



# RAIZ Perspectives

*Parliamentary Election 2024*

**raiz**



## Live well, live happily!

**RAIZ is a platform that anchors its strength in respect for nature, inclusion, participation, and harmony to achieve true prosperity for our people.**

**True prosperity is when economic changes go hand in hand with nature, and financial dignity reigns at all levels in our country.**

**An Aruba where financial dignity reigns is the expression of RAIZ's vision to achieve a society where every citizen has the possibility to live independently, develop their abilities, live a healthy life in the broad sense, cover their basic needs, and participate without financial stress or exclusion. The focus is to ensure a dignified income, access to essential services, and elevate the capacity for self-determination. A society where economic dignity ensures that public funds are directed toward the needs and priorities of its community, investing in human capital, and creating opportunities for well-being, harmony, and prosperity for all citizens.**

**RAIZ's vision is for an excellent Aruba, empowered and motivated to break away from habits and obstacles that act as chains within the soul of our community.**

**Aruba is ready to liberate itself from traditional politics forever and truly transform into a healthy and safe community.**

**The objectives are aimed at a lasting transition to achieve sustainability, elevate capacity, and with a force of unity and harmony, prosper in excellence.**

**RAIZ in Government and Parliament has demonstrated a different way of governing based on integrity, justice, respect, participation, inclusion, and creating impact through evolution.**

**The seeds have been planted, bringing Aruba into the phase of real transition toward a fair and inclusive community. With well-anchored collective values and norms, we will continue to harvest the future of the country of Aruba for future generations, where people live well and live happily.**

# RAIZ's COMMITMENT



RAIZ firmly believes that a party program must indicate and inspire the values, norms, and principles of its vision, motivation, and commitment, serving as a compass on the path ahead. RAIZ values integrity, transparency, and economic dignity, where every citizen in our country must live an economically dignified life worthy of their values. We continue to strengthen steps to guide our country in a more sustainable direction, taking into account resilience to climate change and the balance between infrastructure and nature. We will empower the development of our people, equal opportunities, and inclusion in our community.

RAIZ is committed to you, for together with you, we are designing the future of our country.



# Get to know our candidates



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## Economy and Finances with Dignity (Cost of Living)

*The foundation of our tourism and economy is that Aruba can present itself to the world as "One Happy Island". Aruba will be "One Happy Island" when Economic Dignity allows all of us to lead a happy life. In RAIZ's vision and in the view of our tourists or visitors, the main product of our tourism is our people. The Government's goal must be to ensure and maintain an economic model that results in happiness and a dignified life for us all.*

### Principles of Economic Dignity

For RAIZ, the economic goal of our country must be to ensure that everyone can live a dignified life. The principle of economic dignity is built on three primary social pillars:

1. **Equality:** Every worker/citizen must be able to care for their family and properly enjoy the important moments in life, such as raising children, without fear of financial insecurity. This includes accessible healthcare, education, and fair wages.
2. **Opportunity:** Everyone must have the opportunity to pursue their full potential and find meaning in life, regardless of their social or economic situation. This requires giving people access to educational opportunities and breaking barriers such as discrimination and poverty that prevent individuals from achieving their full potential.
3. **Free Participation:** People must be able to contribute to the economy without being subjected to abuse or exploitation. Workers have the right to protection from unfair labor practices, consumers need protection from abuse, and businesses must have a level playing field against foreign competition. This ensures that everyone can work and live with respect and the justice they deserve.

### The New Economy

- **Equal Opportunity.** A transparent government ensures equal opportunity for everyone. Transparency, through technology and innovative systems, enables our community to monitor, control, and ensure that the Government distributes public resources in a fair and balanced manner.
- **Climate Change.** Efforts to diversify Aruba's economy began with Status Aparte when the Lago refinery closed. Nearly 40 years of efforts to develop a second economic pillar have yet to yield results. Diversification is necessary and efforts must continue. However, for RAIZ, protecting what we already have is more important than creating a second economic pillar. The sole economic pillar we

currently have is extremely delicate and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. RAIZ prioritizes projects aimed at strengthening and protecting this pillar. The Government must invest public funds in projects that will ensure our economy can survive the severe shocks we will inevitably face due to climate change.

- **Three Key Sectors.** Every sector of our economy is important, but RAIZ proposes the development of three cardinal sectors to strengthen and protect what we have. (a) **Primary Sector:** The Ministry of Nature has made great efforts to stimulate the primary sector, achieving several changes in three years. This sector must be further expanded and strengthened as part of food security projects in an increasingly insecure world, where Aruba's food prices are determined abroad. (b) **Orange Economy:** The creative industry has significant potential to strengthen the tourism industry. The Government has all the necessary tools and funds to develop this sector so it can integrate more rapidly into our tourism product. What is lacking is the commitment to make this happen. (c) **Silver Economy:** Our elderly population has a significant need for adequate housing and specialized services. Cooperation with trade unions and other institutions has established the first Elderly Forum, identifying needs and proposing solutions. There is substantial potential for innovative commerce in this sector. In the next Cabinet, RAIZ will continue projects and execute the following phase, where the financial sector and Government will jointly expand financial products necessary to create more housing and services for the elderly.
- **National Dialogue.** Government decisions have financial impacts on every household and business. Therefore, proper participation must be granted to trade unions, labor unions, and representatives. RAIZ has demonstrated its willingness and ability to work in cooperation with the private sector on every issue. This includes participation by all stakeholders—trade unions, NGOs, and others—to work with the Government to identify problems and solutions together. RAIZ will continue serving as a platform for our entire community to participate in improving every aspect of life on our island.

## Public Finances

**Optimizing the Public Sector through Landspakket.** RAIZ will continue to support the Landspakket project, which was developed in broad cooperation with the Dutch Government to correct the functioning of the public sector. RAIZ considers Landspakket to be the correct and effective system to optimize all aspects of financial management and improve the effectiveness of the public sector. The active participation of the Dutch Government guarantees that the solutions will be structural, durable, sustainable, and with minimal undue political influence. In addition to correcting past mistakes, it is also necessary to strengthen financial relations within the Kingdom to prevent governments from repeating these errors.

- Taxes, Financial Sector, and Economic Reform. Besides the pathways for correcting financial management and improving public sector effectiveness, Landspakket also includes pathways that focus on optimizing taxes, the financial sector, and economic reform. Each pathway is being implemented in broad cooperation with the Dutch Government and is being led by Aruba's professionals with support from Dutch experts. In a model example, they have identified areas where the public apparatus is deficient and needs correction. Landspakket provides a sound foundation to address issues that have worsened since Aruba's Status Aparte and were neglected by previous governments.

## Landspakket Plus

In addition to the areas already addressed through Landspakket, RAIZ proposes to include the following topics as part of the public finance and tax reform pathways:

- Adjust the tax penalty system: Tax penalties, often caused by failures or inefficiencies within the government itself, do not function in a legitimate way to bring public funds in. This type of revenue places a huge pressure on small and medium-sized businesses. The process of rectification and restitution is complicated and expensive and must be optimized.
- Introduce certification and excellence programs for public departments and services, as well as in the private sector.
- Prepare and participate in the introduction of VAT (with a fixed rate) in the medium/long term.
- Simplify the tax system in areas like payroll taxes, offering relief to the middle-income group.
- Integrate tariff systems, including taxes related to tourism/travel at points of entry to simplify and improve public finance.



- Increase the tourism tax for cruises, at a level that at least covers the costs placed on infrastructure, the labor market, and the cost of living related to this type of tourism.
- Prioritize the pathway in Landspakket that addresses the automation of processes in the public apparatus, which will, in the short term, increase the efficiency of the apparatus, reduce public sector expenses, and increase productivity.
- Reduce unnecessary waste being imported to the island. This requires reevaluating the percentage of import taxes on products that generate more waste. This is based on a model of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which includes processing waste costs for imported items.
- Redirect funds from the supplementary pension fund to the SVB. Attention should be drawn in Landspakket to the fact that 6% of supplementary pensions are being moved to the private sector, while the SVB fund is fragile.
- Reevaluate and adapt the goals and functioning of Volkskrediet Bank regarding its efficiency, role in financing, and care for those with financially vulnerable conditions.

**National Commission for Investment.** Aruba lacks a national commission where the private sector and trade associations can participate in the process of selecting investments made with public funds. At the moment, ministries are free to invest in projects they choose without any input from the community. The government's capacity to create new debt in the future has been severely limited, but there is still room for public funds to be wasted when choosing investments. The Landspakket system will correct the functioning of the public apparatus, public finances, and our economy. However, it does not regulate the investment aspect, leaving a "loophole" for wasteful spending.

**Cost of Living – Gasoline.** As an island, we live primarily off imported products, and the prices of these products are determined by inflation abroad. The solution must be sought at the border. The super-surplus shows that the Government has enough space to reduce excise taxes on gasoline substantially and remove all import duties on products related to the production of clean energy. To do this, there is no need to wait for Landspakket. The Government receives more than 70 million florins in excise taxes and could easily reduce this by 50% or more. This relief in gasoline prices and transport costs will directly impact the daily expenses of all people, every day, throughout the day.

**Cost of Living – Energy.** The Government has all the tools in its hands to help people generate clean energy at home. Private energy production will greatly reduce electricity costs. RAIZ insists that it is not the Government's task to profit from importing products

that make the energy transition possible. RAIZ advocates for the elimination of import duties on products used to create clean and renewable energy to lower the cost of electricity. This is exactly the right approach for the Government to encourage the energy transition and create new opportunities where local commerce can grow.

**Cost of Living – Labor.** RAIZ is in favor of regulating and recognizing the rights of people who are undocumented in Aruba. The shortage of workers in the private sector forces merchants to pay higher wages without necessarily seeing an increase in production. This increase in wages is passed on to the prices of products or services without necessarily improving the quality of the product or making the service more efficient. The solution to this type of inflation is entirely in the hands of the Government of Aruba. Merchants are missing workers while thousands of capable individuals remain excluded from the labor market because they lack documentation. RAIZ does not speak of “illegal people” because no human being is illegal. They are undocumented. Calling people illegal creates an impression of criminality and undermines their dignity, when many are well-qualified and ready to work. Our starting point is that no one chooses to leave their home, family, and friends behind for an adventure. We need them just as much as they need us.

**Maximum Surplus of 1% of GDP.** RAIZ will approve a budget with a surplus greater than 1% of GDP only when the surplus comes from cuts in Government spending. We have agreed with the Netherlands that a 1% surplus is necessary to reduce national debt responsibly. Any surplus above this will be taken away from the community and business. Reducing debt at an accelerated pace is desirable, but not if it causes more harm to the economic dignity of our people, leading to high costs of living and hidden poverty. A substantial reduction in Government spending is possible once a new arrangement with the Netherlands is reached, leading to a significant reduction in national debt interest.

**Bestemmingsheffing (Destination Tax).** In the next Cabinet, we must correct the improper way taxes are implemented for a purpose, but the funds are being spent on completely different matters. For example, there is no direct link between 28 million florins in tax on motor vehicles and the maintenance costs of our roads and infrastructure. Similarly, 14 million florins are collected each year through environmental taxes, but these are not allocated to nature and the environment. Respecting the principles of “bestemmingsheffing” (destination tax) will provide more transparency and comply with the relevant laws.

## Energy

*Create a sustainable and independent energy perspective for our community by accelerating the transition to renewable energy, maximizing energy efficiency, and promoting innovative energy solutions. Aruba will lead in sustainable energy practices, such as clean, affordable, and accessible energy for everyone.*

- Produce more renewable energy by capitalizing on abundant resources such as solar and wind energy.
- Accelerate the energy transition by creating a more robust infrastructure where individuals who wish to have solar panels can easily obtain them without much restriction.
- Sell renewable energy generated by the tourism sector at prices that benefit our people. Seek ways to reduce residential electricity prices and make it more attractive for small businesses by using our tourism sector to subsidize electricity costs for our residents. As a result, the cost of living and the cost of doing business will be lower and more attractive.
- Use fossil fuel products to ensure the supply of electricity and water until renewable energy, coupled with batteries, becomes more attractive.
- Create jobs in the clean energy sector through training, solar panel installation, electric vehicle charging stations, etc. This will create employment in the energy transition, where digitization will play a crucial role in ensuring a reliable and robust grid.
- Open an “E-fuel” plant using solar and wind energy for self-consumption.
- Invest in solar parks for individuals who do not have their own homes but can still benefit from the energy transition.
- Create a “Carbon Credit” market where investments in renewable energy will become financially more attractive.
- Use reports from TNO (Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research) to guide the energy transition and secure funds.
- Integrate transport (passenger vehicles) into the transition towards a cleaner Aruba, less dependent on oil imports. Decarbonize transportation and the energy industry.
- Organize a department (directorate) to regulate water and electricity prices for the benefit of the Aruba population.
- Capitalize on solar and wind energy combined with batteries to store energy for when it is needed.

## Labor

*As part of the vision for a dignified economy, RAIZ is committed to developing a resilient and inclusive labor market that prioritizes well-being and the integration of our workforce, promotes sustainable work practices, and ensures fair conditions for all sectors. The vision is to guarantee that every worker can thrive in a healthy, safe environment and contribute to an adaptable, culturally integrated, and prosperous economy.*

- Address labor shortages by bringing back Arubans from abroad, encouraging elderly individuals who wish to stay active, and facilitating different approaches if necessary.
  1. Review labor laws by introducing legislation, management, and execution of occupational health and safety standards (OSH), eliminating a general minimum wage and anchoring collective labor conditions by sector.
  2. Regulate and enforce the management of labor migration focusing on family migration instead of individual migration. This will strengthen the social network of migrant workers, as their labor cycle remains within our own economy while adapting to our culture, norms, and values.
- Introduce an "Arbowet" (Occupational Health and Safety Law) to ensure healthy working conditions, also considering the effects of climate change.
- Certification programs for quality and inspection of OSH and establish controls for managing risks in industry and commerce.
- Facilitate and encourage elderly individuals who wish to stay in the labor market, offering them favorable tax conditions.
- Introduce flexible work models (remote/hybrid) to contribute to a resilient, innovative, and modern society, creating a better balance between work and personal life.
- Strengthen the connection between the labor market and education, addressing the disconnection between the two sectors. RAIZ will ensure that Aruba can anticipate labor market needs and adapt its education system accordingly. This will also contribute to a more effective immigration management system.
- Make the labor market more inclusive for people with physical limitations or other developmental issues by offering:
  - Guidance for those with limitations when applying for jobs.
  - Adapted laws to include a percentage of the workforce that consists of people with limitations.

## Circular Economy and Waste

*The circular economy is an economic model that focuses on reducing waste and maximizing the use of available resources. It also aims to shift from using materials derived from finite natural resources (such as oil and gas) to designing and producing goods from sustainable, renewable materials, such as hemp, linen, bamboo, and even our own solar, wind, and earth resources. The circular system emphasizes reusing, recycling, and reducing materials and products, thereby creating a closed-loop system.*

RAIZ is a pioneer in the transition to a circular economy.

- Supporting local businesses that adopt circular practices will help strengthen our local economy. This keeps funds in our country and creates more opportunities to invest directly in the positive development of our community, enhancing resilience.
- Increase innovation and adaptability. The transition to a circular economy stimulates innovation and creativity in the design and production of products and services, resulting in new, innovative, and efficient solutions to address challenges such as climate change and resource scarcity.
- Empower consumer choice by offering more options for citizens to select sustainable products. This allows them to contribute to sustainable practices within our society, directly impacting our collective future for the better.

## Solid Waste

- Continuation of the restructuring of the solid waste system for modernization and circularity.
- Design a strategy neutral to inflation to introduce and establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system for various groups of products, including goals for recycling (e-waste, product packaging, tires, etc.). This approach ensures that responsibility no longer solely lies with the government and the costs associated with collection and processing will be moved from the product's end of life to the point of importation. An independent organization will be in charge of collecting, managing, and distributing these costs among the stakeholders in the waste management sector. This model encourages "zero waste" business practices and discourages linear models, aiming to reduce waste generation.
- Reduce the volume of waste in the sanitary landfill (Ser'i Teishi) to stimulate increased recycling capacity in the waste sector for outputs in the local market.

For example, plastic, glass, organic waste, and car scrap. Reduce waste generation by expanding products covered by the Landverordening Milieu Schadelijke Producten (LvMSP).

- Finalize the LvAfvalstoffen law and include the ratification of the Basel Convention to increase the exportability of certain types of waste.
- Maximize material recovery through, among other methods:
  - a. Establish the Circular Park Aruba (a permanent "Baki den Bario").
  - b. Reevaluate waste flow to introduce separation by different types of waste, aiming to separate all organic waste from technical waste. This will stimulate higher recycling rates.
  - c. Serlimar: Stimulate Serlimar to enter the market for processing and managing the Circular Park Aruba and improve accessibility for collaborators (artisans, maker labs, repair cafes, and recyclers) to reuse, redesign, and recycle.
  - d. Asbestos: Establish a fund to subsidize the proper removal and disposal of asbestos according to DTI regulations.
  - e. Parkietenbos: Finalize the cleanup of the Parkietenbos landfill and restore it as a solar park. This project is already in process and will continue under the next government.
- Regulatory management will focus on the following:
  - a. Increasing monitoring and control capacity (through technological advancements and training/upskilling).
  - b. Updating laws and regulations for environmental protection, APV (Public Health Ordinance), hinderverordening (nuisance regulations), etc.
  - c. Digitizing key processes for efficiency and transparency.
  - d. Strengthening the LV Hindervergunning (permit for nuisance).
  - e. Optimizing the Free Zone Aruba policy aimed at waste and the environment.
  - f. Prohibiting mining of natural resources (e.g., sand/excavation) and reducing import taxes on these types of resources, as well as exploring other local resources and opportunities, perhaps as part of the EPR structure (e.g., glass recycling).
- Reduce waste density by 50% by 2029 through national programs focused on awareness, education, and action (Mi Bario Limpi).
- Ensure accessibility to waste collection services (EPR) for everyone (including undocumented individuals and those with limited socio-economic means) in a way that eliminates illegal dumping ("midnight dumping")

## Liquid Waste

- Establish a supervisory body for Aruba Wastewater Sustainable Solutions (AWSS), such as DNM, DVG, DTI, DOW, and ACF, to ensure compliance with operational standards and nuisance permits (health, environment, safety), and to monitor water volume/quality in the Western Wetlands.
- Adapt the waste transport permit system, including mandatory technology for monitoring assigned waste.
- Continue to explore and focus on solutions for problematic liquid waste, including chemicals, pool water, laundry water, and FOG (Fat, Oil, Grease).
- Adapt building codes/permits (residential and commercial) to improve the design of septic tanks for gray water and encourage/increase the reuse of treated water (with standards for chemical use).
- Establish an integrated water management system and regulations to ensure the sustainability of water resources such as wells, reservoirs, deep water, and residual water.
- Set up decentralized water collection in different districts and regions ('Awa den Bario') related to centralized water management systems (grid).
- Redesign building codes for commercial and residential buildings with mandatory minimum capacity for water collection. This will help reduce water waste and promote recycling.
- Establish a program for flood management of water (redesign urban infrastructure and transport to manage water risks).

## Housing and Infrastructure

*Aruba is experiencing a shortage of affordable housing, which is increasingly indicating the need for sustainable planning. RAIZ is committed to creating more housing within our community, strengthening the position of our people to reach homeownership.*

- Establish a Ministry of Urban Development and Housing to prioritize this area of infrastructure development. Redesign social housing programs to include affordable and inclusive housing programs.
- Analyze unused properties and land to reintegrate them into the market to expand opportunities for housing. Introduce a system that allocates subsidies to families and young professionals to help them achieve homeownership.
- Goal to build more than 5,000 affordable homes ("Housing in the Neighborhood"). Redesign construction codes for housing and residential area development to include mandatory green areas/nature. This is how we will build with nature.
- Establish decentralized water collection systems in different districts ("Awa den Bario") related to centralized water management (grid). This will lower water transport costs.
- Redesign commercial and residential building codes with mandatory minimum capacity for water collection. This will help avoid water waste and stimulate recycling.
- Establish a program for flood management of water (redesign urban infrastructure and transport to manage water risks).
- Enforce the 'Build with Nature' law for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure.
- Maximize cooperation and alignment in construction permits with nature, which will help ensure the best possible control.



## Healthcare and Sustainable Care

*Healthcare is a civic right, but its goal must be to prevent illness and improve quality of life. If we aim for person-centered healthcare that is sustainable and of high quality, we must start with prevention and strengthen healthcare in all areas where there is a lack of attention, without excluding anyone. The vision is to promote a system centered around the person, rather than a system focused on patients. A person-centered system emphasizes the importance of not only addressing when someone is sick but also providing attention to the social, cultural, and environmental factors influencing health. This model not only takes into account the medical needs of the individual but also their family, community, and support networks, promoting a more holistic approach to care. This system is fairer, more flexible, and more responsive to the specific needs of our population.*

- Healthcare for all begins by organizing a healthy society where "Prevention is better than cure." Investing in a healthy life and disease prevention ensures that everyone can sustain themselves, guaranteeing access to quality education, proper care, clean air, clean water, healthy food, and a pleasant living environment.
- Strengthening healthcare for people in vulnerable conditions, including the care system.

## AZV Structure and Healthcare System

- Ensure AZV has a financial model that is sustainable, durable, and inclusive. If we want to diversify care, and what AZV covers, there needs to be more funding in a sustainable and lasting way.
- We must adapt our healthcare laws to include preventive, curative, and chronic care.
- The entire healthcare chain must operate from a single fund, which will lead to more effective management of these funds.
- Change AZV from a sick-cost insurance to an Aruban healthcare insurance that provides more effective and inclusive care.
- Improve and strengthen collaboration between all national medical institutions as well as the Dutch Kingdom to reduce operational costs and medical/material expenses.
- Introduce a system to prevent loss of funds by ensuring that tourists have insurance coverage offered in Aruba itself. This will ensure that revenue remains

within the country for local healthcare.

- Include circular principles in medical waste management.
- Offer competitive salaries in the healthcare sector, ensuring that we attract professionals from other countries to work in Aruba, especially in areas with significant needs.
- Offer continuous education in the healthcare sector to strengthen knowledge and professionalism.
- Consumer tax on products detrimental to health as a preventive action, which will also contribute to more funds for healthcare. This will also finance prevention programs within healthcare.

### Expanding AZV's Basic Package

Once the funding for AZV is sustainable, RAIZ will expand the basic package to include:

- Include Ergotherapy in the AZV basic package. This is a form of therapy that helps those who have lost certain motor skills to function better in daily life.
- Establish a Children's Rehabilitation Center or Medical Daycare for Children in Aruba, where all necessary care and therapies for children with physical or developmental disabilities can be centralized.
- Include psychological help in the AZV basic package to ensure that people get the help they need during difficult times and prevent emotional or psychological problems from escalating into more serious mental health issues.
- Obesity in our community (STEPS indicates that 79% of our population is obese) has a negative effect on the economic development of Aruba. The Health Department has published a report (August 2024) that highlights the importance of investing in human capital, such as in the development and health of the community. Access to proper guidance and information about healthy food is essential. By including dietitians in the basic AZV package, we will make food guidance more accessible to people, encouraging them to live a high-quality socio-economic life and stimulating their labor productivity and economic growth.
- Finance and strengthen chronic care in Aruba (for example: rehabilitation, elderly care, child care, mental health, addiction, and care for people with limitations).
- Expand the tasks of the Indicatie Commissie (Indication Commission) to ensure appropriate care is provided in the right locations.
- Extend (para)medical services to locations outside the hospital or SABA.

- Preventive care will be a priority to address the concerning situation, with the ambition to reduce the number of individuals with chronic illnesses by 50% within 10 years.
- Implement a National Integrated Health System that is electronic/digital, creating a solid and continuous care chain (zorgketen) with data exchange between all healthcare actors to improve patient care safety and quality. Once data is collected through the national integrated health system, it can be used to develop effective management strategies and prevent unnecessary expenses.
- Explore investment opportunities in innovation, including the application of AI, telemedicine, e-health, and robotic surgery.
- Establish an integrated purchasing system for products shared collectively among HOH, IMSAN, laboratories, and care homes.
- Conduct a national survey to determine the extent and types of traumatic experiences within the community, considering research shows that such experiences can lead to the development of disorders and chronic illnesses (ACE study). This data will enable targeted trauma treatment at an early age to prevent the development of disorders and illnesses.

## Our Elderly Remain a Priority

*A country proud of its roots must value and care for its foundation to guarantee its durability. Our elderly are our treasure. Ensuring their quality of life, overall well-being, and care is our commitment and moral duty. RAIZ has demonstrated this by establishing the first Ministry of Elderly Affairs in Aruba's history, as well as the establishment of the Directorate of Elderly Affairs.*

Execution of Deltaplan 2023-2033, based on a transformation from a medicalized perspective to a socialized perspective of aging:

- Adequate Care, with the introduction of categories based on care needs.
- Living longer in a family environment, with support and assistance from social initiatives and informal caregivers (family).
- Connections between formal care providers, private initiatives, and informal care.
- Reform of care financing for the elderly to achieve sustainable care provision in line with the quality and needs of care.
- Optimize community participation on a broad scale. Among other things, this focuses on stimulating social and physical programs within our Elderly Centers, creating services tailored to the needs of the 60+ age group.
- Address the scarcity of care beds and services, promoting more cooperation between care homes and other institutions to increase operational efficiency and reduce costs.
- Guarantee quality care through an integrated plan for care homes and certification for private care institutions.
- Establish free day care centers (subsidized), providing relief for informal caregivers (family), while ensuring elderly individuals remain in a family-oriented environment for longer.
- Introduce and strengthen social services that are truly tailored to the needs of the elderly, including:
  1. Respite Care: Temporary institutional care for elderly people to give informal caregivers a break.
  2. Crisis Care: A service to attend to elderly people in crisis situations without the need for hospital admission, ensuring proper care.
  3. Geriatric Rehabilitation: Ensuring that after surgery or physical trauma, the elderly receive the necessary rehabilitation to maintain their independence.
  4. Transfer Unit: A department for initial care and observation before hospital admission, reducing the problem of "wrong bed allocation."

- Invest in housing adapted for the elderly, ensuring their independence, self-determination, and participation in society.
- Introduce the program "Smaller Gaps, Greater Connections", which connects elderly people with younger generations through educational programs and community initiatives. This promotes mutual respect, informal teaching, and benefits both groups.
- Promote labor participation through the execution of the 11 recommendations of the SER 2023 report, ensuring that elderly people who wish to remain active in the labor market can do so. These recommendations include:
  1. Establish a talent hub for elderly people.
  2. Encourage fiscal incentives for elderly people who wish to continue working past retirement age, reducing the labor shortage and giving them more opportunities.
- Create specific transport permits for the elderly to guarantee their mobility, security, and participation.
- Create a hotline and reporting system for abuse against elderly people, with a proper safety net in place.
- Strengthen SABA to become a comprehensive care facility with proper collaboration with Aruba's care institutions, ensuring appropriate care levels are provided.

## Education

*Education is the engine to realize our country's dream. It empowers, equips, and forms our people. It is the foundation of a resilient, sustainable, and harmonious country. Education must be dynamic, addressing local and global developments, ensuring access for every child and every person. Our teachers and educators must be valued because they not only shape our children but also the future of our economy and community.*

RAIZ prioritizes the right of every person to access quality, innovative, and inclusive education.

- Invest in teachers to equip them with the skills to foster innovation in education, enhancing their knowledge.
- Review and adjust the "functiehuis" (function structure) for teachers, including a reevaluation of the number of hours considered full-time to properly value their studies and work.
- Adjust and update our laws to improve the quality of education.
- Ensure job security (guaranteeing job security) for teachers, particularly in the face of decreasing student numbers.
- Reduce the number of students per teacher and provide the necessary support through classroom assistants.
- Introduce a national education platform that allows for coordinated action with a unified goal and vision across all areas of training.
- Introduce 'trauma-sensitive working' in schools, taking into account trauma and trauma-related behavior in students, and adapting teaching methods accordingly.
- Facilitate students and young people with chronic illnesses or psychiatric disorders to continue their education in schools that are adapted to their limitations.
- Expand opportunities for students with special needs to continue advanced education, for example, through vocational special education.
- Provide opportunities to return or reintegrate into teaching by offering short-term and digital studies for certifications and diplomas, ensuring students gain the necessary skills to find desired employment without neglecting life skills.
- A curriculum that focuses not only on intellectual ability but also on students' interests, talents, and skills, expanding the curriculum to include technology, agriculture, arts, and sports as possible areas of study.
- Evaluate the concept of Esports (Electronic Sports) as an extracurricular activity that promotes engineering, technology, art, mathematics, while working on social-emotional aspects and stimulating inclusion.

- Invest in infrastructure in schools to accommodate curriculum innovation and maintain school buildings properly.
- Adapt the regular school system to include students with special needs by creating “care classes” in regular schools. This will make schools inclusive and equipped to offer high-quality and adapted education.
- Stimulate transparency in the allocation and distribution of education funds.
- Facilitate “bijzonder verlof” (special leave) for teachers when dealing with their personal well-being.
- Teaching is not just dependent on our teachers. RAIZ will dedicate attention and investment to classroom assistants, trainers (traimerdia), and other workers in the sector, seeking more opportunities for their development and providing greater job security.
- Flexibility in the use of ATV-days (special leave days) to give teachers more flexibility in choosing time off.
- Introduce more internship placements to allow students to gain better insights into the labor market and form an idea of their future careers.
- Review the effectiveness of MDC (Multidisciplinary Center) and the processes used for students.
- Ensure children with long-term health problems can continue to receive education digitally.
- Evaluate the quality of teaching materials, resources, lessons, and tests to ensure education quality is maintained.
- Reintroduce the services of the Jeugdzorg arts (Youth Healthcare doctor) to visit and check students in schools.
- Dedicate attention to the effects of bullying and social media on students’ mental health.
- Take into account the different circumstances of different schools and education levels when developing new management strategies (no “one-size-fits-all” solutions).
- Evaluate the quality of subjects, resources, lessons, and tests to ensure the quality of education.

## Social and Human Development

*A community that thrives in excellence focuses on collective values, continuous elevation of quality and standards, and anchors responsibility and transparency, ensuring continuous access to education. The fight for our children should never stop, as we must guarantee their well-being and their right to live protected, healthy, and happy. We will break down barriers that hinder the realization of their potential, with a vision of creating a flourishing community where everyone, from children to adults, can achieve their full potential as human beings.*

RAIZ will continue to fight for the children and empower our people.

- Complete the Children's Rights Law to include children's rights in our Constitution, including the right to not be abused (emotionally, physically, or sexually). By placing children's rights in the highest law of our country, we ensure a strong position for our children and youth in the country's governance.
- Intensive intervention for children aged 0-8 living in neighborhoods with fewer resources to break the cycle of poverty. Programs focused on language and cognitive development will strengthen their chances of success in school and future financial stability.
- Implement a minimum sentence for pedophiles who commit sexual acts against minors. Aruba faces a significant problem with adults committing sexual acts with minors. It is vital for the victim to receive justice. A minimum sentence will be added for this.
- Eliminate parole for convicted pedophiles, sending a clear message that Aruba protects its children.
- Introduce facilities for children with developmental disorders, such as autism or ADHD.
- Improve the functioning and effectiveness of the Family Justice Center. The Family Justice Center provides centralized help for victims of sexual assault.
- More homes and families for children/young people who cannot continue living in their own homes (such as in the expansion of Casa Cuna and Imeldahof).
- Examine the possibilities for people in our community who rent houses from FCCA to help them meet their needs.
- Repair playgrounds and sports fields, including a sustainable maintenance plan.
- Outreach care for young people with issues related to LVB (mild intellectual disability).
- Establish a Pediatric Rehabilitation Center or a Medical Daycare Center in Aruba, where all the necessary care and therapies for children with physical or



developmental challenges will be centralized. A multidisciplinary approach will be taken to work together in the child's well-being.

- Include psychological help in the basic AZV package. The waiting list for elderly people to receive psychological support is long. Including psychological help in the basic AZV package will ensure people receive help during difficult times and prevent mental health problems from worsening.
- Introduce the "CONNECT TO THRIVE" program at the Department of Social Affairs. The goal for 2035 is to achieve 50% participation of families in financially vulnerable situations based on census data, increase activity in neighborhoods by 50%, and reduce 50% of people reliant on welfare by executing this program, which has three components:
  1. "Break Through to Thrive": Focused on healing, connection, and empowerment of both individuals and families. A national survey will be conducted to determine how much and what type of trauma exists within our community. This will guide the treatment of trauma at an early age, preventing the development of disorders and chronic illnesses.
  2. "Empower to Thrive": A mentorship program between the Department of Social Affairs and the Department of Labor to create entrepreneurial programs for financially vulnerable families and personal empowerment. Part of this program includes reviewing and adapting the Welfare Law to meet the needs of people receiving welfare, helping them stay active and develop their skills, leading to their independence.
  3. "Thrive in Unity": Focuses on social cohesion and collective strength in neighborhoods and districts. This initiative will introduce neighborhood ambassadors to create commissions that work together with the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen neighborhood development and identify local needs.
- Enhance the services of the Department of Social Affairs by implementing a plan to digitize the services it provides. This will enable more efficient processing of registrations and data collection, allowing for better management, review, and inventory of existing social services. These services will then be adjusted to include well-equipped and appropriately trained professionals. In this way, the service chain (zorgketen) can be effectively strengthened to improve accessibility.
- Develop an intervention plan that includes a shelter for young people involved in or at risk of entering prostitution or relationships with "loverboys." The intervention will consider the neighborhood and context from which the youth originates and builds upon that foundation.
- Expand the building and staff of the Orthopedagogisch Centrum, enabling it to accommodate young people with more severe psychiatric issues.

- Invest in increasing the knowledge and human capacity of Casa Cuna and Imelda Hof.
- Create specific transportation permits for children and youth to ensure their mobility, safety, and participation.

## Nature in Harmony

*Restore, strengthen, and maintain the relationship and connection between people and nature. RAIZ is committed to achieving an Aruba that truly lives in harmony with nature, not only benefiting from the services that nature provides but understanding that nature is fundamental to our existence. RAIZ, as the only political party with nature anchored in its statutes, has demonstrated its commitment to nature by establishing the first Ministry of Nature in Aruba's history, promoting balance and harmony.*

- Execution and Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP): The goal is to harmonize the island's development with nature, ensuring that the benefits of biodiversity are enjoyed both now and by future generations. The plan emphasizes the intrinsic value of nature. The island's ecosystems and biodiversity are not only crucial for ecological balance but also sustain tourism, a significant part of Aruba's economy. The NBSAP has three main strategic objectives to address these challenges:
  1. Reduce risks to biodiversity: This includes measures to protect ecosystems and habitats, control invasive species, and mitigate the impacts of pollution and climate change.
  2. Sustainable use of natural resources: Promote sustainable practices in agriculture, fishing, and tourism to ensure long-term ecological balance.
  3. Tools and solutions for implementation: Develop management strategies, laws, and structures to support biodiversity conservation and integrate these efforts into all sectors of society.
- Strengthen enforcement and oversight: Equip the Department of Nature and Environment (DNM) and the Inspection Unit (BCI) with additional human resources and authority to impose sanctions and take preventive action to avoid the destruction of nature.
- Guarantee additional protected natural areas under territorial and spatial laws (ROPV/ROP), which will be addressed in the Aruba Parliament by 2025.
- Expand the Marine Park to cover areas around Aruba.
- Finalize the Rights of Nature in the Constitution.

- RAMSAR Action Plan and Coordination: Ensure that human activities are sustainable and contribute to the protection of salt flats/wetlands and coastal areas.
- Continuation of the Western Wetlands National Park Conservation Project, connecting salt flats and promoting biodiversity.
- Ensure access to subsidies for environmental NGOs, helping them achieve their goals of conserving ecosystems and biodiversity.

## Climate Change

*A resilient country properly addresses the effects of climate change. For years, the system has focused on natural disasters, but it must also consider human-induced situations, such as those involving refugees. While the occurrence of such calamities is possible but not certain, the effects of climate change are already manifesting and advancing at a rapid pace.*

RAIZ is the backbone of resilience, making climate change effects a priority for our community.

- Climate governance and institutional capacity to ensure proper structure and continuity of plans and actions.
- Establish a Climate Resilience Chamber (CRC) (KlimaatKamer) with the involvement of various professional and (financially) independent stakeholders.
- Establish a Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) to finance mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Integrate climate resilience management and action plans structurally into all ministries and public departments.
- Develop capacity for climate management within all public departments.
- Establish a Nature and Climate Resilience Commission (CRPC) in Parliament.
- Establish a Ministry of Nature, Energy, and Climate to efficiently, integrally, and effectively address nature-related issues.
- Strengthen national statistics on nature, the environment, and climate (CBS, DNM, DMA).
- Implement a "Remove Asphalt" program to recover natural areas, which will help improve water absorption, reduce ground heat, and promote biodiversity.
- Establish and introduce Climate Resilience Bonds as a structural financing mechanism for resilience actions.

## Responsible Tourism

*RAIZ envisions a tourism model that enhances Aruba's economy while preserving its natural beauty and fostering sustainability. The focus is on improving the quality of tourism while reducing the environmental impact of the sector.*

RAIZ is the transformer of tourism.

- Promote quality tourism that focuses not only on the money tourists bring but also on sustainable tourism activities.
- Implement a definitive moratorium on new hotels.
- Significantly raise construction standards through practices such as “built with nature”, LEED certifications, and other sustainable conditions.
- Redirect the environmental levy directly into a fund for nature and sustainability, creating resources for the restoration and protection of natural areas and natural resources.
- Develop a financing plan to use tourism revenue for transportation, human well-being, and education, ensuring the permanent and structural redistribution of tourism income (taxes) into programs for human well-being and nature conservation.
- Promote and highlight art, culture, museums, and theater as tourist attractions. This approach will boost the creative industry while reducing pressure and demand for high-impact activities that negatively affect nature.
- Introduce a 10-year moratorium on new accommodations that are not intended for locals.
- Introduce a 5-year moratorium on the expansion of tourist accommodations.
- Implement regulations for tourism infrastructure that prohibit construction or expansion of infrastructure within 100 meters of the coastline (to mitigate risks, hazards, and damages from rising sea levels).
- Introduce regulations or potentially a moratorium on the sale of property to foreigners who are not residents of Aruba.
- Regulate the vacation home rental (VHR) market by introducing a business license for VHR operators.
- Introduce an island tourism tax at points of entry (incorporating all previously introduced taxes, fees, and levies).
- Strengthen relationships and opportunities between tourism and agriculture, including energy and water efficiency programs in the tourism sector.

## Change the System: Strong Democracy

*Aruba's democratic, governmental, and parliamentary system must represent and serve you as a citizen. The reality is that Aruba has developed a traditional political culture that concentrates power within a few political parties instead of empowering the people.*

RAIZ is the force to Change The System. To reform the system so that you are properly represented and served, RAIZ proposes the following changes to ensure that the Government and Parliament function as they should:

- **Active Transparency in Governance:** The goal is for the governmental system to function optimally by ensuring that citizens have sufficient access to accurate and objective information. The Government must be actively and innovatively transparent, making information easily accessible. Initial steps have already been taken with the creation of Publico.aw. In the next term of governance, this project will be further developed to achieve its purpose and potential.
- **Continuous Participation:** A citizen's influence on government decisions should not end after casting their vote. Through public consultations and the creation of platforms where citizens can access all relevant information, ask questions, deliberate, and advise the Government, citizens can have greater influence over the governance of our country.
- **Formation of Ministries Based on Coherence and Efficiency:** Ministries should be structured more systematically, promoting continuity in governance and avoiding combinations of departments that do not necessarily align.
- **Modernize Outdated Laws:** Priority must be given to updating antiquated laws and increasing the capacity to produce necessary new legislation, ensuring that Aruba's legal foundation is strong. Outdated laws hinder the development of a modern country. This issue not only limits progress but also fosters a culture of "beating the system," where behaviors and practices are built around exploiting legal loopholes. RAIZ will also prioritize the proper enforcement of laws.
- **Introduce a New Format for Parliamentary Debates:** Ensure that real debates take place in Aruba's Parliament. RAIZ proposes that debates occur in a more direct and efficient manner, making it easier for parliamentarians to access the necessary information to fulfill their role of holding the Government accountable.
- **Active transparency in Parliament** will provide a better view of the work each parliamentarian is doing, making it accessible and innovative. This includes, among other things, financial information (expenses of Parliament and its factions).

- Review the Rules of Procedure of Parliament (Reglement van Orde van de Staten) to enhance the impartiality of the role of the President of Parliament. The presidency of Parliament is one of the most crucial functions for the proper functioning of our democratic system. The President holds the power to influence how Parliament exercises its duty of holding the Government accountable. RAIZ has consistently supported the necessary impartiality of the President of Parliament, which even led to the fall of the Wever-Croes II Cabinet. This highlighted the importance of having an impartial President of Parliament.
- **Separate Elections for Parliament and Government** to strengthen our checks and balances and give greater value to the people's vote. The current system, where citizens vote only for Parliament while candidates become ministers and their replacements take over in Parliament, creates a conflict of interest in a system where ministers must be accountable to Parliament. It is time to initiate the necessary deliberations and consultations to implement separate elections.
- **Fair Allocation of Residual Seats (restzetels):** Due to the formula for allocating residual seats, the election results often fail to reflect the electorate's true will. Election outcomes can deviate significantly from proportional representation, with many votes being "wasted." RAIZ has worked on submitting a legislative initiative to change the allocation of residual seats. This law is in an advanced legislative phase and can be addressed in Parliament shortly.
- **Voting Rights for Students Abroad:** Each year, hundreds of students leave Aruba to study abroad. RAIZ wants to keep these students connected to our country and hopes they will return to contribute to its development. Securing voting rights for students abroad gives them influence over how our country develops. For RAIZ, this influence extends beyond voting to include participation through public consultations.
- **Adapt the Political Party Financing Law.** To ensure greater transparency and proper regulation of how political parties obtain their funding. The current law governing political party financing contains excessively high maximum limits and loopholes that undermine the law's intent. RAIZ proposes closing these loopholes, reducing the maximum amounts, and ensuring that the law is properly applied and enforced.
- **Ensure Transparency in Political Propaganda:** Many politicians, ministers, and parliamentarians pay the press for coverage. While this is not necessarily negative, it is important for you to know whether what you are hearing or reading is organic coverage or paid coverage. This allows you to evaluate the coverage, its context, and draw your own conclusions. The same principle of transparency in political propaganda can be applied to other types of propaganda.

- **Establish a Constitutional Court.** To ensure that fundamental rights and democratic processes are respected. Recent developments have demonstrated the need for an institution to ensure compliance with our Constitution. A Constitutional Court can strengthen the functioning of our Constitution. RAIZ has initiated the evaluation process for establishing a Constitutional Court in Aruba and will continue this process in the next governmental term.
- **Continue the Implementation of Good Corporate Governance Regulations and Practices in the (Semi-)Public Sector.** This includes legislation and the establishment of a **Good Corporate Governance**, which will ensure greater transparency and better decision-making regarding our semi-public sector. For example, this applies when a minister appoints directors and commissioners for a state-owned company.

## Relations Within the Kingdom

RAIZ supports strong cooperation between the countries of the Dutch Kingdom and actively seeks opportunities for collaboration that benefit all our citizens. Good international relations and cooperation are essential for our country. As part of the Dutch Kingdom, our partners within the Kingdom are our primary allies.

RAIZ is a protector of our autonomy within the Kingdom.

- **Establish a Department to Guide and Coordinate Kingdom Relations and Cooperation.** A small team of (existing) public servants will be fully dedicated to strengthening Aruba's role within the Dutch Kingdom. This team will maintain contacts, create opportunities, and facilitate cooperation in various areas of governance. The department will also function as an information center for citizens regarding opportunities within the Kingdom, such as education, jobs, projects, grants, and more.
- **Collaboration Between Government Apparatuses of the Kingdom's Countries.** Public servants from different countries within the Kingdom will collaborate and share experiences and knowledge. This will allow for the realization of projects and solutions in a more efficient manner.
- **Cooperation With the Netherlands on Projects (Including Landspakket).** Negotiations on debt refinancing to reduce Aruba's interest expenses will continue. The starting point is that Aruba takes and maintains responsibility for the execution of projects that directly impact its citizens. This ensures that the Government of Aruba is accountable to Parliament and the people for the outcomes of these projects.

- Addressing the Democratic Deficit in the Kingdom. The democratic deficit within the Kingdom is a recognized flaw in the structure of the Dutch Kingdom. A local commission, through extensive consultation, will help determine a vision for Aruba's position within the Kingdom and define possible structural changes to achieve (democratic) equality within the Kingdom. Following this, proactive deliberations will be held with our partners in the Kingdom.
- The Well-Being of Citizens Includes Their Democratic Rights. RAIZ will ensure that cooperation within the Kingdom remains constructive and does not undermine the democratic rights of the citizens and the country of Aruba.

## Justice and Security

*A safe country is a delightful place to live! RAIZ identifies criminality and unlawful actions as threats to the integrity of our people and obstacles to our progress. RAIZ proposes combating crime by reinforcing the strong arm of the law while addressing its social impact on our community.*

- Foster closer relationships between community police officers and the public to combat crime more effectively.
- Establish a Strong Penitentiary System. Ensure safety by investing in the Aruba Correctional Institute (Korrektie Instituut Aruba) with extensive penitentiary programs focused on reintegration and resocialization of inmates.
- Address serious issues in work conditions. Improve working conditions, address personnel shortages, and resolve the deplorable infrastructure issues that pose significant safety risks within our community.
- Combat domestic violence and sexual abuse in households. Introduce a minimum standardized incarceration period for reports with evidence of domestic abuse. Aruba must send a clear message that domestic violence will not be tolerated. If the police respond to a report and confirm physical domestic abuse or aggression, it will result in immediate and automatic detention for a minimum of 14 days. Additionally, programs will be introduced to support and provide guidance to victims.
- Increase penalties for accidents with fatal consequences, particularly in cases related to driving under the influence.
- Facilitate curatorship processes for homeless addicts, enable the government to place homeless addicts under curatorship, ensuring access to help and rehabilitation programs.



- Proposed changes in government administration, adapt and revise the LMA (Civil Servants Act) to improve salaries and working conditions for employees in essential departments.
- Open more classes for special enforcement officers (BOA), provide additional training to reinforce the police force and broaden the enforcement of laws across other areas.
- Equip the police force with more authority and tools to combat cyberbullying, special emphasis on protecting youth from the dangers of cyberbullying.

## Animal Welfare

*Our animals and pets are important, and we will continue working to improve their welfare in Aruba. Our community in Aruba will be a country with empathy and respect for all living beings that are also part of our daily lives. This is what we call human prosperity, where both human and animal welfare are central to the development of our country. To achieve this, we will implement the Animal Welfare Management Plan Aruba (MBAA) 2024-2029.*

RAIZ is the faithful friend of our animals.

- Implement a New Animal Welfare Law, "Landsverordening Dierenwelzijn": This new law focuses on the welfare of our domestic animals and requires new regulations and structures to ensure that our community complies with them. Some important aspects of this new law include:
  1. Introduce mandatory regulations for pet owners to microchip and sterilize their pets, which is essential for keeping track of the number of pets in Aruba and comparing this with an animal census. This registration system will be expanded and categorized, including pet registration for cats and dogs, special registration for breeders, and registration for other domestic animals kept for consumption or economic benefit.
  2. Another important aspect is introducing strict regulations for "breeders" of purebred cats and other domestic animals, to ensure proper care of animals bred for economic purposes. Strict regulations and mandatory registration for breeders will be introduced to have better control and monitoring of all types of breeders, including "backyard breeders," in order to prevent abusive breeding practices. As a business, breeders will be required to register with the KvK to comply with tax laws as well.

- Establish the "Afdeling Inspectie Dierenwelzijn" with full authority to enforce the Animal Welfare Law, under the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).
- Establish the 'Animal Welfare Center for Our Animals and Community', with the following goals. (1) To allocate animals that are picked up from the streets by authorities. (2) To care for and rehabilitate animals in the center that have no owners and can be adopted. (3) To offer services such as adoption, food assistance, and general care information for pets and other domestic animals. (4) To provide veterinary services for domestic animals. (5) To offer quarantine space for protected animals confiscated at our country's borders. The Animal Welfare Center will function as a "community resource center" where citizens can come and receive assistance in one form or another for their animals.
- Invest in Sterilization Programs to reduce the population growth of cats and dogs. To achieve this, RAIZ will expand collaboration and support with local NGOs that have been working on this issue for many years. These efforts will continue to contribute to the cause, ensuring that our community can receive this assistance free of charge.
- Introduce a Hotline for reporting animal-related issues, ensuring that we can guarantee the improvement of the welfare of our animals and address domestic animal concerns. This hotline will serve as the first step for our community to access information, report animal issues or problems, and apply for programs that help with their pets, such as food assistance.
- Animal Welfare in Education: Introduce animal welfare in preparatory, primary, and secondary education, where the importance of awareness is recognized. This will emphasize not only the responsibility of citizens towards their pets but also towards all animals and our nature.
- Invest in a "Culture of Compassion": Promote a cultural shift in how animals are treated, which requires investment in the re-education of the community. Social re-education will focus on communication materials that highlight values, norms, customs, respect for other beings, and the laws and regulations that apply to every citizen.
- Invest in Programs Encouraging Compassionate Initiatives: These initiatives will help increase adoption rates and volunteer participation in our local NGOs. We are responsible for educating and informing our community with communication materials and initiatives that focus on social aspects, which will have an impact on our "mindset" and help create new norms that ensure the welfare of our animals.
- Focus on the Sustainability of Our Environment: Attention and regulation will be placed on the disposal of carcasses (dead animals). The responsibility of the pet

owner extends not only while the animal is alive but also when it passes away and in dealing with its remains.

## **Agriculture, Livestock, and Fishing**

*The primary sector, including agriculture, livestock, and fishing, is vital to our community. It contributes to our food security, strengthens our cultural heritage, and stimulates our self-determination. Furthermore, sustainable agriculture, livestock, and fishing contribute to economic growth.*

RAIZ is your partner in agriculture, livestock, and fishing.

- Implementation of the management plan "Together We Harvest the Future, 2023-2028", which outlines methods to promote the sectors of agriculture, livestock, and fishing in Aruba. The plan includes initiatives to strengthen the primary sector through:
  1. Promoting sustainable practices.
  2. Regulatory reforms across the sector to ensure a legal framework for the sector and to strengthen the role and functioning of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (DLVV) in supporting the sector and the community.
  3. Educational efforts to raise awareness of environmental sustainability in planting, breeding, and fishing.
  4. Supporting the growth of the agricultural sector through market analysis.
  5. An Agripreneurial Development Program, providing startups with resources and training to innovate and expand.
  6. Revisions to the Fishing Ordinance to promote sustainable fishing with citizen/fisher participation.
- Finalize the regulation of spearfishing (tira pisca).
- Ensure proper management and maintenance of fishing piers.
- Ensure the management of areas designated for agriculture and livestock is under the control of DLVV.
- Equip DLVV with the necessary personnel and knowledge to effectively carry out its tasks within the sector, as well as its inspection and enforcement functions (Afdeling Inspectie).
- Establish decentralized water collection in different districts and regions ("Awa den Bario") in relation to centralized water management (grid).

## Culture and Arts

*The identity of our people is anchored in our culture. Culture and art are essential to our formation and also in strengthening connections between people. Creating opportunities for everyone to develop their talents, enjoy art and culture, and actively participate in sports is key. Expression in these forms is considered an essential tool for health and overall well-being.*

RAIZ is your promoter of culture.

- Diversify Aruba's economy with creative and cultural pillars, defining our own "Orange Economy" which can function as an innovative catalyst and significantly contribute to our GDP. RAIZ will invest in our Orange Economy to enhance our creative and cultural expression, enabling local creatives to produce products and services that position Aruba as a unique island in the Caribbean. In addition to economic growth, the focus will be on the preservation of our heritage and cultural identity. Establishing our own "Aruba Orange Economy" will contribute as another economic pillar for our country.
- Create a legal and regulatory framework for our "Aruba Orange Economy."
- Invest in our Identity and Cultural Heritage.
- Invest in San Nicolas as our cultural destination.
- Promote the protection of intellectual property.
- Invest in our cultural and creative departments and organizations.
- Invest in programs for "creative entrepreneurship."
- Strategically invest in cultural and creative education programs.
- Promote our creativity and culture with "Made in Aruba" as a global brand.
- Create an "ACTIVO" program to subsidize youth and seniors to participate in arts, culture, sports, and social development programs of their choice, with access through public transportation.

## Sports

*Sports is a powerful tool for the development of our youth and also contributes greatly to promoting a healthy community. Sports must be accessible, inclusive, and vital in the life of every resident, stimulating health, unity, and opportunity for all.*

RAIZ is the promoter of sports in our community.

- Develop a Community Sports Program through the "ACTIVO" initiative, which subsidizes youth and seniors to participate in sports and engage in art, culture, and social development programs of their choice, with access through public transportation.
- Create a more efficient and effective system for maintaining sports facilities, ensuring that the maintenance system is solid and guarantees continuity.
- Invest in training for coaches and local leaders to enhance the quality of sports, techniques, and programs with a focus on the formative aspects of sports for target groups (youth, seniors).
- Establish regular community events, introducing an "ACTIVO" Day with Sports and Movement in the neighborhood monthly, where walking paths are created so that everyone can practice sports for free and openly.
- Collaborate to encourage health in the workplace, ensuring that health and movement organizations reach businesses in a structured way so employees can dedicate time to movement and stay active while at work.
- Promote more "standing desks" at the workplace to improve blood circulation and avoid prolonged sitting throughout the day.
- Promote "walking spaces" at work by creating dedicated areas for walking or using treadmills, so during breaks employees can walk for a while after meals.

## Transport

*Transport is essential for well-being, as it connects people with the basic needs and opportunities that improve quality of life. Good transportation options ensure that people can easily access healthcare, education, work, and social contact. Transport is categorized into public transport, maritime transport, and air transport.*

RAIZ is your mobilizer in transport.

- Finalize the adaptation of the law for Passenger Transport to ensure a transparent, fair system that provides equal opportunities in granting permits.
- Improve the mobility of our citizens by reviewing the routes of Arubus NV and buses.
- Create social connectivity through the “ACTIVO” initiative, which subsidizes sports, art, and culture through bus transportation.
- Introduce special permits for the transport of children and seniors, ensuring their safety and mobility.
- Create and expand a hub-space model with hubs in different districts, forming smart bus stops (e.g., with solar panels, green vegetation, energy generation, and Wi-Fi – “Cool (bus-) Stops”). Consider incorporating creative art into the design of “Cool Stops” (Bus in the Neighborhood).
- Establish a Marine Spatial Plan (M-ROPV) for better control and security in our territorial waters.
- Improve regulation/management of maritime activities.
- Strengthen control measures to ensure the safety of maritime activities.
- Maximize the economic potential of maritime activities by eliminating the artist tax (artiestenheffing), which is an obstacle to the growth of anchorage and platform commerce.
- Adapt aviation and maritime sector laws to strengthen safety and ensure compliance with international standards and regulations.

## Government Apparatus

*The government apparatus has the potential to be strengthened. While in many situations it is viewed negatively, RAIZ believes in achieving maximum efficiency and service, reducing costs to better serve Aruba and accomplish the collective goals of the country.*

RAIZ is the maximizer of governmental potential.

- Studies and recommendations from the Landspakket will serve as the basis for reorganizing the apparatus into a more efficient and effective system.
- A priority focus will be the efficient distribution of civil servants across the relevant departments. This will address departments that are essential but struggle with a lack of staffing.
- A deep analysis will be conducted to cut "waste" and reduce expenses, implementing a plan to improve the apparatus's profitability. This includes increasing administrative income (e.g., fees and levies) that are outdated—not with the goal of generating profit, but to cover operational costs.
- Improve the quality of service that government departments provide to citizens, including by facilitating and empowering departments with the necessary infrastructure to deliver better service.
- Review the Landsverordening Materieel Ambtenarenrecht (LMA) to adapt it to current labor developments, as well as to differentiate salary structures for each department, which should be competitive with the private sector to attract and retain the professionals the apparatus needs. The starting point is that not all departments require the same type and level of work/professional qualifications. The current LMA lacks alignment with the labor market (salaries and both supply and demand) in the private sector.

## Technology

*Global innovation is advancing rapidly. The resources being invested in innovation are intended to improve and enhance our current way of life. While our small island is definitely making an effort, our progress is relatively slow. The issue starts with a lack of a holistic vision at the highest levels.*

RAIZ proposes a different way of thinking about innovation by creating a framework for a society that is Smart, Open, and Resilient. By focusing on sustainable tourism, resource optimization, renewable energy, open data, R&D, and local talent development, we can build a future-ready society that uses technology and innovation for the general well-being of our country.

### Open Data

The government collects a large amount of data that can be used to promote innovation and improve public services. By opening key datasets—such as environmental data, public expenditures, and tourism trends—we can empower local entrepreneurs, researchers, and developers to create new services and products that meet the unique needs of our island.

- By creating management laws that allow the sharing of government data via APIs (Application Programming Interfaces), we can enable developers to create apps and services that improve daily life on our island. For example, APIs can connect different departments, offering citizens and businesses new ways to automate and submit taxes.
- While encouraging open data, individual privacy protection remains a top priority. Any data shared publicly must be anonymized and handled with strict data protection measures to safeguard personal information.

### Open Banking & Finance

A modern FinTech ecosystem is essential to accelerate innovation and improve access to financial services on our island. Since we are a small island economy with a large focus on tourism and small businesses, we can greatly benefit from integrating advanced payment systems and open banking models, which increase financial inclusion, support entrepreneurs, and simplify transactions. By adopting the principles of open banking, we will enable our financial system to become more innovative, competitive, and accessible.



- Given the high number of international visitors, our payment systems must be easy to use and secure. The adoption of digital payment platforms, including payments via smartphones, smartwatches, and e-wallets, can simplify transactions for tourists while providing convenience for locals.

## Open-Source Software

The adoption of open-source software offers Aruba an opportunity to take more control over our digital infrastructure, thus reducing dependence on expensive proprietary systems. Open-source not only encourages transparency, as the source code is publicly available for inspection and modification, but also promotes local innovation by empowering local talent to contribute to the code.

- By adopting open-source software, Aruba can cultivate a vibrant local tech ecosystem that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge sharing among developers, businesses, and educational institutions. Involving local talent in the maintenance and improvement of government systems can create job opportunities, stimulate the local industry, and reduce the need for foreign expertise.

## Tech & Innovation Hub

To continue increasing Aruba's capacity in the field of innovation, it is essential to establish a tech & innovation hub—a dedicated space where the public, private, and academic sectors can collaborate on technology initiatives. This hub will serve as a center for teaching, research and development (R&D), and the creation of new ideas, positioning Aruba as a regional leader in innovation. By establishing an environment for R&D and collaboration, we can promote ideas that lead to revolutionary innovations that improve life on our island while also creating new economic opportunities.

- A tech & innovation hub will provide a platform for the private sector, public sector, and academia to work together on projects that address local issues, such as establishing smart & open infrastructure, sustainable tourism to reduce environmental impact, or R&D in new renewable energy sources like wave energy that can generate power from the movement of water.
- Through organizing workshops, seminars, and hackathons, a tech & innovation hub will encourage knowledge and skill-sharing within the tech community on the island. It will also facilitate partnerships with international organizations, allowing the importation of best practices and global expertise that can be adapted to Aruba's specific context.

- Currently, Aruba has a Department of Innovation on paper, but it is not yet operational. The purpose and goals for this department must be adjusted to ensure that it can properly fulfill its key role in the implementation of innovation management.

## Knowledge & Skill Sharing

Sharing knowledge and skills between the public and private sectors is essential to contribute to a resilient society. By promoting a culture of collaboration, continuous learning, and innovation, we can ensure that we are prepared for the challenges of the future and can capitalize on opportunities.

- Equip citizens with the necessary skills for a rapidly evolving digital world: Training programs are essential. These should focus on key areas such as digital literacy (including artificial intelligence) and business continuity. To build an innovative and resilient society, more priority should also be given to STEM education ("Science," "Technology," "Engineering," "Mathematics") to stimulate interest in STEM from an early age. The starting point is that not all departments require the same type and qualifications of work/professionals. The current LMA (Civil Servants Act) lacks alignment with the labor market (salaries, as well as supply and demand) in the private sector.

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Statenverkiezingen Aruba 2024

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