Re: Questions from MP R. Brison regarding two amendments to the 2021 budget

Hon. Minister Lawrence,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, MP Mr. R. Brison, according to article 62 of the Constitution and Article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

Pursuant to article 69a of the Rules of Order, if you are unable to answer the questions within three weeks please notify my person stating the underlying reason. In doing so you can send the answers that you already have and answer the remaining questions in writing within (another period of) three weeks.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament
To:
The Hon. President of Parliament
Mr. Rolando Bison
Parliament of St. Maarten
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, September 29th, 2021

RE: Letter to the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport & Telecommunications, Mr. Roger Lawrence

Hon. President of Parliament,

Kindly receive the attached letter addressed to the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications for further processing.

Sincerely,

Rolando Brison
Hon. Minister Lawrence,

As you know the Parliament of Sint Maarten approved together with the 2021 budget two amendments that has been submitted by my person. One of which brought in various amendments regarding the Tourism budgets. Primarily Tourism budgets falls under your ministry but also another amendment that made a change to the Capital expenditure budget in which cars that were originally budgeted that were eventually said to be provided by the NRPB instead, those Nafls. 400,000 guilders would instead go to a “beginning phase 1” for the marketplace in Philipsburg.

As you know, as Members of Parliament we would pass by the Marketplace on a daily basis and witness the unideal situation the vendors face. Going into the high tourism season especially knowing you with your vast knowledge and experience in the cruise sector it would be good if some plans can be made and some indications be given to Members of Parliament as well as to the public with regards to the marketplace and the allocation of the Nafls. 400,000 guilders, part of which can be used for improvements for the up-coming tourism high season.

My questions to you Hon Minister is as follows:

1. Can the Minister provide an update to the Members of Parliament with any plans for the spending of the Nafls 400,000 guilders in Capital expenditures?

2. After the Nafls 400,000 guilders which was passed by the Members of Parliament in the terms of the phase 1, what are the longer term plans for the placement of the marketplaces within Philipsburg for vendors?

3. In preparation for the budget 2022 debate, can the Hon. Minister please indicate any other capital expenditures that he would ideally like to see included with regards to the improvement of Philipsburg and the improvement of vendors in Sint Maarten? These
can be abstract and simply be ideas as I can imagine that as the Minister continues to do his work within the ministry, he will be more able to provide more detail plans but for the purpose of this questions a basic broad statement or some ideas will be more than welcome.

Hon. Minister Lawrence, I thank you once more and encourage you to keep up the good work for the people of Sint Maarten as we continue to work together as Parliament and the Ministry to improve our economy and our very important Tourism product.

Sincerely,

Rolando Brison