

# Statia not happy with Dutch government, survey reveals

ST. EUSATIUS—Residents of St. Eustatius are not happy with the quality of central government since October 10, 2010, according to a recent comprehensive survey carried out by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies KITLV.

Wouter Veenendaal of KITLV presented the survey's findings Monday at Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI). Members of his audience were left in no doubt that the image of the Dutch Government in its dealings with Statia requires some attention.

When asked by opinion researchers if the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles in 2010 was a good idea, 48 per cent of 150 local residents surveyed thought this was "bad" or "very bad." Only 11 per cent of respondents believed it to be "good" or "very good."

KITLV's Professor Geert Oostindie confirmed that

the survey, which was commissioned three months ago, painted a negative picture.

"We carried out identical surveys on other islands of the former Netherlands Antilles. The central government has invested a lot of money in St. Eustatius," Oostindie observed. "But when we compare the feelings of the people of Statia, Bonaire and Saba towards central government, Stadians were the most critical."

Stadians were also the least optimistic. "When asked if they expected things to improve two years from now, almost 60 per cent of those interviewed expected things to remain the same, get slightly worse or much worse. Only 25 per cent of Stadians are optimistic about the future, compared to Saba at 39 per cent and Bonaire at 49 per cent," Oostindie explained.

Dutch politicians were criticised for being disinterested. When asked "How much knowledge do you think

Dutch politicians have about the local culture of the island?" 70 per cent of Stadians felt that they possessed little or no knowledge.

In what represents the most comprehensive opinion survey in the Caribbean Netherlands to date, a choice of four languages were used to interview a total of 800 residents on the three islands. However, on Statia, not all questions produced a negative reaction. Health and education issues scored high on the areas of improvement.

Some local residents attended the presentation, including Commissioner of Finance Astrid McKenzie-Tatem of Progressive Labour Party (PLP) and Island Council Member for the Democratic Party (DP) Koos Sneek provided political input into the discussions that followed.

McKenzie stated it was "a lack of knowledge on the part of Dutch politicians, their civil servants and poli-

cies that have caused local residents to feel isolated." Sneek on the other hand believed there was a need for the media to be more critical of government performance.

Veenendaal said that opin-

ions about the state of local media were also part of the survey. These results would be released later in the year.

The survey results have already been posted on the KITLV website. The next

step is "to publicize them in the Dutch media and promote our findings amongst Dutch politicians and the civil service," Veenendaal stated.



The survey was presented Monday at Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute.



**St. Eustatius**

## GOVERNMENT INFO PAGE

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**ST. EUSTATIUS  
CARIBISCH NEDERLAND**

AB 2016

No. 01

**AFKONDIGING**

*Als bedoeld in artikel 142, eerste lid, van de Wet openbare Lichamen Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba*

De eilandsraad van het Openbaar Lichaam Sint Eustatius heeft in zijn vergadering van 21 januari 2016 besloten het volgende vast te stellen:

**Verordening op de vertrouwenscommissie;**

Deze verordening ligt vanaf 21 januari 2016 gedurende acht dagen voor een ieder ter inzage op het griffierskantoor.

De inwerkingtreding van deze verordening is bepaald op de dag na bekendmaking.

Aldus afgekondigd op: 22 januari 2016

De gezaghebber,



Mededeling G.I.S. : 22 januari 2016



**ST. EUSTATIUS  
CARIBISCH NEDERLAND**

AB 2016

No. 02

**AFKONDIGING**

*Als bedoeld in artikel 142, eerste lid, van de Wet openbare Lichamen Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba*

De eilandsraad van het Openbaar Lichaam Sint Eustatius heeft in zijn vergadering van 21 januari 2016 besloten het volgende vast te stellen:

**Verordening op de commissie, welke de functioneringsgesprekken met de gezaghebber houdt;**

Deze verordening ligt vanaf 21 januari 2016 gedurende acht dagen voor een ieder ter inzage op het griffierskantoor.

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