

DIASPORA



Through its campaign, the UPP has advanced relations with Nationals living abroad, in particular in the United States. Our outreach will be expanded, consciously, to Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe to foster a greater sense of interest, inclusion and cooperation with the Antigua and Barbuda communities there.

The long-term objective is the creation of two offshore “constituencies” that will play an active role in the economic, social and political life of the Nation.

A UPP Government will create a number of national initiatives built on shared development objectives between the government and the Diaspora. It will include the “Right” policies, administrative structures and incentives to create an enabling environment for mobilizing Diaspora resources (expertise, investments, entrepreneurship and corporate affiliations) around critical growth pillars. We will debunk the myth that there are no opportunities for the Diaspora to invest in Antigua and Barbuda.

Our Diaspora Plan for Contribution to Nation Building will call for the UPP Government to implement the following policies and initiatives:

Reinstate the Consular Offices in New York to address the needs of the Diaspora, facilitate investment and coordinate nation building initiatives and activities.

The **Non-Resident Antigua and Barbuda Secretariat** will be set up as part of the Consulate and will serve as a point of contact and facilitation of services to the Diaspora. It will be staffed and armed with the requisite budget allocations to carry out its mission.

Establish a **Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.**

Forge lines of communication and cooperation with all formally recognized Diaspora groups, with a view to involve them in nation building.

Launch the **Linking Experts and Advocates in the Diaspora (LEAD)** project to engage highly qualified experts, professionals and advocates to help Antigua and Barbuda gain from the skills and expertise of the Diaspora. As virtual experts, LEAD will be nurtured as a network to render services through virtual interactions.

Create the **Antigua Barbuda Connect (ABC)** online hub, a one-stop shop to promote local public and private-sector investments among overseas citizens. This hub will also facilitate cooperation in the area of philanthropy and allow for easy dissemination of critical information.

Within the ABDB, create a **Diaspora Development Fund** that will invest in Antigua and Barbuda only projects, providing a return on investment.

Conduct an **Annual Diaspora Survey** to provide the UPP Government feedback on the concerns and recommendations of the Diaspora.

Pursue the establishment of a **retirement village** for nationals wishing to spend their golden years in the land of their birth.

Enter into public-private partnerships for the construction of condominiums for members of the Diaspora of Antiguan and Barbudan descent, and provide the option to purchase leases for a minimum of 99 years.

Facilitate the development of homeownership subdivisions for Antiguan and Barbudans in the Diaspora.

Reintroduce the event known as "**Homecoming**" to coincide with Independence. Antiguan and Barbudans who return home for this festival will be entitled to a **Diaspora Discount Card** which entitles them to discounts at participating local restaurants and local bars.

Explore the issuance of **Diaspora Bonds**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & INVESTMENTS

A New UPP Administration will again restore the standard of excellence in diplomacy and international relations, ensure that our diplomatic services achieve the goals and objectives of serving the interests of Antigua & Barbuda, asserting our sovereign rights in the international community and reestablishing the good name of our beloved country. The new UPP Government is committed to the regional and international promotion, advancement and protection of the national interest:

Respecting all treaties and protocols signed with the sub-regional Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), while not compromising the sovereignty of our state and the independence of our people, the UPP will:

Ensure that Antigua & Barbuda receives its fair share of benefits that can be derived from regional and international organizations.

Take immediate steps to **restore visa-free travel to Canada** and maintain visa-free travel to Great Britain and other nations.

Pursue full adoption of the standards outlined in the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) to keep Antigua and Barbuda clean and green.

Strengthen international relations and seek wider cooperation with countries assisting with border

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