



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Finance
Mr. R. Gibson
p/a Council of Ministers
Philipsburg

UV/313/2015-2016

Philipsburg, August 30, 2016

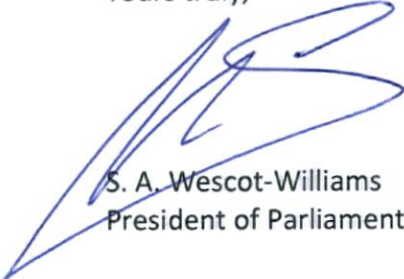
Re: Questions from MP T.E. Leonard regarding the financial impact on effective functioning of Justice chain

Hon. Minister Gibson,

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

Subject: FW: Financial impact on effective functioning of Justice Chain

From: nancy.ioubert@sxmparliament.org [<mailto:nancy.ioubert@sxmparliament.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 1:04 PM

From: Tamara Leonard [<mailto:tleonard1974@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 6:19 PM
To: Nancy Joubert
Subject: Financial impact on effective functioning of Justice Chain

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
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MP Sarah Wescot-Williams
Parliament Chairwoman
Parliament House
Wilhelminastraat
Philipsburg

August 29, 2016

Re: Financial impact on effective functioning of Justice Chain

Dear MP Wescot-Williams,

By means of this letter, I am directing the questions stated below to both Finance Minister Richard Gibson and Justice Minister Edson Kirindongo on the topic of Government's financial constraints and its effect on the proper functioning of the country's justice chain. Considering the severity of the situation, based on information I have gather, I hereby request my questions be answered post haste and precisely by the ministers.

My questions are related to the agenda point of the aborted plenary session of Parliament on Monday, August 29. Finance Minister Gibson was in Parliament to answer questions from MPs about the country's financial state, but was unable to continue his presentation due to lack of preparation or coordination with his fellow ministers.

Instead of waiting until the meeting resumes sometime in the future and allowing issues of grave concern about the country's safety and security, I have chosen to address my questions to the ministers in writing.

I am addressing both the Finance and Justice Ministers to ensure all bases are covered. Finance must provide all financial details and Justice should cover the impacts.

My questions are as follows:

1. What impacts do government's dire financial constraints have on the justice chain?
2. Has government lapsed in payment for services and/or equipment to any sector of the justice chain, e.g. Police, Court of Guardianship, Prosecutor's Office? If yes, which sectors? What are the amounts owed and how extensive is the backlog?
3. How does government intend to correct the backlogs, if such exists, and now soon?
4. How is the non-payment, rather the neglect of government of its financial responsibilities, affecting the justice chain in its critical function?

5. Does government consider the non-payment of its bills, say for example to the Prosecutor's Office and/or for the ActPol service, thwarting the work of law enforcement and putting the country as severe security risks, internally and externally?

6. There has always been the perception that the Dutch Government pays for our justice chain. Can you give a financial breakdown of what government covers for example for the RST, Marechaussee, Prosecutor's Office, Attorney General, Court and Court of Guardianship?

I look forward to answers to my questions and any supporting document from the ministers as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Tamara Leonard
Member of Parliament
United People's (UP) party