



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

**Parliamentary Year 2014-2015-077**

**Draft National Ordinance to amend some national ordinances in connection with the introduction of the day of the Constitution or Constitution Day, as a holiday**

**Report**

**No. 5**

Parliament in its meeting of the Central Committee has exchanged views with the Government on the Draft Ordinance to modify some national ordinances in connection with the introduction of the day of the Constitution or Constitution Day, as a holiday.

Parliament considers the present draft to be adequately prepared when the questions below are answered in time for the public meeting so that the draft can be discussed in a public meeting.

**The United People's Party-faction** with great interest has taken note of the draft and is of the opinion that we should sail our own course.

Why was slavery abolished on the French side in 1848 and only in 1863 on the Dutch side? What contribution have Africans or black people delivered to the Sint Maarten society? The faction proposes to change street names to names of local heroes.

When was Sint Maarten's name changed to the Dutch spelling and why?

The discussion we should have with us all is the discussion about who is a Sint Maartener. To promote nationalism, we should soon adopt a national anthem.

Is it possible that our history to be put down in an informational brochure?

**The United St. Maarten Party-faction** with interest has taken note of the draft and states that those persons, including the current leaders of the National Alliance faction and the Democratic Party faction and Mr. Vance James Jr., who contributed to Sint Maarten to acquire the status of country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, should be recognized.

**The member of the De Weever-faction** with interest has taken note of the draft and asks whether the celebration of October 10th is the kickoff for the celebration of Sint Maarten's Day on November 11th.

Has the Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labour been consulted during the preparation of this draft?

Is it correct that the draft has no financial implications?

The member states that the celebration of October 10th is more than just a day, it is in fact the preparation of our future.

**The member of the Marlin-Romeo-faction** with interest has taken note of the draft and wishes to be informed about how this subject of the day of the Constitution will be implemented in schools. More attention should be paid to the history of Sint Maarten in the education in schools so that the youth gets some sense of who we are as a people. The identity of Sint Maarteners should be central in spite of the fact that this may be a sensitive subject.

Can clarity be given with regard to the mixed neighborhoods?

When will we continue with the project in order to establish a (new) national anthem?

Documents having historical value should be protected and preserved as much as possible by the government.

**The Democratic Party faction** is very supportive of this draft. The faction illustrates the contradiction between social cohesion and the desire to define the term Sint Maartener.

The faction states that the draft should have been submitted in English. Furthermore, the faction proposes to change the name to Constitution day instead of day of the Constitution as it is more meaningful.

Is there a reason that the recommendation of the Council of Advice regarding the renumbering in Article 3 has not been followed? Is this based on a mistake?

**The National Alliance faction** has taken notice of the draft and wishes to learn from government what the government intends to do regarding "nation building" and the education of the population regarding the significance of the day of the Constitution.

Have changes been made based on the comments made by the Council of Advice?

Can the government explain what the amendment regarding the day following Carnival and the Labor Day entails?

What are the plans of the government with regard to the cultural development of the country?

The faction would like that documentation is collected regarding the origin and history of our people and that this is made available.

What is the next step after the adoption of this law?

It is a violation of the Constitution that this draft is not submitted in English. Can the government also provide this draft in English ?

The faction proposes that instead of the annual celebration on October 10, the celebration takes place for example on the second Monday of October.

What about the intangible history of Sint Maarten? Is that also part of the plans of the government towards the cultural development of the country?

This report is to be considered as Final Report.

Stipulated in the meeting of the Central Committee of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The Reporter,

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