

AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS
 Police Station 182333
 Emergency 111
 Hot Line 108
 Fire Department 120
 Hospital 182211/182371
 Landsradio 182210
 Post Office 182207
 St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288
 Winair Office 182362
 Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
 Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
 Coastguard NA&A 113
 St. Eustatius National parks: Gallows Bay: 318 2884

SABA
 Police Station
 The Bottom, tel. 4163237
 Emergency 111/112
 Hospital
 The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289
 Fire Department Airport Flat Point tel. 4162210

SATEL
 The Bottom, tel. 4163211
WINAIR, Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
 Taxi Service Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 160
 Administration Building
 The Bottom, tel. 4163311/4163312/4163313
 Tourist Office
 Windwardside, tel. 4162231
 Harbour Office
 Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
 Saba Marine Park
 Fort Bay, tel. 4163295
 Nature & Hike Guide
 James Johnson
 The Bottom, tel. 4163307
 Service Club
 Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
 Coastguard NA&A 113
 Red Cross
 General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m., Eugenius A. Johnson Center.

ANGUILLA
EMERGENCY
 Police 911
 Fire 911
 Ambulance 911
 Police Station 497 2333
 Hospital 497 2551
 Dental clinic 497 2343
 Radio Anguilla 497 2218
 Tourism Department 497 2759
 Crimestoppers 0800 7777777

AIRLINES
 American Eagle 497 3501
 Winair 497 2748
 Liat 497 5000
 Air Anguilla 497 2643
 Trans Anguilla 497 8690

COURIER SERVICE
 DHL 497 3400
 Federal Express 497 2719
 UPS 497 2239

SERVICE CLUBS
 Rotary Club of Anguilla
 Meets at Da Vida every Thursday at 6.00 p.m.
 Soroptimist International
 Day Care Centre
 4.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in each month Tel: 497 3509
 Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. at the Arts and Craft Centre
 Tel: 264 235 1280
 Interact Club of Anguilla
 Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m. at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School
 Toastmaster Club meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 6.45 p.m. at La Vue, South Hill

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Island, Executive Councils take oath of office in Statia

ST. EUSTATIUS—A very large crowd witnessed the members of the new Executive and Island Councils taking the oath at the Government Guesthouse on Thursday afternoon.

The ceremony followed the Island Council election of last week Wednesday, and the agreement between Progressive Labour Party (PLP) and United People's Coalition (UPC) to form a new government.

The swearing in of the new members of the Executive Council and Island Council did not pass without a glitch, as there were many discussions about the proper procedures, which caused a delay in the swearing in of former Democratic Party (DP) and independent Island Council Member Reuben Merkman, who took a seat in the new Island Council on behalf of UPC. Adelka Spanner (DP) objected to the procedure, which allowed for UPC Commissioner Reginald Zaandam to briefly return to the Island Council benches to vote for the admittance of his party member.

PLP leader Clyde van Putten called upon the opposition to stop playing politics. After the credentials were reviewed, Merkman was voted into the Island Council by all five votes.

New PLP-Commissioner Astrid McKenzie-Tatem was elected into the Island Council by all five members. Commissioner Zaandam received three votes, Koos Sneek (DP) one vote and one blank vote was cast.

First, the members of the Island Council were sworn in, after which the two commissioners took their oaths. Sworn in as Island Council Members were Richeline Leerdam (PLP) and Van Putten, followed by Zaandam, Spanner and Sneek.

Asjes meets with consul

WILLEMSTAD—Curaçao Prime Minister Ivar Asjes summoned the Consul of Venezuela Marisol Gutierrez de Almeida in connection with the petition against American President Barack Obama, which is not only being on the island but also in other countries.

Asjes made it clear to the recently appointed consul that such a petition is contrary to the neutrality which Curaçao exercises in the diplomatic conflict between Venezuela and the US. The friendly relationship with both countries should not be put at risk.

The online petition was a response to Obama's message that the government in Caracas currently poses a threat to the national security of the United States of America.

Merkman was elected as chairman of the Central Committee. Leerdam will be vice-chair of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned twice to address misunderstandings concerning the proper procedures. After these were solved, all members were sworn in and Island Governor Gerald Berkel presented a toast.

Spanner congratulated all incoming members, especially her cousin McKenzie. She also reflected on the fact that DP had retained its two seats in the Island Council after it had lost its third seat to Merkman. She expressed her desire to work together with Sneek in being a powerful opposition to be reckoned with.

Sneek said the elections are over and it is of the utmost importance for government to start working. He added, however, that new Commissioner McKenzie would deserve a "break," as the first 100 days in office are usually the most difficult.

Speaking about the negotiations with NuStar on the new Harbour Ordinance, the audience became so loud that Governor Berkel had to use his gavel often to try to bring order into the meeting. Members of the public were openly telling Sneek they did not want to hear what he was saying as election time was over.

Van Putten said it would not be an easy task to get the island back on track, as it is in a financially deplorable situation. He said PLP would be working on 10 points: more autonomy for the island, a new medical complex, regulation of the legal and financial status of all government workers, economic development, improvement of infrastruc-



From left: Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs Reginald Zaandam, Finance Commissioner Astrid McKenzie-Tatem, Island Governor Gerald Berkel, Island Council Members Richeline Leerdam (PLP), Reuben Merkman (UPC), Clyde van Putten (PLP), Adelka Spanner and Koos Sneek (DP), and Island Council Secretary Louis van Ameijden after the swearing-in ceremony.

ture, sustainable agricultural development, construction of affordable low-income housing, privatisation and development of the sea port and airport, construction of a boardwalk and regional cooperation.

The youngest member in the Island Council, Richeline Leerdam, said she was first approached by Van Putten in 2006, when

she was still attending college. Nine years later, she is ready to continue the "fight" of her grandfather, the late Duncan Leerdam, who was also known as the "Brave Little Tailor." His picture showing him mending fishing nets was found on the NAF. 100 bills. He ran in elections with the late Clifton Berkel.

She promised to be a voice

in the Island Council and pledged "to work to restore Statia to its rightful place." She named some of the persons who stood beside her through the election campaign, and also reflected on George Lijffrock and Yuancito Hook, two persons who have passed on, but were instrumental in her joining the PLP.

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