



ELECTION VIEWS



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ENERGY ⚡



Energy crisis

St. Maarten is returning to the polls on August 19, so voters want to hear from their political parties and candidates. The Daily Herald is offering an ideal opportunity to reach them with a series of seven special publications every Monday until then.

Each issue of "Election Views" will cover

a specific question to be answered in a statement. The content may not mention other parties or candidates and should focus on own positions regarding the subject at hand. The newspaper reserves the right to omit such references and correct spelling or grammatical errors in the text.

The first "Question of the Week" is very

topical as it regards energy, namely: **"What do you think about the current electricity crisis and related policies for the future?"**

Enjoy the read!

Paul De Windt
Publisher

Democratic Party (DP)

Energy is the most spoken about topic today on St. Maarten and – from all indications – this is going to remain so for the coming months and years. Obviously, the Democratic Party is part of the current "caretaker" government of St. Maarten, due to the scheduled election of August 19, 2024 – a government that took office on May 3 of this year.

Even so, the writing was on the wall where it pertains to energy and the govern-

ment company-owned company GEBE.

The present coalition had set out a path in its governing accord to address critical issues – notably, "GEBE and TELEM: Immediate attention must be given to the ongoing situation at GEBE and the looming possible issues ongoing at TELEM".

This urgency has since only intensified. Only when there was a near-total collapse did GEBE and the government come to the conclusion that quick and decisive

action was needed and that the government needed to step out of its role of the company's shareholder and put the matter of energy at the top of the nation's agenda.

Since then, a plan has been devised to first deal with the immediate state of electricity supply, then a short-term solution, followed by a long-term goal of replacement of the major existing and obsolete engines at the GEBE plant.

I follow with keen interest how these phases will

materialize and whether the choices made on the different levels will be sustainable. I hold the government accountable, who in turn needs to hold GEBE's board accountable. The board is called to supervise and direct management. With all the talk of corporate governance over the past four years, it makes one wonder why this process is moving so slowly.

If there are any kinks in this structure, we get what we have now. The shareholder cannot get timely and accurate information to steer the pro-

cess as is expected from the government as the guardian of the people's welfare.

But there is more. Other critical infrastructure, such as the telecommunication sector, appears to be under pressure as well, coming at a time when we also need to pay keen attention to the hurricane season. These circumstances, unless carefully managed, will throw this island back light years.

The solution lies in a restructuring of the energy structure; establishment

of a regulatory body and an organization for the management of alternative energy; a review of the concession, etc., but the most critical component is undoing the silo mentality that permeates all the levels I mentioned above. It cannot work and will not work. No long-term "GEBE" solution is doable without a plan for energy transition to alternative energy.

No funding will be forthcoming without such a plan. Let's get to work!

GIVE LIGHT AND PEOPLE WILL MOVE ON!

VOTE SARAH HEYLIGER-MARTEN

GIVE LIGHT AND PEOPLE WILL MOVE ON

ST. MAARTEN, STAND STRONG

Together

We Still Can!

RE-ELECT GRISHA HEYLIGER-MARTEN

The Unified Resilient St. Maarten Movement (URSM)

St. Maarten is currently facing a significant electricity crisis, marked by frequent power outages, outdated infrastructure, and a heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, all stemming from a lack of decisive action and future vision. This situation not only affects the daily lives of residents but also hampers economic activities and growth.

In the immediate short-term, under URSM's guidance in government, GEBE has secured containerized generators through a lease. Additionally, rent-to-own containerized generators have been procured as a short-term solution within the next three months. Concurrently, negotiations are underway for a loan to order three 9MW generators. Parallel to these efforts, there is a strong focus on alternative renewable green energy as a long-term solution. URSM recognizes that addressing this crisis is critical for our island's future stability and prosperity.

The root causes of our electricity problems lie in an over-dependence on fossil fuels, inefficient energy management, and a lack of investment in modern infrastructure. Our reliance on imported fuel makes us vulnerable to global price fluctuations and supply disruptions, leading to high electricity costs and unreliable service. Additionally, the aging power grid and inadequate maintenance have compounded these challenges, resulting in frequent outages and blackouts.

To overcome these challenges, the URSM proposes a multifaceted approach focusing on sustainability, resilience, and innovation. The cornerstone of our energy policy is the transition to renewable energy sources. By harnessing the abundant natural resources available to us, such as solar and wind energy, we can significantly reduce our depen-

dence on imported fuels and create a more sustainable energy future. Investing in renewable energy technologies will not only lower electricity costs in the long run, but also create new jobs and stimulate the local economy.

Furthermore, the URSM advocates for comprehensive energy efficiency measures. Implementing energy-saving practices and technologies in both public- and private-sectors can reduce overall energy consumption and lower costs. This includes promoting energy-efficient appliances, improving building insulation, and encouraging behavioural changes among consumers to conserve energy.

Modernizing our energy infrastructure is another critical priority. Upgrading the power grid to be more resilient and capable of integrating renewable energy sources is essential. This includes investing in smart grid technologies that enhance the reliability and efficiency of electricity distribution. Additionally, establishing microgrids and energy storage solutions can provide backup power during outages and improve overall grid stability.

The URSM is also committed to fostering public-private partnerships to attract investment in the energy sector. By collaborating with private companies, international organizations, and local stakeholders, we can leverage the necessary resources and expertise to implement these ambitious energy projects.

URSM believes implementing solar power, wind energy, and waste-to-energy (WtE) solutions will significantly benefit the people of St. Maarten. Solar panels can harness abundant sunlight to reduce electricity costs and increase energy independence. Wind turbines, strategically placed in coastal and elevated areas, can provide sustainable and

continuous power, enhancing grid stability. Additionally, WtE technology can address waste management issues by converting solid waste into usable energy, reducing landfill use and generating reliable elec-

tricity. Together, these renewable energy solutions can promote environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and energy security for the island.

The URSM envisions a

future where St. Maarten leads the Caribbean in renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency. By addressing the current electricity crisis with innovative and sustainable solutions, we can build a resilient and prosperous

energy future for all residents. Our commitment to a sustainable energy policy will ensure that St. Maarten not only overcomes its current challenges, but also thrives in the years to come.

URSM CANDIDATE LIST 2024

#1 LUC F.E. MERCELINA

- WEVER, CHRISTOPHER .L.
- JANSEN-WEBSTER, VERONICA .C.
- MARTINA, HERBERT .M.J.
- ROSEBURG, SJAMIRA .D.M.
- ARRINDELL, GRACITA .R.
- BRUG, RICHINEL .S.J.
- MATTHEW, JASON .O.
- PETERSON, JOSEPH .G
- SOMERSALL, MICHAEL .O.
- HUTCHINSON, DELANO .L.
- BROOKS, FELISHA .C.M.
- STEEMAN geboren YAU,SAU Y.
- ISENIA, PACO .J.
- EMER, GLENSLEY .C.

HAVE NO FEAR URSM IS HERE

URSM Loves You

#5 LEADERSHIP

SJAMIRA ROSEBURG

- ENHANCING EQUALITY IN ST. MAARTEN AND THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS THROUGH ELECTORAL REFORM
- EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND RESOCIALIZATION THROUGH AGRICULTURE: FUNDING THROUGH CRIMEFUND SINT MAARTEN
- EQUALITY WITHIN EDUCATION THROUGH DIGITAL LITERACY
- HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL
- REAL CHANGE: ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW/POLICIES

Re-Elect MP SJAMIRA ROSEBURG

"YOUR ADVOCATE FOR REAL CHANGE, LET'S RAISE THE BAR"

OUALICHI

MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

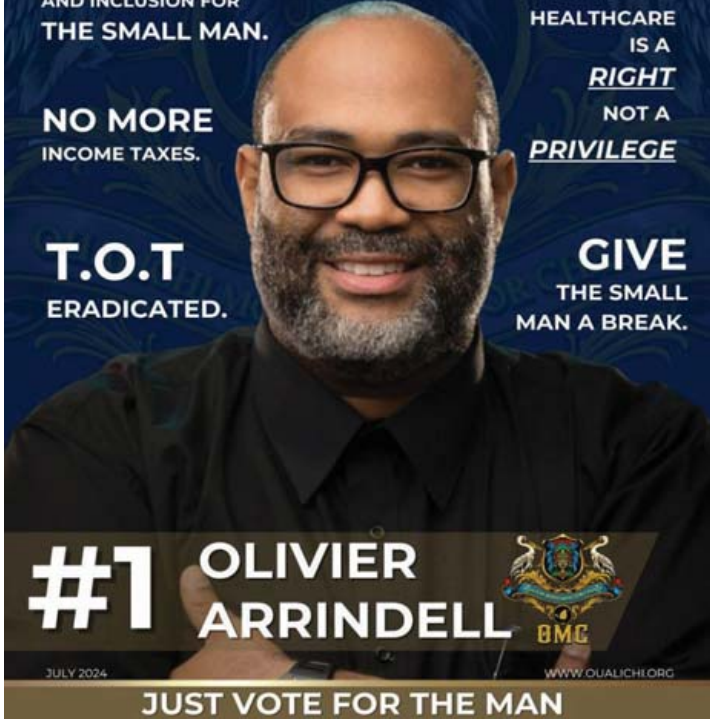
WE CHAMPION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION FOR THE SMALL MAN.

NO MORE INCOME TAXES.

T.O.T ERADICATED.

HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE

GIVE THE SMALL MAN A BREAK.



#1 OLIVIER ARRINDELL
 JULY 2024 WWW.OUALICHI.ORG
JUST VOTE FOR THE MAN



Reach the electorate.

Share your take on these pressing issues:

- # 1 **Energy** July 8
- # 2 **Electoral Reform** July 15
- # 3 **Public Finances** July 22
- # 4 **Justice** July 29
- # 5 **VROMI** August 5
- # 6 **Education** August 12
- # 7 **Public Health** August 19

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Oualichi Movement for Change (OMC)

The Renewable and Sustainable Energy Policy of the OMC aims to ensure the transition towards a more sustainable energy future by promoting the use of renewable energy sources, enhancing energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This policy supports the global effort to mitigate climate change, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and foster a balance green economy.

Objectives

Increase Renewable Energy Production: To achieve at least 50% of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030; Enhance Energy Efficiency: To reduce overall energy consumption by 20% through efficiency measures by 2030; Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: To cut emissions by 30% compared to 2005 levels by 2030; Promote Research and Innovation: To invest in research and development of new renewable energy technologies and sustainable practices for the island; Ensure Energy Access: To provide reliable and affordable access to clean energy for all communities.

Policy Measures

1. Incentives for Renewable Energy: Tax Credits: Provide financial tax incentives of 100% tax credit for the installation of renewable energy systems such as solar, wind, and geothermal; Grants and Low-Interest Loans: Of-

fer grants and low-interest loans to support renewable energy projects from the Government.

2. Regulatory Support: Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS): Mandate that a certain percentage of electricity sold by GEBE comes from renewable sources; Net Metering Policies: Implement net metering to allow consumers to sell excess electricity generated from renewable sources back to the grid of GEBE; Streamline Permitting Processes: Simplify and expedite the permitting process for renewable energy projects.

3. Energy Efficiency Initiatives: Building Codes and Standards: Enforce stricter energy efficiency standards in new buildings and retrofits; Energy Audits: Encourage regular energy audits for businesses and residential properties to identify and implement efficiency improvements; Appliance Standards: Set higher efficiency standards for appliances and industrial equipment.

4. Research and Development: Public-Private Partnerships: Foster collaboration between the government, academia, and private sector to drive innovation; Technology Transfer: Facilitate the transfer of technology and best practices to developing regions.

5. Education and Awareness: Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch

campaigns to educate the public about the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency; Training Programs: Develop training programs for workers to gain skills in renewable energy technologies and sustainable practices; Curriculum Integration: Integrate renewable energy and sustainability topics into school and university curricula.

6. Support for Local and Community Initiatives: Community Energy Projects: Support community-owned renewable energy projects through grants and technical assistance; Local Government Support: Provide resources and incentives for local governments to implement sustainable energy practices; Indigenous and Remote Communities: Ensure tailored support for renewable energy projects in indigenous and remote communities.

Implementation and Monitoring

National Renewable Energy Agency: Establish a dedicated agency to oversee the implementation of renewable energy policies, coordinate between stakeholders, and monitor progress; Data Collection and Reporting: Develop a robust system for data collection and regular reporting on renewable energy production, energy consumption, and emission reductions; Periodic Review: Conduct periodic reviews of the policy to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.

About the Parliament Logo From Parliament of St. Maarten

During the early part of February 2011, Parliament extended an invitation to all secondary education students on the island to design a draft logo for the Parliament of Sint Maarten. The task of the students was to create a draft logo based

on the theme: "Coram Populo", meaning openly in the presence of the people. A total of 28 entries were submitted. Based on the draft logo of the winner, graphic designer Loic Bryan started to work on an abstract. Out of the two designs from the graphic

designer, the Presidium and Faction leaders meeting chose the logo they believed portrayed Parliament the best. On August 21, 2012, the logo was officially established by Parliament in a Public Meeting.



The rising sun indicates a new day full of hope and possibilities.

The Pelican is our national bird and symbol.

According to legend, in a time of famine, a mother pelican would draw blood from her own chest and give the blood to her chicks. Symbolic of sacrifice doing what is best for the nation.

The wings of the Pelican are also a stylized version of people symbolizing the people of Sint Maarten