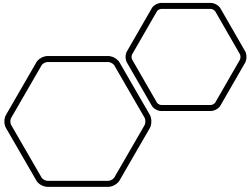




# The Progressive Manifesto: A Response to Our Present Crisis

BRIEF SUMMARY

VOLUME 2



Volume 2. The Core Elements of a  
Governing Programme (Part 1 of 2):  
Economy, Production &  
Governance



# The Progressive Vision



# The vision and intent of the Progressive Caucus of PNP members is to build Jamaica as a relatively prosperous country –

- a country where there are no wide differences in wealth and privilege;
  - a country where a person's economic achievements are a result mainly of one's own efforts and not the result of the exploitation of others nor the result of one's family background;
  - a country with adequate opportunities for personal development and fulfilment;
  - a country where differences in social status are constantly being reduced;
  - a country where social harmony is constantly being consolidated.
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# Preview of Proposals



# Preview of Proposals

- Our proposals don't cover all areas of government.
  - Only those areas that are critical to reducing the gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots”.
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# Preview of Proposals

- Many of the measures proposed are inter-related.
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# Preview of Proposals

- Taken together, our proposals are expected to contribute to reducing Crime and Violence in the long run.
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# Preview of Proposals

- Some of the key measures for social upliftment and solidarity require significant investment and will have to be paid for.
  - Our proposals include measures to cover these costs.
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# Our Proposals

Our  
Proposals  
in Part 1  
cover 5  
areas:

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Energy Transformation

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Income Tax and Wealth Inequality

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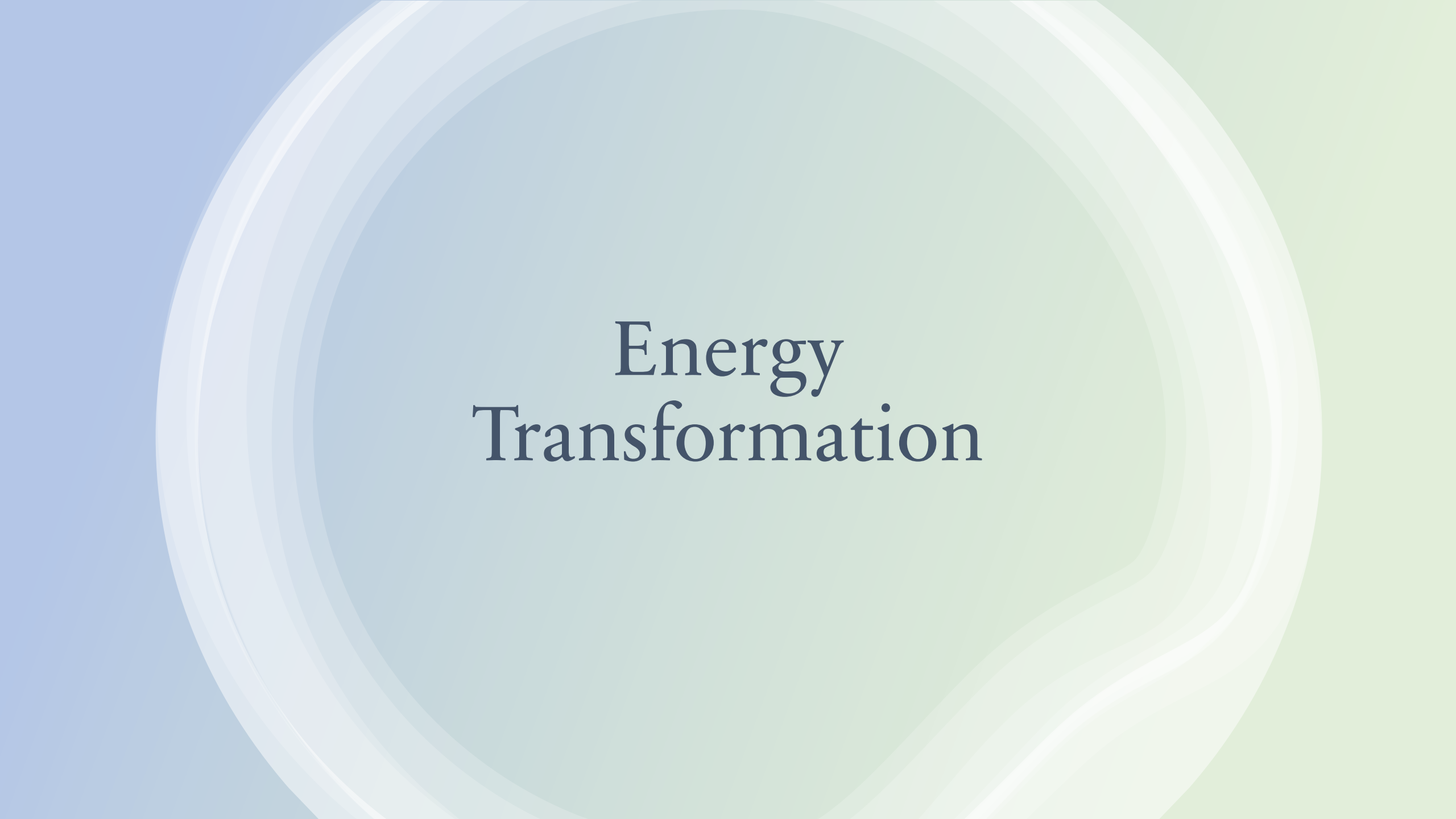
Agriculture and Rural Development

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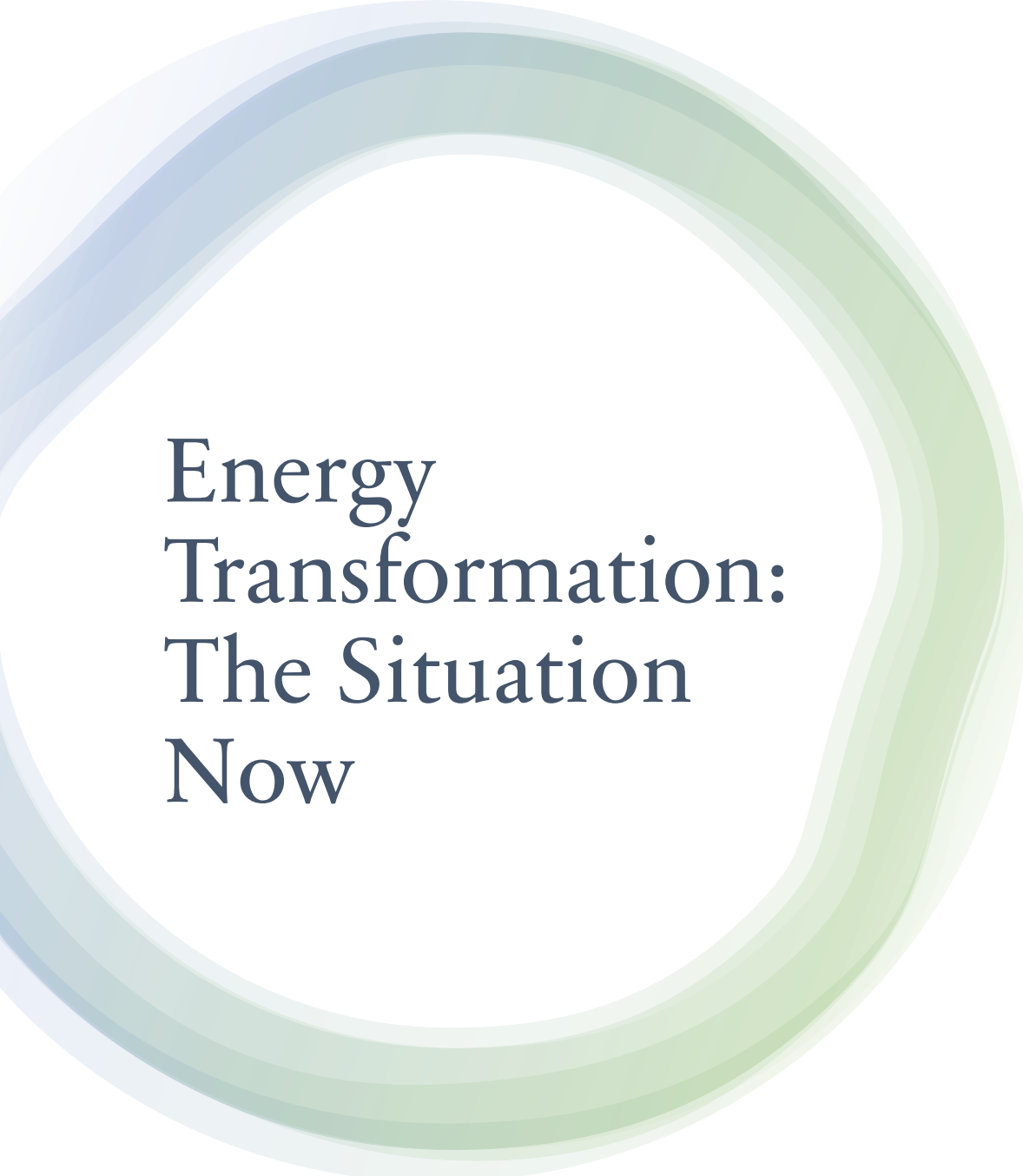
Workers' Rights and Company  
Governance

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Local Democracy



# Energy Transformation



# Energy Transformation: The Situation Now

- Petroleum importation is the main cause of Jamaica's chronic foreign exchange deficit.
- Petroleum has to be paid for in \$US.
- It is the main cause of the weakness of the Jamaican dollar.
- It is the main cause of the stagnation in industrial development.
- ***Petroleum makes up almost a quarter of our import bill each year.***
- But solar power is now the cheapest source of energy.
- And the easiest to instal.



# Energy Transformation: The Solution

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Eliminate Jamaica's chronic foreign exchange deficit by switching from petroleum to solar energy.

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Reduce household electricity bills through solar power.

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Lease solar equipment to smaller households.

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Provide loan guarantees to larger households to set up domestic solar generators.

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Use foreign exchange savings to set up a Sovereign Wealth Fund.

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Use Sovereign Wealth Fund to renew investment in industrial development.

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The value of the Jamaica dollar should gradually increase.

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Follow up this by encouraging and supporting a shift to electric vehicles.

# Income Tax & Wealth Inequality





# Income Tax

- Reintroduce Progressive Income Tax
    - Higher earners to pay higher rates
    - Lower earners to pay lower rates.
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# Wealth Inequality: Inheritance For All

- Set up Young Adults Capital Endowment Fund.
  - Give long-term low-interest loan to each young adult when they reach 25 years.
  - Pay for this Endowment Fund with a small graduated Wealth Tax on the Net Worth of the top 10% of Jamaicans. e.g.:
    - 1% tax for richest 10%
    - 3% tax for richest 5%
    - 5% tax for richest 1%
-



# Agriculture and Rural Development



# Agriculture and Rural Development

- Modernize Agriculture to drive Rural Development.
  - Change perception of Agriculture to embrace all aspects of the food industry
    - including processing.
  - Promote New-Style Agricultural Cooperatives as solution to small farmers' problems.
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# Agriculture and Rural Development

- Build network of multi-stakeholder Integrated Community Production Centres.
  - Enact necessary legal changes for this:
  - Amend *Cooperative Societies Act* to open up membership to legal persons
    - (to facilitate greater Investment and Capitalization).
  - Pass *Community Councils Act*
    - (to diversify ownership).
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# Workers' Rights and Company Governance



# Workers' Rights and Company Governance

- Roll back erosion of Workers' Rights.
  - Limit the use of independent contractors.
  - Large companies to have worker representatives on Board.
  - Closer dialogue with Trade Unions.
-



# Local Democracy

# Local Democracy: The Problem

- Our government is over-centralized.
- Local ideas, talent and energies are under-utilized.
- Local development efforts are mostly scatter-shot.
- Local people have no means of making an on-going input into government decisions.
- This has led to alienation, powerlessness, “don’t care”, and increased crime.
- We have to re-arouse people’s interest in democratic participation.
- It is easier to start this at the local level.





# Local Democracy: The Solution

- Pass the *Community Councils Act*.
- Give Municipal Councils expanded powers and a guaranteed percentage of government's budget.





This Manifesto is available in greater detail both as a general document and for specific topics.

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