



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs
Mrs. L.M. Romeo-Marlin
Philipsburg

UV/172/2018-2019

Philipsburg, January 24, 2019

Re: Questions from MP F.G. Richardson regarding the financing of the reconstruction of PJIA

Hon. Minister Romeo-Marlin,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. Frans. G. Richardson is 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

Final

Questions USP Faction on January 21, 2019

Agenda point public meeting: Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA)

Monday, January 21, 2019	OV 17	15.00	Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) (This meeting was requested by MP A.M.R. Irion, MP E.J. Doran and MP C.T. Emmanuel, MP S.E. Jacobs, MP F.G. Richardson, and MP R. Brison) (IS/487/18-19 d.d 14 January 2019)	MinAZ	Confirmed by MinAZ
--------------------------------	-------	-------	---	-------	-----------------------

(

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek.	21 JAN 2019
Volgnr.	15/517/18-19
Par.	#8 #9

Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA)
(This meeting was requested by MP A.M.R. Irion, MP E.J. Doran and MP C.T. Emmanuel, MP S.E. Jacobs, MP F.G. Richardson, and MP R. Brison) (IS/487/18-19 d.d 14 January 2019)

Questions:

1. Please confirm the total amount of the financing which has been negotiated with the Dutch Government and the World Bank?
Please provide the details of the amount, entity and form of funding (loan or grant).
2. Will the \$ 5 million injection be added or subtracted from the loan or the grant?
3. Mention is also made of a \$ 15 million injection. Again will this be added or subtracted from the loan or the grant?
4. What amount will be available for the reconstruction?

Questions USP Faction on January 21, 2019

Agenda point public meeting: Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA)

5. There seems to a pattern. Stall till liquidity is tight. Then take financial assistance to rebuild but use some of that for operational expenses. Sound familiar? Is that not how the financial injections to government are going with the consequence of only 7 roofs having been repaired?
6. What are the terms other than that which has been published?
7. What has happened to the insurance claim?
8. How much was paid?
9. Where is the money?
10. Where is the revenue currently generated by the airport going?
11. Provide a preliminary financial statement to Parliament.
12. What is the status of the case or arbitration regarding the insurance claim?
13. How much of the insurance claim has been paid out to date and to whom?
14. How much is owed to the current bond holders?
15. Did the current bond holders who loaned the airport \$ 140 million, at any time demand or require a seat on the board or in management?
16. Have the current bondholders requested a guarantee from Government?
17. Has the government refused to provide a guarantee to the current bondholders? If so why and what are the consequences?
18. The Prime Minister announced that The Dutch government, as trust fund donor, has made approval of the grant/loan financing by the trust fund steering committee conditional on the completion of an integrity check of the airport, a corporate governance risk assessment and follow-up on attracting

Questions USP Faction on January 21, 2019

Agenda point public meeting: Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA)

international expertise to fill a temporary position each in the airport supervisory board and its board of directors for a maximum of two years.

Would the government please explain what the following entails?

- Integrity Check of the airport;
- Corporate governance risk assessment;
- A position on the managing board;
- A position on the supervisory board.

19. What are the consequences of the results of the Integrity check of the airport and the corporate governance risk assessment?
20. What is considered an acceptable level of integrity and corporate risk assessment? What is being measured? Who is being measured? Which measuring stick is being used in other words, what are the criteria?
21. Is government applying the rules of Good Corporate Governance or is it overstepping its legal boundaries which should be to maintain an arms length approach?
22. What caused other financing negotiations to be discarded?
23. Please remind us how much the World Bank is being paid to manage the Trust Fund and what the terms are. Please provide an itemized list (Financial overview) of all money spent by the World Bank from the funds donated to St. Maarten by the Dutch Government via the Trust Fund.
24. Has any evaluation been done of the management of the Trust Fund by the World Bank?
25. How has the performance of the World Bank thus far been rated?
26. How much has the World Bank been paid thus far?

Questions USP Faction on January 21, 2019

Agenda point public meeting: Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA)

27. USP congratulates Claret Connor with his position. What is his role in managing the Trust Fund? If none, then what is Mr. Connor's role?
28. The Government is very involved in this financial affair of the airport. What is the position of the shareholder of the PJIAE in this matter? What is the position of the supervisory board of PJIAE in this matter?
29. What are the conditions of the World Bank Loan?
30. Are local contractors excluded from participating in contracts at the airport?
31. Is there a minimum quota established to ensure that local contractors are guaranteed work in the reconstruction of the airport?
32. Are the articles of incorporation being changed to accommodate the actions of the government?
33. Will local Notaries have the opportunity to participate in providing notarial services to the Airport?
34. How long will the committee be in place or is this a pro-bono case including the services of the current Notary?
35. The Prime Minister speaks of approved Conditions set by the Dutch. Who approved them? Who is authorized to approve them?
36. Has the Dutch Government approved the 2 year term condition?
37. Why has Parliament not received the entire financing package?
38. Is the airport still negotiating the bridge loan? How many companies were approached? Were the current bond holders approached?
39. Is this a cooperative effort or an instruction from the Dutch Government?
40. Who is negotiating the loan of the airport, the airport or the government? Is the government negotiating on behalf of the

Questions USP Faction on January 21, 2019

Agenda point public meeting: Discussion on the decision of the Council of Ministers taken on Tuesday to go with the Dutch government and European Investment Bank (EIB) financing proposal to the tune of US \$100 million for the reconstruction of St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA)

airport and if so is there an agreement thus setting aside the corporate governance rule of arm's length?

- 41. Are the conditions for financing the airport similar or the same as the SMMC?**
- 42. Are headhunters looking for the boardmembers?**
- 43. Who will do the screening of these recruits?**
- 44. Will the positions be advertised on St. Maarten?**
- 45. Did CFT approve the \$ 5 Million, \$ 15 million, \$ 50 Million by the World Bank and \$ 50 Million from European Investment Bank?**