



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

**Parliamentary Year 2014-2015-048**

---

**National Ordinance stipulating the Budget of  
Country Sint Maarten for the year 2015**

---

**Report  
No. 5**

The Parliament in its meeting of the Central Committee had an exchange of views with the Government on the Draft National Ordinance stipulating the budget of the country for the 1 year 2015.

The Parliament considers the draft to be sufficiently prepared if the questions asked below are answered in time for the public meeting so that the draft can be discussed in a public meeting.

**The members of the National Alliance faction** have the following questions.

General

The members of the faction would like to see the governing program. What is the vision of this Government?

Pertaining to the government owned companies, the members would like for a financial audit be conducted. What is the status on the government owned companies? Specifically where services provided to the people of Sint Maarten is concerned.

Can government clarify how it is possible that Parliament is busy handling the budget for 2015 while there still is no clarity on 2014, since the questions as posed to the minister of Finance have remained unanswered?

The cost for TELEM, GEBE, Cable have all increased. Rent by SMHD was raised by NAFL. 200. Where is the protection of the people of Sint Maarten? A consumer protection agency is needed.

## Ministry of General Affairs

The members request that the services provided and the quality thereof are looked into. The members also hope that they could receive a copy of the budget for 2015 for TELEM. Did TELEM make provisions in its budget to ensure that what is due to government will be paid?

How many government vehicles does government own or has in its fleet? How many are owned and how many are leased? How much did government pay in 2013 and 2014 in gasoline? How much is projected in 2015 to be paid in gasoline?

When will be the move in period to the new government administration building? How many rental properties will government have to give up when government moves in to new building? How much will no longer be necessary for rent? What is the total amount of these rents? How many properties will still have to be rented even when fully occupying the new building? Can government provide a breakdown on the increase of the rental budget for the ministry of General Affairs? What does government intend to rent and why?

Government plans to offset monies owed to the pension fund (APS) by giving them the building. Can clarity be provided as to what exactly this final construction has been? Government owes APS monies. Will the management of the fund occur in such a manner that the paying out of pensions can be guaranteed? What is the intention, that government leases the property from the pension fund? Can clarity be provided on this? And if there is a signed agreement, can a copy of that agreement be provided?

Nothing was budgeted in 2014 and 2015 where the COLA is concerned. Is there already an agreement with the civil servants on the COLA adjustments? If yes, can a copy of this agreement be provided? How does government intend to deal with it when it becomes an issue in 2015? Were the unions informed? Can government explain exactly what the freezing entails against the backdrop of hiring more personnel? Can an overview be provided of the amount of hired persons in 2013 and 2014 per ministry and departments and functions? Is there a list of critical functions still to be filled, also broken down per ministry and projected cost to go with this? Are departments in government contracting persons from Curaçao? How many persons are contracted out of Curaçao to work for government? How many persons are contracted out of the Netherlands to work for government?

The budget of the ministry of General Affairs has increased by approximately NAFI. 3,5 million. What are the costs related to the government owned parking lot? What income is derived from said parking lot?

Can Parliament be informed which NGOs received the NAFI. 4.6 million?

Can government indicate how much monies government owned companies spend in 2011 till 2014? Please provide an overview of all ticket, hotel and daily allowances. It concerns the following companies: GEBE, TELEM, the Fire Department & Winair

#### Ministry of Finance

As a matter of fact, the Council of Advice mentions the financial reports of 2012 and 2013 not having gone through the process of receiving their advice. So what are we busy with here? Is it the intention to continue to spend without a vision, a plan, or a projection into the future? Is that the reason the first column in the tables is titled: “vermoedelijke Werkelijke Uitgaven 2013”? Is it so, that we have no clear picture of what our disbursements were in 2013?

What is the financial position of the government? How much money is in the bank accounts? How much are the investments in vehicles? Where in the budget are the losses of the years 2010 - 2014 accounted for?

How much is owed to the APS? How much is owed to the AZV and what arrangements are made to pay those amounts outstanding? Based on which law is the government not accounting for the insurance payments with the AZV for the workers family coverage?

Does the government have a plan to improve compliance? What does the plan entail? What steps will be taken to increase the compliance percentage on Sint Maarten? What is the status of the merging of the inspectorate of taxes and the receiver of Sint Maarten? Can government provide Parliament with a status report update on the project ‘Nieuwe Belastingdienst’? How much extra revenues were generated from this project so far, if any? The persons that were brought in to increase compliance Are they being paid by the Sint Maarten government or Holland? How many were brought in, which departments were

they placed in, how much were they paid, what are their benefits, how long were they employed. Were any counterparts appointed? What is the projected amount to be collected in compliance, 600 million? Does government agree with the exemption for old? How much of the receivables relates to taxes and how far back? Can government give an indebt insight of the seminar on the new tax system for Sint Maarten dated April 2008? Can government give insight, on the agreement and tax system between French-Dutch side of the island pertaining to tax issues? Based on the fact that the revenues are not what they are supposed to be, what measures will be taken to counter this (to increase revenues), casino fees, transfer costs etc. ? How is it possible that government owned companies do not contribute their fair share to the coffers of government?

What are these revenue generating measures? What do government and SOAB intend to do with funds generated? What are these revenues generating measures to which the Minister refers to? Can government explain in detail what the revenue generating measures and cost cutting measures are? How much does government expect to generate from this?

Sint Maarten still does not have a representative on the Board of the Cft. Can the government confirm which candidate, if any, has been officially nominated by the government to represent Sint Maarten on the Board of the Cft? Who is this person? If yes, why has this candidate still not been appointed by the Kingdom Council of Ministers? How far is the appointment process at the moment? Is the government considering nominating an alternative candidate in the event that the nominated candidate is not appointed?

Which budget are we dealing with? Is it the Cft budget, the government budget, the Sint Maarten budget, which budget are we busy with? Can the government indicate if there is a difference of opinion between Government and the Cft regarding which items should be included in the kapitaaldienst and which should not? What is government expecting the course of actions will be, against insistence from Cft to bring down budget / cut from 445?

The committee has finalized its work as pertains the boedelscheiding. Can government provide Parliament with the final report? What has been received by the Sint Maarten from the division of assets and liabilities? What is the total amount of old debts the old debts that still exists?

Nowhere in the budget do I see the windfall from transfer tax which was projected in 2013 from the sale of AUC? Can government explain that?

How much money was AUC allowed to get away with in taxes, what's the figure? And why were they allowed such a precious gift? SMMC is asking for a relief on their taxes to catch up and start back to pay, it is small in comparison to what AUC got away with.

Why were the reports on the Central Bank deemed confidential? Can the minister of Finance give a closed door presentation to parliament on the findings in this report if totally necessary for National Security purposes? How many loans were issued by the Central Bank in 2012, 2013, 2014? What are the total amounts loaned? Please specify the amount for both Sint Maarten and Curacao.

Do the following government owned companies pay TOT? BTP, TELEM, GEBE, Harbor and Airport. How much did government owned companies paid in dividend in 2013 and 2014? Do government owned companies pay TOT? Are they exempted or simply not paying? Can an overview of all government owned companies and their daughter companies and subsidiaries which one pays and the amount in 2013 and 2014 be provided? If any should be paying and not paying what is the accumulated amount over the years? Do hotels pay TOT?

Even the Sint Maarten airport stated in September 2013 that they were looking into a dividend policy. To date there is no dividend policy. What is the status of this? The Harbor and BTP have contributed concessions in 2013 and 2014 and projected for an amount for 2015. While GEBE paid concession in 2013 but is not on budget for 2014 and 2015. Can government explain this?

What measures is government going to take to meet the revenues as mentioned in the report from the Council of advice? What is the minimum wage? What measures are being taken to cut cost reference the government apparatus?

In 2011 Minister Shigemoto, in 2012 Minister Tuitt and from 2013 till present the Minister Hassink referred to the quarter reports. What is the status on these reports?

These members are of the opinion that it behooves the government to communicate in a concise manner to the public and Parliament as to why budget cuts were made while there is an increase in the projected income of government by approximately 28 million guilders in language they will

understand. These members hope that the presentation in public meeting will be more detailed and that the explanations are clear to all.

What will the NAFI. 2 million guilders set aside for Comptabiliteit be used for?

There was a substantial projected investment of NAFI. 35 million in 2014, has this been tendered? To what end and did it benefit the people? What's now the intention of the 5 million budgeted for capital investments?

Taking into consideration the steps taken by S4 to inform students of their responsibility to repay their loan what steps to actually collect funds from student loans have been taken by the finance department? How many students have been assessed, informed and how many repayment plans have been executed?

In the explanatory notes on page 28/29 as it pertains to plans to deal with IVUV measures. The activities are planned for September, October and November. Is this intended for 2014 or 2015? If it is 2014, have they been executed? If 2015, why have they been deferred to the last quarter?

The impression is created that is every former ministers and Members of Parliament are receiving or are to receive a hefty pay for up to 2 years. Can government explain exactly how government is applying this? How has it been applied recently and over the past years? Is it so that ministers are to receive the full compensation or based on documentation to be submitted? How many former Ministers and Members of Parliament have received and how much this amounts to per year for the next couple of years? Based on the Law on Pension for former island council members and commissioners: how many of these former island council members and commissioner are receiving (including widows and widowers), how much per year, is there a projection currently in budget for those who are yet to receive for serving as island council member or commissioner?

Is there a tax holiday policy? Does government extend tax holiday? If the answer is yes, how many companies are enjoying the benefits of a tax holiday?

How many casino fees were collected in 2013 and 2014? And how much has to be collected still? Were there payment arrangements made for fees that are still owed? From October 10, 2010 till now, how many remissions were there

for owed casino fees? If this is yes, when did that happen and how much money are we talking about?

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

What plans are there in place to account for the increases in capital investments in the Department of Education? Where will the general public see these investments? The functioning of the Department of Education has been called to question over the years in terms of its management of schools, personnel as well as the finances entrusted to it. Has the hiring of teachers and staff been regulated in such a manner that it takes place in a timely fashion? Has the management operations been streamlined with more responsibilities going to school managers?

Can Parliament see the action plans of the Department of Education as it pertains to the HR cycle and how it will be executed in time for the new school year?

How many managers, teachers, and staff are needed? How many new and experienced local and Dutch teachers have been recruited?

How many new public schools have been established in 2014/2015 and for 2015/2016?

Are there plans for a new high school anywhere on the island? Especially a Dutch high school? How many kindergarten institutions do we have? How many primary schools do we have? How many teachers do we have, do we have adequately enough teachers to man the schools that we have? Out of all these schools which of these institutions are subsidized by government? Does government have any intentions to look into the situation brewing at the NIPA? To regulate the situation happening at NIPA?

What was the NAFI. 3.8 million budgeted in 2014 for Culture invested in? Is this going towards refurbishing of cultural buildings or in planning for the new much talked about performance arts center? If so, why is there no such projection into 2015? It is mentioned in the explanatory notes, but it can't be found back in the budget?

Several sports facilities were planned to be upgraded and construction was initiated on 2. What stage of development are we currently at in terms of the much needed upgrading of sports facilities? Has funding for phase 2 of RISC

already been procured and has the project already been tendered? If so, when do we expect phase 2 at RISC to take place? What timeframe is projected for the repair of John Cooper and the L. B. Scot Sports Auditorium?

Which Semi-private and NGO organizations will benefit from the NAFI. 6 million projected in capital investments? It is noted that NAFI. 6.5 million was budgeted for 2014, has this been tendered and used? 50% of subsidies have been cut. Can government indicate which NGOs will not receive subsidy anymore?

What benefit did the department charged with the protection of minors or said minors have? Which benefits were the minors able to enjoy? If this has not taken place, then when can it be expected to take place?

How many students were issued study financing during 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014? How many students will be able to be granted study financing now that the 2015 budget has been cut by almost 1 million guilders?

The special school planned for Belvedere, what is its goal, who is the target group, how many students are going to be enrolled there? When can we see such plans? What are the results of the testing done on our children in 2013? What plans are in the offing to deal with their special needs? Has testing continued on a regular basis to ensure that all children are being educated at their level? Has this been taken into consideration in planning for education, and the necessary buildings, programs etc. that will be needed? Can government give the results of the tests for the children in special education? Are there programs for them and how will this affect the budget?

The Department of Education was asked to formulate a discipline policy, Divisions SSSD, DEI, DI had to plan the Educational Care Unit so it could be included in the budget. Have these plans and programs been discontinued? If yes, why? What plans have been put in place to meet the needs of our students who are identified as behavioral challenges, repeatedly suspended, moved around to other schools? What plans are in place to meet the needs of special education students?

It has been brought to the attention of the faction that several necessary programs for the youth were cut from the budget. This is alarming, because during the tenure of a minister pertaining to this faction it was clearly evident that more programs were needed, and several motions were brought forward to



that effect. In the capital investments monies were set aside to build facilities, and the budget was increased to include two more community school programs.

Have the Youth Programs at Dutch Quarter community center and Belvedere Community Center has been cut? Are the youth a priority to this government? Or are we only concerned about them when they are at a level of criminality?

The recently opened Lalie Center is now meeting that need, however, what assistance do we offer the students, parents, school staff and community for children who are not yet at that level, but are a serious challenge?

Which programs are geared towards the majority of children and youth, who need to be exposed to our culture, develop their artistic and athletic skills? Where do we see this reflected in this budget?

The NSI has been established, and there is a budget post of NAFI. 400.000. How is the foundation to execute the policies of government with this budget?

The subsidy to the museum has been cut. The subsidy for CBA has been cut. The subsidy for the Monumentenzorg has been cut. Can government explain this?

The ICT investments were budgeted for all public schools in 2014. Was this executed? Have all stakeholders been trained to use the school ICT system? When is this expected to be completed? Has the budget included the licenses needed to operate these systems? Does the budget include the maintenance of these systems?

Has the Inspection submitted a state of education report for 2012-2013 & 2013-2014?

Steps were taken to address the steadily increasing school bus budget. It is unbelievable that now the budgeted amount is at NAFI. 5,4 million. Is this not a case of overspending? Can this area not be properly investigated in order to ascertain the necessity for this many busses and bus trips? Will the ad hoc payment continue without adherence to a policy? How serious are we about cutting unnecessary costs? How many school bus contracts do we actually have? Is this not a case of overspending? Can this area not be properly investigated in order to ascertain the necessity for this many busses and bus trips. Will the ad hoc payment continue without adherence to a policy? How serious are we about cutting unnecessary costs? How many school bus contracts do we actually have?

A few recommendations were made where that is concerned: 1. Implement a bus-swipecard for students including district and school; 2. Pay schoolbus contracts based on the amount of transported students; and 3. Use control units for control and inspection for schoolbusses. Have the bus drivers or companies been regulated, signed contracts with the Inspection division under whose purview this falls? Yet, the budget for school busses has been increased with NAFI. 1,086,354, while the budget for study financing has been decreased by almost NAFI. 1 million. Where is the school bus policy? I have seen a draft, and I believe it behooves government to move forward swiftly and thereby save itself and the people money which can be put to use in financing tertiary studies and or providing for youth programs which have been cut. This faction cannot support a budget which spends money in this ad hoc fashion.

Pertaining to the figures on page 8, 6110. Is this a mistake of 2014 or 2015? If it's a typo, how does it influence the total figures of 6240?

#### Ministry of Justice

What are the plans to tackle the growing crime on the island?

The NAFI. 15 million for the prison in 2014 has it been tendered and used? And what did the investments in the prison cover? Seeing the manner in which undesirables still make their way into our prisons, and the violence still being experienced there, can government explain where the next NAFI. 11 million will be invested in as pertains to the necessary improvements at the prison?

#### Ministry of Housing Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure

Who own the storage tanks at GEBE, how much are we paying the owners, on a monthly or weekly basis? How does it work? How much is paid monthly or weekly? How does this work exactly? Are there intentions to have Mr. Mingo, CEO of the Harbour as the new CEO of GEBE? Does GEBE plan to continue with its plans for underground cabling (electrical wires underground), how far are they with this?

There is a company that produces water and sells it to GEBE. Does this company pay ToT?

Can government provide clarity as to what is expected to be collected from GEBE with ref. to water distribution? Can government provide clarity on the matter of back taxes of GEBE? Can government provide clarity on the NAFL. 8 million water loss? What is government's position as far as the fuel clause and dropping of fuel clause is concerned? Fuels clause dropped, when listening to others in region they have reduced with 50% already. What is our government's take on this? The projection in June 2013 was that in August 2013 a contract could have been signed with government and the company for a waste to energy plant. How far are the discussions and if indeed a contract has been signed or will be signed soon? Was there a shift in intention? Where will GEBE now build a facility in Cay Bay for NAFL. 120 million, is this indeed so? How many board members are on the board of directors? Compensation given to board members has increased. Can an overview how much they are compensated be provided? How many other persons are retained by the supervisory board to assist them in executing their work? The management board is supervised by board of director's and consultants hired to advise the board on their role to supervise the directors, this would mean government hired persons not qualified: would like to know if indeed this is the case, how many consultants and what are the contracts? Can an overview be provided of what kind of compensation and what the tasks and responsibilities of the consultants are. Members of holding have all been retained by GEBE and still receiving compensation, is this indeed the case? Can an overview be provided as to what is taken place as far as these issues are concerned?

What is the final price tag on the cost way bridge?

Where do we stand with the purchase of the Vorst estate? Has there been any discussions with the new government, any new agreement? And has this government taken a decision to continue where the former minister left off or did it decide to put it on hold? What is the status on this position? Does government have any intention to purchase any properties this year, what properties? To what purpose and what process does government intend to follow? Will it follow the route of having appraisal reports? appraisal reports? What is the total cost of the Vorst property and what does it amounts per square meter?

Can clarity be provided on the realization of a cricket stadium on Sint Maarten? Are there any plans to include one, if yes when if not why not?

For VROMI NAFI. 61 million has been budgeted in the beheerdienst. Yet schools and government buildings, roads, traffic lights, sidewalks etc. are in disrepair. Can government please enlighten the people where these investments have directly benefitted the people of Sint Maarten?

Can government provide an overview of all houses that were auctioned in 2012, 2013 and 2014?

There was an ongoing project to clean up building permits. Is this project still ongoing or has it been finalized? How many building permits were part of this project? How many were approved and how many denied? How much monies was collected from this? How many building permits were granted in 2012, 2013 and 2014? How many requests are still being processed?

The contract of the manager archives of VROMI will expire in 2015. How long has this person been working by VROMI? Does this person have a counterpart?

In which district are the (majority of) the lines underground? There are secondary and primary lines. Can government explain this? Is the main sewage line out of St. Peters area connected?

Will government sign a contract with Rain Forest Adventures? Can government give an explanation pertaining to this? What is government's position on this, the purchase of Emilio Wilson Estate to preserve it for the people of Sint Maarten and not an amusement park for tourists? Are there intentions from this government to develop the Emilio Wilson Estate?

Government needs to give local groups the opportunity to present their plans to develop Emilio Wilson Estate into a cultural park. Would a presentation like that be given to Parliament? Was the SER approached for advice? Did the SER render an advice on its own? Is it correct that a building permit received in 2012 still valid once the long lease has been issues? Did minister responsible instruct the SG of VROMI to prepare a positive advice on the Emilio Wilson Estate? Is it correct that VROMI has one week to finalize the advice?

What are the plans of the airport and of government pertaining to the sand at the airport?

Does Karakter Beach Bar have a permit? Does this restaurant have the right permits? If that is not the case, why not?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

Can the government explain the almost NAFL. 1.5 million drop in projected restaurant permit fees? What constitutes the "other permits" that will suddenly accrue 1 million? Has there been a change in the Lottery ordinance? Where has the projected doubling in income from lotteries been derived? What is understood by the grootboek 54.008 kostenplaats 8240? And Why is Hazard Games expected to decrease in 2015?

What is the cost of the BTP building and does government own the entire building? What amount was collected over the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 from BTP by government?

In checking into the destination Sint Maarten and how we are viewed in the world, and our preparedness as a country, these members have concerns about the recent bomb threats which took place during the past month, at the height of our tourist season. Whilst, being hoaxes these incidents highlight our vulnerability as a tiny country. What was the cost associated with these for the airport and its stakeholders as well as the harbor and its stakeholders? How much did it cost Government in terms of Police, Ambulance and Fire Department? How much did it cost to research the truth about these incidents? What were the consequences for the person who perpetrated these acts? Do we have legislation to make sure that this matter is dealt with on island with legal consequences including fines for cost incurred? If not, government should decide post haste to make this a priority to present legislation towards this end.

How much Tot did SLAC pay in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014? What is the different type of container fees levied by government? What is the container storage fee by category charged by the harbor? How many yachts came to our waters in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014? And how much money did government collect? How many tax and bus licenses were granted?

How far are we with the establishment of the Sint Maarten Tourism Authority? What happened to its legislation?

The process to increase the casino fees was started, but the process was stopped. Is government still planning to increase the casino fees? Why can't they be increased? Where or what is the status of the casino gaming board legislation? What is the position of the consumer protection agency?

What are the different companies that make up the harbor group of companies? What are the tasks of these companies? What were their budgets in 2013 and 2014 and do they pay taxes? Who own the crane at the harbor and who purchased it? How much did the harbor spend on travel in the years 2011-2014? Can a detailed overview be provided of the ticket, hotel cost and daily allowance?

Not so long ago the harbor organized the FCCA conference. It is not yet know how much this conference cost. What is the true cost of the FCCA conference? Did the government contribute with this conference and for how much? Is the mentioned amount the amount that government promised and paid? Or is the amount the amount government promised but did not pay out? An amount was mentioned for setting up the conference hall. Due to hurricane Gonzalo the hall suffered damage. Did the Harbor insure the hall? Did the Harbor claim this damage at insurance companies? Did the Harbor pay the 2.7 million it owed government?

What is the amount of debt the Harbor Group of Companies has accumulated over the years, how much, to whom with specifications?

The issue of the Goya family contract with the harbor to develop a parcel of land. The family have been told that the deal is off and started a court case against the harbor. Can government provide clarity on this as well?

How many security companies are there on the island? And how many employees do these companies have in total?

How many companies changed owners in 2012, 2013 and 2014?

How many casinos are operational on Sint Maarten? How many persons are employed by casinos? How many are permanent?

How many hotels are operational on the island? How many rooms do the hotels have in total? How many of them are timeshare units? How many persons are employed in the hotel sector? How many are on contract and how many were hired through an employment agency?

An increase in timeshare fees has been projected, does government take into consideration the negative reports in the papers and on social media pertaining to Sint Maarten's government allowing timeshare owners to be taken advantage of, and a general review of persons stating that they will not return? What is government's plan in terms of protection of current timeshare owners and promotion of Sint Maarten as a viable timeshare friendly destination?

The former Netherlands Antilles had a ship registry. After the dismantling of the former Netherlands Antilles, ships are now registered under the Sint Maarten flag? If this is the case, how many ships are registered under the Sint Maarten flag?

Does government have plans to lift the moratorium on vending, was it lifted already? Why was there a moratorium?

#### Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor

Is there labor control after 5 PM? How is it regulated?

How many medical doctors do we have registered and what type? How many doctor cards are issued and what type? How many doctor cards are issued under government? How many are issued under USZV private sector? What is the number of persons that have salaries which do not qualify for USZV? How many of them have USZV?

What was the cost of medical referrals for 2012, 2013 and 2014? To which countries abroad and for what type of illnesses/treatment? How much did government spend on health care for 2012, 2013 and 2014? Can an overview be provided of how many countries and institutions does the USZV has an agreement with? How much was paid to these institutions in 2013 and 2014, how much is projected to be paid in 2015? Can overview be provided of all patients that have been referred to Puerto Rico, the Netherlands and the French side? How many patients were sent abroad in 2013 and 2014 for a MRI? To

which countries? Can an overview be given of the total costs in 2012, 2013 and 2014 specified in cost for the treatment and cost for travel and lodging?

Can government provide clarity pertaining to SMMC? Can government indicate what its intention is with SMMC? Is it the intention to build something new or do something about SMMC? Can government provide clarity pertaining to the nonpayment of government to USZV and by extension of USZV to SMMC?

The Counterpart Policy has been mentioned as key points for formation of this government and It is nowhere obviously evident in the budget. Can government point out where it is reflected in the budget? What is understood with this and if it is an integral part of this policy, is it the intention to implement one, what it entails and how will it work? What does government hope to achieve and how soon hopes to achieve this? Can an overview be provided on exactly how government sees this working. Can a copy of the counterpart policy and the SER advice be provided by government? Is it based on legislation? At what stage of development is it and when is it expected to get to Parliament? Why was this ordinance/policy deemed so important? What effect will this ordinance have on government's coffers as well as on the business sector? How will it be policed? Are there other policies based on this legislation for example quotas? If not it is suggested that attention be paid to this.

Pertaining to the arears the following is stated. The Council of Advice clearly states on page 4, that there are no clear indications that USZV and APS will agree to write off the debt proposed by government, as well as concerns about whether the debts continue to increase and whether the budget has taken this into account. Has government taken this advice seriously? What solutions are planned? Has it been established/agreed about the amount owed to APS as they claim retroactive to 10-10-10? Are all civil servants and teachers now up to date in the registry of APS? Can a complete report be provided on this with all civil servants and teachers to the Parliament?

Do we have a clear view, based on statistics, as to how many eligible persons are without jobs and in need of social assistance? Many have been sent for assistance and after a lengthy process and successful completion thereof qualify for a pittance of a mere NAFL. 100 to 200 per month.

In connection with the investigation of the Brooks Tower accord, it came to light that there were 70 bogus employment agencies. How many employment



agencies are registered and operational? Can government provide an overview of these developments?

Can government indicate to Parliament when it can expect the legislation to amend the Civil Code in connection with the abuse of short term labor contracts?

How many supermarkets are there operational on Sint Maarten? How many persons do they have employed? How many on contract and how many permanent?

**The member of the Democratic Party** has the following questions.

#### Ministry of General Affairs

Missed the priority given to the matter of integrity overall in the budget. What is the cost related to the concrete part of recommendations and government's plan of approach to comply with the recommendations?

What is government's feeling about the introduction of a "vragen uurtje"? In relation to the recently held "meet and greet"?

Can Parliament be informed what the comments are of minister Plasterk based on his visit to government?

In the absence of a government program, taking into consideration that it will not be available for the public meeting of Parliament, considering also the process of government's development plan, can the major issues of the budget be put in the context of the sustainable development goals? Specific aims and intentions in the areas of social development, environment stability, economic development and growth?

The Council of Advice and also Parliament presented their budgets. Can the budget of Parliament as presented be made available?

In connection with the statistics regarding Sint Maarten, this member would like to know how the collaboration is between the Bureau for Statistics and the Census Office.

In Chapter 6 of the elucidation on the budget mention is made of the fact that the total income will NAfL. 445 million. With an estimated Gross Domestic Product of NAfL. 1.642 billion, this means that the revenue / GDP is 27.1%. With a population of 41.000 persons, that is NAfL. 10.500 per person on Sint Maarten (excluding social premiums). Can Parliament be informed how these numbers are used and in what context they are used? What can be the consequences of these numbers? What do these numbers mean for the cooperation between departments?

Pertaining to APS and the new government building, the government is requested to provide a detailed listing of the investments that are still necessary for the government building. Can an overview of all the equipment needed and in specific an overview be provided of the front door of the government building?

#### Ministry of Finance

How is government progressing and processing on the matter of the dividend and concessions to come to a policy? Can Parliament obtain a copy of the dividend policy if already drafted? Where does the concession come into play?

In connection with tax compliance, the collection of data and the drafting of guidelines for tax obligations, the member would like to know if anything can be done with the collection to accommodate compliance.

Pertaining to the amendment to the budget, the government is requested to provide information on Where do we stand with the matter of the budgets amendments that need to come to parliament. Can the government provide Parliament with an overview of the budget amendments that need to come to Parliament?

Can the government provide Parliament with an update on the matter of the report of the Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten? Are there any agreements with respect to how we move forward on this matter?

Pertaining to priority matters for Parliament taken up in budget. Can government provide clarity on the following: Sint Maarten Housing development Foundation, SMHHG, SMMC & Public Health and BTP.

#### Ministry of Justice

Can government in addition to the comments in newspaper of the Minister of Justice in reference to his feelings and encounters with Kingdom government, give Parliament an elucidation on this?

#### Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure

Can Parliament be informed pertaining to the purchase of the land in Simpson Bay? For what price was this land purchased? What is the status? Were letters to this effect submitted? Is government aware of the parcel of land that is being referred to? The land next to the former BBW property.

#### Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labor

The increase of the pensionable age to 62 years for civil servants is in the making. Does government have any indication as to how this matter could be addressed for persons facing their pensionable age while knowing that there is a process ongoing in reference to increasing the pensionable age? What can be done now for these persons who will like to benefit from this?

**The members of the United People's Party-faction** have the following questions.

#### Ministry of Finance

The members would like to know what is being done to make Sint Maarten a better place for investors? What kind of investment package is there?

Has the government already set up a committee of financial controllers? What is the progress of this? How much was spent for 2014 out of the 60 million capital expenditures budget?

Can the government elaborate on the new taxes proposed and intentions thereof?

#### Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Each year students are going abroad to further their studies. Is there a dialogue between the Labor and Education department to know what our students are studying in order to get our return of investments and the needs of the labor market?

#### Ministry of Justice

Can government provide an elucidation on the second phase of the prison renovation? How many cells will be built? Will this decrease the waiting time? What is the intention of facility in Cape Bay? What kind of programs are in place for when raids are conducted regarding illegal immigrants?

How will government tackle the immigration problem? What are the financial consequences to clean up the immigration system on Sint Maarten?

#### Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure

Several businesses along the Boardwalk want to expand and buy a small piece of land between Boardwalk and their building. Is there land still available? Have sales been continued? Is the second instalment for Vorst property in Cay Hill taken up in the budget?

What was spend in connection with hurricane Gonzalo regarding clean up per district and how many days did it take? How were the contractors chosen

and how do you know if work was carried out? What is the current status and planning for the ESF response plan (Emergency response plan)?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

What is the planning to create more economics to generate more jobs for the youth to have them taken off the blocks? Isn't tourism the foundation of our economy? Better infrastructure is needed to make the tourism product attractive and uplift the product in collaboration with VROMI.

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor

How many work permits have been issued and how many temporary permit fees? Can the fees be increased to increase the budget?

**The member of the Marlin-Romeo-faction** has the following questions.

Ministry of Finance

The member would like to know what government is going to generate the funds projected in the budget. Is government going to generate the funds for 2015? If we do not achieve the 445 million, what measures will be taken to make sure we meet the need and not the wishful ones? What measures are in place to ensure the need of our people will be met? What measure to ensure we meet the needs in the future and that it remains this way? What are the details of the initiatives to generate funds and lower costs? Each Ministry should cut their budget. What are they willing and able to cut back on?

**The member of the de Weever-faction** has the following questions.

Ministry of Finance

What is being done to have persons more accountable for what is spend and brought in within the ministries? What is Plan B when the budget is not on target during the year?

The member would like to know if there are written agreements with all government owned companies regarding the collection of concession fees /dividend. What is the plan of approach regarding the tax department integration? What is the status of the forming of an Internal control department ? The dividend of the Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten is only NAFl. 1 million, why is this low? Line item 53488: Arbeidzaken leges is the amount a miscalculation? Post vreemdelingendienst has to be looked at. The budgeted rental amount per month is close to NAFl. 2 million. How can that amount be reduced even with the new building in the future?

#### Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

What is the status of student loan collection, which number is more realistic regarding the budget?

Subsidy p. 44/45 reference NIPA: are there no scholarships offered to this school? Is this a fact? What will be done regarding the possibility thereof? NAFl. 200.000 was granted to a NGO as stated in the budget. Which organization is this? What has the NGO done in the last two years?

#### Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure

Isn't GEBE not owned for a 100% by Government? Can government clarify this? Distinction GEBE water and GEBE electric needs to be made.

Public green spaces why is this on 0 in the budget?

#### Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

The FAA Category 1 rating is to be regained: what is being done?

When will the new licenses system be put into use?

### Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor

'Onderstand bij wijze van insurance' should be under the budget of the ministry of General Affairs. 'Legal assistance' should be part of the budget of Justice.

Elderly and disabled transportation, is this taken up in the budget and can that be confirmed?

**The member of the United Sint Maarten Party-faction has the following questions.**

### Ministry of General Affairs

Can government inform Parliament if there is any written deal entered into APS with purchase of new building? Is government willing to debate this matter in Parliament if that is the case? APS requests to have pension contribution increased from 22 to 25%. What does the 3% signify as a cost for government? If this is the case, can government please inform? Can government and employees continue to support such an expensive system?

Can government indicate which part of the 4 million is reserved for new personnel? Where will they be hired/will they work?

### Ministry of Finance

Pertaining to Pond Island, this member would like to obtain a breakdown on how much money is being generated from Pond Island (TELEM, squatters). A decision needs to be taken on the squatters.

Can government give a clear indication on the 'boedelscheiding' (division of assets and liabilities)?

Can government provide clarity on the shares of UTS? This member understood that the shares of UTS are up for sale. Is Sint Maarten aware of this, yes or no?

Can government explain the additional revenues of 25 million from ToT? When will the dividend policy be established? When will a dividend policy be presented to Parliament for debate?

In the explanatory notes mention is made of new revenue for property tax. Can government explain this? Can government inform how this new gaming tax will be implemented? Can government give a detailed explanation on excise sin tax?

Page 96. Can government assure that returning students have the first priority when it comes to hiring?

On page 445. mention is made that the budget is not realistic. Based on what does the government believe the budget will pass Cft scrutiny? Why would the Cft reject the budget seeing the 2% increase on page 145? How will our creditors react to this and how will they still give us credit based on questions on page 173? Page 73: what makes government believe that this is realistic?

#### Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Can government provide the plans for the school in Belvedere? Is the school in full operation? If the entire school is not being used, it will have maintenance problems. Is there a maintenance program in place to maintain this place? Can government assure that the upkeep of this school is happening?

Can government provide Parliament with a breakdown of the total amount of teachers? Can the breakdown also indicate where these teachers are coming from? Is there a plan to ensure that in a certain amount of years Sint Maarten will have its own local teachers to teach our children?

Can government inform Parliament how the NIPA programs are run? Do we have qualified and sufficient teachers to carry out the program at NIPA?



Post 6120 culture decreased. How does government propose to highlight the culture and heritage of Sint Maarten? How will the monuments be maintained? Is there any coordination with VROMI where monuments are concerned?

Post 6130 youth affairs. Why has the budget of youth affairs been consistently decreased since 2013?

Pertaining to sports activities this member would like to be provided with a breakdown with activities especially for sports that intend to start. How soon can Parliament see some action where this is concerned? Can a total breakdown on projects that have started and are still pending to start be provided?

#### Ministry of Justice

What does government plan to do pertaining to suitable housing for young police officers?

This member is convinced that a camera system is an opportunity to help the police force. What will government do about this?

Can government explain to Parliament why line 5206, the budget for the prosecutor office has been dropped? Shouldn't this sector be strengthened rather than constrained?

Post 5293 shows a decrease. Why is the amount of funds allotted to immigration and border control diminished to some NAFI. 2 million?

#### Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure

Post 9210, road repairs: is government of the opinion that NAFI. 1.6 million is sufficient to address the drainage problem especially since recent flooding?

The maintenance of public toilets increased by 122%. Were there additional toilets built as of late if yes, where?

On the post for sewage there is an amount of NAFL. 2.4 million. Is this realistic to consider Sint Maarten's sewage challenges? Can government explain the tremendous decreases in the cost associated also with the land fill?

There is an amount budgeted of NAFL. 2.4 million for monuments. How does government plan to deal with the issue of fort Amsterdam falling apart?

How much fuel GEBE purchases per month and per quarter? How much heavy fuel GEBE buys per quarter?

#### Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

The sea food coming from Saba to Sint Maarten is hitting a snag. Inspections can be at a cost for seafood on our island. Saba bank fishermen provide a ton of seafood to Sint Maarten. Clarity is needed on how we intend to move forward to fix this situation. Persons selling fish on the side of the streets should be looked into, as they should be located at the fish market. Can government give clarity on the issue of the seafood?

For timeshare, the budget shows a projection of NAFL. 5.9 million. Approximately 2000 people have lost their timeshare at Caravanserai. How much of these individuals will effect / impact the 2015 budget based on projected figures?

Pertaining to capital expenditures, this member would like to be provided with a breakdown of how much money was spent on projects that were started for 2014 and those pending to start.

Does PJIA holding hold the assets in PJIAE? How did they receive assets of the operating company? Has all assets of the past 5 years been transferred to

the holding company? How much does government receive from PJIAE? Will the loan be refinanced? If this is the case, PJIAE needs to come and explain the reason to refinance.

How intend to get money out of the holding if they don't own the fee in order to generate assets.

Page 98: new inspectors from Curaçao. Why can't we train 5 or 6 returned students with degrees from Sint Maarten to become inspectors?

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor

Post 7230: Should we not be paying more attention to inspection? Should this department not be strengthened rather than left unfinanced?

PP cards: the cost will go up from 800.000 to 1 million: can government assure that this won't be more?

This report can be considered the end report.

Adopted at the meeting of the Central Committee of the 23th of January 2015.

The Recorder,

Lloyd J. Richardson, MD.