

The other day I read a piece of text that said that if you spend long enough in a new environment, you feel irrevocably connected to it. This was in response to a city council inviting famous writers to live in the community for a while and then write a book about it to put the city "on the map".

I see a similarity with the saying "unknown makes unloved" when it comes to the Caribbean Netherlands. This part of the country is as good as unknown in the European Netherlands and is therefore almost naturally unloved.

Then I read that the internet consultation about the reform (which is not really a reform) of the (a)social policy of the Rutte IV cabinet leaves the Dutch Caribbean cold. Probably because by now the Dutch Caribbean people know how this cabinet works: a little research here, a favorable message there, and on balance do nothing.

And then a few days ago I read that at the high European legal level it was also found (fortunately not unanimously) that the Dutch government rightly (?) discriminates with benefits in the social field.

Of course I hold the principle of the rule of law in high esteem but that doesn't mean that legal forums don't have errors as well. I am convinced that maintaining first and second class Dutch people in one and the same (Dutch) country is worse than wrong!

And if I am wrong – and I recently read a report to this effect – it must be the case that social benefits in the Dutch Caribbean are higher than in the European Netherlands. After all, the price level in the Dutch Caribbean is also higher than in the European Netherlands.

But yes, that would mean that Dutch Caribbean people would even be better off socially than European Dutch people. And that, of course, is absolutely not possible <sic>! And electorally the Caribbean Netherlands are not of great importance either and so you see that honesty and justice are not important values for this government. On the contrary, political games are simply played and those who are already on their backs and on the ground, are simply squeezed even more. Where did that go wrong again recently?

Recently, Rutte promised additional financial support to only a small group known to the municipalities. Unfortunately, none of the special Caribbean Dutch municipalities are among them.

Wherein a large country can be small. Or: Holland at its narrowest.