



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Justice
Mr. E. Kirindongo
p/a Council of Ministers
Philipsburg

UV/320/2015-2016

Philipsburg, September 6, 2016

Re: Questions from MP T.E. Leonard regarding the situation at Pointe Blanche Prison

Hon. Minister Kirindongo,

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

linette.gibs@sxmparliament.org

Subject: FW: [Fwd: Situation at Point Blanche Prison]
Attachments: untitled-[2].html

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From: Nancy Joubert [<mailto:nancy.joubert@sxmparliament.org>]
Sent: Monday, September 5, 2016 10:00 AM

Subject: Situation at Point Blanche Prison
From: "Tamara Leonard" <tleonard1974@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, September 5, 2016 1:15 pm
To: "Nancy Joubert" <nancy.joubert@sxmparliament.org>

Greetings Nancy,

Please see below the dotted line for the attention of the honorable Chairwoman.

Also, please confirm receiving and thank you in advance.

MP Sarah Wescot-Williams
Parliament Chairwoman
Parliament House
Wilhelminastraat
Philipsburg

September 5, 2016

Re: Situation at Pointe Blanche Prison

Dear MP Sarah Wescot-Williams,

By means of this letter I am directing the below questions to Justice Minister Edson Kirindongo about the situation at Pointe Blanche Prison. I have very grave concerns about the security and safety at the institution for both prison personnel and inmates.

1. Since becoming Minister, did you visit the prison? If yes, did you take a full inventory of issues? If yes, did you make stock of the problems?
2. The staff have been complaining to various unions about severe under staffing and lack of tools to enhance the security, for the safety of staff and inmates. At any point did the director of the prison inform you about the situation? If yes, what was your response?
3. Why was the expansion of the prison come to a halt?
4. Did the director of the prison ever request extra man power in order to enhance the security and safety of the prison and its staff members? If yes, did you grant this request. If no, why?
5. A change manager was brought from Curaçao to assist the director. What has been achieved since his arrival and where does his salary reflect in the budget?
6. What is the reason for bring him there?

7. An unfortunate incident took place in the prison where by an inmate lost his life. Can you explain to the public of St. Maarten what measures have been take to prevent this from reoccurring What measures are in place to present such from happening to the staff?

8. Apparently, it took you two days after the gruesome murder of the inmate to visit the prison and during that visit you refused to have a conversation about the incident with the staff members. Is this true? If yes, what was more priority that this that you were not able to go instantly?

9. Is it true that prison guards are working 12 hour shifts on a regular basis?

I look forward to speedy answers from the Minister in written form or in person if a meeting is called which ever comes first about my concerns.

Sincerely,

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