

SER Press release

SER symposium “Inclusive development” features former Prime Minister of Barbados, the honorable Owen S. Arthur.

HARBOR VIEW---- the honorable Owen Seymour Arthur, former prime minister of Barbados and present Member of Parliament (MP) will hold the keynote address at the second annual symposium of the Social Economic Council (SER). In his speech, Arthur will connect the theme of Inclusive development with our society based on the experiences of Barbados.

As Barbados fifth prime minister; he was also the first Caribbean head of state who was also an experienced economist. Owen S. Arthur graduated from the University of the West Indies in 1971 and holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics and History. He completed his Master of Science (MSc) in Economics in 1974.

According to the United Nations Development Programme’s 2013 report, Barbados continues to have the highest Human Development Index (HDI) of any Caribbean country, Barbados is ranked 38th in the world in HDI, which examines factors including education, life expectancy and income, among others. Barbados’ ranking is ahead of countries such as Poland, Chile, Lithuania, the United Arab Emirates and Portugal.

The theme of the symposium “Inclusive development” is currently a wide discussed topic and is high on the agenda of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The term Inclusive Development falls in line with SER’ objectives. As an advisory and consultative body of employer’s representatives, union representatives and independent experts, SER aims to help create social consensus on national and international socio-economic issues/topics. The SER is guided by the objective of social prosperity in its widest sense, this encompasses not only material progress, but also social progress.

The keynote address will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by master of ceremony, Cedric Peterson. The panel is comprised of representatives of the public and private sectors, managing partner and co-founder of Computech, Jean Arnell, National Development Plan representative, Drs. Okama Epke-Brook, founder and Directress of the Belvedere Community Foundation, Jessica Richardson and Collaborative Foundation (Samenwerkende Fondsen) representative, José Verschueren-Sommers.

The SER symposium will take place at the Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino. The title of the symposium will be “Inclusive development”; for a better Sint Maarten. The event will start at 8 am and will concluded at 1 pm. The Organization of the symposium is covered by Dutch development funds managed by USONA.