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Climate Change Adaptation: The Role of Social Workers in Small Island Development States

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The following brief is based on an article by the author cited in the text as Joseph (2017).

What is the issue?

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are widely recognised as being very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In some manner, climate change will impact on the livelihoods of most individuals in the twenty first century. Some of the risks for small islands are death, injury, ill-health or disrupted livelihoods in low-lying coastal zones due to storm surges, coastal flooding, and sea level rise. Apart from these immediate threats to life and limb, there are indirect potential negative, social, economic and political impacts of climate change. These could considerably disrupt the development thrust of the SIDS and reduce quality of life for their inhabitants. In preparation for, and to stave off the negative consequences of, environmental disasters and climate change, communities are expected to adapt to certain environmental demands. Though in some cases communities have demonstrated admirable resilience and community-spiritedness both in preparation for and in the aftermath of environmental disasters, communities in many ways lack the formal training and skills necessary to respond to the negative environmental disasters specifically and climate change in gen-

eral. What kind of intervention strategy is possible to assist communities in their quest to make the necessary adaptations required by changing climate?

Why is it important?

Climate change could have tremendous negative impact on the livelihood of citizens of SIDS by 'wiping out crops, reducing opportunities for employment, pushing up the price of food and the destruction of property' (Joseph 2017). While developed countries are better able to respond to these shocks, the myriad developmental problems faced by SIDS affect their ability to respond favorably to these challenges. The fact that SIDS depend largely on their climate-sensitive ecosystem (including beaches, reefs, mangroves, etc), the slightest negative effect on this ecosystem could have deleterious effect of the economy and by extension social and political stability.

What has been said?

There have been various views on how best to prepare SIDS to respond to the negative impact of climate change. Some of these responses take a macro level approach by calling for a shift towards a more sustainable development paradigm by instilling resilience in the economic, political, natural and social systems. Two immediate examples are the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) adopted in 1994 and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Develop-

ment of Small Island Developing States. These guide the implementation of sustainable development in SIDS, and explicitly recognise the threat that climate change poses to SIDS (UN 2014). Both documents consider the impact of climate change in the social (migration and adaptation), environmental (temperature, health, oceans) and economic spheres and propose sustainable development which is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

“The Third UN Conference on small islands, held in Samoa in 2014, followed up on the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy (S.A.M.O.A. 2014). In number 5 of the preamble, it was reaffirmed that Small Island Developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. Section 18 of the preamble recognises the work done thus far in SIDS in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, both regionally and nationally, in the promotion and awareness of sustainable development. The Conference reiterated that SIDS have shown strong leadership by calling for urgent and ambitious action on climate change. In January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders, including leaders of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (Sustainable Developmental Goals 2016). Thus, over the next 15 years, countries will mobilise efforts to fulfil these goals, including efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Although the goals are not legally binding, governments do have the responsibility to ensure that the 17 goals are operationalized in their respective countries. There should be implementation and follow-up to ascertain how the goals are being adopted with respect to data col-

lection and evaluations” (Joseph 2019).

With respect to the Caribbean, the most pertinent goals are: Good health and well-being (3); Clean water and sanitation (6); Affordable and clean energy (7); Decent work and economic growth (8); Sustainable communities and cities (11); Climate action (13); Life below water (14); Life on land (15); Peace justice and strong institutions (16); and Partnership for the goals (17). Climate change is related to sustainable development as it is already impacting public health, food and water security, migration, peace and security. Climate change, left unchecked, will roll back the development gains made over the last decades and will make further gains impossible. Investments in sustainable development will help address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience. Conversely, action on climate change will drive sustainable development. Tackling climate change and fostering sustainable development are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin; sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action. Conversely, many of the SDGs are addressing the core drivers of climate change (UN.org 2016).

This was recognised and acknowledged by all parties to the Paris Agreement (2015), including SIDS. They have all acknowledged that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that when taking action to address climate change, the human rights of local communities, children, indigenous peoples, women and person with disabilities should all be considered, respected, and promoted. How then do SIDS operationalise these broad ideals?

What should be done?

There is a need for climate change organisations and institutions both public and private to draw upon the skills of the social work profession in the efforts of SIDS in climate change adapta-

tion. Guided by ‘a person in the community construct’, Social Workers work with communities in many other areas related to social and community wellbeing. This gives them an understanding of how people and their environment interact and influence each other. This understanding is critical to the process of designing and implementing intervention strategies in communities (Hepworth et al. 2010).

Incorporating Social Workers into Adaptation Strategies

- Be cognizant of the specific role social workers play in community resilience
- Adjust social work education to include climate change adaptation education

Social Workers are already engaged in communities working to assist with what are considered traditional social work issues. These include poverty, racism, sexism, multicultural conflict, and human rights violations. Recently, issues related to environmental degradation and global warming have been added to the list. Just as with other issues, “[human] beings need to know that they have the power to change the world around them with help from experts in the field”. And, it is in this area that Social Work could make a critical contribution to community-based initiatives aimed at tackling climate change.

“Disasters by their nature severely affect the social functioning of individuals, families, groups and are therefore a concern for social workers. Social work is a profession that aims at helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance or restore their functioning and/or creating societal conditions favourable to their goals (Morales and Sheafor 1995). Thus, social workers intervene and operate alongside other professionals in the field such as health workers, community developmental workers and builders and engineers, all working together for the common good of mankind. All seek to enhance the quality of life of individuals, groups, families and com-

munities generally and even more so with respect to disasters.”

On the other hand, educational institutions in the SIDS need to bolster and extend Social Work education to take in and cover issues related to climate change adaptation. This is in line with the position taken by Sugirtha and Little Flower (2015) who argues that ‘social work has a part to play in challenging the social, political and economic structures that cause climate change’. This would require investment in training of persons to become social workers with specialisation in climate and environmental adaptation. “Community intervention as a concentration for Master in Social Work Degrees is critical at this junction to fill the need for professionals that have the expertise, knowledge and skills for effective community work. This gap must be filled in order for SIDS to keep on a path of sustainable development.”

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Perspectives on Recent Crime in Barbados from Two Caribbean Criminologists

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Introduction

The first quarter of 2019 saw an unprecedented number of murders in Barbados. There has been a 200% increase in homicides compared with the same period in 2018. While there has been a total of 28 murders in 2018, there has already been 20 murders in the first quarter of 2019. These include very public shooting deaths in typically safe spaces. The development of this state of affairs has no doubt provoked a range of emotions from the public from which also flow a series of recommendations. In an effort to assess some of the correlates of the increase in crime and offer some policy recommendations, two Caribbean criminologists, namely, Kim Ramsay and Lena Weekes of The University of the West Indies, share their perspectives.

The Nature of Crime and Homicides in Barbados – Kim Ramsay

The Caribbean in its entirety is grappling with the problem of crime and violence in all its forms. Barbados, which is generally seen as a relatively safe space, is now showing signs of crime and violence becoming a problematic social issue. Homicides in Barbados, which include gang behaviour, the drug trade, a street sub-culture *inter alia*, are increasing in both numbers and bold-

ness. This increase is owing to several factors which will be briefly addressed below.

The Impact of Gangs Gangs have existed in Barbados in the late 1970s and 1980s. They have infiltrated the block culture which has now permeated the social landscape. According to a study by the Criminal Justice Research Planning Unit (CJRPU) on Gangs in Barbados (2105), law enforcement officials have opined that historically, blocks in Barbados were made up of unemployed young men who came together to socialize but because of their continuous and extensive involvement in illegal drug activity, a criminal element emerged (CJRPU, 2015: 36). Recently, the dynamic around gang behaviour has changed; gangs have become more organized, more technologically savvy and are increasingly involved in organized criminal activities. Today's gangs have easier access to firearms and are more involved in the gun trade. Materialism (to live a glamorous lifestyle and for financial gain) is a common driver for gang activity in Barbados. One inmate in the gang study said that he joined a gang because of the flashy lifestyle, cars and girls." (CJRPU, 2015: 88).

The drug trade The drug trade is vibrant within the Caribbean. Barbados, with porous borders and relatively cheap means of travel to nearby islands by the use of small pirogues, becomes a major active drug trans-shipment point (Ramsay, 2011: 27). Between 2010 and 2014, 10% of all homicides in Barbados were drug related. Ac-

According to Ramsay (2011), persons travel from secluded beaches in Barbados and make their journey to other Caribbean islands, particularly St Vincent to traffic drugs into the island. Homicides related to the drug trade result from failure to pay suppliers and involvement in other drug related criminal activity. In some instances, men go missing and are never found. Many of the men involved in the drug trade are uneducated, unskilled and are of the belief that conventional means to make money is too slow and live in communities where the drug trade is accepted as a lucrative business (pg 28).

Street culture Informal rules and behaviours governing the lifestyles and social interactions of young men, particularly those from economically depressed communities are accepted as the norm in resolving conflict. Physical aggression results from the need of some men to defend their honor and masculinity (Wolfgang and Ferracuti, 1967). The role of masculinity cannot be ignored in the use of violence. In the study on homicides in Barbados, Ramsay (2011), notes that the street culture works in shaping the behaviour of many men involved in violence. Additionally, the issue of manhood and respect are also factors which explain the disputes between groups of men usually from different communities (Ramsay, 2011). Often triggered by somewhat trivial situations these disputes escalate into retaliation.

Structural conditions The distribution of social and economic power, and nature of relationships among individuals and groups can influence crime. It has been found that when official mechanisms do not provide the basic needs, there is incentive to go outside those official mechanisms (CJRPU 2015). Poverty has been attributed as a main driver in enabling crime to take root in certain communities. Differential opportunities contribute to the creation of avenues for crime, particularly violent crime. Deviant activities in neighbourhoods where many adolescents live influences their pursuit of criminal activities (CJRPU, 2015). Overcrowding, particularly in

some urban communities, in some cases up to 20 people live in some households. Coupled with high levels of unemployment, underemployment, alienation and social exclusion due to community neglect, these present as variants that can cause crime to leak into communities.

Easy availability of firearms The increasing problem of gun crime in Barbados, particularly homicides, started to be problematic in the 1990s, particularly around 1992/1993 (National Task Force on Crime Prevention, 2000). Currently, gun homicides make up approximately half of all homicides. Inmates and ‘boys on the block’ revealed that firearms were easily available on the streets (CJRPU 2015). The display of guns through “show and tell” on social media and other social events is commonplace. Guns are also increasingly being used as protection and symbols of power.

A Public Health Approach to Crime in Barbados – Lena Weekes

There has been a gross public outcry of terror and a Collective Question of what has gone wrong in our society. This is a harsh “wake-up call” but one which Durkheim in his thesis on Social Solidarity deemed necessary as an indication that something has gone wrong in our society. For Durkheim, crime serves a functional purpose of showing us how far we have strayed from societal norms. How do we restore the balance? The Collective Question has to be answered in a Collective Conscience of a societal acknowledgement that it is not only Law Enforcement’s responsibility to fix but it must be a collective response from all of the social institutions in society.

While crime is a social problem, it is also a contributor to ill-health in Barbados. Under a Public Health Model, crime, especially violent crime is likened to a virus that contributes significantly to the ill health of a society. Crime is therefore not only the responsibility of the Criminal Justice System but that of the entire society. A Public Health Policy as the driving force behind a collaborative effort to address crime would in-

clude the Executive, Legislature, The Criminal Justice System and The Health and Social Services Sector to treat to the crime problem. A Public Health Approach will seek to drive further development to make provisions for all citizens, especially those who are poor and marginalized, at risk for various reasons, considered to be vulnerable because of their social circumstances, offenders and ex-offenders. As such, rehabilitation is offered in prison and it extends to the community, i.e. “Unlocking the Second Prison”. Under a public health approach both the public and private sector are engaged in a partnership that offers supervision within the community in a detailed system of parole. A range of services that are offered includes housing, addressing welfare issues, counselling for the offenders, their families, their victims and their victims’ families. The greatest achievement has been the agreement that ex-offenders must be employed in industries when they are released from prison. Therefore, ex-offenders do not have to struggle to find employment. Lack of employment is one of the main contributing factors to recidivism which is measured in three (3) ways: re-arrest, re-conviction and re-incarceration. This means that some individuals may enter the system at different levels. The Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit (CJRPU) identified in their research studies that there is an overall rate of 68% recidivism in Barbados. A public health approach engages a wide network of services to assist offenders with employment.

Research garnered by the Royal Barbados Police Force and CJRPU identifies a number of health and socially related factors, which correlate to the crime problem and, more specifically, the increase in violent crimes. Therefore, it is fitting that the approach to treat to the problem must engage all of the stakeholders in these respective areas.

Quite often Singapore is held up as a model for economic development for Barbados but perhaps it can also serve as a model for criminal reform.

The Singapore Jurisdiction along with Fiji and Japan are the leading correctional institutions in the world because they have also been able to apply The Public Health concept of wellness for all individuals in society. Singapore boasts a tremendous success rate because they have been able to treat to the risk factors that pre-dispose to re-offending.

Crime in Barbados is correlated with several risk factors including – poverty, poor familial and environmental conditions, a sense of belonging, peer pressure, high levels of unemployment, firearms distributed to gang members by prominent members of society, ‘Gun out’ fetes (firearm display in urban communities), easy accessibility to firearms, masculinity and maleness, social media (display of firearm possession), the drug trade, warring factions, lack of access to social programmes and social services, social exclusion (community neglect), poor academic performance and a high school drop-out rate. When coupled with an overburdened and consequently sluggish justice system there is evidence of the need for a more multidimensional approach to tackling crime.

Considerations & Recommendations for Policy Based on Perspectives

- Addressing crime in Barbados requires long term strategies such as programmes for unattached youth, government and NGO initiatives in at risk communities, mentorship programmes among others.
- Implementation of violence prevention programmes both at the community level as well as within prisons to address the growing problem of anger management.
- Research needs to be undertaken to find out why there is a decline in police officers, what leads to the sluggish nature of cases going before the court and what rehabilitative programs can be offered in prison to reduce recidivism and lead to an easier process of an ex-inmate’s reintegration to

society.

- young people should have equitable opportunities for professional and career development, life skill training, discipline and civic duty and responsibility.
- In 2014, there was an Amendment to The Prisons Act to make provisions for a Prisoner Release Board and the specific conditions of release. However, to date this Board has not been set up and there still needs to be further development of the legislation and policy which speaks specifically to through-care for offenders when they are released from prison.
- there should be platforms that speak to through-care for offenders at all levels; i.e. first time offenders, those who are recidivists and those who may be re-arrested but not convicted, those who may be re-incarcerated but not convicted or re-convicted, juveniles, violent offenders and addicts.
- Data and Information Sharing will also ensure that there will be minimal duplication of services and that the relevant information reaches the right person on the treatment spectrum so that the right interventions can be made at the right time.
- mechanisms are deployed for measuring success in all of the various areas and at the respective levels.

Conclusion

The government of Barbados has already started to make steps towards criminal justice reform by instituting a few legislative changes. The Bail (Amendment) Act 2019 imposes an automatic 24 months custody for anyone charged for murder or gun-related violence which are punishable by imprisonments for ten years or more (Barbados Today 2019; Nation News 2019). In addition, recent legislative changes grant judges the discretion of administering the death penalty according

to the nature of the crime. Previously, because of a ruling by the Caribbean Court of Justice, which made mandatory death sentence unconstitutional, judges were prevented from passing such a sentence. With the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019, the judiciary, rather than the legislator will decide on whether a murder deserves the death sentence or not. Legal and judicial approaches, however, must be coupled with an inclusive but strategic approach which draw from expertise in social work, psychology, sociology and public health as outlined by the authors.

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The Grenada Revolution 40 Years after: Commemoration, Celebration Critique

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The article is reprinted from an editorial on the Now Grenada website in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Grenadian Revolution. Website address: <https://www.nowgrenada.com/2019/03/the-grenada-revolution-40-years-after-commemoration-celebration-critique/>

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way” (Charles Dickens [1859], 1988, 7).

This oft quoted excerpt from Charles Dickens’ Tale of Two Cities, provides an historical account of events leading up to and during the French Revolution (1789-1799). *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”* also captures the totality of the complexity that was the Grenada Revolution (1979-83). I must first point out that the making and implosion of the Grenada Revolution created much psychological trauma and pain for many within Grenada and beyond

its shores. The pain in turn generated silence for decades. Grenadian Professor Merle Collins, sums it up in her 2003 poem, ‘Shame Bush’:

“Dust don’t disappear when you sweep it behind bed

People stay quiet but all the questions in their head

Is true time could heal and bad times could change people mind

But we have to figure how to talk, leave hurt behind...”

Forty years after the advent of the Grenada Revolution is an opportune time for honest reflection and critical analysis. The Grenada Revolution was a confluence of opposing tendencies: promises and possibilities; inherent flaws and contradictions within constraints and limitations. As such, for decades following its demise, there were two dominant schools of thought that either sought to demonise or romanticise it. As Guyanese scholar/activist Professor David Hinds observes:

“... since the demise of the Grenada Revolution, there has been a general avoidance of a comprehensive analysis of its relevance to a proper understanding of postcolonial Caribbean politics and society. Insofar as there has been a discourse on Grenada, it has been confined to shouting matches between supporters of the two sides that squared off in the final months of the revolution. While such an exchange is useful, it never

gets beyond emotions and self-serving narratives, which by definition are counterproductive. ... In the process, the larger significance of the revolution is either marginalized or erased. The revolution is reduced to an event with little significance to those who lived through it or to the construction of Grenadian and Caribbean history. Yet the events in Grenada from March 1979 to October 1983 deserve more scrutiny, not to determine who were the saints and the devils but to engage something that arose from the bowels of the Caribbean society and has since its demise greatly influenced the region's political motion" (Hinds 2015 p. 213).

Professor Hinds is spot on. A long-range historical gaze suggests that it was a significant critical juncture in the region's anti-colonial struggle. As is similar throughout the Caribbean, Grenada's political history evolved through oppression, resistance and overcoming, in the long search for freedom. The late historian George Brizan in his book *Grenada Island of Conflict* (1984, 1998) reminded us that "Grenada's constitutional experience manifested four major characteristics: political inequality of opportunity; external dependence on an imperial centre; no clear outline of a path to development, and the dominance of elitist groups in the economic, social and political life of the country" (Brizan 1998, 350).

Therefore, as was the case with Fedon's Rebellion of 1795 and Gairy's social revolution of 1951, the Grenada revolutionaries (1979-83) proclaimed "400 years we shall take it no more!" The Grenada Revolution held out the promise for not just a society but a JUST society. It held out hope for a resilient, self-sufficient economy, where citizens worked harder, produced more and built Grenada. It held the possibility for a self-determined people, who defined and presented themselves to the world with dignity – "in Nobody's backyard", with the right to choose who their friends were. The revolutionary experience proved that Grenada is a small island with a big history. Consequently, the Grenada Rev-

olution must be commemorated for its historical significance not only to Grenada but to the Caribbean region and the wider world.

Yet, while we must commemorate the historical significance of that period, the Grenada Revolution must be critiqued, given its inherent flaws, glaring contradictions and fatal errors. March 13, 1979 cannot be 'celebrated' outside of an interrogation of October 1983, since both historical moments are inextricably linked. Why do I say so? First, while the PRG was relatively successful in introducing social and economic programmes, politically it did not seek to transform the authoritarian state it inherited from Gairy and the colonial establishment that preceded the Gairy regime. In fact, the coercive arm of the 'revolutionary' state, with its mantra of "heavy manners," would use the said heavy manners to destroy the very revolution the revolutionaries sacrificed for and fought so hard to build. In the same vein, the military arm of the state, while necessary to protect and defend the national sovereignty of the Grenadian state from external aggression (particularly in the context of the Cold War and US hostility to Grenada) instilled a culture of fear within Grenada, and violated citizen sovereignty. Thus, protecting national sovereignty was privileged over the rights and liberties of citizens. Second, while one can accept that a revolution by definition is intended to break with tradition and create new governance arrangements, the architectural design of the PRG was diametrically opposed to the entrenched norms in Grenadian and Caribbean political culture. As Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop had legitimacy with the people who accepted the maximum leader as a normal feature of Grenadian political life. However, within the organs of the Marxist/Leninist NJM party, the notion of a maximum leader was heresy. This created a tension between the logic of party discipline, within the small NJM vanguard party, on the one hand, and the natural appeal a charismatic leader has with the masses on the other.

Thus, the vanguard party may have been necessary to ensure secrecy in the anti-Gairy struggle. It was its propensity to organize and mobilize that ushered in the revolution and in fact sustained it for four and a half years. Yet, it was the same NJM vanguard party that struck the final blow to the revolution on October 19, 1983. Third, during the period of the Grenada Revolution, Grenada was a one-party state with insufficient checks and balances. Instructively, the state, government and party were fused. As such, there were no avenues for conflict resolution. This would prove fatal in the final moments of the revolution. Fourth, popular democracy through parish and zonal councils aimed to expand democracy. Yet grassroots democracy occurred within a context of censorship, intolerance of dissent, arbitrary detentions and grave human rights violations. This created an increased divide between the PRG and the NJM party, on the one hand, and the masses on the other, many of whom became increasingly disillusioned with the revolution.

Even as we commemorate and critique the Grenada Revolution, I am of the view that the positive accomplishments of the PRG must be celebrated. The baby must never be thrown out with the bath water. That period was a refreshing awakening. Young women and men throughout Grenada, and indeed the Caribbean, sacrificed so much to build Grenada. The PRG's comprehensive developmental thrust cannot be denied, specifically its emphasis on: raising levels of social consciousness; building a national ethos that encouraged a sense of community; organizing agrarian reform to benefit small farmers and farm workers; promoting food security through an agro-processing plant, creation of the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB); promoting literacy and adult education; fostering child and youth development; enacting legislation to empower women, such as the maternity leave law; constructing low income housing and launching house repair programmes; im-

proving physical infrastructure and in particular the construction of an international airport; providing an environment that encouraged popular democracy through Parish and Zonal Councils *et cetera*. One of the fundamental objectives of the Grenada Revolution was to improve the lives of the Grenadian people within a comprehensive social and human development framework, following a mixed economy approach. For a small developing country to achieve so much in only 41/2 years is commendable. I take this opportunity to salute all the workers and leader/workers who sacrificed during that period. There was a strong sense of volunteerism, civic responsibility, social consciousness, community pride and a commitment to building an economy and society. There was also regional solidarity as regional workers contributed immensely to building the revolution. Hence, within Grenada and beyond its shores the Grenada Revolution generated hope for an alternative path to development and meaningful independence.

When analysed in its totality, the story of the Grenada Revolution fits neatly into Charles Dickens' notion of 'the best of times and the worst of times'. An important question arises, what lessons can be learnt from the making and implosion of the Grenada Revolution? I will mention a few:

1. Education (formal popular) must be linked to consciousness-building
2. Women and youth empowerment are drivers for societal transformation
3. A combination of agri-business, fisheries development and 'new' tourism can promote food security and sustainability
4. Infrastructural development creates a positive multiplier effect for the economy society
5. All things being equal, a mixed economy approach, which involves strategic state

planning, cooperatives and the private sector, can promote sustainable growth

6. The development model must privilege human well-being [and the environment] over markets and profits
7. Popular democracy must allow for dissent, be genuinely inclusive and participatory
8. State-society relations must be guided by constitutionality
9. Military force must never be a substitute for dialogue
10. Dogma and ideology should never replace people's humanity
11. Checks and balances are crucial ingredients for the viability of the state. There should be clear boundaries between the party, government and state. Political parties should never usurp the power of the state or infringe on citizen sovereignty
12. Political maturity is a prerequisite for political success
13. Tolerance of the other is an imperative for national cohesiveness

14. With time, forgiveness breeds healing and freedom

As Grenada approaches fifty years as an independent state, may we embrace the positive attributes of the Grenada Revolution and learn the lessons from its failures, in the continuous search for freedom, justice and equality of opportunity.

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