



# A WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT AND WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

DAVIS ADMINISTRATION FIVE PILLARS APPROACH TO SOLVING THE ROOT CAUSE OF CRIME





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## BACKGROUND OF THE DAVIS ADMINISTRATION'S 5 PILLAR STRATEGY:

The Davis Administration's Five Pillar Strategy is a framework designed to address the multifaceted challenges of crime and public safety. Recognizing that effective crime control and prevention extend beyond the purview of law enforcement alone, this strategy represents a paradigm shift towards a more integrated and collaborative approach.

## THE APPROACH

The strategy emerged from an understanding that crime is not just a legal issue but a societal one, deeply rooted in a range of social, economic, and psychological factors. It draws on contemporary research, successful models from around the world, and consultations with experts across various fields.



## 1

### PREVENTION:

This pillar focuses on addressing the root causes of crime. It involves community development, education initiatives, social services, and economic opportunities, aiming to prevent the emergence of criminal behavior, particularly among at-risk populations.

## 2

### POLICING/DETECTION:

Emphasizing community-oriented policing, this pillar seeks to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. It involves modernizing policing methods, enhancing training, and incorporating technology for efficient crime prevention and detection.

## 3

### PROSECUTION:

This aspect aims to ensure a swift and fair justice process. It encompasses reforms in the judicial system to expedite legal proceedings, special courts for specific types of crimes, and support systems for victims and witnesses.

## 4

### PUNISHMENT:

Focusing on the deterrent aspect of criminal justice, this pillar seeks to impose fair and proportionate punishments. It involves sentencing reforms, improving prison conditions, and integrating restorative justice practices.

## 5

### REHABILITATION:

This final pillar aims to prepare offenders for successful reintegration into society. It includes vocational training, educational programs, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and support networks to reduce recidivism.



# CROSS-GOVERNMENT, WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

Central to the strategy is the collaboration across various government departments and the active involvement of the community, NGOs, and the private sector. This approach ensures that crime prevention and control are not just seen as the responsibility of the police and the justice system but as a collective societal endeavor.

## THE DAVIS ADMINISTRATION: 5 PILLAR APPROACH TO FIGHTING THE ROOT OF CRIME PROPOSING A CROSS-GOVERNMENT, WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

### 1. PREVENTION

Prevention Objective: The goal is to tackle the root causes of criminal behavior, with a focus on youths. The approach includes providing scholarships for vocational training, expanding community development projects, establishing communication centers for law enforcement-community engagement, monitoring school attendance, and offering programs to reduce gang recruitment and enhance youth engagement.

#### OUR APPROACH:

-  **Expanded Target Scholarship Opportunities:** Provide scholarships at the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) for at-risk youth, focusing on career-oriented training and education.
-  **Expanding Urban Renewal:** Invest in community development projects, including public spaces improvement, community centers, and local business support.
-  **Investing in Communication Centers:** Establish centers to facilitate better communication between law enforcement and communities, and provide resources for conflict resolution and crime reporting.
-  **Improving School Attendance:** Our Administration will build on existing implemented programs to monitor and encourage regular school attendance, including mentorship and parental involvement initiatives.
-  **Reducing Gang Recruitment:** Launch awareness campaigns and after-school programs aimed at providing alternatives to gang involvement.
-  **Expanding Youth Programs and Funding:** Increase funding and support for extracurricular activities, skill development workshops, and mentorship programs.
-  **Hiring Additional Attendance Officers:** To monitor and improve school attendance, additional officers are being recruited. This initiative aims to identify and support at-risk students who are absent or at risk of dropping out.





**Establishing a School Policing Unit:** This unit places police officers in junior and high schools to provide prevention, detection, and intervention. The government plans to expand this program to primary schools, reinforcing the importance of early engagement in crime prevention.



**Expanding The Smart Start Program:** Targeting students in grades 10-12, this initiative addresses learning loss and disengagement from school. It offers technical and vocational training to realign students' educational paths and prepare them for future opportunities.



**Launch of a Centralized Hub for Vocational Studies:** A new hub for high school students will be introduced, specializing in vocational education. This expands the curriculum and offers alternative paths to traditional academic routes.



**Strengthening Urban Renewal Program:** Enhancing programs focused on community development and support, aiming to create safer and more supportive urban environments.



**HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) Program:** An early intervention program focusing on behavioral issues among younger populations, aiming to address problems before they escalate.



**National Youth Guard Recruitment:** Our administration will build on our launched National Youth Guard, focusing on disaster preparedness; this initiative engages young people in meaningful activities, promoting responsibility and community involvement.







**Reviewing National Youth Services:** Considering the establishment of a comprehensive service program for youth, focusing on community service and skill development.



## 2. POLICING

**Policing Objective:** The aim is to enhance law enforcement's effectiveness in crime prevention and response. The approach involves expanding school policing, adopting a clear, hold, and build strategy in gang-controlled areas, increasing saturation patrols in high-crime zones, implementing advanced surveillance technology, and enhancing regional cooperation against drug and weapons trafficking.

### OUR APPROACH:

-  **Expanding School Policing:** Place trained officers in schools to ensure safety and build positive relationships with students.
-  **Clear, Hold, and Build Strategy:** Adopt a phased approach to retake gang-controlled areas, maintain security, and then invest in community development.
-  **Clear:** This first phase involves the deployment of law enforcement (or military, in a counterinsurgency context) to an area dominated by criminals or insurgents to "clear" it of these elements. The primary objective is to eliminate or significantly reduce the presence and influence of the criminal elements, creating a safer and more secure environment for the local community. This step often involves a combination of tactical operations, arrests, and raids, and requires significant preparation, intelligence gathering, and resources to be effective.
-  **Hold:** Once an area has been cleared, the next step is to "hold" it. This phase is critical to ensure that the criminal elements do not return or regain their influence. Holding typically involves maintaining a robust and continuous security presence, such as police or peacekeeping forces. It's not just about having security forces in place; it's also about starting to rebuild trust with the community, establishing law and order, and beginning the process of normalizing everyday life for the residents. Community policing strategies, where law enforcement works closely with community leaders and members, are often vital in this phase.





**Build:** The final phase, "build," focuses on the long-term development and stabilization of the cleared area. This phase goes beyond the scope of traditional law enforcement or military roles and involves a wide range of activities aimed at addressing the underlying causes of crime or insurgency. This includes economic development, infrastructure improvement, strengthening local governance, providing healthcare and educational services, and other social services. The aim is to improve the overall quality of life for residents, making the area less susceptible to the return of criminal elements. This phase requires coordinated efforts from various sectors of government, as well as non-governmental organizations and the community itself.



**Expanding Saturation Patrols:** Increase police presence in high-crime areas to deter criminal activities.



**Introduction of Facial Recognition CCTV:** Implement state-of-the-art surveillance technology to aid in crime detection and prevention.



**Regional Cooperation in Drug and Weapons Fight:** Strengthen partnerships with neighboring countries to tackle cross-border drug trafficking and illegal arms trade.



**Intelligence Building through Community Policing:** Encourage officers to build strong community ties to improve intelligence gathering.



**Enhancing Witness Support:** Create dedicated teams to provide assistance and protection to witnesses in criminal cases.



**Unexplained Wealth Orders:** Use legal tools to confiscate assets accumulated through criminal activities.



**Reviewing the Confidential Informant Fund:** Plans to increase funding are underway, aiming to enhance the effectiveness of information gathering and covert operations.



**Constructing a National Forensic Laboratory:** This initiative aims to reduce dependency on external jurisdictions for forensic analysis, thereby speeding up the investigative process and improving the quality of evidence.










## 3. PROSECUTION

Prosecution Objective: To streamline the judicial process for swifter and more effective legal proceedings. This is approached through initiatives like expanding swift justice initiatives, introducing specialized courts, enhancing training for prosecutors, improving legal officer retention, and investing in modern forensic labs.

### OUR APPROACH:

-  **Expanding Swift Justice Initiatives:** To reduce case backlog and speed up the judicial process, ensuring timely delivery of justice. This is essential to maintain public trust and uphold the integrity of the legal system.
-  **Introduction of Specialized Courts:** Establishing courts focusing on family, juvenile, commercial, sexual offenses, and coroner's cases to expedite specific types of legal proceedings. Specialized courts enable more focused and expert handling of these cases, leading to more efficient and effective judicial outcomes.
-  **Enhanced Training for Prosecutors:** Providing ongoing education and training to ensure high prosecution standards. Continuous professional development is crucial for fair and competent case handling, leading to more just and reliable outcomes.
-  **Improving Legal Officer Retention:** Increasing pay and benefits for legal officers to attract and retain top talent. A competent and motivated workforce is key to the effectiveness and efficiency of the justice system.
-  **Hiring Additional Prosecutors:** Augmenting the workforce to effectively handle an increased caseload. This expansion is necessary to manage the growing demands on the justice system and prevent delays in legal proceedings.





**Aggressive Bail Appeals:** Vigorously challenging bail decisions to ensure high-risk individuals are not prematurely released. This approach is vital for public safety and ensures that those posing significant risks remain under supervision.



**Introducing New Sentencing Guidelines:** Reforming sentencing guidelines to reflect current societal norms and legal priorities. This ensures that punishments are appropriate, fair, and serve as effective deterrents.



**Recruiting Additional Public Defenders:** Increasing the number of public defenders to ensure equitable legal representation for all individuals, regardless of economic status. Access to legal representation is a fundamental aspect of a fair and just legal system.



**Hiring Additional Pathologists:** Increasing the number of pathologists will help in reducing delays in forensic examinations and autopsy reports, which are crucial for criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

## 4. PUNISHMENT

**Punishment Objective:** To deter crime through stringent legal measures. The approach includes legislation criminalizing gang involvement, reviewing firearm-related charges, and reassessing penalties for illegal gun ownership to create stronger deterrents.

### OUR APPROACH:



**Legislation Criminalizing Gang Involvement:** Enact laws imposing severe penalties for gang affiliation and activities.



**Reviewing Firearm-Related Charges:** Reassess penalties for firearm possession to deter illegal gun ownership. We will target highly powerful weapons like Assault Rifle.





## 5. REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation Objective: To prepare offenders for successful societal reintegration. The approach involves expanding cognitive-behavioral therapy for inmates, streamlining reintegration programs, creating partnerships for ex-offender employment, and offering educational and vocational training to equip ex-offenders with necessary skills for reintegration.

### OUR APPROACH:

-  **Expanding Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT):** Offer CBT to inmates as a means to address behavioral issues and prepare them for reintegration.
-  **Streamlining Reintegration Programs:** Coordinate efforts between government and private organizations to provide a unified approach to rehabilitation.
-  **Partnerships for Ex-Offender Employment:** Collaborate with the private sector to create job opportunities for ex-offenders, fostering societal reintegration.
-  **Educational and Vocational Training:** Offer extensive training programs to equip ex-offenders with skills necessary for employment.
-  **Expanding Second Chance Programs:** Support initiatives by the Royal Bahamas Police Force to provide former offenders with opportunities to reintegrate into society positively.