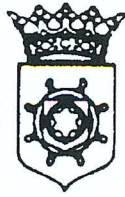


OPENBAAR LICHAAM



BONAIRE

Griffie ER Bonaire

MAR 26 2014

Nummer: ER2014-0217

Uitv.:

Aan: de Permanente Vertegenwoordiging  
van Nederland bij de Verenigde  
Naties,  
Dhr. mr. K. J. G. van Oosterom  
666 Third Avenue, 19th floor  
New York 10017  
USA

Per regulier post en per mail  
[netherlands@un.it](mailto:netherlands@un.it)

**Uw brief/kenmerk**

Ons nr. 2014002481

**Onderwerp:**

Rapportage referendum Bonaire

Kralendijk, 7 MRT 2014

Excellentie,

Per brief van 27 oktober 2010 is door tussenkomst van de Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland bij de Verenigde Naties aan de Director of the Electoral Assistance Division of Political Affairs of the United Nations verzocht om toezicht te houden op het op Bonaire, Caribisch Nederland, op 17 december 2010 te houden referendum. De betreffende brief is als bijlage toegevoegd.

Een vertegenwoordiger van de Verenigde Naties, mevrouw Stefany Lüthy, heeft in opdracht van de Electoral Assistance Division van het Department of Political Affairs, Bonaire van 13 tot 19 december 2010 bezocht.

In de brief van 27 oktober 2010 is verzocht om een door de Electoral Assistance Division op te stellen rapportage te zenden aan onze eilandsraad. Een afschrift van de aan de Missie van het Koninkrijk bij de Verenigde Naties gerichte eindrapportage hebben wij echter niet ontvangen.

Onlangs heeft de eilandsraad van Bonaire een motie aangenomen waarin het bestuurscollege wordt verzocht de betreffende rapportage alsnog aan de eilandsraad aan te bieden. Om aan deze motie tegemoet te komen, verzoeken wij u de betreffende rapportage ons zo spoedig mogelijk ter beschikking te stellen.

Hoogachtend,

Het bestuurscollege van het openbaar lichaam Bonaire,  
de gezaghebber,

de secretaris

**Bijlage:** brief van 27 oktober 2010 (30015638)

**Cc.:** leden van de eilandsraad en JAZ

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Verzoeken bij beantwoording van deze brief datum, nummer en onderwerp te vermelden.  
Postadres: Plaza Reina Wilhelmina I, Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire, Caribisch Nederland.  
Telefoon: (599-7) 175330. Telefax: (599-7) 178416



To: The Director of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations,  
Mr. Craig Jenness  
c/o Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN  
New York, N.Y.  
USA

Your letter

Our nr. 300 156 38

Topic:  
Request for UN Supervision  
of Bonaire Referendum

Kralendijk, OCT 27 2010

Dear Mr. Jenness,

On September 10, 2004 the people of Bonaire (then forming part of the Netherlands Antilles) in a referendum supervised by the United Nations opted to have 'direct ties with the Netherlands'. Based on this choice by the people of Bonaire the representatives of Bonaire and the Netherlands agreed in the 'Final Declaration' signed in The Hague on October 11, 2006 that Bonaire would become a 'public entity' based on article 134 of the Dutch Constitution.

Bonaire consequently on October 10, 2010 officially obtained the status of "public entity", becoming part of the Dutch legal order.

On October 20, 2010 the Island Council of the public entity Bonaire passed a Referendum Ordinance in order to organize a referendum in Bonaire on December 17, 2010.

**The highlights of the Referendum Ordinance of October 20, 2010 are as follows:**

**Referendum Date:** The referendum will be held on December 17, 2010

**Question to be posed in the referendum:** The eligible voters will be asked the question:

'I agree with the fact that Bonaire has become a public entity in accordance with art. 134 of the Dutch constitution'. The voters will have the option to vote either 'yes' or 'no' on this question.

**Voter eligibility:** All persons of Dutch nationality, who 50 days prior to the referendum are residents of Bonaire, provided on the day of the referendum they have reached the age of 18.

**Referendum Execution Committee:** Art. 5 of the ordinance institutes an independent Referendum Execution Committee, which has the task to organize and coordinate the referendum. This committee is also in charge of an impartial and objective public information campaign and also has the task of supervising the voting, respecting the authority of the Main Voting Bureau.

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*Validity of the referendum: According to article 4 the referendum is considered valid only when at least 51% of the eligible voters participate in the referendum.*

**The role of the United Nations**

Since this referendum is to be considered a self-determination referendum, the Referendum Ordinance stipulates in art. 1 that the referendum will be conducted under the supervision of the United Nations.

To this end we request the assistance of the Electoral Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations in securing that this referendum meets the criteria internationally set for self-determination referendums and that the referendum itself will be conducted in accordance with international standards. In this respect we envision the role of the United Nations to be the deployment of a small mission (1 or 2 persons) as an expert monitoring team during the referendum on December 17, 2010. The Electoral Assistance Division could also provide advice from New York during the period from now until the referendum whenever the Referendum Execution Committee deems such advice necessary. We will also welcome any expert advice upon the initiative of the Electoral Assistance Division itself. After the referendum we would appreciate a report made up by the Electoral Assistance Division and directed to the Island Council of Bonaire with its findings regarding the organization and the outcome of the referendum.

We are of course willing to cover all financial expenses related to the involvement of the United Nations in this referendum.

**Contact Person**

For further details on the Referendum Ordinance and the preparations taking place for the referendum, you are referred to the Chairman of the Referendum Committee Mr. Dr. Douwe Boersema Ph.D. LL.M. (tel.5999 4619644 / fax 5999 4619645 / mobile 5999 5259020 / e-mail: douwe.boersema@boersema-nagelmakers.com) who will gladly answer any questions the Electoral Assistance Division might have regarding this referendum.

We urge you to confirm at your earliest convenience your willingness to supervise the referendum scheduled in Bonaire for December 17, 2010 and we thank you in advance for your valued assistance in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

The Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire,  
Lt. Governor

Island Secretary,

**C.c.: JAZ, Financiën en Ged. Nicolaas.**

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