



**SINT EUSTATIUS
CARIBISCH NEDERLAND**

To: Commissioner Rechelline Leerdam

Commissioner Reuben Merkman

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Our number: 1388/GEZ.

St. Eustatius, May 13th, 2026

Subject: Importance of maintaining proper Island Council procedure

Honorable Commissioners,

In my capacity as Island Governor of Sint Eustatius, I wish to respectfully share a brief reflection regarding the importance of maintaining proper Island Council procedure, decorum and mutual respect during public meetings of the Island Council. Please also see the reflection letter as sent to the Island Council.

The Island Council forms the highest representative democratic body of the Public Entity. Its meetings therefore carry institutional significance and must be conducted in accordance with the applicable rules of order and established principles of procedure. These procedural safeguards are not mere formalities, but serve to ensure orderly, respectful and effective democratic deliberation.

In that regard, I wish to emphasize the importance of allowing members of the Island Council to complete their contributions without interruption, and of ensuring that all exchanges during meetings take place through the intervention of the Chairperson, in accordance with the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Island Council. Respect for the authority of the Chairperson and adherence to orderly speaking procedures are essential elements of good governance and institutional professionalism.



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Healthy democratic debate naturally allows room for disagreement and critical discussion. At the same time, the manner in which such debate is conducted remains equally important. The tone and conduct displayed during public meetings contribute directly to public confidence in the functioning of government and the democratic institutions of Sint Eustatius.

It is therefore my sincere hope that all participants involved in future Island Council meetings will continue to contribute to a respectful, orderly and professional atmosphere that reflects the dignity of the offices held and the constitutional responsibilities entrusted to our public institutions.

With esteem and respect,

Sincerely,



Ms. M.A.U. Francis

Island Governor of St. Eustatius

Cc:

Island Council
Executive Council
Island Secretary
Island Registrar