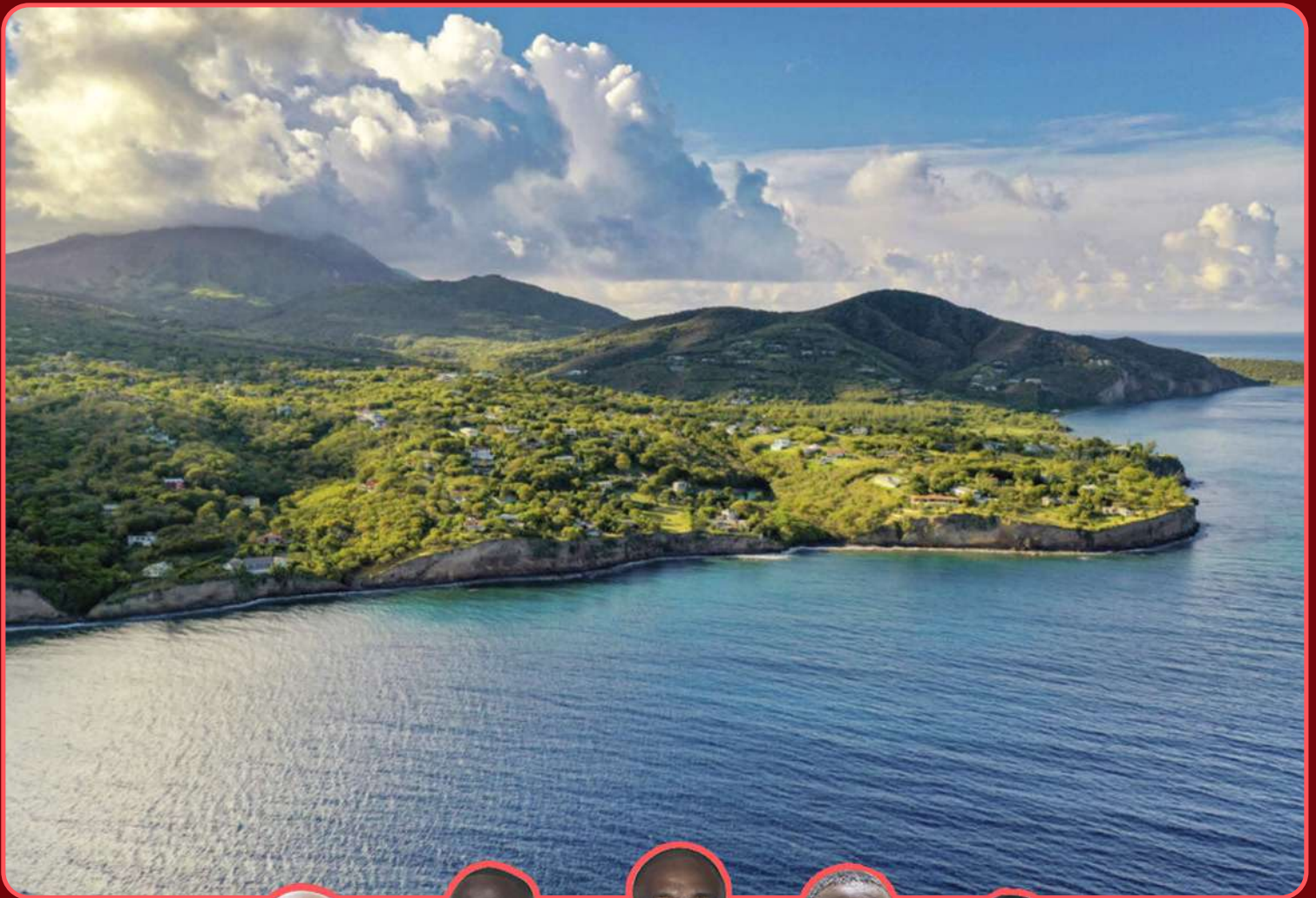




# PDM

## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT *PEOPLE FIRST*



VOTE  24<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2024

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## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM) CANDIDATES

### **HON. PAUL J. LEWIS** **PDM LEADER**



Hon. Paul J. Lewis, born in Windy Hill, Montserrat, has a rich history of service and leadership. Educated at St. George's Primary School, Montserrat Secondary School, and the University of Technology, Jamaica, he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. After starting his career in the private sector, he joined the Montserrat Civil Service, holding roles such as President of the Caribbean Public Service Association and serving on various boards.

In 2014, he entered politics with the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) and has since led initiatives in energy, ICT, infrastructure, and workers' rights. As the current PDM leader, Lewis envisions a prosperous Montserrat through sustainable economic growth, renewable energy, technology, and entrepreneurship. His 2024 agenda focuses on reliable transportation, economic diversification, healthcare, energy reliability, and youth employment, aiming to reduce the cost of living and improve opportunities for all Montserratians. On October 24th, 2024, Lewis invites Montserratians to vote PDM for a future of inclusive growth and innovation.

### **HON. DONALDSON** **ROMEO**



Donaldson Romeo, known to many as "Premier Romeo", is a past premier of Montserrat born on January 13, 1962, in Salem, Montserrat. Romeo's path to politics started with his advocacy for volcano evacuees in Montserrat. In 2009, he was elected as an independent member of the Montserrat legislature and later became the leader of the Opposition. Romeo's political career culminated in his election as Premier of Montserrat in 2014, leading the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) to victory. During his tenure as Premier, Romeo secured significant funding for Montserrat's development, including an EC\$ 100 million CIPREG economy rebuilding programme and an additional EC\$ 100 million in UKCIF and EU funded projects. These initiatives covered crucial areas such as healthcare, infrastructure, and tourism. Romeo also made notable contributions on the international stage, advocating for Montserrat's interests at the United Nations and pushing for a framework for the full decolonization of Montserrat.

## **HON. DAVID OSBORNE**



David Mundo Osborne, a seasoned politician and entrepreneur with deep roots in Montserrat's political and maritime history, began his journey in politics under the influence of his father, Former Chief Minister John A. Osborne. His political career took off in 2009 when he was first elected to the Montserrat parliament, serving as Parliamentary Secretary for Diaspora Affairs and Private Sector Development. David's key political achievements include his appointment as Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Land, Housing and the Environment in 2017. Known for his kindness, diligence, and decisiveness, David's engaging personality and ability to connect with people from all walks of life have made him a respected figure in Montserrat's political landscape, as he continues to shape the nation's future with his wealth of experience in business, maritime affairs, and governance.

## **JERMAINE J. WADE**



Jermaine J. Wade, affectionately known as 'FABULOUS', is a prominent Montserratian leader and community advocate from the village of Trials. A graduate of Plymouth Primary and Montserrat Secondary Schools, Wade has made significant strides in both his education and political career. His political journey began at the young age of 24 when he was elected as the youngest member of the Legislative Assembly. Wade's notable achievements include serving as a CARICOM Youth Ambassador, United Nations Global Youth Spokesperson, and holding key positions in various youth organizations. He was instrumental in establishing Montserrat's first indoor Multipurpose Sports Complex, the National Honours & Awards, and the HYPE youth programme. Wade's commitment to public service remains unwavering. He continues to be a dedicated advocate for progress and community development, embodying his core principle of "Service Above Self" through his role as founder and CEO of Fabulous Enterprises Ltd, a tourism and destination enterprise.



## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM) CANDIDATES

### **SHIRLEY OSBORNE**



Shirley Osborne is a multifaceted individual whose career spans writing, social entrepreneurship, women's leadership training, and public service. With a passionate belief in women's power to effect change, she has dedicated her life to women's empowerment and advancement.

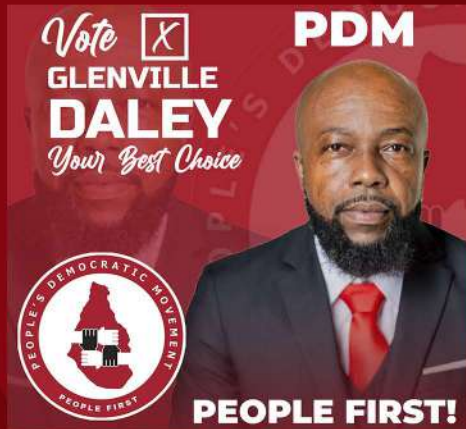
Shirley founded The Girls' Education Project and the Montserrat Women's Resource Centre, demonstrating her commitment to supporting women and girls. Her extensive collaborations with various organizations and her journalistic contributions highlight her global impact. Shirley's academic achievements include an MBA from Simmons College, and she has authored several books, including "Tolerance is No Virtue" and "Your Soul Is Gold: mine it". Her political career reached new heights when she became the Speaker of the Montserrat Legislative Assembly and held significant positions within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Beyond her professional life, Shirley is an avid sailor, hiker, and traveler, showcasing her diverse interests and zest for life.

### **NYOTA N C MULCARE**



Mrs. Nyota N C Mulcare, brings an impressive blend of private sector experience and nearly three decades of public service to her political aspirations. With a rich background spanning various government departments and a historic role as the first Director of Postal Services, Mrs. Mulcare has demonstrated her deep understanding of Montserrat's infrastructural needs. Her dedication extends beyond her professional career, as evidenced by her 20-year involvement with the Montserrat Civil Service Association, where she became the second female President. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Management Studies and a Master's in Public Sector Management, along with various certifications, Mrs. Mulcare's educational achievements complement her extensive practical experience. Her commitment to community, culture, and business is further highlighted by her entrepreneurial ventures and participation in Montserrat's Calypso competition. As she steps into the political arena, Mrs. Mulcare aims to leverage her diverse experience and unwavering commitment to workers' rights to implement broader, community-centered policies for Montserrat's advancement.

## **GLENVILLE DALEY**



## **ALRIC "JAHRED" LYNCH**



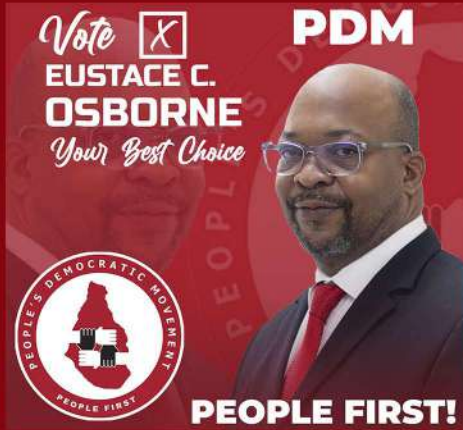
Glenville Daley, also known as Autostar, is a dedicated public servant and entrepreneur running for election with the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) in Montserrat. With over 15 years of experience in the Customs Department and 12 years of building successful businesses, Daley brings a unique blend of public and private sector expertise to his candidacy. His vision for Montserrat focuses on putting people first, creating fair policies, supporting local businesses, and improving education. Daley's commitment to listening to citizens and working collaboratively, as evidenced by his appreciation for party unity, sets him apart as a candidate who prioritizes the prosperity of all Montserratians over personal political gain. He calls on voters to join him in building a brighter future for Montserrat, emphasizing his dedication to creating a country where every citizen can thrive.

Alaric 'Jahred' Lynch is a seasoned political activist with over 20 years of experience, now aligned with the People's Democratic Movement (PDM). As a former independent candidate, Lynch's focus on agriculture stems from his belief in its crucial role in national development and cost of living reduction. He emphasizes community development through a united, cooperative approach to common problems. Lynch advocates for expanding agricultural revenue to finance Montserrat's growth, criticizing the current government's reliance on taxation. His vision encompasses educating and empowering the populace, viewing an educated citizenry as essential for true freedom and national progress. Lynch pledges to fight for fundamental human rights and freedoms, positioning the PDM as the best choice for Montserrat's future.



## PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM) CANDIDATES

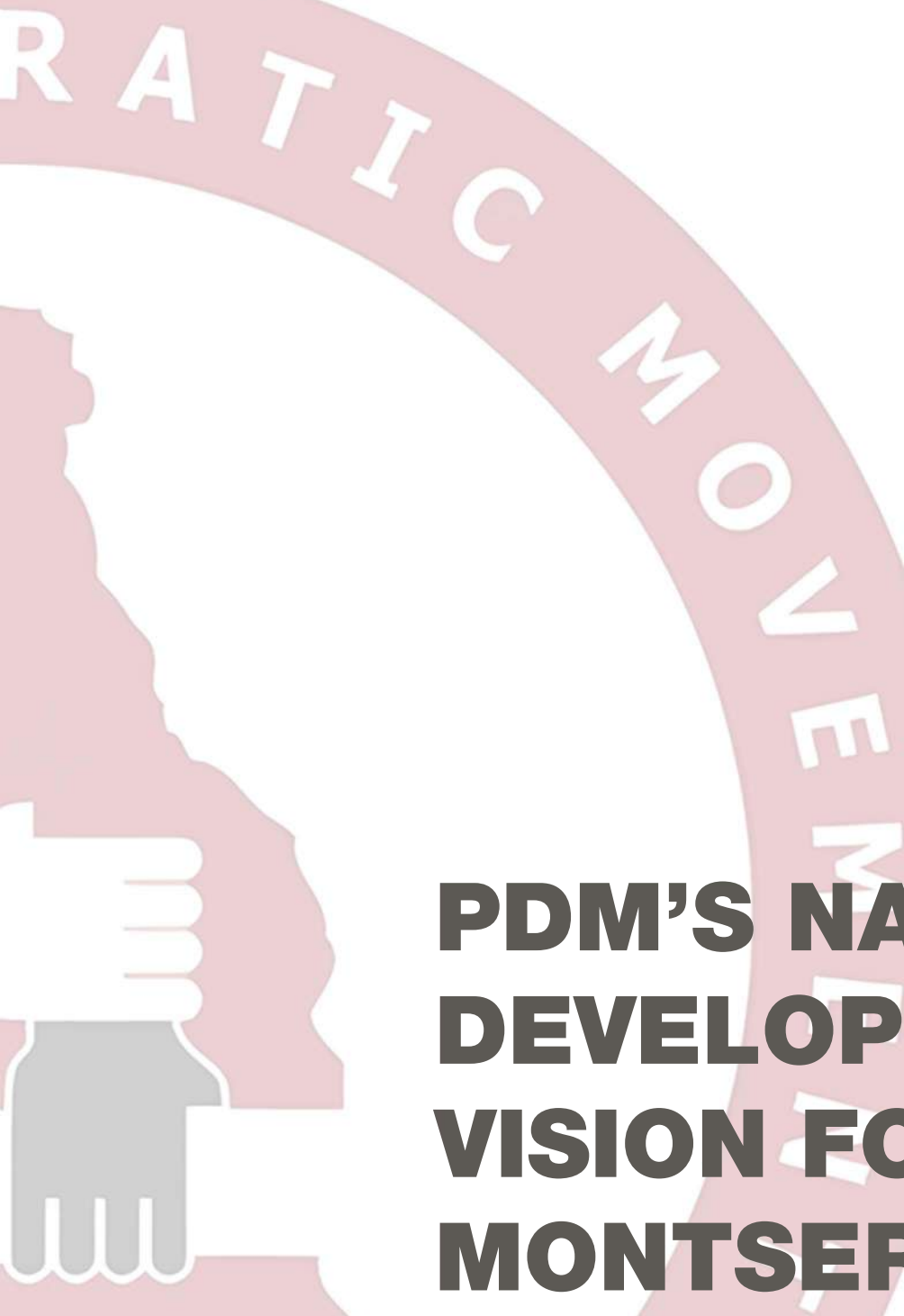
# EUSTACE "BENJI" OSBORNE



Eustace "Benji" Osborne, a dedicated public servant and aspiring politician from Montserrat, is standing as a Candidate for the upcoming elections on October 24, 2024, under the Progressive Democratic Movement (PDM). With a diverse background including service in the Royal Montserrat Police Force, farming, entrepreneurship, and media management, Osborne brings a unique perspective to Montserrat's challenges. Inspired by political figures and driven by concern for issues like the high cost of living and healthcare struggles, he aims to be a voice for ordinary citizens, small business owners, and farmers. Osborne is committed to addressing key issues such as island access, healthcare improvements, and strategic development of the Police Service, promising loyalty to his people and a fresh approach to governance.

# SAMPLE BALLOT

VOTE PDM		
PEOPLE FIRST		
Sample Ballot Paper		
PHOTO	NAME	VOTE
	<b>GLENVILLE DALEY</b> Businessman, Virgin Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>PAUL J. LEWIS</b> Electrician, Virgin Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>ALARIC C.E. LYNCH</b> Entrepreneur, St. Peter's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>NYOTA N.C. MULCARE</b> Civil Servant, Rimzey's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>DAVID MUNDO OSBORNE</b> Parliamentarian, Old Towne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>EUSTACE C. OSBORNE</b> Security Officer, Woodlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>SHIRLEY OSBORNE</b> Writer, St. Peter's	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>DONALDSON R.E. ROMEO</b> Parliamentarian, Old Towne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>JERMAINE J. WADE</b> Politician, Lawyers Mountain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# **PDM'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT VISION FOR MONTSERRAT**

The People's Democratic Movement will build a Montserrat where opportunities are accessible to all - fostering boldness, vision, and a people-first approach. With God at the center of our drive to build a better society, PDM will be about inclusive development, driven by the input of our residents, citizens and friends. Everyone will be empowered to contribute. We will preserve Montserrat's unique appeal, while embracing global advancements that serve our sustainable future. Our vision includes self-reliance, reducing dependency on the UK, promoting sustainability, prosperity, and social cohesion.



EDITORIAL MESSAGE: PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT READY TO LEAD!

As we stand at the threshold of a new era,

## **THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM) RENEWS ITS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF MONTSERRAT.**

Our 2024 campaign centers on the People First Agenda, a bold and progressive vision aimed at making Montserrat a sustainable, thriving, and independent society, particularly as we navigate the post-COVID-19 world. It is now essential that Montserrat adapts and evolves in a rapidly shifting global landscape.

For small island economies like ours, sustainability is no longer a distant goal but a pressing need. Our future depends on our ability to embrace innovation, build resilience, and diversify our economy. The People First Agenda emphasizes investing in key sectors such as renewable energy, digital transformation, agriculture, and tourism, while focusing on the social welfare and well-being of our citizens. This holistic approach will ensure that every Montserratian has access to land, housing, quality healthcare, education, and meaningful employment.

As we forge ahead, we must also rethink how we engage with the British government. Montserrat is a British Overseas Territory, and while this relationship has provided critical support, it is time for a new chapter—one that is rooted in equality, self-determination, and mutual respect. PDM's leadership will advocate at the highest ministerial levels in the UK, ensuring that Montserrat's unique needs and aspirations are heard, respected, and met.

In 2024, PDM is not only asking for your vote; we are asking you to join us in this journey toward a better future. A future where People First is not just a slogan, but a lived reality—where every Montserratian thrives in a prosperous, sustainable, and equitable society.

**Signed: PDM Editorial Team**





**For small island economies like ours, sustainability is no longer a distant goal but a pressing need.**





PDM LEADER PAUL J. LEWIS: LEADING MONTSERRAT INTO A NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY



***PDM LEADER  
PAUL J. LEWIS:***

**LEADING MONTSERRAT INTO  
A NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY**

Hon. Paul J. Lewis, leader of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), is dedicated to advancing social progress and inclusivity, with a vision that integrates Montserrat into the wider global economy. With a background in electrical engineering and telecommunications, Paul's expertise has helped address the island's infrastructure and technology challenges. As the former Minister of Communications and Works, his leadership brought significant advancements like solar energy integration and the installation of a new fibre-optic cable, which now offers Montserrat unprecedented access to global e-commerce and digital services.

In 2024, Paul J. Lewis is leading PDM with a forward-looking agenda focused on Inclusive Sustainable Growth (ISG). His vision emphasizes innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital literacy, giving every Montserratian the tools to reach their full potential. PDM's "People First Agenda for Progress" aims to create a prosperous and equitable society for all citizens.

Key priorities under PDM's leadership include:

<p><b>RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION ACCESS</b></p> <p>Improving air and sea connections to ensure Montserrat remains connected and open for residents, businesses, and tourists.</p>	<p><b>KICKSTARTING ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p> <p>Diversifying the economy with new industries, encouraging local entrepreneurship, and attracting international investment to create sustainable jobs.</p>	<p><b>HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS</b></p> <p>Enhancing healthcare services, focusing on preventative care, mental health, and overall well-being.</p>	<p><b>ENERGY RELIABILITY</b></p> <p>Expanding renewable energy sources like solar and geothermal to reduce reliance on imports and lower electricity costs.</p>
<p><b>CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM</b></p> <p>Modernizing Montserrat's governance framework to increase autonomy, transparency, and accountability.</p>	<p><b>YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b></p> <p>Providing vocational training and startup incentives to foster a new generation of leaders.</p>	<p><b>FOOD SECURITY</b></p> <p>Supporting local agriculture and fisheries to reduce reliance on imports and ensure affordable, nutritious food for all.</p>	<p><b>CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM</b></p> <p>We will engage our UK counterparts towards reviewing and amending our present Constitution Order, specifically addressing the powers of The Governor</p>

PDM's vision for Montserrat's future rests on the island's ability to thrive in the digital economy while also supporting traditional sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. Paul J. Lewis and the PDM are committed to leading Montserrat into a prosperous, fair, and sustainable future.

On October 24th, 2024, PDM invites Montserratians to vote for a future where every citizen prospers in a globally connected, resilient, and innovative Montserrat.

**Signed: Paul J. Lewis**  
**Leader, People's Democratic Movement (PDM)**

# **PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM): SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE HIGH COST OF LIVING FOR EVERYONE**

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) is committed to reducing the high cost of living and creating a more prosperous, equitable society. Our policies and programmes are designed to alleviate financial burdens, increase disposable income, and improve access to essential services for all citizens. Below are the key policies and initiatives we propose to tackle the high cost of living.

## **1. TAX RELIEF AND DISPOSABLE INCOME INITIATIVES**

### **POLICY: IMPLEMENT PROGRESSIVE TAX CUTS ACROSS ALL INCOME LEVELS.**

**Program:** Income Tax Rebate Program (ITRP) – Immediate tax rebates will be provided for middle-income earners, while low-wage workers earning below EC\$24,000 per annum will be exempt from income tax.

**Outcome:** This initiative will increase disposable income, particularly benefiting private sector workers, and provide immediate financial relief to low-income earners.

### **POLICY: INTRODUCE A ZERO-TAX THRESHOLD FOR MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS.**

**Program:** Living Wage Relief (LWR) – Workers earning below the minimum wage threshold will receive full tax exemptions.

**Outcome:** Minimum wage earners will no longer pay taxes, helping them to manage the cost of basic living.

## **2. INCREASE IN THE TAX-FREE THRESHOLD**

### **POLICY: LEGISLATE AN INCREASE IN THE TAX-FREE INCOME THRESHOLD FROM EC\$18,000 TO EC\$24,000, WITH A LONG-TERM GOAL OF EC\$30,000.**

**Program:** Tax-Free Living Support (TFLS) – The tax-free income threshold will automatically be adjusted, allowing workers to save more of their earnings.

**Outcome:** This measure will provide financial relief for lower-income households, ensuring they retain more of their income to meet essential living needs.

## **3. OVERTIME TAX REDUCTION**

### **POLICY: REDUCE THE TAX RATE ON OVERTIME FROM 30%.**

**Program:** Fair Work Compensation Program (FWCP) – Tax rates on overtime pay will be reduced across all sectors.

**Outcome:** Workers will be able to keep more of their overtime earnings, encouraging extra work and boosting overall income.



## 4. BUSINESS SUPPORT INITIATIVES

### **POLICY: DEVELOP A CENTRAL BUSINESS AND LEISURE HUB FOR MONTSERRAT.**

**Program:** Montserrat Urban Development Project (MUDP) – A planned town center with shops, entertainment, and accessible transportation will be created, stimulating local commerce.

**Outcome:** This development will simplify access to services, reduce transport costs, and invigorate local business activities.

### **POLICY: PROVIDE DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH GRANTS AND LOW-INTEREST LOANS.**

**Program:** Revisit the \$14 million business challenge fund, offering grants, government credit guarantees, and low-interest loans to small businesses.

**Outcome:** This initiative will empower small businesses to grow, thereby contributing to the local economy.

## 5. REDUCTION OF WHITE GOODS, ELECTRONICS, AND CAR PARTS DUTIES

### **POLICY: CUT IMPORT DUTIES ON ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS, AND CAR PARTS.**

**Program:** Household Relief Initiative (HRI) – Reduce import duties on white goods, household electronics, and critical car parts, including making essential car parts duty-free.

**Outcome:** This policy will lower the cost-of-living essentials and provide financial relief to citizens, especially drivers facing hardship due to poor road conditions.

## 6. EXPANSION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAM

### **POLICY: EXTEND SOCIAL WELFARE SUPPORT TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.**

**Program:** Low-Income Family Assistance Program (LIFAP) – Direct subsidies will be provided for child-care, school uniforms, and meal vouchers. Essential goods will be tax-exempt, and duties on baby items and school supplies will be reduced.

**Outcome:** This initiative will ease the financial burden of essential living costs, especially for working parents.

## 7. COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES (COLA)

### **POLICY: INTRODUCE AN ISLAND-WIDE COLA FOR BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES.**

**Program:** Cost of Living Relief Scheme (CLRS) – Annual COLA adjustments based on inflation will be implemented.

**Outcome:** This will protect worker incomes from inflation, ensuring wages keep up with the rising cost of living.



## 8. HONORING CITIZENS AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

### POLICY: REFORM PENSIONS FOR RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS AND INTRODUCE A MINIMUM PENSION.

**Program:** Pension Continuation Scheme (PCS) – Retired civil servants who return to work on contract will continue receiving pensions. The minimum pension will be raised to EC\$2,485, with periodic adjustments based on inflation.

**Outcome:** These measures will ensure retired citizens can live with dignity and financial security.

## 9. EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

### POLICY: PROVIDE BACK-TO-SCHOOL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

**Program:** Education Support Fund (ESF) – School uniforms, supplies, and grants will be distributed to children from low-income households. Free education, including textbooks, will be extended to sixth form and technical college students, with stipends for technical students.

**Outcome:** This program will make education accessible to all, easing the financial burden on families.

## 10. AGRICULTURAL AND IMPORT DUTY RELIEF PROGRAMS

### POLICY: PROVIDE SUBSIDIES FOR FARMERS AND ELIMINATE DUTIES ON ESSENTIAL TOOLS.

**Program:** Agriculture Growth and Support Program (AGSP) – Subsidies will be provided for animal feed, and duties on essential farming tools and technology will be removed.

**Outcome:** Strengthening local agriculture will reduce the cost of food production and lower consumer prices, benefiting both producers and consumers.

## 11. NON-NATIONAL SUPPORT AND INCLUSIVITY

### POLICY: REMOVE WORK PERMIT AND TIME EXTENSION REQUIREMENTS

**Program:** Non-nationals and UK citizens who have resided in Montserrat for 3 years or more will be granted the same healthcare cost privileges as citizens. Residents with over 7 years will be granted belonger status, including access to social welfare and healthcare benefits

**Outcome:** These initiatives will promote inclusivity and long-term commitment from non-nationals, fostering a more diverse and integrated community.



## 12. CUSTOMS AND DUTY CONCESSIONS

### POLICY: CONTINUE CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTIONS AND CONCESSIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY VEHICLES.

**Program:** The Christmas Barrel Customs Waiver will be extended to March 31, along with concessions for hybrid and electric vehicles for three more years, subject to review.

**Outcome:** These measures will encourage environmentally friendly transportation options and provide relief to citizens importing goods for personal use.

## 13. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PRICE MONITORING

### POLICY: ENSURE SAVINGS FROM DUTY REDUCTIONS ARE PASSED ON TO CONSUMERS.

**Program:** The Prices and Consumer Affairs Department will work closely with retailers to ensure that savings from customs duty reductions are reflected in lower prices for shoppers.

**Outcome:** This will ensure fairness in pricing, benefiting consumers directly.

## 14. REMOVAL OF DUTIES ON CONSTRUCTION TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

### POLICY: TO REDUCE THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOMEBUILDING BY REMOVING CUSTOMS DUTIES ON ESSENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.

**Program:** Identify specific construction tools and equipment eligible for duty removal. Partner with customs to implement duty exemptions at ports. Promote the initiative to local contractors and homeowners.

**Outcome:** This will directly lower costs for contractors, builders, and homeowners, making construction projects more affordable.

## 15. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW LAND SUBDIVISIONS

### POLICY: TO PROMOTE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND INCREASE ACCESS TO LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Program:**

**Infrastructure Support:** The government will invest in roads, drainage, and utilities to unlock new subdivisions for residential construction.

**Housing Grant Expansion:** Increase the current housing grant from \$40,000 to \$80,000, providing more financial support to home buyers.

**Outcome:** Greater access to affordable land for building homes. Lower land and housing costs with saving being passed on. Enhanced opportunities for homeownership and improved community development.

# PDM'S REVENUE RAISING MEASURES OUTSIDE OF UK DEPENDENCE!!!

## 1. Ecotourism Development

**Description:** Montserrat can develop its ecotourism industry by promoting hiking, bird watching, and volcano tours, focusing on the island's natural beauty and unique environment.

**Earning Potential:** If Montserrat attracts 9,000 ecotourists annually, with each spending an average of \$900, the total revenue could reach \$8.1 million.

**Government Earnings:** Through partnerships and eco-permits, the government could earn approximately 10-15% of this revenue, translating to \$810,000 - \$1.2 million per year.

## 2. Cultural and Heritage Tourism

**Description:** Montserrat has a rich history, including Irish heritage and the legacy of the volcanic eruption. Creating museums, cultural festivals, and heritage tours can attract niche tourists.

**Earning Potential:** With targeted marketing, attracting 4,500 tourists annually, each spending \$1,080, could generate \$4.86 million in revenue.

**Government Earnings:** Entry fees and public-private partnerships could yield \$486,000 - \$700,000 annually.

## 3. Marine Tourism and Water Sports

- **Description:** Montserrat can capitalize on its marine environment by developing water sports, diving, and fishing tourism.

**Earning Potential:** By attracting 3,600 marine tourists annually, spending \$1,350 each, this could generate \$4.86 million.

**Government Earnings:** Licensing fees, equipment rentals, and partnerships could provide \$486,000 - \$810,000 annually.

## 4. Agritourism and Organic Farming

- **Description:** Developing agritourism experiences, such as farm stays, tours, and organic produce markets, can appeal to health-conscious travelers.

**Earning Potential:** Attracting 1,800 agritourists per year, each spending \$900, could generate \$1.62 million.

**Government Earnings:** Earnings from market fees and agritourism licenses could reach \$162,000 - \$270,000 annually.

## 5. Film and Media Production

- **Description:** Montserrat's unique landscapes can be marketed as film locations, particularly for documentaries, nature films, and adventure movies.

**Earning Potential:** Hosting 4-5 film productions annually, each with a budget of \$450,000, could generate \$2.025 million in economic activity.

**Government Earnings:** Location fees and taxes on services could yield \$225,000 - \$360,000 annually.

## 6. Luxury Real Estate Development

- **Description:** Encouraging the development of luxury villas and vacation homes can attract high-net-worth individuals to invest in Montserrat.

**Earning Potential:** Selling 18 luxury properties annually at an average price of \$900,000 could generate \$16.2 million in real estate transactions.

**Government Earnings:** Through property taxes, transfer fees, and development permits, the government could earn \$1.8 - \$2.7 million annually.

## 7. Medical and Wellness Tourism

**Description:** Montserrat can develop specialized wellness retreats and medical tourism offerings, such as holistic health centers and rehabilitation services.



Earning Potential: Attracting 900 wellness tourists annually, each spending \$2,700, could generate \$2.43 million.

Government Earnings: Licensing fees and service taxes could yield \$243,000 - \$405,000 annually.

## 8. Education and Research Partnerships

- **Description:** Montserrat can position itself as a research hub for environmental, volcanic, and marine studies, attracting international universities and institutions.

**Earning Potential:** Hosting 9-10 research projects annually, each contributing \$450,000 to the local economy, could generate \$4.05 million.

**Government Earnings:** Research permits and facility rentals could provide \$450,000 - \$720,000 annually.

## 9. Sand Mining and Construction

**Description:** Montserrat can capitalize on its volcanic sand resources, which are in demand for construction projects both locally and in nearby islands.

Developing a sustainable sand mining and export industry could provide significant revenue.

**Earning Potential:** For the fiscal year 2023/24 the total unaudited revenue related to the current rate, government received from exported sand and aggregate was \$625,425 and unaudited revenue port received from sand and aggregate mining for 2023/24 - \$213,050. Making \$840,000 @ \$2 per tonne - \$1.5 for government \$0.5 for port

**Government Earnings:** If production is doubled mining in Fort Ghaut, then government revenue doubles. Plus, government will receive a portion of the payment made to land owners.

## 10. Agro-Processing for Export

**Description:** Montserrat can develop its agricultural sector by investing in agro-processing facilities to add value to local produce and export finished products such as sauces, jams, and dried fruits.

**Earning Potential:** We should target processed goods export at around \$5million annually.

- **Government Earnings:** Export fees, taxes, and licenses could yield \$360,000 - \$540,000 annually.

## 11. Light Manufacturing of Leather Goods

- **Description:** Montserrat can explore light manufacturing of leather goods, leveraging local craftsmanship and exporting to regional and international markets.

**Earning Potential:** Generating \$2.7 million annually from leather goods production and export.

**Government Earnings:** Through export duties, taxes, and business licenses, the government could earn \$270,000 - \$400,000 annually.

## 12. Development of Financial Services Sector

- **Description:** Montserrat can develop its financial services sector, attracting offshore banking, insurance, and other financial services firms by offering competitive regulations and incentives.

**Earning Potential by comparison:** The financial services sector in the BVI earned the government US\$2028.63 million in 2023. Montserrat will aim to bring our financial services sector contribution to 10% of that number at US\$20 million annually.

### **How will this be achieved:**

- a. Working closely with all regulatory bodies (FSC, MinFin) to ensure compliance measures are to international standards  
Empower our Invest Montserrat to create digital assets to market Montserrat into the key FinTech markets - Asia, Dubai, UK, India, N. America;  
Make plans for Montserrat to host first-Ever FinTech Conference;  
Promote Montserrat's safety and the security of proper UK oversight to mitigate against fraud and boost investor's confidence

### **OVERALL EARNING POTENTIAL FOR MONTSERRAT**

If PDM implements these strategies effectively, the combined potential earnings for GoM could be approximately US\$67, 385,000 annually / EC\$24, 957, 407 (using top end estimate figures annually). This diversified approach would significantly reduce the Strat's reliance on tax collection and UK aid whilst promoting sustainable economic growth for our island.



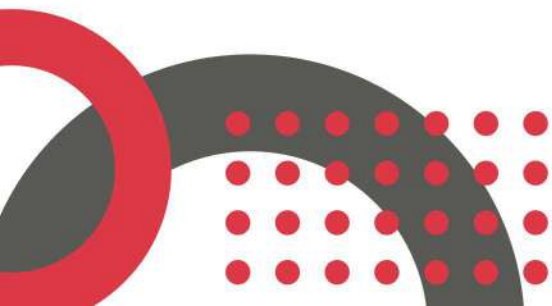
### **PDM ECONOMIC POLICY INITIATIVE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE FOR MONTSERRAT**

## **PDM ECONOMIC POLICY INITIATIVE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE FOR MONTSERRAT**

The People's Democratic Movement proposes the establishment of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Montserrat to stimulate economic growth, create high-paying jobs, and attract both businesses and returning citizens. This initiative aims to transform Montserrat's economy and boost population growth.

### **Key Components of the Montserrat SEZ Policy:**

- **Legislation:** Introduce the "Montserrat Special Economic Zone Act" to provide the legal framework for the SEZ's operation, including tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and investment protections.
- **Tax Incentives:** Offer reduced corporate tax rates, import/export duty exemptions, and tax holidays for qualifying businesses within the SEZ.
- **Streamlined Regulations:** Implement a "one-stop-shop" for business registration, licensing, and permit approvals to reduce bureaucratic hurdles.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Invest in modern infrastructure within the SEZ, including high-speed internet, reliable energy, and efficient transportation links.
- **Skills Development Programs:** Establish partnerships with educational institutions to provide targeted training programs aligned with the needs of businesses in the SEZ.



## Benefits and Outcomes:

- **Job Creation:** Attract diverse businesses offering higher-paying jobs in sectors such as technology, finance, and sustainable tourism.
- **Economic Diversification:** Reduce dependence on traditional sectors by fostering growth in new industries.
- **Population Growth:** Encourage the return of Montserratians and attract skilled professionals, contributing to sustainable population growth.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Facilitate the exchange of skills and expertise between international companies and local workforce.
- **Increased Government Revenue:** While offering tax incentives, the overall economic growth will lead to higher government revenues in the long term.
- **Trade:** Increased trade opportunities towards further job creation and revenue generation for Montserrat.

## Implementation Strategy:

1. Draft and pass the Montserrat Special Economic Zone Act.
2. Establish a dedicated SEZ Authority to oversee the zone's development and operation.
3. Develop necessary infrastructure and facilities within the designated SEZ and launch a global marketing campaign to attract businesses and investors.
5. Implement skills development programs in partnership with local and international educational institutions.
6. Continuously monitor and evaluate the SEZ's performance, making adjustments as necessary to ensure its success.

This economic policy initiative aims to create a thriving ecosystem that benefits both businesses and citizens, positioning Montserrat as an attractive destination for investment and high-skilled labour in the Caribbean region.

## **YACHT MARINA DEVELOPMENT AND "RACE TO REDONDA"**

### **Yacht Marina Development: A Key Economic and Tourism Driver**

PDM recognizes the immense untapped potential of Montserrat's maritime sector as a driving force for economic growth and tourism.

Yachting is a lucrative global industry, and Montserrat, with its proximity to regional sailing hubs like Antigua, has the potential to attract yachtsmen and high-net-worth individuals. However, Montserrat lacks the necessary yacht marina infrastructure, which is a critical barrier to unlocking this sector's economic benefits.





## **YACHT MARINA DEVELOPMENT AND "RACE TO REDONDA"**

### ***PDM HAS ALREADY PITCHED A YACHT DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS,***

and there is interest in developing the infrastructure required to make Montserrat a yachting destination. The time to act is now.



### **Economic Potential of the Yachting Sector**

Antigua, known for its annual Antigua Sailing Week, is one of the leading yachting destinations in the Caribbean, pulling in an estimated US \$100 million annually from its yachting sector. Even capturing just 10% of Antigua's revenue would inject US \$10 million into Montserrat's economy. This is not just about the marina itself - it would fuel growth across multiple sectors.

### **"Race to Redonda": A New Regional Sailing Event**

Leveraging the success and popularity of Antigua Sailing Week, Montserrat can create its own signature event - Race to Redonda. Redonda, The Rock between Montserrat and Antigua, could serve as a focal point for a prestigious annual sailing race, attracting yachts from around the world. This race would position Montserrat as an exciting new destination on the international yachting calendar, bringing increased tourism, global media attention, and economic activity.

### **Economic Benefits for Montserrat**

**Tourism and Real Estate Boom:** The establishment of a yacht marina will lead to increased tourism, with yacht owners and tourists requiring accommodation, food, entertainment, and services. This influx of visitors will drive demand for real estate development, hotel services, and luxury accommodation.

**Job Creation and Spin-off Industries:** The marina will spur the growth of spin-off industries such as:

- Marina maintenance and services.
- Real estate and construction for luxury properties.
- Restaurants, retail, and hospitality services catering to high-net-worth visitors.
- Marine engineering, chandlery, and repair services.
- Tourism excursions and high-end recreation.

### **PDM'S COMMITMENT TO YACHT DEVELOPMENT**

The PDM is committed to turning Montserrat into a sought-after yachting destination, capitalizing on the economic benefits of this lucrative sector. We will work to:

- Attract investment for a state-of-the-art yacht marina in the Piper's Pond area.
- Build our idea of The "Race to Redonda" to become an internationally recognized sailing event.
- Ensure that Montserrat's maritime sector receives the necessary investments and public-private partnerships to thrive.



By investing in this sector, Montserrat can create jobs, attract global tourism, boost real estate development, and generate sustainable economic growth.

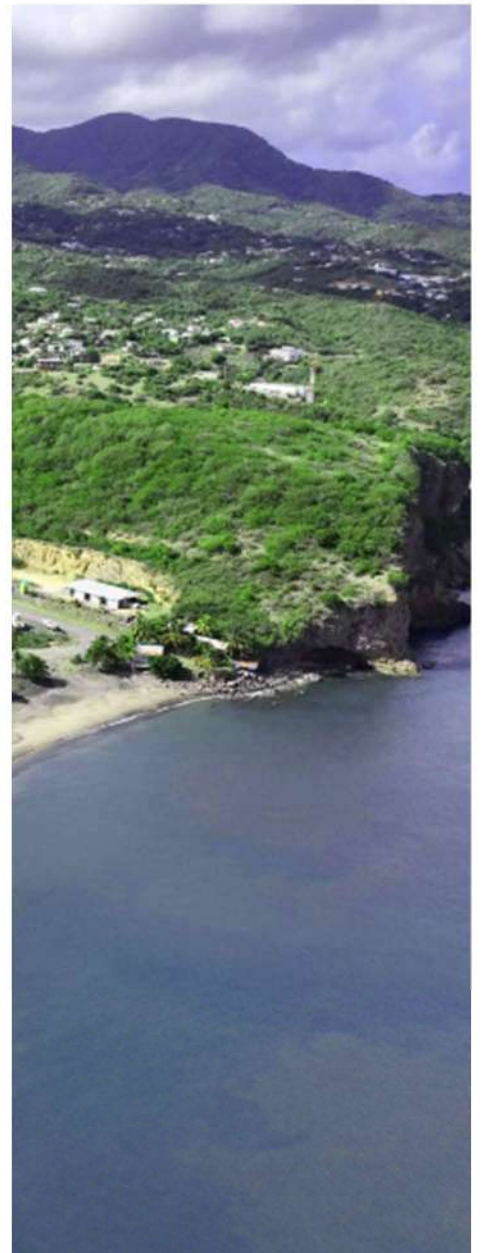
**Join PDM in creating a prosperous future for Montserrat, anchored by the success of our yachting industry.**

## **MONTSERRAT TOWN AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: DEVELOPING A CENTRAL BUSINESS AND LEISURE HUB FOR MONTSERRAT**

**Policy:** The PDM will prioritize the creation of a modern, vibrant central business and leisure hub in Montserrat to drive local commerce and improve accessibility for residents.

**Program:** Montserrat Urban Development Project - A strategically planned town center will feature shops, entertainment venues, conference facilities and accessible transportation, boosting the local economy and public services.

**Outcome:** This initiative will simplify access to essential services, reduce transportation costs, and stimulate local business activities, creating a more connected and thriving Montserrat.





### INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

#### 1. Renewable Energy and Energy Security

- **Policy: Accelerate Renewable Energy Production**

**Programme:** Invest in renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, and solar to secure Montserrat's energy future, making the island resilient against global disruptions like pandemics or wars.

**Outcome:** Ensuring energy security and reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels.

- **Policy: Establish a Viable, Affordable, and Reliable Renewable Energy Base**

**Programme:** Develop renewable energy infrastructure, lowering electricity costs, supporting electric vehicles, and making Montserrat more attractive for investment.

**Outcome:** Reduced electricity prices and improved quality of life.

- **Policy: Expand Solar and Wind Energy**

**Programme:** Use public-private-people partnerships to expand solar fields, explore additional wind power, and develop geothermal energy to tap into 4 MW of generation capacity.

**Outcome:** Lower electricity costs and establish Montserrat as a leader in renewable energy.

- **Policy: Home Solar Power Programme**

**Programme:** Empower homeowners to install solar panels and smart meters, supported by tax incentives.

**Outcome:** Enable energy independence and reduce household electricity bills.

- **Policy: Maximise Renewable Energy Savings**

**Programme:** Pass on energy savings from renewable sources directly to citizens, lowering electric bills and operational costs for businesses.

**Outcome:** Significant financial relief for households and businesses.





## INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

### 2. Infrastructure Development and Modernisation

- **Policy: Invest in National Infrastructure**

**Programme:** Implement a capital investment program to reconstruct, maintain, and develop key national infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, airports, water, internet, and road networks.

**Outcome:** Strengthened and modernised infrastructure for future generations.

- **Policy: Island-Wide Road Repair Project**

**Programme:** Launch an ambitious road repair project, with a commitment to complete most works within one year, and place electricity lines underground for disaster resilience.

**Outcome:** Improved road safety and infrastructure resilience to natural disasters.

- **Policy: Development of Little Bay and Cruise Port**

**Programme:** Transform Little Bay into a state-of-the-art city, and develop a modern cruise port through public-private-people partnerships, kick-starting a thriving tourism industry.

**Outcome:** New economic growth through tourism and investment.

- **Policy: Upgrade Water and Electricity Systems**

**Programme:** Rapidly upgrade the Montserrat Utilities Limited (MUL) systems to address water delivery, sewage issues, and reduce electricity disruptions.

**Outcome:** Improved public utilities and services for all residents.

### 3. Smart Energy and Future Industries

- **Policy: Develop a Smart Grid and Synthetic Fuels**

**Programme:** Create a "Smart Grid" to integrate all renewable energy sources, including home solar power, and explore the production of synthetic fuels from surplus renewable energy.

**Outcome:** A modern, resilient energy system capable of supporting future industries and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

- **Policy: Energy for New Growth Sectors**

**Programme:** Conduct studies to determine the best mix of renewable energy, accounting for future growth in energy-intensive industries like manufacturing, cryptocurrency mining, and expanded mining sectors.

**Outcome:** A sustainable energy system designed to power Montserrat's future economy.

### 4. Position Montserrat as a Low-Carbon Investment Destination

- **Policy: Promote Montserrat as a Sustainable, Low-Carbon Investment Hub**

**Programme:** Leverage the island's renewable energy production and other natural advantages to attract sustainability-conscious investors.

**Outcome:** Increased foreign investment in a green economy, enhancing Montserrat's international profile.



# **PDM PLAN TO REINTRODUCE FINANCIAL SERVICES AS A REVENUE GENERATOR**

**Policy:** PDM is committed to re-establishing Montserrat as a financial services hub, creating a dynamic environment for international financial firms to operate, driving economic growth, and diversifying the revenue base.

**Program:** Montserrat Financial Services Revitalization Program is focused on developing infrastructure, offering tax incentives, and establishing strong regulatory frameworks to attract international banks, insurance companies, and investment firms. We have already begun having the key conversations to begin this process.

## **Outcome:**

- **Job Creation:** Careers in banking, accounting, legal services, compliance, IT, and administration.

**Population Growth:** New opportunities will attract skilled professionals and stimulate economic migration, increasing the population and boosting local commerce.



## **TOURISM AS AN ECONOMIC PILLAR FOR MONTSERRAT**

# **TOURISM AS AN ECONOMIC PILLAR FOR MONTSERRAT**

### **Key Focus**

Establish connection between Tourism, Access, Culture and Marketing of Montserrat. What is PRODUCT MONTSERRAT?

Montserrat's tourism enhancement is reliant upon safe, affordable, and modern access for both Air and Sea

### **1. Collaboration in Marketing Montserrat's Cultural Product**

#### **Policy Program:**

**Cultural Exposure Initiative** – Increase FAM trips and hosted visits for travel trade representatives to promote Montserrat's cultural products to a wider audience.

**Outcome:** Boost Montserrat's visibility in international markets, enhancing tourism opportunities.





## TOURISM AS AN ECONOMIC PILLAR FOR MONTSERRAT

### 2. Promotion of Montserrat's Unique Cultural Products

#### **Policy Program:**

**Cultural Cuisine Promotion** – Focus on dishes like Goat Water, Duckna, and Saltfish through festivals and tasting events.

**Music and Arts Promotion** – Partner with Montserrat Arts Council (MAC) to market local musical talent, producing high-quality work for the international market.

**Music Festivals** – Promote Montserrat artists by participating in regional music festivals, gaining wider exposure.

**Outcome:** Position Montserrat as a hub of unique cultural experiences and talent in the Caribbean.

### 3. Hosting and Expanding Cultural Festivals

#### **Policy Program:**

**Annual Regional Masquerade Festival** – Invite cultural groups from the Bahamas, St. Kitts, Dominica, and other islands for a major Montserrat event.

**St. Patrick's Festivities Expansion** – Promote St. Patrick's week beyond the diaspora and reintroduce an African Music Festival. Develop a roots history event to attract conscious travelers from the U.S. and Caribbean.

**Outcome:** Establish Montserrat as a premier destination for cultural events, Bottom of Form

### 4. New Modern Airport

**Policy Program:** Commence a research study on site options for a new airport with a 5,000-foot runway suitable for the Dash 8, and 737 or similar Jets that can provide direct air access to the US market.

**Outcome:** A new airport will provide more connection options to open up Montserrat to the world, which is critical for our onward tourism development.



## 5. Plymouth Buried City and National Park

### **Policy Program:**

- Establish the Plymouth National Park and develop the Buried City into a world-class attraction similar to Pompeii in Italy.
- Leverage public-private-people partnerships to "turn ash to cash."
- Reclaim buried roads and prepare the site under MVO guidelines. Incentivize investment to re-establish the Richmond Hotel as a 5-star hotel and spa in the volcanic zone.
- Support and incentivize new businesses that convert "ash into cash" such as manufacturers of high-end ash-based skin-care spa products.

**Outcome:** Create a unique tourist attraction that tells Montserrat's story of triumph over adversity, while providing immediate employment and long-term economic opportunities.

## 6. Jump-Starting Cruise Tourism

### **Policy Program:**

- Develop a Cruise Sector Development Plan.
- Leverage public-private-people partnerships to develop major cruise tourism projects.
- Develop a multi-functional state-of-the-art cruise port on 15-20 acres of land in the safe zone. Mobilize support from the UK and international partners for development aid and technical assistance.
- Aggressively negotiate with cruise lines to include Montserrat in their itineraries.

**Outcome:** Establish a new state-of-the-art cruise port, attracting thousands of visitors annually, bringing tens of millions in new revenue, and providing significant economic spin-offs for local businesses and service providers.

# **PDM'S RANGE OF INCENTIVES AND POLICIES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND OUR PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS**

## **Key proposals from PDM**

### **1. Salary Adjustments**

- **Annual Salary Increase:** Establish a Collective Bargain Agreement with the Union on annual salary increases to ensure that salaries stay current as per the job market.  
**Cost of living allowance (COLA):** Conduct a thorough assessment to implement across the board a COLA to offset the impact of inflation and rising living costs. Greater spending power.
- **Pay Grade Revisions:** Review the last pay review and implement the relevant recommendations to ensure that civil servants are fairly compensated for their skills, experience, and years of service, closing any gaps in salary discrepancies.

### **2. Housing Assistance and Homeownership Support**

**Housing Grants and Subsidies:** Continue further housing assistance programs, including grants and subsidies to purchase or build first homes. Waive property taxes for a specified period of up to 3 years, as a special assistance for first-time homeowners or first-time land purchasers.

**Government-backed Home Loans:** Partner with Bank of Montserrat to offer low-interest or government-guaranteed home loans, enabling home ownership with reduced financial strain.

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**Affordable Housing Projects:** Prioritize affordable housing construction projects with access to new government-constructed or subsidized housing units.

**Rent-to-Own Schemes:** Implement rent-to-own housing schemes that allow civil servants and other residents to gradually transition from renting to owning homes, making home ownership more accessible.

**Tax deductions on building materials:** Reduced the duty on building materials and home supplies to allow civil servants the affordability to build or repair their homes.

## 3. Pension & Retirement Benefits

- Restore payment of pensions for employed retirees, where pension is already earned. Retirees who are retained for training or where there is a skills gap will receive their pensions along with the salary of the post.

## 4. Professional Development and Career Growth

**Access to Professional Development & Scholarships:** Create wider scholarship access that allows civil servants to pursue further education, professional certifications, and skills training. This will help them advance their careers and increase their earning potential.

**Rectify Unestablished Workers Issue:** There are some inconsistencies, where some persons are still unestablished for over two (2) years while some persons are appointed instantly. This will be corrected.

**Exchange Development Programme:** Develop an exchange programme where civil servants can travel to various Caribbean islands or even the UK for development exchange.

- **Performance-based Promotions:** Encourage a more transparent, merit-based promotion system where civil servants can progress based on performance, qualifications, and initiative.

## 5. Tax Incentives and Financial Relief

**Income Tax adjustments:**

- Increasing personal allowance from \$18000 to \$24000
- Increasing the mortgage interest claim from \$8000 to \$12000
- Reduce 30% tax that is being charged on overtime and additional income

## 6. Recognition and Awards

**Public Service Awards:** Enhance the public service awards program to celebrate and acknowledge civil servants' contributions. For example, on an annual basis for those who have completed 10yrs, 15yrs, 20yrs 25yrs - through certificates, awards or public recognition events.

## 7. Transparency and Communication

**Civil Service Consultative Committee:** Form a consultative committee that meets regularly with Montserrat Civil Service Association and civil servants in various groups to gather feedback, address grievances, and involve them in decisions that affect their welfare and working conditions.



# ADDRESSING ACCESS FOR MONTSERRAT



## KEY QUESTION: WHY IS ACCESS CRITICAL TO MONTSERRAT?

Access is vital for Montserrat as it provides a lifeline to the outside world, encompassing:

1. Regular Ferry services
2. Cargo services
3. Tourism development
4. Affordable Airlift services

## PDM'S SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS MONTSERRAT'S ACCESS WOES

### IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS

- Request British Government to remove RESA restriction at John A. Osborne Airport
- Restore Twin Otter service to economically viable levels
- Seek funding for hangar facilities at the airport
- Establish refueling and basic maintenance facilities
- Review ticket pricing policies and airline subsidies
- Make a case for returning ring-fenced funding for ferry operations
- Upgrade airport terminal facilities
- Establish international code-sharing booking facilities
- Develop night flight capabilities

### MEDIUM TO LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

- Contract reliable ferry operators
- Integrate tourism, access, and marketing efforts
- Promote Montserrat as a tourist destination
- Address light cargo services between Montserrat
- Develop locally owned cargo vessels
- Upgrade terminal facilities
- Invest in ferry terminal upgrades
- Explore options for bigger and better airport facilities
- Consider new runway extension for bigger aircraft

**THIS COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH AIMS TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE MONTSERRAT'S ACCESSIBILITY, BOOST TOURISM, AND ENHANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BETTER AIR AND SEA CONNECTIONS.**



# HEALTHCARE POLICY INITIATIVES

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) is committed to improving healthcare services and infrastructure on Montserrat. Our comprehensive healthcare policy focuses on strengthening existing facilities, enhancing preventive care, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all residents.

## KEY POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

### 1. Strengthening Health Infrastructure

- **New Glendon Hospital:** Continue to support and enhance the development of the New Glendon Hospital in St John's, ensuring it is finished to be a state-of-the-art facility for our island.  
**Upgrading Other Health Care Facilities:** Invest in modernizing other existing healthcare facilities, including community health centers, with up-to-date equipment and technology.  
**Emergency Services:** Review and enhance our emergency medical response services with well-equipped ambulances and continuously trained first-responders.

### 2. Healthcare Workforce Development

- **Training and Education:** Provide ongoing training and professional development opportunities for Montserrat's healthcare workers.  
**Recruitment and Retention:** Create incentives to attract and retain skilled healthcare professionals, including competitive salaries for nurses, housing assistance, and career advancement opportunities.

### 3. Preventive Care and Public Health

- **Screening Programs:** Implement regular health screening programs for early detection of conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and cancers.  
**Public Health Campaigns:** Continue to support awareness campaigns on ZJB Radio and social media platforms on topics such as nutrition, exercise, mental health, and chronic disease prevention.  
**Fitness and Wellness Centers:** Establish community fitness centers and wellness programs to encourage healthy lifestyles.  
**Workplace Wellness:** Collaborate with local businesses to implement wellness programs that promote healthy behaviours among employees.  
**Nutritional Education:** Provide educational programs and marketing material on healthy eating habits and nutrition.



#### 4. Mental Health Initiatives

**Mental Health Awareness and Education:** Conduct public education campaigns to reduce stigma and promote mental wellness.

#### 5. Healthcare Technology and Information Systems

- **Health Information Systems:** Continue to develop integrated health information systems to improve patient records management, data collection, and analysis.
- **Tele-medicine:** PDM will work with medical professionals towards introducing tele-medicine into Montserrat's healthcare system, affording residents the opportunity to be seen to by health professionals via an easy digital connection.

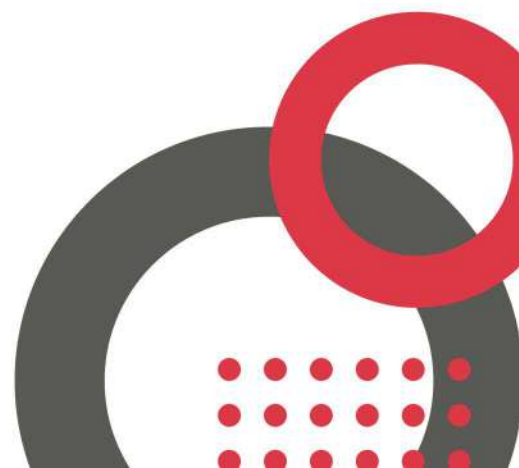
#### 6. Disease Control and Environmental Health

- **Vector Control Programs:** Enhance existing programs to control disease-carrying vectors, such as mosquitoes, to reduce the incidence of diseases like dengue and malaria.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Develop strategies to address the health impacts of climate change, including heatwaves, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels.

#### 7. Regional Cooperation

**Regional Cooperation in Healthcare Provision:** Continue to work closely with neighboring islands such as Antigua and Guadeloupe to share resources and expertise in MediVac services.

**The People's Democratic Movement is dedicated to creating a healthier Montserrat. By implementing these policies and programs, we aim to improve the overall health and well-being of our residents, ensuring a prosperous future for our island nation.**





# PDM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION: INVESTING IN MONTSERRAT'S FUTURE LEADERS

## 1. Vocational Training Expansion

*Goal: Expand vocational training to meet local and emerging industry needs.*

Policy Initiatives:

- Align training programs with local industry demands.
- Partner with businesses to ensure training is relevant and provides job opportunities.  
Include apprenticeships and practical experience in vocational programs.

## 2. Scholarships and Internships

*Goal: Modernize scholarship programs for key industries and drive economic growth.*

Policy Initiatives:

- Focus scholarships on high-demand fields like FinTech, AI, and Blockchain.
- Increase government scholarships through partnerships with Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad, and the UK.
- Negotiate additional sports scholarships and establish internships with international institutions.
- Develop a long-term education strategy to align with a 10-20 year economic growth plan.

## 3. Continuing Education

*Goal: Promote lifelong learning through digital technologies.*

Policy Initiatives:

- Provide accessible online platforms for professional development.  
Encourage digital literacy and skills upgrades, especially for adults.
- Foster a culture of lifelong learning across all age groups.

## 4. AI & Tech Training

*Goal: Equip youth for the AI and tech-driven economy.*

Policy Initiatives:

- Collaborate with global institutions to offer AI and tech training.
- Introduce coding, graphic design, and CAD programs at MSS.
- Make IT education mandatory in primary schools to build a tech-savvy generation.





## 5. Reducing Brain Drain

*Goal: Retain talent by incentivizing specialized education abroad with a focus on returning to Montserrat.*

### Policy Initiatives:

- Offer incentives for students to return and apply their skills locally.
- Connect returning professionals with local industries and opportunities.
- Support National Youth Awards, including Young Innovator and Young Entrepreneur Awards.
- Establish Youth Entrepreneurship Incubators in key sectors like agriculture and tourism.
- Launch a Youth Parliament to give young people a voice in national planning.

## 6. E-Learning

*Goal: Lower education costs through e-learning technologies.*

### Policy Initiatives:

- Incorporate e-learning tools to reduce the need for physical textbooks.
- Ensure e-learning platforms are accessible for students and teachers.
- Promote digital literacy as a core part of the curriculum.

## 7. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

*Goal: Integrate sustainability into the education system.*

### Policy Initiatives:

- Include environmental education in the curriculum.
- Raise awareness of global challenges like climate change.
- Promote community-based learning on sustainable development.

## 8. Teacher Training & Professional Development

*Goal: Improve teaching quality through continuous training.*

### Policy Initiatives:

- Provide ongoing professional development for teachers.
- Implement teacher certification and accreditation processes.
- Improve teacher compensation to attract and retain talent.

## Lifestyle & Ownership

*Goal: Support youth with special benefits for lifestyle development and homeownership.*

### Policy Initiatives:

- Offer first-car concessions and property tax waivers for first-time homeowners.
- Provide mortgage reduction grants for first-time homebuyers.
- Enhance entertainment and leisure activities for local youth and visitors.
- Allocate funds to support digital entrepreneurs and small businesses.

## Sports Development

*Goal: Advance sports development through increased support and facilities.*

### Policy Initiatives:

- Strengthen partnerships with sporting bodies to accelerate youth sports development.
- Increase support for youth participation at local and international levels.
- Upgrade and maintain sports facilities and establish new ones in underserved areas.
- Recognize and support Sports and Cultural Ambassadors, including retired icons.
- Use tax incentives to encourage businesses to support sports clubs.
- Build stronger bonds with UK sporting bodies.





# AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

These programmes are designed to position agriculture as a key economic sector in Montserrat, ensuring food security, job creation, and sustainable growth.

## 1. Food Security and Resilience Programme

*Goal: Ensure Montserrat's food security in the face of global disruptions.*

- Scale farming and food storage to guarantee resilience against future events (e.g., pandemics or wars). Provide maximum support and subsidies as done in countries like the UK and the US to help achieve food security and profitability.

•

## 2. Agricultural Funding and Support Programme

*Goal: Provide financial and infrastructural support to farmers.*

- Access and utilize public, private, and international funding for agriculture. Provide priority access to business funding from government programmes for farmers and fishermen.
- Reserve a portion of the \$14 million business challenge funding for farmers and fishermen.
- Increase funding for the Department of Agriculture.

## 3. Strategic Agriculture Plan (15-Year Programme)

*Goal: Long-term agricultural development.*

Develop a Strategic Agriculture Plan to be implemented over 15 years.

Identify and prepare fertile farmland (e.g., Cork Hill, Water Works).

Conduct studies on fertile land and bring 100 acres of dormant land under production.

Install irrigation systems and provide plots to productive farmers.

## 4. Commercialization and Import Substitution Programme

*Goal: Scale up agriculture for local consumption and exports, reducing reliance on imports.*

Increase spending on commercializing agriculture to substitute imports.

Engage and train farmers in crop specialization for local and export markets.

Impose import bans to ensure local produce priority during harvest seasons.

Support import substitution for poultry, aiming to reduce the \$1.7 million import bill and boost local poultry farming.



## **5. Infrastructure and Technological Advancement Programme**

*Goal: Enhance agricultural productivity through modern techniques.*

- Provide farmers access to seeds, equipment, and land preparation services.
- Ensure affordable water access and assist in the installation of water capture and storage structures. Introduce modern farming methods like drip irrigation, hydroponics, and greenhouses for year-round production.

## **6. Agroprocessing and Export Promotion Programme**

*Goal: Boost local agroprocessing and exports.*

- Construct a facility for agroprocessing, available to all farmers for local and export markets. Provide processing, chilling, and packaging facilities to extend the shelf-life of produce. Establish an Export Promotion Department/Desk to support farmers in securing export markets. Boost production of local products such as mangoes, blackberries, and breadfruit for both local and export markets.

## **7. Farmer's Insurance Programme**

*Goal: Protect farmers against unforeseen crop losses.*

- Introduce government-backed insurance to cover losses from "acts of God" or pestilence, encouraging participation in import substitution.

## **8. Education and Youth Engagement Programme**

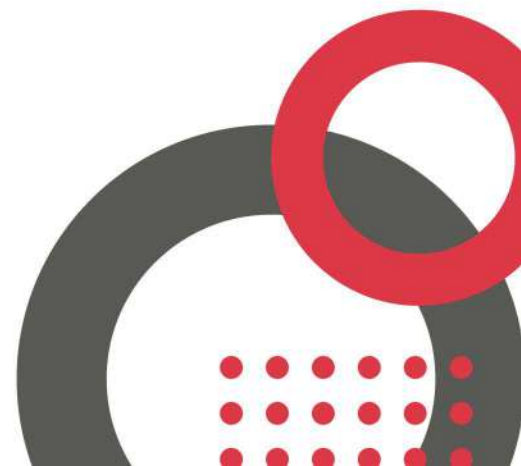
*Goal: Promote agricultural knowledge and youth participation.*

- Provide agricultural training, scholarships, and internships to farmers and fisherfolk.
- Introduce agricultural science education at the primary and secondary levels.
  - Use events like the December agro-show to generate interest in agriculture, particularly among youth.

## **9. Linkage with Tourism Industry**

*Goal: Strengthen the connections between agriculture and tourism.*

- Ensure that the growing tourism industry benefits local farming and fishing sectors, creating new wealth and economic opportunities for all.





## PDM POPULATION GROWTH STRATEGY FOR MONTSERRAT

# PDM POPULATION GROWTH STRATEGY FOR MONTSERRAT:

### **POPULATION = GROWING ECONOMY**

PDM's Population Objective: Grow Montserrat's population from 4,300 to 6,000 in the medium term (5-7 years) and to 10,000 in the long term (10-15 years), creating a sustainable population that supports robust economic growth and development on our lovely island.



### **Medium-Term Strategy (5-7 Years): Growing Montserrat's Population to 6,000**

#### **Residency by Investment Program**

**Enhanced Promotion:** Launching of a targeted marketing campaign in North America and Europe to attract foreign investors, particularly those seeking seasonal residences to escape harsh winters. Utilisation digital platforms, real estate expos, and partnerships with international realtors to reach potential investors.

**Streamlined Process:** Simplification of the application process and offer additional incentives, such as tax breaks or fast-track residency for those investing in high-demand sectors like eco-tourism, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture.

## **2. Diaspora Return Incentives**

- **Home Refurbishment Program:** Implementation of financial incentives for Diaspora members to refurbish and settle in areas like Foxes Bay, Delvins, and Cork-Hill. Offer low-interest loans, grants, and tax incentives to facilitate home renovations and new constructions. This will create jobs and people will come seeking work.
- **Business Establishment Support:** Creation of a dedicated support program for Diaspora members wishing to establish businesses in Montserrat. This could include business plan development assistance, seed funding, and mentorship programs.
- **Diaspora Engagement:** Organize annual Diaspora conferences and virtual town halls to strengthen connections, update on progress, and refine strategies based on feedback.

## **3. Family Reunification Programs**

**Simplification of Immigration Processes:** Streamlining of immigration and visa processes for family reunification of our CARICOM and OECS brothers and sisters; reducing bureaucratic hurdles and wait times.

**Incentive Packages:** Provision of financial incentives such as subsidized housing, education grants for children, and support for job placement or business start-ups to attract families to relocate to Montserrat.

#### **4. Population Growth Task Force**

**Establishment:** Establishment of a Population Growth Task Force composed of key stakeholders from government, private sector, and civil society. This task force will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the population growth strategy, making policy recommendations, and adjusting tactics as needed.

#### **5. Negotiation with the British Government**

**Pension Adjustments:** Negotiate with the UK government to remove the clause preventing UK retirees living abroad from receiving annual pension increases. This change would make Montserrat a more attractive destination for UK retirees, boosting the population and local economy.

### ***Long-Term Strategy (10-15 Years): Expanding the Population to 10,000***

#### **1. Sustainable Infrastructure Development**

**Housing and Urban Planning:** Expansion of housing options to accommodate the growing population, focusing on sustainable, eco-friendly developments. Plan new communities with integrated public services like healthcare, education, and leisure.

**Transportation and Connectivity:** Improve transportation infrastructure such as our ferry services to improve access to and from Montserrat.

#### **2. Economic Diversification**

**Sectoral Development:** Investment in new industries such as digital services, renewable energy, and agro-tourism, creating job opportunities that attract and retain a growing population. Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship by providing grants, training programs, and incubation spaces.

**Education and Workforce Development:** Partner with international institutions such as a Medical school to offer advanced courses and degrees locally on Montserrat.

#### **3. International Partnerships and Funding**

**Donor Engagement:** Seek international funding and partnerships to support large-scale infrastructure projects, particularly in housing, healthcare, and education. Leverage Montserrat's unique position as a UK Overseas Territory to access development funds and technical assistance.

#### **4. Environmental Sustainability**

**Eco-Tourism Promotion:** Development of Montserrat as a leading eco-tourism destination, capitalizing on its natural beauty and unique cultural heritage. Protect the environment through sustainable practices, ensuring that population growth does not compromise the island's ecological balance.

**Renewable Energy Initiatives:** Invest in renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind farms, to provide clean, affordable energy to the growing population. Promote energy efficiency and conservation measures across all sectors.

#### **5. Community Engagement and Social Cohesion**

**Cultural Integration Programs:** Promote private entities to foster social cohesion by integrating new residents into the community through cultural and leisure events that bring together long-term residents and newcomers.

**Youth Engagement:** Focus on retaining young people by providing education, employment opportunities, and leadership training. Engage them in the development process, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping Montserrat's future.

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT AND BENEFITS**

**Economies of Scale:** A larger population will allow Montserrat to achieve economies of scale, reducing the per capita cost of many services. This makes good and service delivery more efficient and affordable.

**Increased Consumer Base:** A growing population will expand the consumer base, attracting businesses and encouraging investment in retail, hospitality, and other sectors, thereby boosting economic activity.

**Enhanced Labor Force:** An increased population will provide a larger, more diverse labor force, supporting the growth of new industries and enhancing the island's overall economic resilience.

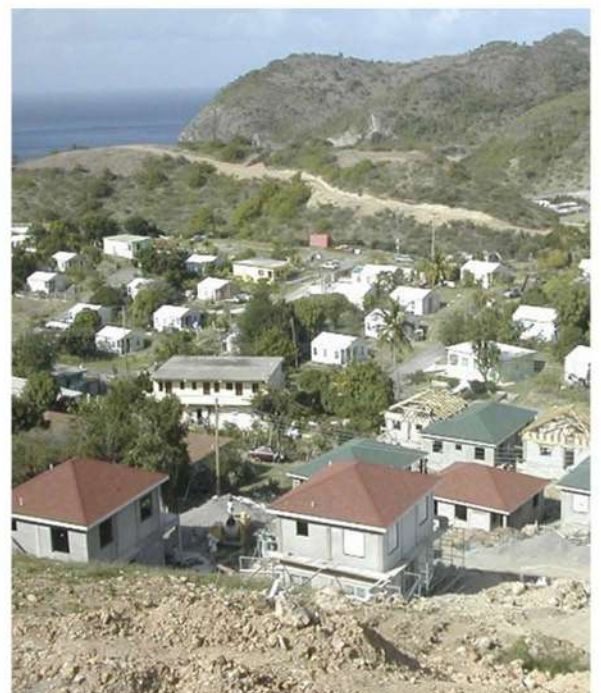
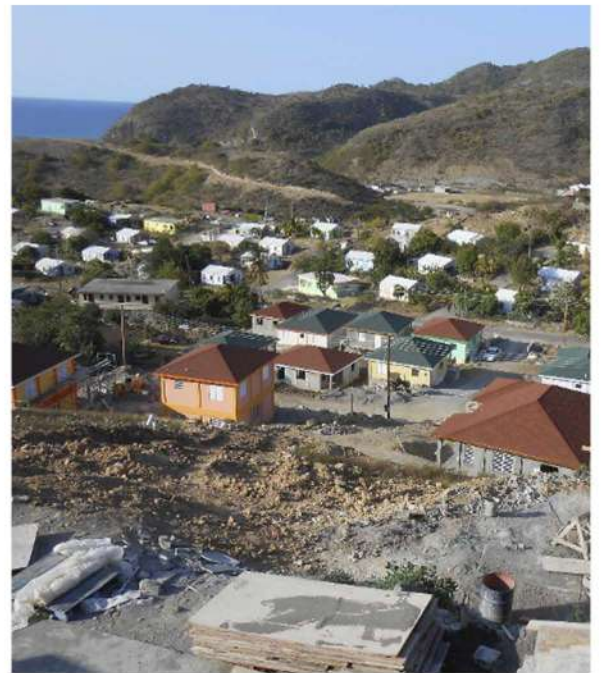
**Sustainable Development:** With careful planning, population growth will contribute to sustainable development, ensuring that Montserrat remains a vibrant, livable island with opportunities for all its residents.



## **PDM'S COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING AND LANDS POLICY**

### **PDM'S COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING AND LANDS POLICY**

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) housing and lands programmes aims to build a stronger, more resilient nation where every Montserratian has access to safe, affordable, and hurricane-resistant homes.



## **1. National Housing Strategy**

We will fully implement a comprehensive National Housing Strategy. This plan will upgrade all non-hurricane-resistant housing across the island, ensuring that no family is left vulnerable during extreme weather events.

## **2. Tax Incentives and Financial Assistance**

To stimulate growth in the housing sector, we will introduce a package of tax incentives and financial assistance for home construction, renovations, and upgrades. This initiative will make it easier for Montserratians to build new homes and modernize existing ones.

It will also encourage Montserratians living overseas to invest in local housing projects.

## **3. Public-Private Partnerships for Affordable Housing**

The PDM government will develop incentives to encourage the private sector to construct affordable housing on both private and government-owned lands. These efforts will be executed as part of public-private-people partnerships (PPPP), aimed at expanding housing opportunities for all.

## **4. Reduced Duty on Building Materials**

We will work with the relevant departments to provide duty-free concessions on building materials for new construction and home upgrades. This measure will stimulate economic growth and job creation while also contributing to repopulation efforts.

The increased construction activity will generate revenue through economic spin-offs, ensuring that the duty waivers are essentially revenue-neutral.

## **5. Accessing FCDO Housing Funds**

The PDM government will reactivate and access the \$14 million in funds earmarked by FCDO for housing. These funds will support the construction of affordable, hurricane-resistant homes, assist with mortgage refinancing, and provide grants for home upgrades. Our strategic negotiations with the British Government will underscore the urgent need and capacity to execute these housing projects effectively.

## **6. Redevelopment of Foxes Bay and Surrounding Areas**

We will expand current Government Redevelopment Incentives for Foxes Bay and surrounding areas by providing assistance for land clearing, road construction, and infrastructure improvements. This will revitalize these communities and create more housing opportunities. Over the next 5 to 15 years, properties will be cleared and rebuilt, restoring vibrant communities in these regions.

## **7. Hurricane-Resistant Housing for Evacuees**

Over the next five years, we will provide hurricane-resistant housing to evacuees who have been waiting for over two decades. Each grant will be tailored to the financial capacity of the recipient, ensuring equitable distribution of assistance.

## **8. Upgrading Davy Hill, Lookout, and T-111 Homes**

We will invest in the refurbishment of 100-150 houses in Davy Hill, Lookout, and T-111 houses built by the government. Through financial incentives ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000, we will provide residents with the necessary support to bring their homes up to standard.

## **9. Negotiating \$40 Million for New Homes**

The PDM government will engage the British Government and the international community to secure an additional \$40 million for the construction of 250-300 new homes. This significant investment will address the urgent housing needs of our growing population.

## **10. Service Lots at \$1**

The PDM will continue to provide service lots at a nominal fee of \$1. Additional grant funding will be provided to ensure that individuals can qualify for loans and manage their payments, increasing homeownership opportunities for all Montserratians.

## **11. Construction of Duplex Units**

We will facilitate the construction of 200 duplex apartment units on 50 acres of government land. These homes will be supported by grant assistance, with the land used as equity to make homeownership accessible.

## **12. Upscale “Condo-Like” Units**

The government will develop 200 upscale “condo-like” units on an additional 50 acres of land. This will be achieved through a public-private partnership, with local and overseas investors participating. The government will negotiate loan guarantees with the UK to support this initiative.

## **13. Housing for Returning Montserratians**

We will launch a new project to construct 200 homes specifically for returning Montserratians. This programme will foster inter-generational investment and family partnerships, helping to build a stronger Montserratian community both locally and abroad.

## **14. Infrastructure for Commercial and Private Housing Projects**

In areas where individuals own land but roads and other infrastructure is lacking, PDM will install essential infrastructure to support the development of commercial and residential housing projects. With the cost savings to private landowners, by Government footing the bill for the roads and other infrastructure, the land-owners would then be committed to passing on these savings to buyers. This will help to foster further economic growth and employment as it will support the construction industry.

## **15. Fair and Transparent Allocation of Housing Assistance**

The PDM will establish clear, transparent procedures to ensure fairness in the allocation of housing assistance. We are committed to providing all Montserratians with equal opportunities for safe and affordable housing.

## **16. Revision of the Building Code**

The PDM will revise and strengthen the national Building Code, ensuring that all new constructions meet modern, hurricane-resistant, and safety standards, making Montserrat’s housing sector more resilient to future challenges.







# **PDM DEVELOPMENT POLICY: HARNESSING INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR MONTSERRAT'S GROWTH**

The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) recognises that international law, particularly Article 73 of the United Nations Charter, is the foundation for Montserrat's sustainable development. This approach also recognises that the UK, as the administering power, has itself acknowledged its legal obligation to "ensure" Montserrat's advancement in all sectors— especially, "political, economic, social, and educational" while promoting "constructive measures of development." Under Article 73(a), the UK also binds itself to respect our culture and aspirations, to ensure our just treatment, and to ensure our protection against abuses.

Montserrat's future development must be grounded in these principles to ensure that the island receives the support it rightfully deserves.

Furthermore, to meet this legal obligation, the UK Government has long decided that British Overseas Territories like Montserrat take priority on the overseas aid budget, which makes available significant sums to facilitate development towards self-sufficiency and greater self-government. In its 2012 White Paper on the Territories, the UK Government specifically identified four Overseas Territories, inclusive of Montserrat and St. Helena, which would have first priority on the UK aid budget. The UK has therefore identified the massive aid granted to St. Helena as a "yardstick" for what Montserrat can obtain, through strong evidence-based negotiation, to develop towards self-sufficiency.

St. Helena as a Precedent: PDM draws inspiration from other British Overseas Territories like St. Helena (with a population of just 5,000), which successfully secured over £200 million from the UK to build a new airport that transformed their economic landscape, significantly improving their tourism industry and connectivity. Similarly, the Isles of Scilly, a UK Crown Dependency with a population of just 2,200, was offered £48.4 million for new cargo and passenger ferries from the UK's internal budget, showing the UK's willingness to provide direct support which can lead to significant infrastructure development and growth.

PDM will use these examples to bolster Montserrat's case, arguing that similar transformational funding should be made available to Montserrat based on the UK's legal obligations, especially given the island's challenges after having lost the majority of its population and its economy-driving infrastructure.

## A New Strategy to Ensure the UK Funds Montserrat's Development Towards Self-Sufficiency

In 2018-19, of a total of EC\$200 million in Capital Projects, PDM successfully secured EC\$100 million under the UK's 2018 Capital Investment Programme for Resilient Economic Growth (CIPREG), through direct communication with Prime Minister Theresa May and leveraging UK's acknowledged obligations. This clearly indicates that strategic, evidence-based negotiations can deliver essential funding for the island's public infrastructure, healthcare, education, social and other needs. The next stage of this strategy will be even more assertive, focusing on the legal frameworks and the UK's existing often-repeated commitments.

PDM's future negotiations will take a firmer stance, emphasising that the UK must recognise Montserrat's years of underdevelopment and the lack of adequate support since the volcanic crisis. The party will highlight that this isn't about merely asking for additional aid—it is about calling on the UK to fulfil its commitments to assist Montserrat to achieve self-sufficiency, to the mutual benefit of both governments and peoples.

The PDM Government will involve the UN in working with both the UK and the Government of Montserrat to establish a plan, with clear funding, action programmes and timelines for Montserrat's development out of dependency on the UK.

We will focus on securing both short and long-term funding agreements that align with Montserrat's development needs and goals. These agreements will reflect the true scale of the island's needs, targeting sectors such as education, healthcare, energy, and infrastructure to provide a sustainable and thriving economy.



**Vote PDM!**  
**Montserrat First!**  
**People First!**

# Vote PDM!

## Montserrat First!

## People First!



## Mobilising International Support & Diaspora Engagement

In addition to working with the UK, PDM will also engage with international organisations like the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and Caribbean regional bodies to spotlight Montserrat's case on the global stage. These collaborations will amplify the message that Montserrat has been underserved for decades and that significant investment is necessary for true sustainable development.

Furthermore, the Montserratian Diaspora will be integral to this strategy. By involving them in advocacy and policy discussions, the PDM aims to create a unified voice that calls for the development Montserrat deserves, based on legal precedents and global best practices. Our people, both at home and abroad, will be front and center in the generation of investment and wealth creation in every respect.

## IMPROVING MONTSERRAT'S REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT VIA DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

**Ease of Doing Business:** Simplify business registration and reduce bureaucratic hurdles. Create a "How To" guide for business registration, available digitally.

**Banking & FinTech:** Modernize banking services with tech-based solutions to facilitate easier business operations and attract investment. Collaborate with local and international tech experts to advance Montserrat's banking system into the 21st century.

# **DIASPORA KEY TO MONTSERRAT'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**



## **1. DIASPORA RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT**

- Negotiate with the UK to secure resettlement aid for returning Montserratians.

## **2. BANKING AND FINANCIAL ACCESS**

- Simplify opening accounts and loan applications for overseas Montserratians at the Bank of Montserrat.  
Improve online banking processes for loan applications and account approvals.
- Reintroduce overseas debit/credit card facilities at local ATMs.
- Strengthen correspondent banking relationships to facilitate easier financial transactions.

## **3. DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC COLLABORATION**

Encourage the diaspora's involvement in online jobs, tourism marketing, and national investment opportunities.

- Host annual Diaspora and Investment Forums to strengthen collaboration and promote repopulation strategies.

## **4. DIASPORA ADVISORY TEAMS**

Create advisory teams composed of diaspora experts in healthcare, finance, agriculture, and digital entrepreneurship to contribute to national development.

## **5. GLOBAL MONTSERRAT PROGRAMME**

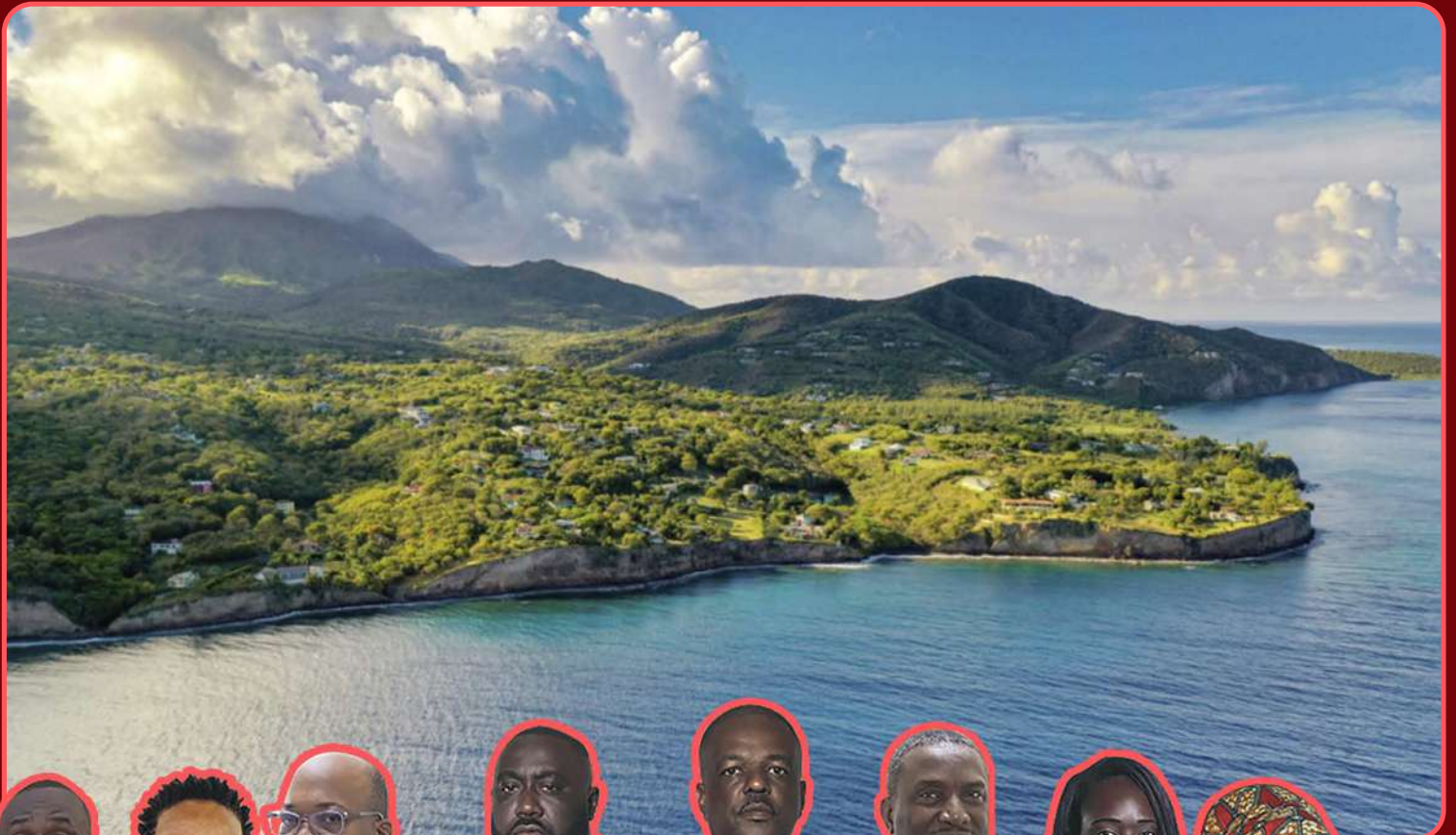
- Encourage spouses, children, and grandchildren of Montserratians abroad to acquire Montserrat passports and actively participate in the local economy and governance.

## **6. DIASPORA REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT**

- Enable Montserratians abroad to elect Diaspora Representatives to speak in Parliament (without legislative power initially) with plans to discuss granting them legislative powers in future constitutional amendments.
- Hold special parliamentary sessions for diaspora representatives to present their concerns.

## **7. DIASPORA DATABASE**

Build and maintain a comprehensive diaspora database to fully leverage their ideas, skills, and investment potential.



**VOTE**  **24<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2024**

 **PDM.MNI**

 **PDM.MNI**



Our party's vision encompasses comprehensive growth across all sectors, from education and healthcare to infrastructure and economic opportunities. We strive to create an environment where every citizen can thrive and contribute to the island's progress.

With a strong emphasis on transparent governance, community engagement, and inclusive decision-making, PDM aims to build a Montserrat that not only meets the challenges of today but also lays a solid foundation for generations to come.

Join us in our mission to shape a vibrant, resilient, and prosperous Montserrat. Together, we can create a future where our island's potential is fully realized, and every voice is heard. Because at PDM, we believe that when we put people first, our entire nation moves forward.



***Vote PDM!***  
***Montserrat First!***  
***People First!***

Our party's vision encompasses **COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH** across all sectors, from education and healthcare to infrastructure and economic opportunities. We strive to create an environment where **EVERY CITIZEN** can thrive and contribute to the island's progress.

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**MONTSERRAT FIRST!**