

THE UNITED LABOUR PLATFORM

LOOK FOR THE STAR



LABOUR

MANIFESTO

FOR

GENERAL ELECTIONS

8 JULY 2008

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1.0 ENDURING POLICIES – IMPRESSIVE TEAM

- 1.1 Our United Labour Platform (ULP) national development plans and programmes presented in this our ULP Manifesto for the 2008 General Elections in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, are enduring.
- 1.2 With our symbol, the Star, ULP presents this our Manifesto to open up our country to the new vision which ULP has for our nation, a vision of a fairest, brighter and better Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique; putting people first in national development.
- 1.3 Our ULP Manifesto includes our Constitution Reform Plan highlighting better human rights protection, strengthened parliamentary democracy and prime ministerial term limits. Our Good Governance Reform Plan has initiatives for a National Leaders Code of Conduct, rekindling patriotism and instituting local government.
 - 1.3.1 Our Port Charges Reduction Plan guarantees less port taxes and lower cost of living. Our Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan will revitalize our productive sectors. Our Economic Transformation Plan will be based on the driving of our economy by our Oil and Gas resources in our maritime waters. All these macro economic policies will provide more jobs and a better standard of living.
 - 1.3.2 Our ULP National Youth Service Plan promotes youth. Our Social Sector Reform Plan has a Charter of Positive Industrial Relations, a Public Workers New Deal, and enhanced social justice.
- 1.4. Within one month, ULP will table in Parliament legislation to remove outdated legal restrictions on 18 year olds, and to guard against the selling of Grenadian Passports and Citizenship under offshore financial services or in any other such way; and will move otherwise to convince Canada to remove its visa restrictions on Grenada Passport-holders.
 - 1.4.1 Within three months, ULP will begin to reduce port taxes, commission the National Economic Task Force, and begin work on the National Code of Conduct.
 - 1.4.2 Within six months, ULP will create one thousand jobs as part of our job-creation drive, institute aspects of rekindling patriotism, begin the national youth service and start revitalizing productive sectors.
 - 1.4.3 Within a year, ULP will begin the 100 percent mortgage financing for public workers and will also begin instituting local government.
- 1.5 Not only do we in ULP have sound but imaginative plans and programmes; we also

have the personnel very capable of implementing them. ULP key personnel are leaders in their respective fields, including law, agriculture, tourism, investment, business management, accounting, education, teaching. This is an impressive team. Our ULP Campaign Leader Dr. Francis Alexis, an internationally respected Grenadian patriot featured in leading "Who's Who" in the world, is Grenada's longest ever serving Attorney-General as an elected Member of Parliament, and has on numerous occasions acted as Prime Minister.

- 1.6 With our plans and our personnel, if you the people give us ULP your popular mandate, we ULP will work diligently, conscientiously, competently and with integrity to create equal opportunities with justice for all, consistent with our ULP motto: "GOD IN ALL THINGS, TRUTH ONLY , DISCIPLINE ALWAYS."

2.0 CONSTITUTION REFORM PLAN

- 2.1 The Constitution of a nation is a supreme law contract whose objectives are to bond the people together in peace and order, under good government, with good governance, to protect and enhance their dignity, liberty and freedom; with justice and fairness for all.

- 2.2 A National Constitution is like wine; the more it ages, the more it mellows. But a Constitution is also like a machine; the longer it is left unserviced, the more it creaks unto breaking point. The happy medium is to mould the Constitution with appropriate reform so as to enhance the objectives of the Constitution.

- 2.3 A political party going into general elections should frankly state publicly its views on Constitution reform; and not, if it gets into office, then seek to foist on the people changes to the Constitution, stealthily, without articulating a philosophy for such changes.

2.4 **REFORMS ULP PROMOTES**

- 2.4.1 Our ULP Constitution Reform Plan, whose implementation requires a referendum vote of the people, has certain vital features. Constitution reform must seek to strengthen parliamentary democracy, better dispose the people to identify with the State, advance national cohesion, promote national development, enhance answerability of the government to the governed, ward off dictatorship, require accountability for expenditure of public monies, fend off corruption, aid good governance. Constitution reform has to better protect the individual from abuse of power whether ministerial or bureaucratic or the police or otherwise, and more adequately secure the rights of the individual against the power of the State. The bottom line is the enhancement of the

dignity of the individual, reflecting the majesty of God who made us in his own image and likeness.

2.4.2 ULP will promote reform of the Constitution of Grenada to -

- (1) limit a person serving as Prime Minister to only two consecutive terms or ten consecutive years
- (2) provide for nominated members of Parliament being chosen to speak for interests additional to those now spoken for, the new ones to be youth, women and religion;
- (3) provide for local government, and a local government nominee in Parliament;
- (4) institute an Integrity Commission to guard against abuse of public office;
- (5) institute an Ombudsman;
- (6) stipulate openness in government, insisting particularly on high levels of accountability especially in matters of expenditure of public monies; instituting a Public Expenditure Monitoring Commission, with authority to receive information from varied sources and to probe information on its own motion; complementing the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament;
- (7) require the Supervisor of Elections to be engaged full-time and only on matters pertaining to the office of Supervisor of Elections, an important factor in ensuring free and fair elections;
- (8) make the official name of the State be, for all purposes including the name of our national Passport, not only "Grenada", but "Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique";
- (9) strengthen the rule of law and the independence of the Judiciary for the better protection of the individual from parliamentary and executive abuse;
- (10) guarantee that once a person attains eighteen (18) years of age, he or she should at once be registered for parliamentary elections and not have to wait for annual voter registration;
- (11) provide that the qualifying age for the age of responsibility in all legal matters, not only for voter registration, be eighteen (18) years of age;
- (12) stipulate that women are to get equal pay with men for equal work, and that gender equality is critical to women's empowerment and development;

- (13) enjoin that children born out of wedlock be accorded the same legal rights and legal status as are enjoyed by children born in wedlock;
- (14) widen and strengthen the rights and freedoms of the individual;
- (15) lay down expressly that freedom of expression includes the right to freedom of the press.

2.4.3 ULP will encourage consideration being given to allowing public officers at appropriate levels in the public service to participate actively in the political process while on leave, they committing themselves not to allow their political views and activities to improperly influence their employment responsibilities.

2.5 **REFORMS ULP SUPPORTS**

2.5.1 ULP will support reform of the Constitution to provide for

- (1) a Head of State, a President, symbolising unity of the Grenadian national body politic as in Dominica and Trinidad & Tobago, rather than being the representative in Grenada of the Monarch of the United Kingdom Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,
- (2) reform of the elected representation in Parliament to provide for an element of representation put up by proportional representation complementary to representation put up by the first-past-the-post system, to make sure that no one single party occupies all the elected seats in Parliament, thus better democratising elected representation in Parliament;
- (3) a unicameral legislature which may be called the National Assembly or the House of Assembly comprising elected members (Representatives) and nominated members (Senators);
- (4) recall of parliamentary representatives who desert their constituencies.

2.5.2 As patriots, nationalists and regionalists, primarily, we in ULP in principle support the idea of a Caribbean Court of Justice replacing the Privy Council. The challenge will be for all Caribbean peoples to be eternally vigilant in ensuring that our leaders do not interfere with the Judiciary but rather show due respect for the independence of the Judiciary.

3.0 **GOOD GOVERNANCE REFORM PLAN**

3.1 There is too much confrontation today in our Nation, triggered mostly by the heavy-handed combativeness and dictatorial tendencies of the New National Party (NNP)

Government since 1995. NNP does not hesitate to use physical or verbal aggression when legitimate concerns are expressed, whether by nutmeg workers, teachers, media workers, bus-owners or others. This is all contrary to the tenets of good governance. This must be corrected; this will be done by our ULP Good Governance Reform Plan designed to promote, primarily, accountability, transparency, efficiency, confidence building and patriotism. Pursuing good governance is part of our ULP Constitution Reform Plan.

3.2 In place of frustrating and debilitating strife, ULP will engage in positive productive dialogue and consultation with civil society as partners in national development; as the Grenada Chamber of Industry & Commerce, Employers Federation, trade unions, farmers, bus-owners, street vendors, women, youth, students, churches, NGOs, sports organizations. All for the consensual mobilization of our Nation in a spirit of ONE-LOVE.

3.3 **NATIONAL LEADERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

3.3.1 ULP national leaders will set examples in patriotism, selflessly serving society, not selfishly enriching themselves.

3.3.2 ULP will institute a National Code of Conduct and Ethics. This will require good behavioural conduct and proper ethical standards of the political directorate to promote integrity and morality in public affairs. The Code of Conduct is required by good governance; it will be put together collectively by social partners.

3.3.3 Under this Code, ULP will enact and enforce integrity legislation to promote accountability and transparency.

3.4 **REKINDLING PATRIOTISM**

3.4.1 The corruption, greed, selfishness and sheer abuse of power which have reigned cynically under NNP have seriously violated proper principles of good governance, severely damaged Grenadian patriotism and engendered alienation of the people from the Government. Deeds, not mere words, are required to rekindle patriotism. ULP shall meet those requirements.

3.4.2 ULP shall erect monuments and memorials around the country in tribute to Grenadian history.

3.4.3 Civics will be an important part of our schools' curriculum.

- 3.4.4 Giving out government contracts and public works on the basis of political partisanship is wrong and objectionable; it festers ill-will. Under ULP, government contracts and public works will be awarded on the basis of ability and need, not political partisanship.
- 3.4.5 Selling Grenadian Passports and Citizenship as offshore financial services under the so-called economic citizenship programme is a gross insult to the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique; demeaning before the world our national pride. Within one month of being elected, ULP will enact and enforce legislation guarding against the selling of Grenadian Passports and Citizenship under offshore financial services or in any other such way. Also, ULP will fully look into all such sales of Grenadian Passports and Citizenship carried out by NNP, as part of the thorough cleansing and revamping of the offshore financial services sector.
- 3.4.6 These are important principles, designed to redeem Grenada's national image, restore national honour, boost national pride and foster patriotism.
- 3.5 **NATIONAL SECURITY**
- 3.5.1 Of real concern to our national security is the sale of Grenadian Passports and Citizenship as offshore financial services or in any other way. A ULP Government will speedily guard against such sales.
- 3.5.2 That law and order have deteriorated markedly under NNP is indisputable. NNP ambivalence regarding gangs speaks volumes. This unhealthy trend will be reversed by ULP, as an aspect of good governance, which requires that there be peace, order and good government.
- 3.5.3 Crime will be tackled in the multi-faceted ways it should be, including aspects that are economic, social, educational, jurisprudential and spiritual.
- 3.5.4 Prison will continue to serve its proper purpose, namely, confining those whose confinement is in the interests of all. At the same time, though, good use would be made of relevant correctional measures alternative to imprisonment. Also, juvenile offenders needing custodial supervision will not be mingling with seasoned criminals in prisons ordinarily, but instead will be afforded rehabilitative care in an environment free from the contamination of hardened adult offenders.
- 3.5.5 There is an urgent need for better training of the Royal Grenada Police Force, especially in community policing and human relations including the need to respect confidentiality of the sources of crime-detection information.
- 3.5.6 There must be improvements now in the present sour police-civilian relations.

- 3.5.7 Complaints by civilians of over-exuberance on the part of the police will be handled by the Ombudsman.
- 3.5.8 Better attention will be paid to matters concerning the capacity, maintenance and training of the Coast Guard.
- 3.5.9 A Coast-Guard sub-base will be established in the north of Grenada.
- 3.5.10 ULP will establish a Coast-Guard auxiliary of civilians.
- 3.5.11 ULP will establish a Fire Prevention and Control Service, with relevant training, separate and apart from the Royal Grenada Police Force.
- 3.5.12 Better equipping of the police and fire fighters will be a top priority for ULP.

3.6 **LAW REFORM**

- 3.6.1 Keeping the laws of the land up to date is critical to the preservation and promotion of peace, order and good government. ULP will have our laws regularly reformed and revised, in consultation with relevant social partners such as the Grenada Bar Association, the private sector, NGO's, the Churches and trade unions. Under ULP, law will be an instrument of positive social engineering, not a tool of oppression.
- 3.6.2 Terms and conditions governing the service of Judges and Magistrates will be upgraded and kept at a level which buttresses the independence of the Judiciary so indispensable to the preservation and enhancement of the rule of law.
- 3.6.3 ULP will modernise courthouses, air-conditioning those not yet so attended to. The majesty of the law must be manifest from the environment in which justice is dispensed.
- 3.6.4 The matter of the enforcement of civil judgments will be given special attention for speed and efficacy.
- 3.6.5 Law reform will address criminal justice issues, like the use of correctional measures alternative to imprisonment such as community service orders, and better protection of farmers from praedial larceny.
- 3.6.6 Law reform will look at civil issues, such as settling the age of responsibility as 18 years, patriating our family laws rather than simply copying those laws from England, and solving the problem of long-standing real landowners lacking proper paper title to their lands by affording such persons title under our Title Settlement for Recognised Land-Owners (TISRELO) Plan.

3.7 TISRELO

- 3.7.1 Significant numbers of persons in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique have for decades been the real owners of lands they occupy but have no proper paper title to those lands.
- 3.7.2 Such persons may lack proper paper title because of several reasons. Thus, people have been buying lands, paying the total purchase price, but not bothering to secure a registered conveyance on sale from vendors. Again, while such persons may have sought such conveyance, their efforts may have come to nought by the untimely death of the vendor.
- 3.7.3 To remedy the plight of such persons, ULP will enact legislation to provide for Title Settlement for Recognised Land-Owners (TISRELO). Persons seeking land title settlement deeds under our ULP TISRELO Plan will make a claim to the TISRELO Office for clearance for such a deed. This office will advertise the claim, invite opposing responses, and prepare a report on the claim and the responses deciding whether to grant clearance as requested.
- 3.7.4 With or without such clearance, a TISRELO claimant may then apply to the High Court for an Order acknowledging that claimant as Recognised Land-Owner over the particular lot of land and vesting that person with a TISRELO Land Title Settlement Deed. On such application, the High Court will consider the TISRELO claim, opposing responses, the report of the TISRELO Office granting or refusing clearance, and such further or other submissions and materials as the Court thinks fit to look at. On all those, the Court decides whether to grant a TISRELO Land Title Settlement Deed.
- 3.7.5 Such TISRELO deeds will be registered in the Deeds and Land Registry. Just as other Supreme Court-sanctioned deeds as those on judicial sale, and also deeds on sale on private treaty between individuals.
- 3.7.6 A TISRELO Land Title Settlement Deed will equip its holder to approach banks and other lending agencies for loans on mortgage on the security of that deed. Such deed holders may thus borrow money to develop their lands commercially; buy more lands; buy, build or upgrade their homes; or meet other needs.
- 3.7.7 A TISRELO Land Title Settlement Deed will therefore be as effective as other Supreme Court-sanctioned Title Deeds or as Private Treaty Deeds. It may be used as a sword, to move against other persons coming on to the land or to be put up as security for commercial borrowing; it may be used as a shield, to defend against improper eviction motions. This is unlike the possessory title deriving from adverse possession of lands under the statute of limitations provisions in the Limitation of Actions Act, as such possessory title can only be used as a shield to avoid eviction.

3.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 3.8.1 ULP will provide in legislation for a system of local government as an important institution of people's participation in public decision-making, also an aspect of good governance.
- 3.8.2 It is vital to get the people to identify with the State again after the serious alienation separating the people from the State in the face of corruption, greed, incompetence and callousness under NNP. Promoting such identity between the individual and the State, affording the people a chance to fashion their future, and schooling the people in the practice of democracy will be part of the mission of local government under ULP
- 3.8.3 There should be a local government parliamentarian chosen by local government members from among themselves.

3.9 OIL AND GAS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY

- 3.9.1 Our ULP vision is for the transformation of our national economy, driven by the utilisation by Grenada of Grenada's Oil and Gas resources in our maritime waters. This requires the most urgent delimitation of Grenada's maritime boundary with Venezuela.
- 3.9.2 Revenue from Oil and Gas will boost growth in the traditional sectors of Grenada's economy, and will enable Grenada to take on a path of positive sustained economic growth.
- 3.9.3 Revenue from Oil and Gas will ensure the transformation, not only of our economy, but also of our society.

4.0 PORT CHARGES REDUCTION PLAN

- 4.1 The period since 1995 has been marked by increasing numbers and rates of revenue raising devices, imposed by the NNP who in 1995 promised to abolish personal income tax but who never kept that promise. Serious damage to our national economic productive sectors done by NNP has resulted in NNP over-relying on taxes, duties and other charges at the ports for some eighty percent (80%) of annual recurrent revenue. A fundamental problem created by NNP for Grenada's tax system is a lop-sided top-heavy over-dependence on taxes on imports.
- 4.2 Such over-loading of taxes at the ports as sources of annual recurrent revenue, while the productive sectors of the economy decline, means that NNP has been constantly increasing taxes at the port. The result is that prices of imported goods are higher in Grenada than in most other comparable Caribbean countries, so that the cost of living in Grenada is higher than in those other countries.

This is largely because of NNP mismanagement, putting unnecessary pressure on the backs of poor people.

- 4.3 While ULP recharges the productive sectors, ULP shall reduce taxes, duties, fees and other charges at the port by fifty percent (50%) phased over the first three-year period of a ULP Government, under our ULP Port Charges Reduction Plan. The mechanics of the implementation of this Plan will be the subject of close consultation between ULP and other national development partners, and will have due regard to the need to protect local producers in Grenada, consistent with our regional and international obligations such as those arising from CARICOM CET and the WTO.
- 4.4 Our ULP Port Charges Reduction Plan will help, not hurt, the national revenue. For with such reduction in port charges, the volumes or quantities of goods passing through the ports will increase significantly, and their revenue yield will more than make up for the reduction in the rates of port charges. This will boost economic activity at the ports and in activities dependent on the ports, reduce the cost of imported goods, lower the cost of living, and therefore improve the standard of living. Commerce will expand. Jobs will increase. Our ULP Port Charges Reduction Plan will give the economy the jump-start it so desperately needs after some thirteen years of NNP mismanagement.
- 4.5 Our ULP Port Charges Reduction Plan will make Grenada the shopping paradise of the Caribbean, attracting both shoppers and investors.
- 4.6 As a necessary complement to the reducing of port charges, procedures governing the processing of the movement of goods through the ports will be simplified, to make the ports customer-friendly.

4.7 **TRADE-ZONE OR IN-BOND FACILITIES**

- 4.7.1 ULP will also look at establishing trade-zone or in-bond facilities.

5.0 **PRODUCTIVE SECTORS REVITALIZATION PLAN**

- 5.1 A fundamental problem created by NNP for our national economy is that NNP has thrown the productive sectors of our national economy into serious crisis in a misplaced over-reliance on offshore financial services, leaving the productive sectors needing very urgent revitalization. NNP has proven true the CARICOM maxim that the cost of poor governance and inappropriate policies in a small society is very large.
 - 5.1.1 We must revitalize our productive sectors, especially agriculture, livestock, fisheries, agro-processing, tourism and industries. Our ULP Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan will do so, with appropriate fiscal, budgetary and other measures; to increase production and productivity, create job opportunities, maximize recurrent revenue yield, provide for capital formation, earn

foreign exchange, reduce foreign exchange leakage, and maximize national economic wealth; for sustainable national economic development, heightened human development and meaningful social progress.

- 5.1.2 Pursuing increased production and productivity, within three months of being voted into office, ULP will begin to provide concessions, incentives, subsidies and other help to farmers, livestock rearers, and fishermen; as well as such concessions and other help to hoteliers and manufacturers. This will be within the framework of Grenada's obligations under international and regional treaties such as WTO and CARICOM.

5.2 **AGRICULTURE**

- 5.2.1 ULP is determined to have Grenada live out the true and full meaning of the creed that agriculture is the backbone of our national economy. It was agriculture that produced money to finance primary and secondary schooling for many leaders in politics in Grenada today. We should be faithful to agriculture; out of gratitude. Also because of its potential for earning foreign exchange, saving foreign exchange by keeping down the national food import bill, feeding our people, providing employment, supporting tourism, furnishing material for industry. A flourishing agriculture sector is key to sustaining the rural economy and avoiding the dangers of the rural-urban drift.

- 5.2.2 Yet, NNP has presided over the persistent decline of agriculture, to the stage where the contribution of agriculture to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen dramatically since 1995. Some of the reasons for this are clearly NNP fault. Thus, NNP has presided over the removal of productive land from agriculture to non-agriculture uses, as at Dunfermline and Mt. Hartman. Likewise, the NNP Leader has personally been constantly ridiculing agriculture publicly, stigmatizing agriculture.

- 5.2.3 ULP Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan will give primary importance to resuscitating agriculture; refocusing expenditure, especially under the capital budget, to highlight agriculture; and, compatibly with Grenada's obligations under international and regional treaties such as WTO and CARICOM, by applying various policy measures; to make agriculture attractive, commercially viable and financially rewarding.

- 5.2.4 ULP will afford to farmers -

(1) substantial concessions on taxes and other duties on all farm equipment and farm tools including farm-mechanising equipment and farm transport, reflecting ULP policy of encouraging mechanization in agriculture wherever possible;

(2) subsidies on fertilizers and other chemicals;

that the role historically performed by the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association (GCNA), as the sole exporter of raw nutmegs is preserved for GCNA. But there will be no limit on the producing and exporting of agro-processed nutmeg products; value added endeavours in the nutmeg industry will be encouraged.

- 5.2.13 Sugar-cane farmers have been sold out and betrayed. ULP is convinced that the sugar industry is more than potentially viable. ULP shall therefore ensure that sugar-cane farmers are assured means of grinding their canes economically.
- 5.2.14 ULP will urge the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to establish a special, facility for farmers to guarantee farmers development capital at a moderate rate of interest. To the extent that farmers are prevented from obtaining credit by the problem of their lacking proper paper title to their land when they or their family have been the real owners of the land, that problem will be solved by our ULP Title Settlement for Recognised Land-Owners (TISRELO) Plan.
- 5.2.15 State-owned lands should be made available to young people who wish to farm and who need lands for farming.
- 5.2.16 World Food Day will be celebrated on a rotating basis around the country.
- 5.2.17 ULP will stage national competitions among farmers.
- 5.2.18 ULP will ensure that the State provides farmers with farm machinery services such as ploughing.
- 5.2.19 Deepening and strengthening inter-sectoral linkages as the link between agriculture and tourism, ULP will exhort hoteliers, restaurateurs and suppliers of cooked food to boats and aircrafts to promote our unique Grenadian cuisine, to utilize our local Grenadian foods and drinks, to retain in Grenada as much as possible of the tourist dollar.
- 5.2.20 ULP will vigorously pursue the matter of crop insurance.
- 5.2.21 It is clear that praedial larceny is a scourge to farmers, endangering their lives and robbing them of their source of earnings. ULP will improve the protection of farmers from praedial larceny by various means including the revising of the praedial laws.
- 5.2.22 ULP will do all it can to promote the livestock industry, including pigs, goats, rabbits, poultry and cattle.
- 5.2.23 ULP sees it as vitally important that the full potential of the poultry industry is realized; by providing concessions, ensuring good quality feeds, seeing to it that the price of feeds is right, and assisting in making the price of the final product competitive.

We shall move to promote poultry hatcheries. The some \$27.0M spent annually on importing poultry products is much too high.

5.2.24 Vegetable markets around the nation will be well maintained and upgraded. Work by our ULP Leader Dr. Alexis in this regard in the past is instructive. Indeed, Dr. Alexis led in ensuring the building of the new Sauteurs vegetable and meat market.

5.3 FISHERIES

5.3.1 Grenada's national marine resources, especially our fish-stock, have enormous potential. ULP will ensure that this potential is realised as part of our ULP Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan. This we shall do by -

- (1) assisting fisherfolk to purchase modern, viable , seaworthy ocean-going fishing boats;
- (2) affording concessions on taxes on fuel for fishing, lines, hooks, tackles; and replacement engine parts;
- (3) furnishing the Grenada Coast Guard with the capacity and training to discharge properly its duties of search and rescue to better ensure safety at sea;
- (4) improving the sea-distress communication system for fisherfolk;
- (5) providing nighttime security services at fishing jetties where necessary.

5.3.2 ULP will ensure the guarding and protecting of our fish resources and our fishing grounds. Our exclusive economic zone will be safeguarded.

5.3.3 Full use will be made of the scope for exploiting deep-water fish resources such as squid, large snapper and large red fish.

5.3.4 Fish-farming of both fresh-water and salt-water species will be encouraged.

5.3.5 Marketing of fish around the country will be improved.

5.3.6 Every effort will be made to increase our exports of fish, while great care will be taken to meet the demands of domestic consumers of fish.

5.3.7 Fish-markets will be brought up to internationally accepted standards, for the health of local fish consumers and to ensure that Grenadian fish is better marketable worldwide.

- (3) incentives to enhance cultural operations on farms, such as draining and weeding;
 - (4) assistance with seeds and other planting material; Mirabeau and other agricultural stations will be boosted;
 - (5) assistance in marketing farm products, especially local vegetables and fruits domestically, restricting imports thereof, co-ordinating farmers and providing them with market intelligence to avoid glut and scarcity, in the interests of farmers and consumers, to support and stabilize prices, and to keep supply and quality even.
- 5.2.5 The matter of the cost of pipe-born water for farming will be reviewed. ULP believes in rebates for pipe-born water used for farming. Also, plenty emphasis will be placed on irrigation.
- 5.2.6 ULP shall actively encourage concentrating on economic fruits and vegetables, like mangoes, golden apples, breadfruit, plums, avocado; for marketing domestically and for export. Production of such fruits and vegetables will be important too for agro-processing.
- 5.2.7 ULP firmly believes in the message of the slogan "Eat what you grow, and grow what you eat": Self-sufficiency in food or food security is a key ULP goal.
- 5.2.8 ULP places a premium on agricultural diversification, into new agricultural products or non-traditional agriculture, including fresh flowers for domestic use, tourism and export.
- 5.2.9 The maintenance and improvement of farm roads and feeder roads will be of paramount importance to ULP
- 5.2.10 The cocoa industry, traditionally quite important, is now in serious trouble, near extinction; it will be reviewed to ensure its resuscitation through appropriate means including -
- boosting the propagation of cocoa plants;
 - ensuring cocoa farmers a cocoa bonus at the end of the cocoa year;
 - providing cocoa farmers with subsidies and such other assistance.
- 5.2.11 ULP will encourage and assist banana farmers to maximize their cultivation of bananas, considering that bananas can be marketed both locally and overseas.
- 5.2.12 ULP is fully committed to the idea of only one body exporting nutmegs. ULP shall ensure

5.3.8 ULP will insist on standardization of mesh-sizes of fishnets and fish-pots to guard against abuse of our national fish resources.

5.3.9 Fish-processing will be a priority.

5.4 **TOURISM**

5.4.1 Tourism has declined under NNP, especially Cruise Ship Tourism. The tourism sector continues to be in crisis. ULP will reinvigorate Tourism under our ULP Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan. Tourism will truly be made everybody's business. Tourism would be part of our schools' curriculum. At all levels of society it would be stressed that extending hospitality is not being subservient or servile. Courtesy and civility always help humanity and society.

5.4.2 High-level management and marketing skills will be attracted into the tourism industry to help ensure its promotion and growth.

5.4.3 There will be quality trained tour-guides.

5.4.4 Tourists will be wooed to enjoy the natural warmth of our people, the scenic beauty of our environment, our culturally rich heritage and historical sites, and the uniqueness of our spicy Grenadian cuisine.

5.4.5 ULP will encourage the providing of duty-free shopping around the country.

5.4.6 We shall upgrade facilities around the country which are needed for human hygiene, in the interest of Grenadians, tourists and the environment.

5.4.7 Safety at beaches would be enhanced; harassment of tourists will not be tolerated.

5.4.8 ULP will actively aid small hotels with consolidated management, development capital and promotion abroad.

5.4.9 Larger hotels are assured of meaningful support from ULP.

5.4.10 Incentives will be afforded to local investors to invest in the tourist industry.

5.4.11 ULP will vigorously encourage airlines to fly passengers to our Spice Isle destination.

5.4.12 ULP will move urgently to bring back major tourist cruise ships and also to seek new lines. The head-tax will be rationalized and made competitive in relation to what is charged regionally and what amenities are offered to tourists in Grenada. ULP is quite clear that Cruise Ship Tourism is very important to our national economy.

- 5.4.13 A cruise ship terminal should be built at a location which is environmentally proper and strategically sound economically.
- 5.4.14 Eco-Tourism will be emphasized, focusing on such natural features as waterfalls, lakes and rivers.
- 5.4.15 ULP will enhance Yachting Tourism, including yacht racing, yacht repairing and yacht-outfitting.
- 5.4.16 Culture-Tourism will be boosted, especially around our August festivals.
- 5.4.17 The potential for tourism development in Carriacou, Petite Martinique and our smaller islands will be made use of.
- 5.4.18 Diversification of the tourism product will be vigorously pursued to include, for example, Sports- Tourism, Health-Tourism, and Niche-marketing Tourism. The budget for marketing Tourism will be beefed up. Our aim is for 100% growth in the Tourism industry over a five-year period.

5.5 **INDUSTRY**

- 5.5.1 ULP shall give special investment inducements to those putting value added into agro-processing; regarding local fruits and vegetables, such as mango, guava, golden apple, avocado, carambola (five-fingers) , passion fruit, tamarind, cucumber, pumpkin; including too nutmegs and cocoa; and also regarding local fish, livestock and poultry. Agro-industries will be boosted under our ULP Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan.
- 5.5.2 ULP lays very great store on a vibrant agro-processing industry, to put an end to the traditional huge wastage of our fruits and vegetables, to preserve and store their content, to boost profits to farmers. The making, preserving, bottling, marketing locally and exporting of wines, juices, jams, nectars and other agro-processed products from our vitamin-rich fruits and vegetables will be pursued most vigorously by ULP. The Marketing and National Importing Board will be required to get seriously involved in agro-processing.
- 5.5.3 ULP aims to take Grenada into the products-assembling industry as far as allowed by our appropriate technology.
- 5.5.4 ULP will ensure that Grenada gets its fair share of the pie produced by the electronic information technology industry.
- 5.5.5 The manufacturing and marketing of local arts and crafts will be boosted. The Canadian-financed Tanteen Craft Centre will be put to the use for which it was financed, as a home for the production of arts and crafts and a place for the marketing of arts and crafts.

Also, ULP will establish arts and crafts centres across the country. There must be more training in the production of quality arts and crafts.

5.5.6 The production of aerated beverages, beers, stouts and rum will be supported by ULP.

5.5.7 There will be special incentives to spread industries nation-wide.

5.5.8 The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) will be made a truly one-stop agency.

5.5.9 ULP will move to protect and exploit Grenada's potential in oil (petroleum) and gas; for the transformation of our economy and society; paras. 3.9 – 3.9.3 above refer.

5.6 OFFSHORE FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.6.1 NNP created Grenada's offshore financial services sector including offshore banking and the sale of Grenadian Passports and Citizenship under a so-called economic citizenship programme. But while corruption dogged the sector, NNP woefully failed to ensure proper regulatory monitoring or oversight of the sector.

5.6.2 Such woeful NNP failure to oversee the offshore financial services sector has had very disastrous consequences. Grenada was negative-listed internationally. Probably the largest offshore bank in Grenada, First International Bank of Grenada crashed, massively defrauding many, including Americans and Canadians. Canada slapped visa restrictions on persons holding Grenadian Passports. Cap Bank sank.

5.6.3 Patriotism and economics demand that we urgently repair the far-reaching damage done by those consequences.

5.6.4 So, ULP will promptly institute measures to guard against sales of Grenadian Passports and Citizenship as an aspect of the offshore financial services sector or in any other similar way.

5.6.5 Salvaging other aspects of the sector requires thorough cleansing and revamping of the sector. This includes a no-holes-barred probe of what went wrong; and letting justice be fully done, regardless of who might be involved. ULP will invite the FBI to get to the bottom of it all. Also, ULP will insist on scrupulous regulatory monitoring or oversight of the sector.

5.7 INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.7.0 Physical infrastructure and communications are as vital to the economy as to social activities.
- 5.7.0.1 ULP will move expeditiously to develop sea-port facilities on the northern coast of Grenada.
- 5.7.1 **Physical Infrastructure**
- 5.7.1.0 ULP will, on proper engineering advice, prepare a Fifteen Year Road Development Plan for new roads and bridges and for preventative maintenance of existing roads and bridges.
- 5.7.1.1 Special attention will be given to places where the soil under or alongside public roads keeps cracking, thus endangering lives and damaging property. These include Tivoli, Palmiste and Red Gate. Soil experts will be consulted.
- 5.7.1.2 The handling of contracts for building roads under NNP has at times been scandalous. The Value for Money Study Report on the Ministry of Works is there for history to condemn NNP.
- 5.7.1.3 The handling of contracts for clearing and cleaning roadside bush and drains under NNP has been extremely scandalous. These contracts went to only one and the same set of people, NNP lackeys. Other Grenadians had to stand aside and watch, frustrated and desperate, as poverty levels rose. Things will be very different with ULP, there will be transparency, justice, equity and fairness in these matters. ULP will reinvigorate the Public Works Department.
- 5.7.2 **Public Utilities**
- 5.7.2.1 ULP shall have a comprehensive survey done on the water resources of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, having regard to the projected national water needs over the next fifty years.
- 5.7.2.2 More facilities for storing water will be built.
- 5.7.2.3 Ground water capacities will be developed.
- 5.7.2.4 ULP does not accept that a water consumer should pay both a flat rate and a meter-rate for one and the same water supply. Poverty must not come between people and water.
- 5.7.2.5 There are still areas in Grenada where there is no electricity. The rural electrification programme must continue.

5.7.2.6 Many more street lights are needed around Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

5.7.3 **Public Utilities: Telecommunications**

5.7.3.1 NNP failed to represent the people effectively in the telecommunications liberalization negotiations. The telephone service provided in Grenada by Cable & Wireless Grenada Ltd. is excellent, among the best in the world; but the telephone rates presided over by NNP need revisiting.

5.7.4 **Communications: Information**

5.7.4.1 The media, especially the electronic media, in particular television, will be encouraged by ULP to make available to political parties fairly and evenly time for them to communicate their views to the public.

5.7.4.2 ULP will encourage the electronic media, especially television, to focus more than is done now on life and matters in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

5.7.5 **Communications: Transportation**

5.7.5.1 ULP supports private bus transportation to meet the needs of the public.

5.7.5.2 ULP has an 18-hour a day transportation plan, utilising privately owned buses to provide transportation for the public at nights and on Sundays, public holidays and public festivals. Government will subsidize private bus owners for the cost of this service until the service becomes self-sufficient.

5.7.5.3 ULP will grant concessions on public service vehicles so as to reduce transportation costs to the travelling public.

5.7.5.4 Laws on the use of seat belts in motor vehicles should be concerned with safety, and not used to criminalize people or raise revenue.

6.0 **ECONOMIC REFORM PLAN**

6.1 Within three months of being installed, ULP will commission a National Economic Task Force to study and review the economy and make recommendations to reform or

reconstruct the economy comprehensively especially the fiscal regime, and for jump-starting the economy on the road to sustainable national economic development. The

Task Force will not look at the matter of port charges, but may consider other matters of port administration.

- 6.1.2 ULP will seek to comprise the Task Force with personnel from Grenada, regional institutions and international bodies. Recurrent revenue sources should not be tampered with ad hoc. The review of the economy will reflect our ULP vision that the transformation of our national economy will be driven by the utilization of Grenada's oil and gas resources within our maritime waters; and that this will be embarked upon with the pressing urgency appropriate to the exploitation of non renewable natural resources.
- 6.1.3 Our ULP macro-economic vision is that of an economy which is private sector driven, with Government providing an enabling environment including the instituting of appropriate regulatory authorities. The damage to Grenada by the ugly collapse under NNP of the offshore banking sector created by NNP and of Cap Bank emphasizes the need for proper regulatory monitoring or oversight of certain financial operations. This ULP will provide.
- 6.1.4 The philosophy underlying ULP economic policies is the improving of the standard of living of our people and the fostering of meaningful sustainable people-focused national economic development by increasing our national wealth through greater production and productivity and through investment, especially in the productive sectors, for enhanced self-reliance, consistent with our national political independence. ULP focuses on promoting real development that is, enhancing the social and economic well-being of people, and not just on putting out statistics that sound impressive. These will be key objectives of the Economic Reform Plan coming out of the Economic Task Force.
- 6.1.5 The Economic Reform Plan will also have regard to our Port Charges Reduction Plan and our Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan; all co-ordinated together to ensure national economic recovery.

6.2 NATIONAL BUDGETING

- 6.2.1 The hallmark of the fiscal and budgetary arrangements under the NNP annual national Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, (the Budget), since 1995, especially after 1999, has been the early collapse of the Budget each year. The collapse of the 2001 Budget was dramatic, requiring a Ministry of Finance Circular on 8 June 2001 calling on Ministries to submit new budget figures before the month ended. Those dates, in June 2001, are of vital importance, occurring as they did long before the terrorist attacks of 9-11-2001 in the USA.
- 6.2.2 Such collapse of the fiscal and budgetary provisions in the NNP Budget is due mainly to

6.3 **NATIONAL PUBLIC DEBT**

- 6.3.1 Prudent borrowing can advance national development. But NNP has dangerously escalated the public debt and hidden its true dimensions from the people. The debt is now likely some \$2.0 Billion. This is up from \$441.9M in 1995 when NNP came to office.
- 6.3.2 Servicing this huge debt means massive capital flight from Grenada. The debt crisis must be tackled very urgently.
- 6.3.3 Tackling the stunning debt crisis created by NNP requires that there be pursued vigorously our ULP vision of increased production and productivity, revival of the productive sectors of the economy, national economic reform, more investment, maximum employment and stimulation of economic activities generally as by reduced port charges. The debt has been worsened by the woeful mismanagement of public funds inflicted upon the country by NNP. Also, Grenada desperately needs debt forgiveness and debt rescheduling; for this, Grenada must have a government that pursues economic reform and, while practising good governance, clearly honours the virtues of accountability, transparency and prudence in the management of public funds. NNP has failed to meet these conditions; these ULP will fully meet.

7.0 **NATIONAL YOUTH VISION**

- 7.1. We have a ULP New National Youth Vision, with four broad dimensions, the flagship of which is our ULP National Youth Service Plan, complimented by our proposed Grenadian Youth Charter, our agenda for Empowering Grenadian Youths, our proposal for building Youths for Patriotism.
 - 7.1.1 The extent to which our Grenadian youth, especially males, need to cultivate a sense of positive direction is a matter of very pressing and urgent concern. ULP will mount a dialogue with and about our Grenadian youth, aimed at devising a Grenadian Youth Charter emphasising the rights of our youth and equally drawing attention to the responsibilities of young people in nation building.
 - 7.1.1.1 Our ULP New Youth Vision will foster in young people a sense of self-worth, self-confidence, self-esteem and patriotism.
 - 7.1.1.2 Under our ULP New Youth Vision, ULP will introduce a National Youth Service Plan with

a National Youth Service (NYS). In this NYS, young people will be afforded two years training in practical, technical and vocational fields; and will participate actively in national development exercises. NYS will afford participants the positive lessons of camping. There will also be a disciplined practices component in the NYS; alongside leisure, sports and recreation. Positive social interaction will be the key. A small stipend will be paid to young people participating in NYS. Every effort will be made to have in NYS an exchange scheme involving similar programmes overseas.

7.1.2 EMPOWERING GRENADIAN YOUTHS

- 7.1.2.1 ULP is convinced that until the energies of our youths are fully utilised, and empowered, the true potential of our Nation will not be completely realised. So our ULP New Youth Vision commits ULP to involving our youths in national decision-making.
- 7.1.2.2 Thus, one of the first steps ULP will take will be to pass an Act abolishing the disqualifications imposed on our Grenadian youth by archaic laws, as those laws preventing persons under 21 years of age from marrying without consent, making Wills or dealing with property. Such laws are an affront to the maturity, responsibility and capacity of our Grenadian youths, especially when the Constitution of Grenada empowers 18 years olds to vote in parliamentary elections and sit in Parliament. Such anti-youth laws will be immediately repealed by a ULP Government, so as to empower our young people to be more involved meaningfully in national development. Our ULP Leader Dr. Alexis went to Parliament with such an Age or Responsibility Bill, but NNP voted it down.
- 7.1.2.3 ULP is determined that young people must be encouraged to participate actively in formulating national policies. Thus, ULP says there must be a spokesperson for and from among youths on the nominated benches of Parliament, even if this means amending the Constitution.
- 7.1.2.4 Empowering Grenadian Youths means also fostering in young people a sense of appreciation of one another. Towards this end, ULP will institute a National Youth Mentorship Programme in which students at higher levels of education would be encouraged to give voluntary help to those at lower levels.
- 7.1.2.5 Youth Volunteerism, especially for youth development, will be encouraged, in the National Youth Mentorship Programme and otherwise.
- 7.1.2.6 Education is power. ULP gears toward our youths much of our education programme. In particular, ULP will make more scholarships available than at present; and ULP insists that technical and vocational skills must be equated with academic aptitude.

7.1.2.7 Sports and culture too as sources of empowerment are very much concerns of our youths, issues addressed in para. 7.2-7.2.6 and 8.10-8.10.10 below.

7.1.3 **YOUTHS FOR PATRIOSM**

7.1.3.1 Our ULP New Youth Vision is aimed also at fostering in young people a sense of patriotism. To ULP, patriotism requires that young people, among other things, participate actively in the process of national development, patriotically.

7.1.3.2 It is young people who must tomorrow pay the price of disordered wrong priorities set today. It is young people who must tomorrow repay the billions of dollars debts run up today. Therefore young people must take a stand today to ensure that the responsibilities they must shoulder tomorrow are in the national interest today and tomorrow.

7.2 **SPORTS**

7.2.1 NNP has been less than keen on new sporting activities like basketball, netball and volleyball. ULP will induce the full flowering of these sporting disciplines.

7.2.2 ULP will reduce the cost of sports outfits and sports gear.

7.2.3 ULP will go all out in assisting young people to obtain sports scholarships abroad.

7.2.4 More sporting facilities in rural areas will be developed. The glass backboard installed by our ULP Leader Dr. Alexis at the La Borie Multi-Purpose Sports Hard-Court, which court was built as a community self-help project led by Dr. Alexis, maybe the first one of its kind nationally.

7.2.5 Parks and playgrounds will be better kept.

7.2.6 The revitalization of sports clubs will be encouraged.

8.0 **SOCIAL SECTOR REFORM PLAN**

8.1 It is a damning indictment on NNP that, despite the several capital projects undertaken and in many cases completed under NNP, unemployment has been rather high under NNP, at times about 30%. This must be corrected as an important aspect of our ULP Social Sector Reform Plan.

8.1.1 ULP will establish a National Employment Office (NEO) to co-ordinate the exchange of information between those seeking employment and those providing employment. NEO will have a registry of persons seeking jobs, and will help them identify and pursue job opportunities. This will also help ensure that proper labour statistics are kept, so that

there will be reliable figures on the numbers of the work-force who are employed and who are unemployed.

8.1.2 A very important policy of the ULP is the pursuit of full employment; a job for each person who is ready, able and willing to work, whether in the public sector, the private sector or as self-employed.

8.1.3 ULP will have a small business development programme, to help persons start and develop their own small business. This will assist with job-creation.

8.2 CHARTER OF POSITIVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

8.2.1 ULP will promote a Charter of Positive Industrial Relations in pursuit of industrial justice and healthy industrial relations to achieve and maintain a peaceful and stable industrial relations climate. The Charter will accordingly address remuneration, other financial inducements, general terms and conditions of work, and democratic enablement.

8.2.2 The Charter will be put together collectively by government, the private sector and workers in their trade unions. An important aspect of ULP industrial relations policies is democratic consultative tri-partism.

8.2.3 Under the Charter, salaries and wages must bear a proper relationship to prices of goods and services. Rates of pay are to reflect the reality that the worker must meet the basic needs of life for the worker and his or her family. There must be a fair balance between incomes and prices, so that labour gets its just reward.

8.2.4 Our ULP Charter will call for a social contract in which workers in their trade unions and employers will voluntarily and responsibly settle remuneration or pay, salaries and wages, other financial inducements, and general terms and conditions of work, which accord with economic realities, justice, equity, and human dignity.

8.2.5 Our ULP Charter is needed now more than ever, to usher in industrial peace in place of the strife provoked by NNP. NNP wrote the most antiworker, anti-union, chapter in the era of modern industrial relations in Grenada, an era begun when Eric Gairy successfully led the struggles for workers' rights and trade union recognition in 1951, gains which NNP seems intent on reversing. Time to close that NNP chapter and replace it with our ULP Charter.

8.2.6 Full employment, a contented work force, training and re-tooling lead to the important objectives of high levels of production and ever-increasing productivity. All this augments the national income, maximizes money in circulation, enhances self-fulfilment, promotes sustainable national economic development, and helps eliminate poverty.

Alexis. This will be the spirit of PLM societal reforms, including those regarding women, youth, criminal justice, the aged and the poor.

8.10.10 Our heritage is one of faith in God. From that background, it is meet and proper to have a ULP Minister of Government assigned responsibility for Religious Affairs.

8.11 **RESETTLEMENT**

8.11.1 ULP will warmly welcome back home to Grenada those in the Grenadian diaspora overseas who are able to return and resettle here. They are of our heritage. They bring with them skills, qualifications, experiences and *economic* capacities well equipping them to contribute to the national development of the land of their birth.

8.11.2 So as to encourage our returning brothers and sisters to resettle here, ULP will extend to them 100% concessions on all household appliances, other goods, and two motor vehicles per family, as well as other appropriate considerations including hassle-free movement through Customs. To ensure proper implementation of this policy, ULP will establish a Department of Migratory Resettlement.

8.11.3 ULP will vigorously pursue with foreign governments reciprocal agreements on pensions and taxes for the benefit of returnees.

8.12 **CHILDREN**

8.12.1 ULP will promote a social atmosphere in which children are given love, not subjected to abuse.

8.13 **WOMEN**

8.13.1 ULP will ensure that women are afforded ample opportunity to contribute fully to nation building.

8.13.2 ULP is committed to women getting equal pay with men for equal work. Gender equality is critical to women's empowerment and development in accordance with relevant international instruments.

8.13.3 Attention must be given to the matter of women being thrown out on to the streets by men after years of informal cohabitation under the same roof, especially with poverty being more prevalent among females than among males. The addressing of this social problem is now commonplace, regionally, and internationally. ULP will reform the law to inject justice into this matter, with gender parity being insisted on for the equal benefit of men and women alike. This is an important element of our ULP Social Sector Reform Plan.

8.13.4 Women will be encouraged and assisted to improve themselves economically, for example, through women's co-operatives.

8.14 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

8.14.1 Voluntary community development has suffered immensely over the last seven years, as people became increasingly alienated from government, and as people witnessed a government grow more selfish. With ULP rekindling patriotism, voluntary community development will flourish again.

8.14.2 ULP will encourage community development in community projects including building and repairing community centres.

8.14.3 ULP will enhance community development to help needy cases, as where the maroon can help build or repair homes.

8.15 **SOCIAL SECURITY**

8.15.1 ULP will commission a Family Court.

8.15.2 The aged must be secure socially. ULP will institute a basic needs programme for the elderly in health, housing, utilities and transportation.

8.15.3 Social security financial assistance will be given to those legitimately claiming and needing it, not on the basis of political partisanship.

8.16 **ERADICATING POVERTY**

8.16.1 NNP boasted that, under its Government, big capital projects were undertaken and in many cases completed. Yet, poverty under NNP has grown staggeringly and devastatingly, with frustration, desperation, murders and suicides at an all time high. This is one of the worst contradictions ever of Grenada's history. It proves that NNP is fundamentally a party dealing in cement and bitumen, and not a people-focused party, a tragedy worsened by the atrocious NNP track-record in handling government contracts.

8.16.2 ULP will move resolutely to eradicate poverty from Grenada, by a combination of our Oil and Gas Plan, Port Charges Reduction Plan, Economic Reform Plan, Productive Sectors Revitalization Plan, Social Sector Reform Plan, relevant public spending, and focused social security programmes.

8.16.3 Given the national economic growth rate figures trumpeted by NNP, and on the economic potential of Grenada, with the small population we have, we ought not to have the unacceptably high levels of poverty currently prevailing in Grenada.

8.16.4 Eradicating poverty will be a very important objective of our ULP Social Sector Reform Plan.

9.0 **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

9.1 ULP is committed to deepening and widening the regional integration process, including especially in the OECS and CARICOM.

9.2 The content and conduct of ULP external relations will be geared towards achieving world peace, promoting regionalism especially in the OECS and CARICOM, and enhancing the national interests of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

9.3 ULP supports joint endeavours regionally, in matters such as tourism, agriculture, pharmaceutical drug-procurement, and illicit drug-interdiction. The idea of joint representation abroad will be pursued.

9.4 Urgent attention will be paid by ULP to approaching Canada on the matter of abolishing visa requirements for Grenadian Passport-holders entering Canada.

10.0 **THE WAY FORWARD**

10.1 This Manifesto presents the plans and programmes which ULP prescribes for making a reality of the ULP new vision of the way forward for the people-focused economic social and governmental development of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

10.2 ULP has the people with the experiences, qualifications, caring, expertise and political will to deliver on the promises of these plans and programmes in this Manifesto.

10.3 We ULP, the people with the plan, ask you, the electorate, to give us your popular mandate to be your next Government. We assure you that if you do, then, through God, we shall make good on these promised plans and programmes pursuing equal opportunity and justice for all the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

8.2.7 A key basis of ULP industrial relations policies is voluntarism. This accommodates protection for essential services on internationally accepted standards acknowledged by ILO. The Charter will reflect this.

8.3 **PUBLIC WORKERS NEW DEAL**

8.3.1 When jobs are available in the public sector, that is, in government, they will be awarded on merit and need, not on political partisanship.

8.3.2 Salaries and other working conditions in the various categories of the public service will reflect the cost of living and competitiveness regionally and internationally; as a means of attracting to the service persons of talent, and dealing with the flight of human resources from Grenada. This is a feature of our ULP Social Sector Reform Plan.

8.3.3 Under ULP, public sector workers traditionally paid monthly will be paid fortnightly. The private sector will be encouraged to follow suit.

8.3.4 Public sector workers will be paid a Christmas Bonus, which will be at least 50% of their monthly pay for December. That will be in addition to their monthly pay for December.

8.3.5 The abolishment of pension and gratuity for public officers appointed after 1983 was a bad mistake. It is a grave disincentive for brilliant young people of talent to make a professional career of the public service including teaching, nursing and policing. It hinders professionalism in the public service.

8.3.6 ULP will therefore restore pension and gratuity to all public officers including nurses, teachers and police officers, as fully as these existed before they were abolished in 1983. This will be in addition to NIS. This will be part of the ULP policy of promoting professionalism in the public service, in the national interest.

8.3.7 ULP will be generous with study leave with pay for public officers. This will be properly supplemented by no-pay leave. Public workers will be encouraged to further their education and training.

8.3.8 ULP will move to ensure that public officers have access to one hundred percent mortgage financing to buy or build homes, helping them to obtain the bridging finance which often is a stumbling block.

8.3.9 As part of ULP industrial relations democratic enablement, ULP will afford public officers, at appropriate levels, time-off to contest parliamentary and local government elections, with an option, if need be, to return to the service without discrimination.

8.4 **HEALTH**

- 8.4.1 ULP health policies proceed from the premise that good health is at the foundation of prosperity and progress through increased productivity. A healthy nation is a wealthy nation. Health is wealth.
- 8.4.2 The objectives of ULP health policies are the achieving of longer life, longer periods of good health and an optimum quality of life.
- 8.4.3 ULP will put emphasis on preventive medicine, the avoiding of illness and disease, the promoting of good health. This requires focus on our primary health care system, with popular education on basic health, starting with health education in school. ULP will pursue universal health care, that is, primary health care that is affordable, acceptable and agreeable to recipients.
- 8.4.4 Good nutrition will be encouraged as an important aspect of primary health care.
- 8.4.5 ULP will encourage the paying of attention to other matters usually addressed under primary health care, such as, exercise, rest and relaxation, accident prevention and safety precaution, early screening.
- 8.4.6 There will be compulsory health education in schools to ensure that, from an early age, people understand the importance of preventive health care. This will also widen the availability of basic first aid.
- 8.4.7 ULP will ensure that the General Hospital is a premier health care provider.
- 8.4.8 The Princess Alice Hospital at Mirabeau and the Princess Royal Hospital in Carriacou will be upgraded into general hospitals
- 8.4.9 District medical centres nationwide will be improved. Emergency health care services will be provided at them 24 hours daily.
- 8.4.10 Hospitals, medical centres and other public health care services will be integrated into a National Health System for better co-ordination of the more effective delivery of health care services.
- 8.4.11 Government dispensaries will be better stocked.
- 8.4.12 Senior citizens and others in need will get free or subsidized medicines at Gove dispensaries, whether they are attended to by government-paid doctors , or private doctors, depending on one's ability to pay.
- 8.4.13 Senior citizens and others in need will be assured of free medical attention at Government medical facilities.

- 8.4.14 The National Health System will be incorporated into the National Insurance Scheme so as to provide an affordable, effective and efficient national health service. This is a key element of our ULP Social Sector Reform Plan.
- 8.4.15 ULP shall encourage St. George's University to conduct special research into tropical medicine, especially in such culturally pervasive fields of complaints as diabetes (sugar), high blood pressure and stroke.
- 8.4.16 There will be a sufficient corps of health inspectors to make periodic checks on restaurants and other facilities that provide prepared food to the public to ensure that proper sanitary conditions are met.

8.5 ENVIRONMENT

- 8.5.1 ULP shall nurture greater consciousness of, and appreciation for, our environment, with its scenic beauty, its balmy spicy odour and its healthy atmosphere.
- 8.5.2 ULP shall enhance the beautification of our environment by such initiatives as the national flower keeping programme and the national tree-planting programme. Roadsides in particular will be beautified with flowers.
- 8.5.3 To ULP, young people are the guardians and inheritors of our environment. Their energies must be involved in protecting and enhancing our environment, for example, by planting trees, planting flowers, and otherwise beautifying, preserving and enhancing our environment. Competitions will be held and prizes awarded as incentives.
- 8.5.4 More public toilet facilities will be built around the country and properly maintained.
- 8.5.5 ULP will implement a comprehensive land use policy.
- 8.5.6 Littering will be tackled seriously.
- 8.5.7 The problem of stray animals and the matter of sick animals will be addressed.

8.6 HOUSING

- 8.6.1 ULP will pursue a developed housing programme, especially to provide affordable and good housing for low-income families.
- 8.6.2 The house repair programme will be boosted, and operated fairly.
- 8.6.3 A residential property on a first mortgage will, for 10 years, pay only 10 percent of the property tax otherwise payable.

8.6.4 A residential property fully painted in a fiscal year will , for that year pay only 10 percent of the property tax otherwise payable.

8.7 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

8.7.1 ULP will strongly emphasize the need to enhance the development areas of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, through a comprehensive Rural Development Programme.

8.7.2 Our ULP Rural Development Programme will be concerned with the various aspects of development. These will include physical infrastructure, social amenities and human resources.

8.7.3 A significant aspect of our ULP Rural Development Programme will be our Title Settlement for Recognised Land-Owners (TISRELO) Plan.

8.8 **EDUCATION**

8.8.1 With ULP the knowledge that is gained from a sound education is power.

8.8.2 ULP rejects the introduction of any education levy at public primary or secondary schools. ULP is committed to free primary and secondary public education for all the children of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

8.8.3 ULP insists that technical and vocational skills must be equated with academic aptitude. Skills training is vitally important. Scholarships will be provided for technical and vocational pursuits. Multi-purpose centres will be used for skills training.

8.8.4 The common entrance examination will be abolished. Every child should be exposed to secondary education. This is demanded by our ULP Social Sector Reform Plan.

8.8.5 More Scholarships will be made available than are at present from primary level right through to university level.

8.8.6 Teaching is a very honourable vocation. ULP will restore to teachers the great respect - that should be given them by Government. This is crucial to ensuring that our schools impart due guidance to our children and young people.

8.8.7 There shall be at least seven school truancy officers to see to it that children of school age are in school.

- 8.8.8 ULP will move quickly to work out with St. George's University (SGU) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) formulae for increased opportunities for university education for more of our people.
- 8.8.9 ULP is committed to establishing the University of Grenada: building upon the TA Marryshow Community College (TAMCC). This will be in keeping with our ULP vision that education is a principal facilitator for development, individually and nationally.
- 8.8.10 ULP will upgrade linkages between school life and the world of work, since education is both for learning and earning. There should be a work-study approach, with students being introduced to centres where production is taking place. There will be increased contact between students on the one hand and farmers, fisherfolk, and other producers on the other hand.
- 8.8.11 Education should be geared to both learning and national development. Thus agriculture in schools should be for all, from kindergarten up.
- 8.8.12 Health and physical education would be compulsory in schools generally.
- 8.8.13 Sports and culture will be presented in schools as aspects of education affording viable careers, and not just hobbies.
- 8.8.14 Education without spirituality can be dangerous. Religious instruction in all schools will be strongly encouraged. Denominational schools will be afforded due leeway in religious matters.
- 8.8.15 ULP will promote revolving book-schemes, second-hand book schemes and book assistance schemes generally.
- 8.8.16 Hot meals will be provided in schools. Finances for this will be made available constantly.
- 8.8.17 PTAs will be strengthened.
- 8.8.18 New schools will be built; there is too much overcrowding in schools, preventing students from obtaining the individualized supervision needed. NNP put the teacher-pupil ratio too high, ULP will ensure that the teacher-pupil ratio is optimum so as to guarantee that the number of pupils under the supervision of a teacher is truly manageable by the teacher.
- 8.8.19 ULP will extend library facilities, especially in rural areas.
- 8.8.20 ULP will finally rid Grenada of illiteracy.
- 8.8.21 With ULP education shall be a potent weapon against poverty.

8.9 **TECHNOLOGY**

- 8.9.1 Education under ULP will reflect the fact that this is the age of technology , especially information technology.
- 8.9.2 ULP will promote computer literacy at all levels of our society.

8.10 **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

- 8.10.1 Much of a people's culture comes from their heritage, their history, and is their characteristic expression in literature, song, music, dance, art, painting, sculpture, creativity. Political attempts to control cultural art forms undermine naturalness in culture and result in distortions and artificialities. ULP will fully respect the people's right to freedom of expression.
- 8.10.2 ULP will establish a standing statutory independent National Carnival Committee so composed that carnival artistes will themselves be the driving force in carnival, our premier national cultural explosion.
- 8.10.3 A National Foundation for the Arts (NAFOTA) will be established to help enhance the arts and protect artistes and artists. While culture is pre-eminently a total expression by people of their life and history, culture is also an important source of livelihood, ULP will emphasize this. NAFOTA will vigorously pursue the providing of state of the art sound recording facilities to promote musical spice sounds.
- 8.10.4 Cultural and heritage or historical sites will be enhanced, protected and developed.
- 8.10.5 Archival centres will be preserved and maintained.
- 8.10.6 ULP will encourage greater emphasis on the teaching of Grenadian history, especially the period since 1950.
- 8.10.7 Our people will be encouraged to have and promote a sense of cultural pride in their villages. National Best Village Competitions will be organized.
- 8.10.8 Community Centres will be important for bringing people together in community, for revitalizing our folk culture, and as places of non-institutional educational activities. Existing community centres needing upgrading will be given such. New ones will be built as needed and feasible.
- 8.10.9 Our culture and heritage must be the bedrock for societal regeneration to be relevant and profound. This was done with one of the most progressive social reforms ever effected in Grenada, namely, the child is a child reform fathered by our ULP Leader Dr.