



# TIME COME FOR C·H·A·N·G·E

PNP POLICY PRIORITIES  
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT





**The People's National Party (PNP) has consistently recognized the pivotal role of Local Government as the catalyst for genuine national development and progress. In 1989, upon returning to office, the PNP initiated a comprehensive Local Government Reform Process, addressing the detrimental effects of previous JLP administrations and restoring various functions to local authorities.**

**The Local Government Reform Process yielded significant successes, including the establishment of a city municipality in Portmore and the direct election of its mayor in 2003. Notable achievements up to 2007 included the creation of the Parochial Revenue Fund for autonomous funding for parish councils, integrating parish councils in disaster mitigation efforts, and the establishment of Community Development Committees (CDCs) and Parish Development Committees (PDCs) to promote participatory democracy at the local level.**

**During the period 2012-2016 the PNP utilized these achievements as a foundation for further transformational reforms:**

☀ In 2015 we passed the Constitution (Amendment) (Local Government) Act which mandates in the Constitution that there shall be a democratic system of local government for Jamaica, for the first time at last

☀ In 2016 we passed three strategic laws that modernized the architecture of local government in Jamaica:

- The Local Governance Act, that established a comprehensive system of governance for Municipal Corporations, including fixed four-year cycle for local government elections.
- The Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Act, that brought modern systems of financial accountability to Local Government.
- The Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Act, that introduced a modern system of human resource management at the Local Government level.

**We advocate for local government because we believe that participatory democracy should be firmly grounded in community involvement and decision-making at the local level within a robust framework of accountability, with the objective of ensuring a better quality of life for both individuals and communities.**

**Participatory democracy involves a distinctive form of representation that actively listens and responds to the people, prioritizes service delivery to enhance community well-being, and strives to generate economic and social opportunities in collaboration with the people.**



# TIME COME FOR CHANGE

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CITIZEN SECURITY

The People's National Party has always been committed to a holistic and transformative approach to **building communities** through Local Government Policies and Programmes. When elected, our commitment is to nurture an inclusive social environment, prioritizing citizens' safety and fostering national pride for the holistic development of every Jamaican.

- Treating crime and violence as a public health issue, and thus implementing broad based stakeholder initiatives to effectively address it, including the revitalization of the **Unite for Change** initiative. This multifaceted approach to citizen security will, **target anti-social behaviour and violent crime at the local level.**
- Establishing Parish Safety Councils in Municipalities, comprising Police Divisional Commanders, Churches, SDC, Principals, Chamber of Commerce, Service Clubs, and community organisations.
- Creating structures within relevant state agencies to strengthen the response to anti-social behaviour in communities and schools and, deepening the use of Restorative Justice and providing conflict interruption and resolution training.



- Providing increased support through the Social Development Commission to strengthen and legitimate community organizations, including Citizen Associations, Police Youth Clubs and Neighbourhood Watches.

- Empowering CDCs and PDCs to support their enhanced effectiveness and relevance at the local level.

- Expanding the Jamaica Eye infrastructure to cover strategic points across local communities.

- Renewing the development of community spaces for sports and recreation.

Through these initiatives, the PNP aims to create safer, more vibrant, and resilient communities that foster the overall well-being of every Jamaican citizen.



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## HEALTHY CITIZENS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The PNP recognizes the intrinsic connection between individual well-being and economic prosperity, so **healthcare initiatives must start local**. Therefore, there must be specific focus on addressing vital community-level concerns, including health and wellness, with the objective of nurturing a healthy citizenry and more resilient communities.

- Reinstating the public board of health within the operational responsibility of the Municipal Corporations.
- Implementing comprehensive health education programmes at the community level to promote preventive care and healthy lifestyles.
- Collaborating with local businesses and organizations to facilitate wellness programmes and initiatives within communities.
- Promoting the availability of more affordable and nutritious food options through community partnerships and support for local agriculture.



- Expanding mental health services at the community level, recognizing the importance of holistic well-being.
- Incorporating advanced medical and public health technologies to address issues related to rodents and pathogens.
- Fostering community engagement in healthcare decision-making through town hall meetings and participatory forums to hear from residents the issues they wish to be addressed.



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## ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Every Jamaican should be guaranteed equitable access to the economic and social services that are sponsored by the State. The People's National Party remains dedicated to realizing an inclusive society where every member, including those with disabilities, can pursue their goals without unnecessary obstacles.

Under the PNP, local authorities will take the lead in constructing purpose-built infrastructure, deploying widespread technology, and ensuring effective oversight and maintenance of public infrastructure and amenities such as roads, bridges, potable water access, street lighting, internet and broadband connectivity, along with specialized training and higher education opportunities. **PNP gives you Access!**

The PNP's commitment to Access extends beyond services to encompass **a robust framework for Accountability in local government.** Recognizing the importance of transparency and responsibility, the PNP emphasizes effective oversight, ensuring that local authorities are accountable for the utilization of resources and the delivery of services, the PNP will:

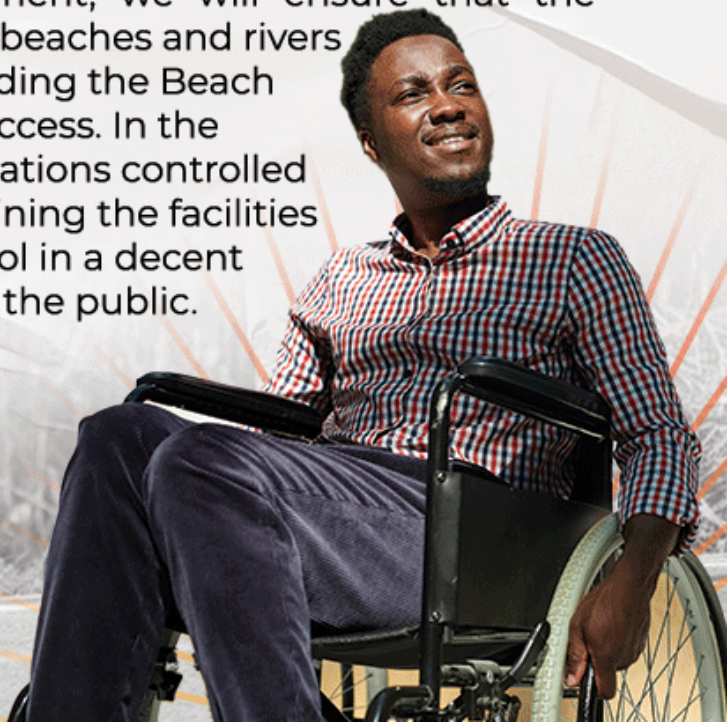
- Mandate quarterly press briefings by all Mayors and CEOs to update citizens on council activities and publicize representation for the maintenance and repairs of roads, drains, verges, garbage collection, and public cleansing activities.





- Require Municipal Corporations to become more transparent, publishing their annual budgets in print, electronic, and social media.
- Develop and publish performance measurement indicators for the councils.
- Mandate the cooperation and timely responsiveness of key associated partners in the delivery of local services, such as OUR, NWC, JPSCo, etc.
- Implement a transparent process for allocating streetlights, with deeper expansion into solar lighting for lighting public areas. Consolidate all scheme roads under Municipal Corporations, thereby placing local authorities in charge of the maintenance of roads in local communities.
- Modernize minor water supply systems by partnering with communities to build water harvesting systems, and empower Municipal Corporations using available technologies to improve water availability to develop local water supply systems such as springs, rivers, and tanks to alleviate water scarcity in communities.
- Improve the internal road network to enhance the quality of life of citizens and bring the benefits of Jamaica's tourism industry to local communities.
- Enforce the Building Act to ensure old and new buildings are accessible for Persons with Disabilities.

When the PNP forms government, we will ensure that the Jamaican people have access to beaches and rivers for recreational purposes, amending the Beach Control Act to provide rights of access. In the meantime, the Municipal Corporations controlled by the PNP will prioritize maintaining the facilities at the beaches under their control in a decent condition for use and comfort of the public.



# TIME COME FOR CHANGE

## NEW VISION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The People's National Party has always had an irrevocable commitment to Local Government. That is why we initiated the Local Government Reform Process in 1993, enshrined a democratic system of local government in the Constitution in 2015, and passed the three strategic laws in 2016 to guide us into a new era.

Over the last eight years, nothing has been done to make the modernized framework effective by implementing accompanying regulations to create the ways and means for implementing the new laws.

There has also been a failure of the present administration to carry out the mandatory four-year review required by the Local Governance Act 2015.

A new PNP government will remedy these failures, which is necessary for our new vision of local government and to take the system of local government to a new level. We will go further by **entrenching fixed election dates for local government in the Constitution**, so that the anti-democratic abuse of annual legislative amendments to extend the election date cannot be repeated.

The PNP strongly believes that involving citizens, their organisations and civil society will combine to create a new paradigm of participatory democracy at the local level.

- Entrench fixed election dates for Local Government in the Constitution, and promote additional city municipalities and town municipalities under the Local Governance Act.

- Enact legislation for the direct election of Mayors across all Municipal Corporations, as was successfully piloted in the city municipality of Portmore.
- Promulgate Regulations for the Local Governance Act of 2016 and conduct a full review of the Act (this should have already been done in 2020 and again in 2024).
- Establish a new legislative framework allowing respective Municipal Corporations to identify funding sources and utilise 100% of the funds for improving services within local communities.
- Over time and in keeping with the Fiscal Rules, grow the contribution from the National Budget (targeting a minimum of 2% to Municipal Corporations as a dedicated source of funding for better service delivery, including the Divisional Development Fund (DDF) so that Councillors can be more responsive to the needs of local communities.
- Empower Municipal Corporations to provide services at higher standards, focusing on garbage collection, community road maintenance, car parks, public parks, drain cleaning, and public health.
- Replace or amend/modernize the Parochial Market Law of 1874 and implement a Single Road Authority Act.
- Require a professionally developed programme of maintenance and rehabilitation through an enhanced Parochial Revenue Fund (PRF).



# TIME COME FOR CHANGE

## GARBAGE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Effective garbage collection and management are crucial for safeguarding citizens' health and preserving our environment. The People's National Party is dedicated to implementing a sustainable waste disposal solution that ensures timely and efficient collection, while also capitalizing on economic opportunities for national development.

In pursuit of this goal, the next PNP government will return solid waste collection and disposal to local authorities, requiring the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to concentrate on regulatory and effective enforcement. This strategic move deepens democratic accountability by ensuring elected local representatives are directly responsible to citizens for efficient garbage collection.



- Returning the responsibility of solid waste management to local authorities is an important element of our strategy to fix the continued deterioration of garbage collection. The NSWMA will be reverted to its core function as a regulator of solid waste services and enforcer of solid waste disposal laws.

- Amend the NSWMA Act to separate operations from regulation.

- Municipal Corporations will advocate strongly for improvement, including recycling, by exploring partnerships with NGOs, the private sector, and international development partners.

- Launch public education initiatives on garbage separation and sorting at the household and commercial levels.



# TIME COME FOR C·H·A·N·G·E

## ECONOMIC MODELS FOR SUCCESS AND ENTERTAINMENT REGULATION

Community enterprise and the development of the MSME sector form an important pillar of the People's National Party's economic policy. We believe that for Jamaica to bolster its GDP, the Government must proactively catalyse the economy within local communities. Our vision is to stimulate inclusive economic growth by unleashing the creative economic energy of our people at the local level.

The entertainment sub-sector of the creative industries, driven by community social initiatives, serves as a source of income in communities. The PNP is committed to simplifying and making the laws governing the Entertainment Sector user-friendly, transparent and accessible, with a one-stop-shop for event approvals and an elimination of the use of permits to victimize communities. A digital platform will be implemented for the issuance of permits, facilitating better planning and execution of entertainment events.

- Establish Community Enterprise Zones (CEZ) to stimulate investment and fortify economic activity within communities and deepen economic linkages across the economy, leveraging the creative economic energy of our people.



- Empower local authorities in managing local amenities (parking facilities, bus parks, etc.) to enhance revenue generation, and hold them accountable for their performance.

- Introduce new regulations to address street food, vending, barbers, cosmetologists, etc., fostering a conducive and safe environment for these vibrant local economic activities.

- Review the Places of Amusement Regulations (1899) and the Spirit License Act 1928 to establish a transparent process and remove arbitrariness, ensuring fair treatment to enhancing opportunities within the entertainment industry.

- Review vending regulations and ensure dignified treatment for vendors by prescribing spaces with requisite services, and implementing proper zoning for market transformation.

- Commit to supporting and transforming local commerce through reform and development initiatives for market districts.

- Implement a development plan for Kingston which is an inscribed Creative City of Music.

- Simplify the procedure for obtaining permits for parties and other entertainment events to make it user-friendly for promoters, including facilitating a single permit application for a series of round robin parties, rather than each party in the round robin series having to apply separately for a permit.

Overall, we will provide dignified spaces that honour and respect vendors, farmers, and consumers, contributing to community well-being and economic growth.



**FEB 26**



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