



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Chairman of Parliament
The Honorable Dr. L. Richardson
Present

January 26, 2015

Honorable Chairman of Parliament,

I hereby submit in advance questions related to the draft budget 2015 to be debated in a public meeting of Parliament on January 27th.

I respectfully request in the interest of expediency to urgently forward these questions to the Government of St. Maarten.

Kind regards,


Sarah Wescot-Williams, MP (DP)

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
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Par.	✓	VP	

Public meeting budget debate

January 27, 2015

Question: Heineken Regatta etc. motion of the last Parliament. How was that executed? Did they get the extra funds?

Question: The Land over the Bank acquisition by government. Present the status of this acquisition/claim and if available the plans.

Question: did the Belvedere community council get the additional piece of land promised to it?

Question: will the fire department have its own dispatch, and police and ambulance theirs jointly? Please provide the rationale? (p. 65)

Question: when can we look forward to the draft of a new traffic ordinance?

Question: is/will the Justice Academy be imbedded in the Justice organization? Has any evaluation been done? Are we meeting the needs? Is the output satisfactory?

Question: with the scholarship plans of government, regional studies, USM, NIPA, etc, what annual percentage of school leavers will not have an opportunity for any further study at all? (Factor out those entering the labor market).

ICT has presented an elaborate chain of projects. We invite this department to make a presentation to Parliament.

Government says" there is insufficient directing (sturing) of the housing foundation." How is this manifested? And how will government address this?

Question: will the integrity bureau as such be pursued?

Question:will the position of member in the RvSt be filled? When and by whom?

Question: government has been critical about employment agencies. What is the policy on these?

Case management system for VSA (page 80) : to track the citizens from birth to death? What about the privacy of citizens?

Question: are there recent compulsory education (truancy) reports? Can these be provided?

Question: will the NSI foundation replace the SFUF, or will there be 2 foundations managing sport facilities etc.? Page 143.

Question: When will we begin to make some headway with a general pension scheme as is being announced again by government?

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Cabinets of Ministers: some budgets have been increased. Minjus with .7m. etc. Question: Has government throw the existing policy out of the window? What is the current status of the cabinets' staff? How many persons, paid how much?

Question: what is the status of the 1-laptop-per-child project? Any progress?

Government announced in its budget: a study of an unemployment insurance. Question: Part of which of government' s objective is this? Is the idea behind this, the recommendations of the SER for such, as part of the flexibilization of the labor market? Or is government foreseeing a rise in unemployment due to restrictive policies of government?

Question: how should I interpret" Het binnen de overheid opzetten van de Sint Maarten Toeristen Autoriteit" . The STA within[!] Government? Are there plans to revisit the STA structure?

Question: what is the financial status of the SMMC? Where does it stand with the hospital' s expansion or whatever government has in mind? What does government have in mind? And how will this be financed?

Question: why is government at this stage skeptical regarding the WtE negotiations? Has government tied itself to a fine of 2.5 million guilders if the waste ordinance is not passed within a

specific period? With whom has government tied itself to this? Did government bind parliament to this? Pages 166/167.

Question: What is government sewage disposal plan? Do we still need more studies? Why?

Government envisages a lowering of the sick-day compensation. Please explain (page 26)

Youth involvement in the cleanup of the districts. Question: When will we see a public bidding announcement? Are these persons also assisted with their administration and such? (Page 168)

Question: Parking in Philipsburg. Discussions have been taking place with PSS. What are government' s intentions? What are government intentions for the current administration building?

Question: give a more concrete indication of the investment needs for VSA 5 m.; ECYS 6 m. ** (NGOs etc) and VROMI 33.9m. (pages 24 and 25)

Question: pls. Provide an updated of the collective sector listing.

Question: what is the exact status of affairs of the camera project. When will it start?

What budget management instrument can you share with parliament to allow parliament to view government' s spending in relation to the budget? What about monthly reports before the 15th of the following month?

Question: what is the status of the National Health Insurance plan?

Please provide an overview of consultancy contracts of all ministries and their particulars.

Question: What are the specifics of the proposed gambling tax; the proposed casino fees; and proposed economic licenses (page 28)?

Question: What part of the proposal for income on petroleum products has government decided to abandon and why? (page 28)

Question: Has government received the advice it requested on how much dividend can be collected on the basis of the 2013 annual accounts of government companies? (Page 29). If not, how can government declare dividend? And if yes,,what are these recommendations?

Question: when can we expect the non-audited figures for 2014?
See page 30.

On page 30, the government speaks of reduction. The table on that page is not about reduction. To the contrary. Pls. Explain.

Review of subsidies, not part of IVUV project, but of SOAB' s plan. Has it started in 2014? If not, will it be in the SOAB audit plan 2015?

Question: Which are the project initiatives of VSA for 2.4 m guilders?

Transportation and telecom: 1.4 million additional. Explain.

Question: Did government or did it not contribute to the FCCA conference? If not how was the shortfall covered?