



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure
Mr. M.F.A. Gumbs
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/207/2014-2015

Philipsburg, March 13, 2015

Re: Questions MP Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

Hon. Minister Gumbs,

Herewith I submit to you questions by the Member of Parliament, Mrs. Sarah A. Wescot-Williams, pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution of Sint Maarten and article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament.

The letter is self explanatory.

L.J. Richardson, MD
President of Parliament



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Chairman of Parliament
The Honorable Dr. L. Richardson

March 12th 2015

Dear Chairperson,

Enclosed kindly find letter directed to the Minister of VROMI regarding petition submitted to Parliament, along with additional questions pertaining to this topic.

Please forward these to the Minister concerned with the usual expediency.

Respectfully,


Sarah Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament (DP)

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 12 MAR 2015			
Volgnr. 15/519/14-15			
Par.			



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

Minister of VROMI,
The Honorable Marcel Gumbs,
Government Administration Building

Sint Maarten, March 12th 2015

Honorable Minister Gumbs,

Kindly take note of this petition addressed to the Parliament of St. Maarten.

Based on information contained herein, I respectfully ask that you also respond to my questions regarding this topic dated February 12, 2015 (see attached).

In addition, I submit the following questions:

Is government aware of the allegations contained in the petition to Parliament?

What does government plan to do about these allegations?

On what basis has Mr. M. K. Halley very recently been removed from the adjacent piece of property by inspectors of VROMI?

Is government willing to consider favorably Mr. Halley's request to receive the adjacent (filled) piece of land in long lease?

How can government explain a long lease deed being issued for a "privately" sold parcel of land, according to the petitioners?

Respectfully submitted,


Sarah Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament (DP)



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Chairman of Parliament
The Honorable Dr. L. Richardson

February 12, 2015

Dear Chairperson,

Kindly find enclosed questions directed to the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs,
Transportation and Telecommunication.

Please forward these to the Minister concerned with the usual expediency.

Respectfully,


Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament (DP)

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek.	13 FEB 2015
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Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To:

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication,
the Honorable Claret Conner.

February 12, 2015

Honorable Minister Conner,

During the questioning in the Central Committee meeting of Parliament on February 10th, with the Ministers of TEATT and Finance on the Harbor Group of Companies (Harbor), I focused on several references by the Harbor in its 2013 annual report.

These reports by the way, as far as the financials of the Harbor are concerned are a consolidation of all the companies that fall under the Harbor and these are many.

One recurring reference by the Harbor in the elucidation of these reports regards plans for the Simpson Bay Lagoon and the greater area of Simpson Bay.

My serious concerns with respect to these subtle announcements in the Harbor's 2013 reports, were expressed during aforementioned meeting, but were met with denial by the minister of knowing anything of these plans and the assurance that nothing will happen in general and in Simpson Bay in particular without a strategic plan being presented by the Harbor to government, and ultimately to Parliament.

It appears now however, this assurance by the Minister notwithstanding and zoning hearings notwithstanding, that government (read the Ministry of VROMI) since March 2014 has received a request for water rights at the "head" of Simpson Bay to *...develop a pier, hotel and facilities and amenities to service smaller cruise ships....*

The urgent questions therefore are:

- Has this request been granted?
- Who has the jurisdiction for this area? Government or the Harbor?
- Are these the plans the Harbor alludes to in its 2013 reports as far as Simpson Bay is concerned?
- Must government consult with the harbor on this request?
- Are we about to witness a standoff between Government and Harbor like in the case of Dock Martin or are government and Harbor in on this together?



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It should and can not be that while the Parliament is being assuaged by Government with the promise of a strategic plan of the Harbor, if and when we get so far, the plans for Simpson Bay will already be underway, sanctioned by government and/or harbor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament (DP)

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek.	04 MAR 2015		
Volgnr.	15/478/14-15		
Par.	1	2	3

To
The Committee for Petitions of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat no.1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

March 2, 2015

Honorable members of Parliament,

On the outskirts, Simpsonbay is a bustling and thriving village. One that contributes in no small measure to the economy of St. Maarten. "Inside Simpsonbay" however has maintained some of the charm of an original St. Maarten village. Some descendants of the original inhabitants of this village still call this place their home or conduct business here. Here families get together to celebrate their roots and colorful heritage.

A few of the last local fishermen also call here home.

It is in this section of Simpsonbay that the latest saga is unfolding.

At the original entrance to the Simpsonbay village, over the years the parcel of land, commonly referred to as the BBW location has changed many hands and currently is in possession of the EFB Properties N.V. These transfers in ownership have been facilitated by successive governments by way of long lease.

Residents of this area have expressed their written concerns for what seems to be the plans for this location, as a request has been submitted for the development of a pier, a hotel and amenities. Government has remained mum despite several requests for information.

However, the unfolding saga regards the piece of land next to that one of the former BBW. A parcel of land that for centuries has been held to belong to the Lejuez-Halley family.

In this belief, a family member has undisturbed for the past 28 years utilized this land to conduct his business- (MH Maintenance Services N.V.) the only source of livelihood for his family of 8.

In the year 2014, many rapid developments occurred. Government claimed ownership of the private land and granted it in long lease to E.F.B. Properties, all within the space of **six months**.

However, the "new" owners also claim to have paid one heir a handsome amount of **1 million ANG** for the same piece of land.

How is it possible that the land is granted in long lease and at the same time bought from an heir? Let alone for the moment the question on whose authority that one heir acted.

How has this been notarized?

The user of the land Mr. Marlon K. Halley, up until the judge ordered the vacating, has over up until the judge ordered the vacating, has over the years filled back the property as successive hurricanes basically washed the land away.

The original land and the filled part are part of the cadastral measurements.

The person, Mr. Marlon K. Halley, occupying the land for the past 28 years had also requested government to lease the land, once it was learned that government claimed the land to be its own, but this request fell on deaf ears.

Given the above developments, the rightful heirs to the property have placed a lien on the property. This has the potential to cost government and by extension the people of St. Maarten exorbitantly.

Why do this to the people of our country?

The undersigned persons hereby petition the parliament of St. Maarten, the representatives of the people to investigate these developments and to halt the actions of government as far as the developments in this area are concerned and grant the additional parcel of land to Mr. Marlon K. Halley.

We ask that the people's rights be respected.

There is nothing said or presented in this petition that cannot be substantiated with documentation.

For brevity's sake, we have limited ourselves to the highlights. The larger picture however is one of bad governance, curry favor, and other unsavory and downright illegal practices by government.

We therefore address this petition to Parliament, stressing the need for urgent action from Parliament, as every passing day further exacerbates this situation.

We count on Parliament to right this wrong and stand up for the people of St. Maarten.

Respectfully submitted,

Undersigned residents of Simpsonbay