

PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

DRAFT MOTION

The Parliament of Sint Maarten in its meeting of today, July 2, 2019;

Considering:

- The country's serious financial challenges, exacerbated by the hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017;
- That due to these challenges, the budget of the country 2019 has undergone several changes, seeking to comply with the norms as applicable to the budget of St. Maarten, at the same time avoiding to put the proverbial knife in expenditures and programs that provide employment (civil service), care, and social programs, direct and indirect through subsidies, and even seeking some room for new initiatives;
- That this proved only possible with a call on the Dutch Government for liquidity assistance, as was done in 2017 and 2018;
- That the budget for the country St. Maarten because of above and other reasons and the necessary consultations has suffered a serious delay;
- That the Government in order to stay within the financial parameters has had to cut and prioritize throughout the 2019 draft budget;
- That the Dutch Government has again conditioned the liquidity assistance and has reiterated that matters such as pension reform, the 2015 instruction, adjustments to the salaries of Ministers and Members of Parliament, justice agreements, etc. be included in the draft 2019 budget;
- That the Ministry of Finance has slashed the proposed travel budget of Parliament from ANG 873,950 (2018) to ANG 378,143 (2019);
- That the salaries of Members of Parliament are regulated by law and even have safeguards for legislating, requiring a 2/3 majority to establish or amend;
- That the Parliament is not adverse to a discussion regarding salary norms across the board, however this brings more into picture than just salaries of Members of Parliament and Ministers;

- That the condescending attitude towards the Parliament of St. Maarten by the Dutch Government and the pressure on the Government of St. Maarten to circumvent Parliamentary oversight, is unacceptable in our democratic system and that of the Kingdom;
- That the Parliament of St. Maarten nevertheless considers it its duty to assist the Government to bring down the expenses as we await the more fundamental discussions on the way forward;
- That the Parliament is not in favor of the Government's proposal for a so-called voluntary reduction in salary (solidarity act), but prefers a more fundamental addressing of the cost of politics, to use a term of the IMF, as this arrangement is not a structural one;
- That in reviewing the Parliament's budget and Parliament's emoluments, some reductions are possible:

Resolves:

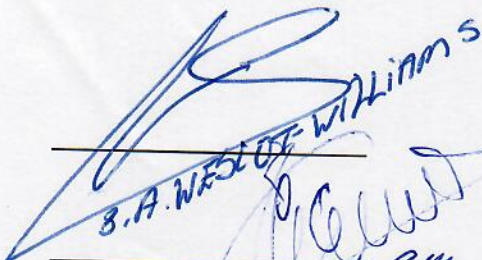
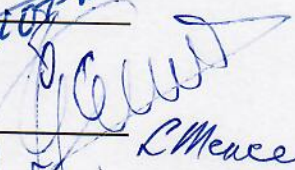

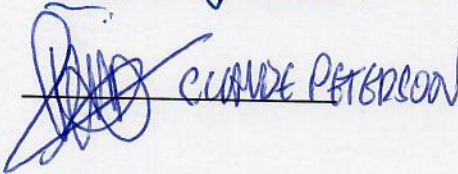
- To eliminate monthly the ANG.500,-- allowance granted to Ministers and Members of Parliaments;
- For the budget 2020 deliberations, that the government presents to parliament a proposal to eliminate fringe benefits such as vacation allowance etc. for politicians and others in the higher(st) salary brackets (at a savings of approximately ANG. 300.000,--.);
- To restrict all government travel delegations to not more than two (2) persons;
- To establish the travel budget of Parliament at ANG. 500.000,-- ;
- To cut Government travel across the board with (another) 10%;

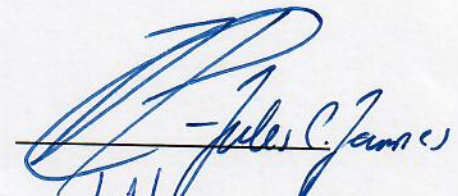
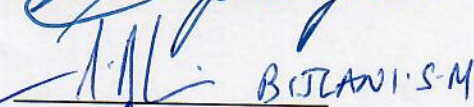
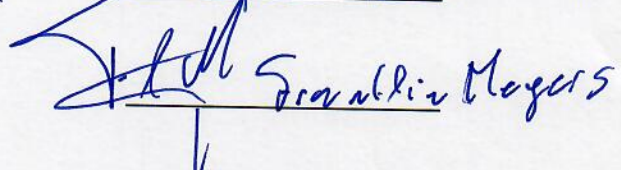
- That more than ANG.500, -- per month in mobile telephone cost will be for account of the individual Ministers and Members of Parliament;
- To collect immediately the 10% medical self-contribution from Members of Parliament and Ministers.

And goes over to the other of the day,

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Governor of Sint Maarten
 The Government of Sint Maarten
 The General Audit Chamber of Sint Maarten


 B.A. WESTCOTT-WILLIAMS

 R. Meacelina

 Frank Leonard

 CLAUDE PETERSON


 Jules C. James

 B. Bislani

 Geradina Meyers



PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

Tuesday, July 02, 2019

Public Meeting, no. 28 (Continuation)

Voting list

Motien no.5

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	Sarah A. Wescot-Williams	✓	
2.	Sidharth M. Bijlani	✓	
3.	Rolando Brison		✓
4.	Chanel E. Brownbill		✓
5.	Egbert J. Doran		✓
6.	Christophe T. Emmanuel		✓
7.	Jules C. James	✓	
8.	Ardwell M.R. Irion		✓
9.	Silveria E. Jacobs		✓
10.	Tamara E. Leonard	✓	
11.	William V. Marlin		✓
12.	Luc F.E. Mercelina	✓	
13.	Franklin A. Meyers	✓	
14.	Claude A.H. Peterson	✓	
15.	Frans G. Richardson	✓	

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