

# Movement for Social Justice Local Government Manifesto 2013



*We are the Solution!*

# Message from the Political Leader

David Abdulah



## Fellow Citizens:

In the past few weeks we have seen exposed the realities of politics in Trinidad and Tobago. Night after night on the public platforms of the other political parties we have heard nothing but attacks on others, bacchanal, and allegations of corruption. Very little if anything has been offered about what the parties will do for communities or what their policies are for local government. At the same time one party is spending millions of dollars in give-aways of phones, phone cards, jerseys etc in an effort to buy your vote. The ruling party is also spending millions but the money they are spending is taxpayers, not theirs, as food cards valid for just one month and other social welfare benefits are being given out in return for your vote. All of this is obscene!

At the end of the day the people of this country are no better informed or educated as to how they should vote. At the end of the campaign, millions of dollars would have been spent – money that could have been used instead to improve the lives of many people. In contrast the Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) has spent very little. We are campaigning on the ground –walking in the communities and interacting with you the voters. We are proud of our campaign for we are walking the talk - we are not in anybody's pocket but in the hearts of the people!

The one opportunity that voters had to examine the parties and what they are proposing to do was the National Debates. In the first Debate, every objective person has agreed that Akins Vidale, the MSJ's representative, was the clear winner. The other parties then ducked and ran from the second Debate which was to have all the Leaders participate. We in the MSJ believe that this is because the other parties can only perform on their own platforms and engage in attack politics. Only the MSJ offers you a vision and policies to bring about real change! We represent the new, all the others represent the old order.

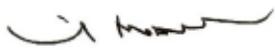
The People's National Movement (PNM) is the party that took us into independence and republican status; they are caught in the culture of the existing system of governance and cannot bring about transformation of the system. They will not remove power from the Cabinet and Ministers

and put it in the hands of the people in communities. The United National Congress/People's Partnership (UNC/PP) is the worst example of the old since not only do they want the system to remain the same they are also incapable of good governance as all the examples of the so-called mis-steps and corruption have proved. The Independent Liberal Party (ILP) is really the UNC B team. They are no different from the UNC and all we will get from them is more corruption and the entrenching of the eat-ah-food culture.

Only the MSJ can offer you decent, honest representation and a commitment to work with you to bring about real change. I therefore invite you to support the sixteen candidates of my party in the October 21st Local Government Election and ask you to consider these issues.

- **Representation:** For the MSJ, representation means that the person whom you elect must represent YOUR views. Too often politicians believe that they know what is best for you. They do not listen to your concerns and ignore you except at election time. Over the years the parties have behaved as if YOU DO NOT COUNT. Problems – from flooding to bad roads to schools in need of repairs to a lack of a decent community centre or recreation ground - could be solved if YOU are put first!. The MSJ believes that there must be social justice, equal rights, FAIRNESS FOR ALL. Our MSJ representatives are not seeking to win office for personal gain but to work with you and all members of the community to address the community's needs, give you voice and defend you against injustice.
- **Real Change:** I have walked in many communities – from Point Fortin in the south to Edinburgh in Central to Arima in the east and Carenage in the west. Everywhere the cry has been the same. People from all walks of life have said – *“We are fed up of these parties. They are all the same. Different colour jerseys but same old tune. We can't take exchange again, we need real change!”* I Agree! This is why you need to support the MSJ! We are the only party that IS DIFFERENT! Over the years we have voted out one party after another, only for things to remain the same. Only the MSJ is committed to changing the system of decision making to put power in the hands of communities instead of it being concentrated in the hands of the Ministers and Cabinet.
- **Integrity and Principles:** The MSJ is built on a culture of integrity and standing for principle, standing up for what is right and fighting for the rights of all. No other party can honestly make such a statement. When you elect an MSJ representative they will bring this culture to the office of councillor.

**Remember – together, we are the solution!**



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# The MSJ – a Party Rooted in Integrity and Committed to Service

## The MSJ – Our emergence in 2010

It is well known that the Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) emerged in April 2010 during the lead up to the 2010 general election. Prior to this, the MSJ was a political organisation working towards becoming a significant political voice in time for the next general election which was not due for another two years (2012). But with the elections being called by then Prime Minister Patrick Manning in 2010, we decided to enter the People's Partnership coalition (PP), which catapulted us onto the political stage.

Even though we had just been formed, the presence of the MSJ in the coalition was a tremendous boost to the coalition. We had a very powerful track record of defending working people, giving voice to communities and taking up issues in the national interest including the campaign against high food prices, corruption and Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (UDECOTT). Indeed, the MSJ gave great legitimacy to the Partnership and this convinced many thousands of people who did not trust the United National Congress (UNC) and the Congress of the People (COP) to support the Partnership. This is reflected in the almost landslide victory in the 2010 elections. We also played a key role in the discussions on the formation of the Partnership, contributed significantly to the coalition's major policy documents and crucially "saved the day" on several occasions by mediating conflicts between the other partners and finding solutions to issues which arose.

## Standing up against corruption and bad governance –We left the People's Partnership Government

It is no secret that the MSJ voiced major concerns about the direction of the government and publicly expressed this in statements ranging from concerns about the August 2011 State of Emergency to the decision by the government to construct the Debe to Mon Desir highway. In March 2012 we openly expressed our intention to review our Party's relationship with the Partnership unless it addressed certain fundamental issues. In particular we identified actions by the government which we could not accept and were in direct violation to the commitments to the population which were made in the Fyzabad Declaration and the Manifestoes of 2010.



We then called for positive action on the following issues including, but not limited to:

- Settlement of negotiations in a fair and equitable manner consistent with the free collective bargaining process;
- Fair share of state resources to communities and the equitable distribution of jobs
- Reduced rights of land tenure and massive increase of lease rates to farmers without consultation;
- Governance – process of constitution reform and local government reform; addressing state sector governance; cutting out all forms of discrimination, political victimisation, corruption, nepotism and patronage;
- Getting rid of the odious system of contract labour in the public service and state sectors;
- Privatisation especially of the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd-PETROTRIN (Trinmar's acreage) and First Citizens Bank;
- Advancing the agenda of labour law reform;
- The protection of the livelihoods of fisherfolk;
- Implementing the cultural sectors' agenda as committed to in the Manifesto;
- Establishing a policy position so as to stop the use of force by the Police Service to frustrate, intimidate and stop the legitimate and peaceful activities of civil society, including peaceful protest action by workers and the rights of the media.

The Fyzabad Declaration and the Manifestoes represented a social contract with the people and the MSJ could not be part of a coalition that broke this social contract. In May 2012 we again reiterated our concerns and stated that the several meetings of the leaders of the coalition had made no real progress in addressing them. When it was clear to us that the other parties were not interested in dealing with these issues in a satisfactory manner, the MSJ announced our departure from the People's Partnership government on June 17 2012. The MSJ was not prepared to be part of a government and a political coalition which practiced discrimination, politicised state boards and government industries and which is steeped in corruption. Our decision to leave the government has been vindicated time and time again, as revelations from Section 34 to corruption scandal after scandal in state enterprises are exposed.

## The MSJ – The Only Choice for True and Honest Representation

After leaving the PP, we then committed ourselves to building the MSJ into a strong, well respected party, so that the people would have a serious political option. This country needs a political party that is enduring; that is built on a solid foundation; that has a clear philosophy and vision; that has leadership that is respected for its integrity and principled stand; and that is built from the ground up.

The MSJ is the only party which fulfils all of these. We are committed to doing the hard work required to create a strong national party which is founded on integrity and is committed to service. We will not take shortcuts by looking for millions of dollars to finance fancy public relations campaigns and buy support with money and gimmicks. This is why in this local government election the MSJ has not had big rallies costing millions, expensive advertisements on TV and in the newspapers. Instead we have been walking throughout the areas which we are contesting, listening to the concerns of the people and offering our vision of change.

For the MSJ this local government election is therefore an important part of the process of building our party and offering a real alternative to citizens in communities where we have been working. After the election of October 21st, we will be continuing this process of walking, listening to and talking with people throughout the country. For us politics is not only about elections. It is about the ongoing efforts by communities and civil society to pursue their interests. So we will be with the people as you pursue your interests.

All the other parties come alive only at election time and then disappear after election day. The MSJ is not an electoral outfit. We stand committed to working with other citizens through our Assemblies of Citizens Empowered (ACE), because we recognize that the issues of corruption, injustice, crime, poverty, discrimination, and inequity which threaten to cripple our nation will not be resolved



after October 21st. We know that these issues affect everyone, regardless of race, religion, party affiliation and therefore we need to build bridges across the many things that divide us. The MSJ will continue to the process of the Assemblies of Citizens so that we can develop a consensus amongst the people on the way forward for Trinidad and Tobago. Such is the commitment and dedication of the MSJ. Our objective is to work with you so that together we can bring about a better Trinidad and Tobago.

## The MSJ's Vision for Local Government

This manifesto is rooted in our philosophy of the need for fundamental change in the relations of power. Many people are amazed that for such a small country (just 1.3m people, which is the size of a city in larger countries) we are unable to come together as a people with the common purpose of building a nation. Furthermore, although we all sing the anthem, so many of us do not feel that this country is ours. The reason is that, after winning independence, our political leaders have been unable to develop a common or shared vision and a strategic plan to achieve that vision.



Over the years, party politics and politics along racial lines have resulted in us not being united for the common cause of building Trinidad and Tobago into a country where we all feel secure and where citizens could have a decent standard of living and quality of life.

**The major reason for this is that citizens do not feel a sense of ownership of our country because decision making is always undertaken by a few, while the majority of the people do not have a say and feel like outsiders. The only way in which this could be changed is if power is shifted from a few to the many.** This is our philosophy. And strong local government is an important way in which this could be achieved.

### The Others have Failed to Reform Local Government

In the past thirty years numerous efforts at local government reform have been attempted by different parties which have controlled central government at various points in time. These include:

i) White Paper of 1983

**PNM**

ii) Municipal Corporation Act of 1990

**NAR**

*(The NAR was the only party to actually effect some reforms, many of them positive.*

*However, many of these provisions were reversed by the PNM when they came into power in 1991.)*

iii) White Paper of 1999	<b>UNC</b>
iv) White Paper of 2004	<b>PNM</b>
v) Green Paper of 2006	<b>PNM</b>
vi) Green Paper of 2008	<b>PNM</b>
vii) Document on local government reform 2013; 14 public consultations were held; White Paper of 2013	<b>PP</b>

Despite all these attempts at reform, the system of local government remains weak and has failed to function as an effective mechanism through which our citizens are able to improve their communities. The track record shows that these parties are not interested in effecting serious reform. The proposals for reform which they have put forward have not been focussed on changing the relations of power. Instead they are bent on consolidating the power of central government. All the other parties want the Minister to control. That is their history and their culture of politics. The MSJ says the people in their communities must control power! For this reason, we are the solution! In this manifesto the MSJ clearly outlines the nature of the reforms required.

### **Local Government Reform – the MSJ’s position**

- **The establishment of a single Ministry to facilitate local government affairs – the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development.** The role of this Ministry would not be to do the work of local government and community development, but to function as an interface between central and local government, as well as monitoring local government bodies to ensure that they carry out their duties and function within the law. The merging of Local Government and Community Development makes sense since local government is about community development. This will also reduce the number of Cabinet positions and for a country our size we have far too many Cabinet Ministers.





agencies are able to implement policies and projects to meet the needs of their respective communities is ensuring access to funding. For local government to be truly empowered, the Regional, Borough and City Corporations must be appropriately resourced. In order to achieve this, **the MSJ proposes that local corporations be provided with a statutory allocation of resources, similar to the way that the Tobago House of Assembly is funded.** In this way party politics would no longer determine the flow of resources to local government corporations and our communities. Instead they would receive a guaranteed amount of funding annually to provide for the needs of our communities. Over the years, funding for the work of local government is determined by the Ministry of Local Government and consequently is often distributed unfairly. The reality or the perception is that those corporations which are controlled by the party in power are favoured over those controlled by parties in opposition. As a result, resources are distributed inequitably and many communities are deprived of much needed services and facilities.

The MSJ which stands for equity believes that fairness can be best achieved if the allocation of resources for community projects is determined at the level of local government and not by central government. With real power in the hands of local government bodies, communities would have a greater say in determining the projects carried out in their area. Local government would now be better able to meet the needs of and be accountable to the members of their communities. As our communities grow and become places where our citizens enjoy a higher quality of life, our nation would be able to move forward, since a strong nation is built on strong communities.

- **Statutory Funding for each local government body based on the needs of our communities.** The MSJ proposes that the statutory funding for local government corporations should be determined by agreed upon criteria so that there will be no ‘politricks’ with the system. The Central Statistical Office’s (CSO) latest Census Data can enable our communities to be mapped. Based on the number of persons living in a community and the age, income and other factors in the community the needs of each community can be identified more precisely. For example, it can be determined that for a population of say 10,000 in a community there must be a minimum requirement with respect to: the number of schools, health centres, community centres, recreation grounds and other facilities. Where a community lacks

the minimum a statutory allocation to the local government corporation would be made to provide the missing needs. Resources would then be allocated accordingly to finance the projects which the community has identified as being necessary. No politics with the people's needs! No games with communities! No discrimination! **Only the MSJ stands committed to voicing the true needs of and empowering our communities.**

- **Restructure the local government system to ensure that there is greater community participation. The MSJ believes that community empowerment can only happen if the present system of Village and Community Councils is integrated with the Corporations.** These Community Councils must themselves be empowered by being involved in all decisions about projects in their areas undertaken by the regional, Borough and City Corporations. These Community Councils will then form part of the local government system.



Additionally, given that these Councils would form a part of the local government system, they too would have access to funds provided to the Corporations for community projects. This would allow for greater efficiency as no longer would it simply be the Councillors that are responsible for the work of local government. Through this increased participation our communities would become more empowered and this would in turn translate into better representation for our citizens.

- **The culture of local government must be changed – local government must no longer be politicised.** Starting with the Village and Community Councils we must begin to change the old culture whereby the “party group” controls the Council and therefore discriminates in who gets to use the Community Centre and other facilities. Local government and especially Community Councils must allow for independent individuals with a sound track record of community work to be able to be elected without necessarily being tied to a political party. In time we can return to candidates for local government being independent persons. In this way community members would be able to become more directly involved in the operations of local government, and therefore have a greater say with respect to what takes place in their community.

- **Local government should be embedded in our Constitution** so that this system receives the importance it deserves. It is through local government that our communities become empowered to improve, thereby allowing our nation and its citizens to progress. Therefore, local government must be seen as an integral part of our governance system - as important as the Parliament. Elevating the status of the local government and better resourcing the arms of local government as proposed

by the MSJ would allow for our Corporations and Councillors to have greater authority with respect to the delivery of services in their respective communities.

- **The terms for local government councillors be maintained at 3 years.** We see this as sufficient time for the development and implementation of policies. In our view longer terms help to keep the elected Councillors accountable. It is also to be noted that a longer term may lead to a greater politicisation of local government given that MPs serve a 5 year term.

- **The right of recall for local government councillors must be established.** With councillors being aware that their underperformance could result in them losing office, they may be better motivated to serve effectively.

### **Developing strong, sustainable communities through local government**



Having strong communities throughout our nation is fundamental for forging a better Trinidad and Tobago and for our nation's true development. Empowered communities also allow for all citizens to be able to enjoy an improved quality of life. Local government represents a key channel through which strong communities are created, national development is promoted and living standards are improved.

With a more efficient system of local government we can ensure that our nation's communities become sustainable communities – places of thriving economic activity, which are safe and which encourage the all-round development of our citizens.

### **How could sustainable communities be achieved?**

- For local government bodies to become the drivers of community development **power needs to be shifted from the central government to the local government authorities.** With greater decision making power and direct access to resources, local government bodies could undertake projects which more directly meet the demands of the community. At present, where policies are developed and resources allocated at the level of central government and then handed down to the local corporations, the projects implemented tend to reflect the interest of the government of the day and may not satisfy the needs of the residents in that area.

- **The MSJ proposes that the existing CEPEP and URP programmes be op-**

**erated as community based cooperatives**, which would then form a part of the local government structure. These cooperatives would play a key role in carrying out projects within our communities. Community members would be trained in construction, maintenance and other related skills so as to become active participants in these cooperatives. Such higher level skills will lead to possibilities of obtaining decent, permanent jobs for thousands. Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) will therefore be transformed from its present grass cutting and low skilled employment. FARMPEP – CEPEP in agricultural production will be implemented to increase food production. It is planned that the projects of building drains, community facilities etc. and the maintenance of this infrastructure would be undertaken by the cooperatives.

Cooperatives enable everyone who is a member to profit from their labour, learn good business practices and develop entrepreneurship. This is a major shift from the present system of CEPEP contracts being awarded to persons who have close ties with the ruling party and the consequent avenues for nepotism, patronage, corruption and discrimination. With the community as a whole taking an active role in local government projects a sense of ownership and pride would be fostered amongst the residents in the area. Over time these community cooperatives would become financially self-sustaining. Our MSJ vision - sustainable communities being created through cooperative efforts, community members who can increase their skill level and obtain decent jobs and a sense of ownership of community facilities by all residents.

• **Reconstruction and Development - a major priority is the establishment and improvement of the major infrastructure within our communities** such as roads, drainage, provision of potable water, street lights etc. The MSJ sees this as critically important – particularly as so many areas across our nation suffer from a lack of water which is a fundamental human right; and year after year are affected by severe flooding. These problems which stem primarily from the poor state of infrastructure which exists in many communities can be solved. Improving the infrastructure in our hillside communities where drainage and roads are woefully lacking and establishing community spaces would also be important priorities. Such a programme of physical improvement is one step towards strengthening our communities, thereby ensuring that each community and our nation as a whole is a better place for us all to live – a cause to which the MSJ is deeply committed. For this programme of infrastructural development to be implemented efficiently there needs to be a dedicated pool of funds available which funds are not controlled by the central government. This would ensure that our communities receive what they need and deserve, and that there is no discrimination or lack of equity and fairness in the projects identified to be undertaken. The MSJ proposes the establishment of a National



Reconstruction and Development Fund (NRDF). The MSJ further proposes that this fund be financed, at least in part using the significant amounts of excess liquidity which exists today in our commercial banks through bond issues. In May 2013, it was estimated that on average our banks held TT\$6.5 billion in excess liquidity daily. These idle funds could be channelled towards financing major infrastructure projects through the NRDF. The NRDF would be administered nationally by a board comprised of stakeholders including civil society representatives and with the local government bodies having a major role in decisions about the projects. In this way, our communities would not be beholden to the party in power to get things done. The NRDF would have clear guidelines such: projects having to be approved by communities; as having large local content amongst other requirements.

• **The MSJ also proposes the closure of the existing special purpose companies.** At present companies such as the PSAEL and the Rural Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago are doing the work of Regional Corporations. These companies result in increased costs since each one has its own bureaucracy (office space, vehicles, managers, boards etc) and therefore are very inefficient. Moreover, these companies do not themselves employ workers to do the projects. The companies hire contractors to do the work. And this is where the corruption and nepotism enters the picture as the special purposes state companies award contracts to friends and family. The functions of these entities should be restored to local government agencies, thereby strengthening our Regional Corporations and freeing up resources – human and financial – available for community projects. A key component of this process would be the re-professionalization of the public service and the regional corporations. The current workers within the existing special purpose companies would be absorbed into the public service and therefore there will be no loss of jobs. This will also necessitate the appropriate pay for jobs in the public service.

### **Fostering true representation in our communities**

Increasing the degree of community participation is key to ensuring that the needs, interests and concerns of our citizens are addressed through local government. This and not simply electing so-called “action people” constitutes true and effective representation. Real change requires not a change in face or of party jersey in office. It demands changing the very relations of power. Only the MSJ proposes such change. That is why we say – We are the Solution!

We must point out that the recent reform implemented by the People’s Partnership to alter the way in which aldermen are ap-



pointed to serve on local corporations does not lead to greater community participation, and therefore does not promote increased representation. On the other hand this recent change, while touted as making local government more democratic simply serves to increase the influence of political parties over local government operations. Thus, the new system puts the choice of aldermen totally in the hands of the parties as it is the parties that nominate the aldermen. And the numbers of aldermen to be nominated by each party and each independent candidate bears no relationship to the fact that only four aldermen per corporation will eventually be chosen.

However, the MSJ wishes to declare its support for the implementation of a system of proportional representation (PR) in the election of local government councillors, as well as for Members of Parliament. Prior to any such system being implemented, however, there needs to be widespread discussion nationally as part of a process of constitution reform. We need to ensure that since there are many different forms of PR we choose the one most appropriate for Trinidad and Tobago given our tremendous diversity. If implemented appropriately proportional representation could foster greater democracy and more effective representation.

### **The MSJ's Vision for our Communities**

The MSJ is conscious that to nurture strong communities which provide an appropriate and productive environment for our citizens there are basic needs which must be provided. These include amongst other things: ensuring that all communities are properly supplied with potable water; that drainage infrastructure, roads and sidewalks are up to a decent standard; that the physical environment fosters positive attitudes with adequate recreation facilities, green spaces as well as a regular garbage collection service. To achieve this requires the effective delivery of these services by corporations together with having citizens play their part by being responsible. When local government works hand in hand with individuals within the community we will develop communities in which we would all be proud to raise our children.

### **Consistent with our philosophy and policy, your MSJ representatives are all committed to:**

- Performing their duties by constantly meeting with you, listening to your needs and working with you to address the problems in your community. They will undertake an ongoing process of interaction with you. This will not be limited to your seeing them at the councillor's office, but would see our councillors meeting with you in your communities on a regular basis.



- Informing you about the progress and difficulties which arise in treating with your concerns.
- Organising the community to take appropriate action in their interest, when necessary.
- Creating bridges by bringing together community groups. This would also serve to unite the community for the common purpose of the development of the area.
- Providing residents with a constant stream of information through websites, social media such as facebook and newsletters etc, so that our communities could become informed and educated. A conscious community is an empowered community!
- Placing special emphasis on youth development. This would include ensuring that there are programmes for skills training (such as apprenticeship programmes) as well as homework centres for young students. We also advocate the development of strategic plans for each area, with a focus on employment creation. Creating permanent decent jobs is essential to eliminating poverty and moving youths away from crime.
- Establishing programmes to empower women which would seek to address the issues of teenage pregnancy, parenting skills and serve to ensure that our women are economically independent. Young men will also be involved in programmes that give them life skills.
- Working with NGOs, religious organisations etc to treat with critical social issues such as domestic violence.
- Ensuring that all who are eligible for government's social programmes receive the benefits that they deserve - that there is no discrimination with respect to accessing these programmes. By receiving this important assistance our people would be able to take the steps needed to rise out of poverty.
- Tackling crime and making communities safe for everyone by working with the police to effect a programme of real community policing. Fostering youth empowerment through training and employment creation so that each citizen would be provided with an opportunity to lead productive lives. Additionally, involving citizens in the decision making process to foster a sense of belonging.
- Supporting the efforts of sporting and cultural organisations, given that these are key channels through which young people develop their creative abilities, as well as foster discipline and team work.
- Ensuring the adequate building and maintenance of all water courses and drains.
- Putting in place the proper upkeep and maintenance of public spaces such as cemeteries, recreation grounds. Special emphasis should be placed on providing children's play parks.

**Our candidates are aware of the critical needs of your community and committed to working with you in carrying out the following projects would lead to an increased quality of life for all residents.**



#### **POINT FORTIN BOROUGH**

- ✓ The priority construction of the Point Fortin Hospital to serve the community and the south west region.
- ✓ The building of the highway from Point Fortin to San Fernando. The Debe to Mon Desir highway will not be continued until the recommendations of the Armstrong chaired independent Review Committee are implemented.
- ✓ Obtain financial support for projects geared towards community development from energy companies which operate in this area.

#### **Egypt Village**

- ✓ The construction of a Community Centre in Egypt Village.
- ✓ Improve drainage in Sodeen Alley.
- ✓ Refurbish the Community Centre in Warden Road.
- ✓ Ensuring an adequate water supply in Jattan Trace.
- ✓ Improving Coronation Park and James Park.

#### **Cap-de-Ville/Fanny Village**

- ✓ Re-build the Fanny Village Government Primary School.
- ✓ Build a Community Centre in Cap-de-Ville.
- ✓ Improve abandoned basketball courts.
- ✓ Put in place a recreation ground with netball court in Fanny Village.
- ✓ Establish a facility for tourism along the coast – this could generate increased income in the area.

#### **Newlands/Mahaica**

- ✓ Develop a recreation ground with seating for spectators in the Tanner and Wickhan Street area.
- ✓ Improve drainage system in Point Ligoure, Clifton Hill, Newlands and Mahaica.
- ✓ Complete Mahaica Civic Centre.

- ✓ Repave roads in Mahaica, Newlands and Clifton Hill.
- ✓ Develop recreational park in Newlands.
- ✓ Build Community Centres in Mahaica, Newlands and Point Ligoure.
- ✓ Restore the Mahaica Oval.

### **Techier/Guapo**

- ✓ Ensure adequate maintenance of the Guapo River.
- ✓ Maintenance of the drainage in Salick Trace.
- ✓ Establish a play park in Guapo River Road.
- ✓ Upgrade the pavilion and provide proper lighting in Guapo/Gonzalves Village.
- ✓ Upgrade and repair the grounds and pavilion at Coronation Park, Techier Village.
- ✓ Work to ensure proper housing, electricity and water supply for the residents in 10th Street Extension.
- ✓ Upgrade basketball grounds in Cochrane Village, Guapo. This would include proper seating such as a small pavilion.
- ✓ Ensure that the Guapo Government School is housed in a well equipped permanent structure.
- ✓ Establish a Training Centre in Gonzalves Village.

### **Hollywood**

- ✓ Complete the children's play park in Francis Lane, Warden Road.
- ✓ Build community centre in the Francis Lane area.
- ✓ Improve the general infrastructure in the community including repairing the roads and ensuring an adequate supply of electricity.
- ✓ Improve drainage especially to reduce the damage caused by flooding.
- ✓ Build a community centre in the Warden Road community.



### **ARIMA**

- ✓ Join the lobby to ensure that a hospital is built in Arima.
- ✓ Build Community centre at Tumpuna Road.
- ✓ Work to ensure that appropriate programmes are put in place at the community centres in Malabar Road (Arima Central) and Malabar South (Malabar) so that these facilities are maximised and do not remain under utilised.
- ✓ Ensuring that the residents of Malabar receive an adequate water supply.
- ✓ Expedite and complete the construction of the Banyan recreation ground,

which has been under construction for the last year.

- ✓ Allow community members (residents and sporting clubs) to have the access they deserve to the Larry Gomes stadium, thereby ensuring a space for productive community activity.
- ✓ Establish training programmes and work to create job opportunities to address the extremely high level of youth unemployment.

## **SIPARIA**

### **Palo Seco and Erin**

- ✓ Total refurbishment of the Palo Seco Velodrome.
- ✓ Re-establish trade school and centre for technical and vocational training in the area.
- ✓ Restore strength to the agricultural sector in this community.
- ✓ Ensure that the community of Beach Road (Sobo Village) receives a water supply.
- ✓ Resolve the current issues and flaws with the Siparia market.
- ✓ Complete construction and outfitting of the Los Charos community centre.

### **Brighton/Vessigny**

- ✓ Upgrade basketball and netball facilities in Cochrane and Vance River.
- ✓ Provide sporting facilities for the Lot 10 area.
- ✓ Upgrade sporting facilities at Sobo Village, Vance River and Union Village.
- ✓ Build pavilion to provide seating accommodation at Pt. Dor Recreational Grounds. Also upgrade the basketball and netball facilities located here.
- ✓ Address the deplorable state of roads and drainage throughout the Brighton/Vessigny community. These infrastructural works are to be regularly maintained.
- ✓ Upgrade La Brea and Vance River Community Centres.
- ✓ Work to provide a modern market facility in this area.
- ✓ Build a Fish and Meat Depot in La Brea.
- ✓ Improve beach facilities at Point Sable, Vessigny, Station Beach and the Carat Shed Beach Area.
- ✓ Develop a beautification project for the tourism facility at the La Brea Pitch Lake.
- ✓ Work to create opportunities for employment and skills training for the people of La Brea and environs.
- ✓ Build indoor sporting facility at Pt. Dor Public Courts.
- ✓ Establish a regular bus service in La Brea.
- ✓ Restore the Recreation Grounds and the KTO Stretch and Vance River.

## **TUNAPUNA/PIARCO**

### **Maracas Santa/Margarita**

- ✓ Improve drainage and road infrastructure in St. Augustine, Mohammed Trace, Ragbir Hill, Ragbir extension, Brunton Trace, La Mango and Acono.
- ✓ Work to restore a dependable water supply to areas such as Mohammed Trace, Ragbir Hill, Ragbir extension, Brunton Trace, Belle View and Calcutta (Acono).
- ✓ Establish play grounds and community centres in Mohammed Trace, Brunton Trace and Acono.
- ✓ Work to resolve sewerage problems which affect several areas across Maracas.
- ✓ Address the issues of environmental hazards and pollution.
- ✓ Restore agricultural activity throughout the community of Maracas.
- ✓ Develop programmes to treat with issues such as illiteracy, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, unemployment and domestic violence throughout Maracas and Santa Margarita. This would include reintroducing groups such as Cub Scouts and Brownies.

### **Macoya/Trincity**

- ✓ Establish a facility in the community for youth activity.
- ✓ Resurface the road in Macoya.
- ✓ Improve the drainage system in Macoya to alleviate the damage which results from flooding.
- ✓ Work towards having a Health Centre built in Dinsley.
- ✓ Have a traffic light (with bell) and policeman stationed at Govia St. (along the Priority Bus Route) as many lives are lost on this site.
- ✓ Identify a Muster Point and develop an emergency response plan in Phase 3, to allow for the safe evacuation of residents in the event of an emergency.

### **SAN JUAN/LAVANTILLE – Petit Bourg/Mt. Lambert/Champ Fleurs**

- ✓ Work to have an adequate water supply in Mt. D'or, Irvin and Busche Streets.
- ✓ Ensure the provision of adequate garbage bins and an efficient system of garbage collection on upper Mt. Hope Road.
- ✓ Implement a regular programme of cleaning and maintenance for the Mt. Lambert River.
- ✓ Work to provide an electricity supply at Hope Place, Mt. D'or Road.

### **CHAGUANAS – Edinburgh/Longdenville**

- ✓ Work to improve public and hired transportation.
- ✓ Address the issue of flooding especially in the areas of La Clave Street Edinburgh, Caparo Road and Eric Street.
- ✓ Work to have street lights installed at 15th Street Extension and HDC Gentian Park.
- ✓ Together with community members work to tackle the issue of security in all areas.
- ✓ Work to resolve issues which affect the residents of HDC units such as apartment flooding, poor cupboards, cracking of walls, and plumbing.
- ✓ Address issues which affect differently-abled persons in the community such as housing and support for families with differently-abled members.
- ✓ Establish a Training Centre with appropriate programs for youth in the Edinburgh area. These programmes would include activities such as debate clubs, pan sides, homework centres, Health and Safety programs etc.

### **DIEGO MARTIN – Chaguaramas/Pt. Cumana**

- ✓ Complete the L'Anse Mitan fish market and ensure that the facility adequately meets the needs of the fishermen in this community.
- ✓ Build a fish market in Carenage with adequate lighting, toilet facilities, areas for vending and the storage areas of nets and engines, as well as proper security.
- ✓ Enhance the provision of police services in Carenage.
- ✓ Ensure the establishment of a Health Centre in the area.
- ✓ Work to expedite the rebuilding of the Point Cumana RC School.
- ✓ Improve the roads and drainage system.
- Work to have an adequate water supply for areas such as Mt Pleasant, Resurrection, Scorpion, Sea View Hill, L'Anse Mitan and Smith Hill.

## **Our Candidates**

### **POINT FORTIN**

Ronny Adams	Egypt Village
Daniel George	Cap-de-Ville/Fanny Village
Stuart Valentine	Newlands/Mahaica
Melina Richards	Techier/Guapo
Mavis Cooper	Hollywood

### **ARIMA**

Akins Vidale	Arima Central
Carlene Mc Carthy	Tumpuna
Julia Caleb	Malabar South

### **SIPARIA**

Philbert Thomas	Palo Seco
Theophilus Henry	Erin
Patrice Edwards	Brighton/Vessigny

### **TUNAPUNA/PIARCO**

Sharon Cumberbatch	Maracas/Santa Margarita
Earl Andrews	Macoya/Trincity

### **SAN JUAN/LAVANTILLE**

Cassandra Tommy-Dabreo	Petit Bourg/Mt. Lambert/Champs Fleurs
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### **CHAGUANAS**

Reza Baptiste	Edinburgh/Longdenville
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### **DIEGO MARTIN**

Kizzy Monsegue	Chaguaramas/Pt. Cumana
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**The Movement for Social Justice:**  
***Empowering Communities through Local Government***  
**We are the Solution!**

