

May 19 2021

Dear,

Greetings from the headquarters of Accion 21 located at L.G. Smith Blvd. 120, Oranjestad. We are a recently formed political party that will be contesting the upcoming parliamentary elections on June 25, 2021. We believe that our beloved island is at a crossroads and have lost hope that traditional politics can deliver the solutions necessary to secure our future wellbeing.

Public finances

Our debt burden has reached an unsustainable level, most of the financial mismanagement occurred between 2001-2017 during single party governments. Aruba is now one of the most indebted nations in the world, Debt/GDP and we also have one of the highest tax rates in the world. As Accion21 we stand with firm conviction that government has the responsibility to be more efficient and accountable.

Education and Health

Our educational system is crumbling even though it consumes 7% of our GDP. At present 83% of our population lacks secondary school education or equivalent, 42% only have elementary school and less than 7% have HBO/College or higher.

Our healthcare system represents 42-43% of our budget (increasing by an average 3% annually). Both AZV and SVB are under increasing pressure due to the aging of our population and the high prevalence of chronic illnesses that are costly to treat. The moment has come for a realignment of our priorities and a conscious choice for a different future.

Economy

Our poor economic performance is a result of two main factors:

- 1) an oversized public sector that is inefficient, wasteful and perceived as highly corrupt
- 2) dysfunctional Central Bank regulation that is strangling our economy, growing the informal sector and creating greater instability to our financial system

There are 28 countries and territories in the Caribbean and Aruba spends the most per capita on its public sector and has the most expansive and burdensome compliance regulations in the region.

Social Crisis

The social crisis which includes 68% of children living mistreatment (according to recent SKOA study) requires urgent attention. Social services' lack of resources means that children suffering abuse are oftentimes left in situations where they are in danger of further abuse due to lack of housing options for example. We are failing our most vulnerable and the prevalence of sexual assault accompanied with lenient sentencing is a disgrace to our values.

Our Plan

We believe the path forward begins with economic revitalization. The first step is fiscal reform with a move towards indirect taxation and the elimination of import tariffs. Lower corporate and personal income taxes are part of our party program as we believe any future austerity should be achieved by reducing public sector costs.



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Reinventing our economy after the Singapore model is the way forward with territorial based taxation. Reducing the costs of doing business and bureaucracy are essential to our future growth and success.

All other countries and territories in the Caribbean, have more competitive tax rates and less burdensome compliance measures than Aruba. Hence there is definitely scope to modernize our tax system, streamline compliance and improve access to banking system (Directive 2014/92/EU) without running afoul of OECD guidelines.

A review of the budgets within our education and health sectors is imperative, at the same time we need to restore the people's trust in our educators and health providers. Accion21 proposes a focus on preventive care and ensuring that our education system prepares our children for the future without prejudice, both imperative if we are to prepare our population for the future.

The Covid-19 pandemic, though a difficult time for many, has also provided us with a once in a generation opportunity for bold structural reform and we need your help materializing that new future. We want your input; we want to hear which issues are important to you and we hope you will take **action with us**.

Current campaign finance laws limit donations from persons, corporations or institutions to Afl. 30.000,- to party and Afl. 20.000,- to candidate per calendar year. Our party constitution suggests a limit of Afl. 10.000,- per individual donor annually. Given the challenging economic circumstances we will be running a modest campaign that is mostly digital. However, we still need to raise more funds to help cover expenses including campaign manager, social media content, website, strategy, signage, photoshoot, press conferences, flyers, photoshoots, rent and utilities.

Every party member, candidate and I would like to ask that you consider a donation to our cause. Every contribution is deeply appreciated and will be applied towards bringing change to Aruba. Visit our website www.accion21.com or Facebook page for more information about our party and stay tuned for our program of action that will be published in May. We are always happy to meet in person or virtually and expand on our plans for reform.

In action and friendship,

Miguel Mansur
Lider Accion21
699-4095

Local Transfer Information:

Beneficiary Name: ACCION 21
Beneficiary Account number: 6020850190
Details of Donation: (your name)
Beneficiary Institution (Bank) Name: Aruba Bank N.V.
Beneficiary Institution (Bank) Address: Camacuri 12, Oranjestad, Aruba
Beneficiary Institution Code (BIC): ARUBAWAX

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