



## SYNOPSIS

January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup> were both historic days for the GreenTown Curaçao Foundation. On these contiguous days two foundations from the GreenTown organization, one on each side of the Atlantic Ocean, went to Parliament with the same goal: offering the people of Curaçao a durable economic solution.

The Foundation GreenTown Curaçao met with the Central Parliamentary Committee in Curaçao on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2014, while the Foundation GreenTown Curaçao Nederland met with the Standing Committee of Parliament in the Netherlands the following day.

The request for the meeting in Curaçao was made by coalition partner, Mr. Alex Rosaria (PAIS), and member of parliament, Mrs. Omayra Leeftang (independent), and was motivated by the fact that Parliament had already seen presentations from parties advocating the modernization of the refinery, namely by the oil industry unions APRI and PWFC. In the context of a wide debate on the future of the refinery, both coalition partners felt that all parties should be able to have their say.

Both GreenTown foundations are striving for the same goal: offering an alternative solution for the site of the refinery after the contract with the Venezuelan State Oil Company PDVSA expires. But the message of the two foundation presidents to their respective Parliaments was completely different.

Mr. Andrés Casimiri, president of the GreenTown Curaçao Foundation made a call earlier in Parliament to include GreenTown in the Multidisciplinary Development Project Team (MDTP). This redevelopment group set up by the Prime Minister, Ivar Asjes, has to find a solution for the aging refinery (also known as Plan A). When all negotiations for keeping the refinery industry in Curaçao fail, group B will have to come up with alternatives for Isla's polluted real estate, only in case a solution and negotiations for a smaller refinery or a modern hybrid refinery on the expensive harbor front or elsewhere on Curaçao fails.

A month earlier, Group A unfolded their plans to keep refining in Curaçao. A few weeks later, group B held a presentation of their progress in which they presented four scenarios to Parliament: no development, a Caribbean Maritime Center, a High Tech Industrial Park, and a Hybrid Refinery. At the moment both Groups A and B of the MDPT are working out their plans. Ultimately Parliament and the Government will have to weigh the pros and cons between refining oil and choosing for an economic durable solution.

Immediately after the meetings, GreenTown Curaçao officially asked the Prime Minister to be considered in the Multidisciplinary Project Team to work out scenario number 5: GreenTown. In the meantime GreenTown will continue to work out Plan C as well as a more progressive alternative plan, which might prove to be a win-win situation. It will eventually prove to be a more durable plan and geo-politically better for Curaçao, and more favorable, advantageous, and beneficial for The People.

Mr. Aubrich Bakhuis, President of the GreenTown Curaçao Foundation Nederland, clearly pointed out the responsibility the Dutch Parliament has towards Curaçao, by asking how long the Netherlands is willing to continue to permit that the 100-year-old refinery pollutes and causes 18 premature deaths per year while a clear alternative is already on the table.

The umbrella organization GreenTown is satisfied with both Parliament's responses towards the presentations on an alternative solution to the refinery.