

SPEECH – FLAG DAY – JUNE 13, 2023

Dear fellow people of Sint Maarten,

Protocol having been established, Good morning.

To all the young children who are here with us today, I want to say a special hello! You are the future of Sint Maarten, and it is important that you learn about our national flag and what it represents for our nation.

Today, we gather here to celebrate the 38th anniversary of Sint Maarten Flag Day. This is a special day for all of us, as it marks the day when our national flag was first hoisted in 1985. It is a symbol of our unity, our heritage, and our pride as a people.

As President of the Parliament of Sint Maarten, I am honored to stand before you on this important occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the significance of our national flag and what it represents for us as a nation.

Our flag represents the rich history and culture of Sint Maarten, and it embodies the values that we hold dear. The blue symbolizes the sea and nature that surrounds our island, while the yellow represents the sun that shines upon us. The white signifies peace, and the red represents the blood of the inhabitants .

Our flag is also a reminder of our resilience as a people. Over the years, we have faced many challenges and hardships, but we have always remained steadfast in our commitment to our nation. We have shown the world that we are a people who are strong, determined, resilient, and always progressing.

As we celebrate Flag Day, let us also reflect on the progress that we have made as a nation. We have come a long way since our flag was first hoisted 38 years ago. We have built a strong and vibrant economy, we have established a thriving tourism industry, and we have become a beacon of hope and progress for the Caribbean region.

However, we must also acknowledge that there is still much work to be done. We must continue to work together as a nation, as a community, as a village, to address the challenges that we face, such as

poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. We must also continue to invest in our young people, who are the future of our nation.

In conclusion, on this special day, let us renew our commitment to our nation and to each other. Let us continue to work together to build a stronger, more prosperous, and more united Sint Maarten. And let us always remember the significance of our national flag and what it represents for us as a people.

Thank you. Happy Flag Day, Sint Maarten!

S.M. Bijlani

Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

June 13, 2023