

MOTION

no. 1

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its meeting of today, September 17, 2015

Considering:

That the constitution of St. Maarten establishes that the 2 official languages on St. Maarten are Dutch and English;

That our education system is premised on mother tongue education and Dutch as a second (foreign) language;

That scientifically it has been established that while students are apt at learning languages from a very early age, they are much more likely to succeed in education in their mother tongue;

That English is the world's most widely used language;

That more and more St. Martiners are gravitating towards an identity uniquely St. Maarten and are exhibiting positive nationalistic motivations;

That our shared values that constitute this identity, include a common language;

That the St. Martin dialect or twang is derived from the English language;

Resolves:

To instruct the Ministers of General Affairs and Education, Culture, Youth and Sports to present to Parliament within 60 days:

1. A plan to establish English as the first and "mother tongue" language for St. Maarten.
2. A plan of approach to gradually introduce the use of the mother tongue as the first official language of St. Maarten and to,
3. Develop a plan for civil servants in departments where Dutch is common and sometimes mandatory, because of political, historic, legal, staffing, or other reasons to rapidly become proficient and trained in the Dutch language, by means of programs developed specifically for this purpose.

And goes over to the order of the day,

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Governor of St. Maarten

The Government of St. Maarten

Handwritten signatures and dates in blue ink. The date "17-SEP-2015" is written in the upper right. One signature is clearly legible as "William Harris".



STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN
Thursday, September 17, 2015, Public Meeting no. 02
Voting list

Motion no. 1 agenda point 2

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	Lloyd J. Richardson, MD		
2.	Leona M. Marlin-Romeo		
3.	Sarah A. Wescot-Williams		
4.	Franklin A. Meyers		
5.	Johan E. Leonard		
6.	Van Hugel C. de Weever		
7.	Maurice A. Lalle		
8.	Silveria E. Jacobs		
9.	Christophe T. Emmanuel		
10.	Theodore E. Keyliger		
11.	William V. Marlin		
12.	Frans G. Richardson		
13.			
14.			
15.			

ZHSA