

ONE ST. MAARTEN PEOPLE PARTY

MANIFESTO

2014 – 2018

“A vision plan to rescue St. Maarten“

Let's get serious, St. Maarten.

Message from the President.

Fellow Citizens,

Thank you for this opportunity to be able to serve this party and the people of St. Maarten. The task ahead is gigantic but together we will make St. Maarten a better place for all of us to live. We must listen to the people and be there for them all the time and not only during the year of election.

The elected officials of the OSPP in the government will be held accountable for their actions and will be required to report to the party and the general public on a regular basis. Each candidate before being placed on the list for the election has been properly screened in house and they must provide a current police record not older than six months. These candidates must also sign an Integrity form designed by the party and they must be a member of the OSPP. Elected officials will be required to do the honorable thing if involved in some type of questionable activity and resign from their government post until the investigation is completed. Our elected officials must lead by example and show the nation that they are not above the law.

As President of this party my primary responsibility is to maintain the organization by holding regular meetings according to the Constitution and the By-laws of the OSPP; to keep the membership informed; organize activities for the members and the general public that is beneficial to their further development as a people.

Even though we have seen St. Maarten developed over the years, there are still many people who are not able to put food on their table every day due to no fault of theirs. Jobs have become a scarce commodity and we must tackle this ill with all our power. Every citizen of this country must be able to find employment if he so desires.

St. Maarten is at a threshold of going backwards if we don't take the bull by the horns and make sure that the young boys and girls on the block; our graduating students on the island and those returning to St. Maarten find suitable employment in their country.

Congratulations to all the voters of St. Maarten do go out and vote and be part of that change that will take St. Maarten on a different course, one of prosperity for all. Join the One St. Maarten People Party, the Purple Party and vote for the Vision Plan to Rescue St. Maarten. Let's get serious, St. Maarten.

Yours truly,

One St. Maarten People Party

President
Lloyd Beaton

Message from the Leader.

People of St. Maarten,

During the first congress of the One St. Maarten People Party (OSPP) the members elected me as leader of this party for the term of two years as stated in the constitution. As your leader I expect to lead you in this 2014 election and to capture sufficient seats in parliament to be in the government to govern for the next four years. As a young party I don't expect it to be an easy task but with your support we can make it happen.

We expect each one of you to play an active role in this campaign and to spread the good word of the OSPP. Our vision is to allow the people of this island nation to participate for the first time in the economic and social growth of this country. Increase economic activity with making agriculture a fundamental part of our 2014 – 2018 agenda. Our social programs will be next to none from introducing an Unemployment Benefit Plan; General Pension and Health Insurance plans and the eradication of poverty will take center stage over the next couple of years. All citizens should be able to live comfortable in the St. Maarten that we envision over the next four years and beyond, a very ambitious plan but attainable with your help.

This election 2014 is very important like every other elections of the past. However, the vast difference is that each of the political parties in government today has been part of the Executive Branch of the government since attaining our separate status within the Dutch Kingdom on October 10, 2010. Just think about it. What will they or can they tell you that they are going to difference this time around? They had their chances to make it right for you over the last four years but they refused, instead they choose to bring shame on this young nation based on their many illegal actions. They choose to stay in government at any cause to fulfill their personal needs. Now is the time that you fulfill your personal needs and vote the OSPP in to office.

On Friday, August 29, 2014 vote for the One St. Maarten People Party, the Purple Party and any candidate of your choice. We are all capable to represent you.

Let us have a safe election 2014 without violence, fraud and any other type of irregularities and with you voting your conscience, vote for the Vision Plan to Rescue St. Maarten. St. Maarten, let's get serious.

Respectfully yours,
One St. Maarten People Party (OSPP)

Leonard F. Priest, B.Sc. M.Sc. MBA
Political Leader

- **ECONOMY.**

- **Tourism** will continue to be our main source of income. We will be focusing on opening many other markets in particular during our off season. These markets will include tapping into South America countries such as Brazil, Columbia and others.
- St. Maarten Tourism Authority will be established and commence functioning immediately. We envision an authority including the participation of the Northern (French) side as well in order to promote St. Maarten as one destination.
- Caribbean Tourism. We will offer our Caribbean brothers and sisters more affordable airfare and accommodation to travel to St. Maarten utilizing our national carrier WINAIR. Our Small Hotel Association will play a very important role in the marketing to attract those guests to their properties.
- **Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Hortica & Fishery.** Eat what you grow and grow what you eat.
 1. We will establish a Department of Agriculture & Fishery with adequate funding to assist those interested in setting up back yard gardens and others who will develop larger plots of land. We intend to encourage many private land owners to enter into partnerships with persons interested in agriculture, aquaculture and hydroponics
 2. An agriculture station will be established to assist persons with technical assistance and to provide them with seeds and other material to be successful.
 3. We will re-organize the present fish market in Simpson Bay that will allow the farmers, butchers and fishermen to sell their products there.
 4. We will also offer scholarships in the field of agriculture, fishery and animal husbandry. We will organize workshops and seminars at the NIPA to better prepare those that are interested in this field. We will make it mandatory for agriculture and aquaculture classes be introduced in our secondary schools.
 5. We will purchase the Emilio Wilson Estate and we strongly support the proposal from the Ewaldo Agriculture Memorial Foundation and the Spaceless Garden vision for the development of the Emilio Wilson Estate as well as the vision of many other environmentalists. This proposed development will generate in excess of 500 jobs directly and indirectly for many of our young people in search of jobs. These jobs will not only be a job but these young people would have the possibility to create careers in these fields. Opportunities will also be given to many potential entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses.
 6. We support the aggressive establishments of fishery on St. Maarten by first protecting our territorial and inland waters.

We will work on cleaning our ponds and establish them as breeding grounds for fish, lobster and shrimps.

- **Small Businesses.** These businesses are the back bone of every economy and we will encourage and support these establishments.
 1. We will allocate ten million guilders annually on the budget for a loan guarantee program. This program will allow potential entrepreneurs to borrow from our lending institutions utilizing the funds from the loan guarantee program as collateral for the loans.
 2. The services of some of our retired entrepreneurs will be used to work as mentors and trainers of these persons. Many retired entrepreneurs from different countries also offer their services in this area. Some of them only require free accommodation and transportation.
 3. The issuing of licenses or permits will be issued once reviewed within a two weeks period providing all requirements are met.
 4. We will introduce legislation to provide these small businesses with a tax holiday.
 5. We will also work closely with the Small Business Development Federation to train those potential entrepreneurs. In order for them to qualify for the loan guarantee program they must have gone through a certain amount of training at the SBDF.
- **Cost of living reduction.**
 1. We will attract major food wholesalers to set up shop in St. Maarten resulting in the reduction of the food prices because of the competition that the others will have to endure. No import duties should result in lower prices.
 2. N.V. GEBE is owned 100% by the people of St. Maarten and it is time that the people receive some type of relief.
 3. We will build social affordable homes for sale and for rent.

- **TRANSPORTATION**

- We will subsidize our national carrier WINAIR in order to provide affordable rates for destinations within our region.
- Members will be appointed to the Transportation Committee post haste to regulate public transportation.
- We will address the routes where no busses are running at this moment.
- A bus terminal will be constructed to alleviate the traffic congestion that we are encountering now.
- We will look into the possibility of bus and taxi permit holders being able to incorporate their permits. This would allow them to employ drivers to service their client's 24/7 and there would be no need for help drivers.
- We will hold semi-annually meetings with the various transportation organizations.

- **TELECOMMUNICATION**

- Telem N.V. we must find the best strategic partner to merge with Telem NV creating more possibilities for growth. This merger should never be at the cost of job reductions but to the contrary jobs creation and gaining a larger share of the market.
- Much focus must be placed on land based lines. Even though mobile phones have become the time of the day, more emphasis should be placed on repairing and installing the land based lines.
- Within short after taking office the search for a CEO will take place.
- Telem N.V. owns a building 100% on Pond Island that to the best of our knowledge it is underutilized. We will engage the government in renting some of those spaces that are empty to generate income for Telem N.V. but at the same time reduce the rental cost to the government.
- Bureau Telecommunication will continue to inspect and control the telecommunication industry.

- **Convention Center.**

- We will encourage and facilitate the construction of a convention center through private initiative.
- This center would be marketed to encourage large international companies throughout the world to organize conventions, trade shows and special events in St. Maarten.

- **FINANCE & TAXES.**

- Proper accountability with balance budgets would continue to be our norms in order for St. Maarten to have a strong financial house.
- Our aim is also to increase the compliance rate from 30% to at least 80% by comparing the data base of the Inspectorate of Taxes with the Chamber of Commerce as well as that of NV GEBE.
- The role of the CFT will continue to be one of high importance nevertheless we will continue to evaluate the functioning of this committee according to the agreement signed with the Dutch government. This role within short must be carried out by an independent body to be appointed by the parliament of St. Maarten.
- Our plans are to cut spending to ensure fiscal discipline and we have identified several areas that will be tackled immediately.
- We support indirect taxes which will allow the tax payers to have more money in their pockets and they will determine how it will be spent. No longer will government decide on how the hard earned tax payers' guilders are spent. However, an in depth study will be carried out in order to determine how best to proceed with the change from direct to indirect taxes.
- We would prefer maintaining the Central Bank of Curacao and St. Maarten. However, if that is not feasible then we would certainly opt for a Central Bank of St. Maarten. It is our aim for the Central Bank of Curacao and St. Maarten to employ many persons from St. Maarten with Degrees in

Finance and Economics to better prepare us to manage our own Central Bank or have an input in determining the monetary policy of the two countries.

- We would maintain the guilder as our currency to be able to better determine our monetary policy. We will continue to generate foreign exchange income utilizing our own currency. All products will be priced in guilders only.
- A dividend policy will be established for all the government own companies. Surpluses and dividend from these companies will be paid to the government and the government will determine which social programs or projects to execute based on their set of requirements and rules for awarding contracts.
- Citizens of this nation will have the opportunity to purchase shares from the government owned companies in order to raise capital for future expansion plans.

- **EDUCATION.**

Education is a life time investment.

- All the stakeholders must play a vital role in raising our educational bars; parents, teachers and most of all the students.
- Our students and their parents must continue to have choices when determining the direction they want to study as it pertains to the language of instructions. Milton Peters College must be maintained to provide a sound base in utilizing Dutch as the language of instruction.
- We will offer all citizens free courses in the Dutch Language.
- Compulsory Education. We strongly support compulsory education but it should never be at the expense of the state. We can't continue to educate the entire region at the expense of our tax payers. We must enforce strict border controls.
- Scholarship policy. This policy will be based on the needs of St. Maarten. But our job doesn't stop at the issuance of the scholarship but we must be able to keep track of our students at the USM and those students studying abroad. This policy will also indicate the needs of the government of St. Maarten. All our students studying abroad, especially those in the Netherlands we will approach the various municipalities to allow our students to gain the necessary experience. Once they have acquired the education and the experience they are prepared to return to St. Maarten and take up positions that are now held by expatriates. The issuing of work permits will also tie into our scholarship policy and they must go hand in hand.

Our students will also have the opportunities to study in the region by attending some of the top universities in the Caribbean.

- Middle School. Many of our young students leaving primary schools at the age of twelve years find themselves amongst students at the age of 18 and 20 years. This is not conducive to the learning of these children. We are therefore proponents of the establishment of Middle Schools for students

between the ages of twelve to fourteen. These schools will allow our young students to gradually move from elementary to middle school and at the age of 13 to 14 moves to High School. We will receive better results at the end of the high school and the peer pressure that the young students leaving primary schools will diminish.

- Primary and secondary education will be free on St. Maarten including tuition at the NIPA. The funds to finance this free education will come from the savings derived from installing solar panels on all the schools based on an investment from NV GEBE. State of the art computer centers will be established in all the schools based on the above mentioned savings.
- Many of our students attending some of the schools are graduating at the age of sixteen but their diplomas are not recognized as High School diplomas. They can't find suitable employment and neither can they obtain a scholarship. We will work hard on establishing a level 3 and 4 at the NIPA that they can continue their studies and become professionals.
- We encourage our recent young graduates in this position to sign up now in the joint program being offered at USM in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce.
- All the schools and community centers will be equipped with state of the art computers and internet service for those who can't afford it at home.

- **SPORTS.**

- We will facilitate the establishment of sporting clubs within the various communities to develop our young talent.
- Sport Tourism will be vigorously pursued to attract major sporting clubs to train and give clinics to our youngsters. Our aim is to have our youngsters participate in professional sports and in the Olympics in the very near future. We must upgrade our sporting facilities and to utilize all of them 100% with proper management, programs and equipment.
- We will establish a National Education, Culture, Sports and Youth Lotto that will be geared towards the development of education, culture, sports and our youth.
- We support the construction of a major cricket field through a public and private partnership.
- The construction of a race track is very attractive as it would boost our tourism product. However, an in depth study would have to be carried out to determine the impact it would have on our environment and the noise level that would be tolerable by our residents.

- **CULTURE.**

- In order for a people to go forward they must know where they came from. We will place strong emphasis in our cultural heritage. We pledge to upgrade the various community centers for the performing of the arts that will allow our young people to perform in their communities in front their families and friends. After reaching a certain level they will have meets at

the upgraded Philipsburg Community Center to determine our best performers who may represent us in International competition and shows.

- Proper documentation and research will be established to better determine our culture and to promote it amongst our residents and tourist alike.
- It is important to start identifying our local heroes and making our people aware of who they are and what they stand for.
- We would attempt to identify our most talented young people for the performing of the arts.
- Our aim is to preserve the little that we have left of our culture.
- Carnival. We will continue to fund carnival and emphasize the importance of growing our children carnival and calypso by involving our primary schools and providing financial assistance that will be derived from the lotto.
- Festival Village. We will organize various activities at this venue and to make sure that it is available to the many promoters at reasonable rates. A new board will be elected to include business people to have this center operate like a business and fully utilize as it must be self-sufficient.

- **LABOUR.**

- Unemployment Registration. All unemployed persons would be required to register if they are unemployed but would not have to submit a police record to the Labour Department.
- Work Permits. We will cut back the time that it takes to issue work permits to one month. Work permits would only be issued after taking up contact with the Social Welfare and Education Departments. All welfare recipients must be registered at the labour department. Work permits will be issued and it will be stated on the permit that in the event a Dutch National becomes available that permit will not be renewed.
- We will introduce a program that will provide businesses with an incentive in the form of a tax credit for all young people employed for one year or more between the ages of 18 – 26 years of age.
- We will establish a One Stop Shopping for persons seeking a work and resident permit. All documents required for these permits will be submitted to the Labour Department. Upon approving the application at the labour Department it is then forwarded electronically to the Justice Department for the resident permit. The positive decision of the Justice Department will be forwarded to the Census office to obtain the Identification Card. The entire process should take less than thirty working days.
- All residents of St. Maarten will be issued one number that will be used by all departments and in the private sector, something like the social security number in the USA.
- We will submit legislation to increase the living (minimum) wage within our first 100 days in office.
- Establishment of a General Pension Plan. Every employee in the private sector must be part of a General Pension Plan.

- **SOCIAL WELFARE.**

- We will speed up the process for welfare applications. We will introduce a program from Welfare to Workfare. Those welfare recipients will be trained to find employment. We will also increase the welfare per month during the training process.
- We must improve the living conditions of our senior citizens by increasing their pension; providing them with relief from NV GEBE, that their health plan is excellent; provide them with affordable housing and exempt them from taxes on their pension income.
- Community Development. We will focus on the development of the communities by working together with the community councils and where they are dormant or non-existence we will encourage to create these councils. The school facilities will be used where there aren't community centers.
 1. The various community centers will be upgraded and used for the performance of the arts. These same centers will be used to offer courses and will be used to set up sewing centers to make uniforms here on St. Maarten for our schools and civil servants as well as private companies.
 2. These centers will be subsidized for a period of two years and then they must be self-sufficient with proper budgets, administration and functioning programs beneficial to the communities.

- **HEALTH**

- We support the expansion of our present St. Maarten Medical Center by expanding and installing state of the art machines and equipment. We will also provide the staff of the Medical Center with proper training to meet the health needs of our people.
- We support bringing more specialists to the upgraded St. Maarten Medical Center. This would eliminate us having to fly many of our patients to Columbia, Santo Domingo or elsewhere. It will result in better health care for our patients here in St. Maarten with the families and friends; plus it would be a major savings to the coffers of the government.
- Medical Tourism will be pursued to provide good health care to our residents, people from the neighboring islands and tourist alike. This will create jobs and opportunities for our people.
- There must be a better working relationship with the St. Maarten Medical Center and the Louie Fleming Hospital on the Northern side of the island.
- We must arrange for the SZV cards to be accepted at the Louie Fleming Hospital and at the pharmacies on the Northern (French) side and vice versa we will accept theirs also.
- The SZV Cards must make it mandatory that every card holder must have a physical done on an annual basis.
- Legislation will be established for the SZV Cards to cover 100% cost for dental and eye glasses.

- Establishment of a mandatory General Health Insurance that will cover all citizens that are not covered by another health insurance.
- We will submit legislation for maternity leave to become three (3) months for the stabilization of the working mothers.
- Paternity legislation will also be submitted for fathers to spend two weeks with their newborn and the mother.
- Mental Health. There must be a better cooperation between the St. Maarten Medical Center, The Turning Point Foundation and the Mental Health Foundation to better serve the clients. Our population will be better served with a blitzkrieg campaign by the Mental Health Foundation to make them aware of some of the symptoms and indications of mental illnesses. There is nothing wrong to talk about certain behaviors that you noticed that are not normal and to contact the Mental Health Foundation to monitor the situation. It is better to have the situation monitor by experts than to allow it to reach a point of no return. In most cases if these persons are helped at an early stage and take whatever medication that is prescribed to them, they can live a very normal life.
We support the construction of a modern facility and to use the existing facility for persons who suffers from the illness but can live a normal life in a guided living facility.

- **JUSTICE**

- We will continue to pursue the upgrading of our police force by first making sure that our officer's legal status in the force is regulated. Making sure that they are paid rightfully for a job well done.
- We will identify those officers within our force with the necessary education to send them on to the police academy in the Netherlands.
- We will focus on preventive measures such as making sure all areas are well lit. There will be more officers on the streets and less in the stations. They will be patrolling all the districts including the drive ways and not only the main road.
- All resident permits will be issued indicating that they will not be renewed once a Dutch national is available for the job that a renewed work permit was requested.
- Immigration: All of our waters will be better control and better cooperation must exist with the justice officials on the Northern side.
- There must be a better working relationship with the Dutch consulate in the countries where visas are issued.
- Our Border Control and Immigration will follow up very swiftly on persons entering the island on vacation but over staying. These individual pictures and other pertinent information will be broadcasted via the local and social media.
- We will continue to hold border control with our counter part of French St. Maarten.
- We will initiate closer working relationship with our neighboring police forces.

- We will establish policies to take the guns of the streets and our custom officers together with immigration will conduct vigorous control for drugs, weapons and any illegal substance on all ships and boats entering St. Maarten, including the mega yachts.
 - The physical upgrading of our prison is a must and the construction of a youth facility and a holding center for illegals has our immediate attention.
 - We will continue to strengthen the coast guard, the customs and our federal detectives.
 - We will modernize our present laws and enforce them also.
 - We will introduce legislation for a “Citizen Initiative Law” allowing our citizens to submit proposals to parliament that must be put on an agenda within thirty days for debate.
 - We will also introduce legislation forbidding the establishment of gangs.
- **HOUSING.**
 - House rent and mortgage takes up approximately 40% of the salary of a family and is part of the high cost of living on St. Maarten. We are committed to purchase land in order to build social homes for rent and for sale at affordable prices.
 - We will establish controls of homes that are built without permits and do not meet our building codes.
 - Funds will be allocated on the budgets to assist land owners with succession property to sort out and divide their inheritance.
 - Our young professional first time land or home buyers will be exempted from the 4% transfer tax, an incentive to encourage them to invest in purchasing a property.
- **DOMAIN LAND.**
 - We will continue to investigate government land that is in the possession of several persons but not being used and has exceeded the six months period to have built.
- **BUILDING INSPECTORS.**
 - We will strengthen our inspectorate department and to insist that they continue to carry out inspections as required by law and the follow up of same.
 - These inspections will take place before the construction takes place and while it is ongoing.
- **ENERGY.**
 - NV GEBE has a monopoly and is owned 100% by the government of St. Maarten de facto by the people of St. Maarten. Therefore it should not be the mission of NV GEBE to generate excessive profits on the backs of their clients, the owners of the company. NV GEBE rates will be reduced.
 - We will establish an energy policy that will take into account solar panels and windmills.

- We support the construction and installation of a waste to energy plant in the vicinity of Pond Island to clean up the dump.
 - The energy generated by this plant will be sold to NV GEBE at a reasonable price but not for a high price that will be passed on to the consumers
 - The land generated after the clean up by the dump we will use it to create a light industrial park.
 - Many small businesses will be created in the area of refrigeration, recycling, auto and mechanic shop, block plant, carpenter shop etc. etc. These businesses would have to establish a working arrangement with the NIPA and St. Maarten Vocational Schools for the students to do job training and with the possibility to acquire full time employment upon completion of their studies. The loan guarantee program will also kick in at this park.
 - Eco-commerce. The further development of “clean technologies” such as wind and solar power.
- **NEW PROJECTS.**
 - We will continue on working on new projects to improve the infrastructure of St. Maarten such as our road network. The Cake House road is once such road that will have out immediate attention.
- **PHYSICAL PLANNING.**
 - Reduction of the time to acquire a building permit to thirty days.
 - We pledge to purchase the Emilio Wilson Park and to create an Agro-Tourism Cultural Park.
- **ENVIRONMENT.**
 - It is our aim to preserve our environment for generation to come to enjoy it.
 - We will maintain a good working relationship with all the environmental foundations.
 - Our inspectors will continue to monitor and control any further threat to our environment.
 - E-green commerce for a better environment. The encouragement of shopping on line and offering this service to many consumers.

Let's get serious, St. Maarten!

Together we will make St. Maarten S.H.I. N.E. again.

