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Sint Maarten, October 16, 2013

The Ministry of Finance
Minister M.J. Hassink
Administration Building
Clem Labega Square
Sint Maarten

Subject: Bond Request

Excellency,

During the handling and the approval of the 2013 budget, under the post of capital investments, a sum of fls 30,000,000 was set aside for the purchase of the Emilio Wilson Estate.

It is my understanding that the CFT has informed you that they will not approve any issuing of government bonds for the 2013 budget.

Considering that the submission of the 2014 budget is set to take place within the next few weeks and seeing that said budget will have to be approved by the majority of parliament, I herewith request you to look at reallocating part of the capital investment budget to include a bond of fls 35,000,000 for the St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC).

For a nation to move forward we as a government must guarantee that our people are able to get the best health care available at home and that the service and equipment in health care be second to none.

It is time for government to step to the plate and accommodate SMMC with its expansion and upgrading plans. I am hearing the cries of our people far too often about the general state and availability of proper health care and treatment.

Physicians are leaving SMMC due to inadequate facilities to best cater to patients' needs. In the short and long term it is the people of St. Maarten in general who suffer. It is our children who also feel the effects when all is not in place medically to care for them, the future and most valuable resource of our young nation.

SZV is spending an enormous amount of monies to send patients abroad. An investment into our own medical institution will ensure our people stay at home for treatment surrounded by the family and monies stay here in our economy.



Investors and our people are nervous of the state of our medical centre. We need to make investments now and it is up to government to make the first and most important step. The spinoff of such an investment in SMMC will enhance investor confidence across the board and our people will benefit in many ways.

Future investments can bring more business to our hospital thus increasing jobs.

I applaud the staff, nurses and the doctors that work daily under the current conditions at SMMC.

Recently, SMMC has been placed as part of the collective sector of government, so this makes my request even easier.

At the same time, it is imperative that SZV and SMMC sit and discuss the tariff structure. SZV is sending many patients abroad for health care. It reminds me of the days when there was the SVB giving special recognition to the hospital in Curacao and then paying the SMMC a different tariff. Let us not regress.

I request the Minister to take my request seriously and explore all efforts to ensure the expansion and the survivability of SMMC which in turn guarantees the health care of our great people.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, I remain,

Respectfully,



MP Theodore E. Heyliger

TEH/dil