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Chairman's Statement



I am deeply honoured and humbled to be a part of the Movement for Change and Prosperity, MCAP. For me the title encapsulates what the party is all about. It is about the realisation of the vision, hard work, determination, talent and hope of a people. It is about the philosophy that we share to restore the dream of a peaceful stable and productive island called Montserrat.

In MCAP we see an activist Government with progressive policies that create opportunities for all. In MCAP we see a government that promotes mainstream values like discipline, hard work, family, responsibility and community.

Our challenge is to restore the faith of Montserratian residents in the basic competence and purpose of government. Our policies and programs reflect a clean break with the recent rhetoric but not with traditional values.

We believe in the moral and cultural values that most Montserratians share; liberty of conscience, individual responsibility, tolerance of difference, the imperative of work, the need for faith and the importance of family.

Finally, we believe that citizenship entails rights as well as responsibilities and we intend to ask our citizens to give something back to their communities

This manifesto represents our commitment as a party to building a Montserrat that is characterised by these values.

Randolph Riley
Party Chairman

An Open Letter to the Peoples of Montserrat

The Movement for Change and Prosperity is seeking a Mandate from the people of Montserrat to implement an Agenda for Change and Prosperity.

Our commitment to you is that we will:

- restore the dignity and self-confidence of our people,
- give focus and direction to the society,
- restore our shattered environment,
- provide sound economic management,
- encourage investments that create jobs,
- provide housing,
- address the special issues confronting our youth and,
- build a new prosperity in which all would share.

The policies, programs and technologies that have been attempted over the past ten years have failed to respond to the economic and social challenges that confront Montserrat today.

Our Agenda responds to the fact that following Montserrat's experiences with natural disasters, our people and our island demand a new beginning, a new thinking, a new direction, and a new leadership.

Our Agenda brings a new spirit of inclusion to the governance of our affairs; in which all have a stake and a say.

Our Agenda reconnects the Government to the people and restores that spirit of trust, which binds a Government to the people.

In the process, we will release the energy and creativity of our youth; better provide for the aged and those with special disabilities and, those left out of the mainstream.

We will make Montserrat once again respected in the Region and beyond with new approaches to attracting investment that creates jobs, earns income and restores the hope of the people of Montserrat.

Our Agenda for Change pledges to bring fresh new leadership to a country that must now rise from the ashes of successive natural disasters and free itself from the pestilence of ineffective leadership.

It is an agenda that will ensure that no one is excluded from the opportunity build the economy and to benefit from renewed growth.

I ask you to give to the Movement for Change and Prosperity your mandate to implement our Agenda for Change.

Team MCAP is fully prepared for the task of leading Montserrat into in the 21st Century.

Team MCAP number among the members of our Team, candidates who have represented the peoples of Montserrat with much effectiveness and success throughout their working lives. In carrying out this mandate, we pledge to restore the hope, pride and dignity of our people. We pledge to restore the beauty and tranquillity of the island even as we take full advantage of new growth opportunities.

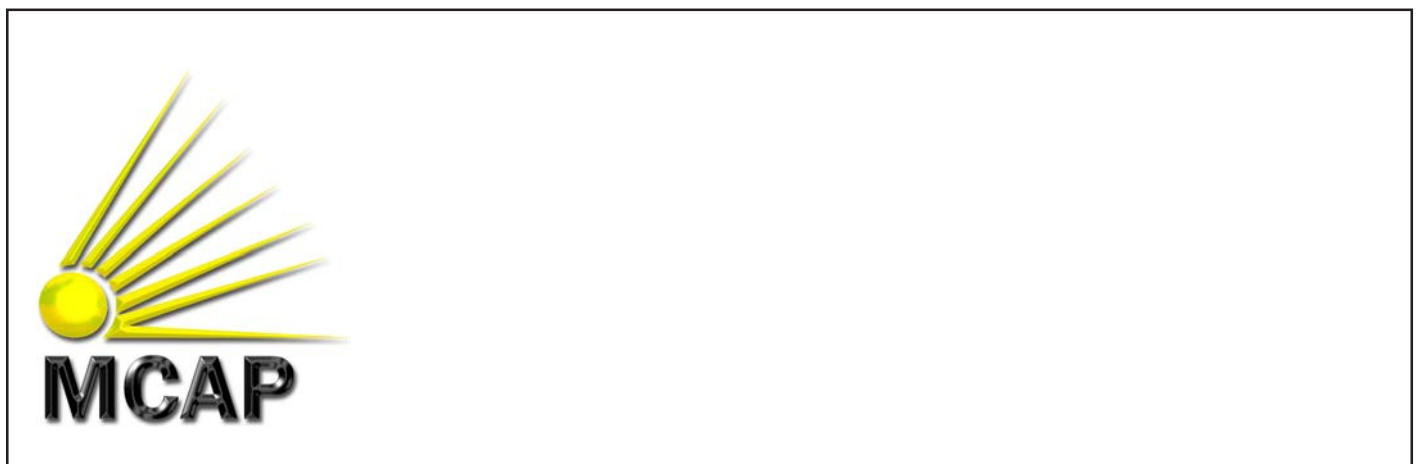
We pledge to move Montserrat back to its position as an actively contributing member of the OECS and CARICOM families and to deepen unity among our many peoples.

To this end, we ask your support for all nine MCAP Candidates. We welcome your full involvement in this campaign, as we make good on the MCAP message: Montserrat Deserves the Best.

Together we will make Change and fashion a Prosperity in which every one is guaranteed to share.

Our parents expect it, our children demand it and MCAP accepts the responsibility for leading the way.

Reuben T. Meade
Party Leader



Meet the Candidates

MCAP Pledge

1. We pledge a new approach to leadership, with a team of strong, competent and compassionate leaders who reject 'one-manism' and embrace the concept of team spirit and shared responsibilities
2. As we build a cohesive community based on respect, dignity and diversity, we pledge to embrace all groups especially those forced to function on the fringes of society.
3. We are deeply committed to stimulating private investment that provides employment for all who want to work.
4. We are committed to the protection of the rights of all workers.
5. We pledge zero tolerance for crime and will provide relevant training, equipment and facilities for the Royal Montserrat Police Force.
6. We are committed to radically reforming and modernising the education system to produce independent, creative and disciplined young people who become the foundation of a modern knowledge-based economy.
7. We are committed to facilitating adult education, retraining for workers, enterprise and entrepreneur development.
8. We will partner with the private sector and communities to provide suitable physical infrastructure and services in such areas as roads, electricity, waste management, soil and water conservation.
9. We are committed to population retention and increase by creating the economic and social environment to stimulate resettlement and profitable investment by returning Montserratians and other settlers.
10. In keeping with the recommendations of the 2004 "National Youth Policy", we will partner with the private sector, civil society and international organizations to enable young men and women to make major contributions to the restoration and rebuilding of Montserrat. We commit to the provision of skills training, business advisory services, production and administrative facilities as well as financing, where appropriate, to empower the youth for creative participation in the new enterprises required for restoration of the physical, social and ecological systems of the island.
11. We will restore the public trust in government through the passage of integrity legislation and the institution of procedures and mechanisms for ensuring transparency and accountability in policymaking, planning and programme management. We will protect no interest except the public good.

Governance

The volcanic eruptions of 1995 have radically transformed the course of development for Montserrat. This single fact underscores the need to be careful and thorough when making decisions about the management and use of the island's human and natural resources.

We are firmly convinced of the need for an approach to management of the island's development that "allows all ideas to contend" and engages all segments of the population in turning disaster into opportunity.

To this end, an MCAP Government will implement an integrated approach to development planning that provides the mechanisms and processes for involvement of all segments of the population in governance at the community and sector levels.

An MCAP Government will foster this direct approach to governance by facilitating community-level consultations as the preferred means of involving the citizens in decision-making and governance on all matters affecting their lives.

Population and Immigration

An MCAP government is committed to developing and implementing a population strategy that will encourage population retention and expansion. This position is informed by the principle of the respect for all peoples and recognition of the capacity and the right of all peoples, cultures and races to contribute to the development.

Retention of population

An MCAP government will ease the burdens being borne by the existing resident population by improving job opportunities, encouraging the reduction in the mortgage lending rate, providing affordable housing, facilitate affordable Mortgage Financing, implementing policies and programs to reduce the cost of living, provide training opportunities and revise remuneration packages. We will collaborate with financial institutions to arrange reprieves on mortgages in daytime entry and exclusion zones.

We will seek to write off corporate tax arrears before 2000 on a case by case basis.

Increasing population

An MCAP Government will promote the Double Taxation incentive program with the United Kingdom, to encourage British citizens to build homes on Montserrat. We will actively target Montserratians abroad and provide them with the opportunity to purchase homes in Montserrat in advance of their return.

We will review the resettlement packages and incentives directed to Montserratians abroad and directly recruit Montserratians to fill vacant posts.

We will encourage residents to resettle their families on Montserrat.

We will grant an annually renewable Home Owners Residence Card to all expatriate residents who own homes on Montserrat. The card will entitle the owner's spouse and children entry for the duration of the validity of the card.

Immigration and Work Permits

An MCAP government will simplify work permits and immigration procedures.

We will issue 1-year work permits for construction workers that do not tie them to one construction site.

We will grant temporary resident status to all Caricom nationals who have resided in Montserrat for 3 years.

We will allow the deposit of the return airfare to any financial institution for all Caricom nationals residing on Montserrat for less than 3 years.

Culture

As a direct result of the ‘forced’ migration of over 50% of the population of Montserrat, vital technical, managerial, planning, leadership and cultural skills were lost. Cultural artefacts, facilities, as well as the Capital City of Plymouth were lost and are no longer part of the living culture and heritage of the island today.

We believe that the recovery and rebuilding of Montserrat will not proceed satisfactorily unless such vital components of our heritage and identity are returned, restored or replaced.

An MCAP Government will facilitate the repatriation of national artefacts, encourage and support the restoration and revival of other components of our culture.

We are committed to investment in the documentation of the impact of recent natural disasters on the social, psychological, cultural, spiritual and economic aspects of life in Montserrat.

We are committed to the documentation and dissemination of the findings of this investigation to be used by teachers, trainers, planners and policymakers in charting the restoration and rebuilding path for Montserrat and other small island states.

We are committed to the development of training modules in the recovery and restoration of lost cultural infrastructure, services and skills in such areas as masquerade dancing, drumming and storytelling.

We are also committed to converting these training modules into the basis for new educational enterprises that would attract students, researchers and teachers as part of an edu-tourism initiative.

Social Transformation

An MCAP Government will work to build strong families and communities, eradicate poverty, and provide an effective social safety net for the most vulnerable in our society.

INCOME SUPPORT GRANTS:

An MCAP government will restructure and continually improve the range of benefits to the elderly, the physically and mentally challenged. We will periodically review income support benefits to ensure coverage of the cost of a basic food basket. We will assist welfare recipients to re-enter the workforce through counseling, skills training and job placement services. We will introduce a Rapid Response Crisis Intervention Unit to swiftly respond to catastrophic illness, child abuse and domestic violence.

CHILD CARE

We will give support and oversight to private facilities providing child care services and encourage police, doctors, teachers and social workers to report suspected cases of child abuse. We will encourage and facilitate positive parent-teacher-child relationships within the school system through the expansion of parent-teacher associations and the development of parenting and counseling programs.

SENIOR CITIZENS

We will track and maintain contact with the elderly and institute measures to improve their living conditions and prevent abandonment. We will promote elderly foster care and expand home Care Service for the elderly.

We will initiate discussions with the British Government to seek to facilitate the return of those elderly wishing to do so with the transfer of the benefits they now enjoy. We will further seek to acquire adjustments in pensions for pensioners residing in Montserrat who receive pensions from the UK whenever there are increases in the UK.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We will seek to build holistic communities by facilitating the establishment of local government councils, the construction of community centers, recreational facilities, sub post offices and small business advisory units in new and growing communities.

We will find suitable locations for two new cemeteries.

Education and Training

An MCAP government will develop the education system to prepare our children to become effective and responsible contributors to the development of Montserrat.

Teaching and Learning

We will restore confidence in the Education system and strengthen the teaching and learning process by providing students and teachers with the facilities, tools, equipment and skills needed to do the job. We will utilize ICT to deliver this new teaching arrangement

We will ensure that music, art and sports are integrated into the curriculum from preschool to the Secondary School. We will adequately train teachers, and provide facilities and equipment to deliver these programs.

Recruitment policies

We will improve and create the atmosphere of learning by developing and instituting proper recruitment policies and packages to encourage highly trained and experienced Montserratians to participate in the development and delivery of appropriate education and training programs.

We will foster partnerships with learning and business institutions in Montserrat, the region and internationally to provide students with the opportunities for higher learning and skills training.

Security

We will protect the parents, students, teachers and assets of the schools by the construction of security fences, the placement of police and security guards on the school compound and introduce conflict resolution capacity to counter ill discipline and violence.

Alternative Training Programs

We will institute vocational and skills training programs in the Community College to channel the energies of students who wish to pursue such studies. We will seek to introduce training and apprenticeship programs that allow students to qualify while working.

Management of the Education System

We will establish an Education Task Force involving persons from Private and Public Sectors, Civil Society, Retired Educators and Teachers. Government will be advised by this unit in the development and implementation of the school management systems, the teacher training systems, the curriculum and student enrichment programs.

Youth

MCAP recognizes that Government has failed to provide the leadership, guidance, facilities and finance needed for the full involvement of the youth in the process of building Montserrat.

Now more than ever before, the challenge of turning disaster into opportunity for change and prosperity in Montserrat requires that we harness the optimism, the dynamism, imagination, creativity and energy of our young people.

MCAP believes that the 2004 National Youth Policy for Montserrat prepared by a team of Montserratians under the able guidance of Sir Howard Fergus, is a suitable starting point for enabling the youth to respond to this challenge.

As Government, MCAP will undertake an urgent review and update of that Report and commence implementation of its many sound recommendations.

An MCAP Government will commence this process with an island-wide Consultation of Youth for Change and Prosperity that will review the draft Youth Policy, reorganize the National Youth Council, set the program priorities for attention by Government, the private sector and civil society and establish a timetable for action on the program.



September 9 2009
Vote For *your* Future!
Vote for Change!
Vote MCAP

Sports

An MCAP government is aware of the many accomplishments of our youth in the field of Sports and will support sporting programs to ensure that our youth continue to develop their talents to their fullest potential.

We will encourage and facilitate the establishment of an umbrella sporting organization or Sports Council to include representatives from all associations and sporting groups.

We will encourage the holding of regional and international sporting events in Montserrat as a means of fostering growth of the sector, providing business opportunity for the private sector, and promoting the highest levels of achievement of our sportsmen and women.

We will market Montserrat as a prime destination for sports tourism.

Recognition of Sporting Heroes

We will seek to implement a program that would give recognition to our sporting heroes in a National Sports Hall of Fame.

We will award annually a sportsman and sportswoman of the year.

School Sports Program

We will ensure that school children up to and including the Community College participate in organised sporting programs.

We will develop a cadre of trained coaches in the different sporting disciplines

We will expand the physical education and sporting programs in the schools up to Community College level.

Sports Facilities

We will improve and increase the number of sporting facilities that are up to international/regional standards.

We will facilitate the development of all sports facilities by working with all Sports Associations to facilitate their international affiliations.

Vote For your Future!

Vote for Your Children's Future!

Vote MCAP

Information and Communications Technology for Development

An MCAP government will take steps to accelerate the integration of Information and Communications Technology (ICTs) into all areas of public and private sector operations.

ICT in Education

We will equip computer laboratories at all Primary and Secondary schools and the Community College so that the facilities can be used for teaching Information Technology, providing small business management and, serving as business information centers for farmers and others in the wider community.

We will train all teachers in the use of ICTs and seek to integrate ICT into all areas of the schools curriculum.

ICT in Health

We will accelerate the rollout of the existing Patient Administration System (PAS) to the various Health Centres.

We will seek to implement additional modules of the PAS to enhance the management information systems at the Hospital and Health Centers.

We will actively explore ways in which ICTs can enable remote access Tele-medicine to provided improved and affordable medical services for the citizens of Montserrat.

We will seek to document information on traditional herbal and medicinal plants and methods of preparation and use as a resource for future research and development.

ICT in Banking

We will give concessions to local financial institutions for the procurement of hardware and software to develop their online banking products and services.

Telecommunications Liberalisation

We will focus our liberalization efforts on the creation of a marketplace that will foster open competition, encourage the supply of innovative services and, ensure that the most competitive price is offered to the consumer.

Broadband Access

We will take steps to make affordable high speed Internet access to all citizens of Montserrat. We will seek to engage creative public/private partnerships to ensure island-wide availability of broadband Internet access.

Computer Loans and Concessions

We will encourage the provision of affordable financing for the purchase of computers for home use and provide incentives for a wide range of products directly related to computer operating systems.

Housing

An MCAP government will take an integrated approach to establishing new communities so that, along with the construction of dwelling houses, facilities for recreation, education, business, sports and public services will be provided.

We will utilize financial resources from Social Security to expand the Revolving Mortgage Fund.

We will explore the possibility of reducing the mortgage interest rate.

We will encourage and facilitate the purchase of homes on Government estates by reviewing and adjusting the purchase price.

We will seek to re-introduce the material grant scheme.

We will seek to give support to homeowners in Davy Hill and Shinlands to retrofit homes.

We will move all persons out of shelters in 1 year.

Homes for the Elderly

An MCAP government will explore the possibility of including in the annual budget, an amount for basic repairs to homes for the elderly.

We will expand the housing program to provide all elderly homeowners with indoor water toilet facilities.

Private Sector-provided Housing

We will encourage the private sector to invest in housing developments.

We will support all private sector initiatives to reduce the costs of construction.

We will provide fiscal incentives to private sector housing developers.

We will seek to subsidize the development of road networks in new communities.

We will strive to accelerate the approval process for construction.

We will grant tax incentives to land owners with tracts of land who make the land available for home construction.

We will review the policy for homebuilders to meet the cost of electrification.

Health

An MCAP government will ensure that every resident has access to affordable and effective health care.

Health Services

We will ensure that the hospital the hospital is properly equipped with state of the art equipment like mammogram machine, dialysis machine, electro cardiogram and ultrasound machine and, the trained staff to operate and maintain the equipment.

We will seek to establish relationships with regional Universities and British hospitals to facilitate the transfer of patients for medical treatment and to access technology and personnel as needed.

We will seek to develop relationships with medical groupings such as “Doctors Without Borders”, to further enhance our medical health services delivery capabilities. We will encourage and facilitate Montserratian doctors living overseas to provide professional services on mutually satisfactory terms and conditions to be negotiated.

We will seek the resources needed to build and equip a pediatric and private ward.

We will ensure that the hospital facilities and equipment are kept in good condition at all times.

We will institute a comprehensive mental health program and develop plans for community health care that links patient care to nutrition, exercise, and other preventive measures.

Health Insurance

We will seek to establish a National Health Insurance Scheme.

We will explore arrangements to have Social Security manage and operate the National Health Insurance.

Fees and Charges

We will review all hospital fees and charges.

Health Professionals

We will seek to improve the morale of nurses by providing them with the opportunity for sabbaticals at other medical facilities within the region.

We will review nursing allowances and benefits.

We will encourage and facilitate joint ventures with other health professionals as part of a strategy to ensure availability of personnel.

Energy

An MCAP government will seek to find alternative sources of energy to steadily reduce the island's dependence on fossil fuel as a source of power for electricity. We will seek to utilise renewable energy sources that reduce the cost of living to residents, lower the operating costs for businesses and contribute to the image of Montserrat as a clean and healthy place to live, work and visit.

Alternative Energy sources

We will utilise wind energy in the short term to augment our electricity services.

We will utilise solar energy where feasible and offer incentives to business places that supply appliances and lighting that utilize this source of renewable energy.

We will review the geothermal contractual arrangements being offered WIP Ltd. and move quickly to explore, develop and distribute power from geothermal and other renewable sources.

Home Consumption

We will offer fiscal and financial incentives that encourage the use of energy saving appliances and lighting for all homes and businesses.

We will seek to establish a Regulatory Body to oversee the calculation of fuel surcharge, the regulation of rates and, monitor the efficiency of the service provided by the power producer.

We will seek to review the arrangements with Delta Petroleum as regards the efficacy of fuel procurement from diverse sources.

Agriculture

An MCAP government will seek to redevelop and modernise agriculture by integrating traditional, appropriate and emerging techniques and technologies. We will ensure

Food Security

We will seek to satisfy local demand and encourage the promotion of direct and indirect import substitution.

Commercialisation of Agriculture

We will provide the necessary investment capital and incentive programmes to move agriculture production away from a primarily subsistence mode, to efficient small scale commercial production systems.

We will target specific markets for export of fresh commodities and value-added products and thereby enhance the livelihoods of farmers through increased farm gate incomes.

We will seek to encourage new entrants into the field of agriculture by establishing several new programs including:-

- Young Farmers Program

- Semi Intensive Livestock programs

- Inter-school and District Farm Days and Exhibitions

- Farm-to-market links with Hotels and Restaurants

We will facilitate the construction of an Abattoir and Food Processing Plant.

We will commercialise the Cassava Plant from farm production to manufacturing.

We will seek to construct and equip a fisheries facility while improving safety at sea measures, fish landing methods, fish processing and storage.

We will seek to construct and maintain all weather multi-purpose feeder roads to ensure access to farms.

We will establish soil and water conservation programs to reduce soil erosion and sustain water supply and farm productivity.

We will rehabilitate and maintain existing irrigation facilities.

We will seek to improve the plant and animal stock of our agriculture by upgrading our professional services and in particular our veterinary and plant quarantine services.

We will recruit a full time veterinarian and identify training opportunities for additional staff.
We shall build equip and staff a Produce Chemist Laboratory.

We will address the problem of loose livestock, stray dogs and feral pigs.

We are similarly committed to developing links between a renewed agriculture and the production, preparation and use of traditional herbal medicines in the local health sector.

Tourism

An MCAP government will promote investment in Tourism as a major means of earning foreign exchange, creating employment and stimulating economic activity in other sectors of the economy.

Development of Tourism Plant

We will take advantage of this period of rebuilding to encourage links between new opportunities for agriculture, health and tourism through restoration of traditional practices of natural, chemical-free farming, creative culinary skills and heritage tourism

We will develop Edu Tourism linked to the knowledge and expertise associated with the natural disasters that have affected the island.

We will incorporate the MVO Interpretive Center with the MNT Natural History Center and seek to construct a Museum to facilitate the return of our national artifacts.

We will promote the Heritage and Nature Sites at Little Bay.

We will provide support to ensure the maintenance of trails, roads in ways that improve access for the farming community. Forest systems will be maintained in ways that improve the supply of water for domestic use.

We will explore the possibility of developing multi destination products with nearby islands.

Development of Infrastructure

We will seek to expedite the construction of the Belham Bridge.

We will encourage and facilitate the development of a Golf Course.

We will seek to develop Port Little Bay to accommodate the reintroduction of Cruise Industry.

Residential Tourism

We will facilitate and encourage the construction of villas.

We will grant fiscal incentives to new villa construction.

We will allow the write off the depreciation of new villa construction over 10 years for villas built in the next 5 years.

Development of Little Bay

We will encourage and facilitate the construction of a Resort Hotel at Little Bay.

We will encourage the construction of town houses, villas and condominiums as well as a mixed used shopping and entertainment facility.

We will design and landscape the facility to incorporate local plants and features consistent with Montserrat's nature brand

Hospitality Training

We will facilitate on going training for all workers in the Hospitality Sector including the training of Science Tour Guides in response to the expected demands of Edu Tourism..

Promotion

We will promote Montserrat as a tourist destination with unique niches including Sports, Wellness, and Heritage Tourism.

We will collaborate with and facilitate local Sports Associations who through their international networks could facilitate the construction of modern sporting facilities for use by local and international teams.

Environment

The vulnerability of Montserrat to natural disasters requires that every investment in the major growth sectors of the economy take full account of the impact of construction, farming and other land uses on the island's natural resource endowment.

An MCAP government will apply the principles of sustainable development as outlined in the St Georges Declaration, the Barbados Plan of Action and the country's Sustainable Development Plan.

We will review the efficiency of the existing systems for solid and liquid waste to ensure that the health of the population is not compromised and that the island's costal zones are protected from pollution and run-off.

We will undertake a natural resource inventory that will inform land use planning and zoning of the island for economic activities in all sectors.

Transportation

An MCAP government will seek to improve access to Montserrat that is more affordable, reliable and frequent.

We will review the WINAIR contractual arrangements.

We will give special attention to the re-introduction of a scheduled Ferry service that would augment airlift, expand the tourism reach, increase export capacity and strengthen disaster response capability.

We will seek to develop and expand the Little Bay Port Facilities to accommodate cruise and cargo ship berthing.

We will seek to establish a breakwater at Port Little Bay to create safe harbour.

Disaster Management

An MCAP government will design a management approach that seeks to reduce Montserrat's vulnerability to natural disasters by the development and implementation of a Disaster Management Plan in collaboration with CDERA.

The Plan will encompass the conduct of risk assessments, the dissemination of information, the mobilisation of human resources, the preparation of physical facilities, the implementation of the recovery process and the strengthening the institutional capacity of the Emergency Operations Center to co-ordinate these efforts.

Disaster Mitigation

We will seek to establish and maintain a Disaster Fund that would allow for a rapid response to natural disasters.

We will ensure that the Building Code is adhered to.

We will take steps to ensure the application of relevant physical planning criteria as relates to permission for locating built facilities in hazard prone areas of the island.

We will seek to encourage the individual homeowners and private businesses to purchase insurance coverage that would facilitate rapid recovery.

Disaster Preparedness

We will seek to keep the Defence Force Facility in good order, well stocked with emergency supplies to provide temporary accommodation for residents living close to the daytime entry zone in the north.

We will ensure the provision of adequate road and ash clearing equipment in strategic locations.

We will seek to ensure the availability of adequate housing for the Elderly and the vulnerable.

We will ensure that the communications media are fully informed and able to disseminate information to the public in a timely manner.

We will seek to procure ash cleaning equipment and vehicles and commit to providing rapid ash removal and immediate and adequate clean up of ash after major volcanic activity.

We will ensure that the financial resources required to facilitate these measures are treated as a high priority by the Government.

Disaster Response

We will ensure that the period of response to a natural disaster is timely and effective. We will give priority to children, the elderly, the physically challenged and other vulnerable segments of our population for purposes of evacuation and will provide specially trained counsellors among the compliment of rescue workers responding to a disaster.

We will ensure that field personnel from each of the Ministries along with suitable equipment will be mobilized at the disposal of the coordinating office this particularly relevant to officials at Ports of entry.

Investment Policy

An MCAP Government is committed to building an economic environment in which free enterprise can flourish in ways that ensure jobs, income and related benefits to the people of the island.

We will ensure that the Government will assume its role as regulator and facilitator of economic development while ensuring transparency, fair play and equality of treatment.

We will develop an Investment Code and Criteria that will guide activity in this sector.

Investment Environment:

We will provide a politically stable environment where investment is safe and the legal regime guarantees the security of personal property, private investment assets and earnings.

We will create a service environment that is investment-friendly by providing prudent fiscal policy, well-maintained public infrastructure, efficient support services, dependable public utilities, safety and security systems.

Financial Services

We will explore the promotion and development of a financial services center with specific rules and regulation to prevent the laundering of criminally derived assets.

We will support the supervision and promotion of high standards of conduct and sound practices in the sector.

We shall encourage through legislative, regulatory and policy measures, the development and marketing of innovative financial services.

Overseas Investors

We will allow work permits for key and professional personnel of Overseas Investors and grant fit and proper owners of residences valued at ECS\$500,000 or more; annual renewable Home Owners Residency Cards.

External Relations

An MCAP Government will seek to re-establish Montserrat as full and active member of the OECS and CARICOM and all their organs.

An MCAP Government will continue to seek to fully participate in CSME, the Caribbean Court of Justice and other established regional institutions

An MCAP Government will remain engaged with the dialogue involving the Overseas Dependent Territories as we seek to enhance working relations with the UK Government. On behalf of Montserrat we will propose regular sessions involving officials of the UK Government on matters of mutual interest.

Conclusion

Montserrat's major assets are its peace, security and natural resources. These must be protected and maintained if the island is to have a chance at development. This Manifesto outlines the direction that will be taken by an MCAP Government to ensure that in the management of these assets for the benefit of the present population, future generations of Montserratians will also have the use of peace, stability and healthy natural systems.

We acknowledge that the approach to rebuilding Montserrat must be an integrated one.

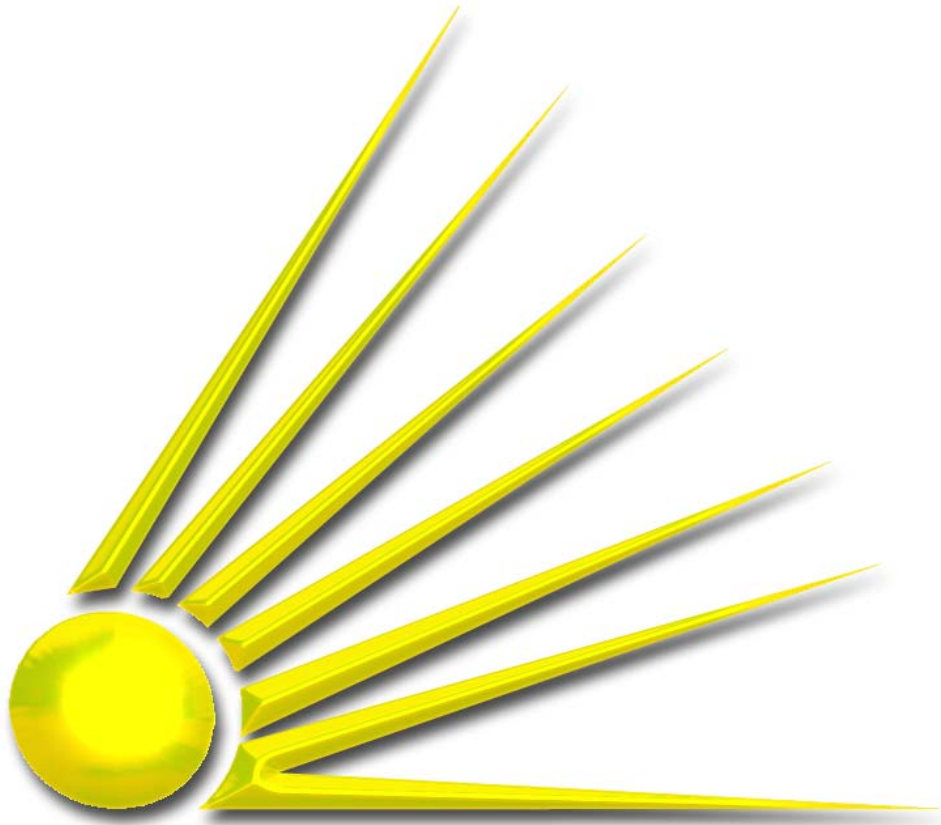
We commit to working with the British government in partnership and with mutual respect to modernise our Constitution and institutions as we chart a path to self-determination.

We accept and anticipate that the British Government will continue to have a significant role in the development of the infrastructure of the country.

We understand that the development of the economy must be private sector led and are convinced that the natural disasters of the past 17 years have opened new development options for Montserrat that must inform and guide the strategy for development that is sustainable.

An MCAP Government is committed to the development of the private sector by the pursuit of transparent and equitable policies that will create an open and inviting environment that will facilitate the expansion and growth of investment that is consistent with the island's chosen path.

An MCAP government is committed to open government and the participation of the peoples of Montserrat in whose name we govern and to whom we report.



MICAP

MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE AND PROSPERITY

www.mcap.ms