

# Sherees Timber crowned Carnival Queen of 2015



Sherees Timber (centre) receives the crown from former Carnival Queen Christina Cuvalay.

ST. EUSTATIUS--After a great show at Carnival Village and after all the votes were tallied Sherees Timber was crowned St. Eustatius 2015 Carnival Queen early Thursday morning.

Hundreds came out to support the contestant of their choice, many wearing T-shirts sporting the name and picture of their favourite.

The contestants were judged by three experienced judges from St. Maarten: first runner-up in the Miss Mature 2015 pageant Lisette Carty and pageant coordinators Milisa Boasman and Aishira Cicilia. The show was moderated by Master of Ceremonies Dihara "Lady Shorteh" Fleming.

The only complaint was about the late start of the pageant, which made the show go until 3:00am. Before that, the pageant contestants made five stage appearances to be judged on introduction, swimwear, talent, speech and evening wear. There was also a guest performance

by the Aces dancers from St. Kitts.

After the votes were counted, Timber emerged the overall winner with 410 points. She also emerged victorious in the categories best speech, best evening wear, best creative wear and Miss Photogenic.

Timber was crowned by former Carnival Queen Christina Cuvalay. She also received US \$2,500 in cash, a Samsung S6 phone,

a gift basket and of course, the winner's trophy.

First runner-up Yinatra Pieter was the best in the talent and swimwear sections and scored 349 points, which yielded her US \$1,500 in prize money. Third place went to Val Ulloa (315 points), which was good for US \$1,000 and Sabrina Richardson came in fourth with 287 points and received US \$500. Shantoese Mardin ended fifth with 199 points.



Yinatra Pieter, winner of the swimwear section.

# Insurers save 99 million due to fraud crackdown

THE HAGUE--Insurance companies spotted more instances of fraud last year, saving them a combined 99 million euros in wrongful pay-outs, the Dutch Insurers' Association said on Thursday.

This is an increase of nearly 10 million euros compared with 2013. Most fraud related to cars, motorbikes and motorcycles, in particular reports that the vehicle had been stolen or damaged in an accident, the association said.

Despite the increase in detection rates, insurance companies actually started fewer investigations into potential fraud, the association said. This means investments in fraud detection made in 2013 are now paying off.

Last year, insurers looked into 20,000 potentially false claims, a drop of 15 per cent compared with 2013.

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