THE 2008 MANIFESTO
OF THE
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

THE HEARTBEAT OF CHANGE...
RESTORING INTEGRITY, RENEWING HOPE, BUILDING TOGETHER
MESSAGE FROM THE POLITICAL LEADER OF THE NDC

My Brothers and Sisters,

I have lived through every single political administration in Grenada since Independence. I have seen many promising leaders emerge, showing a profound understanding of the hopes and dreams of the people, their fears and anxieties, their needs and their wants. However, the longer they stay in office, and the more they are allowed to remove the political checks and balances, the more they become intoxicated with power and begin to behave like “maximum leaders”. Soon they start making serious political blunders that bring nothing but shame and suffering to those who elected them.

This cycle has led to three disasters in Grenada’s short post-Independence history. Grenada is currently in the throes of the third disaster, which began in 1995. When a High Street Bank collapses bringing ruin to hundreds of poor Grenadian citizens, when our police force is used to invade the privacy of citizens and law abiding organizations, we know that total disaster is near.

While these discredited leaders become more and more preoccupied with their political survival, there is gross mismanagement of the nation’s affairs. Hence the living standards of the majority of citizens have been falling dramatically, made worse by natural calamities. There is a mounting sense of frustration and loss of hope each additional day the people of our beloved country have to wait for change to come.

It is for these reasons that I have always made a stand against creeping dictatorship. During the 1980’s I stood up for free speech and was imprisoned for it. I have subsequently learnt to resist authoritarian rule through established institutions, such as the legislature, the judiciary and an enlightened political party.

I have also made a resolution to dedicate my life to the principles and practice of Good Governance. As you know, Good Governance demands transparency, accountability, respect for the law, honesty and humility. Good Governance is a pre-condition for economic and social development.

It is at times like this that I say “Thank God for Democracy”. We in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique can avert tragedy by voting the NNP Administration out of office and ushering in the change that our country needs and which the people are yearning for. The National Democratic Congress is bringing that change. It will, with your vote, restore integrity, renew hope, and build our country together.

I have a vision for my country. It is a vision of a nation that is free, a land of equal opportunity, a land of tolerance, fair play and prosperity. This is our country and we want to make it a place where we can live, work, bring up our children and enjoy the fruits of our labour in peace and harmony.

In pursuit of this vision I became a founder member of the NDC in 1987. Since then I have helped to build this great Party on the foundations of Good Governance. I have recruited a team of competent, caring and committed political leaders. They represent a wide cross section of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. They include past revolutionaries simply because they, like thousands of other Grenadians, were products of their age and deserve to participate in all the mainstream institutions of their country.

I have also introduced a style of leadership that allows leaders in their own right to grow and develop, while at the same time putting a brake on any tendency towards authoritarian rule. This kind of teamwork is what the people want and that is what the NDC is offering.

We have done our homework and we are ready to return this country to a state of respectability, Good Governance and rapid development. We are ready and able to tackle the issues that will enable us to realize our vision for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Fellow citizens: “All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing”. So said Edmund Burke during the war-torn years of the 18th century; and so say I to you today. This is therefore a call to action. It is a wake-up call for all those who want to do something about the many perils our country is facing. We can no longer sit back and do nothing. We dare not let evil prevail. This country needs new energy and new blood in its veins. Only the NDC with a strong and loving heart can pump new life into Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Join the NDC campaign now.

Tillman Thomas

Tillman Thomas
Political Leader of the National Democratic Congress
The challenge before us is to make Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique - our country - work for the betterment of all its citizens and residents. This can only happen if we **RESTORE INTEGRITY, RENEW HOPE AND BUILD OUR COUNTRY TOGETHER**. This is the precondition for realizing the vision of a nation that is free, a land of equal opportunity, a land of tolerance, fair play and prosperity. As such it challenges every Grenadian to act resolutely and decisively to reclaim our heritage, our traditional values, our dignity and self-respect. This vision of change is what our people deserve. It is informed by the need to quickly address the many challenges our country is now facing, which include:

- The significant increases in the cost of living
- The reckless mismanagement of our country’s resources
- The lack of inclusiveness
- The availability of limited opportunities and privileges, but only for the few
- Increasing levels of poverty
- Insufficient and inappropriate education and training
- Poor housing
- Reduced access to proper health care
- High levels of unemployment and underemployment
- The erosion of moral standards
- The collapse of democratic institutions
- A growing unsustainable debt
- The disenfranchisement and alienation of our people
- The loss of hope.

These problems are directly related to the current approach to governance, which has stymied our country’s performance over the past thirteen years.

The critical issue, however, is about your choice of a new path. The NDC offers a new path towards rebuilding trust, instilling confidence, and inspiring hope by pursuing the following strategic actions together.

(A) **PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT**

The real catalyst for development is people. A people who are hurting from injustice, who are suffering because they believe that obstacles are willfully placed in the way of their progress, a people who have lost hope, cannot successfully overcome the challenges of development. The NDC has been listening to the cries of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and realize that development must start with addressing the most pressing issues that confront them now.

(1) **THE HIGH COST OF LIVING**

The escalating cost of living is currently one of the most worrying and debilitating issues confronting Grenadians. People who cannot afford the basic necessities of life are liable to resort to anti-social behaviour, and are certainly less productive.

The NDC will start to address this issue by creating real jobs. We shall also significantly reduce import duties, and the levies on a select basket of essential goods so as to make these goods more accessible to the poor and disadvantaged. In addition to this we shall drastically reduce government waste by relieving the public of the burden of expenses that provide no tangible or measurable service or benefit to the state and its citizens.

In particular the NDC will:

- Provide support for our importers to find cheaper sources of imports;
- Initiate, with the assistance of our farmers and the Marketing Board, an emergency agricultural food production support programme to increase domestic food production and consumption;
- Embark upon a new and genuine Food Security campaign, encouraging small scale farming and back yard gardening;
- Launch a national campaign to teach our citizens prudent money management, and personal financial planning.

Most important, we will kick-start the new economy (as shown below) that will provide quality, paying jobs that will allow our citizens to afford a higher standard of living.
(2) A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD
Decent, affordable housing is essential for normal family life. In contemporary Grenada, access to land and adequate housing is a critical need. This issue has become acute for many following the passage of hurricanes Ivan and Emily. The situation has become even more problematic given the current trend of “real estate tourism” which has significantly forced up the price of land pushing it beyond the reaches of many Grenadians desirous of getting their first home.

Given the limited supply of land due to our small size, a national policy is absolutely necessary if we are to address this fundamental aspiration of Grenadians of owning land and a home. As a result, the NDC will:

- Reactivate and expand the activities of the National Housing Authority by providing it with the necessary financial, technical and human resources;
- Identify suitable land in every parish for the establishment of housing projects;
- Encourage communities to use the maroon system and housing brigades to build their own houses;
- Solve the housing problems of at least 150 citizens a year;
- Eradicate the squatting problem by providing affordable land and housing for all;
- Launch a campaign, in collaboration with all the stakeholders, to get more houses insured;
- Secure concessionary rates for groups of people seeking house insurance.

(3) STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY
The Grenadian family is in crisis. Social analysts trace the anti-social behaviour of children and young people back to dysfunctional families. Even though the family should not be blamed for all the social ills of Grenada, it is beyond doubt that this vital social institution needs support. Poor, isolated, single parent families cannot cope with the challenges of socializing children in an age of cultural penetration, crime and violence.

The NDC fully appreciates that families are the foundations of society. Children receive their early education, their primary values and their initial sense of worth within families. If families get it right in the formative pre-school years, success at school, at work and in life is more likely.

Government accepts responsibility for strengthening families in Grenada. In pursuit of this objective, the new NDC Administration will therefore:

- Upgrade the Ministry responsible for Family Affairs
- Provide child development services such as nurseries, after-school play groups, and community projects to help poor families raise children
- Improve the systems for collecting maintenance from absent fathers

(4) PROVIDING RELEVANT EDUCATION
Grenada’s human resource constitutes a primary national asset which must be developed and maximized if we are to achieve our full potential and be the beneficiaries of economic and technical opportunities in the national, regional and global marketplaces. Hence, our human resource development strategy must facilitate the attainment of our vision to be a modern, prosperous and highly productive society.

Educational Reform
An important policy issue that confronts us in the field of HRD is educational reform. We start with the conviction that all children have a right to education as made clear in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a result, the NDC will protect this fundamental right of children and foster responsibility among them.

The NDC will use education as a major tool for development. It will increase the percentage of government expenditure on education to 15% in its first year in office. It will guarantee all our children and young people access to descent, relevant education that prepares them for happy and productive lives. Among other things it will:

- Provide education on Gender Relations to young people
- Provide counselling services to parents
- Strengthen the legislation on domestic violence
- Collaborate with NGO’s and churches in the implementation of supportive programmes.

Provide early childhood education
Introduce social skills, a foreign language, Health and Family Life Education from the primary school level
Strengthen the Primary School System by ensuring that there is a reservoir of well trained teachers, appropriate teaching aids and other resources
Abolish the Common Entrance examination and replace it with continuous assessment for selecting children to attend secondary schools according to their aptitude
Revise the curriculum for secondary schools to include life skills, ethics, civics, technical and technological education, agriculture and cultural activities such as music, art and drama
Provide assistance to children with respect to text books and transport to school
Ensure that no child leaves school without a qualification
Improve and make available tertiary level education and vocational training to all students
Facilitate access to St. George’s University for those students who attain the required qualifications
Offer a minimum of 10 island scholarships annually.

A Training Awards Policy and an Independent Agency will be formulated to give every Grenadian an equal opportunity to access scholarships.

Lifelong Education
The NDC is committed to life long training and learning for all of our citizens regardless of age. In that regard we shall implement a series of ongoing training and human learning initiatives aimed at providing our citizens with globally sought after skills. Specifically we shall:

- Establish “Learning Centres” in every parish
- Provide training opportunities in infor-
Good health is a basic human right and a vehicle for economic growth and social development. The NDC Government is committed to improving the quality of health of all citizens of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique irrespective of their political, religious, ethnic affiliation or class. An NDC Government will enhance the quality and delivery of Health Services in the State of Grenada by focusing on Preventative, Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services through Health Reforms. It will strengthen and re-organize systems and rationalize existing facilities together with continuous training of all categories of health care providers. The focus of the new strategy will be on:

- Health promotion and disease prevention
- On-going training for health care providers
- Quality management of health care systems
- Provision of primary health care
- Creating and preserving a healthy environment
- Health care legislation and financing
- Private/public sector partnership
- Exploring the feasibility of a National Health Insurance Scheme
- Achieving the Millennium development goals as they relate to child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other lifestyle diseases.

As a matter of urgency, the incoming NDC Government will:

- Work to provide Free Health care for all children under the age of 18 and senior citizens over 60 years within its term in office.
- Reduce the waiting time in the Accident and Emergency department.
- Introduce a Decompression Chamber.
- Introduce specialist outpatient clinics throughout the country.
- Upgrade Grand Bras and Sauteurs and Princess Royal Hospital in Carriacou.
- Reduce the waiting time in the Accident and Emergency department.
- Increase the percentage of the national budget, for both compulsory and voluntary education and training
- Introduce tax rebate schemes to the private sector for investment in training
- Seek external grants and resources through bi-lateral co-operation agreements
- Introduce an entertainment levy for HRD.

The NDC is mindful of the need for Human Resource Development in the management of the Health Service. It will therefore draw up and implement a comprehensive human resource development plan for the health sector and provide scholarships for nurses in specialized areas such as oncology and bio-medical technology.

As part of its policy of taking services to the people, the new NDC Administration will upgrade both the Princess Alice Hospital in St. Andrew and the Princess Royal Hospital in Carriacou. They will be provided with adequate staffing, equipment and supplies to offer the full range of services inclusive of minor operations, physiotherapy, diagnostic facilities such as X-ray and laboratory services to avoid many of the difficulties which presently exist in sending specimens to St George’s and retrieving results. The NDC will also up-grade the Health Centre in Petit Martinique to provide a wide range of services.

The NDC is mindful of the costs involved in improving health care. However, because of the high priority given to health it will develop a five-year strategic plan for Hospital Services with emphasis on cost recovery, maintenance of standards and disaster mitigation and management.

The NDC will introduce a special programme called THE GRENADA YOUTH UPLIFTMENT PROGRAMME. It is based on the principle that “Every Youth Has Value, Every Youth Can Earn, Every Youth Must Contribute To Nation Building.”
The Programme objectives include:
- Recognizing youth as important, valued stakeholders in the development of our nation
- Providing short-term work experience for all unemployed youth
- Laying the foundations for long-term employment through skill development
- Enabling young people to contribute to and benefit from social well-being through family support and community service.

The programme will be developed by both the private, NGO, and public sectors as a joint enterprise. This will ensure, among other things, a sense of joint ownership, thus reinforcing its non-political character.

Programme implementation will be the responsibility of an independent Agency managed by a Board of Directors. The programme will include the following features:
- Exposure of all young people to opportunities to inculcate positive values
- A thorough induction to the world of work based on acceptable values and habits
- Introduction to high technology, with opportunities to proceed to further studies
- Exposure to a National Cultural Projects and a National Sports Programme
- Access to learning new methods of farming
- Training for niche farming and agribusiness

The NDC is mindful of the expectations raised among young people by the IMANI Programme. The new Youth Upliftment Programme will therefore absorb ALL THE TRAINEES and the best practices of the Imani Programme. No trainee on the Imani Programme will be sent home. The existing Imani Programme will be improved by:
- Developing and maintaining a culture that values youth
- Refusing idle or demeaning job placements
- Cutting out political criteria for selection
- Encouraging public sector, private sector and NGO partnerships
- Providing opportunities for young people to receive training overseas
- Establishing a youth Enterprise Programme to provide training, advice and financing for business development
- Establishing an annual Youth and Students Science & Technology Exhibition
- Providing support for the formation of a National Youth & Student Organization, which will seek to promote and protect the rights and privileges of young people
- Developing comprehensive and competitive cultural and sports programme for young people.

This package of measures will lay the basis for a qualitative change in the lives of our young people. Our programme is one of hope and empowerment that provides opportunities for our young people to be whatever they want to be in life.

(7) EMPOWERING WOMEN
The NDC readily admits that women are the backbone of Grenadian society. They are more than half the workforce, the electorate and household heads. Even though women have made considerable progress in education and in employment, there is still a glass ceiling operating at the work place.

The NDC is mindful of the triple burden that women face. They produce, they reproduce and they manage households. More than 55% of all households in Grenada have female heads. The agreed strategy of the NDC is to invest heavily in women so that the knowledge, attitudes and skills they acquire can be passed on to succeeding generations of children. An NDC Government will bring relief to working and unemployed mothers by:
- Updating Minimum Wage legislation
- Ensuring that there is equal pay for equal work
- Strengthening the legislation and enforcement mechanisms to combat domestic violence and sexual harassment at work
- Providing skills training tied to employment opportunities in "non-traditional areas" for women – which are better paid
- Providing child development facilities for working mothers, starting with those in key government positions
- Encouraging the private sector to provide similar facilities for their female employees.

(8) CARING FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS
The people of Grenada, as in most Caribbean countries are living longer. The number of people over 60 years is rising faster than countries can cope. As a result there is insufficient provision for people in their golden years after retirement.

The NDC believes that senior citizens have laid the foundations for the development of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. As the embodiments of wholesome Grenadian values, they deserve a more pronounced role in developing Grenada on firm foundations. The NDC Administration will:
- Enhance the Senior Citizen’s portfolio in the Ministry responsible for Families
- Improving community facilities to cater to the needs of children, young people and families
- Undertaking a public education programme to enlighten the nation, particularly their male counterparts, on the role of women in development.
Acknowledge the contributions that senior citizens can make to development and involve them in the productive process.

Involve senior citizens more fully in the dispensing of services in communities.

Raise the old age pension from $130 per month to a more acceptable figure and review pensions on a regular basis to enable senior citizens to cope with the rising cost of living.

Review the discrepancy in pension benefits accruing to those people who were employed before 1983 and after 1983 when the National Insurance Scheme was introduced.

**SPORTS FOR ALL**

Sport is a major contributor to a healthy and productive society. It is a core component of youth and national development. It is also a source of national pride and identity. Through sports, our citizens have an opportunity to perform on the world stage and in the process win recognition for our nation. The NDC’s vision for sports includes entire families and communities benefiting socially, culturally and economically from the opportunities that sports offer.

The primary objective is to ensure that all Grenadians can participate in sports either for fun, health and fitness, social relationships and/or employment. This will be achieved through four (5) main policy initiatives:

(i) **The first objective is to put existing facilities to good use.** Detailed plans will be drawn up to ensure that valuable assets which are in great demand are used on a regular basis.

(ii) **The second objective is to invest in the Physical Infrastructure for Sports.** These will include the construction of major facilities to promote important and non-traditional sporting disciplines such as lawn tennis, swimming, water polo, basketball, baseball and squash. Sporting facilities will be taken to the people wherever they are, including the rural parishes.

(iii) **The third objective is the institutional strengthening of existing organizations and the creation of a body to govern sports.** The NDC will establish a National Sports Council. This body will fully representative and serve as the supreme management authority for sports in Grenada. Its primary functions will be to formulate a national sports policy and to ensure that the different club structures, sporting disciplines and physical facilities are properly managed, developed and maintained.

(iv) **The fourth objective is to establish an Incentives and Rewards System.** Our approach will be to provide suitable compensation to sports people who represent Grenada in various disciplines. This will range from financial packages to employment offers, and assistance in cases of injury and sickness. The NDC will invite the private sector to contribute towards this cause.

(v) **The fifth objective is to develop the Sports Tourism sector.** The Current Sports Tourism Programme will be expanded to include other disciplines such as Football, Basketball, Swimming, Netball and Boxing.

**PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY**

Grenada is still a rural society, with only 30.6% of its population classified as urban by the United Nations in 2004. The vast majority of Grenadians live in traditional communities in the countryside. In recent years however, the living standards of rural Grenadians has fallen due to the neglect of agriculture. The situation would have been worse had it not been for the community spirit and that of sharing.

The NDC believes that our communities and our traditional community spirit are worth preserving. It will do so by means of the following measures:

- Strengthen the capacity of community organizations to solve problems and generally to meet the needs of people in their own neighbourhoods;
- Take services – such as post offices, schools, health centres - to where the people are;
- Give maximum support to agriculture to prevent massive migration from the countryside;
- Improve roads and transport systems to enable rural people to move around the country more easily;
- Introduce a form of Local Government.
(11) PUTTING CARRAICOU AND PETITE MARTINIQUE ON THE MAP

The NDC recognizes that Carriacou and Petite Martinique constitute a unique and inseparable part of our nation. This uniqueness creates special needs, challenges, advantages and disadvantages for both the citizen and the state. Historically these sister islands have been neglected. In keeping with our principles of Good Governance and our respect for the rights of all citizens, our development strategies for the sister isles will reflect their uniqueness and special circumstances.

Hence, every effort will be made to integrate Carriacou and Petite Martinique fully into the mainstream of national life. The NDC will demonstrate its commitment to the social and economic development of Carriacou and Petite Martinique by enacting Local Government legislation and, in accordance with the Constitution, institute the Council for Carriacou and Petite Martinique within 100 days of entering office.

As shown later, it will build a new economy in these islands based on the comparative advantages they enjoy.

(12) SOCIAL SECURITY

The NDC is crystal clear that the condition of the Grenadian society must be improved in order that every citizen could enjoy life in its fullness. Existing conditions involving poverty, joblessness, weak family structures, poor social skills, crime and violence only serve to undermine the stability of our country.

Government, community agencies, churches, NGOs working together as partners, can transform this society and improve the conditions under which people live. Important reforms in education, human resource development, capacity building and productivity will be the means by which we work to realize our vision of a better Grenada. However, there can be no social transformation of society unless there is strengthening of our faith in GOD.

The new NDC Administration will introduce the following measures:

(a) A safety net will be put in place to ensure that all citizens will have access to resources to prevent them from falling through the cracks to absolute destitution.

(b) NDC will establish a Social Development Agency to spearhead our efforts to shift the focus from welfare to genuine development without political patronage.

(c) Legislation will be introduced to back up our policy of zero tolerance for violence against women and child abuse.

(d) A special Spiritual Access Programme will be introduced by which all faith-based organizations will be supported in their evangelization and social outreach activities.
The mandate under which most democratic governments take office is to aid the development of their country. But development is a complex process, in which many factors play a part. Hence a country does not develop because it has an abundance of natural resources, or a large population, or strong leadership or large foreign reserves. It is the result of the interplay of many variables. The National Democratic Congress has identified a number of essential requirements that have to be put in place before Grenada can take off on the road to a brighter future.

(1) QUALITY LEADERSHIP
A recent opinion poll carried out in Grenada, found that the electorate expect their leaders to be (a) Morally upright; (b) Competent; (c) Genuine and Trustworthy; (d) Democratic; (e) Statesmanlike; and (f) Conciliatory.

These are the qualities expected of those seeking public office. The National Democratic Congress has gone to great lengths to ensure that each and every candidate for the forthcoming election satisfied these criteria. It therefore has a team of outstanding farmers, lawyers, pastors, social workers, engineers, teachers, business persons and community leaders. Moreover it has as its leader a competent lawyer who is the embodiment of all the virtues listed above.

(2) GOOD GOVERNANCE
Good Governance is universally accepted as a precondition for development. Bad governance is generally regarded as one of the root causes of stagnation. Bad governance hinders development and is responsible for the failure of nation states. Bad governance, often associated with corruption in high places is theft from the people. Hence major donors and international financial institutions are increasingly basing their aid and loans on the condition that reforms, which ensure Good Governance, are undertaken. Basically, if we want to attract legitimate investments we have to institute Good Governance.

Good Governance has 8 major characteristics. It is based on the principles of (1) accountability, (2) transparency, (3) responsiveness; (4) effectiveness and efficiency; (5) participation; (6) consensus; (7) equity and inclusion and (8) the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable members of society are heard in decision-making. It is through Good Governance that all stakeholders in the development process are given a sense of ownership of important national initiatives. Whereas bad governance is incestuous, Good Governance is about healthy and sustainable development. Good Governance will be the guiding principle of the new NDC Administration. One of the first tasks of our Government will be to implement the Integrity in Public Life Act and the Anti-Corruption Act, both of which were passed by our Parliament several months ago, but now lie dormant. The Grenadian people can confidently rely upon us to:

- Show zero tolerance for unethical conduct
- Promote and preserve the independence of the judiciary
- Encourage and respect a free press and freedom of expression
- Pass Freedom of Information legislation
- Demonstrate that the core purpose of government is to look after the welfare of the people
- Respect the fact that “power” belongs to the people
- Put in place community structures to enable everyone to participate in the decision making processes that affect their lives
- Be a government of inclusion and consultation, with opportunity for all
- Insist on the equitable distribution of public goods and services, with special consideration for the poor and other vulnerable groups.

(3) A NEW VALUE SYSTEM
In recent years a new value system has emerged in Grenada. Aided by cultural penetration and legitimated by greedy leaders, it has firmly taken root in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. These values that put less emphasis on production than consumption, run counter to those required to build a country. Instead they foster corruption and crime.

The foundations of Grenadian society were built on values such as honesty, decency, respectability, hard work and thrift. These values are embedded in Grenadian culture. Our culture is the way of life of the Grenadian people and is a priceless national asset. It is owned by the people and it is the source of national pride and patriotism. Government has an obligation to promote and protect our cultural identity not only as a source of values but also to advance the economic benefits that culture has to offer.

The NDC is anxious to put a halt to the creeping culture of corruption, greed and crime. As a result the incoming NDC Administration will undertake the following initiatives. We shall:

- Formulate a National Cultural Policy, based on widespread consultation with stakeholders
- Organize major investments in the development of authentic Grenadian culture
- Assert Grenadian culture and integrate it into our educational and economic production sectors.

(4) A PROBLEM SOLVING APPROACH
The NDC recognizes that as we move relentlessly towards becoming a global village in which survival will depend on innovation, Grenada has to become more competitive. The school curriculum will be reformed to...
Your NDC Team

FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY - Vote NDC
The NDC knows that Grenada's social and economic life depends on the quality of the physical infrastructure. It is the Government’s responsibility to provide these public goods. The NDC will reintroduce the Public Works Department to ensure that:

- Maintenance capability is preserved
- Technical competence is maintained to facilitate proper costing of projects
- Internal audit is conducted on an ongoing basis.

As a matter of urgency, the NDC will provide the necessary resources to implement the following improved pieces of legislation to bring good governance to the provision of essential infrastructure:

- An Audit Act
- Public Finance Management Act
- Public Procurement and Administration Act.

(6) AN EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The NDC government will invest in road infrastructure not only by up-grading the principal road networks but also improving the condition of roads in the rural and agricultural communities. An NDC government will reverse the years of neglect of the country’s Farm and Feeder road network through a programme of upgrading and maintenance – with direct community involvement.

Drainage

An NDC government will implement strategies for maintenance and improvement of drainage, flood mitigation works, and the prevention of landslides and rockfalls. Areas for priority consideration would include Grenville, River Road, Town of St. George and Grand Anse.

Water Supply

An NDC government will implement strategies to:

- Ensure that every household has a reliable, affordable drinking water supply
- Safeguard Grenada’s watersheds and water resources
- Encourage conservation and rainwater harvesting.

Sewerage

An NDC government will implement strategies to expand the public sewerage system to other urban centres, including Grenville and Gouyave.

Electricity

An NDC government will implement strategies to:

- Seek to reduce the overall cost of electricity
- Promote renewable energy including solar and wind.

Human Settlements

An NDC government will seek to develop and implement a Human Settlements Policy, which would improve the housing conditions of the most disadvantaged groups. It will also strengthen the overall management of State lands.

Transportation

NDC is appalled at the state of public transportation. An NDC government will:

- Improve the public transportation service – in consultation with the Bus Drivers Association;
- Provide transport for workers who carry out essential work after hours;
- Provide a comprehensive programme to assist the transportation of needy students.

Regional Transport

Regional air transport for the movement of people and goods is essential for national and regional development. The recent hike in the price of airline tickets has undermined any real prospects for export-led Private Sector growth in Grenada and the OECS sub-region, which are already suffering from the disadvantages of small-scale production.

The incoming NDC Government will therefore:

- Open negotiations with regional governments and the private sector to solve Grenada’s air transport problem.
that is manipulated to pursue the interests of a given political party and end up stifling growth. On the other hand they can become professional servants of the people, who dispense services and discharge their responsibilities in an efficient and professional manner. The NDC can assure the people of Grenada that it will spare no effort in developing a modern and efficient civil service.

The NDC will therefore embark on a Public Sector Reform programme that will transform the Grenadian civil service. We shall:

- Run a campaign to sensitize government employees to the inconvenience and humiliation clients suffer from poor service;
- Draw up a code of conduct for civil servants;
- Design a system for rewarding good customer relations practices;
- Carry out a job classification and evaluation exercise in order to review the remuneration of different categories of government workers;
- Formulate and implement a Human Resource Development Policy for the public service;
- Encourage and support civil servants to enable them to pursue further education and training at all levels;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Public Service Commission to manage the public service more effectively;
- Improve the physical conditions under which all public servants work;
- Review the package of benefits that can be used to motivate public workers - such as pensions, loans for consumer goods.

(8) NATIONAL SECURITY

The protection of the Grenadian people and our national assets and interests is of paramount importance. NDC is committed to improving our national security systems to ensure a peaceful and safe environment for all our citizens, visitors and investors. As a result the NDC will focus on effective and efficient law enforcement; effective crime prevention; and accountability and service delivery by the institutions of safety and security.

Key actions to achieve the above include:
- Improving the investigative capacity of the Royal Grenada Police Force
- Ensuring fairness and equity within the RGPF
- Strengthening the Criminal Investigation Department
- Improving the forensic and record keeping capacity of the RGPF

The NDC is committed to rewarding professional behaviour and raising morale within the Royal Grenada Police Force. It will therefore introduce a system for bringing greater satisfaction and security to Police Officers who have to act as the front line in halting the spread of crime and violence in Grenada. Among other things, it will make land available to the Police Welfare Association to be developed as housing solutions for deserving Police Officers.

(9) AN ENLIGHTENED FOREIGN POLICY

In a rapidly changing global environment, active engagement with the global community is inevitable, strategic and prudent. As such the NDC will pursue a foreign policy that will ensure that the interests of Grenadians at home and abroad are protected and maximized. In so doing, NDC will pursue a consistent foreign policy that is cognizant of the needs of other nation states. Key elements of our policy will include:

- Strengthening the Special Branch, Traffic Branch and Prosecution Departments
- Enhancing the level of training and opportunities for personal development of members of the RGPF
- Introducing performance indicators to measure and guide improved standards.

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An NDC administration will work in partnership with the private sector to bring fresh approaches to effectively tackle these external constraints to the competitiveness. These approaches will include:

- The full liberalization of the telecommunications sector
- The use and development of technology in the schools
- A regional approach to ICT
- The expansion of joint procurement practices.

(7) AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CIVIL SERVICE

The NDC is mindful of the attitudes of service providers in both the public and private sector. Research has shown that providers of service confuse service with servitude. Since Government is the largest employer, it will set an example by creating an efficient and effective civil service.

The NDC is mindful of the vital role that the civil service plays in developing a country. Civil servants can become an army of occupation
(1) THE MACRO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

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

- A dramatic decline in the key productive sectors, namely Agriculture and Light Manufacturing;
- A significant drop in Construction activity;
- A rapid decline in the Tourism sector after Hurricanes Ivan and Emily;
- A rapid reversal of the expansion in the Service sector, especially in the Offshore and Informatics sectors;
- A marked reduction in the volume of retail trade and in activities at the St. George’s Port;
- A sluggish increase in Government revenues in the face of mounting recurrent expenditures;
- A marked increase in indirect taxes, levies, duties and fees in an effort to bolster Government revenues.

The negative macroeconomic fallout of these trends is substantial and manifests itself in the following features:

- A developing crisis in the financial sector with increasing defaults on loans leading to repossession and sale of real property and goods;
- An emerging fiscal crisis, in which the existing fiscal regime is unable to generate the revenues it requires to meet the ongoing financial commitments of the government.

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

- Excessive and reckless borrowing on the part of Government in the wake of the favourable credit worthiness of Grenada in 1995.
- A failed investment policy that focused entirely on infrastructural projects which had no long term prospects of providing sustainable employment or generating any income.
- A policy of neglect of the productive sectors of the economy - in particular agriculture, tourism and light manufacturing which, in contrast to infrastructure, has the potential to provide sustainable employment and generate income that would, in the process strengthen the tax base.
- The failure of the government to develop and implement a National Export Strategy.
- Failure to institute proper tax administration arrangements especially at a time when the ceiling on personal income tax was placed at $60,000.00 per year.
- The increasing dependence on indirect taxes.
- The increased tax burden placed on the average person by these indirect taxes effectively reducing income levels and consumer spending, thereby retarding economic growth and expansion.
- The failure of the administration to enact a relevant Investment Code and to institute a package of fiscal incentives aimed at attracting investors - both local and foreign.

As a result of continuing economic difficulties, Government was forced to buy into the IMF Structural Adjustment Programme (Poverty Reduction Strategy) but has been failing to meet its commitments under that programme.

NDC ECONOMIC POLICY

The overwhelming macro-economic challenges facing our country today are how to reinvigorate and sustain economic growth while at the same time reducing high unemployment and poverty rates. Other challenges include restoring fiscal balance and debt sustainability as well as securing a more sustainable external position in an increasingly competitive global environment.

In order to successfully confront these challenges our economic policies and programmes shall therefore revolve around the following strategic aims:

- Expand the productive sectors of the economy - especially Agriculture, Agro-industries, Fisheries and Light Manufacturing - so as to create long term sustainable employment and income and a strong revenue base for public finance.
- Raising the levels of labour productivity in our society.
- Vigourously exploring and exploiting our Oil and Gas reserves while simultaneously but seriously pursuing alternative sources of energy.
- Concluding Grenada’s maritime boundary agreement with Venezuela and Trinidad.
- Removing the self-imposed constraints to the development of our Tourism industry.
- Restoring and developing our offshore Financial Services sector.
- Developing a full range of services aimed at creating a knowledge-based export services sector.
- In cooperation with the private sector, consciously and in a disciplined manner, implementing an export promotion strategy aimed at identifying and promoting niche products and services, and specific target markets for these products and services.
- Developing a programme, together with the necessary supporting institutional and logistical arrangements, to carefully manage the country’s debt.
- Undertaking measures aimed at restoring confidence in Grenada’s financial sector.
- Strengthening the climate and institutional framework for national economic perfor-
The realization of these strategic aims would require, at the outset, a deep appreciation of the fact that the achievement of national goals will necessarily involve the building of a social and economic partnership in which all stakeholders feel they have a genuine stake and, after full participation in its deliberations, can take ownership of its decisions and actions. In this regard, the role of the state, the private sector, the labour movement, civil society and all other agents of economic and social transformation must be clearly defined and fully understood by all. Indeed the cornerstone of the NDC economic policy is a meaningful Partnership between Government, the Private Sector, organized labour represented by the Trade Unions and other representatives of Civil Society.

An NDC Government will project the state’s primary role as the protector of the national interest and work to ensure that the state discharges its responsibilities to the people and the communities. In pursuing our economic programme, we are, and shall be committed to the philosophical choice of a mixed economy led by the private sector with the responsibility falling upon the government to create the enabling conditions.

STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The National Democratic Congress believes that a strong, dynamic and enterprising Private Sector is a strategic necessity for national development and an integral part of Grenada’s New Economy. That new economy must be a Private Sector-led Economy. NDC therefore expects that the Private Sector will continue to lead the way in providing jobs, generating public revenue, and earning foreign exchange to drive economic development in Grenada.

Over 80% of Grenada’s GDP of $EC11 billion in 2006 was accounted for by the Service Sector, largely composed of Tourism, Financial Services, Retail Trade, Utilities and Transport. Most of this represented Private Sector activity. So were the other sectors such as Manufacturing, Agro-industries, Fisheries and Construction. The Private Sector is also Grenada’s main employer. Of the labour force of about 40,000 over 85% is accounted for by the Private Sector.

During the last two decades economic growth in Grenada has been driven by Private Sector activity. At the policy level the Private Sector has been assigned the role of ‘Engine of Growth’ by the ruling NNP administration. However the Private Sector has been deprived of the required institutional environment to play that role.

On taking office, the NDC will immediately reverse this trend and give maximum support to the Private Sector.

(2) STIMULATING AGRICULTURE

The NDC agricultural policy will be geared towards bringing hope to the thousands of farmers and their families, attracting young persons into agriculture and stimulating the rural economy. We will move Agriculture from the back burner to its rightful place in the national economy with structural and economic linkages to Tourism and other sectors.

Our farmers and fisher folk will be given the support and motivation they need to feed the nation, reduce the rising food import bill, which is now over $140m, and to improve the quality of life of our impoverished rural communities.

Specifically an NDC Administration will:

- Seek to achieve food security through a programme of incentives for Grenada to achieve greater self-sufficiency in vegetables, root crops, fish, poultry, pork, lamb, beef, honey and fruit. “Eat local and buy Grenada” campaigns will be promoted.
- Work towards increased private sector involvement in Agriculture.
- Implement programmes with the appropriate incentives to attract young persons into modern commercial agriculture.
- Provide the necessary framework and policy initiatives for the introduction of crop insurance to our farmers for protection in the event of hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters.
- Establish a Farming Systems Extension Service with the capacity to provide comprehensive advice and training to farmers.
- Completely reorganize the Marketing Board to enhance its market intelligence capability and to adequately market all farmers’ produce.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive land use policy.
- Restore Mirabeau Agricultural Training School as a premier learning institution for the teaching of both the business and the science of agriculture to our youth.
- Work towards the capitalization of the Nutmeg Association, the merger of GCNA and
GCA and the rejuvenation of both the cocoa and nutmeg sub-sectors into commercially viable industries.

- Give priority to rehabilitating our farm and feeder roads. Farmers need to get to their fields.
- Expand the use of local fruit juices and fruits in the school feeding programme.
- Arrest the spread of the Black Sigatoka disease that is destroying banana fields all over the island.
- Ensure that Farmers are afforded equal level concessions as enjoyed by other sectors.
- Support and promote the agro-processing sub-sector to bring more money to our farmers and increase our foreign exchange earnings.
- Redevelop the state-owned estates of Belle Vie and Grand Bras as commercial and demonstration farms.
- Develop the fruit tree orchards for the domestic and export market.
- Strengthen and enforce the legislation dealing with praedial larceny.
- Establish a system for the issuing of receipts, the registration of all farmers and vendors of agricultural produce.
- Support farmer’s organizations and establish an annual celebration of farmer’s week with exhibitions, economic, social and recreational activities.
- Construct a major agro-processing plant in St. Andrew’s to add value to our agricultural produce such as nutmeg and fruits.
- Support the horticultural industry to take advantage of the growing market.

Since Hurricanes Ivan and Emily farmers have used their ingenuity to diversify their crops. As a result cocoa production has increased significantly with an increasing amount of cocoa being exported in its raw state. The NDC as a matter of urgency will:

- Give maximum support to cocoa growers
- Introduce a cocoa processing plant to enable cocoa farmers to add value to their exports.

The NDC will ensure that Gouyave and other fish centers have adequate storage facilities. It will also explore the feasibility of establishing a fish processing plant.

(3) MAKING TOURISM WORK FOR ALL

Tourism is the fastest growing sector in the region and the world. Because of its natural and cultural assets, Grenada can benefit tremendously from Tourism in the medium term. Appreciating the importance of this fact, the NDC will provide policy leadership, negotiating skill, management expertise and resource commitments to ensure the continued growth of the sector for the benefit of all Grenadians and those foreign investors who are participating in the industry.

The primary concern of the NDC is the creation of opportunities in the following areas:

- Investment by local entrepreneurs and foreign investors
- Expansion of Tourism’s share of the Gross Domestic Product
- Higher government revenues
- Human Resource Development by which young Grenadians will be trained to take up the best-paying jobs in the sector
- Increased production of high value agricultural products
- Production and marketing of an exciting range of cultural products
- Increased economic and financial viability of a number of utilities, especially the Grenada Airports Authority, GRENLEC
- Small business expansion and a host of downstream services
- Employment generation, poverty reduction and a higher standard of living
- Community-based economic activities
- National heritage and cultural preservation.

In order to achieve these national goals, the NDC will position Grenada as a high quality, competitive stay-over and cruise tourism destination. A sustained effort will be made to establish Grenada as the diving capital of the Eastern Caribbean.

Further support will be provided by increased marketing activities to win business in the wedding and honeymoon, conferences and sports tourism niches as well as intra-Caribbean tourism.

FISHING

Special attention will be paid to the fishing sub-sector. The NDC will modernize the fishing industry by means of:

- Scientific fish breeding in hatcheries and nurseries
- Introducing fish stocking and stock analysis techniques
- Managing multi-species fisheries
- Carrying out research work on such species as lobster, lambi, crab and shrimp
- Fish farming
- Cultivation of sea moss and sea eggs
- Acquiring a decompression chamber to meet the needs of divers.
The new NDC Administration will therefore:

- Introduce legislation to enhance the tourism product by setting standards, encouraging physical planning, certification, environmental management, and the preservation of our cultural heritage.
- Set aside EC$15 million initially for marketing Grenada abroad.
- Draw up a Strategic Plan for Tourism in consultation with the private sector.
- Upgrade and expand facilities for the Cruise Tourism sector.
- Support locally owned hotels and guesthouses, which do not operate at the high end of the market.
- Make Grenada the DIVE capital of the Caribbean.

Based on the formulation and implementation of a National Cultural Policy, the NDC Administration will make our culture work for us, by linking it to our flagship industry, Tourism. Hence it will:

- Provide grants for the performing Arts, to aid production
- Offer financial, technical and managerial support for all national cultural events on Grenada and Carriacou to ensure the highest quality cultural products including food, entertainment, theatre productions
- Establish a National Cultural Centre
- Introduce cultural education programmes in schools
- Establish a School of Culture at TAMCC
- Create heritage banks in each parish
- Build proper steel band houses

The new NDC Government will use the annual Carnival as a showcase for Grenadian culture. It will promote this event as a major tourist attraction. Towards this end, it will establish a Carnival Promotion Agency, with Government support but without Government interference.

(4) TECHNOLOGICALLY-BASED SERVICES

There is no doubt whatsoever that modern economic development is being driven by the technological revolution. Countries ignore it at their own peril.

An NDC Government will lead from the front. The NDC can now make the following commitments. It will......

- Conduct a survey to establish the extent and use of ICT in the education system in Grenada.
- Launch a public awareness programme to promote ICT literacy.
- Strengthen computer studies in secondary schools.
- By the end of year 2010, at least 75% of all schools will have a computer laboratory with easy access for all students.
- These laboratories will be available for use by the community on a structured basis outside of normal school hours where feasible.
- Provide advanced ICT skills training in the vocational schools.
- Establish a Public Sector Training Agency, which will ensure that the public service establishes and develops a pool of skilled, in-house ICT professionals.
- Initiate a comprehensive computer literacy programme to ensure that all public sector employees have access to computers and learn how to use them in their work.
- Encourage distance learning based on the internet.

We shall draw up and implement a project proposal for the development of electronic government, including the electronic storage of all laws and regulations, as a mechanism to improve transparency and enhance service delivery in Government. Similarly the private sector will be encouraged to provide educational training and retraining at all levels.

Once there is a computer literate workforce, the NDC Government will seize the opportunities to establish Financial Services and e-commerce as pillars of the new Grenadian economy.

(5) A NEW ENERGY POLICY

The high cost of energy severely restricts the prospects of competitive manufacturing, including the development of agro-industries. With oil at over US$110 a barrel, the NDC is forced to explore the feasibility of developing alternative sources of energy. It will:

- Embark on a public education programme to reduce domestic energy consumption.
- Install solar generation systems in all schools and government buildings to reduce the amount spent on electricity.
- Sell excess capacity to Grenlec.
- Offer incentives to individuals and corporate bodies to use alternative energy systems.
- Make energy efficient appliances, lighting, etc. more price competitive by reducing the import duties and taxes.
- Revise the taxation on vehicles to encourage the importation of vehicles that utilize more fuel-efficient engines.
- Support the implementation of a waste-to-energy process at the Perseverance Landfill.
- Consider wave energy as part of a package that includes the desalination of sea water.

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(6) PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

The NDC believes that the social and economic development of the country should be carried out in a sustainable way, that is, to meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

An NDC government will ensure that careful environmental management is an essential part of all national development policies, plans, programmes and projects. An NDC government will faithfully honor the St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability to which all OECS countries signed in 2001. It will ensure the sustainable use of Grenada's natural resources as follows:

- Manage and control the utilization of coral reefs and other marine ecosystems by the tourism industry.
- Implement measures to manage and control the collection of sand from beaches.
- Implement measures to protect and replant mangroves.
- Develop and enforce a Land Use Policy.
- Develop and implement a re-afforestation programme to replant the forests that were destroyed by Hurricane Ivan and to encourage the planting of trees and the creation of green spaces.
- Promote integrated watershed management by the agricultural sector.
- Repeal the amendments to the National Parks and Protected Areas Act.

(7) DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF ENTERPRISE, INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

The World Bank has established that Grenada lags behind most of its CARICOM neighbours in creating an environment that is conducive to doing business. Moreover, the World Bank study has also shown that Grenada’s ranking has slipped in comparison with that of the rest of the world. This is a matter of grave concern as this ranking is critical in determining Grenada’s ability to attract foreign investment.

The NDC welcomes close collaboration with the Private Sector to rapidly improve Grenada’s Doing Business profile.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

NDC fully understands the strong concern within the Grenada Private Sector that the educational institutions are not putting out the Human Resources that are ready for the world of work or for business enterprise. The NDC will therefore:

- Create mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses and the education sector to customize education and training to meet the Human Resource demands of the Private Sector.
- Give tax breaks to businesses that engage in training in priority areas or provide financial resources for such.
- Work creatively with the Private Sector to modernize the Business Culture.
- Sensitize the Fiscal Incentives framework to this objective.
- Provided for the introduction of new technology.
- Develop modern systems of ownership and management that will help businesses to break out of their traditional family-operated mould, which restrict their ability to attract capital.
- In partnership with NDC, help the Grenada Business community to evolve into a robust, competitive Private Sector responding effectively to the changes in the business and trading environment.

The NDC is also committed to expanding the private sector by facilitating access by potential entrepreneurs. Specialized agencies will be encouraged to provide education and other means of support to those wanting to start their own businesses. The critical variables and stages of developing businesses will be dealt with thoroughly and incentives given to entrepreneurs.

PRODUCTIVITY

Improved and sustained economic growth requires an improvement in the rate of productivity. The issue of productivity and the productive sectors must therefore be placed at the centre of our economic agenda and dialogue. We shall, among other things, create avenues through which, in a Grenadian context, the concept of productivity can be fully explored and defined, both with respect to goods and services. The units and standards of measurement can be agreed upon and productivity benchmarks established for each sector of our economy.

THE NATIONAL EXPORT SECTOR STRATEGY

The NDC administration will take ownership of the National Export Sector Strategy that was developed by the local Export Sector Strategy Committee with the help of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Within six months of assuming office the National Export Council will be created to guide the process of implementing the Export Strategy.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Partnership will constitute a pillar of governance of the new NDC administration. This partnership will be developed around the following agenda:

- Deciding on development projects and facilitating initiatives for the institutional strengthening of the Private Sector Advocacy Groups.
- The joint identification of new growth sectors in the economy, the setting of targets for these growth sectors, and the determination of required institutional support for these sectors.
- The crafting of fiscal and tax policy.
- The development of trade policy.
- The raising of productivity standards.

We shall establish a National Social and Economic Council that will serve as a multistakeholder instrument of Governance involving representatives of Government, the opposition, the private sector organizations, the trade union movement, the conference of churches and other non-governmental and civil society organizations. Thus through the creation of this genuine multistakeholder arrangement - built on trust and good faith – we shall seek to establish a Memorandum of Understanding. This will set out the points of commonality between the parties.

In addition to this, the NDC will:

- Assemble a team of persons with economic, accounting, business, banking, insurance, legal, labour and NGO expertise to serve as a National Advisory Council to the Cabinet.
- Develop a 3-5 year economic plan for Grenada setting out a strategic vision for the economy.
- Develop and make readily accessible an investment code for Grenada that would establish the institutional and regulatory framework within which both foreign and local investors will invest in Grenada.
- Develop a national investment programme especially around the lead sectors focusing on building Grenada’s image as an attractive, safe and profitable place to do business.
THE NEW ECONOMY
In essence, an NDC Government shall build a New Economy in Grenada - an economy that not only strengthens and consolidates the traditional economy, but which also produces and delivers new and improved goods and services; utilizing new production and service delivery systems, methods and techniques; generating new sources of income and employment, based on the most competitive levels of knowledge, skill and productivity in our labour force.

The aim of the NDC is to be able to modernize our economy and society, finance our development and bring Grenada fully into the modern international economy.

The creation of THE NEW ECONOMY will be driven by creativity and innovation and applied to:

- High-end Tourism products such as adventure tourism, nature-based tourism, cultural tourism, meetings, conferences and community tourism.
- High value agriculture - including the food industry, agro-processing and confectionary.
- Cosmetics
- Offshore financial services
- Offshore medical health and wellness services
- Cultural products
- Entertainment
- Art, painting and photography
- ICT services
- ICT-enabled products and services
- The Fashion industry
- The Music industry
- Tertiary Education

A NEW ECONOMY FOR CARRIACOU AND PETITE MARTINIQUE
This New Economy would fully embrace Carriacou and Petite Martinique, which, for all intents and purposes do not have an economy and have been treated as only entitled to the occasional patching of the roads. As shown above, the NDC will put Carriacou and Petite Martinique on the map. This will be augmented by building an economy in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

With respect to Agriculture, the NDC will:
- Promote the production of staples for food security. In addition to the traditional crops we will introduce new crops suited to the arid conditions such as mauby bark, tamarind and onions.
- Invest in pond rehabilitation and construction, which is necessary to assist farmers.
- Provide the technical training and other support necessary to enable the development of a viable livestock industry.
- Modernize the fishing industry to the same standards that will be reached in Grenada.

With respect to Tourism, the relevant product strengths of Carriacou and Petite Martinique are in the areas of yachting, dive and cultural tourism. The development task for this sector would require government to facilitate investment in marina services and a decompression chamber. In order to survive in the competitive Grenadines market, the Carriacou and Petite Martinique product must be of higher value and lower cost. Our administration will therefore allocate resources to specifically market Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Given the geography of our country, government has a responsibility to assist in making access to and from Carriacou and Petite Martinique as available and affordable as possible.

On forming the next Government NDC will:
- Implement a ferry transportation subsidy for seniors, students and the sick.
- Provide berthing terminals for the inter-island ferry with adequate facilities in both Carriacou and Grenada.
- Upgrade the existing Queen’s jetty.

Grenada-based technical resources in the area of public services must be made available to address the needs and problems of the citizens on Carriacou and Petite Martinique. As shown above, a form of Local Government will be introduced in Carriacou and Petite Martinique within 100 days of taking office.

Young people in CARRIACOU and Petite Martinique will have full and equal access to opportunities under the GRENADA YOUTH UPLIFTMENT PROGRAMME and the HRD PROGRAMME. Essentially, the objective is to train for employment and the establishment of small businesses. In light of the islands’ sea-faring tradition, special training for jobs in the fishing, shipping and cruise ship industries will be pursued.

Community centres will be built in Windward, Harvey Vale and Mt. Pleasant. From such bases, the NDC shall spare no effort to promote village maroon festivals, regatta, big drum and Shakespeare. The NDC will address the development of string band music and promote Carriacou and Petite Martinique as entertainment centres by establishing a regional string band music festival there.
CONCLUSION

The NDC is in the business of the sustainable developing Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. We are in for the long haul. Hence we have looked at short term, medium term and long term measures to restore integrity, renew hope and build Grenada.

In this Manifesto we have devoted considerable effort and space to meeting the pressing needs of our people, inclusive of:

- Relief of the high cost of living
- Improving housing, health care, education and training
- Strengthening the family
- Equipping our youth for a challenging future
- Empowering and protecting our women and our senior citizens
- Making sports available to all
- Preserving our community and providing a safety net for all Grenadians
- Fully embracing and developing Carriacou and Petite Martinique

We have also looked carefully of the prerequisites of social and economic development, clearly outlining the role of Government and all the other stakeholders in national development. We have stressed the importance of Good Governance.

We have shown how we shall build a new economy for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

All we need now is your support to implement these policies and programmes.

In the meantime the other Party has been trumpeting its spurious achievements and advocating quick fixes to the serious problems this country faces. The choice is now left to the electorate of this country. On Election Day, 8th July - Liberation Day, you can either vote for the failed policies of the NNP that have taken us to the brink of disaster and disgrace or you can vote for change. In this Manifesto we have shown that when you vote for change you are not doing so just for the sake of change.....but for a better Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND SENSIBLE.
VOTE FOR REAL AND LASTING CHANGE.

For LOVE of COUNTRY
Vote NDC
For Grenada to grow, Mitchell must go! Vote NDC