

General Secretary Claudia Lista,  
United People's Party  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten.

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Sub: Resignation from United People's Party

Respected Board,

I hope you are doing great in health. I am writing this letter to you so that I can inform you about my decision to resign from the United People's Party (UPP) effective immediately. When I was asked to join two days before postulation by the leader, Rolando Brison. I was given the impression that the party goals would consist of positive development for the people, population wide inclusion and improving ALL residents of St. Maarten. The leader, presented his vision and of the party, creating a multidisciplinary team consisting of candidates that can tackle almost every issue within the State. My background as a Community Social Worker with expertise in Youth Development, Community Development and Prevention, would be utilized by UPP to not only strengthen the team, but be the Social pillar for UPP topics to approach concerning Social and Community issues and solutions.

I agreed to join under the pretense that the party will put the well-being and development of the citizens first. Unfortunately, throughout the year 2020, this pretense has proven to be false by the actions or lack of actions by the leader and the party.

The following issues have made it difficult for me associate myself with the UPP; lack of communication towards the team, important informative meetings not being held regularly, no recording of meeting minutes, bashing of persons within the community, lack of inclusion towards fellow candidates concerning party developments and decisions, not sharing important information with candidates, having to read developments in the newspaper or on social media, giving a false image of priorities during the campaign period (united multi-disciplinary team who will fight to improve the people's well-being), little communication from the board members, priority given to a selected group within the community for assistance. Lastly, full disregard, disrespect and exclusion of my person and expertise in Social and Community Development during a natural disaster which has major social ramifications to the citizens, not forgetting the lack of direction and professional behavior from the leader, Rolando Brison.

I know you all are very busy and did not expect a pandemic to occur during your first year of tenure. However, I must tender my resignation effective immediately due to the above mentioned factors. I believe UPP has moved in a direction that I cannot follow and no longer reflects the ideology that was presented, as such is not prioritizing the needs and well-being for ALL citizens first and is not rising to the challenge of moment and opportunities for change that the country desperately needs in order to thrive.

I am grateful for my time and opportunity to be a part of UPP, being able to get my feet wet in the political arena, having some party members that supported me. I have realized in the last few months that I cannot stand with the current vision, approach and behavior of UPP.


I have asked myself numerous times, why stay on a party that treats you like an outsider? And my answers would be, because someone with my knowledge needs to speak up, stand up and remind the party members that the citizens of this state comes first. Especially, when we want to be prosperous as a Society. And so, after some soul searching and objective deliberation, I have come to my decision. I have always been an advocate for improving citizens' lives for the better, but not at the cost of my ideology, vision and integrity.

To the citizens and candidates that supported me during my campaign, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart and I am grateful for the time and energy you've put into my campaigning period. For those who supported me throughout this time, I will ensure, that I will always work on improving the well-being of our people within my capacity, no matter their age.

**"Only together can we move forward, because when we develop our people, we develop our country." – J.P. Heemskerk**

Sincerely,

Jacques Paul Heemskerk  
Former Candidate #16 UPP



25-1-2021