

Draft Motion

22 nd

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its meeting of today, March 19th, 2012

CONSIDERING:

- That the Preamble of the Constitution of Sint Maarten states: “WE, THE PEOPLE OF SINT MAARTEN”, (are) “...*DETERMINED to care for the perpetual maintenance of nature and the environment*”;
- That Article 22 of the Constitution of Sint Maarten states that: “*It shall be the constant concern of the government to keep the country habitable and to protect and improve the natural environment and the welfare of animals*”;
- That Netherlands Antilles laws on the protection of Nature and Environment have been taken over by St. Maarten including the *Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en – bescherming (P.B. 1998, 49)*”;
- That Sint Maarten’s ponds have been recommended for protection in reports such as *The Ponds of Sint-Maarten, (Ecovision, 1996), the Carrying Capacity Study, the Tourism Masterplan* other reports and studies which concluded that the ponds are of ecological and environmental importance;
- That until 1950 Dutch Sint Maarten boasted at least 19 ponds (all documented in maps available at the Cadastre’s office); by 1995 this had been reduced to 10 ponds and today 17 years later less
- than 5 remain intact;
- That recent surveys by the Nature Foundation and Environmental Protection In the Caribbean indicated that Mullet Pond is a relatively intact ecosystem;
- That recent research supported by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has valued mangroves forests at more than \$900.000,- or 1.620.000,- guilders per square kilometer per year;
- That our marine ecosystem relies on mangroves, whose complex root structure protects juvenile sea-life from predators and storms. Many of our reef dependent fish rely on mangrove forests as a nursery until they are able to survive in the open ocean. Countless organisms cling to these roots, serving dual roles as a food source and as filter feeders which remove pollutants from the water;
- That the Mullet Pond houses over 70 percent of the remaining mangrove trees on the Dutch side of the Simpson Bay Lagoon;
- That there is ongoing public debate and ever-growing concern about the destruction of St. Maarten’s wetlands and the overall state of St. Maarten’s natural environment;
- That it is desirable to set rules and regulations for the conservation and protection of Flora and Fauna and to establish Nature Parks on Country St. Maarten.

Having regard to:

- Various treaties that St. Maarten is signatory to concerning the conservation and protection of Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats. Including the Ramsar Convention/Convention on

Wetlands, the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), The Convention on Migratory Species. (CMS or Bonn Convention);

- Articles 10, 12, 13, 14 of the “*Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en – bescherming (P.B. 1998, 49)*”;
- Article 8 of the “*Eilandsverordening natuurbeheer en- bescherming Sint Maarten (Ab 2003,25)*”.

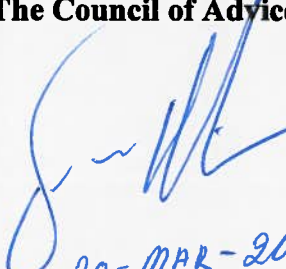
RESOLVES:

- That the Parliament of St. Maarten is in favour of protecting Mullet Pond and establishing the entire Mullet Pond and the associated mangroves as a Nature Park as described in Article 8 of the “*Eilandsverordening natuurbeheer en- bescherming Sint Maarten (Ab 2003,25)*” and Article 10 of the “*Landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en- bescherming (P.B. 1998, 49)*”.
- To charge the Council of Ministers, specifically the Minister of VROMI with the task of establishing the entire Mullet Pond as a Nature Park and to further zone the entire Mullet Pond as described in the abovementioned ordinances and further provided for in the “*Eilandsverordening ruimtelijke ontwikkelingsplanning Sint Maarten (A.B. 1993, nr. 13)*” within 60 days of the passing of this resolution.

And goes over to the order of the day.

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

**The Governor of Sint Maarten
The Government of Sint Maarten
The Council of Advice of Sint Maarten**


20-MAR-2012


W. Mark




H. P. L. L. L.







STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN
Thursday, March 22, 2012 Public Meeting no. 13

Voting list Motion no. 1

Mullet Pond

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	Drs. Gracita R. Arrindell		✓
2.	P.G. Illidge		✓
3.	S.V. Olivacce-Meyers		✓
4.	J.E. Leonard		✓
5.	J.C. James		✓
6.	R.J. Laville	✓	
7.	R.A.G. Douglass		✓
8.	R.R. Marlin		✓
9.	P.L. de Weever		✓
10.	W.V. Marlin	✓	
11.	L.J. Richardson	✓	
12.	G.C. Pantophlet	✓	
13.	H.L. Richardson	✓	
14.	L.E. Laveist	✓	
15.	F.G. Richardson	✓	

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