social elements of sustainable development planning among all agencies and institutions of Government including wide participation of public and private stakeholders. The NIDP will integrate with and build on the Recovery to Development Plan which was approved by the House of Assembly in 2018.

An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will strategize to balance development across economic sectors, improve the quality of life for all Virgin Islanders and Belongers and establish a path to sustainable economic growth.
Prudent Fiscal Management

The Virgin Islands Party understands the critical need to have strong fiscal discipline and prudent management of the Territory’s finances. Prudent fiscal management is the foundation upon which a sound economy sits. It safeguards the institutions that deliver good governance, draws international and investor confidence and builds the trust of the people in the Government they elect to manage their affairs. Sound fiscal management is also important to stabilise the economy and achieve economic growth. It is important to the effective management of income and expenditure in a responsible way that keeps them in balance and support sound decision making to achieve national goals. Sound and prudent fiscal management fosters an environment of accountability, transparency, responsibility and trust. It is fundamental to the development of a thriving economy and a vibrant democracy working to deliver continuous improvement to the people through sustainable economic growth that results in prosperity for all.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will manage the financial affairs of the Virgin Islands in a fiscally sound and prudent manner. The VIP will:

1. Manage the finances of the Virgin Islands in compliance with the Constitution Order of the Virgin Islands 2007, the Protocols for Fiscal Management, The Finance and Management Act and all other legal, policy and procedural instruments in force in the Territory.

2. Complete all outstanding audits and comply with requirements for completion of all future audits.

3. Bring expenditures in line with revenues to ensure that the debt of the Territory remains in compliance with acceptable international standards and those agreed by Government.

4. Enforce, and where necessary, implement measures to control spending of public money in a manner that complies with appropriation orders of the House of Assembly.

5. Enforce, and where necessary, implement policies and processes that ensure that the Government is getting value for money in its expenditures.

6. Enforce, and where necessary, implement measures that ensure that proper due diligence is carried out when engaging in financial transactions that bind the Government of the Virgin Islands.

7. Enforce, and where necessary, implement financial controls that ensure that proper checks and balances measures work to safeguard prudent and sound fiscal management and the transaction of Government business.

8. Secure professional guidance before committing the Government to the contracting of specialized services in which the Government does not have sufficient internal expertise.

9. Ensure that the Ministry of Finance is staffed with the qualified professionals required to effectively carry out its functions and mandate to a high standard that protects and carries on the fiscal autonomy this Territory earned in 1978.

10. Enforce, and where necessary, implement laws, policies and processes that protect sound and prudent fiscal management of the Virgin Islands.
A Platform for Strong Economic Development & Growth

The Virgin Islands need strong and sustainable economic development and growth to create jobs, attract investments and improve the overall living standards. We are at a critical juncture where we must accelerate the recovery process, upgrade, transform and revitalize the economy. This will require high levels of investments and rebuilding of our infrastructure. A Virgin Islands Party Government will achieve a greater level of economic productivity with a concentration in diversification, digitalization and decentralization to achieve our goals. We will invest significantly in our human resources as it is our vision to achieve sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all with new and deepened skills. We will nourish our youths, fund our schools, care for the elderly and disabled and invest in our health care system. We will rebuild and improve our infrastructure, our education system, public offices, courts, libraries, heritage sites and parks. Construction has become a natural industry which also opens career opportunities for our people that will be supported by training under a Virgin Islands Party Government. If we are to attract businesses to our shores, our investment decisions must be viable to make us the preferred destination of choice to do long term business.

A business friendly environment coupled with political stability, low crime rate, good governance and sound macro-economic policies are critical elements to strengthen our competitive position in conducting successful business globally. A Virgin Islands Party Government will have sound financial management and economic plans to move the country forward, create jobs, ensure food security, reduce cost of living for all and increase opportunities for Virgin Islanders and Belongers.

Our plans will enable us to improve progressively to an e-Government which promotes policies that support innovation, creativity, businesses, entrepreneurship, human development and greater productivity in our industries.

We have a service-based economy primarily focused on financial services and tourism which we will diversify and improve for greater economic productivity. We must adapt to evolving local and international challenges, deepen our capabilities, and build a unique Virgin Islands like none other. We believe that the tourism industry is the foundation of our economy. Tourism offers a very viable development path that we shall pursue vigorously with value added areas such as agri-tourism, sports tourism and a creative industry. Virgin Islanders and Belongers have a critical role to play in this development and we believe that they are anxious to participate meaningfully for a brighter future for all. We will link agriculture with our tourism industry to boost food security and agribusiness thereby creating more job opportunities. The entertainment industry is also a source of cultural commodity to generate foreign exchange earnings and a window of opportunity for career advancement.

With our national plans, we anticipate a successful, vibrant and diversified economy; one with steady annual growth of our GDP. Our collective efforts will allow us to grow each year. Together, we will increase our economy’s value offering a multitude of opportunities for all Virgin Islanders and Belongers. We call upon all Virgin Islanders and Belongers, young and old, to let us be the pioneers of the next generation creating new opportunities together.

Strong and sustainable economic growth for the Virgin Islands must be planned within the context of a vision for the Territory that encompasses the aspirations of the people and resources to carry it out. It must consciously balance development with environment, properly integrate economic and social needs and fairly mitigate local versus international priorities. Out
of the crisis of the 2017 hurricane destruction came the opportunity to reset the path and place the Territory on a road to sustainable development in line with the values that made it strong.

The Virgin Islands Party plans to create a new platform for the strong and sustainable growth and development of the Virgin Islands economy on the following pillars:

1. Integrated planning and development that takes into consideration the economic, social, environmental, human and political needs of the Territory.

2. Innovation and technology as the foundation of our private and public sector development.

3. Human capital development as an economic pillar to produce opportunities for our people, reduce the importation of foreign labour and keep economic spending in the Territory.

4. Entrepreneurship to drive diversification and innovation leading to growth and the internal development of wealth.

5. Investment based on shared prosperity, both local and foreign, that provides the resources, expertise and networks to keep the Territory globally competitive and leading in international arenas.

6. Sustainable use of the environment for economic purposes that provides an exceptional experience for our guests whilst protecting it for the use of future generations.

7. Compliance with global standards and the rule of law that facilitates our competitive participation in financial services.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will create the above pillars and build a strong sustainable platform for economic growth and development by:

1. Commission a National Integrated Development Plan to set out a roadmap for the next 20 years of the Territory’s development. The plan will integrate with the existing Recovery and Development Plan approved by the House of Assembly in 2018.

2. Work with our technology partners on a public-private partnership basis to build a technology platform for the Virgin Islands that puts us on par with leading economies in the world. The Government will provide the policy, legislative, regulatory and incentive structure and the private sector will provide the cutting-edge technology and service.

3. Produce a National Innovation Policy with the requisite vision, objectives, incentives, facilitation and support to grow and attract innovative persons, companies and industries.

4. Create the legislative, policy and structural framework for our institutions of education, training and workforce development to work on an integrated basis to develop our human capital to capitalize on the opportunities of the economy at all levels and reduce the importation of foreign labour.

5. Provide the required resources for the institutions driving entrepreneurship and support entrepreneurs with the incentives, training and financial resources needed from incubation to export ready.

6. Implement, and where required, create the mechanisms to attract and facilitate local and foreign investment using a one-stop-shop concierge service.

7. Enforce and where required, legislate laws that protect the environment and make provisions for its sustainable use.

8. Provide the timely and effective legislative, policy and administrative resources to support our compliance with global standards governing the operation of financial services and other global sectors in which the Virgin Islands participates.
Recovery and Development

The recovery has presented a significant opportunity for the Territory to re-think, re-plan and reconsider the path it was on prior to the hurricane and its implications for the future. It presents an opportunity to correct missed opportunities and wrong or missed decisions. The recovery also requires a significant investment in the rebuilding of the Territory and this offers significant economic opportunities.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will ensure that our people fully participate in the rebuilding of this great nation. We recognise the significance of ensuring that our people are center stage in the recovery. Under strong leadership, a Virgin Islands Party Government will ensure that the proper balance is struck between the need to import resources and expertise and those already available in the local economy.

The Virgin Islands Party believes that the Virgin Islands should avoid being saddled with unnecessary debt and borrowings and that opportunistic funding for projects not immediately related to the structural, social and economic recovery should be avoided.

Borrowed funds should be applied to the following areas as a matter of priority:

- Emergency Rebuild and Upgrades: These are matters resulting directly from or related to the 2017 flood and hurricanes and which are critical for the economy.
- Economic Diversification and Stabilization: These are initiatives that will strengthen and stabilize the economy and create a foundation for economic growth and inward investment.
- Additional borrowing should be reserved for future necessity.
TOURISM
Enhancing, Blazing New Opportunities &
Linking Other Sectors

Never before has our tourism industry been hit to its core from an unprecedented natural disaster situation like what the Virgin Islands experienced in the year 2017. Prior to the 2017 flood and hurricanes, the tourism sector went through many economic challenges which we overcame for sustainable growth. Despite several setbacks, the tourism sector has given us vigor, jobs, revenue and continues to stimulate opportunities and development. It has been the largest contributor to our economy and we must strategically expand its contribution.

Our first order of business is to get all of our tourism sectors back to full functionality. We will focus strong effort to accelerate the recovery of the accommodation sector as we support the sailing sector as it continues well into its recovery. We will put equal effort into getting necessary infrastructure in place to support both the visitor experience as well as attract new developments. As tourism is the driver of the economy and its largest employer, we will focus on linking the industry with our productive sectors such as agriculture, fishing, the creative industries, heritage/cultural offerings and other community-based activities.

Our overall tourism strategy includes diversification, investment, linking minor industries and improving the overall travel experience to our “Nature’s Little Secrets”. Maintaining a friendly, clean and green environment is vital for our sustainable growth. An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will develop policies and programs that are geared towards improving our overall tourism product which will facilitate high standards of service. We will pursue creating new tourist attractions, value added services and promotion of a unique BVI cultural brand. Our focus will be growing the tourism sector with an emphasis on marine, fishing, creative, medical, and heritage and sports tourism. We will maintain and balance between development, the environment and social harmony:

1. Effective Tourism Management & Policies

To drive the recovery and development of the tourism sector, an elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Establish a Ministry of Tourism, Transport and Environment to consolidate and elevate the tourism related functions of transport (air, land and sea), environment, national parks and culture to strengthen the public support for tourism.

- Accelerate implementation of the National Sustainable Tourism Strategy to ensure the sector is managed in a sustainable manner.

- Appoint a senior tourism expert reporting to the Minister of Tourism, Transport & Environment to facilitate the speedy recovery of the sector with particular focus on accelerating recovery of the accommodation sector and supporting the marine, cruise, culinary, activities and other sectors.

- Ensure the protection and preservation of our mangroves, salt ponds, beaches and their fragile ecology.

- Conduct social and cultural impact studies for all major developments and integrate the needs and concerns of the community into development agreements.

- Enforce and amend the environmental laws and regulations to protect and preserve the natural environment.

- Establish financial incentives for the development of a green tourism economy.

- Review and amend, if necessary, then implement the national Waste Management Act to protect the environment and requiring sewage holding tanks on yachts.
Establish a National Tourism Advisory Council of private and public sector experts and stakeholders chaired by the Minister of Tourism to advise on the overall development of tourism.

Set up an economic review committee that will explore ways to optimize revenue in the short, medium and long term periods from the tourism industry.

Strengthen the quality of attractions and the travel experience of visitors.

Promote heritage & cultural tourism to showcase and preserve our rich heritage.

Manage the linkage of agri-business, light manufacturing and a creative industry with our tourism sector.

Encourage and promote the local private sector to develop tourism related infrastructures such as hotels, restaurants, luxury transportation, sailing companies etc.

Promote the further development of more high-end luxury accommodation including villas.

Be significantly active and diversified.

Respect the integrity and rights of the local people.

growth, an elected Virgin Islands Party Government will incorporate the following action plan:

1. Rebuild and enhance our ports of entry from East to West.

2. Prioritize fixing our infrastructure to encourage new businesses and the return of previous businesses and visitors to our shores.

3. Strengthen the linkages between various departments such as the Tourism Board, National Parks Trust, Public Works Department, Health, Department of Culture and Ministry of Finance so that integrated development is possible all over the country.

4. Continue to build an authentic BVI brand image and create a value for money destination for a satisfying tourist experience that will attract more visitors to our shores. We will emphasize nature tourism which incorporates our beautiful beaches, diving and snorkeling sites such as the Caves at Norman Island and the Wreck of the Rhone off Salt Island. As a type of tourism, some may go hiking on our lush mountains or explore our culture. A VIP Administration will place emphasis on nature, adventure, heritage, eco-tourism and cultural and traditional values.

5. Promotion of cleanliness and enhancement of tourist attraction areas.

6. Encourage and provide the framework for rebuilding of hotels and restaurants that were hard hit by the hurricanes while at the same time encouraging new investments and development of new resorts and tourism related facilities.

7. Improve and provide free Wi-Fi internet service in tourist attraction areas such as the pier park, museums, gardens and ports of entry throughout the Virgin Islands.

8. Maximize earnings from the cruise industry. A Virgin Islands Party Government will attract additional small and medium cruise ships to our outlying islands like Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

2. Rebuild and Revitalize for Sustainable Growth

A Virgin Islands Party Government will revive the economy with a diversified tourism product that includes marine, sports fishing, sports tourism, cultural tourism with linkage to agri-business, creative and light manufacturing industries. We will broaden our tourism base in a sustainable way and reap the social and economic benefits when we diversify in these promising areas. Our plan is to expand tourism and boost other developing sectors to spur economic activities. In order to revive and revitalize the tourism sector for sustainable growth, an elected Virgin Islands Party Government will incorporate the following action plan:

1. Rebuild and enhance our ports of entry from East to West.

2. Prioritize fixing our infrastructure to encourage new businesses and the return of previous businesses and visitors to our shores.

3. Strengthen the linkages between various departments such as the Tourism Board, National Parks Trust, Public Works Department, Health, Department of Culture and Ministry of Finance so that integrated development is possible all over the country.

4. Continue to build an authentic BVI brand image and create a value for money destination for a satisfying tourist experience that will attract more visitors to our shores. We will emphasize nature tourism which incorporates our beautiful beaches, diving and snorkeling sites such as the Caves at Norman Island and the Wreck of the Rhone off Salt Island. As a type of tourism, some may go hiking on our lush mountains or explore our culture. A VIP Administration will place emphasis on nature, adventure, heritage, eco-tourism and cultural and traditional values.

5. Promotion of cleanliness and enhancement of tourist attraction areas.

6. Encourage and provide the framework for rebuilding of hotels and restaurants that were hard hit by the hurricanes while at the same time encouraging new investments and development of new resorts and tourism related facilities.

7. Improve and provide free Wi-Fi internet service in tourist attraction areas such as the pier park, museums, gardens and ports of entry throughout the Virgin Islands.

8. Maximize earnings from the cruise industry. A Virgin Islands Party Government will attract additional small and medium cruise ships to our outlying islands like Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.
1. Finance & the Economy

Tourism

9. Encourage the growth of the yachting industry and promote sports and cultural initiatives to this sector for social and economic benefits.

10. Encourage Virgin Islanders and Belongers to invest in small to medium hotel accommodation on Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

11. Plan and develop the facilities and services necessary to support small cruise ship home porting.

12. Plan and develop the facilities and services for a Super Yacht Facility in Baughers Bay, Tortola.

13. Encourage investors to build resorts and entertainment centres throughout the Territory.

14. Mandatory engagement of our youths from the primary stage to participate in a tourism program as a part of each public school curriculum.

15. Incorporate a dedicated hospitality course into the high school system in order to attract and train our youths from early so they could take their rightful place in the tourism industry.

16. Improve and promote annual musical and culinary festivals and expand our biathlon, triathlon and road race events to attract guests to our islands.

5. Special Tourism Initiatives

An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

a) Embark on a Road Town (Capital) Improvement and Economic Vitalization Program which will result in a clean, modern, visitor and pedestrian friendly capital redesigned with green spaces and reduced traffic; with a layout that encourages tourist lounging, economic interaction, and entertainment activities between visitors and residents. This will also foster the development of opportunities to engage in the tourism economy with new offerings especially in cuisine and entertainment in the Road Town tourism area, on Main Street, and along the new boardwalk between the Tortola Pier Park and Queen Elizabeth II Park.

b) Implement a Back to the Water initiative which is designed to boost the nucleus of our tourism product and achieve higher yields in tourism numbers, dollars and revenue retention from the BVI marine industries. The initiative will reduce the cost of operating vessels in BVI waters, remove the legal and financial deterrents to long stay vessels, and develop symbioses between utilization of BVI waters and being a BVI registered vessel. The program involves promoting public-private partnerships for the development of super yacht facilities capable of accommodating large visiting yachts and small cruise vessel home porting, revival of a Virgin Islands based sport fishing industry and pronouncement and advancement of an Anegada fishing and seafood experience hub “From habitat to plate” economic model.

3. Investment in Tourism

- Publish a transparent and equitable tourism investment policy that identifies the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders as well as the Government incentives available to local and foreign investors.

- Establish a tourism endowment fund whereby foreign and local investors in the sector can contribute to the social development of the Virgin Islands.

4. Training and Blazing New Opportunities

- Establish a Tourism Apprenticeship programme in collaboration with the private sector and the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies and HLSCC hospitality programme to ensure that Virgin Islanders are trained to a high standard and get the required experience in tourism.
c) Expand Maritime and Technical Training offerings at HLSCC to a level which will establish the training institution’s notoriety in the Caribbean Basin as the premier institution for international maritime and technical training. The offerings will attract persons from within the Caribbean Basin and offer readily available training programs to mariners in the region. The economic benefits of this training tourism are similar to those of any short term tourism initiative such as regattas, sports tourism, and short stay leisure tourism. This will serve to further diversify the tourism product.

d) Implement a Cross-Industry Linkage Programme. The Tourist Board and Department of Trade & Promotions will play an integral role in facilitating the success of a Cross-Sector Linkage Programme for the sustainable growth of the tourism industry while simultaneously creating business opportunities for our people. Our areas of focus will be in the following:

i. Creative Industry
   • Music
   • Sports Tourism
   • Art & Craft
ii. Light manufacturing
iii. Agri-Tourism

i. Creative Industry

We have a commercial vision for the development of a creative industry supported by our tourism sector. We will place great focus on our intellectual capital for the benefit of our people, foreign exchange earnings and the sustainable development of the country. We have an obvious need to diversify our economy to generate revenue and so a Virgin Islands Party Government will pursue diversification in the creative industry; first concentrating in music, sports, light manufacturing, art and craft. The Department of Trade & Promotions will play a critical role and be given responsibility for business development in the creative industry which will also be supported by our plans for cultural tourism. Intertwining creativity, economics and culture creates an opportunity to showcase our intellectual capital and promote the Virgin Islands in a way which can increase revenue, visitors, jobs and businesses to our country.

Music

Creating superstars in music is no different from creating a successful athlete on the international stage as it relates to global recognition. These are the persons who have the potential to gain international recognition birthing out of the Virgin Islands. We will promote all genres of music with special emphasis on our young people. The Virgin Islands Party will give opportunities and maximize our potential. We can create music in any genre birthing out of the Virgin Islands for international trade and recognition. A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Support local businesses in the music industry to have access to financial support.

☑ Support the transition of our artists from a local art form to a global art form.

☑ Support the development of recording artists, sound engineers, producers, composers, publishers and other related careers which can be developed from the music industry for the local market and export.

☑ Encourage the strengthening of intellectual property rights for those persons who wish to develop a career in the music industry. The aim is to be able to assess the value and protect these assets to ensure the correct revenue stream.

☑ Provide a regulatory framework to support the development of a creative art industry.

☑ Promote the growth of annual music festivals in the Virgin Islands; attracting international artists and giving our local musicians maximum exposure.

☑ Maximize earnings from events tourism and performances in hospitality.

Sports Tourism

A Virgin Islands Party Government will create and implement an active and targeted sports tourism product with the objective of promoting
various categories of sports meets on BVI soil. Key benefits to be derived include the development of tournament grade sport facilities, improved skill levels of BVI sportsmen through professional coaching, youth engagement and discipline, and BVI marketing through sports. This tourism product will involve, physical, mind, motorized, coordination, and animal sports; and provide year round family entertainment, and significantly increased visitor numbers.

Our sports tourism programme will encompass:

- Full support of athletics development.
- Provision of professional coaches in the major sports for utilization worldwide.
- Development of tournament level facilities for the major sports.
- Continuous support for national teams in major sports.
- Attraction of BVI based sports fishing and sports fishing tournaments.
- Attraction of major offshore powerboat race.
- Development of a drag racing facility.

Art & Craft

We will create an art and craft industry that can generate revenue for our people and country. A Virgin Islands Party Government will put polices in place to govern this industry as it relates to raw material use, production, branding, packaging, innovation, promotion, marketing and profitability. The reality now is that the majority of the crafts that are seen in the Virgin Islands are imported. Items that depict for instance, the turtle dove, Anegada iguana, national dress, historical landmarks, flag, map, sloop will be for sale at the tourist shop outlets. Local vendors will have a say in this undertaking that would improve economic activity. Tourism is one of our twin pillars and we must enhance heritage tourism to showcase our rich culture while creating jobs, developing our people’s skills and generating income for our country.

ii) Light Manufacturing Industry

A Virgin Islands Party Government will introduce Light Manufacturing legislation and establish a Virgin Islands Manufacturers’ Policy to promote the creation, growth and expansion of a light manufacturing industry. This initiative is bound to encourage entrepreneurship and industrial development which we will support stable industrial relation and economic development. Provision for fiscal incentives to the developing industry are all significant.

New Manufacturing/Start-Up Business Hub

To support manufacturers and entrepreneurs, we will establish a light manufacturing/start-up business hub to develop new manufacturing technologies and business ideas. This hub will reflect innovative ideas amongst a large group of up and coming industry leaders, technology analysts and economic development professionals in various industries. Essentially, factories will be created for the manufacturing of goods such as, but not limited to the production of canned and bottled goods, textiles, medicine, beauty products and fertilizers.

iii) Agri-Tourism

An agriculture industry that has been totally depleted will be awakened with the support of an elected Virgin Islands Party Government. We believe that the tourism industry can give agriculture the additional boost that it truly needs. Our national agriculture plan will be linked to our tourism industry thereby creating jobs and more business opportunities for our people while sustaining our culture and providing food security. Training courses on agriculture will be provided at HLSCC to facilitate more young people getting involved. Farm folks will have access to a virtual marketplace with very little additional investment. See more information under Food Security & Agri-Tourism.
f) Implement Niche Tourism Development for Specific Communities. A strategic plan will be formulated for the development of specific communities for specific tourist attractions. For instance, East End for sports tourism while Carrot Bay can become a cultural hub for local cuisine, art and crafts with the aim to ultimately becoming a premier tourist attraction. These areas will be promoted for their cultural history, creativity and uniqueness. The Tourist Board and the Department of Trade & Promotions will both play a pivotal role in promoting and supporting the development of businesses in these communities.

g) Develop medical tourism into a world-class health care destination. This sector includes patients traveling to the Virgin Islands for medical care in an aesthetic environment suitable for recovery. Visiting doctors and medical personnel will also have the ability to use our state of the art medical facilities to carry out procedures.

h) Explore building a world class aquarium with shops, restaurant and entertainment in the sailing capital; whereby creating a new and first class attraction supported by the cruise industry which can generate income for our country. This will become a premier visitor’s attraction unique to the Virgin Islands in a viable location also equipped for event hosting, marine environment education and entertainment.
COMPETITIVE & SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Our financial services sector continues to face challenges as the global regulatory landscape continues to change and shift. Despite this, our financial services industry continues to maintain its contribution to the revenues of Government and showed resilience in the face of the devastating hurricanes of 2017. However, there are immediate challenges ahead as the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has established the requirement for the over 400,000 entities operating in the Territory to meet economic substance requirements. This means that they will be required to have a physical presence here to varying degrees depending on the type of entity. This can be viewed as both a threat and opportunity for the Virgin Islands.

A Virgin Islands Party Government believes that our financial services sector can overcome the challenges it faces and capitalize on the opportunity presented by economic substance requirements to increase the participation of a wider cross-section of the economy in financial services and diversifying our offering into new value-added services. We also believe that our position of complying with the UK requirement for public registries only when it becomes a global standard is correct and will continue to advocate for a level playing field in the industry.

Commitment to the financial services sector

A Virgin Islands Party Government will be fully committed to the sustainable growth of the financial services sector. The sector employs over 2,200 persons directly and supports another 3,000 jobs whilst generating 60% of government revenues. It goes without saying therefore that this sector and its viability and long term growth and development is critical to the overall success of the territory. A Virgin Islands Party Government knows that staying ahead of the curve in regional and international business in this age of fast moving technological advancement is key to the continued growth of this sector.

Ensuring that we are proactive rather than reactive is the best approach. As such, a Virgin Islands Party Government will ensure that critical pieces of legislation are amended in a responsible and timely fashion to keep up with trends and exploit new opportunities. These key pieces of legislation include: the BVI Business Companies Act, the Limited Partnership Act, the Securities and Investment Business Act, the Banks and Trust Companies Act, the Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act and the Regulatory Code.

As the industry continues to face significant challenges, in particular the UK, OECD and EU requirements for public registers and more economic substance for entities set up in the territory, we must remain strong and vigilant and continue to fight for a level playing field because only by doing that through our collective efforts at the governmental, private sector and individual levels will we be able to withstand the challenges and continue to grow the industry.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will do all it can to secure and ensure the success of this vital industry.
Growth and Sustainability

We believe that the financial services sector will continue to be a viable part of the BVI economy well into the future. As the sector continues to expand its offerings and services and the territory increases its international profile, we believe Virgin Islanders and Belongers must be prepared to embrace the opportunities afforded by the sector.

In support of our mission, an elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

1. Build an accommodating legal framework by:

- Strengthening the management structure of the industry to ensure Government drives the policy and business development of the industry and the independent regulator provides a strong and industry leading regulatory regime.

- Implementing an investment promotion and facilitation policy and process to attract local and foreign investment, particularly in the area of economic substance.

- Strengthen overall public service support for the sector, particularly in areas of trade, immigration and labour.

- Reviewing BVI legislation to ensure that the territory maintains international compliance with standards of transparency and information exchange whilst not inhibiting growth of the industry’s potential. This includes compliance with UK, OECD, EU and other international oversight bodies whilst consistently pushing for a fair level playing field on a global level.

2. Educate Virgin Islanders, Belongers and businesses on the financial services industry by:

- Creating modular and adaptable education programmes for all levels of society.

- Improving or introducing where necessary, financial services courses into the programmes offered at schools and colleges.

- Preparing a scalable education programme for investors and businesses so that they understand areas where their investment or business can benefit and at the same time expand the industry.
3. Prepare and accommodate Virgin Islanders and Belongers for a larger stake in the industry by:

- Conducting workshops and communications for investors and businesses so that they understand the opportunities available to their businesses to expand within the industry.

- Encourage and facilitate Virgin Islanders and Belongers to operate more businesses directly involved in the financial services industry, for example, corporate, fiduciary and accounting services, in addition to indirectly related but substantive spin-off businesses.

- Encourage and facilitate Virgin Islanders and Belongers to take advantage of the recently enacted Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act whereby BVI offshore entities are required to have more substantive activities in the BVI. This will require the provision of more corporate, fiduciary, accounting and other services to these entities. A Virgin Islands Party Government will explore ways in which youths, college graduates and local professionals can meaningfully participate. The idea is that these additional services which will be required should not just be provided by large trust companies and law firms which in many instances are directed and managed from overseas. We must ensure that everyone benefits where possible, notwithstanding the challenges involved.

- Maintaining financial services educational and promotional websites. This will allow a larger cross section of the population to understand how they can become involved.

- Providing financial and technical resources to Virgin Islander and Belonger investors in the financial services industry. It is not uncommon where the ownership of a business has no direct connection with the BVI for decisions to be made which can significantly affect the location of the business and the employees it supports. Facilitating more local ownership of financial services related businesses can to some degree help to secure the future of the industry.

4. Increase the economic and financial benefits from the industry by:

- Reserving linkage industries for Virgin Islanders and Belongers. Protecting spin off industries for local ownership is something which must be considered.

- Reviewing the existing trust legislation and exploring the possibility of introducing an annual Government fee for a type of BVI trust which could generate additional revenues.

- Conducting a general review of the existing products including Mutual Funds and Insurance with a view of attracting more business.

- Increasing the number and diversity of products offered by the industry that produce direct revenue to Government.

- Increasing the linkage of financial services and its supporting/ancillary services to create more local business activities.

- Improving the general infrastructure to accommodate more physical offices.

- Encouraging and facilitating more private sector investment in the development of executive accommodation, office buildings, business support services and lifestyle amenities to accommodate economic substance.

5. Monitor and analyze the industry better by:

- Creating a monthly statistical publication. This will allow trends to be easily seen for better response to emerging opportunities.

- Creating a Monitoring and Analytical Committee to identify emerging opportunities.

- Establishing a Financial Advisory Policy Committee to shape the future of the industry.
6. Promote the industry throughout the world by:

- Intensifying our international promotional programmes and our partnership with leading countries like Hong Kong, China, the UK, Singapore and the African continent.
- Increasing promotion of the industry at home.
- Promoting financial services as part of our development along with tourism and seasonal residence.
- Working closely with the private sector including law firms, registered agents and BVI Finance to promote the industry internationally.

7. Increase the leadership role of Virgin Islanders and Belongers in the sector by:

- Establishing an appropriate Labour Policy for the financial services sector, with understudy requirements where applicable.
- Establishing a Human Resource Development Plan for the financial services sector in close partnership with the private sector.

8. Examine commercial banks’ loan policies to ensure that local businesses and individuals are not disadvantaged by:

- Reviewing the aggressive stance of commercial banks in possible foreclosure situations.
- Establishing quotas and special rates for the distribution of loans in key development sectors.
- Review the operations of the National Bank of the Virgin Islands (NBVI).

9. Examine the insurance industry and its practice in the Virgin Islands to ensure that the industry is serving customers in the best way possible by:

- Surveying the insurance industry to gather relevant information for appropriate policy decision making by government.
- Conducting a consultancy on the operations of the domestic insurance industry.
- Providing the avenue to audit all insurance settlements relating to the devastation caused by the 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria; paying particular attention to the word “underinsured”.
- Reviewing types of coverage available especially for key sectors and major risks such as disasters and young asset holders.
- Improving public education regarding property and other types of insurance.
- Holding insurance companies accountable to their terms of service.
- Improving the regulatory regime with respect to the insurance industry.

10. Re-establish banking service on Virgin Gorda by:

Opening a branch of the National Bank of the Virgin Islands on the island and attracting other commercial banks. Virgin Gorda boasts a vibrant community and is a premier destination, therefore banking is a critical necessity for the advancement of the economy.
1. Provide affordable loans through the National Bank of The Virgin Islands so our farmers can meet their required capital investment in agri-business.

2. Re-establish the Paraquita Bay Agricultural Station and resurrect the Annual Agricultural Exhibitions as well as the Sister Islands sub stations.

3. Provide agriculture training at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College as a viable career.

4. Increase the production and distribution of fish and other seafood because seafood production not only holds great economic potential in the Virgin Islands but is also very appropriate for healthy lifestyles. We will:

   - Create a line of credit at banks for fishing industry businesses to support expansion and transformation of existing and new activities.
   - Develop programs to provide technical, legal and enterprise development assistance for fishermen.
   - Assist fishermen in marketing their catch by developing a Fishing Cooperative.
   - Create a programme to train and assist fishermen to transition to pelagic fishing including the purchase of equipment.

5. Support our farmers to maximize their earnings from their hard work. The agri-tourism business will give our farm folks an opportunity to educate tourists and residents about our agricultural heritage. Through the tourism sector, we will initiate a marketing platform for agri-tourism and also provide seminars and training to farm folks on how they can maximize the use of their farm for supplementary income. We want to create a unique adventure for
visitors to our shores while simultaneously putting revenue in our farmers’ pockets. Agri-business should be well and alive all year round. Our farm folks will have the know-how on creating an attraction for recreational and educational purposes for visitors, residents and students. Through a Virgin Islands Party initiative, our farmers can consider business opportunities such as:

a) Starting an organic breakfast getaway.
b) Turning the farm into an attraction for tourists.
c) Promoting seasonal picking of a particular produce and showcase.
d) Promoting and offer gardening demonstration activities.
e) Turning a part of their farm into a summer campsite and much more.

6. Provide a modern market in Road Town and the Sister Islands for the farmers’ produce sale. We will set up a modern market in Road Town and also give opportunities to provide produce for schools, hospital, clinics and the elderly homes through renewal contracts.

7. Support Senepol cattle breeding and poultry farming. A Virgin Islands Party will set quotas to ensure that local produce has first preference on the local market for local sale and consumption supported with the requisite legislation and regulation for the highest international standards for beef, poultry and meat quality processing.

8. Establish a “Ground to our Plates” initiative for food security. As part of this initiative, lands that can be used for agriculture purposes but presently cannot be accessed, a Virgin Islands Party Government, once allowed, will provide access with the requisite infrastructure such as roads, water, and electricity among other necessities to ensure agricultural production.

9. Establish a national system of monitoring, assessing and publishing the performance of food production, importation, exportation, distribution and consumption by:

- Creating a food database for the Virgin Islands.
- Upgrading the food quality certification programmes.
- Creating a food consumption information centre at the Department of Agriculture.
- Establishing the annual preparation and publication of a report on food in the Virgin Islands.
- Updating our data on the fishing, livestock and poultry industries through a series of locally based surveys and consultancies.
- Creating a statistics system to record fishing activities, production, consumption etc.
- Exploring the viability of crop and fisheries insurance.
- Facilitating the development of village markets for farming and fishing.
10. Increase the production of high quality processed food to target selected segments of domestic consumption by:

- Introducing a programme of processed foods certification including labelling and quality.
- Establishing a programme to promote processed food within and outside the BVI in niche markets possibly as exotic foods.
- Establishing a programme to produce technical and financial support to processed food production in the territory.
- Establishing a programme to assist small businesses in the area of domestic food production such as confectioneries, bread and other consumables.
- Initiating a scheme to support, monitor and inspect domestic products for labelling, content quality and handling locally processed foods.
- Strengthening links with the tourism sector by increasing food quality.

11. Boost domestic production of fruits, vegetables and ground provisions by establishing a programme to promote and support backyard or home farming which will help with food security. With modern technology, our farmers will also have an opportunity to promote their farms in a virtual marketplace accessible globally with very little additional investment. Our aim is to create opportunities and improve the quality of life of our people while showcasing our culture and improving small businesses. We will move agriculture forward in one direction along with a world class tourism industry.

12. Develop commercial scale fishing fueled and operated by local fishing operations. This involves training fishermen, providing avenues for financing boats and gear, development of a fish processing and packaging plant, identifying regional and international markets for the product and assisting in negotiating pricing and feasible transportation modes to market. Additional commitments must be made to patrolling and securing our fishing economic zone.

An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will also:

- Implement recommendations made by the Farmers to ensure that the Agricultural sector is given adequate financial support to move the Virgin Islands towards a sustainable future.
- Develop and implement an investment strategy and framework to facilitate local investment in the farming and fishing industries.
- Establish a Farmers Authority of the Virgin Islands and Fishermen Authority of the Virgin Islands to manage the development of the industries.
SMALL BUSINESS, JOB CREATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Small businesses are a key wealth creating sector of the economy and as such, it is the lifeblood of the country. They have a significant role to play in the diversification of the BVI economy as we rebuild in the era of economic substance. Our small businesses only prosper in an environment that is supportive and facilitates their developmental needs. This type of environment will inspire entrepreneurship and provide more opportunities for Virgin Islanders to take charge of our economy and to participate in the growth of their country. The next great idea can come from anywhere or anyone, so therefore any investment in small businesses is an investment in the potential of the Virgin Islands.

A Virgin Islands Party Government recognizes that a healthy and thriving small business sector requires financial, institutional and technical support. It is especially important that the legal framework and the bureaucratic requirements are not over-burdening.

The Virgin Islands Party Government will:

**Strengthen Support for Small Business**

- Establish a Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) to advise government about the issues and needs of small business.
- Establish a Small Business Forum to promote small business and provide a platform for them to present their positions.
- Create a Small Business Awards Scheme to recognize innovation, industry and achievement.
- Develop and support programmes of advice for small business on Occupational Health and Safety and discrimination in the Workplace.
- Cut down on import taxes for resale items.
- Commence an entrepreneurship scholarship programme.

**Strengthening the Small Business Legal Framework**

- Revise labour legislation to exempt certain small businesses from the requirements faced by larger businesses in industrial relations system.
- Revise the relevant provision of the business licensing regulations to better accommodate small businesses.

**Support Home Based Businesses**

- Sponsor and support Home Based and Micro-businesses with seminars and training programme; a series of Small, Micro and Home based business fairs throughout the Territory, exposing these to the various BVI markets.
- Set up a virtual marketplace for persons that do not want to have a brick and mortar location.
- Provide a home and micro business programme by sponsoring and supporting home based and Micro-businesses with seminars and training programme for all islands and districts.

**Creating a Small Business Information and Research Programme**

- Sponsor research on the small business sector in BVI and its related issues, challenges, needs and possible solutions.
- Create a Small Business Information Database assessable via Internet.

**Special initiatives for small businesses: Light Manufacturing Industry**

A Virgin Islands Party Government will introduce Light Manufacturing legislation and establish a Virgin Islands Manufacturers’ Policy to promote the creation, growth and expansion of a light manufacturing industry. This initiative is bound to encourage entrepreneurship and industrial development which we will support for stable industrial relation and economic development. Provision for fiscal incentives to the developing industry are all significant.

**New Manufacturing/Start-Up Business Hub**

To support manufacturers and entrepreneurs, we will establish a light manufacturing/start-up business hub to develop new manufacturing technologies and business ideas. This hub will reflect innovative ideas amongst a large group of up and coming industry leaders, technology analysts and economic development professionals in various industries. Essentially, factories will be created for the manufacturing of goods such as, but not limited to the production of canned and bottled goods, textiles, medicine, beauty products and fertilizers.
A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO LAND AND HOME OWNERSHIP

Our Philosophy

For most Virgin Islanders and Belongers, owning a home is a major achievement and a dream for many young persons. Our heritage of land and home ownership will be preserved and Virgin Islanders will have access to land, first home ownership, affordable housing and financial resources for buying a home, especially the young and resource constrained.

The Virgin Islands Party believe that all families in the Virgin Islands should have access to affordable housing and be able to become homeowners. We believe that because of the complex nature of housing and home ownership, government, financing institutions, private investors and families/individuals must play specific roles in addressing the complex issues. We believe that this issue is of such national significance that government must now take the lead in solving this problem in order not to hinder national development.

Programmes and Projects

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Establish a Youth Land Bank with low purchase price and 0% stamp duty as mentioned under “National Youth Support & Development” of this document.

- Provide a package of financial, technical and personal advice to prospective first time homeowners who intend to qualify for a home ownership programme.

- Review the legislation requiring all first-time home owners to pay stamp duty.

- Provide financing for the housing recovery unit to replace lost roofs, especially for the most vulnerable.

- Build an affordable housing scheme.

- Have multi-family housing designs that are energy efficient.

- Make many Virgin Islanders and Belongers dream come through by supporting an environment that enables the population to afford their first home. In the next 4 years, we will secure several new homes for low-income families through substantial funding from the Social Security Board.
FINANCE & THE ECONOMY

DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

Capital (Road Town)
Improvement and Economic Vitalization

Our capital does not reflect the image we project to the world as a world class tourism destination and financial services jurisdiction. The unprecedented disasters of floods and hurricanes have further exasperated the poor condition of our capital which today still remains with destroyed buildings, without much needed shade trees destroyed by the hurricanes and in a general state that makes it unattractive. Plans that have been developed for decades have not been implemented and the atmosphere of the town does not encourage commerce or encourage pedestrian traffic.

As we are now faced with having to actively promote bringing businesses to the Territory to set up operations here, it is urgent to fix the capital. It is equally important for us to do for ourselves as residents. A Virgin Islands Party Government will make the restoration and improvement of our capital a high priority and will commit the resources to make our capital an orderly, safe, sustainable and walkable city which balances the historical, commercial and residential land use in a harmonious manner.

1. Merge the Office of the City Manager and the Wichham’s Cay Development Authority to create one entity to manage the capital.

2. The overarching vision for the development of Road Town is to create an active, orderly, safe, sustainable and walkable city which balances the historical, commercial and residential land use in a harmonious manner.

3. Development plans and initiatives which are specifically focused on achieving the overarching vision for the capital includes the following, some of which are further detailed in various sections of this manifesto.

4. Quickly complete remaining infrastructure damage to restore basic services such as roads, sidewalks, sewer lines, streetlights and other infrastructure to provide a comfortable environment for those who work, live or visit in the capital.

5. Clean up, repair, replace, or restore all green spaces, public areas, walk ways, shade trees, waste receptacles.

6. Connect the various areas of the capital with well-designed pathways that vastly improve the walking and viewing experience.

7. Develop the long talked about boardwalk along the Road Town waterfront.

8. Develop attractive pedestrian and bicycling link to major attractions such as QEII Park, Main Street, Sir Olva Georges Plaza, Noel Lloyd Park, hotels, marina, etc.

9. Pedestrianize Main Street and pass historical preservation legislation to protect its architectural landmark and historical value.

10. Legislatively protect its historical buildings and institutions by designating them as landmarks.

11. Create more parking on either end of town to reduce congestion in middle of town and encourage walking to the office as Virgin Gordian do.

12. Build multi-level parking to open space for commercial development.

13. Build a bus depot in the old craft market and relocate the craft market.

14. Restrict parking by employees in certain areas to allow business patrons more convenience.

15. Consider demolishing the old Police Headquarter building and converting to public space for activities, events and services to enhance the tourism and resident experiences.
CONTINUOUS ECONOMIC RESEARCH, PLANNING AND MARKET REFORM

A Virgin Islands Party Government will seek technical and professional assistance to continuously develop and monitor economic plans which are designed to create a diverse and sustainable BVI economy that supports the quality of life desired by residents; and sustains economic growth of a type and rate desired by BVI Islanders and Belongers.

The plan will seek to focus on the following areas:

- Providing an environment for more competitive consumer prices by lowering duties for businesses.
- Investigating avenues for improved shipping tariffs into the Virgin Islands.
- Identifying Economic Partnerships that would be beneficial to the Virgin Islands and foster symbiotic relationships with the United Kingdom and other countries.
- Examining the summation of the per capita income to identify any skewing factors resulting from the existence of a small percentage of unusually high wage earners and developing a correction factor for adjusting the BVI per capita income.

- Researching and identifying emerging technical and administrative developments and or social trends that might drive economic activity and development in the BVI, with special consideration given to existing workforce skillset, administrative infrastructure and legislative frameworks.

- Improving product import efficiency by implementing a simplified tariff system which also transfers import duty burdens from staples to luxury items.
Our greatest asset is our people. The quality economic development we achieve will be defined by how much we invest in our greatest asset: OUR PEOPLE. We have a vision of a Virgin Islands whose people are meaningfully engaged and adequately trained to fully participate and contribute to the economic advancement of the territory.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will ensure an inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for everyone. We recognize that education is fundamental to self-respect and is the key to economic prosperity. We will open a world of opportunities which will contribute to a healthy, happy and progressive society.

To achieve our economic goals, we will provide opportunities to Virgin Islanders and Belongers to deepen their knowledge of our industries and international markets. Leadership development in specialized fields is essential to advance our economy. We must ensure that our people are a step ahead ready to take up future job opportunities in the direction that the country is moving. We will roll out a career guidance plan which will be available online to help Virgin Islanders and Belongers choose their education and career path.

A Virgin Islands Party Government sees the urgent need to rebuild our education system and improve the learning environment for our youths and people in general. We will embark on a mission to improve teaching capabilities and support base, establish a national education inspector body, establish a national parenting support policy in all schools, and upgrade and expand the Lending Library which is a source of invisible earnings for the Territory.

Human Capital Development Policy

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Conduct a human capital needs survey to identify gaps.

☑ Review current education policies that govern pre-primary, primary, secondary and technical and vocational education.

☑ Where necessary, upgrade existing policy structures to reflect the Virgin Islands Party’s vision for the territory’s human capital development.

☑ Ensure that education policies are clearly enshrined in the curricula for schools and that they are clearly aligned with the Education Act.

☑ Establish a clear policy for inclusion across all aspects of the education system that supports international standards of best practice.

☑ Work closely with agencies such as the Social Development Department to identify families in crisis and apply targeted intervention strategies that support school-aged students.

☑ Conduct a comprehensive review of skill sets in the territory in order to identify gaps between education and industry.

☑ Introduce medium to long term training to reduce or close any gaps that are identified to ensure that locals can take up employment in industries and agencies across sectors.

☑ Collaborate with governmental, private sector and non-profit agencies to maximize various opportunities for human capital development through work, sports and other leisure and community-based activities that support life-long learning.

☑ Introduce initiatives that encourage partnerships and other collaborative opportunities
between employers and education in support of apprenticeships and other forms of student/employer engagement.

☑ Engage all stakeholders, including parents and employers in the advancement of initiatives across sectors for effective human capital development.

Education Legislation

A Virgin Islands Party Government will review the Education Act (2004) and the accompanying Regulations and ensure that the legal provisions for education in the territory are aligned with regionally and globally acceptable standards.

Teacher Education

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Re-establish a teacher education training institute at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College.

☑ Conduct an audit of teacher qualifications to determine training needs and to ensure that teachers are adequately prepared for the classroom.

☑ Facilitate ongoing opportunities for continuous cycles of teacher education training as well as scholarship opportunities to pursue specialized training.

☑ Introduce mechanisms to encourage greater decentralization of school leadership to the school level.

Schools and Facilities

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Make the refurbishment of schools an immediate and urgent priority.

☑ Immediately commence the process of rebuilding and modernizing schools that were significantly damaged during the hurricanes:

  • Primary and pre-primary – Isabella Morris, Leonora Delville, Ivan Dawson, Enis Adams, Robinson O’Neal, Enid Scatliffe (pre-primary).
  
  • Secondary: Bregado Flax Educational Centre. Elmore Stoutt High School; and
  
  • Special needs: Eslyn Henley Richez Learning Centre.

☑ Use the SMART schools approach for health and safety standards; hazards mitigation and environmental protection for both public and private schools.

☑ Equip all schools with state-of-the art computerized technologies in keeping with the VIP motto of digitalization in support of teaching and learning.

☑ Construct a swimming pool at the Elmore Stoutt High School to build life skills and complete the pool at the Bregado Flax Educational Centre.

☑ Build an auditorium at the Elmore Stoutt High School for performing arts.

Tertiary Education

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Conduct a comprehensive review of the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC) to ensure that its mission and vision are aligned with the current needs of the territory:

  • Quality of programmes and course offerings
Primary/Pre-primary Education

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Regularly assess students’ readiness for learning in terms of their literacy and numeracy skills.
- Identify students that will need additional support for learning and implement the necessary strategies to assist them.
- Use ICT to enhance the teaching/learning experience.

Early Childhood Education

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Improve the quality of early childhood development through the use of globally accepted standards.
- Conduct regular inspections of early childhood standards to ensure that they operate according to best practice.

Technical/Vocational

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Improve and expand the Virgin Islands Technical School to provide needed skills training to meet the demands of the labour market.
- Commission a comprehensive policy for technical/vocational education.
- Harmonise policies – formal and informal – at the secondary and tertiary levels.

Curricula

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Ensure that schools’ curricula address the individual and collective needs of students.
- Link curricula learning to a range of career options that also benefit the economy of the territory.
Establish clear benchmarks for learning at each key stage.

Conduct periodic evaluation of curriculum content compared to classroom learning to ensure that targets are being met from pre-primary to secondary levels.

Review the curriculum for tourism and financial services to determine whether clear learning targets are being met that benefit both industries.

Introduce the study of agricultural science in lower levels including the primary school so students understand the importance of food security and economic diversification.

Introduce sailing and swimming from the primary level curriculum.

Create effective academic pathways and job opportunities for students that wish to pursue careers in agriculture and other spin-off industries.

**Life-long Learning**

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

Promote the concept of life-long learning in communities, across age groups whether through formal arrangements or apprenticeships.

Conduct a review of the Alternative Secondary Programme and the recently implemented High School Certificate programme.

Develop a clear policy for the administration of life-long learning and continuing education programmes.

Develop a system that supports particularly vulnerable students in their transition to the world of work.

**After-School Programmes**

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

Review programme offerings at the Department of Youth Affairs and where necessary incorporate additional extracurricular activities that will interest participants.

Engage NGOs and other development partners to run an assortment of youth development programmes across communities in the territory.

**Libraries**

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

Build a central public library with modern ICT facilities and improve other library services throughout the territory in Anegada, Jost Van Dyke and Virgin Gorda.

Introduce mobile library services in more remote communities.
VIP

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

Camel Clyne
DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE

Dr. Arlene Smith-Thompson
DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE

John Samuel
DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE

Dr. Natalio Wheatley
DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE

Carvin Malone
TERRITORIAL AT-LARGE

Sharie de Castro
TERRITORIAL AT-LARGE

Restoring Hope & Prosperity
Hon. Andrew A. Fahie
VIP Chairman
DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE

Luce Hodge-Smith
DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE

Kye Rymer
DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE

Dean Byron Fahie
DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE

Vincent O. Wheatley
DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATE

Neville Smith
TERRITORIAL AT-LARGE

Shereen D. Flax-Charles
TERRITORIAL AT-LARGE

FOR ALL
Our Philosophy

We are irrevocably committed to the view that it is the responsibility of government to provide and regulate health care for all Virgin Islanders and visitors alike. Government must provide adequate health care services within easy access of all residents of the Virgin Islands. Considering the geographical nature of the country, health care services must be available on all islands where people reside or tourists visit on a 24-hour basis. We believe that there must be a degree of consistency of services available and delivered across the various districts in the country.

We also believe that a mixed system between public and private producers should prevail. Government should separate its functions of setting and ensuring health standards from its role as a provider of those services. We further believe health care services not available in the BVI should be provided by Government under certain circumstances. Those circumstances include instances where the person’s life is in grave danger and professional referrals have been made with reasonable certainty that success would be obtained.

We believe that government’s provision of health care is a partnership where the recipient is in a position to bear some of the costs of health care. This suggests a level of health care as financing between the public provider and private recipient who has qualified based on some criteria.

We further believe that private health care providers should continue to have work privileges in public facilities such as hospitals and health centres. Private medical practitioners should be able to practice in hospitals provided that their services are properly managed and monitored within the established guidelines and fee rendered.

Accessible and Affordable Health Care

A Virgin Islands Party Government will repair and improve our health care system to one which is modernized, innovative and technological advanced with world-class primary, secondary and tertiary Health Care services that are accessible and affordable to all residents and visitors to the Virgin Islands, including emergency response between the Sister Islands/Tortola/Overseas, and a collaborative network with other emergency services, such as VISAR. Polyclinics are essential in East and Western Tortola and the establishment of 24-hour health care, better health facilities and adequate personnel in Jost Van Dyke & Anegada are significant.

Programmes & Projects

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

1. Improve the health sector management to make the sector more innovative and creative by:

   - Implementing a management structure that leads to better health care delivery.
   - Developing a proactive and comprehensive health care policy.
   - Developing a national health care strategy that includes both the public and the private subsector of providers.
   - Regulating local medical practices to achieve the most efficient medical services to our people and visitors alike.
   - Reviewing our National Health Insurance (NHI) including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health-care services globally; and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
2. Institute a health and wellness council within districts by:

- Involving voluntary associations, churches and other groups to periodically monitor chronic health issues in residents while promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

3. Improve our health care facilities throughout the territory by:

- Having the new Iris O’Neal Clinic up and running efficiently.
- Repairing the Peebles Hospital as necessary.
- Establishing active Poly-Clinic in the East End-Long Look area.
- Upgrading the clinics at Jost Van Dyke, Anegada, Capoons Bay, Road Town and Cane Garden Bay.

4. Focus on primary health care through improved health promotion, prevention, maintenance and rehabilitation of acute and chronic disorders by:

- Reducing the incidence and prevalence of chronic disorders such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension and arthritis as well as their related complications.
- Reducing the incidence and prevalence of Neonatal Mortality and Morbidity by strengthening the Antenatal and Postnatal services.
- Continuing the prevention of childhood communicable disease, by strengthening the National Immunization Programme.

- Reducing the incidence and prevalence of teenage pregnancies, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV and AIDS, by high profiling and strengthening the family planning services.

- Improving and ensuring proper implementation of the School Health Program to all private and public schools in the Virgin Islands.

- Improving the Health care needs of our seniors in the community by ensuring regular visits by the Community Nurses and Doctors.

5. Improve secondary level health care in curative medicine, surgery and rehabilitation by:

- Improving our emergency response and evacuation in the Virgin Islands; particularly on the sister islands.
- Establishing a network with other agencies such as Fire and Rescue, Police, Marine Service, Customs, VISAR, Red Cross, and US Coast Guard.
- Ensuring trained and available specialists to provide care in the areas of OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Surgery, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Psychiatry, Psychology, ENT, Dentistry, Anesthetics, Orthopedics and Physiotherapy.
- Improving Mental Health Services for the treatment, rehabilitation of acute and chronically ill individuals.
- Promoting the development of community mental programmes designed to maintain individuals at their optimum level of functioning and productivity.
Continuing to support Sandy Lane Services and programs designed for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of alcohol and substance abusers.

Continuing to improve laboratory and imaging services (X-ray, CT scan, Ultrasound and MRI) so as to ensure reliable treatment outcomes.

Upgrading, expanding and improving the technology of the Pharmacy service to ensure available and affordable medications for all.

Expanding the Pharmacy hours to accommodate the general public.

Re-examining external and other purchasing arrangement to ensure value for money.

Supporting the Dietary and Domestic services.

6. Improve emergency response across the territory including improved health service on our sister islands by:

Purchasing an Air Ambulance (helicopter) which will serve all our islands. Such an investment is necessary for post disasters.

Establishing a water ambulance service to be on standby in case of emergency on any of our islands.

Have a doctor stationed on Anegada and Virgin Gorda full time.

7. Promote healthy living by:

Establishing different health programs and seminars throughout the districts.

Implementing environmental measures that will prevent and reduce illnesses, and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution including the impact to residents from the incinerator and asphalt plants at Pochwood Pond.

Strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Educating the public about preventative measures for communicable diseases to reduce and end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into our national strategies and programmes.

Promote developing the Virgin Islands as a research and development base for vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries.

Social Development

The Virgin Islands is currently facing a number of socio-economic issues in our communities. Poverty and homelessness have become a growing issue in the Virgin Islands especially since the passing of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Impounded by the rising cost of living, there has also been an increase in crime.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

Improve resources and funding for the Department of Social Development to modernize and diversify its services into child protective services, low income housing, resource parenting (foster or adoptive) and teen pregnancy.

Develop training sessions on care-taking of senior citizens and those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, social meet and greets and recreational programs for seniors to improve their quality of life.

Implement a proper school and community nutrition program and establish meal subsidies to address the children who are going to school hungry. A balanced healthy meal is key to a child’s ability to learn while in the classroom.
☐ Develop a shelter for homeless persons that also provides access to assistance.

Our Seniors, Disabled & Special Needs

I. Senior Citizens

We are committed to provide maximum care for our senior citizens and recognize that they are the backbone to our society who have contributed their time and skills to our economy. We believe our senior citizens deserve better than their current situation.

An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☐ Provide accessible and affordable healthcare to all senior citizens.

☐ Increase retirement pension payout.

☐ Implement a grant programme for seniors and establish additional services and activities to keep our seniors engaged.

☐ Introduce community tourism by including seniors in tourism thereby giving tourists the opportunity to experience Virgin Islands culture firsthand in areas like crocheting, basket weaving, story telling, the making of fish pots and the tasting of local delicacies like cassava bread, guava berry wine and tarts.

☐ Resurrect plans to relocate the Adina Donovan’s Home for the Elderly to Spooners Estate and improve the elderly home on Virgin Gorda.

☐ Engage the Senior Citizens Programme in all districts for a more interactive group with our youths thereby passing on traditional values.

☐ Implement a bus service with specialized equipment for the elderly.

☐ Promote and support backyard gardening and recreation services at elderly homes.

2. Disabled and Special Needs

We are committed to providing real productive employment for Virgin Islanders and Belongers with disabilities and special needs by ensuring more opportunities, fair wages and quality supportive services. Under a Virgin Islands Party Administration, several programmes and initiatives to make persons with a disability productive citizens will be implemented. We will ensure, encourage and support employers in providing durable job opportunities for people with disabilities.

In support of our mission, a Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☐ Introduce a disability legislation which will allow all businesses, public and private, to provide reserved parking spots for persons with disability.

☐ Provide real productive employment for Virgin Islanders and Belongers with disabilities by ensuring more opportunities, fair wages and quality supportive services.

☐ Encourage and support employers in providing durable job opportunities for people with disabilities.

☐ Repair the Autism Centre and facilitate improving the services offered at the centre; accommodating all Islands.

☐ Conduct community health education and provide the social protection, as needed for all residents, including autism and special needs.
The greatest wealth and strength of any nation is its youth. The future of a nation lies in the hands of its posterity. The quality of its youth determines the kind of future, the nation will have. Therefore, if we want to ensure a bright future for our country, we first need to strengthen and empower our youth. The youth of any nation and society are its potential energy. They are the ones who are the pride of the nation. It is the youth that brings laurels to the country.

**Youth Land Bank**

Landownership has been the bedrock of the freedom of BVI Islanders and Belongers. The cost of landownership continues to increase significantly; threatening the future ability of our youth to acquire land. A Virgin Islands Party Government will preserve future youth landownership opportunities by purchasing large tracks of land suitable for residential development and creating a youth land bank. The land will be subdivided into suitable residential sized lots, utilities and access roads installed; and resold to the youth at or below the cost price. The future selling price will be frozen at or below the current cost, allowing the youth buyer to benefit from significant equity at the time of purchase.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will impose a

⇒ 0% Stamp Duty on youth land purchases.

A Government Stamp Duty of 4% is applicable on land purchases. In many cases this tax is not financed by the bank making it difficult for young persons to execute a land purchase.

**Technical Training and Apprenticeship Programme**

A VIP Administration recognizes that the continued success of BVI Islanders and Belongers in the BVI requires planning and investment in the coming generations. A Technical Training and Apprenticeship Program designed to attract persons who respond more favorably to hands on training will prepare youth for placements in rewarding jobs in key technical areas of our economy. Areas of training include carpentry, plumbing, masonry, air conditioning, refrigeration, automotive technician, commercial diving, electrician, aircraft maintenance, diesel technician, auto body repair, fiberglass construction and repair, welding, metal fabrication and machining, deep sea fishing, sport fishing, shipwright training and agricultural training.

**Youth Membership on Statutory Boards**

Developing a successful and resilient nation requires involvement of the youth in the key decision making processes; and integrating their collective views into the fabric of the nation. The Virgin Islands Party Government will require youth membership on every Statutory Board.

**Youth Payroll Tax Waiver:**

a. 0% tax for single youth under 25.

b. 0% tax for youth families with both parents being 35 or under.

c. Other youth first $25,000 per annum tax free.

As a country we are responsible for our youth. We must be committed to investing in our youth, and developing them as the future guardians of the BVI. The payroll tax waiver initiative is designed to reduce the tax burden on the youth during a phase in their life where the affordability of personal development is key to their success.
Annual National Career Convention

The Annual National Career Convention will feature presentations and displays from local, regional and international companies, and be designed to expose the primary and secondary school children to the career possibilities locally, regionally, and internationally. The flair and taste of the event will inspire imaginations, create awareness of career opportunities in existing and developing markets, and sow the seeds of positive development and success in the minds of our youth. It will motivate them to prepare themselves to excel, represent the BVI internationally; and in the future support their country by returning new skills, technologies, businesses, and opportunities to the BVI.

Attractive Career in Policing

Our growth and guardianship requires nationals in key enforcement roles in our Territory. In consultation with the Commissioner of Police, a Virgin Islands Party Government will develop and support a comprehensive program to develop policing as an attractive career. The program will include a police salary scale and benefits review, revised skill, qualification and training requirements. Support programs to promote commitment and dedication to policing, and national education and sensitization campaigns encouraging respect and appreciation for law and enforcement officers, will accompany the incentive.

National Aid for Tertiary Education

1. Reinstall full tertiary scholarships to high achievers

The BVI must promote and support excellence. Top achievers graduating from our secondary schools must be rewarded and encouraged to continue their studies. We must create an achievable path to securing their success, because their success is our success. That path includes accessibility and affordability to attend premium educational institutions. The BVI must be as qualified as our counterparts and competitors on the world stage.

2. Monthly subsistence for tertiary scholarship high achievers

The BVI must promote and support success and excellence in our youth. This will assist in correcting the impression that negative behavior and outcomes are desirable, prepare our youth to take up their national positions; and develop adults that will competently represent the BVI in any global theater. Our academic high achievers should be beneficiaries of this support and success. Payment of a monthly subsistence during their Tertiary education will reduce stress levels and allow for academic focus.
Tertiary Graduate Personal Development Grace Period

The BVI and our students who study abroad will benefit more from the training dollars spent, if they return to the Territory with work experience from more diverse and advanced economies. Implementation of a Tertiary Graduate 5 year development grace period, will not require students to return home immediately and allow them the opportunity to gain valuable work experience if required or requested. This will translate to a more competent contribution upon their return, and allow them the possibility to negotiate more attractive compensation packages.

Returning Student - Vehicle Duty Exemption Revision

A Virgin Islands Party Government will provide incentives, support, promote, and applaud success and excellence. The current returning student vehicle duty exemption will be revised to apply to new vehicles as well.

Youth First Home Financing Terms

The foundation of the society is the family, a safe place where children are nurtured and minds are moulded. The happiness and success of our country hinges on our families; they must be supported encouraged and protected. Housing youth families is becoming a critical issue; and we must create achievable avenues to addressing this matter. The Virgin Islands Party will negotiate and arrange youth first residential home financing arrangements for suitably qualified youth with discounted interest rates and customized terms.

Youth Pension Jumpstart Programme

The Virgin Islands Party believes in planning and supports programmes designed to secure the future of our youth. Experience has proven that it is prudent to invest in a pension programme to ensure the availability of funding for your senior or retirement years. The Government will establish a voluntary pension program and offer youth the option of investing their first 50 months of Social Security contribution into the pension jumpstart program. Their social security benefit will not be affected.

Youth Centres

Youth centres will be set up throughout the territory in the following areas: Virgin Gorda, West End, Road Town, East End, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada. We will also create a virtual youth centre: www.virginislandsyouths.vg. Our plan is to strengthen our communities by encouraging and supporting our youth to the maximum for their own development, health, confidence, security and entertainment. We will build a strong community of young men and women who are socially responsible, innovative and educated. These are alternative and positive venues for our youths instead of the streets. Our focus is to build leaders, role models and bring positive change in society.
Sports

We will improve sports development and rebuild modern sporting facilities to keep our youth busy, engaged and to increase sportsmanship in the Virgin Islands. At all levels, a Virgin Islands Party Government will provide training and scholarships and also promote sports tourism in the Virgin Islands.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

1. Upgrade and transform the physical infrastructure of the A.O. Shirley Recreation Ground to a modern multi-sports stadium which will be the premier sports facility of the Virgin Islands providing first class conditions to host international meets.

2. Repair and improve other recreational facilities in the districts like football fields, basketball and tennis courts.

3. Incorporate and improve the sporting facility including a swimming pool in the construction plan of the Elmore Stoutt High School.

4. Improve sporting facility at all schools throughout the territory based on land space.

5. Collaborate with our superstar athletes and the Tourist Board to promote the Virgin Islands brand.

6. Work alongside the FIFA and other sporting bodies to encourage the development of sports and sporting facilities in the territory.

7. Build sporting facility in our youth centre plan.
Step 01
PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TRAINERS
(primaries, secondaries & community levels)
- Sport Specific Training
- Keep Youth Busy and Engaged
- Increased Sports Scholarships
- Excite The Youth
- Teach Youth Discipline
- Build Youth Confidence
- Increased Social Interaction
- Increase Physical Exercise
- Improved Sportsmanship
- Increased Skill Levels
- Strong Interschool Competitions
- Sports Medicine Support

Step 02
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURNAMENT GRADE SPORTS FACILITIES.
- Public Private Partnerships
- Economic Diversification
- Increased Tourism
- Indirect Territory Marketing
- Revived Sports Leagues
- Improved Tournament And Competition

Step 03
ANNUAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT.
- Busy Taxis
- Busy Hotels
- Busy Restaurants
- Increase Economic Activity
- Greater National Pride
- Better National Teams
- Stronger Representation at International Meets

TARGETED SPORTS
Basketball • Baseball • Softball • Bowling • Swimming • Tennis • Badminton
Track & Field • Pool • Table Tennis • Cricket • Football • Volleyball • Soccer
The Virgin Islands has a rich and vibrant history and cultural heritage. It's unmistakably blue waters, rolling hills, vibrant plant life and of course its talented, humble and fun loving people from a variety of backgrounds makes it one of the most unique places on Earth. Preservation of the Virgin Islands' unique culture, traditional values and pride of its people are all worth fighting for future generations. Those values have guided us well in the past and will continue to guide us into the future.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Ensure that our Territory’s heritage and traditional values are incorporated in the school curriculum, tourism product and elsewhere throughout the territory in a meaningful manner.

- Encourage the production and preservation of traditional dances, songs and art into productions for residents and visitors alike.

- Support and encourage the enhancement of Virgin Islands literary arts.

- Restore and preserve historical sites through legislation the Territory.

- Consult with our people regarding the declaration of National Heroes, a National Heroes Day and a National Heroes Square in the Virgin Islands.

- Encourage and support greater participation in the Annual August Festival and other cultural events through the year.

- Establish Main Street as a historical street.

- Encourage residents to become more involved in cultural activities.

- Revive and support the return of the annual music festival and annual fungi fest as well as other events throughout the territory to promote our culture.

- Support the return of the annual music festival and annual fungi fest to promote our culture.

- Ensure that each island is represented in the activities which take place, recognizing that there are historical and cultural differences between the islands.
☐ Provide financial support for cultural activities throughout the territory.

☐ Support cultural activities, religious values.

☐ Establish a Heritage Fund.

☐ Forge new and strengthen established relationships with related regional and international organizations, agencies and institutions.

☐ Support related Non-Governmental Organizations.
Resilient Infrastructure

We deserve first class and cost effective infrastructure for our people; one that is in line with our most valuable products that we sell to international markets – Financial Services and Tourism. Not only that, a resilient infrastructure is vital to position us for success. In order for us to meet future challenges, our infrastructure must be upgraded innovatively and resiliently with highly skilled workers and solid building standards. We have no doubt that our resiliency will attract investors, create jobs and build a prosperous country admired across the globe under a VIP Government.

The country deserves improved water supply, sewerage and drainage works, environmental protection and sanitation, street lights, telecommunications, reconstruction and beautification of our capital city and other communities. Under a Virgin Islands Party Government we will turn the page where one can see the value for our hard earned taxpayers’ money. The VIP will give the people the good infrastructure we truly deserve.

Road Network

We will carry out a complete review of the entire road network in the Virgin Islands and will rehabilitate and improve the road network across the territory. There is no excuse to have our people and visitors to our shores driving on deplorable roads. Adequate plans will be put in place to ensure that repaired and newly constructed roads will be appropriately designed using the latest road design and drainage methodologies, and supported with adequate maintenance to ensure longevity which will benefit all road users.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Examine and repair, as appropriate, all major roadways using the latest road design methodologies.
- Examine and repair, as appropriate, all secondary and minor roadways in conjunction with major roadways.
- Re-establish and install street lights in various areas across the country from East to West, Anegada, Jost Van Dyke including the Valley and North Sound.
- Improve driver and pedestrian safety by ensuring that proper road signs and pedestrian crossings are put in place.
- Install proper school signs and speedometers in school zones such as H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, Willard Wheatley Primary School, Althea Scatliffe Primary School and the Elmore Stoutt High School which are bordering the main roads. This will help protect our children and others from accidents.
- Ensure that road repairs and construction are carried out as envisaged, and secure adequate equipment for the Public Works Department so that the department can carry out projects on their own or in conjunction with contractors.
- Ensure that adequate steps are taken to improve traffic and parking in Road Town. Road markings, stop lights and police personnel along with other appropriate measures will be used to assist the situation.
- Seek proposal to construct an environmentally conscious high rise parking in Road Town as this is crucial to facilitate better traffic flow and pedestrian safety, and will generally improve the city’s aesthetics by removing the significant numbers of cars parked across the city and on its roadways.
Create additional linking roads between the major roads on Tortola.

Construct additional developmental roads on the Sister Islands.

Develop and implement a road safety programme including lighting, drainage and signage.

Establish a comprehensive drivers education programme for schools, new drivers and new arrivals, etc.

Support and improve the taxi association to better service the needs of the country by:

• Providing training and organizational seminars.

• Ensuring that the Tourist Board reserves a place for a member of the taxi industry.

• Ensuring that major industry trade shows are attended by representatives from the highest level of government.

• Ensuring that safety measures are adhered to.

Provide relief of traffic congestion in Road Town by creating alternative routes and facilitating parking solutions including the proposed construction of high rise parking.

---

Sea Transportation

We will carry out a complete review of the current sea transportation system including ports of entry, ferries, ferry schedule, transportation safety and cost to passengers especially those with daily sea commutes. A better sea transportation system will benefit all residents and visitors alike.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Examine, improve and upgrade our ports of entry and establish new ones where appropriate.

☑ Improve all our seaports including making Setting Point an official port of entry and separating cargo and passengers in Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda.

☑ Improve our ferry services and support service providers in the upgrading of their vessels where appropriate. This will improve safety and the comfort of passengers.

☑ Ensure that our ports are adequately staffed to facilitate faster traffic flow and better security screening.

☑ Improve and expand present port facilities in Road Town, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

☑ Construct a new modern passenger and light cargo port at West End.

☑ Construct at least one modern mega yacht facility in the territory.
Resilient Infrastructure

- Improve our marine transport management programme through training, certification and tighter operations requirements.
- Introduce tighter marine transport regulations.
- Collaborate and partner with USVI-BVI ferry operators, encourage and support the establishment of a Ferry Operators Association to raise the standard of service, including common ticketing, expanded schedules to connect with airlines, minimum standards for boats, customer service standards and other standards to improve service. An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will provide an incentive package to the operators.

Air Travel

A Virgin Islands Party Government will improve aviation management rationalizing the regulatory, promotion and operating functions by:

- Improving the airport facilities on Virgin Gorda and Anegada and at the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport for efficient customer care.
- Separating the regulatory functions away from the operations and promotion functions now with the BVI Airports Authority.
- Facilitating and supporting the establishment of a BVI flagged carrier providing direct air service from east coast of the US to BVI and connections from regional hubs in coordination with established regional carriers.

Water and Sewerage

A Virgin Islands Party Government will ensure that adequate work is done to improve water supply and the sewerage system across the territory.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Engage the appropriate departments and experts to resolve and rectify the sewage situation in Road Town, East End, Cane Garden Bay and other areas of the territory.
- Ensure that the appropriate equipment, manpower and technology are applied to minimize and eliminate reoccurring problems.
- Improve drainage, gut cleaning and soil erosion techniques to reduce flooding which can significantly affect the sewerage system.
- Improve the equipment, tools and materials including pipes, water storage tanks and related materials available to the Water & Sewerage Department so that the department can improve its delivery of potable water to more communities.
- Work alongside water producing entities to maximize water production and minimize cost to consumers to the greatest extent possible.
- Improve water supply in districts so residents can have regular water service.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) - A Digital Future

The future of the Virgin Islands rests on the strength and resilience of its ICT sector. This sector is critical to accelerating the recovery of the Territory, its ability to attract new investment to its shores and to its recovery from future disasters. This lesson was learnt following the 2017 category 5 hurricanes when the world waited to hear from BVI. It was its ICT sector that was resilient enough to get the word out in a relatively short time. The new economic substance requirement law will require strong ICT services to be in place for businesses to effectively operate from the Territory or they will not come. This has serious implications as the economy shifts to more on island
businesses. Additionally, there is movement afoot by the Government to provide digital services to its citizens and ICT services are critical to this needed transformation of service. It quickens the pace at which Government can fully restore and improve its delivery of services.

ICT is the backbone of the digital society the BVI needs to create. ICT providers must work in a strong partnership with the Government to achieve the outcome we must have. Government must set the policy and priority vision and the providers must commit their best effort to helping to meet the needs of the Territory. Digitisation can open a world of global opportunities and revenues for both the public and private sectors. A Virgin Islands Party Government will promote digital technologies in every area of our economy which is an effective way to maximize revenue for businesses, small and large, reach a global market, improve delivery of services to the public and recover from disaster.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

Strengthen the Management and Regulation of the sector by:

- Reviewing and revising the Telecommunications Act as required to take advantage of new opportunities and other market realities.
- Rationalizing and strengthening the regulatory and policy functions of the regulator and Government, respectively.
- Developing an ICT Strategy and Plan for the Virgin Islands.

Make ICT the backbone of Development by:

- Working with service providers to supply the bandwidth required to support the digital ambitions of the Virgin Islands.
- Develop a unique Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship that will inspire technological ideas, strategic, scientific and creative thinking for education, research and advancement. The center will comprise science, technology, art and medicine. We will welcome creative thinkers and researcher globally while simultaneously unleashing the talent and potential of our people.
- Make more public services available online. Government processes and records will be digitized for greater administrative efficiency and customer care.
- Rebuild our schools for a digital future.
- Promote e-commerce to conduct trade.

Facilitate the Upgrading of Our High-Speed Network by:

- Incentivizing the establishments of high-speed internet to transmit data through the Virgin Islands.
Improving services to the People and Businesses by:

- Facilitating the complete restoration of ICT infrastructure in the Territory.
- Working with providers to achieve cheaper costs and more bandwidth.
- Working with service providers to ensure their services can withstand disasters and still provide services.
- Working with service providers to ensure the Virgin Islands offers services comparable to anywhere to its residents.
- Working with service providers to provide businesses with the services to attract investment such as fibre optics.
- Providing digital services to the public using ICT.

Waste Disposal and Community Beautification

The proper disposal of waste is crucial to a country’s well-being. Inappropriate disposal can lead to health issues and is of course very unpleasant to look at or smell. Currently, our dumpsters throughout various districts are overfilled with garbage on a daily basis and are very unsightly especially in the afternoon to evening time. Better facilities must be put in place to receive waste and allow for their appropriate and timely collection.

Residents and visitors alike will benefit from a cleaner environment under a Virgin Islands Party Government. Beautification of our towns, streets and communities works hand in hand with waste disposal and can improve the quality of life for residents. Appropriate incineration and disposal at the Pockwood Pond plant is another crucial area. Appropriate repairs to the incinerator and improvement of the overall facility is a must. We are committed to improving waste disposal across the territory, beautifying our towns, streets and communities and improving the disposal plant at Pockwood Pond whilst also exploring other options.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Improve the size, quality and surroundings of dumpsters across the territory.
- Improve waste collection and implement twice daily collection in certain high volume areas.
- Encourage and facilitate the reduced use of plastic bags and bottles.
- Implement a recycling program.
- Address hazardous waste management.
- Improve emissions at the incinerator plant in Pockwood Pond.
- Monitor air pollution.
- Employ emerging technologies to better dispose of waste.
- Create a beautification drive for our towns, streets and communities supported by district committees and appropriate government departments.

Electricity

We will carry out a complete review of the electricity supply regime. Credit must be given to the BVI Electricity Corporation for its work after the hurricanes but much more needs to be done to ensure that there is an adequate and consistent supply of electricity for homes and businesses 24/7. An inconsistent supply of electricity slows production and can create significant issues for homes and businesses. Additionally, consideration must be given to the increased use of renewable energy such as solar, wind and water as part of our energy mix. With the increased threat from climate change due to the significant use of fossil fuels globally, we must embrace renewables as the way forward.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:
Examine and upgrade our power plants for resilience and consistency in power production and supply.

Improve the power delivery infrastructure including, power lines – (both underground and above ground), transformers, switches and more.

Encourage and foster the use of renewable energy options like solar, wind and water on a large scale.

Seek to reduce high electricity cost to the consumers.

Promote proper maintenance of our energy infrastructure.
Our Commitment for Good Governance, Transparency & Accountability

It is in the Virgin Islands’ best interest that a framework of good governance is maintained in the Government and the people’s democratic rights are protected. A Virgin Islands Party Government will put measures in place whereby elected members uphold our cherished institution to the highest level and restrain from abusing their power. An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will carry out the people’s business with pride, intelligence and integrity under strong and stable leadership putting the people first at all times.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will be transparent in reporting to the people at all times. We will have an administrative machinery that will not compete with the private sector but is designed to promote, facilitate and support a vibrant private sector by utilizing technology to reduce cost and increase efficiency.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will manage the financial affairs of the Virgin Islands in a fiscally sound and prudent manner, ensuring that revenues and expenditures are in line with budget projections. We will implement measures to control spending and ensure that proper due diligence is conducted on all financial transactions and that proper checks and balances are in place to monitor financial activity.

We believe in the rights of our people to be able to access Government information which is essential to our democracy and good governance. A Virgin Islands Party Government will enact a Freedom of Information Legislation to ensure transparency and accountability in Government business.

We will make provision for the outstanding Financial Statements to be audited by the Auditor General for maximum transparency and ensure that future audits are conducted in a timely fashion.

We believe that good governance must exist at governmental, corporate and international levels. We further believe that it is absolutely essential to involve the full range of actors and institutions at both the formal and informal levels. We see good governance guided by the views of elected officials, public officers, farmers, workers, industry associations NGO’s, educational institutions, religious leaders, financial institutions, individuals, political organizations, the media, lobbyists, multi-national corporations and international donors.

Participation of Stakeholders

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Organize regularly scheduled town hall meetings on matters of interest or concern to various stakeholders, outline input frameworks, scheduled exchange of information sessions and plan visits to all areas throughout the Territory.
- Organize a series of community-based meetings on major projects in advance of their planning and implementation to get and use the feedback of all stakeholders and other events.
- Strengthen the Complaints Commission operations by giving it more powers to address resolutions.

Wider Consensus

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Research and identify the true character of the Virgin Islander which will form the core of our people centered development.
☑ Build into our planning and development frameworks around the values and aspirations of the people.

☑ Implement a series of educational programmes on transparency and its related rules in order to elevate the level of public engagement.

**Accountability to the People**

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Establish a Performance Reporting System that ensures that timely, annual reporting to the House of Assembly by Government Ministries, Departments, Commissions, Enterprises, Statutory Bodies and other relevant agencies become the norm.

☑ Enact consumer protection legislation to protect the public protection from abuse by commercial establishments.

☑ Strengthen legal framework to achieve more accountability by private institutions to their shareholders.

☑ Implement a communication programme of sensitization and education on the issue of accountability in our society.

**Responsiveness**

The Virgin Islands Party believes that a Government must serve its citizens within a reasonable timeframe through its institutions and processes. In this connection, we will ensure that our agencies Service Charters are modern, up-to-date and effective, and implemented as the basis of service delivery and public evaluation.

**Effectiveness and Efficiency**

The Virgin Islands Party believes that it must obtain the best results with a minimum use of resources in a sustainable way and will:

☑ Further the institutionalization of the concept of Sustainable Development through strategic and tactical plans to integrate the efficient and effective use of resources.

☑ Integrate protection of our environment concepts in daily management of the governmental institutions and processes.

☑ Make efficiency a central objective of government processes by making it a measurable and an accountable objective at all levels of government.

**Transparency**

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Implement a stronger and more robust communication plan to provide more timely information on government decisions, their implementation and expected consequences.
Rule of Law

The Virgin Islands Party believes that fair legal frameworks impartially enforced are an absolute prerequisite to the further development of our country. An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Review the judicial and legal systems to ensure that human rights, constitutional rights and natural rights are protected.
- Establish a Police Complaints Commission to hear and adjudicate complaints against police actions.
- Review the Police Act to ensure that this Territory has an impartial and incorruptible Police Force.
- Strengthen legal framework to achieve more accountability by private institutions to their shareholders.
- Implement a communication programme of sensitization and education on the issue of accountability in our society.

Equity and Inclusivity

We will ensure that our socio-economic policies facilitate gender equality, empowerment of women, protection of the most vulnerable, and builds on and celebrates the rich talents, interests and diversity of our people, so that they can flourish academically, socially and economically.

Constitutional Development

Constitutional advancement and reform have been an important part of our history. However, the most recent constitutional changes in 2007 have not addressed all the areas that are enabling for our development as a country. We admit that many of the changes are not fully implemented, and it is obvious that certain changes need to be made now. A constitutional review was due in 2017 in keeping with a review every 10 years.

The Virgin Islands Party seeks clarification of some issues related to the functions of the Governor and certain other Public Officials. We want to further empower our citizens to participate more in the governmental process and the protection of their rights. The Cabinet system of Government is not fully entrenched as these are inherent conflicts between the Governor and the elected government. There is further need for clarification of the workings of the Attorney General Chambers and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Besides the obvious and current need for reform, it is incumbent upon Government to prepare its people for Constitutional change in the future.

Education and sensitization into how our Constitution works and in which areas it is deficient are critical to our understanding of what must be done. Our people must understand fully the consequences of our constitutional status and any changes that we would make to it.

The VIP believes that our people should be fully aware of the principles that underly our Constitution, the goals we have established and the measures to be taken to enhance it.

The VIP Government will:

- Establish a permanent Committee to review the workings of our Constitution and to make timely recommendations for changes in anticipation of a Constitutional Review.
- Implement the recommendation concerning changes that have been identified.
- Establish a Committee to review and determine the impact of materially changing our present status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.
- Review the current Westminster model of politics with a view to reforming the system so that is more aligns with the social, cultural and norms of Virgin Islanders.
Enhancing the Operations of the House of Assembly

The House of Assembly is one of three independent arms of Government and its recent authority was derived from the Virgin Islands Constitution, 2007. The main objective of the VIP Government is to enhance the independence of this institution with a view to improving its functionality, perception by the public and its status as the law-making body of the Territory.

Presently the House of Assembly is staffed by public officers who are selected by the regular recruitment processes of the Public Service. Members of the House of Assembly have no independent staff to assist them; their information and communication services are those of the Public Service and many key institutions that are normally not under their control. These situations clearly hamper the effectiveness and independence of this most important body.

The records and archives of the House of Assembly are limited and it is certain that valuable pieces of the history of that institution have not been preserved as they should have been. Within the community there is a growing desire for a better understanding of the working of this institution. Access of the public to meetings and the records of the House of Assembly are limited to the public, research institutions and educational institutions. There is a growing need for sensitization and education of the general public into the respect that should be accorded members of the House of Assembly.

An elected VIP government will:

☑ Undertake a comprehensive review of the operations of the House of Assembly to ensure its effectiveness and independence.

☑ Undertake a study to improve and enhance the physical facilities for the offices and Chambers of the House of Assembly.

☑ Undertake a consultancy in respect of the procedures and processes of the operations of the House of Assembly.

☑ Implement a programme of public education into the protocols and operations of the House of Assembly and its membership.

Security & Safety for a Peaceful Society

We recognize that our country and our livelihood is at risk with any increase in crime. A Virgin Islands Party Government working in partnership with the Governor and Royal Virgin Islands Police, will ensure that the resources needed to address crime are made available.

The Virgin Islands Party will make crime control a national priority to create a peaceful society in our country and tighten up on our borders to curb gun crime, illegal entry and the importation of drugs in our country. Our plan will reduce crimes significantly within the next four years. The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force will be the strongest it has ever been and we will confidently tackle all crimes at every level. This is important to restore the peace and tranquility for which the Virgin Islands is known and which is critical to the security of our people and the growth and development of our economy.

A Virgin Islands Party in collaboration with the Governor and the Royal Virgin Islands Police force will identify resources needed to tackle national and border security. The VIP will ensure that adequate financing is allocated in the annual national budget for HM Customs, Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Immigration, Fire & Rescue, Prison services, staffing and training for our safety and reduction of crime.
a) Border Security

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Have an effective border management system in line with international standards.
- Implement a Maritime Enforcement Agency (Customs, Immigration, and Police. Utilizing combined assets with a larger sea-going vessel).
- Have border agency partnerships (French, Dutch, US, USVI, UK, Caribbean).
- Improve infrastructure to accommodate an increasing volume of traffic at the ports of entry.
- Re-introduce air surveillance (aircraft, Helicopter) to the territory.
- Implement a Biometric System that will fingerprint visitors to the Virgin Islands.
- Implement an APIS (Advance Passenger Information System-airlines) which will allow law enforcement to know whose entering the territory before arrival by air.
- Implement E-Sea Clear / SailClear (maritime traffic) which will allow law enforcement to know whose entering the territory before arrival by sea.
- Implement a national radar program.
- Provide the necessary resources to ensure our Coast Guards are trained to detect and interdict any boats entering the Virgin Islands waters with guns, illegal immigrants and drugs.
- Purchase X-ray machines, baggage scanners and density equipment to be used at our main ports of entry in need.
- Purchase mobile equipment such as a VACCAS to examine containers at a quicker pace.
- Provide funding for training locally and overseas.
- Honor our men and women in uniform.

b) National Security

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Increase spot checks and police presence around the Territory.
- Increase and promote neighborhood watches.
- Continue to install CCTV cameras in hot spots and strategic areas around the territory.
- Declare “No Crime Zone” throughout the Territory.
- Partner with local businesses to stream their security measures through the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force to help curb crime.
- Educate the populous about crime prevention in our communities.
- Facilitate giving inmates an opportunity to achieve higher education and learn a trade before integration back into our society.
- Review our rehabilitation program in place for persons in prison ensuring its effectiveness. Where there are downfalls to the rehabilitation program, we will make changes where necessary and provide assistance to persons released from prison that seek employment.
- Take an active role in reintegrating freed persons back into our society. A process of assessment and follow ups will be implemented where our state is satisfied that a freed person is adjusting back into our society.
- Facilitate a neighborhood watch committee in every district.
- Encourage a declaration of a State of Emergency in any hotspot areas at any given time.
Rebuild the police headquarter in Road Town, in a new location and renovate and enhance all police stations throughout the Territory.

Amend the law to permit a public register of sex offenders in regards to sexual offences against minors and adults. A VIP administration will protect our children and entire population from sexual predators which ruin lives and our society.

Create a National Intelligence Unit (Customs, Immigration, Police, Prison, FIA).

Revive National Coordinating Tasking Committee (Heads of Customs, Immigration, Police).

Revive the National Coordinating Tasking Group (comprised of other various departments).

Install shot stoppers throughout communities.

Increase police human resources.

Provide adequate funding for training locally and overseas.

Promote policing as a career for Virgin Islanders and Belongers.

Ensure that district representatives play an active role in any police consultative group in their respective districts.

c) Drug Policy Reform

An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

Start the process to allow licensed medical practitioners to prescribe their patients medicinal cannabis for legitimate health issues.

Start the process for medicinal cannabis production locally.

Review the country’s law on the use of drugs and educate the public about same.

Our ultimate goal is to have a caring, peaceful and uplifting society for our people, investors and visitors to our shores.

Strengthening the Public Service

Our public service will fulfill Government’s responsibilities to its people with efficiency, integrity, impartiality and compassion using updated management systems, effective organizational structures, proactive policies and practices, efficient processing, digital technology, effective communication and strategic planning.

There is overwhelming agreement that we need a new and comprehensive strategy for public sector management in view of the changing and challenging environment of the 21st century. Our public sector must become more effective and efficient in performing the critically important leadership, facilitating and supporting roles required to meet our current challenges.

We believe that the future role of the public service calls for organizations that are adaptive, agile and accommodating on a scale never envisaged before. The public sector must lead in ensuring global competitiveness, the preparedness and resilience of the BVI, especially in its key industries of financial services and tourism.

We believe that at the core of all forward strategy is the management of the public service and the rest of the public sector. Shifting of resources to higher priority areas, better communication with the public and stronger public sector leadership would be our first priorities.
Our change agenda will focus on strong frameworks, transparent processes, right sizing and structuring of the public sector and new public management strategies. Improved customer service and improved efficiency will also be our focus for the future.

In support of our mission, a Virgin Islands Party Government will:

1. Protect civil servants who report wrongdoing in government by:
   - Enacting a new Whistleblower Legislation to protect persons who report on illegal activity within an organization or Government.

2. Strengthen the legal and regulatory framework of the civil service and the public sector by:
   - Upgrading and enacting a new Public Service Management Act.
   - Implementing new Public Service Commission Regulations.
   - Establishing an umbrella Act for Statutory Bodies and an umbrella Act for the management of public enterprises.

3. Evaluate the civil service and the public service by:
   - Conducting a Civil Service jobs analysis and nomenclature.
   - Reviewing of the need to create more public enterprises.
   - Developing a guide post strategy for the future.

4. Improve the management of the public service and the public sector by:
   - Creating an Executive Director of the Public Service Commission to better manage appointments, promotions, transfers, dismissals and movements within the Civil Service.

5. Improving Statutory Agency Management by:
   - Adopt new and more realistic measures of agency effectiveness and efficiency by implementing clear guidelines to be utilized by Ministries and departments.
   - Upgrade the protocol, communication requirement and management structure for agencies of the Central Government and the rest of the Public Sector.
   - Review and revise the corporate government framework.
   - Appoint a Task Force on agency management strategy.
   - Conduct a comprehensive review of Government revenue and revenue potential.

6. Improve public sector operational efficiencies by:
   - Focusing on making the public sector work better for the people.
   - Implementing financial management reform and strategic management and project management processes.
   - Improving business processes to make conducting businesses easier.
10. Improve communication and information flows by:

- Publishing plans, strategies and budgets in print media and online.

Sister Islands

Our sister islands will enjoy the full benefits of government services and the economic opportunities of sustainable development that contributes to a good quality of life. We aim to have greater representation on the sister islands with both district and territorial at-large candidates. We believe in development across the width and breadth of the Territory from Anegada to Jost Van Dyke. This means distributing the benefits of development to the sister islands. We further believe that government has an obligation to provide the full range of services to the sister islands wherever possible, particularly through the use of technology.

In support of our mission, a Virgin Islands Party Government will:

1. Establish a comprehensive programme for land distribution and housing by:
   - Continuing to implement the scheme under which the people of the Sister Islands get titles to the land.

2. Improve transportation and transport facilities for the Sister Islands by:
   - Establishing a port facility on Jost Van Dyke to better accommodate cargo and passenger at the existing Dog Hole facility.
   - Support and facilitate establishing consistent regular air and sea service to Anegada and Virgin Gorda from Tortola as well as other islands.

8. Improve office accommodations and facilities by:

- Creating a ministry building to accommodate two ministries.

9. Strengthen leadership and management in the public sector by:

- Creating a leadership and management institute at the HLSCC.
- Introducing standard tests for promotions and advancement.

7. Improve customer services by:

- Providing training in customer service to improve service quality.
- Implementing customer satisfaction surveys to monitor service.
- Extending e-government initiatives to other vital services.
- Creating Government centres in each district to enhance service.
- Extending additional services to the sister islands.

✓ Enhancing employee skills and implement employee satisfaction initiatives to help boost productivity.

✓ Having a ministerial Government that will re-empower the public service to function as designed and Ministers focusing more on the implementation of the legislative and policy agendas required for a successful economy.
• Upgrading the Virgin Gorda airport to accommodate more international traffic.

• Building the new cargo facility at Mancheoneel Bottom on Virgin Gorda.

3 Upgrade health and wellness services and facilities by:

• Providing more specialised medical services on a regular basis through specialised medical services clinics and by having a full time medical doctor.

• Opening the new Iris O’Neal Clinic.

• Extending the clinic facility and services on Jost Van Dyke and Anegada.

4 Upgrade and improve infrastructure and infrastructural services to facilitate development on the islands by:

• Expanding road networks on Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost Van Dyke and other sister islands.

• Adding sidewalks, street signs, street lighting and street markings on Virgin Gorda.

• Providing sewerage treatment facilities on Virgin Gorda to take care of the growing problem.

• Upgrading the water distribution systems on Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.

• Upgrading the electricity and generation system on Virgin Gorda and the other sister islands.

5 Expand and improve agriculture and food production by:

• Making more lands available for agricultural production.

• Embark on a national agriculture plan to improve food security and develop agri-tourism on the three main sister islands.

6 Expand economic opportunity and job creation by:

• Creating a Sister Islands Focus Economic Committee made up of sister islands professionals and advisers to provide policy advice on the economic development of the sister islands.

• Creating a package of investment incentives to create jobs and economic opportunity on the sister islands.

• Assisting with the establishment of commercial banking on the sister islands of Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke.

• Support and facilitate regular air service to Anegada, so that tourism and other developments can continue and the residents of Anegada are assured of a regular schedule air service.
7 Upgrading community services to help focus on activities for the youth and the elderly by:

- Expanding the community services portfolio of services delivered to the sister islands.
- Completing the Post Office and Administration building at North Sound, Virgin Gorda.

8 Increase political representation by:

- Fighting for the two extra seats in the House of Assembly to be District seats, one for the island of Anegada and one for the island of Jost Van Dyke and surrounding islands.
International Relations and Public Policies

An International Relations Strategy Supportive of our Development Goals

The creation of wealth and prosperity in the Virgin Islands has been fueled by internationally competitive financial and tourism services for the past three decades. In this connection our international relations were jointly shaped by seeking aid, development assistance and trading financial and tourism services. Global markets and relations continue to evolve rapidly and our international relations must be re-focused to ensure that we can effectively navigate issues such as Brexit and its aftermath, EU relations, public registries, economic substance, environment and climate change and a host of international issues impacting our shores.

The Virgin Islands Party believes that in the context of globalization, particularly the high scrutiny of financial services, issues related to climate change, foreign investment, and regional and international trade, our international relations plans and strategy must include a roadmap to help the Virgin Islands navigate the stormy waters ahead of us.

International Affairs

The Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Re-focus and re-direct its international relations thrust through a strengthened and properly constituted International Affairs Secretariat.

- Strengthen the cooperation with global institutions in the re-shaping of the international financial services regulatory and management regimes.

- Improve our domestic capacity and coordination to support the various international relationships the Territory has across the public and private and NGO sectors.

- Provide additional resources for the promotion of the Territory as a preferred destination for legitimate international business.

- Promote the Territory as a partner in the fight against cross-border crimes such as money laundering, narco-trafficking, human-trafficking and other crimes.

- Strengthen our relations with CARICOM and the OECS with a view to determining further courses of action for integration into the regional economic space.

- Review our national security strategy to undertake measures that will assure the international traveler that our destination is welcoming and safe.

- Leverage our post Brexit relationship with the UK, European Union and other international players to bring additional resources and opportunities in financial services, trade, environment and a host of internationally regulated and supported functions to the Territory.

Strengthening our Presence Overseas

The Virgin Islands Party Government will:

- Maximise use of our overseas offices in London and Hong Kong to provide marketing,
business development and investment promotion services and leverage the knowledge base of the domestic based organizations that promote our products and services.

☑ Strengthen our services overseas to inform Virgin Islanders of developments in the Territory with a view to stimulate their interest as investors and returning residents to help rebuild the Territory.

Maintaining a Sensible Policy for Immigration

Immigration is at the centre of economic and social development of this Territory. More than 70% of the growth in population and economic activities in this country over the past three decades can be associated with immigration and emigration. Immigrants from the Caribbean region, the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa have come to this country for economic opportunity.

Four decades of open immigration has meant that a multiplicity of cultures have entered the Territory. Authorities have not influenced immigration to the Territory through expressed policy and this was left virtually to the employer. While this has worked somewhat in the past, the result has been a mixture of immigrant cultures and impacts that have created a society with challenges to social cohesion and structured population growth.

But as our innate population grows and our adsorptive capacity reaches saturation it is going to be more important to manage immigration more effectively to ensure that its impacts are in the best interest of Virgin Islands society. This is further exasperated by the need to bring more persons into the Territory to assist with the recovery. There is the need to have transparency and objectivity in policy making and application as it pertains to the demographics of immigration and immigrants.

A new Comprehensive Immigration Policy

The Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Conduct a comprehensive study on Immigration with specific reference to the social, economic, cultural and overall impact.

☑ Conduct a National Manpower Study on the need for human resources in the next decade consistent with any economic development strategy.

☑ Review and revise the current Immigration policy in relation to Permanent Residence and Belonger Status.

☑ Identify preferred source countries for types of immigrants.

☑ Revise the level of fees and charges applicable to immigration and labour services.
A new Comprehensive Legal Framework for Immigration

The Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Review and revise the existing Immigration Legal Framework to be in line with an integrated approach covering revised policy.

☑ Regularise the status of long-term residents without status, include persons reared in the Virgin Islands.

☑ Review the current human resource capacity need to effectively implement, monitor and enforce the provision of the new Labour Code.

☑ Provide the information and communication technology and other resources needed to make the processes efficient.

☑ Establish a joint Committee to monitor the implementation of the Labour Code and report to Cabinet periodically.

Ensure Smooth Industrial Relations

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Establish a Continuous Programme of public Education about labour matters utilizing all media.

☑ Updated and maintain the Minimum Wage regulations and its provisions.


☑ Accelerate full implementation of the workforce development aspects of the Labour Code.

Labour Policy for Sustainable Development

Labour, particularly of a foreign nature, has been one of the most critical components in the development of the Virgin Islands over the past four decades. The sophistication of the level of skills required has grown tremendously in virtually every sector of the economy, particularly in financial services, health, government services and construction services to name a few. The current recovery requires additional importation of labour and skills not resident in the Territory.


Strengthen the Labour Code

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

☑ Establish a new management mechanism for the current Labour Code that is more responsive to the development needs of the Territory.
Environmental Management

The natural environment of the BVI suffered the worst devastation in its history as a result of the two category 5 hurricanes of 2017. The massive destruction of mangrove, coconut trees, fruit and vegetable producing plants and other vegetation impacted the Territory’s fishing and agriculture stock. The destruction and erosion of beaches, other coastal areas and coral reefs affected our tourism offering as did the widespread debris that littered the coast, beaches and ocean. The value of the environment and its value to our daily lives has been made clear to the residents of the Territory by the hurricanes.

The priority for the environment is to continue the clean-up that has been started and return our environment to a healthy state and protect it as much as possible against future assaults. A Virgin Islands Party Government believes that there is opportunity in crisis and will use this situation to legislate stronger policies and legislation to protect our environment and also teach our people about the value and importance of protecting the environment.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

1. Strengthen the Protection of the Environment by:
   a) Reviewing and strengthening of environment legislation and its enforcement.
   b) Implementing adaptation and mitigation measures such as sea walls.
   c) Increase enforcement of measures to protect coral reefs and mangroves.
   d) Legislate the protection of salt ponds and other ecological assets that protect the environment;
   e) Completing the sewerage systems on Virgin Gorda and the major population centres on Tortola.
   f) Establishing standards for land reclamation and hillside construction to prevent pollution of oceans from dirt;
   g) Implementing policies and legislation for recycling, banning of items harmful to environment.

2. Strengthen the management of our marine environment and clean it by:
   a) Providing financial resources to create a Marine Board and Environment Unit.
   b) Providing resources for operations of the Marine Environmental Agency and for the operations of the Marine Board.
   c) Providing resources to strengthen Environmental Laws and Marine Laws.
   d) Providing funding to purchase cleanup equipment and to initiate the Environmental Cleanup Program.
   e) Requiring holding tanks on pleasure yachts.

3. Provide lasting solutions to our major environmental problems in the marine and land environment by:
   a) Protecting the local mangroves around the territory and giving them careful restoration and conservation priority.
   b) Correcting flooding in low lying residential areas.
c) Providing a higher level of resources for response agency readiness.

d) Educating operators, engineers, agriculturalists, builders and land developers.

e) Consolidating and centralizing laws and law enforcement.

f) Providing funding for staff improvements, equipment and training among the various response agencies.

g) Create green spaces in the districts and build our livelihood around green thinking; paying attention to climate change.

h) Encourage and support community and local NGOs for tree planting, mangrove re-planting and other re-greening initiatives;

i) Supporting the Climate Change Trust Fund.

Energy

The impact of climate change globally has been significant especially over the last decade, and the continued use of fossil fuels is seen as a major contributor. The Virgin Islands is especially vulnerable to the impact of climate change due to changing weather patterns, the increased strength and unpredictability of storms and their potential impact on tourism, other sectors and the overall economy. The occurrence of a massive flood and two of the strongest hurricanes in the history of the Atlantic season in 2017 is strong evidence of this. As such, a renewable energy policy which encourages the use of solar, wind and water as alternate sources of energy must be at the forefront of the territory’s future energy needs. Moving forward with the National Energy Transition Policy in a thoughtful and proactive manner in conjunction with assistance from our international partners is something which must be given the priority it deserves. A Virgin Islands Party Government is committed to making the use of renewable energy on a significant scale throughout the territory, a reality.

A Virgin Islands Party Government will:

i) Overhaul the management and regulation of the energy sector by enhancing safety and security in the areas of importation, operations, distribution, storage and transportation of all forms of fuel energy by:

   a) Maintaining an up to date legislative structure for the support of renewable energy.

   b) Providing additional resources to improve energy-related security and safety initiatives throughout the British Virgin Islands through a National Energy Office.

   c) Ensuring that energy pollution standards are established and adhered to in respect of industries, importation of vehicles and equipment and disposal of fuel energy consumption wastes.

   d) Developing a policy on low emission energy use especially for the importation of motor vehicles.

   e) Undertaking regular review of the territory’s energy security situation.

   f) Creating a National Energy Office to improve regulation and safety of all energy related operations in the BVI.
g) Pursuing energy market reforms to ensure that, as far as possible energy products are competitively priced throughout the various markets of the territory.

h) Establishing a framework to ensure an adequate supply of energy is always available.

2 Provide incentives and support to the use of alternative energy such as solar and wind sources to reduce the demand for nonrenewable energy by

a) Providing resources for public education and information related to energy savings, alternative sources, safety and security programmes.

b) Providing financial resources as incentives for the use of solar energy technologies in homes and businesses via imports.

c) Allocating resources to address the removal of barriers to the use of renewable energy, including conversion of publicly owned facilities, storage systems and information systems.

d) Promoting a wide range of energy efficient appliances.

e) Ensuring the large industrial users of energy report regularly on assessments to identify efficiency measures.

f) Introducing green technology such as solar on Government building to encourage the private sector to follow.

g) Developing an eco-park on Anegada and Virgin Gorda.

An elected Virgin Islands Party Government will:

a) Review and improve current disaster risk management plan with a view of strengthening our resilience in the short, medium and long term.

b) Restore confidence in our people that as a country we have considered risk mitigation beyond a Reserve Fund Programme.

c) Ensure our risk management plan can provide immediate assistance to persons affected by a natural disaster. Such coverage can immediately assist with meals, shelter, repair of damaged homes, help small and medium sized enterprises, help with injured persons, deaths and job losses to name a few benefits.

d) Have resilient building codes to strengthen our infrastructure and protect our properties.

e) Provide financial assistance to the vulnerable, severely injured persons and families who have lost a loved one caused by a natural disaster.

Risk Management

As in the words of the late human rights activist, Malcolm X. The future belongs to those who prepare for it today. One of the greatest adjustments a Virgin Islands Party Government will make is in the area of risk reduction to ensure that the Virgin Islands has adequate national insurance coverage. A dedicated
Greetings,

It is with humility that I present to you the collective efforts of the Virgin Islands, inclusive of the VIP Executive Members, 13 VIP Candidates, VIP Congressional Members, the voices and expressions of concerns and hope of the people of this beloved Territory to formulate a strategy, the Vision (If you will) to take this territory "FORWARD" well into the future. At a time when we have reached crossroads and major setbacks as a territory, I stand grounded with the assurance that:

a) The team of qualified and experienced candidates of the Virgin Islands Party will forge ahead in securing the future of this territory.

b) The vibrancy of the Virgin Islands Party’s internal democracy will continue to hold us accountable and thereby ensure the longevity and sustainability of the engines of this territory, while even securing viable industries.

c) We have awoken sleeping giants and will encourage a strong cadre of intellectuals whose mandate will be to keep the dialogue and activities to preserve the legacy of this territory, while forging ahead to build bridges to unify that which separates us.

d) More than ever, LEADERSHIP MATTERS and is crucial to navigate the murky waters that we face domestically, regionally and internationally.

I am further convinced that the VIP Government is the only path, at this time, to restoring confidence, accountability, economic growth, good governance and opportunities for a better way of life that gives hope for our people, especially the young people, including generations unborn.

It is written that when the righteous rule the people rejoices. Therefore, I employ each and everyone to take an active role and be a part of that change you wish to see. With the leadership of Hon. Andrew A. Fahie and his “League of Doers”, “Policy Makers”, “Tacticians”, “Faith Walkers”, “People’s People” we will turn this ship around with the help of you the People. Change comes to those with the desire to make it happen. Do so when you go to the polls on Thursday, 21 February for early voting and on polling day, Monday, 25 February!

BVI Moving in One Direction – FORWARD!

Sincerely Yours,

[Signature]

Lemuel Smith | Vice President
Acting President