

Every country needs good leadership

Every country needs good leadership. And the concept of leadership extends beyond the political realm into civil society and business.

Leadership

What does that word really mean? It means:

Management, control, guidance, headship and direction.

In every instance it has something to do with being in charge. Being ahead of the flock.

Having others follow your lead. Supervising others.

And because the idea leadership of a country touches more than just politicians and goes as far as business, church, schools, community and non profit organization it is sad that there is no institution in the Caribbean islands that is dedicated to developing leaders to serve our societies.

All leaders of a country are important. But it is the political leadership of a country that is of singular importance.

And that is because the political leadership of a country determines the kind of country we are or the kind of country we can become.

The political leadership of a country sets the mood and sense of well being of a nation.

It shapes the investment climate.

It sets the tone of the nation's pride in it self.

It determines the international standing of a country.

And most important it is the acceptance or rejection of the political leadership of a country that is the gauge for the general public.

Unfortunately in every country on every continent on every television or radio station, more and more we hear that the public is disenchanted with the political leadership.

Why is this the case?

It is because in the world today the political leadership of many countries is mediocre, undisciplined and irresponsible.

There are no strict or compulsory rules for entrance into the political leadership of a country and there is no obstacle to prevent any one from becoming a political leader.

As a result the political leadership of many countries may become filled with deadbeat leaders who do not make good on promises and in many instances ever actually expect to make good on promises.

And they do not expect or accept any responsibility or blame for failing to keep the promises they make.

In the world today political leaders are not seen to be punished for their excesses. The public can see and hear them enjoying their rewards.

And all the while that the political leadership is preaching self-control and forcing citizens to live in poverty as they are wreaking havoc on the economies, they are squandering and stealing the countries resources.

And at the same time they are buying homes in Europe and storing many dollars in fat accounts in offshore banks.

It is this type of flexible and questionable political morality, of the political leadership of many countries that damages the image of all politicians.

How should donors respond when the political leadership of a poor begging country sit at the negotiation table for the rescheduling of loans or the negotiating for subsidies and grants when the donors are fully aware that they have just leased out the countries prime real estate for a pittance.

Why would an investor bring his investment dollars into a struggling country in need of development when the political leadership is repeatedly and publicly unapologetic for statements that are tantamount to a national and very public call for ethnic cleansing?

How could any visitor, any tourist, any person wishing to migrate to and live in a new country feel any sense of comfort or welcome if the political leadership sees it fit to publicly castigate, berate, insult not just new citizens but men and women of the community, who are local leaders in the community who have been outstanding contributors to the development of that community.

It is this kind of behavior that breeds mistrust among the population in general and causes the general public to become resentful and angry towards the political leadership.

But this kind of behaviour is to be expected of the political leadership in many countries.

Because the most important thing for many political leaders is the attainment and retention of power.

They are permanently intoxicated by the feel and smell of power. They can never be retired.

For these political leaders the trappings that come with political leadership is the oxygen of life.

They cannot live with the knowledge of being a nobody after having been the center of public attention and genuflection for decades.

These political leaders are convinced that they are permanently entitled to the immunities that go with their political office.

And that is why they do not and cannot hear the ticking of the political time clock.

And they must often be reminded that Political Leadership is about vision and not about who came first or who served the longest.

Many studies have shown that the political leadership of many countries is unable to understand the concept of public life and public property.

And as they just cannot separate their private income from public funds the general public tends to see their political leaders as persons who not only embezzle public funds with impunity but waste public funds and engage in all kinds of fraudulent behaviour.

And one of the major problems of the political leadership of many countries today, is that political leaders has somehow taken the historical tactics of sabotage, deception and hostility that was used to fight for independence, or to fight against their colonial masters and now employ them against their own people who are brave enough to criticize their coarse and scandalous behaviour in office.

Political leaders are notorious for saying the most unkind things about one another and then, attracted by the lure of political office and political power, kiss and make up.

One regional political leader was heard to say that politics has a morality of its own.

But there is much doubt that the average voter is prepared to go along with that sentiment.

Many political leaders today are unable to see that leadership is a call to service.

They see themselves as the only and the supreme leaders of a country.

They are not prepared for the task of nation-building nor do they understand that they are not alone in the management of a country.

But leadership is about vision.

It is a vision that includes the leadership, the contribution, the acknowledgement, the hopes and aspiration, the fears and sorrows of every national, every resident, every visitor, and every friend of the country.

It is not about who came first or who served the longest.

It is not about the numbers of dollars in a bank account or how the money was obtained.

Political leadership is about statesmanship. It is about character. It is about integrity. It is about confidence.

Team MCAP will bring you political leadership that is representative of all the many peoples of Montserrat. We will not divide our country in rich and poor. We will not divide our country into grass roots and upper class. We believe that every man and woman resident in Montserrat must be able to pull up a chair to the table.

Our history and track record has shown that we believe this and have been living by this.

We have not learnt this during the ongoing political campaign.

Team MCAP has the character, the integrity, the confidence and the capacity to lead this country forward.

Support Team MCAP.

And together you and I, we will rescue and rebuild this country.

Thank you for listening this morning.

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