

The Hon. Richard Sealy, M.P.

Minister of Tourism

Biography

The Honourable Richard Sealy, M.P., Minister of Tourism of Barbados, is a Civil Engineer. He holds a BSc. in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida, USA and an MBA from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Minister Sealy is 43 years old.

For 19 years, Mr. Sealy worked on engineering projects in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

He served on the Engineering Registration Board (1991–1994).

Mr. Sealy entered elective politics and contested the St. Michael South Central Constituency in 1999 as a member of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), based on the premise of “Service over Self.” He believes every Barbadian, who is blessed with special competencies and skills would do well to use these gifts for the benefit of the country. Mr. Sealy won a seat in the Parliament of Barbados in 2003.

Mr. Sealy is a former President of the Young Democrats the youth arm of the DLP.

In January 2008, the Democratic Labour Party won the national elections by a landslide. Mr. Sealy was appointed Minister of Tourism and has held the portfolio with distinction since then.

A former Vice President of the Democratic Labour Party, he currently serves as a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet’s Economic Policy Committee.

Some of the initiatives Mr. Sealy has been responsible for during this tenure as Minister of Tourism include:

- ◆ \$25 million Tourism Industry Relief Fund (TIRF) for tourism businesses affected by the recent global economic crisis.
- ◆ The establishment of a special programme to encourage greater participation of the Barbadian Diaspora in the promotion of Barbados’ vital tourism industry.
- ◆ The development of Latin America, specifically Brazil as a legitimate source market for destination Barbados.
- ◆ The initiation of the process of creating Barbados’ first Tourism Master Plan.

- ◆ The initiation of the process to reform the public sector institutions that govern the tourism sector.
- ◆ The greater use of information technology in the context of marketing Barbados's tourism product offering.
- ◆ The implementation of a number of events specifically designed to boost visitor arrivals in the sporting and cultural market niches.