

MISSION STATEMENT

OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

We, of The National Democratic Movement are proud to present our Public declaration of our policies that reflect radical ideas which contrast sharply with the traditional consensus of the two main political parties. By rejecting blind loyalty to vested interests and the perpetuation of the old, corrosive, corrupt political system, The National Democratic Movement has developed pro people politics which we think are relevant to today's Jamaica.

The NDM policies have not emanated from arm - chair theorists. As a consequence, the Movement's ideas and proposals, in our Manifesto have, therefore, been carefully thought out and, debated by members of the Movement and the wider Jamaican community, based on their aspirations and vision for Jamaica, as well as their experiences, drawn from many walks of life.

As a matter of fact, our proposals for the fundamental reform of Jamaica's political culture go beyond calls for mere titivating of the old, expired system. Indeed, our proposals for a new political framework transcend the customary focus on incremental changes. Instead, our policies reflect revolutionary strategies, resulting in real POWER, returning to the people, with effective protection against abuses of power, while enabling the people to demand accountability and transparency from politicians and public officials, themselves understanding, in the process, their servant hood roles.

Our Manifesto provides a way out of Jamaica's mountains of problems, out of which can be carved building-blocks of hope, renewal and change, with which the Jamaican people can be mobilized, to reclaim this country, restore our system of values, recapture a sense of community and work together, to achieve peace, love, unity and prosperity.

In closing, all that we, of The National Democratic Movement, ask is that you read what we have to say, consider and discuss it , with an open mind, and if you agree, then join us because, together we can , seek a new way to create a new day for a new Jamaica.

This document will serve as a base for the development of the NDM Manifesto.

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CHAPTER 1

50 YEARS OF WASTED OPPORTUNITIES

Where we started

Jamaica's independence was thrust upon the people by two major political parties. This constitution was not of the people, from the people, by the people nor for the people. It was designed by two political parties in the interest of those parties. The peoples' interest was secondary then and still remains secondary today.

When we gained independence in 1962, we were a proud little nation. We were undaunted by our small size. On the contrary, we were full of confidence in our capacity to achieve great things. We know it was not going to be an easy road but then we had been through tough times before and we had triumphed. To us the future offered a vast horizon of opportunities. Our expectations were high! We were anxious to grasp those opportunities with both hands. God had been good to us and all we needed to do was to work hard and work together. Our motto "Out of One, Many People" was not only a statement of our evolution as a people but a formula for our future success.

Understanding the crisis we face

Since independence, the strength of our dollar has been destroyed. The J\$ dollar has been devalued by 6000% and the cost of living has gone up by 833%. Our pensioners are caught in a trap of fixed incomes and constantly rising prices.

Hope Shattered

Today, what began as an exciting dream has turned into a frightening nightmare. We have laboured and been forced to make sacrifices but over that period the economy has not grown, it has shrunk. But in that same period our population has grown by almost 30%. Today there are many more of us struggling for a share of a smaller economy.

The Poor Bear the Brunt of Taxes and Debt

The poor bear the brunt of the national suffering! Almost one third of our people now live below the poverty line of basic subsistence. Many others who were once on the threshold of economic independence are being pushed closer to the poverty line, depleting their savings and surviving only by accumulating enormous personal debt.

The Tragedy of our Youth (Political Football)

The greatest tragedy has been our young people. The vast majority of them leave school to face a blank wall of hopelessness and despair with little chance of getting a job. Many fortunate enough to get jobs

now work in morbid fear of redundancy as even well established companies face closure or are forced to reduce their work force.

Liberalization (without preparation)

Our small farmers are being driven into the ground because they are being squeezed out of even their own domestic markets by imported foodstuff. Our manufacturers are handicapped by economic policies that make it impossible for them to compete with their foreign counterparts.

Destroying our Human Potential

Education was once the critical ladder for the economic and social advancement of poor families. An archaic educational system today condemns succeeding generations to persistent poverty . About 50% of our children leave primary school without being able to read and write.

The Collapse of our Public Services

Our health service is in such a deplorable state that it has brought shame to us through international exposure. Despite recent improvements in our public transportation system, communities across the island cry out in vain for basic amenities such as decent roads and a proper water supply.

We are a People living in Fear

Crime and violence have been allowed to get out of control. We are now exceeding 1100 murders per year. Not only have our inner cities been infested by crime to the extent that life becomes nasty, brutish and short but criminal activity has now spread far and wide so that nowhere is safe anymore.

Garrison Politics (25% of our Parliament)

The political manipulation of depressed communities and the corrupt nature of our politics have destroyed our sense of community and have provided an environment that turns our best children into hardened criminals by politically manipulating the inner cities.

Security Forces (Fighting politically generated criminality)

Our police force has been deprived of the independence, professionalism and resources to effectively discharge their duty "to serve to protect to reassure". Left with a basket to carry water, they are often seen as a part of the problem, not the solution.

SERVANTS NOT MASTER

The Pervasive Sense of Powerlessness

The Jamaican people, once proud, confident and excited about their future, are increasingly overwhelmed by a feeling of powerlessness and frustration. Government functions as the overlord, not the servant of the people under our present system of government. The people's representatives are

either neutralized or ignored so, too, are the people's concerns unless they break the law by blocking roads and disrupting lawful activity.

THE CRY OF INJUSTICE

'Where There is no Peace there can be no Justice!'

Much of the anger that is exhibited in so many different ways by the Jamaican people is a result of the sense of injustice which permeates the entire society. People's fundamental rights are violated almost daily with little recourse. Much of the injustice is institutionalized Police brutality, the inefficiency of the courts, the inadequate prison system, the abuse of governmental authority, bureaucratic negligence and widespread corruption is causing vast numbers of Jamaicans to resent constituted authority and to lose confidence in the very agencies which should uphold Law and Order. Today, Government is becoming the enemy of the people.

An Alien Government

For many Jamaicans, the government represents an alien, hostile force which they refer to as "di government dem", not **OUR** government because they have no reason to feel that the government is on their side.

THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR MONEY

1962 : \$J1.00 = \$US 1.20 2002: \$J1.00 = 2 cents US 2011: \$J1.00 = 1.1 cent US

12000% devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

TAXATION

JAMAICA IS AMONG THE MOST OVERTAXED COUNTRIES ON EARTH

1980: TAXES = \$7 BILLION 2002: TAXES = \$125 BILLION

A TOTAL INCREASE OF 1700%

DEBT TRAP

THEY BORROW AS THEY LIKE, THEY TAX AS THEY LIKE AND THEY WASTE AS

THEY LIKE. .

1980: \$9 Billion 2002: \$497 Billion

over 5000% increase y

IMPORTS ‘

1980: US\$ 700 Million 2001: US\$ 3000 Million,

an increase of 4500% while our exports are falling.

IN SUMMARY

We don't have to live like this!

The Jamaican people deserve better than this. They have sacrificed too much to be forced to live like this. This is not the Jamaica which we dreamed and felt so passionately about when we started out as an independent nation. And we did not have to end up like this, Many countries that were less advanced than we were are far ahead of us today. We must go to the root of the problem, fix what is wrong and then work together to regain what has been lost.

No Real Change

We must not continue to make the mistake of thinking that it is simply a matter of changing the government. We have been exchanging parties for the past 67 years without giving any thought to meaningful constitutional reform. Yet, for the latter half of that period we have descended deeper into misery and chaos.

CHAPTER 2

A NEW DAY.....

A NEW WAY.....

A NEW JAMAICA.....

It is not time for exchange.

It's time for Real Change!

NDM...Our Vision for a new Jamaica Our Faith is in the Jamaican People

We believe in the Jamaican people, in their inherent goodwill and in their capacity to achieve great things. We believe that the vast majority of Jamaicans yearn for a peaceful and stable society in which they can improve their lives through their own hard work. We believe that, with the appropriate changes, the Jamaican people are prepared to renew their faith in the institutions of government and those whom they entrust with the responsibilities of government.

We can do it! Better late than never

Time is running out, but it is still not too late. We are a tough, resilient people. If we were not we would not have survived this long. But there is a limit to our endurance and we must act now before we reach a point of no return. We are still capable of great things. So often we have demonstrated our amazing prowess as a people. Our phenomenal success in sports and music and the outstanding achievements of Jamaicans all over the world are testimony to what we are capable of.

We are Jamaicans - Together, we can work it out!

Reclaiming our Country

The NDM has the leadership and offers the appropriate framework through which the Jamaican people can be mobilized to reclaim our country, restore our system of values, recapture our sense of community and work together to achieve lasting peace and prosperity.

Rebuilding Our Future

We will rebuild our hope by renewing our dreams and recharting our course. We will create a new political framework in which power is restored to the people and those who exercise power on "behalf of the people are constantly and rigidly held accountable to the people. We will pursue a strategy which, within the context of a competitive politics, seeks consensus in defining long term goals and mobilizing national commitment toward their achievement. We will enshrine the fundamental rights of each

individual and put in place effective measures to protect and defend them. We will create the mechanisms to ensure equality and justice for every individual in the eyes and application of the law. We will guarantee every child the opportunity for a sound primary education and post-primary education appropriate to ensure that he or she is equipped with life-sustaining skills. We will provide an economic framework which encourages savings and investment, enhances individual enterprise, creates jobs, and promotes the creation of wealth and equitable opportunity for all. We will ensure the efficient and impartial delivery of public services. We will create an environment in which all Jamaicans can once again be made to feel good about their country, will want to be stakeholders in its enterprise and will see their own prosperity as linked to the growth and development of the nation.

OPENING THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE

A New Political Order for Jamaica

The Need For Reform

The NDM believes that the problems that plague our nation are rooted in the political system under which we are governed. We reject the notion that the management of our affairs should rely on the reasonableness of men and women who so often demonstrate the propensity to be unreasonable. On the contrary, we believe that our political system should be so structured to demand and ensure good management by carefully balancing the powers of the State and by enforcing strict accountability on the part of those who exercise these powers on behalf of the State.

The Over-concentration of Power (an elected dictatorship)

The existing political system, the central feature of which is the enormous concentration of power in the hands of the Prime Minister, has led to abuse and corruption. It has come to be characterized as a "fight for scarce benefits and political spoils carried on by hostile tribes, perpetually at war, dividing rather than uniting the nation". It undermines the real purpose of Parliament and deprives the people of effective representation. It is a system which eschews consensus and militates against national unity since dissenting voices are easily ignored.

Tribalism, Corruption Dependency and lack of Investment

The "winner-take-all" system provides the basis for political tribalism, garrison politics, corruption and the plundering of public resources which must be employed to support it. It produces a social and political environment which is hostile to investment not only because of its inherent volatility but also because it precludes the stability of policy which is indispensable to long term investment. Politics, as we have—practiced it, fosters a culture of dependency through the extensive use of patronage. The virus of mendicancy which afflicts so many of our people is a direct consequence of this process.

POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

Restoring the Sovereignty of the People

We reject the existing arrangement whereby sovereignty rests in a British monarch. Nor do we accept the notion that sovereignty should reside in Parliament. We are committed to the principle that the

sovereignty of our nation resides in the PEOPLE and that it is to the PEOPLE that power belongs. We are committed to the principle that the PEOPLE, as individuals, hold certain basic, fundamental and inalienable rights.

SEPARATION OF POWERS (dismantling the one man rule system)

THE PRESIDENT (TO BE APPOINTED)

The President would be appointed for a term of 7 years on a resolution approved by a two thirds majority of each House of Parliament.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE- NATIONALLY)

The Prime Minister would be responsible for the control and direction of policy, the Executive Management of State services and Budget preparation and implementation.

THE LEGISLATURE (REAL POWER FOR YOUR MP)

The Legislature, comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate, would be responsible for enacting legislation, approving budgetary expenditure and exercising oversight functions on the Executive. It would have final authority in matters pertaining to the imposition of taxes and any increase in the national debt beyond statutory limits.

THE JUDICIARY (SHOULD BE INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED BY THE PARLIAMENT)

The Judiciary is responsible for adjudicating questions of law and upholding the Constitution. Senior appointments should come before Parliament.

THE CABINET (LET'S EMPLOY OUR BEST BRAINS)

The Cabinet would consist of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and not more than 14 members nominated by the Prime Minister Such nominations would be presented to Parliament for scrutiny but could only be rejected by a two—thirds majority of each House of Parliament.

THE SENATE (THE PEOPLE MUST HAVE "A SAY")

(Under the present system, senators, who are a critical part of the legislative process, should be elected not appointed. The NDM supports a modified approach where each party presents their List of proposed Senators prior to general elections. In this method Senators could be appointed on a proportional representational basis.

CREATING TRULY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES (REMOVING POLITICAL BIAS)

Sensitive areas of national life must be removed from political influence and control. Independent authorities whose appointment would require a two-thirds majority of each House of Parliament would be established for the following sensitive areas:

- * JUDICIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
- * POLICE SERVICES COMMISSION
- * PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION
- * ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- * INTEGRITY COMMISSION
- * CONTRACTOR GENERAL
- * PUBLIC DEFENDER
- * PROSECUTOR GENERAL
- * OMBUDSMAN
- * GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK
- * BROADCASTING COMMISSION
- * PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION
- * ALL STATUARY CORPORATIONS & EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

AMBASSADORS AND DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (NIADE ACCOUNTABLE)

The appointment of ambassadors and directors of public corporations would be subject to the approval of Parliament.

CONTROL OF TAXATION (LIMITING THE CABINET'S AND MINISTERS' POWER)

We will abolish the Provisional Collection of Tax Act under which the Minister of Finance is able to raise taxes without prior notice to the public and without the approval of Parliament. No new taxes could be imposed without the approval of the House of Representatives.

PUTTING A BRAKE ON THE NATIONAL DEBT (LIMITING THE CABINETS' POWER)

A constitutional limit to the amount of public debt that could be incurred, expressed as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, would be established within that limit. Parliament would, by statute, prescribe the maximum amount of debt that may at any time be outstanding.

LEGISLATION (NO MORE RUBBER STAMPING BY ONE PARTY)

Legislation could be initiated by any member of either House of Parliament. Legislation could also be submitted to Parliament by the Prime Minister. All legislation would have to be examined by the appropriate parliamentary committee in public sitting before being debated and voted on by each House.

RESOLVING GRIDLOCK (BALANCING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF POWER)

The chief argument against separation of powers is the possibility of gridlock. Gridlock is a good and necessary thing to prevent the abuse of power and the excesses of a constitutional dictatorship. But the frivolous use of gridlock must be avoided and the Prime Minister must not be frustrated in carrying out the mandate for which he or she was legitimately elected. We would minimize the risk of gridlock by providing the following:- If legislation submitted by the Prime Minister is rejected by either House of Parliament, it could be submitted once within that legislative year and, upon such resubmission, could be again rejected only by a two-thirds, majority in each House. If legislation approved by Parliament is rejected by the Prime Minister, it could be reintroduced in Parliament once within that legislative year and if, on its reintroduction, it is approved by a two-thirds majority of each House, it would become law with or without the approval of the Prime Minister.

TERM LIMITATIONS (PROVIDING NEW SPACE FOR NEW THINKING)

The Prime Minister would not be allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms. Members of Parliament and Senators would not be allowed to serve more than three consecutive terms.

FIXED ELECTION DATE (REMOVING THE ADVANTAGE OF A GOVERNING PARTY)

Elections would be held on a fixed date every 5 years.

Entrenchment and protection of fundamental rights.

A public defender would be appointed under the constitution to provide legal representation for citizens in defending their constitutional rights and securing redress where appropriate. Provision would also allow for class suits to be brought against the state.

IMPEACHMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS (FOR NON CRIMINAL ACTS)

Provisions would be established in the constitution for the impeachment of public officials who are found guilty of negligence, abuse of authority or subversion of the democratic process.

ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION (A PROSECUTOR GENERAL WITH REAL POWER)

We will establish an independent Prosecutor General to investigate and prosecute corrupt public officials. We will introduce a tough anti corruption law with severe penalties to punish public officials found guilty of corruption.

SETTING PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES

We will limit any increase in the salaries of officials to the weighted average increase granted to public sector employees during the previous year.

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATION (REAL POWER FOR MP'S)

Members of Parliament are rendered impotent because it is the Ministers, not the MPs, who decide what is to be done in each constituency. Many constituencies are victimized for political reasons. Others are the victims of sheer neglect. We will establish a Constituency Development Fund to be financed by 5% of the annual budget. This will be divided among all constituencies. Each Member of Parliament will be required to submit a 5-Year Development Plan which, once approved by Parliament, will guide the expenditure under the Constituency Programme - which must include contingencies for emergencies.

REGULATING POLITICAL FINANCING

We will make provision for fair registration of political parties and require the annual publication of their financial accounts. We will require that financial contributions to political parties be reported to the Electoral Commission and that the amounts contributed to each party or candidate be published annually.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (REAL POWER AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE)

Projects to be financed under the fund will be carried out by the relevant government agencies All expenditure will be subject to review by the Appropriations Committee and fully audited by the Auditor General on an ongoing basis. A Consultative Committee that will include a representative of each political party as well as representatives of community organizations will be established in each constituency to monitor and advise on the selection and implementation of projects. The Committee

will be required to report annually to Parliament as no funds can be spent under the sole direction/discretion of any MP.

ESTABLISHING REAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NOT CONTROLLED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT)

We will create a genuine local government system with complete autonomy from central government subject only to audit by the Auditor General. We will create a special structure for municipalities in which Mayors will be elected directly by all the people within each municipality not selected by any party bosses. The functions of local government authorities will be clearly defined and will be separate and distinct from those of central government. Local government services will be financed by the statutory remittance of 5% of recurrent revenue as well as by local rates and user charges.

A REAL PUBLIC DEFENDER WITH SPECIFIC DUTIES

Entrenchment and protection of fundamental rights. A Public Defender would be appointed under the Constitution to provide legal representation for citizens in defending their constitutional rights and securing redress where appropriate Provisions would allow for class action suits to be brought against the State.

NO POLITICIANS ON ELECTORAL COMMISSION

There will be no political party representatives on the Electoral Commission. Political parties however, will be able to make submissions to the commission.

PROVIDING PUBLIC SANITARY FACILITIES

The NDM will demand the institutionalisation and practice of law to ensure that every place of business, Government or Private Sector, old or new, under construction or proposed construction must provide adequately established and maintained SANITARY FACILITIES whether free or fee paid for the public. The NDM will further demand that adequate provisions be made for access by disabled persons.

THE REFORM AGENDA

We will within 12 months of becoming the government, introduce legislation in Parliament to give to the far-reaching constitutional changes that we propose those elements of the reform program that must be voted on by the people. This will be presented in a ballot to be taken no later than 2 years thereafter. Once the people have approved the new constitution's structure, we will dissolve parliament so that new election can be held under the new structure that will give real power to the people for the first time.

CHAPTER 3

The Economy

CONFRONTING OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Jamaica has, for too long, avoided confronting our problems, relying on external loans, remittances, drug money and, most recently, "hot money" lured by phenomenal interest rates to support a flagging economy. Not even these factors were sufficient to avoid massive devaluations. In the last 34 years, the Jamaican dollar has almost lost most of its value.

STAGNATION IS NOT STABILITY

In order to curb this growing instability, the government imposed draconian monetary policies using treasury bills with high yields to sterilize excess liquidity and, in recent times, severely clamping money supply growth. These measures have had the effect of attracting significant foreign exchange flows, not for investment but rather to take advantage of super high interest earnings. We have in effect, been mopping up liquidity not only in Jamaica but in other parts of the world at horrendous cost to our economy.

DRUG MONEY & INFLATION

These measures, together with increased remittances from Jamaicans abroad (some of it derived from illegal drug activity) have expanded the supply of foreign exchange and , facilitated a significant build-up of the NIR. The recent stability of the exchange rate and the containment of money supply have combined to effect a slowing down in the rate of inflation — but has caused great pain in other sectors of the economy.

LACK OF INVESTMENT & HIGH INTEREST RATES

The strategies that have been used to achieve these "successes", however, have a severe downside. High rates of interest discourage investment by creating an inverse yield curve) in which capital becomes too expensive to borrow for productive investment. Unproductive investments including government sterilizing instruments become too attractive for owners of capital to contemplate productive forms of investment. The competitiveness of existing producers is severely undermined by the high cost of debt service and working capital.

THE PRICE OF EXCESS LIQUIDITY (POURING KEROSENE ON FIRE)

The cost of sterilizing excess liquidity now amounts to over 20% of total budgetary outlay displacing expenditure in critical areas of public infrastructure and human resource development. This has negative consequences for investment and growth in both the short term and long term. Sluggishness in economic activity results of slow revenue growth further limiting the government's ability to provide basic social services.

NO GROWTH ECONOMY (LESS THAN 5% NET IN 25 YEARS)

The lack of growth, unavailability of jobs (and increasing loss of jobs as businesses are forced into closure) and the inability of the government to provide basic social services have placed the society in a state of stress. This manifests itself in increased crime and violence, growing political tensions and further erosion of investor confidence.

The collapse in the financial sector which has necessitated government intervention is only the latest sign of an economic management strategy that is not only incapable of addressing our fundamental economic problems but is ruinous to the economy.

MONOPOLIZING FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Governments' borrowing is "hogging up" over much of the available private capital, thereby leaving very little resources to finance private sector goals.

THE NDM'S ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY

CHARTING A NEW ECONOMIC POLICY

FACILITATING GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

We are committed to a market economy in which individual enterprise, stimulated by free and fair competition drives economic activity. We believe that it is the duty of the government to maintain a safe and stable economic environment, pursue strategies that encourage investment and growth, provide the infrastructure and efficient public services required for productive activity and guarantee a level of education sufficient to equip our work force to participate competitively in global production.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

We maintain that it is not only desirable but entirely consistent with the role of government to intervene from time to time provided such intervention is transparent and is necessary to remove artificial impediments to local competitiveness.

REMITTANCES

We reject as inappropriate the heavy reliance which the economy, for sheer survival, has been forced to place on the remittances of hardworking Jamaicans abroad and on the proceeds of illegal drug activity. Our economic strategies will always be geared toward encouraging investment, increasing output, creating jobs, improving productivity and achieving international competitiveness.

GETTING THE MACRO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK RIGHT!

Economic recovery and sustained growth require a stable macro-economic framework that is not held together by measures that are themselves inimical to investment and growth.

STAGNATION IS NOT STABILITY

What is touted by the government as macro-economic stability is, in fact, macro-economic stagnation* Macro-economic indicators mean nothing if they do not create the conditions for investment and growth This means a stable exchange rate, low inflation and moderate interest rates This can only be achieved by a government that is bold enough to shift the burden of economic policy management from punitive interest rates to fiscal discipline and control supported by creative debt management strategies. Courage, however, is not enough, as Investor confidence will require institutional changes to guarantee that this approach cannot be abandoned in the face of political pressure.

**INDEPENDENT CENTRAL BANK
(ECONOMICS & POLITICS, LIKE OIL AND WATER, DO NOT MIX)**

The authority to determine monetary policy must be removed from the Minister of Finance. We will establish an independent Central Bank, free of political direction and control. The Central Bank will be charged with the mandate to control inflation and regulate the operations of financial institutions and would assume full responsibility for monetary policy.

FULL BACKING OF THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR (A CRITICAL OBJECTIVE)

We endorse the proposals for constitutional and legislative measures to require full backing of our currency by foreign reserves. Once this is done we will never again experience the runaway inflation caused by the reckless printing of money.

FISCAL POLICY (FOR EVERY 1% SAVED, JAMAICA SAVES \$1,000 MILLION)

We will pursue a rigid fiscal policy aimed at maintaining a relationship between recurrent revenue and expenditure which allows for a substantial contribution toward capital investment. Achieving an overall fiscal surplus of 3-4% by enforcing a system of performance budgeting in which measurable targets are set and disbursements made on the basis of quarterly achievement evaluation. Harmonizing expenditure and revenue flows to minimize the necessity for expensive, short term financing to meet expenditure requirements.

**EXCHANGE RATE POLICY
(INCREASE PRODUCTION = INCREASED EXPORT EARNINGS)**

We support a market—determined exchange rate. we will abolish surrender requirements imposed on foreign exchange dealers and require that purchases by the Central Bank and the government be made by way of open market operations. The Central Bank would be active in the foreign exchange market, purchasing and selling foreign currency as required to maintain a stable exchange rate consistent with its mandate to maintain domestic price stability. Exchange rate stability will, however, depend not only on monetary and fiscal policies but ultimately on the level of competitiveness of our output. An economic environment and investment strategy to achieve that competitiveness is therefore critical to a stable exchange rate

**DEBT MANAGEMENT
TOTAL TAX REVENUES CANNOT MEET YEARLY DEBT REPAYMENTS)**

The massive debt which has been built up is an albatross around our necks. The cost of servicing that debt gobbles up a 65% of our annual budget. Much of that debt is made up of excess money supply which we have had to "borrow" in order to sterilize it. With tight control on money supply, we will halt the growth in the size of the debt. We will apply creative debt management strategies built around three elements -

*Restructuring existing debt stock into long term instruments with interest accrued and balloon payments at the end of term.

*Dedicating the proceeds of the divestment of remaining disposable assets to debt absorption.

*Use of fiscal surpluses to gradually retire unproductive debt.

NO GOVERNMENT BORROWING FROM THE CENTRAL BANK

Central Bank advances to the government will be statutorily forbidden and short term budget financing, where necessary, will be sought on the open market.

NO TAX ON DIVIDENDS

We will abolish the tax on dividends and provide meaningful incentives to encourage businesses to shift from debt to equity financing and so reduce their debt service costs. We will establish an active secondary market for debt securities to facilitate trading in debt instruments, provide a proper legal framework for corporate bonds and facilitate more efficient management of liquidity and public debt.

WE WILL ABOLISH PERSONAL INCOME TAX (A PRODUCTIVE SECTOR MEANS MORE TAX REVENUES)

Tax on income constitutes a disincentive to individual effort and enterprise. It is inefficient because it is subject to large—scale evasion and is unfair to PAYE employees who are forced to make up for those who cannot be caught. We will abolish personal income tax within 5 years on a phased basis. We will reduce the existing rate by 20 percentage points each year commencing in the first full calendar year of our administration.

MOBILIZING CAPITAL FOR LONG TERM INVESTMENT (DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE LOCALLY)

Existing institutional arrangements for mobilizing capital are deficient in that they are incapable of resolving the inherent conflict between the need of savers for liquidity and the need of investors for long term financing. Hence, although our savings rate is fairly impressive, most of these funds are unavailable for long term investment. The recent crisis in major financial institutions illustrates this dilemma. We will provide appropriate tax incentives to induce savings into longer term instruments. We will improve the efficiency of the stock exchange to facilitate easier conversion of savings into equity and make it a more readily available source of capital for investment in new projects.

GREATER TAX COMPLIANCE (JUSTLY SPREADING THE BURDEN)

We will take steps to strengthen tax compliance especially in the area of GCT and customs duties. Greater use will be made of the TRN system.

TAX AMNESTY

We will seek to recover outstanding taxes by offering a tax amnesty for a limited period during which those who comply voluntarily will be afforded partial relief. Failure to comply will attract additional penalties. We will offer loans secured by appropriate assets to settle outstanding tax liabilities.

REMOVING TAX ON GENUINE SAVINGS

Genuine savers must be encouraged and must be separated from speculators. We will abolish the withholding tax on interest from savings accounts and other approved instruments which are held for not less than three years.

CHAPTER 4.

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO MANUFACTURING

A NEW ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

Our macro-economic strategies will create a new investor—friendly framework with institutional safeguards to instil confidence and ensure long term stability.

REMOVING RED TAPE

A comprehensive audit of all regulatory and facilitative requirements will be undertaken. Where applied for regulatory purposes they will be eliminated except where justified on grounds of criminal detection, enforcement of standards, tax compliance, public safety and protection of individual rights. Where such requirements relate to facilitative arrangements (e.g. the granting of incentives), they will be redesigned to provide automatically and transparency based on stated criteria. This "open door" approach will be supported by appropriate sanctions for abuse. We will identify strategic areas of public administration for special attention including the issue of titles, the granting of building approvals, customs clearance, the registration of patents and trademarks and the statutory stamping j of documents as well as modernization of the Companies Act.

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE PUBLIFINANCING

National Investment Bank of Jamaica (NIBJ), National Development Bank (NDB) and Agriculture Credit Bank (ACB) will make available through approved lending institutions, long term financing for projects which satisfy two specific criteria set out below. These loans will be made available at interest rates comparable to those that generally obtain among competing external producers in order to leverage additional resources for productive investment, NIBJ/NDB/ACB will provide interest subsidies for loans independently sourced from approved lenders for projects that satisfy the stated criteria. The amount of such subsidy would not exceed the differential between the negotiated loan rate and the average lending rate obtaining among competing external producers. The cost of these subsidies would be financed from the differential between the cost of and earnings from institutional loans raised by these government lending institutions and augmented, where necessary, by budgetary provisions

ENCOURAGING THE APPLICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Capital goods will continue to be exempt from import duties and enjoy accelerated depreciation. We will permit deferment of GCT on machinery and will allow importers of machinery to offset GCT against output tax without the current stipulation that this be done in 24 equal monthly instalments. Capital equipment acquired for research and development will be tax deductible Government research agencies will be reoriented toward: -

- * The application of modern technology to improve efficiency and enhance the feasibility of production processes utilizing indigenous raw materials.
- * Maintaining database on technological solutions which will be linked to international information

sources.

- * Providing on-line information to local producers on available technology.

- * Providing consultants to carry out technology audits of productive operations and advise on retooling and modernization.

- * Developing bio—technology and genetic engineering capabilities to open up new possibilities for local investment and production.

FISCAL INCENTIVES

TAX ON DIVIDENDS WILL BE ABOLISHED. (ENCOURAGING EXPANSION)

Profits that are reinvested in approved productive ventures will be exempt from tax. Companies converting from debt to equity financing will be allowed a tax write—off subject to a maximum debt equity ratio. The several existing statutes relating to industrial incentives will be revised and brought together in one simple statute with automatic application once the specified criteria are satisfied. We will remove the bias against domestic producers. Partial exporters will enjoy tax exemption on that portion of profits equivalent to the exported portion of total sales.

IMPROVING LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

The new dynamic approach outlined in our section on EDUCATION will, over time, greatly improve the quality and trainability of school leavers entering the labour force. We will , provide training grants to a maximum of 50% of the cost of upgrading workers' skills either through short—term courses at approved training institutions or through approved on—the-job training programmes. More structured industrial relations practices as set out in our section on LABOUR will help to create an environment in which workers are motivated and worker productivity enhanced. The eventual abolition of personal income tax will be a powerful stimulant for greater effort on the part of workers. We will provide tax credits for productivity incentive schemes where circumstances permit their application and measurement. We will make land available for employee housing financed or developed with employer participation. Tax credits will be provided for employer contributions in this regard.

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS

Major capital investment with local and foreign private sector participation will be encouraged to modernize the JPS, improve efficiency and reduce the cost of generating and distributing electricity. We will offer tax credits for investment by private sector producers designed to improve energy efficiency. Reduced electricity rates will be negotiated to industrial and agricultural users based on volume, consistency and time of utilization.

PUBLIC AMENITIES

Industrial enterprises will, as a matter of priority, be assured of adequate and reliable electricity, water supply and sewage facilities. In addition to the plans outlined in this document to improve the quality of public transportation, we will provide concessions L including duty free importation of buses to industrial and agricultural employers.

OVERSEAS MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Identification and penetration of overseas markets will be made one of the principal functions of JAMPRO on parallel to its investment promotion role. An efficient overseas marketing corporation with active presence in the major market centres of the world will be established as a joint venture between JAMPRO and the private sector to seek out and develop markets on behalf of local producers. JAIVIPRO will maintain an active on-line database of market information including product demand, prevailing prices, market trends, freight options, mandatory standards, international brokers etc. We will facilitate the regular participation by local producers in international trade fairs and will provide technical assistance in negotiating supply contracts.

MODERN PACKAGING FACILITIES (RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE)

We will actively promote and will, if necessary, co—finance the establishment of a modern hi-tech packaging centre to service the packaging needs of local producers.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY OF CUSTOMS AND PORT FACILITIES

We will intensify surveillance of imports to detect and penalize attempts at customs evasion. We will provide special facilities for the clearance and dispatch of shipments recognized producers. We will employ the JDF to strengthen port security in order better detect illicit cargo. ,

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS (BUREAU OF STANDARDS)

We will intensify the development and application of appropriate standards and specifications for locally produced goods. We will ensure that these standards and specifications are rigidly applied with equal vigilance to imported goods.

REVITALIZING THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

The emergence of Jamaica's manufacturing sector in the decade preceding independence and its rapid growth in the succeeding decade were the result of a deliberate policy "industrialization by invitation" within a highly protected market geared toward import substitution. Prolonged reliance on protection from external competition, generous tax concessions and subsidized factory space shielded the sector from the necessity to attain desired levels of productivity and establish the vertical and lateral integration required to maximize local value added production, achieve international competitiveness and guarantee long term efficiency. The ideological volatility of the 1970's while adverse, affecting the entire economy, impacted with particular severity on long-term investments most notably in the manufacturing sector. Unprepared as it was for exposure to international competition and reduced state support, the manufacturing sector suffered severe dislocation as a result of the structural adjustment program of the 1980's and 1990's . Massive devaluation with its crippling effect on a sector so heavily dependent on imported inputs (energy, machinery, raw materials, packaging), the unavailability of foreign exchange, high inflation, resulting from reckless money supply expansion, prohibitive interest rates made necessary as a corrective measure, weak customs control and a tariff policy which encouraged illicit imports have all served to undermine the viability of manufacturing enterprises. Over

the last 20 years, not only has the manufacturing sector achieved no growth but it has actually shrunken by more than 12%.

THE ROLE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Even in its debilitated state, the manufacturing sector plays a critical role in the economy contributing significantly to GDP and providing a major source of employment. Its potential is immeasurably greater than its current performance, given the sustained increase in world trade and its responsiveness to technological changes, being relatively unfettered by culture and traditions as is the case with, say, agriculture and tourism. The fact that its various processes take place within a relatively controlled environment enhances the impact of strategic initiatives and therefore renders it a prime candidate to drive rapid economic growth. Importantly, the manufacturing sector has the greatest capacity for economic integration, utilizing inputs from and providing inputs to other critical sectors such as agriculture, tourism, mining and services. The problems bedeviling the manufacturing sector must be urgently and deliberately addressed and solutions found.

PROVISION OF FACTORY SPACE

We will provide factory space at affordable cost to small and medium size manufacturers in strategically located industrial complexes designed to facilitate shared services such as security, communications, power installation, administrative services, distribution and staff facilities. We will offer tax concessions including investment credit, tax-free rental income and relief from transfer tax on land to encourage private investors to build new factories. We will make land available on a 2 year lease basis for factory construction by private developers on a basis whereby the land can be used to collateralize construction loans with the lender enjoying first lien on the collateral.

100,000 JOBS

(EXPORTING OVER 100,000 PERMANENT JOBS)

All Jamaica's Trade outlets today are filled with goods that are manufactured overseas. With a little imagination all these goods could be produced in Jamaica if we had proper policies.

The NDM will sit with each sector of the industry to determine what must be done to drastically reduce imports through aggressive manufacturing policies whilst still respecting all international conventions and agreements.

CHAPTER 5

MOVING AGRICULTURE INTO THE 21 ST CENTURY

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN PERSPECTIVE

Although more than 217,000 persons representing 19% of the total labour force are engaged in agriculture, the sector accounts for only 7.5% of GDP. This not only reflects its level of inefficiency but explains the generally low standard of living of persons engaged in agriculture. The ideological volatility of the 1970's, while adversely affecting the entire economy still impacts with particular severity on long-term investments, most notably in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

JAMAICA STILL NOT PREPARED FOR LIBERALIZATION

Unprepared as it was for exposure to international competition and reduced state support, the agriculture sector suffered severe dislocation as a result of the structure adjustment program of the 1980's and 1990's. Massive devaluation with its crippling effect on a sector so heavily dependent on imported inputs (energy, machinery raw materials, packaging), the unavailability of foreign exchange, high inflation resulting from reckless money supply expansion, prohibitive interest rates made necessary as a corrective measure, weak customs control and a tariff policy which encouraged illicit imports have all served to undermine the viability of agro manufacturing enterprises. Over the last 20 years, not only has the agriculture sector achieved no growth but it has actually shrunk. This disjuncture has historical and cultural antecedents. After the emancipation of slavery in the 19th century our ancestors took to the hills and established new villages, cultivating the land as their only means of existence. The mainly hilly terrain and low fertility of the land defied the utilization of modern, efficient technology. The lack of alternative opportunities for the rural population has led to the overcrowding of the agricultural sector and the depressed living standards which it provides. The liberalization of our domestic market and the gradual disappearance of preferential export markets have exposed agricultural producers to the ferocity of globalized trade in which efficiency and price competitiveness are the key determinants. If agriculture is to offer more than subsistence living and if its share of total output is not to be further eroded, concerted action will have to be taken to improve efficiency and productivity among farmers. The NDM/NJA hereby outlines in summary some of the structural changes required to move Jamaica's agriculture into the 21st century.

THE NDM'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY

LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

(GIVING LOCAL PRODUCTION AN EQUAL CHANCE)

Farmer interest, consumer interest and national interest can and must be brought into balance.

PARITY

The true cost of efficient local production based on inescapable local cost factors must be established and all imports must by tariff be equated.

ANTI-DUMPING

Legislation, plus institutional support must be fully developed and made to work.

MODERN FACILITIES

Modern assembly, grading and packing stations — with cooling/freezing facilities must be developed in critical production areas so that local farmers can bring their local products up to international competitiveness and international shelf life.

RESEARCH

The Amalgamation of all the Ministry of Agriculture research agencies, Scientific Research Council and U.W.I. research into a single National Research Unit- which will emphasize, on the Farm, Agro Development and Processing Research.

DATA BANK

The establishment of a Modern Data Bank which encompasses all local data plus international data on Cost, Prices, and Market identification.

LAND

To do a National Classification of all class A and B Agricultural lands be permanently reserved for perpetual Agricultural use and continuous job creation.

CREDIT

To ensure the availability of credit at the same interest rate as our international competitors. Including the financing of ACB costs from the Budget.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK

Must not become a profit centre at the expense of farmers.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Walls, dams, etc. must be further established on a National basis, as well as loans for "on farm schemes".

MECHANIZATION

A special loan funding program for long term/low interest loans for the establishment of private machine pools across the country.

AGRICULTURAL ROADS

The owners of Farm Machinery pools will be contracted to regularly maintain all agricultural roads in their prescribed areas.

COMMERCIAL EXTENSION CENTRES

The rebuilding of the Extension Services must take into serious consideration the use and/or liaison with established commercial farms, established examples are — Sugar, Citrus, Coconuts, Dairy, Beef, Bananas, Coffee and Livestock.

FARMER TRAINING

Modern Audio Visual productions as a tool of farmer training will be a centre—piece of both extension staff and farmer training.

FORESTRY, WATERSHED AND EXOTIC FRUIT PRODUCTION.

The entire watershed and forestry projects must be re—oriented to exotic fruit production. We contemplate a 50 million fruit tree planting under this project.

AGRO-PROCESSING

The 50 million fruit tree project is also designed to produce cheap and abundant raw material for the agro—processing industry. This sector has the greatest potential for investment, labour employment, rural development, exports and value added production.

LOCAL MARKETS.

All local markets must be rehabilitated to provide basic conditions or comfort and sanitation for vendors and customers.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

A powerful International Public/Private Sector agency will be developed. This agency will research in detail all available/emerging marketing opportunities and feed this information or contacts back to Jamaica so that local action can be implemented.

EXPORT CENTRE FACILITIES

Proper facilities will be developed at all our airport and seaport export terminals. Improvement must include cooling/freezing facilities, as well as instant communication facilities at the overseas (import) side. Anti-Drug export supervision must become a highly developed feature.

THE HOTEL SECTOR

Over \$1 billion worth of unnecessary imports still persist. Direct links between Ministry of Agriculture/Farmer Interests and the hotel industry will be developed in a meaningful way.

AGRO TOURISM

This is a powerful Tourism sector which has serious prospects for both tourism and farming. Special attention will be paid to this area.

COMMODITY BOARDS

All Commodity Boards will be re-developed to serve their initial basic principles, i.e. Farmer services, e.g. Registration, Extension services, Marketing and Representation.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY

The solution to this problem must include the appointments (by farmer consensus) of local authorized and trained agricultural wardens who work with the farming community and the police.

THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Facilities for import screening of all meats must be emphasized by special veterinary labs. The veterinary services to farmers must be free except for the prescribed medications. The Gene—Pool on our local breeds must be kept in place and enhanced by Government.

THE ENVIRONMENT

We support the development of control over pesticides and other chemicals, human health, our waters and foods must not be put at risk.

SOLID WASTE

The recycling of all solid waste will be the foundation of our solution. Modern facilities will be designed and built to convert solid waste into organic fertilizers and its other recycled bio-components.

FARM TRANSPORT

We continue to support duty free vehicles for agricultural uses. Openness and Transparency and the publication of all concessions for public knowledge.

LAND TITLING

It is a national shame that over 30,000 persons who bought land from Government (some as long as 50 years ago) still do not have their titles. The NDM/NJA will focus on this problem with solutions.

PRIVATE TITLES

Special AC Bank Loan Funds will be made available to farmers to survey and finalize their titles for lands bought from Privates Sources.

CHAPTER 6

TOURISM THE RUNNING SHOWS OF THE ECONOMY

THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR

We are firmly committed to the view that the tourism sector is the vehicle for achieving rapid transformation and growth within the shortest possible time at the most efficient cost/benefit ratio. The reasons for this are noteworthy:

Direct receipts from tourism account for almost 15% of total output when the plethora of Sectoral linkages is added its share of economic activity is 21%. Tourism accounts for 45% of total foreign exchange earnings and 23% of total employment. Tourism's prime input and attraction are our natural environment which gives us a strong competitive advantage in the global holiday market. Because tourism involves bringing the market to the products, the retention of tourist expenditure is significant. Approximately 63% of each dollar is retained locally. That level of retention can be increased if we optimize Sectoral linkages especially with the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Existing average occupancy level of 60% is evidence of under-utilized capacity which can generate incremental earnings with moderate additional investment.

MAXIMIZING TOURISM'S POTENTIAL

We will put tourism into the National Accounts Ironically, although tourism is the leading sector of the economy, it does not appear in the National Accounts The input-output model on which the National Accounts are built was designed over 20 years ago. They do not adequately gather data about tourism activities because they were intended to track and disaggregate the production of goods, not the complex web of economic activities which make up the tourism product. Without appropriate statistical tools to measure the economic impact of tourism, policy formulation and evaluation will continue to be a frolic in the dark. We will restructure the National Accounts to reflect Tourism as a distinct area of economic activity disaggregated into the various supply—side inputs and corroborated by actual tourism receipts. We will provide tourism with the infrastructure it deserves. It is nothing short of an economic crime to deprive our resort areas of vital infrastructure. We will, as a matter of priority, ensure that all resort areas enjoy adequate water supply, sewage and garbage disposal, drainage, - sanitation, road maintenance, traffic management and beautification. We will institute a vigilant program of routine and periodic maintenance for all these facilities.

CRAFT VENDORS (ADEQUATE FACILITIES)

Small scale vending must be recognized as an important part of the tourism industry We must integrate them into the tourism product by providing adequate facilities and appropriate regulations. We will provide additional accommodation with all necessary amenities for vendors in the main resort areas. These facilities will be included in our advertising and marketing program especially within the cruise ship sector. We will require all vendors to be licensed and they will have to participate in orientation programmes before being licensed. We will take vigorous action to prevent illicit vending. We will be tough on harassment and will improve security in resort areas. We will expand the resort patrol and will

maintain an aggressive program to apprehend and punish persons engaged in tourist harassment. We will establish litter wardens to police our roads and towns to rid them of plastic bags, juice bags., plastic bottles and paper plates. Intensified community policing and crime prevention strategies will be pursued to reduce lawlessness and violence in resort areas.

A DESERT OF DEPRESSION IN AN OASIS OF LUXURY TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF SQUATTING

Squatting poses a serious threat to tourism especially in terms of its impact on the environment We will, as a top priority, seek to regularize, upgrade and, where necessary, relocate existing squatter settlements in resort areas. We will be extremely vigilant to prevent any further squatting. The need for adequate housing accommodation and job creation in resort areas will be given special attention.

TRAINING OUR YOUTH FOR TOURISM

We will ensure adequate training facilities for young people to equip them to participate meaningfully in the tourism sector. The curriculum for the new secondary vocational schools will include courses aimed at satisfying the job requirements within the sector. Special attention will be given to arts and craft in those schools proximate to resort areas, particularly in woodcarving, leather craft, dressmaking, tie-dyeing, screen printing etc. Tourism awareness will be taught in all primary schools and will be made an accredited subject at secondary level I

DIVERSIFYING OUR TOURISM PRODUCT (INVOLVING THE PEOPLE)

While our natural environment (climate, sea, sand, mountains and rivers), our culture and our instinctive hospitality as a people will always be our main selling point, we need to diversify and expand our range of attractions to be able to offer a "smorgasbord" which the increasingly discriminate leisure market requires. Importantly, we must make our destination more attractive for family vacations. Theme parks, on-going concert ventures, cable cars, botanical gardens, seaquariums and underwater adventure are mere examples of possibilities which must be explored. Great potential exists for the development of sporting and recreational attractions, theatres and cabaret performances. Our annual music carnivals must be promoted as prime tourist events. We must enhance the possibilities for eco-tourism, retirement villages and heritage tourism.

HEALTH TOURISM `

Health tourism offers significant prospects in view of the comparatively high cost of convalescence abroad, our more conducive climate and close proximity to major medical centres in the USA. We will work jointly with the private sector in exploring these possibilities and will co-finance feasibility studies to determine their financial viability.

TOURISM (THE SPEAR FISHING MARKETING CONCEPT)

The present marketing concepts are based on broad based (net fishing) concepts — such as ` generic TV, Radio and Print advertising, plus the broad based travel agency recommendations of Jamaica to

intended travellers as well as cruise shipping companies. These systems have worn out their effectiveness, especially as the fall of communism opened up historically unvisited destinations and even more so since the terrorist attack on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001

A NEW, DIFFERENT AND ADDITIONAL METHOD

The NDM advises that the hundreds of thousands of patriotic and honest Jamaicans overseas must be brought into marketing Jamaica's Tourism. The NDM recommends the strategic identification and training of at least 1,000 qualified Jamaicans as Tourism representatives. Those 1000 Jamaicans (all over the world) would target large medium and even small Corporations and institutions and sell those corporations specific Jamaica Vacation Packages to their staff and managers. By the use of general video information on Jamaica plus "Hotel Specific" and other "Size Specific" video materials, large contracts and Conventions could be sold. This approach holds very positive consequences for the small Jamaican Hotels as direct Packages can be so sold. The NDM believes that in 2 years an additional 1 million visitors can be brought to Jamaica if the programme is aggressively marketed. The cost to the Jamaican tax payer would be almost zero as agents would be paid from completed contracts. This programme could fill the 40% unoccupied rooms almost immediately while bringing the tourist industry into contact with local and overseas Jamaicans.

MARKETING, MARKETING, MARKETING!

We believe that the government must accept and maintain primary responsibility for destination marketing as the tracks on which owners of hotels and attractions and tour operators will pursue their own promotions. Our marketing strategy will be driven by the fact that as a reverse product, tourism entails bringing the market to the product rather than taking the product to the market. It is more a "market-pull" than a "product-push" activity. Our presence in the market must therefore be conspicuous, constant and compelling. While North America remains our major market accounting for 74% of visitor arrivals, we must take advantage of the increasingly dynamic markets in Asia, Europe and Latin ` America which offer longer stay, higher per capita expenditure vacationers and therefore enhance the cost/benefit ratio of marketing expenditure.

A MASTER PLAN FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

There currently exists no comprehensive plan to guide the development of the tourism sector in the foreseeable future. Existing resort areas tend to be congested at the centre and sparse on the periphery although connected by the same network. We will develop a master plan designed to: —

- Identify elements of and areas for future development.
- Pre-empt future infrastructure requirements.
- Rationalize the cost benefits of contemplated investment.
- Safeguard environmental integrity.
- Ensure the adequacy of air and sea port facilities.
- Provide adequate facilities for training to meet job requirements in the sector.
- Strengthen the linkages between tourism and other sectors of the economy.

A major objective of such a master plan would be to increase visitor arrival to 3 million and room capacity to 30,000.

CHAPTER 7

THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

MINING & ENERGY

THE MINING SECTOR

The NDM understands the critical economic importance of this sector to the economy. We will encourage the expansion of this sector which includes not just the primary bauxite/alumina industry, but as well as our wide variety of limestones/marble and quarry materials and industrial minerals reserves.

The NDM will introduce strict mining standards and regulations to minimize or completely remove the negative impact on people's health and their property as well as the impact on the physical environment.

ENERGY

The NDM appreciates the fact of our dependence on imported fuels. We further seriously believe that alternate or supplemental sources of energy must be developed including such options as water turbines and wind generated sources of power. We also support the investigations into the use of natural gas as a source of electricity generation.

CHAPTER 8

THE SERVICES SECTOR LABOUR

JUSTICE FOR THE WORKER HARMONIZING THE INTERESTS OF LABOUR AND CAPITAL

A productive and growth-oriented economy depends heavily on the level of comfort which characterizes the relationship between workers and management. The pressures of international competition will not allow this relationship to be left to be defined and redefined at every bargaining table and at every bargaining meeting. We must develop a consensus supported by appropriate legislation that is impartially enforced so that bargaining table negotiations and grievance resolution do not have to go back to basics. This consensus and the legislation which it informs must be built on the principles of justice and respect. It is the responsibility of government to forge such an understanding and to provide the mechanisms to administer it.

LABOUR MARKET REFORM

We will collaborate with worker and employer representatives in enacting new legislation to regulate industrial relations practices which will include

- * Reaffirming the right of workers to be represented by the trade union of their choice.
- * Recognizing contractual engagements as a contract of employment between an employer and employee.
- * Making collective agreements legally enforceable with appropriate sanctions for non-Compliance.
- * Mandating minimum standards for health and safety at the workplace.
- * Providing detailed procedures for the resolution of disputes including local level negotiations, the use of government's conciliation services and referral to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal.
- * Providing legal protection to either party which conforms to the prescribed procedures.
- * Provisions that payments due under a collective agreement which remain unpaid for specified period may be the subject of garnishee proceedings.

Resources will be made available to improve the physical facilities, increase staff and enhance the efficiency of the government's conciliation services.

The Industrial Disputes Tribunal will be restructured by:

- * Removing it from the Ministry of Labour and establishing it as an independent body.
- * Increasing the number of panels to facilitate expeditious hearing of disputes.
- * Providing adequate support staff and facilities in the areas of research and labour law.

The Essential Services Law will be rigidly enforced and its Sanctions vigorously applied.

CHAPTER 9

FOCUSING ON EDUCATION

TUITIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

* We will provide tuition scholarships to tertiary level to all students achieving a specified level of performance in terminal examination.

A FRIENDLIER COST-SHARING SCHEME

* We will streamline the cost-sharing scheme to ensure that poor parents have easy access to financial assistance - without the present embarrassments. .

* A fact sheet outlining the availability of financial aid together with an application form will be supplied to all parents along with the statement of fees.

* School principals or designated officers will be required to make a recommendation as to the need for and level of assistance.

* Parents who are registered recipients of welfare will be automatically entitled to assistance for their children.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

* We will integrate existing HEART academies, vocational/agricultural schools and trade training centres into Vocational Training Institutes (VTI).

* Entry to vocational training institutes will be based primarily on satisfactory completion of the course of study at secondary vocational schools Level 1 certification at secondary vocational schools would allow direct entry to Level 2 training at VTI.

* Special courses will be offered for unskilled employed workers wishing to upgrade their skills and for retraining of displaced workers. »

* VTI Curriculum will be developed by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET) which will also be responsible for certification and accreditation.

* VTI will offer training to Level 3 (supervisor/instructor).

* The Jamaica German Automotive School and the National Tool and Engineering Institute will offer advanced vocational training to Level 4 (master craftsman.)

A NEW APPROACH TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

* We will promote full cost recovery at tertiary level supported by adequate provision of low-interest student loans to meet up to 90% of the cost of tuition, prescribed instructional material and housing accommodation.

* Appropriately structured tax-free bond instruments will be designed to mobilize funds to finance student loans. Budgetary provisions will be confined to meeting the differential between the cost of funds and interest on loans.

* Appropriate legislation will be enacted to strengthen post-graduation recovery mechanisms.

* Loan repayment will be waived where borrowers, upon graduation, work in designated areas of the public service for a specified period of time.

* Incentives, including land, tax credits and tax rebates will be offered for the provision new and existing off-campus housing made available to tertiary institutions under long-term contractual arrangements with agreed mechanisms for review of rental rates.

* The Scientific Research Council will be integrated into the UWI so as to provide greater scope for marketable research and bring to bear the research capability of the UWI in developing innovative applications for the productive sector. Our aim is to make the UWI the island's premier research centre

EDUCATION: THE FULCRUM OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OUR PEOPLE: OUR MOST PRECIOUS ASSET

Education is the single most important factor in economic and social development. It is the key that opens the doors of opportunity for individual achievement. It is a major source attraction for investment since it determines the level of productivity of the work force and the ability of the nation to compete in the global market for goods and services. It is therefore the most effective strategy for reducing poverty and building prosperity. It is an essential ingredient for social stability since it removes many of the causes of crime, violence and social disfunctionalities such as drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and indiscipline.

Our Education System Is...

FAILING OUR CHILDREN AND BLIGHTING OUR FUTURE

Early Childhood Education Government policy lacks emphasis on early childhood education which is left largely to privately—operated basic schools, many of which are in poor physical condition, lack competent teachers and perform far below required standards The result is a weak foundation on which it is difficult to build. Primary schools suffer from overcrowding, poor physical conditions, lack of furniture and equipment, shortage of teaching materials, low nutritional levels and weak curriculum delivery. Almost one half of the students leaving primary school do so without having attained functional literacy and numeracy.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Inadequate funding, lack of vital equipment and facilities, shortage of competent teachers, declining quality of intake from primary schools and curriculum deficiencies have undermined standards in secondary schools. The retention of secondary-age students in grades 7-9 of all—age schools without a

proper curriculum and the appropriate teaching capability has created an academic cul-de-sac which leaves many of these students with a feeling of failure and abandonment. The inept application of cost-sharing requirements has made secondary education unaffordable to many poor parents. Civics will be re-introduced into our educational system and made a compulsory subject from primary school to university level.

TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Technical High Schools originally designed to produce graduates with technical proficiency have suffered from problems similar to those of the secondary schools with the result that the technical content of their programmes has been diluted and their original mandate compromised. Comprehensive High Schools which represent a hybrid spanning academic and technical education have successfully accomplished neither, Institutions for vocational training are fragmented, lack proper curricula, have inadequate certification, are deprived of vital training equipment and have been stigmatized as low-level pursuits

TERTIARY EDUCATION

The course structure and performance of students at tertiary institutions have been negatively affected by the declining quality of student intake. Lack of resources caused by an outmoded financing system has deprived tertiary institutions of much needed facilities and has restricted the availability of space for applicants. Inadequate arrangements for student loans have meant that many capable students are denied access to tertiary education.

POOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance among students in the critical 8—14 years age group averages 80% and is correlated to income levels with the lowest quantile having an attendance rate of 73% compared to 88% for the highest quantile.

NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

Financial constraints and logistical difficulties in the production, delivery and storage of packaged lunches have deprived many schools of the nutritional support so vital to the learning ability of poor students.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

* Public sector expenditure. Budgetary allocation to education has fluctuated to as low as 11% of the total budget. Within that level, the allocations to different types of schools reflect inequalities and misplaced priorities. Salaries and allowances, utility charges and rental of buildings absorb almost the entire allocation leaving little or nothing for teaching materials, maintenance etc.

* Supervision and assessment. The level of classroom supervision has been impaired by the preoccupation of principals and senior teachers with administrative responsibilities. There is no

appropriate mechanism for evaluating the performance of individual schools on the basis of which deficiencies can be identified and effort and achievement rewarded.

The GSAT Experience.

The present GSAT is a stark symbol of the weaknesses in our education system. The method of assessment must take into consideration the ability of the student vis a vis the desired school and home location. All Secondary schools must be standardized with the same curriculum, teacher ability and facilities.

THE NDM'S VISION FOR EDUCATION

- * Every child should be functionally literate by age 8.
- * Every child should be guaranteed a sound primary education and the opportunity for, further training in academic pursuits or relevant occupational skills.
- * Every student should be equipped with basic employable skills by age 17.
- * No student should be deprived of the opportunity of secondary or tertiary education for reasons of unaffordability.

WHAT WE WILL DO TO REVOLUTIONIZE EDUCATION

BUDGETARY COMMITMENT

- * We will increase expenditure on education over a 5—year period to 20% of the total annual budget or 8% of GDP, whichever is greater.
- * We will ensure that a minimum of 15% of recurrent provisions is earmarked for routine maintenance, educational equipment and teaching materials.
- * We will place greater emphasis on early childhood education.
- * A 5-year capital development program will upgrade all Basic Schools to acceptable and effective standards.
- * All Basic Schools will be upgraded and regulated to ensure the same standard. It will be compulsory for all children to attend Basic Schools.
- * We will provide for all Basic School Teachers with special training in early childhood education.
- * We will fully fund the salaries for all Basic School Teachers.
- * We will expand the program for training and certification of Basic School Teachers.
- * We will enforce a standardized curriculum for the 3-5 year age group through closer supervision and in-service training.

* We will provide audio-visual equipment and program material for curriculum support to every Basic School.

* We will place the emphasis on Reading and Reasoning for all Basic Schools objective.

STRENGTHENING PRIMARY EDUCATION

* We will address as a matter of priority the physical condition of all primary schools and the need for additional space at overcrowded schools.

* The National Assessment Program will be expanded to determine the progression of ' students from one grade to the next. Students who fall below the required level will be required to repeat the grade and will be given special remedial attention.

* Teacher/pupil ratio of 1/30 will be achieved and where possible lowered.

* No child will leave the Primary School system who cannot Read and Reason.

Rationalizing SECONDARY EDUCATION

* The concept of all age schools will be abolished and special training facilities established to address children with special needs.

* We will convert existing all-age schools to primary, secondary or vocational schools.

* We will restore the specialized purpose and scope of technical high schools to achieve proficiency based on examinations by appropriate examination boards

* We will convert existing comprehensive high schools into either high schools or technical high schools.

PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

* A minimum of 5% of capacity in all educational institutions will be reserved for disabled students.

* At least one in every 20 teachers on the staff of every school should have training in special education.

* Annual screening of students will be carried out to detect physical, mental or intellectual impairment.

* We will provide aids (e.g. eye glasses) for readily correctable impairment.

* An on-going program will be maintained for assessment, counselling, parent training, prescriptive teaching, therapeutic sessions and referral, where necessary, to other institutions.

* We will provide additional support for NGO's offering special education to students with disabilities.

* Training in special education will be included as a course option in teachers' colleges.

* Gifted children will be identified and specially facilitated to maximize their extraordinary potential including advanced placement and the provision of full scholarships to tertiary level.

ENHANCING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Improving The Learning Environment

- * School managers will be appointed to assume administrative responsibility for the school plant thereby releasing principals and senior teachers to concentrate on teaching and teacher supervision.
- * We will guarantee adequate furniture for all schools.
- * We will develop and maintain on a quarterly basis a check list of minimum physical standards for all schools.
- * School programmes will be diversified to include stimulating activities on traditional low-attendance days.
- * Incentive awards will be instituted each term for students who achieve an attendance record of more than 90%.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

- * Specific criteria will be developed for annual performance assessment of schools These criteria will include (but not limited to) performance of students as determined by the National Assessment Program.
- * Tangible recognition including cash grants for identified projects will be given to outstanding schools.

INCREASING NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

- * We will privatize the management of Nutrition Products Ltd. to enable higher levels of efficiency.
- * Schools will be allowed to enter into contractual arrangements with suitable local transporters for the collection and delivery on a daily basis of packaged lunches.
- * Tendered contracts will be entered into with private sector companies in areas not served by Nutrition Products Ltd. for the supply of packaged lunches that meet nutritional specifications.

IMPROVING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

School managers will be appointed to assume administrative responsibilities for the school plant. Thereby releasing principals and senior teachers to concentrate on teaching and student supervision.

- * We will guarantee adequate facilities for all schools.
- * We will develop and maintain on a quarterly basis, a checklist of minimum standards for all schools.
- * We will provide audio-visual equipment and program material to support curriculum delivery.
- * We will expand the textbook rental scheme to cover all grades in primary and secondary schools.

- * We will rebuild and update the book stock of the Jamaica Library Service and ensure that adequate space and books are provided for all primary and secondary schools.
- * We will ensure that all secondary and technical schools are equipped with functioning laboratories and workshops .
- * A system of professional designation will be established for teachers who achieve a specified level.
- * We will provide a mortgage interest subsidy not exceeding 15% of basic salary to assist teachers with more than 10 years service to purchase a house.
- * We will offer teachers enhanced life insurance coverage equivalent to 5 times basic starting salary with 2/3 of the premium being paid by the government

ENSURING THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF TEACHERS

- * The annual output of existing teacher training institutions will be expanded to 1800 to increase the complement of trained teachers and achieve a teacher/pupil ratio of 1/30
- * Special emphasis will be placed on the training of additional science teachers for secondary schools.
- * A new teachers' college will be established to train teachers in vocational subjects and to meet the additional requirements that will be created by the secondary vocational schools.
- * We will expand the training of teacher/librarians to ensure that at least one such person is on the staff of every primary and secondary school.
- * We will ensure that the real value of teachers' salaries is preserved by automatic annual adjustments.
- * Special incentives will be paid to teachers based on annual assessment of the performance of each school.
- * Salaries of primary school teachers will be equated with those of teachers with similar qualifications in high schools. i

FINANCING TERTIARY EDUCATION

The NDM is proposing National Sacrifice to finance our education system. If our country is to be indebted then it should be for the cause of education. The NDM is committed to redirect from borrowed funds US\$200 million into a self sustaining fund. From this fund, low interest student loans will be available to those who qualify for tertiary education. The Amount currently allotted to tertiary education will be redirected to the early childhood, primary and secondary levels and to make sure more trained teachers are available with a proper pay package.

CHAPTER 10

OUR YOUTH

AT THE TOP OF OUR PRIORITIES

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST HOPE AND MOST CRUCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

More than a half of our population (approximately 1.3 million) is under 25 years. Of that number, 750,000 fall in the volatile 10-24 year age group. The strength of any country, is its capacity to respond to a changing world environment and the security of its future can be measured by the condition of its young people. It is they who supply the energy and vitality to drive a nation to greater achievement. It is their hopes and aspirations that must define our goals as a people and it is their innovativeness and creativity that must constantly revolutionize the methods by which those goals are achieved. We therefore place our young people at the centre of our development strategy.

REVERSING THE HOPELESSNESS THAT PREVAILS AMONG OUR YOUTH

- * We will strengthen the legislative provisions relating to the rights of children and vigorously enforce these rights including the obligation of parents to ensure that children attend school.
- * We will ensure that every child has access to a proper education and appropriate training in income earning skills as outlined in our Education Policy.
- * Our economic policy designed to achieve sustained macro-economic stability and stimulate investment and job creation will generate new opportunities for employment of young people.
- * We will modernize and reintroduce the Apprenticeship Program to create additional opportunities for the training and employment of young people.
- * We will revitalize the National Youth Club Program with the aim of having at least one vibrant youth club in each community. These youth clubs will emphasize discipline and social responsibility and will support a wide range of activities including sports, culture, personal development, leadership training and community projects.
- * We will revitalize the Jamaica Festival as a means of providing greater opportunities for the development of the artistic and cultural talents of our young people.
- * Our National Sports Program will be used to foster a spirit of discipline, effort and collaboration among young people.

Sports: An Effective Tool For Nation Building

THE INESTIMABLE VALUE OF SPORTS

Sports plays a vital role in social development. It is unique in that it involves not only the participants but, with equal fervor, the spectators and is therefore a powerful tool for social interaction at both the

community and national levels. If efficiently administered, it promotes the qualities of discipline, effort and collaboration. It provides vast opportunity for individual achievement and enables both individuals and communities to earn the recognition and respect which they would not otherwise be able to command. At the international level, sports has been an agent of national unity and a source of national pride.

Our Sports Development Strategy should Be Built On Partnership.

Sports is best organized through the initiatives of schools, communities, individual clubs and workplaces with the support of the private sector and regional and national associations, many of which are affiliated to international organizations. Our policy will therefore be guided by the need to strengthen the work of these bodies, provide the appropriate facilities, create new incentives for sports achievers and facilitate the early discovery and development of sports potential.

PROVIDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Communities: The establishment of the Constituency Development Fund will allow much greater attention to be given to upgrading community centres and Playfields. New housing developments above a certain size will be required, as a condition of approval, to develop Playfields to minimum specifications.

Schools: We will seek to acquire land for schools which do not currently have space for a Playing field. Schools will be encouraged to raise funds for upgrading of playfields which will be matched by the government. .

Urban Centres: Working in conjunction with sporting bodies and the private sector, we will provide matching funds for upgrading sporting facilities in urban centres to specified criteria. These will include the playing area, enclosure to facilitate charged admission, , accommodation for patrons, security and facilities for players.

NI: The facilities at the National Stadium Complex will be properly maintained for national and international competitions. I

SPORT GEAR

We will grant tax exemption for sports goods and equipment purchased through schools and recognized sporting bodies.

TRAINING

* We will expand the training of sports instructors and physical education teachers at the G C Foster College.

* Training programmes will be supported by regular coaching clinics and wide dissemination of training aids (literature, video programmes etc).

Sports Scholarships

We will provide scholarships to secondary and tertiary institutions for outstanding sports achievers who satisfy entry requirements.

CHAPTER 10B

OUR CULTURE

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR PEOPLE

WE MUST ARREST THE EROSION OF OUR CULTURE

Jamaica's rich cultural heritage is being eroded by several factors -

- * Inadequate research, documentation and archiving. Neglect and deterioration of historical sites.
- * Insufficient avenue for cultural expression and transmission.
- * The impact through modern telecommunications of competing cultural values unmatched by initiatives to reinforce indigenous culture.
- * The failure to actualize the commercial value of our cultural forms.
- * Every school will be required to have at least one member of staff with training in physical education.
- * We will provide coaches in the major sports, working at the parish level, to identify and develop talent at the school and community levels.

OUR STRATEGIES TO PRESERVE, ENRICH AND MARKET OUR CULTURE

- * The Cultural Training Centre will be integrated into the UWI and its courses will be accorded degree status.
- * Things Jamaican will be restructured as an advanced training institute (AVI) to provide training in indigenous craft in conjunction with its commercial operations.
- * A planned program of restoration of historical sites will be pursued in a manner that will enable them to operate as commercial ventures especially as tourist attractions.
- * Fellowships will be offered for research and documentation of our cultural heritage.
- * Additional resources will be provided for the National Archives, the Institute of Jamaica, the National Library and the National Gallery to preserve critical artefacts and improve their documentation and management systems.
- * The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission and the Social Development Commission will be merged with one of its principal assignments being to revitalize the Jamaica Festival as a means of cultural expression at the community level.
- * The Cultural Production and Training Centre will work in collaboration with artistic groups and private entrepreneurs to produce local material for radio and television transmission both locally and in overseas locations with large concentration of Jamaicans.
- * Scholarships to secondary and tertiary level will be offered for students who achieve excellence in cultural forms and who satisfy entry requirements.

ENHANCING THE BENEFITS OF OUR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

* Reggae music has combined many elements of our culture and heritage and has transformed them into a dynamic product with strong international appeal. Jamaica could derive much greater benefit by going beyond artistic production to international marketing if the appropriate facilities existed. In addition, tourism could be enhanced by greater exploitation of our distinction as the "home of reggae music".

- * The revitalization of the Jamaica Festival will facilitate the emergence of new talent that can achieve international acclaim.
- * We will collaborate with producers and artists to establish the facilities for international marketing.
- * We will work with promoters and artists to stage reggae carnivals at major international venues to maintain and enhance reggae's place in the international market.
- * We will develop the facilities for regular (instead of annual) music festivals and will work jointly with local promoters in the staging of these festivals as a major tourist attraction.

CHAPTER 10C

TODAY'S CHILDREN TOMORROW'S ADULT

They are our hope and our future.

Our children represent our hope and our future but as they go through their formative years they are the most vulnerable among our population. Their future development and the fulfilment of their potential depend critically on the quality of the environment in which they are brought up, the care which is provided for their physical and mental growth and their access to the facilities which will equip them to assume adult responsibilities. The condition of our children cannot be divorced from the conditions which affect the home and the strength of the family unit Policy initiatives must seek to make up for these deficiencies while at the same time remove their causes.

POLICY INITIATIVES TO SAFEGUARD OUR CHILDREN

Projects geared toward production and community service. * We will work jointly with non-governmental organizations to rehabilitate street children by facilitating their return to their homes where feasible, providing temporary shelter where necessary and ensuring that they attend school and avail themselves of opportunities for skills training.

* Through the schools, health services, children's services, poor relief department and non-governmental organizations, we will seek to identify children with physical or mental disorders and will provide special assistance for their care and rehabilitation, where possible.

* We will seek an amendment to the Adoption Law to facilitate easier adoption of children while ensuring their safety and well-being.

NEGLECT BY FATHERS

Hundreds of thousands of our children start life and continue into adulthood under serious disadvantages because their mothers are not in a financial position to establish the biological paternity of the father to legal satisfaction. These children miss out on the many opportunities including schooling, proper housing proper nutrition and nurturing into fulfilling their social and economic potentials. Despite the single handed gallant efforts of single mothers and grandmothers too many of these children end up as failures and invariably on the wrong side of society and worse, on the wrong side of the law. The NDM proposes that government makes available free and compulsory paternity testing access to all mothers who desire to legally establish the biological paternity of their children. The NDM further proposes that the legal establishment of paternity should automatically entitle the mother to child maintenance from the father.

SAFEGUARD OUR CHILDREN

* The rights of children will be constitutionally guaranteed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be enacted in the new Constitution.

* Through public education, we will promote programmes strengthen the family unit and reinforce the

obligation of both parents to their children appropriate legal sanctions will be enforced for wanton parental neglect.

* We will ensure that proper health care is available without charge to pregnant and lactating mothers as well as young children.

* Food support programmes will be geared towards pregnant and lactating mothers and young children as well as the indigent elderly and severely disabled.

* Our initiatives to revolutionize education will provide greater access to quality basic school training and will guarantee every child the opportunity for a sound primary education and appropriate training in income earning skills.

* We will upgrade and expand existing children's homes to provide an appropriate environment for abandoned children and those at severe risk in their home environment.

* We will provide increased financial support to churches and non-governmental organization that operate children's homes.

* We will seek to enact legislation to provide stiff penalties for sexual or physical abuse of children. The rape unit within the police department will be expanded to deal with cases of child abuse in collaboration with the children's services division.

* We will seek legislation to make it illegal for children to be held in adult detention or remand facilities. Special facilities will be provided for juvenile detainees.

* Juvenile correctional institutions will be reoriented toward rehabilitation with particular emphasis on counselling and skills training.

CHAPTER 10D

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

EQUAL RIGHTS..... DESERVED RESPECT.

We affirm our recognition of women as equal members of the society who command our respect and who must not only be guaranteed the same rights as men but whose unique role in humanity entitle them to special rights. We support the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men in the home, at the workplace, within the community, in the political arena and in government at all levels.

OUR COMMITMENT TO WOMEN AND TO THE NATION

- * We will remove all remaining constitutional and statutory forms of discrimination against women.
- * We will support the efforts of women's organizations to monitor, promote and defend the rights of women.
- * We will vigorously enforce the legal provisions relating to domestic violence.
- * Industrial relations legislation and machinery will institutionalize the principles of equal pay for equal work and promotion by merit.
- * We will strengthen the appropriate legislative provisions to protect the interests of women in the sharing of assets acquired by common-law partnerships which have ensued for more than 5 years.
- * Our policies relating to education, training, investment and job creation will place emphasis on the need to redress the severe imbalances in employment and economic opportunities between men and women.

CHAPTER 10E

TODAY S ELDERLY,

YESTERDAYS PRODUCERS

A MEASURE OF OUR HUMANITY

Like our children, our elderly constitute a vulnerable segment of our population. Their difference, however, lies in the fact that with deteriorating capability their prospects will gradually diminish. The moral quality of a nation can be measured by the care it gives to its elderly people. We recognize this as a crucial policy responsibility has put severe stress on their ability to adequately care for their elderly members particularly those who require constant attention and assistance.

A CARING APPROACH TO THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY

Families will be encouraged and supported in meeting the care needs of their elderly members.

- * Primary health care programmes will place particular emphasis on home visits by community health aides to deliver health care services to the elderly.
- * We support and will expand the Drugs for the Elderly program.
- * Indigent elderly will be one of the principal targets of our food support program.
- * We will refurbish and maintain to adequate standards all public infirmaries and will ensure proper nutritional and medical support.
- * Each infirmary will include on its staff someone with appropriate training to provide counselling and to co—ordinate group therapy and productive activity programmes.
- * We will provide subvention to individuals and community organizations which offer shelter and care for dependent elderly. We will expand the Golden Age Clubs to provide greater means of interaction among elderly folk.
- * We will sustain and reinforce special provisions for the elderly on public transportation and in public hospitals.

CHAPTER 11

HEALTH

A HEALTHY NATION IS A WEALTHY NATION

THE PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO PROPER HEALTH CARE

THE GOVERNMENT HAS A DUTY!

It is the duty of government to ensure that the people have access to quality health services. It is of vital importance that the poor who are most susceptible to disease and poverty-related ailments are not deprived of proper health care because of their inability to pay.

THE STATE OF OUR HEALTH SERVICES

While Jamaica had been relatively successful in controlling preventable immunizable diseases, we are now witnessing the reappearance of communicable diseases which had previously been eliminated and the emergence of new ones. Primary health care facilities, although specially well placed, suffer from severe shortage of manpower, equipment and supplies and are not sufficiently flexible in their routine to deal with casual emergencies resulting in undue pressure on hospitals through self referral and forced referral. Our hospitals reveal the most conspicuous weaknesses in our health system. They are plagued by a chronic shortage of medical personnel, inadequate funding, lack of vital equipment and supplies, inadequate maintenance and a weak management structure. A number of wards and operating theatres in our major hospitals have remained closed for prolonged periods because of staff shortages and ' equipment breakdown. The severity of the manpower shortage is illustrated by the extent of vacancies in some critical areas :-

Nursing	54% .
Pharmacists	65% .
Medical Technologists	49%
Hospital Administrators	55%
Public Health Inspectors	45%

Critical support facilities such as diagnostic, radiographic, laboratory, pharmaceutical, blood banking, dialysis and radiotherapy services are also constrained by acute staff short-ages, inadequate and obsolete equipment.

Towards A Healthy Health Service

TACKLING THE MANPOWER SHORTAGE

- * We will improve the remuneration and provide a substantial scarcity allowance for posts that experience chronic staff shortages.
- * We will expand the availability of on—site and near-site accommodation for nurses
- * A mortgage interest subsidy not exceeding 15% of basic starting salary will be offered to medical staff with not less than 10 years service to assist in purchasing a home.

* We will provide increased support for community colleges in the pre-training of nurses and public health officers and will expand the capacity of the nursing and public health schools to respond to training needs.

* Responsibility for training of health personnel will be transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Education to facilitate greater coordination within the education system. Our proposal for financing tertiary studies and for waiving repayment of student loans by graduates who work in the public sector for prescribed periods will, in the medium to long term, improve the flow of trained personnel to fill critical posts.

* In the short term, we will embark on an aggressive program to recruit required personnel from overseas.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

* Health centre facilities will be strengthened to enable them to respond more effectively to routine cases.

* Proper housing accommodation for nurses will be provided at major health centres to enable them to deal with casual emergencies on a 24-hour basis.

* We will advance the rationalization of services within the hospital structure. This will involve precise designation of the services to be available at each hospital and the provision of the necessary personnel and equipment supported by an efficient referral system.

* Emergency response/trauma centres will be maintained on a 24-hour basis at designated hospitals to deal with severe trauma cases, especially relating to violence and motor vehicle accidents.

* The Emergency Medical Service will be developed into a full-fledged par-medical service with appropriate training support and will be expanded to island-wide coverage.

* A management information system to effect speedy referrals among hospitals and clinics will be instituted.

MEETING THE COST OF HEALTH CARE

* Inadequate funding of the health sector is a major cause of the deterioration in service delivery. Weak remuneration and unsatisfactory working conditions leading to shortage of personnel, poor maintenance, obsolete and inadequate equipment and shortage of critical supplies all derive from financial constraints.

* Current budgetary expenditure on health amounts to 3% of GDP one of the lowest in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The imposition of user charges with no proper mechanism for relating charges to the ability to pay has impacted negatively on the poor while having minimal effect on revenues. User charge recovery in 2001 amounted to less than 5% of the total budget for the health sector.

* No meaningful improvements can be effected to health care delivery without addressing the issue of its funding.

* Budgetary expenditure on health must be gradually increased to a minimum of 5% of GDR

* We will introduce a National Health Insurance Scheme to supplement (not supplant) budgetary provisions for the health sector.

AN EFFICIENT NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

- * The National Health Insurance Scheme will be financed by the remittance of one-third of the proposed consolidated social security payments to be derived from payroll deductions and employer contributions.
- * An independent authority will be established to administer the NHIS This authority will act not as the insurer but as a broker which purchases coverage on a competitive basis from insurance earners.
- * Insured persons will have the choice of accessing service at public institutions or from participating private providers
- * Payment will be made by the insurance carrier to the service provider (public or private) and will be based on established rates for prescribed treatment, diagnostic services and pharmaceuticals.
- * Private providers will determine their own charges Charges by public institutions will be determined by their management boards subject to ministerial approval.
- * Management boards will apply the payments received to maintenance, procurement of supplies and equipment and incremental remuneration to staff as determined by each management board.
- * Patients will be required to meet any differential between insurance payments and actual charges.
- *Special Drug Windows and the Drugs for the Elderly program will be maintained.
- * Self-employed and unemployed persons who do not voluntarily contribute to the scheme will be required to pay the stipulated charges Minimum contributions for voluntary participants will be based on the minimum wage.
- * Individuals will have the option of augmenting their coverage by purchasing private health insurance.
- * The government will provide full coverage for registered indigents.
- * Children under 18 years and persons over 65 years will be entitled to free treatment at public institutions.
- * There will be no charge for persons attending primary health care facilities.
- * A comprehensive on-line information system to verify eligibility and facilitate prompt remittance of payments will be established for all participating providers.

CHAPTER 12

SOCIAL SECURITY

CARING & SHARING WITH RESPECT

A BOLD NEW APPROACH TO SOCIAL SECURITY

OUR AGEING POPULATION (UNDERSTANDING NOT SYMPATHY)

As is occurring throughout the world, our people are living longer because of improved access to health care and more effective pharmaceutical applications. Declining economic fortunes among many families.

FACILITATING, NOT JUST SYMPATHIZING

The disabled deserve our recognition and respect. While the human spirit ought necessarily to be driven by compassion, it must be expressed not in pity but in deliberate action to enable disabled persons to be as independent as possible and to live their lives as normally as their circumstances and determination permit. Above all, we are committed to supporting the efforts of disabled persons to develop their talents to the highest extent possible.

- * We will support the efforts of non-governmental organizations that are engaged in the welfare of the disabled.
- * Regular screening of school students and monitoring at the community level by public health and child services functionaries will seek to identify at an early stage physical or mental impairment so that appropriate action can be taken.
- * We will provide without charge through the schools and organizations catering to the disabled the appropriate aids for readily correctable impairment (e.g. eye glasses, prosthesis).
- * We will reserve 5% of places in all educational institutions, jobs in the public sector and housing solutions delivered by public sector agencies for disabled persons who satisfy, the normal requirements.
- * We will work jointly with non-governmental organizations to expand the available facilities for the care and treatment of the severely handicapped.
- * Building codes will require that all structures which are to be accessible by the public must include special facilities for the disabled.
- * Public passenger vehicles will be required, as a condition of their licenses, to provide special facilities or offer special assistance to disabled persons.
- * Road rehabilitation programmes will prioritize the provision of obstruction free sidewalks for pedestrians, especially disabled persons.
- * We will seek legislation to impose special penalties for violence against disabled persons. ‘

THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF RETIREMENT PLANS

The need for proper arrangements to provide economic security for the aged when they retire or no longer have earning capability is becoming increasingly important because of the increasing life

expectancy of the population and the severe impact of inflation on the purchasing power of the elderly. Additionally, in an economy desperately short of capital, the efficient mobilization of retirement savings provides a critical source of funds to finance long-term investment that can, in turn, enhance the value of pensions when payment becomes due. Computing and disbursing benefits have undermined the efficiency and reliability of the scheme.

PENSION FUNDS

Pensions for public sector employees are funded by annual budgetary provisions rather than wage—related contributions to a designated fund. They therefore make no contribution to the pool of investable savings. Because they are defined benefits schemes the real value of pensions is rapidly eroded by inflation and upward adjustments are dependent on the government's benevolence rather than the performance of an invested portfolio. The existence of different pension arrangements for various categories of public sector workers creates dysfunctional disparities which must be addressed.

A NEW APPROACH TO PENSION REFORM

EXISTING PENSION ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE IMPROVED

Although there are some 1500 private pension schemes valued at over \$30 billion, there is no comprehensive legislation governing pension schemes. A proper legal framework is necessary to protect the interests of contributors by regulating the management of pension funds, the vesting of benefits, the liabilities of trustees, the portability of individual pension accounts and the right of contributors to disclosure.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME

The National Insurance Scheme is limited by the low level of contributions and the corresponding low level of benefits. The low yield on the NIS Fund, the management of which is subject to government direction, has rendered it inequitable with young contributors subsidizing the benefits to retirees thereby jeopardizing their own future entitlement. Benefits are determined not by the performance of the Fund but by the government. Additionally, weak enforcement, improper documentation of contributions and administrative shortcomings have contributed to its inefficiency.

A NEW PENSIONS ACT

We will seek to enact a new Pensions Act to regulate the management of pension funds and to make provision for:-

- * Licensing of pension fund managers with stipulated requirements for capital adequacy, financial reporting etc.
- * Regulations governing the segregation and investment of pension funds.
- * Periodic valuation of assets and liabilities.
- * Liquidity requirements to meet current and projected disbursements.
- * Portability of individual accounts.
- * Audited financial statements.

- * Actuarial review and reporting.
- * Provision of annual statements to contributors.
- * Rights of members and the method of determining benefits.
- * Minimum vesting requirements and the entitlement of members to contributions made both by themselves and their employers.
- * Consolidation of statutory contributions.
- * Current statutory contributions (excluding income tax) are made up as follows:

NIS NHT Ed Tax HEART TOTAL

Employee 2.5% 2.0% 2.0% 6.5% T

T Employer 2.5% 3.0% 3.0% 3.0% 11.5% '

- * We will abolish the Education Tax and the HEART contributions.
- * We will replace the existing NIS and NHT contributions with a single wage-related social security payment made up as follows: Employee 6.5% Employer 11.5%
- * The social security payment will be collected by the Inland Revenue Department and would be allocated and remitted monthly as follows:

NIS NHT Health Insurance

(6%) (6%) (6%)

Individual accounts for every employee would be maintained by the Inland Revenue Department and the respective receivers of the remittances and monthly returns by employers would be required to indicate the amounts being paid in respect of each employee.

MANAGEMENT OF NIS FUNDS

- * The NIS Fund will be invested by way of competitive tender among licensed pension fund I managers and will be subject to the same regulations as apply to private pension funds.
- * Transitional arrangements will be made for existing NIS pensioners and those contributors who are near retirement age. An appropriate portion of the existing Fund determined actuarially would be retained to meet those obligations. The remainder of the Fund would be valued and weighted before placement with pension fund managers.

A BETTER DEAL FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

- * Government will purchase Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) with full portability for all current pensionable public sector employees. Appropriate government paper will be issued to pension fund managers to effect purchase. The value of each IRA will be established based on current pensionable emoluments and the number of years of pensionable service. Thereafter it will be funded by wage-related contributions by employees and employers.

* Current government pensioners will continue to be the responsibility of government through budgetary provisions.

THE CHURCH -WORKING WITH THE VULNERABLE

* The over 5000 churches in Jamaica are best situated and are best suited to administer the needs of the genuinely needy and the vulnerable.

* Assistance to the poor should not be tainted with political involvement or influence.

* We recommend a restructuring of the safety net programs to include a direct and close collaboration between government and the churches.

THESE CHURCH RELATED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

1. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
2. FOOD STAMPS
3. FREE HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY T
4. AID TO DISABLED CHILDREN
5. WORKING WITH PUBLIC INFIRMARIES
6. STREET PEOPLE PROGRAMS
7. INDIGENT HOUSING
8. INDIGENT CARE

A SAFETY NET FOR THE WEAK AND VULNERABLE AIDING THE NEEDY, ENABLING THE ABLE-BODIED

* The National Insurance Scheme will be managed by an independent board.

* Public assistance programmes have been undermined by poor administration with the result that benefits are invariably sequestered by able-bodied persons to the exclusion of those in genuine need. As we create new opportunities for those with earning capabilities, these programmes must be redefined, refocused and diligently monitored.

* Food support programmes will be confined to pregnant and lactating mothers, children aged 1-6, indigent elderly and severely disabled.

* School feeding programmes will assure nutritional support for the learning process.

* Free health care at public institutions will be provided to children and the elderly.

* Disabled children will receive aids for readily correctable impairment.

* Public infirmaries and golden age homes will receive strong care-giving, medical and nutritional support.

* Temporary shelters for street people pending referral or rehabilitation will be provided.

* The indigent house program will be scrupulously confined to genuine residents.

* A renewed outreach program by the Poor Relief Department will extend care to residents in their own homes.

CHAPTER 13

HOUSING

Shelter Solutions

ENABLING MORE PEOPLE TO FULFILL THEIR DREAMS

THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Jamaica suffers from not only a severe shortage of housing but the need for substantial repairs to a large portion of our existing stock. These two problems lead to a third, namely, the mushrooming of squatter settlements especially in and around urban/tourism centres and on critical reservations such as over and gully banks, railway tracks, watershed and flood-prone areas. Problems of trespass, environmental abuse, absence of potable water, proper waste disposal and unanticipated stress on available infrastructure and social amenities create conflicts which cut across several other policy issues. Investment in the provision of shelter is constrained by its inaffordability to the vast majority of the population. Mortgage financing involves long term recovery and has suffered from government's economic policy which has skyrocketed the cost of servicing mortgages and has driven long term savings away from housing investment into the lucrative short term market. The NHT remains the principal source of housing finance but even this is beyond the reach of a substantial portion of the population and is available only to its contributors who make less than 50% of the working population. The legal and institutional arrangements which govern activities in the formal housing sector are tedious, bureaucratic and constitute a deterrent to shelter sector investment.

OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES

- * To expand the range of available shelter solutions and synchronize their provision with the needs and affordability of the population, treating shelter provision as a process rather than a product.
- * To provide greater access to financing for shelter solutions with appropriate guarantees.
- * To persons who save and contribute to their own shelter solutions.
- * To maximize the flow of investment into the provision of shelter solutions.
- * To pre-empt the emergence of informal settlements and to retrofit existing settlements, where legal, environmental and technical circumstances permit.
- * To rationalize and improve the efficiency of the statutory and institutional framework relating to the provision of shelter solutions.

SYNCHRONIZING SHELTER SOLUTIONS WITH SHELTER NEEDS

* Provision of land and infrastructure (serviced lots).

We will provide access to land with basic services to persons who are able to erect (however incrementally) their own homes.

* Upgrading and regularizing of informal settlements.

We will undertake a concerted program to regularize and upgrade existing squatter settlements where legal, environmental and engineering considerations permit. This will involve land acquisition, security of tenure and the provision of infrastructure including roads, water supply and waste disposal.

*** Preventing the incidence of squatting**

Simultaneously with the initiatives to provide serviced lots, the law against squatting will be rigidly enforced to prevent the emergence of new squatter settlements. The relevant laws will be amended to strengthen the rights of owners of land to give them greater protection from illegal occupation of their lands.

*** Building on your own land.**

Persons who have their own land or legal access to land will be assisted in erecting their own homes.

*** Home improvement.**

Facilities will be provided to assist persons to improve or expand existing houses in order to reduce the demand for new housing units.

*** Housing schemes.**

Housing schemes will cater to persons requiring complete shelter solutions especially in areas where the scarcity of land or centralization of services require an integrated approach to shelter development.

*** Operation Pride.**

We support the concept of Operation Pride which will be the executing agency for projects involving serviced lots and settlement upgrading. We will, however, insist that it be isolated from political control by the appointment of an independent board under the supervision of the National Housing Trust.

HOUSING - ONE SINGLE AGENCY

The NDM recommends the merging of all agencies of Government (Housing) into one single entity under the National Housing Trust. The NDM further recommends the removal of all Political Directions and influence from the board of that single unit of the Housing Trust. The NDM further recommends that the single housing unit must develop a single detailed National Plan for all cities, towns, and villages which will guide all housing developments and which will rigidly deal with all present and future squatting problems.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO FINANCING

REVIEWING NHT FINANCING

* While every employed person is required to contribute to the NHT there is no guarantee of a mortgage benefit indeed, only a small percentage of those who contribute actually derive any benefit and many are deemed ineligible because of age, low income or existing home ownership.

* The income levels to which NHT financed solutions are targeted are out of line with the income profile of its contributors resulting in low income contributors financing housing solutions for higher income contributors while being unable to access benefits themselves.

* The uncertainty and improbability of receiving benefits have created resentment among large numbers of contributors who see their involuntary wage deductions as a tax and have discouraged self-employed and own-account persons from contributing.

* The manner in which beneficiaries are selected has deprived these funds of the flexibility to leverage additional funds within the formal and informal sectors.

GUARANTEEING MORTGAGE ENTITLEMENT

Every NHT Contributor will be assured of a Guaranteed Mortgage Entitlement (GME) to be determined actuarially and to be subject to a minimum period of contribution. The Value of the GME will be

determined by variables including the value of contributions, current earning and projected earning period. Appropriate models for determining the GME will be developed. Contributors would be allowed to combine their GME's for joint mortgage disbursement. The GME could be used with funds from other sources to co—finance shelter solutions. Refunds of contributions to contributors would be made in lump sum with accrued interest and dividends, less any outstanding mortgage payment, upon attaining the age of retirement. The GME would be accessed only for shelter solutions which meet all statutory requirements.

SECONDARY MORTGAGE MARKET

Strategic initiatives will be taken to revitalize the secondary market for mortgages to attract long term institutional funds (e.g. pension funds) into shelter investment. Our economic policy measures designed to reduce interest rates will enhance the attractiveness of performing mortgage portfolios as a long term investment.

MORTGAGE INSURANCE

Facilities for the provision of mortgage insurance will be put in place to give greater security to mortgage lenders and enhance the viability of mortgage portfolios for secondary market activity.

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Building societies have been forced by prevailing monetary policies to engage excessively in non-mortgage lending. We will seek to amend the existing regulation so that building societies whose residential mortgage loans equate to less than 60% of their total liabilities will be subject to provisions (including reserve requirements) similar to those which apply to licensed financial institutions to the extent of the portion of liabilities not invested in residential mortgages.

HOUSING BONDS

The NHT would be authorized to issue long term housing bonds as a means of attracting additional long-term funds into the provision of shelter solutions. DF Funds so mobilized would be used to finance mortgages for non-NHT contributors who are already part of shelter projects (e.g. settlement upgrading) with a requirement that beneficiaries register as contributors and their contributions be tied to their mortgage payments.

INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Proposals outline in our Reform Agenda will improve the procedures for land development and building approvals removing a major stumbling block to private housing development. Existing provisions under the Housing Act which allow special concessions to private developers undertaking approved projects will be strengthened to make them more attractive in offering low—income shelter solutions. The Titles Office, Survey Department and Land Valuation Department will be merged to provide efficient cadastral and titling services. Appropriate technology including digital cadastral mapping and computer-based search and retrieval capability will be introduced to enable prompt response to requests for information, timely amendment and issue of splinter titles and easier registration of unregistered lands.

CHAPTER 14

JUSTICE & SECURITY

Where there is no justice there can be no peace.

Where there is no peace there is no investment.

Where there is no investment there are no jobs.

Where there are no jobs, poverty and criminality prevail.

A JUST AND SAFE SOCIETY

There can be no peace without justice! The pillar on Which Freedom and Democracy rest. The judicial system is the ultimate authority for the defence of the constitution, the preservation of the rule of law and the protection of the rights of every citizen. In a society so extensively plagued by crime, violation of rights, abuse of power and divisiveness, the role of the judicial system becomes even more critical.

OUR COURTS

A JUSTICE SYSTEM OR A SYSTEM OF INJUSTICE?

The judicial system has encountered many problems which undermine its effectiveness -

- * Lack of real autonomy.
- * Manpower shortages.
- * Poor state of physical facilities and unsatisfactory working conditions.
- * Outdated procedures unassisted by available technology.

INADEQUATE FACILITIES

- * Inadequate facilities for the security of jurors, witnesses, documents and exhibits
- * Inaccessibility of Vital Records.
- * Lack of support systems to allow judges wider options in punishing offenders.
- * Inadequate provisions for legal assistance to persons unable to afford representation.
- * The highly unsatisfactory state of the correctional system rendering it incapable of carrying out the purpose for which sentences are imposed.

These factors result in tedious and protracted delays in the disposition of court matters, excessive cost to litigants and accused persons, travesties of justice, high levels of recidivism and wasteful use of scarce public resources as the Jamaican people rapidly lose faith in their institutions, we must act now to reinforce the integrity and efficiency of the judicial system lest it, too, falls into disrepute.

THE PRISONS

REFORMING, NOT DISCARDING

OUR PRISONS SHOULD BE A PLACE FOR REFORMING, NOT DISCARDING OFFENDERS

The condition of our prisons is sufficient to stagger all but the most hard-hearted among us. The tenets of justice and the principles of human rights are severely assaulted by the inhumane condition in which prisoners are kept. Conviction by the Courts may strip an individual of his civil liberties but it should not be the pretext for depriving him of his human rights. The purpose of a prison sentence must be not just to impose punishment for a crime but, even more importantly, to provide the convicted person with the

opportunity and the support to reform himself while he pays his debt to the society and to re—enter the society as a rehabilitated person at the end of that process. Our prison system, in the main, serves no such purpose. It inflicts cruel punishment on its inmates which was never ordered or intended by the Courts and when it is obliged to do so it returns him to the society a greater threat than when it received him. The cause of justice and the efforts to contain crime require that a new, comprehensive and enlightened approach be taken to prison reform.

CORRECTING THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

- * We support the need for additional prison facilities to relieve the severe overcrowding which now exists
- * The General Penitentiary which has limited space for work programmes will be upgraded into a maximum security facility. Any new facility to be built must be designed and sited to enable large scale work programmes.
- * We will facilitate greater use of non-custodial sentences for non-violent offenders and persons whose exposure to society would constitute no significant threat to it. This would significantly ease the present overcrowding.
- * The Correctional Services will be reorganized to facilitate the management of non-custodial convicts who are required to perform community service. This will be done in conjunction with other government agencies capable of utilizing their labour. Special attention will be given to public sector service areas which have been neglected due to budgetary constraints (e.g. drainage works, river training, and reforestation).
- * We will expand the activities of COSPROD into new ventures with commercial value, utilizing all the skills within the prison population and providing opportunities for skill training.
- * Through COSPROD and other work programmes, inmates will be encouraged to perform duties beyond their sentence requirements and they will be paid for the realized value of their labour.
- * We will support and facilitate orders by the Courts which require convicts to make financial restitution to the victims of their crimes.
- * Vocational teachers will be included on the staff of the Correctional Services to provide skills training for inmates.
- * An efficient management information system will be instituted to maintain up-to-date information on each inmate including evaluation of his behaviour, performance in "hard labour" programmes and community service, his efforts at learning a skill and earnings from voluntary labour. Timely reports will be made available for parole consideration.
- * We will institute regular inspection of prison facilities by the public health department.
- * We will seek legislation to make it unlawful to confine prisoners or detainees in numbers which exceed the prescribed capacity or in facilities which have been declared unsuitable by public health authorities.
- * Special facilities within the prison system will be provided for housing inmates who are mentally unstable.
- * Adequate personnel trained in psychology and counselling will be assigned to each penal institution to assist inmates in their rehabilitation process.
- * Physical exercise and sporting activities will be an important feature of prison routine.

CHAPTER 15

SECURITY

CRIME

Reclaiming Our Country from the Criminals

POVERTY - NOT THE ONLY CAUSE OF CRIME

The alarming level of crime and violence has traumatized the society, creating fear, devastating many families, undermining investment and economic activity and disrupting the daily lives of countless numbers of Jamaicans. We cannot afford to ignore the many causes of crime poverty, illegal drugs, political tribalism, pernicious inequality and a pervasive sense of injustice We must tackle these problems with utmost urgency. We must not, however, excuse criminals because the conditions that exist induce them to commit crime. We must draw the line and while we work to eliminate these causes we must be tough and resolute in preventing and combating crime.

SUPPORT THE POLICE (BUT CRITICIZE THEM TOO)

We must support the Police Force while standing up against Police abuse. The men and women of the Police Force whose responsibility it is "to serve and protect" need the broad support of the Jamaican people. The Police Force is not perfect, it has its deficiencies. Some within its ranks compromise its integrity, tarnish its image and undermine its effectiveness. Those problems must be addressed by improving training, discipline and supervision and strengthening the internal control mechanisms to identify delinquents and impose appropriate sanctions. They should not, however, diminish our support for the difficult job which the Police is called upon to perform. The work of the Police Force is severely hampered by political divisiveness. Not only does it have to contend with partisan controversy in the execution of its duties but, more significantly, it deprives the force of the community support which it needs because so many of these communities are politically tribalised.

POLICING DEPRESSED AREAS

WE MUST FREE THE CITIZENS WHO ARE HELD HOSTAGE

The vast majority of our citizenry is opposed to crime and violence but in many communities it feels weak, held hostage by a minority of criminals and dares not stand up and speak out. These citizens need to be strengthened and emboldened by the assurance that in joining the campaign against crime they have the broad support of the society at large across partisan political lines and, manifestly, from the individual political leaders. We will therefore seek to achieve consensus on the policy directions of the Police Force and mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that questions relating to their operational procedures can be resolved without impairing the effectiveness or diminishing public support for the Police.

IMPROVING POLICE EFFICIENCY

* We will insulate the Police Force from direct political control by establishing the Police Services Commission as an independent body whose appointment will require the support of a 2/3 majority of each House of Parliament.

* We will improve the financial administration of the Police by ensuring the direct and timely provision of budgeted allocations and by appointing senior level financial administrators to assume accounting

and reporting responsibilities.

* We will seek to bring the strength of the Force up to full establishment within the shortest possible time and thereafter to increase its establishment and strength to 8,500 over the next 5 years.

HOUSING THE POLICE

* We will acquire blocks of housing units in new housing schemes strategically located for the accommodation of Police Officers who may be assigned to different stations from time to time. This will provide a major incentive for new recruits most of whom are forced to live in unsatisfactory premises in the locations to which they are intermittently assigned.

* The operations of the Police Force are over-centralized with most of its crime prevention and crime fighting resources being concentrated in its High Command and in specialist "squads", depriving the area and divisional units and the local police stations of essential human and material resources without which local policing cannot be effective. We will seek through policy guidelines to influence a shift from "high command" to territorial command and the redeployment of resources, including the JDF.

* We will intensify the civilianizing of non-police functions being performed by trained police personnel. The JDF will assume responsibility for port security, static security at government buildings and critical installations as well as the functions of the Protective Services Division. Responsibility for the custody of remand prisoners and detainees will be transferred to the Correctional Services. The Coast Guard will assume responsibility for the functions currently performed by the Marine Police. These initiatives will release additional police personnel for operational duties.

INTEGRATING SPECIAL CONSTABLES

* The Island Special Constabulary Force will be fully integrated into the Jamaica Constabulary Force subject to the necessary retraining and examinations. This will allow for more effective deployment of police resources.

* Improvement in divisional capabilities will reduce the reliance on operational assistance from the JDF. More stringent rules will be developed for the engagement of the JDF in operational functions.

* Responsibility for the Office of Professional Responsibility will be transferred to the Police Services Commission to provide for greater transparency and objectivity in the investigation of police conduct.

* The National Drugs and Firearms Intelligence Unit will be transferred from the Ministry of National Security and placed under the control of the Commissioner of Police. The unit will be strengthened by providing the necessary technology and trained specialists in forensic, ballistic and anti-terrorist investigation and analysis to ensure that the management and dissemination of criminal intelligence can inform crime prevention, detection and apprehension strategies.

* The threat against witnesses is a threat to the entire justice system. We will provide adequate resources to support an effective witness protection program. Direct responsibility will be transferred from the Ministry of National Security to the Commissioner of Police. We will seek to negotiate arrangements with foreign states to allow endangered witnesses who would so wish to be temporarily accommodated there.

* We will provide appropriate equipment to enhance surveillance at our ports of entry to detect the smuggling of guns into the island. Private bonded warehouses will be brought under stricter regulations and surveillance.

- * We will strengthen the community relations functions within the Police Force and will ensure that officers assigned to carry out these functions are exposed to the appropriate training.
- * We will introduce a Volunteer Cadet Scheme with special emphasis on volatile inner-city communities. Young people would be enlisted and would be trained in such areas as leadership, conflict resolution crime prevention and detection. They would function as liaisons between the Police and the community and would be provided with a stipend.

THE INNER CITY

USE AND ABUSE

TURNING DOWN THE HEAT, TURNING UP THE LIGHT IN OUR INNER CITIES ·

A TERRIBLE MANIFESTATION OF OUR POLITICS

The neglect, poverty and hopelessness of our inner city communities provide the most compelling testimony of the corrosive nature of our politics. No political leader would want his children to grow up in those conditions. Yet, many children do and many of them die in the process of trying to do so, if not from malnutrition or disease, from the gunman's bullet. Ironically, many of these communities are fiercely supportive of one political party or the other in a politics of "spoils and scarce benefits" . Yet, if "benefits" are defined in terms of tangible, sustained improvement to the quality of life in these communities they were obviously overlooked in their distribution.

WE MUST REDEEM THESE COMMUNITIES AND REVERSE THE DECAY

- * We will develop an integrated program to rehabilitate inner city communities It will be built around the people themselves and must be carefully insulated from the destructive influence of partisan politics.
- * The Constituency Development Fund and the monitoring role of the Constituency Consultative Committee will help to address the urgent needs of these communities in a transparent and impartial manner This, however, will not be sufficient to tackle the problems that have accumulated because of neglect and partisan misappropriation of funds
- * We will establish a national foundation to coordinate the physical and social reconstruction of these communities. It will receive special budgetary allocations and will also be a vehicle for mobilizing institutional funding.
- * The national foundation will work through a broad—based organization set up in each selected community which will be involved in the planning and execution of projects Churches and other non-governmental organizations will be an important part of this structure.
- * Emphasis will be placed on rebuilding the physical infrastructure and creating opportunities for sustainable employment and small scale enterprises.
- * Special attention will be paid to programmes and activities involving children who are best able to be the purveyors of the new relationships which we seek to engender.
- * Facilities and programmes for sports and cultural activities will be a prominent feature of the renewal programmes and we will seek the active involvement of icons in these fields providing reasonable protection from malicious intent.
- * The involvement development of relations will be development of the Police and the healthy police/community a key factor in our programmes.

CHAPTER 16

INFORMATION

THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KNOW!

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- * We are committed to the principle of freedom of access to information subject only to the interests of national security, proprietary rights and the individual right to privacy. Most importantly, we believe that in matters which are essentially within the public domain, the people have a right to information.
- * We will seek to enact the Freedom of information Act consistent with the commitment and qualifications outlined above.
- * We will seek to amend existing libel and slander laws to allow greater freedom of expression while special provisions will be made to facilitate transparency in the handling of public issues.
- * We will ensure that public documents are made available in a convenient and timely manner.
- * We will establish an independent Public Broadcasting Corporation with radio and television channels to transmit live and recorded program material of public interest including parliamentary sittings.

CHAPTER 17

RESCUING THE ENVIRONMENT

The delayed effects of many years of environmental neglect and abuse are now becoming increasingly evident. If we do not act now to arrest the degradation, our children will find themselves living in conditions far worse than we ourselves now experience. The challenge is formidable. Environmental rectitude is expensive, imposing additional cost on every consumer of private and public goods and services. Environmental recklessness, however, will prove to be even more expensive in the medium to long term and will, in many instances, be reversible.

* The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) will be strengthened to vigorously enforce environmental laws. Government agencies will be equally subject to sanctions.

* Public and private sector developments will be closely monitored to ensure compliance with environmental requirements.

* We will closely monitor the use of agricultural chemicals and will grant preferential treatment including duty relief and subsidies to encourage the use of more environmentally friendly formulations.

* We will maximize the use of non-custodial convicts to undertake environmentally beneficial work in clearing drains and gullies, river training and watershed replanting.

* We will rehabilitate malfunctioning sewage plants and ensure that future plants to be built are least risky to the environment.

CHAPTER 18

A DECENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (URBAN & RURAL)

A VITAL PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE

A reliable public transportation system ensuring the prompt and efficient movement of people is of vital importance since it impacts directly on almost all areas of human endeavour including the production and delivery of goods and services, education and social activities.

* A major area of concern is the large metropolitan areas where the dense concentration of commuters with diverse destinations within a confined area causes enormous logistical and management challenges. At the same time, the increasing level of commuter traffic between rural communities and urban centres demands special attention within an overall public transportation policy.

*The abandonment of the rail system in 1992 has not only exacerbated the pressure on the inadequate bus system but has removed an important tool for rationalizing the public transportation network.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION

* A centrally owned and managed entity will provide a modern bus system in the KMA and Montego Bay regions.

* The entity will own an adequate fleet of buses with sufficient reserve capacity to meet peak demands and be able to respond instantly to sporadic surges or unit fall-out on individual routes.

* Each bus must be radio controlled and a cadre of mobile inspectors will be responsible, for route management.

*Adequate depot and dispatch facilities to clean and inspect buses on a daily basis and daily log reports will be maintained.

* Maintenance facilities with adequate equipment, spare parts and trained personnel must be in place and a program of routine, scheduled and rehabilitative maintenance must be rigidly enforced.

* The training school for drivers must be maintained and drivers must be subjected to at least by annual re-certification.

* More bus parks must be established at major route intersections.

* More facilities will be put in place to ensure ease of access by disabled persons.

* An efficient management information system for route evaluation, maintenance schedules and financial management will be instituted.

* Cost recovery to the entity must be determined on the basis of the economic cost of providing the service with an assured return on capital employed of 12.5%. Thereafter, cost recovery will be adjusted on a passenger mile basis in line with inflation, such adjustments to be made annually or when inflation exceeds 10%, whichever is earlier. Passenger mile calculations will be verified by audit.

* As the entity establishes its viability and profitability based on its cost recovery structure its shares should be listed on the stock exchange to encourage public participation and encouraging the public to help protect their own investment.

* Franchises will be awarded for three years based on competitive bids which should indicate proposed fares. A flat per bus subsidy based on seat capacity will be factored into the proposed fares. Franchisers will be permitted to increase fares annually in line with inflation or when inflation exceeds 10%, whichever is earlier. The per bus subsidy would be similarly increased in line with inflation.

- * Duty free concession would be granted for the purchase of buses by franchisers.
- * Operators will be required to demonstrate in their bids that they have the capability for adequate maintenance and operation of their buses.
- * Machine dispensed tickets will be issued to commuters. The fare system to be applied will be calculated on the basis of the economic costs less direct government subsidy. Government subsidies will be derived from a special tax on motor vehicle fuels. A cashless card system will be used by commuters to access buses. There would be no need for conductors on these buses. Cards will be sold at convenient retail outlets School children and senior citizens will be afforded cards at a discount rate.

TAXI SERVICE

LICENSE ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AND LET MARKET FORCES PREVAIL

- * Taxis will be granted a special licensing regime which would require at least by annual certification of the licensee and/or operator.
- * Each taxi will be required to be metered and to have its fare structure displayed.
- * Fares will be market determined and there will be no restriction on the number of licenses which may be granted.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION AND SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

- * Bus transportation between rural communities and into the two metropolitan centres as well as special school bus service in both metropolitan, urban and rural areas will be provided by private operators on franchised routes. Private operators currently engaged in the metropolitan system will be given the opportunity to participate in this service.

THE ROLE OF THE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

- * To conduct bids and issue franchises and licenses for rural and school bus operators as well as taxi operators.
- * Monitor the delivery of service by all road and rail transport operators to ensure that they are acting in accordance with the terms of their franchises or licenses.
- * Issue certification annually to drivers and conductors.
- * Establish a responsive mechanism for receiving and investigating public complaints.
- * Part of the gas tax will be used to subsidize urban transportation.

The fare system to be applied will be calculated on the basis of the economic costs less direct government subsidy Government subsidies will be derived from a special tax on motor vehicle fuels.

RAIL TRANSPORT

Our railway network represents a priceless asset which has the potential to move large numbers of passengers and large volumes of cargo over long-distance routes as well as the heavily trafficked routes into the metropolitan areas. It can significantly reduce the load on both the metropolitan and rural bus systems. It can also relieve the overburdened road network of long haul commercial freight.

- * A joint venture company involving the public and private sectors will be established to operate the rail system for both passengers and cargo.
- * The company will acquire modern fuel—efficient locomotives as well as passenger and freight cars.
- * Adequate maintenance facilities with the necessary equipment, spare parts and trained personnel will

be put in place and a program of routine, scheduled and rehabilitative maintenance will be rigidly adhered to.

- * Roll on/roll off as well as container cargo facilities will be provided at strategic terminals.
- * Cost recovery to the entity will initially be determined on the basis of the economic cost of providing the service with an assumed return on capital employed of 12.5% Thereafter, cost recovery will be adjusted on a passenger mile basis in line with inflation, such adjustments to be made annually or when inflation exceeds 10%, whichever is earlier Passenger mile calculations will be verified by audit.
- * A major program of upgrading of railway terminals to render them commuter-friendly will be earned out Revenue earning concessions and adequate parking and security will be an integral feature of the upgrading process.
- * The same cashless card system to be used on buses will also be used for rail service.
- * Cargo rates will not benefit from government subsidy.
- * Appropriate facilities will be put in place to ensure ease of access by disabled persons.
- * Bus routes within the metropolitan areas as well as the rural franchises will be synchronized with the location of railway stations.

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

The NDM calls for and supports the licensing of all garages, driving schools and mechanics. We recommend the re-establishment of teaching institutions to certify these persons.

CHAPTER 18a

WATER (IS REALLY LIFE)

OUR WATER WOES

- * As we continue into the 21st century, it is not unreasonable for people to expect to have access to clean water. Yet, several communities across Jamaica do not enjoy this facility. Some never did, others have had no water for many years because of non-functioning systems.
- * Jamaica has no shortage of water, available resources being estimated at almost 2 billion gallons per day, far in excess of our foreseeable requirements. But we have failed to harness it efficiently so that it can be available to all the people. More than 50% of the water that is harnessed is lost due to leaks. We can call it underground irrigation. But customers are charged based on what is harnessed, not what is delivered through their pipes.
- * We will improve the management and delivery of water.
- * We will privatize the management of sewage plants and segregate the sewage charges in NWC billings to finance payments to private operators.
- * Building approvals will give preference to sewage system designs which require less routine and periodic maintenance.
- * Construction, repairs and expansion of village tanks and pipelines.
- * Within the first two years we will restore all non-functioning water supply systems.
- * We will develop a 10 year program to replace inefficient distribution lines which account for significant water loss.
- * All water distribution systems will be placed under the management of the NWC. Catchment tanks and entombed sources with single delivery points will remain the responsibility of Local Government.
- * Planning and engineering solutions will be found to devise systems for supplying water to communities that do not have piped installations.
- * Until such time that communities are provided with piped systems, we will install community tanks and transport water on a scheduled basis. The issue of water from these tanks will be privatized and water will be sold to the public at affordable rates.
- * We will explore the feasibility of combining the benefits of the new Spanish Town/Ocho Rios highway with the increased supply of water which may be available to serve the KMA and St Catherine regions by closing the Bog Walk gorge.
- * We will increase the protection of our watershed resources by more vigilant enforcement of the legal provisions and by re-forestation projects primarily undertaken as part of the work programmes for non-custodial convicts.
- * Special loan facilities for householders to construct tanks where surface and underground supplies are not available, nor reliable.
- * Tying building approvals to water collection and storage facilities on site.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- * A significant number of sewage disposal systems are non-functional, discharging raw effluent onto our streets and into our drains, rivers and coastline. The damage to the environment and its impact on public health are incalculable.
- * We will undertake a 5-year program to rehabilitate all malfunctioning sewage systems.

CHAPTER 18B

IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF OUR ROADS

The NDM is demanding that at least 25% of the total fuel taxes be put into a dedicated road fund for the construction and maintenance of the nation's road network. This will bring all our major roads up to international standards. The deplorable condition of many of our roads is consistently one of the main complaints expressed by citizens in several communities and has been the subject of frequent demonstrations. It not only creates inconvenience for residents but it deprives communities of much needed development and has a negative impact on the community.

OUR STRATEGIES FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

- * Central Government will retain specific responsibility for the maintenance and funding of the arterial network. A detailed program for routine and periodic maintenance will be pursued.
- * The Constituency Development Fund will enable constituencies to determine their own priorities and mitigate the neglect and victimization to which many communities have been subjected.
- * Renewed emphasis will be placed by all executing agencies on the quality of design and implementation of projects with special emphasis on drainage and routine maintenance.
- * We will continue to investigate the feasibility of two major projects, namely, the new Spanish Town/Ocho Rios highway and expressway to facilitate more effective traffic flow in the corporate area. Tolling of these new facilities will be a priority.
- * We will implement, after detailed studies, plans to redistribute traffic flow in congested urban centres (KMA, Spanish Town, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay).

CHAPTER 18C

SECURING MORE AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

* The cost of electricity in Jamaica is considerably higher than that of most other countries. This is not only a burden to domestic consumers but makes it difficult for our producers to compete in the domestic and overseas markets. Our problem is due in part to the fact that much of the generating equipment is not only old but is based on technology developed prior to the oil crisis of the mid-seventies when oil was cheap.

MORE EFFICIENT ELECTRICITY GENERATION

- * We will actively pursue the possibilities of co-generating arrangements with alumina producers.
- * We will take steps to reduce system losses currently estimated at 17.5%.
- * Will expand the rural electrification program in conjunction with private investors to provide domestic service to rural communities where none presently exist.

CHAPTER 18D

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN A MODERN SOCIETY

Telecommunications technology has dramatically changed the way we live and function and has brought us into instant contact with the rest of the world. Our regulatory framework must accommodate this new reality and must do so on a basis that the public interest remains paramount.

* We regard telecommunications as a fundamental social infrastructure which, therefore involves the basic rights of every citizen.

* We are committed to private ownership subject to fair competition in the provision of all telecommunications services.

* We will respect the integrity of licenses which are in force but will not in the future support exclusive licenses or monopolistic dominance.

* We will strengthen the capability of the Office of Utilities Regulation to protect the interest of the public where exclusivity or monopoly exists.

* We support the introduction of subscriber (cable) television service on a competitive basis with strict monitoring of the licensing guidelines.

* Regulations will be strictly enforced to preclude the transmission of material which is morally offensive or harmful.

* Government will retain responsibility for spectrum management but will make licenses to operate bandwidths available on a competitive basis. Retention rights of existing licensees would be respected but they would be required to pay competitive rates for their licenses.

CHAPTER 18E

A MODERN POSTAL SYSTEM

THE MARGINALIZATION OF THE POSTAL SERVICES

The rapid expansion of new communications technology has significantly reduced the reliance traditionally placed on the postal services. This has had a negative effect on its revenues making it difficult to meet the cost of maintaining the island-wide network that it must have. The service, however, continues to be extremely important particularly to people in rural areas where alternative technology is not available.

A NEW APPROACH TO POSTAL OPERATIONS

The increasing shortfall in revenues cannot be met by commensurate increases in postal charges. We must seek creative ways to expand the services offered by the postal department by making use of the same technological innovations which have caused its marginalization.

- * The postal service will be expanded and provided with the necessary equipment to offer telephone, facsimile and E-mail services. Fixed cellular pay telephones will be installed at post offices in rural areas that have no domestic telephone service. Facsimile and E-mail facilities will be used to transmit same-day telegrams.

- * Steps will be taken to introduce banking and money remittance services at selected post offices in areas where these services are not otherwise available.

- * With the technology that is available, we will explore the possibility of facilitating the payment of taxes, statutory deductions and utility bills at post offices.

- * Clerical services (typing, photocopying etc) can be offered and particular items such as phone cards, stationery etc can be sold through post offices.

- * Critical government services can be put on-line such as obtaining copies of birth certificates or titles and verification of NIS and National Health Insurance accounts.

- * Direction and management of the postal services will be restructured as an executive agency to facilitate the commercially efficient practices which its current circumstances and our planned development require.

CHAPTER 19

CIVIL SERVICE

AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR BUREAUCRACY

- * A high-performing public sector bureaucracy is essential to the economy and the ability of the government to deliver efficient services. The public service has failed to modernize its structure and practices sufficiently to cope with the demands of a 21st century society and has resorted to the creation of parallel structures has further weakened the service and is merely an escape from the challenges which must be confronted.
- * We will undertake a comprehensive restructuring of public sector administration which will be goal-oriented and in which maximum use will be made of state-of-the-art technology, job security will be based on performance assessment and remuneration will be market-determined.
- * An independent Public Service Commission the appointment of which will require the support of a 2/3 majority of each House of Parliament will be responsible for administering the service The Parish Council Services Commission will be abolished and its functions assumed by the PSC.
- * We will amalgamate agencies and departments within and across Ministries whose functions are similar and significantly overlap.
- * We will convert departments which are commercially viable into executive agencies with appropriate systems for accountability.
- * Performance budgeting will be used as a critical tool for measuring staff performance. Where possible, we will tender contracts for public sector functions which are project -oriented and subject to cyclical intensity or are significantly affected by inconsistency in budgetary provisions. We will undertake a comprehensive audit of all regulatory and facilitative arrangements and will eliminate those which cannot be justified on grounds of criminal detection, enforcement of standards, tax compliance, public safety or protection of individual rights.

CHAPTER 20

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A Foreign Policy Relevant To Our Needs

- * Our foreign policy must reflect our values, goals and aspirations as a people We will therefore strive to ensure that, as far as possible, it is the subject of the broadest possible consensus.
- * Our sovereignty as a people must be reflected in our foreign policy which must be designed to advance our interests and must therefore emanate from us, depriving people anywhere of their democratic rights.
- * Our respect for the sovereign right of self-determination and the principle of non-interference will not permit us to condone or accept tyranny or oppression anywhere in the world.
- * We will use our foreign policy activities in a deliberate way to attract and support investment in and trade with Jamaica, as well as to protect the interests of Jamaicans abroad.
- * We are committed to the process of Caribbean integration and support the objectives of CARICOM. We believe that greater use should be made of joint Caricom initiatives in treaty arrangements especially involving trade, investment, the environment and security. We, however, see greater value in CARICOM as a pivot for wider co-operation within the Latin American region which can significantly expand opportunities for growth and prosperity.
- * We will pursue initiatives with our Caricom partners toward the establishment of joint diplomatic representation where appropriate.
- * Our relations with other countries will be pursued on the basis of equality, national dignity and mutual respect.
- * We are profoundly committed to the principles of human rights and will not compromise these principles in our relations with other countries.
- * We affirm our respect for international law will honour all our treaty obligations and will demand that other sovereign parties do likewise.
- * We believe that there should be justice and equity in international transactions and will use all available channels to ensure that these principles are observed by international and multilateral-institutions.
- * We are committed to the principles of democracy and will oppose any action which has the effect of depriving people anywhere of their democratic rights.
- * Our respect for the sovereign right of self-determination and the principle of non-interference will not permit us to condone or accept tyranny or oppression anywhere the world.

CHAPTER 21

WE ARE BORN WITH ALL OUR RIGHTS

The NDM proposes the strengthening within the constitution of the fundamental rights and freedoms to be guaranteed to every citizen and to make explicit provisions for and guarantee:-

- * THE RIGHT OF LIFE.
- * FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION.
- * FREEDOM FROM INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT.
- * THE RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS OF LAW.
- * FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, GENDER, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR PLACE OF ORIGIN.
- * FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE.
- * FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.
- * FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.
- * FREEDOM OF THE MOVEMENT WITHIN AND OUT OF JAMAICA.
- * FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION.
- * THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND PARTICIPATE IN FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.
- * THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY OF HOME, PROPERTY AND COMMUNICATION.
- * FREEDOM FROM EXPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY.
- * THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT.
- * THE RIGHT OF EVERY CHILD TO THE PROTECTION REQUIRED BY THE STATUS OF A MINOR.
- * THE RIGHT OF EVERY CHILD TO FREE EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE PRIMARY LEVEL.
- * THE RIGHT TO FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.

NDM OUR COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA

Within the first six months of taking office, the leaders of the NDM solemnly covenant with the Jamaican People the following:

1) Rooting out corruption - towards transparency and accountability.

We will enact tough anti-corruption laws so that any politician involved in corruption will be subject to prosecution by an independent Prosecutor General, and will serve a prison sentence if found guilty.

2) Impartial Awarding of Government Contracts.

We will establish an independent National Contracts Awards Commission to regulate and supervise the awarding of all public contracts.

3) Reducing Crime and Violence.

We will establish an Independent Police Service Commission so that the police can have a free hand in carrying out their job of removing the scourge of crime and violence and wanton waste of lives of our people.

4) Fighting Tribalism.

Inner City Development programmes will be established on completely non-partisan lines to eliminate tribalism.

5) National Plan for Economic Advancement.

The National Plan for Economic Advancement will be presented for discussion and implementation will commence within six months to exploit our competitive advantage.

6) Independent Bank of Jamaica.

A politics-free BOJ will reduce careless and reckless government spending, and stabilize the dollar.

7) Effective Constituency Representation.

We will establish a Constituency Development Fund to look after the needs of each constituency. This will be funded by 5% of the annual budget, allocated equally to each constituency. A constituency consultative committee in each constituency will monitor expenditure and report annually to parliament.

BY THE END OF YEAR 1

8) Education and Training - increased quantity and quality.

Education and training for our youth is central to the NDM'S economic strategy. Therefore, after one year, a substantial portion of the budget will be allocated to education and within five years the figure will be up to 20% of the budget. At the same time, we commit to preparing a 20-year plan, agreed to by all parties, to ensure continuity. Education and HEART tax will be used exclusively for education and expansion of the HEART program.

9) Abolition of Income Tax

Over five years beginning in the first year.

A reduction of 20% each year.

BY THE END OF YEAR 2

10) Fundamental Change to the System.

We propose to change the entire system of government to ensure that power is no longer concentrated in the hands of a few. Under the proposed constitution, the Prime Minister will appoint the most talented and professional Jamaicans as ministers of Government regardless of their political affiliation. Members of Parliament will not be appointed ministers but will devote all their time to their constituency.

WE WILL HOLD A REFERENDUM TO THIS EFFECT WITHIN THREE YEARS.

"Together, we can work it out "