

NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTSERRAT LEGISLATURE

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1

Monday, March 27th, 2023



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RECENT EVENTS

- ❖ *Lindsay Hoyle; Speaker of the House of Commons; London visited Montserrat from March 31st to April 1st, 2023.*
- ❖ *The Overseas Territories Speakers Conference was held in Anguilla from April 3rd to April 6th 2023. Madam Speaker White and Madam Clerk, Baker attended this conference.*

WELCOME

The Office of The Montserrat Legislature is pleased to offer you the second edition of volume 2 of its newsletter.

PARLIAMENTARY CORNER:

In the previous edition we dealt with our first functionary of the House; the Speaker. Our second featured functionary is the Premier.

Prior to September 2011 when the 2010 Montserrat Constitution was enacted, the leader of Government business was called Chief Minister. From 1961- 2011, seven men have held the portfolio of Chief Minister. William H Bramble became the first Chief Minister and Rueben T Meade the last Chief Minister. Since the name was changed from Chief Minister to Premier in 2011, there have been three Premiers. Mr. Rueben T Meade was the first Premier and Mr. Donaldson Romeo the second. Mr. Joseph E Farrell, our current Premier, is the third appointed Premier of Montserrat.

Who is the Premier?

The Premier:

- Is an elected member of Government who is chosen by the members of his party, after a General Election, to become the leader of government business.
- Is referred to as the Premier instead of Prime Minister because we are still a dependent territory.
- Is the main and first point of contact after the appointed representative of the monarchy (the Governor).

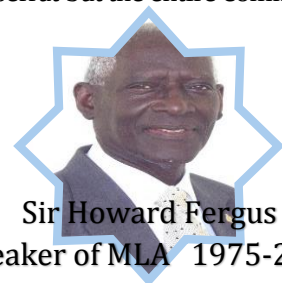
- As leader of government business, has the responsibility of setting the tone of the government and for the overall direction of what transpires in the government.
- In the Montserrat context usually holds the portfolio of Minister of Finance and Economic Management.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS:

During the January and February 2023 sittings of Parliament. Two bills were passed. The Labour Code (Amendment) Bill 2022 was passed in January and the Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill 2023 in the February sitting.

On 23rd March 2023, the Montserrat Legislative Assembly went into mourning, after learning of the passing of its first appointed Speaker of the House, Sir Howard A Fergus.

Sir Howard was not only the first appointed Speaker but was the youngest and currently holds the record of being the longest serving Speaker in not just Montserrat but the entire commonwealth.



Sir Howard Fergus
Speaker of MLA 1975-2001

PARLIAMENTARY STORY; 1952 - 2019

*****As we continue to journey through 70 years of Parliamentary Democracy, we will share the Parliamentary story by featuring different aspects of our Parliament's history in the upcoming newsletters.**

THE THIRD DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS –
(1961-1966)

The fourth Democratic Parliament was elected in 1961. Members of parliament were now able to hold ministerial portfolios and therefore William H. Bramble was officially appointed as the first Chief Minister of Montserrat; although he had carried out the role for many years. Another change that took place was that there was an increase in the number of years that Parliamentarians could hold office. Instead of the three (3) years, which previous Parliaments had served before fresh elections took place; the Parliament could now serve for five (5) years.

As part of the changes which took place, three new constituencies were added. These were the North-western, Plymouth, and Eastern constituencies. They were added to the Northern, Central, Southern, and Windward constituencies, thus bringing the total to seven. These seven constituencies continued until 2001. William H. Bramble, Michael Walkinshaw, Brunel W. Edwards, Herman H. Lee, Margaret R. Kelsick, and Michael Dyer were returned to office, while Christopher Fenton and James W. Allen were elected for the first time.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

- (1) The 1961 General Elections was historic, name two things that happened during this electoral year?**

- (2) The number of years that Parliamentarians could hold office was increased to five years and currently this still stands. How many years were they able to hold office for, before the 1961 General Elections?**

- (3) When the first General Elections was held in 1952 there were only four constituencies. In 1961, three new constituencies were added to bring the total number of constituencies to seven. Name these three constituencies.**

Solve the Crossword below to learn about our Leaders of Government business

LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ACROSS

3. He is the seventh elected Chief Minister
4. He served the shortest time as Chief Minister
5. He is the son of the first Chief Minister and the second elected Chief Minister
8. He is the second elected Premier of Montserrat
9. He is the current Premier of Montserrat

DOWN

1. He is the first elected Chief Minister
2. He is the longest serving member of Parliament and the third elected Chief Minister
6. He is the fourth Chief Minister and the first appointed Premier
7. He is the sixth appointed Chief Minister

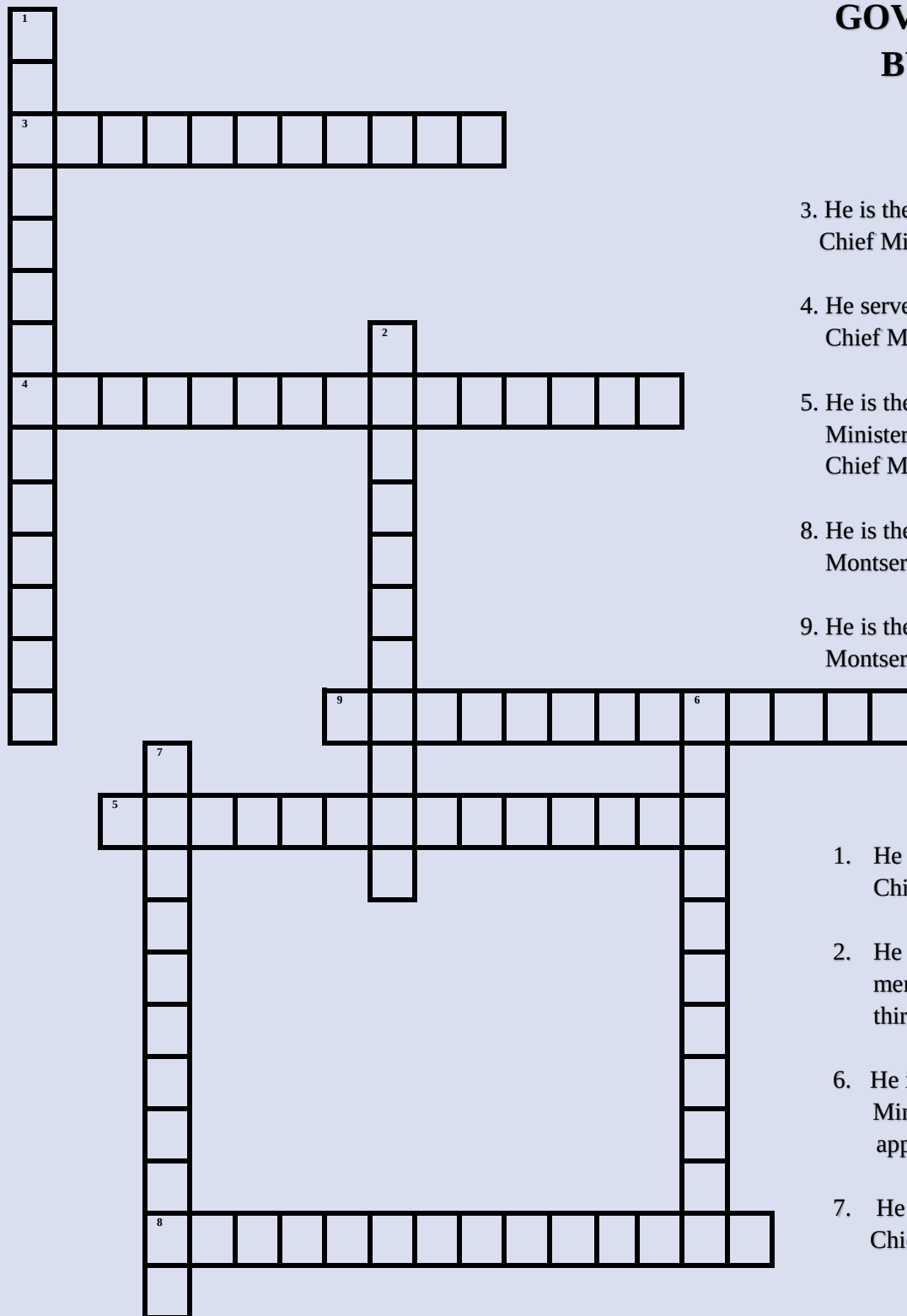


PHOTO GALLERY

John A Osborne
1978 – 1991 &
2001-2006



Rueben T Meade
1991 – 1996 &
2009-2011



P. Austin Bramble
1970 - 1978



William H Bramble
1961 - 1970



Bertrand B Osborne
1996 - 1997



Lowell L Lewis
2006-2009



David S Brandt
1996 - 2001

CHIEF MINISTERS



Rueben T Meade
2011-2014



Donaldson Romeo
2014-2019



Joseph E Farrell
2019-Present

PREMIERS

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