



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication
Mr. S.A. Johnson
p/a Council of Ministers
Philipsburg

UV/041/2018-2019

Philipsburg, September 25, 2018

Re: Questions from MP S.M. Bijlani regarding tourism

Hon. Minister Johnson,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. S.M. Bijlani pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The Member of Parliament has requested for you to be invited to provide the answers to these questions verbally in accordance with article 69c of the Rules of Order. Therefore, I hereby invite you for a Public meeting (Question hour) to be held on Monday, October 22, 2018 from 9.00 – 10.00 hrs.

Yours truly,



S.A. Wescot-Williams
President of Parliament

Linette A. Gibs

Subject: FW: Question Hour TEATT Minister

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN

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From: Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:07 PM

From: Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:07 PM
To: Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert <nancy.joubert@sxmparliament.org>
Subject: Fwd: Question Hour TEATT Minister

From: Cookie Bijlani <cookie.bijlani@gmail.com>
Date: 19 September 2018 at 12:04:45 GMT-4
To: "Sarah A. Wescot-Williams" <sarah.wescot-williams@sxmparliament.org>, Sarah Wescot-Williams <williamssaw@hotmail.com>
Subject: Question Hour TEATT Minister

Respected Chairlady,

I would like to have questions for Minister of TEATT for the question hour

Following will be my questions

Question Hour with Minister of TEATT

- 1) What plans are being made for the upcoming season.
- 2) What will be the Room Inventory by Start of the season
- 3) We all know that Tourism is our livelihood and if we cannot increase those numbers we will have a big issue on hand, I have seen negative announcement published by cruise lines and also on the website of airlines. How are you going to rectify those? For example on cruise ship they are writing on the in room flyer " Please use caution in port: Avoid carrying large amounts of money, do not wear jewelry make sure cameras purses and bags are secure and beware of pick-pockets"
On the website of Delta airline it says
"St Martin/St Maarten is closed for booking until further notice. This page will be updated as the island rebuilds and is ready to welcome back tourists"
- 4) Why are we not focusing on developing Regional Tourism especially in slow season
- 5) How much is the destination marketing budget and of which how much has been spent
- 6) Has the ministry undertaken any beautification projects? If yes than which project
- 7) What measures are being undertaken to attract new investments
- 8) Are any new airline carriers being approached for our destination
- 9) Is the airline fare (those which are extremely high) issue being handled?
- 10) Post Irma many road directional and Landmark signs are still missing
Are they being restored or planned to be restored?
- 11) What is the status of our Airport any updates of when will it open back

12) Any plans for spreading the busy hours of Airport which currently are from 12-4 to a more stretched out time slots like 11 am to 8 pm so as to avoid cumbersome approach at the airport.

13) We also need to spend some money on social media advertising. This is the best medium to attract and educate visitors about our offerings. If we advertise that we r a duty free shopping hub and showcase what we offer, that is what the tourists coming to our shores will want to see. All we seem to advertise is the planes landing next to sunset beach bar. (Go there on a ship day and see how many people go there)

Facebook, Twitter, instagram, Snapchat... we need to make Sxm shopping "trending" on all. This needs to be handled by a professional media company.

14) Any viable way can we bring free internet at the airport for convenience of passengers.

Thank you

MP Cookie Bijlani