

MANIFESTO



SMCP Headquarters: W. F. M. Lampe Rd 14, Ebenezer, Sint Maarten (D.W.I.)

Tel.: +1(721)580-9474 or +1(721)520-4232

E-mail: serve4achange@gmail.com

Website: www.smcponline.com

www.facebook.com/smcponline





Preface

In compliance with Article 15 of the National Ordinance governing the Electoral Council, the Sint Maarten Christian Party (SMCP) presents its 2020 Manifesto. The ordinance refers to this document as a “political program”, which freely translated means “manifesto”, also commonly known as the party’s political platform.

On Sint Maarten, we confuse the terms “political program” or manifesto and governing program. However, there is a clear distinction between a political program (manifesto) and a governing program.

A governing program details the plans, projects and tasks that the Coalition in Parliament and Council of Ministers intends to accomplish during a four-year term. It is specifically about who, what, why, when, where, how and the costs of the execution of a program or a project.

A manifesto, on the other hand, only gives an outline of the beliefs, intentions, motives, and principles of a political party.

Up until the 2018 election, manifestos in Sint Maarten read more like governing programs, expounding on what the party plans to do when in Government as the Council of Ministers. This is very confusing to the people because political parties and politicians are really contesting a parliamentary election while at the same time pretending to be vying for a ministerial position. It should be clear to all voters that Parliamentarians are elected directly by means of their votes. Ministers, on the other hand, are selected by the winning Parliamentary Coalition and subsequently appointed by the Governor.

As the Sint Maarten voters can only elect parliamentarians, it is extremely important that during the campaign, candidates for parliament inform the people what they intend to do for them when they are elected to Parliament. And so, more and more we are seeing that individual politicians are now presenting their individual programs for Parliament, which outline what laws or policies they intend to amend or initiate upon becoming Members of Parliament.

In the political program or manifesto at hand, SMCP will inform you what its representatives in Parliament plan to do during the next parliamentary term: 2020 -2024.

After the elections, SMCP expects to be involved in forming the government and consequently appointing ministers. Hence, SMCP will also include in this manifesto topics and issues to be tackled by the Council of Ministers.



Manifesto of the SMCP

SECTION 1 The Sint Maarten Christian Party

What is the Sint Maarten Christian Party (SMCP)?

The Sint Maarten Christian Party is a political party comprised of persons who have accepted to live and work according to the universal principles taught by Jesus the Christ i.e. Christian principles. SMCP is not a denomination; neither is it a church. Rather, the Party consists of a group of persons that embraces the Preamble of the Constitution of Country Sint Maarten, which starts off with the words “WE, THE PEOPLE OF SINT MAARTEN AFFIRM that we acknowledge the guiding principles of Almighty God as the core of our values...”.

These guiding universal and Christian principles are, among others: accountability, compassion, honesty, integrity, justice, loyalty, respect and transparency. Based on these principles, SMCP believes that it can offer genuine leadership and good governance in Parliament and in Government.

Note: a Christian Party is not a new phenomenon in politics. Most countries in Europe and South America have parties based on Christian principles..

Our Philosophy

The Sint Maarten Christian Party:

1. acknowledges the sovereignty of the Almighty God over all the affairs of man, including government.
2. will be guided by Christian values, norms and principles.

Our Vision

We envision a Sint Maarten where people feel safe; where there is good governance, affordable healthcare, gainful employment, quality education for all, equal business opportunities for all, justice and a protected environment.

Our Mission

To promote good governance through Christian principles, norms and values.

Our Core Values

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|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| • Accountability | • Integrity | • Teamwork |
| • Compassion | • Loyalty | • Transparency |
| • Honesty | • Respect | • Service |

Our Objectives

1. To attain seats in parliament and positions in government in order to be able to serve the people of Sint Maarten and to help improve the quality of life for all.
2. To restore and promote accountability, transparency, integrity and decency to public life and to governance.
3. To form, as needed, alliances with political parties that ascribe to SMCP’s guiding principles and are willing to pursue similar objectives in the interest of good governance.

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SECTION 2

Vision for Sint Maarten

It is very common for people to ask what SMCP's Vision is for Sint Maarten and for Government. Therefore, instead of giving a list of actions and things that the Party would like to see happen, SMCP would like to share its vision with respect to Sint Maarten and several sectors of the society. The following vision statements describe the Sint Maarten that SMCP would like to see and would like to work towards achieving when in Parliament and in Government. The interventions below offer but a few steps towards achieving the vision.

Country Sint Maarten

We envision Sint Maarten as a cohesive multi-cultural society where people feel safe and live in harmony; where there is affordable healthcare, gainful employment, quality education, equal business opportunities and justice for all; where the environment is protected and there is close cooperation with our northern neighbors.

Strategic Interventions

- Prepare a National Development Plan for Sint Maarten covering the next 10 – 20 years and ensure that it has the people, the politicians, the Parliament and the Government.

Government

We envision a Government that is stable, efficient, effective and accountable, offering quality public service, based on e-government, to all residents and investors alike; civil servants are properly scaled, trained to do their job and paid based on merit; legislation has been updated, amended and new laws initiated to accommodate current developments in the society; electoral reform has been implemented and a relevant relationship with the Kingdom has been negotiated.

Strategic Interventions

- Through an integrity campaign the Integrity Chamber will bring about awareness among our people and our politicians with respect to the importance of integrity and good governance;
- Through a specially designed course, civil servants will be upgraded; this will enable them to function at particular levels within government and to be paid according to designated scales;
- Evaluate the Sint Maarten 10-year status as an autonomous country within the Kingdom and based on the findings, present a revised relationship between the Kingdom and Sint Maarten;
- Improve the legislative framework governing public administration.

Justice

In our vision of Sint Maarten we see it as a law abiding society that is secure, safe and peaceful, where the rule of law is respected, there is justice for all, criminal activity is deterred, neighborhoods are safe; law enforcement is strengthened, the justice system is accessible as far as language is concerned; there are sufficient professionally trained law enforcement personnel, there is a local law enforcement training institute; human resource related issues are resolved, modern detention centers where adults and youths are rehabilitated are in place and all the departments that fall under the Ministry of Justice i.e. Immigration and Border Protection Service, Police Corps, Customs, Prison, House of Detention and the Financial Intelligence Unit (MOT) are properly managed and functioning well.

Strategic Interventions

- Finalize the Justice Function Book so that the law enforcement personnel are placed in the right scales and paid the correct salaries;
- Review insurance packages for the police force;
- Put neighborhood watches in place;
- Reopen the Police Academy;
- Translate the laws in English to make them accessible to the general public.

Finance

We envision a Sint Maarten that is debt free with a balance budget, where all government agencies manage their approved budgets and that public finances will be managed in a transparent and accountable manner in accordance with the National Government Accounting Ordinance and other financial policies, liquidity management and administrative organizational procedures.

Strategic Interventions

- Strengthen the institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation;
- Implement tax reform;
- Enforce financial policies and accountability with respect to procurement procedures;
- Monitor the budget expenditures and the use of public resources.

Education

We envision Sint Maarten having a strong educational system that spans early childhood development, elementary, secondary, tertiary, vocational-technical and special needs education; a system that is adapted to the needs of the Sint Maarten society and the labor market and that also embraces training and lifelong learning; a Sint Maarten where the cost of early childhood, elementary and secondary education are offered at zero cost to the parents.

Strategic Interventions

- Overhaul the entire education system and the curricula for the various educational levels;
- Review the school subsidy ordinance to accommodate universal education at early childhood, elementary and secondary education level.

Social Sector

We envision a Sint Maarten where the social infrastructure is in place to take care of the social needs of its residents. Citizens, who are unable to access the social institutions due to a lack of means, are granted the necessary assistance by Government until they are able to pay for the services themselves.

Strategic Interventions

- Provide national health insurance coverage;
- Offer pensioners a supplemental pension that could administered via e.g. a debit card;
- Research and ascertain the amount of the living wage;
- Support the Anti-Poverty Platform and the Consumer Coalition in their effort to import and sell fruits and vegetables at very affordable prices; expand this effort to include other commodities and offer the service at an even larger scale;
- Review and update the current Social Safety Net, so that citizens who are (temporarily or permanently) unable to support themselves would receive an adequate and affordable level of social security and social support;
- Implement a basket of minimum good and services.

Economy

We envision a Sint Maarten with a strong and sustainable economy which has led to a rise in the living standards, the reduction of unemployment and in an improved public service; where tourism, which is our main economic pillar, has been diversified to include sports, education, eco, medical, and faith-based tourism and where it is being supplemented by the construction, agriculture and technology industry; where investors are eager to invest; the private sector is thriving; where renewable energy is promoted, real estate speculation is dampened; entrepreneurs are empowered and Government receives extra tax income and is therefore able to take care of the well-being of its citizens by providing the necessary social services.

Strategic Interventions

- Implement tax reform;
- Invest in education and training to provide our people with the required education and skills;
- Promote entrepreneurship;
- Develop and promote stay-over tourism;
- Make the process to start a new business more client friendly;
- Put legislation in place to encourage e-commerce;
- Review and amend and also initiate the laws pertaining to economic development, including the tax holiday policy.

Physical Infrastructure

We envision a Sint Maarten where proper zoning is in place, green energy is being used; there are green and play areas and proper parking areas; our waste is properly managed, our road network can accommodate the traffic and there is an underground network of sewage systems. In our vision, the Great Salt Pond is protected, restored and has become one of Sint Maarten's natural and cultural assets. Buildings are constructed in a resilient manner so that they are able to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Strategic Interventions

- Prepare and implement a public transportation policy;
- Commission a comprehensive study of the infrastructural needs of Sint Maarten;
- Enforce the building codes and zoning policies;
- Review the numerous studies regarding our waste-site and begin to work on the execution of the least costly, yet most effective recommendations to remedy the dump situation;
- Embark on a comprehensive drainage building program;
- Turn the Great Salt Pond with the Foga into a national cultural monument.

Youth

We envision a Sint Maarten where our youth are empowered to meaningfully participate in and contribute to the development of Country Sint Maarten.

Strategic Interventions

- Strengthen the capacity of the Youth Affairs Department;
- Execute the MOU signed with the Kingdom partners concerning the Rights of the Child;
- Develop a National Youth Policy that addresses socialization and the development of life skills among our youths;
- Prepare our youth for meaningful employment through our education system and on the job training;
- Develop and implement programs to reintegrate at-risk youth into society;
- Use media and social marketing to encourage positive values in the youth;
- Build the entrepreneurial capacity of the youth;
- Offer incentives for our youth to develop as skilled laborers.

Health

We envision a Sint Maarten where the general health status of the people is good and where quality and affordable health care are available to all citizens including mental health care; preventive health care is promoted and the cost of medical treatment abroad has been decreased.

Strategic Interventions

- Provide national health insurance coverage;
- Improve the quality of mental health care for the population of Sint Maarten;
- Promote a healthy active and physically fit population through involvement in physical education, sports and recreational activity;
- Promote public health prevention awareness programs;
- Make more medical facilities and medical specialists available locally to prevent so many patients traveling abroad for tertiary health care.

Sports

We envision a Sint Maarten where the entire population (young and old) benefits from sports in a variety of ways. i.e. sports can be used to acquire a healthy lifestyle, for recreational purposes, to develop top athletes and sport professionals and also to promote economic activity through sports tourism.

Strategic Interventions

- Develop and execute a sports policy
- Repair and upgrade the existing sport facilities
- Allocate funds to promote local sport activities as well as sport tourism

Bio's of SMCP's Candidates

#1

SMITH, Wycliffe S.

Wycliffe S. Smith #1

During more than 30 years of experience in government service, Mr. Smith, who holds two Masters Degrees, functioned as a Teacher, Inspector of Education, Director of the Department of Education of the Windward Islands, President of the University of St Martin, educational and cultural advisor to the Executive Council of St. Maarten and as Lt. Governor of Saba. After the 2018 elections Mr. Smith served Sint Maarten as a Parliamentarian, as Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, as Deputy Prime Minister and also as Prime Minister. As a community-minded person, Smith has volunteered and sat on several boards and committees; he co-founded the Ebenezer Home Owners Association shortly after hurricane Luis. He also co-founded the St Maarten United Ministerial Foundation (SMUMF) and was its first President for more than 10 years. He served as a church minister for over 30 years and then as pastor for 14 years. In his profession and career, Mr. Smith has always focused on service to others. Now with his educational background, training and experience in Government Mr. Smith makes himself available again to serve the people of Sint Maarten for a change.

#2

PETERSON, Claude A. H.

Claude A.H. Peterson #2

Known to the people as Chacho. Claude Alfred Hans Peterson is a Mechanical Engineer and a Business man. He has a range of professional experiences in the private sector including 13 years as a general contractor and 12 years in the restaurant sector on St. Maarten. Before returning to St. Maarten in 2001, Chacho worked 9 years in the Hotel Management and Tourism sector in Aruba where he gained a wealth of first-hand knowledge and experience with respect to the value of Tourism. Chacho has been a political activist for many years, enlightening the people through social media and in public gatherings, challenging the nepotism and corruption plaguing Government and Parliament. As a Member of Parliament from July 2018- November 2019, MP Peterson represented the people with passion, diligence and integrity, making sure that the facts and the truth were told. Chacho is again making himself available to SERVE YOU in Parliament and defend the rights of the people. He is proven to be a Man of INTEGRITY, a Man of STABILITY and a Man of HIS WORD. Chacho says: Help Me, Save My Country Please!

#3

SOMERSALL, Michael O.

Michael Somersall #3

Husband and father of four, an accomplished businessman and former chief public health inspector, Somersall is a strong advocate for public health, offering 25 years of ethical leadership experience in this field. He played a pivotal role in the development of food safety awareness and the enforcement of regulations on the island. Michael voluntarily provided pest control services at schools, food safety training at several institutions as well as to cooks at soup kitchens. Michael has represented Sint Maarten well as Deputy Minister Plenipotentiary in he Hague where he lobbied in the second Chamber in the Netherlands and also represented Sint Maarten in the Kingdom Council of Ministers. Somersall pledges once again to work relentlessly to help rebuild a resilient Sint Maarten, where every individual will have access to the education, services, and resources needed to succeed in life.

Bio's of SMCP



Keith 'Peter-J' Gittens #4

Together We Can!

A firm believer in Justice with a passion for the youth and the elderly, Mr. Gittens has a proven track record of selfless giving and service to the community. He is the founder of Elderly Outings, a program that gives joy to elderly persons by providing excursions and other services to those who are disabled or otherwise challenged. As an astute businessman, he is greatly interested in providing sustainable opportunities for the entrepreneur. Mr. Gittens has served in the previous Government as Chef de Cabinet of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport where he not only served with the Ministry of ECYS but also served and helped people across all Ministries. He is returning to the polls to offer his service to this country as a Member of Parliament. There is much more to be done in Parliament and Government and believes that we can only get it done together. Yes, together we can! With strong family values and Biblical principles to direct his path, "Peter J" pursues the interests of his country and fellowman by his personal motto "For the Greater Good".



Beverley Gibbs #5

The youngest of five children, Beverley was born to a father with Sint Maarten strength in his veins, and a mother, born of strong Saba pride. Beverley studied and worked in the Netherlands and even contested Municipal Council elections in Amstelveen with the Dutch Labor Party while living there. Upon her return to the Netherlands Antilles, Beverley worked as Island Secretary for the Island Territory of Saba. While residing in the Netherlands Beverly studied special education at the University of Amsterdam. Later she completed a special training for children with autism at the University of North Carolina. For several years she worked with autistic and special needs children in Sint Maarten and when the institution that she was working for closed its doors due to lack of subsidy Beverley founded the "I Too Can Learn (ITCL) Center" for children diagnosed with autism, Down syndrome and Learning Disabilities. Beverley has dedicated herself to improving the lives of these children and their families for a brighter future. She has decided to run for office again and in so doing make herself available to serve Sint Maarten for a change.



Benjamin Bell #6

Benjamin has a passion for the people, for workers' rights and justice. As an entrepreneur with experience as a former employee of the Pelican Resort, the Department of Economic Affairs and the Inspectorate of Taxes, Benjamin has a proven record of standing up for others and standing up against manipulation and injustice. During the past year and a half Benjamin has worked in the SMCP's Faction Office at Parliament and as such has seen and experienced from the inside how Parliament functions. With a love for this country, he gives back to the community by volunteering in various settings, using the platforms of pastor and musician to bring national pride. Benjamin is running for office again and thus makes himself available to serve Sint Maarten and her people!

P's Candidates



#7

NUNES geb. BURLESON., Tswana

The background features the SMCP logo with the text "Serving You for a Change".

Tswana Nunes-Burleson #7

Tswana was born in the Netherlands, grew up in Aruba and chose to live in Sint Maarten for the last 23 years. After hurricane Luis devastated Sint Maarten, Tswana decided to leave Aruba and settle on Sint Maarten in order to help her friends and family rebuild their livelihood and rebuild Sint Maarten. Tswana has worked in the public sector, namely at the Ministries of Finance, Justice, the Council of Advice and Faction staff. She has also a lot of experience working in the private sector. As entrepreneur she also worked in the tourism industry where she established a company that handled Luxury Mega Motor & Sailing Yachts. Tswana is a committed humanitarian. In this regard she volunteers her experience and skills as she works with the youth of Sint Maarten. As a trained PADI Rescue scuba diver, she co- founded a Swim, Snorkel and Scuba Dive foundation that provides free swimming and diving courses to particularly young persons during the off season. As a qualified mentor she also assists with several of the foster care homes on Sint Maarten. Tswana is committed to make a difference in Sint Maarten.



#8

SAM geb. ARRINDELL, Marva R.

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Marva Sam-Arrindell #8

Born in Aruba to a diverse family, with roots throughout the Dutch Caribbean including Sint Maarten, Marva moved to Sint Maarten at age seven (7). Marva has been an educator for over 36 years. She started her career as a kindergarten teacher. She eventually acquired her Bachelors and Masters in Education. She has taught students of all ages, from pre-elementary right up to adults at university level. Currently she functions as coordinator of a college preparatory program at USM and as local administrator at USM for the University of the Virgin Islands. Marva has founded two children foster homes. One in Sint Maarten and the other one in Suriname. Together with her husband, she also founded several ministries catering to the spiritual and social needs of the community. Their latest project is the Community Outreach Mentorship and Empowerment Center known as the C.O.M.E. Center. It is a platform through which they serve the community in various capacities such as feeding programs, technical skills programs like sewing, literacy programs aimed to educate functionally illiterate, English and non-English speaking adults, elderly support initiatives and other outreach activities. Entering politics is for her another way to serve her country.



#9

KOTAI, Viren V.

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Kotal Viren V. #9

Viren Vinod Kotai was born on Sint Maarten in 1995, right in between the two major hurricanes Luis and Marilyn. He attended primary and secondary school here on Sint Maarten. Hereafter he went to Canada where he completed an associate level in Accounting and Finance. Due to his passion for sports, he transferred to Niagara College Canada where he graduated in 2017 with an Advanced Diploma in Sport Admin/MGMT. His first order of business was to return to Sint Maarten to see how he could contribute to the country of his birth. From a very young age Viren was active in various sports which enabled him to become a multi-sport athlete involved particularly in soccer and basketball. As an avid sportsman he traveled vastly in order to gain international experience in sports and sports management. Viren works currently at the airport, but his goal is to be a part of government to be able to improve the quality and quantity of sports in Sint Maarten. Viren seeks to be a fresh voice for his generation.

Bio's of SMCP's Candidates



Linda York #10

Linda York was born on Sint Maarten but spent her early years in Curacao. Upon her return to Sint Maarten, during her teen years, she completed the Milton Peters College. She eventually went to the USA where she completed her studies as Cosmetologist, Beautician and Masseuse. She spent many of her working years working in the Casino industry. During her time in the casino sector she functioned as Head Shop-Steward representing close to 200 dealers and employees for many years. After Linda gave her life to Christ she decided to leave the casino industry. She then took a job where she worked with children at one of our afternoon schools. In addition, she worked in the private sector at a car rental dealership. Linda became a member of the Sint Maarten Christian Party in 2016 as she strongly believes that the people of Sint Maarten deserve good governance and strong representation based on the universal or Christian principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity.



Marylouse Rattan-Poulo #11

Marylouse is married with two stepchildren and for the last 33 years she has been a civil servant. Currently she works in the Tax Administration's Audit and Criminal Investigation Department as a Tax Auditor. She has excellent organizational and administration skills with experience in dealing with Tax Laws and Customers. Marylouse believes that a great leader inspires people to have confidence first in themselves. During the past year, Marylouse has been listening to the cries of the people and therefore she is offering once again to serve the people of Sint Maarten as a Member of Parliament in order to bring about changes and new legislation, which will result in bringing comfort and economic relief for the people of Sint Maarten.



Atwell Terrance Rey #12

Terrance Rey has the unique ability to write on demand, fluently and effortlessly, in both the English and Dutch languages. A skill that has served him well as publisher of the critical news website StMaartenNews.com. Terrance Rey has university degrees in Economics and Business Administration and after living, studying and working in The Netherlands for nineteen (19) years, he returned to his home island of Sint Maarten and has, while active in business development, e-commerce, travel, tourism and the aviation industry, served his country as Policy Advisor in Parliament from 2010 to 2012. From 2012 to present he has been serving as Deputy Secretary for the Progress Committee, overseeing the plans of approach for the Ministries of General Affairs (Legal Affairs and the Civil Registry), VROMI (Permits Department) and Justice (Immigration, Customs, Landsrecherche, KPSM and the Prison). Terrance Rey is ready to enter Parliament as a legislator to initiate and amend laws and oversee the execution of Government by reading and reviewing the reports presented to Parliament by the various High Councils of State tasked with monitoring, auditing and advising the Government, its departments, entities and institutions. Stability, continuity and accountability will be achieved with Terrance Rey in Parliament, representing the people of Sint Maarten.



Alberto F. Bute #13

As an activist Alberto Bute has participated in many actions to defend the less fortunate in our society. His efforts led to the "Employees' Bill of Rights". Bute has experience as the President of SUNFED, founder of several social and sports organizations and representative of the UFA Union. He has championed causes related to the Fort Amsterdam sale, the operators of heavy equipment, students expelled for lack of paying school fees, among others. As a representative of NGOs, he is now working on the National Development Plan for Sint Maarten while being a co-coordinator of the Sint Maarten Anti-Poverty Platform and of the Sint Maarten Consumer Coalition to fight in order to realize the right to development, consumer rights as well as all other human rights on behalf of the people of Sint Maarten. As one of the efforts to eradicate poverty, Alberto and his team have been very successful in importing fruits and vegetables and selling them at low prices to the people of Sint Maarten. This alone shows where Alberto's heart is, namely with the people of Sint Maarten.

SECTION 3

Parliament

Having observed the mediocre work ethic and the low productivity of Parliament, SMCP is committed to “RAISING THE BAR” in Parliament.

SMCP believes that the following proposals will help to improve the functioning of Parliament during the next parliamentary term.

1. Stability

SMCP is committed to work towards forming and sustaining a stable Parliament and Government. To achieve this goal, SMCP will support the:

- (1) appointment of an informateur/formateur;
- (2) appointment of the Prime Minister from the participating coalition parties;
- (3) appointment of competent, qualified, professionals as Ministers

2. Legislation

Amending and initiating laws and getting them passed by Parliament is a long and arduous process. Therefore, it is not realistic to present, in this Manifesto, a long list of laws for SMCP to initiate or amend during the upcoming Parliamentary term. However, during this Parliamentary term SMCP will:

1. Support laws that come to the floor of Parliament that are in the best interest of the people of Sint Maarten;
2. Follow up on the Ordinance on Higher legislation; the draft ordinance is still with Government. SMCP will follow-up to ensure that this draft is sent to the Council of Advice as soon as possible;
3. Finalize the amendment to the traffic ordinance to accommodate breathalyzer testing as was started by former MP Claude Peterson;
4. Review the Rules of Order of Parliament and make proposals to limit the incentives of factions who break away from their original faction.
5. Present an amendment to the ordinance that allows for pension income to be separated from any other income to avoid double taxation.
6. Propose an amendment to the Election Ordinance and the National Ordinance Registration and Finances of Political Parties to accommodate elections invoked by Article 59 of the Constitution.
7. Restart the discussion on a Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians to abide by;
8. Submit an amendment to the “Landsverordening tot regeling van de uitkering en het pensioen voor politieke gezagsdragers en van het pensioen voor hun nabestaanden, AB 2010, GT no. 8” in order to curtail the reduce the severance allowance of Parliamentarians and Ministers;
9. Amend or initiate any other law that needs urgent attention during the term of Parliament.

3. Code of Conduct

For years our parliamentarians have avoided establishing a code of conduct which is a very common policy among parliaments in the region and around the world. A code of conduct would require that Parliamentarians disclose among other things: (1) their finances, (2) the acceptance of gifts or favors, (3) and all side jobs, business interests, including their shareholdings. The Code of Conduct would also stipulate whether the monthly salary currently, enjoyed by MPs, is commensurate with a part-time or a full-time position. SMCP intends to put forward a proposal and revive the debate concerning a code of conduct for parliamentarians.

4. Electoral Reform

As Sint Maarten is in dire need of reform of our electoral laws, SMCP will re-vitalize the Ad hoc Committee Electoral Reform. As an electoral reform committee was also established by Government it is important to ensure that the work of both committees is synchronized. Some of the issues that SMCP will look at in terms of electoral reform are:

1. amendments to the Election Ordinance, the National Ordinance Registration and the Finances of Political Parties as proposed by the Central Voting Bureau and the Electoral Council respectively.
2. addressing the issue of ship jumping: for example, reducing the incentives that a single-person faction gets in parliament;
3. amendment of the Election Ordinance and the National Ordinance Registration and Finances of Political Parties to accommodate elections invoked by Article 59 of the Constitution;
4. change the way the public endorsement of political parties is done to date and establish anonymous endorsements, respecting privacy and transparency throughout the process;

5. Reduce MP Salaries by 10%

SMCP MPs will voluntarily sign the document giving Parliament the right to deduct the established 10% from their salaries in keeping with the 10% reduction that the Ministers and two MPs in the previous Parliament had committed themselves to.

6. Reduction of Severance Pay

After active duty, MPs receive severance pay commensurate with the time period that they served in Parliament. SMCP will propose to amend the "Landsverordening tot regeling van de uitkering en het pensioen voor politieke gezagsdragers en van het pensioen voor hun nabestaanden, AB 2010, GT no. 8" to enable all politically elected and appointed top officials to receive 100% severance pay over the first three months immediately following their leave from Parliament or Government.

7. Annual Reports by the High Councils of State

Reports submitted by the High Councils of State, the SER and the Electoral Council are not brought to the floor of Parliament for discussion. Parliament should use these reports to monitor Government and also to evaluate itself. SMCP will ensure that these reports are no longer shelved but are presented to the Parliament for debate and follow-up.

8. Audit of decisions taken by the previous Government

In the interest of integrity, SMCP will request the Minister of General Affairs to have an audit done of all new decisions taken outside the scope of the daily affairs of the previous Government. A report of the audit findings is to be presented to the Parliament within a reasonable time frame.

9. Accountability from the Council of Ministers and individual Ministers

In the past, Members of Parliament apparently did not consider their oversight function and responsibility as being very important. Hence, Ministers were seldom called to Parliament to give an account of their decisions and actions. SMCP intends to monitor the decisions and actions of the Council of Ministers and the individual Ministers closely and to call them to Parliament to give an account as often as necessary. SMCP MPs intend to uphold the principles of good governance.

10. Parliamentary Committees

It is no secret that the Permanent and Ad hoc Committees in Parliament are not functioning. The annual report of Parliament shows that in many cases the only meetings called by these committees were meetings to appoint the chairpersons. SMCP is of the opinion that a proper functioning Parliament depends on the proper functioning of these committees. Therefore, SMCP intends to reactivate these committees and have them functioning so that Parliament can be more effective in carrying out its duties.

11. Disaster Preparation and Management

According to the Ordinance regulating Disaster Preparedness and Management, the Minister of General Affairs is required to present Parliament with a disaster preparedness and management plan on an annual basis. Seeing the high risk of being struck again by a severe hurricane, SMCP will request the Minister of General Affairs to present an up-to-date disaster plan to Parliament for the 2020 hurricane season which starts on the 1st of June 2020. In addition, SMCP will be asking the Government to draft an earthquake and tsunami disaster preparedness and management plan as well.

12. Public Relations

As a direct body of representatives of the people, Parliament should keep the people constantly informed as to what is going on. SMCP will propose that the President of Parliament and/or the Presidium hold regular press briefings. SMCP also believes the chairpersons of the permanent and ad hoc Committees also update the public on a regular basis.

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SECTION 4

Controversial Issues

Since the ideology and the values of SMCP are considered more traditional and religion based, SMCP is the only party that is questioned on the following topics and issues which are considered controversial. SMCP believes that it should be open and transparent about its stance on these issues so that the voters know beforehand what they can expect from SMCP once elected to parliament.

1. Separation of Church and State

- a. SMCP believes that the Church and State should be separated but that you cannot separate God and Government. One has to do it God's way if one wants good governance. The Hon. Michael Manley, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, described the relationship between church and government as "distinct but inseparable". SMCP is of the opinion that neither the church nor the state should have any form of institutional control over each other. In other words, the state should not dictate what the church should do, neither should the church dictate what the state does.
- b. We must recognize that the church, is also an integral part of our cultural heritage and as such can have an influence on our society including on Government and Government decisions. Furthermore, many of our elected and appointed officials have a religious or church upbringing and as such their decision making could be influenced by their Christian faith.

2. Same Gender Marriage

- a. As far as same-sex marriage is concerned, SMCP is in agreement with the law, as mentioned in Sint Maarten's Civil Code: Book I, Title 5, Art. 30 which states that marriage is between a man and a woman. Hence, SMCP will not champion same-sex marriage in Parliament.
- b. It is important to mention that sexual orientation and gender identity should never lead to discrimination or abuse of a person or a group.

3. Abortion

- a. SMCP believes in the sanctity of life, therefore every stage of human life has the right to live and deserves to be protected. Abortion should not be seen as a form of birth control. SMCP's stance on abortion is one of pro-life. However, there may be exceptional cases that warrant an abortion, such as when the life of the mother is threatened. The articles on abortion included in the Penal Code of Sint Maarten date back to the Dutch law of 1918 when abortion was totally prohibited with no exceptions whatsoever. This law will need to be adapted.
- b. SMCP also believes that in cases of abortion, provision should be made to offer counseling to both parents (mother and father) as well as offer social assistance.
- c. SMCP is of the opinion that disseminating information to youngsters at an early age about sex and unplanned and unwanted pregnancies would help to reduce/avoid the number of abortions in the country.

4. Euthanasia

- a. SMCP believes in the sanctity and dignity of human life. Hence, in the case of euthanasia, SMCP is opposed to the withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment from persons who are elderly, sick or disabled. SMCP will not be championing any laws related to euthanasia in Parliament.

5. Prostitution

- a. Prostitution is a demeaning practice which turns a person, (female as well as male) into an object. Until recently women were brought in from abroad under false pretense, namely as dancers and bartenders. These women were exploited, harassed and often abused or ill-treated. It is known that young males are also used as prostitutes. Prostitution on Sint Maarten is illegal and the SMCP is opposed to legalizing it.

6. Casinos and Gambling

- a. SMCP recognizes that casinos contribute to the Sint Maarten economy by attracting tourists to the island, by providing jobs and revenue in the form of taxes.
- b. SMCP is aware of the financial, social and emotional pressure that casinos bring to bear on our local population. For example, it is common knowledge that men and women waste their entire paycheck in the casino in the hope of winning. Mothers leave their children unattended (in the car, or at home) in the hope of winning. Fathers and men become so addicted to gambling that they lose their jobs, their families and all that they worked for.
- c. SMCP is also aware of the fact that casinos are not paying their share in taxes. There are laws in place to control the casinos, but they are not properly enforced.

- d. As casinos are legal business on Sint Maarten, SMCP being a law-abiding political party, is required to uphold the law and maintain the casinos. However, as many of the laws controlling casinos are not being enforced, SMCP will ensure that these laws are enforced. SMCP will place a moratorium on casino licenses. Thirteen (13) casinos on a 16 square-mile country are more than enough.

7. Carnival

- a. SMCP is not opposed to Carnival as a cultural event. What SMCP opposes is the amount of nudity, drunkenness, vulgarity (gyrating and obscene language) etc. that takes during this festival. SMCP would like to bring back the cultural aspect so that parents can take their children to watch and enjoy Carnival or even allow them to take part in the various cultural events during the carnival season.
- b. To make Carnival a cleaner and more cultural event, SMCP would work with the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF) and the authorities to create a more wholesome and cultural festivity by ensuring that children are supervised, and curbing the vulgarity, nudity and drunkenness.

8. Marijuana

- a. SMCP is in favor of regulating marijuana for medicinal use and scientific purposes. However, SMCP is opposed to legalizing marijuana for recreational use.



SECTION 5

Closing

After the elections SMCP will continue to let the people know what is going on just as it did after the 2018 elections. Newspaper articles, social media posts and e-newsletters were made available:

1. Post-Election Agenda

- a. When in Parliament or in government, SMCP will continue to inform the people of what is taking place. SMCP will also consult with the public on major issues and decisions that concern the people so that they can continue to participate in the governing process of Sint Maarten.
- b. SMCP intends to continue to inform the voters and the people of Sint Maarten via:
 - i. general membership meetings;
 - ii. the media and social media;
 - iii. town hall meetings.

2. Conclusion

Given the opportunity to be back in Parliament and/or in Government, SMCP will tackle the areas listed above. Your future will be in capable hands when you give SMCP the opportunity to serve you the people of this great Country for a change!

Hence, we are appealing to all eligible voters to make a difference in Government by voting for SMCP.



SMCP Headquarters: W. F. M. Lampe Rd 14, Ebenezer, Sint Maarten (D.W.I.)

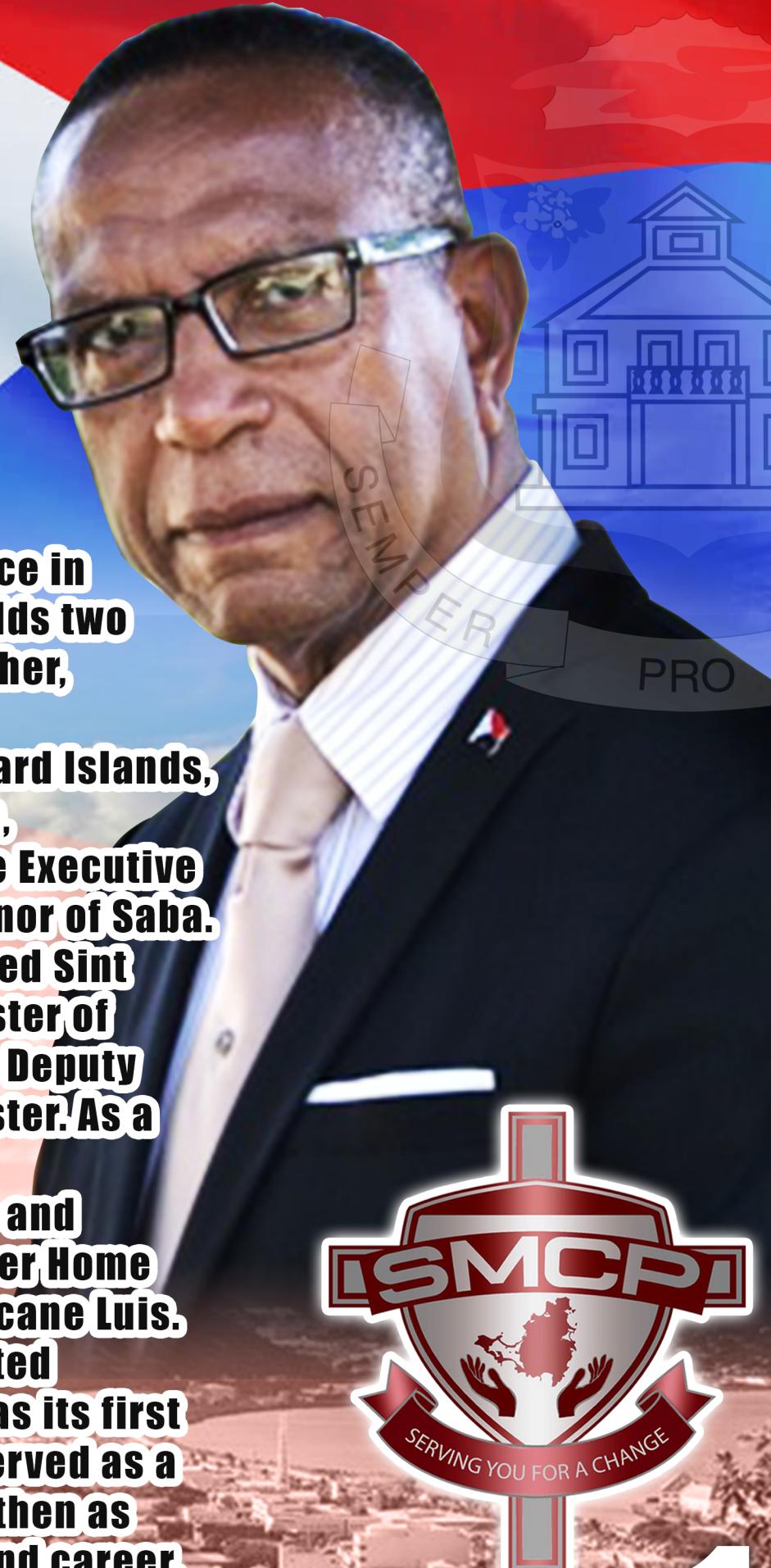
Tel.: +1(721)580-9474 or +1(721)520-4232

E-mail: serve4achange@gmail.com

Website: www.smcponline.com

www.facebook.com/smcponline

Bio SMCP Candidate #1: Wycliffe S. Smith



During more than 30 years of experience in government service, Mr. Smith, who holds two Masters Degrees, functioned as a Teacher, Inspector of Education, Director of the Department of Education of the Windward Islands, President of the University of St Martin, educational and cultural advisor to the Executive Council of St. Maarten and as Lt. Governor of Saba. After the 2018 elections Mr. Smith served Sint Maarten as a Parliamentarian, as Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, as Deputy Prime Minister and also as Prime Minister. As a community-minded person, Smith has volunteered and sat on several boards and committees; he co-founded the Ebenezer Home Owners Association shortly after hurricane Luis. He also co-founded the St Maarten United Ministerial Foundation (SMUMF) and was its first President for more than 10 years. He served as a church minister for over 30 years and then as pastor for 14 years. In his profession and career, Mr. Smith has always focused on service to others. Now with his educational background, training and experience in Government Mr. Smith makes himself available again to serve the people of Sint Maarten for a change.



Vote #1



SMITH, Wycliffe S.