



Sociaal Economische Raad
Social Economic Council

SER Surinam visits SER Sint Maarten.

REPORT

The Chairwoman, Oldine Bryson-Pantophlet and Secretary-General, Gerard Richardson of the Social Economic Council (SER) Sint Maarten received a courtesy visit on Tuesday, May 17th, 2016 from the Chairman of SER Surinam, Ferdinand Welzijn.



In the picture L to R: Chairman SER Surinam, Ferdinand Welzijn, Chairwoman, Oldine Bryson-Pantophlet

There was no agenda for the visit.

Tuesday, May 17th 2016, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten 10 am - 11.15 am

Written account.

The meeting between SER Sint Maarten and SER Surinam is the first official meeting between the advisory bodies. The Secretary-General gave a presentation about the work method of the SER, its composition and its role in Sint Maarten's society.

As of April 2016 Suriname has re-established its SER. 2010 was the last year that the SER was active, during the tenure of former president Ronald Venetiaan. The current President Desiré Bouterse installed the new members last month. Five members are nominated by the government (independent experts), four by the unions (employee representatives) and four members represent the business community (employer representatives) for a total of 13 permanent members. Each member has a substitute.



Sociaal Economische Raad
Social Economic Council

After his introduction the Chairman elaborated on the current economic situation in Surinam. Surinam economy is in decline, factories are closing down and jobs are lost, the Surinam Dollar has become unstable and as a result the residents are facing tough times. He explained that due to the lack of vision, policy failures and overspending by government, the country is currently facing an economic crisis. With the re-establishment of the SER, their goal is to provide government with sustainable advice on the many socio-economic challenges facing the country.

Concluding the Chairman expressed his desire for future cooperation between SER Sint Maarten and other and similar institutions within the Caribbean. On behalf of his colleagues he thanked SER Sint Maarten for its hospitality.

END