

THE NEW AGENDA

Introduction The New Agenda

Section 1 Good Governance

- 1.1 National Pride
- 1.2 Inclusion and National Unity
- 1.3 Integrity in Public Office
- 1.4 Institutional Development

Section 2 Economic Development

- 2.1 Economic and Fiscal policy
- 2.2 Agriculture
- 2.3 Fisheries
- 2.4 Tourism

Section 3 Physical Development and the Environment

- 3.1 Land Use
- 3.2 Infrastructural Development
- 3.3 Public Utilities
- 3.4 The Environment
- 3.5 Rural Development and Local Government

Section 4 Social Policy

- 4.1 Health
- 4.2 Human Resource Development
- 4.3 Youth
- 4.4 Social Development
- 4.5 Housing
- 4.6 Sports
- 4.7 Culture
- 4.8 Labour and Industrial Relations

Section 5 Home Affairs

- 5.1 National Security
- 5.2 Carriacou and Petit Martinique Affairs

Section 6 Foreign and Caricom Affairs

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS
NEW AGENDA

INTRODUCTION:

The major challenge facing Grenadians is that of building Grenada into a dynamic, prosperous and stable democracy, capable of sustaining a **high quality of life for all its people**. If we are to meet this challenge successfully, it is necessary, not only that we collectively agree on how this will be achieved, but that we put our **hearts and hands** together and work to make it happen.

Meeting this challenge requires **Competent & Creative Team Leadership** that is committed to:

- Safeguarding our National Pride, Integrity and Sovereignty.
- Respecting our democracy and democratic institutions.
- Uniting our people and building national consensus after adequate representation, open debate and democratic participation by all stakeholders.
- Pursuing a genuine and patriotic policy of inclusion of all Grenadians in the process of nation building, regardless of political affiliation.
- Maintaining the highest standards of integrity while in public office.
- Pursuing the practice of transparency and full accountability in all areas of governance, in all matters and at all times.
- Pursuing the fullest development of the human and material resource capabilities of our country.
- Pursuing excellence and developing a system of **reward** based on **merit** rather than **relationship** and **association**.

After considerable reflection, self-criticism, restructuring and rebuilding, listening to and consulting with stakeholders of our society, we have committed ourselves to transforming Grenada. To do this we need a mandate from you. The following are the major aspects of our Plan.

SECTION 1

GOOD GOVERNANCE

1.1. NATIONAL PRIDE

Restore a sense of national pride and patriotism among our people by:

Undertaking an inventory of all Grenadian passports issued under the Economic Citizenship program and other diplomatic arrangements.

Revoking the grant of passports issued under these arrangements to any and all persons deemed to be unfit to hold such a passport.

Enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada with a view to obtaining a reversal of the visa requirement for Grenadian persons wishing to enter Canada.

Recognizing our national heroes and martyrs as well as those who have made a significant contribution to our country's development by giving due regard to their contribution.

1.2. INCLUSION AND NATIONAL UNITY

Pursue a genuine and patriotic policy of National Unity among all social and economic groups by providing opportunities for inclusion in the process of decision-making on matters affecting national development. This will include:

The strict adoption of policies and practices to ensure that the employment, promotion, transfer or secondment of persons in the public service and the appointment of persons to Boards, Commissions and other Government agencies are based on merit and not on political affiliation.

The adoption of a strict policy of non-interference by Cabinet in the proceedings and decisions of the Public Service Commission.

The principled and consistent engagement of all stakeholders (including the Business Community, Trade Unions, Churches, NGO's and community Clubs and Associations) in discussions on all major matters affecting national development and soliciting their advice/ input/ suggestions and criticisms.

Recognizing the contributions made by former national leaders to our national development by appropriately naming buildings and/ or other physical structures, streets or institutions in their honour.

1.3. INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC OFFICE

Restore moral and ethical standards in the exercise of public office. This will involve:

Providing for the establishment of an Integrity Commission under the Constitution that would be comprised of seven (7) Commissioners appointed under the Constitution with stipulations made for the appointment and removal of the Chairman. The Commission must be independent of the Executive.

Before any person could be sworn in as Prime Minister, a Minister, Minister of State or Parliamentary Secretary, he or she must declare his/her assets. Upon leaving office all such persons would be required to declare their assets.

1.4. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Build and strengthen our institutions of democracy so as to ensure predictability, a peaceful environment, stability, national consensus and continuity in Government. This would include:

Enacting the necessary legislation to provide for the Establishment of a Public Complaints Commission, through which the Public can be provided with an avenue to voice their complaints with respect to actions and conduct of public officials, in dealing with the public; have their complaints thoroughly investigated; the findings of such investigations made public and recommendations made to Government as to appropriate measures which should be taken to correct these problems.

SECTION 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 ECONOMIC & FISCAL POLICIES

The Present Economic Profile of Grenada

At present, Grenada remains locked in an economic crisis. This crisis manifests itself in the following general trends:

- A dramatic decline in the key productive sectors, namely Agriculture and light manufacturing.
- A significant drop in construction activity after some years of relative boom.
- A rapid decline in the tourism sector with significant reduction in tourist arrivals and earnings
- A rapid reversal of the recent expansion in the service sector, especially in the offshore and informatics sector.
- A marked reduction in the volume of retail trade and in activities at the St. George's Port.
- A drastic decline in Government revenues in the face of climbing recurrent expenditures.
- A marked increase in indirect taxes, levies, duties and fees in an effort to bolster Government revenues.

The negative macroeconomic fallout of these trends are substantial and manifests themselves in the following features:

- A massive loss of jobs especially among the women employed in the, tourism, textile, retail, offshore and informatics industries.
- Mounting unemployment among first- time job seekers, especially the young and persons recently completing secondary education.
- Marked increase in the cost of living.
- Increased poverty, begging and destitution (in light of the loss of incomes and increase in the cost of living) and the failure or inability of the Government to institute and maintain meaningful poverty alleviation measures.
- A developing crisis in the financial sector with increasing defaults on loans leading to repossession and sale of real property and goods at prices inconsistent with the terms of the loans and the costs of repossession.
- An emerging fiscal crisis, with potentially negative implications for public sector investment, debt servicing, government supported financial guarantee schemes and the maintenance of poverty alleviation programs.

The Nature and Causes of the Emerging Fiscal Crisis

Grenada is heading for economic disaster, one that will require another structural adjustment to get it out of the mess it is in. The existing fiscal regime is unable to generate the revenues it requires to meet the ongoing financial commitments of the government.

This situation has arisen because of the following basic policies pursued by the administration:

- a. Excessive borrowing on the part of Government in the wake of the favourable credit worthiness of Grenada in 1995.
- b. A failed investment policy that focused entirely on infrastructural projects (imbalance) that no longer has prospects to provide sustainable employment or to generate any income that would, in the process strengthen the tax base.
- c. A policy of neglect of the productive sectors of the economy- in particular agriculture, tourism and light manufacturing which, in contrast to infrastructure, has the potential to provide sustainable employment or to generate any income that would, in the process strengthen the tax base.
- d. Failure to institute proper tax administration arrangements especially at a time when the ceiling on personal income tax was placed at \$60,000.00 per year.
- e. The increasing dependence on indirect taxes, in the face of trade liberalization policies the world over which reduce the potential for revenue collection from the ports, customs.
- f. The increased tax burden placed on the average person by these indirect taxes effectively reducing the effect of consumer spending on increasing income levels and stimulating economic growth and expansion.
- g. The failure of the administration to institute a suitable package of fiscal incentives aimed at attracting investors- both local and foreign.

Given the reduced revenues, a situation created by the NNP Government itself, the Government has no choice but to continue borrowing to finance its expenditures, thereby increasing the national debt.

Given the lack of revenues, debt repayment has already become a problem. Grenada will soon lose its "creditworthy" status and the country will once again fall into the arms of the IMF/World Bank.

Our Economic Policy

The objective of the NDC is to stimulate the economy and provide a stable basis for growth and development. We believe that in order to accomplish this objective the following

NDC Economic Program

Our economic program will revolve around the following:

- Expansion of the productive sectors of the economy-especially Agriculture, Agro-industries, Fisheries and Light Manufacturing- so as to create long term stable employment, income and a strong revenue base for public finance. (**Expansion of the productive sectors**).
- Removing the self- imposed constraints to the development of tourism by seriously developing the tourism product and entering into joint ventures with the private sector to develop the available room stock (**Tourism Expansion**).
- Restoring and develop the offshore financial services sector (**Offshore Financial Services**).
- Developing a full range of services aimed at creating a knowledge- based export services sector (**Export Services**).
- In cooperation with the private sector, consciously develop and implement an export promotion strategy aimed at identifying and promoting niche products and services, and specific target markets (**Trade Policy/Export Promotion**).
- Developing a program together with the necessary institutional and logistical arrangements to carefully manage the country's debt. (**Debt Management**).
- Undertake measures aimed at restoring confidence in Grenada's financial sector. (**Financial sector Reform**).
- Strengthen the climate and institutional framework for national economic performance by fostering a genuine partnership with civil society (**Institutional Arrangements**).
- Overhaul the fiscal architecture of Grenada-especially as it relates to ad hoc concessions and incentives, licenses, levies and fees- so as to bring it in line with the present day trade, investment and economic realities and requirements (**Fiscal Reform**).
- Simplify and render more effective the bureaucratic process for the granting of incentives to investors and making the process more transparent and predictable, including providing, on an upfront basis, a clear indication of the priority areas, clear statements on eligibility criteria, clear commitments regarding applicable time frames and a clear articulation of the respective roles of the respective institutions including the GIDC, Customs and the Department of Inland Revenue.
- Overhaul the taxation system so as to render the taxation regime more predictable, broaden the tax base and raise compliance levels through greater efficiency in tax administration (**Tax Reform and Administration**).
- Develop and maintain a package of poverty alleviation measures aimed at cushioning the impact of the increased cost of living and reducing the incidence of poverty-having special regard to the aged and the disabled (**Poverty Alleviation**).

Public Sector Investment including infrastructural improvement, Education and Health (**Public Sector Investment Program**).

2.2 AGRICULTURE

Reposition agriculture, agro industrial development and fisheries as the pivotal sectors of the national economy through:

The development of at least one major agro processing plant during the first three years in office.

Serious development of organic and exotic farming as special niche economic activities.

Reclaim and Develop Centers of Agricultural Excellence-at least one in each parish- to showcase model agricultural farms and/ or production units which can serve as prototypes for farmers and at the same time become special tourist attractions to be visited by tourists at a cost. Ashendon, Mardigras etc.

Introduction of a suitable incentive structure for agricultural entrepreneurs.

Introduction of new economic crops, harvesting and production techniques and rehabilitation of some traditional economic crops.

Enhance yields and crop recovery safeguards. In the case of agriculture, a considerable strengthening of the safeguards against praedial larceny, including a program of subsidization of farmers for the fencing of their farms and the implementation of a Praedial Larceny Fund to assist farmers disadvantaged by praedial larceny.

Vigorous marketing support to the industry. This would include the development of a nationwide integrated marketing network linking farmers to hotels, supermarkets and marketing boards by nationwide computer network.

2.3 FISHERIES

An NDC government will work untiringly toward removing those barriers which prevent this sector from operating at its fullest potential by facilitating the following actions:

1. Provide ongoing training for managers of the industry and local fishermen especially in the area of preserving quality of fishing catch and other technical skills.
2. Improve the system of marketing fish both locally and overseas.
3. Seek to reduce the cost of operation through tax subsidies on fuel in the short term, and plan for conversion to cheaper fuel in the medium to long term.
4. Increase the economic viability and the production possibilities of fish processing e.g. the production of dog food for local / regional markets.
5. Encourage the establishment of a social welfare and pension scheme for fishermen and their families.

2.4 TOURISM

NDC recognizes the important role that Tourism has to play in the economic development of Grenada, particularly as a foreign exchange earner and in the creation of employment especially for the youth. NDC is therefore committed to continue the development thrust in Tourism and to strengthen the linkage between Tourism and other industries particularly Agriculture, Fisheries, Agro-industries, Handcraft, and the Performing & Creative Arts.

NDC will endorse the Tourism Master Plan and ensure its implementation, especially those sections which are critical to the ongoing development of the tourism industry, including visitor attractions, shopping facilities, entertainment, air services and the yachting sector.

Establish the legal framework for the efficient operation and maintenance of the industry.

Review existing Marketing strategies and develop and support new initiatives such as the proposed Palm Vacations and Palm Channel Strategy.

Embark upon joint venture arrangements with both local and international private sector for the expansion of physical hotel plant.

Provide additional tax and other incentives for the expansion of hotel plant with special attention to small hoteliers and guesthouse operators.

Facilitate the decentralization of the Tourism Sector by providing incentives for the development of Village Tourism as part of the Rural Development thrust.

Increase the amount of dollars each tourist spends in Grenada by consciously developing the quality of our tourism product.

Develop a comprehensive eco-tourism plan for Grenada that uses as its platform our mountains, forests, lakes and rivers.

Expand the number of jobs in tourism by facilitating the expansion of the overall sector.

Develop, expand and refine the skill set available to workers in the tourism sector by expanding and upgrading the hospitality training programs available at TAMCC and providing for a suitable system of accreditation and certification upon completion of such programs.

Seek to significantly increase the Tourism budget so as to provide for additional expenditure – both capital and recurrent.

SECTION 3

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the physical/infrastructural development of the country and the protection of the environment. A Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment will be established which, in addition to performing the traditional functions of the Ministry of Communication, Works and Public Utilities shall also be responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive land use and zoning plan for the country.

3.1 LAND USE

NDC recognizes the urgent need for proper administration of the system for the physical development and improvement of private lands; implementation of a tenable land tenure system; the management of natural resources; conservation of forests, national parks, centers of national Heritage and other protected areas and sites; coastal areas and marine resources, beach protection; solid waste management, pollution; climate change and other environmental matters.

3.2 INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

NDC recognizes that social and economic development depend on the quality of the social and physical infrastructure like roads, water, telecommunications, transportation, electricity and sewerage.

An N.D.C Government will continue to invest heavily in major and secondary roads, as well as farm and feeder roads and will ensure proper and effective administrative machinery for implementation, rehabilitation and maintenance in order to produce the highest standard of workmanship.

Re-establish the Public Works Department and reconstitute the Tenders Board.

3.3 PUBLIC UTILITIES

NDC recognises the urgent need for an efficient system of public transport and its importance to social and economic development and will work closely with Bus Drivers Association to advise same.

An NDC Government will continue its programme of construction of reservoirs and other projects to provide adequate water supply.

Ensure that every household has access to pipe-borne water at affordable rates.

Cheap and reliable telecommunication services are essential not only for social intercourse but especially for economic development. NDC will ensure that Grenadians enjoy a reliable telecommunication system at reasonable cost.

3.4 THE ENVIRONMENT

An NDC Government will develop a viable strategy for enhancing the public's health through the promotion of increased awareness of the linkages between health and the environment, mobilization of technical and financial resources to address critical environmental problems, strengthening of enforcement of health related standards especially relating to food and water and full compliance with international environmental treaties.

3.5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Grenadian population is mainly rural, they are also among the hardest workers and the poorest of the poor. NDC pledges to work untiringly toward the transformation of rural Grenada, including Carriacou & Petite Martinique.

NDC sees rural development as the means towards achieving balance in social and economic development - including generation of new employment, equitable distribution of income, widespread improvement in health, nutrition and housing, greater opportunities for all citizens to release their full potential through education, organization and participation.

NDC's goals are to reverse rural / urban drift; to develop a productive rural economy; and to recreate vibrant, creative and healthy community living among our rural people. Such a process will ensure that people are provided with opportunities both to earn a living and to blossom in and give leadership to the communities in which they live.

NDC is also committed to a properly structured system of Local Government which will underpin and give legitimacy to the process of people's participation at every level of the society.

SECTION 4

SOCIAL POLICIES

4.1 HEALTH

An NDC Government will work to enhance the quality and delivery of Health Services in the State of Grenada by focusing on Promotive, Preventative, Curative and Rehabilitative health services to all individuals and families throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique through improvement, re-organization and reprioritization of existing facilities and resources and continuous training of all providers at all levels. The following are among the specific objectives, strategies and measures which will be pursued:

- **Re-organizing the Community Health Service to provide equitable distribution of services.**
- Reactivating and establishing Primary Health Care Teams in every parish giving Budgetary support, Training and Supervision.
- Expanding school Health Programs to all Primary and Secondary schools.
- Upgrading Princess Royal Hospital to provide Laboratory & X-Ray services and minor surgery.
- Ensuring the availability of Medical and Nursing service in every district Medical Station.
- Regulating the private practice for Hospital based Consultants and reviewing the terms and conditions of the engagement with a view to properly compensating them in lieu of private practices.
- Introducing a National Health Insurance Scheme as a measure for cost recovery with special consideration for school children, the elderly, the disabled and those persons that suffer from the chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension and cancer).
- Provide at Hospital level diagnostic equipment and services such as Renal Dialysis unit, Decompression Chamber, Cat- Scan, MRI etc.
- Set up a unit to manage the terminally ill.

4.2 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Radically develop and streamline the human resources capacity of the country by ensuring that opportunities for education and training and re-education and retraining are available to all persons; that the quality of education and student achievement is significantly improved and that the knowledge and skill set of our workforce are brought in line with our socio-economic requirements, objectives and priorities. These are among the following strategies and measures which will be pursued.

Immediately establish a Ministry of Human Resource Development, which, in addition to performing the traditional functions of the Ministry of Education would be responsible for the planning and implementation of the country's human resource development.

Equip the primary schools with technology, appropriate machinery, equipment, instruments and tools required to pursue and sustain the academic, technical and vocational programs.

Provide adequate financing for national school feeding program.

Launch a National Free Schoolbooks Program for all students-primary, secondary and tertiary.

Work towards the introduction of Universal Secondary Education for all Grenadian students.

Provide all secondary school teachers (who have been in the system for 3 years or more) an opportunity to continue their higher education and obtain a university degree without any compromise in their salaries or other employment benefits.

Embark upon a national secondary school renovation and expansion project aimed at improving the learning environment meeting the needs of universal secondary education.

Ensure that no individual is denied a tertiary education due to lack of personal financing.

4.3 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

An NDC Government will urgently put in place a comprehensive **program for the holistic development of our youth with special regard to their educational and employment needs. This will be achieved through the following strategies and measures:**

Develop and implement in conjunction with the private sector, a **Human Employment and Resource Training (HEART)** program for all school leavers from primary and secondary schools so as to provide them with skills training.

The HEART Program will involve two components: a six- month training program, upon completion of which the young person is placed with an establishment for a one year period (in the first instance) and paid no less than the minimum wage established by law in respect of the chosen occupation.

Grant tax credit to companies for monies expended on participants, ensuring that the relief structure is tied to the number of persons taken by the company.

Develop a dedicated Sector/program of Small Business Development and Job Creation for Jobless Youth between the ages of 20-30, which involves:

- Legislation to give formal recognition to the sector and to protect its interest
- Credit guarantees and soft loan financing
- Provision of tax incentives
- Entrepreneurial education and training

- Strengthening of existing Small Business institutions such as SEDU and facilitating new initiatives (volunteer program), which will give support to the sector.
- Creation of a “Centre for Technological Excellence and Entrepreneurial Development”.

In consultation and cooperation with organizations involved in youth work, launch a National Youth Development Project ENERGY (ENERGISING & EMPOWERING GRENADIAN YOUTH) which will be planned and directed by youth to reach youth in elevating themselves materially, morally, mentally and socially.

Enact legislation to provide for the appointment of two (2) independent Youth Senators (under 25) on recommendation from the National Youth Council, who will also be sought to recommend Youth representation on all pertinent Statutory and Governmental Boards.

4.4 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

An NDC Government intends to pursue a policy and path of social development which is child and family centered, promotes gender awareness and equality and results in poverty alleviation and community empowerment. Our commitment is to ensure personal, social and income security to the most valuable members of our society by **eradicating the social, institutional and systemic preconditions that have created and fostered social imbalances.**

An NDC Government will establish a single Ministry of Social Development which will develop and monitor policies relating to Child Care and Development Services, Family Life and Parenting Education, Gender Relations, Social Legislation and Juvenile Justice, Family Support services including Day Care, Social Security / Financial Aid, Care of the Disabled and Geriatric Care.

Some immediate steps which an NDC Government will take are to:

1. Reinstate the law governing the Institution of a Family Court and put in place systems and structures for its efficient functioning.
2. Collaborate with NGO's in the financing and implementing of a National Parenting Programme and a National Foster Care Programme.
3. Put in place a social monitoring and research unit for collection and monitoring of social data for use in social policy development.
4. Review legislation as it relates to children with a view to developing a Comprehensive Child Rights Code which will ensure greater consistency with the principles and provisions on the Rights of the Child (e.g. Regulation of the age of criminal responsibility).

6. Develop a comprehensive juvenile Justice Program which will include legal representation, rehabilitation, counseling, court diversion- promoting restorative justice and alternative ways of dealing with youthful offenders.
7. Ensuring that all children with critical life threatening conditions be guaranteed adequate medical treatment which will include collaboration with Regional and International Organizations and institutions.

4.5 HOUSING

An NDC Government will facilitate a situation in which all Grenadians have a permanent residence - security of tenure and privacy, access to potable water and proper sanitation facilities, together with basic electricity and telephone services. This will be achieved through the following measures:

Develop and implement a Public Sector Housing Program (“**Starter Homes Project**”), aimed at providing better access to housing and better housing conditions to low and modest income families (earning \$20,000.00 per year or less).

Develop a scheme for the security of tenure of land for housing purposes either by Government purchase and resale to low and modest income families or Government purchase and lease (to own) to low and modest income families at reasonable prices/ rates and on suitable terms.

4.6 SPORTS

To provide an environment where our sports men and sports women could achieve their highest levels of performance and to develop Grenada into a regional hub for sporting activities. This would be achieved through the following measures:

Establish a National Sports Council to oversee the institutional, structural and marketing development of all sports in Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique.

The Ministry of Sports will seek to put appropriate machinery in place for the following:

Provision of adequate financial and other assistance to our sports men and women especially during training and participation in competitions.

Provision of special employment opportunities for national athletes.

4.7 CULTURE

To restore cultural strength, traditional values and National identity to our society while developing suitable avenues for the release of the creative energies of our people, especially our youth. This will be achieved through the following measures:

Reconstitute the National Cultural Foundation with redefined roles and functions.

Establish a Cultural Hall of Fame to document the cultural contributions of Grenadians.

Establish a center for the performing arts and a school for the performing arts

4.8 EMPLOYMENT LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

An NDC Government's labour and employment policy will be aimed at achieving three (3) objectives. They are

- Job creation and job protection
- Promoting industrial peace and
- Ensuring occupational health and safety.

The NDC views job creation as an integral part of the wider policy of Government regarding the development of the productive sectors of the economy-Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Industry and Manufacturing.

The NDC's strategy for addressing unemployment includes:

- Agricultural diversification programmes
- Development and expansion of the agro-industrial capacity of the country.
- Youth employment schemes
- Country wide expansion of tourism
- Small business development schemes
- Development of the entertainment industry and the creative arts

- Development and modernization of the fishing industry
- Expansion of light industry
- Restoration and development of the offshore financial services industry
- Development of the export services sector.

An NDC Government will strive to achieve industrial peace by actively pursuing a tri-partisan approach involving the three (3) partners to industrial peace, namely, the trade unions, the private sector and Government. The NDC views this as essential to increased labour productivity and national development. The NDC Government will therefore immediately review the recent amendments to the Labour code and either repeal or substantially amend it so as to ensure a peaceful and stable industrial climate.

An NDC Government will actively pursue policies and programmes aimed at enhancing the safety of workers in the workplace.

SECTION 5

HOME AFFAIRS

5.1 NATIONAL SECURITY

Internal security and the prevention of crime in the state of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique is of paramount importance. NDC is therefore committed to build, improve and refine the national security of our nation so as to ensure a safe and peaceful environment for all our citizens, visitors and investors. An NDC Government will develop a mechanism to enhance the delivery of safety and security services including policing, crime detection and crime prevention. This will require policy interventions in three main areas:

- Effective and efficient law enforcement within the existing constitutional framework. This applies to the policing function and requires:
 - improving the investigative capacity of the RGPF
 - upgrading active visible policing
 - improving police service delivery(especially to victims of crime)
- Ensuring effective crime prevention through:
 - greater focus on social crime prevention
 - the enhancement of a coordinated approach to crime prevention involving national and especially local role-players
- Transforming the institutions of safety and security to ensure accountability and service delivery by:
 - ensuring a clear distinction between political policy-making and police operational functions; primarily this means
 - to strengthen the Criminal Investigation Department(CID) this department will be responsible for all investigations involving crime against persons and property viz; murder investigations, fraud and false pretences, rape, drugs

- Drugs Squad to report directly to the officer in charge of the CID
- Forensic and Records to replace the Criminal Record Office
- Prosecution Department will deal with all aspects of prosecution including mandatory visits to crime scenes. This department will be more efficiently staffed with widespread training in the areas of the law including members of the RGPF becoming lawyers and law clerks.
- Special Branch (SSU) will continue to be a major tool in crime solving
- Traffic Branch will receive greater attention with particular emphasis given to proper traffic regulations and increased presence of uniformed police. Greater training will be given in Crowd control and Fatal Accident Investigation.
- Immigration should continue to be responsible for the internal and external security of the nation. This will require more trained personnel than presently obtains. Members of the RGPF should not be transferred to this department without at least (5) five years experience in the RGPF.

Fire Services

The protective services facilities will be upgraded to be better able to provide proper fire service coverage throughout the state of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. This will involve:

- Upgrading the level of personnel by providing ongoing training for all firemen involved in the department, especially in the area of maintenance of the fire hydrants throughout the state including the airports.
- Continuously develop all parishes in the area of fire drills and fire techniques.

Police Welfare

NDC is committed to ensuring the delivery of professional ‘customer service;’ by:

- improving the way the police appear in the public eye, their discipline and moral
- support for the police housing project
- increase the health allowances for police officers
- increase in death benefits
- if after ten years of active police service to the nation a policeman/woman dies while still in the service his/her gratuity should be paid as if he/she has served for twenty years
- pension to be paid to spouse for six months
- scholarships to be given to police officers along the same lines as teachers

National Disasters

To ensure that all Grenadians have adequate protection after a national disaster the following measures will be pursued viz;

- Formulate and implement a National Disaster Plan which will focus on:
 - training
 - medical response team
 - doctors, nurses, first aiders etc
 - crowd control
 - police investigation in the case of death
 - upgrading of the forensic laboratory
 - coast guard and water investigation

- National safety requirements to be observed e.g. buildings to be properly inspected

5.2 CARRIACOU & PETIT MARTINIQUE AFFAIRS

Background

Carriacou and Petite Martinique, together with a group of smaller surrounding islands occupies a total land area of approximately 9,019 acres. These smaller offshore Islands viz; Fota, Petite Dominique, Jackadam Sandy Island, Mabouya, White Island and Saline Island represents a most typical model of an integrated terrestrial-marine ecosystem upon which a major tourist resort can be constructed. It is this reason amongst many others that Carriacou and Petite Martinique have historically been regarded as the dependencies of constant neglect and under-development. It is by virtue of its wide and varied resource base that Carriacou and Petite Martinique is strategically positioned for such diverse resource oriented activities such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture, forestry and conservation

TOURISM

Promotion and marketing of Carriacou and Petite Martinique as an ideal tourist destination

- Improving the quality of supporting facilities (roads, air services, yachting facilities, water supply).
- Restoration, conservation and enhancement of key attractions (offshore islands, historic sites, festivals, nature trails, scenic views, etc.).
- Defining the type and extent of tourism to be pursued on the islands.
- Endorse the Tourism Master Plan which seeks to utilize the unique natural and cultural/historical attractions of the islands to create a distinct element of “Product Grenada”.
- To facilitate the development of the islands for ecotourism and as the water sports centre of Grenada.

FISHERIES

Fishing has traditionally been and continues to be today a significant aspect of the livelihood of the residents of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. However this industry continues to experience problems in the size of the catches over the years - marketing, storage, training etc.

An NDC government will expand and develop the industry and protect the ecosystems and habitats which support marine life. To achieve these objectives the following actions will be pursued.

- Undertake a detailed assessment of the commercial fisheries resources in the area including lambi, lobster, oyster reef and inshore fish etc.
- Enter into negotiations with one of the regional fisheries agency (CARICOM or OECS) for assistance.
- In light of the results of the proposed assessment, study, establish policies and standards for harvesting and processing of shell and fin fish and formulate appropriate training for fishermen.
- Encourage the establishment of fishing centers at Hillsborough, L'Esterre and Petite Martinique and improve and upgrade the fishing center at Windward.
- The fishing Centers will be equipped with the necessary utilities viz, water, fuel, waste disposal, ice making equipment, fishing gear storage, freezer space, landing and berthing facilities.

Petite Martinique (PM)

An NDC government will develop PM as the primary fishing centre of the Grenadines through:

- The establishment of a fish processing plant with a view to creating additional employment opportunities
- Improvement of the marketing system for fisheries, in particular resolution of problems relating to the sale of fish in Martinique.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture must be placed high on the NDC agenda so that it plays a vital role in the future development of Carriacou and Petite Martinique through:

- Utilisation of agricultural lands in relation to specific site capabilities for various crops and livestock farming activities. To facilitate this move, food crop and vegetable production to be introduced in the LimLair area, while intensive crop production should be encouraged on the fertile lands in the Dumfries area.
- Undertake agricultural research and experimentation to produce special breeds of livestock and high quality fruits and vegetables for the tourism sector.
- Promotion of the concept of organic farming involving mixed cultivation, restricted soil tillage and the use of organic fertilizers and natural techniques.
- Curtail the problem of over grazing of loose livestock by:
 - fencing and improvement of common grazing areas
 - Promotion of sustainable livestock feeding techniques on demonstration farms.
 - Enforcement of the Stock Trespass Act.
- Promote the development of agro processing activities, including home-base operations.
- The establishment of a commercially operated meat processing and packaging facility for Carriacou.

FORESTRY

NDC will initiate a forestry development program for Carriacou and PM. This is primarily concerned with environment conservation rather than commercial production. This sector can be developed by:

- Reforestation of water conservation areas and steep hill-sides and other erosion prone areas.
- Establish tree crop plantations at suitable locations in order to obtain products.
- Introduce more timber planting in order to produce material for the handicraft industry and so create a link with the tourism sector.
- Developing a programme aimed at establishing suitable timber species in certain defined areas for traditional boat building activities.
- Employing certain watershed management techniques including reforestation of disturbed areas, regeneration of water courses, protection of wild life nesting and feeding areas and enhancement of scenic quality.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

▪ Education

NDC'S main focus as far as the education sector in Carriacou and Petite Martinique is concerned with upgrading and maintaining the quality of accommodation and environment for satisfying the educational needs of the population in the following manner:

- Establishment of a schools rehabilitation programme concentrating on building repairs and extensions, improvement in the water supply and schoolyard landscaping.
- Establish hostel facilities in Hillsborough for students from Petite Martinique.
- Develop and upgrade sporting educational facilities including library and museum facilities, sites and features of archaeological and historical interest, natural heritage sites.
- Institute skills development programme that concentrate on the areas of tourism, agriculture, fishing etc.

▪ Health and Welfare

NDC will develop and implement a comprehensive plan to promote and improve the physical and mental well being of the society through:

- Repairs and improvements to the Princess Royal Hospital.
- Repairs to the five health centres and clinics and the one home for the elderly.
- Upgrading of the water supply systems at all the institutions.
- Provision of an adequate supply of potable water and sanitary means of waste disposal.

▪ Recreational and Cultural Facilities

NDC recognizes the significant role that these facilities play in the life of our youths. In this regard certain needs must be developed viz:

- Improvement and leveling of all existing playing fields.
- Hard courts to be constructed in Mount Pleasant and Windward.
- Petite Martinique to be allocated adequate space for a proper playing field.

- **Administrative and Commercial Services**
- **Protective Services**
 - Upgrade the protective services facilities to more effectively serve the people of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.
 - Give urgent attention to the provision of proper fire service coverage for the airport.
 - Introducing emergency and rescue services to address the proposed tourism expansion and increase recreational boating activities.

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Water Supply

NDC primary concern in this area is to devise and adopt appropriate measures to improve the water situation so far as supply, storage, and distribution is concerned. This objective will be met in the following manner viz;

- establishment, restoration and maintenance of already existing public catchments with particular emphasis to be given to the possible impact on forestry and scenic quality;
- rehabilitation and improvement of existing ground water supply systems and exploration and development of other potentially productive ground water sources.

- **Transportation**

Road Transportation

- An NDC government will continue to improve upgrade and enhance the main and secondary roads in particular to reconstruct and reopen the island road in Carriacou and the development of village roads in Petite Martinique Airport.

NDC is committed to extension of the runway and the construction of a new terminal building -

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR CARRIACOU AND PETITE MARTINIQUE

NDC sees local government for Carriacou and Petite Martinique as one of the central goals on its political agenda since the party is committed to fostering greater deliberative and participatory democracy.

SECTION 6

FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS

The objectives of foreign policy in an NDC administration are:

- Development of a predictable, consistent foreign policy that recognizes the peculiar balance between the interest of Grenada and those of other states.
- Promotion of Grenada as a state that is a safe tourist destination and center for investment and change.
- Promotion of unification among OECS states as a major strategy for the strengthening of CARICOM.
- Advocacy of the widening and deepening of CARICOM.
- Advocacy of a coordinated regional foreign policy among CARICOM member states generally and the OECS member states specifically.
- Representing the common interests of Small Island development states.
- Playing an active role in the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

Let The People's Voices Be Heard

NDC HAS A HEART OF GOLD













