



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

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To the Chairman of Parliament

The Honorable Dr. L. Richardson

February 12, 2015

Dear Chairperson,

Kindly find enclosed questions directed to the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunication.

Please forward these to the Minister concerned with the usual expediency.

Respectfully,


Sarah A. Wescot- Williams
Member of Parliament (DP)



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To:

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication,
the Honorable Claret Conner.

February 12, 2015

Honorable Minister Conner,

During the questioning in the Central Committee meeting of Parliament on February 10th, with the Ministers of TEATT and Finance on the Harbor Group of Companies (Harbor), I focused on several references by the Harbor in its 2013 annual report.

These reports by the way, as far as the financials of the Harbor are concerned are a consolidation of all the companies that fall under the Harbor and these are many.

One recurring reference by the Harbor in the elucidation of these reports regards plans for the Simpson Bay Lagoon and the greater area of Simpson Bay.

My serious concerns with respect to these subtle announcements in the Harbor's 2013 reports, were expressed during aforementioned meeting, but were met with denial by the minister of knowing anything of these plans and the assurance that nothing will happen in general and in Simpson Bay in particular without a strategic plan being presented by the Harbor to government, and ultimately to Parliament.

It appears now however, this assurance by the Minister notwithstanding and zoning hearings notwithstanding, that government (read the Ministry of VROMI) since March 2014 has received a request for water rights at the "head" of Simpson Bay to *...develop a pier, hotel and facilities and amenities to service smaller cruise ships....*

The urgent questions therefore are:

- Has this request been granted?
- Who has the jurisdiction for this area? Government or the Harbor?
- Are these the plans the Harbor alludes to in its 2013 reports as far as Simpson Bay is concerned?
- Must government consult with the harbor on this request?
- Are we about to witness a standoff between Government and Harbor like in the case of Dock Martin or are government and Harbor in on this together?



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It should and can not be that while the Parliament is being assuaged by Government with the promise of a strategic plan of the Harbor, if and when we get so far, the plans for Simpson Bay will already be underway, sanctioned by government and/or harbor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament (DP)