

## Deputy Sam Mézec - Vision Statement 'An Island Built on Social and Economic Justice'

Following 18 months of dysfunctionality and inaction, the States Assembly now has an opportunity to reset and deliver the kind of government the people of Jersey deserve.

For the remainder of this term of office, we need to establish a government that will make up for lost time and get our Island back on track, turning us away from the terminal decline that successive governments have taken us towards the brink of.

My vision for Jersey can be found in the Statement of Values in Reform Jersey's party constitution -

*"We believe that it is the duty of the state, in partnership with its citizens, to help create a society that works for all, including the poorest and most disadvantaged. We believe in speaking up for the vulnerable, encouraging those with aspiration, and ensuring all can live in a society built on social and economic justice. We wish the Island to prosper in a manner that will improve the wellbeing of all current and future citizens."*

These are values that many will share. But what matters is the plan for implementing the vision to make it a reality.

A new Council of Ministers is required to present a new Common Strategic Policy to the Assembly. We do not need to reinvent the wheel and can base a new CSP on the work already done. However, I will propose some key alterations.

**Firstly**, the new government must get to grips with the housing crisis.

On day one of a new government, I will issue a declaration that Jersey has a housing crisis, instruct that an emergency taskforce is set up immediately and a drastically fast-tracked timeline is issued for the presentation of the new Residential Tenancy Law.

**Secondly**, Jersey's transition to a carbon emissions-free Island must be done in line with the principle of a 'just transition'.

Playing our part in combatting climate change is not just morally the right thing to do but presents Jersey with a huge opportunity to improve our quality of life and exploit new economic opportunities. We must focus on commonsense proposals which proactively seek to make working people's lives better, rather than the badly targeted use of taxpayer's money to subsidise the affluent.

**Thirdly**, we must restore faith and confidence in government, which can only be achieved by adopting a very different approach to the previous government.

The new Cabinet Office has not been constructed properly and needs to be fixed. The expansion of some offices in government to increase their influence at the expense of our democratic procedures must be reversed.

The next government will be a coalition and must be inclusive of the talents and expertise of members from across the Chamber. My vision for how politics can be conducted is one where our differences can be managed respectfully. The divisions and incivility we have seen must come to an end. As the leaders of the Island, we must lead by example.

## How I will discharge my duties as Chief Minister

As the leader of a political party, a senior Scrutiny chair and former government minister, I have shown that I am capable of bringing people together to work as a team in pursuit of shared objectives.

In recognising that we are a divided Assembly having just been through a fractious debate, I will aim to bring members together in a way that is genuinely inclusive and collaborative. I will demonstrate this with my actions, not just my words.

As Chief Minister, I will respect the fact that the States Assembly is the sovereign decision-making body of Jersey, not the Council of Ministers. All major announcements will be made on the floor of the States Chamber, not elsewhere. The government will not unilaterally override decisions of the Assembly. We will also not unduly disregard recommendations made by Scrutiny Panels.

I will also respect that the majority of States Members are independents, with their own manifestos and mandates. As the leader of a coalition government, I will adopt a different approach to collective responsibility, which allows Ministers to stay true to own principles, and empowers the Assembly to take more of a lead on establishing government policy. This will mean differences can be managed without resentment or unpleasantness. The trade off will mean that the government will not always be united on every issue, but the benefits of a more civil and respectful kind of politics will outweigh this.

Lastly, we must reconnect the government with the public. Rather than bringing us closer to Islanders, the government's Communications Unit has achieved the opposite. Under my leadership, Ministers will be responsible for their own communications functions. Ministers will be encouraged to spend time in their departments to get to know their frontline staff and the issues faced on the ground, rather than spend the majority of their time in Broad Street.

I have shown that I am an effective leader who brings people together. I have demonstrated my competency when it comes to forming strategies and policies. As Chief Minister, I will show that a better kind of politics is possible, which can genuinely meet the needs of Islanders.