



ELECTION VIEWS



A SUPPLEMENT OF THE DAILY HERALD | ISSUE 5 OF 7 | AUGUST 6, 2024



VROMI





VROMI

St. Maarten is returning to the polls on August 19, so voters want to hear from their political parties and candidates. The Daily Herald is offering an ideal opportunity to reach them with a series of seven special publications every week until then.

Each issue of "Election Views" will cover a specific question to be answered in a statement. The content may not mention other parties and should focus on own

positions regarding the subject at hand. The newspaper reserves the right to omit such references and correct spelling or grammatical errors in the text.

The publication dates were changed to Tuesdays so parties have more time to submit their contributions by Friday. However, the last edition will still appear on Monday, August 19, Election Day, with the former Thursday deadline.

This fifth Question of the Week regards both socioeconomic and environmental aspects, namely: "What ideas do you have regarding construction activities, infrastructure and waste management?"

Enjoy the read!

Paul De Windt
Publisher

Party for Progress (PFP)

The infrastructure of a country is the backbone of its economy and one of the main areas of governance that people experience in their daily lives. Like many island states, Sint Maarten's infrastructure leaves much to be desired. PFP maintains that a "bigger picture" approach must be taken to building and maintaining infrastructure.

Let's take our roads for example, many are in a dire state and have had their life span cut short due to lack of drainage or to wastewater being delivered to our roads. We have also not been using the proper thickness required to handle bigger, heavier vehicles driving on them. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that we need a sustainable solution to not just build, but also to maintain our road network. The government has allocated money from capital expenditure funds to pay for programs such as Road and Hard Surfacing, but the question is always: What happens after?

PFP has always pushed for the establishment of the Road Fund. The money collected from road tax is chan-

nelled into that fund instead of going into the general "pocketbook" of Government. The Road Fund would be responsible for maintaining existing roads and identifying possible construction options for new roads. The age-old saying that prevention is better than cure can be used here – with a properly established and funded Road Fund, there will be planned maintenance programs to make sure the road is safe for you and your vehicle. The Ministry of VROMI is seeing how we can address these issues within the scope of the current programs.

Solid Waste and Wastewater Management also need serious attention on our island. Current practices are not sustainable, from poor solid waste collection, to a dump nearing the end of its life, and wastewater projects that are severely behind schedule, to the severe lack of funding to run these services. Combating these issues won't be cheap, and they also require a change in our behaviour towards waste, especially because we live in a country where these services are free for citizens. The repercussions for certain actions, such as littering or allowing your wastewater to end up

in the streets, are non-existent. In the cities of developed nations, budget allocation for these services can be anywhere from 15% to 35% of the city's annual budget – even then, the task can be a monumental and expensive one.

To combat this, PFP has always advocated for a Waste Authority, a body whose sole purpose is to manage solid waste, from collection to final processing, and enforcement of fines when people don't follow regulations. Funds collected for these services would again be put exactly where needed. The Ministry of VROMI is currently in the process of investigating the rollout of such a body. This is just a small glimpse at what needs to be done to sustainably develop Sint Maarten's infrastructure, but it's a good start. Realizing these goals will take tough choices by decision-makers and a big change in our habits as a people of this country. PFP has been and remains willing to make the tough decisions to move the needle towards a sustainable future forward.



THE GOLD SLATE

SINT MAARTEN DESERVES THE BEST, YOU DESERVE GOLD STANDARD REPRESENTATION



1

GUMBS, M.D.

2

PETERSON, R.A.

3

DE WEEVER, L.N.L.

4

GUMBS Jr., P.T.

5

NICHOLLS, L.L.

6

COOKS, M.A.



7

BLAISE, J.O.



8

MARTINA, R.F.



9

HODGE, M.M.



10

SALOMON, D.J.



11

DUNCAN, S.L.



12

GITERSON, M.M.C.

#CHOOSEPROGRESS ON AUGUST 19TH

The Unified Resilient St. Maarten Movement (URSM)

The Unified Resilient St. Maarten (URSM) party stands as a beacon of hope for the future of our beloved island. Our vision for St. Maarten encompasses a holistic approach to Public Housing, Spatial Planning, the Environment, and Infrastructure, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for all citizens.

Here's why you should vote for URSM:

Public Housing

At URSM, we believe that affordable and quality housing is a fundamental right for every citizen of St. Maarten. Our plan involves the promotion and development of modern, safe and energy-efficient public housing projects that cater to the diverse needs of our community. We also prioritize the maintenance and upgrading of

existing housing facilities to ensure they meet current safety and quality standards, especially the current housing – even those under the responsibility of the St. Maarten Housing Foundation. URSM's commitment to public housing is about more than just buildings; it's about fostering a sense of community and security for all residents. URSM believes in home ownership, which would include a "rent to own" plan, enabling residents in the various housing projects on St. Maarten to finally start to own their own home as a stepping stone to wealth building.

Spatial Planning

Effective spatial planning is crucial for the balanced and sustainable development of St. Maarten. URSM is dedicated to creating a strategic spatial plan that is further supported through legislation that integrates residential, commercial, and recreational areas harmoniously. Our approach involves comprehensive zoning regulations that prevent overcrowding and ensure the optimal use of land resources. We aim to create a green space starting in the Philipsburg area that will enhance the quality of life, promote social interaction, and preserve the natural beauty of our island. By investing in smart urban planning, URSM will ensure that St. Maarten's development is both orderly and sustainable, benefiting current and future generations.

Environment

Protecting St. Maarten's environment is at the core of URSM's vision. Our island's natural beauty is one of its greatest assets, and we are committed to preserving it through rigorous environmental protection policies. URSM will implement robust waste management systems, create a waste management authority, further support the promotion of recycling in our schools, and reduce single-use plastics (not just single-use plastic bags) to combat pollution. We also plan to protect our marine and terrestrial ecosystems through conservation programs and sustainable tourism practices by further supporting the Nature Foundation of St. Maarten. By investing in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, URSM aims to reduce our carbon footprint and make St. Maarten a leader in environmental sustainability. Our policies and legislation will be proposed to ensure that economic growth does not come at the expense of our precious natural resources.

Infrastructure

A strong and resilient infrastructure is essential for the prosperity and wellbeing of St. Maarten. URSM is committed to modernizing our infrastructure to meet the demands of a growing population and a dynamic economy. Our plans include upgrading roads, upgrading of the Simpson Bay bridge, and strengthening our public transportation system to enhance connectivity and reduce traffic congestion. Investors will be required to contribute to an "Infrastructural fund" that will help with the sustainability of the development of the country. We also prioritize the development of resilient infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters, ensuring the safety and continuity of essential services. By investing in advanced technology and infrastructure, URSM aims to create a foundation for sustainable economic growth and improved quality of life for all residents.

Voting for the Unified Resilient St. Maarten (URSM) party means choosing a future where public housing, spatial planning, environmental protection, and infrastructure development are handled with innovation, care and sustainability in mind. URSM's comprehensive and forward-thinking policies will ensure that St. Maarten not only thrives today, but remains resilient and prosperous for generations to come.

Join us in building a unified and resilient St. Maarten. Vote URSM.

URSM CANDIDATE LIST 2024

#1 LUC F.E. MERCELINA

- WEVER, CHRISTOPHER .L.
- JANSEN-WEBSTER, VERONICA .C.
- MARTINA, HERBERT .M.J.
- ROSEBURG, SJAMIRA .D.M.
- ARRINDELL, GRACITA .R.
- BRUG, RICHINEL .S.J.
- MATTHEW, JASON .O.
- PETERSON, JOSEPH .G
- SOMERSALL, MICHAEL .O.
- HUTCHINSON, DELANO .L.
- BROOKS, FELISHA .C.M.
- STEEMAN geboren YAU,SAU Y.
- ISENIA, PACO .J.
- EMER, GLENSLEY .C.

HAVE NO FEAR URSM IS HERE

URSM Loves You

MP SJAMIRA ROSEBURG

Re-Elect

YOUR ADVOCATE FOR REAL CHANGE, LET'S RAISE THE BAR"

VOTE FOR 5 REPRESENTATION

- ENHANCING EQUALITY IN ST. MAARTEN AND THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS THROUGH ELECTORAL REFORM
- EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND RESOCIALIZATION THROUGH AGRICULTURE: FUNDING THROUGH CRIMEFUND SINT MAARTEN
- EQUALITY WITHIN EDUCATION THROUGH DIGITAL LITERACY
- HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL
- REAL CHANGE: ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW/POLICIES



RE-ELECT
GRISHA
HEYLIGER-MARTEN



Together
We Still Can!



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COUNTRY
FIRST



VOTE
9

9 DERBY-CHUN, MAY-LING

Democratic Party (DP)

By Grisha Heyliger-Marten

There is no doubt that collaboration and cooperation are the dual expressway to success. I have been working to re-establish a vibrant Public Private Partnership that was a key engine for our economic development in the past. However, charity begins at home they say. Government ministries and departments cannot work as silos if we are to achieve the common goal of improving the lives and livelihoods of our people.

It is in recognition of this fact that I have been working in close collaboration with my colleagues in the Council of Ministers, especially with the Minister of Finance, in terms of seeking revenue sources to bolster the coffers of government. But today, I want to highlight the collaborative efforts between the ministries of VROMI and TEATT in ensuring the sustainability of St. Maarten as a premier tourism destination. By adhering

to strict environmental policies, our two ministries work hand-in-hand to protect our natural assets and landmarks for future generations.

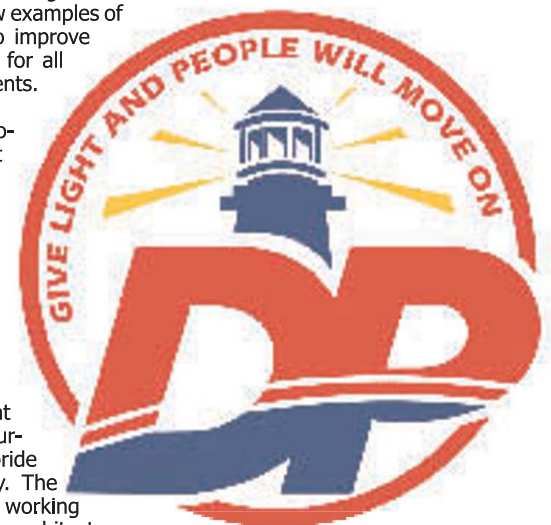
Together, we are committed to preserving our island's heritage while paving the way for a brighter and greener future. St. Maarten's unique, natural beauty and historical landmarks are the cornerstone of our tourism industry. Both VROMI and TEATT recognize the importance of safeguarding these treasures. By implementing and enforcing comprehensive environmental policies, we ensure that our beaches, parks and historical sites remain pristine and accessible. This proactive approach not only protects our environment, but also enhances the visitor experience, driving economic growth and job creation.

The modernization of our capital – "Town", as it is generally called – is a key aspect of this collaborative effort. Through smart city initiatives and sustainable infrastructure pro-

jects, the two ministries are working together to transform our city into a vibrant, technologically advanced space. Upgraded public facilities, efficient transportation systems, and innovative waste management solutions are just a few examples of how we intend to improve the quality of life for all St. Maarten residents.

Beautification projects are also at the heart of our mission. From revitalizing public spaces with green landscaping to restoring historic buildings, these efforts will create an inviting atmosphere that will attract tourists and instill pride in our community. The two ministries are working closely with local architects,

artists and designers to incorporate elements of our rich cultural heritage into these projects, ensuring that modernization does not come at the cost of our identity.



A recap of the questions asked in this Election Views series, to all parties

- 1) Energy:** What are your thoughts on the current electricity crisis, and how do you think said crisis should shape future related policies?
- 2) Electoral Reform:** How would you propose that the issue of political instability and frequent snap elections since 10-10-10 be addressed?
- 3) Public Finances:** How would you describe the country's financial situation, and what would you do to strengthen it going forward?
- 4) Justice:** What are your main priorities in the law enforcement sector in general, including prison and combating crime?
- 5) VROMI:** What ideas would you put forth in a discussion centred on construction activities, infrastructure and waste management?
- 6) Education:** How would you approach existing problems in the local education system and its connection to the local labour market, and what are your specific plans to cater to the needs of the special education sector?
- 7) Public Health:** What are your priorities with regard to healthcare, social provisions and medical coverage?

What are the tasks of Parliament?

From Parliament of St. Maarten

The two main tasks of Parliament are as follows:

- To act as co-legislator (article 82 of the Constitution)
- To exercise control over Government's policies

In order to fulfil these tasks, Members of Parliament have the following powers at their disposal:

- The right to ask questions (article 62 of the Constitution)

Members of Parliament have the right to ask questions to Ministers concerning their policies.

- The right of interpolation (article 63 of the Constitution)

Besides the right to ask questions, Members of Parliament also have the right to call a Minister to Parliament to give account about his/her policies.

- The right of inquiry (article 64 of the Constitution)

Members of Parliament have the right to request Parliament to investigate a specific topic. If Parliament decides to investigate a specific topic, a Committee is set up that will handle in accordance with the National ordinance inquiry.

- The right of initiative (article 85 of the Constitution)

Members of Parliament have the right to initiate a new national ordinance or amend an existing national ordinance.

- The right of amendment (article 86 of the Constitution)

Members of Parliament have the right to propose amendments to a national ordinance

that has been submitted to Parliament by Government or one or more Members of Parliament before it is approved or rejected.

- The right to approve and amend the budget (article 100 of the Constitution)

Members of Parliament have the right to have insight into the country's finances and decide about the allocation and spending of its funds.

In order to fulfil the tasks as aforementioned, the work of Members of Parliament consists predominantly of attending Parliament meetings, questioning Ministers during these meetings and voting on legislation, amendments, motions and other important matters. Making such important decisions requires preparation such as reading the entire file, work visits and speaking with the public. If Parliament deems it necessary, it can hold hearings with third parties to receive the information it needs.

Oualichi Movement for Change (OMC)

Setting a new benchmark in sustainable agriculture, digital infrastructure, housing, and community revitalization.

Guided by the leadership of Olivier Arrindell, the Ministry of VROMI will be a key institution that will be broken up into two new ministries: The Ministry of *Housing, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure*, and the new Ministry of *Environment and Natural resources* in Soualiga, known legally today as Sint Maarten. We have to evolve into a multi-dimensional entity, addressing integrated development with a focus on sustainable development, affordable housing, infrastructure and development, and environmental conservation.

The new ministry's daily operations will be dynamic in its scope, involving policy formulations, project management, and stakeholder collaborations to ensure strategic objectives are effectively met.

As Sint Maarten continues to evolve, both in terms of its societal needs and technological advancements, OMC government will lay down a significant plan to address these changing dynamics with a USD \$3 billion total remodel of the entire island infrastructure. The two critical focus areas of OMC are the implementation of a comprehensive National Road Safety Strategy, and the development of state-of-the-art sub-sea fiber cables to bolster the nation's digital infrastructure.

Prime Minister Olivier Arrindell will implement the National Road Safety Strategy, emphasizing its genesis against a backdrop of concerning accident rates and deplorable road network and traffic congestion. The OMC National Road Safety Strategy will come to the forefront of the OMC government. Looking back at

the many issues with the road network, OMC has explained its position through-out its philosophy.

The affordable housing crisis is unique to Sint Maarten. The OMC government will confront this issue head-on, adopting innovative and sustainable approaches to provide homes and ensure they are within the financial reach of its citizens and provide direct financing at a 95% loan to value, backed by government. Prime Minister Olivier Arrindell will make sure to sell every home at the present moment to the people at an equitable value rate.

"Housing is a big thing here for the OMC government," Olivier Arrindell asserts, emphasizing the commitment to delivering "the best affordable housing we can deliver for our people." This dedication ensures that the homes are affordable and built to the highest sustainability and durability standards, with features like state-of-the-art systems, spray foam insulation, and energy-efficient windows. "It's a Cat. five infrastructure that the OMC Government will build, and that will be sold to the people at 2% to 3% for a 25-to-30-year FHBM program. This will be backed by the new banking system of BANK OF SOUALIGA (B.O.S.)."



THE OMC

SOUALIGANS

GIVE THE SMALL MAN A BREAK



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Polling Stations



- 1. John Larmonie Center**
Longwall Rd.
Philipsburg
- 2. Sundial School**
W. A. Nisbeth Rd.
Philipsburg
- 3. St. Maarten Senior Citizen Recreational Centre**
Hope Estate
Philipsburg
- 4. Sister Marie Laurence School**
1 Ellis Rd.
Middle Region
- 5. Dutch Quarter Community Centre**
Dutch Quarter
- 6. Milton Peters College**
L.B. Scott Rd.
South Reward
- 7. Rupert Maynard Community Centre**
St. Peters Road
St. Peters
- 8. St. Maarten Academy**
Copper Drive # 2
Cul de Sac
- 9. Bute Hotel**
A.T. Illidge Rd.
Philipsburg
- 10. National Institute for Professional Advancement (NIPA)**
Bobcat Rd.
Cay Hill
- 11. Charles Leopold Bell School**
Rubber Tree Dr.
Cole Bay
- 12. Leonard Conner School**
Venus Drive 2
Cay Bay
- 13. Simpson Bay Sports Community Center**
Sr. Modesta Road
Simpson Bay
- 14. Belvedere Community Center**
Low Estate Rd
Belvedere
- 15. Melford Hazel Sports & Recreational Center**
Soualiga Road
Philipsburg
- 16. Methodist Agogic Centre**
St. Johns Estate
St. Johns
- 17. Dutch Quarter Help desk**
Zorg en Rust
Dutch Quarter
18. Seventh Day Adventist School
Royal Palm Dr.
Cole Bay
- 19. House of Detention**
Mountaindove Rd.
Pointe Blanche
- 20. Sint Maarten Home**
St. Johns Estate Road 6
St. Johns

Numbering and colours

Representatives of the nine political parties, who will be contesting the August 19 snap parliamentary election, have selected the number on which they will appear on the election ballot, as well as the colour of their party list.

Soualiga Action Movement (SAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #1 on the ballot Colour: orange 	
National Alliance (NA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #2 on the ballot Colour: white 	
Empire Culture Empowerment (ECE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #3 on the ballot Colour: purple 	
Democratic Party (DP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #4 on the ballot Colour: red 	
Oualichi Movement for Change (OMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #5 on the ballot Colour: grey 	
Nation Opportunity Wealth (NOW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #6 on the ballot Colour: yellow 	
United People's (UP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #7 on the ballot Colour: green 	
Party for Progress (PFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #8 on the ballot Colour: gold 	
Unified Resilient St. Maarten Movement (URSM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> #9 on the ballot Colour: teal 	

Coat of arms

The coat of arms of St. Maarten consists of a shield with a rising sun and the motto. The shield displays the courthouse in the centre, the border monument to the right, the orange-yellow sage – the national flower – to the left. The orange border refers to the Dutch royal house. Flying in front of the rising sun is the brown pelican, St. Maarten's national bird. Under the shield is a ribbon with the Latin motto: Semper pro grediens (always progressing).





Reach the electorate.

Share your take on these pressing issues:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------|
| # 1 | Energy | July 8 |
| # 2 | Electoral Reform | July 15 |
| # 3 | Public Finances | July 22 |
| # 4 | Justice | July 30 |
| # 5 | VROMI | August 6 |
| # 6 | Education | August 13 |
| # 7 | Public Health | August 19 |

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