

PDM's CALL to join the Pathway to Prosperity, Self-Sufficiency and Greater Self-Government

Sisters and Brothers,

Have you ever wondered why Montserrat continues to struggle decades after the volcano first erupted?

Are you tired of suffering with a slow economy, the crushing cost of living, power cuts, poor access in and out of Montserrat and all the other problems we face daily?

It's time for a change, and the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) has a plan to secure the funding required to deliver all the improvements you desire.

Your vote for a PDM Government will enable Montserrat to make one of the most progressive and strategic moves in recent colonial history, since our heroes gained control of local government seventy years ago.

The Key to Our Success: International Law Is On Our Side

Did you know that the UK has a legal obligation to help us develop? It's true! Article 73 of the UN Charter says so.

The UK, as the administering power, has already acknowledged its legal obligation and sacred duty to “**ensure**” Montserrat’s advancement in all sectors — especially in the “**political, economic, social, and educational**” sectors, while promoting “**constructive measures of development.**” But for too long, we haven't been getting the support we deserve.

PDM knows our rights and will use them to deliver the change we need.

To redevelop Montserrat we must follow the proper sequence of steps: **FIRST**, securing substantial amounts of grant funding made available by the UK Government to establish key infrastructure and programmes; **NEXT**, boosting local and diaspora investment, while pursuing foreign investment.

Vote PDM!
*Montserrat First!
People First!*

Copying the Success of Other Small British Territories

Imagine this: St. Helena, a British Overseas Territory (BOT), an island like Montserrat, with just 5,000 people, got over £200 million from the UK for a new airport. The goal of this investment was to provide reliable air access, and grow St. Helena's economy out of dependency by the year 2050. The UK Government even boasted that it is willing to do the same for Montserrat by calling this as the '**yardstick**' for how other BOTs like Montserrat should be treated.

Then, the Isles of Scilly, a British Crown Dependency and island, with only 2,200 residents, was recently offered £48.4 million for new ferries. During Covid (2020 to 2023) they also received significant sums of money from the UK to help and save people and keep businesses from falling apart.



St. Helena's International Airport



One of the Proposed Scilly Ferries

Why not us? We deserve the same level of support to build a thriving Montserrat.

PDM will use these and other examples to bolster Montserrat's case, arguing that similar transformational funding is available to Montserrat based on the UK's legal and moral obligations. This new approach encourages private sector investment initiatives, which rely on critical infrastructure and services.

How We Will Deliver Our Plans and Vision For a Prosperous Montserrat

- 1 No More Begging Talk:** We are not beggars. The same assistance we get when we flee to the UK, is promised to us here on the island under international law, with funding to back the promise.
- 2 Think Big:** We're not just asking for a little more aid. We're calling for transformational funding to make Montserrat self-sufficient. The UK has agreed to providing to its '**Utmost**' (to the best of its ability) for the well-being of Montserrat.
- 3 Know the Truth:** In the past 15 years alone, over £150 billion was available for Overseas Aid, for which Montserrat is to be treated as a priority. Therefore, UK funds are already available to deliver the promises we make, and we have a right to them.

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Get the World on Our Side: We'll work with the UN, Commonwealth and Caribbean organizations to amplify our voice on the global stage, and secure appropriate, adequate and timely support from the UK, in addition to support from regional and international partners.

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Negotiate For What We Require: We'll negotiate firmly with the UK, reminding them of their legal and moral duties to support our development towards self-sufficiency. By involving the UN, the world will be watching, and the UK will be more careful and committed in fulfilling its obligations. This will help us to build proper roads, affordable social housing, sea and airports; to provide a higher standard of education, health care and recreational facilities; to build geothermal and diesel power plants etc., all to the standards enjoyed by our neighboring French territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

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Take Care of Our People's Needs: "While the grass is growing, the horse must not starve." We will rebuild the infrastructure destroyed by the volcano, and implement medium and long term plans and programmes. At the same time we will take care of our vulnerable, sick, unemployed, our working poor, pensioners and our struggling businesses. We will be fair to both Nationals and Non-Nationals.

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Key, Strategic initiatives: We will create jobs, provide affordable access – including a new airport, and meet the basic needs of housing, food, healthcare and energy. We will also pay special attention to educating and empowering our youth to lead. There will no longer be a need for our people to leave for the UK because of economic hardship and insecurity. Working together, we will achieve a new standard of living that provides for all our needs on Montserrat.

8

Involve Our People Everywhere: Whether you're here or abroad, you'll have a say in Montserrat's future as we plan the way forward together. We will work to unite our entire Assembly, our people on island, and friendly governments and people worldwide in our quest to grow out of dependency on the UK Government.

PDM has already proven that strong evidence-based negotiation works!

In 2018–19, the PDM secured over EC\$200 million in Capital Projects. Of these, EC\$100 million came under the UK's 2018 Capital Investment Programme for Resilient Economic Growth (CIPREG), through direct communication with the UK Government and leveraging the UK's acknowledged obligations.

The new PDM Government will build on this success with an even more improved strategy to take Montserrat to the next level.

Remember: This isn't just about getting more aid. It's about securing the resources we need to stand on our own feet and build the prosperous and self-sufficient Montserrat we all dream of.

Your Vote Will Make the Vision Reality!

- Do you believe Montserrat deserves better support for its development?
- Are you ready for a government that will fight for what we're legally entitled to?
- Can you imagine a self-sufficient, prosperous Montserrat with good roads, reliable energy, top class healthcare, convenient air and sea access, adequate wages, a thriving economy, and all the other essentials we require to live comfortably?

If you answered **yes** to these questions, then it's time to support PDM's vision and strategic plans to take Montserrat to the next level.

Vote PDM: Because Montserrat Deserves the Best!

VOTE PDM!

PEOPLE FIRST!

MONTSERRAT FIRST!



VOTE  **24TH OCT 2024**



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