

RESOLUTION ON THE BARBADOS POPULATION POLICY 2023

WHEREAS the Government recognizes certain critical population trends over the last 40 years, inclusive of: consistent fertility rates below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman; growth in the proportion of the elderly population; declining percentage of persons of working age; and higher dependency ratios due to a reducing number of persons of working age and greater proportion of elderly persons;

AND WHEREAS the Government recognizes these current population trends can negatively affect economic growth and impede the capacity of the state to leverage the full productivity of the country's resources and meet the social care and security needs of its population;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados established a National Population Commission to advise on population issues, and this Commission has engaged in extensive consultations with stakeholders, inclusive of representatives in the public sector, the private sector, the labour movement and the general public;

AND WHEREAS the Population Commission highlighted the need for a Barbados Population Policy to address the potential impediments and opportunities related to the projections in population structure and size;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has accepted that a Barbados Population Policy should be developed based around a set of population goals and targeted interventions and strategies to achieve the Government's medium and long-term economic and social objectives;

AND WHEREAS the Cabinet has approved the Barbados Population Policy 2023;

AND WHEREAS the Barbados Population Policy outlines three policy goals and related sub-goals; namely:

- i. Policy Goal 1: Ensure a Population size Sufficient to Grow and Sustain Adequate Levels of Social Care, Productivity, Labour Force Participation and Revenue for Inclusive Development.
 - a. Sub-Goal 1.1: Increase the Population of Persons of working age.

- b. Sub-Goal 1.2: Enhance Family Wellbeing to Support Reproductive Decision Making.
- ii. Policy Goal 2: Provide Barbadians and Non-Nationals Now and in the Future with Opportunities for Personal Development.
 - a. Sub-Goal 2.1: Promote and Strengthen the Care Economy across the Lifecycle and for the Vulnerable Populations.
 - b. Sub-Goal 2.2: Expand Access to Quality Health Care and Wellness Service Interventions.
 - c. Sub-Goal 2.3: Improve Capacity and Proficiency of the Labour Force with Access to Expanded Opportunities.
- iii. Policy Goal 3: Promote Integrated, Settlement Development and Safeguard the Ecological Balance.
 - a. Sub-Goal 3.1: Reconcile Population Redistribution, Land Use and Settlement Patterns.
 - b. Sub-Goal 3.2: Ensure the Efficient Management of Natural Resources and the Environment.
 - c. Sub-Goal 3.3: Strengthen Collective Resilience to the Impacts of a Changing Climate.

BE IT RESOVLED that the Parliament of Barbados take note of the Barbados Population Policy 2023.

Approved by the House of Assembly this day of 2024.

SPEAKER

Approved by the Senate this day of 2024.

PRESIDENT