

Spare de rod

three-day week. Our school leavers were told not to apply to the Government for work. The children used to gang up at the evergreen tree almost everyday, frustrated and weary. Psychologists were brought in from the UK to soften the impact of redundancy and early retirement on civil servants.

Now in 2010 our people are frustrated and weary. Talk about again about cut-backs and redundancy, there is not enough work they cry. It was never like this before, they say. The shop-keepers are frightened. They heard that many millions have been approved by DFID. Where have all the money gone, they ponder.

‘Do not spare the rod, man beat the livin shite outa dem’

Why did Montserrat resurrect proponents of a harsh and merciless economic policy? How could we forget that in 1992 Donald Douglas was arrested for removing sand from Fort Ghaut? How could we forget that truckers had to steal sand from the beaches ‘foredaymorning’ to avoid being arrested? And what about the chicken thing, forcing us to spend weekends without chicken because there were restrictions on imported chicken.

May I remind you, this is not a Eulogy. It is a Post-mortem.

There is so much to tell, to write it all would take until new-year’s eve.

Yet as if moving to the

tune of ‘Oh come all ye faithful’, like the children of Hamelin Town, joyful and triumphant, the privileged few of Rubenomics dance. Yes, they dance, unaware that evening shadows are creeping upon their bountiful Rubenomic times. Night is drawing nigh for sure!

It was Aye, who in The Montserrat Reporter of November 03, 1995 forewarned that Montserratians would be scattered all over the world if we did not immediately establish a land policy to accommodate the people of Long Ground. It was Aye who offered the Government land in Manjack to house the residents of the east, just in case... I said.

But it was the social policies of Rubenomics that kept the east people couched up in shelters in Salem. It was the econo-politico system of 1996 that refused British to provide housing which caused Montserratians to flee and be scattered all over the world.

In 1996 Salem became the social and economic solution to the volcano. Houses of Salem, Old town and Olveston were rented as offices. Schools were built there too, as it there was an active volcano in the silver Hills. The solution included a commercial and residential development in Duck Pond and Nantes River environs. Imagine that!

It was Aye, who in 1996 penned the article Land in the North, What Now? Back

then I begged the government to educate Montserrat about the Land Acquisition Act, to set about zoning the north and to create a new land policy sustainable and suitable for a 10 square mile volcano land. Now in 2010, still no Land Policy, we buy a plot of land here and we send our faithful there to make some money under the guise of ‘build a house’ program. The same Preacher, different church, different landscape, the same principles, it is Rubenomics. Who can forget the ‘Salemite gang of Rubenomicians’ who in 1997 dismantled the checkpoint barrier at Nantes River and threw barrier and police into the ravine.

So it was in the beginning, so shall it be in the end. And in de middle too, it is Rubenomics. There is not a damn plan in sight to acquire and preserve land for the next generations to come. As long as Montserrat is under this alien economic system, it will always be for “the come ye my few faithfuls” Their cry is always “night is drawing nigh and before the day is over let us fill our pockets and keep Montserratians desperate and frightened’.

This is not a funeral; there is no place for niceness. This is a postmortem!

In 2010, we know that there is no volcano in the Silver Hills. But what they do? They chop up the hill-sides under the guise of road building while making

the land inaccessible. They waste DFID money piling rocks on Little Bay. God bless the mouth of that DFID woman that said to immediately remove the rubble.

This is not an occasion to applaud. You have heard, ‘Spare de Rod and Spile de child’.

Lash dem, and beat dem arl between dem leg. Yes right dey so so; ley dem feel, an maybe dem wud lurn fu do wha rite. Tell benomics dem how sensible palitichun wuk!

At the beginning of this article it was said that discipline is incomplete if it is not accompanied with a statement of expected behavior. Rubenomics the socio-politico-economic system introduced into Montserrat in the 1990’s should therefore be measured with the systems of prior governments.

It is Aye, the social and political critic, who shall

choose the governments of the 1960’s and 1970’s as a fair comparison. Those Governments had very little to work with in their quest to shape a viable and sustainable Montserrat. Yet the political architects of that era, like Tubal Cain in the days when earth was young, they hewed out of Soufriere Hill Montserrat social and economic systems that have stood the test of time. They created for Montserratians the real estate industry, the building industry and tourism. Yes they understood good old-fashioned tourism. They are all sustainable industries up to this day. They brought programs like the Provided Fund. They developed the industrial estate to manufacture electronic parts and cotton products. They left in their wake the low-income housing estates. The political architects of that era smoothly introduced new

systems of taxes on Montserrat. They hewed social and economic systems out of and with LOVE and left a contented and proud nation.

My God, I did not spare the rod; but you have the power, so discipline them! Please Dear Father; abide with Montserrat, in 2011 present the Proponents of Rubenomics with the light for a new direction. May the angels of the four directions spread their great wings over Montserrat to keep us safe in love and peace. May the Great Creator whose spirit is in everything guide the Rubenomicians so that they would pay attention to the ‘Pen’ and change. Yes really change, so that one-day Montserratians will joyfully and triumphantly sing ‘now the Day is over’ to the beat of ‘come all ye faithful’. And Aye, yes Aye shall rite de tribute with Love.

MONTSERRAT SOCIAL SECURITY FUND INVITATION FOR TENDERS

The Montserrat Social Security Fund invites applications from suitably qualified firms to audit its financial statements for the year 2010.

JOB PURPOSE

The overall objective of the engagement is to allow the auditor to express a professional opinion on the financial position of the organization for the year ending December 31, 2010 as well as the adequacy of internal controls.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Audit must be performed in accordance with International Auditing Standards and must therefore include the tests of the accounting records that the auditors consider necessary under the circumstances.
- The Audit must include adequate planning, the evaluation and testing of the internal control structure and systems and obtain sufficient objective evidence to allow the auditors to reach reasonable conclusions on which to base their opinions.
- The Auditors are expected to issue their report with specific opinions and conclusions as deemed necessary.
- Interested firms should express their interest in writing, with a profile of their firms to:

**The Director
Montserrat Social Security Fund
P O Box 170
Sweeney’s
Montserrat**

No later than January 31, 2011

Attorney General accused of impropriety by the High Court

In the case before the court the judge preferred the evidence of a witness to that of the Honourable Attorney General. Recent court proceedings have brought into sharp focus the performance of our legal staff and prompts one to ponder the outputs and the relevant costs of maintaining such a large contingent of legal personnel.

One cast its mind back to the days when we just had an Attorney General and a clerical officer assistant. This was upgraded to an Attorney General and a Legal person.

Today there is a complement of some 9-10 legally qualified employees in the

Attorney General’s Office. The layman has great difficulty understanding why, not so long ago and with a population of eleven –twelve thousand, two legally qualified persons was adequate and now with a population of five thousand we need nine or ten.

The question is asked “in these guava times, are we getting value for money?” should we be meaner and leaner? Is that level of staff really necessary? Can we continue to afford it? Is it justifiable to pay the Attorney General over \$30,000.00 per month tax free when he has never for example tried a criminal case

either in the Magistrate Court or the High Court.

This will depend on many things including the effectiveness and efficiency of the department and their level of meaningful outputs.

A recent High Court Judge’s decision tends to fuel criticism of the legal department. This is what the Judge said about our AG-“What greater display of bad faith (malafides) and impropriety on the part of the Honourable Attorney General can be countenanced in this case? It is tantamount to deceit and in this connexion Regina V Croydon Justices exparte

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