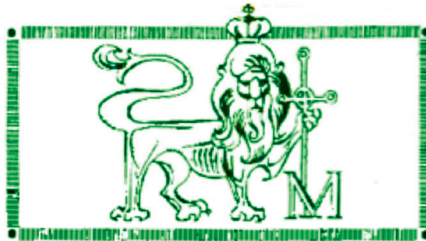


The Fiftieth Anniversary of the MONTSERRAT BUILDING SOCIETY

A Bumpy Road but Good Drivers



MONTSERRAT
BUILDING SOCIETY
LIMITED
“Founded 1966”

The Montserrat Building Society Limited was established and registered on April 19, 1966 under the Building Societies Ordinance No. 23 of 1965. It had a modest beginning with three staff and an initial capital of \$125,000 but its pioneer founders – Michael S. Osborne, Dona Cardenas, Evelyn N. Cooper and Ernst Namacher – had great expectations and dreams for its future.

In the following years those high hopes were challenged by the oil crisis of the seventies, the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and the volcanic eruptions commencing July 1995. We cannot over-emphasize the adverse impact that the volcanic events of August 22, 1997 had on the financial affairs of the Society by the:

- escalation of volcanic activities
- insurance company withdrawal of cover for volcano and earthquake perils
- slow process of settling insurance claims
- difficulties in enforcing the servicing of mortgages on properties, lost or unoccupied in the unsafe zone, where values had been severely depressed.



1st location – Wade Inn Building Parliament Street, Plymouth

This combination of circumstances prompted the temporary closure of the Society but it did not dash the hopes and aspirations of the directors who were determined that the Society would not fail. Adopting financially prudent measures and restructuring the Society (under the astute chairmanship of Mr. Cedric Osborne coupled with sound legal advice from Mr. Kenneth Allen QC) the Society moved from a state of insolvency at August 22, 1997 to solvency at December 31, 2000. As a result, the Society resumed normal operations on January 1, 2001.

We are proud to note that from its inception to March 31, 2016, the Society has issued loans for the construction and purchasing of homes and other real estate activities in the approximate amount of \$93 million.

As we reflect on our fifty year journey, though our basic mandate has not changed, we have had to continuously review our strategic choices to ensure that the Society responds dynamically in a fast and changing economic environment. To remain committed to the high hopes of the founders of the Society, we must redesign our business model to meet new challenges and take advantage of new opportunities, being wary of providing old answers to new problems.

Our current directors are monitoring the situation closely with a view to adopting policies that keep the Society operating as a viable institution well into the 21st century. We take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the founding members, directors, investment and savings shareholders, managers and staff, our solicitors and other persons who have contributed to the existence of the Society for the past fifty years.



MBSL own premises – opened in March 1983 – Marine Drive, Plymouth, Montserrat



MBSL rented premises – Chase & Sydney Building, Brades
From September 2011 to present