



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning, Infrastructure and Environment
Mr. M. Giterson
Administration Building
Clem Labega Square
Philipsburg

UV/079/2018-2019

Philipsburg, October 25, 2018


Re: Questions from MP T.E. Leonard regarding street and traffic lights

Hon. Minister Giterson,

Herewith I submit to you a request from Member of Parliament, Ms. T.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,


T.E. Heyliger
Vice President of Parliament



Tamara Leonard

Member of the Parliament of
Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 22 OCT 2018			
Volgnr. 15/234/18-19			
Par.	15	GR	

Chairlady of Parliament
Sarah Wescott-Williams
Present

Philipsburg, Monday October 22th 2018

Subject: requesting the Minister of VROMI for an update on the state of affairs pertaining to street & traffic lights on our island.

Honorable President,

The Minister of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure, together with other members of the Council of Ministers are responsible for safety and security on our public roads and in our neighborhoods. It is for this reason that I am requesting an update as to the status of fixing and putting back of street (and traffic) lights on the roads and in our neighborhoods.

While the passing of Hurricane Irma and Maria has set our country significantly back and priority is being placed on the most evident matters as our economy and the dump, it cannot be that we lose sight of other matters that is just as important when looking at the bigger picture.

A very important aspect of a strategic economic/tourism development plan, is creating the feeling of safety and security for tourists, when walking around at night through Sint Maarten streets.

In that same light, one cannot overlook the fact that many of our people have lost their income on September 6th 2017. Dark neighborhoods provide those with intentions to steal, molest, etc. the perfect opportunity. Dark roads and neighborhoods also increase the chances of traffic accidents at night as it becomes more difficult to see pedestrians, holes, etc., on our roads.

Last but not least, Sint Maarten's only traffic light has also not been fixed as yet. I would like to know if there are plans to fix this dangerous intersection. In addition, a majority of our traffic signs have been destroyed by Hurricane Irma, these too would need to be replaced. One key example of a disaster waiting to happen is by intersection at the entrance of Coralita Road from the Betty's Estate side. This intersection had 3 traffic signs prior to the passing of Irma up. Not one stop sign nor the "verboden" sign is currently up. As a result those who are familiar with the previous signs adhere to them while others don't.

As a government it is our responsibility, to at least provide basic infrastructure that fosters safety and security for our people and those visiting our island.

It is for this reason Madam President, that I would like to ask the Minister of VROMI the following questions:

- 1) How soon will the traffic lights be up and running again and how much will this cost?
- 2) By when will all traffic signs be replaced has this been budgeted for 2019?
- 3) What percentage of our neighborhoods does not have any streetlights since Irma?
- 4) What percentage of the areas that are critical to our economy, do not have streetlights since Irma?
- 5) Is there a strategic plan in place to fix and or place back streetlights per neighborhood?
- 6) Has any fixing of streetlights taken place since Irma?
- 7) How much would it cost to recreate a Pre-Irma state where it pertains to streetlights?
- 8) How long would it take for us to at least reach back to the Pre-Irma state?
- 9) To what extent is there any joint agreements made with other ministries where it pertain to budget, ensuring safety of tourists, concerns of the police, creation of labour, etc?

I look forward to a prompt, yet comprehensive and clean response to my questions.
Respectfully,



Ms. Tamara E. Leonard
Member of Parliament

Cc. Minister TEATT

Cc. Minister Justice

TEL/sa