

**BORN TO LOVE**  
**RAISED TO CARE**  
**COMMITTED TO SERVE**



ASOT  
**MICHAEL**

**2023**

# MANIFESTO

**FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE PARLIAMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
ST PETER'S CONSTITUENCY**



*for the*  
**PEOPLE**  
*by the*  
**PEOPLE**  
*with the*  
**PEOPLE**

[www.asotmichael.com](http://www.asotmichael.com)

	<b>MICHAEL</b> ASOT	
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**ASOT**

**CARES FOR  
THE PEOPLE**



## MESSAGE

Greetings to the Residents of the St Peter's Constituency and my fellow citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

I thank you for these few moments to receive me in your homes and minds as our Nation prepares to select its Team and Leaders that will guide us through the challenges and uncertainties of our local, regional and international affairs.

I have been privileged in the past to be selected as the candidate of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP). Over the last 18 years I have received your overwhelming support in each of the four general elections held during that time. This time is different. I am contesting the 2023 elections as an Independent Candidate.

I still love and believe in the principles of Labour - that country comes above self at all times; and that those in government must make every decision and take every step for the furtherance and betterment of the average workingman and woman and not themselves personally. However, the leader of the ABLP and myself no longer see eye to eye. I have questioned him in Parliament and his retaliation has been to take steps to remove me from the Party and end my service to the People of St. Peter and the Nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

I have chosen not to go quietly in the night, but stand boldly in the day and fight for my right to serve and your right to have me serve. Though I remain true to the principles that are the core tenets of the ABLP, I can no longer support a divisive leadership that strays from the tenets that each Labour Government should allow to steer it. I believe that we as public figures are mere servants of the People. Never are the people to serve us. No matter how high in the hierarchy of Government we may climb, we remain servants of the People.

I do not come before you seeking wealth, or to enrich myself with things that I was previously denied. I do not frown upon those who would seek to better themselves in any station of life. Indeed, I consider that a basic human trait. However, the appointment to High Office does not mean the entitlement to grab those opportunities which are to be used for the benefit of the People. Those entrusted with power are obliged to use that power primarily for the benefit of the People as a whole.

I am of the firm belief that the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party does not belong to any one person or one family. Everyone who emerges within the Party should be respected for their support from amongst the rank and file. No one person can decide that the Party is their property to be filled with their family or proxies. It is not a company created to make any one man rich. I will continue to fight to curtail this type of excessive behavior. This is why I have taken up several Court actions against the Leadership of the ABLP. Each of them has given me success to-date, yet persons continue to be a law unto themselves.

We are a democratic nation, and, as with all such nations, our Political Leaders remain servants, not kings, not emperors. Our leaders are subject to the Courts and Courts will hold each of us accountable when called upon to examine our conduct. Regrettably, this is not a lesson easily learnt by some, but one that I remain wholly mindful of at all times.

As a servant of the people, I have given unbroken service over more than two decades as a Public Officer, a Minister of Government and most importantly as a Parliamentary Representative.

I believe that my experience and record of accomplishments at the mature age of 53, make me fit for continued service in our national development.

These 25 years of experience in representation of People and managing the affairs of government have prepared me to find and implement solutions for the serious challenges we are now facing in a number of areas; these include:

- Cost of Living and the Right to earn a Living Wage.
- Education, Health, Wellness and Quality of Life
- Food and Nutrition Security
- Housing, Infrastructure, Renewable Energy and Public Spaces
- Climate Resilience, National Safety and Security.
- Economic Growth and Employment Opportunities
- Wealth Creation and Financial Security

Today in Antigua and Barbuda there is an increasing need to address the scores of young people who leave school including tertiary education and cannot find employment that affords them, a roof over their head, food on their table and transportation. Too many are confined to living at home with their parents. We are too advanced to be having major issues of water distribution and local road infrastructure, but we continue to have these challenges.

Leadership, selfless leadership will afford us the skills and competencies required to meet and exceed the peoples' expectations in these critical segments of our continued journey to peaceful, healthy, happy, productive and prosperous living. In my view this is what this upcoming election is about.

I am committed to help you the People of St. Peter grow in every respect, and in every aspect. I genuinely care. I will not take the opportunity to create work for my company or my son. I will put my service to my Nation before myself or my family as I have always done.

It has always been my great honor and privilege to be there for the causes that need assistance throughout the constituency of St Peter. I look forward to your support, your vote and to working lovingly, harmoniously and productively with you to build on our past, secure our present and take us successfully into the future.

With love and devotion, I humbly surrender to causes that bind us always.

Yours Sincerely,



ASOT A. MICHAEL





Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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Prime Minister Mia Mottley



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# Chapter 01

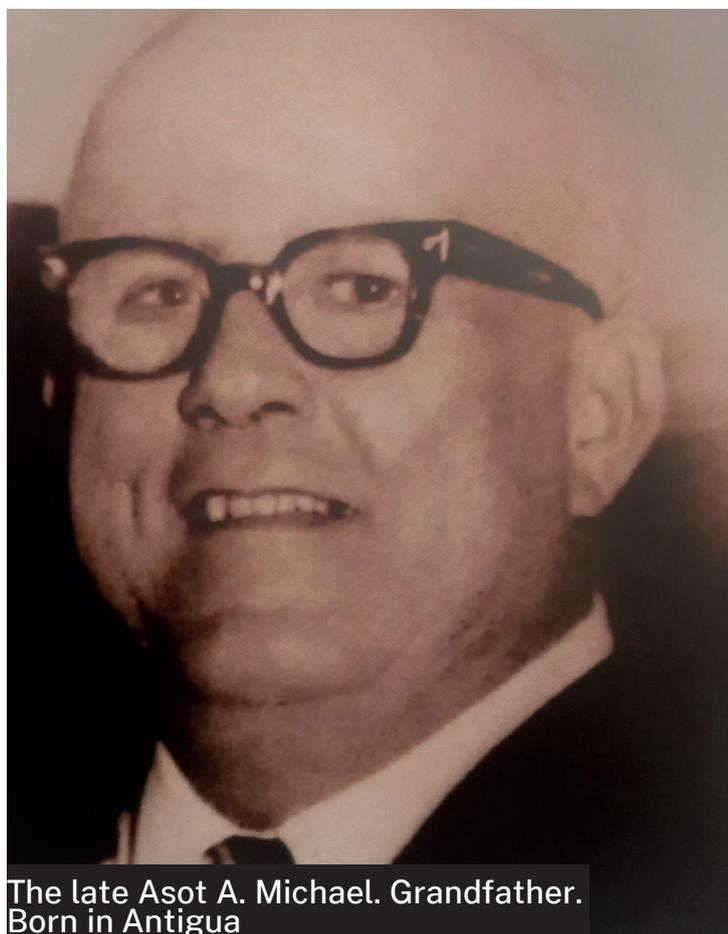
**A SERVANT LEADER  
For People Like You**

# PROFILE





Patrick and Josette Michael - Parents



The late Asot A. Michael. Grandfather.  
Born in Antigua

Asot Michael was born in Antigua on the 21st day of December 1969, and was raised as a patriot to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

His parents, Patrick and Josette Michael, were strong political activists and devoted and loyal members of the Antigua Labour Party who played a pivotal role in supporting the Late V.C. Bird in his fight against British Colonial Rule.

The Michael family, including Asot's two grand uncles, Maurice and Mitchell, always helped in the socio-economic development of the Nation. The family identified with the causes of the then Antigua Labour Party because it offered all Antiguan and Barbudans the opportunity for a better quality of life through the creation of good paying jobs and the provision of affordable and accessible educational opportunities. These are things that we now take for granted, but they were simply beyond the reach of the average Antiguan and Barbudan in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Asot was drawn to political life and gained his love for it through the guidance of his parents, grandfather and his uncles. He followed in their footsteps of political activism and philanthropy.

This is his story from the heart:

*Politics has always been in my blood... My grandfather, Asot Michael, whose name I am proud to bear died of a heart attack, one year before I was born on the day after his Redcliffe Street property was burnt down by anti-government protestors in the 1968 riots. My late father, Patrick Michael, was an essential pillar supporting the Antigua Labour Party during its darkest hours in the early 1970's. He sacrificed his business to ensure the survival of the Labour Party*

*The Michael generation before him, comprising brothers Mitchell, Asot and Maurice was even more involved in the socio-political life of Antigua and Barbuda, not by serving in any government position, but by assisting meaningfully, and in a very philanthropic manner, in the social and economic transformation of this country.*

*To many persons, therefore, my joining the Antigua Labour Party to help carry forward the vision and mission of its founding fathers was inevitable. What was not so predictable however, is the multi-sided scenario that unfolded.*

*Some persons were uneasy over my decision to enter elective politics by contesting a seat in the House of Representatives of our country. No one has yet meaningfully questioned my ability, qualifications or prospects of making a significant contribution as an elected representative of the people. Sadly, however, my critics, even colleagues questioned whether a "white", wealthy, young man should aspire to political power in Antigua and Barbuda. They wish to exclude me from that essential part of our country's life which our Constitution keeps open to all who meet the qualifications set down therein.*

*This is a matter of deep regret for me personally and the number of "non-black" families who over many generations have settled in Antigua and Barbuda and made this beautiful country their home. Indeed, to persons such as myself, and the others of my generation, this is the only home we know. We are proud Antiguan, firmly committed to the development of this country.*

My family is not “white” in the historical, socio-political sense in which that word has always been used to denote a first-world, European, or North American person who dictated the life of Antigua and Barbuda for all those years prior to our Independence. We are Lebanese, from a poor, simple peasant village located high in the mountains, where hard work, love of God, family and fellow man dictate one’s daily life and hope for the future of one’s children.

My great grandparents were poor peasants who emigrated West 150 years ago, worked hard and educated their children so that the future generations would not have to work as hard as their parents and grandparents did. They too had a dream. They succeeded in business. Their success was attributable to the honest, straight forward, caring way in which they treated customers and employees, and to their kindness and philanthropy to their church, their schools and to their fellowman. They died in peace with their conscience and their God. They had fulfilled their dream.

We succeeded the English and Scottish merchants because we outperformed them. We are proud of that. Let not that success be turned into a negative against me by my rivals. Let not my kindness and generosity to others be used to criticize and malign me for doing what I have been taught to be an honorable and Christian duty.

It is in the spirit of my family to reach out to and assist persons less fortunate than us. It is part of the

culture into which I was born and raised...It is the ethos which drives my kindness to others. I cannot see people in need and turn a blind eye.

Forgive me for quoting from the Outlet Newspaper of January 13th, 1986, the last three paragraphs of a comment and tribute to the uncle of my parents, Maurice Michael, written by the outstanding Editor and patriot, the late Tim Hector, one of the leading social critics of the entire English-speaking Caribbean. I offer it in an attempt to explain the benevolence of my predecessors, in whose footsteps, I feel obliged to walk.



The late Maurice J. Michael

“The hallmark of his life was that he understood the social uses of money. Money, for Maurice J. Michael, was not only to be made and accumulated. It was, to put it simply, to be used for social good. In this respect he is an enduring and immortal example

“No tribute to Maurice Michael can recount his numerous acts of social good from which he himself had no benefit to derive.

“Maurice Jerome Michael was held, and will be held in the highest regard, by citizens great and small, not for his generosity of spirit alone, but because of how he lived and what he did in that life... He was the citizen’s citizen”.

For many years, my generosity and that of my family was seen by many as philanthropic, as kindness, and the decent thing to do. Yet soon after I entered the political arena, my detractors began to re-characterize my generosity as a base attempt to “buy people” or “to insult the dignity” of individuals less fortunate than me. Nothing could be further from the truth.



*I will never feel comfortable going to sleep with my cup full while persons with whom I grew up, or who were kind to my predecessors, go hungry, jobless and without shelter. I simply will not do that... I must reach out to my fellow Antiguan.*

*If extending a hand of kindness, friendship, love and concern in times of need is a crime, then I plead guilty. Because that is who I am. A human being of Antigua and Barbuda, born to love, raised to care and committed to serve.*

Asot's drive and commitment to nation building comes from the Christian beliefs and princip-

les for which his parents lived and died. Through them, he lived and learned that as a servant of The Lord, he must use the blessings he was given in service for our fellow human beings.

Asot loves and understands people and their development needs. He knows the constituency of St Peter. He knows the people in every part of the constituency. He cares very deeply about their happiness and wellbeing. He is a very experienced politician, parliamentarian and a devoted servant of the people. He has had the privilege to hold a

number of leadership and management positions in service to the Nation over the years:

- **1997-2000, Chief of Staff** - In the Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Antigua and Barbuda.
- **1999 – 2003, Leader of Govt. Business** - Leader of Government Business in the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) of Antigua and Barbuda
- **2001 – 2004, Minister of Public Works** – With responsibility for Roads, Public Infrastructure, Communications, Insurance and St. John's Development. His innovative, results-oriented leadership earned him the name "Action Man" and attracted wide respect and admiration as one of the most effective managers of the State's public works function in the modern history of Antigua and Barbuda.
- **2014 – 2017, Minister of Tourism and Investment** – with responsibility for growth and development of the tourism product, local and foreign direct investments and the Citizenship by Investment Program. In 2016, Asot Michael was named Caribbean Minister of the Year by the Caribbean Journal. His leadership led to unprecedented growth in tourism for Antigua and Barbuda, particularly from the United States. This resulted in prosperity for Antigua and Barbuda through tax revenues and job opportunities for residents.

# Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre



# Chapter 02

A Proud Record of Getting the  
Job Done

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Vegetable, Meat and Craft Market



Vendors Mall

## MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT – 1st Time Around

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS:** During his tenure in Government from 1997 to 2004, Asot Michael took charge of implementing the vision of the late Sir Lester Bird for the modernization of Antigua and Barbuda.

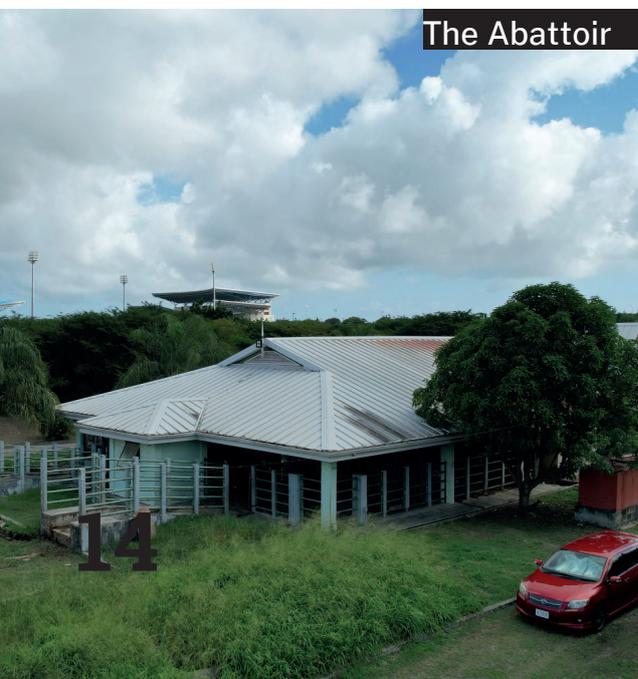
*“I have always admired his analytical skills, and his capacity to resolve complex problems. Asot was one of the Ministers in my Government upon whom I could always depend to get the job done. As Chief of Staff, he reorganized the Office of the Prime Minister to make it function effectively, and helped me in many ways to do my job. His capacity to negotiate with investors, and to extract the best possible terms for our country, are skills that I will need to assist me as Prime Minister...”*

The highlights of his accomplishments include:

- Construction of the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology designed to lead the country’s preparation for an integration into the global environment of information communication technology
- Negotiation with Stanford International Bank for the loan to build the Mount St John Medical Centre after reaching agreement with state-owned Chinese construction firm COMPLANT to construct the facility for US\$31 million – more than US\$20 million less than the bids of Western hemisphere contractors.
- Construction of the Vendors Mall to take vendors off the streets and allow them to ply their trade in a safe, organized and dignified commercial space
- Construction of the state-of-the-art Vegetable/Meat Market and Craft Market – one of the most beautiful in the Caribbean
- Construction of the new national Abattoir
- Construction of the new Heritage Quay Hotel.



Antigua Barbuda Institute of Technology



The Abattoir



Gaming industry with over 200 reputable offshore casinos and sports betting companies headquartered in Antigua, that positively impacted the economy through high paying jobs for over 4,000 young people; rental of residential and commercial buildings; and payment of taxes

- Initiated the Land-for-Youth program which allowed young persons 18 to 36 years old to own a piece of the rock at EC\$1.50 per square foot with a down payment of 5% and an interest rate of less than 5%.

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE** – Asot was appointed Junior Minister of Finance at a time when no other Minister of Government was willing to accept the position. Although the country's economy was healthier than that of most of the other countries in the Caribbean, the Government's fiscal position was under severe pressure. Dark clouds were about us because of the real fear of having to send home thousands of Government workers, and to cut back on vital social services. He accepted the most unpopular job, and with God's help, he did it well.

With the support and guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, he was able to restore the credit rating and credit worthiness of Antigua and Barbuda to the point where many financial institutions, local and external, were able to fund the Nation's existing debt and some future projects.

- Assisted the Prime Minister with negotiations for grant funding to construct the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium from the Government of China whose interest at the time was in building an official residence for the Head of Government.
- Negotiation for the purchase of the new Sandals Grande property by Butch Stewart from Sally Payton; and, along with Molwyn Joseph, negotiation for the grant of concessions to Sandals
- Facilitated the setting up of Casino Riviera owned by Victor Chandler, the London based, world famous sports betting company; Grand-bay Casino owned by the late Tony Velardi; and Grand Princess Casino in Jolly Beach.
- Facilitated the setting up of the Offshore

It was during this period, for example that he was able to negotiate financing from the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, to kick start Antigua's highway improvement programme. The Nation settled millions of dollars in long standing debts to local and international creditors. Several local businesses which were on the brink of collapse were resuscitated by the frequent disbursements made for current purchases and in payment of outstanding claims. Most of all, an enabling environment was created for our people to remain in jobs. No government employees were laid off.

In a review of the performance of Hon. Asot Michael as Minister of State with responsibility for Finance, former Financial Secretary Alphonse Derrick concludes that he served with distinction at a truly difficult time:



*“Antigua and Barbuda was experiencing perhaps the darkest and most troubling period in its modern development, that warranted the gravest and most urgent concern. For some time the country’s performance had been characterized by a falling trend in economic growth, widening current account deficit and a mounting public debt... Taking control of the Ministry of Finance at that time was clearly a daunting challenge. Only a person of exceptional courage and genuine concern for country would have been willing to do so. It was Asot Michael who proved not only willing but able.*

*“Early in your tenure, concerted initiatives were taken to stabilize and improve public finances. New revenue measures were introduced and there was significant improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of tax administration...*

*“Consistently, you kept the Cabinet informed about the country’s current situation and prospects and diligently sought your colleagues’ support for the remedial measures that were needed... you warned that without certain policy changes, the day would inevitably come when government would not be able to pay public servants’ salaries and wages.*



“At the same time, you were earning the reputation of an astute and relentless negotiator: A case in point was the US\$40 million loan from the Stanford Financial Group and the manner in which you were able obtain the best possible terms and conditions for the Government and country...

I also recall the discussions with senior officials of the Bank of Nova Scotia at their Headquarters in Toronto, Canada. It was clear that the assembled Senior Vice-Presidents and Directors of the Bank found your portrayal of Antigua and Barbuda’s current position and future prospects both eloquent and persuasive. As a direct consequence of that presentation, the Bank of Nova Scotia loaned Antigua and Barbuda EC\$25 million which was used to service certain local and regional obligations. At an earlier meeting of the Western Hemisphere Finance Ministers in Toronto, you had seized the opportunity to discuss certain issues with Paul Martin, then Minister of Finance for Canada and sought to elicit Canada’s support for Antigua and Barbuda’s position on the development of off-shore financial services.

Following the September 11 tragedy in the USA, we met in Washington, DC, with senior officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to present our case for Antigua and Barbuda’s inclusion in relief measures for the Caribbean that were being considered by these institutions. Your presentation of Antigua and Barbuda’s position was both informed and cogent. The World Bank eventually provided consultants to assess Antigua and Barbuda’s security needs and major funding was provided by the Caribbean Development Bank for the purchase of materials and equipment.

“Your negotiating skills were evident in your successful rescheduling of Government loans with several local financial institutions and obtaining more affordable terms and conditions... By their continued support in lending to meet temporary monthly shortfalls in revenue, the local banks showed confidence both in your ability and your stewardship...



**“Taking control of the Ministry of Finance at that time was clearly a daunting challenge. Only a person of exceptional courage and genuine concern for country would have been willing to do so. It was Asot Michael who proved not only willing but able.”**

*“It is fair to say that you worked tirelessly in what was seen to be the Government’s and the country’s best interests. As a young, dynamic and energetic politician, your patriotism and commitment to Antigua and Barbuda’s development were recognized both regionally and internationally...”*



**Mr. Paul Martin. Former Prime Minister of Canada**

*Let me therefore take this opportunity to wish you success in the upcoming General Elections. I am sure that you will bring to your constituents the capacity for leadership and dedicated service that you have demonstrated in the past as a Parliamentarian and Minister of Government”. **Alphonse Derrick, Former Financial Secretary***



## **MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT – 2nd Time Around**

As Minister of Tourism between 2014 and 2017 he revived Antigua and Barbuda’s lead economic engine that had fallen flat on its face under the United Progressive Party government and positioned it for strong growth. Michael led the revitalization of a shabby looking, run down, decrepit city where, for example cruise tourism facilities needed to be modernized so that Antigua and Barbuda could compete successfully with neighboring destinations like St Kitts, St Lucia and St Maarten.

He championed the initiative to expand the Heritage Quay cruise facilities in St Johns that allowed us to receive quantum class ships like Anthem of the Seas that resulted in over 800,000 cruise ship passenger arrivals the following year. Asot also initiated the provision of affordable and safe fuel bunkering

and water to cruise ships berthed in St John’s as an additional revenue stream.

When Asot Michael became Minister of Tourism there were less than 2,200 occupiable rooms in our hotel sector. Royal Antigua Hotel, for example, was in an unfortunate state of affairs with a run down, guest unfriendly plant and unable to pay staff and service providers. Jolly Beach, for many years had very low occupancy. As a result of his hard work, determination and visionary leadership for the tourism sector, Antigua and Barbuda now has over 3,500 rooms.

Against significant odds, Mr. Michael persisted with negotiations to bring the owner of Sun Wing Ltd, Mr. Stephen Hunter, onboard as a game changing investor in the Antigua and Barbuda tourism industry. Mr. Hunter purchased the derelict, abandoned the Royal Antigua Hotel for 28 million US dollars. He spent a further 40 million US dollars and totally transformed the Royal Antigua Hotel into a beautiful, four-star property, Royalton Resort, that we are all so proud of today. Mr. Michael also convinced the Canadian investor to buy out the majority shares



**Herita**



Large Quay Cruise Ship Berth



of the failed Rex Halcyon and to take over the management of Jolly Beach and use Sunwing's vertical integration model with TUI to fill the 400 rooms.

The investment facilitation and investor relationship building efforts of Asot Michael secured 6 additional airlines to serve the country's critical airlift needs - Jet Blue, Seaborne, Alitalia, Inter Caribbean, PAWA Dominicana and SunWing.

Also under his watch:

Antigua and Barbuda achieved Unesco World Heritage Status for Nelson's Dockyard and in addition to the world-famous Antigua sailing week, has attracted more new and exciting regattas such as the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Rowing Challenge; and the prestigious Royal Oceanic Racing Club RORC 600 racing challenge.

The Ministry of Tourism relaunched the Tourism Cadet Corp. This has proved a remarkable program for introducing our young people to the industry and encouraging them to choose Tourism as a career path.

The revitalization of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourism Institute featured the development of accreditation programs with international Universities and made this centre of learning fit for purpose in producing the skills and building the capacity of workers needed for our vital tourism industry.

Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne has lauded the skills and competencies of Hon. Asot Michael in building and leveraging relations in the public interest of national development:

***“They talking about building relations... The only man that has that skill and is superior to me is comrade Asot Michael... When it comes to building relations and leveraging connections comrade Asot Michael is the absolute best... I can say without any fear of contradiction that there is no one in this country within the UPP or any other political or non-political institution, private or public that has the type of capacity to build relations for the benefit of the State, compared to... comrade Asot Michael. None!”***



Royalton Hotel

## Chapter 03

The struggle to remain at the service  
of the people

# VICTIM OF INJUSTICE



## GASTON VERSUS ASOT



Over the past two years, Asot Michael and at times members of his family have been victims of a vicious campaign by Prime Minister Gaston Browne to denigrate and demonize him as someone who is unsuitable to be involved in the political life of Antigua and Barbuda or to hold public office.

As leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), PM Browne has taken every measure to ensure that Asot Michael will not contest the next general election on the Party's ticket and seeks to prevent him from serving in the governance of this Country.

Browne's new found position comes after Asot Michael, in keeping with his selfless duty to serve this Nation, assisted in ushering Gaston Browne into the ABLP. They were like trusted brothers, friends and comrades. Asot faithfully met his every need for political advice, moral support and financial assistance for both his political advancement and private business ventures.



Often, Gaston Browne would eat at Asot Michael's table. Nothing was wrong with Asot then. But times have changed, It was an English prime minister who said "Power corrupts and Absolute Power corrupts Absolutely". Now that Gaston Browne has reached the position of first amongst equals, it appears that he no longer has any use for Asot Michael and now finds that everything is wrong with him. Like many before he has climbed his ladder and now kicks it down to ensure that no other person may climb, or threaten his accession.

Gaston Browne is most probably the single largest beneficiary of Asot Michael's political capital within the ABLP. It was that political capital, from his family's legacy as foundation pillars of the party, that Asot leveraged to rally the base of the party against his own surrogate father Sir Lester Bryant Bird. This was done so that Gaston Browne could emerge as the party's Political Leader and subsequently Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda in 2014. Asot was motivated by what was in the best interest of the Party and the Nation.

It is well known that after 28 years in Government the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) was swept aside in a landslide victory by the United Progressive Party (UPP) in 2004. The party was at its lowest ebb and down for the count with only four members in Parliament – Robin Yearwood, Steadroy Benjamin, Gaston Browne and Asot Michael. ABLP Leader and Prime Minister Lester Bird had lost his seat to Errol Cort and it was obvious that the ABLP needed new leadership to regroup and make its way back to government.

So it was that 34-year-old Asot Michael and 37-year-old Gaston Browne, the young men and future of the party at the time, teamed up to fight the fire and steel of the ABLP establishment and the communication heavy weights of the party to turn it upside down and wrestle the leadership from the once unstoppable Bird dynasty.

Gaston was the knowledgeable, intelligent articulate advocate for a better Antigua and Barbuda. Asot was the popular, well connected, Labour Party man with access to financial resources and an ability to mobilize and organize for the many public engagements of the party.

The bid for leadership change in the ABLP failed in the first convention following the 2004 general election but succeeded second time around following the general election of 2009 when Gaston Browne replaced Sir Lester Bird as Party Leader.

It was not an easy road. Between 2004 and 2014, as the ABLP struggled in opposition to the UPP, there were the extraordinarily expensive court challenges, rallies, protest action, constituency support initiatives and election campaigns, in respect of which, all financial resources relied upon Asot Michael.

As one constituent of St Peters declared before the 2018 election "nobody has put more personal resources and raised more funds for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party than Asot Michael and no politician has done more with his own money for the people of Antigua and Barbuda than Asot Michael.

Labour Party people also know and appreciate that without the political capital and resourcefulness of Asot Michael at home and abroad, Gaston Browne would not be Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda today. In 2017, whilst traveling in through United Kingdom on government business and on a diplomatic passport, he was detained for questioning in London. It is remarkable, that even though



Prime Minister Browne was not in the country at the time of Asot Michael's detention, he was able to deliver to the Governor General letters of disappointment of Asot Michael as a minister even before the British Police had finished their interview. What is even more remarkable is that there is a long-standing tradition and protocol that persons traveling on diplomatic passports on government business would not be detained without a prior request to the Government of those persons. Five years later, no charges of any wrong-doing have ever been brought.

Many will recall that the son of the late Adolphus Freeland was slated to be the most likely successor to Sir Lester Bird as the favorite of the Rural East Constituency Branch. Just as the selection process was about to take place, Gaston installed his wife, Hon. Marie Browne, and launched a nasty and devastating attack on Michael Freeland accusing him of all manner of crimes and evil. Michael Freeland quietly stepped down and nothing further was heard. In fact, Gaston Browne first spoke of appointing his son to run in St. Peter and it was only after some resistance that he decided to go with the good contractor.

Gaston Browne mistakes the governance of the Nation as the running of a private company to be filled with his loyal family and friends who would not and do not question his decisions. His short comings lie in his impatience to be amongst the wealthy, and rich and he simply wishes to use the office of the People to obtain this objective.

As Gaston Browne seeks to amass his wealth, our democratic way of life is under a systematic and sustained attack. At this time Asot Michael is the focal point, but if left unaddressed like it was with Rural East, there is much more to come.

The German poet Martin Niemöller cautioned many moons ago, what happens when, in the face of injustice and oppression, we look the other way and fail in the practice solidarity with each other:

*"First, they came for the socialist, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist*

*"Then they came for the trade unionist and I did not speak out as I was not a trade unionist*

*"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew*

*"Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me."*

Asot Michael speaks out now and Gaston Browne will not intimidate him into submission to his will in order to secure the long-term benefit of massive wealth creation from the resources of the poor, struggling people of this Nation.

It is truly sad that no one in the leadership of the ABLP will stand on principle against the selfishness, ingratitude and disloyalty to comrades so regrettably epitomized in the party leader's sworn commitment to leverage the power of the office of Prime Minister to take down one of their own.

# Chapter 04

Service You Can Count On

# REPRESENTATION



## Loving the people, caring for the people, serving the people

Asot stands with the constituents of St Peter in their legitimate expectation that government will put people at the front and center of its policies and programs and in so doing:

- 1) Create jobs that would be challenging and rewarding and allow young people to make their own money, spend their own money and reach their full potential in freedom and independence;
- 2) Ensure modern, resilient affordable housing for all;
- 3) Expand and refurbish our main as well as local road network;
- 4) Ensure a reliable affordable supply of water and electricity;
- 5) Improve health care, education and community development programs;
- 6) Ensure proper, modern sporting and recreational facilities especially for the youth;
- 7) Support the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed and most vulnerable among us.



Wherever government fails to respond to the representation he provides for the constituency in these vital areas, Asot has stood alone in finding non-government funds and even committing family resources to do as much as he can for the good of all.

As Parliamentary Representative of St Peter since 2004 his commitment to improving the quality of life for all constituents is evident in the assistance, he has provided throughout the constituency in the absence of government support, including but not limited to:

- Full scholarships to secondary school, college and university
- Primary and secondary school supplies
- Laptops, tablets and IT connectivity
- Financial assistance for medical attention locally and overseas
- Financial assistance for home construction and repair
- Sponsorship of sports teams and events
- Sponsorship of artistes and musicians
- Financial assistance for small business development
- Livelihood income support for the vulnerable
- Annual care and goodwill packages for all households



Sir Joey John and Mother Marcella John



There are times when Asot Michael had to engage heavy duty equipment operators in Antigua and Barbuda, including the Gaston Browne candidate for this constituency Rawdon Turner. The MP has out of his own resources cleared cassie bush and hundreds of acres of land; cleaned out and excavated public ponds; graded dilapidated roads; purchased allin and stone for the roads; purchased 800 street lights to put on state-owned lamp posts; repaired the Sugar Factory Cricket ground and the fence around the Parham football field. He also built the Parham Basketball Court with his own funds.

Community conscious people of Parham in particular and St Peter in general, count Asot Michael's near 20-year sponsorship of the Parham Football Team as a shining example of his love and commitment as a true servant leader. Before Hon. Michael's financial engagement, the club was sponsored by Goodyear of the late Allan Gomes. An end of season fallout over the unfulfilled promise to increase sponsorship fees after winning the 2001/2002 Championship, left a sponsorship vacancy which head coach Ralston Debu Williams invited Asot Michael to fill. He happily obliged.

Over the next 20 years, Asot's Arcade Parham Football Club, fondly called "the boys from Brazil" won 5 national championships as Asot Michael gave the best of the best in uniforms, footwear, training equipment, playing facilities and technical assistance. One year he even brought in a coach from Brazil and for a few years engaged the services of a Cuban physiotherapist. The club structure improved and with millions of dollars in funding across the two decades, the coach and his team were able to build a formidable football force in national competition that became a source of pride for Parham and St Peter. Players were able to participate in friendly contests in neighboring countries and star players from the Caribbean and Latin America (even from Brazil) were recruited to play for Parham, thereby lifting the standards and international appeal of local competitions.

The Parham Football example of his role in the development of sports in the community is eloquent testimony that he loves the youth, he cares about their success and he is fully committed to serve their needs.

Asot Listens. Asot Understands. Asot Cares. Asot Delivers.

In the last 18 years, Asot has been the leading voice in Parliament on:

- Strengthening revenue/ependiture performance
- Prevention of wastage and abuse of public funds
- Fair and equitable distribution of State resources and oportunities to earn money from government projects
- Striving for higher standards of handling State income and expenses that will maximize productive use of scarce resources for the greatest good of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Improving the quality and standard of life for the working-class people of Antigua and Barbuda

As a true transformational leader, he appreciates strides in people-centered development and is passionate about ensuring that things are continuously looking up in the key areas of vital interest to the people

With Coach Debu Williams and members of the Parham Football Club





Star Parham Striker Trevaugn 'Peter Reds' Harriette



SOUTH STAND WEST

# Chapter 05

## Rethinking, Renewing and Rebuilding St. Peters

# FORWARD TOGETHER



## THE PLAN OF ACTION

The rebuilding and renewal of the St Peter constituency begins with the harmonization of all stake holders - community leaders, churches and non-government organizations coming together in a single forum to set out achievable community development plans. This can be in the form of a local or Parish Council as we had many years ago. The aim is to empower residents to maximize intelligent use of their talents, skills and shared resources in self-help ventures to continuously improve the quality of life from within the community.

The St Peter Parish Council will be the umbrella body for local organizations/village in:

***Parham, Pares, Paynters, Gunthorpes, Fitches Creek, Lightfoot, Mount Joy, North Sound, Sugar Factory, Vernons and Weirs***

The body should comprise of a cross section of the community not based on political affiliation but on a relationship with the community. These persons should be elected by the community periodically to take responsibility for:

- Road infrastructure maintenance
- Waste disposal and value-added conversion
- Disaster preparedness and disaster management
- Environment protection, clean up and beautification
- Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage

The St Peter Parish Council will provide oversight and supervision to the authorities across the constituency. A possible source of funding for Parish Council could be property taxes. This will allow local concentration on the maintenance of local roads and facilities. Property taxes from the more affordable communities together with assistance from the central government will allow for a constituency operating on a more equitable neighborhood basis.

Within the first 60 days of the new parliamentary term, Asot Michael pledges to introduce a bill for an act establishing a modern and comprehensive system of Parish Council (local) governments in Antigua. The improved leadership and management attention to the affairs of all communities will improve the esthetics of each community, broaden the provision of medical services, help to alleviate poverty and provide steps to local enterprise development and improved livelihood sustainability.

Asot Michael will move to establish a St Peter Cooperative Credit Union as a safe place for members to save for the future and borrow for productive purposes in these uncertain economic times at reasonable rates of interest. Traditional Financial institutions are increasingly moving the availability of financing away from ordinary people. Only those with money get money. Access to finance is vital to allow for the development of small businesses within the community. A localized credit union can fill this gap.

# YOUTH

## ***PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP***

### **A critical step in rebuilding and renewing St Peter**

Weaknesses in our nation building foundation have left our youth insecure, marginalized and frustrated in a system unable to deliver solutions to their real-life challenges in the age of information communication technology. We have in Antigua now the university of the West Indies, Antigua and Barbuda Information Technologies, and other educational organizations. Young people need a center where they can be advised how they can take advantage of the facilities that currently exist and are not being utilized.

In effect, we are really reaping what we have sown in our progressive departure through the years from meaningful youth participation and partnership in nation building and wealth creation.

The change begins in St Peter.

We will initiate a movement to meet young people where they are—in schools, sporting and entertainment events, clubs and community centers, on the block, in church, in hospitals... meet them physically, academically, socially, and emotionally—to help them build the relationships, skills, competencies, and confidence they need to succeed in life by helping them to select paths that are most advantageous to them.

## ***SMART COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS***

We will develop Smart Community Resource Centers across the constituency designed, built and equipped to provide the supportive learning, sporting, recreational settings that nurture the strengths and interests of the youth and enable them to thrive while building relationships and bonding with peers and adults.

Through these Smart Community Resource Centers, we will align our youth development resources to a strategy for giving them the broad range of skill sets, knowledge, and competencies needed to become lifelong learners, successful business leaders, high performance professionals, productive workers, world class artistes, sports men and women and engaged citizens.



Each of the Smart Community Resource Centers will have:

- An education facility focused on excellence in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM). A STEAM On-Line network will play a major role in unleashing the full creative potential of local collaboration with Diaspora partners in nation building.
- A modern human resource development facility focused on life management skills; training for self-employment and small business development; adult education; and enlightened citizenship
- A day care facility focused on the optimal development of children by providing a safe, interesting, health-promoting, and suitable environment which allows the children to engage in appropriate developmental activities.
- A recreation facility focused on leisure activities – games, indoor sports, fitness, dance, music – to improve moods, relax, reduce stress and enhance wellness and peacefulness

Funding for these Smart Community Resource Centers will be secured from Central Government, Local and Diaspora private sector partners, friendly governments and international aid institutions.

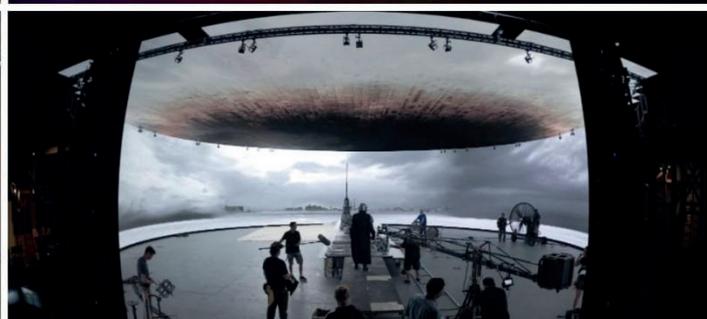
## **YOUTH-BASED WEALTH**

We will fix our focus on the settings and services that facilitate young people to grow while exploring interests and dealing with issues that reflect their passions, concerns and dreams of success. With this solid platform we will provide for successful youth participation in the partnership to build, maintain and continuously improve the best Antigua and Barbuda for all citizens at home and abroad

In this regard, we will work towards the establishment of a Youth Entrepreneurship Development Bank to help grow youth-based wealth in our twin-island nation.

This new financial institution, to be capitalized with 5 million dollars from the citizenship revenues of Antigua and Barbuda will create the much-needed ecosystem of support around businesses of young people in agriculture, light manufacturing, tourism, IT and financial services, renewable energy, sports and the creative industries

It will prioritize funding for youth business projects alongside technical assistance to ensure success in creating quality goods and services, quality jobs for young people and sustainable wealth creation for the youth.



# GROWING

## THE ST PETER ECONOMY

### TOURISM

We support effective diversification of our economy to provide for placing a larger share of tourism business and tourism revenues in the hands of the ordinary citizens of Antigua and Barbuda so that they eventually become the owners of their country's tourism sector.

We will initiate new Village Tourism Units across St Peter. The units will create locally owned tourism products and services in the communities of the constituency. Development and trade of the products and services will boost small business success, generate significant employment incomes and facilitate a more productive sharing of tourism revenue between traditional industry players and ordinary citizens. The Village Tourism units will help our destination ensure that visitors enjoy the real, authentic, uplifting, island-in-the-sun experiences they are looking for.

We will establish a St Peter cruise business management company responsible for connecting small businesses, taxis, vendors and other cruise tourism service providers at the community level to the cruise industry.

### AGRICULTURE

Self-sufficiency in wholesome, nutritious food is one of the most critical challenges facing our nation. Growth and development of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors are therefore critical to Antigua and Barbuda's food and nutrition security.

We will advocate for modern, technology driven agriculture that attracts strong youth participation as partners in economic development and allows farmers to enjoy maximizing intelligent use of their investment in feeding the nation through smart work that gets more done with less.

**Cannabis:** The versatility of Cannabis in providing medicinal, food, clothing and shelter solutions offers excellent growth prospects for economy of St Peter in particular and the nation in general.

We accept Medical Cannabis as an important part of the plan to modernize and grow Antigua and Barbuda's agricultural sector by maximizing the economic potential of cannabis extracts formulated to resolve unmet medical needs of patients worldwide.

We will take a wholistic approach to building a viable cannabis industry that will protect traditional stakeholders in Lindsey and other farming areas and ensure no interest group is left behind in sharing the health, wellness and economic development benefits.

This initiative will result in increasing opportunities for job creation, foreign exchange earnings and a wealthier nation. In addition, the availability and affordability of cannabis-based medicinal and wellness products will significantly reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases and thereby lead to a healthier nation.



***“We will take a wholistic approach to building a viable cannabis industry that will protect traditional stakeholders in Lindsey and other farming areas and ensure no interest group is left behind”***

## **MANUFACTURING**

We will encourage Government to pursue public/private partnerships to establish manufacturing facilities in Crabbs and Lightfoot:

### **Crabbs**

- Spirits, wine and malt liquors.
- A Food Science Institute, to place the delights of Antigua and Barbuda cuisine in the international market at the highest quality standards.

### **Lightfoot**

- Medical supplies and equipment, clothing, furniture and domestic appliances.
- Industrial product design corporation for product design prototyping, CAD and 3D modeling equipment, and 3D printing equipment.

We will encourage use of industrial robotics and automation to significantly enhance manufacturing capacity and capability.

## **ENERGY**

Given the impact of the climate crisis on Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean and other small island developing states, St Peter will lead by example in our country's transition to a green economy.

We support prioritization of the transport and energy sectors and attractive incentives to the tourism industry to join in the transition that will yield reductions in foreign exchange expenditure, huge savings for businesses, organizations, and homeowners and a reduction in Antigua and Barbuda's carbon footprint.

We will develop solar energy solutions for the residential areas of the St Peter constituency to provide reliable, safe, affordable and climate friendly energy services. The solar energy units which will be owned by constituents and operated through a self-help management model, will lead the nation's transition to zero domestic consumption of fossil fuels.

The renewable energy initiatives we will support and pursue, will provide high paying jobs and sustainable income earning opportunities for skilled persons, reduce dependence on imported fuel and trigger opportunities for local ownership in a vital and potentially lucrative sector of the economy.

## **THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

We will establish a special economic zone for 1) FinTech (financial technology) companies engaged in software, mobile applications, and other technologies created to improve and automate traditional forms of finance for businesses and consumers; and 2) BioTech (Bio Technology) companies using tools and knowledge gained from life science to sustain and improve human, animal and environmental health, create wealth and minimize wastage of natural resources.



We will encourage and support:

- Digitizing our small business sector and thereby open up the routes through which our digital entrepreneurs will take Antigua and Barbuda innovations and inventions to the global market and create substantial wealth.
- Distributing digital accounts and access to content production tools to every constituent interested in producing digital content and selling it in the global community.
- Providing of a range of tools, including web publishing, content planning and research, written content creation, video creation; visual content creation and online graphic design to support all constituents interested in engaging with the new digital economy.
- Giving everyone a digital account and address that will provide access to tools for anyone who wants to be a producer and share digital content with the world.
- We will work with Government and telecoms service providers to secure affordable and easy access to broadband internet, especially to residential areas in the constituency.

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

As island people we have an inescapable responsibility to develop the Green Economy and a sacred duty to protect the natural environment. This means conservation of natural resources and in particular preservation of our green spaces and marine environment

We will focus on recycling as a key discipline in environment protection and a major facilitator of saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the fight against climate change.

In the area of waste management, we will promote central connections for sewage tanks in specific residential areas to facilitate wastewater treatment and recycling for gardening and horticultural purposes.

We will develop an adventure in nature product based on preservation of our flora and fauna, gardens, parks, and beaches and other income generating assets. This platform for recreation, enjoyment of nature and building community consciousness will facilitate constituents in leveraging their vested interest a quality natural environment and endear itself to visitors.

**MODERNISING AND IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE:**

Our culture – the collection of unique ways in which Antigua and Barbuda lives and expresses itself - define our national character and the foundation of our people. What makes us Antiguan and Barbudan is nestled deep in our hearts and minds and cannot be taken from us.

We believe that despite the pressures and struggle of daily life, living in this nation must be much more than a survival experience; and our treatment of the cultural industries and creative economy must make it enjoyable, uplifting and rewarding.

We will introduce „What’s Up St Peter” - a 12-month calendar of entertainment and adventure events

## SPORTS

We will:

- Advocate for the sports sector in Antigua and Barbuda to give communities in St Peters a proper stake and real ownership in the development of sports and equitable shares from the revenues generated by sporting activities for the communities, young people and sports persons.
- Develop a sustainable community and national sports economy through world class youth and community sporting competitions, merchandising and specially branded sporting goods and other products.
- Leverage Antigua and Barbuda's success in West Indies and World Cricket to establish Cricket Development organization primarily focused on preparing local talent for engagement in franchise cricket tournaments around the world.

## THE ELDERLY

We will work to establish two Senior Care Centers, each with the capacity to accommodate up to 75 residents, in strategic locations in the Constituency. The Senior Care Centers will provide food, clothing, shelter, medical attention, nursing care, companionship and Social Interaction for our senior citizens ordinarily condemned by circumstances beyond their control to lives of isolation and aloneness.

We will utilize best practices in elderly care to develop standardized facilities that meet and exceed the requirements of our seniors in safe, clean, properly maintained and efficiently managed care centers. Each Center will have an outreach program with specially trained elderly care professionals dedicated to providing care as needed (especially at night and on weekends) for seniors living alone or living with family members, relatives or friends.



## Chapter 06

Making it Happen,  
Village by Village

# BRIGHTER DAYS



# PARHAM

My vision has always been about economic transformation capable of generating the opportunities that will allow constituents to do better for themselves, their families and their loved ones. In this regard, we wanted to build a house of many rooms. The foundation would be the St Peter's Trust Foundation, a non-political, non-profit organization through which we would transform this beautiful town of Parham.

**Delivering on a longstanding commitment:** The two-decade old plan is two-fold. We want to restore Parham to its former glory in the eyes of all Antiguans and Barbudans while creating lasting employment and other economic opportunities for the people of St Peter.

The study that was done under the 1995 Lester Bird administration by the Organization of American States (OAS) provided for the complete refurbishment and modernization of Parham - the first town in Antigua and Barbuda

The study laid out a comprehensive plan to develop the waterfront, marinas, duty free shopping facilities, arts and crafts, historical buildings like the market, the post office, the police station and the St Peters Anglican Church – an Antiguan landmark.

*“As Antigua’s first port. Parham Harbour will provide an historic entry to Antigua for arriving yachts and sail cruise ships, an excursion destination for boat tours, a stop-over for touring yachts, and an historic waterfront attraction for visitors who come to Parham by road... Planned as part of the National Parks System, the Parham Harbour Project will also add to Antigua’s successful attractions of English Harbour and Nelson’s Dockyard. However, unlike Antigua’s current array of tourist attractions, Parham will allow visitors to experience first hand the people, culture, and day-to-day life in a small Caribbean fishing town. Community members will play an integral role in in planning and development activities, and be encouraged to participate as small business operators in attraction services. Based on current market conditions, the concept creates a range of investment opportunities in attraction services throughout the lifespan of the project.*



*“When fully developed the site will include the following:*



- *A coastal-marine park*
- *Island wildlife sanctuaries*
- *Harbour for cruising yachts*
- *Boat, marine and history tours*
- *Docking for sail cruise ships*
- *Traditional fishing fleet at work*
- *Boardwalk linking stores, services, accommodations, and places for special events*
- *Commercial historic district with buildings restored to their original Georgian character*
- *Artisans at work in restored buildings, providing opportunities for the visitors to interact with the community in a commercial district*

*“Planned with care, the Parham Harbor Project can become a Caribbean model for healthy co-existence of tourism with its host community”.*

Parham waits to become the North East service center for tourism, especially eco-tourism. It will be a perfect complement to the existing North-South axis of Dickenson Bay to Falmouth on the west side of Antigua. The people of St Peter have the capital, the expertise, and, most importantly, the desire to participate in this development. It will empower the whole community with a wider and more equitable distribution of the benefits of tourism.

We have been sitting on this national responsibility to develop a first-class tourist attraction and international business center for too long. It is time to get the job done, not just for the people of St Peters but for all of Antigua.

We must find the money to complete this project that will transform Parham into the cultural hub of the island.

We will construct a Smart Community Resource Center and a multi-purpose sporting complex in Parham.



# PARES

We will construct a Smart Community Resource Center and a mini multi-purpose sports stadium in Pares.

We will negotiate with donor organizations and friendly Governments for construction of a state-of-the-art polyclinic to provide medical, allied health, dental, diagnostic and pharmacy Services to Pares and neighboring villages

# PAYNTERS

We will work to acquire a suitable parcel of land from the government for the construction of a Smart Community Resource Center and an indoor basketball court

We will pursue Justice for the owners of the Antech and Geotech homes in Paynters built on lands purchased from Social Security more than 15 years ago. These homeowners still have no reliable electricity and water supply and are now being asked to pay to meet these basic needs even though it is unlawful for anyone to sell land without the infrastructure for these utilities. We will secure fair settlement to their full satisfaction with National Mortgage Trust Company and the Social Security Board

Road surfaces, drainage, sidewalks and street lighting are in dire need of attention. Most residents have invested their life savings in their homes, and I will do my utmost to ensure speedy corrective action. We will address the need for adequate lighting, and an ongoing de-bushing programme.



# GUNTHROPES

We will construct a Smart Community Resource Center and a mini sports stadium in Gunthropes.

To resolve the major issue of land, we will work to secure additional government land for sub-division and sale, with first preference to residents of Gunthropes and Sugar Factory area.

We will transform the old Sugar Factory into a first-class Museum complete with locomotive lines feeding from other areas; artifacts and other memorabilia from this important period in the nation's cultural and economic history. It will become an historical landmark both for tourists and citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

This project will bring considerable economic opportunities to the people of Gunthropes, Sugar Factory, Lightfoot and surrounding areas. There will be specially designed commercial outlets for manufacturing and retailing of souvenirs, craft, artwork, foodstuff and other exotic Caribbean-themed items. Residents of our constituency will be given the first option to lease and operate the shops.



# FITCHES CREEK

Approximately three (3) acres of crown land will be acquired and vested in the Fitches Creek Residents Association, for the purpose of constructing a Smart Community Resource Center, a sporting complex with basketball, volleyball and tennis courts. A further five (5) acres will be used for a development of a recreational park.

The waterfront area will be cleaned and properly landscaped. Benches, lanterns and garbage collection bins will be installed, so that the area can be used and enjoyed by residents for picnics during the day, and in the evening for walking, unwinding and catching the fresh Atlantic Breeze in an aesthetically pleasant environment.

We commend the FCRA for its outstanding work in community clean-up and beautification; and installation of street signs. We will support the association in every respect and every aspect of its commitment to develop a model community.



# LIGHTFOOT

We will:

Construct a Smart Community Resource Center

Establish a Secondary School for the pursuit of careers in Sport.

Establish of a state-of the-art sound stage and production studio to showcase the digital content production capabilities of Antigua and Barbuda in film, music, art, NFTs and games to the rest of the world.



# VERNONS

We will build a clubhouse for the residents of Vernons, equipped with a pool table, table-tennis board, TV, and boards for playing darts and warri. There will be tables and chairs for playing dominoes and other games. A small bar and café would be included so that all could come and enjoy socializing in the evenings.

# WEIRS

We will work towards getting government to free up land for housing development for middle income families

# NORTH SOUND

We will establish a horse-racing academy to prepare young people for many of the jobs in the horse-racing sector.



# CLOSING THOUGHTS

I am humbled by your appreciation of the record of service of my parents and grandparents to this country and the high regard in which you hold my efforts to improve the quality of life of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, particularly the residents of St. Peter.

I cannot walk away from the genuine hand of friendship you have extended to me. I shall forever be inspired by outpouring of sympathy and the abundance of prayers offered up for me and my family during the recent passing of my dear mother Her Excellency Ambassador Josette Michael.

She lived with a commitment to equal opportunity and a passion for alleviating poverty and building self-reliance and she instilled this in me. Indeed, my desire to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda emerged from the Christian beliefs of my mother and principles for which she lived and died. She raised us with the understanding and appreciation that we are servants of Our Lord, and we must use the blessings that he has given us in service for our fellow human beings.

She died with the fervent hope that injustice will not continue to infect the politics of national development; freedom will never weep; and there will be no sleeping at the wheels of progress and prosperity. That hope, drives me forward today.

And when I visit your homes, when I listen to you and speak with you in person at my office or on the telephone, I feel your unwavering commitment to the causes that need assistance and I realize that I can be no less committed. As your independent Member of Parliament, free from the responsibility to tow any party line, I will stand with you and for you and work diligently with Government for continuous improvements in the standard of living and quality of life for all the residents of St Peter. I shall see this struggle through to the end.

I therefore humbly ask for your support on Election Day, January 18th, 2023. Your vote will secure loving, caring, tried and trusted representation in the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda from your chief servant of the people, by the people and for the people of the St Peter's constituency.

Thank you.





**AS**  **T**

**CARES FOR  
THE PEOPLE**