



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To

Honorable Prime Minister
Rafael Boasman
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/103/2017-2018

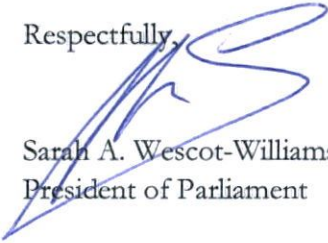
Philipsburg, January 8th, 2018

Re: Questions from MP Sarah A. Wescot-Williams regarding operation of Civil Registry.

Honorable Prime Minister Boasman,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Sarah A. Wescot-Williams regarding the Civil Registry. The letter is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
President of Parliament



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Government Administration Building
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Philipsburg, January 8th, 2018

Ref: Article 59 Constitution of St. Maarten

Honorable Prime Minister Boasman,

The first national decree promulgating the dissolution of Parliament was dated November 3, 2017 (LB-17/0575) with the first convening of the new Parliament on January 31, 2018. By decree of November 12th, one day before nomination day (kandidaatstelling), this decree was amended to establish the day of election on February 26th.

However, in the amended decree (LB-17/0619), the first convening of the new Parliament is now set for April 2nd 2018, in gross violation of article 59 of the Constitution of St. Maarten.

The period, prescribed by the constitution has been exceeded with nearly two (2) months, without explanation or motivation. This is a flagrant disregard for the highest law of the land and sets a dangerous constitutional precedent.

What is more, is that the Government has persisted with the election, notwithstanding the public outcry and Parliament's numerous motions condemning the election at this point in time.

- **Motion No. 1 of November 2nd 2017** commits "...to spare the people of St. Maarten any further political uncertainty and any talk of elections during these difficult times..."
- **Motion No. 1 of November 9th 2017** resolves "...that the Parliament disapproves of the decision of the Government to dissolve Parliament and hold premature elections..."
- **Motion No. 2 of November 10th 2017** to introduce "...the decree of dissolution of Parliament, dated November 3rd, 2017 to the agenda of the next meeting of the Kingdom Council of Ministers and to promote its nullification on the basis of section 22 of the regulations for the Governor of St. Maarten.

- **Motions No.3 of November 10th 2017**, considering "...the total disregard for the petitions, expressions and general sentiments of the people of St. Maarten., that an election in January 2018 as promulgated by the Prime Minister is adding insult to injury, is morally unfair and uncaring..."


Can you confirm if the violation cited above is accurate?

Has the Government violated the constitution of St. Maarten? If not, please explain.

If yes, how does Government plan to remedy this serious matter?

Kindly provide answers to these questions urgently.

Respectfully,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament