



# THE INFORMER

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT OF ST. EUSTATIUS

Volume I, Issue 12

December ISSUE, 2010

## ISLAND GOVERNOR ADDRESSES COMMUNITY

*Look back at your accomplishments and see the opportunities ahead of you*

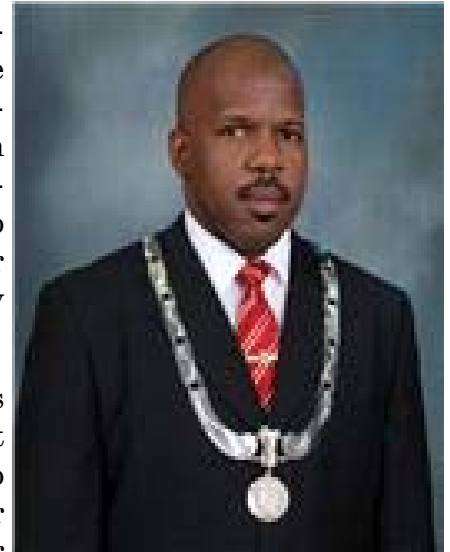
My Fellow Statians,

Season's Greetings. This is the time of year when we all take some time to reflect on the experiences of the past year. In this special season as a community we look back with thanks giving at all the blessings we have received this past year. A year which was filled with new challenges and triumphs. Where we welcomed new born's into our lives and said goodbye to loved ones whom has gone to rest. This year was historically a very memorable one as well. We were witnesses to the last elections of the parliament of the Netherlands Antilles, the inauguration of a new Lt. Governor a change of government in the Hague as well as we were witnessed the end of the Netherlands Antilles and the dawn of a new constitutional era. Where St. Eustatius became a part of the Dutch constitutional body as a public entity within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. These events only highlight the governmental changes, however as we all reflect on our own lives I can imagine the list of personal trials and triumph

must far exceed those previously mentioned. I encourage you to take a moment and reflect with thanksgiving on your personal trials and triumphs of the past year in so doing prepare yourselves for the challenges that now lay ahead.

It is also important in this season of thanks giving that we remember to reach out to the less fortunate ones in our community. Those whose year may have been more challenging than others. We must let them know that we have not forgotten them and that as a part of this community we will continue to look out for them too.

The new year promises to be just as exciting as the past year with new challenges and new possibilities waiting to be faced and explored. In 2011 our islands is poised to experience economic growth with the realization of several major projects. I encourage you all to revive the entrepreneurial spirits of our forefathers and take full advantage



Island Governor Gerald Berkel



## REVIEW OF PROJECTS OVER 2010 TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY ON ST. EUSTATIUS

St. Eustatius— Once again we are approaching that part of the year when we should look back on the events which took place and then contemplate what the future has in store for us. The island Government of St. Eustatius jump started a number of projects which would benefit the community and stimulate our economy. These Projects include: the investment officer, this was in the form of a consultant named Bearing Point. The idea was to attract the interest of investors. They made a rapport regarding the investment climate on St. Eustatius. The Island Government needs to follow up on that report to make the necessary improvements to cater to tourism and other developments.

A very important project which unfortunately did not succeed was the Airlift consultant. This project was also take up in the Social Eco-

conomic Initiative (SEI) The intention of this project was to look into the possibilities to improve the airlift on Statia. It was not successful.

The island government started many projects which presently you may not see the fruits, but once they get started many job opportunities will be available. The Expansion of the Harbour is already in process. The tender has been carried out and further negotiations will take place in January 2011.

The Government invested in researching the possibilities of creating a new road from the harbour to the road to White Wall (in the back of the Brown's) or as an alternative to relocate the harbour to the area below Signal Hill.

The Airport terminal is pending the outcome of the Master plan carried out by NACO ( Netherlands Airport Consultant). The Dutch Ministry is

paying for this research. Hopefully in May 2011 this plan will be presented to the island government.

The marketing fund is carried out for advertisements and participation in trade shows. We hope to see a lot of positive returns from this project.

The island Government of St. Eustatius purchased a geographic Information System with the intention to make all geographic related information available to the public.

Water Shed Management is a project submitted to USONA awaiting approval. The purpose of this project is to solve problems in the drainage of rainwater. Often times after it rains water creates erosion and it settles in certain areas. **(continue on page 5 )**

## Our spirits strengthened and our minds set 2010 & 2011

St. Eustatius—2010! A year in which the earth sifted under the entity the Netherlands Antilles, 10-10-10 sealed its demise. It also brought into being new entities, some in accordance with the choices of the people and others not in line with the outcome of the people's choice. The bulk of traveling, negotiations, documents and promises that are meant to ensure a better future for all the people have been completed, for it is indeed the people's interest that should have guided all activities.

The year 2010 began with the world's economy still reeling, but on Statia we were blessed and therefore protected from the fall out of the economic trough.

These are just two of the major

giants that we faced, overcame and have lived to see the sunset of an eventful year and the cusp of a challenging new year.

What about the personal giants? How about those goals that we set for ourselves? What about the unexpected blessings that we would have experienced in 2010? Have we acknowledged the successes? Have we given thanks for the blessings?

A positive attitude towards even the smallest progress should **strengthen our spirits** to see the good even in our disappointments. This is not a commendation to deceive ourselves. It is an encouragement to face the truth, and make the needed adjustments to ensure greater progress.

2010 is the year that the water dis-



Commissioner  
Mr. Roy Hooker

tribution network took shape after years of negotiation, planning, and hard work. The waste

## Our spirits strengthened and our minds set 2010 & 2011

(Continued from page 2)

management project made headway from negotiations to execution mode. After years of talking about the need for more modern communication, talks became promises in the form of an agreement of intent to research undersea cabling that should give us improve communication with the outside world.

The new study financing is to be lauded. Enormous, positive strides were made in the area of education but there are still challenges to face. 2010 is the year that the tax regime for Statia has finally been drastically revised. This has been a bone of contention and will remain such until agreements made are fulfilled as agreed. Yet, although there is contention about certain

aspects of the new law, positive progress has been made on other aspects which should be celebrated.

Indeed, looking back over 2010 we can be thankful for blessings of the year and we can have a positive attitude as we face the challenges of the future.

As I have said, with the dawn of 10-10-10, we have come to a land of giants, giants of compassion and bounty. But we cannot deceive ourselves that there are only benevolent giants and therefore we must be courageous to face the giants that are not favourable. 2011 will bring a greater unfurling of the negotiations' result, agreements reached and promises

made. Our determination to ensure that these are as favourable as possible must never be doubted. **Our spirits must be strengthened, our minds set** on our goals and even setback experienced will become steppingstones to the better future we must work and build for our community, ourselves and others we embrace.

A safe closing of 2010 and a blessed and prosperous 2011 to our families, friends, neighbours near and far.



### ISLAND GOVERNOR ADDRESSES COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 1)

of the opportunities that may come your way. You see whether or not this new year bring us prosperity is up to you and I.

Now I know you've heard me say this before and the reason I continue to repeat it is because it is extremely important that we understand that our collective destinies lay in our hands. You and I are the ones who will ultimately determine whether Statia will develop into the prosperous island that we envision. The potential and possibilities exist but it requires hard work and commitment from us all.

My fellow Statians the journey of the constitutional change which started October 10th 2010 will continue throughout this new year. Do not be discouraged by the challenges that this occasionally presents. Rather I suggest that we remain vigilant to insure that the changes now taking place serve to provide us with an environment where we can grow and include the input of our society.

My fellow Statians before we know it the season will soon give way to the new year and we will once again take up the challenges of our daily lives. I pray that we all emerge from the special sea-

son revived. Revived with a spirit of hope, with a confidence that we are ready and prepared to face the challenges of the new year and to take full advantage of the opportunities it presents. Ready to ban together as Statians regardless of religion, cultural background or political persuasion realizing that we are all one people with one goal. Making Statia a better place for all.

On behalf of the Island and Executive Council of St. Eustatius I extend to you all warm Season Greetings and God riches Blessings for a bright and prosperous new year.

May God bless you all.

## New Year's Message Mr. Julian Woodley

The year 2010 is running to a close. This year has been a very historic year. The Netherlands Antilles, established 56 years ago, has been officially dismantled on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 and does no longer exist. It has been replaced by the two countries, Curacao and St. Maarten, and the BES islands, now called Dutch Caribbean, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Since October 10<sup>th</sup> Statia has become a public entity within The Netherlands. In short this means that the island did become an integral part of The Netherlands. Some say that this is a step back. A step back to colonial times, when the island was ruled by the colonial motherland on the other side of the world. I strongly refute this line of thinking. Being a colony meant that the colonial power owned the colony and used it solely for their benefit. In the present times being an integral part of The Netherlands means, that The Netherlands is taking full responsibility of our island. It is from now on their responsibility that the population of Statia will achieve an acceptable level of prosperity and security. This translates to quite the opposite of being a colony as in the old days. The aforementioned does not mean that there will no longer be an Island Council

and an Executive Council with their responsibility to run the day to day affairs of the island. These institutions will keep most of the responsibilities they had before 10-10-10. The Netherlands however have taken over some responsibilities. Some that they took put in place for the new entities. Now we need to experience how this will translate into our day to day lives. We have to bear in mind that for our islands, as well as The Netherlands, this is uncharted territory. Never in history before a country has been dismantled the way it happened with the Netherlands Antilles. It means that we may expect hick ups and bottlenecks, which have not been anticipated by any of us. Some examples have surfaced already with the introduction of the new tax laws. And we should be very realistic to expect more issues. The matter is however, that when hick ups or oversights come to light we need to solve them in good cooperation with the other islands and The Netherlands. I see it as the responsibility of the island government together with the entire community to make the new structure work. The ultimate goal is that our new status will improve the lives and future of



**Commissioner  
Mr. Julian Woodley**

every citizen.

We need to monitor all developments closely. After the first five years into the new status an evaluation will take place to establish whether we are on the right track or a change of direction may be required.

Together with the Democratic Party I will sail the voyage with you, the people of Statia, into our new constitutional status. And together we will make it a success.

I wish every Statian smooth sailing and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011!



## REVIEW OF PROJECTS OVER 2010 ON ST. EUSTATIUS

(Continued from page 2)

This projects will help resolve the most urgent situations.

Waste Management is a project which has been approved to purchase heavy equipment for the landfill. It is in combination with a program to start separate collection of the garbage.

Pavement of the Historic Core. The idea is to complete the road Fort Oranje leading down to Claesgut.

Strengthening Planning Buro with Additional Staff. The government has appointed SMD Architects & Consultants N.V. on the short term to support this department. Recently the planning buro has in-

creased it's capacity with one additional member. Mrs. Claudia Keizers from the Netherlands

Master plan and Spatial Development plan started in 2008 with the approval of the preparatory resolution. In 2009 the plan was presented through the planning buro by the consulting firm RBOI, to the general public, this process continued in 2010. Presently the Spatial Development plan is for Public Review.

Land Policy in connection with the Development plan. Some advice is given about the distribution of long lease property and how to deal with the possible inequality of land value as a result of

the zoning plan.

Water distribution technical preparation. The contract of this project has already been awarded to MNO. This company is based in St. Maarten.

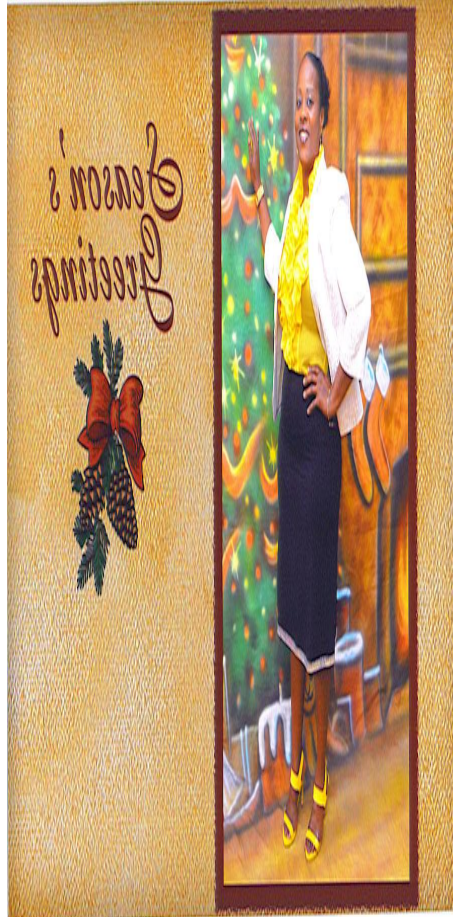
Institutional aspects of production and distribution of drinking water. The ordinances an, concessions and business plan is being prepared. This project should be ready by May or June 2011.

White Hook Infrastructure: this project is mentioned in the 9th EDF for financing, however it's not yet clear if funds are available. In January 2011 the government will get more clarity on this project.

### SEASON GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE & PROTOCOL

We wish the entire Community a new year filled with prosperity and good health. Let's be thankful that up to present despite little adversities in life we are spared of much the world crisis and natural disasters.

HAPPY NEW YEARS!



# Roman Catholic Carolers



The Informer, is the St. Eustatius Government Information Bulletin

It is a monthly publication of the Island Territory of St. Eustatius. The objective is to inform residents of St. Eustatius about the developments that are taking place within Government and social matters on the island.

Published by M.A. Lopes Chief Public Relations for the Island Territory of St. Eustatius Kennep Rd. z/n, Princes Garden, St. Eustatius, Neth. Ant.

Telephone:599-318-2745

Fax: 599-318-2084

Email: [gis@statiagovernment.com](mailto:gis@statiagovernment.com)

[Malvern.gis@statiagovernment.com](mailto:Malvern.gis@statiagovernment.com)

Layout by D. Simmons

Queries should be directed to the Office of the Lt. Governor, Mr. Gerald Berkel, under which he has the responsibility of Bureau Kabinet, St. Eustatius.  
Tel: 318 -2552 Fax: 318-2324



THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE TO OTHERS  
IS A GOOD EXAMPLE!

































-----

**I**

**C  
A**

**L**

**Y,**

**C**

**ct**

—

**i**

**R  
U**

—

—

**a**











