

VISION2040  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE BAHAMAS



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## THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM



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# FAQS



## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE BAHAMAS?

A National Development Plan is a strategic plan that will identify short, medium and long term goals for The Bahamas. The National Development Plan, Vision2040, will be the roadmap for a more vibrant Bahamas. It will be guided by extensive research, analysis and widespread public consultation aimed at addressing four main policy pillars: The Economy, Governance, Social Policy and the Infrastructure (Built and Natural).

## WHY DOES THE BAHAMAS NEED A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

The Bahamas has had strong economic performance over the last few decades and is one of the wealthiest independent countries in the Western Hemisphere. In general, our citizens enjoy a high quality of life and live in a stable democracy. Notwithstanding this success, trends in the tourism and financial services sectors, unemployment, poverty, increasing skill gaps and crime rates have threatened the overall social and economic development in The Bahamas. These combined factors led to the Government's recognition that a National Development Plan was necessary to achieve a more resilient and vibrant Bahamas. The National Development Plan will provide a coordinated approach for inclusive national development.

## HOW WILL THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADDRESS NATIONAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS?

A National Development Plan will provide a roadmap to a long term vision for The Bahamas. The process will define important national needs and priorities, establish a prescriptive framework for decision making and identify public and private investment priorities. Broad public engagement will support the achievement of a long-term strategic framework that articulates a shared vision for the country.

## THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WILL:

- Examine vital areas including human capital development, social development, the economy, infrastructure, the environment and governance
- Establish national strategic priorities
- Identify key prospects for development and growth
- Identify any major strains associated with the country's prospects for development and growth
- Develop strategies for achieving established goals for national development

## HOW WILL THIS PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UNFOLD?

The development of Vision2040 uses a three-phased approach within a nine-month period, with a projected completion date of June 2016. The approach includes:

### PHASE 1: DIAGNOSIS

A comprehensive analysis of the current state of The Bahamas that addresses the core areas of social policy, governance, the environment, infrastructure and the economy.

### PHASE 2: A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

Engagement of all Bahamians through workshops, community and sector meetings, online surveys, the arts, and essay submissions. This phase also includes promotion of Vision2040 through a website and social media channels.

### PHASE 3: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Outcomes of the first two phases are shared with Bahamians. Information gathered will be used in the drafting of the Plan. At the end of this phase, Vision 2040, the National Development Plan of The Bahamas will be drafted. After a plan is agreed with The Bahamian people, its implementation must be closely monitored by all stakeholders.

## IS THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PART OF A POLITICAL AGENDA?

The National Plan does not have a political agenda. Widespread consultation with Bahamian citizens and residents from all walks of life will ensure that the National Development Plan is not just politics as usual. Monitoring and evaluation by impartial local and international experts is also integral to Vision2040.

Contributions and insight of all political entities are welcomed to ensure the plan is reflective of all Bahamians. The National Development Plan Secretariat has reached out and continues to reach out to all major political parties, strictly for contributions and insight.

## HOW WILL THE PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

Once agreed by The Bahamian people, the National Development Plan will form the basis of coordinated action for the future development of The Bahamas. There are three core components that are essential to implementation of the National Development Plan.

1. Economic Development and Planning Unit: This unit, established within the office of the Prime Minister will retain primary responsibility for the implementation of the plan. The unit will be the coordinating hub for strategic planning across all government ministries.
2. Transformative Governance Initiative: This initiative establishes a results-based approach to governance and promotes approaches such as programme-based budgeting, strategic planning and other such reforms. The Bahamas Government is also undertaking an initiative aimed at strengthening the centre of government.
3. The planned University of The Bahamas, Government and Public Policy Institute: The planned institute will serve important monitoring and evaluative functions to ensure comprehensive and consistent monitoring of implementation progress, needs and challenges related to the National Development Plan.