



# VISION2017

& BEYOND ..... DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL ALLIANCE

## THE MISSION OF THE DNA

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...To ensure that the needs and aspirations of Bahamian people - to be owners with the government in the political, cultural, and economic development of the nation - are met. The DNA is devoted to upholding, protecting, and deepening the democratic rule of law in society by promoting openness and accountability in governmental affairs, social justice and equality, and the right of the people to self-governance and authority in determining their own destiny.

## THE VISION OF THE DNA

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...To transform the Commonwealth of The Bahamas into a nation where Bahamian people will be esteemed as the most precious resource – above all natural and material resources – and the nurturing of our intellectual and creative brilliance will help us become a genuinely democratic, economically prosperous and socially mobile 21st century nation.





We have a **vision**  
for this country,  
and because of that vision,  
we will not perish!



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

A Message from the DNA Leader

*5, 6*

A Nation Under Siege

*7*

The DNA, from then till now

*8*

Your 2017 DNA Candidates

*9, 10*

First Year Priorities

*11, 12*

Solutions

*13 - 57*

End of Term Goals

*59*



## GOOD GOVERNANCE

13 - 20



## NATIONAL SECURITY

21 - 26



## BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

27 - 36



## YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

37 - 44



## ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

45 - 48



## HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL POLICY

49 - 54



## GRAND BAHAMA AND THE FAMILY ISLANDS

55 - 58

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER

BRANVILLE McCARTNEY



# MY FELLOW BAHAMIANS,

The Democratic National Alliance was born out of a desire to move past the status quo; since its establishment, the dedicated members of this organization have worked tirelessly to do just that. We have sought to be a voice for scores of voiceless Bahamian men and women who want nothing more than an opportunity to thrive in their own country. The road to this point has by no means been easy. As a party, we have faced our share of harsh critiques. Some have tried to put the DNA into a box, while others have discounted us altogether.

In such moments, I am reminded of the quote made famous by Theodore Roosevelt who said: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds...”.

The DNA is by no means perfect. What we are, however, is an organization of patriotic and forward thinking Bahamians whose fervent desire to see our country progress has propelled us into the political sphere. We are men and women who recognize the urgency of the times in which we live. We are men and women who believe in the Power of NOW and are ready to do the necessary work to secure the livelihood of future Bahamians. The DNA is ready to provide effective, enlightened and responsible governance. We are ready to do the work needed to position the Bahamas as leaders in the region and the world. We are ready to remove the status quo and create a Bahamas worth living, fighting and dying for. This document will outline in detail how your incoming DNA government will address the concerns facing Bahamian families, from matters like unemployment and the economy to crime and education.

I invite all forward- thinking Bahamians to examine our plans and ask the hard questions as we plot the way towards a better life, TOGETHER!



# AMIDST EVERY STORM...

The original dream of the Bahamas was one with a free, educated, independent and empowered people, with governance that would evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of those people. The original dream was of a Bahamas where ALL Bahamians, no matter their skin color, social status or political leanings could succeed together. Rather than seeing the dreams of our forefathers realized, the past four decades of self-governance has been marred by ineffective leadership, cronyism and corruption by men and women who have turned their backs on the ideals laid out in our constitution.

Decades after independence, Bahamians are still fighting for the right to be considered more than second class citizens in our own country. Born from these inequalities are the multitude of complex and multi-faceted problems we face today. In this nation under siege, Bahamians grapple with a violent crime rate that threatens our very way of life, an economic and investment model which has failed to produce the kinds of employment or entrepreneurial opportunities that work in favor of the modern Bahamian, an education system which continues to churn out functionally illiterate and innumerate individuals, and an unclear system of immigration plagued by corruption. Add to that the mass exodus of the brightest minds in our country - young men and women who leave in pursuit of opportunity, social progress and a greater quality of life - and we're left with generations of suffering Bahamians and a nation on the verge of collapse.

As the decision makers of this era, we have an immense responsibility to our children and their children to create a Bahamas worthy of inheritance. All Bahamians can and must play an active role in plotting the way forward. As a people, we have a clear understanding about the things that are needed to do that. As a people, we understand that in order to get something different, to accomplish something great, we cannot do what we have always done. We have an opportunity to completely reverse years of resource mismanagement in government and rescue our country from the brink of certain disaster.

The DNA has a plan to do just that.

# ...THERE IS A LIGHTHOUSE.

Since its establishment in 2011, The Democratic National Alliance has proven itself a force to be reckoned with in the local political sphere. In the 2012 general election, after only months of existence, the DNA was successful in garnering 8.5% percent of the total votes cast. Since then, the DNA has continued to grow its ranks. During this electoral cycle, we have assembled an impressive team of outstanding Bahamians with expertise in fields such as law, business, healthcare, cultural activism, economics and other areas which are key to the forward movement of our Bahamas. The Democratic National Alliance has also been busy creating the kind of executable short, medium and long term plans designed to address the full scope of our national development.

In 2016 the DNA completed and released a comprehensive plan for true Freedom of Information. That document, available on the party's website [mydnaparty.org](http://mydnaparty.org), fully examines the challenges which the recently passed legislation does not and incorporates scores of recommendations made by various activist groups as it relates to the powers of the Minister and other key areas. The DNA also released a white paper detailing a proposed overhaul of the public sector. The document outlines the party's plans for effective management of all public services, improvements to the mandate of the public service commission, the status of the Royal Bahamas Police Force as an entity operating within the confines of the public service and so much more. That document is also available in its entirety on the DNA's website. In the last year, the Democratic National Alliance also drafted plans for a state-of-the-art waste-to-energy facility as part of wider plans for true remediation at the New Providence landfill and a wider energy platform designed to introduce renewable energy sources that will lower the cost of electricity around the country.

When critics counted the DNA out, we did not disappear – **we worked harder.** We've continued to work to keep the government's feet to the fire and to hold them accountable to their many election promises, even in the face of criticism. This is indicative of the kind of governance you can expect from the DNA. For the first time, Bahamians have a viable alternative option to the status quo, and we stand ready to deliver revolutionary governance for **2017... and beyond.**



**Brenda HARRIS**  
BAIN & GRANTS TOWN



**Buscheme ARMBRISTER**  
CARMICHAEL



**Celi MOSS**  
CENTERVILLE



**Prodesta MOORE**  
ELIZABETH



**Stephanie LIGHTBOURNE**  
ENGLERSTON



**Cindy KNOWLES**  
FORT CHARLOTTE



**Kendal SMITH**  
FOX HILL



**Karen DAVIS**  
FREE TOWN



**Branville McCARTNEY**  
BAMBOO TOWN



**Chris MORTIMER**  
SEABREEZE



**Youri KEMP**  
GARDEN HILLS



**Rudolph DEAN**  
GOLDEN GATES



**Stephen GREENSLADE**  
GOLDEN ISLES



**Arinthia KOMOLAFE**  
KILLARNEY



**Kishon TURNER**  
TALL PINES



**Charlis ROBINS**  
YAMACRAW



**Claire BASDEN**  
N. ABACO



**Ruth FLOWERS**  
CENTRAL AND  
S. ABACO



**Samuel STRATCHAN**  
CAT ISL. RUM CAY,  
SAN SALVADOR



**Emily WILLIAMS**  
MARATHON



**Dr. Leon HIGGS**  
MOUNT MORIAH



**Mario 'Ducky' LOCKHART**  
NASSAU VILLAGE



**Lincoln BAIN**  
PINWOOD



**Samuel KEMP**  
N. ANDROS &  
BERRY ISLANDS



**Cyril MILLER**  
S. ANDROS &  
MANGROVE CAY



**Candace WEATHERFORD**  
N. ELEUTHERA



**Derek SMITH**  
CENTRAL AND  
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**Cpt. Randy BUTLER**  
SOUTH BEACH



**Dr. Madlene SAWYER**  
SOUTHERN SHORES



**Margo BURROWS**  
ST. ANNE'S



**Gerrino SAUNDERS**  
ST. BARNABAS



**Jedrick ROBINSON**  
CENTRAL  
GRAND BAHAMA



**Elkanah PINDER**  
EAST  
GRAND BAHAMA



**Nevar SMITH**  
MARCO CITY



**Leslie LIGHTBOURNE**  
PINERIDGE

# PRIORITIES FOR THE FIRST YEAR

- Create the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. ✓
- Launch Commissions of Inquiry on matters pertaining to Baha Mar and The Bank of The Bahamas. ✓
- Reduce Central Bank Lending rate by 2 basis points. ✓
- Increase Minimum Wage salaries to \$250 per week. ✓
- Implement a Flat-Rate Business License Scheme. ✓
- Create a \$500 million-dollar economic stimulus. ✓
- Enact Whistle-Blower Legislation. ✓
- Strengthen Public Disclosure Act. ✓
- Pass Anti-Corruption Legislation. ✓
- Move towards a National Lottery. ✓
- Liberalize Exchange Controls. ✓
- Liberalize Energy Sector. ✓
- Enact Marco's Law. ✓

# OF YOUR NEW DNA GOVERNMENT

- Remove Customs Duties on fertilizer and equipment required for the development of select agricultural products.
- Create a Land Bureau and an Independent Land Commissioner.
- Privatize Junkanoo Carnival and re-direct funding to our established Junkanoo Festival and other Cultural Festivals.
- Establish the Public Sector Management Corporation.
- Revise the National Health Insurance Act to allow for more Insurance Company participation.
- Legislate the re-enforcement of Capital Punishment.
- Initialize the Pilot Programme for Town Councils on New Providence.
- Implement key elements of DNA White Paper on Public Sector Reform.
- Complete legislation for the establishment of a Central Information Depository.
- Reduce penalties for the possession of small quantities of Marijuana.

## CHAPTER ONE





## GOOD GOVERNANCE

Over many years our country has been all but crippled by the abuse of our archaic systems of government. Abuses perpetrated by corrupt public officials who have exploited the very systems created to sustain us. At the root of this abuse is an overwhelming lack of oversight which has led to gaps in record keeping, the mismanagement of government resources and a disdain for rules and regulations. Our approach to governance will be multi-faceted.

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### POLICY

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Implement true Freedom of Information” and pass our **“Right to Information Act”** within our first year.
- **Create an Office of the Ombudsman** and Transform the Public Service Commission to house the Ombudsman and relevant staff.
- Introduce an **Anti-Corruption Act** and stiffen the penalties for public officers convicted of corruption and dereliction of duties.
- Implement a Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians Act.
- Enact Whistle-Blower legislation that would protect individuals who report corruption in government departments.
- **Review, revise and strengthen the Public Disclosure Act** by closing the loopholes that allow politicians and senior civil servants to go without declaring their financial information.
- Enact **Campaign Finance Reform** legislation and mandate Campaign Disclosure for all national and local elections.
- Revise the Constitution by way of referendum to allow for a Member of Parliament Recall system.
- **Convert the Office of the Attorney General into an independent post.**
- Set **fixed dates for General Elections** and **term limits** for the Office of the Prime Minister by way of Constitutional Referendum.
- Move toward a system of **Proportional Representation** to give smaller parties a voice in Parliament.
- Reduce the Constitutional minimum number of constituencies to 21 by way of Referendum.
- **End the practice of gerrymandering** through the introduction of fixed boundaries that can only be changed via international criteria.



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## EFFICIENCY

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Establish data collection and statistics points in all Ministries, Government Departments and Public Corporations.
- Introduce digitally automated information management systems as part of upgrades to the public services.
- Strengthen government relations with the press through frequent media briefings at The Office of The Prime Minister and/or The House of Assembly that will be conducted by a senior spokesperson on behalf of the government.
- Oversee the decentralization of public works and some public services and transfer such responsibilities to local government in the Family Islands.
- Implement variation of local government on the island of New Providence by way of "Town Councils" in designated inner-city areas as pilot programmes.
- Retro-fit all government agencies with the latest Information Technology software as a matter of priority.
- Accelerate the computerization process of all government agencies and require every request put into the government to be submitted via online application.
- Invest in two new fibre optic cable ...

... relays from Florida to The Bahamas to support current and future telecommunications endeavours.

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## OVERSIGHT

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Pass legislation to create a Central Information Depository as a stand-alone government department where all official government documents, national documents and books will be stored and recorded, no matter how big or small.
- Pass legislation to create a National Procurement Agency for the management of any and all public contracts and goods acquired by the government.
- Establish a Public Management Corporation and make this the umbrella corporation that will manage the portfolios of entities such as BahamasAir, Bahamas Power & Light, and any organization that the Government has an investment stake in.
- Make the new Public Management Corporation private sector driven and available to shareholders on the Bahamian Stock Exchange.
- Ensure that the Public Management Corporation advises the Government on liberalisation efforts and helps to manage any proceeds from the exploitation of our natural resources.



- Audit all of our public corporations to clean up the abuses that have occurred over the last several years.

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## THE PUBLIC SERVICE

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*Our public servants are working under antiquated policies and regressive systems that underpay or don't pay them for the work that they do. Under our watch, this will no longer continue.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Strengthen the Public Service Commission to serve a broader purpose within our governmental agencies by making it a statutory elected office with no less than 5 elected Commissioners.
- Mandate a minimum amount of funding be set aside for The Public Service Commission every budget cycle.
- Give the Public Service Commissioner greater independence by ending political interference.
- Give the Office of The Public Service Commission the legal authority to serve writs, question, investigate and press charges using a strengthened complaint system on persons charged with abuse of public authority, after it has been vetted through an investigative process.
- Update the General Orders of the Public Service to meet international standards and best practices.
- Allow for Union stakeholders, along with a Select Committee, to craft a modern public service management handbook that does not contravene established laws.
- Implement Performance Appraisals and Performance Indicator Mechanisms so we can monitor and boost the efficiency and productivity of the public services.
- Implement an adequate public counselling section within the Department of Public Service that deals with continual mental health assessments for persons dealing with matters of professional hurt that are beyond their control.
- Place all necessary incentive-based schemes under one administrative branch and digitize the applications and approvals process within one year of coming to office.
- Develop a simple interface to cut out human error and free up valuable human resources to continue work in other, more intensive functions.
- Adopt a timeline for the approval of public sector contracts to tie those responsible for their administration to time-based incentives and deliverables for their department.
- Mandate and prioritize basic skill training for workers throughout the Department of Public Service as well as all Ministries and Departments.



- Ensure that technical skills training is aligned with job specification.



## HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

*Bahamians should be able to have greater ownership of their cities and townships, and greater control over the way their constituencies are maintained.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Remove the Crown Land application process from the office of the Prime Minister and transfer approval responsibilities to a new National Land Bureau.
- Establish a proper registry and allocation process that will be transparent and accountable to all Bahamians through the new National Land Bureau.
- Rezone all state land into specific categories, such as Touristic, Commercial, Farmland, Residential & Commercial and Forestry & Wetlands.
- Ensure that certain zoned land, like Touristic and Farmland, will only be leased to foreigners—not sold.
- Make Residential & Commercial land affordable for Bahamians through low interest rates to be provided by a recapitalized Bahamas Development Bank and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation.
- Set terms and conditions to ensure that relevant land distributed from the National Land Bureau is developed within a specified time period.
- Start a pilot program of Elected District Councils on the island of New Providence with seed money allocated for the conduct of small-scale infrastructural projects.
- Revise the International Land Holders Act to make it a tiered system that leaves inner-cities and certain areas for Bahamian development strictly.
- Strengthen the Mortgage Corporation and implement more efficient management and maintenance systems for the approval or assistance with persons looking for homes.
- Create comprehensive mortgage reform in The Bahamas, complete with Homeowner Protection Clauses and additional legislative leeway that allow for banks to give more latitude and discernment before they decide to evict homeowners.



- Open up more Crown Land for small home development.

## TRANSPORT & AVIATION

*We must ensure that we maximize on all of our opportunities in the transport sector, for locals and for visitors to our shores. We need to ensure that people can get in and out of our country quickly and effectively, while also ensuring that persons can travel around our major cities and family islands with the normalcy and regularity that is standard for developed countries.*



*A DNA Government will:*

- Implement a Unified Bus System that services the entire Bahamas.
- Revise the current routing system under the newly instituted Unified Bus System.
- Implement pedestrian and vehicular road safety training in public schools for all students.
- Increase road safety training for all Bahamians and require persons found guilty of violating traffic laws to undergo Road Safety courses as a part of their sentencing.
- Strictly enforce vehicle conditions laws and impound cars that are unlicensed and/or have violated public health and safety laws.
- Audit existing vehicle testing and inspection regulations to identify areas for reform.
- Stop the sub-leasing of individual taxi plates to locals and foreigners.
- Set a limit to the amount of personal taxi plates someone can own and create separation between those that have fleets of taxi-cabs and those that are in the charter business.
- Require greater proof of ownership of taxi plates and self-drive plates.
- Enhance the industry for charter bus services that cater to large companies and school children, and require persons in this industry to have specific licenses to be a charter bus driver.
- Work towards making the downtown Nassau area a pedestrian area and commission work to begin in that regard upon consultation with stakeholders and the down-town redevelopment committee.



*Under our Airport and Seaport  
Mass-Transit Initiative, a DNA  
Government will:*

- Undergo an extensive structural audit of our Ports and Bridges and implement a facilities upgrade plan in conjunction with the National Development Plan, funded by international partners
- Assess the structure of the Sir Lynden Pindling National Airport so as to increase airlift capacity.
- Undertake the extensive revitalization of the Potter's Cay Dock, inclusive of correcting structural deficiencies to the Port's Concrete Base and the issues regarding the Paradise Island Bridge.
- Work with our American partners, such as the Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Homeland Security, to increase joint-training programmes of airport security, maintenance workers, Air Traffic Controllers and other relevant personnel.
- Encourage the joint-management of radar equipment between us and our American Partners to bring our Aviation operations to world class standards.
- Provide greater security and maintenance of our radar equipment on the island of New Providence and selected islands around The Bahamas.
- Audit the BahamasAir fleet to ensure that we are getting the best returns on our investments.

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## PUBLIC WORKS

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*For far too long we have had an ad-hoc approach to the development of our capital infrastructure, often times delaying the inevitable until doing the inevitable is either too late, outdated, or does more harm to the economy than it helps. The DNA is committed to providing a common sense, sensitive approach to public works.*



*A DNA Government will:*

- Implement a National Procurement Agency that will oversee the tender process for all public works.
- Undergo an infrastructural assessment of all of the public buildings and critical infrastructure to catalogue the level of work needed.
- Institutionalize a modern day planning and development system for the upgrade of all public infrastructure.
- Set aside certain projects in the Ministry of Public Work's schedule for contractors that have been identified as small contractors.



- Amend the Construction Contractor's Act and put more provisions that mandate small contractor and tradesmen development in place.
- Tie the new provisions in the Contractors Bill to earmarked projects in the public sector.
- Begin the process of divesting the government's stake in the Bahamas Electricity Corporation.
- Begin the process of re-trenching underground waterways and sewer systems on the island of New Providence.

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### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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*The Bahamas must always be on the cutting edge of technology in all spheres.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Legislate that the central government is the owner of the backbone of the telecommunications sector and all transmissions must be approved by, run through or tie into the central government's system by license or rental payment.
- Continue to liberalize the cellular and broadband internet markets and offer licenses to those that prove they can supply and manage a certain percentage of their respective markets.



## CHAPTER TWO





## NATIONAL SECURITY

Our agencies responsible for administering justice and punishment must be given the latitude to carry out their duties, first without interference and second with the backing of policy that support their work. The DNA will find the right balance, bring order back to our streets, re-empower The Royal Bahamas Police Force to do their work, and uphold our international obligations at the same time.

*A DNA Government will:*

- **Resume the enforcement of Capital Punishment in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas** by defining “worst of the worst” through new legislation.
- Strengthen the regulations of the Civilian Complaint Board to ensure that its efforts are not infringed upon.
- **Ensure that there is no political interference** with the Police Commissioner and the Royal Bahamas Police Force.
- Increase the amount of officers on foot-patrol and by extension increase our saturation police crime strategy.
- Build a state of the art DNA Forensic Laboratory that will be used for crime scene investigations.
- Purchase Forensic Vans to assist our police officers in investigating crimes more effectively.
- **Build a new Correctional Facility for maximum security offenders on a Family Island.**
- Earmark money to go towards successful correctional programmes.
- Increase our Witness Protection programme efforts and enter into agreements with international partners on a mutual Witness Protection programme.
- Review the programme for low risk offenders entered into the work-release schedule.
- Implement a Parole System.
- Pass legislation that allows for a Probationary System.
- Increase our cyber-security surveillance and partner with international policing agencies to remain on the cutting edge of cyber-threats and various forms of cyber-crime and cyber fraud.
- Undergo a complete diagnostic and overhaul of our Defence Systems and have them in line with American and North American Transatlantic Organization’s standards and guidelines.



- Increase our border protection in terms of manpower and equipment.
- Increase the level of domestic surveillance through CCTV and employ the use of new technology, inclusive of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, and gunshot detection equipment.
- Amend The Police Force Act so that all field officers, regardless of their branch, have the ability to keep their side-arm with them at all times and at all occasions.
- Ensure that Police Officers have full Health and Life Insurance.

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#### IMMIGRATION

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*Far too often The Bahamas has an ad-hoc approach to immigration, particularly with regard to skilled labour. Not only do we need a more rapid processing and approval system, we need a clearer idea on what we need and where we need it.*

#### *A DNA Government will:*

- Provide additional financial resources to our Immigration personnel, retrain personnel, and improve technology to ensure that we keep our borders safe and secure.
- **Deport Illegal Immigrants not more than 60 days after apprehension** and increase our transportation capacity in all regards to facilitate this more aggressive timetable.
- **Create a pathway towards regularization for persons born in The Bahamas, but of foreign parents, through the definition of clear and measurable milestones.**
- Craft civics courses for young persons that have fallen between the cracks of the immigration system, and provide cultural transition support mechanisms for their transition into adulthood in The Bahamas.



- Fully metricize the Immigration procedure to make it smoother, rather than rely on hand-to-hand evaluations based on personalities and personal likes and dislikes.
- Identify what skills we need in The Bahamas and where we need them, and put quotas on the amount of applications that can be approved for workers in these areas of need.
- Issue a specialized non-tampering Visitors' Pass for visitors who plan to stay in our country for more than three months.
- Ensure the approval of Economic Permanent Residency within 30 days of the submission of a complete application by the service provider.
- Engage in further dialogue with the government of Haiti to ensure that all existing bilateral agreements are honoured, particularly with regard to repatriation.
- Proactively bring international recognition to the need for the International community to provide funding and grants to stabilize the Haitian economy, as well as the need to provide more technical support in critical developmental areas.



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## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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*The Bahamas has never been in the position of total self-reliance. No country or government has ever been successful by it operating isolated from its neighbours or the global community. With this in mind, our government must proactively deepen the linkages between our country and other nations.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Increase and liberalize the administrative and diplomatic scope of The Bahamas' embassies and consulates abroad and strengthen efforts toward visa free travel for Bahamians around the world.
- Ensure that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a renewed mandate to educate the public at large on the benefits of its foreign policy.
- Ensure that a substantial investment in the support and promotion of the Financial Services Sector be made through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Link the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources to Invite assistance from the international community on building these industries.
- Commit to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals for ourselves and our partners.



- Recommit The Bahamas to have a greater participatory role in The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, The CARICOM Secretariat, and the United Nations.
- Deepen the economic linkages between The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Ensure that our development agenda for Haiti remains at the forefront of our regional dialogue.

“ WE WILL  
**SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF.**  
WE WILL BE A SOCIETY  
THAT WE CAN TRULY CALL  
**PARADISE**  
AND NOT ONE  
PARALYZED BY FEAR.

- Branville McCartney





DNA

#for a  
better  
LIFE

## CHAPTER THREE





## BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

Successive administrations have created unsustainable debt, high unemployment, rising deficits and higher taxes. According to conservative estimates by the IDB, The Bahamas loses more than \$250 million dollars due to inefficiency, corruption and leakage from the annual budget. This is nothing short of a recipe for economic disaster. What the DNA proposes is a new way of thinking that raises the quality of our economic offerings.

### MACROECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the Central Bank of The Bahamas discount rate by 2 basis points within 1 year.
- Reduce the public debt to 70% of GDP within 3 years and 65% in 5 years.
- Increase investments by 30% of GDP within 3 years.
- Create a 2% budget surplus in 3 years.
- Reduce unemployment to 8% within 4 years.
- Increase our foreign reserves by a firm 30% within 4 years.
- Build the VAT-able business registry by 20% within 4 years.
- Increase our Financial Services sector by 50% within 5 years.
- Decrease our trade deficit by 30% within 5 years.
- Reduce private sector debt by 30%.

- Increase the Bahamas Stock Exchange par-value by 100% within 5 years.
- Increase the pool of professionally certified persons in all sectors by 30% within 5 years.
- Work toward relaxing and liberalizing the process of exchange controls within 5 years.
- Pass the Fiscal Accountability Act.

### PUBLIC FINANCES & TAX SYSTEMS

*A DNA Government will:*

- Work with a notable Accounting & Management Consulting Firm to manage the transition between the current administration and the DNA administration, and field the advice of such industry professionals on performance management indicators.
- Prioritize the acceleration of the major upgrading of the country's financial management systems, as initiated by the Inter-American Development Bank.



- Thoroughly review the Value Added Tax system in an effort to reduce its impact on the cost of living in The Bahamas.
- Implement performance-based budgeting practices which would cut funding to underperforming, wasteful and unnecessary projects as part of efforts to right-size the government portfolio.
- Implement a Flat-Rate Business License Scheme.
- Pass a Fiscal Accountability Act.
- Undertake an audit of the National Debt.
- Introduce a National Lottery and use some of the revenue to finance our new education, healthcare, sports and culture initiatives.

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### INVESTMENTS

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*The DNA proposes a new system, not based on the ad-hoc rulings of the government of the day, but on a standard vetting process applied across the board for all investors seeking to do business in this jurisdiction.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Make the investment process more transparent through the use of online platforms with additional checks and ...

... balances, overseen by an investment advisor assigned by the Bahamas Investment Authority.

- Assign specific individuals in the public service the task of overseeing each investment application from submission to approval.
- Introduce an electronic approval system by which a project can be accepted or vetoed by cabinet within 60 days.
- Eliminate bureaucratic red tape by automating certain approvals for Bahamian investors, keeping projects under a certain financial threshold from the sphere of cabinet, and funnel investments through a complete electronic approval system.
- Set clear guidelines for investment and investment approvals, updating and revising them where necessary.
- Ensure that proper credit risk assessments are done on all investors that have at least 10% stake within each joint venture or project they undertake.
- Ensure that a proper exit strategy is in place for large-scale companies.
- Ensure that there is significant Bahamian participation and Bahamian stakeholder involvement in all Foreign Direct Investment projects.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*If Business and Entrepreneurship are the drivers of a good economy, then successive governments – through miles of bureaucratic red tape – have taken the keys away from them. Instead of empowering the business community, the government machinery takes too long to give too little. It's time to reverse this trend.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Set aside seed money for employer associations to conduct business management skills training in conjunction with the public and the government.
- Re-organize the Business License Unit of the Ministry of Finance and make it a one-stop portal for licensing, National Insurance contribution approvals and tax administration in general.
- Establish the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce.

- Ensure greater efficiency in the administration of Value Added Tax credits, refunds and/or exemptions by making more staffing and resources available for case management.
- Establish a venture capital fund that will assist entrepreneurs and small to medium sized businesses, funded by revenue from a National Lottery.
- Re-capitalize lending support agencies like the Bahamas Entrepreneurial Venture Fund, and the Bahamas Development Bank, and work with international agencies like the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and other developmental aid agencies
- Streamline the investment process by placing automatic checkpoints that do not have to go to Cabinet for approval provided that the requests are within a certain financial threshold.





## SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

SMEs MAKE UP OVER

80%

OF THE BAHAMAS' WORKFORCE

*A DNA Government will:*

- Establish a SME Business Council made up of persons from the private and public sectors and have them readily available to guide on policy matters relating to the overall business environment.
- Enact the Small and Medium Sized Business Development Act with due haste based on common sense recommendations from our stakeholders.
- Create an SME Development Agency within the Ministry of Finance and have this agency initiate, develop and manage programmes like training seminars and trade shows targeted towards SMEs.
- Make the process for SME loan applications more swift and efficient
- Work with the Clearing Banks Association and the Bahamas Insurance Association to strengthen insurance bond facilities for SMEs.

- Refuse to mandate application timelines or limit the amount of times a company can apply for funding.

## WORKER TRAINING

- Increase funding allocated for training in the private sector.
- Work with employer associations to assist with rolling out new training programmes and have them tailored by industry.
- Have industry professionals, employer associations and trade unions identify skills gaps in their respective industries, and allow educators to tailor curriculums to fill these gaps.
- Work with donor agencies and international development agencies and employer associations to fund mass-employee training seminars for persons looking for certifications and re-certifications.
- Increase employment by increasing opportunities for entrepreneurs to create more jobs through a rigorous investment incentive.

~~\$210~~ **\$250**

- **Increase the minimum wage** from \$210 per week to **\$250 per week, or \$6.25 per hour.**



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## TRADE

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Review all offers for trade agreements The Bahamas is currently engaged in, and amend those terms where necessary.
- Upgrade the standards and quality of The Bahamas' systems to facilitate trade between our country and our partners, whether regional or international.
- Implement better regulations on capital flows to prepare The Bahamas for increased international trade and cooperation.
- Not sign any trade agreement, formally or in principle, without the express consent of The Bahamian people by virtue of polling data or Referendum.
- Undertake a country-wide diagnostic on all sectors of The Bahamian economy, determine our comparative and/or competitive advantages, and invite the private sector to participate in the development of these sectors

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## FINANCIAL SERVICES & TOURISM

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*The Bahamas has been a two engine economy from time immemorial, with little or no diversification from the standard Resort/Casino style tourism product and the standard offshore financial centre on the other.*

*In Tourism, a DNA government will:*

- Expand incentives and tax breaks to Bahamian entrepreneurs in the Family Islands that want to open Boutique Hotels.
- Make Crown Land available for Bahamians wishing to open up Boutique Hotels on the Family Islands.
- Invest in cultural tourism in a meaningful way and set aside additional funding for the marketing and promotion of our cultural tourism brand
- Increase marketing expenditure that would be targeted for the promotion of our Junkanoo Parade Celebrations.

*In Financial Services, a DNA government will:*

- Put all services provided worldwide on the table and make the climate suitable for any firm to be able to participate in our financial services sector.
- Bolster financial services training education by establishing a council of educators with representation from relevant employer associations and public and private tertiary centres.
- Commission more research and data and analysis tools on international finance and set up a Research and Product Development desk within the Ministry of Financial Services.



- Conduct a skills-gap assessment of our professionals in the financial services sector with the help of international agencies like the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank.
- Develop a currency trading hub of the Caribbean, inclusive of currencies such as a Chinese Yuan, Brazilian Real and other established currencies like the Canadian Dollar, American Dollar, the Euro and Pound Sterling

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### BANKING

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Consult the Central Bank of The Bahamas on reducing their discount rate to 4% within our first six months in office.
- Partner with the Clearing Banks to extend a \$25 million bond for businesses within our first year in office.
- Allow all Bahamians to have US dollar accounts, repatriate their US dollars and invest their hard earned money in any country in which they can get the best return under certain guidelines and procedures.
- Call for the standardization of loan application forms and encourage the Clearing Banks Association to ensure that there is a national policy in this regard.



- Take control of our commercial banking again by adhering to strict 'Know Your Customer' and Anti-Money Laundering guidelines that will be the highest standard in the Western Hemisphere.
- Pass legislation that would prohibit the bundling of credit card services with other services and programmes with the bank.
- Pass legislation that prohibits bank bonuses that are not tied to loan performance.
- Pass legislation on consumer protection issues as it relates to banking and insurance companies.





## AGRICULTURE

*Entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector must be given modern day support to meet their targets. Too often we neglect that farmers and fisher-folk are businessmen and women too, and we need to give them respect they deserve as business people.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Provide marketing credits and support that will link locally made products to tourism-based companies.
- Exempt from duty equipment that goes into the production of Cascarilla, Pineapples, Mangoes, Coconuts, Aloe, Limes and any cash-crop that has a considerable market for direct produce or its material can be used and made profitable after research and determinations are made on their viability.
- Reshape and Improve BAMSI through an updated mandate that incorporates modern teaching and learning practices that will place the institution on par with similar institutions internationally.
- Sign articulation agreements with the American Food and Drug Administration, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the European Food Safety Authority and create an atmosphere that keeps food and safety regulations in The Bahamas at world standards.
- Continue to build the linkages between packing houses, companies that purchase locally grown goods and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Create a Farmer's Directory to keep record of seasonal times for planting and harvest.
- Allow trade finance support to companies that export fish and marine resources.
- Pursue applications for the creation of Aquaculture Centres for entrepreneurs wishing to invest in the mass production, cultivation, harvest and marketing of Marine Resources.
- Pass legislation to protect our Fly Fishing Industry.
- Add to the Summer Work Programme initiative undertaken every year by the Public Service specific seats for persons wishing to work with the Ministry of Agriculture or any Agricultural-based business on record.





## LABOUR

*We believe very strongly that there should be mutual respect between employer and employee, resulting in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay as well as the protection of job security in addition to adequate health and safety standards being observed. We also support the work that Unions do and are very aware of the integral part Unions play in The Bahamas' socio-Economic fabric.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Undergo a revision and swift implementation of the regulations under The Health and Safety at Work Act.
- Look into the feasibility of a National Pensions scheme for all workers that would make pensions transferable in the event of a change in employment.
- Increase the amount of consultation regarding international trade agreements with union leaders.
- Invite leaders of unions to have observer status at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings and other international meetings where the decisions and outcomes impact workers' rights.
- Undergo a review of The Industrial Relations Act and The Employment Act to modernize its policies & guidelines.
- Require that companies with a staff size of over 200 employees must show records of their company's financial performance to the government.
- Ensure that the current Industrial Agreement and other relevant acts have within them mandates that employers must show a clear and consistent track record of irrefutable evidence when employees are released.
- Strengthen laws regarding employer coercion and contract guidelines.
- Make it illegal for any employer to force prospective employees to sign waivers of consent that they will not join a trade union, ask if they are a part of a trade union, or be barred due to past association with a trade union or any association that is deemed personal.
- Mandate that companies of significant size in the tourism sector negotiate jointly with the government, relevant trade union and employer association on any particular developments that would shape the direction of the entity.





DNA

#for a  
better  
LIFE

## CHAPTER FOUR





## YOUTH, EDUCATION **AND** CULTURE

The education system as we know it fails to take into consideration the many varied ways that 21st century children and young adults learn. As the rest of the world thoroughly incorporates technology into the training of its youth, it is time The Bahamas treats our boys and girls with the same respect. The DNA believes that Bahamian artists, scholars and athletes alike can compete and thrive on the world stage – all they need is a government that will spare no resource in unlocking their potential.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*A DNA Government will:*

- Make more subsidies available for pre-school and primary school centres whether they are public or private.
- Create a more rigorous pre-school and primary school curriculum .
- Expand student tracking and evaluation systems for children beginning at the pre-school level and use the results to track student performance from pre-school through the secondary level.
- Increase the depth of information offered at the primary school level and open our children up to more subjects from the Sciences, Social-Sciences, Civics and Philosophy.
- Work towards making learning and appreciating a secondary language optional at the primary school level.
- Introduce a cultural and human sensitivity aspect to primary school education so our children can have ...

.... a better understanding of the value of the world and the various people within it.

### SECONDARY EDUCATION

*A DNA Government will:*

- Change the curriculum to make it more Mathematics and English Literature intensive. This will help our children in understanding, comprehending and analysing critical situations across a broad range of material.
- Increase the curriculum offering at the secondary level and offer a broader based course offering that includes Social Sciences, Humanities, English Literature and Civics, Law and Government courses.
- Make learning a secondary language mandatory from the entrance into Junior High school.
- Identify students with learning disabilities and place them accordingly within the public school system.



- Enhance the testing and evaluation methods used in the Secondary school system to highlight all performers based on their merit, and assist in placing students where they can learn at their natural pace.
- Evaluate and re-engineer national assessment tests, including BJCs and BGCSEs.
- Implement a “One-Curriculum, One Exam” policy with regard to the BGCSE examination, where no student will take tiered examinations and all children will take the same examination at the end of the year.

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### TERTIARY EDUCATION

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Remove Value Added Tax from all fees and services at the University of The Bahamas.
- Provide an optional health insurance package for all students at the University of The Bahamas who wish to pay in.
- Invest heavily in Professor training and provide subsidies for further certifications for Professors at the University of The Bahamas.
- Strengthen the tertiary level education network by creating a College Panel of Educators that will help shape College-level curriculum across the board in The Bahamas.



- Develop a technical training corp. at The University of The Bahamas to better support the aspirations of our tech-savvy scholars.
- Cut the rates of tuition for working students over 35 years of age that wish to further their education.
- Increase the monitoring of College accreditation with all tertiary-level centres in The Bahamas.
- Increase subsidies and scholarships for students enrolled in Mathematics, Science, Information Technology and/or Engineering programmes at any tertiary centre in The Bahamas.
- Make a substantial investment in the Hotel Training College and increase the oversight of the institution to include industry professionals from the Tourism Sector.
- Create a specialized institute for Global Finance, in conjunction with financial services industry professionals, a major University of note and other financial services education providers.



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## TEACHING

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Continue the re-evaluation and revision of Teacher Education Programme.
  - Revise and implement the National Teacher Certification Programme.
  - Raise academic standards for entry into Teacher Training Programme.
  - Attract the most qualified candidates to the profession, particularly men.
  - Offer competitive pay in line with international standards and better in-service awards and incentive packages.
  - Improve the Teacher Cadet Programme to identify and attract gifted students.
- Create mentorship programmes for
- newly inducted teachers.



- Foster the development of learning communities where newly inducted teachers can exchange ideas.
- Provide continued learning and regional & international exchange opportunities.

Attract high-level educational and

- professional conferences to The Bahamas.

Offer a greater financial commitment to

- professional development for persons in the education sector.

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## PARENT-TEACHER-COMMUNITY COOPERATION

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Make it mandatory for schools, where
- challenges are detected, to define a plan of action to overcome problems, with checks, balances—and possible incentives, to ensure successful implementation of plans.
- Establish performance standards and
- benchmarks for schools, as it relates to their operations and maintenance.
- Institute a national management
- system to record, collage and provide transparent data on teacher-student and system performance.
- Consistently train and retrain heads of
- educational institutions to effectively organize and manage their department and schools.



- Increase involvement of Parent-Teacher Associations, Alumni Associations and Student Government Organizations.
- Re-institute and enforce a Truancy programme.



## YOUTH

*The DNA is the party for young people. Our party is built on the ingenuity of young people. We need our young people to keep our party rich and relevant, and to be our future when our most senior citizens move off the scene. As your government, we will find inventive ways to increase the capacity of our youth.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Develop an online “super library” that will compile digital reading resources by Bahamian and international authors.
- Change the way the Ministry of Education looks at training and education and undertake skills gap assessments at the Senior High and College levels for students looking for suitable careers.
- Work towards making education free from the primary level to the tertiary level using revenue from the National Lottery.
- Launch a yearly ‘National Youth Summit’ with representatives from youth-focused civic organizations as well as both public and private schools.
- Make the voter registration and absentee ballot processes more efficient and accessible for Bahamians abroad.
- Launch a full-scale initiative to bring Bahamians who have studied abroad back to their country of origin in an effort to reverse our national “brain drain”.





- Work with donor agencies, international development agencies and employer associations to put on mass-employee training seminars and working sessions for young persons looking for certifications.
- Increase the subsidies related to work experience for high school and college students in both the public and private sectors.
- Increase the amount of subsidies Youth Organizations receive.
- Develop a “Sports Scout” system nationwide to identify talent as early as at the primary school level.
- Develop a national athlete registry for all athletes that compete at the local and international levels.
- Actively transform the National Sports Stadium and accompanying venues (such as the Swim Complex and Kendal G. L. Isaacs Gymnasium) so they can accommodate year-round events and training camps from Colleges and/or Professional Sports.

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## SPORTS

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*In the past we have spent large sums of money building facilities and on fleeting events. We've lost millions to misspending and wastage, and all while neglecting what is most important: the athlete. The DNA will invest in them at the ground level.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Develop a national training Programme for interested athletes to participate in on a year-round basis, and consider making special provisions for Family Island athletes.
- Ensure that scouted talent has access to specialized training camps and training methods via their individual school's physical education teacher, or through partnerships with local professional sports academies or programmes.
- Sign partnership agreements with international professional programmes and rent our sports facilities out to them at a very moderate rate.
- Partner with our Caribbean neighbours and work towards developing a Caribbean Sporting League to supplement the already flourishing Cricket Circuit with other sports like Basketball, Baseball, Softball and Soccer.
- Develop other, lesser-known Sports that have been marginalized (such as Combat Sports, Chess, Billiards and Cycling) and ensure that world class tournaments are held in The Bahamas.
- Give every Bahamian athlete competing at the international level access to duty-free supplements and medication in partnership with local pharmacies and health-care providers.



- Ensure that Bahamian athletes who qualify for international tournaments have the full support of the Government to travel and compete.
- Establish a regular maintenance schedule for our Sports facilities in order to keep our main facilities at world-class standards.
- Add more training spaces around the island of New Providence to avoid the clustering of athletes training and competing at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium.
- Invest in two state-run fitness centres which will be freely accessible to athletes training for international competition. These centres will be open to all sports clubs at a reduced rate per sporting-club, and also open to the public on a paid subscription basis.
- Support international scouts at events held locally in The Bahamas by offering reduced travel rates and incentives.



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## CULTURE

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*Previous administrations have neglected to nurture our inner-most mannerisms that make us uniquely Bahamian. This neglect is clearly seen in their promotion of other cultural festivals, art and music genres, in support of other cultures that we do not have any special affinity with. We must indoctrinate into our society what it means to be a Bahamian.*

A DNA Government will:

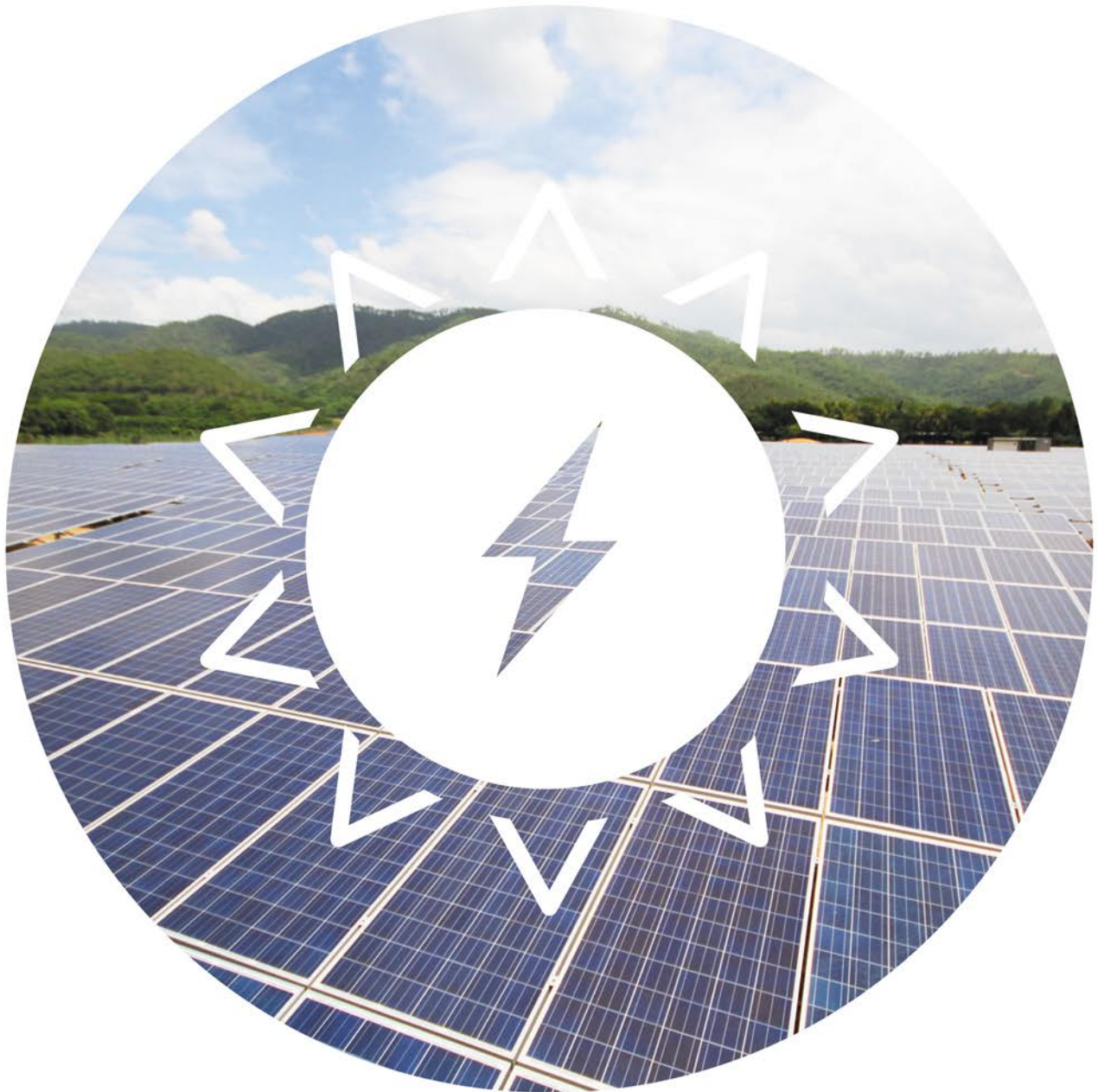
- Invest \$5 million dollars over the course of our first term into the development of industries within the scope of the 'Orange Economy', including the arts, media and design.
- Work towards turning our end of year Junkanoo Festivals into a week-long cultural enterprise, starting on Boxing Day and ending on the 2nd of January.
- Expand on our existing Junkanoo festivals.
- Remove all government financial support given to promote Junkanoo Carnival and turn it into a private, self-funding event.
- Devise and implement a National Culture Curriculum at the primary and secondary school levels.
- Create a Music Hub in the likeness of the old Jumbey Village.



- Investigate the feasibility of establishing Schools of Creative, Visual and Performing Arts at the secondary and tertiary levels.
- Encourage the promotion of Cultural Exhibitions, Historical Re-enactments, and Native Shows.
- Support the production of Bahamian literary works of art, particularly young adult Bahamian literature.
- Recreate Bay Street to expose tourists and locals to musical bands, groups, individuals as well as other artisans.
- Initiate a Branding and Marketing exercise on the Family Islands, to showcase their unique cultures and historical identities, with the vision of selling the unique qualities of each island.
- Create Cultural Heritage Boards for and on each Family Island to increase the capacity of Cultural Centres and Heritage Sites around the country.
- Designate the downtown-Nassau area as a “Cultural Zone” and devise a master art plan to beautify the downtown area with Bahamian art, murals, designs and sculptures.
- Move our Arts and Craft vendors into the digital space by creating an online platform for the marketing, sale and distribution of Bahamian artwork and items designated as authentically made Bahamian craft.
- Construct various Broadway-styled theatre houses for the regular presentation and showcasing of theatrical productions, dances and symphonies.
- Increase the financial awards given for publicly-held art and music competitions in public and high schools.
- Enforce Copyright laws to protect our artisans from theft and piracy.
- Push for full recognition of Bahamian music for sale in all Hotels and Stores in major Resorts in The Bahamas.
- Build better linkages between Agriculture and Culture and their respective ministries to better maintain Bahamian natural resources that go into the production of artwork.



## CHAPTER FIVE





## ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The high cost of energy is plaguing our country. The Bahamas pays the highest amount per kilowatt in the Western Hemisphere and we have not diversified our energy solutions past fossil fuels. This cannot sustain us moving into the future and something must be done to help Bahamians, whether they own a business or they are regular citizens.

*A DNA Government will:*

- **Drive down the cost of electricity by more than 50%**, adding \$18 million more dollars a month to the pockets of Bahamians.
- Convert power generation at Clifton Pier to General Electric LM6000 Aero derivative Gas turbines within 3 months to dramatically reduce the kilowatt cost per hour and lower electricity bills for all Bahamian consumers.
- Build out an **international bi-directional HVDC submarine connector cable with the United States**, as has been done in other countries, to purchase power directly from Florida.
- Commit to a target of **40% renewable power by 2027**.
- Design and construct a **utility-grade Solar Power facility in Andros**.
- Pursue the legalization of a grid tie-in solar system for every Bahamian home and business.
- Liberalize the oil import and export business in The Bahamas to allow ...

... petroleum dealers or users of oil and gas products to find their own best price supplier.

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### ENVIRONMENT

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*No one wants to do business in a dirty, unkempt or environmentally hazardous country. No one will visit a country that does not observe health standards and violates the right to live in a clean and healthy environment.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Impose tougher penalties by doubling both the fine and prison term for persons that litter and dump garbage on our streets and lots.
- Initiate a “Green-Call Alert” system that will allow private citizens to call a hotline to report persons that are dumping and littering on our streets, particularly if evidence can be produced in the form of photographs or video recordings.
- Undertake a fruit-tree planting drive and make an effort to plant fruit trees in all public parks.



- Categorize goods for import and export to The Bahamas on their environmental friendly ratings.
- Give rewards for the notification, capture and conviction of persons found littering and dumping.
- Implement stricter guidelines for the collection and disposal of bio-hazardous waste.
- Erect a new waste disposal facility that will be dedicated to the destruction of particularly harmful chemical and biological waste.
- **Transform the public landfill and develop a Waste-to-Energy Plant as a matter of priority.**
- **Make the remediation of the Nassau City Dump and public landfill a priority.**
- Embark on a “Greening” campaign for areas that were once quarry filled lots, furnish sidewalks with greenery and make all public parks ‘greener’.

- Increase the environmental levy on petroleum dealers, and designate the revenue collected for the clean-up of oil and gas spills.
- Create a cleaner environment at our oil transshipment points at Clifton Pier, New Providence, Inagua, and at Freeport, Grand Bahama.
- Devise a Land Use Policy and zone areas for particular environmental and social use.
- Lobby internationally for serious commitments on Climate Change policies from G-20 countries.
- Implement a Coastal Zone Management and Preparedness Plan.

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### NATURAL RESOURCES

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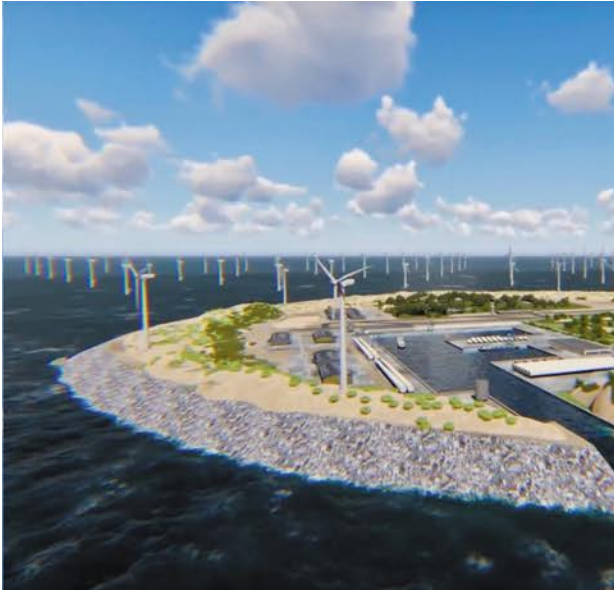
*We will ensure that Bahamians are the chief beneficiaries from the exploitation of our natural resources.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Undergo a comprehensive national diagnostic to identify our natural resources, how best to exploit them, and their competitive advantages.
- Enact legislation that prohibits any company with less than 60% Bahamian ownership to export or mine any product classified as a natural resource.
- Establish a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.



- Transfer all taxes or profits from products classified as a natural resource into a Sovereign Wealth Fund.
- Responsibly grant licenses for the exploration, studies and development of Natural Resources in The Bahamas.



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## NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

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*A DNA Government will:*

- Strengthen inter-agency partnerships with the Armed Services branches and create a National Corp of Engineers to assist during National Emergencies.
- Partner with the University of The Bahamas and an International School of Engineering of note to systematically train Bahamian Engineers.
- Modernize the National Emergency Management Agency to make it a response agency and not strictly a monitoring agency.
- Procure and store equipment for Hurricane preparedness in the NEMA Offices so that they can have these items readily on hand.
- Begin the systematic fortification of public infrastructure and systems that are prone to damage from Hurricane force winds and flooding.



## CHAPTER SIX





## HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL POLICY

The DNA believes that Bahamians should receive adequate healthcare regardless of their socio-economic status. Too many Bahamians suffer through terrible health, whether because of minor chronic ailments or life threatening accidents, due to our country's high uninsurance rate. The DNA wants Bahamians to have adequate coverage, but you also deserve to have access to premium healthcare at an affordable price and in a timely manner.

### *A DNA Government will:*

- Undergo a thorough public audit of the Public Hospital Authority, their management practices, spending, procurement and human resources so as to eliminate all wasteful practices and hold persons accountable.
- Change the purchasing, storage and dispensation model of prescription drugs in the public hospital.
- Devise and commit to a purchasing plan that will see the phased upgrade of 50 percent of diagnostic and specialized treatment equipment in the first two years after taking office, based on current financial projections on current budget estimates.
- Provide trauma certification for all healthcare practitioners stationed in the Family Islands.
- Increase the level of first-aid certification in the public schools for senior high school students.
- Initiate a healthcare education and information program, with prime focuses on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, information on preventative health care lifestyles and home diagnostic checks for cancer related illnesses.
- Transform the South Beach Clinic into a mini-hospital equipped with an emergency and trauma centre along with 100 bed spaces. The new establishment will be equipped with the latest technology and specialized equipment, with options for expansion into a new hospital over the next 4 years.
- Build and staff mini-hospitals on Eleuthera, Exuma, Andros and Inagua.
- Increase the hardship allowance for medical professionals that are relocated to the Family Islands.
- Implement a Universal Healthcare Coverage Programme financed by an additional 3% payroll tax.



- Ensure both public and private participation in the management and administration of the new Universal Healthcare Programme.
- Increase the amount of facilities for medical treatment.
- Amend the National Health Insurance Act to facilitate our Universal Healthcare Programme.
- Provide Family Islanders with subsidies for travel to New Providence through the Programme.

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#### HOW THE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME WILL WORK

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- Basic care with the clinics and hospitals will remain free as they are now.
- Persons will be allowed to keep their current insurance provider and be allowed to top up to a premium benefits package based on their income bracket and the amount they are willing to pay extra.
- A mandatory 3% payroll tax or “Healthcare tax” on all able-bodied citizens of The Bahamas will be initialized to begin the funding of the Programme. This standard bracket, will cover basic care and minor operations, including minor dental, for all Bahamians.
- The option for a voluntary increase of the 5% to 7% Healthcare Tax Rate for persons that want to take advantage of the premium, top-up package, will be made available.
- The Healthcare Programme will be co-administered via a public-private partnership/Healthcare Council with the insurance industry and the government both spearheading this effort.
- The Healthcare Council will have a mandate to cut administrative costs in the hospital system, increase and monitor efficiency rates, and manage the procurement system of supplies for our public clinics and hospitals.
- A registry of private physicians will be kept and persons will have the ability to choose the physician of their choice if they do not want a public care physician.
- The Healthcare tax will be earmarked primarily for the purchasing of medication, the upgrading of medical supplies and equipment and the satisfying of claims to insurance companies and private physicians.



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## SOCIAL POLICY

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*There is massive disorganization within the department of Social Services as highlighted by the Auditor General, which indicates to us that there is room for great improvement in the delivery of assistance to the persons that need it most.*

*A DNA Government will:*

- Increase efficiency by continuing the computerisation and managerial upgrade process of the Social Services Department.
- Strengthen and enforce domestic abuse laws and increase the penalties for domestic abuse convictions.
- Amend the Sexual Offences Act to insert stronger language to the section on Spousal Rape to include language that speaks to the inflicting of pain and/or physical trauma on a spouse.
- Provide stronger legislation more strongly holds neglectful parents and guardians to account.
- Increase facilities for family planning and family life training for parents and interested persons.
- Increase our distance care services to provide persons with disabilities and special needs long-distance care with regard to online-therapy and tele therapy.
- Support the International Convention on the Rights of the Disabled and enshrine such in legislation.
- Oppose discrimination based on sex, race, creed, disability or colour and remove discrimination laws from our legislative framework.
- Make the benefits system a fully means tested system where approvals are given automatically without veto.
- Open a new Social Services Centre to better manage foot traffic and assist persons in need.
- Create legislation that will allow persons to supplement their basic government pension to a premium pension package with a defined benefits scheme.
- Provide subsidies to education and job placement assistance for persons with physical challenges and impairments.
- Enact Marco's Law and provide for the stiffest penalties for child sex offenders and implement a Sex Offenders Registry.
- Implement a Social Help Desk at every police station to complement the work being done within Urban Renewal Centres.
- Expand Day Care and Evening Care facilities for parents who are Welfare Recipients, or for parents who are designated as "at risk" families.



- Increase the sentencing requirement for persons found guilty of Voyeurism and/or the illegal recording of individuals in sex acts from three years to 7 years for adults and 15 years for minors.
- Work with law enforcement and social media partners to find the origins of distributed sexually explicit content and increase the penalties for those found at the point of origin.
- Provide Churches with increased subsidies to assist with driving key social programs that promote healthy lifestyles.
- Increase subsidies, provide more technical assistance for and increase training to private care facilities that focus on drug treatment, drug prevention and mental health therapy.
- Increase the benefits of Old Age pensioners by 20% of the current amount across the board.

“ **SOCIAL  
JUSTICE IS OUR SHARED  
OBLIGATION  
TO IDENTIFY AND TO  
MEET THE NEEDS  
OF OUR SOCIETY.** ”

- Christopher Mortimer





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## CHAPTER SEVEN





## GRAND BAHAMA AND THE FAMILY ISLANDS

The DNA knows that Grand Bahama can be the gem of the Western Hemisphere, but greed and short-sightedness has the island in a state of rot and decay. Central government has neglected its obligations to the island and the Grand Bahama Port Authority has not been functioning with expansion and growth in mind. We cannot let this continue and a DNA government will intervene. Additionally, we will encourage community-sensitive investments on our Family Islands and take a “no island left-behind” approach to national development.

### *A DNA Government will:*

- Move towards making Grand Bahama the Technology-Hub of the Western Hemisphere.
- Open the island of Grand Bahama up to bidders that wish to develop a technology park and make the atmosphere suitable for the development of a technology park on the island of Grand Bahama.
- Release the findings of the McKinsey Report commissioned on the viability of the Grand Bahama Port Authority and work quickly on the most viable portions with due haste.
- Create a Grand Bahama Investment desk in the Bahamas Investment Authority to make investment applications for Grand Bahama easier and more efficient.
- Move with haste to break the deadlock on hotel investments in Grand Bahama and move to find suitable buyers immediately.
- Work with The Grand Bahama Port Authority in ensuring they develop Grand Bahama as per their mandate in the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.
- Work with other agencies in Grand Bahama to create other economic zones for the island.
- Strengthen Grand Bahama's tourism product in West and East Grand Bahama.
- Better promote Grand Bahama as a tourist destination with a viable plan for a resort hotel and a thriving second home market.
- Create a cruise ship port in Hepburn Town, West Grand Bahama which will also accommodate domestic mail boat transport.
- Create a cultural centre where residents can take advantage of the many entrepreneurial opportunities that will abound through tourist activities and spin-off products.



- Re-establish a movie and related business industry (film, sound, editing, production, distribution warehouses, etc.)
- Create a renewable energy park for the manufacturing of renewable energy equipment such as Wind Turbines and Solar Panels at King's Cove.

### **FAMILY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT**

*A DNA Government will:*

- Move the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources to the island of Andros and maintain a strictly relay base on the island of New Providence.
- Move the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation to the island of Grand Bahama and maintain a relay base on New Providence to facilitate communications between North Andros and central Government.
- Create and house the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources on the Island of Inagua with a small relay base on New Providence.
- Make the Inagua base of The Royal Bahamas Defence Force a fully functional headquarters for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.
- Create a transport and transshipment hub on the island of Mayaguana to service the needs of the Southern islands more readily.



#for a  
better  
LIFE

# BY THE END OF OUR FIRST TERM

YOUR DNA GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE:

- Added a 1% **GDP surplus** to our annual budget.
- **Reduced unemployment** to 8%.
- **Increased our Gross Domestic Product** by 5% with projections to grow by another 10% within the following 5 years.
- Increased the amount of **public prosecutions** and convictions in public fraud and embezzlement cases.
- Created an **average savings of 33% on the cost of energy** per consumer.
- **Expanded opportunities** in the financial services sector.
- **Diversified** our Tourism product.
- Created **new industries** in technology.
- **Revitalized the public service** under a new regime and protocol.
- **Metricized the Immigration Department** and cut wait times for permits and visas in half.
- **Created the Central Information Depository of The Bahamas.**
- **Increased data collection** and analysis points public sector-wide.
- Implemented a **comprehensive mortgage relief** and distressed property programme for consumers.
- **Decriminalized marijuana.**
- Put in place a **universal technology backbone and infrastructure.**
- **Increased the amount of cellular and broadband service providers.**
- Added **more value** to the agricultural sector.
- Created **more sustainable jobs** in banking and in tourism.
- Created universal coverage through a **Universal Healthcare Programme.**





## VISIT US

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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(242) 603-0362, 603-1362  
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## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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