



PRESS RELEASE

Electoral Council reviews applications of political parties

Philipsburg: The Electoral Council has been receiving applications from several political parties at its office on Back Street 145B. Parties are currently submitting their applications to be registered by the Electoral Council for the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

Any political party that fails to register at the Electoral Council in due time or does not adhere to all requirements stipulated for registration of political parties laid down in the National Ordinance on Registration and Finance of Political Parties will be excluded from participating in the elections.

Submission of an application for registration by a political party does not mean that the party is registered by the Electoral Council. Subsequent to the submission of the application, the application will be thoroughly reviewed by the Electoral Council. Only after receiving a positive decision on the application by the Electoral Council, the party can be considered registered. The decision that the party is registered will also be communicated to the Central Voting Bureau.

In view of the serious consequences for a party if it fails to comply with the National Ordinance on Registration and Finances of political parties, all political parties are urged to seriously study this Ordinance, before filing their application for registration. The National Ordinance can be found in Dutch and in English on the St. Maarten Government website. www.sintmaartengov.org

Over the past weeks, the Electoral Council attended several congresses and a general meeting of political parties, where the procedures for the elections of the Party Board and several functions within the parties were observed. The Electoral Council hereby requests political parties to inform the Council of the dates and venues of upcoming congresses and general meetings in order for a delegate or a delegation of the Electoral Council to be present at such events.

All political parties and potential candidates who intend to participate in the upcoming Parliamentary elections as well as the public in general are strongly encouraged to attend to the information session, hosted by the Electoral Council in collaboration with the University of St. Martin on Wednesday, April 9, at the University of St. Martin at 7:00-9:00 pm

For more information, please contact the Electoral Council office, located on Back Street No. 145 B. Opening hours are on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 13:30 to 17:30 hours and on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 13:00 hours. Telephone no. : 543 9888. Fax no.: 543 9887.