Island, Executive Councils take oath of office in Statia

From left: Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs Reginald Zaandam, Finance Commissioner Astrid McKenzie-Tatem, Island Governor Gerald Berkel, Island Council Members Richeline Leerdam (PLP), Reuben Merkman (UCP), Clyde van Putten (PLP), Adelka Spanner and Koos Snee (DP), and Island Council Secretary Louis van Ameijden after the swearing-in ceremony.

ture, sustainable agricultural development, construction of affordable low-income housing, privatisation and development of the sea port and airport, construction of a boardwalk and regional cooperation.

The youngest member in the Island Council, Richeline Leerdam, said she was first approached by Van Putten in 2006, when she was still attending college. Nine years later, she is ready to continue the “fight” of her grandfather, the late Duncan Leerdam, who was also known as the “Brave Little Tailor.” Her picture showing him mending fishing nets was found on the NAF 100 bills. He ran in elections with the late Clifton Berkel. She promised to be a voice in the Island Council and pledged “to work to restore Statia to its rightful place.” She named some of the persons who stood beside her through the election campaign, and also reflect- ed on George Lijfrock and Yannacio Hook, two persons who have passed on, but were instrumental in her joining the PLP.

Asjes meets with consul

WILLEMSTAD – Curacao Prime Minister Fari Asjes summoned the Consul of Venezuela Marisol Gutierrez de Almeida in connection with the petition against American President Barack Obama, which is not only being on the island but also in other countries.

Asjes made it clear to the recently appointed consul that such a petition is contrary to the neutrality which Curacao exercises in the diplomatic conflict between Venezuela and the US. The friendly relationship with both countries should not be put at risk.

The online petition was a response to Obama’s message that the government in Caracas currently poses a threat to the national security of the United States of America.