



MR. MICHEL GODFRIED (MIKE) EMAN

PRIME MINISTER OF ARUBA

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michiel Godfried (Mike) Eman is the Prime Minister of Aruba and the leader of the Christian Democratic party of Aruba, "Arubaanse Volkspartij" (AVP). He is vice-president of the International Centrum Democrats (ICD) and also a board member of the organization of Christian Democrats of America (ODCA) with special responsibility for Caribbean Affairs.

Mike Eman was born in Aruba on September 1, 1961. He comes from a family with a long and admired political tradition in Aruba. His grandfather, father and older brother have been statesmen of the Island at critical moments in Aruba's constitutional, social and economic history.

In 1992, he graduated with a degree in Netherlands Antilles Law at the University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA) with a thesis on the position of the institution of the Public Prosecutor vis à vis the Minister of Justice in a small community. In 1996, he graduated from the UNA with a degree in Netherlands Antilles Civil Notary Law.

From 1992 to 2001, Mike Eman worked as a deputy civil law notary and was co-founder of several companies and foundations for political studies.

Since he was young, he has been involved in politics: as an activist, supporter, strategic manager and policy developer. He entered politics as a candidate for the AVP in 2001 and was elected as leader of the party in 2003.

He oversaw the successful rebuilding of the AVP, which, as a result, increased its votes by 40% in the parliamentary elections of 2005. In the 2009 elections, Mike Eman led the AVP to a historical victory with an absolute majority of 12 seats (out of 21) in the Aruban Parliament, and he subsequently became Prime Minister.

High priorities on his political agenda are promoting Social-Christian values in politics and achieving a new and more constructive constitutional position for Aruba within the Dutch Kingdom and the European Union.

Under his leadership, the AVP strengthened its ties with Christian Democratic parties in Europe and Latin America. He also helped to establish a stronger relationship with the CDA party in the Netherlands.

Before becoming Prime Minister, Mike Eman led the fight for voting rights for citizens of Aruba and the other Dutch Caribbean Islands in the elections for the European Parliament. This struggle took him all the way to the European Court of Justice. Based on the Court's ruling in this case (Eman/Sevinger v. the Kingdom of the Netherlands), the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands decided to amend its voting laws to permit citizens of Aruba and the Dutch Caribbean Islands to participate in future elections for the European Parliament.

Since his election in 2009, Prime Minister Eman has pursued an aggressive agenda designed to revive the economy, to improve relations with the Kingdom of the Netherlands and to promote the worldwide brand of Aruba as a country that is stable, democratic, and innovative. As one part of this effort, he is leading Aruba towards a "green" future in which Aruba will reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and rely to much higher degree on alternative sources of energy, such as wind, solar and wave. Aruba is establishing a Renewable Energy Research and Education Institute and is rapidly become a leader in the region in this area.

Prime Minister Eman has renewed and strengthened his government's relations with its strategic business partners. Through his efforts, companies critical to Aruba's economy have returned to the Island. For example, Valero Energy Corporation has reopened its oil refinery, one of the largest employers on Aruba. KLM reinstated its flights between Amsterdam and Aruba, and Carnival Cruise Lines began visiting Aruba again after a long absence.

Prime Minister Eman has a long standing interest in building a stronger sense of community in Aruba. Even before assuming the post of Prime Minister, he led his party's efforts in promoting social and civic networks in Aruba. Now, as Prime Minister, Mike Eman is seeking to take the discussions in Aruba to a new level by studying and developing concrete steps to promote greater civic and social engagement on the Island for all Arubans.

Mike Eman is married to Doina Elizabeth Neagoy, who studied Languages and Linguistics at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

