

October 28th -30th 2016



# Digicel

## The **FASTEST 4G** Network



Focussed and Ready!

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## 78th BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

28th, 29th & 30th OCTOBER 2016

THE LESTER VAUGHAN SCHOOL, CANE GARDENS, ST. THOMAS, BARBADOS

### FIRST DAY – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2016

Cocktail Reception – 7:00 – 7:45

#### Awards Ceremony

National Anthem

Welcome – **Master of Ceremonies**

Prayers – **Pastor Mario Springer**

Welcome – **Conference Chairman – Peter Phillips**

Remarks – **Hon Mia Amor Mottley – Political Leader**

Address – **Rev. Charles Morris**

Performance – **Tonyann Blackman**

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

#### Constituency Awards

Southern Branches – **Santia Bradshaw, 3rd Vice Chairman**

Performance – **Monique James**

Central Branches – **Cynthia Forde, 2nd Vice Chairman**

Performance – **Rum aka Krispen Hackette**

Northern Branches – **Dale Marshall, 1st Vice Chairman**

Special Award – **Senator Wilfred Abrahams – Conference Chairman**

Performance

Sports Award – **Senator Dr Jerome Walcott – General Secretary**

Youth Award – **Senator Dr Jerome Walcott – General Secretary**

Performance – **Terrencia “TC” Coward**

Cultural Awards – **Hon Mia Amor Mottley – Political Leader**

Milroy Reece Award – **Hon Mia Amor Mottley – Political Leader**

Party Chairman’s Award – **Hon Mia Amor Mottley – Political Leader**

Grantley Adams Award – **Hon Mia Amor Mottley – Political Leader**

#### Special Performance

Vote of Thanks – **Damien Sands, President, LYS**

#### Party Awards

Grantley Adams Award

Milroy Reece Award

Party Chairman’s Award

Cultural Award

Youth Award

Sports Awardees

Ronald Prescod

Gwendoline Evelyn

Ronnie Carrington

Ricky “Lil Rick” Reid

Mr Kemar Saffrey

Antonio Jamar “Swagga” Whitehall

Danielle Titus

Chemar Holder

Shamar Springer

Jalon Samuels

#### Special Awardees

Monique James

Curtis Jones

Kerry Francis

Sherwood McCaskie

Agnes Lilian Williams

Sandra Straker

Barbara Hunte

#### Constituency Awards

Mr Llewelyn Payne

Mr Victor Grant

Mr Horace Burgess

Mr Alphonzo Eustace

Ms Beana Clarke

Mr Henderson Mayers

Ms Sandra Walters

Mr Athelston Griffith

Mr Reuben Edwards

Mr Orville Power

Mrs Marva Proverbs

Mr Michael Grant

Mohammed Patel

Mrs Maureen Jones-Callender

Mr Eric Reid

Faye Tudor

Ms Maggie Boyce

Mr Victor Aymes

Ms Andrea Bates

Ronald “Duke” Bradshaw

Mr Wilberforce Garnes

Mrs Linda Joseph

Mr Roger Layne

Mr Wayne Linton

Mr Denzil Jackman

Mr Clyde Brathwaite

Ms Utaveen Greaves

Ms Melda Cummins

Mr Andre Belgrave

Mr Manley Crookendale

Ms Sheila Parris

Mr Asokore Beckles

Mrs Pamela Hinkson

St. Andrew

St. Joseph

St. Peter

St. Thomas

St. Lucy

St. James North

St. James Central

St. James South

City of Bridgetown

St. Michael North

St. Michael North West

St. Michael West Central

St. Michael West

St. Michael East

St. Michael South East

St. Michael Central

St. Michael South Central

St. Michael South

St. Michael North East

Christ Church East

Christ Church West

Christ Church South

Christ Church West Central

Christ Church East Central

St John

St. Philip North

St Philip South

St. Philip West

St. George South

St. George North

New York Branch

League of Young Socialists

Women’s League



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## SECOND DAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2016

- 10:00 Assembly
- 10:10 National Anthem
- 10:15 Prayers – Rev. Dr Loretta Gill
- 10:20 Welcome – Conference Chairman
- 10:25 Performance – *The Kapremes*
- 10:35 Minutes of the 77th Annual Conference – *General Secretary*

### Reports:

- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parliamentary Group
- League of Young Socialists
- Women's League
- BLP New York Chapter
- BLP U. K Branch

## 12:30 – 2.00 LUNCH & ELECTIONS

- 2.00 Delegate roll call
- 2:05 Performance – *ADL Adrenalin Dance*
- 2.15 Youth Symposium
- 3.30 Announcement of 2016 – 2017 Executive
- 3.30 **BREAK**
- 4.00 Introduction of Political Leader – *Kirk Humphrey*
- 4.10 Political Leader's Address

## THIRD DAY – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2016

- 9:30 Assembly
- Service of Thanksgiving
- 10:00 Call to Order – Conference Chairman
- Prayer – Rev. Gloria Forde
- Opening Hymn – *Standing on the Promise*
- Liturgical Dance – Majestic Dancers
- Scripture Reading – Matt.20: 20 - 28
- Collection Hymn – *Will Your Anchor Hold*
- Offertory Song – *There is Power in the Blood*
- Performance – *Dance – Renee Rollock*
- Message – Rev. Gloria Forde
- Solo/duet – Lanna Husbands
- 10:40 Closing Hymn – *Battle Hymn of the Republic*
- Introduction of Party Executive and National
- 10:45 Introduction of Newly Nominated Candidates : *Dr. Jerome Walcott, General Secretary*
- 10:50 Address: Newly Nominated Candidates (3mins each)
- 12:00 **LUNCH**
- 1:30 Discussion – Constitutional Amendments
- 3:30 **RESOLUTIONS**
- 5:30 Announcement of Auditors
- Announcement of 2017 Conference Chairman
- The Majestic Dancers
- 5:40 Vote of Thanks



BLP Conference Arrangements Committee 2016



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Hymns

Standing On The Promises

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Thro eternal ages let His praises ring.  
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus  
Standing, standing, Standing on the promises of God my  
Saviour;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail;  
By the living word of God I shall prevail  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord;  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fail  
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call;  
Resting in my Saviour as my all in all  
Standing on the promises of God.

There Is Power In The Blood

Would you be free from your burden of sin?  
There is pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.  
Would you o'er evil a victory win?  
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Chorus  
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r  
In the blood of the Lamb.  
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r  
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

Would you be free from your passion and pride?  
There is pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.

Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide  
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?  
There is pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.  
Sin stains are lost in its life giving flow  
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Would you do service for Jesus your King?  
There is pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood.  
Would you live daily His praises to sing?  
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath  
are stored;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:  
His truth is marching on.

Refrain  
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling  
camps;  
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dew and  
damps;  
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring  
lamps;  
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgement-seat:  
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:  
As he died to make men holy; let us live to make men free  
While God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,  
He is wisdom to the mighty, He is honour to the brave;  
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of wrong His  
slave  
Our God is marching on.





## We Know We Can Do Better for B'dos

Political Leader and Leader of the Opposition  
**Hon. Mia Amor Mottley**



**A**s we meet at our 78th Annual Conference on the eve of our 50th Anniversary of Independence, I wish to share with you the words of a great Barbadian patriot recorded for posterity in November 1991.

I admit to some bias in my choice since Dame Elsie Payne was my headmistress, but true to her training as a historian, her recollection of what Independence meant to Barbadians in 1966 was contextualized by the following historic timeline:

"Did we feel confident and optimistic? Yes, we did! It was 339 years since settlement; 326 years since sugar; 132 years since freedom from slavery; 29 years since the riots and 4 years since Federation. The road has been long and hard, but we were old enough and we felt grown up," Dame Elsie recalled.

To this I can add 28 years since the founding of the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP) and by the 30th of next month, 24 of the last 50 years spent in Government. The BLP's stellar contribution to the development of Barbados and Barbadians, both before and after Independence, cannot be refuted even by the most biased observers of the social and political landscape.

The evidence is all around us and it is worthy of repetition for the benefit of the younger generation. From far-reaching legislation that improved the rights of workers to the founding of the Barbados Workers' Union, (BWU); from Universal Adult Suffrage and the birth of free education to universal free health care; from the building of the Deep Water Harbour, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the ABC Highway, housing estates, Government Headquarters, St. Leonard's Boys', St. Leonard's Girls', Princess Margaret, West Saint Joseph and Parkinson Schools to the transformational Plantation Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act – these are but some of our contributions to the building of a modern Barbados.

The question today, in 2016, remains much the same as it did in 1966. Do we feel confident? Do we believe that the country is on the right track?

Each one of you will have your own view, but given the evidence of our present social and economic circumstances, I venture to suggest that there is little about which to be confident. Equally, most people now realize that Barbados is not working for the majority of Barbadians. However, we are here to tell you that there is still good reason why all Barbadians must keep hope alive. For we as a Party know that better can and will be done.

The BLP is focussed and ready to fill the vacuum created by the mismanagement, indecision, poor judgment and yes, corruption of this Government in our beloved country.

As parliamentarians and candidates we shall depend on your strength, loyalty and courage to help set a new heading. Barbados cannot and must not be allowed to continue on its present course.

As we join in fellowship and celebration at our Annual Conference, I ask you to first reflect and then resolve to act to pull our country back from the precipice. We owe it to ourselves and to our children and grandchildren. Future generations must be able to look back in another 50 years and recognize that true Barbadian patriots took a stand in 2016 to turn impending disaster into opportunity.

The challenges will be great, but as a Party I know with all my heart that with your help and support and that of all Barbadians, we are up to the task and we are ready.

Enjoy your Conference. I look forward to sharing the weekend with you all.

*Mia Amor Mottley has been in elective politics since 1991. She has represented St. Michael North East since 1994 and served Barbados in several capacities - Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Culture, Attorney-General and Minister of Economic Affairs. She is the first female leader of a political party in Barbados.*





Peter R. Phillip

Conference Chairman

We are very heartened to know that our team, which is almost fully constituted, will be one of youth mixed with experience and one fully capable of delivering to Barbados that which is required to reverse the downward spiral in which we have been led over the past eight years.

# Let's Demonstrate We Are Ready

*Comrades and friends,*

I welcome all of you to the 78th Annual Conference of our great Party. I am indeed humbled to have been asked to be the chairman of this most important event of our Party's calendar.

This conference comes at a period in our history which is characterized by failure in every area of our society. Barbadians of all walks of life are in despair and are looking for answers to our country's seemingly unending problems which have been exacerbated by yet another downgrade.

This Party has a great and rich history, a track record of which we can all be very proud. Our management of the economy and the implementation of far-reaching policies of social reform and developmental programs that have embraced every strata of the Barbadian society, have all made this country the envy of the region, whenever the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), was entrusted with the reins of government. Indeed, we are the cornerstone of national development. It is therefore imperative that we use this conference to signal to all Barbadians at home and abroad that we are ready to answer the call once again.

In this regard, we must take the opportunity this conference offers us to reflect on our past and to plan for the future, both of our Party and, most importantly, of our country. I am counting on every organ of the Party – the League of Young Socialists, the Women's League; all 30 branches as well as our two overseas branches (UK and New York) – to put our shoulders to the wheel, to fully participate in our deliberations and do all within our power during

the next few days to ensure that we are truly prepared for the task to which we are being assigned by Barbadians.

Indeed, there is an imminent battle which we have to fight within the next eighteen months, perhaps even before another Annual Conference. We will be led, for the first time by a female, our political leader Mia Amor Mottley, but this does not diminish our ability to come out victorious at the polls.

As a matter of fact, we are very heartened to know that our team, which is almost fully constituted, will be one of youth mixed with experience and one fully capable of delivering to Barbados that which is required to reverse the downward spiral in which we have been led over the past eight years.

This 78th Annual Conference will therefore take on a very special significance to the future of our Party in general and to Barbados in particular. Let us therefore demonstrate by our every action that we are truly ready to take on the immense task to which Barbadians beckon us.

*Peter Phillip is a banker and lifelong member of the Party. A dynamic platform speaker, he has held various positions, including General Secretary. Peter is our candidate in the constituency of St. Lucy.*



Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott

General Secretary

# What a year it has been!

As Barbados reaches its milestone 50th anniversary of Independence, it is with overflowing gratification that I must report, first of all, that the deliberate position of the Government to not acknowledge the Barbados Labour Party's, (BLP), significant contribution to nationhood over the last five decades, has spectacularly failed.

Furthermore, the more the Government has tried to hide the immense contributions of our Party, the more the juxtaposition of its failure and our glorious history and exceptional achievements have illuminated the Democratic Labour Party's, (DLP), ineptitude.

Against this background, the Party took a decision that we must showcase our contributions and highlight our leaders, and under the wonderful theme, **BLP: Cornerstone of Nation Building** mounted a series of very successful activities that resonated with Party members at all levels and the public.

The theme could hardly have been

# An Exciting Year Ready for Success

more appropriate. For, by any measure, in every sphere – political, economic, governance, infrastructure, social, regional and international – our Party has been matchless in the annals of Barbados history. Our achievements in the 24 years the BLP has been the Government, post-Independence, so far outweigh any other party that comparison would be a superfluous exercise.

Our **BLP: Cornerstone of Nation Building** activities included a lecture on Adaptive Leadership by new candidate Kirk Humphrey, an extremely well supported luncheon after our Annual Founder's Day Service, a two-week exhibition capturing our history that was highly informative and educational and the Tom Adams Memorial Lecture, which I had the honour to present.

The combination of events served to reinforce our heritage and values while inspiring both members of the BLP family and other Barbadians to strive to recapture the lustre of Barbados under the BLP to benefit a new generation.

In this respect, the Party launched its **Covenant of Hope**, a document which speaks to how a new BLP government will conduct itself, the discipline and parameters within which it will operate and the objectives it will strive for to reposition Barbados and indeed set it on a path for another 50 years.

In fact, the year was one in which the Party was purposeful and steady in ignoring attempts to deflect it from its mission of bringing hope to Barbados and being focussed and ready – exposing the ills, incompetence, confusion and corruption of the DLP.

Yet another successful march of protest was held, the Party continued its series of interactions with Barbadians across the island through Rubbing Shoulders and other fora, lifted otherwise staid Estimates

and Budget debates and brought to the attention of Barbadians DLP wrongdoing, cover-ups and sheer callousness, as reflected in the water crisis.

Extremely heartening is the fact that at all levels the Party is meshing and the camaraderie and togetherness, that is as much a BLP cornerstone, as its other achievements are once more becoming evident. The Wednesday lunch, for instance, has now taken on all-day proportions.

Probably, in terms of the internal structure of the Party, the most outstanding feature has been the hundreds of especially young persons who have become Party members in the last year. The annual picnic was another indication of the ability of this incarnation of the BLP to attract the youth.

We come to this 78th conference with our full slate of candidates more or less in place. This has not been the case for a long time, so far ahead of the constitutionally due date for elections. It allows candidates time to become familiar or to reconnect with constituencies and share ideas which, in the end, may inform policy. Nothing signals to Barbadians more that we are focussed and ready.

Our team of exciting new talent and tried and tested experience presents the best opportunity for a Barbados that is now mired in inertia and incompetence, a Barbados that offers opportunities and hope once again.

We must not let Barbados down. Candidates and their teams must be engaged and maintain the hard work in constituencies. There is a wealth of experience about campaigning among our ranks – we must fully utilise the volunteer efforts and forego the tendencies that doom elections of hubris, arrogance and elementary mistakes.

No candidate can win on his or her own. The Party will be more easily victorious



if there is some harmonising of common interests and purpose and if accepted standards and approaches are adhered to.

There can be no complaints about the support being given. I particularly wish to thank branch members, and members and supporters in general, for the unswerving support they keep giving MPs, candidates and the Party.

The DLP Government continues to ensure Barbados an uncertain future. But it is in the most uncertain times that the BLP has been at its finest.

Over the last 50 years, and way before, in fact ushering in the dawn of democracy in Barbados, the BLP, by words, actions and deeds has more than established that it has been the cornerstone of nation building.

Cornerstones need to be repaired and replaced in the nation of Barbados - and some new ones positioned. The BLP will again be required to undertake these tasks and be in the vanguard of the next 50 years of nation building.

Let us remain focussed and ready.

*Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott is a longstanding member of the Party. He has served in many capacities, including Chairman. A surgeon, he was the MP for Chirch Church South and a popular Minister of Health for some seven years.*



**Sandie Field-Kellman**

*President - Women's League of the Barbados Labour Party*

**T**his year, in keeping with the celebration of our 50th anniversary of Independence, we take this opportunity to celebrate the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), Women's League and its achievements during the past year.

Our annual Christmas party held at the BLP headquarters was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all. The ambience was esthetically pleasing in the spirit of the Yuletide season.

As customary, the BLP stalwarts were happy with the visit by the League to sing and distribute hampers at the senior citizens homes.

Gratitude is extended to the President of the National Organization of Women, (NOW), Mrs. Nalita Gajadhar, for addressing the League on how to assist in helping persons in the community. She gave an enlightening presentation.

The League took a bold step and hosted a successful conference last May where party members gave very interesting and informative presentations.

A fundraising luncheon was held at the BLP headquarters for members and

# Achievements of which we can be Proud

friends of the Party. It was well attended and the fellowship was wonderful.

Our 3-day retreat was held at Bathsheba, St. Joseph. M.P. Cynthia Forde came and presented on various topics such as canvassing, mobilization and the history of the BLP. A good fellowship was had by all.

We are happy to say that we were successful in recruiting several new members and planning for the zoning.

I want to thank the Executive of the League, who worked diligently and tirelessly for the people of Barbados during the past year. I also want to thank the many friends who have shown care, concern and willingness to assist the League with our projects. We celebrate you and our achievements.

We look forward to a successful 78th conference and a better year ahead for the League.

Happy 50th anniversary of Independence to all and God Bless.

*Sandie Field-Kellman is principal of Sunbeam Baby Care and Montessori Pre-School, and longstanding commentator on social issues.*



**Damien Sands**

*President, League of Young Socialists*

**T**he League of Young Socialist, (LYS), of the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), was founded in 1958. It is a platform for the young members of the BLP to project the ideologies and policies of the BLP as it relates to the youth of the nation.

It also provides a voice for the youth that would otherwise go unheard as it encourages the young members of the Party to identify and address contemporary social, political and economic issues that may impact on the lives of Barbadian youth.

Over the last 58 years since the LYS was founded, the manner in which young persons identified with a political party has changed. We can no longer take for granted that if the head of the household is a BLP supporter, the other family members will also support the Party. Young people no longer rely or seek guidance from the matriarchs or patriarchs of their families in adopting a political party's ideology.

The advent of the Internet and social media has been influential in this change. Young people now have access to an abundance of information and misinformation which they use to form their opinions and perceptions about a political party. The youth have become more conscious

# A Focus on Strengthening Communication Channels

of their social, political and economic situations and demand that their fundamental concerns in these areas be directly addressed.

In this regard, it is incumbent on this Executive of the LYS to utilise Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and other forms of social media to educate and enlighten the Barbadian youth about the philosophy, ideas and proposed initiatives of the BLP.

At present, this Executive has taken control of the BLP League of Young Socialists Facebook page. The page is extremely active. The page is constantly updated with trending articles and videos relating to various issues.

This platform has been used to further push the agenda of the BLP. The feedback from the youth has been satisfying as a number of young people have sought out the page to share articles and their perspective on trending topics. To date, the page has an audience of over 400 persons.

In furthering the mandate of the LYS, I, on behalf of my executive, expressed concern over the lack of accommodation for the Barbadian youth in the 2016 Budget.

The issues that were addressed included, amongst others things, the lack of access to funds which have been established to enable young entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses and the Government's failure to provide a plan to combat the rise in youth unemployment.

The article was shared by party supporters and unaffiliated persons via social media and it received over 2000 views.

As the voice of the youth, this Executive must be able to identify and address the fundamental issues and concerns of the youth. However, we have recognised even though the youth may have

many concerns, the concerns which they categorise as fundamental may differ depending on their current circumstance.

For example, let's take the current circumstance of UWI undergraduates and UWI graduates entering the workforce. Even though both groups had some common concerns, their fundamental concerns varied. The fundamental concern for persons who completed UWI was the lack of job opportunities whereas the fundamental concern for undergraduates was the lack of readily available funding to facilitate completion of their undergraduate degree.

It may very well be impractical to address every single issue and concern raised across the young demographic but we must at least be in a position to address their core issues and concerns. It is within this vein that this Executive intends to organise forums which allow young Barbadians to come together and speak candidly about their concerns.

These would give the Executive of the LYS the opportunity to gather the views, ideas, thoughts and expressions of the Barbadian youth. The data gathered from these forums can be utilised by the Executive of the BLP to identify the fundamental concerns across the young demographic and further assist the Party in developing initiatives for the youth within the Party's manifesto.

In our effort to further our mandate, the Executive will also endeavour to inspire, revitalise and reactivate the dormant members of the youth arm so as to bring new life and vigour the youth arm of the BLP. Our party needs all hands on deck.

I look forward to working with new Executive of the LYS for the period 2016 - 2017. I would also like use this opportunity to offer my best wishes for a successful 78th Annual Conference.





Samuel C. Clarke

Chairman – New York Branch



# A Diaspora Vote in the Future

**T**engenders is a feeling of trust. The New York Branch continues to evolve, as we focus on various outreach programmes within the local community of the Tri-State area (New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut), through our collaborative efforts with various organizations.

Of importance, we will continue building out the current Bullying and Mentoring project in conjunction with the St. Marks Day School; and in the 43rd Assembly District of New York with Assembly Member Diana Richardson and New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton.

The Annual Winter Bus Ride was well attended and was a true testament to the perseverance of the branch.

This year, Caribbean Heritage Month in June highlighted the works of Gabby, and the New York launch of his book titled “WHO GABBY THINK HE IS?” written by Barbara Chase.

We were proud to have the Leader of the Barbados Opposition, the Hon: Mia A. Mottley as our Keynote Speaker, and Mr. Ralph Thorne, who displayed his great road tennis skills at the Road Tennis demonstration.

Miss Mottley spoke of the various mistakes by the Government, the killing of tourism, and the incompetency of those who manage the finances of Barbados. She also shared our philosophy to improve the lives of all Barbadians, allowing them to be the best that they can be.

We had the pleasure of celebrating Q in the Community and the West Indian Day Parade, with Members of Parliament, the Hon. Dale Marshall, Hon. Dwight Sutherland and the Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Patricia Par-

ris. We marched in the Parade with the Hon. Assembly Member Diana C. Richardson and Mr. Earl Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer of the Transit Worker Union of New York City.

The Barbadian Diaspora continues to ask, when are they going to be able to be part of the Barbados electoral process?

This subject is constantly debated within our local civic organizations and community. The consensus among the diaspora is that it is time for the diaspora’s vote to be counted in the Barbados electoral process. To see other countries in the world, who are infants in terms of the democracy, have their diaspora voting in their electoral process, is upsetting and an embarrassment to the people of Barbados.

To continue this disenfranchisement of its diaspora citizens is abomination to those who fought and died for us to exercise the right to vote. We continue to keep hope and enthusiasm, as we strive to look forward for a new beginning in Barbados as we celebrate our 50 years of Independence, and that in this 21st century, we would see true democracy by the changing of the law allowing the diaspora the right to vote.

They will be detractors from within as well as on the outside, but we believe in our motto “A better Life for our People” that diaspora voting will truly enhance a better life for all our people.

Our commitment remains steadfast to the ideals of the BLP and we will continue to soar as we continue to keep the faith.



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## I *Mia* Shows Leadership Mettle

The repeated calls for action on water woes. The March for Justice. The demolition of the Budgets. More exposure of Government infelicities. The Deltro move. The garbage situation. Cahill. The No Confidence Motion. The Grotto white elephant. The Maloney madness. The NHC. Lowe and behold. CLICO. Transport Board shenanigans.

All of these and more have been brought to public attention by Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), leader Mia Mottley in a display of leadership from the Opposition side that has not been seen for at least two decades.

It is doubtful, if not for her continual pressure on the Government on the grim water situation, that there would be any action at all to remedy this outrage, what really, as she put it, is a national crisis now after more than two years of suffering by thousands of Barbadians who, in cases, cannot get water in any form or fashion from the Barbados Water Authority, (BWA).

There is no doubt about who in Barbados is showing themselves to be more qualified, more focussed and ready, to provide genuine leadership.

She has been focussing on not just the big issues such as the unsustainable debt facing the country, but she has directed attention to the everyday matters affecting Barbadians and the depressed circumstances in which they have been forced to exist.

Mottley has set a new level in communicating with the public, in stark contrast to the silent one. She initiated Rubbing Shoulders and the People's Assemblies, fora to give voice to those who otherwise would not be heard on diverse problematic issues, from small business closures in Swan Street and Bridgetown generally to problems in farming; from unkempt fish markets to challenges facing street vendors and water sports operators.

The BLP has used every avenue to illuminate the murky dealings of the DLP, from press conferences to the call in programmes, which Mottley has appeared on judiciously, as warranted, to either combat patent nonsense or bring to the fore another unwarranted and unwanted act by the Dems.

This trust building is of critical import particularly in circumstances where, by word and deed, the DLP has all but erased a cornerstone of Barbados democracy in which citizens believed governments had their best interest at heart, demonstrably so, and built a country beyond belief in a cooperative approach to nation building.

The DLP breaking of its word by rote, from sending him more than 4000 public workers to constantly raising taxes, and patently lying about State finances, has eroded that necessary bridge between the government and the governed crucial in a small country like Barbados.

Leadership is not a quality but an individual's behaviour. The public can judge from her behaviour whether Mottley has not risen above those who have confused being a boss and being a leader.

Time and again, she has taken the high road against the most vicious attacks. Mottley has refused to be drawn by the meltdowns but with each unbecoming attack has displayed the equanimity underscoring the balance and conduct required of a leader.

She is now fine steel, having emerged from the hottest fires.

John Maxell said that a leader knows the way, goes the way and show the way. A clear-thinking move by Mottley was the conceptualisation and deliverance of the Covenant of Hope in recognition of the BLP to separate itself from the detritus of DLP insouciance with the electorate.

The timing might be more providence than planned. However, as Barbados celebrates 50 years of Independence with the DLP deliberately excluding the leaders of the BLP from acclamation and denying the Party its superlative contribution to development, it is necessary that the BLP not only reaffirms its roots but, as it has done from the inception, move Barbados to a road less travelled away from the congestion of stunted thinking that is crippling the future of especially young people.

The Covenant of Hope is pointing to a new Barbados inspired by thinking relevant to taking Barbados on an equally successful journey over the next 50 years.

Evidently, the DLP is stuck on 1966. However important a symbolic milestone, Mottley recognises that you cannot go forward facing backwards.

Accompanying this, Mottley has been focussed on readying the Party for the upcoming elections. This Annual Conference sees the BLP with almost all constituencies with candidates, outside of those represented by sitting MPs, all of whom are expected to secure nomination, a year and some away from the constitutionally due elections date.

This strategic move allows candidates time to canvass and become familiar with their territories, and to become more competitive. And there are being supported in many other ways including one or two new approaches that are practical and welcomed.

It is significant that several candidates are emerging to contest nominations, indicative of a recognition of Mottley's leadership in securing victory at the polls. The quality of those so far securing nomination also gives credence to Mottley as a leader.

What can Barbadians expect? An understanding of what makes Barbados works. Mottley has, for instance, stated unequivocally that all Barbadians accepted will once more be able to study freely at the University of the West Indies, (UWI).

So much is at stake on this one principle that no one should be left in doubt that Mottley is at the apex of the leadership pyramid.

**Chris Hadfield noted on leadership:**

"Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focussed on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and he consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine."

This could be Mottley's mantra. She is readying and focussing the BLP team and family to reconstruct Barbados because it really matters - Barbados is depending on it. And with her colleagues and advisors she is focussed on resetting the foundation of Barbados so that Barbadians can once again shine.

That is what Mia Mottley's leadership is about.





Senator Wilfred  
Abrahams

## BLP Focussed on Righting Wrongs

**T**he year 2016 is a jubilee one for our beloved island. Fifty years of anything, and especially 50 years as a sovereign state, represents a major accomplishment.

This achievement has not been accidental or serendipitous; rather, it has been the result of sharp focus and a readiness to embrace change and to ride the tides of times both good and bad.

It is sad that at this time of celebration and reflection on our myriad achievements as a people, we do so in an environment overshadowed by the worst crisis of leadership in the post-independence history of this "Nation Imagined".

Where is the focus and are we proving our readiness? Barbadians cannot deny at this present time, indeed since 2008, that the only apparent focus of this Democratic Labour Party, (DLP), Government has been to lay blame across the board for its almost universal failure. The only readiness demonstrated by this government is that to sink our country deeper into the mire of economic and social ignominy, while the remains of the fatted calf have been cannibalized and served up to a few chosen DLP elite.

These are facts, the degree and severity of their damage, yet to be told. The long lasting impact on the psyche will once again fall to be faced and fixed by a new refreshed Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), government.

Cricket coaches tell young batsmen, when you reach 50, take fresh guard and bat for the century.

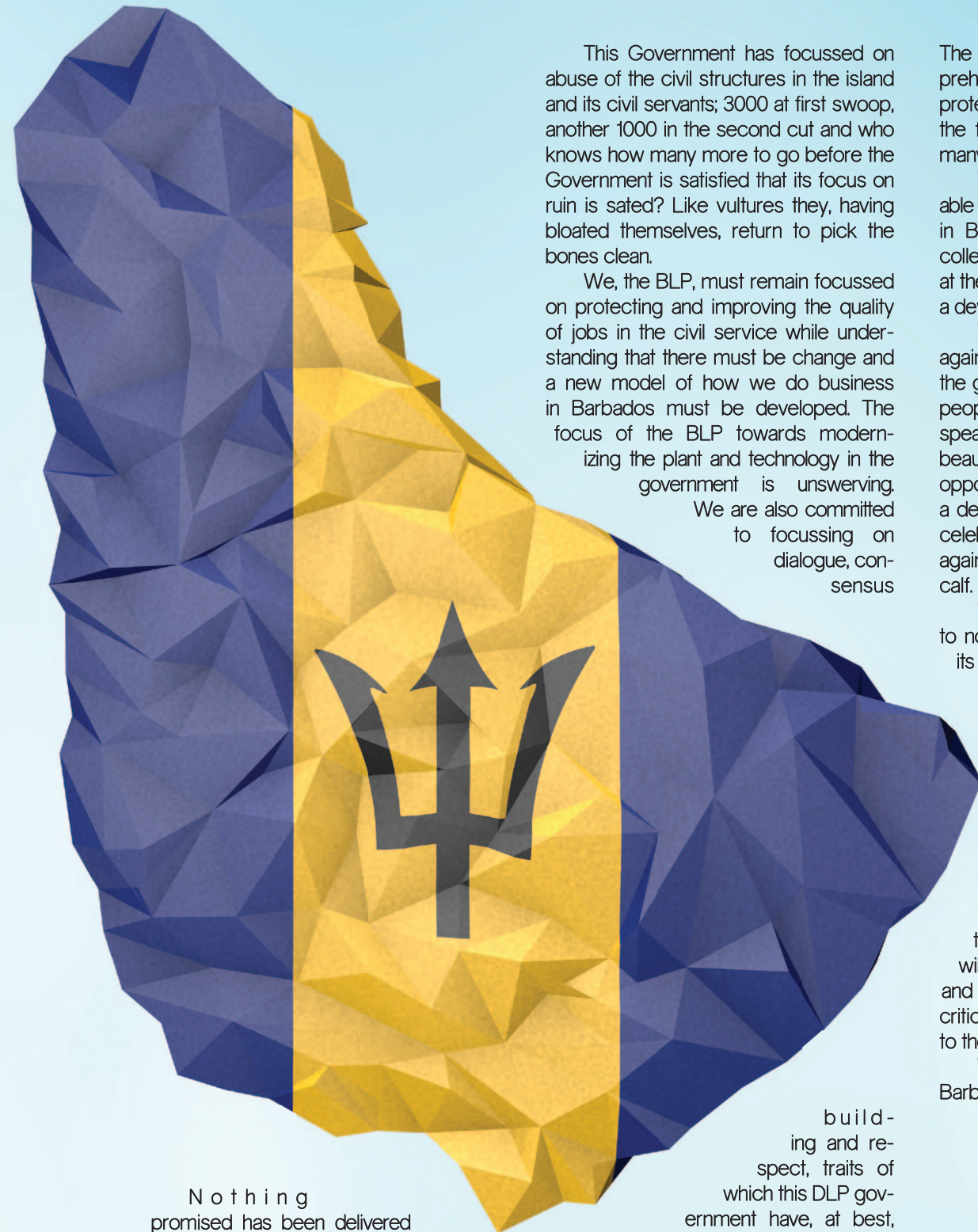
A BLP government which will have to take fresh guard for the benefit of Barbados and demonstrate that, like in 1994, we are focussed and ready, fit for leadership and

fit to take Barbados forward.

Focussed and ready, these two words offer a beacon of hope to the people of Barbados, as they again form the clarion call to action, leadership and hard work. Character traits which have served Barbados well in the past and must now be employed to do so again.

The BLP is focussed first and foremost on the people of Barbados - we have seen the deprivations that have been visited on the average Barbadian. We are focussed on re-establishing education for all as a right of every Barbadian, and not cast as a tool for the privileged few. We are focussed on health care at a quality and standard of which we can again be proud. We are focussed on creating a society that is safe and just so that Barbadians can once again enjoy our island home by day and night from Archers Bay in the North to Silver Sands in the South, from Bathsheba in the East to Bridgetown in the West, without the spectre of gunfire and rampant criminality stalking them. We are focussed on protecting and caring for the most vulnerable in our society, both young and old, so that we secure our future while paying respect to our past.

Our focus rests not only on our social care structures, but it also rests on the structures of government and governance. Our system of government is desperately in need of focus, civil servants have been abused for nearly nine years now. Where are the promised duty free cars, pay increases and better working conditions? This government was returned to power on the backs of reckless, baseless promises and have shown since then that they refuse to be held accountable for their promises and even less for their actions.



This Government has focussed on abuse of the civil structures in the island and its civil servants; 3000 at first swoop, another 1000 in the second cut and who knows how many more to go before the Government is satisfied that its focus on ruin is sated? Like vultures they, having bloated themselves, return to pick the bones clean.

We, the BLP, must remain focussed on protecting and improving the quality of jobs in the civil service while understanding that there must be change and a new model of how we do business in Barbados must be developed. The focus of the BLP towards modernizing the plant and technology in the government is unswerving.

We are also committed to focussing on dialogue, consensus

The BLP is focussed on enacting comprehensive and serious environmental protection legislation which encompass the full gamut of options and norms in many developed and developing nations.

We need a sustained and sustainable approach to waste management in Barbados as distinct from garbage collection, from separation and recycling at the source to commercial solutions for a developing state.

We must be focussed on creating again the reputation of Barbados being the garden state in the Caribbean where people from the region and the world speak with wonder at the cleanliness, beauty and order of our communities, as opposed to the current offering, where a debushing programme for the Jubilee celebrations had to be inaugurated to again reward the partakers of the fatted calf.

We must be focussed and ready to not only clean up Barbados but also its politics. There must be no place in the next BLP government for corrupt and perverse public officials who have sunk so low that they blatantly place self-interest above the interests of Barbados as a nation state and society.

Our focus on what is required for Barbados is unwavering and our readiness undiminished even though we know that the road ahead will not be easy. We will, with the trust and help of Barbadians, have to make critical decisions which will see through to the next 50 years.

The BLP remains focussed on Barbados ready to serve you.

Nothing promised has been delivered as this DLP Government has instead focussed on jobs for friends, awarding contracts under questionable circumstances, and paying more for less, so long as the fatted calf principle was honoured.

building and respect, traits of which this DLP government have, at best, only a vague understanding but which are the hallmark of BLP stewardship.

The BLP is focussed on the environment, an area of particular interest to me and the people of Christ Church East.

*Senator Abrahams has been a lawyer for 20 years and is the Managing Partner of Aegis Chambers. He is also known for his varied interests, from shooting to entertainment events. He is the BLP's candidate in Christ Church East.*

Cricket coaches tell young batsmen, when you reach 50, take fresh guard and bat for the century.

The BLP government will take fresh guard for the benefit of Barbados and demonstrate that, like in 1994, we are focussed and ready, fit for leadership and fit to take Barbados forward.





Dr. Clyde Mascoll

## Delivering Better Future must Reference Past

**T**he defeat of the Party in the 2013 general election was a shock to many Barbadians. Several people identified the talk of privatisation as the main cause for the defeat. Whatever the cause was, the country has learnt a very serious lesson about the need to effectively manage an economy in order to protect a society.

The prolonged reduction in our standard of living and the attendant decay in our society may be seen as an opportunity to simply preach an anti-DLP message. This is not a time for reinforcing the ideas of others.

This is a time, more than ever, to focus on the future of Barbados. In the words of the party leader, Mia Mottley, "we cannot simply be the alternative, we must be the answer."

The major effect of the economic and social decay has been its impact on the identity of Barbadians. A proud people have been reduced to being in survival mode. In the absence of pay increases, they have endured the pain of living from pay day to pay day. They have seen their property values decline, giving rise to less equity in their mortgages for borrowing. Their ability to pay for the children's education is diminishing with time. Things like access to water and collection of garbage that were a given part of daily living, have become burdens. Barbadians have had to focus more on self and survival.

The Barbadian identity was built upon prudently managing its limited resources to the envy of countries with more endowments. This prudence was evident in the provision of education and access to healthcare to its citizens, while still taking

care of the elderly and the vulnerable. Recent inept economic policies and social planning have compromised access to these social provisions.

The way to rebuild our identity is to restore our hopes through pursuing traditional values. The Party's Covenant of Hope implores to rebuild together what we cannot rebuild alone. Its contents are becoming well known to Barbadians. It is a frame of reference for empowering the people of Barbados, not just materially but spiritually and psychologically as well.

Barbadians from all walks of life are fully aware of what they have experienced since 2008. They yearn for better.

To be able to deliver better starts with planning. The first stage in this process is providing the analysis that is supported by research. This is part of the hard work that is being done and must continue. It

requires investment in think tanks. It demands attracting young talent to the party. Delivering better is about the future, with purposeful reference to the past.

In planning, the party is better positioned to control its message, using the right language. The strength in the language reflects familiarity with the party's policies, which in turn must reflect the people's needs. Of course, those needs can only be known by engaging with the people, which is another facet of the hard work. Our ultimate choice of words, coming from the engagement, determines the effectiveness of our communication.

**To be able to deliver better starts with planning. The first stage in this process is providing the analysis that is supported by research. This is part of the hard work that is being done and must continue. It requires investment in think tanks. It demands attracting young talent to the party. Delivering better is about the future, with purposeful reference to the past.**

In support of restoring the Barbadian identity, the party's economic policies must be undergirded by a cornerstone principle that access to healthcare and education is as sacrosanct as the maintenance of the country's fixed exchange rate. The delivery of this principle is based on the pursuit of sustainable economic growth. The latter is a joint effort of the private and public sectors, in which there is mutual respect for each other's identity. The common bond is the development of the country and its people.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the data that determine real economic growth, the party is proposing to set an achievable annual growth target based on the more reliable nominal national income of Barbados. The nominal growth target includes changes in prices and that is why it is rather more realistic, especially with a return of confidence. In the event that price increases pick up in the economy because of, for example a hike in oil prices, the target is more easily adjusted.

The targeted growth becomes the basis for increasing government revenue, which makes strategic tax relief for Barbadians possible in the short-medium term.

On the expenditure side, there has to be a balance between managing our current expenditure, while accommodating some increase in capital expenditure. The latter is the way that the government maintains existing infrastructure and contributes to putting new infrastructure in place for future economic development. Economic growth is therefore an indispensable part of the country's future fiscal strategy.

Such a strategy is the forerunner to dealing meaningfully with the country's debt problem. This may be accompanied by a detailed plan for refinancing the debt, in an effort to reduce interest cost and stretch out the payment of principal on the debt.

The Party has spent a lot of time putting the facts and statistics, over the last few years. The opportunity is upon us to frame our values, vision and mission. The Party continues this process

with the Covenant of Hope. An essential part of the mission is to keep the ideas in the forefront of the journey to restore the Barbadian identity.

Time has shown that facts alone do not set the people free in the political environment. It is argued in more diverse democracies that people make political decisions based predominantly on value systems. There is less basis for values to influence decision making in smaller societies, with less diversity among the people. There is therefore a sense, in which efforts to shape the future of Barbados, may rest in combining the reshaping of our values with the delivery of real opportunities for growth and development.

The Government has had two parliamentary terms to change Barbados for the better. The evidence reveals failure. Presenting the party's ideas for a "Better Life for Our People" is an even bigger mission than it was in the past. Let us focus on getting the job done for all Barbadians.

*Dr. Clyde Mascoll is the Party's chief economic adviser. He is a popular columnist and a lecturer at the Cave Hill Campus, UWI.*





# The Mix with no match

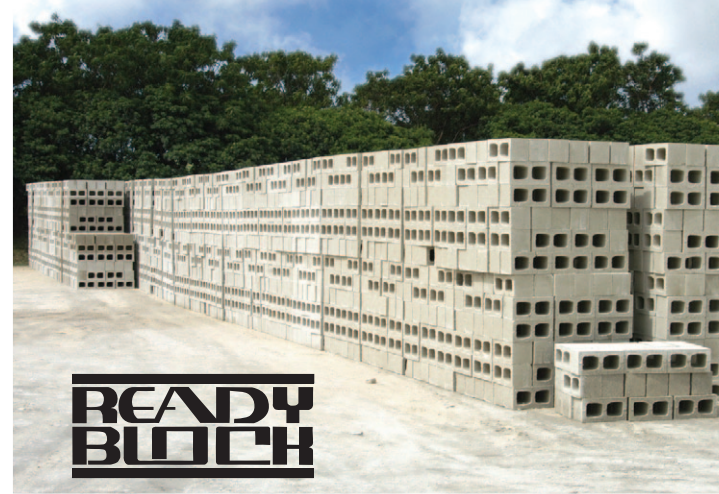
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## I Our Covenant of Hope



On Thursday, 4 May this year, for the first time since the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), became the first political party in Barbados, Barbadians were presented with a document detailing the philosophy of a political party.

The Covenant of Hope ushered in a new dawn.

The document expresses the BLP's overarching vision, a set of principles governing conduct and some specific assurances to vulnerable groups, all indicating the BLP's view of a future Barbados in which leadership is key.

Discussed at length at the 2015 Annual Conference, it was launched to a packed audience at Solidarity House and involved almost all of the Parliamentary Group, members of which outlined the various sections.

Our Covenant of Hope sets a new exciting tone for politics in a Barbados begging for change.

It comes at a time when faith in politics and government is wavering, due overwhelmingly to the unsavoury conduct of the DLP since 2008 in ruining the economy, trashing accepted principles of governance and adopting as a guide to government, the politicising of every aspect of life.




In this fetid DLP cauldron, fed by the one-two punches of not speaking to the public on critical issues and projects, and maligning persons who take a stand against such undemocratic displays, the BLP has unfortunately become collateral damage, tainted, simply because it, too, is a political party.


The BLP has been in forceful opposition to the conduct of the DLP over the last eight years. We have been in the lead of a resolution to CLICO, over taxation and such nefarious taxes as the Municipal Solid Waste Tax and in bringing to light the several instances in which the DLP has failed to share information, including some with far-reaching and the most fearsome consequences for the nation.

Coupled with standing firm against this modern DLP oppression, the BLP has given insight into how it is operating and will conduct itself in future through embracing and widening participation





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with initiatives including Rubbing Shoulders and People's Assemblies.

Still, against the onslaught of DLP degradation across the land, the BLP came to the position that it is necessary, for the sake of our country and future democracy, to not only underscore the history of defining differences, especially in critical times, between the two parties; but to indicate in a radically changing world along which path Barbados has to go so that Barbadians can be assured that they will not be marginalised in their own country, either the youth, businessmen or those who see Barbados as a place in which to live. And document it.



BLP leader Mia Mottley presenting a copy of the Covenant Of Hope to Lady Forde, wife of Sir Henry Forde.

Our Covenant of Hope therefore sets a necessary new path, reinforcing those principles which have served us well and treating to new approaches, that gives all Barbadians reasons to believe that not only will there be a better future, but along which lines that future will be ordered.

Life in Barbados has come full circle and the BLP is once again resolved to set the course for the times.

In the 1930s, men and women joined together to form the BLP and stand unbending against undemocratic rule and the committing of Barbadians to grinding poverty by a system that favoured a few.

The results of the struggle that laid

the foundation for a modern Barbados are well known. The formation of the first workers union. Securing the right to vote. Minimum wage and a slew of baseline social legislation that still forms the core of Barbados' social policy today. Visionary projects including the QEJ and the Port.

Of significance was the principled approach that formed a pact with the people. Clear and unequivocal, for instance, was the declaration, "not to win social prestige for a few, but to secure social justice for all."

The grinding poverty and social inequities of the 1930s have long been removed. But in the modern day version of the 1930s that the DLP has brought forth, the reversal of social gains is stunning as well as the conduct of the DLP, like no other in the history of Barbados.

Our Covenant of Hope speaks poignantly to both the need for social reconstruction as well as appropriate conduct in political life and as a government, the kind young children would wish to emulate.

It is not by accident that Solidarity House, the headquarters of the Barbados Workers' Union, was chosen for the launch of the Covenant. The BWU was the creation of the BLP, forged to fight for the people of Barbados.

There can be no denying that workers in Barbados are once again under threat. When they are not being fired at whim, they are being threatened and the surge in strike activity is indicative of great unease among workers with the DLP Government.

Our Covenant of Hope once again places our greatest resource, our people, at the centre of Barbados' future sustainable development, embracing everyone, whether those with disabilities or young people with a totally different viewpoint and skills set to those to which we have become accustomed, recognising that new approaches are needed to unleash the creativity of all people.

Our Covenant of Hope speaks to the kind of vision that is required to bring about another phase of transforming Barbados economically, socially and culturally.



At top: Sir Richard Cheltenham discussing the Covenant of Hope, Stalwart Lindsay Bolden receiving a copy of the Covenant of Hope from Party Leader Mia Mottley.  
At bottom: Juliet Bynoe-Sutherland making a point at the discussion on the Covenant of Hope.

Approved by all organs of the BLP, it was an especially proud occasion to have remaining stalwarts of the BLP, such as Sir Louis Tull and Lindsay Bolden, joining in solidarity with the current generation of leaders to signal that the Covenant of Hope is indeed representative of the DNA of the BLP and its legacy while indicating the new nuances that would keep the Party relevant.

Commentators have praised the Covenant of Hope as a vital step in stemming the tide of cynicism in Barbados and have commended the Party on taking this bold step to lay out its tenets and expose them to scrutiny.

As pledged, since its launch the Party has held four Covenant of Hope People's Assemblies for members of the public, including one for overseas nationals, to have their say on the document, with the promise of incorporating viable suggestions in the future.

Indeed, there have been many valuable suggestions so far, indicating that Barbadians wish to join in the necessary journey to again forge a society that is democratic, in which all can achieve and one regarded as a country to be emulated.

In essence, this is Our Covenant of Hope.





## Kirk Humphrey – St. Michael South



Now Senior Development Officer, Canadian High Commission of Canada in Barbados; Humphrey has held a number of senior positions in the public service - Director, Department of Constituency Empowerment; Director, Bureau of Social Policy, Research and Planning; Administration Manager at the Child Care Board and Tax Officer, VAT Division, Customs and Excise Department.

He credits several people along those early years of his life, with seeing the potential in him and keeping him on track - Wayne Kirton, Wendy Griffith-Watson, Trevor Marshall, Esther Phillips, Mackie Holder, amongst many others.

Most singularly, he speaks to the continual support and strength of his mother, a single mother of eight children, Kirk is clearly in awe of her and her resilience through the rough times in his life.

A poet and dramatist, he wrote the poem 'We were Eight', chronicling and honoring his mother. It won him his second bronze at the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts, (NIFCA), in 2015 and the People's Choice Award in the Literary Arts category.

One of the difficult periods in his life was his time at the UWI. But when he felt like giving up, some in his community encouraged him to keep going, much to his surprise at the time that they were emotionally invested in his success.

The support given when he faced hard times at various points in his life has pointed his heart and career on the same road - community and people development.

This has naturally led to politics, at the core of his motivation the belief that there are many young people in every community with boundless potential who must be seen in a light beyond where they live or the mistakes they have made - a notion he is sure the BLP will embrace and act on.

One of the youngest male candidates in the next General Elections will be the recently nominated candidate for St. Michael South - Kirk Humphrey.

The 43 year-old, a father of one, is already one of the most popular and magnetic of the BLP team, impressing as much with his academic and career accolades as well as his insightfulness and ability to hold an audience and his physique and dress style, the latter of which has given him a fan club all of his own.

His is another story of grabbing every education opportunity to drag himself out of a life of poverty, and he uses his story of coming out of depressed circumstances to inspire.

Often times humble beginnings are seen as a weakness by some, to be downplayed or disregarded. For Kirk it is a badge of honor. He always first describes himself as 'a boy from the Pine' and has never subscribed to the 'get rich and switch' mentality of others, despite his admirable success.

A former student of Wilkie Cumberbatch, the St. Michael School and Barbados Community College, (BCC), Kirk went on to study Management at the University of the West Indies, (UWI), at Cave Hill - BSc. (Honours); Social Policy and Planning at the prestigious London School of Economics, (LSE) - MSc; and Public Administration at the equally top notch Harvard University - Certificate in Public Policy, MA, Public Administration.

**Q: What does the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), mean to you?**

**Humphrey:** I often think of the difficulties of the 1930s when the many things we take for granted in contemporary Barbados were outside the imagination of Barbadians. Times were extremely difficult and as a young post slavery society the balance of power had not swung the way of the former slaves. It was in the midst of this difficult period that the BLP emerged to challenge the established order and offer representation to the masses.

Over time the Labour Party has remained committed to these ideals and have kept the average Barbadian at the centre of its development agenda. The brilliance about the Labour Party is the way it is constantly evolving to make itself a more viable and useful organisation even as the context within which Barbados and the Caribbean operates changes. That is why the contribution of Tom Adams and Owen Arthur, as leaders of the country, showcase the dual nature of local service to Barbadians with international repositioning to



ensure the creation of a modern country. The BLP understands that history is important as mechanism for charting the future and not only as a nostalgic piece of sentimental conversation.

Certainly the capacity of the country to engage in economic activity while the BLP is in office cannot be disputed. The commitment to ensuring that all Barbadians benefit from the economic growth has always been one of the outstanding elements of the Party.

At present, the tradition of visionary leadership within the BLP is in safe hands as Mia Mottley represents and manifests all the qualities and values that make BLP leadership great.

I am with the Labour Party to have a chance to serve my country as part of a team that understands the challenges we face, has a history of rising to these challenges and has a clear vision for making this country truly the gem, not only of the Caribbean, but the entire world.



**Q: What one message do you want to give to the voters in your constituency of St. Michael South, above all else?**

The one message I want to give people in my constituency is that "better is coming". I think many in my constituency across various demographics - young, old, male, female, working and unemployed - are struggling just to make ends meet. I think that it is important to restore hope to the people in the constituency, above all.

To help them believe that if we work hard and make the necessary sacrifices and stay true to the values that have characterized who we are as a people, that we can achieve anything. I think with faith in self, a commitment to hard work and supported by a BLP that cares deeply for their well-being, that the people of St Michael South, with its rich history of success in sports, academics and music, can be restored to its rightful place as a beacon of hope for all across Barbados.

Better is coming for the young who feel there is no reason to engage with a political leadership that does not understand their needs. Better is coming for the elderly who feel neglected by the system. Better is coming for the entrepreneurs, artistes, sportsmen and women and all who believe that they should be allowed to reach their full potential in Barbados.

Working together as a team better will definitely come.

## Dr. Sonia Browne - St. Phillip North



**D**r. Sonia Browne has been the lady doctor of Blades Hill St. Philip for the past 18 years; however she has been a member of the St. Philip North community all her life.

Sonia has always set big goals for herself and achieved them. Her dream of being a doctor as a young girl happily attending St. Mark's Primary School has been achieved; her she dream as a doctor of giving back to her childhood community has been a success by all accounts, and she has begun the process to make her latest dream a reality, to be a politician who inspires respect.

At her nomination, she expressed her latest goal, to redefine the word politician for the people of St. Philip North. She noted that in her own deliberations on whether to run, she examined definitions of the word "politician". Most that came immediately to mind were not particularly flattering, words like manipulative and devious.

Dr. Browne is determined to redefine these words in the vein of key influencers who have done immeasurable good for the people of her community and wider Barbados such as Wynter Crawford, Sir David Simmons and Rudolph "Cappy" Greenidge to name a few, each of whom made a massive contribution and added to the positive determinations of what good men and women can achieve through service to others.

The mother of one also credits her parents, who she considers her roots to the BLP; her father was a prominent and featured member of the St. Philip North branch.

On the other hand, is the current MP for the area, described as being completely out of touch with the suffering she sees each day with her patients, the residents in the North.

Dr. Browne highlighted the case where the local school in the area, her very own St. Mark's, had been deemed unsafe for a visit from the Governor General, yet the residents have had to let their children go to school in the same building, while the representative makes the same promises which he has made for the last few years, that the school would be getting a new building - with no action is forthcoming.

She notes that among the laundry lists of problems which the last eight years of the DLP government and the poor representation of the current MP have brought are the high unemployment in the area, violence, crime, the drug trade, the failing economy, the plight of the boys on the block and the lack of parental care of delinquent fathers.

**Q: What do you feel qualifies you to be a representative in your constituency?**

**A:** I grew up and have lived in the constituency all my life and have been working there for almost two decades. I have had the privilege of mingling both personally and professionally with sometimes three to four generations of families. As a result, I am in a unique position to understand the wants and needs of the people I hope to represent.

**Q: At the nomination the point was made that you had deep roots in the BLP. How have these roots impacted your life and your decision to offer yourself as a potential representative?**

**A:** Growing up, I remember my parents attending several political spot meetings. My father was heavily involved in the campaigning process for several BLP candidates and, in fact, at one time, had been president of the St. Philip North Branch.

I started having a real interest in the dynamics of politics at around 14 years old while I was a student at the St. Michael School. I have had the privilege of seeing several successful governments, both BLP and DLP, manage the country. Unfortunately, I am and now witness to a governance which seems to have a disinterest, a disregard for the people of this island. We need a new government, a new leadership to steer the course to a better Barbados and I think a BLP government, from their track record, is capable of doing so.

**Q: What would you consider to be the biggest failure of your opponent and how would you look to address this?**

**A:** I believe the biggest failure of my opponent was his losing touch with the people of the constituency and their needs. I think he has lost sight of the purpose of being a representative for the people who saw it fit to elect him. I think it is important

to understand that one's job as the elected representative is to be an advocate for the people, to lend a voice where there is none, to be a servant for the people. We need to go beyond satisfying the short term needs of the people, which seems to be my opponents approach, and seek to find long term solutions.

**Q: The act of contending in an election is one of the most difficult things to willingly put yourself through. What is the trade-off for you, what makes it worth the fight for you?**

**A:** I am aware that I will have to make several sacrifices during this campaign period, the main ones will have to be spending extended time away from my 3 year old daughter, Lilyanna, and time away from my practice.

What makes it worth it? I know that, in the long run, my daughter and the sons and daughters, and nieces and nephews of the people in my constituency, and indeed the entire country, will benefit from better representation. They would benefit from a representative who understands their needs and who understands her role as a true advocate for the people.

## Ryan Straughn - Christ Church East Central



**R**yan Straughn is always invariably the quiet one in the group, seemingly a bit reserved. This trait really masks assets that have not only made him one of Barbados' outstanding economists but



one that is already serving him well in his barely started political career - he is an attentive listener, never seems to shoot off his mouth and responds with careful consideration of the issues under discussion.

He is actually outgoing, always willing to lend a hand, can rock the saxophone and is as adept in the boardroom as he is liming by a shop.

One of the Party's chief spokesmen on economic matters, he was moved to elective politics because he could no longer sit back and watch the economic destruction of the country, with its attendant social impact, when he had skills that could help bring about a turnaround.

No doubt, he is very well prepared. Currently he heads his own business, ABELIAN Consulting Services Inc., which provides a range of high level projects to local and international agencies. His clients have included the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, (ECLAC); the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP); Commonwealth Secretariat and MasterCard Europe and UNICEF/Barbados Statistical Service.

He has been an Economic Modelling Consultant to the Central Bank of Barbados and World Cup Barbados Inc., an Economist at the Bank and a part-time Lecturer in Economics at the UWI, Cave Hill and has worked throughout the Caribbean and in the UK.

An International Monetary Fund Institute-trained National Accounts statistician, Ryan has a MSc. Econometrics from Manchester University, UK and a BSc. Economics and Mathematics (First Class Honours), University of the West Indies, (UWI), Cave Hill.

Unsurprisingly, Ryan believes a key to turning around the decline of Barbados is to speak honestly and frankly about the economy, in a manner in which the average person can understand.

A man who believes in teamwork, and that people must be empowered

by knowledge, his slogan is, 'Restoring Hope by Providing Opportunities for All' - the more people involved in the process, the easier it will be to help each other and advance to the goal of securing a better future.

It is a future in which he has a very personal stake, for Ryan makes it very clear that he is first and foremost a family man. His devotion to his wife Jenifer and son Kofi are unmistakable, and he applies his characteristic balanced approach to the three sides of his life, family, community and business.

**Q: Why are you seeking to become the representative for the people of Christ Church East Central?**

**A:** At the core I'm running because there are still thousands of little girls and boys like me who will not have opportunities like me due to DLP policies. I benefitted from the investment that taxpayers put into education and therefore it would be sacrilegious not to make the contribution as it is needed now."

**Q: What is your message to constituents?**

**A:** My message is that I will do for their children/ grandchildren/nieces/nephews what others did for me.

**Q: What do you feel is needed to rescue Barbadians?**

**A:** At a macroeconomic level rescuing Barbados will require a skill set that understands the work required but yet is not daunted by the enormity of the tasks involved.

**My message is that I will do for their children/ grandchildren/ nieces/nephews what others did for me.**

## Adrian Forde - Christ Church West Central



Adrian Forde manages to do something most people in authority struggle with; he has captured the hearts and minds of the young people in his community of Christ Church West Central.

In fact, he is definitely the people's man.

Anyone in attendance at his nomination to contest the Christ Church West Central seat would have witnessed a rare sight in the world of politics, young and old people of all walks of life joined together in common purpose, to ensure the future of their political representation by soundly securing Adrian's nomination.

That ability accompanied with his jovial manner and his genuine concern for others has made him extremely popular and has laid the ground work for his future victory.

It is hard to meet in Barbados today a more committed and indefatigable community worker than Adrian, or anyone with his history of lending a helping hand - so much so that it seems impossible for him to refuse any request.

At just 41, his community work is legendary. A pharmacist by profession, he has established a range of training and assistance programmes to help particularly young people set up businesses, often personally funding start-ups and, in the case of his driving school, personally teaching numerous youth to drive trucks.

Over the years he has also taught life skills at St. Leonard's, been medic to the Gall Hill football team for years, and currently attends the Barbados Referee Association.

Adrian's affinity and dedication to community work is both natural and a mission. It is rooted in his own upbringing, what he describes as "a village raising a child", with many outside of his immediate family taking on roles to help him navigate testing periods in his life.

Born into a family of five of barely modest means, he learned self-sufficient skills very early, including gardening, farming, basketry and other handicraft, which he sold at Pelican Village to help support his family.

His personal story is the essence of the Barbadian dream. After working in a supermarket and in construction, the former St. Leonard's and BCC student interned as a pharmacist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, (QEH), in 1998 before joining Knights Pharmacy. He now heads his own pharmacy, Acare, in Gall Hill, Christ Church.

Politics is a natural progression of his community work, and from 2008 residents were urging him to get involved in representation at this level. Having canvassed and spoken on platforms in 2013, he committed to elective politics in 2015.

A man with wicked ballroom dancing skills and an equally voracious appetite for books, if Adrian can enhance his service as a politician by just a small fraction, Christ Church West Central and Barbados will see a transformation like no other.

Yes, his involvement in the community is that good. No wonder BLP leader Mia Mottley was moved to say, "Adrian's community altruism is the gold standard of representation."

**Q: You are considered to be one of the candidates with the largest following among the youth. Why do you think young people consider you a role model?**

**A:** First, I would say that as a son of the soil, young people have endorsed me as one of their own and have been able to use my life story as a stimulus for their success. I also believe that my income generating projects have had a direct effect on their lives in helping them to become self sufficient and productive. Inadvertently, they consider me their de facto representative.

**With the right support mechanisms, I have found that young people have a burning desire to succeed. They have an innovative spirit and vision, which, if harnessed, can redound to the socio economic benefits of this country.**

**Q: What do you consider to be the key problem in your constituency and what measures do you plan to push to address these issues.**

**A:** Unemployment and the high cost of living, this "double whammy" is what I often refer to, as the "perfect political storm", and for the youth unemployment and lack of training /education opportunities. Over the past decade, I have introduced the W.E.E (Work Empowerment Entrepreneurship Programme) and Project HOPE (Helping Our People Everyday) which have near perfect records in assisting people and building small businesses. These are the types of programmes I will continue to push.

**Q: There is a lot of negative talk people engage in about the youth. What positives do you find about the youth?**

**A:** With the right support mechanisms, I have found that young people have a burning desire to succeed. They have an innovative spirit and vision, which, if harnessed, can redound to the socio economic benefits of this country. I have seen unswerving commitment and dedication to the W.E.E Programme. MEDIC freighting / Driving School, Four Cross Fruit Stall, Rabz&Tazz Variety, Raphael's Barber Shop, Coast Conch Shells Variety and MEDIC Rent-A-Mover are all successful business ventures now owned and managed by these previously ostracized young people.

**Q: What do you consider to be your #1 reason for seeking to represent the people of Christ Church West Central?**

**A:** The persistent calls from the constituents and the political class, along with the lack of proper, caring and engaged representation from the current Member of Parliament.... The invisible man.... have convinced me to put my hand to the plough so that I can continue my community activism.

**Q: What do you bring to a BLP administration?**

**A:** I bring hope and vision for the young, voiceless and marginalized in this country through my empowerment programs, which I believe can be extrapolated to a national level. It is known that I do not only "talk the talk" or "walk the walk", but I am also ready, willing and able to do the "DO" for the people of Christ Church West Central and Barbados.

Hard work, dedication and selflessness are the core principles which govern my success. I believe that this hands-on approach and engaged representation, with a solid support system and a strong policy programme, can lead Barbados to once again produce craftsmen of our fate. This Septuagenarian of a party can boast of having a "Gold Standard" of representation.





## John King - St. Philip West

Govern-  
ment Indus-  
trial School  
(youth  
detention  
centre) as

a Supervisor and Welfare Officer for many years. John, who also carved out a successful business in entertainment - he was a promoter and also Director of the Plantation Garden Theatre - has also dedicated himself to work with a number of charities over the years.

A man who speaks from the heart, his passion is compelling especially when he speaks of charities such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Ways to Happiness Foundation, an international programme promoting commonsense values for living; and the Precious Touch Foundation, aimed at granting the wishes of children with life threatening illness and terminal conditions, for which he was an ambassador.

John's fighting spirit, along with his passion and compassion, should give him another important chapter in his life's work on behalf of the people of St. Philip West and Barbados.

### **Q: The traditional first question. Why politics, why now?**

**A:** I have always been passionate about politics, but as an observer, my comments were always in song. In order to make a more tangible contribution, I knew I would have to be actively involved. I have watched how the direction of Barbadian politics and policies have taken us so far and I feel like I have to be a part of creating the next great chapter in our story as a country.

### **Q: Considering the nature of social commentary, you have had the opportunity to examine the flaws in both parties. What made you choose the BLP?**

**A:** As an artiste one develops a keen eye for observation. I have studied how both parties have managed the country's affairs, both from an economic and social standpoint. I have found that the BLP has always been the more

progressive thinking of the two, but I believe the Tom Adams era sealed the deal for me. How he handled the oil crisis was phenomenal and he had a clear vision of what Barbados could become. I share a lot of his ideas and would want to see them come to fruition in honor of this great man.

### **Q: What do you feel you can add to the fabric of the BLP as an M.P?**

**A:** I believe my 'nothing is too much, too tough or impossible attitude' can inspire our members and by extension our communities. We need to see ourselves as being more than capable of dreaming big and to stop limiting ourselves to simply surviving. We must move on to flourishing and prospering for ourselves as a country and as the leader of the Caribbean.

### **Q: What do you consider to be the defining issue of the upcoming elections and what are your views on it?**

**A:** I believe the defining issue is going to be job creation as the major catalyst to revitalise the economy. I realise that we have to seriously look to non-traditional sectors such as film, animation, and other cultural industries as well as the technical and marketing sides. We also need to focus on the manufacturing sector with an emphasis on high end luxury products; these must become the standard as we are currently not capable of mass production.

### **Q: What made you choose St. Philip West of all the areas to make your political start?**

**A:** I was raised in this constituency as a child and it has given a lot to me, including my start in the entertainment industry. I learnt everything about being a proud member of St Philip and by extension Barbados right here in St. Philip West; concern for your fellowman, giving and sharing what you can; these are lessons that have served me well throughout my life and this is my way repaying that obligation. This constituency has made me the man I am today.

## Marsha Caddle - St. Michael South Central



**O**ut of the blue came Marsha Caddle to win the nomination for St. Michael South Central. Marsha who?

Keen political observers took note that her victory spoke to an ability to organise and connect, essential ingredients in a politician's arsenal. Maybe she wasn't so green at all.

Her training and work also seemed to add an edge, indicating another young, talented Barbadian who chose the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), one, on paper, with the promise of an interesting future.

A solid set of achievements and wide experience are propelling that future. The former Harrisonian is a 1997 Barbados Scholar, recipient of a University of the West Indies Study Abroad Scholarship 1999 and winner of the 2000 Lomé IV Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies.

An economist whose areas of specialisation are institutional and human development economics, Marsha holds a Masters degree with Honours from Universidad Catolica Santa Domingo and undertook specialised training at the University of Utah and George Washington University.

Most recently a Governance Specialist at the Caribbean Development Bank, (CDB), she has been Programme Manager, Poverty Reduction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sub-regional Office for Barbados and the OECS; Programme Specialist, Economic Security and Rights with the then United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); Specialist, Labour and Consumers,

Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) Unit; CARICOM Programme Coordinator, Gender and Macroeconomics, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), University of the West Indies, (UWI), Cave Hill and a Consultant Economist.

A member of the International Working Group on Gender and Economics (GEM-IWG), Marsha co-founded in 2005, the Women's Health Advocacy Network (WHAN). WHAN is an NGO dedicated to addressing issues of women's health and sexual and reproductive rights in the Caribbean, among other things. She also contributes social topics to the Mongoose Chronicles.

Described as an unexpected delight, Marsha has been a dancer since seven and a teacher in Caribbean movement. She is a songwriter and dedicated Carnivalist, and has been a writer and commentator on calypso, soca, dancehall and reggae music. She is also a recently retired left wing footballer.

Marsha has lived in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Washington DC and London and is fluent in Spanish.

### **Q: It was clear from the onset that the nomination process was going to be contentious, so what made you commit to suffering the arrows, and emerging victorious?**

**A:** As soon as I made the decision that I wanted to represent the people of St. Michael South Central, implicit in that decision was the knowledge that I would have to, and would, do whatever it takes.

I was born and grew up in St. Michael, in Haggatt Hall. I went to school at Belmont Primary School in My Lord's Hill and Harrison College in town, and went to church at Carrington Wesleyan, so South Central was a part of my life growing up.

And my family was like many of the families in South Central: struggling hard with very, very little just to give us three girls a chance to succeed. So I realized very early on that the playing field doesn't start out level. The policies that governments put in place have to be for the express purpose of helping to level the playing field so that people are not trapped by the circumstances of their birth; so that being born poor does not doom you and your children to a life of struggle.

Even though my family didn't have much, I had opportunities that gave me a decent chance at success, but I realized that many people, just like me, don't have those opportunities today. It is stark in St. Michael South Central. There is a sense of abandonment that has festered over the last eight years, because people have been left to struggle on their own. I wanted to help change that.

I chose the slogan Care. Commitment. Courage for my campaign because those are the anchors of my decision to face a nomination, face a general election, and win the opportunity to represent the people of St. Michael South Central.



I wanted to reciprocate the care that people have shown me all my life and that got me where I am today; to demonstrate the commitment to stand with communities as they rebuild from years of neglect; and to exercise the courage required to fight on behalf of the people you represent.

I made the commitment to "suffer the arrows", as you say, because many of the social and economic gains that we have made as a Barbadian people are being reversed, and rather than standing tall at 50 years as a sovereign nation, we are teetering on the edge of failure.

It is time for transformation in my constituency and in this country – time for a new kind of politics and a new kind of development based not on short-term gratification that will be gone tomorrow, but on lasting prosperity. I have a contribution to make to that transformation.

**Q: What have you learnt in your canvassing of your community, about the true feelings/concerns of the people of St. Michael South Central?**

**A:** People just want to live decent lives. That may sound like an oversimplification, but it is not. The people of St. Michael South Central want decent work that pays a living wage. They

want the kind of physical infrastructure and services like roads, transport and lighting that will allow them to move more easily through life – to get to work and school and care for their families. They want bright futures for their children – the kind of education that will secure them jobs, and the kinds of opportunities that will allow them to develop their talents and feel fulfilled. And perhaps more than anything, they want to feel that justice is at the heart of how things are done in their constituency and in their country. They want to see that the rules apply evenly across the board for all people.

**Q: You have extensive experience in economics, what do you feel has been the biggest source of problems in our economy and how would you address it?**

**A:** The problems this country's economy has been facing across the last eight years of this current Administration are multiple in number and continue to deepen in severity. And what is perhaps most alarming is that the people of Barbados have been asked to bear with several adjustment attempts that have been meant to correct the issues, but all of which have failed.

Let's look at them quickly: a central government debt of 141.6% of GDP, which makes us now the most indebted nation in

CARICOM. That is ahead of famously highly-indebted countries like Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis who, even during a period of global recession, were able to arrest their debt position and make a turnaround.

One of the reasons high debt is a problem is that it has to be serviced, right? You have to pay it down, even if it's just interest you're paying. The more debt you have, the more you have to pay to service it, and the less you have to spend in other areas such as health, education and enterprise development for young people, to name a few.

The fiscal deficit is also proving difficult for this Administration to get under control, mainly because they have been unable to implement their stated plans for reducing it. And so the Central Bank prints money to make up the shortfall, which threatens the value of the currency. These are all among the reasons for the repeated downgrades by Moody's and Standard and Poors, which erode investor confidence and further challenge our ability to find favourable interest rates when trying to borrow in international financial markets.

But I want to look at a more worrisome side of our economic crisis, which is the tremendous failure of our institutions – those that provide essential services such as water, sanitation and health care. If we can no longer count on a foundation of effective delivery of key services, we have essentially reversed our development. And alongside all this, the failure to continue to invest adequately in our single most valuable economic input: the effective education of our young people such that they can participate fully in the economy as workers or business owners, as producers and consumers.

What is the source of these problems? Simply? Poor governance: a failure to manage. So that better governance to address all these failings has to focus on sustainable adjustment. I say sustainable because, for example, you can't introduce more taxes as a way to finance your deficit when there is nothing left to tax, when people's incomes are at their limit and they now have nothing left to spend. If people have nothing left to spend, what is driving growth? We need an approach to adjustment that still allows us the space to invest in people. We need real management of service delivery, and we need a system of governance that prioritises the transparency of accurate information, and the participation of citizens in decision-making, so they can truly hold us as government accountable. That's part of how I would address it.

**Q: What other areas of national importance do you want to apply your voice to?**

**A:** We have some challenges in our system of education. We have children who go to school for years and leave not only with no certificates that can earn them income, but who, in many cases, do not have the functional competencies to thrive in many parts of their lives.

And we talk about what young people cannot do and do not know, instead of focusing on what we are failing to teach

them. Critical thinking; culture and creativity; the real history of the making of the Caribbean and of Barbados, their heritage and the endowments of their ancestors; how to see all people, including and especially women and girls, as worthy and of human value.

And further, how do we free ourselves from the notion that a single exam in Math and English taken at ten years old should decide a child's entire future?

I'm concerned, too, with access to justice as afforded by our legal system. Justice is another service provided by the State. And we must be able to deliver it with efficiency. Otherwise, it is not justice. Our approach to citizen security has to be about more than arresting a person suspected of a crime, and has to start before then. The objective has to be working with communities to encourage peace and security.

**Q: What is your plan going forward, what do you envision for St. Michael Central when you are its MP?**

**A:** Local economic development: the crisis is so severe that we cannot wait for benefits to trickle down once we begin to turn this economy and this country around.

We need to go directly to the source of the deprivation in our communities and address it not with small, temporary solutions that last for a day or a week, but with real investment at the community level: enabling people who live in St. Michael South Central to provide goods and services right there; establishing programmes that start to fill education gaps, and that transfer skills that can make young people money and help them explore their own imaginations and creativity.

And most importantly, get people engaged in their communities again. Carrington Village, Delamere Land, these are the types of iconic Barbadian communities you find throughout St. Michael South Central. The people of St. Michael South Central have always known what community means, but they need our support in meeting them halfway to reenergize their communities. And that is what I will do.

**People just want to live decent lives. That may sound like an oversimplification, but it is not. The people of St. Michael South Central want decent work that pays a living wage. They want the kind of physical infrastructure and services like roads, transport and lighting that will allow them to move more easily through life – to get to work and school and care for their families.**

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# Past Recipients of the Milroy Reece & Grantley Adams Awards

## MILROY REECE Awardees GRANTLEY ADAMS Awardees

1994	Ucal Leacock	1994	Sir Harold St. John
1995	Chessel Rock	1995	Sir Louis Tull
1996	Conrad Ishmael (the only male)	1996	Sir Henry Forde
1997	Norma Caddle	1997	Gilmore Rocheford
1998	Ardyce Bolden	1998	Lionel Craig
1999	Lorena Payne	1999	Sir Alexander Hoyos
2000	Marie King	2000	Sir David Simmons
2001	Ina Howard	2001	Dame Billie Miller
2002	Beryl Bridgeman	2002	Sir Richard Cheltenham
2003	Eldene Boyce	2003	Theophilus Rock
2004	Alma Dean	2004	Herbert Yearwood
2005	Edith Holder	2005	Lindsay Bolden
2006	Patricia Parris	2006	Dame Patricia Symmonds
2007	Evelina King	2007	The Christ Church Team
2008	Peggy Niles	2008	Owen Arthur
2009	Volta Lowe	2009	Ishmael Roett
2010	Joan Williams	2010	Nigel Barrow
2011	Jan Hartley	2011	Tyrone Barker
2012	Sheila Walcott	2012	Clyde Mascoll
2013	Jean “Lady” Jordan	2013	Philip Evan Serrao, QC
2014	Audrey Millar	2014	Cynthia Forde
2014	Gloria Alleyne	2015	Erskine Griffith, GCM

# Chairmen & General Secretaries of BLP

## CHAIRMEN OF THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY

1938 – 1939	Christopher Brathwaite	1938 – 1940	Edwy Talma
1939 – 1958	Grantley Adams	1940 – 1947	Hugh Springer
1958 – 1961	Joseph Shepherd	1947 – 1954	Frank Walcott
1961 – 1970	Grantley Adams	1954 – 1955	Lorenzo Williams
1970 – 1972	Bernard St. John	1955 – 1964	Gilmore Rocheford
1972 – 1978	J.M.G.M. Adams	1964 – 1967	Bernard St. John
1978 – 1979	Victor Johnson	1967 – 1970	J.M.G.M. Adams
1979 – 1984	J.M.G.M. Adams	1970 – 1971	Lester Whitehead
1984 – 1986	Richard Cheltenham	1971 – 1974	Clarence Jemmott
1986 – 1987	Bernard St. John	1974 – 1976	Aaron Truss
1987 – 1991	Henry Forde	1976 – 1978	Keith Hinds
1991 – 1993	Louis Tull	1978 – 1979	O'Brien Trotman
1993 – 1996	Owen Arthur	1979 – 1980	Hashim Degia
1996 – 1998	David A.C. Simmons	1980 – 1981	Milroy Reece
1998 – 1999	Owen Arthur	1981 – 1983	Aaron Truss
1999 – 2002	Reginald R. Farley	1983 – 1986	Clyde Griffith
2002 – 2004	Billie A. Miller	1986 – 1988	Patricia Symmonds
2004 – 2007	Owen Arthur	1988 – 1989	Owen Arthur
2007 – 2008	Billie A. Miller	1989 – 1991	O'Brien Trotman
2008 – 2009	George Payne	1991 – 1993	George Payne
2009 – 2010	George Payne	1993 – 1994	Delisle Bradshaw
2010 – 2011	George Payne	1994 – 1996	Patricia Thorington
2011 – 2012	Dr. Jerome Walcott	1996 – 2004	Mia Mottley
2012 – 2013	Dr. Jerome Walcott	2004 – 2008	William Duguid
2013 – 2014	Mia Mottley	2008 – 2009	Tyrone Lovell
2014 – 2015	Mia Mottley	2009 – 2010	Cynthia Forde
2015 – 2016	Mia Mottley	2010 – 2011	Peter Phillips
		2011 – 2012	George Griffith
		2012 – 2013	George Griffith
		2013 – 2014	Dr. Jerome Walcott
		2014 – 2015	Dr. Jerome Walcott
		2015 – 2016	Dr. Jerome Walcott



## Gone – Never Forgotten 2015-2016

Merrell Weekes  
H Gregory Burke  
Muriel Davis  
Joyce Garnes  
Edith Kennedy  
Keith Wiltshire  
Volta Lowe  
Harold Sealy  
Ivan Lynton  
Cheryl Rollins  
Valarie Crookendale  
Elaine Clarke  
June Blackman  
Ron Tudor  
Marjorie Bradshaw  
Cecil Griffith  
Frank Jessamy  
Aneta Atkins  
Rudolph Worrell  
Norma Ward  
Edwin Forde  
Elaine Williams  
June Smith  
Doyle Broomes  
Olga Worrell  
Sheila Hurdle  
Roy Smith  
Edward Hoyte  
Coral Simmons  
Jean Holder  
Arrindell Cobham  
Maria Niles  
Owen Walcott  
Voilet Fooding  
Alfred Barker  
Harold Sealy  
Ivy Haynes  
Terry Worrell  
Delcie Broome  
Adrian Massiah  
Rupert Headley  
Hayette Holder  
Esther Blackman  
Joan Gilkes  
Keith "DoBad" Wiltshire  
Hortense Willock  
Harley Moseley  
Roslin Lashley  
Franky Blackman

## Down to Earth Lover of BLP KEITH "DO BAD" WILTSHIRE

I can't remember when or where I first met Keith "Do Bad" Wiltshire. What I do know is that Do Bad was a good man, a really good man.

Keith was a salt of the earth type Barbadian. Keith was from a set of Bajans born in the 1930s and 40s who exemplified everything that is good about our land. These were hard working men and women whose word was their bond, who understood loyalty, who never forgot where they came from, knew that it took a village to raise a child and that you could spoil a child by sparing the rod. People whose knowledge of current affairs would astound you, whose hand writing skills would amaze you.

These souls also knew that for a series of obscure villages to become a nation, it took people with honesty and integrity, and respect and honour, but most of all it took love. Love for country and love for people.

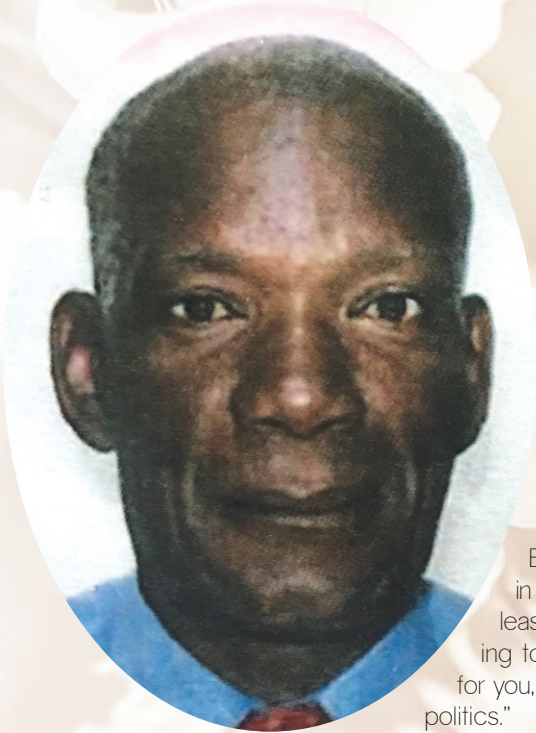
Do Bad loved people, but most of all he loved the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP). Sometimes, I was of the opinion that he loved our party more than he loved himself.

He formed part of a corps of foot soldiers of this party, whom we don't credit enough with much of the political success that we have enjoyed over the years. Success not only at election time, but also with enlightening the populace about what the "Labour Party" really is and what we stand for. People whom elected politicians should recognize as the ones that when they are standing tall, it is their shoulders that they are standing on.

Keith was a fixture at every BLP gathering. "The Chief of Security", as he was affectionately called by some, told you where to park your vehicle and more important how. People, no matter their station or rank in the party, never argued if Do Bad told you where and how to park. You parked there, no fuss, no bother. Those who were more privileged actually got Do Bad to park their vehicles. I was one of those who enjoyed that advantage.

Keith loved his politics. He loved the cut and thrust of the discipline and he kept a mental record of so much that was said on political platforms and in the corridors of Parliament, that one could easily be lead to believe that he was actually there when the speeches were delivered.

He often quoted rather authoritatively what Mr. Barrow or Mr. Adams said about the facts of politics or life in Barbados, or



both. His favourite quote from The Right Excellent Errol Barrow was, "if you're involved in elective politics and that at least one person was not willing to lie down in front of a bus for you, then you should get out of politics."

When it came to The Right Excellent Grantley Adams, however, he was clear about why Sir Grantley was the greatest Barbadian that ever 0 and he gave us the right to vote." For Keith this was the pinnacle of all achievement as a politician and as a leader of our nation.

Personally, I'll miss Do Bad. His wit, his effervescent personality, the fact that he always wanted to engage in political debate and political banter, and was always willing to help.

Mostly I'll miss his commitment and loyalty to the BLP. He believed in the BLP and even when he endured personal hardship, he was confident that all it would take to fix his or the country's woes was for our Party to be returned to office. The return of the BLP to office was all that he was living for. He didn't live to see it. I hope and pray that we will be able to deliver Do Bad's wish in short order.

May he rest in peace.



*Tribute by Noel Lynch.*

*Noel Lynch is CEO of the Barbados Cricket Association, (BCA). He is a former BLP Minister of Tourism and was the Member of Parliament, (MP), for St. Michael South.*

## VOLTA LOWE – Non Stop Trouper for BLP



The late Volta Lowe J.P. of Bryan's Road, Welchman Hall, St. Thomas will be sorely missed by family, friends, work colleagues, the union fraternity and comrades of the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP).

She was a dedicated community worker and humanitarian. She was small and short in stature but powerful in character and service to country.

Her contribution to this society has been outstanding as she gave unselfishly of her time, resources, talents and love to everyone despite status, age, religion or political persuasion.

Volta was employed at the General Post Office for more than three decades where she became well known for her strong work ethics, delivery of quality service and excellent customer – friendly personality. And for her dress style.

She was affiliated with numerous organisations which she served at the Membership and Executive levels. These included the National Organisation of Women (NOW); National Union of Public Workers, (NUPW); Women in Focus; BLP Women's League and the BLP St. Thomas Constituency Branch.

Her beautiful smile, her charming personality, her loving outreach, her benevolent spirit, her unceasing determination to encourage, her empathetic





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approach to tolerate, forgive, forget and empower are all wonderful traits of her character. She held no malice towards anyone.

"V", as she is familiarly known by many, has served her community and country with distinction.

In 2009, the 71st Annual Conference of the BLP awarded her the Milroy Reece Award for her dedication to the Party.

She leaves to mourn, her sisters, dozens of relatives and friends, Barbados has lost an unsung hero on the eve of its 50th Anniversary of Independence.

We shall all miss her with great fondness and admiration.

May Her Soul Rest In Peace!



*Tribute by Cynthia Forde.*

*Cynthia Forde recently celebrated 15 years as the MP for St. Thomas. A former Senator, she was Parliamentary Secretary (1994-2001) and then Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture (2001-2008).*

## Harley Moseley - Solid As A Rock



In Barbados, he attended at St Matthias and St Leonard's primary schools, Combermere School on a scholarship and then moved to Harrison College on another scholarship. He then won an Island Scholarship to Codrington College, where he was awarded an Honours degree in Latin, Greek and Ancient History.

He began his career as a teacher at the Antigua Grammar School 1940 and it continued when he moved to St Vincent in 1947, to take up a post as Assistant Master at the grammar school there. While in Antigua, he met, courted and married Sylvia Gore and the couple went on to have seven children.

He then journeyed to England in 1951 to read law and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1954. Later that year he was appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward islands, the office of which was in Antigua.

That same year, at the request of the Chief Justice, Harley moved to St. Kitts to take up the post of Registrar and to serve as a Magistrate. 1956 he accepted the post of Administrative Secretary in St Kitts.

He continued his studies in England for a further year this time at Magdalen College, Oxford and on returning to St Kitts he resumed his post as Magistrate and became Head of the Civil Service.

He transferred to Barbados to serve as a Magistrate in 1962 and also held the posts of Senior Crown Counsel and Head of the Civil Service before his retirement in 1970.

After retiring from the Public Service, HSL began his private law practice and quickly became a distinguished attorney with a successful practice.

In recognition of his service to France in the Alliance Francaise in Barbados, he was made a Chevalier des Palmes Academique in 1977.

He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1995 and, in recognition of his service as a lawyer, educator and his contribution to society in Barbados, he was made a Companion of Honour, (CHB), in 1998.

His other interests also included cricket, bridge and the Masonic Lodge.

Moseley was known as a strict disciplinarian, for being honourable and as a devoted family man. He also had a sense of humour.

The story is told that while attending a funeral at St. Mary's Church, Harley Moseley collapsed - it was discovered he had a stroke. On being wheeled out of the church while the deceased was entering, he quipped that he was glad to have been able to witness the practice session for his own service.

He was 97 years old when he died.

On Wednesday, 27 April, 2016, Harley Sutherland Lewis Moseley 1, passed peacefully at the family home at 38 Clermont where he had resided for some 46 years.

This meant that the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), has lost another member of its old guard who had braved many storms to help hold together the Party while also contributing to the development of Barbados.

Her served in many positions in the Party structure and served as legal counsel during the Duffus Inquiry.

Under the BLP, from 1982 to 1986 he represented Barbados as Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador to Cuba, Haiti and The Dominican Republic.

HSL, as he was referred to, was born on 2nd February 1919 in St Vincent He was three weeks old when he first arrived in Barbados, and he identified strongly as Barbadian ever after.

Until the age of six, he lived between Barbados and Sierra Leone where his father, a teacher of Agricultural Science, was appointed by the British Government as Agricultural Advisor to the village of N'jalla.





Kirk Humphrey

# A Role for Adaptive Leadership in a time of Crisis in Barbados

## Leadership and Authority

I want to tell you a bit about myself and why it is that I am here and why I would choose to speak this evening on leadership and hopefully share with you my story and what it means to have the opportunity to be here.

I grew up in the Pine, everybody who knows me knows that. It is perhaps one of the things for which I am most proud. But like many communities in Barbados and many persons born into those communities that are considered troubled or challenged, I have seen first-hand what it is for people to work hard day in and day out and not achieve success.

Some of the brightest, most dedicated, hardest working people I have met and known in my life came from the Pine and the communities like the Pine but were not able to make the most of the opportunities that exist in a country like Barbados. I made it my life mission to try to understand this. Why is it that people who I know to be tremendously bright and gifted could not engage themselves above and beyond the circumstances of their birth even in a country as great as Barbados is?

So I made a commitment to study social policy to try to understand not only the people who live in these communities but to try to understand the structure and the system that serve to reinforce existing patterns of inequality and deprivation and represent people who want to be able to achieve the most that they can in their own time, having studied social policy and having had the opportunity to lead two government departments responsible for the delivery for social service.

I came to the realization that there was something missing; and beyond understanding social policy, there was a need to understand one other thing, that thing is leadership. Why is it that notwithstanding everything that was done, policies that were implemented people were still suffering in this country – people that I know, my friends, my mother’s friends. It has really captured my attention. Why is it that we can design policies to help people but these policies don’t translate in improving people’s lives? Either we design poor policies or policies are implemented badly. I came to realise it’s leadership, the missing ingredient to

taking Barbados forward, this is a time for leadership.

I will not spend much time this evening trying to prove to you that Barbados is in crisis, you need only walk the street to know this. I have a friend who told me recently that the only think in her cupboard is cobweb, that would be funny if it weren’t so serious. You don’t need to have an economic definition of poverty to understand what it is to be poor.

When someone can honestly say to you that all they have in their cupboard is cobweb then you know that we have a fundamental challenge in Barbados and that this needs to be addressed. So I want to talk this evening during my very short presentation on leadership and marry it, to a certain extent, with events taking place in our social sector; and to try to prove to you that there has to be, and there must be, a better way for people, because we cannot continue to leave people in the hands of the people who are now taking control to their detriment.

I want to make a distinction between leadership and authority. I do so to give you the mental freedom to evaluate the persons who assume now some of the highest offices in our land so that you can view one who holds an authority position and say to yourself whether this person is exercising leadership or not.

A person, for example, can be a CEO and we will call that person a leader regardless of whether that person is a leader or not. A person can be a president and can do some of the most heinous things to other people and we will call that person a leader, whether that person is leading or not. We confuse authority with leadership. Not everyone who holds a position of authority is leading and there are many people who don’t hold a position of authority and are leading every single day. It is for this reason that I feel we have to clarify in our minds what really is authority and what really is leadership.

These are uncertain times. When times are calm, when times are good, we really don’t need leadership, we need a steady hand, a manager. But when things are uncertain and difficult, you need leadership, someone to take control of the ship and lead us in the direction they want us to go. So, we have to ask ourselves pointedly if what we are experiencing now is leadership. We can say that a CEO is not leading, we can say that a president is not leading, then it would also be fair to say that the Prime Minister is not leading.

Authority works well for technical problems and techni-

cal problems are things for which we already have a solution – we know what to do. If I break my arm, I go to the doctor and he is going to set it; that is a technical problem. But if I continually break my hand and I am engaging in behaviour that can jeopardise my life, then I have an adaptive issue; behaviour that I now must change so that I must not injure myself, my family or anyone else. Adaptive challenges are things to which we don’t yet have a solution. They require working with people; and it is a lot more than using authority to resolve, but authority figures use protection, direction and order.”

We are living in uncertain times, we have promoted people who have been able to exercise authority over time; but in the face of uncertainty they are running to the front beating their chests like the silverback but leading Barbarians off the cliff. I am not saying that you cannot lead with authority, because if you practice leadership, if you have authority, then it’s a good thing. But authority can be a straightjacket if you don’t know how to use it.

We should not be surprised because it is said that we share about 95% of our DNA with chimpanzees, maybe 4 or 5% difference. That 4% or 5% should give us the capacity to be compassionate, to be curious and to care especially about the plight of people. It should give us the capacity to know that in a certain time, it makes no sense to behave as an authority figure when you do not know the solutions. It make sense, therefore, to return to the people because authority, power, is given for a service and the people that gave you that power also have the power to take it back, if you are not engaging these people if in a time of hurt. When people are most suffering and they come to you and say I am in pain and your response is to rely on your authority, then we have a real big problem.

I want to use two examples this evening. Leadership in uncertain times require compassion and curiosity because people are hurting; and if people are hurting they will turn to you and ask for some support and they will expect empathy. Sometimes they get none.

Here is the thing –CLICO. People invested all they had in CLICO and some people invested all they could afford in CLICO. Whether or not they invested all or not, the point is that they invested in CLICO and it is their money and they want it back. So in a time of hurt and in a time of uncertainty people turned to their authority figure, not their leader, and they say I am hurting, where is my money, the man who we know to be benefitting most from CLICO we want him to be called to account for this. And our authority figure responds “this man is my friend, should I shun him, he is not a leper?”

Again people are suffering and hurting in this country and things are really bad and we have just decided to spend \$7 million or more on some 50th year celebrations – a party. People are not saying you cannot spend money on the party, they do not think \$7 million in and of itself is a hell of a lot of money, but they are saying I can’t afford to celebrate my own birthday, I cannot afford to celebrate the birthday of my children and, God forbid I cannot take my wife out for our anniversary.

But yet in my time of pain when I turn to you and I say to you this is my current reality, your response is something to do with the value of oil and the Bible, because when you say things from the Bible it barricades you from criticism. Your response

is to speak about the Bible and to tell people like it or lump it part 2, because that is basically what we got. I am holding this event regardless of what you say or what you think so now we reinvented Sandi.

Barbadians are very disciplined people, Barbadians have for the longest time borne the brunt of the struggle in this country. They do so out of a sense of respect and out of a sense of trust of their leadership. People across the region call us a cowardly people they even think that we are simple people. What they don’t understand is that Barbadians are a big picture people and that we will give ourselves to our leadership if it is that we trust our leadership. When they act out of genuine concern for you to look after their welfare, we have a responsibility, because they don’t ask often, to take that concern very seriously.

When Barbadians feel disrespected, when Barbadians are asked to carry a cross that they should not bear, it is only a matter of time, perhaps 18 months or so, before they say to you enough is enough.

I want you to understand the nature of the problem that we are dealing with, we really must. When it is that our emotions are triggered as a country, we need to pay attention and to listen to our emotions, because our emotions will tell us what it is that we value. So if the collective emotions of a country is stirred to the extent that people are offended, it is only because some person in authority is acting in a way that is outside our value system and we know better and we expect better from our leaders.

“... here we are in 2016 - our nation state has been built by brilliant leadership there is no doubt.

“We cannot take the past with us. We now have to lay the past to rest, we are going to open our arms to this new and glorious future, we cannot be extending our arms backward. The future is too big and too glorious but adaptive work, which is what we have here in terms of leadership, requires that we release some of the DNA. There are some things we can keep from the past but there are some things that we must now let go, and there are some new things that we have to learn as we go forward.

What do we need to do now as we go forward? We must practice adaptive leadership:

1. Properly diagnose the situation. These are uncertain times. What is it that we are truly faced with? We need to spend time doing the diagnostic checks; most people fail not because they are doing the wrong thing, but because they got the diagnosis of the problem wrong. Identify the real issue and the people needed to resolve it.
2. Explore very tough interpretations. There are some things that are happening in Barbados that are due to the economic recession, but there are many things that are happening that have nothing to do with the economic recession – just poor choices. So we must be able to say to ourselves, some of this is my fault, we have to understand the process,



challenges and the people challenges the problem behind the problem is often times something to do with people. We have to understand those relationships and try to fix them where we can because as we go forward we can't take forward some and not the rest.

3. Explore multiple ideas. This is perhaps the most challenging for a political crowd because people who are in politics for a long time, or have been in relationships for a long time, believe that they alone communicate with God and God gives them the ideas to carry forward as He did with Moses on Mount Sinai. It is difficult to accept that there are multiple people now, because people have access to information in ways now that they never had before and be curious about them. There is no way in a room that one person has all the solutions. Impossible! That idea of "I am a leader and you are a follower and I have all the ideas, you have none of the ideas" is bankrupt.

Imagine if the leader then dies, point two assumes the position of point one and automatically he has all the ideas, all the solutions and everyone else becomes a follower. The system makes no sense but we have honoured that system for a long time and it is time to change that system. We have a responsibility now to energize people

4. Part of our duty is to engage unusual voices, politicians know this well. Knock on every door, go to people who traditionally you have not had the opportunity to speak to, not only your supporters or constituents. Start where people are, there is a way that people in authority move you - they have access to information often times that others don't have. They horde information and then in a conversation with you, they treat you as if you are less smart than they are because they have now held onto information that you don't have. It has nothing to do with smart; it is a manipulative approach to managing people.

We have to engage people and to start where they are. People in 2016 are a lot further than they were many years ago by virtue of having access to a great deal of information and being able to assimilate, and make their own interpretations. People are not foolish - we must stop treating people as if they are. You can go on any block in Barbados and have a conversation about the profound issues in the most profound way and get insight in ways you could never get in the boardroom.

5. Reinforce collective purpose. What is it that we stand for, what does the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), stand for - share that with everyone with whom we come into contact and then strive to restore hope to people. What do we stand for, how do we return hope? It is a conversation that is

one and the same because what we stand for will by virtue of what it is restore hope to people in this country who have lost hope.

"Where are we now? I have said to you that I believe in regionalism. I make no apologies for it, I think it is the way forward for Barbados and the Caribbean is as one, we have to be one. I think the way forward for Barbados is to get past our petty divides to recognise that as Barbadians we are also one. That anybody who is attempting to lead in Barbados must be one. Barbados now requires a new government and a new citizen and we have to become that to lead Barbados forward. If Barbados is going to be what it has traditionally been, we also have to be one.

Lastly, Barbados has been great and Barbados will continue to be great. Barbadians have borne the brunt of our development struggles for generations and they will do so once they believe they have been engaged honestly and they can trust their leadership.

We have to offer a kind of leadership that people can believe in and that people can have faith in. The times demand that we get it right. We do not have time right now to play, the time for play is over - there is too much at stake now. It is time for action, but all of us in our different ways acting in our different phases. We need to put the interest of this country first and foremost. Barbados is a gem of a place regardless of the hands that now ill-treat it and we must restore Barbados to its proper position.

Leadership is now what is needed for Barbados, adaptive leadership, and I genuinely believe that leadership is what we will bring when we assume the reins of government soon enough; and we are able to take care of the needs of the poor people and take care of the elderly and the vulnerable and those who are suffering; and restore our middle class and do all the things that have now gone. All the things that should be up are down and all the things that should be down are up.

Barbados is in reverse. We need to restore Barbados to its rightful place. I believe that in the near future we will be able to do that.

*Kirk Humphrey is a social policy and leadership specialist with wide working experience and training in these areas. He is the BLP's candidate in St. Michael South Central.*

*This is an edited version of a lecture delivered by Kirk on 21 April, 2016, at the Grand Salle, Tom Adams Financial Centre, as part of the BLP's Cornerstone of Nation Building events.*



Andrew Glasgrow



# No amalgamation of NHC, RDC, and UDC! Strengthening Needed

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs recently reviewed a number of state and quasi-state entities as part of a larger effort to reform Barbados' public sector. The rationale is suggested to have been built around the promotion and need for greater accountability, transparency and efficiency.

Significantly, the proposed amalgamation of government agencies includes the National Housing Corporation (NHC), the Rural Development Corporation (RDC), and the Urban Development Corporation (UDC).

In this brief article, I contend that while the stated objectives may appear at the surface to be rational in the context of streamlining operations, any such amalgamation will run counter to the separate mandates of the named agencies, and will more than likely prove to be an exercise in futility, even attesting to the probable increase of hardship, unemployment, and nullify all gains of the past.

With Barbados already slipping down the scale in relation to its previous standings on the Human Development Index, and with increasing poverty and the need for various forms of welfare provision by a number of urban and rural folk across the island, it appears clear that the agencies of the RDC and UDC have been hampered badly by the incoherent policy framework of the current administration.

The fact is that under the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), the RDC and UDC were plausibly established to promote micro-enterprises and to assist with housing and infrastructural community development.

A Social Investment Fund was established in 1997 to eradicate poverty through the development of small and

medium sized enterprises and to support rural and urban re-development. A Poverty Alleviation Programme was also established to deal with abject poverty.

The NHC is the oldest of the agencies and operates much closer within the control parameters of the Ministry of Housing. Consecutive governments saw the general need for a housing policy to increase and improve the housing stock available to Barbadians through the NHC. The NHC was better able to secure government and external financing for its projects, but since 2008 a difficult situation was made worse due to ministerial interference and the NHC being used as a stomping ground for those wanting to feed on the fatted calf.

Immediately, one recognises that both the RDC and UDC agencies would require different and specific treatment from that of the NHC.

**The services provided by the RDC are unique, and certainly are differentiated from the UDC and the NHC in which there is some duplication, and again it must be stressed that the incoherent policy options enunciated by the current administration have not been consistent with the separate mandates of the entities.**



For starters, the RDC was established by an Act of Parliament in August 1995, with the main purpose of providing for the improvement of social amenities, the assistance of small farmers, as well as the establishment and development of cottage industries in rural areas across Barbados.

Having commenced operations by May 1st 1996, the RDC set about its major aim to bring relief to poor people in the rural areas, through programmes which centre on infrastructural, social, economic, and human resource development needs.

The RDC, through its loan and credit facilities abridged through the Rural Enterprise Fund (REF), has therefore become an essential service contributing to the needs of the Barbados economy.

These commendable objectives sat at the heart of the BLP's plan of action for real social transformation to take place in order to bring a better life for our people.

Likewise, the UDC has provided opportunities for self-improvements across the urban corridor where the most abject poverty in Barbados lingered at inception and has blossomed since the rough years of 2008.

It is a fact that up until March 2005, the UDC expended over \$30 million on its house repair and replacement program. During this period, in excess of 1300 houses were built or repaired throughout urban Barbados and several homes were provided with waterborne facilities.

The work to achieve these results employed several small Barbadian contractors and

artisans while bringing dignity to hundreds of families in the urban corridor.

As stated in a 2005 audit of the UDC's operations, deficiencies existed in the system and were as a "result of internal controls not functioning." It was advised that a "review of these operations should be undertaken with a view to strengthening the system of internal controls."

In 2016 and going into 2017, this is precisely what is needed rather than a whimsical attempt to amalgamate the agencies. There is no sense trying to reinvent the wheel.

The services provided by the RDC are unique, and certainly are differentiated from the UDC and the NHC in which there is some duplication, and again it must be stressed that the incoherent policy options enunciated by the current administration have not been consistent with the separate mandates of the entities.

The RDC has to be seen as a special entity in pressing forward. For rural Barbados, the RDC continues to be a saving grace for small businesses and 'little' people despite there are square pegs in round holes ill-directing the agency.

Any move to combine these entities is likely to be disastrous to the people they are intended to serve and further prove to be regressive for overall national development. Better focus and strengthening is needed to fix the internal issues at all three agencies if Barbadians are to benefit as they should.



Jermaine K. Beckford

**The time has come in Barbados for a National Innovation Directorate. The government, in the face of adversity, must be prepared to lead the charge. The world around us is changing and we cannot afford to be left behind. We must recognize that there needs to be a collective partnership including public, private and nongovernmental organizations.**

## The Triumph of the Future: *Bringing Youth into Business*

**L**egendary American football coach Vince Lombardi once said, "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will."

In a 21st century Barbados, can we truly say that we have done our absolute best to ensure that the youth in this country are guided in a path that would ensure that one day, if they so choose, they can become successful business men and women? I dare say no.

When a child goes to school in Barbados, under this current system of academia, students, up to tertiary level, are guided in the general direction of graduating from school and procuring employment, earning however small or large a wage as a way to survive. Very rarely, if ever, would a student be able to say to you that they were successfully guided by the facilitators of the current education system into the path of owning a business.

The reality is that a future Barbados will need to see more and more of our younger generation deciding to take the risks and entering into some form of business as a way to not only earn a salary but to build a successful future. In order for this to be done, we must build on the path that has been laid and endeavor to ensure that we take with the utmost seriousness, bringing the youth into business.

Agencies which were established by a previous BLP government -

RDC, UDC Funds Access and Enterprise Growth Fund - have lost their focus and are currently failing young aspiring or potential entrepreneurs in this country. The time has come for a serious assessment of these institutions to be done, seek out the positives and eradicate all the negatives.

There is no reason why a young person seeking to access a facility from one of these agencies should be forced to wait for a minimum of six months or more. Within such a period, many things can happen and circumstances can definitely change. Ideas can come and their time pass as quickly as the Caribbean breeze blowing. A future BLP Government has to embark on a programme that seeks to treat business development with the seriousness which it deserves.

The fact of the matter is that we cannot keep on using the term small business as it is stale and outdated. People do not go into business to remain small, they enter an enterprise to grow and build towards the future. It is also a catch-all that does no justice to the diversity or range or level of employment of businesses that, for mainly administrative, are categorised as "small".

The time has come in Barbados for a National Innovation Directorate. The government, in the face of adversity, must be prepared to lead the charge. The world around us is changing and we cannot afford to be left behind. We must recognize that there needs to be a collective partnership including public, private





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and nongovernmental organizations.

The days of talk shops must also come to an end. The youth are not interested in officialdom stating that they will hold discussions on issues and return to them at the onset of the next general election campaign with a solution. That is now a tried, tested and failed policy of the current administration in government whom have not only woefully let down the youth of this country but every other group of individuals that exist in this country. Barbados, and especially the youth of this country, cannot wait for another five or ten years for an effective youth in business policy to be put into place.

If you want the youth to be more involved in their own development, the time has come to allow them to take charge of their own affairs. Some of the richest and most successful individuals in the world are below the age of 30 - only because they have been given support for their ideas at very young ages. We must have faith in our youth when it comes to the development of their business skills as it is the raw energy and passion that is often exhibited by this group that leads to a driving force of success in business.

The topic of entrepreneurship ought to be introduced in every institution of learning in Barbados, from primary school to the BCC and the SJPP. We must recognize that even a student that graduates as a plumber and decides to ply his trade professionally is, in effect, a businessman and has to be given the enabling environment to make his or her absolute valuable contribution to society. We need to get the all financial institutions and technology companies on board. These groups are essentially important for this process as they will provide the necessary financing and connectivity, respectively.

A future BLP government must be prepared to take the necessary risks to transform this country, and if we continue to utilize the same methods, we will continue to achieve the exact same results as we have always have.

**Focussed and Ready!**

A future BLP leadership is called upon to hold formal discussions with the youth of this country and lead from the front in the endeavor. There must be recognition that the audience you are trying to reach is the audience that you must actually engage.

There must also be the recognition that there will be no one size fits all solution to the problems currently plaguing youth business development in Barbados.

Let's remember that every activity is a potential business idea, whether it be athletics, gaming or simply carrying out an errand for someone, and a BLP government must be prepared to extend whatever assistance is necessary to facilitate the development of successful and economically strong and vibrant businesses developed by and nurtured through youth.

The BLP has always been known as the party of hope, the party that when all else has failed remains the political guiding light of this country. The youth of this country are willing to take the chance with a BLP government and we must tread cautiously not to disappoint all that they are expecting from us.

We have to believe in our young people because if we don't, no one else will.

*Jermaine K. Beckford is one young Barbadian with a potentially impactful future in politics and business. He works in banking and has operated small enterprises. Jermaine has also been a member of the LYS and a branch and platform speaker.*



# How Do We Create Tourism's Future?



**Colin Jordan**

**R**ecent pronouncements by tourism stakeholders have left many Barbadians puzzled. We have heard much about the record numbers of tourist arrivals. We have also heard that the foreign reserves, which include the funds that visitors spend when they visit our island home, are declining.

The lack of sensible explanations on this matter reduces the credibility of those who lead in the industry and seriously damages commitment to the industry by Barbadians generally – a commitment that is absolutely necessary if the industry is to be a viable and sustainable contributor to Barbados' development now and in the coming years.

In many ways, tourism in Barbados today stands at the crossroads. Barbadians are still conflicted as to the real contribution of the industry to the country's development and their livelihoods. Many are wondering if all that they hear on the news about 'concessions' is not really the abuse of the country by a few greedy business-people. Others wonder why the numbers don't seem to add up – numbers of arrivals and amount of foreign exchange received. Still others think about what a genuinely viable alternative sector could be.

In the economic sphere, our country has pinned its hopes on the performance of tourism. Imports of medicines, food

items, clothing, vehicles and fuel, among other goods and services, must be paid for. Health services, sanitation and road infrastructure must be paid for and maintained. Education and other social services must be paid for. In short, for us as citizens and residents to enjoy a reasonable standard of living, there must be a strong, foreign exchange-earning economy.

The disconnect between the economy and us, the people, that has been perpetrated by an unenlightened DLP government, is a fallacy that shows itself in the systematic degradation of the country's once robust economy.

The reality is that tourism is here to stay, and tourism can play an important role in this country's development. A review of the country's economic indicators reveal that tourism is responsible for more than half of the foreign exchange that comes into the country. It is responsible for thousands of jobs directly and indirectly. It is able to gainfully employ persons with no certificates and people with many certificates and degrees. It provides fulfilling careers for persons in almost every skill set – from cooking to HR to engineering to housekeeping to ICT to marketing to customer service, just to name a few. It has allowed persons to start at the bottom of the proverbial ladder and move to top leadership in their organisations.

Barbados has stagnated – in many cases it has regressed. It needs to restart and move forward. If that is to occur, tourism will need to move forward but this forward movement will be

hindered by the lack of an ideology, a philosophy, a strategy for taking it and us to the "next level".

In some quarters, the term 'ideology' has fallen into disrepute or has become an irrelevant concept. In any case, why would an article about tourism include a reference to ideology?

An ideology is a system of ideas and principles that form the basis of a vision for the future. In order to move the tourism industry forward, we must first have a vision, and then we must develop a system of ideas and principles followed by concrete and timely actions that will take us to that place identified by the vision.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 29:18 that "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The vision for the industry must be crafted with input from stakeholders. Information obtained from stakeholders in recent visioning sessions should be used and built upon. The vision must demonstrate an understanding of the pivotal role tourism has played and continues to play in the country. There must be a plan to share that vision with the population and obtain buy-in.

Barbados is a comparatively small landmass and so there will be limitations on the amount of people we can comfortably accommodate without doing harm to our social and natural environment.

What is that number?

Where will our main markets be? What demographic profile will we target? What will we sell as our main attributes? What will be our unique selling points? What will make us special in the eyes of a potential visitor? What attractions will we have that allows the visitor to have a fulfilling stay? How do we sell our unique history and heritage found in places like Speightstown? How will we keep visitors returning to our island home?

How will we engage our stakeholders? How will we make decisions? How will we achieve buy-in from the people of Barbados? How will we develop our people to meet internationally recognised standards while not losing their 'Barbadianness'? How do we ensure that Barbadians receive tangible benefits from Tourism? How do we educate citizens and residents about the industry and expose them to it? What role will the diaspora play?

How do we remove impediments to business, generally, and tourism, in particular, while maintaining high standards and safeguarding the country's reputation.

And maybe the most important question: How will a vibrant tourism economy facilitate the development of other industries in Barbados? In other words, how do we achieve a diversified, tourism-led economy? These are all questions that need to be considered and answered.

Many studies have already been done that provide many ideas that can form the basis of an updated strategy to make the vision a reality.

This is where the rubber hits the road: We must take the ideas that already exist, adjust for more current research and futuristic thinking, and create the reality we envisage. We

must overcome the lethargy that causes some to use terms like "implementation deficit disorder" and similar to describe our current situation.

In order to develop the type of tourism economy that will drive sustainable and balanced economic growth and raise the standard of living of people across the country, we require a vision and a strategy. The vision and strategy can be realised by having clearly articulated actions by assigned individuals or organisations that are monitored by, and accountable to, the stakeholders.

Achieving this is not difficult, but it requires strategic thinking on the part of policy makers, effective process management by leaders in both the public and private sectors, buy-in from stakeholders, accountability from all residents, and a commitment by all to returning Barbados to the place where it once again "punches above its weight."

I will share a few thoughts on where I think tourism could go and what can be done to update and operationalise the myriad studies that have been done.

In a dynamic and rapidly changing world, the young minds of our country need to be meaningfully engaged. They are unfettered by what older minds refer to as reality. Youth may see what age may not see. Engage with the UWI and challenge the students and researchers.

We must focus on our heritage while acknowledging that our visitors come mainly for sea and sun. Our history and heritage make us unique and sets us apart – it can never be duplicated. A strong heritage component within the tourism product will deepen the experience of our visitors.

Niche areas must be vigorously exploited and we must use our natural assets in this regard. Water activities using sea water, health and wellness, and romance are just a few niches that ought to attract more of our attention.

With properly planned and organised programmes, some of our villages can become centres of activity. This will assist in creating the buy-in and active participation of the population that is needed for the sustainability of the industry.

Spanish is taught in every secondary school and is our official second language. We must make use of this knowledge base in sensibly going after markets in Latin America. This diversification is necessary, but it must not be done at the expense of our "traditional" markets.

We are at a precarious time in our country's history and action must be taken to move us forward. Tourism will remain a vital cog in the socio-economic wheel. We need to dust off the studies, encourage the creativity of our youth, outline the vision, and galvanise the country to "Go for the Gold."

*Colin Jordan is a tourism executive and small businessman. The former President of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association, (BHTA), is the BLP's candidate for St. Peter.*





Marsha Caddle

# A New Governance for the Next 50

For some time, we have accepted as a development principle that good governance – the existence of sound systems and processes for effective decision-making and implementation – is necessary for a society to thrive.

And we have further come to a general understanding that in order for good governance to obtain, it must include: informed participation of citizens in development processes and decision-making; access to timely and accurate information; rule of law and access to justice and security; effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and transparency of public and private sector institutions; predictable public policy and management and; effective regulation for fair enterprise development and service delivery.

But while there has been general acceptance of good governance as a standard to which to adhere, there has perhaps been less of a clear commitment to explicitly targeting good governance as a development outcome, and making the requisite financial and human resource investments at the national level.

In Barbados, over the last eight years, we have seen the early effects of a lack of commitment to good governance and effective management. 'Early', because the complete breakdown of delivery of basic services such as water and sanitation; the poor revenue and expenditure management that have resulted in soaring and unsustainable levels of debt and deficit and accumulation of arrears to state-owned enterprises and the private sector; the poor implementation of urgently needed reforms and capital projects – these are, incredibly, only the beginning of the damage that can be wrought by continued, poor governance.

In any country, but especially in a small, young nation like Barbados, sustained, poor governance effectively reverses development and destabilizes democracy.



Further, a new governance agenda for the next 50 years of Barbados' development must be more than good: it must be transformative.

It must not just seek to separately bring about the above-listed tenets of good governance, focused mainly on government reforms, but as a framework, it must acknowledge the interconnectedness of both State and society actors and processes, and the central role played by citizens in making good governance work.

When central government institutions fail, when there is a breakdown of delivery of basic services that determine the health, education and productivity of a population, not only does that country revert in its development progress in real terms and by objective measures, such as the UN Human Development Index, but citizens also lose confidence in the State and its capacity to govern.

When such failed public service delivery is accompanied by perceived corruption, economic injustice and inequality, and a sense of marginalization among citizens – that their opinions are not being sought and their needs considered – it becomes a perfect storm for destabilization of a democracy.

This is because true democracy encompasses far more than a vote cast every five years. True democracy exists and democracies thrive when people see implemented the policies and decisions in which they have had a say, and when they have access to accurate information on this implementation.

On the other hand, corrupt behaviour on the part of leaders and other public officials or perceptions of collusion between government and big business that economically marginalizes the poor spill over into social norms and behaviour.

A sense of hopelessness that things will improve economically is now accompanied by a lack of trust that any effort is being made, as well as a new code of behaviour.

The message is that there is now a new way to get things done, and that way is through selfishness, dishonesty, and deceit, or lack of transparency.

It trickles down within government institutions from leadership to staff – so that an employee who perceives corruption at the top is more likely to engage in corruption at the bottom, sometimes in small ways that still result in loss of productivity, like inappropriately claiming sick leave or other benefits. It also spreads from within to outside government – including to the large private sector, small traders and service

providers, and to other human transactions and relationships.

What it can amount to is an erosion of values, and a resulting difficulty to then implement governance reforms that rely on a new value system – reforms that rely for their success on new behaviours by the same members of society who have become disillusioned by poor governance.

Restoring trust in the State through better governance will therefore take more than quiet attempts at legal and public financial management reform, or even at enhanced data availability and transparency.

A transformative governance framework acknowledges that citizens are not just members of communities and of the electorate, but are simultaneously workers in the public and private sector institutions where change is being sought, and engages them in each sphere to effect change in the other.

It requires a social contract that goes beyond government-private sector-trade unions to more fully include all types of civil society (people with disabilities, youth and children, gender equality advocates, women, environmental groups) and – because organizing for change may also require resources that the poor do not have – individuals.

It is also for this reason that local/community governance and development are essential.

A local economic development approach invests resources like jobs and infrastructure at the community level, for more immediate poverty reduction, long-term growth and ownership.

It establishes programmes that help to fill education gaps: those that build income-earning skills but that also include the reorientation of groups and individuals towards stronger civic participation, and towards a new culture of public management that will drive better governance.

Such an approach decentralises accountability and transparency by not only employing community residents to work on local projects and engaging them in their management, but also by making timely and accurate data more readily available to communities.

Through educational programmes, it brings government information to them, and helps individuals to understand the information presented for their informed monitoring and participation in decision-making. This type of structure must be non-partisan and community-led.

Since there is also a cost to organization, it will require resources to help establish community-based entities that can carry out such functions. But real investment in transformative governance must be the future of development. And transformative governance is one in which people are at the centre.

*Marsha Caddle is a development economist and governance specialist. She is the BLP's candidate in St. Michael South Central.*





## Genius In Our Midst Ronald Prescod

Grantley Adams Award

The full head of hair is white; and at 80, the knees have reduced him to more of a shuffle than a sprightly walk. But his brain remains a marvelous thing and Ronald Prescod keeps on trucking.

He does so to the great benefit of all in the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), and, essentially, to Barbados.

"Pressy," as he is affectionately known, is legendary in the BLP and especially revered by those in the field of Economics.

All acknowledged experts in the field, including Owen Arthur and Dr. Clyde Mascoll, pay obeisance to Ronald Prescod.

But Pressy does not restrict himself to high economic debates around the table. In fact, his availability to all and his ability to deconstruct and distill economic data for basic understanding are what make him such a beloved figure in the BLP.

He is, more often than not, still the first at the office. By the time most others arrive at normal work time, Pressy has gone through his ritual of devouring the newspapers, checking CNN, completing the Sudoku word puzzle and, invariably, has new information, figures or a chart on some new development in the economic world.

Pressy, over decades, has hardly been proved wrong and his work has provided the backdrop for economic policy initiatives, financial projections and Estimates and Budget debates over decades for the BLP in and out of government.

Unusual for a brainiac, he is always willing to share information and assist anyone. Ask for the contribution to GDP of the increase in tourism figures and you are likely to get a chart and answer in about five minutes - and a conclusion at odds with

common wisdom. Does the report of the Governor of the Central Bank add up? Pressy will show you why, with all kinds of permutations, it has not in recent times. In about another five minutes.

No one would look at Ron Prescod and think he is such a master, probably best described as a genius forensic economist. And he would not tell.

You are more likely to get him to talk about cricket or horse racing, or share some funny, odd fact about politics. But this lesson of modesty is a scholar with a stellar career.

Born in Rock Dundo, St. James, in 1935, Ron, as he is also called, attended what is now the Gordon Greenidge Primary School as well as St. Barnabas and St. Mary's primaries. His secondary schools were Combermere and Harrison College, Maths Sixth Form.

He worked as a Maths Teacher at the Barbados Evening Institute and Combermere and a Long Grade Clerk in various government departments including the Economic Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

While at the EPU, Pressy won a Caribbean Organisation Scholarship in 1964 to attend the Inter-American University, Puerto Rico.

On graduating in 1967 with a BA, Summa Cum Laude, Economics and Maths, Pressy received a Ford Foundation Fellowship, which took him to Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA. He graduated in 1970 with a Certificate in Economic Development and a MA, Economics.

He returned to Barbados and enjoyed a distinguished career. He rejoined the EPU and was the economist at the Seawell Airport Development Project, which was responsible for constructing the new airport complex; then became Deputy Director of Research and Small Business Counsellor at the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, (BIMAP), from 1981 before joining the Central Bank in 1982 as Senior Economist.

Over the years, he served as a Director of the then Barbados National Bank, (BNB) and the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, (BMFC); as Deputy Chairman, Barbados Water Authority, (BWA); and a member of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Housing Authority and Barbados Agricultural Credit Trust. He was also the first President, Central Bank Division, of the Barbados Workers' Union, (BWU).

Retirement from the Central Bank in 1993 only saw Pressy embark on something of a new career - Consultant Economist in the Ministry of Finance from 1994 - 2008 when the BLP governed.

Since 2008, he has continued, day in and day out, to advise the BLP, with a quiet but steely determination to help the Party become the government again.

You see, all along, Pressy has been a faithful supporter of the BLP, following his father, Eyare Prescod, who was inspired by Sir Grantley Adams.

He attended his first political meeting in 1949, in the Lower Green in Bridgetown, and was fortunate over the years to attend many others with BLP figures such as D.D. Garner, Sir Mencea Cox, Freddie Miller and Sir Deighton Ward, who later became Governor-General.

Today, that at 80, Pressy is still a fixture at all kinds of BLP meetings, and still depended on for his advice, indeed the go-to person of the leadership of the BLP and any smart person who wants to understand economic data, say all about what a remarkable person he is.

## Quiet Insightful Force behind the Scenes

### Ronald "Ronnie" Carrington

Chairman's Award

Ronnie Carrington is synonymous with photography in Barbados. The photographer and producer/director has an incomparable body of work, particularly his stunning black and white images.

He is the author of a body of work that chronicles Barbadian folk life and landscape during the last quarter of the 20th century and will ultimately be of immense historical value.

Maybe less known, but no less impactful is that Ronnie is sort of the keeper of the recorded legacy of the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP). And that he is a lifelong devoted supporter.

Most in the BLP family, and the general public, would recognise Ronnie mainly at General Elections time, directing and filming meetings and taking photos. It seems he disappears after election season.

That, however, is far from the truth. Ronnie is one of those often unseen dependable and dedicated supporters who contribute a great deal not only restricted to his profession, but to several events and committees, where his insights have been invaluable.

Quiet but with fierce intensity, Ronnie in various media regularly comments on societal ills and the BLP's role in building Barbados. His extensive and intricate knowledge of BLP history, along with the awareness that comes from being a photographer working in all areas of Barbados, give his contributions an insightfulness that is missing in others without experience of that context.

A very youthful 68, Ronnie is the CEO of Carrington Photo-Creations & Corporate Imaging, companies that produce visual communications material for corporate entities.

He has the knack of being able to creatively capture the light, the perspective, and the human interest which transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

He has documented many aspects of life in Barbados and the wider Caribbean on film and video, and has been photographic exhibitor and judge nationally and internationally.

His work appears in a variety of media, and on his own line of greeting cards, with verses from his own pen.

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He conducts photography courses at national and regional institutions as well as privately, and has produced the official portraits of four of the island's Prime Ministers.

During 2012, Ronnie launched the Barbados Summer Arts festival, to promote a number of art forms, including photography.

He is the recipient of the Rotary Club's 2011/12 Vocational Service Award, in recognition of vocational achievement and contribution to the community, and is also the recipient of the Princess Cruise Line's Service Excellence Award, for ten consecutive tour seasons, for the popular Barbados Photo Adventure Tour.

Since its inception, CVP has produced over 4000 commercials as well as numerous infomercials, features and documentaries. Ronnie's achievements include the following:

**Created the slogan:**  
**'Take Time Out For your Body, Before Time Takes It Away From You'** for the Radiant Health Club, B'dos Hilton.

**Created Scripts for public service announcements and the slogan:**  
**'National Insurance - more than a contribution- it's your life-line'** for The National Insurance Scheme, Barbados.

Conceptualized and scripted the **'Healthy Aging Campaign'** for the Ministry of Health/Pan American Health Organization.

Ronnie has also worked for the Ministry of Health/Pan American Health Organisation, (PAHO); and produced a number of features and documentaries including:

**Gem of the Caribbean:** a feature to promote tourism investment opportunities in Barbados, for the Barbados Tourism and Investment Incorporated, (BTII).

**Antigua - An Island in Motion:** a documentary on Antigua, for the Government of Antigua.

**Entrepreneur of the Year:** a feature on the finalists, for the annual Ernst and Young presentation, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean States.

**Against the Odds:** the story of the origin and growth of the Nation newspaper, for the Nation Corporation, Barbados.

**The Caribbean - A Special Place:** a feature on pollution of the Caribbean Sea, for the International Maritime Organization.

**Barbados, An International Business Centre:** a production promoting industrial development in Barbados, for the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, (BIDC).

**Sustainable Development in the Caribbean:** a feature commissioned by CARICAD, to sensitize policy makers on environmental issues.

**Shell's Caribbean:** an information video on Shell's Caribbean operations, for Shell Antilles.

**Beautiful Barbados:** a 1- hour (commercially sold) documentary, on Barbados, for the Best of Barbados.

**The Gullies of Barbados:** a 20-minute feature for the Ministry of the Environment, Barbados, highlighting the value of the gullies of Barbados.

**The Power of Music:** a two-hour music documentary on the Congaline Music Festival, for the National Cultural Foundation, (NCF).

**Healing Our Lands:** a 30-minute documentary on environmental issues in 13 Caribbean territories, for the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme, CREP.

**Barbados Works:** 7- minute production for ministry of energy for Barbados oil bid round

**Another Accent: Another Flavour:** half-hour television series about expatriates living in Barbados - their experiences and their native foods.

Known for his style and being debonnaire, Ronnie has been a board member of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, (CBC) and NCF.

His other interests include horticulture, hiking, and target shooting and he has been a member of the Optimist Club of Bridgetown since 1990, serving as its President in 1994-95.

The next time you are perusing a BLP production, likely the images are those of Ronnie Carrington. Similarly, those in the manifesto. Marvel at how smoothly an event is going? Likely because of the input of Ronnie.

Much better, next time you see Ronnie, try to have a chat with him. Likely you will be surprised at the depth of his analysis, breadth of his knowledge of politics and love of the BLP.

# Quiet Storm

## Ms. Gwendoline Darling Evelyn

Milroy Reece Award



**D**arling by name and by nature, Gwendoline Evelyn is a much beloved and respected figure in her community of Deacon's Farm, where she has lived for more than 40 years.

Probably even more so in the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP).

Described as happy, lovable, very caring and helpful, "Gwennie", as she is affectionately known, enjoys a wide reputation for being a devoted mother to her five living children and assisting and mentoring in the Farm.

And easy going - until someone dares to trouble her about her affiliation with the Party or speak negatively about it.

For Gwennie is a ferocious defender of the BLP and a proud standard bearer of all it has achieved.

Mascoll and Gregory Nicholls.

She singled out Mark Williams' victory in 1999 as a particularly sweet one.

Sir Grantley Adams inspired her attraction to the BLP, which she said has given Barbados great leaders, and is the party helps every group in Barbados, making sure everyone has a dollar in their pocket.

Educated at Church Village Girls, then Carrington Village Girls, Gwennie worked at Marine Hotel and then the Transport Board, for 24 years.

When she worked at the Transport Board, she would "steal away" from work every Tuesday and go to Parliament to listen to debates and watch the BLP team.

She noted that Vic Johnson was especially helpful to her and her family and she has a close relationship with Sir Richard "Johnny" Cheltenham as well.

There is one other exceptional aspect to Gwennie. A very good cook, her pudding and souse is legendary. In the heyday, people freezed it and took it overseas.

A fan of calypso - she became friendly with Red Plastic Bag's mother when she worked at the Transport Board - she is looking forward to the political career of her favourite performer John King, the BLP candidate for St. Philip West.

But nothing would be more pleasurable for this stalwart, who "loves the BLP bad" than to see the BLP become the government once more and Mia Mottley as Prime Minister of Barbados.



# Steeped in Politics

## Mrs. Pamela Hinkson

Women's League Award

Born in Guyana, where her father, the late J.T. Clarke, S.C., C.C.H. was known as a legal luminary, pioneering jurist and political advocate, Pamela Ouida Hinkson was naturally schooled into a life of law and politics.

It was therefore inevitable that her interest in political affairs would grow even more when she married Rudolph Hinkson, whose family history also evolved around political figures such as his father, Edmund Coleridge Hinkson, who represented the parish of St. Joseph in the Vestry and his cousin Dame Edna Bourne, the first woman in Barbados to sit in Parliament

Together with her husband, Pamela joined the BLP on their return from England in 1967 and has never failed to give her unflinching support to the Party. Even in the face of opposition, when teachers were not supposed to join or openly support any political organisation, Pamela let it be known that she was a member of the Women's League of the BLP and defied anyone to tarnish her association with the Party.

In the early 1970s, Pamela was elected secretary of the Women's League under the presidency of Mrs. Maradelle Greene. With the help of an enthusiastic and hardworking committee, the two worked tirelessly to organise and promote the League and raise funds. The party's headquarters in Roebuck Street was often the hive of activity on many occasions including fairs, tea parties, jumble sales and instructive sessions organised for the enlightenment of members

She highlighted the staunch support of members such as Dame Patricia Symmonds, Stella lady St. John, Maria Craig, Ardyce Bolden, Chessel Rock, Audrey Walker, Milroy Reece, Lucille Weekes, Ernesta Yarde, Beryl Bridgeman and her daughter Angella, who served as assistant secretary. She also noted the generous donations made by Aaron Truss who never failed to answer the call when funds were needed.

Pamela Hinkson also represented the Women's League on the National Executive Council, (NEC), of the Party and remembers having to employ the help of a live-in maid to baby-sit her two young children while she and her husband attended late. Thursday night meetings of the NEC under the chairmanship of the then party leader, the late Tom Adams.



Now as a retired educator, Pamela is proud of the fact that her son Edmund Hinkson has also taken up the baton of fighting for the cause and legacy of our renowned Party.

Pamela, with the blessing of the Almighty, still functions as a loyal supporter of the BLP and is looking forward to the day when her Party, as it focuses and gets ready to take over the realms of government, will be once more given the opportunity to rescue Barbados from the dire mess in which our beloved country finds itself under the present incompetent DLP government.

# The Ultimate Entertainer

## Lil Rick

Culture Award



# One for the Future

## Asokore Beckles

League of Young Socialist Award

Asokore is one of the young men of Barbados with great promise.

A statistician with a Masters degree, he is making his mark as a civil servant in the Statistical Department and as General Treasurer of the National Union of Public Workers.

A former President of the League of Young Socialists, (LYS), of the BLP, he has already signalled his intention to be in elective politics, competing for the nomination in St. Michael South.

He is another success story out of the Pine. After attending the Deighton Griffith Secondary School and Barbados Community College, (BCC), he completed a BSc in Economics at the University of the West Indies, (UWI), Cave Hill. He later received his Masters in Statistics from the University of Southampton, UK.

He has held positions in many areas. These include a stint at the Central Bank of Barbados; Housing Planning Officer, Ministry of Housing; Senior Supervisor, Department

of Emergency Management, (DEM), underwriter and valuer.

He has received numerous academic and work related awards and has been associated with a number of community organisations including the Village Foundation, Hope for Children Charity and the Make a Difference Foundation.

He enjoys a wide range of interests, including volleyball and cricket, scuba diving and history, but his real love is politics.

He got involved in the BLP in the St. Michael South East branch, of which he was President, working with Santia Bradshaw, now the Member of Parliament for the constituency.

As President of the LYS, he engineered a charity project which assisted various people through the year and made donations to the Clyde Gollop Men's Hospice and membership of the League also increased.

With a bit of luck, Asokore will realise his dream to be BLP parliamentary representative.



Hit after hit after hit after hit. This year alone **Iz A Bajan, Wine Teef, Get Tru, No Authority, Way Up (Way Up Project).**

As the man known as the Hypa Dawg would say, can't call them all.

No one does it like Lil Rick, real name Ricky Reid. He is as popular with three-year olds as with teenagers, adults and senior citizens.

He is a master DJ, adept at anything from Oldies to Dub, Pop or Calypso. To the surprise of his legion of fans, he can sing almost in any genre, from Country to Rap. And the man can perform.



Fans can't get enough of Lil Rick on stage. He dominates the stage and his gyrations, when he is performing soca songs, are at once incredible as well as funny. He is probably more responsible for the spread of wukkin up throughout the Caribbean than any other Barbados soca star. Watching him whip tens of thousands of people into a collective frenzy as they attempt to obey his every command is truly a sight to behold.

But there is a lot more to Lil Rick than wining on a stage. Quietly, over 20 years in calypso, he has built a brand, one of the few local entertainers to do so.

He has also built a very successful business as a soca artiste, dub artiste, DJ, radio personality, brand ambassador, commercial voice talent, writer and producer.

It is a business that now embraces three of his children, who are developing careers with his support as the Undadawg, now Super Hype, and the Hypa Kids

Moreover, Lil Rick is in a special category occupied by a select few. He is a master of the Barbados idiom, an exponent of the dialect and phrasing which gives his music a unique Barbados feel yet international appeal.

His journey has taken him from an underground dub performer to big stages in the Caribbean and the USA, sought out for collaborations with the region's biggest songwriters, producers and vocalists.

His uncle was a DJ and Rick, known as DJ Little Ricky, followed in his footsteps. He was about 14 at the time and dancehall was in its heyday.

Many still remember his chants, **Dollar Wine & Talk for Me**. It was during this period that he was an opening act for the reggae star Beenie Man.

After a particularly impressive performance opening for reggae superstars Buju Banton & Mad Cobra, a then unknown DJ/music producer Peter Coppin approached Rick and suggested that a career in mainstream calypso might be as successful as his reggae/dub performances. After some discussion and collaboration Rick released the catchy **"Bumper Inspector"** and **"Hard Wine"** and Peter's words immediately came to fruition.

Since then it has been a steady uphill climb to stardom for Rick. He has won almost every possible title in the Crop Over Festival and many more trophies and accolades.

In 1998, he won the Party Monarch Title with **"Down Behind the Truck"** and in 2002 and 2003 he won both the Party Monarch and Road March titles with hit singles **"Hypa Dawg"** and **"Mash Up & Buy Back"** respectively.

In 2005, his album 'Spontaneous' was one of the most



anticipated releases for the Crop Over festival demonstrating his skill as a songwriter. He shocked fans with his rendition of the romantic ragga soca **"Be My Girl"** and his collaboration with Edwin Yearwood on the track "Friends" which dispelled any rumours that there was any rivalry with his equally admired contemporary.

Together with the immensely popular **"Do Fuh Do"** which won him the Ragga Soca Monarch title in 2005 and the soca chart topping **"Til Morning Come"** on the Madness Rhythm, Spontaneous was one of the most heavily rotated albums in 2005.

Other albums include Challenge, , We Surviving, More Hype and The Crave.

In January 2006, he was nominated in four categories for the 1st Annual Barbados Music Awards: Songwriter of the Year, Male Artiste of the Year, Best Selling Male Artiste of the Year and Entertainer of the Year.

He was subsequently awarded the Cornerstone award for his stellar contribution to the development of the Barbados music industry.

Crop Over 2007 earned Lil Rick his fourth Party Monarch title with his infectious track **"Caan Wait"**. The three songs released for Crop Over 2007; **"Conch"**; **"Girls Gone Wild"** and "Caan Wait", are still popular today.

His popularity over the years has seen Rick become ambassador for two beverages, promoting them on radio shows, one brand snapping him up from his competitor, and he has also been a promoter for both telecommunications companies. He also has his own highly anticipated annual concert, Dis Is Rick, which is four years old.

He has sat out Crop Over competition in some years, but the hits have never stopped coming. Other favourites include **"Go Dung"**, **"Gym Instructor"**, **"All is Rum"**, **"Till Morning"** and **"Last Man to Leave"**, and **"Brek down de Fence"**.

With all his success, 2016 was an outstanding Crop Over for Rick. He won the Tune of the Crop, Party Monarch and Foreday Jam Tune. It was his first Party Monarch win at Bushy Park - and he scored a perfect 100.

He now has five Party Monarch titles and three Tune of the Crop titles.

Few would have thought that the diminutive, somewhat reticent dub artiste of decades ago would have reached such heights. But Rick had the confidence to go with the talent, and with the help of those who believed in him, after a total 31 years in music, he continues to soar.

As Rick aka Boardface, aka Chihuahua, aka Hypa Dawg, aka Rickey Minaj would put it, he **"Get Tru"**!



# Devoted to Lifting Up Down & Out

## Kemar Saffrey

### Youth Award

**M**r. Kemar Saffrey, well known advocate in his capacity as President/Founder of the Barbados Vagrants and Homeless Society, (BVHS), can be described as many things - successful entrepreneur, motivational speaker, minister of the Gospel, philanthropist, youth activist.

Obviously, he is a highly self-motivated, humble individual. And his passion for assisting those who have hit rock bottom certainly sets him apart from the crowd.

Saffrey has gone where others have never gone before - and perhaps would not care to - and his drive has seen him making a difference in the lives of more than 1000 persons over the last five to seven years.

Outside of his role as BVHS President, to date, he is associated with numerous other charitable organisations. He is Treasurer for the Caribbean Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ), the United Nations UNFPA Youth Advisor for Barbados & the OECS, a member of the Caribbean Canada Alliance for Young Entrepreneurs (CCAYE) and The Royal Commonwealth Society

(RCS), a co-founder of Supreme Counselling for Personal Development, Consultant to Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), a judge in the Miss Humanity International pageant and trustee of Minors Club Barbados. He is also a Kiwanian.

Saffrey also holds some key business positions in a number of companies. These include a hair salon, ice cream parlors, equipment & sound rental, marketing, NGO and business consulting.

On the social scene, Saffrey has been a part of the UN Global Environment Facility - Expanded Constituency Workshop and the US State Department International Visitors Leadership Programme (IVLP) Certified Civil Society 2.0.

Saffrey has travelled the Caribbean, USA and Latin American and Asian regions, taking his message of assisting the poorest of the poor.

At just 26, his work has attracted numerous national, regional and international awards, one of which entailed a trip to Buckingham Palace and the pleasure of shaking the hand of Queen Elizabeth II.

### Saffrey's awards include the following:

- The Commonwealth Youth for Excellence in Development Work Award, 2012
- Certified in Workshops, 2013
- Visited Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2012
- Kiwanis Citizen of the Year for the Eastern Caribbean & Canada District, 2011/2012 (the highest award in Kiwanis)
- Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award 2012 (the highest award in Rotary)
- Barbados Youth Business Trust (BYBT)- Social Entrepreneurship Award, 2009
- Initiative For a Competitive Inner City ICIC International Growing CEO Winner, 2009
- People choice of the year 2015 (Barbados)
- Nation GEM of Barbados 2016 (considered one of Barbados 50 Gems)





# Impressive Swagga on a Horse

## Antonio Jamar “Swagga Tone” Whitehall

Sports Award



The headline in the Canadian newspaper on 20 June, 2016 was, Whitehall white-hot at Downs New jockey adapting quickly to Canada.

This was another salute to Antonio Jamar “Swagga Tone” Whitehall, who in a short time has captured attention in Barbados, his base, and at Assiniboia Downs, Winnipeg Canada, where he rode for the first time this year.

It was noted then that, “New Barbadian jockey Antonio Whitehall is off to one of the hottest starts we’ve seen at Assiniboia Downs in years, with six wins from 12 mounts to lead the standings.”

Whitehall ended his season in Canada with 68 races on the board, including nine Stake races and winnings of more than Bds\$1 million.

Among his standouts were five races in one day and a total of seven straight in

two days, including three Stake races. He eventually finished second in the standings at Assiniboia.

Whitehall, 22, a former Parkinson student, has credentials that would have led the Canadians to know he would be impressive there.

He started riding show and dressage horses when he was 14, taught by Alison Cox. He got his exercise lad licence in 2010 and apprentice licence in January 2011. He won his first race in June 2011 on Queen of Hearts and quickly established himself as a first choice jockey.

Whitehall went on to become the champion apprentice in Barbados in 2012. He lost his apprentice claim in January 2013, the fastest ever time in Barbados - two years.

He finished in a tie for top spot in the race for Jockey of the Year in 2013 but lost out because the winning rider had

more second-place finishes.

In 2014, he won two legs of the Barbados Triple Crown and in 2015 he added to his graded stakes win roster to bring his total wins in big races to 15.

He has won 21 races in Trinidad and 79 in Barbados, including four on 21 January, 2012. He won his 100th race in June 2015 and represented Barbados in the International Jockey Challenge between 2013 - 2015.

He has only 121 lifetime wins, but 15 of those victories came in stakes. An impressive percentage when the money is on the line.

Among his wins are:

Realtors Limited trophy in 2012 on Vapour Trail, Tanglewood Stakes & Trophy in 2012 on Kendal Moon, Breeders Classic in 2012 on Apostle, Barbados Guineas in 2013 on Nekitta, the Saleh & Khatija Mohamad Memorial Stakes & Trophy in 2013 on Kendal Moon, the Coolmore Home of Champions in 2014 and the 2015 Boxing Day Stakes & Trophy on Daunting David for Sir David Seale.

Among his support team is girl-friend Ria Waithe, Mohommed Mohamad and three-time Barbados training champion Victor Cheeseman. His daughter Jasmine keeps him grounded as well.

But no one in Whitehall’s family is into horses, but his mom, Annette, is a huge supporter. “She gives me all the push I need,” said the well-spoken Whitehall. “She didn’t want me to quit school. She was vexed. She wanted me to learn a trade. I wanted to finish, but the horses distracted me.”

For Antonio Whitehall, the distraction is paying off big time.

# She’s Something Special in Swimming

Danielle Titus

Sports Award



A very young girl had a dream that one day she would go to the Olympics, and not just go to the Olympics but win a medal; “any colour would do.”

From as early as seven years old, Danielle dreamed. She did not know who had gone before her, the many that tried, all she knew at that very innocent age was that she wanted a medal. There her journey began.

Starting in her final year as an 8 & under swimmer, Danielle began making a name for herself in the pool. She dominated the division that year and is the current record holder of 16 of the 28 medals, both long course and short course, for that division.

This was only the beginning, as Danielle, in her two years in the 9-10

division, set the marks and still holds to this day 13 of the 35 records.

It was in the year 2014, in Danielle’s first year in the 11-12 division and the year that she was eligible for CARIFTA for the first time, that the swimming fraternity realized that there was something special about this girl.

In the first half of 2014, she smashed five national age group records. At the time of setting these records, age 11, had she been in the United States, she would have had the fastest times as an 11-year old in both the 100 metres backstroke, with a clocking of 1:08.65 seconds, and 50 metres backstroke, in the time of 32.02 seconds. Danielle would be ranked number 2 in the 200M backstroke with a time of two mins, 30.06 seconds.

On the local scene, Danielle was age group champion and Most Outstanding Junior Swimmer at both Long Course and Short Course Nationals, as well as Age Group Champion at the Aquatic Centre Invitational.

Danielle tried her hand at Open Water swimming and was also very successful. She competed in the 1.5 kilometer swim for men and women of all ages. Danielle was 4th overall in the event and was the first female to complete the course.

On the regional front, she competed in six events at CARIFTA and won 3 gold, 2 silver and was 4th in her other individual event. She went on to represent her country at CISC; she competed in 6 events and won 4 gold medals and placed 4th in two other events. As a result of her performance, she received a Youth Award from The National Sports Council, (NSC).

By now referred to by many as the darling of swimming, in 2015 she continued where she had left in 2014. That year marked Danielle’s second and final year in the 11-12 division, and she set about making sure it was a memorable one.

On the local scene, Danielle started the year as Age Group Champion and Most Outstanding Junior Swimmer at Barbados Long Course Nationals, a precursor to CARIFTA. At CARIFTA 2015, held in Barbados, she competed in 11 events winning 7 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals, breaking three national records in the process.

She then won Age Group Champion at the Aquatic Centre Invitational, breaking

another record. Next in Danielle’s sights was CCCAN a step up from CARIFTA. Danielle competed in ten events and won 3 gold, 6 silver and was 4th in her other individual event, with one more national record going by the wayside - one which had stood for 36 years.

The latter half of the year was the short course season and once again Danielle answered the call. She competed for her school, Harrison College, winning all but one event, breaking 3 national records and missing one which had stood since 2001 by 0.01 of a second.

Danielle continued in her rich form at the Barbados Short Course Nationals, setting four national records while capturing the awards for Age Group Champion and Most Outstanding Junior Swimmer.

As a result of her performances in 2015, Danielle was nominated by the National Sports Council for the Junior Female Sportsperson of the year award. Though not winning the award, she received a trophy to recognize her contribution to sports. This year marked the transition of Danielle into the 13 - 14 Division. Very early, she set about establishing herself as a main contender, even though it was her first year in the division.

At Long Course Nationals, Danielle swam in 14 events and copped 11 gold and 3 silver medals and was joint Age Group Champion despite two fewer events than her co-champion and giving up significant points.

She then headed off to CARIFTA, which was held in Martinique, where she faced tough competition. Danielle again rose to the challenge and tallied 4 gold and 3 silver individual medals along with 1 relay silver and 3 relay bronze medals.

In the process, she broke the national age group record for the 50 back and the CARIFTA and national age group records in the 100 and 200 back events. At the same time, the 100 back swim was a new Women’s Open record.

The next event on the card for Danielle was CISC again. She competed in eight events and won 2 gold, 2 silver and one bronze. Unassuming, it is clear that this highly competitive teenager has taken the swimming fraternity by storm. The Olympic dream is still to be realised - 2020 beckons.

Only time will tell what the future holds for this swimming prodigy.



# Exciting Prospect who Seizes Opportunities

## Chemar Keron Holder

Sports Award



On current performance, it will not be long before Chemar Keron Holder realises his dream of playing for the senior Barbados team and the West Indies.

He is certainly seizing every opportunity to do so.

Indicative was his performance at the ICC World Cup 2016 in February, when he took 2-26 from seven overs.

He was not even in the original squad. Having picked up only three wickets for Barbados in West Indies Cricket Board's Under-19 regional limited-overs competition in July last year, Holder was not a part of the three preparatory camps building up to the World Cup.

He got his next taste of cricket on his List-A debut for Combined Campuses and Colleges in the inter-regional Super50 in January this year. In his third game against Windward Islands, Holder took 5 for 22 in six overs as the opposition was bundled out for 66 in pursuit of 158.

Back in the radar of the selectors, Holder got a call to fly to the World Cup as replacement for Obed McCoy, who suffered a finger injury after the warm-up games. He seized the opportunity to make his mark.

Now 18, the Rock Gap, Spooner's Hill, right hand all-rounder has so far played

for the WICB President XI, MCC XI, Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC), West Indies Under 19, Barbados Under 17 & Under 19.

Educated at Lawrence T Gay Memorial Primary School, St Leonard Boys Secondary School, UWI Cave Hill Campus, Holder made his First Class 'List A' debut for the Combined Campuses & Colleges, (CCC), in the annual WICB 50 over cricket tournament held in January 2016.

To date, he has played four matches at this level. In just his 3rd match for the CCC, he took a career best 5-22 against the Windward Islands.



The following month, the fast bowler joined the West Indies Under 19 champion squad in the ICC World Cup tournament and formed a formidable new ball partnership with his fast bowling accomplice, Antiguan Alzarri Joseph.

Following negotiations between authorities of the BCA and Hampshire, Holder had a six week stint (June/July 2016) in the United Kingdom as part of the

Hampshire County Cricket Programme.

He had the notable bowling figures of 4-34 for the MCC XI against the Chris Gayle Academy squad, before returning to the Caribbean to represent Barbados in the annual WICB Regional Under 19 cricket tournament.

In July 2016, Holder was selected to represent the West Indian President XI squad that opposed the visiting India Test side in St. Kitts. He dismissed incumbent opener Murali Vijai in the 1st innings of the 3 day match and had bowling figures of 14-4-39-1.

Holder currently represents the Sagacor UWI cricket team in the Barbados

Cricket Association (BCA) cricket competition and has ambitions of being part of successful Barbados & West Indies sides in the near future.



# All-rounder for the Future

## Shamar Kamal Springer

Sports Award

The headline in the Bangladesh paper screamed, **Springer carries West Indies Under-19s into final.**

It referred to Shamar Kamal Springer, who in February this year, stunned hosts Bangladesh after West Indies was reeling with a steady 62, following his incisive spell of 10-0-36-2.

Shamar is poised to continue the tradition of great cricket all-rounders from Barbados.

The right hand batsman and medium fast bowler, from Haggatt Hall, St. Michael, has put up a number of records on the scoreboard in each category at every level of the game so far.

So far, he has starred for Combermere, Carlton, Barbados U13, U15, U17, U19 and the West Indies U19.



Born 26 November, 1997, the 18 year-old began his started cricketing journey at the age of 7 at Wilkie Cumberbatch Primary School.

Shamar was only registered to play Herman Griffith cricket at the age of 8. It was in his second year in the Herman Griffith Competition that he produced his best figures of 7-7. He finished that year with 20 wickets in the competition which caught the eyes of the junior selectors at the under 13 level. Those performances also led him to be invited to the National Sports Council, (NSC), trials.

The following year, Shamar represented the NSC Barbados Under 13 team and he played at that level for 4 years. When his Under 13 career was over, he was then selected for the Barbados Under 15 team. He amassed 169 runs in four games and took 11 wickets.

At age 14, he was selected for both the Barbados Under 17 and Under 19 teams. He was voted the best all-rounder in the under 17 tournament, by virtue of scoring 233 runs at an average of 112.10 and taking 7 wickets in 5 games.

In 2014 Under 19 Competition, he scored his first regional century, in Guyana, which gained him selection to the West Indies Under 19 team.

The West Indies Under 19 Team played in the 2015 Nagico Super 50, which was played in Trinidad & Tobago. In that competition, he gained his best List A figures of 3-24 against Trinidad Red Force.

Shamar was then called up to represent the West Indies Under 19 team at the 2016 World Cup in Bangladesh.



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## Master of the Race track Jalon Samuel

Sports Award



**G**old Cup Day 2011 at the Garrison Savannah. The usual massive crowd and excitement. And incredible high and deflated low for the then 18-year old Jalon Samuel who was already being talked about as joining the legendary jockeys in horse racing.

Having crossed the finish line first on Show Me the Money, he was disqualified. But showing what he was made of, he turned to the Gold Cup the next year and this time tasted full victory on Dancin David.

From early, Jalon signalled that he was destined to be among the greats. Born on September 22, 1993 and raised in Brittons Hill, St. Michael, by his grandmother Maria Samuel, he began riding at 8.

All through St. Paul's Primary and Lester Vaughan Secondary schools, he gravitated to the track. His passion was accommodated by the late great trainer "Bill" Marshall, who gave him a leg up on his horses as they journeyed back to the Dalkeith Paddock.

Affectionately nicknamed "Mice Milk", he honed his skills at the Anne Deane Riding School. At 14, he acquired his exercise licence, and was granted his jockey licence on 24th September, 2008, his 15th birthday.

Jalon won his first race on the second day on the track after receiving his licence on a horse named Kanon. He rallied for about a year before his very good friend Mohammed Mohamad, known as Macmood, an employee of the Barbados Turf Club, (BTC), saw some hidden talent in him and encouraged Jalon to expand his horizons and gain more experience.

Subsequently, Mr. Mohamad invited Jalon to join him on a trip to Trinidad during the break between the second and third racing season in Barbados. Jalon was given the opportunity to ride for various Trinidadian trainers and has returned on numerous occasions to ply his trade, establishing himself as a force to reckon with not only at the Garrison, but also at Santa Rosa Park, Trinidad.

Between September and December 2009, he rode 17 winners, ten of which were at Santa Rosa Park. He also won three races on one raceday and four races during another and achieved two hat-tricks.

On New Year's Day 2010, Jalon fell whilst riding in Trinidad, broke his right wrist and was unable to ride until Gold Cup Day 2010. Despite his doctor's five ride restriction, Jalon rode like a true champion and won two of the day's races.

The race days of Saturday, 27 March, 2010 and Monday, 27 December, 2010 proved to be two more outstanding days for Jalon at the Historic Garrison Savannah. On each occasion he landed four beautifully ridden winners including a hat-trick on 27 December, 2010.

Also in 2010, Jalon became the youngest ever jockey in Barbados to achieve both titles of Champion Apprentice Jockey and Champion Jockey in the same year, at the tender age of 17.

Among his successes was the Barbados Guineas on Amanyara, and he placed second in all of Amanyara three other Three Year Old classic races, including the United Insurance Barbados Derby - and was then only beaten by a head.

He also won the 2010 Queen's Plate on Show Me The Money, a Lord Michael Taylor horse. His ability to effectively execute some of the most difficult rides had won the heart

of Lord Taylor and the Blue Diamonds Stables and Jalon was contracted from September, 2010 to be Blue Diamonds "first-call" stable jockey.

While others take three to five years to become a full jockey, Jalon achieved that in just a matter of two years, three and a half months on 8 January, 2011 - a period that included the three and a half month layoff with the broken arm - yet another remarkable achievement.

In May 2011, Jalon represented Barbados at Windsor Race Track in England, a promotion by the BTA. That year, he won the Tanglewood Stakes on Bouncebak on Gold Cup Day, and later that year in Trinidad, he had the distinction of winning the Stewards Cup and on 3rd December, riding against some of the best riders in the world.

The big disappointment of 2011 was his disqualification after crossing the line first in the Gold Cup. He more than made up in 2012, doing the major double.

Jalon won The Sandy Lane Spa Sprint on Areutalkintome and the Sandy Lane Barbados Gold for the very popular Hopefield Stables of Sir David Seale on the Elizabeth Deane-trained Dancin David. Further, one week later he travelled to the USA to ride for Sir David Seale in Miami, winning on Town Of Towns, his first ever ride on USA soil.

Back in Barbados in 2012, he continued to make strides, winning the Barbados Midsummer Creole Classic on Summer Time.

Between 2013-14, Jalon lived in Canada to ply his trade. Again, he won his very first race on Canadian soil. He has also won the Canadian Derby, which, ironically, is the only Classic race that has eluded his grasp in Barbados.

For the 2015 Coolmore Stakes, Jalon was on board the classy Just A Fashion and won cheekily. He went into the Sandy Lane Gold Cup as favorite but failed to show, as the imported horses proved too much for the local horses.

However, it seems that whenever Jalon is set back, it motivates him and now in 2016 "Milk" has been having a spectacular year so far, winning the Michael Parravicino Hopeful Stakes and the Barbados Guineas on Steven Allan; the Fillies Trial on Stolen and the BTBA Sprint on the 2015 Horse Of The Year, Sirius Black all Classic, Graded, Stakes and Special Races.

If those were not enough, on Gold Cup Day 2016 he again did the double, winning the Sandy Lane Spa Sprint on Iamsogroovy and the Sandy Lane Barbados Gold Cup on Dorsett, becoming the youngest jockey to win two Gold Cups, another outstanding achievement.

Still only 23, Jalon is destined to join the ranks of Barbadian greats, Chally Jones, MBE; Venice Richards, SCM and Patrick Husbands, BSS.





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## All in for Developing the Youth and Communities of St. Lucy

**Monique James**

Special Award



**W**hat started as a passion for youth development and seeing her community unite and develop, led Monique James to be always engaged in helping with or volunteering for activities within the district of Checker Hall, St. Lucy. This eventually spread across the parish.

She later became a member of the St Lucy Parish Independence Committee as a floor member responsible for Sports, in which she was active.

Monique's passion was given a structured foundation when what she enjoyed doing as a volunteer became her job. She became Youth Commissioner for St. Lucy. That title meant so much more than a salary; she saw it as an awesome responsibility for the many lives across the length and breadth of St. Lucy.

Her role as Youth Commissioner gave much more reach to help and impact youth. She was able to create several projects which would enable, empower and equip young people to be functioning and productive citizens in society.

One of the outstanding projects was the creation of a comic book entitled CHAINLINKS, which addressed HIV from the "block" perspective. This book utilised the artistic skills of a young man from the parish. Her main focus in everything she did was to highlight the many positive and outstanding hidden talents of the youth in St. Lucy who just needed an opportunity.

Other projects within the parish included the mural at the

Checker Hall Pavilion, cultural arts programmes in Rock Field, Clinketts and Sutherland, fun-day and community day in Durhams, community clean up in Hope Road, River Bay, several fun days in Checker Hall and parent workshops.

Another key programme which today has proven to yield many positive results was the establishment of the Checker Hall Football Club, which later became Youth Milan Academy. This academy had 80 boys and undertook two goodwill tours to Trinidad, travelling with three teams – under 13,15, 17.

This programme utilised football to teach the many at risk youth - write offs from community, those who were constantly suspended from school and the slow learners.

But the academy had its high flyers. The majority of the boys in the programme were those who society predicted would be in jail. But up to today, Ms. James has gained a few grandchildren but none have been incarcerated.

One of the philosophies she passed to the boys was - **success is not a destination but a journey, so appreciate the journey; know that we will fall, but let every fall be a life learning lesson.** Many fell for years, but when society gave up, Monique believed; and with that belief in them, the boys determined to be successful at whatever they chose.

Many thought that her work would be impacted with her move from the district but, while it was less, there was continuation of many programmes. What she now sees as much more impactful was that the youth who were involved in past programmes are now in a position to give back to the community, and do so.

Another successful outreach programme was the soccer-ramma in support of the HIV food bank. The registration for the competition was a can item and many young men from across St. Lucy participated and made several contributions of canned items.

Following the soccer-ramma, Monique started a community breakfast programme for the school children in the community. She was able to garner sponsorship from CIBC First Caribbean International Bank and the Checker Hall SDA Church, which took the programme for two years.

Monique, who holds a BA (Honours) degree as well as an MSc., believes nothing is impossible with God. Her firm belief that people just need an opportunity to make a difference in their lives sees her not only organising beneficial events, but personally assisting, whether it is with bus fare, breakfast or clothing.

The avid sports lady loves netball. Monique was an active member of the Checker Hall Braves Club and was Public Relation Officer, (PRO) and coach. She was critical in the development of the youth arm of the club and worked closely with the young girls, particularly developing peer educators for HIV & AIDs and Sexual Reproductive Health. She also loves travelling and meeting people.

Today, she continues to be a pillar of strength and encouragement to many young persons across St. Lucy. Even though she may not be in the forefront of many events like previous years, she works tirelessly and silently behind the scenes for many initiatives in St Lucy.

Monique James: a person of integrity, hardworking, disciplined, trustworthy and committed to the task of seeing young people from across St. Lucy and by extension this island, maximizing their full potential.



# Road Tennis Businessman's First Love

Curtis Jones

Special Award



In 1990, at 13, Curtis migrated to the USA, where he was raised by his sister in New Jersey. He took a break from road tennis as the people there were not familiar with the sport.

On his return to Barbados in 1997, Curtis fell in love with the sport all over again and played competitively from 2001. In the "B" Class category, Curtis placed 2nd in the 2004 Banks Tournament and he was the winner for the Lance Bynoe Memorial Berger Tournament that same year. In 2006, he placed 3rd in the Errol Barrow Tour-

namment and achieved 1st place at the 2007 Banks National Tournament.

In the "A" class, Curtis placed 2nd in the Rackets on Fire Tournament from the year 2009 to 2012.

In the Clash Of Titans 2013 tournament, Curtis placed 2nd; unfortunately he was hospitalized the next day due to health issues.

He returned to the court in 2014 and played in both the Clash of Titans and Monarchs of the Courts, and placed in the final four for the next two years.

Curtis' last tournament to date was the National Island Wide Tournament in 2016 in which he and his teammate, Kerry Francis, were victorious as the winners for the parish of St. Lucy.

# Giving St. Lucy Road Tennis Glory

Kerry "TC" Francis

Special Award



On current performance, it will not Kerry Francis hails from the quiet community of Bromefield in the northernmost constituency, St. Lucy. As a young entrepreneur, he is the owner of Kerry's Barber Shop, which also serves as the Community Counseling Centre and house of prayer.

Kerry who is more familiarly known as "TC", has a passion for road tennis, Barbados' only indigenous sport. His love for the sport has taken him all over the island where he has played in several tournaments. These include Rackets of Fire, the Diamonds International tournament and Men's Open tournaments in St Andrew and Spring Garden.

He has played against some of Barbados' best - Antoine Daniel, Anthony Richards aka Black Dog, to name a few.

In 2012, Kerry teamed up with the late Neal Greaves and rep-

resented St. Lucy in the National Sports Council's, (NSC), Inter Parish B Class Road Tennis Championship. As a result, St. Lucy tasted its first road tennis championship as Kerry and his teammate were victorious.

In January this year, Barbados was stunned when Kerry defeated Julian 'Michael Jackson' White, one of Barbados' best ever players, and this resulted in he and his new teammate Curtis Jones being named as the NSC Inter Parish "A" Class Road Tennis champions.

Road Tennis, Barbados' indigenous game, is well under way to becoming a sports tourism money earner in the next few years.

The upcoming World Road Tennis Championship in Barbados will see several regional and one international team compete for various cash prizes.

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Securing Your World



# Enlightening Barbados

## Sherwood McCaskie

Special Award



Barbados has come to know him through his efforts at unearthing aspects of our history and heritage that were left untouched, or overlooked. He has a special ability to use the simple and present it in a palatable manner that is easily understood by all of us.

Many were glued to their TV sets weekly, as he allowed the ordinary people of Speightstown to share their experiences of that historic town in the series **“Speightstown! A Forgotten Treasure?”**

Quite similarly, he did the same when he provided the platform for some of our people to teach fellow Barbadians about the importance of trees to our lives and the environment, and with other series such as **“Tales from the Tombs”**.

Of his work and career, Sherwood thinks of himself as an enabler who enlists the services of people, their brain power, their talents and their creative abilities to develop educational and informative programmes for all.

A researcher by profession, Sherwood's contribution to knowledge generation has been recognised and awarded by a number of regional and international organisations, among these

**The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome Italy.**

**The Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines** where he is a visiting guest lecturer.

Biblioteca Nacional in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union for having produced and presented the **BEST TV documentaries, in the Caribbean and Latin America** in 2009, 2010, 2014. We celebrate with Sherwood and award him for his contribution to information dissemination and knowledge generation in Barbados.



# Communicator of BLP Gospel in Every Forum

## Agnes Lillian Williams

Special Award



She is there at every meeting. But, you could now call her the old hand at new media.

Lillian is a one-woman PR powerhouse on social media, especially Facebook, as well as the call-in programmes. Her postings and discussions would put even some politicians to shame, so timely and factual and full of BLP history she is.

Originally from St. Lucia, she came to Barbados at 19 to live with her sister. A teacher at the time, her illegal status prevented her from carrying on in a similar job in Barbados.

Eventually, with the help of Lionel “Lammie” Craig, the famous BLP figure, she became a cleaner in the Government Service, working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and the Magistrate’s Court before retiring in 2013 after 28 years of service.

Proud of her job, Lillian noted that, as a former Chief Immigration used to say, ‘you can tell if Lillian isn’t at work but if one of my officers is off, I don’t even know unless I am informed.’

She added, “There is a lot of value in so-called menial work and it should be respected much more. My job got me my house and I was able to raise my two children.”

Her surviving child and grandchildren are all staunch BLP supporters, following the lead of Lillian, who was married to one of the most successful jockeys in Barbados, Venice Richards.

She has been involved in BLP politics since 1971, when she canvassed for Elombe Mottley in St. Michael West. His niece, Mia Mottley, now BLP leader, was five years old then.

Lillian knew Mia’s mother, Amor, when she was an air hostess with British Airways and attended her wedding in

St. Mary’s Church when she married Elliot Mottley.

At the time, she met Clarence Jemmott, then a major presence in the Party, and after some encouragement from him, she joined the BLP in 1976. The General Election victory of that year and the march to Government House a few years earlier are among her outstanding memorable moments of BLP history.

To this day, whenever she sees a remembrance notice for Jemmott, she lights a candle for him, “because he lit the way for me when he asked me to join the BLP.”

Another memory for her was being at Robbie’s Place in Fontabelle socialising when Tom Adams received the news of his grandmother’s murder.

Sir Louis Tull, Dame Billie, Sir Bernard St. John and, of course, Sir Henry Forde, who represented the constituency of Christ Church West, where she has resided since 1978, are among her favourite politicians of all time.

Good times and hard times, ups and downs, Lillian has remained devoted to the BLP - not even a cousin, Henry Barrow, who ran against Forde could sway her.

She continues to assist in any way, although much of her time is spent working with the Christ Church West branch, where she is known as a battle ax when it comes to canvassing.

Her desire is to see Mia Mottley become Prime Minister and support the Party as long as she lives and have strength.

Oh yes, and she will keep the legacy of the BLP alive on social media, call-in programmes or in conversations.

She “gives them good, nuh.”



A portrait of a woman with short, dark, curly hair, wearing large, dark-rimmed sunglasses and a light blue, sleeveless, button-down shirt. She is standing outdoors with a textured wall in the background.

**CORNERSTONE OF NATION BUILDING**



# Intellect, Vision and Fortitude, in an Island State: The Tom Adams Story

## 7th Tom Adams Memorial Lecture

The first lesson of the Tom Adams model is not intellect in itself, but its application to inspire and impact the society for the greater good.

What comes to mind is this extract from Machiavelli in "The Prince":

".....there are three classes of intellects: one which comprehends by itself; another which appreciates what others comprehend; and a third which neither comprehends by itself nor by the showing of others; the first is the most excellent, the second is good, the third is useless."

Tom, was a unique combination of the first two while also exhibiting the notion that the greater intellect one has, the more originality one finds in men.

In other words, excellence seeks out excellence and understands that progress is not the province of a few, but the inputs of many are necessary in making people become a part of their own narrative and in shaping policy.

Tom was lauded for his predilection to canvass opinions and give his colleagues room to grow once they stayed within the confines of Cabinet accountability, democratic principles, and the programme of the Government.

No wonder, then, that Tom was able to lead, that which is often regarded as the best political team in Barbados' history, and became known as "The Great Combination." The team of Sir Henry Forde, Sir Bernard St. John, Sir Louis Tull, Dame Billie Miller, Sir Richard Cheltenham, Sir David Simmons, Lindsay Bolden and Ezra Alleyne; each of whom was brilliant in their own right."

"Going where angels fear to tread, Adams, in the foreword of the BLP's 1976 Manifesto, pledged "to bring new ideas, bold initiatives and fresh thinking about our national problems."

He was being modest.

Polish philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer wrote that "talent hits a target no one else can hit, [and] genius hits a target no one else can see." He probably had Tom Adams in mind.

The vision was not merely to redress the major issues of socio-economic depression and mayhem left by the DLP. Adams' ambition was the wholesale transplantation of Barbadians to a new state of mind and way of life, and Barbados from a country marking time with a colonial type model to being exceptional.

By 1985, Tom's work was spectacularly successful.

I could end this part of the presentation now with these



three statements. He had a comprehensive Blue-print for the development of Barbados and Barbadians. Every component of Barbados was transformed by the vision of Tom Adams. Indeed, the revolution was so complete that today almost every aspect of life that we enjoy is due to the realisation of Tom Adams' vision. It is summed up in the BLP's motto, "A Better Life for Our People."

Starting with the abolishment of the then onerous 5% sales tax, Tom Adams embarked on a path not travelled in which, he said, "the answers are to be found in the formulas of better management and improving confidence."

He fashioned an advanced approach to economic management that utilised tax breaks to spur investment and build social capacity - moving from taxes as an annual Budgetary punishment, to taxation as a tool for prosperity and what he described as "putting money in people's pockets".

From the man, Tom, of whom it was said, "his vast knowledge of the structure and functioning of economics was perhaps the largest knowledge available to this country, possessed by one person", came the international financial services sector. This remains a significant pillar of the Barbados economy second only to tourism in contributing to GDP.

In fact, it was then that the novel concept of a services economy based around tourism and financial services was born.

This thrust took place notwithstanding the fact, that sugar production and food crop output, reached new heights.

That period was also characterised by bold forays in developmental economics, fully understanding the role Government must play to stimulate progress. This resulted, among others, in the creation of the Barbados Development Bank, the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, the Barbados National Bank, the Arawak Cement Plant, Heywoods Hotel the Central Bank and the promotion of the credit union movement as an indigenous alternative to the banking sector.

The legacy of these institutional initiatives was wealth

creating opportunities for thousands of average Barbadians which led to more of them, than ever before owning small businesses.

Perhaps more relatable is Tom's foresight in creating the infrastructure without which transportation in Barbados would be unimaginable. The Spring Garden Highway; the ABC Highway; the Northern Access Road and plans laid for Highway 2A; Warrens as a town centre with commercial and manufacturing activities; a redeveloped Bridgetown Port and the new Grantley Adams International Airport. "



Tom Adams with Dame Eugenia Charles of Dominica; British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Lester Bird of Antigua

"Ladies and gentlemen to cover the benefits to Barbados of the spectrum of Tom's achievements can, and should be dealt with in a series of lectures; they cannot be dealt with adequately in one lecture.

Time constraints or not, we must pause for some reverence to five seminal ones which focused on the development of people.

This is important because Tom not only visualised the development of the economy, but the enfranchisement of the Barbadian society as well.

Each measure shows Tom to be far more multi-dimensional than just the political and economic guru of his time, and reflects an unchanging component of his philosophy; that, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "the care of human life and happiness is the first and only object of good government".

The work of the Adams administration on the Status of Women, leading to the establishment of the Bureau of Women's Affairs, was the catalyst for the women of Barbados to take their rightful place in society in every sphere alongside men.

The benefits of the removal of the concept of illegitimacy through the **Status of Children Reform Act** will endure as long as there is a Barbados.

The establishment of the Barbados National Drug Service fundamentally changed the lives of thousands of Barbadians reinforcing one of the basic provisions of Government, the health of its citizens. This was revolutionary in our Region. It is one that should never be sullied.

The creation of the National Cultural Foundation (NCF),

recognising the importance of cultural identity to a young post-colonial population and the need for appropriate cultural activities to be organised, supported and sustained. Hence NIFCA and an enhanced Crop Over Festival with emphasis on developing the local calypso art form.

Coupled with this was the commissioning of the Emancipation statue, a symbol of freedom from the shackles of our history of slavery. This was aimed at instilling in Barbadians a sense of identity. Ironically Tom was preparing a major speech for the unveiling of this statue when he passed, some six days before the planned ceremony. It is noteworthy that his foresight for such potent symbols was continued by the Arthur administration. That is why today all of the major national statues in Barbados were commissioned and erected under the BLP.

By far the greatest of these measures championed by Tom was the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act of 1980. This Act completed the total emancipation of the Barbadian society by empowering thousands of working class Barbadians to own property and enjoy the modern amenities that were mushrooming across the island.

Almost 8,000 individuals were the immediate beneficiaries of this legislation, the core of which was that the land occupied for generations on plantations could be acquired for ten cents - yes, ten cents - a square foot; a price governed by considerations of public policy.

It also provided for tenants to acquire the land they were "working"; with the Adams administration providing services including surveying and conveyancing under the Tenancies Development Act.

While 300 years after slavery, the call for reparations continues, Tom Adams institutionalised Barbados' own reparations to its people.

It is impossible to capture the freeing from the dehumanising aspect of the plantation system. But the social and economic transformation of the Tenancies Act is there for all to see - and in motion to this very day.

It is doubtful that in the annals of the history of Barbados whether any initiative will be as encompassing, of the scale, or as uplifting of the spirit as the social and economic revolution of the Tenancies Act.

On that alone, Tom Adams is incomparable."

*The 7th Tom Adams lecture was delivered on Thursday, 22 September, 2016 by Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott. He is a consultant surgeon, former Minister of Health and former MP for Christ Church South.*







Shanika  
Roberts-Odle

# The Golden Standard – Women and the BLP



From left to right: Ernie Bourne, Billie Miller, Mia Mottley, Liz Thompson, Lynette Eastmond and Cynthia Forde.

As a young woman looking to become involved in the political process, I did what most women do; I checked the records of both the Democratic Labour Party, (DLP) and the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), on issues of women's rights, activism and inclusion. And what I found in that investigation gave me the confidence to make the following statement.

"The Barbados Labour Party has stood heads and shoulders over its ideological opponents on Women's Issues and although it has some concerns to address, it will bring about the true vision of equality which burns in each woman's heart".

The BLP has not just talked about the advancement of women, it has stood by that principle. It has been the only party to have a woman serve as Party Leader and as Party Chairman, while the DLP has yet to have a woman as their Party President.

The DLP is yet to raise a woman past the level of Minister in its administrations, while the BLP has had a female Senior Minister, Attorney General and Deputy Prime Minister, and stands poised to have the first female Prime Minister.

Since its creation in 1938, the BLP has been pivotal in addressing and highlighting the issues of women in this country. It was a BLP government under the leadership of Sir Grantley Adams that insisted

that there must be equality in all things, particularly in the area of political enfranchisement.

After coming to power that commitment to the extension of political rights was kept and in 1944, women were finally given their due and our right to vote was recognized; and this extended to the right to hold office in both houses of parliament. In 1950, this process was furthered by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act giving all the right to vote without the discriminatory qualifiers of income or property.

This was merely one step on a continuous ladder towards seeking to level the playing field for women, and we have

not stopped.

Even while the law recognised us as entities worthy of voting rights, many Barbadian laws featured extreme discrimination against women. It was into this breach which Sir Henry Forde stepped, with the National Commission on the Status of Women (1976-1978).

This Commission took a complete examination of women in all areas and walks of life in this country and is widely credited with highlighting several deep social and economic problems which negatively impacted lives.

Out of this study came the 1980s Status of Children Reform Act, which removed the archaic notion of bastards. It was later used in formulating the Family Law Act to ensure that women enjoyed rights they never had before and led



to a proliferation of firsts for women. Other key acts included the 1976 Employment of Women (Maternity Leave) Act, 1981 Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act and 1997 Child Care Board Act, among many others each, aimed at protecting women and those closest to us, our children.

There have been some notes placed on history's page under the column of women that are inextricably linked to the BLP. In 1948, the then government under Sir Grantley Adams appointed Mrs. Muriel Hanschell to the Legislative Council; she was the first woman to serve in either house.

Women are always present in political parties, not only in the kitchen but in the trenches making hard decisions and committing to the sacrifices that must sometimes be made. And throughout our history as a party, the BLP have always honored and rewarded those sacrifices.

Edna Ermytrude Bourne, (later Dame Edna), was one of the early members of the Party. She received her chance in the General Elections of 1951; she faced the electorate and was victorious, serving as the first woman elected to the House of Assembly. She proved the point which women have and must continue to make, that We Are Capable, Able, Willing and Ready.

Our leader Mia Mottley, in an address on the Challenges to Women's Political Representation in the Caribbean, put forward a question which must be asked when considering female participation in political sphere: "Are we trying to put women in politics or in positions of

power for the sake of doing it, or are we trying to make women's lives better?"

In the case of the BLP, each time a woman has been called forward it has been because she has been a competent, steady and clear-eyed woman, who have never squandered the chance but have done their part to push Barbados forward.

In the case of Dame Billie Miller, who became the first woman to be named as a Cabinet Minister in 1976, she laid excellent ground work, being a prime example of a poised, brilliant Minister. Subsequently, four other women joined her as Ministers - Mia Mottley, Liz Thompson, Lynette Eastmond and Cynthia Forde, giving them the opportunity to influence the next generation of female representatives.

More recently, there have been other women who have faced the electorate under the BLP banner, with the 2013 election fielding seven female candidates, the largest number to date. The upcoming election will also see a large number of female candidates, with five women already confirmed.

Our current leader is another example of the conscious choice this Party makes to elevate competent, capable women. As Leader, Mia Amor Mottley has been an example that we as women should never be discounted or underestimated.

It must be said that there are still clear disparities between the high numbers of female membership in the Party compared to the relatively low number of corresponding female representation in high level decision making councils within the Party.

I am certain that this will also change, as we continue to look inward and as more young women like me continue to demonstrate that we are equally capable of serving at any level of the Party.

As a young woman, and as a faithful member of this party, these facts embolden my soul and feed not only my desire to serve but my determination to serve well, honorably and with a standard of excellence that has been the gold standard set by BLP women, empowered by this great party.

These things are important to understanding the political journey of women in Barbados. We did not just spring into the society we have today, we as men and women have had a long fight towards the recognition of even the possibility of equality of women in today's society and that fight must continue.

Shanika Roberts-Odle is a dynamic young member of the BLP. She is the League of Young Socialist, (LYS), rep on the National Executive Council, (NEC) and a member of the Women's League. She has a BSc. Political Science with Public Sector Management and a MSc. in International Trade Policy.





Ricardo  
Blackman

She observed that it was not fair to Barbadians at home, nor, indeed, to those yet unborn for persons to “use artistic licence for the celebrations of Independence on the eve of a political season to seek to rewrite persons like the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams out of the history of this country or to cast him in a light as a tool of the plantocracy, such that anyone living today, whose memory goes back to the days of Sir Grantley, will be horrified that any Barbadian will commit such an act.”

# Truth of BLP Nation Building Cannot Be Denied

Some years ago, one of our parliamentarians, who has subsequently passed on, opined that “Politics Is All About Perception.”

The observation of the late MP, one of the more flamboyant members of the then Lower Chamber, evoked much discussion and diverse comment across the country, and up to this day, it remains a frequent point of reference in several political fora.

But in the context of reality and truth, it cannot be denied that the Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), has been making a significant contribution to the process of nation building in our country, long before the lowering of the British Flag on 30 November, 1966.

Ever since 31 March, 1938, following the unrest of 1937, the foundation for nation-building, and great social, economic and political advancement, was effectively laid by the BLP when its founding fathers, among them, Chrissie Brathwaite and Grantley Adams, agreed on a set of underpinning objectives which included adult suffrage, free education, better housing and health care.

Subsequent milestone initiatives would have included the Plantation Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, which corrected centuries of injustices in respect of ownership and control of land in Barbados, the Status of Children Reform Act, which wiped illegitimacy off the statute books, the Report of the National Commission on the Status of Women, laid in Parliament by the then Attorney-General, Hon. H.deB Forde, construction of the Tom Adams Highway, financial Services and the National Drug Service.

As a political institution, perhaps the oldest in the English-speaking Caribbean, the BLP had set itself the objective of transforming the nation into a fully-developed society in the shortest possible time.

This process began with the multi-faceted Edutech programme, (abandoned by the DEMS) which aimed to expand the tools and modernize the methods by which Barbadian children are taught.

Space stipulations do not allow for a detailed and comprehensive record of all the initiatives and projects undertaken by the BLP in post-Independence Barbados, but more recently, the building on that early foundation would have been solidified by the following programmes:

- Barbados becoming one of the first Caribbean countries to set aside money for Poverty Alleviation
- Establishment of a network of polyclinics
- Introduction of a skills training programme
- Family Law Reform
- Implementation of the Third World's first Comprehensive Social Security System
- Bridgetown Redevelopment Programme
- Establishment of a Community Independence Secretariat
- Educational Reforms

- Establishment of the first Task Force on Crime Prevention to determine causes of crime in Barbados
- Introduction of the Penal System Reform Act which created new and expanded options for the Courts, based on the concept of community punishment
- 100% mortgages
- Improved quality of life for seniors
- Land for the landless
- Legislation protecting Civil Servants salaries from being reduced again
- Liberalisation of the telecommunications sector
- National Heroes Day Celebrations
- Overall tax reform
- Permanent employment of casual workers
- Project Oasis – Youth on the Block transforming to business operators
- Prospects for offshore oil industry
- Reduction in land tax
- Restructuring of the NIS Pension Fund
- Rebuilding of the Hilton Hotel
- Security of tenure for Civil Servants
- Tax break regime for the elderly
- Unemployment – lowest in the history of Barbados
- Value Added Tax (VAT) reform
- Transformation of the ABC Highway into a world-class multi-lane highway,



the single largest road project in the history of Barbados

In essence, it can be stated, with much justification, that the BLP in post-independence sought to transform Barbadian society thereby giving meaning to the right of every citizen to a decent quality of life.

It was Winston Churchill, who once said that “the truth is incontrovertible; malice may attack it; ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.

It's equally worthy of note that earlier this year, our Party Leader, Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, in an address on the occasion of the exhibition commemorating the Party's 78th Anniversary, criticized those who sought to rewrite history and downplay the contribution of the BLP throughout the island's 50 years of Independence.

She observed that it was not fair to Barbadians at home, nor, indeed, to those yet unborn for persons to “use artistic licence for the celebrations of Independence on the eve of a political season

to seek to rewrite persons like the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams out of the history of this country or to cast him in a light as a tool of the plantocracy, such that anyone living today, whose memory goes back to the days of Sir Grantley, will be horrified that any Barbadian will commit such an act.”

I am firmly of the view that the fact that the BLP, as legitimate nation-builders since 1938, were in no way involved in the planning of this country's 50th Anniversary Celebrations, defies all logic. But, for the record, that too, is reality. That too is truth.

Like many thinking Barbadians, I am confident, however, that time will provide justification for my conclusion.

Like our Leader, Mia Amor Mottley, I share the view that “the power of the people is stronger than the people in power.”

*Ricardo Blackman is a public relations expert who, among other things, briefs clients on political trends. A former broadcaster, he is a member of the Christ Church East BLP branch*



# Economic Management of Barbados Superior



Tyrone Barker

The Barbados Labour Party, (BLP), family joins all fellow Barbadians in celebrating our 50th year as an independent nation. This country has quite a lot to be thankful for; with God's help we have made significant progress in both the economy and the social sector. It is no wonder that a former United Nations Secretary General contended that we were fighting above our weight class.

The BLP was in charge of the affairs of this country for just under half of the 50year period and it is evident that we played a most important role in charting the way forward for this country.

Not only was the Party in the forefront of impressive, far reaching changes in the areas of social security, labour relations, health and education, but of equal significance, it seriously diversified and modernized the local economy, putting it on a much sounder footing and from it derived many benefits for the entire nation.

When the BLP took over the affairs of this country in 1951, after the full voting franchise was obtained, they found an economy dominated by sugar, but arranged for the benefit of the planter class and indeed the colonial power.

There was precious little for the worker. Unemployment was very high as the population was growing at a rapid rate. Urgent changes were needed.

Political changes in the international arena were in the air. India had gained independence and much of Africa was on that same track. The only relevant issue for Barbados was

whether Independence would be within a federation with the rest of the Caribbean or would each island go it alone.

In either case, restructuring of the local economy was an imperative and Government had to be the agent of change since development must always be planned; nothing of value occurs by chance.

Two areas of opportunity presented themselves, light manufacturing and tourism. It is no idle boast that Barbados has some of the best climatic conditions in the entire planet and this ought to be exploited.

In 1953, the then BLP Government formed a Publicity Committee to derive and implement methods to develop the fledgling tourist industry. The results of this far sighted move are there for all to see.

Barbados, especially under the BLP, had always placed great emphasis on educating the people. As a result there was a host of well educated young persons who could be easily trained to perform many functions, especially skilled tasks. To further promote Barbados as a place to set up factories and utilize these skills and talents, a Development Board was formed in 1956; their work provided hundreds of jobs for Barbadians at a critical time.

Economic development will never take place in the absence of thoughtful infrastructural work. Thus the building of the Bridgetown Harbour, development of Seawell Airport, water, road and electricity expansion, all undertaken by the BLP in the 1950s, were vital cogs in the machinery that proved vital to the full development of Barbados that was so evident at the eve of Independence in 1966.

These impressive programmes and policies were

carried on by the DLP which took over the reins of Government in 1961. However, they were unable to cope with the oil crisis in the early 1970s. As a result, unemployment rose dramatically, output fell and inflation galloped, taking most of the hopes and aspirations of Barbadians with it. The people turned to the BLP once more and they certainly were not disappointed.

The BLP was now led by Tom Adams and he immediately formed a cabinet which many unbiased observers rank as the finest ever assembled in this part of the world. Foremost in their achievements, in spite of DLP objections, was the development of the International Business Sector, which is now providing well-paying jobs, rental and other income and foreign exchange for this country.

This BLP Administration also put the vital oil sector under State ownership and started the liberalisation of the important telecommunications sector by acquiring a stake in Cable and Wireless, the monopoly provider at that time. The ABC Highway was planned and provided for, again opposed by the short sighted DLP.

Of greater importance, the Freehold Tenantry Act for rural communities was passed. This served to revitalise communities and spurred growth in country districts. A new more sophisticated Barbados was emerging and the BLP was in the forefront of all economic activity.

Again in 1986, the people of Barbados drifted into the baseless promises of the DLP and again the period 1986-1994 saw our beloved island slipping disastrously. Again incomes fell, prices soared and the vital unemployment rate threatened the DLP record set in 1975.

Again the BLP, this time led by the brilliant economist Owen Arthur, came to the rescue in 1994 and this country achieved 13 years of increased plenty and only one year of decline, after the 9/11 event. This period will go down as the best this island has ever recorded with all sectors performing exceptionally. Record low levels of joblessness were obtained, output was growing and inflation was moderate.

This impressive result came about because the BLP allowed businesses to grow by reducing the high level of taxation, keeping input costs such as energy and telecommunications as low as feasible, and paying attention to economic fundamentals such as fiscal deficits.

All in all, the BLP has an impressive record in the area of the economic management of Barbados and this cannot be denied.

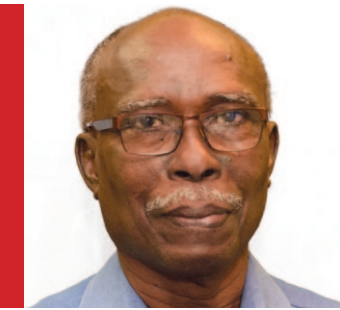
No wonder a neutral university economist highlighted the fact that our economic performance since Independence is better under the BLP.

No wonder the man in the street has been saying for some time that when the BLP is in power he always has money in his pocket.

The BLP did, in fact, provide "A better life for our people".







Dan Carter

# FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION - a great BLP legacy

*“Secondary schools exist in the West Indies many of which provide an excellent classical education but they provide for only a very small proportion even of the children who pass through the primary schools.”*

(Moynes Commission, 1938-1939)

*“For the last two years a number of the Aided Secondary schools ... have not been able to admit all the candidates seeking admission to them, and have had to keep Waiting Lists. Consequently on numerous occasions a desire for additional secondary accommodation ... has been publicly voiced and the number of children attending proprietary schools, which are subject to no form of Government supervision, has greatly increased.*

Howard Hayden (1945)

Instead of providing additional scholarships to schools to which accommodation cannot now be found, the Government is making provision for additional accommodation. This policy statement by Minister Mapp commenced the official start of free secondary education in Barbados.

The first quotation is from the West India Royal Commission Report which was appointed to look into and report on the 1937 disturbances that occurred throughout most of the British Caribbean. The second quotation emanates from the first Director of Education in Barbados and who had taken a very comprehensive look

at education in the island. It is important to note that these two eminent sources drew attention to the lack of secondary school space in Barbados. In fact, particularly during the 1930s and 1940s, the call for increased secondary accommodation was the slogan not only in the public domain but it resonated repeatedly in the island's House of Assembly. The stark reality is that there

was insufficient space at the older grammar schools such as Harrison College, Queen's College and Combermere. See table below:

School	1935	1937	1939	1941	1943	1945
H. C	266	274	288	343	415	466
Lodge	121	140	153	163	191	185
Combermere	244	277	321	320	392	542
Foundation B	80	85	115	120	147	190
Alleyne	41	35	27	28	37	40
Coleridge	30	37	52	40	47	69
Parry	35	36	25	25	33	51
Q. C.	159	161	188	189	229	316
St. Michael's	91	130	252	251	261	316
Foundation G	56	61	60	79	93	140
Alexandra	59	80	91	87	92	106
TOTALS	1 182	1 316	1 572	1 645	1 937	2 421

It was obvious that with a secondary population of 2 421 and an elementary national roll of 28 320 that there was a serious need for urgent redress. It is fair to report that politicians from both sides of the aisle expressed some support for greater access to public secondary education for the masses of black working poor. Member of Parliament, the Hon. C. A. Braithwaite, had this to say in 1936:

I know very little of the manner in which education is looked after in England, but it is known that in the United States of America education is practically free to everybody whether you belong to the humble class or to the wealthy class.

In the 1940s, the debate became more intense with the conservative nationalist, the Hon. E. D. Mottley in 1949 expressing the view that while it was all right to grant four island scholarships to pupils at Harrison College and the Lodge School:

I feel that there is the absence of any provision for free secondary education in this colony. As I see it, no attempt has been made by the government,

at least for the last twenty years, to increase the number of government exhibitions. No other opportunity has been given to the number of boys who go to the Elementary Schools and compete for these Exhibitions, but who are debarred from entering the secondary schools owing to the limited opportunity which is offered and their parents being unable to help them financially.

The Hon. R. A. Crawford in the same debate went even further. He said thus:

There is no doubt in my mind that to spend \$30 000 a year in the near future on scholarships at University could not give me the proudest results which the establishment of two or three more secondary schools in certain parishes would give in a relatively short period of time.

The general consensus at the time was that there be an increase in the

number First and Second Grade exhibitions for pupils moving from elementary schools to First and Second Grade Schools. At the local vestry level there was also the call for an increase in their exhibitions. It was now the time for the BLP to spell out its educational policy as regards to the provision of free secondary education.

This policy was enunciated by the BLP member in the House, the Hon. R. A. Mapp. He indicated that the government was committed to the building of schools to provide greater accommodation at the secondary level. This strategy would not, however, prevent the government from increasing the number of scholarships at universities. The St. Thomas representative then stated that his government proposed to make certain additions to St. Leonard's Boys' School, thus converting it into a Modern Secondary School for Boys. He went on:

That is one line of approach to the problem of insufficient accommodation. Instead of providing additional scholarships to schools to which accommodation cannot now be found, the Government is making provision for additional accommodation.

This policy statement by Minister Mapp commenced the official start of **free secondary education** in Barbados.

The secondary modern school had its origin in England under the Education Act of 1944. In Barbados, these schools offered three streams for students the academic, the commercial and the technical. The first of these schools – the St. Leonard's Modern Secondary School for Boys and the St. Leonard's Modern Secondary School for Girls were opened on Sept. 14, 1952.

The new secondary schools had their immediate impact on the national secondary school roll when they took in one thousand, five hundred (1,500) students, 598 at the girls' school and 902 the boys.'

This important development in education in Barbados not only increased school space at the secondary level but expanded educational opportunity for girls which could only access secondary







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education at Queen's College, St. Michael's, Christ Church Girls,' Alexandra and the Alleyne. This was a tremendous boost to female secondary education.

Three years later (1955) saw also an expansion in co-education with the further establishment of Princess Margaret Secondary and West St. Joseph (now Grantley Adams Secondary). When the Parkinson Secondary joined the newer secondary group in 1961 their total population (4636) had surpassed that of the older grammar schools (4325).

No country can survive in today's competitive world without an educated citizenry, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels. Education must, therefore, be an integral part of the cornerstone of nation building. With the introduction of **free secondary education** and the

consequential expansion in secondary education, the BLP can be justly proud of its legacy.

The new secondary schools had their immediate impact on the national secondary school roll when they took in one thousand, five hundred (1,500) students, 598 at the girls' school and 902 the boys.'

*Dr. Dan C. Carter, is a retired educator and an Educational Historian and Author. He is also a prime force behind the Oistins Fish Festival.*

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# BLP Leadership: Key Cornerstone in Barbados' Development

Dr. George C. Brathwaite

The collective memory of Barbadians, and particularly the cherished memory of loyal members and supporters of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), distinctively expresses the ways that ordinary people conceive the past and reflect concerns of the present.

## Context and Background: BLP's Leadership

As Barbados approaches the anniversary of its 50th Independence, there is an ardent necessity for symbolism and history to take on larger significance and meaning for Barbadians.

For us that revel in Barbados' attainments through the years, it is a reasonable contention that the BLP has offered the nation a quality cadre of leaders. These leaders, from Adams to Arthur (and soon Mottley), have been second to none; all of them having led Barbados' progress are worthy of our commemoration.

The produced developments in Barbados are the manifestation that leadership is an essential feature of all government and governance. In that regard, BLP leaders have been exemplary in their stewardship to nation. Contrastingly and outside of the perimeters of the BLP, the last eight years in Barbados, reveal weak leadership that has hastened and determined the many government failures frustrating Barbadians.

Barbados, at this time, is seemingly devoid of the purposeful presence of the BLP's strong leadership in government. No doubt that the last eight years have been exceptionally bereft of hope and success. An uncanny silence and perpetual procrastination have squatted between Ilaro Court and Bay Street for too long.

Looking further back, and examining Barbados under the leadership of the premiers and prime ministers who would have emerged out of the bosom of the BLP, it is undeniable that strong leadership is indispensable if the government is to succeed and bring about prosperity for all.

In fact, through the years, the BLP has been instrumental in pioneering social, cultural, economic, and political progress throughout Barbados. Barbadians from all walks of life, living inside or outside of Barbados, were able to clench the magnitude of Barbados' phenomenal growth under BLP leaders. Massive improvements resulted across Barbados whenever the BLP held the seat of government.

Hence, Barbados' development must be savoured in collective memory. It was the effective, pragmatic, and transformational leadership evidenced in the numerous decisions of Grantley Adams, Hugh Cummins, JMGM 'Tom' Adams, Bernard St. John and Owen Arthur that made profound and positive differences to the livelihoods of Barbadians. These national leaders magnificently performed in their service to nation, while audaciously lifting Barbadians to appreciate their self-worth – a respectable factor that has been repeatedly stated in the contemporary international system of states.

For example, by the end of 2007, Barbados was rated the number one developing country in the world. Preceding this phenomenon, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan would have stirringly stated that Barbados was a country punching above its body weight.

The validity of the sentiment arguably springs from the perspective that the formation of the BLP in 1941 had opened the doors to mass mobilisation and national consciousness at a time when there was the necessity for labour advocacy and ardent political representation for all Barbadians.

## Beginnings and Firsts

The philosophy of the BLP from its earliest days was to build a country on the basis of social democracy and social justice. Recognising that anxieties among Barbadians remained high after the tumultuous times of the late 1930s, Grantley Adams and the BLP ignited hope in a nation. Adams brought urgency in his actions to remedy the many wrongs and injustices of the day.

Moreover, the BLP was at the forefront of the struggle against the plantocracy and a broken political system. The usefulness of political organisation was predicated on property ownership and was also marred by the fact that the prevailing system had marginalised many more than were included in Barbados' nation-building. Colonial government, as practiced in the island, was both exploitative and prejudicial to the interest of the masses.

Thus, the approach used by Adams and the BLP was premised on increased agitation and purposeful action to achieve the liberation and empowerment of the masses. Political and economic change were inherent to the demands of Adams and the BLP. There are ample historical facts indicative of Sir Grantley's tenacity, resilience, and remarkable pragmatism.

These factors were critical condiments in Adams' vanguard role while leading the struggles against the planter class and the exploitative merchants. The ruling class in Barbados were conveniently oblivious to the oppression, poverty, powerlessness, and underdevelopment in Barbados, until the likes of Sir Grantley lifted his voice and labour showed its muscle through unity of struggle and resistance.

The vital importance of being able to arouse the consciousness of the Barbadian people, and to mobilise the spurned working class regarding their socio-political needs and everyday welfare have been BLP hallmarks from inception. The

BLP stamped its record of cohesion and fighting for the empowerment of ordinary people throughout the historical annals of Barbados. Practical and effective leadership evidentially became the starting point of people-oriented development. From this perspective, it is clear that Grantley Adams' leadership of the BLP and Barbados was foundational.

## Sir Grantley Set the Standards

Considering the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Herbert Adams (1898 – 1971), his life and sacrifice illustrates heroic service to Barbados, the Caribbean region, and to humanity.

The very name of Sir Grantley Adams speaks to the symbolic strength, character, and resilience of the Barbadian 'Moses' and his quality leadership.

Sir Grantley's leadership style and efficacy set the standards which all subsequent leaders of Barbados would strive to reach or surpass, with the possible exception of today's ignoble caricature that emerged at a time Barbados needed the best of leadership. It is indisputable that Sir Grantley Adams has served to undergird the central tenet that the BLP sits as an unmovable cornerstone of nation building in Barbados.

Adams would go on in the next two decades to lead the charge of 'dethroning the plantocracy' in Barbados while working assiduously to socially and politically transform his beloved Barbados.

The island moved from being an underdeveloped society, into a 'rights' and 'social justice' society organised around the quest for fairer distribution of wealth and the power to vote in free and fair elections. Barbados, under Adams' leadership, had achieved the most significant symbolism of people power with the attainment of Adult Suffrage in 1950.

In fact, it was on June 6, 1950, that a Bill was passed in the House of Assembly to amend the Representation of the People Act. The Bill abolished the property qualification for membership of the General Assembly and introduced adult suffrage, thereby granting the franchise to every member of the Barbadian population that were 21 years old and over, to vote for members of the House of Assembly.

On October 22, 1963 the franchise was extended to persons 18 years and over. In effect, the 1951 General Elections was the first time that property ownership was not a feature deciding who could vote. The BLP in the intervening years strengthened its grip on majority government until political defeat came in 1961.

By the 1960s, Adams and the BLP had significantly improved Barbados's infrastructure and capabilities. The gains that were derived from economic prudence and valiant leadership of the Barbados state, spilled over socially and politically across the Caribbean region.

Sir Grantley would become the first and only Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation (1958 – 1962). This achievement was instructive, to the point that Barbados sat largely on the threshold of self-determined modernisation having previously shifted to a full ministerial system in 1954, and Cabinet government in 1958.

This period of progressive and decolonising leadership

was the actual incubator for Barbados' Independence which followed in 1966.

## Tom Adams the Visionary Leader

Emerging in Barbados after the socio-economic calamities that had set in under the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Government of 1971 – 1976 was the visionary and charismatic leadership of JMGM 'Tom' Adams (the son of Grantley Adams).

If in a figurative sense Barbados had its exposure to Moses, now Joshua was leading the way into the promised land. For the next decade, Barbados would be driven on a BLP vehicle that emphasised a new and visionary stage of national development that was characterised by Tom Adams' enactment of social revolutionary policies.

This period of astute leadership by the Tom Adams-led government was characterised by the phenomenal growth in business and financial services, and the expansive diversification of tourism among opening the country to vigorous construction projects.

These cogs proved to be integral components in Barbados' job creation and earning potential that culminated with a sustained period of economic growth. There was no doubt that the BLP's leadership stood tall literally and metaphorically while attracting significant boosts in local circles as well as through foreign direct investments.

Tom Adams and the BLP were committed to the task of putting Barbados first. Indeed, Adams' shrewd macroeconomic management of Barbados seemed almost impervious to the challenges of recession and other threatening forces from within the regional and the international spheres. The brilliant Adams was resolute in creating an economy that would blossom to provide numerous 'high-tech' jobs and put Barbados on a trajectory to maximise the potential of its human resources in every societal endeavour.

Accolades would have flowed following the incisive presentation – **Intellect, Vision and Fortitude in an Island State: The Tom Adams Story** – that was recently delivered by the BLP's General Secretary Dr. Jerome Walcott. The praises heard in commemorating the memories of Tom Adams are the sure signs that Tom Adam's admirable and transformational leadership are consistent with the magnitude of his achievements for this Barbados nation.

Barbados benefitted from the potency of Adams' diplomacy and his statesman-like poise for getting things done par excellence. His style and charismatic mark on leadership became amplified beyond the ordinary. This was so much so, that Barbados played central organising and peacekeeping roles in the geopolitics of Caribbean affairs.

Crucial in popular discourse is our reflection of the iconic Tom Adam's outstanding record regarding approaches to the family, economic enfranchisement, and the remedying of generational poverty due to landlessness and rent.

No wonder then that the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act is considered one of the greatest pieces of legislation establishing "by law a right for tenants of lots in tenancies who



satisfy the requirements ... to purchase the freehold at a purchase price governed by considerations of public policy and the requirements of the Constitution."

The result of Tom Adam's audacity in leadership, combined with the integrity worn as a badge of honour by 'Bree' St. John, is today still recognised as key to the cornerstone of nation building in Barbados.

**Owen Arthur: Face It, and Fix It**

It would be a big mistake to take for granted and assume that Barbados' survival during the last eight years was a direct result of affirmative action engaged by the current administration.

Similarly, to underestimate the economic mastery brought to bear on Barbados during Owen Arthur's stewardship as Prime Minister, would be an omission that fails to acknowledge the BLP's constant knack for rescuing Barbados from economic decline occasioned by high unemployment.

The fact is that Owen Arthur, and the BLP many times over, have been responsible in very direct ways for saving and repositioning the island for bigger and grander accomplishments post-DLP stimulated crises.

Taking on the mantle of government in 1994, the Arthur-led BLP quickly set the tone for navigating difficult transactional seas at home whilst undulating the economic turbulence which, in many circumstances, became inimical to Barbados' national development. It was through Owen Arthur's purposive and timely leadership that the nation was once again inspired and compelled to think big and to soar.

Arthur's confidence in macroeconomic management, tied to his expression of an expansionist vision evidenced through regional integrated development, would propel Barbados' export orientation.

With Arthur came a determined focus on widening Barbados potential commercial markets and specialising on the things that Barbados traditionally did well. For example, the service and cultural industries exploded throughout the Caribbean region and gained renewed traction in other global markets.

It must be stated that Arthur's strategic leadership was resolute without being overly straight-jacketed. Strutting his intellectual prowess with an approach to problem solving defined by his mantra of 'face it, and fix it' meant that slothfulness, excuse-making, and irresponsibility were not allowed to cloud the leader's outlook for Barbados' development.

Locally, Arthur predicated his efforts on job creation after inheriting an unemployment rate that hovered above 25 per cent, with job number one for the BLP being the constant supply of jobs. The BLP's attached pre-eminence to training and job creation additionally saw many new opportunities open up, thus providing the private sector with incentives for investment and entrepreneurship.

Through Arthur's embracing politics of inclusion, the BLP's quest to excel gave every Barbadian the feeling that they could be a winner irrespective of political affiliation or so-

cial status. Many chances went to ordinary people, with Arthur readily identifying and putting to work the nation's breadth of diverse skills.

Arthur was likewise determined to strengthen the institutional capacities existing in Barbados, such as taking avenues through public sector reform and the creation of a Ministry of Social Transformation. The depth of consolidation regarding capacities would significantly contribute to national development.

Such was the level of confidence that prevailed, for the most part, during the years of 1994 through the end of 2007. The many unprecedented achievements met, such as taking the unemployment rate below 7 percent for the first and only time in the history of Barbados, spoke volumes of Arthur's efforts and the ability of the BLP to respond to Barbadians' pressing needs.

Also tantamount was Arthur's capacity to exhibit fiscal discipline while allowing for arterially decentralised government during an era in which neo-liberalisation and globalisation coughed up many challenges to the small state.

It was in that context that Owen Arthur's practical but critical understanding of mobilising all resources in the national interest presented the actual essence of his worth to Barbados. Considering the broader problematic of Her Majesty's Prison at Glendairy burning, and the potential danger that lurked with the dislocation of almost 1,000 prisoners, Arthur accelerated to remedial action.

Confident in his choice for delegation of duty, he in turn reposed similar confidence in the then Deputy Prime Minister Mia Mottley, who is today our political leader and soon to be the next BLP to take the oath of office as Prime Minister of Barbados.

Through Arthur's leadership and the BLP's proactive ingenuity, Barbados was able to send a strong sense to the nation that law and order would never be compromised under the watch of BLP leadership.

He also eased Barbados out of the tightened vice grip of industrial relations whereas resistance and marches were well-known in the early 1990s, particularly when several thousands gathered to protest the austere impositions and salary cut under a DLP regime. The BLP legislating against the cutting of salaries and giving back the 8 percent were critical to the eventual successes.

The fact is, Arthur's leadership was awe-inspiring, demanding that Barbados became both responsive and responsible for coping and managing the several new global imperatives. Furthermore, he was successful on the reframing and outcomes of Barbados' arrangements in a number of international and multilateral negotiations.

It is reasonable to recall the new trade relations and non-preferential treatment attracting the BLP's meaningful attention in that period of 1994 - 1999. Arthur was able to unravel the emerging world economic order in which the investiture of the World Trade Organisation, (WTO), gave new meaning to Barbados' development in terms of access to global production and international competitiveness, and the reciprocal measures that would threaten the nation's traditional forms of protection-

ism. Arthur's standing up to the advanced countries in the face of hegemonic behaviour and clandestine neo-imperialism in an ever increasing competitive world, was sufficient to safeguard Barbados' sovereignty.

Barbados became an able actor in the international state system regarding issues of commerce, trade, and transnationalism. Even the fluctuating geopolitical realities which had a strong security component in the aftermath of the 9/11 traumatic event in the United States of America, did not deter the BLP from focussing on people, participation, and progress. In fact, Arthur's creativity and pliancy became better attuned to the needs of Barbadians as he continued to ensure the BLP's place as a cornerstone in Barbados' nation building.

**BLP Leaders: Always the Cornerstone of Nation Building**

At this juncture in our national development, it becomes all too clear that history makes the past an object of analysis. It is for us in the BLP to recommit to the needs of the Barbadian people and their desire to have strong leadership that can bring the nation into returned prosperity and the good life for which we yearn.

Drawing from the lessons of the past and our collective memory, the BLP can rest assured that in 2016 its leadership is as maturing and ripe for Barbados as it was in the past when Sir Grantley, Tom Adams, Bree, and Arthur emerged and excelled, with a focussed Mia Mottley now at the helm.

Whether rubbing shoulders with the ordinary man and woman in the streets, cane-fields, and bus terminals across Barbados, it is with gratifying certainty that this country is blessed with the empathetic qualities Mia Amor Mottley brings to leadership.

Across Barbados, many women are on the rise while unfortunately, it seems that several of our young men have become disillusioned. Who better can rise to the occasion to ensure that social justice and economic empowerment reach both sexes so that Barbados can sail high in terms of respect for gender in the work place and in national life?

The BLP is once again on the verge of throwing up to Barbadians an intelligent and humble leader - Mia Mottley. Without fear of contradiction, most Barbadians and all of the BLP have come to the realisation that Mia Mottley, as this country's first female Prime Minister, will genuinely make a substantial and positive difference to the life of the nation. Mottley will continue the tradition of BLP leaders making sterling contributions to nation and region, and being always the cornerstone of nation building.

The commemoration of the BLP's leadership is in of itself a contribution to Barbados' development. Our collective remembering of the BLP's leaders eschews the pain of everyday incompetence under the DLP. In that sense, the BLP's input makes the value of national leadership an object crucial to our commitment to the people of Barbados as we approach the next general elections.

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