MANIFESTO 2015 - 2020

Prosperity for All!
KEY TEAM UNITY POLICIES AT A GLANCE

• $500 SIDF-funded family support grant for households earning $3,000 or less per month.
• Guarantee that programmes like PEP will continue, and be upgraded to STEP-UP, so young people can have real opportunities for self-employment, appropriate training for permanent jobs and earn a decent wage they can live on.
• No VAT on food, medicine, educational supplies and funeral expenses
• Creation of 2000 new jobs within Team Unity’s term in office
• Prompt payment of overdue $16 million gratuity still owed to former sugar workers, from the SIDF.
• Construction of 2,000 homes and provision of 3,000 house lots for our people who are in need of decent housing.
• Reduction in mortgage payments for NHC Houses, and lower student loan payments
• Free Preschool Education
• Education guarantee fund to underwrite university costs for young people lacking collateral for student loans.
Team Unity was born out of the reality that St. Kitts and Nevis has become a nation divided by politics. This sad reality of political tribalism has failed to create better conditions for our people. Instead, over the past 30 years since Independence, we have seen the steady withdrawal from a unified approach to development that we promised each other upon gaining Independence in 1983. Team Unity understands it is time to put aside personal and political differences and put the people of St. Kitts and Nevis FIRST! TEAM UNITY IS:

CONCERNED about the social, economic, political and cultural challenges that we have faced as a country, and the multiple threats to the well-being and advancement of our people and, therefore, determined to resolve these permanently.

CONSIDERING our shared determination to uphold, defend and sustain the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity, as a respected member of the international community, a Nation where all citizens respect and, therefore, enjoy equal protection of the law and have equal opportunity to compete and prosper in all spheres of life.

ACKNOWLEDGING the sacrifices made by our forebears in the fight against colonialism, slavery and racial discrimination and determined to accept, cherish and recognise the significance of their struggle as the foundation of our sovereign independence, freedoms and human rights.

DEDICATING ourselves to putting an end to the polarization, divisions, conflict and intolerance, that have characterized St. Kitts & Nevis politics and society in recent times.

COMMITTING ourselves to putting our people and our Country first, by arresting the fall in living standards and reversing the decline of our economy.

...Team Unity understands it is time to put aside personal and political differences and put the people of St. Kitts and Nevis FIRST!...
RECOGNISING, accepting and acknowledging that the values of justice, fairness, openness, tolerance, equality, non-discrimination and respect of all persons without regard to race, class, gender, ethnicity, language, religion, political opinion, place of origin or birth are the bedrock of our democracy and good governance.

DETERMINED to build a society free of violence, fear, intimidation, hatred, patronage, corruption and founded on justice, fairness, openness, transparency, dignity and equality.

RECOGNISING and accepting that Good Governance has been at the core of disputation in St. Kitts & Nevis, and acknowledging the centrality of issues relating to the rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy.

Today, there is too much 'neighbour against neighbour; brother against brother; parent against child; politician against politician; and public servant against public servant'. And we have all suffered for it. We are better together!

Team Unity envisions that we the people of St. Kitts and Nevis begin to act like a people once more. A Nation “bound together with a common destiny”.

To do this, we must acknowledge that we have made mistakes. We must seek and offer forgiveness. We must then pursue reconciliation and move on together, burying the past, and carving a future for the Country that is hopeful, prosperous; and teeming with possibilities for our present and future generations.

Sincerely

The Leadership of:­

The Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM); The People’s Action Movement (PAM); and The People’s Labour Party (PLP)

(Extracted from the St. Kitts & Nevis Treaty of National Unity, signed January 31, 2015 in Nevis)
The events over the past 17 months since the historic launch of Team Unity in September 2013, have clearly demonstrated that when individuals put aside personal differences, opinions and desires out of a genuine love of Country they are able to vividly realize how very similar we all are, especially when charting a shared vision for the betterment of the people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Team Unity’s strategic coalition of the People’s Action Movement (PAM), The Concerned Citizens Movement of Nevis (CCM) and the People’s Labour Party (PLP) has been unprecedented in the history of our Federation – and the wider Caribbean for that matter. Ours is an alliance that sends a strong, lucid and unquestionable message that it is time for our people to re-claim our Country from the tentacles of a corrupt, outmoded and self-centred regime that is led by a floundering and jaded leader who is bent on remaining in office at all costs, regardless the high price that must be paid now and in the future.

Particularly, over the past five years, the incumbent Douglas-led Labour Party regime has steered our Country on a downward spiral on a number of fronts including, but not limited to our stagnant development led by local investors; growing socio-economic instability; infamous international reputation; reduced national savings; heightened incidence of crime; abuse of our democratic and Constitutional provisions and protections; dwindling likelihood of our people’s ability to be prosperous; the erosion of our Nation’s middle class; high and stifling cost of living; failure to create meaningful and sustainable employment for our young people; abuse of our Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI); steady sales of our passports to questionable characters from countries with known ties to terrorism and corruption; the exchange of our lands so hard-fought for, to cover wanton Government debt; and countless other injustices being meted out on the people of our beloved St. Kitts and Nevis. All of these offences are wrong, dead wrong!

A Team Unity government stands ready to govern. With the collective wisdom, experience, goodwill, respect for our people, and an inclusive approach to development that embraces all citizens - regardless of colour, creed, religion, race, economic or educational status, age or country of birth - our success is assured by the help of Almighty God. We seek the support of our citizens, the advice of wise counsel, and of course the commitment and determination to work together towards putting the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis back on a sure footing – a foundation that ensures our long-term participation, survival and prosperity, be it on the local, regional or global stage. We cannot do this alone; neither do we want to foolishly attempt such. We believe in the power of ordinary men and women coming together to create opportunities for all and, in so doing, ensure that our children will not only have a secure future but a proud and prosperous legacy which will one day be theirs to govern, love and cherish. Team Unity is not about privileges for a few. Team Unity is about opportunities for all of us because we are BETTER TOGETHER!

This Manifesto is a fresh, bold and forward-looking roadmap for change, restoration and prosperity for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. The provisions of the Manifesto send a resounding message of Team Unity’s full commitment to the advancement of our Nation through collective effort – since we are BETTER TOGETHER! We seek the trust of the electorate, and your vote for all Team Unity candidates on Election Day.
The strategic coalition that many have now come to refer to as Team Unity, is testimony to the fact that collaboration, when well-intentioned, can reap a bountiful harvest for those individuals who are able to set aside personal ambitions, goals and desires when the greater good is at stake. For the People’s Action Movement (PAM), and our political partners, namely the People’s Labour Party (PLP) and the Concerned Citizens’ Movement (CCM), the greater good is the reconstruction, recovery, advancement and sustainable development of our people, our economy, our communities and our governance structure.

History will record that poor political leadership, the growing dictatorial practices of an unpopular incumbent Prime Minister, and his economic mismanagement over the past 20 years have left our people fatigued, despondent and battle-scarred. We have witnessed in dismay our economy’s shrinkage, our communities becoming less safe due to increasing crime, our loss of jobs, and the depletion of the public coffers as a direct result of reckless government spending. Add to this mix the surrender of 1200 acres of our lands to cover sky-rocketing debt at St. Kitts Nevis Anguilla National Bank and one would quickly realise that our Federation is in a dreadful state.

Team Unity has examined our predicament. We have carefully analysed the corrective actions required to place us on a path of recovery, and we have keenly listened to the advice of our people and stakeholder groups who demand and deserve the best from us as politicians who are called to serve the public without reservation. We have listened to you, our people, and have heeded your directive that the political establishment find ways to work together as a means of bringing rebirth, revival and regeneration to our “Land of Beauty”. Our coalition launched Team Unity in September 2013. We have fought the good fight of advocating for a Motion of No Confidence in the incumbent government for over two years.

We have, in an unprecedented fashion, begun to heal the wounds that have divided the people of our twin islands. The January 31, 2015 signing of the Treaty of National Unity by PAM, PLP and CCM has cemented our firm resolve to build lasting bridges of cooperation and partnership between both islands. We will achieve this by pursuing a roadmap that would finally bring equity, fairness and development to the people of Nevis.

Fellow citizens and residents, the future of St. Kitts and Nevis led by a Team Unity government looks promising and bright. For that to happen, however, we need your strong, unwavering support by securing your vote on Election Day 2015. This is decision time! There is much riding on this Election, chief of which is the urgency required to pull back our Federation from the path of destruction and infamy that threatens to destroy our fundamental rights, freedoms and democratic principles. Vote Team Unity to secure that fresh start and bright future which we all deserve and need.
Once again we are being called upon to elect a government that will manage the affairs of St. Kitts and Nevis for the ensuing five years. I urge each and every one of you who are eligible to vote to go to the polls and vote. There are those who are so disenfranchised that they have vowed that they will not vote. I am reminded of a saying which states: “Bad governments are elected when good people sit by and do not vote”.

This is one of the most important elections being contested in our Nation’s history. On one hand there are those who will be fighting to preserve the status quo of our people’s regression while they pillage our beloved country. While on the other hand, Team Unity is fighting to restore confidence, hope, dignity and prosperity for all - all of which have been eroded by an avalanche of mismanagement by the Douglas Administration. The evidence is clear for all to see – blatant corruption, nepotism, and disregard for our Constitution and the Rule of Law. On top of that, the exceedingly high cost of living with prices continuing to escalate; and the giving away of the resources of our beloved island.

If you have not resolved yet to support the vision and creed of Team Unity for whatever reason, in making your decision, I ask you to consider this question: “Are you better off now than you were five years ago?”

Do you feel safe in your homes and businesses? Are you affected by the continually rising cost of living? Paying 17% VAT? Do you find it easier at month’s end to pay the bills? Meet the rent, mortgage or car payment? Do you find it easier at the grocery to buy the food necessary for your children to grow up strong and healthy? Are you able to save for a medical emergency or a child’s college education? Do you still feel proud of your citizenship given the myriads of scandals involving our passports?

With the pervasive “No’s” in response to these questions, it is incumbent on you to ensure that change for the better comes to St. Kitts and Nevis. We can only be better together.

While the CCM has traditionally maintained a position of non-alliance, we have come to realize that Dr. Denzil Douglas presents a clear and present danger to the continuation of democracy in St. Kitts and Nevis. Likewise, we realize that Team Unity represents the last best chance for fairness, equity and prosperity for all in our Federation. With the Treaty of National Unity our Parties have agreed to pool our considerable talents and resources at this critical juncture in the history of St. Kitts & Nevis - with a common purpose - for the good that we can do to build a durable recovery that leads to sustained growth, development and shared prosperity. We now need you to ensure that this new paradigm is given birth by your vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve; and may God in his infinite wisdom prosper us.
We cannot have a prosperous Nation without it being a safe Nation. The citizens and residents of St. Kitts and Nevis are being held hostage by the criminal elements within our society. Criminals have violated the sanctity of our homes and businesses, and safety and security are being eroded. Consequently, our people are living in fear. Visitors are assaulted and St. Kitts and Nevis is getting a reputation that we do not want. Criminal activities destabilize communities, and therefore create national disruption and instability. A significant amount of our health resources are being utilized to offset the cost of medical care for victims.

Further, crime and violence are deterrents to visitors to our shores. Our people should never have to live in fear. Crimes are being perpetuated with impunity and current administration appears to be turning a blind eye or is otherwise impotent! A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT shall not stand by and allow any further deterioration in the safety and security of our beloved homeland. Team Unity will work immediately to bring crime down through intervention and prevention. We will reduce crime through empowering law enforcement and at the same time, work to prevent criminal activity by addressing the socio-economic causes that are the root of the problem.

Con’t on page 9
In keeping with this, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

a. Invest in law enforcement by providing better equipment, facilities, appropriate transportation and facilitate training.

b. Invest in greater use of technology and provide appropriate incentives to the private sector for the acquisition of appropriate technology to facilitate a public/private sector partnership to fight crime and violence.

c. De-politicize the police force and ensure promotions and transfers are based on merit, and are transparent.

d. Institute special support and assistance for officers injured or killed in the line of duty.

e. Facilitate the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch and Community Policing.

f. Establish in Nevis a Youth Facility for young offenders with minor offences, to separate them from the more hardened criminals. This facility will be based primarily on education and rehabilitation of young offenders and will include mandatory skills training, community service and re-education.

g. Invest in Closed Circuit Television throughout the public areas of St. Kitts and work with The NIA to expand similar efforts in Nevis.

h. Partner with Churches and non-profit agencies to promote values’ education and essential life skills.

i. Introduce a gun court to deal with violent crime, particularly murders, and increase the number of public prosecutors.

j. Develop a policy of ZERO TOLERANCE for anti-social behaviour, loitering, public disorder, and any and all violations of existing law.

...Establish in Nevis a Youth Facility for young offenders with minor offences, to separate them from the more hardened criminals...
The Federation’s youth (18-35) make up a significant and ever growing bloc that is seriously under-represented in the political leadership of our Country. Our young people are expected to take the mantle of leadership in the near future but many are ill-prepared for this major undertaking, as there have been not many positive examples emanating from the Federal Cabinet. Many of our youth are disillusioned by poor job prospects; misguided by a failing economy; troubled by an unstable family life; and neglected by a school system that is relatively unprepared to deal with our at-risk students who are likely to slip through the cracks.

Too many of our fathers are missing in action, leaving mothers to raise children single-handedly without a male role model and disciplinarian in the home. Due to a fractured family life situation, a growing number of our young people are being recruited by criminal gangs who give them a false sense of family.

To turn these circumstances around, TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Advance the provisions in the Education White Paper of April 2009, which calls for an examination of how we educate boys and conduct outreach to families.

2. Develop a network of partnership between the Ministry of Social Development and Youth Empowerment, and community/civic groups who are focused on youth development, especially our churches.

Con’t on page 11
3. Provide parenting classes for mothers and fathers, as part of the pre and post natal clinics at Health Centers, community centers, and with private sector stakeholders.

4. Institute a youth leadership programme in all schools, starting at the primary level.

5. Facilitate the development of student government systems in all high schools, in order to introduce children to leadership, public speaking, political systems, and lobbying at an early age.

6. Education guarantee fund to underwrite university costs for young people lacking collateral for student loans.

7. Create a first-time home/land ownership programme to enable young persons to own a piece of the rock at affordable rates.

8. Establish a special fund for development of creative arts, culture and entertainment, to assist budding artistes, musicians, etc. with the development of their craft and special talents from which they can earn a living.
Team Unity’s vision is that all young people are entitled to employment in the land of their birth. What is of paramount importance to Team Unity is gainful employment that is sustainable over the long-term. This is because it is today’s young people who will drive and fuel our Nation’s economy in the near future. Programmes such as the People’s Employment Programme (PEP) stop short of providing our young people with job security, and the motivation to secure for themselves the kinds of jobs that will give them a promising future.

To successfully achieve sustainable youth employment A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Guarantee that programmes such as PEP will continue in a manner that it allows workers to earn more and seize opportunities for self-

employment, further training and advancement.

2. Ensure that a reorganised PEP programme will allow our young people a decent, living wage and the opportunity to prosper.

3. Teach young people to fish for themselves by becoming the best workers that employers are seeking through realistic training in Work Ethics and Life Skills.

4. Foster among young people a culture of entrepreneurship. Team Unity will get our young people thinking about starting viable businesses, becoming their own bosses, and creating employment for others.

...What is of paramount importance to Team Unity is gainful employment that is sustainable over the long-term...
Over the last several years the murder rate in St. Kitts and Nevis has grown to among the highest per capita in the world, with most of these crimes being committed by our young men aged 18-35. The current over-crowded prison system does little to provide for remedial behaviours among our young offenders. A prison term for most of our young men is a guaranteed indoctrination into more serious life of crime, a situation caused by these young men sharing space with hardened criminals who can only teach them how to be better criminals. Too many young men feel that prosperity is out of their reach in St. Kitts and Nevis. Too many are unemployed or under-employed. The future does not seem bright. Too many young men live a vicious cycle of prison sentences.

To arrest and reverse the alarming statistic a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Create Full employment in St. Kitts and Nevis. For too long, the current government has been satisfied with high unemployment and under-employment. The best social programme is a good paying job.

2. Urgently conduct in-depth research into best practices by countries who have properly tackled the issue of assisting with the retraining and re-tooling of young males for new, productive lives after their prison sentences are over.

3. Partner with the private sector, churches and other NGO’s, to develop and maintain programmes for at-risk young men.

4. Train our teachers to be alert and sensitive to behavioural changes in students, particularly male pupils.

5. Promote the development of stronger associations for parents and teachers in all schools.

6. Construct a state of the art youth rehabilitation centre on Nevis, for at-risk young men and first offenders.
Team Unity is committed to the prosperity of every family in St. Kitts and Nevis, especially as the family unit is the bedrock of our Kittitian and Nevisian society. Team Unity recognises that our economic policies must also be family-friendly policies in order for every family to get on the road to prosperity. Teen pregnancy is still a serious concern in the Federation, as young mothers are ill-prepared for raising a family, since they are children themselves. Such pregnancies often result from experimentation and young people looking for affection in the wrong way – in order to make up for what they lack at home. Team Unity is also concerned about the impact of absentee fathers on their children and families.

To build stronger families, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Work to create 2000 new jobs
2. Put more money in your pocket through VAT relief on purchases of food and medicine, education supplies and free pre-school education.
3. Return land back to the people where it belongs
4. Invest in first class education of our young people from pre-school to tertiary level.
5. Encourage the development of family-owned businesses
6. Make health care affordable, including long-term care for our seniors
7. Consider the introduction of flexi-time legislation that allows major income earners to spend quality time with their families, including aging parents.

...Team Unity recognises that our economic policies must also be family-friendly policies in order for every family to get on the road to prosperity...
St. Kitts & Nevis has made strides in gender development and mainstreaming since Independence in 1983.

However, there is much more to be achieved particularly as it relates to women, who head over 50% of our households.

To Further the Cause of Gender Equality, A Team Unity Government will:

1. Make greater investment in social development programmes that assist women in building self-confidence, self-worth and assertiveness; thinking outside the box in career choices

2. Legislate tough laws against domestic violence, rape and crimes against children

3. Implement progressive family leave policy

4. Ensure that women are nominated base on qualifications and experience to serve on Statutory Boards, and in leadership positions in Government and the private sector.

5. Create victims’ rights legislation

6. Create a favourable investment climate for that facilitates entrepreneurship among women.

7. Promote flexible hours to provide relief for women in dual role of working and caring for a family.

8. Establish a systematic, reliable health care and holistic wellness programme that is responsive to the needs of women.
The road to prosperity starts with creating good paying jobs. Government and the private sector must create the jobs that our people need, in order to enjoy a decent standard of living.

To inject new life and real growth into our economy, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Create 2000 new, permanent and good paying jobs in five years through incentives for private sector business development
2. Develop and pass the necessary regulations for the Small Business Development Act of 2009, so that the provisions of the Act can be put in place to benefit small business owners and entrepreneurs with tax incentives, etc. to help them get started in business.
3. Create Cyber communities in neighborhoods in St. Kitts and Nevis
4. Conduct aggressive investment promotion programmes to bring new, good paying manufacturing and service sector jobs
5. Work in partnership with the manufacturing sector to grow the industrial sector
6. Advocate for joint ventures between local and foreign-owned businesses

LANDS

The current Douglas Labour Administration has committed countless insults and injuries against the people of St. Kitts and Nevis during its time in office. None of them was worse than the travesty of Labour’s Parliamentary decision in December 2012 to steal our hard-earned lands from the people of this country. The mismanagement of the public purse has resulted in us being unable to service our debt with the St. Kitts-Nevis, Anguilla National Bank. The Government has decided to use over 1200 acres of our lands in a land-for-debt swap arrangement. This is nothing less than the Repatriation of our National Heritage.
The surrender of over 1200 acres of prime land in the Sandy Point, Cayon, Lamberts and Lodge Estates means that such lands will be out of reach from the common man who dreams of building houses, developing agriculture and other development projects. The land for debt swap by the Douglas Administration has basically reversed all of the efforts made by our First Premier, the Right Hon. Robert Bradshaw, and our First Prime Minister, Dr the Right Hon. Kennedy Simmonds in taking back our lands from the hands of our former colonial masters and paying for them respectively – so we, the people, can have a heritage and a legacy to call our own.

In respect of this heritage and protection of our patrimony, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Repeal The Vesting of Certain Lands Act. The result will be that more lands will immediately become available for residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial development.

2. Reclaim LaVallee Greens for suburban housing and other people-centred development.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL

Healthcare for All

The average man and woman in St. Kitts and Nevis does not have private health insurance coverage because they cannot afford it. In the event that such persons get sick, there are usually limited finances to cover the cost of medical care. Many of our people without private health insurance have had to resort to the use of fundraisers and donation schemes to cover high medical costs of operations here and overseas, including airfare.

Most of the medical schemes locally available do not provide assistance with basic living expenses during the time of illness and recovery. As a result, it becomes nearly impossible to pay for mortgages, rent, utilities and other living expenses when one is ill. If the person who is ill is also the major breadwinner in the family, then the whole family’s ability to survive is threatened. Only some of the larger private sector firms are able to provide medical insurance benefits to their staff, often only those in management positions.
Senior citizens are likewise unable to contribute to a health scheme and are therefore unable to access necessary health care.

In the belief that the wealth of a nation is the health of a nation, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Within its first term in office, commission a comprehensive national health insurance plan for all citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis.

2. Work with Social Security, employers and trade unions to work out the best mechanism for the development of the scheme and the payment of premiums via payroll contributions.

3. Remove VAT from the cost of medicine, and convalescent, infant and elderly food and supplies.

4. Ensure that all persons registered under the Social Security Act will have access to national health insurance benefits, including self-employed persons.

5. Invest in higher-end medical equipment needed to address chronic and serious illnesses, especially MRI and Kidney Dialysis units at the JN France Hospital.

6. Re-tool and upgrade Mary Charles, Alexandra, Pogson and J N France hospitals with up-to-date equipment, quality renovations, staffing and medicines.

7. Include children in the national insurance programme via the school registration.

8. Establish and upgrade purpose-built facilities with medical professionals in the field of Geriatric Medicine in order to respond to the needs of our ageing population.

9. Provide complimentary transportation to the elderly who must receive health care.

10. Modernize medical record-keeping in order to expedite the delivery of health care.
Since the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on November 1, 2010, the people of St. Kitts and Nevis were confronted with an even higher cost of living than what they were accustomed to, during the days of a Consumption Tax Regime. VAT at 17% has caused a spike in the cost of basic goods and services, including the cost of bringing in personal food barrels and boxes from families and friends living abroad. Team Unity believes that a readjustment of VAT will facilitate greater economic activity in the country and assist in poverty alleviation.

To usher in meaningful relief to all the people of the Federation, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Immediately upon taking office, remove VAT from the cost of medicine, food, medical supplies, educational supplies, funerals and supplies for persons with disabilities.

2. Remove VAT from the sale of locally grown agricultural products, regardless of whether those goods are sold directly by farmers or other vendors.
If we do not hasten to secure and preserve our culture, our history and our art forms we will soon lose our sense of who we are or where we came from. Such an errant path will certainly paint a dim future for our collective selves. If this happens, our young people would have a very limited or warped sense of self, and would find themselves adopting the cultural and artistic values of other countries.

Cognizant of this reality, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Amend school curriculum from primary to secondary level, to reflect the fundamentals of arts and culture. This curriculum shift would make it possible for children to learn the quadrille as easily as they would develop the skills and appreciation for classical dance.

2. Develop strategic partnerships with performing arts groups, folklore troupes and community festival organizers in order to pass on education and skill development in cultural and artistic...
FOCUS ON THE CULTURE & ARTS:

expressions such as masquerade, clowns, mummies; culinary arts; cultural/ethnic dance forms, etc.

3. Ensure that the National Trust and other heritage groups such as Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society and the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society are properly funded to maintain and preserve historic landmarks, museums, historic records, etc. (with support from the National Archives).

4. Pursue plans for the establishment of a Sugar Museum on the Old SSMC grounds as a means of immortalizing our socio-economic foundation in sugar production.

5. Restore at least one former sugar estate as a functional 18th or 19th century estate with historic re-enactments, demonstration sugar cultivation and processing, rum production, and general plantation life – all towards the goal of enhancing our tourism product by embracing our past.

6. Establish of a state-of-the-art national theatre for the performing arts. Such a multi-purpose facility would be designed to host events as small as plays from national theatre groups to events as grand as operatic or ballet performances.

7. Institute a commission on Carnival, Culturama and other cultural festivals in order to improve their organisation, funding, financial accountability, inclusiveness and community engagement. This commission should also oversee the transformation of our national Carnival into an independent festival managed by a statutory organisation. Ensure the effective promotion and marketing of our local culture overseas including support for cultural ambassadors.

8. Provide Federal assistance for the staging of Nevis Culturama.
SPORTS

The development of sports brings a myriad of benefits at the individual, community, national, social and economic levels however, as a Nation we have yet to fully benefit from the economic and social benefits. The limited and controlled access to sporting facilities stifles the development of local leagues and athletic meets.

A reorganised school curriculum would ensure that sports be accorded equal priority as the pursuit of academic endeavour. Such an adjustment would allow for higher levels of physical fitness and wellness, and also give recognition to the diverse talents and abilities of our children. Sport also has the potential of improving children’s socialization skills, and lessening the likelihood of their attraction to anti-social behaviour and criminal gangs.

In addition, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Conduct a thorough sporting sector audit to accurately assess the level of sport investment in the Federation.

2. Endeavour to renovate and upgrade all existing hard courts in the various communities, ensuring that the Ministries of Sports and Public Works institute a regular maintenance and management programme for these facilities.

3. Construction and rehabilitation of various sporting facilities in order to facilitate national development in sports.

Con’t on page 23
4. Revisit the current arrangements regarding the maintenance of the Warner Park Cricket Stadium, the Silver Jubilee Stadium and the football stadium. Team Unity believes that these facilities must be regularly maintained to protect national investment in them.

5. Ensure that teachers and coaches are best trained to guide and develop the sporting aptitudes of our Nation’s youth to world class standards.

6. Endeavour that for each Olympic game there is competent, reliable, professional and ethical representation of our Country by our National athletes.

7. Improve the current levels of investment in the development of Special Olympians with a view to widening sporting opportunities for aspiring athletes with disabilities.

8. Ensure that the Federation has a well-staffed, well-trained team of representatives and athletes at all international Special Olympic events.

9. Establish a National Sports Council

10. Actively support the SKNAAA in bidding for and hosting regional competitions on an annual basis - CARIFTA Games, CAC Juniors, CAC Seniors and the OECS Championships.

11. Waive the duties, CSC and VAT on all Athletics equipment, gear and other sporting supplies.

12. Support the development of the sporting infrastructure and capabilities on Nevis.
SETTLEMENT OF OVERDUE GRATUITIES TO FORMER SSMC WORKERS

FORMER SUGAR WORKERS

Following closure of SSMC in July 2005, Government had promised to pay $44 million to sugar workers. To date only $28 million has been paid, with some $16 million still outstanding while the former sugar workers are still languishing. Many of the workers are still unable to find meaningful livelihoods.

A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Commit to settle with former sugar workers the full $16 million dollars that is still due to them.

2. Engage in consultation with former SSMC workers to determine their preferred form of payment.

3. Investigate and provide details to the Nation about the sale of SSMC scrap assets.

4. Provide tangible rewards to those who gave long service in the sugar industry.

5. Raffle two Kittstoddarts Houses to former SSMC workers.
EDUCATION

Since the publication of the white paper on education in April 2009, the Federation is still waiting on the passage of a revised Education Act to update the one passed in 2004. A number of provisions have been put forward in the Education White Paper of 2009, along with meaningful submissions from the general public and education stakeholders. The public is still to see the implementation of well-needed reform.

Among the major imperatives in a revised education act is the restructuring of national skills training for all school age children in an effort to better prepare our people for jobs in a new competitive economy.

To give our people every advantage for the new opportunities in the new economy, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Ensure that the tragedy at Basseterre High School will never happen again via proper schools’ maintenance, and health, safety and environmental audits, etc.

2. Build a brand new, and modern Basseterre High School

3. Ensure swift passage of a revised and relevant education reform act.

4. Implement critical curriculum reform that is designed for skill development and knowledge transfer.

5. Develop strategic partnerships with the private sector, international donor agencies and training institutes to ensure that critical skill training is implemented based on international standards.

“Prosperity for All”!
MEET OUR TEAM UNITY

Dr. The Hon. Timothy Harris  
Leader  
Constituency 7

Hon. Mark Brantley  
Deputy Leader  
Constituency 9

Hon. Shawn Richards  
Joint Deputy Leader  
Constituency 5

Hon. Eugene Hamilton  
Constituency 8

Ian “Patches” Liburd  
Constituency 1

Jonel Powell  
Constituency 2
SLATE OF CANDIDATES

Vernon Connor
Constituency 6

Alexis Jeffers
Constituency 11

Lindsay Grant
Constituency 4

Hon. Vance Amory
Constituency 10

Hon. Sam Condor
Constituency 3
PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION:

6. Rationalise the operating mandate of the national skills training institutes such as AVEC, CFBC, Project Strong and Multi-purpose training facility with a view to making their curriculum responsive and relevant to a new and competitive global economy.

7. Provide a skills training institute in Nevis, e.g. AVEC

8. Upgrade the professionalism, standards and certification of all teaching and career guidance counseling staff in order to ensure that our children are afforded the best quality education available anywhere in the world.

9. Establish a fund that will guarantee every person who qualifies, will receive assistance to obtaining University/tertiary education

10. Invest in state of the art library facilities at all learning institutions.

11. Encourage meaningful partnership and dialogue with the St. Kitts-Nevis Teachers’ Union and PTAs.

12. Provide financial support to the establishment of a full time Teacher’s Union Secretariat.

13. Develop a National Teachers’ Award programme to reward teachers for high performance.

14. Mandate involvement in sports at all schools (athletics, cricket, football, basketball, tennis, etc).

15. Education guarantee fund to underwrite university costs for young people lacking collateral for student loans.
CARIFORUM

Although the Revised Caricom Treaty has been ratified in all of the CARICOM Member States, there are still a number of issues to be settled in order to properly facilitate the freedom of movement of people throughout Caricom. Likewise, the passage of the OECS Economic Union Treaty should provide easier access re travel, establishment of businesses and investment across the Member States.

A number of critical provisions still need to be implemented in St. Kitts and Nevis to facilitate travel, business investment etc. These include training and uniform operating procedures of immigration officials and customs officers; the ability to travel on one’s driver’s licence, etc. Both the Caricom Treaty and the OECS Economic Treaty guarantee equality of treatment regarding nationals of Member States. However, this is not always the case in practice.

Towards this end, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

1. Engage sensitivity training, observation and evaluation of immigration and custom officers

2. Implement basic training on the core provisions of both the Caricom and OECS Economic Union Treaties re: the movement of natural persons within the Member States.

3. Initiate a constitutional amendment to reduce the qualifying period for citizenship for Caribbean nationals.

4. Ensure that Caricom residents and citizens of The Dominican Republic are eligible to pay in-state fees for medical services, education tax, etc.

5. End discrimination against Caricom nationals and regularize the status of citizens from the Dominican Republic.
The average citizen does not have to be told that times are hard. Things are tough and getting tougher. The people of St. Kitts and Nevis have faced severe adversity over the past five years. The cost of living is high and rising – cumulative inflation for the past five years exceeds 10%. The general standard of living for most citizens has dropped dramatically. Incomes are low, unemployment is high; and the low wages of the under-employed result in a growing population of the working poor.

The middle class is shrinking and poverty is increasing. More and more people are becoming vulnerable every day. Taxes are high – the VAT, in particular, is a severe burden on every household. Families can hardly buy sufficient nutritious food for consistently healthy diets. Households are unable to keep their lights on because of an 85% increase in electricity instituted in 2010. Personal savings are depleted to keep pace with the high cost of living.

The cost of doing business is unreasonably high. There is a need for a level playing field between local and foreign-owned businesses, and greater transparency in government procurement and application of incentives programme.
Tourism has taken several steps backwards instead of forward; Agriculture is languishing; Manufacturing has not received the support it needs to take off in the new global marketplace; Construction is underperforming; and National consumption is at dismal levels because of the high VAT, high cost of living, and low wages.

The country has been flagging under a negative economic growth rate for the past four years, and there appears no relief in sight under the present Government.

However, an innovative TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT stands ready to make life easier and better for all of its citizens and residents. To jumpstart the economy; to ease the tax burden on citizens and businesses; to put money back in people’s pockets. TEAM UNITY stands ready to reduce the cost of living and raise the happiness index; to improve the general standard of living and to put people back to work. To implement policies that will grow local businesses and reduce poverty; improve the general investment climate in St. Kitts and Nevis and provide equal opportunity for our citizens and residents to get a start in endeavours for a better life. To favour citizens over foreigner interests, and to invest in productive assets that will usher in economic growth and the development of people. To become energy efficient and to find a sustainable human development formula that works. A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will pay down the public sector debt and to achieve sustainable economic rebalancing by living within our means.

In achieving these outcomes to the benefit of our people a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

Increase Personal Incomes by –

a. Issue a $500 SIDF-funded family support grant for households earning $3000 or less per month

b. Increasing the salaries of Public Servants.

c. Expanding employment

d. Partnering with the manufacturing sector to add an additional 150 new jobs by the end of 2015 and another 500 by 2020

Con’t on page 32
e. Creating two additional industrial parks on St. Kitts and one on Nevis to accommodate new manufacturing enterprises and expansion of existing plants.

f. Reducing the cost of living by reducing VAT rate and removing the VAT on food

g. Reducing the general tax burden on individuals and families

h. Encouraging and incentivize greater personal savings and retirement planning; and strengthening the public service pension facilities

i. Implementing the pension plans for persons working in manufacturing

j. Reinforcing the social safety net and strengthening Social Security

k. Making energy more affordable by (among other things) Investing in Nevis’ geothermal power generation.

Reduce the Cost of Living By-

a. Issuing a $500 SIDF-funded family support grant for households earning $3,000 or less than per month

b. Providing amnesty on electricity arrears

c. Eliminating the fuel surcharge thereby reducing the electricity rate for both residents and businesses

d. Reviewing the environmental levy on vehicles

e. Providing amnesty on housing arrears

f. Reducing mortgages payments on NHC houses

Con’t on page 33
ECONOMIC OVERHAUL

- Eliminating fees for preschoolers
- Reducing student loan payments
- Introducing comprehensive health insurance scheme with reasonable co-pays
- Ensuring common hospital fees for all inhabitants of St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Reducing land lease rates
- Eliminating VAT on energy saving devices
- Outsourcing a number of government jobs to citizens
- Facilitating and incentivizing more local entrepreneurs to create wealth
- Facilitating greater property ownership among citizens
- Enabling and facilitating the ownership of 2000 houses and 3000 lots of land by our citizens
- Providing access to low-interest loans for first-time home owners
- Providing concessions on building materials for first time homeowners

Develop a pro-business agenda for growth by –

- Providing duty and tax concessions to local businesses
- Moderating the business tax regime
- Moderating the price of energy
- Establishing meaningful, institutionalized consultation with private sector agencies.
- Allowing businesses to run their own generators if they desire so to do.
- Providing access to cheap financing

Improve the Standard of Living by –

- Increasing personal incomes
- Providing opportunities for citizens with capable businesses to gain more multi-million dollar government contracts

Con’t on page 34
g. Providing a venture capital fund
h. Reducing the VAT
i. Passing the required regulations that should give effect to the Small Business Development Act of 2009
j. Implementing a short to medium term, results–oriented programme that seeks to improve St. Kitts and Nevis’ standing in The World Bank’s annual “Doing Business” rankings. Currently, the Federation is ranked at 121 out of a total of 189 countries and this is certainly unacceptable. We need to shorten the time it takes to register, open and wind-up a business; clear goods at the ports; obtain business permits and licences, etc.
k. Providing various concessions to level the playing field with foreign-owned businesses
l. Encouraging and facilitating the re-establishment of the Small Business Association

Support Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development by-

a. Improving the environment for the start-up and survival of more micro, small and medium sized businesses
b. Consolidating NEDD, SKIPA, NIPA, etc.
c. Supporting the ongoing development of the St. Kitts and Nevis Small Business Forum
d. Implementing a 30% procurement set-aside for MSME’s on Government contracts
e. Providing tax relief for MSME’s
f. Formalizing a fair system of granting concessions
g. Establishing business incubators that provide training and technical assistance to MSME’s, as well as building shells to be used as rental spaces
h. Providing access to funds – both venture capital and ongoing business financing
i. Deferring start-up fee until the end of the first year of business
j. Establishing an annual national innovation competition for entrepreneurs – the winner receives assistance in implementing a new business idea
ECONOMIC OVERHAUL

Improve the general investment climate in St. Kitts and Nevis by –

a. Ensuring economic and political stability

b. Ensuring a safe social and physical environment

c. Confirming, through actions, the Country’s commitment to democracy and the rule of law

d. Fostering an atmosphere where investments are safe and the expropriation of investment capital is not considered

e. Promoting clear and transparent investment incentive regimes

f. Maintaining reliable public services, including modern infrastructures

g. Supporting an educational system designed to meet the needs of foreign and domestic investments

h. Guaranteeing that freedom from taxation on capital gains, inheritance, withholding, profit remittance is ensured

Lead an Agricultural Reform Programme by –

a. Establishing a registry of bona fide farmers so they can register and access the fullest incentives and concessions available to them

b. Expanding the number and size of lands distributed to farmers for cultivation and livestock

c. Improving crop planning to better meet local demand with an aim to become self-sufficient in key produce

d. Expanding subsidies and other concessions to farmers and fishers.
e. Supporting the establishment of co-operatives so that farmers can benefit from economies of scale which afford lower costs of production

f. Continuing the technical assistance programme with Taiwan and Israel.

g. Providing assistance with the control of the monkey population

h. Expanding water storage and distribution for farmers

i. Assisting farmers with access to markets locally regionally and internationally

j. Making insurance a possibility for farmers and farmers’ groups

k. Establishing bonds between Agriculture Departments in St. Kitts and Nevis for mutual growth and benefit

l. Reducing the cost of fertilizers and pesticides

m. Providing Federal assistance to further develop the fishing industry in St. Kitts and Nevis, inclusive of the construction of a decompression chamber to handle rehabilitation of divers suffering from air pressure disorders (aka the bends or caisson disease).

**Provide Food Security by—**

a. Expanding Government food assistance programme for the registered poor (indigents, poor and vulnerable) to include school breakfast

b. Expanding access to locally produced foods

c. Increasing investments in sustainable agricultural development

d. Improving farming technologies such as shade and green houses

e. Removing the VAT from food and making food prices more affordable

f. Providing nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age who are registered poor.
Focus on Manufacturing-led Growth by–

a. Promoting the Partial Scope Agreement on trade between the Federation, Guyana and Brazil

b. Fully implementing the goals, objectives and policy measures outlined in the National Manufacturing Strategy (2014-2020)

c. Aggressively recruiting new, high-end manufacturing operators to St. Kitts and Nevis

d. Expanding the current space allocated for Industrial development.

e. Providing for manufacturers entering the agro-processing industry via the establishment of 1st class agro-processing facilities

f. Granting concessions to new and existing manufacturers

g. Supporting the establishment and mandate of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council

Address Export-Oriented Growth by–

a. Assisting local manufacturers with capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives to improve their export-readiness via product development, testing, labeling, packaging, shipping logistics, etc.

b. Facilitating the development of locally grown agricultural exports to neighbouring countries.

c. Strengthening partnerships with key agencies such as Caribbean Export, the OECS Export Development Unit, the local Chambers of Commerce, the Bureau of Standards, and development agencies such as IICA (Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture), the Taiwanese Mission, CARDI (Canadian Agricultural Research & Development Institute).

d. Building capacity in the local Bureau of Standards and Multi-purpose Laboratory.

e. Advocating and facilitating local manufacturers’ access to finance.
ECONOMIC OVERHAUL

Rationalization & Restructuring of the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI) by –

a. Conducting, within the first 90 days of taking office, a comprehensive audit of the CBI, including the SIDF.

b. Making recommendations and improvements in (a) how the Fund is managed and invested; (b) transparency in the operations of the foundation; (c) staffing, management and accountability of SIDF employees, consultants and contractors; and (d) the use of the Fund to significantly reduce our National Debt that has long exceeded the $2 billion mark.

c. Ensuring that there is parliamentary oversight of the CBI programme

d. Taking on board the recommendations of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and other civil bodies in the improvement of the SIDF, and continue consultation with an aim to continually improve.

e. Recalibrating relations with Canada and the USA to address their concerns about the CBI programme.

Access to Affordable Land for Housing & Commercial Development by –

a. Commissioning a comprehensive land use policy for housing that clearly outlines tracts of land for short, medium and long-term development of housing and commercial enterprise.

b. Revisiting the National Physical Development Plan of 2006 to ensure that proper zoning is adhered to re: land development for agriculture, residential, commercial and industrial development.

c. Ensuring that our people get first preference in the purchase of reasonably priced land.

d. Guaranteeing equal opportunity for land ownership for foreign nationals and the drivers of foreign direct investments (FDIs).

“Prosperity for All”!
Level Playing Field for the Treatment of Local & Foreign Investors by –

a. Creating a One-Stop-Shop for investment by consolidating the operations of SKIPA, NIPA, and NEDD.

b. Ensuring that a level playing field exists between foreign and local investors.

c. Examining the current system of issuing fiscal incentives to local and foreign-owned investors, to ascertain that such issuance is adhered to, by the book.

d. Eliminating the bureaucratic red tape experienced by our local entrepreneurs.

e. Passing the necessary Public Procurement legislation that gives a fair chance for tendering.

Shift Towards Productivity-led Performance & Wage Systems by –

a. Developing productivity indicators that would be tied to performance and pay systems. Such systems will stimulate higher quality work for greater levels of pay.

b. Revisiting the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of a National Productivity Centre in St. Kitts and Nevis. This agency will assist the Department of Labour and the private sector to measure, monitor and assess performance, productivity and wage rates across various sectors of the economy. This data is necessary for our country’s ability to compete in the global marketplace via our wage rates, worker productivity rates, and quality of production.

c. Instituting a system of ensuring our Country’s ratification of and reporting on related ILO international standards, in order to keep pace with global productivity and performance trends in top performing countries.

d. Developing and supporting a stronger system of national skills training designed to improve national productivity of our Country’s workforce.

Strategic Repositioning of the Tourism Sector - Grounded in Sustainability by –


b. Partnering with local, regional and
international tourism stakeholders to ensure that regular, quality audits and improvements are executed.

c. Ensuring an economic space for our local tourism operators.

d. Developing Black Rocks and other Tourism sites.

e. Promoting the Fort at Fort Thomas Hotel.

f. Increasing our Tourism marketing budget.

g. Improving craft markets on St. Kitts and Nevis.

h. Investing in education, sports, health and wellness tourism.

i. Encouraging conversion of tourists into long-term residency in St. Kitts and Nevis by US, European& Canadian citizens.

j. Ensuring that tourism developments strike a delicate balance between environmental safeguards; protection of natural, historical, agricultural and cultural resources; and sustainability over the long haul.

k. Developing an eco-tourism brand that seeks to advocate green tourism.

l. Increasing the number of stay-over visitors to the Federation.

INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

a. Pursuing geothermal energy production

b. Completing wind farm energy project at Bellevue Estate

c. Supporting solar farm development for both commercial and residential use

d. Build cooperation between SKELEC and NEVLEC for efficiencies in the services they provide to the people of our Federation, with the goal of reducing the cost of energy to consumers
CAPITAL PROJECTS

A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT commits to the following projects within its term in office:

- An East Bus Terminal in Basseterre
- An All-weather Mondo Surface Athletic Track in Nevis
- A new, modern Basseterre High School
- Feasibility Study Towards the Construction of a Bridge Joining St Kitts & Nevis
- By-pass Road Linking Eastern & Western Sides of St. Kitts from Old Road to Phillips Village
- A New Castle Coast Guard Facility
- Centres of Excellence in Health Care
- The Pinney’s Recreational Park
- Geothermal Electricity Generating Plant
- Urban Revitalization for Basseterre & Charlestown
- Fisheries Project at Bath Village
- Old Road Bay Overpass Road

“prosperity for All”!
ELECTORAL REFORM

The current electoral system has proven to be inadequate to address the needs of modern Kittitian and Nevisian.

The critical challenges are lack of transparency in the operations of the Electoral Office, politicization of the said office, lack of independence on the part of the supervisor of elections, and unsatisfactory leadership by the Electoral Commission. The Constituency Boundaries Commission has failed to function properly, as a result of its present composition reflecting narrow partisan interests.

Considering these new realities, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

a. Reform the registration process to require proof of eligibility to register in a particular constituency and publish all voters’ lists with accompanying photos.

b. Undertake a complete voter enumeration process.

c. Create an independent Electoral Office absent of political interference and direction.

d. Constitutional amendment regarding the provision fixed election dates.

e. Introduce legislation limiting the term of any one individual serving as Prime Minister to two terms.

f. Passage of campaign finance reform legislation.

g. Reform the Electoral Commission and the Constituency Boundaries Commission.
GOVERNANCE

The reality of what is passing as Governance today in St. Kitts and Nevis is a far and dismal cry from what the framers of our Constitution intended. The current regime completely ignores the Constitution and the Law with regard to informing the public. It has refused to table annual accounts especially in regard to the National Housing Corporation, the Music Festival, the SIDF, etc. The Public Account Committee does not meet. Public resources, including money and State owned media, have been co-opted as the private property of the ruling Douglas Administration.

Under this minority Douglas regime public finances have been misused for political goals. All boards of statutory corporations and other bodies have been staffed with strong political partisans to the detriment of duty of service to all the people - often overlapping and entrenching gross conflicts of interest. Unelected Senators have been given excessive power in government often to the exclusion of the people’s representatives, thereby reducing accountability.

In short, the civil service, which is intended to administer and service the affairs and needs of all citizens and residents, is dictated to by an anachronistic regime seemingly established in colonial times, that often contravenes workers’ and citizens’ constitutional rights.

Abhorring this travesty of conscience and trust, and to usher in a new paradigm of Government of the people, for the people and by the people, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

a. Pass a “Freedom of Information Act” allowing all citizens and residents of our Nation have the right and ability to access information with regards to the affairs of their government.

b. Comply with the legislation that requires the tabling of the accounts of statutory bodies.

c. Empower the Ombudsman to be a public information watchdog.


d. Institute campaign finance reform.

e. Pass legislation and regulations including integrity in public life and anti-corruption laws that require public officials to disclose assets and sources of funds.

f. Limit the number of boards upon which any one individual may serve as well as their tenure and remuneration, and
prohibit any person from serving on any board of a corporation in which he has a personal interest.

g. Review the powers of powers of senators in Parliament

h. Pass laws to ensure the proper functioning of the Public Accounts Committee.

i. Immediately appoint an integrity commission to police Members of Parliament and senior government officials.

j. Introduce reforms to Civil Service and Police to void the political influence that is currently so rife.

k. Divest Government’s shareholding in Cable TV.

l. Provide equal access to state-owned media to all Political Parties.
Currently the Magistrates Courts are under the supervision and control of the Executive which violates the separation of powers, and belies true independence of the Court.

Further, an already burdened Court is further saddled because many matters are taken to Court that could and should be resolved using alternative means such as mediation.

In many cases, the cost of litigation for very small claims is prohibitive because there is no mechanism for a small claims court, so justice is denied to those of very modest means.

Operationally, the lack of stenography makes the trial process unnecessarily long, which can aid in creation of backlogs on the calendar. The continued existence of debtors’ jail (contempt of court against an order for payment) is an affront to international human rights norms.

To begin the remedy of these a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

a. Expedite legislation to integrate the supervision and control of Magistrates into the Eastern Caribbean Court system.

b. Pass laws to mandate the use of mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution when this would be most effective.

c. Create a small claims court for all matters of a value below a specified sum thereby expanding access to justice.

d. Increase the resources for court related expenses including stenography.

e. Review and reform the regime in place for debtors’ jail.

f. Increase the number of prosecutors to clear the backlog of cases and increase efficiency in the system thereafter.

g. Consult with the OECS Supreme Court regarding the creation of a special court to address cases of violent crimes, drug trafficking, gun smuggling, etc.

h. Open public debate on replacing the UK Privy Council with our own Caribbean Court of Justice.

i. Increase the number of magistrates to handle the gross backlog of cases

j. Request the appointment of a second resident High Court Judge

k. Establish night court to deal with non-custodial crimes, and traffic violations.

l. Reform of High Court Registry inclusive of computerization of all records

m. Introduce legislation to reform the penal system

(n) Implement a proper cadastral land survey and create a new land registry
The Constitution of St. Kitts and Nevis was written over 30 years ago and a review of some key areas is necessary to protect the rights and patrimony of our people; in the face of changing realities. The democracy of our Federation has been undermined by a broken electoral system.

The relationship between St. Kitts and Nevis is not a reflection of the principles of our founding fathers of our Federation. Instead, it appears to be used for political expediencies. Sadly, the levels of corruption within the Douglas Government system continues to affect our ability to provide the social assistance and safety nets necessary for poverty reduction.

While integrity cannot be legislated, the laws and penalties must be strengthened in order to bring consequence to those who act in any untoward manner in public office. It is time!

As a consequence, A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

a. Comply with the constitutional provision requiring that all funds from the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI) are paid into the Government's Consolidated Fund - a Fund created by statute and accountable to Parliament

b. Within 100 days introduce legislation limiting the term of Prime Minister to two terms.

c. Introduce balance budget legislation and pass a debt ceiling legislation to prevent any government’s ability to engage in runaway spending to perpetuate itself in office.

d. Initiate a constitutional amendment to reduce the qualifying period for citizenship for Caribbean nationals.

e. Address other areas requiring constitutional reform and pay particular attention to the recently signed Treaty of National Unity between St. Kitts and Nevis.

f. Institutionalise a process of consultation between Government and the citizens on matters of national importance.
Our Federation - Equity for Nevis

The relationship between St. Kitts and Nevis is not a reflection of the principles of the founding fathers of our Federation. Instead, it appears to be used for political expediencies. There currently exist no functional arrangements for revenue sharing between both islands, whether in the form of funds generated or gifted as International AID.

The reality is that the Island of Nevis has continually been denied its fair share of the Federal resources by the Douglas-led Administration.

Having negotiated, and then publically signed the historic Charlestown Accord in Nevis on the 17th December 2014, a TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT in office will:

a. Honour the provisions of the Charlestown Accord committed to the Island and People of Nevis.

b. Comply with the established arrangements for revenue sharing for between St. Kitts and Nevis and enact legislation where there is in none.

c. Ensure that the relationship is strengthened between both islands through greater corporation and sharing of knowledge and resources in all sectors.

d. Develop mechanisms for co-operation relating to bond issues by the NIA.

e. Implement the commitments outlined in the Treaty of National Unity.

...Comply with the established arrangements for revenue sharing for between St. Kitts and Nevis and enact legislation where there is in none...
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND A “NEW” ST. KITTS & NEVIS


The international scandals and the disrepute that have besiegged our beloved Nation in the last years of the Douglas regime is a point of ignominy and shame for all of us. From the United States Treasury Department to the Government of Canada there have been very damning reports and actions that affect all of us citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis. The loss of our visa-free entry status to Canada is still fresh in our minds, and we all live with the consequences today. It is also essential that Team Unity expands our diplomatic relations with progressive, democratic countries, in order to pursue strategic alliances that will be beneficial for trade and development.

A TEAM UNITY GOVERNMENT will:

a. Recalibrate the relationship between St. Kitts and Nevis and the United Stated and Canada as a priority.

b. Immediately dispatch the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Canada to address the concerns that led to the visa requirement for Citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis, with an aim to rectify same in the hope of regaining visa-free entry status.

c. Work with the Governments of Canada and the United states to identify any “illicit actors” that threaten our CBI programme and our Nation’s privileges and reputation by extension.

“Prosperity for All”!
Team Unity will also pursue a policy of strengthening existing diplomatic relations with our strategic, international partners, while developing new alliances to advance our development agenda. This can be achieved by:

a. Pursuing full implementation of the Partial Scope Agreement with Brazil and Guyana.

b. Seeking out new trade agreements with traditional and existing trading partners.

c. Exploring new trade deals with other emerging markets such as India and South Africa.

d. Pursuing full accession to the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act between the USA and the Caribbean.

e. Leveraging our existing diplomatic arrangements with countries such as Taiwan, and some European States.

f. Preparing and positioning our citizens and the private sector for the full implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the European Union and their former territories in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP).
The foregoing proposals and plans for the development of St. Kitts and Nevis capture the vision of Team Unity for a better Federation. We realize that every one of these initiatives can only be brought to fruition with significant investment of time, intellectual capital, finances and other resources. We are certain that very citizen and resident want a Nation of which we can be proud. Team Unity also does not profess to have all of the answers needed to ensure that St. Kitts and Nevis becomes the best Caribbean jurisdiction in which to live, work and invest. However, we certainly will endeavour to be the best - with the full support of you, the people of St. Kitts and Nevis, who also deserve the best.

The fact that Team Unity presents to the electorate a fresh start and a progressive approach to nation-building means that the achievement of our goals will require collective effort at every level, be it domestic, community, or national. The rebuilding of St. Kitts and Nevis must be done by the people, for the people, and through the people. As such, Team Unity seeks your vote of confidence by allowing our tripartite coalition of the People’s Action Movement (PAM), the Concerned Citizens’ Movement (CCM) and the People’s Labour Party (PLP) to lead this process by forming the next Government in St. Kitts and Nevis. Every member of our team is committed, first and foremost, to service and delivery of everything that we set out to do in the interest of our people.

Let us come together, as people who truly love this land of ours, and set about the business of placing the Country on a firm footing in order to take our rightful place on the regional and international stage. God has blessed us with two precious islands. He has made us a strong, resourceful and resilient people, and He has bestowed on us a drive and ambition that are necessary to safeguard and capitalize on all the gifts, talents and opportunities that He has given us.

*May God bless St. Kitts and Nevis.*

...Let us come together, as people who truly love this land of ours, and set about the business of placing the Country on a firm footing in order to take our rightful place on the regional and international stage...
Give us a chance to serve you...

We will earn every other chance thereafter!