

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
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Par.			

From the desk of
Member of Parliament of St. Maarten
Frans George Richardson
Orchid Drive # 2

To the President of Parliament
c/o Mr. J.D. Semeleer/Griffier
Wilhelminastraat # 1
Philipsburg
St. Maarten

Philipsburg, September 5, 2013

Re: Amending Electoral laws in order to combat buying of votes

Honorable President,

By means of this letter, I am hereby requesting your assistance with following.

Attached, please find a letter addressed to Prime Minister Sarah Wescott-Williams regarding the above mentioned subject. Kindly, I am requesting that said letter be forwarded for further handling.

Looking forward to your cooperation in this matter, I remain,


MP Frans Richardson



From the desk of
Member of Parliament of St. Maarten
Frans George Richardson
Orchid Drive # 2

To the Prime Minister of St. Maarten
The Hon. Sarah Wescott-Illidge
Government Administration Bldg.
Philipsburg - PRESENT

Philipsburg, September 5, 2013

Excellency:

On April 18, 2013 the Parliament of St. Maarten passed a motion, sponsored by the undersigned, in which the Parliament of St. Maarten tasked government with enacting or amending our electoral laws to combat amongst others the buying of votes.

By removing the temptation to compete based on how much money a candidate can afford to funnel to voters to influence their vote, we level the playing field for all. It is a matter of fairness. Candidates who do not have the resources simply cannot compete, regardless to how qualified they may be. This is fundamentally unfair and undemocratic. It will also benefit all political parties. Freed from the need to constantly fend off requests for money and goods from voters, political parties can dedicate themselves to focusing on issues that really affect the welfare of voters. Most importantly, it will signal to voters that the days political campaign manna are over. It will do the entire body politic good!

We are now less than a year before the next election and to date Parliament has not received the requested draft legislation. It is simply unacceptable that Parliament passes a motion and government refuses to follow up. You are therefore urged in the strongest possible terms to comply with the motion of Parliament and submit the requested legislation forthwith.

Attached please find a copy of the motion in question for your guidance.

Sincerely,

MP Frans Richardson



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Sincerely,


MP Frans Richardson

Draft Motion

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its meeting of today, April 17th, 2013,

CONSIDERING:

- The ongoing public debate on issues surrounding the draft 2013 budget;
- The system of government of St. Maarten is a parliamentary democracy based on the constitution and free elections are held every four years;
- In a free election a fair and in balance administered electoral process is essential;
- Parliamentary elections will be held in the year 2014;
- In the last elections of 2010 there was an investigation involving members of the police and a member of the volunteer corps (VKS) allegedly selling their votes thus bringing the democracy respectively free elections under undue stress;
- That the present electoral laws rules and regulations with respect to our Constitution and international treaties don't safeguard a free fair and in balance administered electoral system sufficiently;
- That necessary steps should be taken to ensure the achievement of a free fair and in balance administered electoral system by amending the current electoral laws rules and regulations and or adopting a Code of Conduct to govern the election campaign and the polling period to allow voters to vote freely without intimidation and harassment undue influence and bribery so that they can choose their representatives in conditions of equality openness transparency respect and integrity;

RESOLVES:

To call on the government of St. Maarten to do all that is necessary to ensure the achievement of a free fair and in balance administered electoral system by amending the current electoral laws with respect to voters political parties and candidates, agents or supporters before the upcoming Parliamentary elections

2014 and in so doing protecting the integrity of the democratic process regulating among other the following:

- Not to bribe, not to pay or accept cash, not to give or accept gifts and/or other tangible or intangible assets; not to provide preferential treatment;
- Not to coerce or offer to accept money or other incentives to influence the vote for or against a party or candidate, nor to encourage a voter not to cast a vote;
- Not to coerce nor offer to accept money or other incentives to force people to nominate or not to nominate their candidates, nor to withdraw or not withdraw their candidacy;
- Not to coerce or offer to accept money or other incentives to receive support or assistance from any civil servant, with the aim to support or impede the election of any candidate;
- Not to allow campaign activity or campaign material to unnecessary crowd, or be placed in close proximity of voting booths nor in the areas of the polling stations in order to prevent interference and intimidation;
- Not to allow anyone to enter the polling station wearing campaign material, tee-shirts, or other campaign paraphernalia promoting either a party or a candidate or a cause.
- To clear all campaign material such as bill boards and other campaign material from all public roads and to remove all campaign material placed on private property, within forty-eight hours before the opening of the polls on election day.
- Eliminate the use of cellular phones, video cameras and cameras by all voters, in the voting booths on Election Day;

And goes over to the order of the day.

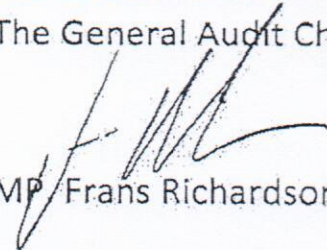
Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Governor of Sint Maarten

The Government of Sint Maarten

The Council of Advice of Sint Maarten

The General Audit Chamber of Sint Maarten



MP Frans Richardson





STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN
Wednesday, April 17, 2013 Public Meeting no. 5

FG

Voting list Amendment Electoral Law

Motion no. 13 date: April 2013

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	drs. R.E. Samuel		
2.	G.C. Pantophlet		
3.	Patrick G. Illidge		
4.	H.L. Richardson		
5.	Petrus L. de Weeyer		
6.	F.G. Richardson		
7.	Lloyd J. Richardson		
8.	Romain J. Laville		
9.	Roy R. Marlin		
10.	Johan E. Leonard		
11.	Silvia V. Meyers-Olivacce		
12.	Jules C. James		
13.	Louie E. Laveist		
14.	Gracita R. Arrindell		
15.			

2 + 10 JF