

PEC says it will proceed with elections for Haitians

PHILIPSBURG -- The group of St. Maarten-based Haitians, who forms the Permanent Electoral Council (PEC), said it will continue with its plans to organise elections amongst Haitian nationals living in St. Maarten, although current President of the United

Haitian Community Association Jestan Guerrier said the group is not authorised to do so. PEC said it had received the mandate from the former President of the United Haitian Community Ironce Castin in a letter in January 2011 to organise

elections amongst Haitian nationals in St. Maarten. It claimed that although the letter is four years old, it is still valid to organise elections this year and in future years.

PEC has not received any authorisation from the current President or board of the United Haitian Community to coordinate elections, and Guerrier said any elections held by the group will be illegal. In fact, Guerrier said the United Haitian Community will be coordinating its own elections this year. He does not plan to contest the election.

Representatives of PEC said its group was legally established to organise all elections amongst Haitian nationals in St. Maarten. PEC said it had invited Guerrier to a meeting in April 2014. It said that meeting was about the electoral committee that would organise elections amongst Haitian nationals.

According to PEC's representatives, Guerrier "walked away" from that meeting, leaving no conclusion. PEC said Guerrier is an illegal president of the United Haitian Community and said it was not aware of the elections in which the current president was elected.

The group said it will proceed with its plans to have elections on October 25. Registration for candidates for the elections opened on September 11, and will continue until October 11. PEC said persons interested in registering for the election can contact any of its representatives at tel. 520-2273, 520-7262, 522-2773, 588-1668, 553-0733, 553-6945 or 526-5200.



From left: Member of Statia's Island Council Reuben Merkman of the UPC party, Commissioner Reginald Zaandam and Member of the Island Council Clyde van Putten of the PLP party upon their departure for New York Saturday.

STATIA TAKES ITS CAUSE TO THE UN...

Continued from page 1.

lieve that they rather keep us as beggars because that way they can freely execute their neo-colonial policies," he said.

The Commissioner accused The Hague of treating the refugees better than the Statia residents. "Imagine refugees obtain the rights to the many (social) provisions available in the Netherlands, under the denominator humanitarian support, in comparison to our people that are kept to a bare minimum."

He said it was "unacceptable" that refugees were being treated better than people with a Dutch passport living in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. "One wonders if we should not opt for the refugee status."

Referring to the history of St. Eustatius and its prosperous times in the 18th century, Zaandam said, "It is a bloody shame that The Hague neglects the obligation to credit St. Eustatius for a substantial part of the wealth they are enjoying now. After all, St. Eustatius was sacrificed in too many ways to mention in the Dutch interest."

Zaandam said that he hoped to make the UN aware of the unbecoming practices of the Netherlands. "Hopefully this international organisation will see the unsupported and strong manipulated side of the Dutch in its behaviour where it comes to dealing with the decolonisation process."

The Statia delegation, which besides Zaandam consists of Members of the Island Council Clyde van Putten (PLP) and Reuben Merkman (UPC), and advisor Xavier Blackman, will also table arguments to convince the UN Decolonisation Committee to place St. Eustatius back on the UN's list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with Chapter XI of the UN Charter.

Zaandam explained that being on this list guaranteed that the island's interests as occupant of the dependent territory St. Eustatius was paramount and required the Netherlands as a member state in control of the island, as a non-self-governing territory, to submit annual information reports concerning Statia's development.

In so doing, an appeal upon the UN will be made to call the Netherlands to task regarding human rights, the fostering of social and economic development in St. Eustatius and to facilitate the decolonisation process without duress, the Commissioner added.

Noting that coming of age was generally a complex, hard process, Zaandam said that this phase, as part of the decolonisation process, besides being time consuming and challenging, required planning, understanding and especially commitment.

"There are enough examples in the world that portrays these struggles. Most of them are accompanied and accomplished by war and are laced with blood. People paying with their lives and blood for a better life in an accepted constitutional status. Often enough, it is the colonial mother country that does not want to let go and places hindrances just to be able to maintain their neo-colonial agenda."

According to Zaandam, history was testament to the fact that the first and most difficult step in the decolonisation process took commitment. "After this step, the point of no return is passed and there is no going back. The Hague knows that. The first martyr in this process was Mr. Ricardo Tjie-A-Loi."

Subsequently St. Eustatius was confronted with an instruction to get its finances in order and to improve the quality of the public administration. "On top of that The Hague secretly put a boycott in place. In first instance, this boycott only related to visits of dignitaries. But the reality proved to be different. All channels to the Dutch ministries have been bogged down and we are compelled to do everything through the office of the Rijksoverheidswoordvoerder (Kingdom representative)."

But, Zaandam warned, "The Hague must know that the words giving up were not in the vocabulary of the current government coalition. Furthermore, we are giving them notice that we are shedding our cocoon of "wie betaalt, bepaalt" (whoever pays, determines the outcome). It is our island, so anything regarding us will be done with our integral input."



A female teacher together with a technical instructor and students of the technique course at International School Aruba (ISA) came up with the idea of using a 3-D printer to help her 9-year-old pupil, whose right hand had been amputated after an accident. On a website the teacher had seen a report on volunteers assisting people this way. She then went on the Internet herself and got cooperation from a local telecommunication company and the instructor to make it an educational project of his class. The students measured her hand and digitally produced this model as example. The real one should be ready within the next week.



Every single employee is a vertebrae in the organization: how strong is the backbone of your company?

Can you afford NOT to invest in your staff?



TDC Eastern Caribbean: filling the gap
tdcsm@uts.sx
www.facebook.com/tdcsm

VALLEY ESTATE PHASE 5

BUILDING LOTS FOR MULTI FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

In a pleasant and secure, gated community. All utilities underground.

Lots from 1,500m² and US\$125,000.-

Tel: 1-721-542-2421 or 1-721-520-3054
E-mail: jan@icesxm.com
or contact your real estate broker