



# 2017 Year-end Letter

2017 was a year of transition

I have spent 2017 establishing my website, [www.DelisleWorrell.com](http://www.DelisleWorrell.com), and making it the most authoritative source of analysis on the Barbadian economy, and much more. On my website you will now find:

- A featured publication “The Barbados economy – the road to prosperity” in which I document the competitive advantages our economy possesses, and the fact that potential growth is being stifled by excessive Government spending and public sector inefficiency. I offer seven recommendations to turn the economy around.
- A series of short videos, ranging in length from about 6 to 10 minutes, on topics such as successful IMF-supported programmes in Ireland, Iceland, Latvia and Cyprus; differences between the fiscal challenges of Barbados and Jamaica; Barbados’ competitiveness; the importance of improving productivity; the value investors place on predictability; and others.
- Longer videos and a podcast on the challenges of de-risking by commercial banks; an interview with Dr Peter Blair Henry, Dean of the Stern School of Business of New York University; an address given at the Peterson Institute in Washington, DC; and several others.
- Economic newsletters on interest rates in Barbados, distinguishing between good and bad debt, productivity lessons from Singapore, how to save Barbados’ US dollar peg, the potential from a commitment to a strategy of 100 percent production of energy from renewable sources; and other topics.
- Data and analysis including GDP, balance of payments and fiscal data for 2004-2016, with forecasts to 2021; charts on labour productivity trends in Barbados; charts showing Barbados’ competitiveness in relation to the Caribbean and Latin America; charts on Government revenue, expenditure and financing; and charts showing the strengths of Barbados’ tourism.
- Publications in international journals on international financial regulation, the pros and cons of dollarization, digital currencies, fiscal sustainability and debt; and the economic crisis in Greece.
- Books on “Fiscal sustainability and debt” and “Price formation in the Caribbean”.

Many of my videos may be found on Youtube (type [www.delisleworrell.com](http://www.delisleworrell.com)), and my publications may variously be found on the Social Sciences Research Network at <https://ssrn.com/author=100640>, and on the websites of the Bretton Woods Committee ([www.brettonwoods.org](http://www.brettonwoods.org)), the Group of 30 in Washington DC ([www.group30.org](http://www.group30.org)), the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, OMFIF ([www.omfif.org](http://www.omfif.org)), the International Monetary Fund ([www.img.org](http://www.img.org)), the Peterson Institute in Washington DC ([www.piie.com](http://www.piie.com)), Vox EU ([www.voxeu.org](http://www.voxeu.org)), the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance ([www.ccmf-uwi.org](http://www.ccmf-uwi.org)), and the Central Bank of Barbados ([www.centralbank.org.bb](http://www.centralbank.org.bb)).

## Looking ahead

Please look out for the publication in April next year by Routledge Publishers of New York of the *Handbook of Small States – Economic, Social and Environmental Issues*, edited by Lino Briguglio of the University of Malta, which includes my paper (Jointly with Winston Moore of UWI and Jamila Beckles of Central Bank of Barbados) “A new approach to exchange rate management in small open financially integrated economies”.

A total switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy offers the opportunity for Barbados to save 15-20 percent of foreign exchange earnings each year, which may be used to accelerate the growth rate of our economy. Together with colleagues, I hope to lead a major project, under the auspices of the Barbados Renewable Energy Association ([www.brea.bb](http://www.brea.bb)) to outline a programme to accelerate the achievement of the 100 percent renewable solution.

The Central Bank of Barbados will no longer publish the award-winning *Economic Insight.bb*, a forward-looking magazine which highlighted Barbadian excellence and attracted world-wide admiration, thanks to the design genius of Jonathan Reid and Jody Forte. I hope to be able to develop a new successor journal, on a commercial not-for-profit basis.

Barbados boasts an excellent macroeconomic framework and tools for effective management of the small open economy which is fully integrated into international financial markets. I expect to share these tools and institutional arrangements with open economies around the globe, with universities, think tanks and international institutions.

### **Thanks**

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who have helped me with the transition: Simeon Wukwai, my webmaster; Marniko Media, my videographers; Mediasolutions, my editors, designers and editorial advisers; Tessa Ottley, my text editor; Monica, for fortifying me with her love; many others I've depended on critically but who must remain anonymous; and for my scores of friends, supporters and well-wishers. Rest assured that I will continue to fight the good fight, no matter the odds.

**Merry Xmas to all, and a happy and prosperous New Year.**