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EMAIL info@wpsxm.com

OFFICE: 721 524-4733

# MAJOR FIGURES IN AFRO CARIBBEAN HISTORY

# Mr Emilio Wilson

By DCNA

**WHEN** Emilio Wilson once was asked on video why he didn't sell his land to foreign developers and make millions of dollars, he chuckled and replied that the land belonged to St. Maarten.

"He lived in the old way," commented Rueben Thompson, member of the boards of the Emilio Wilson Estate Foundation and of DCNA. "He respected our culture and our traditions."

Emilio made it clear that he wanted his estate to be preserved as a natural area for the people of the island to enjoy. The government's commitment this month to purchase 91 acres of the Emilio Wilson Estate is the next step in that process.

"We need a place for people to go to enjoy green open spaces," Thompson said, "to learn about our culture and our heritage." Thompson said Wilson envisioned his land as that space.

According to interviews, research by Mathias S. Voges, Emilio Johan Wilson was born in Santo Domingo on Aug. 28, 1911 to Marie Victorine Wilson of St. Maarten and John Nathaniel Molineaux of Tortola BVI. Emilio, or Milio as he was known to friends, moved to St. Maarten at a young



Mr Emilio Wilson - Photo by Emilio Wilson Estate Foundation FB Page

age and he attended public school in Little Bay before transferring to the Oranje School in Philipsburg around 1920.

At age 16, Emilio began working in a tailor shop in Philipsburg. After working as a tailor for some years, he quit and found work chopping wood to make charcoal and collecting rocks for construction.

In 1929, the van Romondt-Rodenhuis family employed Emilio as a watchman at their Industry and Golden Rock estate in Dutch Cul de Sac. Emilio soon began delivering milk, butter and beef to people in Philipsburg and the

surrounding areas.

On Aug. 10, 1954, Emilio Wilson bought the estate from the Romondt-Rodenhuis family for 25,000 Guilders, after which the family left the island. Emilio then worked as a salesman in the Van Romondt's grocery store and later for Charles T. Vlaun and Chester Wathey.

During his life, Emilio kept his estate intact and in relatively the same state as it had been for centuries. He did not allow anyone to destroy the many ruins on the property or to build on the estate.

A generous man, Emilio had more than 80 godchildren and raised at least 10 children, none of whom where his own. He was known for his willingness to help out those in need, allowing a tent village to be erected on his property for Hurricane Luis victims and allowing the property to be used for social and agricultural projects. Between the 1960's and 1990's, he allowed the land to be used for Easter egg hunts and children's parties.

Emilio loved St. Maarten and its natural and cultural heritage and made known his desire that the estate be

### CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



721NEWS

St Maarten Breaking News Network WWW.721NEWS.COM



### PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF AN "AGRO-TOURISM CULTURAL PARK"

### By ERMAF Foundation 2014 AFTER HEARING

that government plans to purchase and control about 90 acres of the prime part of the Emilio Wilson Estate, we of the Elwaldo Richardson Memorial Agricultural Foundation would like to make this proposal for development.

This property was put on the monument list in order to preserve the history of this property as a plantation. As such it has become one of the most historical patrimonial part of our island. We have lost all of our other important historical assets like Fort Amsterdam and the Old Salt Mills.

As a tourist Island these are our most valuable assets and we must, while using them to show case, preserve them as much as possible for future generations.

We make this proposal based on creating activities around agriculture, arts and craft that the youths, especially those on the so call block, can participate in.

We want to show that this develop-ment will have the following effect on the economy and the population in general:

- Provide a more cultural and heritage base value to the population in gener-

Provide ployment for a large section of the youths who cannot find jobs in the main stream business.

- Decrease the off flow of currency by production of fruits, vegetables and craft for sale.

Positively increase the level of experience our visitors have to our island.

Highlight our historical and cultural heritage.

Decrease in crime by increasing opportunities for the youths

- Provide scholarship's to students wishing to study in the field of agriculture, arts or any

related profession needed to continually keep enhancing the sustainability of this project.

### Impact on our tourism product.

At the moment we basically advertise our island highlighting our "sand, and sun" and sea 360 days of the year fine tropical weather. We have a lot more than

We have the most cultural and nationality divers population in the Caribbean, with over 100 different nationalities calling St. Maarten home and we need to learn how to take advantage of this diversity and make this into a tourism product.

In this park we can express this diversity through arts and craft created on the island by these various nationalities and exhibit these to our visitors. This will be a fusion of



Emilio Wilson Park, St Maarten - Photo By Spaceless Gardens

arts and culture and have an impact not only on tourist, but on our population in general.

Hopefully this will also give more understanding, value, respect and appreciation for each other culture, thereby also

reducing crime.

### Fruit Crops. 20 acres.

All area will be selected based on best suitable location.

The fruit area will consist of a large variety of

trees, some planted for exhibition and other for commercial uses. When harvested these fruits can be sold fresh and as added value item

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 





### PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF AN "AGRO-TOURISM CULTURAL PARK"...FROM PG 3

### Vegetable production 25 acres.

Vegetables and Herbs will be pro-duced on a coma commercial scale, using the most innovated organic approach to farming. The pro-duced will sold on the market and used in the Park's Food court.

### Animal husbandry. 15 acres.

The main activity of the Emilio Wilson Estate was Animal Husbandry. 10 will be used to grow grass that will cut and baled for animal feed. 5 acres for infrastructures housing domestic animals like Cows, Goats, Sheep, pigs etc.

Museum, 5 acres. All of the Old Plantation Building will be



Emilio Wilson Park, St Maarten - Photo By Spaceless Gardens

restores as much as possible to its original looks and the interior deco will reflect the plantation history and heritage. This will be turned

into a Museum.

### **Culture and Arts** Alley. 2 acres.

This should be one of the high points of this Park. An in-

frastructure will be set up where some 40 young adults of various cultural back grounds, can be engage in producing arts and crafts, while visitors stroll along and admire. They will be much more enticed to pay for such a souvenir, because they feel the love and work that went into its cre-

### Zoo. 3 acres.

At the moment the is located on reclaimed land next to the Salt pound on the Arch rd. It is a very harsh area for plants in general because of the extreme salty conditions that exist. This also effect some animals does not give great sustainability to the Zoo. The Zoo managers are rotated very frethe many challeng-es they faces mainly because of this location.

Having the Zoo move to this location will provide a whole better environment for plants and animals, and will be a complement to this Park.

### **Botanical** and herbal garden. 3 acres.

This garden will have a tropical design with hard scape that includes our heritage. A herbal garden will be established, with information on their medicinal purposes.

### Tropical Rainforest. 5 acres.

Here local tropical trees will be planted and labeled. All trees on the island will be represented in this forest.

### Center for the Performing Arts. acres.

At the moment we do not have an up to standard Center for the Preforming Arts. Building such a center at this location complement to this Cultural Park.

### **Horse and Donkey** drawn carriages.

From the parking lot visitors may chose a variety of way's to view the park. One of these would be taking these carriages that will travel along a route that will pass by all the exhibits. This route will be laid out to be about 1 mile long.

### Marketing.

This project would eventually be the largest cúltural manifestation on the island, and must be branded as such. With the right branding and promotion it is possible to direct 25-30% of our annual visitors to this Park.

If 300 000 people visit per year and spend an average of 20,-/person that would give a possible turnover of \$6 000

000,-/ year. In addi addition this, there will be a turnover on all fresh produce sold to the market outside of the Park.

### REMEMBERING EMILIO WILSON....FROM PAGE 2

protected from further building managed for this generation and development. Numerous local organizations, including the Emilio Wilson Estate Foundation, St. Maarten Nature Foundation and DCNA, have been working together for years to try to ensure that Emilio's legacy to the people of St. Maarten is protected and

generations to come.

"I believe he was a visionary," Thompson said. "He realized St. Maarten was becoming overdeveloped and that we needed a place for us as a people to learn about our heritage."

ation. quently because of

The Wet Lands OF Emilio Wilson Park, St Maarten - Photo By Spaceless Gardens

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION READY

TO M.O.V.E FORWARD?

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# **CELEBRATING EMANCIPATION PT2**

Photos by Rudolph Davis, Silveria Jocobs and Members of the 100 Voices Choir

### By Patina Magazine

The island's approximately 4,000 slaves were spared the affront of having their rights revoked by Napoleon, who reinstituted slavery in the French colonies in 1802.

By this time, however, the controversy surrounding the subject was tremendous: Portugal had abolished slavery in mainland Portugal, Madeira, the Azores and its possession in the Fast Indies (but not Brazil) between 1761 and 1777; the British Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade had been founded in 1787 and immediately created the Province of Freetown (modern day Sierra Leone) to resettle free black people from the rebellious United States; Denmark would make slave trade illegal in 1803, Britain in 1808,

### SLAVERY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN ST. MARTIN

Netherlands in 1814. Meanwhile, Saint-Domingue (modern-day Haiti), the news of Napoleon's edict to bring back slavery was greeted with a mighty rebellion. A similar situation unfolded in Guadeloupe, where an army of a few hundred freed slaves under the command of Louis Delgres held out against the French troops until they were cornered and for all

purposes defeated, at which point they opted for immolation ahead of a return to servitude.

Slaves in St. Martin were never presented with this option but the progression even in the early days of the XIX century was towards a more humane rapport between slaves and masters. A number of factors contributed to this circumstance, not least the fact that slaves often toiled at the salt pans, a less excruciating and more sociable activity that cutting cane. Added

to this, the official end of the slave trade by France in 1818 made it nearly impossible to replenish the workforce on the island by means other than smuggling—which admittedly was common practice. Nevertheless, during the first quarter of the XIX century there were around 100 plantations on St. Martin, one fourth of which had cane fields, and a population of roughly 350 white people, the majority of which were British. Thus, when Britain finally resolved to outlaw slavery in 1833 slaves sudden-

ly found they were just a narrow strait away from relative Similarly, freedom. though the landscape in St. Martin might not be as intimidating as elsewhere in the region, marooning was still a regular practice among the most determined individuals on the island, as can be gathered from the legend of One-Tété Lohkay, a runaway slave who repeatedly escaped her owner's estate on the Dutch side and defiantly set her camp, visible to all, on the hills above the plantations.



Summercamp learning with K1 Britannia at SXM Agricultural Center

# THE PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY PHASE IV "CLOSED FOR INVENTORY"

PHILIPSBURG (July 25th , 2018) — The Philipsburg Jubilee Library will be closed on Monday July 30th, Monday August 6th & Monday 13th, 2018, from 8 am to 5pm, to continue salvaging materials before the peak of the Hurricane season and the possible departure of our current building.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library cannot withstand another hit from a passing hurricane and under current conditions of rainfall and humidity the situation is causing the further deterioration of the materials.

Thus the regular inventory works are scheduled and may continue in order to store all materials as much as possible within limited time as the hurricane season has commenced.

The library would like to apologize for

the inconvenience this may cause to our loyal patrons. Patrons who have to return items scheduled for both days will be compensated as the system is programmed to automatically renew their materials.

However, as of Tuesday July 31st, Tuesday August 7th & Tuesday August 14th, 2018, during opening hours 9 am to 5pm we will continue our services.

We will continue offering customers access to our limited range of library materials, namely the children's collection and a small selection of Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction, our Internet Café, DVD's, photocopying, a lounge area, and a newly improvised study area in the garden under the tent.

### **MORE IN AUG 2018 EDITON**







# ER TO MINISTER GITT ND FOR AGRICULTURE PT3 land he plant to Support his increase.

May 22, 2018

Att: Minister Gitter-Dept. Ministry **VROMI** 

Subject: Rejection and objection of Response letter submitted to Ombusman April 23, 2018

I will only accept your response in a case that you will do the right thing and issue the long lease the too said property, that I am legally occupying so that the future of the community and my family can be ensured.

I will continue to carry on my ven-tures with developing agriculture for St Maarten for it's the right thing to do as it is something the country need towards
'STARTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RE-SILIENT BUILDING REGULATION" Its your headline. asked for the publics input and this is my input at no additional consultation cost to government, as this



Despite misunderstandings amongst my self and Minister Gitterson. I hope we can sit in the near future and share interest toward the well being of Country St Maarten and let past mistakes of others not cloud our judgment towards positively moving forward.

can also add great value to reducing your current '' DUMP SIT-UATION", it's not like I have not mentioned this to you before and provided you verbally with the researched data. I just would like to obtain the right that I am entitled to

as a born and raised St Maartener.

You refused to attend the presentation meeting on agricul-ture the 5th of May 2018, organized the by the Minister of Education Ms Wuite. I was very disappointed not to see you after we had such a positive conversation a few months back, but now understand why these issues seem to be of no importance to you.

Current parliamentarian \ Former Minister of VROMI Mr Emanuel displayed the same unethical conduct towards the situation and even more so agriculture. Imagine a Former Minister who refuses to feed the countries children FOOD or even use the land to teach them how to feed themselves, rather ' MP Emmanuel: legalize marijuana" and promote that to our children as a tourism product. The last I observed Marijuana was a plant and part of Agri-Culture. But more so which

land he plans to use to Support his 'Legalize marijuana and call a referendum about independence"? Independence is not on the majority of St Maarten people minds much less the fact that we can't even feed ourselves. Is this a personal referendum?

once It seems again publicly our leaders seem to show no sense of direction, leadership skills or vision, something that has been around since the great days of Mr Emilio Wison, who's estate has also been stripped of its cultural heritage, something government always seem to fail of safeguarding.

I am sorry I can't allow that to happen again to this upcoming generation. So again, with all due respect to you Minister Gitterson, don't allow your time and place to be taken for granted, you are in a place and position to make other young men like me look up to you as one of the proud men that made this country what it will be in years to come. Thus far you have failed in doing so, and I as a man cannot lead in your example. til then you still have yet to prove yourself, not to me anymore, but to yourself and the universe. Life is a balance of positive and negative energy, things we do now positively, will positively affect us in the future and vice versa. The ultimate judgment of Karma awaits every

man along life paths. What makes us and our outcome differ, is the paths we choose.

So please I ask to not further be harassed as all I ever wanted was just electricity, now you can keep it, I won't need it I have been surviving with no Financial, Legal, Health Care or Job Assistance from government as even that I was denied to as a local citizen in my times of need. I don't believe a bit of electricity will hurt any longer. So, until you or your ministry decides to do the right thing and provide a citizen his proper rights, let this document stand as a rejection and objection to any future responses that may be issued by your ministry, unless it pertains to the issuance of Long Lease. Until then I will await the unfortunate frequent changing of government until competent minister is set in place that will properly serve his country to re-apply.

Honorable privilege obtained by those that fight for the freedom of their country, men and women, their family, safeguard their culture and heritage and provide sustainable possibilities for his or her country and fellow man. You and many others have yet to still earn that badge!

Much Blessings, health and strength, Hon. Mr Denicio Wyatte





Summercamp learning with Vacation Bible School 60+ kids at SXM Agricultural Center - Photo Spaceless Gardens





## THE FARMERS SEE: By .stylecraze.com HEALTH BENEFITS OF OKR

Asthma can also be

okra/ lady's fingers in

your meals. People diag-

nosed with asthma are

stronaly suggested to

treated by

including

its common name as lady's finger or gumbo and popularly called 'Bhindi' in Hindi, 'Bendakaya' in Telugu, 'Vendakkai' in Tamil, 'Vendakai' in Malayalam, 'Bende' in Kannada, 'Bhinda' in Gujarati, 'Bhendi' in Marathi and 'Dherash' in Bengali. This high fiber vegetable is known for its high soluble and insoluble fiber content. This high fiber vegetable is known for its high soluble and insoluble fiber content. This vegetable is usually used in many recipes and is also a part of many nutritional diets as it is highly beneficial. Let us quickly look at the some of the amazing benefits of okra.

100 grams of Okra contains 1.5% energy from calories, 7.03 gram carbohydrates, 2 gram protein, 0.1 gram fat and 9% fiber. Such fiber content can prove to be very beneficial for the body. Other nutrients are folates 88mg, niacin 1mg, Vitamin C 21.1mg, Vitamin E 0.36mg and Vitamin K 53mg. Other than these, Okra also contains calcium 81mg, copper 0.094mg, iron 0.8mg, magnesium 57mg, manganese 0.99mg, phosphorous 63mg and zinc 0.6 ma.

### **Health Benefits Of** Okra or Lady's Finger Let's take a closer look into best okra benefits or gumbo pods benefits:

### 1.High Fiber Content

The dietary fiber content of okra/lady's finger is known to be high, and hence, many health specialists recommend it for digestive benefits. The fibers aid the process of digestion in the body by facilitating proper bowel



movement.

### 2. Prevents Diabetes

Okra is known to aid in the prevention of diabetes. It is rich in fiber that helps in the prevention of this disease.

### How To Use

The best way to use okra for controlling diabetes is with the use of okra water. Following are the steps to prepare okra

Take two okra pods and cut off their ends.

Sticky liquid will ooze out once you slit the pod. Do not wash it.

Take a glass full of water and drop these pods into it at night and cover with a dish.

In the morning, take out the pods and drink the water in the glass.

You have to prepare okra water daily and drink daily in the morning to control your raised blood sugar level. It is important to note that okra water helps cure diabetes much better than cooked okras. It is fine to add okra to your curries and soups, but take raw okra soaked in water for faster recovery from raised blood sugar

### Why Does It Work

The soluble fiber

present in this pod helps slow down the sugar uptake into the blood.

This is done by lowering the rate of sugar absorption from the intestine.

It reduces the glycemic load of glucose in the blood, which otherwise disturbs the body's function to properly process the sugar leading to diabetes.

The soluble fiber forms a type of gel inside the bowel, which slows down the sugar absorption of food from the intestine. This soluble fiber also helps lower cholesterol by drawing in the bile acids, which contribute to raised cholesterol levels. This allows the body to pass acids out of the system and prevents its re-absorption.

### 3. Good Folate Content

The folates present in okra reduce the neural tube defects in a newborn baby. So, it is highly recommended for women during the preconception period or pregnancy.

### 4. Vitamin K Benefits

Vitamin K is a co-factor in the blood-clotting process. It also plays a maior role in strenathenina the bones in our body.

### 6. Prevents Constipation

By facilitating the proper absorption of water, okra/ lady's finger vegetable ensures free motion disposal by the body and, hence, prevents constipation.

### 7. Prevents Sunstroke Okra helps prevent sunstrokes.

### 8. Prevents Colon Can-It is believed that all dis-

eases begin in the colon. Adding okra to your

vention of colon cancer and other related diseases to a great extent.

### 9. Controls Obesity

With the regular usage of okra, in either the raw or the cooked form, you can avoid obesity to a great extent. Obesity is not necessarily due to the consumption of fatty and calorific foods but also due to the lack of nutrients.

### 10. Controls Cholesterol Level

This vegetable ensures the lesser absorp-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8** 





# THE FARMERS SEE: OKRA...FROM PG7

venting heart diseases and ailments occurring due to cholesterol in the blood Cholesterol is a dominant factor in the body that triggers obesity and heart diseases.

### 11. Low GI (Glycemic Index) Food

If you are diabetic, your health practitioner will advise you to eat food with low GI value. Okra is one of the foods that come with a GI index of 20 and as per medical standards, the GI value of okra is considered to be very low.

### 12. Prevents Kidney **Diseases**

Kidney problems are a threat if you are diagnosed with type-2 diabetes. Almost half of the diseases related to kidnevs are caused by diabetes. If you take okra regularly in your diet and okra water as well, it will help prevent kidney diseases.

### 13. Helps In Digestion

Due to its soluble fiber content, okra helps accelerate the digestive system, improves blood sugar levels and reduces the risk of heart diseases. It is extremely good for the digestive system.

### 14. Good Source Of **Antioxidants**

If you take foods rich in antioxidants, it helps prevent cancer, heart diseases, and premature aging. Okra contains a large number of anti-



oxidants like quercetin, epicatechin, catechin, procyanidin and rutin. So, it not only prevents and treats diabetes but a host of other health issues! No doubt it is called a super food!

### Skin Benefits Of Okra 15. Dietary Fiber For **Healthy Skin**

Okra is a rich source of dietary fiber. It also keeps the digestion problems away. Proper digestion reflects through a healthy-looking skin.

### 16. Vitamin C For Younger Skin

Vitamin C found in okra helps maintain a younger looking skin. It aids in repairing the body tissues. This, in turn, helps keep your skin younger and also makes it look more vibrant.

### 17. Prevents Skin Pigmentation

The nutrients found in okra actually help prevent skin pigmentation. It is useful for rejuvenating your skin and repairing damages.

### Hair Benefits Of Okra 18. Bouncy Hair

If you are tired of your distressed hair, try us-

ing okra to get that bounce back. Boil okra with some water and the mucilage transparent that you get can be used to get your bouncy hair back.

### 19. Hair Conditioner

The same mucilage can be used as a hair conditioner. Wash your hair and squeeze out the excess water. Massage the watery mucilage through your hair and rinse thoroughly with water.

### 20. Scalp Moisturiser

Okra is an excellent moisturizer for your dry and itchy scalp. It leaves your hair feeling soft and isn't harmful like the other cosmetics available in the market. It is great for people with unruly, curly and lifeless hair.

### 21. Fights Dandruff

Okra improves the overall scalp condition and fights dandruff. It moisturizes your scalp and keeps dandruff away.

### 22. Shiny Hair

Okra, when used as a hair rinse, gives great shine to your hair. You can give your regular

wav.

### Okra/Lady's Finger

23. Improves im-

24. Improves evesiaht

use of okra does a lot of good, we just cannot ignore how beneficial its intake is. Most of us are left clueless when auestioned about how to select good okra. Here is a quick guide to help you understand the selection process better.

Smaller Pods: Al-

Bright Color: Look out for bright green-colored pods. You may also find varieties of burgundy or deep red. Those are also used for cooking purposes, but the green ones are widely used.

Unblemished Pods: While selecting okra, try and look for unblemished ones. These are fresh and are not rotten from inside.

conditioner a miss once in a while and take care of your hair the natural

### Other Benefits Of

munity

### **How To Select** Good Quality Okra?

Although the topical

ways look for smaller pods because they are tender. They taste better than the larger ones. which are tough and stringy too.

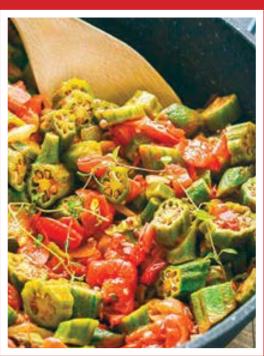
Firmness: Check for the firmness of okra. While the smaller pods are generally tender, they should not be very soft.



BY JAMIE OLIVER

### VEGATERIAN AND **VEGAN RECIPES**

Vegan Stewed Okras and Tomatoes



### INGREDIENTS

1 pound okra, ends trimmed and thickly sliced

1 tablespoon olive oil, or 1/4 cup water

1 medium onion, chopped 4 cloves garlic, minced

2 sprigs thyme, or 1/2 teaspoon dried 4 medium tomatoes, chopped

1/2 teaspoon ground paprika 3/4 teaspoon sea salt 1 pinch of Cayenne pepper 1/2 cup water

### **DIRECTIONS**

Heat oil or water in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook for 3 minutes until soft.

Add garlic and thyme and cook for 1 more minute, stirring constantly. Stir in tomatoes and cook for 5 minutes stirring constantly.

Add okras, paprika, salt, pepper, and water. Stir to combine. Cover saucepan and cook for about 15-20 minutes.

Delicious served with rice, mashed potatoes or cornbread.





# MYSTERIOUS SARGASSUM SEA

### By Accuweather

Galveston locals dubbed it the "Summer of Seaweed," mer of Seaweed," where a rotten and pungent aroma for miles stretched down the Texas coast-

down the Texas coast-line, as layers of Sar-gassum laid rotting along the coast. In January 2018, scientists gathered in Galveston to tack-le the mystery of the mass inundation of seaweed. seaweed.

Scientists continue to struggle to gain conclusive answers as to why this phenomenon happened and why it hasn't re-curred, according to the Houston Chroni-

cle.
"Large quantities
of Sargassum that
strand on beaches are a nuisance for tourists and hotel operators because of the smell and the discoloration of the shallow waters on the beach (turns yellowy-brown), but this is not a health threat," Smith said.

Sargassum becomes a problem and

comes a problem and a challenge to remove

a challenge to remove when it gets piled up to about 1 to 2 feet.

"In Bermuda, we use beach tractors that drag large rakes behind them, to aggregate the Sargassum and then we bury it at the back of the it at the back of the beach. This gets done early in the morning

before the tourists are active," Smith said.
Sargassum composts very well. It is used as a traditional fortilizor in some place. fertilizer in some plac-es, such as Bermuda, once the salt has been leached out by rain water, according to Smith.

While mass amounts of seaweed are a nuisance for tourists and beachgoers, the seaweed has numerous environmental benefits.

"Sargassum is a critical habitat for many species, from nearly 150 species that are found only

### THREATEN TOURISM, MARINE LIFE IN GULF AND CARIBBEAN

clumps or who spend time living and feed-ing within Sargas-sum," Smith said. When the seaweed

attached to or living with the floating

when the seaweed strands on beaches, the incorporation of the dead Sargassum on the beach sands helps to stabilize the beaches, reducing erosion by storm waves, according to Smith. Smith

While Sargassum habitat for provides marine life, mass amounts can cause

amounts can cause potential harm.

The decay of large quantities of Sargassum in enclosed bays can reduce oxygan lavels to margastics. gen levels temporari-ly. This can stress or kill attached animals, such as corals, sea-grass, sponges and fishes, according to Smith.

Texas A&M Galveston has largely led the way in forecasting Sargassum invasions through the development of Sargassum Early Warning System (SEAS). The satellite tracks Sargassum



A brownish, pungent seaweed known as sargassum has increased dramatically in the Caribbean in recent months, Sarah Berger reports for the International Business Times. Some shorelines have been hit so hard by the invasion of algae that tourists have cancelled summer trips and lawmakers in Tobago have deemed it a "natural disaster," the Associated Press - 2017 - Photo byRepeating Islands

in the Gulf of Mexico. The system can give certain locations, such as Galveston, up to two weeks' notice where there is no cloud cover.

scien-However, tists still want more information on

seaweed's taxonomy, carbon emissions and long-term migratory patterns.



# GIVE , WE HATE ?

Ya can mek a whole heap a money from di weed. More time it come in abundance, coast guard let it pass free. We have nuff chance fi go down adi beach and grab whole heep adi somthing fi tek home and sun out. heep adi somthing fi tek home and sun out. Best thing we nah get lock up fi itt! We can dry, bag it, use it fi set up we garden. It have wholeheep a benefit fi di soil. More food ya plant more money ya can mek. Ya smart, ya bag it out and sell off.





# The Bear by Latiya Ruan By

# ELEMENTARY CRUSHES, high school puppy love, college flings, at the office fooling around. All of these patterns often leads us to thinking what is a good foundation of a healthy strong relationship. Where do we start or what should we be looking for in a significant other.

Ok, sit back and explore this topic with me for a moment, while we tap into the relationship 411.

What traits do you look for when you're walking into a new relationship?

Like what really attracts you to the opposite sex, are you looking at looks only? Perhaps how he or she is dressed.?

Some folks are attracted to various body types and go based on the physical attraction. Now no one is saying this is wrong, but at what point do you evaluate their actions? Lets say, as far as how they react to different

# RELATIONSHIP 411!!



situations?

When you're in the pursuit of dating someone what's the deal breaker for you? Like the saying goes "Things that make you go hmmm."! No two people are the same and this is what kind of makes it interesting knowing that they come from different backgrounds and share different values and views in life. Sometimes, this works out fine because they come together and comprise to make it

work. They move on the live a healthy relationship, get married have children, open up a business and live happily ever after. Ok, wait a minute where is this world located? Am I living on the same planet?

Ok, Let's get back to reality where statistics show that many married or unmarried couples break up after a year. I know it's sad, but the honest truth. I wonder why this rate is soo high in young couples. What are

they or should I say we doing wrong?

Is it that we move to fast, without building a bond and understanding each other's sideways, backwards and upside down? Ok, I went I little over the top there with those gestures, but on a serious note, I'm just saying get know your other half well. In the beginning it can all be sweet as candy and both parties are so into each other.

From the early morning texts, to the surprise lunches and dinner dates, they both decided that, hey I really like him and he really likes me. And they decide to take that next step.

What are you doing to keep that fire burning? Are still sending those early texts? Are mornina you still interested to know how their day was or find out what they're passionate about? You see sometimes after we established that we are together and we get comfortable we tend to stop with all the little things we used to do when we were pursuing our significant other, and that's where I think we go wrong.

Please bear in mind that I'm speaking my opinion which everyone is entitled

In most young relationships when something is lacking, it can be attention that makes you not feel special anymore. This is where the issues starts, one individual

will start seeking the fire elsewhere. Now, can we safely say this is the reason most relationships fail? Some might agree and some might disagree. I'm in the percent that disagrees and here's my reason why!

Some folks are

afraid of long term commitments, but this is not solely their fault. It's starts from what they were exposed to growing up, things as far as unrelationships stable with their parents or even seeing their older brothers or sisters not having healthy relationships can lead to this emotional instability. These unhealthy relationships patterns now build up a fire wall so to speak that inhibits them from wanting to commit to any serious relationship. So, they date around and if it starts to get too serious they find an excuse to separate.

I personally think that if you're going into a relationship and you know that you have issues with commitment, open up and speak your mind. This is important before you string the other person along and their feelings end up getting hurt.

It all boils down to being open and honest. Let your other half know that you're not ready to settle down that way the option is open for them to stay or move on. Dating is fun, but can get really messy when strong feelings are involved, someone or the other cheats, and causes feelings to really get hurts.

This can have a great effect on a person especially when you're at the point where you feel like he or she could be the one and you grow that strong connection with that person. No matter how old or young you are, in a relationship if you have been cheated on it hurts really bad and messes with your mental. It leaves us to question ourselves

why do relationships struggle with the infidelity of one party not being trustworthy?

I've had conversations with both sides of the spectrum in light of finding the insight of why happens. What I concluded, is that both men and women feel when the attention is not like it was before and if someone else is giving them the attention they need, this is when they decide to venture out and fill that void. Now, in this case who is to blame?

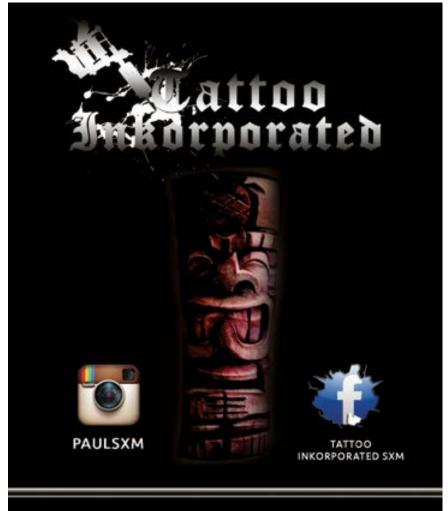
Let's clarify something before we go any further, what do you consider cheating? This is my 2 cents. Cheating doesn't only involve kissing, touching and flirting, cause, If you have to delete text messages and phone calls you're already there. I know what you're thinking, she hit the nail on the head huh?

I think if you really care about someone you would give your all to keep them happy and not hurt them. No relationship is perfect, but if you want to know my opinion here goes.

A true relationship is two un-perfect people refusing to give up on each other! We need to know and realize what's more important in our lives. We charge our smartphones daily but let our marriage and relationship die. If your smartphone receives more attention than your significant other or spouse then you're spending too much time talking to the wrong people. So, before stepping into another commitment try and be as transparent and open as possible.

Most importantly be honest let them know when something is bothering you and work together to try and come to a common understanding. They say 2 wrongs don't make a right, so in light of our journey spread love and be loved. I'm glad you took this journey with me to what I call relationship 411. Like always be you, stay true, stay blessed and express yourself.

Written by Latoya Ruan 14 July 2018



Wellington Rd # 39 Cole Bay | TEL 721 522 7010

By Wattzz Publishing

WITH THE business community in recovery mode after the passing of hurricane Irma, there are many that still feel the struggles that has iust started to settle in. Most businessmen or women, entrepreneurs and even new comers to the business arena are all seeking new ways or assistance in getting \ keeping their business up and running or back on its feet. Mr Budike, a prombusinessman inent has also felt the aftermath of the storm, but yet he keeps his head up high and in good sprits as he continues to provided his service to the community at large. A Financial Consultant, (master of) Certified Quickbooks Proadvisor and, Tax (Administration) Consultant (and Microsoft Exce)

### Who are you and where are you from?

I, Mr Budike has the

expertise to help you

steer your business

in the right direction.

So, if your ready to

take on the adventure

of doing business in St

Maarten, there is no

better time then to sit

back, relax and learn

from the best in the

business! Introducing

Mr Robert Budike!

My name is Robert Orlando Budike, I was born on January 30, 1971 in Zwolle the Netherlands. However, from a very young know something. For the rest I am very approachable and you will feel comfortable to be around me.

### Where did you attend school , do $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ you hold any current degrees?

I was sent to Roman Catholic Schools. First it was the Thomas van Aguino School Primary School. After that I attended the I.P.J. Berkenveld Secondary school, where I did the bookkeeping stream. When I was 16. I went to the VWO ( called Lyceum II ). When I was 18 years, I moved on to the Anton de Kom University where I started with my studies in Economics. However, in my third year I moved to the Netherlands. In the Netherlands I completed my bachelors degree at the University of Applied Economic (Studies) Science. At this moment I am in

age the family went back to Suriname. where my parents are from, I grew up there. My mother is a retired primary school teacher and my father is a civil engineer. I am the 3rd son of a family of 4 boys. If I can describe myself I can say that I am very focused, hard work working and always eager to learn new things. I am also the type of person that will be the first to admit if I don't

# MR ROBERT BUDIKE – GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS AFTER IRMA

**EXCLUSIVE** 

Mr Robert Budike

wanted to become a

Catholic priest, until

nature directed me

into a different path

during my teenage

years. In fact PCMI NV

happened by accident.

It was funny, because

actually I was forced

to open a company

to get some monies

Usona had owed me

in 2005. However, my

good friend Neville

York ( may his soul

rest in peace) had al-

ways seen potential in

me and encouraged

me to open a financial

consultancy company

when I came to work

for the government as

a Senior Policy worker

Advisor at the depart-

ment of Financial Pol-

icy and Taxes. I told

him at the time, I was

not sure about going

into the consulting

field as nobody knows

me. Lord and behold.

he became one of

and brought his late

Mrs. Mabel Arndell,

business with him. In

my first month I got

a contract with Telem

my

mother's,

first customers

the late

an advance stage to become a Chartered Certified Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner. I am also interested to do law when the University of St. Martin starts that course next year. I am also a Certified Quickbooks ProAdvisor.

### What is your current expertise or preferred career choice?

I started to work an accountant clerk in the Netherlands when I was 21. I steadily climbed the ladder where I held portfolios different and managerial positions in both financial and non-financial positions.

We are aware that you currently the owner of PCMI is this a career choice you hoped after studies for or did you have an original career choice?

I often tell this story that initially I was history. I held different positions e.g. Project evaluator at Amfo, Branch Manager at BZV and Financial Controller of the Benevolent Foundation in Saba. I have always remained in the field of my studies and I expanded my interest along the way into Taxes, Business Plans, Fraud Investigation, Audits, Entrepreneurship and lately in training. I am a Certified Quickbooks ProAdvisor and in 2015 I started PCMI Academy. At PCMI Academy we have both CPD accredited non-accredited training.

to write business pro-

cedures and the rest

ERVIE

### What inspired you to undertake your current career?

young From а boy I showed interest in finances. I always used to save my pocket money my parents gave to me. This, I loaned to my brothers and friends against an interest. At that time, I didn't know it was called interest. The only thing I knew, is that I could have bought a football much quicker to play with my friends. Or, I would buy concert tickets at the original price way in advance and sell them at a higher price on the day of the show. I had fun doing that. In school I also scored high marks in bookkeeping and economics subjects.

man and trainer in

and tax field , how do vou see vour business benefiting the average community members and SME's?

I always have a soft spot for small businesses as I myself am a small business owner. I assist them from the start up to the end. We specialized in business development rather than only business support. We are helping small businesses to make smart financial management and tax decisions to survive the critical years, while saving money in the long run. We offer attractive packages and rates that will match every budget. The quality we provide can be compared with those of the big four. For companies that cannot afford to rent an office space or pay for administrative staff, you can always make use of our fully equipped conference room facility where you can conduct your corporate or staff meetings. We are in fact right next door to provide you with the proper guidance and advise you may need.

What is your current views as to what can be done towards the revitalization of St Maarten's business community after the passing of hurricane Irma?

In fact, the tax break for the first few

**CONTINUED ON** 

**PAGE 13** 

# REMEMBER

### PETR TOSH: CONTINUED FROM. MAY 2018

IN 1984, after the release of 1983's album Mama Africa, Tosh went into self-imposed exile. seeking the spiritual advice of traditional medicine men in Africa, and trying to free himself from recording agreements that distributed his records in South Africa.[citation needed] Tosh had been at odds for several years with his label, EMI, over a perceived lack of promotion for his music.

> MORE ON THIS TOPIC IN **AUG 2018 EDITION**

As a business-











### St Maarten Agricultural Research & **Development Foundation**

The objective of the ECO St Maarten Research and Development Foundation is to Improve the ecological productivity of the environment and in connection therewith through regenerative agricultural techniques, waste management & recycling of waste products or materials, preserve and conserve and healthy nature.

### EDUCATING | CULTIVATING | OUTREACHING

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:

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### ST. KITTS PASSES 1 MILLION CRUISE PASSENGERS | TRAVEL AGENT CENTRAL

# **ECOTOURISM**

St. Kitts has received its one millionth cruise passenger, according to new data from the St. Kitts Tourism Authority and Ministry of Tourism, marking the key number of arrivals that gives the island marquee port status for the first time in its history.

St. Kitts reached the one million cruise passenger mark the morning of July 16 with the arrival of guests from Royal Interna-Caribbean tional's Freedom of the Seas. The ship, which has a capacity of 3,782 guests at double occupancy, docked at the island's Port Zante cruise pier at 8:00am. Tourism Minister Lindsay Grant led the welcome delegation and selected the millionth passenger upon disembarkation, who was treated complimentary half island tour. The occasion was further commemorated with special t-shirts given

to arriving passengers and everyone being treated to an experience of the island's culture with live performances by a steel pan band, masquerades and more.

So far this season. the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. cruise lines -- Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises -- have made a total of 102 port calls to St. Kitts, bringing over 350,000 cruise visitors to island. Including calls from all international cruise lines over the nine-month period from October 2017-June 2018, the total number of cruise ship calls into St. Kitts grew from 358 to 486 as compared to the same period from 2016-2017, an increase of over 35 percent.

### Things to do in St Kitts \ Nevis

By telegraph
From climbing a volcano to zooming

A celebration of the abolition of slavery throughout the Caribbean, Emancipation Day is commemorated on the first Monday and Tuesday of August in St. Kitts and marks the first day of the Culturama festival. Photo By St Kitts Tourism

through the rainforest canopy on the Caribbean's longest zipline, St. Kitts offers something for everyone. St. Kitts has an irresistible collection of attractions and it is easy to engage with the island through a host of activities. Here are 20 top sugges-

tions.

### 1. Ride the Sugar Train

If you could do just one thing in St. Kitts, it should be to board the Scenic Railway – the last one in the West Indies. Built for the sugar trade in the early 20th century,

today the train takes sightseers on an 18-mile journey. The double-decker carriages have open-sided top decks, so you can enjoy the breeze with your complimentary rum punch and the sounds of the train's own choir.

### 2. Climb a volcano

The island is dominated by three volcanic peaks, the highest being the 3,792ft (1,156m) Mount Liamuiga. It is shrouded with rainforest and on the way up you may see vervet monkeys and wild orchids. Only the fittest reach the very top, where there is an impressive deep crater, but you can go part of the way or try a gentler nature trail on the slopes.

### 3. Two wheels, four wheels... four legs

Fun ways to encounter the hills of St. Kitts are on a mountain bike, quad bike or horse. There are local guides who will take you along winding trails through the forest and old cane fields and down to the sea, or you can go your own way if confident. The horse rides often include a splash through the surf.

### LITESTICA

### MR ROBERT BUDIKE - BACK TO BUSINESS ... FROM PAGE 11

months was welcome, but it is a pity that it was not extended. The government is not using the tax tools to the extent that it can benefit both their coffers and the entrepreneurs as well. The big foreign investors are the ones benefitting the most from the tax incentives and at the same time, also abusing it to the max. It's as if government is turning a blind eye to it. I truly hope that they can allocate a portion of the revolving funds from the World Bank to create soft loan facilities and assist entrepreneurs in writing their business plans and provide start up loans. While government is having an employment stop, the entrepreneurs are the ones that are creating the jobs, especially in these challenging times. Just take a look at the construction sector. Investment in training is essential while creating tax incentives. Even though tax reform is not an easy task and comes with a heavy price tag, they can copy a few of the tax incentives for small businesses that exist already in the Netherlands and introduce incentives like a spousal deduction, start up deduction and SME-Profit deduction. This SME -Profit Tax deduction is 14% of the profit. With this the entrepreneurs can re-invest the funds in their company to make it more sustainable

and thus create more jobs. Entrepreneurship is the only and fastest job creator in the world, not government. I hereby call on the parliamentarians to stand behind the entrepreneurs and come with proposals after their recess.

### What do you think St Maarten is lacking to stimulate the young business economy?

The private sector has to be the creator of a diversified package of economic activities based on a multi-faceted approach. Government should act as facilitator. This can only be done when on macro level there is political stability, good corporate and public governance, transparency and integrity on all levels. As well as an educated population. Size can't and shouldn't determine the measure of success when you look at other smaller countries as Singapore. We can start looking into solar or green energy, because the unreliable energy supply is detrimental to our economy. Technology driven medical services and online tertiary education will bring money in our coffers without burdening our small land mass too much. They say, money is literally in the cloud and the government should explore these possibilities also. Within this all, the cost of living has to come down. Sometimes I believe that the food supply on the island is being controlled by a cartel. The prices are too high. I would highly suggest investments in cost reduction agricultural projects in most of the districts using methods such as aquaponics or hydroponics. I wrote an implementable aquaponics business plan for the St. Maarten Development Foundation where Usona had allocated monies for, the land was reserved for this project behind the zoo. Nothing came out of that. Also government should stimulate home ownership and can allocate some revolving

funds from the World Bank to jump start this initiative, once there is the political will and foresight.

# From your view point, what would be the ideal system for a sustainable business model pre and post hurricane seasons?

There are different systems that are sustainable. Entrepreneurship 101 will teach you that once you can solve a problem for somebody at an affordable price where you don't compromise on quality you have a sustainable business.

### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**





### By Profitable venture.com

**Theatre Centre**One of the reasons why folks go to theatres to see plays, is so that they can catch a glimpse of what real acting is all about. It is for this reason that there are theatres where people can come wat6ch undiluted plays directed by very skilled experts. If you love arts, then you may consider starting a theatre center, where arts lovers can come unwind.

### Modeling Academy

The Modeling in-dustry, is a very big and thriving one; it is no wonder that the types of models that have been produced on the runways in America, have gone ahead to be successful entrepreneurs. It is for this reason that you may want to start a modeling academy. This is because there are loads of people

# CREATIVE ART & CRAFT



who are always in need of models.

You may therefore, decide to start an academy where you groom raw talents, and then help push them to people who may be in need of their services. Grooming means that you will help their charisma and posture, amongst many other things.

Modeling Agency modeling agency business, does not require that you train or groom any model. However it involves acting as the connector for all models. This is because if you are vast, then you

can expect that people from far and near would require your service.

### **Publishing Busi**ness

If you are lettered when it comes to writing books and all, then you may want to start a publishing business. The publishing business does entail that you help budding writers publish their work of arts. Every day the publishing industry get stiffer competition, as such your watch word has to be to have an excellent spirit.

> **Content Writing** If you do enjoy

writing a great lot, then you can commercialize this art by being a content writ-er. One of the roles of a content writer is to make sure that you help people who are in need of your writing service, solve their writing problems. Some of the areas that you can concentrate on writing include; religious writing, fiction and fictitious writing, biographies, thesis, ghost writing services and assignments, etc.

**Editing** If you have an eye for seeing things when they are out of place, as well as have an eye for details, then you can decide to start an editing services business. Here, you are to help people both corporate and individuals do some editing jobs.

### **Data Entry**

One of the best ways to make money on the internet without hassle is starting a data entry business. This type of business does not need any skill at all, as you are only required to enter data on some important information that is provided by the client.

### **Translating Busi**ness

If you are vast with different languages, then it is your time to make some good bucks. This could mean that a client would require your services for translating the Spanish language to English language, the Portuguese language to French and a lot more. The idea is to stay abreast with the trends in the industry.

MORE ON THIS TOPIC IN AUG 2018 EDITION



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KENNETH SAMSON

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### .. FROM PAGE 13

### Does having a good team behind you play an important role in your career?

You are as strong as the weakest link in your team. You have to invest in your team and the team should also be willing to invest in themselves. Often I have seen good managers and ideas failed because the team was not up to the task. In PCMI, my staff goes the extra mile to satisfy the customers while they keep upgrading themselves. I can work well by myself, but it is impossible to do everything alone. That's why it is important to select good workers.

### Who or what inspires you, do you have a role model?

I never thought about it, but I believe that hard work pays off. When studying in the Netherlands I paid my studies by delivering newspapers, I had no study financing like others. I had to get up every morning at 04.00. This built character in me and that is why I don't like lazy people. But if I still have to choose for a role model it will be Nelson Mandela, because he hold steadfast and fought for a liberated South Africa

rejection Has ever happen in terms of your career or Have you

### ever been discour aged and how did you deal with it?

Rejection is something that you have to deal with in life. Rejection doesn't discriminate. When you think that you are the perfect candidate for a particular position and you start to dream about it already, that dream, comes crashing down when you receive a letter that they wish you success in your future endeavors. Most of the readers should know these letters. The fact, they don't even call you for an interview can be very discouraging. I tell myself that God always has something better for me and thus far He has never failed me. I acquire new skills and build my network. Thanks to Him, I can say I have been self employed for more than a decade and can put bread on the table for my family.

### Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years in terms of your career choice?

I see myself not long from now as a Chartered Accountant \ Certified Fraud Examiner and Business Lawyer. I will be training others to transfer knowledge so that they can take over as I want to spend more time in the garden doing agriculture. I al-



Mr Budike assisting clients at his office

ways believed in agriculture as a means of income while staying healthy. The plants don't talk back and they can make you extremely happy.

### What is your proudest achievement in your field of work or describe briefly your greatest accomplishments thus far?

I have a few proud moments. I was very proud to be part of the team that worked on the first accreditation of the Hospitality program of the USM. I am also very humbled to be part of the Supervisory board of Winair, together with management and staff turned this airline around into a profitable venture. My greatest accomplishment is to see students graduating from the Ouickbooks training at PCMI Academy and finding gainful employment.

What do you do in spare time for

### fun?

In my spare time I will walk or play soccer to keep fit. I like the cinema or in the weekend I will go for a lime.

### If you could be somewhere in the world right now where would you be?

I would like to be on a cruise exploring the world and enjoying the nice things of the countries I will be visiting.

### What role does nature, spirituality and culture play in your life?

I like to be in the nature where I take care of flowers and vegetables. Once, I built a green house in St. Maarten where I regularly harvested bitter melon, egg plant, okra, peppers etc. I have a close relationship with the Almighty through his son Jesus Christ. Whenever traveling I'm always curious how people live in the

very open to experiencing new cultures. I grew up in a verv multi-cultural society, which is Suriname, they call it little United Nations as many cultures live peacefully in harmony with each other

### What are your views on agricultural development, do vou think it may play a great role for country St Maarten?

The price is determined by demand and supply. For years various governments for their own reasons never stimulated the supply part of the equation. However, if agriculture is done right, I can guarantee you that the cost of living where it pertains to fresh produce will come down drastically as the high transport costs will be eliminated. Even better, you know what your eating as it produced right here on the island. This also will create great employment opportunities. The current government should give special agriculture attention and they should create tax incentives for those that want to venture in this industry.

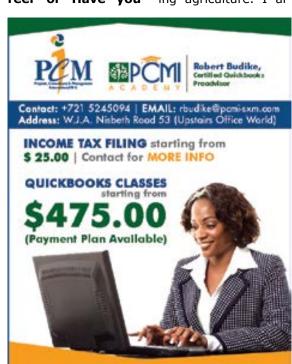
As we come to an end of our interview, What would vou like to share

St surrounding community members. students and young entrepreneurs that look toward seeing St Maarten rise to the top and smile again?

Thank you guys very much for the interview. PCMI Academy will be starting soon with some entrepreneurship and skills training programs, as I believe that proper training is the basis for any successful business.

You don't have to learn from bad experiences if it can be avoided. If you want to succeed in life in, generally follow your passion, but also realize that entrepreneurship is not for everyone. Instead of creating assets most of the entrepreneurs are creating liabilities for themselves. Keep in mind there are many ways to become successful once you do it in a honest manner.

For more info just follow me on facebook, we are also currently busy renewing our website. You can always pass by me in my office at the W.J.A. Nisbeth Road # 53, upstairs Office World or call me at +1721-524-5094 or email rbudike@pcmi-sxm.







# THE SPORT OF RACING

### By Country Side Network

Their speed, endurance, and the inborn desire to home are what makes racing pigeons remarkable. It is specifically the Homing Pigeon breed that is used for racing. They have the innate ability to navigate home. Though scientists aren't sure exactly how the birds do it, they hypothesize that something in their brain allows them to detect the magnetic fields of the earth.

Some amazing pigeon facts include that the racing pigeon's compass relies on the sun for

navigation. Some scientists believe that they can hear ultrasonic sounds and likely use that trait as well as landmarks for navigation. Racing pigeons can see polarized light. If their eyes are covered with opaque contact lenses where they can only see light, then released 200 miles away, they land within 10 feet of the loft! The sport of racing pigeons is thrilling.

### **Racing Pigeon Lofts**

More than training is important for successful racing birds.

"It is the Homing Pigeon's love of its home which brings it home at fast speed," said Deone Roberts, Sport Development Manager of the American Racing Pigeon Union. "A well-managed loft includes all the things which instill in the bird a love and desire for its home."

The young bird needs to learn the outside surroundings of the loft and how to enter the loft prior to free flying.

"A settling cage on the landing board or settling time in the loft aviary allows the young bird to get a reading on his location," said Roberts. A settling cage is an enclosure that is adjacent to the loft trap and allows the birds to learn how to enter the loft to access food, water, and their flock friends.

"After a week or two of this conditioning, the birds are allowed out of the loft," said Roberts. "Feed is used to help modify the bird's behavior to eagerly return home."

The birds need to learn that if they go into the loft after exercising they will be rewarded with food. Knowing what to feed pigeons is important to keeping them healthy. Several weeks prior to releasing them, if you pair the sound of a whistle, or shaking of a can, with being fed, you can easily signal to the birds when dinner is served. After a few minutes of flying around the loft, shake the can of feed or whistle and the birds should fly down, enter the traps and be rewarded with their diet. Consistency is important to performance.

### **Training Athletes**

After a few weeks of letting them out of their loft and getting them to return successfully, it's time to start building their muscles.

`Conditioning can hegin around five miles from the loft, making it easy for the bird to begin the habit of navigation back to its loft home," said Roberts. "Graduating in distance allows more practice for the bird. Keep the birds at each distance until they are homing within one and a half to two minutes per airline mile."



### **MORE ON THIS TOPIC IN AUG 2018 EDITION**















