

Money to add flight

WILLEMSTAD--European aviation company Air Berlin has asked for 2.6 million euros more as guarantee for one additional flight from Germany to Curaçao. The Ministry of Economic Development indicates that this amount is too high for an already existing route.

"If it was a new route we would have considered it, but the route already exists. We don't see why we have to pay extra for it," said a representative of the ministry.

In the last three years the Curaçao Tourist Bureau (CTB) has paid approximately 2 million euros to cover the current weekly flight. The route has become a success with numbers showing a good 80 percent of available seats filled.

In the aviation sector this is considered a profitable route, according to experts in this field. Due to this success and also the desire to increase the number of visitors to the island, Curaçao

had approached Air Berlin with the request for one additional flight per week, but the airline asked for 2.6 million euros just for the winter months.

Representatives of the hospitality sector indicated that such guarantees should not be taken as something structural, but as a means to attract new airlift for the island. "We now have to look to other companies and offer them these guarantees."



Science Café presenters, from left: Janne Brouwers, Roy Hooker, Teresa Leslie, Lotte Bakker and Hannah Madden.

PUBLIC SALE

We hereby apologize for the wrong publication in yesterday's edition, which was due to a technical error.

On Thursday, June 25th, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

a Public Sale will be held in the presence of civil law notary M.M. Boekhoudt at the PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY, located at Ch.E.W. Voges Street 12, in Philipsburg, of the following immovable properties situated on Sint Maarten;

To be auctioned ex article 3:268 of the Civil Code:



1. a parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cole Bay, at Pelican Key Estate, having an area of 250m², described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CB 147/1997, with the thereon standing attached dwelling, locally known as Billy Folly Road #76/C, (reserve price USD 280,000.00).



2. a parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Cole Bay, with an area of 2,857m², described further in Certificate of Admeasurement CB 106/1986, known as the Evergreen Tree Drive, (reserve price USD 110,000.00).



3. a parcel of land, situated on Sint Maarten, in the district of Upper Prince's Quarter, with an area of 2,665m², described further in Certificate of Admeasurement UPQ 534/2007, known as lot B3 of Blue Mountain Estate, (reserve price USD 247,500.00).

In regards to the above mentioned properties you are advised that you have till Wednesday, June 10th, 2015 to deliver private bids-in-writing at the office of the aforementioned notary.

The auction shall take place by increasing bids and followed by decreasing bids. General and special auction conditions apply. The general auction conditions are available on our website. The special auction conditions and appraisal reports can also be viewed on our website as soon as they are available.

All costs for the auction will be paid by the Buyer and which costs include: Transfer Tax (4% of the purchase price), the registration fees (Kadaster), the outstanding long lease rent (erfpachtscanon), if any, the outstanding dues to the Association of Apartment Owners, if any, fees for execution of the necessary notarial deeds, other auction costs (rent of auction room, marshal fees, cancellation of liens and mortgages, advertisements), and the costs to have the property vacated, if necessary.

Producing of an irrevocable bank guarantee from a local bank, to the amount of the bid and the estimated expenses of the auction, can be demanded from the highest bidder(s) at the auction.

For information about the property, the conditions of the auction and further details contact Mr. Martin Zschuschen at +1721-542.99.26.

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Health study reveals obesity in St. Eustatius

ST. EUSTATIUS--Stations are three times more likely to be obese and suffer more from diabetes than residents of the European Netherlands. For the last three months, Lotte Bakker of University of Applied Science in The Hague has been investigating the causes of this trend.

Speaking at the Science Café hosted at Caribbean Netherlands' Science Institute (CNSI), Bakker explained that whereas 10 per cent of Dutch residents were considered to be overweight, this figure jumped to around 27 per cent for islanders on the "Historical Gem."

"Lifestyle differences such as diet and lack of exercise might well be the underlying factors behind the new statistics. Whereas we have not made any direct comparisons so far with other Caribbean islands, the need to intervene and somehow reduce these health risks is

evident," she said. "A plan on how to achieve this will follow."

Iguanas

Before the end of the year, St. Eustatius National Parks STENAPA will publish an updated population assessment of the indigenous Lesser Antillean iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*) on Statia.

Believed to be on the brink of extinction in six Caribbean islands, this endangered iguana is smaller and less successful than its more aggressive cousin, the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*).

STENAPA's Terrestrial Areas Manager Hannah Madden and intern Janne Brouwers told the Science Café that Statia is one of the last resorts for this species.

"The Antillean iguana has lost over 70 per cent of its distribution and currently remains on only eight Caribbean islands," Madden warned. "Our current work

to research and monitor these endangered creatures will provide an insight as to what steps to take in the area of conservation."

Madden, Brouwers and Master's student Thijs van den Burg have already identified various local risks to the animal's habitat in the Caribbean.

"Mating or hybridization with its larger brother is a real threat. Fortunately, on Statia this cannot happen, since the Lesser Antillean iguana is the only species on the island. However, cats, dogs, chickens and chicken-wire fencing, goats, cows and the invasive Coralita vine are a local problem. Habitat loss in the form of development, road vehicles and humans are other serious perils."

By observing, measuring and head-tagging iguanas, Brouwers and Van den Burg hope to have a clearer picture as to their welfare, population and future status. DNA blood samples will also be taken for analysis in the Netherlands.

"The results should be ready in September and should tell us more about the genetic diversity of the island's population, in particular whether they are suffering from inbreeding depression," as suggested by Van den Burg.

Local for global

During the packed meeting, former Commissioner Roy Hooker outlined the importance of sustainable development for the island's tourist sector. President of Eastern Caribbean Public Health Foundation and session moderator Teresa Leslie opened a debate on the role of CNSI in promoting the island's resources.

No lower utility rate for Sambil

WILLEMSTAD--According to the independent (former PAR) parliamentarian Omayra Leeftang, the soon to be opened Sambil mega mall in Curaçao should not get preferential treatment from Aquallectra.

She heard the government-owned utility company is giving the shopping centre that will open its doors on Thursday cheaper water and electricity. The opposition member finds this "unacceptable."

"My question is how can the mall get a lower rate while there are dozens of citizens who get their electricity cut off because they can't pay?"

In addition, the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT has pointed out that it will take the financial risks of these companies into account when assessing government's budget. In view of this announcement, Leeftang thinks that this preferential treatment is very strange.

However, in response to the resulting uproar in the media Aquallectra director Darick Jonis stated that the shopping mall will not get any special rate.