



MANIFESTO

Introduction

The St. Eustatius Democratic Party (DP) has been established since 1949 and is the oldest political party on Statia. Since its inception, the party has served Statia in the island Council without interruption.

The wealth of experience and knowledge throughout DP's board and membership has helped the party evolve to meet the changing demands of the modern world and propels us forward to tackle the challenges of today and the foreseeable future.

The beliefs and values of the party are solidly rooted in Christian principles. Our party is therefore committed to helping every man, woman and child to achieve their (full) fullest potential in life.

We strongly support private sector initiatives and believe in the value and development of small and medium enterprise within our community. These enterprises do not only contribute to many job opportunities but also help to strengthen and serve the various population segments of our society. We also believe that all of us share a responsibility to help the less fortunate and weaker groups in our community.

The DP stands for transparency and integrity. Throughout the years that the party has been in government, the people of Statia have witnessed a stable, dependable and progressive government.

The board and general membership of the DP includes many strong leaders with the will and ability to steer our island successfully through the challenges it faces.

The party believes that in order to move our island to the next level of its development, it is of utmost importance to develop the potential of our people, strengthen and diversify our economy, improve our infrastructure, significantly reduce poverty and protect the rights of each individual and in particular the rights of our children.



Democratic Party DP
St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean

Founded 1949

Our vision

To achieve a self-sufficient and sustainable Statia for the benefit of present and future generations.

Our mission

To be a leading contributor in the development of a prosperous Statia with a strong economy and an optimal level of welfare and wellbeing for all.

Our constitutional relation with The Netherlands

Due to our limited capacity, which takes into account the size of our island and our population, our small and vulnerable economy and limited financial means, we believe in continued constitutional relations with the Netherlands.

We therefore support the idea that the public Entity status is one that should evolve. The autonomy of our island would increase and more tasks would be decentralized as our capacity to handle the tasks increase.

Strength of government

The DP stands for an effective and well-equipped government that relies on a well-equipped organization that encourages and supports both professional and personal growth in its employees.

An effective government requires the proper management of Government's finances, using limited means to achieve the best possible results.

A well-equipped government of properly trained and motivated civil servants who offer excellent service to the community. Adequate salaries and benefits as well as optimal working conditions would also be required to obtain the best service out of our civil servants.



Infrastructure

The DP stands for the development of an infrastructure that meet the needs of everyone in the 21st century. A good infrastructure contributes to the quality of life and is essential for economic growth and development. In this respect, there is more than the physical infrastructure such as roads, air-, seaport and other facilities. In order to keep pace with the outside world and to meet the demand of our own people and that of investors, up to date telecommunications and high-speed internet is similarly important. We can add to this the dependable provision of the utilities water and electricity.

Our economy

Our limited economic scale, which is currently dependent on oil transshipment, is a major challenge. The DP feels it is healthy to diversify our economy, to lessen lessens our dependence on oil transshipment. In particular, opportunities in tourism and agriculture should be pursued aggressively.

Healthcare

All Statians enjoy healthcare on an exceptionally high level, while the cost for our people is maintained at an affordable level. The present arrangement, of having our national government responsible for our healthcare needs to be continued. The Democratic Party supports efforts to strengthen our own healthcare facilities as well as those within the Dutch Caribbean region. The need for medical referrals to remote destinations such as Colombia will be reduced without compromising the quality of care.

The DP feels the disabled members within our population also deserve proper facilities and care. We support alternative assisted living options for the disabled as well as the elderly besides the Auxiliary Home.



Education

Providing a good educational system is the responsibility of the national government while our local government is responsible for maintaining the school buildings. Great improvements have been realized in both areas. The goal is to raise the standard of education in all schools similar to that of our European counterparts as well as being better equipped to meet the needs of our special needs students.

The Democratic Party supports the current division of tasks between National and Local Governments. However, it is essential that the local Government be provided with a sufficient budget to take care of its responsibility to maintain high quality school buildings.

Social affairs and labor

Social affairs and labor are the responsibility of the national government. The DP favors to shift the responsibility of managing the labour market to the local government. Labour is directly intertwined with economic development, which is a local responsibility. The local government is more sensitive to the demands of the labour market because of its dependence on its success.

The DP will continually seek to define what are "acceptable levels of services within the Netherlands. We consider this a vital element on the road to significantly reduce poverty in Statia. It is important that the minimum level of subsistence income be established since this is a determining factor in setting the level of minimum wage and social benefits. Improvement of social benefits should go hand in hand with our effort to strengthen our local economy.



Housing

There is a great need for affordable housing, particularly the low-income sector. We must strengthen the Housing Foundation so that it can properly carry out its responsibilities of meeting the needs for affordable housing. Cooperation with strong partners is essential in achieving this.

Culture, history and sports

We need to safeguard our culture and local identity, however encouraging people from other countries and cultures who made Statia their home to really integrate by participating fully in Statia life. We can do this through slight adjustments within the school curriculum. Therefore, we urge Local Government to work with the National Government to include Statian culture and history in the education system for our children.

Taking part in sports contributes to the general health of people. It is an important tool to motivate people, make them competitive and stimulate them to reach to the top. Many sports also train individuals to become team players, a characteristic much needed in building a nation. The DP therefore believes that sports needs to be encouraged and become an integral part of our society and school curriculum. Regular physical activity also helps us to combat our high obesity, diabetes, and hypertension statistics hence reducing our healthcare costs for these and other related conditions.

Environment

As we all know, the environment is equally a local concern as well as a global concern. It is therefore our duty to preserve a good and healthy local environment for future generations.

Matters such as the sanitation of our landfill, the reduction of the use of plastic bags and the increase in recycling efforts need urgent attention. The problem of erosion, through which fertile topsoil is literally flushing away and our reefs are being



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damaged, needs to be resolved. Hence, the DP feels that the initiatives of organizations like St. Eustatius National Parks (STENAPA) need to be supported.

Justice and security

Compared to many other countries in the world, Statia is still a relatively safe place to live. To preserve this, it is important that there be a joint active policy and campaign against substance abuse by all stakeholders.

Special attention needs to be given to our youth. Juveniles and adolescents need strong role models to play an important role in their lives. Therefore, the efforts of organizations such as the Mega D Youth Foundation and other similar organizations that offer activities for youth need to be supported.

The reduction of poverty will contribute to the reduction of crime. The DP recognizes that rehabilitation programs for offenders, particularly for young offenders, are extremely important.

Where do we want to go with Statia?

The Democratic Party works towards the future of Statia with our people in mind. Our ideas, vision and mission statements, stated in this, our manifesto, are aimed with specific goals.

Remember our Vision is "To achieve a self-sufficient and sustainable Statia for the benefit of present and future generations.