

SABA LABOUR PARTY

Party
Program
2019-2024

TIME FOR A
CHANGE!

SABA LABOUR PARTY

VOTE

SLP

Time for a Change!

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Principles of Saba Labour Party

The Saba Labour Party's loyalty is with the people of Saba. The SLP believes that the interests of the people are of the utmost importance at all times and that there should be equality for one and all, that no one person should believe that they are above the nation. The SLP believes that all elected members of government must serve the interests of the people of Saba at all times. The SLP believes that Government should be for one and all and not for a chosen few.

Party Objectives:

- A. To create a free and democratic society to ensure and secure continued well-being and welfare for each individual, regardless of color, race, gender, political affiliation or religion;
- B. To stimulate a better and harmonious society, spiritually, socially and economically;
- C. To help develop the material life of the people of Saba;
- D. To properly develop and expand existing economic resources and simultaneously create new ones;
- E. To respect the human rights of all people;
- F. To stimulate, create and develop all forms of cooperation with institutions and countries that share the same views and are striving towards the same goals;
- G. That the people of Saba should be heard on all issues regarding any developments on the island.
- H. That government should become more transparent in all of its dealings on behalf of the community.

The Mission of the Saba Labour Party will be:

- Ensure that every citizen has the right of free choice in the political affairs of the island at all times.
- Bring about equality in the economic development of the island.
- Access for all citizens to an adequate and universally accepted level of social services.
- Respect for the rule of law, social norms, orders and discipline.
- A dedication to maintain high moral, ethical and religious values and principles in all aspect of our day to day activities.

Meet the Saba Labour Party Candidates



#1 Monique Wilson:

Devoted and accountable Social Worker, Mother and Politician. Graduated with two bachelor degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice and a Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling from St. Thomas University all with honors. Over the past 10 years I have gained leadership knowledge and experience in the educational, business and government sector.

Elected to the Island Council in March 2015 I voiced issues of the community and critiqued the execution and mechanisms in place to complete tasks/projects. I have advocated the issues and concerns of the people especially with regards to the areas of education, equality regarding social benefits and supports, structured benefits and social minimum at a ministerial and local level.

On a local and ministerial level I have advocated for structured solutions with regards to realistic solutions and opportunities for our students; voiced for transparency with governmental policies and practices.



#2 Ishmael Matthew Ameal Levenstone:

Ishmael entered Saba politics in 1975, following in the footsteps of his father, the late John Esmond Mathew Levenstone. Four years later, in 1979, he joined forces with the Saba People's Party and lost his seat. In 1983, on the Saba United Party's list, he was reelected and like in 1975 by preferential votes.

He took a break from politics from 1983 – 1987 and came back as an Island Council member with the Saba Labour Party, the SLP, from 1999 – 2003. The SLP continued in their opposition role in 2007 with Akilah Levenstone as an Island Council member. In 2011 Ishmael came back and is serving on the Council up until the present. Ishmael is in politics for the people. He was, is and will continue to work for all Saban people, now more than ever.



#3 Augustus Thaddeus Sebastian Nicholson

I was born on Saba, I when to school on Curacao, Aruba, and St Maarten were I studied to be a technician in the MTS. Then I came back to Saba and work with Saba Cable T.V. after which I studied cellular phone system, which I graduated as a cellular system engineer and billing system accountants. I managed the first cellular system on Saba for about 2 or 3 years before it was sold to UTS Company. I speak Dutch, Papiamentu, English and Spanish. I am married a have 8 children that I do support. I am running in these elections because I love my Island and love to help people, I would like to sit in the Island Council meeting and let my voice be here fighting for the rights of the people.



#4 Charles Hassell

I am child of the soil. I have been a dedicated civil servant for the Government in the Security Department. I am a dedicated family man and know the true value of working hard and being committed to whatever task is at hand. I have knowledge and experience in the business and government sectors. I know the challenges and experiences of the business community and entrepreneurs. I am no stranger to the political arena as I have contested the Island Council elections in the past and am dedicated to serving you in the future.



#5 Sislene V.V. Matthew

My name is Sislene V.V. Matthew born on the island of Saba. I am a mother of 4 children and soon to be grandmother. I attended schools on Saba and St. Maarten. I am a licensed nurse by profession. I have participated in Queen Shows representing my island anytime I am called to do so. I have also taken part in carnival by singing in the Calypso and Road March contest and have had my own children’s parade.

I take on any challenge that I see fit and do my best. I love being around people and helping out. My motto is “a Lady with a voice: because I am always willing to achieve and see my dreams come true.

Democracy, transparency and governance



Saba Labour Party (SLP) advocates for a government that is critical and realistic. SLP has proven throughout the years to be critical of Government which is what is needed.

The SLP stands for the principles of human dignity, equality and solidarity. In the public service, transparency must be the norm. Everybody must be able to check on the public administration. All information in administrative documents is, in principle, public. The response to questions based on the Wet Openbaarheid van Bestuur, must be clear, understandable, quick and complete.

Island Council- and Central Committee meetings are public, must be advertised well in advance, must be aired at least by radio, streamed over the internet and the minutes must be sent to the media without delay. Changes and new legislation have to be discussed openly and before implementation publicized timely.

The SLP wants an Island Council that listens to the people and listens to the small entrepreneur.

During the past 4 years SLP has:

- Advocated for radio aired public meetings.
- Supported the broadcast of the meetings via facebook.
- Ensured that monthly public meetings are held.
- Advocated for a website which is more resourceful and has the publication of minutes, recordings and decisions.
- Maintained contact and ties with First and Second Chamber members regarding challenges and concerns of the Saban Community.

Development of Saba



SLP believe that Saba is not at its highest level of development and the development plan for Saba is a joint effort from the Public and Private sectors. SLP government will work hand-in-hand with the private sector to ensure growth by expanding Saba's infrastructure such as new roads to allow access to lands and the harbor; growth and development will be carried out in a sustainable manor: long term projects with keeping the environment as a priority.

SLP will work to ensure entrepreneurs are given a fair opportunity to offer services and employment for the community.

SLP mission is to:

- ensure the Government job market gives a fair opportunity to all applicants with a priority for local residents.
- Support investors who can contribute to the enhancing and marketing of Saba.
- Improve the resources regarding garbage disposal.
- Be instrumental in the research of geothermal energy.
- Ensure structured financial support is given to Saba Electric Company to ensure that the lowest rates are given to the consumers.
- Work with the private sector to ensure that water is distributed at an affordable rate and there is quality bottled water.
- Support the development of new resorts and sports activities.
- Support the transportation providers to explore ways in which to provide affordable travel to and from Saba.

Tourism



Saba Labour Party has and will continue to lobby for the highest marketing of Saba not only locally but abroad to attract valued tourist to our shores.

Saba is a majestic island which should be experienced by others, however ensuring that additional recreational options are available is key.

SLP believes in long-term sustainable growth and development of resources.

SLP aims to:

- Support the Tourist Bureau and tourism plan.
- Improve the hiking trails.
- Improve the moorings and protect the shorelines.
- Promote Saba and its opportunities with the International Tourist markets.
- Promote Saba as a family friendly destination with diving, hiking, sport fishing.
- Promote recreational sporting activities where possible.

Agriculture



Saba Labour Party is an avid advocate that the community of Saba has to be self-sufficient. A community that has a secure percentage of food supply is proactively planning for the future.

Saba was founded upon the key principles of being self-sufficient and has proven to be effective. Being reliant on your own products helps to reduce the amount of import and reduction in costs.

SLP:

- will encourage investments and training in larger scale agriculture.
- will set long term goals to be able to produce the majority of goods for the island.
- will support research and development in hydro- and aquaponics.
- promote active agriculture education in the education systems.
- promote and stimulate individual agriculture of goods for households.
- support education projects and plans that teach children how to grow their own food supply.

Housing



Adequate housing to provide a dignified living environment is vital for the well being of children and adults. SLP will continue to promote the development of affordable and adequate housing.

SLP is a strong promoter of:

- Hurricane strength housing communities that are built in multiple-unit blocks with shared water/septic systems that reduce costs.
- Home built for long term usage depending on the needs of the community, therefore they has to be a balance of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes with sufficient exit routes.
- Affordable housing which is aligned with the income of the tenants.
- Home ownership and reduced renters markets.

Banking

Since 10-10-10 it is has become a major challenge for individuals to qualify for home loans. The rigorous requirements make it almost impossible for individuals to meet them, yet it has been proven that there are banking institutions that can provide loans to Sabans abroad.

SLP will continue to :

- Support banking institutions that are interested in providing banking and loan options for Sabans.
- Support loan owns which promote home ownership and business.

Poverty Reduction/Social Well Being



The SLP is cognizant of the fact that due to there not being an acceptable social minimum wage being established that truly reflects the living costs for Sabans there will continue to be a concern with acceptable living wage.

There have been reports clearly stating the areas of concern and estimated wages that are not given a satisfactory result by the Ministry of Social Affairs. This is a major contributing factor to a significant number of persons living below the poverty line.

SLP aims to:

- Lobby for a justifiable and acceptable minimum wage.
- Lobby for a justifiable AOV and social benefits.
- Lobby for justifiable benefits for those who are disabled.
- Advocate for funding to ensure no child is lacking the basic necessities in life such as food, electricity, water, clothing, school supplies and afterschool activities.
- Ensure the principles of Human Rights and Child Rights are upheld in governmental practices.
- Lobby and advocate for structured funding for the Saba Electric Company (SEC) to ensure that the community has an affordable monthly utility cost.
- Create eco friendly waste management options which are less hazardous to the health of the community of Saba.

Education



Saba Labour Party values the youth of Saba and the principle that no child should be left behind. SLP believe in advocating for all children on Saba regardless of their race, developmental ability, religion or socio-economic status. Equal education for all students with a specialized care plan depending on the needs of the child.

The first teachers are the parents and they have to be empowered to ensure they remain the first educators of the young minds in their care. SLP strongly believe in promoting and supporting parents in their role and let them have a prominent place in education and the youth policy.

SLP is adamant that our students living abroad should be fully supported when they are studying and Government should be interested in their development and proactively encourage them to return. SLP believes that Government should have an active database of all students studying abroad to maintain contact and relations with them.

Core principles and goals are to:

- Prevent high school dropout.
- Ensure graduated young children are prepared for college or independent living.
- Ensure the Youth Council are ambassadors and have a voice in government.
- Engage the youth population in government locally and abroad.
- Have locals representatives living abroad be a support network to college bound students.
- Give local students fair employment opportunities to contribute their knowledge to further develop Saba.
- Promote agriculture stimulated education plans to educate children about the importance of growing their own food supply.
- Have yearly visits and conferences with students abroad to ensure Government is fully aware of their challenges and victories to fully support them and the local students.
- Ensure that there are diverse summer jobs and internships for all students locally and on the ministerial level.
- Explore financial possibilities to support student in terms of scholarships and financial assistance.
- Support Child Focus and Saba Girls and Boys Afterschool Program with sufficient support and resources.
- Support and facilitate the local library to ensure they can provide the best service for children and community members.



Health Care & Medical Insurance

The SLP supports the initiatives of the Saba Health Care Foundation and believe that there has to be a close collaboration with the Foundation to ensure that the care and well being of the community are kept at its highest standards.

SLP aims to:

- Advocate for efficient medical referrals abroad.
- Support the expansion of St. Maarten Medical Center services that can aid the community of Saba.
- Lobby for individualized care plans for the residents of Saba with the health insurance (ZVK).
- Lobby for efficient support tools for patients needing services abroad from the medical insurance (ZVK).
- Support means to have patient concerns be taken seriously.



Marine Park and Saba Bank

The SLP supports the Marine Park and the service it provides to the Diving Community. Safe diving is a must and we want to see clear mandates on whom/what organization is responsible for operating and maintaining the Hyperbaric Chamber. It is critical that we provide a safe environment for our current single largest tourist attraction on the island, diving.

The SLP sees the need to protect the Saba Bank fishery and help create new fisheries. Several Caribbean islands have implemented lobster/snapper seasons. It is only a matter of time before those same fishery seasons are implemented on Saba. We need to create new fisheries to keep Saba's fishermen jobs safe. The sport fishing industry is a billion dollar industry and we will, together with the local fishermen, help promote it through tourism. We have some of the best sport fishing practically at our shoreline.

Taxes

SLP believed that there should be a fair tax structure in place. Sabans should not be unjustly penalized with double taxation. SLP believes the issues regarding the imposed taxes should be kept a continuous agenda point for change at the Ministerial level.



Immovable Property/ Inherited Land

For generations our fathers, grandfathers and forefathers have worked together to acquire land. Property was passed from one person to another by handwritten agreements. Now, what was the norm for generations is under severe threat. New laws have been put in place that makes it all but impossible to prove what you and everybody else knows, is yours. We are in jeopardy of loosing the lands that all our forefathers worked tirelessly to obtain. This is unacceptable.

The SLP will work to help you retain the land that we all know is already yours. The SLP believes that no pensioners should be subject to loosing their lands simply because they cannot afford the Kadaster fees and the expensive process to prove what is theirs. We believe that a fund should be in place for pensioners and qualified citizens to use, so that they can confirm the ownership of their land and to be able to pass it on to future generations.

SLP has and will continue to:

- Advocate and lobby for affordable legal support and services are available to aid owners legalize their property.
- Advocate for affordable Kadaster fees.



Safety

Safety needs clear understandable legislation but more importantly the enforcement of it. Government has to take care of that legislation with which the Island Governor, the Executive Council and the police can work with.

SLP would like for there to be consistent visuals of uniformed officers throughout the community. SLP supports the visual engagements of the law enforcement officers with the community via town halls, youth activities, and prevention tasks. SLP supports an proactive approach to reduce the negative perception of law enforcement in the community.

Culture

SLP is a avid believer that the rich historical culture which include the making of Saba Lace, Saba Spice, Steel Pan amongst many other valuable life long skills needs to be revamped.

SLP aims to encourage/support:

- Community initiatives that encourage the youth and community members to engage in cultural programs.
- Documentation of historical elements to ensure the history is kept alive.

Why SLP?

SLP has proven to be a democratic, respectful and fair opposition who advocate on the issues at hand. A balanced and well-represented government is key to the continue growth and development of Saba.

These points are an overview of what the SLP will strive for in the coming four years. You can rest assured that whichever topic the SLP will have to deal with, it will be dealt with having Saba's best interest in mind. Choose a voice that will stand with you!! Vote SLP!

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