

# WHAT IS THE STATE OF AFFAIRS ON SINT MAARTEN?



**RICHARD GIBSON SR.**

- ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IS UNSTABLE AND DEFICIENT.
- COST OF LIVING IS SOARING WITH NO END IN SIGHT.
- ELECTRICITY AND WATER BILLS ARE EXPENSIVE AND UNAFFORDABLE.
- THE U.S.A., CANADA AND UK ISSUED TRAVEL ADVISORIES WARNING THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIZENS ABOUT POSSIBLE SERIOUS DISCOMFORT IF THEY TRAVEL TO SINT MAARTEN.
- CONTAINER SHIPMENT RATES TO SINT MAARTEN DOUBLED IN PRICE AND STILL INCREASING.
- THE MINIMUM WAGE IS DEFICIENT AND SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE LIVING WAGE.
- TELECOMMUNICATION IS ERRATIC, UNSTABLE AND DEFICIENT.
- EVERY GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANY SUFFERS LOSSES AND POSES A SERIOUS TREATH TO THE ANNUAL BUDGETS OF COUNTRY SINT MAARTEN.
- SCHOOL BUILDINGS REMAIN UNREPAIRED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE NETHERLANDS MADE APPROXIMATELY 500 MILLION EUROS AVAILABLE AS A GIFT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ON SINT MAARTEN FOLLOWING IRMA.
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS UNAVAILABLE.
- TAX BURDEN IS TOO HEAVY ON THE BACKS OF LOCAL POPULATION.
- THE ROAD SYSTEM URGENTLY NEEDS IMPROVEMENT AND POT HOLES ARE DESTROYING THE VEHICLES OF ROAD USERS.

- THE DEBT OBLIGATION OF GOVERNMENT TO SZV IS STEADILY GROWING WITH NO END IN SIGHT.
- GOVERNMENT SIGNED A 30-YEAR LOAN, BURDENING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF SINT MAARTEN, TO BAIL OUT A PRIVATELY OWNED CURACAO COMPANY AND DEPRIVING SINT MAARTEN OF BADLY NEEDED, PRESENT AND FUTURE INVESTMENTS, IN ITS OWN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY.
- IN 2021 THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION MADE AVAILABLE 7.7 MILLION EUROS FOR SINT MAARTEN TO CONVERT TO GREEN ENERGY THAT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ENERGY COST OF THE POPULATION BY AT LEAST 30%. THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO DO SO IN 2021, BUT TO DATE NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE. THE 7.7 MILLION GRANT WILL EXPIRE IN TWO YEARS.
- SHOOTINGS AND ROBBERIES AND POVERTY IN GENERAL ARE ON THE RISE.

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? .....ABSENCE OF SOUND LEADERSHIP!

A COUNCIL OF ELDERS IS A TRADITIONAL FORM OF GOVERNANCE WHERE A GROUP OF RESPECTED, OLDER MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY PROVIDES ADVICE, SETTLES DISPUTES, AND MAKE DECISIONS. THIS SYSTEM IS GROUNDED IN THE BELIEF THAT AGE BRINGS WISDOM, OFFERS A RANGE OF BENEFITS AND SOLUTIONS. IT IS OFTEN COMPARED TO MODERN BI-CAMERAL SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE SENATE AND THE FIRST CHAMBER IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL STRUCTURES. SINT MAARTEN DOES NOT HAVE A BI-CAMERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. TO GET ELDERS, WHO TYPICALLY POSSESS A WEALTH OF LIFE EXPERIENCE AND ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, THEY HAVE TO BE ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT. THIS IS THE MISSING LINK!

**VOTE FOR RICHARD GIBSON SR.**

**CANDIDATE**

**HE HAS A LONG PROVEN RECORD OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY**

**#2**

**ON THE UPP LIST**