



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication
a.i.

Mr. V.H.C. de Weever

Philipsburg

UV/126/2017-2018

Philipsburg, February 13, 2018

Re: Questions from MP T.E. Leonard regarding diversion funds fix up Leah building for Tourist Bureau

Hon. Minister de Weever,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. Tamara E. Leonard pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

S.A. Wescot-Williams
President of Parliament



From the Desk of

Tamara E. Leonard

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten, February 12, 2018

MP Sarah Wescot-Williams
Chairwoman of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek.	13 FEB 2018
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Honorable Wescot-Williams,

By means of this letter, I pose the below questions and seek further clarify from the Minister for Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication (TEATT) via Parliament, about the diversion of funds from government coffers to pay for the fixing up of two floors of the Leah Building for the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau.

It is my sworn duty as a Member of Parliament to question the actions of the government, whether it was one in the past or current. The role of an MP is to supervise government and keep ministers, who are appointed in check.

Making use of the right given to me by the Constitution in Article 62, to question ministers. I pose the following question to the minister and demand swift answers. The reallocation of funds for what appears to be a non-essential move while the country is in financial hardship must be explained.

1. Did the former TEATT Minister Mellissa Arrindell-Doncher have permission to divert funds to be paid into the coffers of the cash-strapped government by the Bureau Telecommunication and Post (BTP) for the interior construction process?
2. Was the diversion of funds approved by the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT?
3. Was there a public bid to determine the cost of the fixing the two floors of the Leah Building for STB?, If no why not? After all this concerns a heft bit of taxpayers' money.
4. A document was signed by the current STB Head Rolando Brison "confirming" a breakdown of prices for the fixing up of the building. Under whose authority was he authorized to sign? If is legal for a department head to commit government to such a hefty sum?
5. Was the governor consulted on the diversion of the funds considering the amount the project is tagged at?
6. Considering government's cash strapped position, is this diversion of funds the right thing to do?
7. The correspondence about the move and the connected cost only pinpoints the relocation of STB. What are the plans for the other government departments



housed in the Krippa Building where the STB is now located? Will more floors of BTP be outfitted for them at the same alarming cost?

8. If a contractor has already been pinpointed for the fixing up of the two floors, provide the name and other relevant information. This should not be covered under any confidentiality due to the expending of government funds.
9. Is there a contract, whether signed or in draft, for the rental of the two floors of Leah Building by government. What is the rental price? What are the terms?
10. BTP has had a dispute with government over its quarterly payment of fees collected. Has this been sorted out? If no, what is the amount BTP still owes government or the amount that is still in dispute?

I look forward to prompt answers from the minister.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tamara', is written above a horizontal line.

Ms. Tamara E. Leonard

Member of Parliament

TEL/sa