



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

Parliamentary Year 2017-2018-113

National Ordinance amending the National Ordinance structure and organization of national government in connection with the embedding of the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary (Parliamentary Year 2017-2018-113)

**Report
No. 5**

Parliament in its meeting of the Central Committee has exchanged views with the Government on the Draft National Ordinance amending the National Ordinance structure and organization of national government in connection with the embedding of the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary.

Parliament considers the present draft to be adequately prepared when the questions below are answered in time for the public meeting so that the draft can be discussed in a public meeting.

The United Democrats-faction has taken note of the draft with interest. The faction mentioned that this matter of formalizing the position of the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary can fall under the governing accord statement with respect to strengthening that office. What is the current formation of the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary? When were the last financial statements of this Cabinet submitted? Can we receive an indication as to the spending of the Cabinet. When does the government foresee this ambinsstructie being established? It is important as it will regulate the relationship between the government here and the Minister Plenipotentiary. The faction further mentioned that the director and its position is comparable with a secretary general's position. What does that mean in terms of the remuneration of the director? Will that also be in line with the remuneration of the secretaries general? Can the government provide Parliament with a copy of the instruction which goes back to the days of the Netherlands Antilles and is of 1993?

The National Alliance-faction has taken note of the draft with interest. The faction posed the following questions: After the Cabinet is embedded to the Liol, considering that the staff consist of civil servants and persons that were hired by the foundation, will the staff members that are not civil servants, become civil servants of the Government of Sint Maarten after this process? Or will there still be a setup as they have been working through the foundation? Will everyone need to reapply for their jobs? Will things continue as they were done before? Will future staff of the Cabinet be hired through the Government of Sint Maarten? Will it be vacancies here? Will there be vacancies in the Netherlands? How will this go with the current law change? How much more will it cost Government to maintain the staff with this intentional change?

The faction further mentioned that the uitgezonden kracht cost more than local staff. All these cost of being overseas oppose to the civil servants here will have to also be considered with this change. The faction would like some clarity on this and if any extra cost can be calculated thus far?

What are the current limitations or challenges being experienced by the Cabinet and the Minister Plenipotentiary in being able to carry out its task and how do we see that these new changes will improve upon that?

Right now in the current status, what is wrong with it now that it needs to be regulated and changed for the future? What is the difference that is going to be added to the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary?

Will this change or influence the size of the staff? Everytime a new minister is sworn in, will this be the same as it is now in Sint Maarten where the staff changes or will the jobs be of a permanent nature?

What will happen to those political appointees? How will they be regulated now? What happened to the director who was there? She was basically sent home. The faction is of the opinion that this is simply securing positions for whoever is


in office at the time. Now nothing can be changed when a new government goes in and appoints a new Minister of Plenipotentiary to go with staff or whoever they feel comfortable or can trust. Was it so that there were administrative workers and there were political workers that were appointed prior, when government changes? The faction understands that there is a need a functionbook defining administrative workers that should remain permanent. But because it is still a political appointment and a political appointee needing political advisors as well, will provisions be made within this new functionbook for those political appointments? The director who has been dismissed, was her contract up? And what kind of contract did the director had? The gentleman representing the Christian Party now in the Hague, will he be in a permanent position? Mr. Voges who was Minister of Plenipotentiary, his daughter is also there and has been there from the beginning. Is that a permanent position? How many individuals were relieved from their position?

The United St. Maarten Party-faction has taken note of the draft and have the following questions: What are the consequences for persons who have previously held positions in the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary? Have employees and Ministers in the previous Cabinets forfeited benefits, job security, and if so is this being corrected retroactively?

This report is to be considered as Final Report.

Stipulated in the meeting of the Central Committee of October 11th, 2018.

The Reporter,



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