



Tamara Leonard

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Chairlady of Parliament
Sarah Wescott-Williams
Present

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Philipsburg, Tuesday October 30th 2018

Subject: Questions to the Minister of VROMI pertaining to the status of repairs of the Belvedere homes the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation is responsible for.

Honorable President,

As our country is going through another Hurricane season, residents of the Belvedere area are still living in fear every time it rains a little too much as their roofs and homes are yet to be repaired.

Chairlady, by means of this letter I am requesting clarity from the Minister of VROMI where it pertains to the status of repairs of the Belvedere Homes that fall under the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation.

Seeing that the housing foundation is partially subsidized by Government, I would like to know from the Minister of VROMI what the situation is pertaining to these damaged homes. I am sure the Minister has taken note of the alarming releases in the media. In particular the court case that a group of residents in Belvedere won against the Housing Foundation and also the fact that other residents are in the process of taking the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation yet again to court.

Chairlady, one of the main reasons why the Housing Foundation was established is to assist those that are financially not as strong as others in our community. However, it seems that this group has not received any assistance since the passing of Hurricane Irma nor will they in the near future. It is for this reason that I would like to know from the Minister the following:

- 1) Are these homes insured by the Housing Foundation?
- 2) If so at which Insurance Company and has a settlement taken place?
- 3) Did the housing foundation do a financial assessment as to the damages that need to be repaired?



- 4) Did the Housing Foundation reach out to Government for (extra) assistance?
- 5) Will the subsidy to the Foundation increase in 2019?
- 6) Will there be monies from the World Bank going towards these repairs?
- 7) Does Government have any idea as to when these homes will be repaired and if there are plans to build back stronger?
- 8) If residents take it upon themselves to repair their roofs would they have to request building permits? Would they be allowed to do so for homes they don't officially own?

**I look forward to a prompt, yet comprehensive and clean response to my questions.
Respectfully,**

Ms. Tamara E. Leonard
Member of Parliament

TEL/sa