

**2009 MANIFESTO**

**OF**

**INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE**

**DR LOWELL LEWIS**



**The MONTSERRAT DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

- Political Leader**            **Dr Lowell Lewis**
- Chairman**                    **Mr Simon Morson**
- Secretary/Treasurer**      **Mildred Kirwan**
- Asst Secretary**            **Siobhan Tuitt**
- Exec Members**            **Bennette Roach**  
                                      **Anne Bynoe**  
                                      **Neville Blake**

The Montserrat Democratic Party was not able to attract five candidates who could form and effectively manage a government of Montserrat. We therefore have not presented a team at this general election.

We will continue to exist as a political party, and attempt to rebuild it as a permanent political institution for those people of Montserrat who share our philosophy and values.

This manifesto and the MDP web site [www.mdp.ms](http://www.mdp.ms) are presented in support of the MDP party leader and other independent candidates contesting the election.

## **2009 Election Statement from Dr Lowell Lewis Political Leader of the Montserrat Democratic Party**



Brothers and Sisters of Montserrat,

I wish to thank you for the privilege of serving you as a legislator for the past 8 years, and as Chief Minister for the past 3 years.

I now ask you once again, to vote for me, to be one of your representatives in the Legislative Council of Montserrat, and to be part of the new government of Montserrat, if the other elected members so decide.

I believe that my record of service to the Montserrat Community and the training and experience that I have gained as a senior public servant, a legislator and Minister of Government, provides me with the competence to continue representing you at home and abroad.

With your permission, I wish to be part of the team that delivers our vision for Montserrat to be a “Healthy, wholesome nation, founded upon a thriving modern economy, with a friendly vibrant community, in which all of our people, through enterprise and initiative, can fulfill their hopes in a truly democratic and God-fearing society.”

I believe that it has been useful for Montserrat to have an experienced medical practitioner and surgeon available to provide support for the Health Services and will continue to do so, as long as I am able to.

If elected again, I will continue to give good political and professional guidance for the development of health services. I will champion the urgent calls for better health care, a better hospital, better housing, and better transportation in and out of Montserrat. I will ensure that the security of this island is enhanced by state of the art health facilities and services for all; An education program that places our children among the best competitors in the world; Restored economic viability and the creation of meaningful employment for all.”

I will use whatever influence and authority I have, to the fullest, to bring down crime, drug abuse, and child abuse. To increase housing opportunities, to build better roads, get everyone out of the shelters, ensure a supply good food and support for our vulnerable people, find scholarships and grants for our children's education and end corruption.

The time has come for you to vote for persons who understand that government is about service to the people. In the past, I have worked well and have the highest regard for many candidates who share with me the same vision for Montserrat and are committed to the same high standards of governance.

Most of them have presented themselves as Independent candidates during this campaign and I pray that the people of Montserrat will allow us to form the next Government of Montserrat.

Once again, I thank you for the privilege of serving you in the past, and ask that on September 8, you vote for me, Dr Lowell Lewis, to once again be a part of your government.

I pledge to abide by the key moral and governmental principals; Love, fairness, reconciliation and mutual respect for people, irrespective of race, color, gender, age, disability or national origin. I also re-commit myself to meeting the needs of our people, especially, those of the poor, voiceless and marginalized, not only in our day, but in generations to come.

Lowell Lewis (Dr)

## **Good Governance**

"Good governance exalts a nation and eliminates corruption".

Transparency and participation are the hallmarks of good government. Transparency moves us beyond mismanaged projects and conflicts of interest. It rebuilds trust with Aid Donors, and may open a way for renewing or replacing opportunities and viable projects that have been abandoned.

The enactment of Legislation for Integrity in Public Office and a Freedom of Information Act will be a priority.

We will involve our young people as they embody the future. They will be provided opportunities for education, training, sports, cultural activities, jobs, land, and capital to support small business ventures.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs, Culture, Sports and Tourism will support community development projects.

We will support Village councils and provide budgets for their activities.

We will promote linkages and partnerships with overseas Montserratian associations and friends of Montserrat in support of ventures, marketing (especially of Montserrat culture-linked products) and business partnerships.

## **Constitutional Issues**

We will support :

Completion of negotiations on the draft new Montserrat Constitution Order  
Amendments of the draft to:-

- 1 Alter the electoral system  
Each voter to select  
A Chief Minister  
5 At Large Representatives  
1 Constituency Representative
- 2 Remove vote of non- elected members of Legislative Council
- 3 Restrict candidates to persons with Belonger status in Montserrat.
- 4 Restrict voters to persons with permanent residence status
- 5 Establish criteria for postal ballots.

Ensure comprehensive discussion of the new Montserrat Constitution Order with the public, prior to its enactment.

Ensure enactment process provides for constitutional advancement and self determination.

Review procedures for overcoming the restrictions of contingent liability associated with Overseas Territory status.

Continue the comprehensive law reform exercise to modernize Montserrat's antiquated and, in some cases, unjust laws.

Establish Human Rights Commission on Montserrat.

## **Public Administration**

Montserrat is blessed with some of the best educated and well trained public servants in the Caribbean. However, a competent public service also requires high quality leadership at the political level as the political directorate must provide leadership that is creative, innovative, trustworthy, bold and sympathetic.

We will support the adoption of basic management systems operated by many of the world's most successful private and public sector organizations.

All public sector employees will be encouraged to make use of opportunities for training where possible to enhance their competence on the job as well as for their own self-satisfaction.

We will support the implementation of a Remuneration Strategy that regrades staff and removes the anomalies that exist with the professional allowances paid to some staff. We will build a cadre of top managers by creating posts in the public and private sector with challenging responsibilities and appropriate attractive remuneration packages.

Special incentives will also be offered to returning nationals whose skills are not available in Montserrat.

## **Economic Development**

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan of Montserrat will be a priority to allow achievement of our objective to increase the population of Montserrat to over 8,000 and be out of granting aid by 2014. Our programmes will be prioritised in 3 phases. Phase 1 - the first 100 days; Phase 2 - Years 1 to 3 ; Phase 3 - Years 4 and 5.

Once our government demonstrates a commitment to good governance and integrity in political leadership, the United Kingdom, European and other aid agencies, whose mandate is to create sustainable communities and alleviate world poverty, would support our proposals. Government of Montserrat would then cease being a financial burden for their taxpayers, and guarantee for its people a good quality of life.

Good governance legislation will also be critical to attracting investment in Montserrat.

The available budget and existing projects planned for 2009-2012, have the potential to provide a 10% growth in the economy for each year. This will require the provision of additional funds and loan financing to access the estimated EC\$330 million required in capital aid for the next 5 year period.

The list of 29 projects, some ongoing and some in planning phase include:-

- Montserrat Development Corporation
- Little Bay Town Development
- Private Sector Development
- Tourism Development

- National Trust Museum and Archeological sites restoration
- The Montserrat Cultural Centre
- Sports facilities Developments at Blakes, Little Bay and Brades
- Piper's Pond Marina/Safe Harbour
- Port Development
- Airport improvement and extension
- Education Facilities Development
- Hospital and Health Services Development
- Social Welfare improvement
- Vulnerable persons Housing
- Empty shelters, home improvement and volcano evacuees housing
- Returning Montserratians housing
- Residential and commercial Housing Development Projects at;
- Look Out, Drummonds, Davy Hill, Brades, Barzeys and Jones Hill.
- Electricity generation plants projects (Diesel, Wind and Geothermal)
- Public works equipment and road rehabilitation and expansion
- Public service review
- Montserrat Volcano Observatory
- School of Disaster Research, Education and Management project (Search and Rescue Training)
- OECS Climate and Volcano Institute
- Abattoir
- Fisheries
- Agricultural feeder roads

- Medical Schools
- Silver Hill's and Blake's Residential Tourism Developments

Earnings from goods and services will increase significantly in response to aggressive implementation of building programmes, tourism activities, export of volcanic materials and products, export of water and agricultural products, manufacturing, medical schools, real estate development and geothermal energy derived electricity.

The South of Belham Project, Trants, Jack Boy Hill to Bottomless Ghaut Industrial Development Project, Silver Hills Development Project, Little Bay Town Project, Blakes Development Project, Brades Housing development, Drummonds Housing Development , and the New Villages programmes will provide opportunities for revenues from export of volcanic materials and from construction activities. Wherever possible, local control of these activities will maximize returns to Montserrat from the proceeds of the island's resources.

### **Government of Montserrat**

Five year public financing plan for Sustainable Development

Budgetary Aid	EC\$200 million	£40 million
Capital Aid	EC\$330 million	£70 million

Port	\$100 m
Little Bay Town	\$40 m
Roads and Utilities	\$30 m
Housing	\$30 m
Government facilities	\$45 m
Airport improvements	\$50 m
Geothermal electricity plant	\$17 m
Miscellaneous	\$18 m
Total	\$330m

## **Tourism**

Prior to the volcanic activity, tourism made a significant contribution to Montserrat 's economic development.

We will focus on providing opportunities for employment, income generation and improved local well-being while ensuring that all development decisions reflect the value of the natural and cultural environment.

We will create a variety of unique tourist destinations and complete a safe crossing of the Belham River.

We will provide adequate air and sea transportation. Thus ensuring that tourism will once again become a major creator of wealth.

A vibrant tourism industry will provide employment not only for those directly employed in the hospitality industry, but also empower the farmers and fishermen and create a multiplier effect.

In promoting cruise tourism, villa tourism, sports tourism, eco and adventure tourism and cultural heritage tourism, we will ensure inter-sectorial involvement, careful planning, strict guidelines and regulations to ensure that our resources are not destroyed.

## **Infrastructure**

Montserrat's development as a viable entity in the short, medium and long term is dependent on the urgent provision of basic transport infrastructure that will permit easy, adequate and hassle free access to the island by air and sea. We will be relentless in the pursuit of the following:  
A revised Physical Development Plan to meet our development needs.

An airport with a runway length not less than 1200 metres. A review of airport options will guide decisions on improving safety and air lift capacity in and out of Montserrat. Options will include extension of the existing strip at Gerald's and future development in the Silver Hills area, or a return to Bramble's Airport when the volcanic eruption has ended.

A design contract has been awarded for Seaport facilities at Little Bay including a breakwater of sufficient scope to accommodate berths for cruise ships, roll-on roll-off freight carriers and yachts. Average depth of water alongside berths to be no less than 35 feet.

Until this facility is available, the creation of a marina and safe harbour in the location of Pipers Pond, to allow safe disembarkation of passengers from cruise ship tenders, will raise millions of dollars in revenues from day tours. This will increase further on completion of the substantive Port developments.

Engineers have also been asked to prepare preliminary designs for a southern breakwater, arising from reclaimed land to the west of Government Headquarters at Brades. This would complete the protection of the Water Front from Carr's Bay to Rendezvous Bluff.

The proposed \$30 million 5 year road programme will allow the people of Montserrat to carry out their daily routines in safety, and extend the life of their vehicles. More importantly, this programme would enhance the quality of cruise ship day tours as well as the villa and hotel tourism activities.

Land for infrastructure partnerships will guarantee the completion of good quality roads to all housing development areas, and roads to agricultural and industrial areas will drive the increased annual economic growth, which will be a feature of our 5 year plan.

Special support will be provided for Montserrat Utilities Limited to expand the electricity, water and sewage services. New projects over the 5 year period will include extension of water and electricity to Trants, a Corbett Springs pump and Dick Hill Reservoir and distributions system to the north of Montserrat, and a biodigester sewage system for the Brimm's Ghaut area to service housing developments at Drummonds and Look Out

We will seek to obtain funds to:

- (i) Properly pave the roads in residential areas that were hastily established during this volcanic crisis. Priority areas will include the Barzeys, St Peters Virgin Islands, Mongo Hill, Judy Piece, Jones Hill, lower to upper Drummonds, Peaceful Cottage and Dick Hill.

(ii) Introduce access roads into new residential settlements. These include Banks, Davy Hill and St Johns.

## Transportation

We will support:-

- Introduction of a Ferry service for day tours to and from Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Guadeloupe and St. Martin, by a Regional Transportation Company
- Provision of facilities to allow the safe docking of tenders from cruise ships.
- Negotiation for a reduction in airfares to Antigua.
- Operations by other airlines into Montserrat.

The operations of locally owned and operated Air Services

- Implementation of a road safety programme with appropriately placed road barriers, sun screens, signs, side walks, speed bumps, bus stops and rain shelters.
- Subsidy for bus travel for elderly persons and children.
- Additional concessions to bus drivers who participate in a scheduled bus service from 6 am to midnight.

## Telecommunications

*We will implement the new Liberalized Telecommunication policy, thus ending monopolies in this sector.*

We will demand :-

- Services made available by telecom providers must be reliable, high quality and affordable.
- Providers utilize the advances in telecom technology e.g. broadband infrastructure and applications, in delivering quality and affordable service.
- Major reductions in the price of international calls and other services.
- An increased share of the profits made by service providers.

## **Employment Creation**

We will support the following initiatives:-

Creation of an employment creation service for low income earners, part time workers and retired persons, in the Department of Labour. This service to be funded by recurrent budget and special donor funds. Special attention will be given to keeping Montserrat clean and attractive, and creating employment in the production of agricultural and food products for the local and export markets, and the production of craft items for the tourism sector.

Apprenticeship job placements for students, school leavers and unemployed adults, linked to vocational training programs at the Montserrat Technical College and other regional and international institutions

The release of funds gained from the sale of government built housing for the provision of grants and low interest loans for new home construction and improvement of existing homes. Speedy processing of all investment proposals, facilitated for the Government of Montserrat by the Private Sector Development Service of the Montserrat Development Corporation.

Encourage investment by local people by offering tax relief and other incentives. Local investors have a major role to play in employment creation and national development as a whole.

The outsourcing of many services traditionally provided by government is critical to the creation of new employment opportunities for all sectors of the work force. In keeping with the model established by Montserrat Utilities Ltd, Housing corporations, Real Estate Agency, Health Authority, Ports Authority, Roads maintenance and construction companies, can more efficiently manage the land, housing, health and transportation assets of the people of Montserrat. The private sector aspects of the Project Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Economic Development must be returned to the private sector.

Development of sports tourism. We will support completion of The FIFA financed international football field at Blakes so that will become a catalyst to sports tourism on Montserrat. The provision of additional training and playing areas at Little Bay and elsewhere in Montserrat will allow the holding of regional competitions and the hosting of more teams from Europe during winter months.

Similarly, completion of facilities at Little Bay for cricket and athletics, and the inland marina for dive and fishing boats, and small yachts, will make sports tourism an even bigger contribution to the economy.

The Silver Hills Development Project is expected to generate much employment. The area will be considered for condominium and golf course developments, while at the same time accommodating a programme for reforestation, and the improvement, protection and preservation of the environment, plant and wild life in the area. Proposal for a Green Globe Tourism facility at the top of the Silver Hills will be advanced in early 2010.

The volcano provides large quantities of raw material for broad based industrial activity on Montserrat. In addition to the export of these materials, opportunities exist for the manufacture of heat resistant products, and building materials. Promoting the establishment of these industries on Montserrat is mandatory.

This will be the main objective of the South of Belham Project, which will include a safe reliable crossing of the Belham River, a coastal roadway with utility lines from Isles Bay to Foxes Bay and on to Richmond Hill, and subject to feasibility studies and planning approval, barge ramps, either in the Isles Bay area or near Bransby Point.

The construction of an industrial port facility near the Trant's Bottomless Ghaut, area is necessary to maximize revenues from export of volcanic material. Such a project could also be linked to the installation of several off shore wind turbines for generation of clean electricity.

## **Incomes Policy**

We will support:-

- 1 Enactment of minimum wage legislation with exemptions to encourage the continued employment of vacationing students and casual labour.
- 2 Implement the remuneration and re-grading strategy for civil servants and government workers
- 3 Elevation of all regular non-established workers to permanent establishment status and prohibit practices that allow employment without provisions for pension and or gratuity.
- 4 Seek funding for supplement to pensions of retired non established public sector workers who served for 20 years or more.
- 5 Reduce the period of service threshold at which public servants have entitlement to pension on reaching pensionable age, from the existing twenty years to ten, but with appropriate adjustments to the percentage of final salary paid as pension.
- 6 Revise pensions provisions to make the arrangements sustainable.

## **Agriculture and Fisheries**

AGRICULTURE:

We will support:-

Maximizing the use of Montserrat agricultural resources with a view to supporting local farmers and reducing the importation of food. The measures it will implement to realize these goals include:

- Assisting with road access to and the clearance of suitable land in an environmentally friendly way for use by both crop and livestock farmers.
- Addressing the chronic problem of loose livestock. Steps will be taken to control livestock owners who allow their animals to roam and to ensure that livestock wardens, pound keepers and crop appraisers do their jobs properly and fairly.
- Providing subsidized fencing wire to all farmers and opening up markets for the export of livestock.
- To work in partnership with the Montserrat Animal Protection Society to control dogs that attack livestock.

Complete the second floor of the Public Market to provide units for craft manufacturing and retail outlets.

- Constructing the long overdue abattoir, thus ensuring that all livestock is slaughtered there. This will reduce the problem of the illegal sale of meat from stolen animals.
- Addressing the hazard to life and environment posed by the expanding population of loose and increasingly wild livestock in the exclusion zone by entering into arrangements with stake holders to utilize the animals for production of pet food locally.
- Access to low cost credit, provision of irrigation supplies and advice relative to maximum use of water for irrigation, plant disease control, marketing of produce and continuing assistance to agricultural cooperatives and related organizations within the industry.
- Constructing mini-dams in ghauts and river courses to enhance drip feeding systems to back yard gardens.
- Expand the Government plant nursery, stocked with good quality vegetable slips and grafted fruit trees.
- Replacing the multipurpose food processing plant destroyed during the volcanic crisis. This will ensure processing of the large quantities of mangoes, guavas, breadfruit and other fruits that go to waste each year because no suitable processing facility is available.
- Providing support for individuals who wish to set up and promote hydroponic farming systems.
- Protecting local crop farmers against the importation of vegetables when necessary.

We will support:-

Introduction of modern technologies and marketing approaches through "agri for all" curricula in schools, starting from early primary years. Construct an Agricultural Sciences Laboratory at Salem Campus and Institute formal agriculture education through certificate courses at the Community College.

Establish partnerships with charitable development agencies with interest in pioneering ways to renew agriculture in the Caribbean and Africa.

Establish partnerships in a production and marketing network across the OECS, using experts and experienced business people to access markets in neighbouring islands for our produce.

#### FISHERIES:

We will:-

Provide training and financial assistance to fishermen to enable them to learn new techniques and to increase the returns for their efforts. This will include preparation of a project to bring a fishing trawler training vessel to Montserrat.

Complete a safe harbour at Little Bay for the boats of fishermen. This safe harbour/marina is expected to have permanent berths for 20 yachts and 10 sports fishing boats.

## **Land and Housing**

We will support:-

Urgent disbursement of funds available from the housing revolving fund.

A general assessment of the housing stock, relative to adequacy, hurricane resistance, exposure to possible extreme volcanic events and/or hurricanes, floods etc.

The emptying of all emergency shelters and facilitate permanent housing solutions for residents of Montserrat and Montserratians abroad who wish to return to live in Montserrat.

Provision of affordable lots 4000 to 10,000 sq ft, made available by grants, lease purchase over 10 to 20 years or by land purchase loans with 5 to 8% interest charges.

Revising the system of land registration to make the process cheaper and to bring into use more of the undeveloped and unclaimed land in the northern safe area.

Renegotiation for reduction of the cost of purchasing government housing units.

Low interest loans for low and medium income households.

Introduction new, affordable and robust house construction technologies and products.

Encourage multiple dwelling and multiple floor buildings to increase living space per sq ft and per construction dollar. Designs will allow for future expansion of house and land space and facilitate home gardens.

Request to DFID for immediate restart and reform of the self-build grant program. We will request that grants include allocations for land acquisition, materials and labour. Varying levels of assistance will be given according to assessed need. 30%, 50%, 75% or 100%.

Provision of home improvement grants and loans.

Introduction of a Social Welfare Rental Assistance.

The exchange of lands to facilitate infrastructure development of roads and utilities.

Introduction of a housing program for young professionals and returning Montserratians ( eg nurses, policemen, teachers, firemen, and junior civil servants.

Expand the sheltered housing units at Look Out by another 20 units.

We will:-

- Make an approach to the UK government to revisit the soft mortgage loan scheme.
- Vigorously encourage local private initiatives to access investment funds for home construction.
- Urgently seek permanent housing solutions for the families still occupying temporary housing in such areas as Cheap End in St Peter's, Davy Hill, and Hope and Friths villages in Salem.

Review and revise the zoning of residential areas with a view to establishing appropriate covenants which are meant to allow economic activity, but also preserve the value of high quality real estate, in areas allocated to encourage this form of inward investment.

Support private developments and "retirement" housing and/or villas for tourism rental.

## **Environmental Issues**

We are fully committed to the protection, preservation and restoration of our environment where necessary.

We will upgrade and enact an Environmental Protection Act to ensure this.

Projects will include:

- The re-forestation/rehabilitation of the entire area north of the Little Bay / Marguerita Bay line, which is a national necessity. This area is approximately 1200 acres. It is estimated that implementing a comprehensive programme of rehabilitation and re-forestation will provide employment for 75-100 persons for an average period of 5 -7 years. Financing may be obtained in part from the many private and international organizations that are always willing to support

environmental projects. Restoration of the tree cover through natural re-growth and organized implanting of trees will re-establish the forest and contribute to increased levels of rainfall.

- Introducing legislation to curb indiscriminate tree cutting.
- Following up on the contact already made with a North American Centre that specialises in the creation of artificial wetlands, with a view to modifying the sewage disposal plans for the Look Out area, thus creating at Marguerita Bay, a fertile clean area for recreation that will be a unique tourist attraction.
- Controlling the now large numbers of loose livestock of all kinds that are damaging the environment, thus protecting Montserrat's many micro climatic zones. Proper management of these zones will allow for increased horticulture, controlled livestock grazing and tree cropping.
- Eradicating the feral pigs that are preying on marine turtle eggs and pose a threat to fresh water springs and humans. Marine turtles are an important potential tourist resource. By not protecting them adequately, Montserrat is in breach of its international treaty obligations.
- Controlling littering generally and sand mining at beaches.
- Implementing an effective and non-discriminatory garbage collection programme.
- Exploring opportunities for exporting exotic flowers to other Caribbean islands and North America.
- Opening up trails for hiking and encouraging coastline rod fishing thus improving recreational facilities.
- Proper waste disposal facilities on Montserrat. We will take appropriate measures to improve the garbage dump at Jack Boy Hill with a land fill facility that is both hygienic and in keeping with international practices.

Promote the completion of an OECS Climate and Volcano Observatory and Green Globe Restaurant and Hotel Tourism facility on the Silver Hills.

## Health Improvement

A properly managed health service which provides primary and secondary care services is essential. This is necessary for adequate care of medical and surgical emergencies, the care of elderly persons who do not wish to travel overseas and also needed to encourage visitors and retired persons, who wish to be full or part time residents, to feel comfortable in Montserrat.

We will support :-

The appointment of a local person to the post of Director of Health Services.

Appointment of Senior Medical Officer that combines clinical and administrative duties.

Secure the services of a medical officer with professional training and experience in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Proceed with the Hospital Development Project at St Johns to include:-

Phase 1 Administration and ancillary building comprising kitchen, cafeteria, and laundry facilities

24 bedded inpatient unit, including 6 bed obstetric unit, pediatric and medical wards. Staff accommodations, xray, laboratory and pharmacy.

Phase 2 10 bed surgical ward and 2 bedded High Care Unit  
New Accident and Emergency Unit including minor operation Theatre

Identify green field site for a new hospital to be completed in 2020.

Training of nurses and emergency medical technicians locally.

Review of remuneration for nurses and all health staff.

Improvement of eye care services.

Introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme.

Improvement of community-based care for the elderly, especially in terms of healthy nutrition.  
Utilizing of retired nurses as a pool of expertise for home care of elderly

Health Promotion and Research Unit in the Ministry of Health.

Improvement of mental health care.

Government in partnership with community based and voluntary organizations as a cooperative network of support for the poor and for those in need of assisted living and health services.

Review and reform approaches to HIV/AIDS, HPV, H5N1, diabetes, cancer, asthma and other potential epidemic challenges

## **Youth Programmes**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs will coordinate these programmes in collaboration with the Community Services Department.

We will implement the proposed National Youth Policy of Montserrat and put in place mechanisms which will allow the youth to have inputs in the formulation of national policy.

We will implement the recommendations for economic participation of our youth, for their education and training, sports and recreation, and participation in cultural activities.

We will implement recommendations for health promotion and health care, control of drugs, violence and crime, and participation in religious activities, clubs and non-governmental organizations.

We will arrange at least two joint parliamentary sessions each year with the Youth Parliament.

## **Education**

We will support an education policy that includes the following:

Improvement of literacy

Promotion of computer literacy and language skills in Spanish and French from kindergarten level with an immersion approach.

Support the placement of a computer in every home.

Support for community programmes by the provision of equipment and trained personnel, to encourage as many citizens as possible to acquire computer skills. This service could be offered in community centres and churches.

Vocational training to build technical skills base. Electricians, plumbers, engineers, technician, mechanics, carpenters, architects, computer technicians.

Re-introduction of religious education now offered by CXC as part of the secondary school curriculum. To be delivered by properly trained religious education teachers.

Introduction of Civic studies and Democracy and Human Rights education in the schools curriculum.

Support of pastoral care, special education, learning support, mentoring and disaster risk perception.

Provision of tax concessions to parents paying college or university fees for children attending these institutions.

Grants and scholarships for students attending the technical college and other institutions.

Sponsored awards for every class and provide government scholarships for at least the top three students.

Providing subsidy incentives to youth, women and/or employers to widen the range of training opportunities available on island.

Establishment of a continuing consultation process within the island community to ensure that information on local job opportunities is communicated to Montserratians abroad who may want to fill these vacancies.

Reintroduction of supervised extracurricular sports sessions and a school band.

Promotion of discipline and community service by encouraging participation in parent - teacher association activities, and other extra curricular activities such as scouting, girl guides, St Johns Ambulance Brigade, and the Cadet Corps.

Encourage Talent search and development education in arts, music, drama, media, and sports. Arrange coaching clinics, artists in residence and cultural promotions.

Establish partnerships and twinning ventures with similar programmes elsewhere (also with an eye to marketing our talent and productions).

Revise operations and establish the Montserrat Community College as a center of excellence for training for 5th and 6th Form students, vocational training programs and regional training in Disaster Management and search and rescue skills.

Establish the Institute of Disaster Research, Education and Research. (IDREM)

Establish the Performing Arts and Film Studies Institute of the Caribbean.(PAFSIC)

Promotion of the re-establishment of off shore medical schools and other offshore tertiary education facilities.

Completion of the Education Physical Development Program to include:-

Look Out School Expansion

Brades School Expansion

Rehabilitation of Salem Secondary School, including the addition of Gymnasium and Agricultural Science Laboratory

New Secondary School Campus at Blakes or Gerald's

New Early Childhood Education School at St Peter's

Modern sports facilities at Blakes, Look Out, Little Bay, Brades and Salem to make Montserrat a Mecca for inter island school sports tournaments.

## **Sports and Recreation**

We are committed to establish or support the establishment of multi-purpose recreation facilities in the four sectors of the island. (i) Salem, (ii) St Peter's, (iii) Baker Hill to Brades, (iv) Davy Hill to St John's and Look Out.

Village recreation areas will incorporate spaces for athletics, cricket, football, basketball/netball and lawn tennis. These will provide a great incentive for youth to use their energies in sports that will build both body and character, instead of in socially destructive activities.

We will encourage maximum development of the Blakes area as a major sports centre, with facilities to include football tennis and basketball courts, a golf course and conveniently sited villas to house visitors.

We will support the establishment of a mini golf course at Woodlands and support proposals for an International 18 hole Golf Course and villa development in the Silver Hills.

Sports and recreation facilities will be designed and equipped for use as emergency shelters, so that schools and churches will no longer be needed for such purposes.

We will support the initiation of inter island sporting leagues for cricket, foot ball, basket ball, volley ball, athletics dominoes and other popular sports.

## **Culture and Festivals**

We will :-

Support research and documentation of our Montserrat culture with a view to heritage preservation, resolution of identity issues and establishing links with tourism and other aspects of development.

Encourage the production of local speciality products including gift items, drinks, snacks, and other foodstuffs, for local use and export.

Promote all aspects of entertainment and assist musicians, masquerades and other performers to perfect their skills and access income opportunities from local and overseas markets. Special financing will be provided for a monthly national entertainment event to encourage all year round work for artisans, calypsonians, dancers and dramatists.

Support the major festivals of the year:- Christmas in December, St Patrick's in March and Calabash in July

Support and promote cultural activities through the establishment of a Sports and Culture Business Promotion Unit with funding from a special Challenge Fund.

Support the programmes of the Montserrat Cultural Centre and assist in the improvement of its ventilation system, improvement of conference facilities and services and the completion of its amphitheatre.

The establishment of a Performing Arts and Film Studies Institute of the Caribbean in Montserrat. Completion of the amphitheatre at the Montserrat Cultural Centre and development of an adjacent media services complex.

Support the production of high quality radio and television and internet cultural programs.

Actively pursue international radio and television links to market local productions overseas with a view to gaining a larger share of the global advertising revenues.

## Immigration Policy

We will:-

- Foster harmony through policies based on a foundation of justice and fairness. There will be respect for the legitimate rights of indigenous people and non-nationals.
- Coordinate immigration service through the Office of Regional and International affairs, in collaboration with the police service. .
- Demand that customs and immigration officials treat locals, tourists, visitors, guest workers and other non-nationals with politeness, hospitality, respect and fairness at all times.
- Make the process for visa acquisition and extensions more rational and easy. Implement the policy which increased permit periods from 3 months to 1 year and the provides for the granting of permits for 5 years after 5 years of residency.
- Make vigorous representation on behalf of individuals who have been unjustly denied citizenship and attempt to make arrangements for all children of Montserratian fathers to be entitled to citizenship, to ensure that no child remains stateless.
- Appoint Human Rights Commission with a mandate to address intractable immigration matters.

## Regional Affairs

Our long term goal is for Montserrat to share a common economic space with all CARICOM territories and the European Union, as future economic stability will require participation in global economic activities.

In the short term, we will guide Montserrat's entry into the OECS Economic Union and the CARICOM Single Market Economy, but with derogations to match our economic situation and British Overseas Territory Status.

We will actively pursue entrustments from the United Kingdom so as to access financing from the Regional Development Fund.

We will support participation in the establishment of a Regional Transportation Company

## Legislative Programme

Once elected to office, we plan to develop the following pieces of legislation:

- Standing Orders update - Parliamentary calendar, question time, private members' bills
- Integrity Legislation
- Freedom of Information Act
- 1989 Constitution Order Amendment Act
- Monopolies Act
- Montserrat Development Corporation Act
- Public Companies and Statutory Bodies Act
- Unclaimed Land Act
- Minimum Wage and Unemployment Benefit Act
- Educational Institutions Act
- Compensation for Investment in Public Facilities and Roads Act
- Environmental Quality Act plants, forests etc
- Natural Resources Act
- Tribunal and Ombudsman Act
- Agricultural Land Commission Act
- Public Transportation Levy Act
- Social Welfare Act
- Health Services Improvement Act
- Mental Health Act
- Volcanic Disaster Response Act
- Parental Responsibility Act
- Child Protection Act
- Civil Liability and Protection Act
- Energy Conservation Act
- Immigration Service Act
- Montserrat Nationality Act
- Telecommunication Act
- Civil Rights and Democracy Act

## Priority Plans

Once elected, we will:

1. Establish a Multi-sectorial Economic Recovery Task Force to review and monitor all government activities to boost economic growth.
2. Enact Integrity Legislation to ensure good governance and deter corruption.
3. Revise the Volcano Management Action Plan and all matters relative to living and coping with the existence of an active volcano in Montserrat, including contingencies for the event of the threat of a pyroclastic flow down the Belham River that may require the evacuation of parts of Salem and Old Towne.
4. Complete the road map for implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan.
5. Establish terms for purchase of government housing stock by tenants to allow total transfer of ownership and reduction of monthly payments.
6. Review and study the critical issues of land and housing strategy to increase home constructions by low and medium income families. This to include the provision of new building and home improvement grants and low interest loans.
7. Work towards completion of roads, sports facility and safe harbour at Little Bay to allow regular visits by cruise ships and to promote sports tourism activities.
8. Implement island-wide road improvement program, implement the Port Development Project and complete proposals for airport developments.
9. Review, study and renegotiate the cost of air travel and transportation to Montserrat.
10. Introduce a Ferry service for day tours to and from Antigua and Guadeloupe
11. Provide incentives to revive and strengthen the private sector.
12. Completion of the Little Bay Town Centre Sports and Recreation Facility and Cultural Centre Amphitheatre.

13. Establish sports tourism complex centred around the FIFA football field at Blakes.
14. Implement a Silver Hills Development Project to promote reforestation, preservation of the eco-system and condominium developments.
15. Implement the export of volcano materials and associated products.
16. Establish the export of bottled water on a commercial scale.
17. Review and implementation of Energy Policy, to include the exploration and production of geothermal derived electricity and increased use of solar and wind energy.
18. Review and as necessary overhaul the education system with a critical and important implementation of a Youth Development Policy with a focus on the retention and return of the young people of Montserrat by providing opportunities for employment and home ownership.
19. Implement a health services improvement programme, which will include a national health insurance scheme and the provision of a critical care area and inpatient areas for children and medical patients.
20. Completion of Sports, Culture, Entertainment and Media Policy including the provision of a budget to allow more frequent cultural activities with a view to encouraging the development of nation building.
21. Introduce a social development policy to promote integration and harmony among all people who live and work on Montserrat. This to include the provision of island-wide recreation areas and community facilities, for sports and entertainment, to augment our new cultural centre. This to include replacement of the community centre for St Johns.
22. Boost agricultural and fishing activities to increase local food production.
23. Population development program. We plan to facilitate the return of up to 3000 Montserrat volcano evacuees over the next 5 years through the creation of employment opportunities, the provision of housing and improved Social Welfare and Health Care programs for the elderly.
25. Develop and strengthen a more cohesive relationship partnership and understanding with the United Kingdom Government as to their interest in Montserrat's sustenance, its development and future status of nationhood.

