

# DNA

## ROAD MAP TO PROSPERITY



**“ The Good Life For Antigua & Barbuda ”**



**Democratic National Alliance**  
2018 POLICY DOCUMENT

# Our Vision 2040:

## A Blueprint for Economic and Social Redevelopment - Prosperity For All!



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### MESSAGE FROM THE POLITICAL LEADER

*Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, Residents, Friends and Well-Wishers, the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) is honoured to be participating in the 2018 general elections as Antigua and Barbuda's newest political party. Launched a mere 11 months ago on April 18th, 2017, the unprecedented strides and progress made signal the electorate's unequivocal and convincing clarion call for a new era of CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION in our country.*

As we analyze the current situation, we cannot ignore the generational winds of discontent, disenchantment, disengagement and tribalism which now characterize our politics. Our voters are younger, more dynamic, sophisticated and savvy with differing social, economic and political expectations. Consequently, none of us can afford to be idle by-standers where our country's redevelopment is concerned. The DNA is ready to accept the passing of the proverbial baton for the governance of our country.

### A NEW APPROACH

As a new, fresh and dynamic political organization, the DNA is advocating for a different type of politics and a new style of Leadership for our beloved country and we are unshakably committed to the tenets of Transformational Leadership. Our Party is an all-inclusive organization where diverse views are welcomed and where all ideas will contend. We will advance a bottom-up approach to leadership and governance versus the failed top-down approach where historically only a select and privileged few have reaped the social, economic and political benefits in our country!

In the ensuing pages, we are pleased to share a concise Vision 2040 – our architectural blueprint for the redevelopment, restructuring and repositioning of our country, economy and society. Our policy prescriptions and platforms demonstrate the DNA's holistic approach to governance and represent our short, medium and long-term goals and aspirations for national and community advancement which will be implemented in 5 year phases. From conception to implementation, they are designed to ensure that our People experience and live our Party's motto: Prosperity For All!

## **SPIRITUAL GOVERNANCE**

We are uncompromisingly committed to the 12 Pledges which we all endorse and to which we subscribe, foremost among them being our Pledge #1, "To put God FIRST in all of our endeavours".

Our Leaders and Representatives will continue to respect our citizens and residents, lead by example and embrace their responsibilities associated with being genuine role models. We pledge that a DNA government will consult with social, religious and economic groups as well as non-governmental and community based organizations as we embark on the journey to restructure our society.

## **TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMY**

The principal thrust of the DNA's economic policy is diversification designed to strengthen our economic foundation! We acknowledge that all sectors are interconnected and therefore critical to stabilizing our country's economic and social redevelopment. Our aspirations demand a revolutionary change in our attitudes toward discipline, productivity and efficiency.

Previous ABLP administrations have ignored the other productive sectors such as, Agriculture, Agri-business and Fisheries, Manufacturing, Technology, Sports, Culture and the Creative Arts. Hence their contribution to our GDP remains artificially low and the skills, talents, creativity and innovation of these sector stakeholders remain under-developed, untapped and under-utilized. Together we will design a new, diverse, robust all-inclusive economy.

## **RESTORING PRIDE**

The DNA will offer our people credible leadership and real solutions! I pledge unhesitatingly to implement a zero tolerance for corruption and a "one-strike- out" policy after natural justice procedures have been followed.

Over the past 3½ years, the ABLP Administration has brought further shame, humiliation and disgrace to our country and People based on the conduct of Ministers and senior public officials. The infamous Odebrecht scandal described as a major global criminal enterprise of unimaginable proportions and the revocation of Visa-free access to Canada caused by the indiscriminate and reckless selling of our passports to persons of ill repute readily come to mind. Yet again, our credibility has been shattered and our country classified as a rogue nation, led by a thug Prime Minister.

## **TOWARDS THE GOOD LIFE FOR ALL**

Since June 2014, the cost of living continues to skyrocket thereby diminishing significantly the purchasing power of the average person and the standard of living for families continues to deteriorate. The DNA will reduce significantly the cost of food by creating the



enabling environment designed to result in a massive increase in local food production which, over time, will eliminate our over reliance on imported food. Similarly, we will revolutionize our nation's Energy Infrastructure by converting from a total reliance on fossil fuel to renewable sources. The reduction in the cost of energy will impact profoundly the manufacturing and business sectors resulting in the emergence of new entrepreneurs, expansion of existing businesses and increased employment.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY – AN IMPERATIVE**

Over the past 46 months, crime and violence have continued to escalate and the government appears impotent to devise solutions to curb this epidemic. In 2017, our country recorded 21 murders – a record first in our history! A DNA government will ensure that law enforcement personnel receive regular training in modern crime fighting techniques and are equipped with the requisite tools to protect the society.

### **A NEW BARBUDA**

Six months ago, Barbuda was totally devastated by hurricane Irma and its residents mandatorily evacuated. The government embarked on a global solicitation tour to raise funds for the “rebuilding of Barbuda”. Nations, NGOs and our Diaspora community generously donated and pledged in cash and kind to the government's cry for help. Not surprisingly, consistent with its usual habit of breaching every tenet of good governance practices, the ABLP government has failed to account to the People concerning the total amounts received and the methodologies for disbursing funds and distributing materials!

The failure to rebuild Barbuda and to formulate effective training programs designed to prepare Barbudans for the pending new economy is an indictment on the ABLP Administration! However, Barbudans can be assured that a DNA government will prioritize the rebuilding of our sister-isle and restructure the island's economy. Ours will be a holistic approach in its design and execution, affording stakeholders opportunities to participate in the redevelopment initiatives. Importantly, preserving our country's patrimony and the unique way of life enjoyed by Barbudans for centuries will be part of the DNA's vision for a diversified tourism product and a cultural renaissance.

### **OUR ENDURING COMMITMENT**

I assure you that the patriotic women and men of the DNA will work tirelessly, diligently and sincerely to achieve the goals outlined in Vision 2040!

As general election 2018 approaches, let us honour our fore-parents' personal sacrifices which have propelled our progress over many generations; let us demonstrate unbridled patriotism and VOTE in the best interest of our country and People on March 21st, 2018!

Let us take this quantum leap together NOW and #VoteDNA!

Yours in humble service,  
Joanne M. Massiah  
Political Leader - DNA

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# Policy Document 2018:

## Building a New Antigua and Barbuda for the Benefit and Prosperity of All

### Our Top 15 Pledges To YOU

**1** We will work vigorously to diversify the economy to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda has a robust and resilient economy.

**2** We will relentlessly pursue the reduction of the cost of living with a view to improving the social and economic well being of ALL citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

**3** We will undertake to erect a new system and culture of governance with a view to decentralizing power and giving citizens a sense of ownership in the management of their country.

**4** We will consolidate all efforts towards reducing and eventually eradicating poverty.

**5** We will pursue renewable and alternative energy sources with a view to reducing the high cost of production that is passed down to the consumers.

**6** We will undertake a complete transformation of the agricultural and fisheries sector with special emphasis on value added products.

**7** We will undertake a holistic restructuring of the education structure and Infrastructure to include Early Childhood, Technical and Vocational and Special Needs education.

**8** We will institute a Integrated and All inclusive Health Care System.

**9** We will reform and restructure the Human Development and Social Services Framework to become one that will benefit all Antiguan and Barbudans.

**10** We will revolutionize the National Security, Justice and Legal framework of Antigua and Barbuda.

**11** We will spearhead the Urban Transformation of St. John's City

**12** We will provide all necessary support to our Athletes and all stakeholders in the development of Sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

**13** We will define and enhance the Antiguan Identity through promotion of cultural and heritage awareness.

**14** We will totally revamp and revitalize all transportation systems in Antigua and Barbuda.

**15** We will create an environment that is conducive to the attainment of **PROSPERITY FOR ALL.**

# DNA INTRODUCTION

*As the Democratic National Alliance launched its election candidates over the last several months, each launch event was characterized by a presentation of a particular policy prescription, an outline of the Alliance's intent with respect to specific sectors of government activity.*

Accordingly, this DNA Policy Document is a summary collection of all those policy prescriptions that have already been revealed to the Antigua and Barbuda public. Over the last several months, these policies have been explained and discussed over public media and have been widely accepted as an excellent basis for reorganizing the governance of the state of Antigua and Barbuda.

As the country prepares to elect a new administration, the DNA is pleased to offer this outline of policies that will distinguish it as a credible alternative to the other parties vying for the public's endorsement as the next government of our beloved homeland.

At this time, Antigua and Barbuda desperately needs a government that is responsive to the critical needs and aspirations of our people. The DNA policies constitute a comprehensive programme for the upliftment and modernization of our country and its people.

While our **VISION 2040** provides a short to long term perspective on the progressive development of our nation, ALL our policies have elements that we can begin to implement immediately upon taking the reins of government. Depending on the conditions and characteristics of the various sectors of government that will become clearer to us when we have an insider view as the new elected administration, the pace of implementation of our policy prescriptions will be determined with greater precision. One certainty, however, is that we will summon the political will, the skills and the commitment to implement ALL our stated policies at the most rapid rate possible.

This Policy Document is offered to the Electorate and the public at large for their perusal and study and as a means to assist them in determining that the DNA is indeed the best prepared of all the parties contending for the public's choice for the next government of Antigua and Barbuda.

We invite and urge you, the people of Antigua and Barbuda, to make the right choice on election day, 21st March 2018, and install the candidates of the DNA as the next government of our nation!





# POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

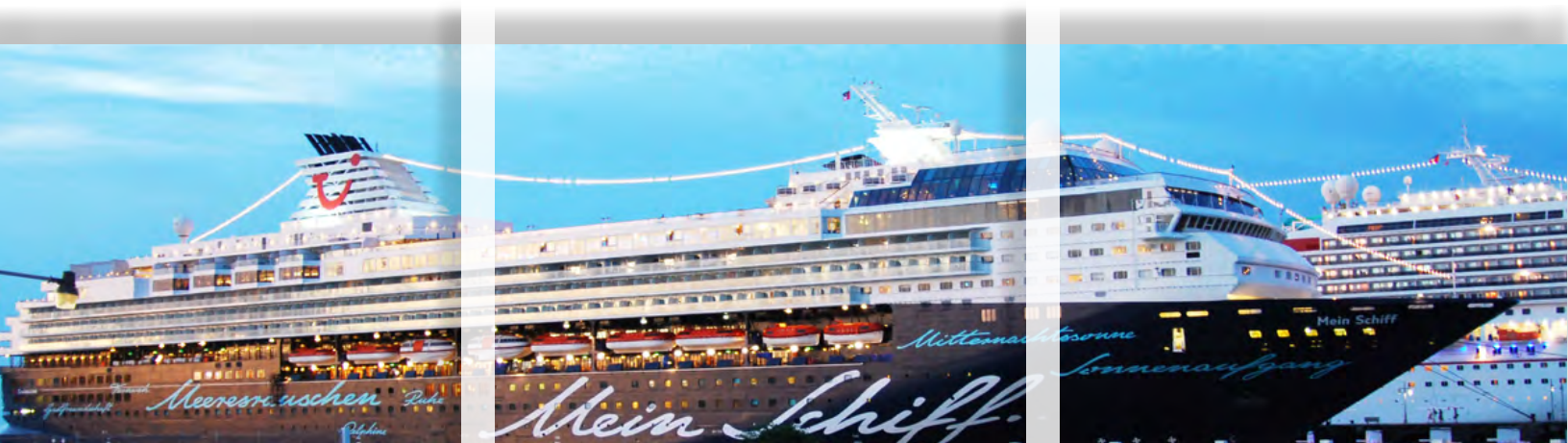
## THE ECONOMY ~ DEVELOPING A DIVERSIFIED, ROBUST AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY:

- *Strategic Economic Planning*
- *Agriculture and Agri-Business*
- *Reliable water and energy supply*
- *Stimulate Local Businesses*
- *Support for indigenous and Domestic investors*
- *Stimulate construction by addressing gaps in infrastructure*
- *Maintain fiscal discipline*
- *Undertake necessary tax reform measures to increase disposable income*
- *Stimulate investment in underdeveloped areas such as manufacturing*

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## TOURISM ~ A VIBRANT AND MULTIFACETED TOURISM SECTOR:

- *Diversify the tourism product to include*
  1. *Heritage Tourism*
  2. *Eco –tourism*
  3. *Educational Tourism*
  4. *Sports Tourism*
  5. *Events Tourism*
  6. *Medical Tourism*
  7. *Research and Development Tourism*
  8. *Real Estate Tourism*
  9. *Agro-Tourism*
  10. *Cultural Tourism (to include 2 out-of-season Festivals, namely the African World Music Festival and the African World Film Festival)*





- *Pursue a robust Tourism Marketing plan that is vertically integrated to the tourism product*
- *Reinvigorate the Yachting Industry*
  1. *Guaranteed safety at the ports*
  2. *Greater collaboration with stakeholders to attract more yachts to Antigua and Barbuda*

## **AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:**

- *Focus on achieving an acceptable degree of food and nutrition security*
- *Greater incentives to farmers to grow more food and help reduce the import bill, including providing secure leases for farmland with the right to construct their residences thereon*
- *Create all necessary conditions to encourage a shift towards the agricultural sector as a means of promoting self employment*
- *More support to farmers in terms of subsidies, water supply and infrastructure such as agricultural feeder roads*
- *Strengthen the framework of the Central Marketing Corporation so there is greater linkage and collaboration with farmers. The CMC will be transformed into a **"One Stop Shop"** to purchase designated crops from farmers and market these locally and abroad*
- *Designate a number of cash crops that farmers and backyard gardeners will produce for sale to the CMC to be processed into secondary products in production facilities that will be established for such purposes. These cash crops will include: corn, aloe vera, sea island cotton, sugar cane, and cannabis*
- *Review existing commodity platforms to enhance access to local and regional markets*
- *Revamp the schools' feeding program with an emphasis on purchasing from local farmers*
- *Assistance to fishermen with regard to the cost of fuel and the duty on imported equipment*
- *Encourage the creation of farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives*



**NOW!**

**You have**



**JOANNE MASSIAH**  
ALL SAINTS EAST & ST. LUKE



**ANTHONY STUART**  
ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST



**BRUCE GOODWIN**  
ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST



**GAMEAL JOYCE**  
ST. PAUL



**ERICA EDWARDS**  
ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH



**LOUIS RIVERA**  
ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH



**LEON SMITH**  
ALL SAINTS WEST

*Prosperity*



**Democratic  
National Alliance**



# a real Choice



**VINCENT CORNELIUS JR.**  
ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST



**KELTON DALSO**  
ST. GEORGE



**KIMEL RICHARDS**  
ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST



**TECLA THOMAS**  
ST. MARY'S SOUTH



**KARIS BARTON**  
ST. PHILLIP'S SOUTH



**KIMBERLY GRANT**  
ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH

*for* **ALL**

 DNAAntiguaBarbuda

 dnaab268

**VOTE**





## **EDUCATION** AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:

- *Implement a comprehensive Early Childhood Education structure whereby every child between the ages of 0 to 3 years will be afforded the opportunity of a government subsidized early childhood education*
- *Place greater emphasis on creative arts in primary and secondary schools*
- *Assistance to parents to offset CSEC costs*
- *National after school programme where students will be able to pursue cultural and vocational interests*
- *Prioritize technical and vocational education*
- *Improve facilities for lifelong learning through continuing education*
- *Erect Community Centres and Libraries as part of the infrastructure of the Parish Councils*
- *Establish a National Internship Council (NIC) and a Youth Training Council*
- *Establish a National Skills Development Centre targeting primarily teenage mothers and young parents*
- *Develop National Youth Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship programs*

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## **SPORTS AND RECREATION:**

- *Improve Sporting infrastructure across Antigua and Barbuda*
- *Ensure proper maintenance of existing sports facilities*
- *Expand existing sports facilities to include a wider variety of sporting disciplines*
- *Greater financial support to athletes in all spheres of their professional development*
- *Greater collaboration internationally to assist more Antiguan and Barbudan athletes to gain International Sports scholarships*
- *Redesign and improve all facilities to accommodate differently-abled individuals*
- *Tailored Sports programs to deal with “At Risk” youth*
- *Encourage the development of Athletic Clubs and strengthen National Coaching Programs*

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## **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**

- *Increase the number of magistrates assigned to the Family Court*
- *Improve Child Protection Services*
- *Reform the Juvenile Justice System*
- *Strengthen the programme that provides for the special care and protection of senior citizens through the government funded “care-givers” program*
- *Extend maternity leave from the current three months to six months*
- *Restructure and redesign the programmes at the homes for juveniles in need of protective care*
- *Undertake all necessary measures to reduce the cost of living to ensure all residents are able to achieve and maintain a decent and comfortable standard of living*
- *Pursue a comprehensive programme of poverty reduction, alleviation and eradication*
- *Strengthen social safety nets*
- *Protection of the vulnerable*

## HEALTH CARE:

- *Strengthen all pillars of the Universal Health Care System from Primary Care to Specialized Services*
- *Establish a Bureau of Health Standards to strengthen national quality systems at all health facilities*
- *Enhance research in healthcare to build capacity and promote research in the use of traditional medicine*
- *Establish linkages and build partnerships in the area of international health care*
- *Ensure equity in access to healthcare so that no one is turned down or left behind*
- *Ensure the healthcare system has sufficient specialists in all areas of healthcare delivery*
- *Devise a system for early interventions with respect to mental health challenges for juveniles*
- *Ensure specialists in psychiatric care are available to all clinics and schools*
- *Optimize the ratio of psychiatric specialists to patients with mental health issues*

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## GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

- *Pursue a rigorous and people centered Constitutional Reform*
- *Enact legislation to establish fixed election dates*
- *Establish an All Party Tax Reform Commission to design a comprehensive taxation policy based on equity and fairness to all. This Commission will complete its work within the first 6 months of the DNA administration*
- *Restructure the public service to eliminate wastage and improve efficiency*
- *Devise a project for Public Service Reform with a view to combine all Established and Non-established public servants into a single Civil Service*
- *Implement a sound local government framework to empower communities and promote civic participatory democracy*
- *Improve industrial relations and dispute settlement capabilities*
- *Strengthen oversight of the work of statutory bodies to ensure greater transparency and accountability*
- *Enact legislation to control, monitor and rigorously police the financing of elections campaigns by political parties*
- *Greater collaboration with the media to ensure it plays a critical role in the democratic process*



## **JUSTICE AND NATIONAL SECURITY:**

- *Undertake a total revamping of the justice system in an effort to restore confidence in the institutions of justice*
- *Strengthen community policing structures*
- *Conduct a critical review of the structure and operations of the Police Force, Defense Force and the Prison system*
- *Reform the management of prisons with the goal of reducing the incidence of recidivism while imparting productive, marketable skills to inmates with a view to promote their rehabilitation on their reentry to society*
- *Improve border control facilities to police and improve security at ports of entry*
- *Improve technological capabilities within the various systems to facilitate better record keeping across the board*
- *Ensure that all agencies within the system are given all necessary resources to execute their duties effectively*

## **CULTURE, HERITAGE AND IDENTITY:**

- *Consolidate the “Antigua & Barbuda Brand” by celebrating the Antiguan dialect as a patrimonial resource*
- *Advance the incorporation of Antiguan Studies and history as an integral part of the Primary and Secondary school curricula*
- *Extend greater support to the national museum and create a national art gallery*
- *Encourage youth involvement in the creative arts as a viable and sustainable means of self employment*
- *Greater effort to preserve national heritage sites and monuments of cultural significance*
- *Establish a Cultural Development Foundation*
- *Redesign the annual Carnival festivities to reflect a more profound and comprehensive celebration of our people’s emancipation from slavery*
- *Redefine, redevelop and consolidate an authentic Antiguan & Barbudan Identity*



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY:



- Pursue the development of renewable energy sources. This project will ensure the reduction of the cost of electricity for households and businesses to less than a third of present cost.
- Undertake to build capacity and strengthen resilience to climate change
- Improve disaster risk reduction capabilities
- Strengthen legislation to ensure care and protection of the environment to include protection of marine and coastal areas
- Work in close collaboration with regional and international partners in the area of climate change, adaptation and mitigation
- Support the creation of a green economy in all aspects of production.

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## TRANSPORTATION - LAND, AIR AND SEA:

- Explore possibilities for the construction of new road networks to reduce congestion on major roads
- Undertake a comprehensive road audit with plans to repair and maintain all the nation's roads
- Strengthen the national public transportation system through dialogue with the National Council on Public Transport, the National Transport Board and all other stakeholders
- Implement the fuel price adjustment mechanism to reduce the cost of fuel with a trickle-down effect to the consumers
- A reliable and modernized public transport system to serve the needs of residents and visitors alike

- *Improved and more affordable transportation services between Antigua and the sister isle of Barbuda as well as neighbouring islands*
- *Subsidize air transportation costs between Antigua and Barbuda*
- *Ensure Air Traffic control services with special emphasis on upgrading the Radar System*
- *Ensure compliance with all regulations of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA)*
- *Enhance all services and systems at the VC Bird International Airport with emphasis on security, maintenance and repair and human resource capacity building in key areas*
- *Fully operationalize the range of services that can be offered by the Transport Board, including the Vehicle Repair Workshop*



## **HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:**

- *Undertake to increase the housing stock throughout Antigua and Barbuda (three tiers model: subsidized, middle income and luxury homes)*
- *Make residential land more readily available to the citizens*
- *Promotion of public-private partnerships in housing development projects*
- *Undertake to construct an efficient sewerage, waste disposal and treatment mechanism*
- *Erection of green spaces, recreational parks and playgrounds*
- *Redesign and rebuild St John's as the Capital City of All Antiguans and Barbudans*
- *Construct turnkey residential properties aimed specifically at the Diaspora*



## STRATEGIC EXTERNAL RELATIONS:

- *Ensure Antigua and Barbuda's external relations are characterized by a rigorous assertion of the nation's independence and sovereignty*
- *Undertake to restore Antigua and Barbuda's image and reputation internationally*
- *Continue to play a leading role in the regional integration process (OECS, CARICOM)*
- *Advance the agenda for South-South cooperation*
- *Establish deeper diplomatic relations with non-traditional partners in Central and South America, Asia and Africa*
- *Pursue a rigorous economic diplomacy program based on respect for sovereignty and mutually beneficial development projects*
- *Restore the quality of Antigua and Barbuda's relationship with key international organizations such as the UNDP, IMF, UN and World Bank*
- *Restructure the Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Service to eliminate excesses and inefficiency caused by political patronage, to include a policy of rotation of Foreign Service Officers*
- *Greater collaboration with and engagement of the Diaspora in promoting Antigua and Barbuda's foreign policy positions*
- *Operationalizing the Office of Diaspora Affairs within the Office of the Prime Minister with a view to deepen the role of the Diaspora in national development*
- *Greater representation of Antigua and Barbuda and its nationals in the various regional and international organizations.*

# VISION

To be the catalyst  
for the transformation  
of Antigua and Barbuda.

# MISSION





To develop an all-inclusive organization by  
relying on the talents, expertise and experience  
of our people and to transform our nation's  
economy and society through people-led  
innovation and technology.





# ***“The Good Life For Antigua & Barbuda”***

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