



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

**Parliamentary Year 2018-2019-126**

**National Ordinance stipulating the Budget of  
Country Sint Maarten for the year 2019**

**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 year 2019.

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 United Democrats faction** have the following questions.

The faction has taken note of the draft. The faction indicates that while it saw some good things in the budget, it is not necessarily balanced. To begin with, the Ministry of Finance receives the bulk of the money in a time that tax compliance will have absolutely no impact on our economy or the labor market. The faction is of the opinion that it can actually negatively affect the growth. There is a need for tax reform and a need to upgrade the system, but the amount (NAFI. 80 million) is quite a lot compared to other Ministries in a time such as now.

Also, interesting statements are made in this budget on for example page 34, under 3.6, "Raming gewone dienst meerjarig". It is stated that "3 years after the economy has bounced back to a pre-Irma situation". This statement opens up all kind of opportunities for discussion such as indexation for pensioners and civil servants.

Education once again is left behind. VSA is getting much needed assistance when looking at the Kapitaaldienst for investments. The faction finds that TEATT seems to have taken a backseat in this budget, especially where it pertains Capital Investments. The faction would have liked to see more



investments to assist the tourism sector in maritime, upgrading of the software for permits and the ICT of those departments.

At a first glance the faction is really happy with the monies for Capital Investments reserved for the Ministry of VSA. These monies will be used for equipment of our ambulance and to ensure that the staff of first responders are better equipped to assist the public. This is good and necessary. And then there are Ministries such as the Ministry of Education. The faction wonders when the day will come when we will give the Ministry of Education more attention. Under investments for the Ministry of General Affairs, the faction is seeing 7 new Minister vehicles. How urgent is this investment really? Are all the vehicles right now in the same condition that all of them need to be replaced at a tune of \$50.000 each?

Then there is the matter of the 37 cost cutting measures. When looking at this proposed budget, the faction wonders to what extent parts of these cost cutting measures were implemented last year and which parts will be implemented in 2019. How much do we expect to save based on these cost cutting measures?

The faction reminds Government not to forget the Police Function book and the entire Ministry of Justice. From where will the monies come for all the retroactive placements when this takes place? And if this is happening today, where is the budget for this?

The focus of the faction will be in these debates primarily on the financial decisions that will impact civil servants and the people of Sint Maarten.

#### Ministry of General Affairs

The Government ICT department, is one of those departments that has been under attack for a while now due to many ransom virus attacks. There have been ongoing discussions as to how to upgrade the system to avoid these viruses. Can Government indicate whether parts of this investment, approximately NAFL. 2.5 million, will go towards insuring our ICT system is protected from such viruses?

With budget cuts in mind, there is one department within the Ministry of General Affairs which the faction has been closely monitoring and that is the Department of Legal Affairs. Since 10-10-10, every 3 or 4 years, there seems to be an influx of new persons because most of the expats are persons that come



from Holland. The agreement is typically that every 3 or 4 years they have to leave. Has the Government budgeted for the influx of new personnel at Legal Affairs in this budget? Will the focus finally be to fill the department with mostly locals or are we once again focused on external non locals to fill these positions? If so, how much money does Government intend to spend on expats in this budget? Has the Department head or SG sought assistance from the Division of Study Finance to get an overview or idea as to how many young Sint Maarteners are or have recently studied or completed their studies in the Law fields that maybe we can have those come home?

The Fire Department has been crying for better equipment for years now and the need for better equipment became evident with the dump fires. Can Government indicate how much monies will be invested for the equipment for the Fire Department? The faction would like an explanation on the cut in the budget of the Fire Department. What has this department received in terms of the reconstruction funds in the early recovery stage considering the cut in our budget for this department?

Some of our students are lucky enough to have been offered the incentive that Government will pay up to 50% of their study loan once they are employed by Government of course. Interesting is that it is not automatically granted to all Sint Maarten students. Can Government indicate how much money is budgeted for the payment of study debts of employees on an annual basis? And how much money is actually paid out every year? Is Government seeing any trends where it pertains to this incentive? Are we employing or/and granting any locals these incentives?

The faction has some concerns as it relates to the 7 vehicles for the Council of Ministers. To what extent would now be the best time to purchase these vehicles? And in what conditions are these 7 vehicles? Are all of them to be replaced right now? Are all of them down? What is the situation that there is an urgency to have them replaced all at the same time to a tune of NAFL. 600.000? Especially as we are looking at the state of vehicles of other Government departments. Is this purchase necessary at this point in time? What does the Council of Ministers consider vehicles that are strong and long lasting? What type of vehicles does the Council of Ministers have in mind to purchase at \$50.000 per vehicle?

The rebuilding and remodeling of the meeting rooms of the Council of Ministers. This investment too is one that the faction wonders to what extent it is crucial at this point in time? There would be some renovations to the kitchens.



Is now the best time to invest in a state-of-the-art meeting room? Does the Council of Ministers really need NAFI. 800.000 to renovate and furnish the meeting room and the kitchen? To put it in perspective. The Ministry of Education will be given NAFI. 1 million which should be sufficient to build 4 new class rooms which is pence compared to NAFI. 800.000 going into renovations and furnishing of the meeting room.

As it relates to Personnel matters; a number of persons have not been placed in their rightful scale going back a number of years now. Some due to the article 8 saga. Others because they are still in their aanloopschaal not by any fault of their own of course. How many persons per ministry are yet to be placed in their proper scale? And how much would this cost Government once persons have been placed throughout this year and have been budgeted seeing that for many persons placement has to be retroactively paid?

The faction notes that VDSM is now under the budget of Parliament. What is the reason for that? The faction takes note of a change in name of the Security Service Sint Maarten (VDSM). VDSM is a name actually used in a law. The name has been changed to Directie Veiligheid. What implications does this name change have for the service? And could Government, taking into account the confidentiality of that particular service, give some general information on the "herinrichting" or reconstruction of the building for NAFI. 640.000?

What is the budget for the Integrity Chamber and is there any indication that the Integrity Chamber is properly funded?

How much money is budgeted for payment of former Members of Parliament in 2019 and where is this post? The faction would like a further elucidation on the topic of "Wachtgeld" en "Pensioenen" for politicians. Furthermore, the faction would like an explanation pertaining to the calculation in the budget.

Can Parliament receive the budgets of the High Councils of State (Council of Advice, General Audit Chamber etc.) to compare what they send in and what is now in this budget?

How is the amount under Council of State (Raad van State) used, disbursed or paid? What is this amount for? It most likely has to do with our member.



The budget post “noodrampen”, 1.2 under General Affairs; is this some type of policy with respect to this or is it too early for that to be the case? Is it correct that we received NAFL 1.2 million?

Pertaining to the issue of the cabinets of Ministers and under some Ministries a Staf bureau where there are significant increases. The faction would like an explanation there.

The reductions in the Departments of BAK and Foreign Affairs are considerable, 30% vs. 21%. In addition to the personnel, is there any other issue with respect to these drastic decreases? Perhaps a change in approach?

The faction understands that the Government is trying hard but hasn't been able to make a connection between the budget, NNRP and the Trust Fund to give a total overview of what happens where. Furthermore, where the Government program is concerned, every Ministry should be able to highlight from within the budget, what of these items policies, new or old, are actually in conformity with the Governing program. For example, there is an increase in the budget for USM. What is the plan underlying that increase? And is it in the direction of what the Governing program states with respect to USM?

The St. Maarten Development Fund is at the same budget it has been for several years. The faction would like to know what the request was of this entity to Government in terms of receiving a budget. Can Parliament receive the Fund's plan?

Can Parliament receive a breakdown of the categories of SLA's related to the budget? More specifically a breakdown in terms of service. For example, which ones are in the legal sphere, financial sphere and ICT sphere?

#### Ministry of Finance

Since last year the Government has been referring to 37 cost cutting measures. This list contains different types of measures, some have to do with cuts on salaries and others on hiring consultants. Can the Government indicate whether this list or which part of this list has been executed so far? How much has the implementation saved Government so far? And how much do we expect to save in 2019 based on the measures on this list?



The faction would like the Government to be a bit more creative with the collection of taxes. Government cannot have issues with persons who owe a few years of taxes while the Government is 4 or 5 years late with processing of tax returns. There is a need for monies to come in, however in the current state that we are in, the faction is sure that some monies could be better spent by pumping it back into our community. Would Government be open to having companies that owe taxes adopt a school meal program for the number of years that they owe? Those that Government just can't get to pay. Perhaps they are willing to put back into the economy and schools and community rather. Can some of the monies collected via taxes go directly towards pumping it back into our economy? And can the Tax Office be lenient to persons or entities who owe some years of taxes if Government is late with processing the returns for more than 3 years?

Can we not take NAFI. 20 million from that approximately NAFI. 80 million that will be invested in the tax reform system to pump it into the economy? The unions are asking for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for almost 10 years of being stagnant. Can some of that NAFI. 80 million go towards that? Can some of that NAFI. 80 million go towards the increase of pension for our senior citizens? Or can some of the monies be invested in small business programs to assist with the small shops around the corner to basically get back on their feet?

The faction is happy to see that the persons that are working in the Tax Office and the Receiver's will be provided with updated software and programs to work with and assist them with their work. However, will any of these monies go directly towards the hiring of cashiers? In the months of January and February of every year, persons have to purchase their number plates. And for a few years now you can purchase them in town or in Simpson Bay. If persons don't renew their plates in time, they run the risk of getting fined. However, there are 2 cashiers down in the Simpson Bay area. But for a very long time it was only 1 cashier. Because it's 1 person, if you go too late in the afternoon they would close up and go home because they are working alone. They would work through lunch but go home earlier. For some people that's an inconvenience on that side of the hill. Is there anything budgeted for the hiring of more personnel at the Receiver's to have at least 2 or 3 in the Simpson Bay area given that 1 should be sick, you still have 2 there? There are 2 now and perhaps it was a matter of someone being on sick leave or not. How much monies will the Ministry of Finance invest this year to ensure that there will be more than 1 cashier for the processing of number plates? The stickers purchased along with the number plates, will be taken up in the 2018 or 2019 budget?



Can Government give an overview of the amount of projected monies for consultancies in the 2019 budget per ministry? The faction would like some explanation on the operation of the pool of experts/expertise that will be made available and coordinated by the SOAB. Can Parliament be included in making use of the pool of expertise? Because Parliament's budget for legal assistance at a time that we need that more than ever is very low. Parliament has a lot of matters on its table that need a lot of in depth looking at, legislative and otherwise. Overall the faction notes a drastic increase in Rechts- en ander deskundig advies. The faction would like to know where the bulk of that increase is.

Government receives annual monies or dividends from its Government owned companies such as BTP, GEBE and Harbor. These monies are often used to cover Government's annual budget deficit. Can Government indicate how much monies Government has received from its Government owned companies post Irma? How much does Government expect to receive in 2019 from each Government owned company that gives? Have some of the Government owned companies indicated the need not to pay out their dividends but rather invest in their company? For example, GEBE who is still in a rebuilding phase. Did they indicate that they will not pay? The faction refers to a sentence in the elucidation where it states that the 92.4% of the shares in the Stichting Administratiekantoor GEBE have to be divided. This needs to be corrected.

In how far has Government received the annual reports of the Government owned companies? And what year has Government received? If later then what Parliament has received so far (2016), can Parliament be provided with copies?

The faction states that around the world, especially in America, there are a lot of public societies that are allowed to buy Government bonds for example to build schools or bridges. Why can't Sint Maarten follow that model of having investors buy Government bonds to build the country up?

The whole matter of liquidity assistance in the context of the budget procedure. Where it comes to liquidity and the PJIA, can Government explain what not having an approved 2019 budget would mean?

How are we fairing by receiving reports from subsidized organizations especially those that are non-governmental (per ministry)? Have these institutions submitted their reporting over 2018? How is the reporting of



institutions that receive subsidies about the management of their budgets? How does that take place?

How far is Government with its annual accounting/accounts of 2017?

The salaries that are included in 2017, are these the up to date salaries or are these salaries that still have to be booked so to speak? Can Government explain the item "tijdelijk personeel"? Some chapters have it at nil while others have an amount listed.

A few years ago, a previous Minister of Finance presented to Parliament a draft national ordinance that did not go through the legislative procedure yet to establish a Development Bank as well as to change several ordinances (such as the ALL, tax ordinances, loterij en hazardspelen verordening) "to increase Government's revenue structurally". Are these changes part of the Government's plan? What is Government's view on these changes?

#### Ministry of Justice

For the faction the Police HR matters are one of the most important matters throughout these budget debates. Many police officers have found themselves taking Government to court because of promotions and monies owed. Even when winning the cases, Government has been reluctant to pay out what is entitled to these police men and women because of the limited funds or administrative backlogs. Now the Minister of Justice has promised that he will ensure that the Police Function book and their rights will be established as soon as possible and that it is in its final stages. Is this taken up in the budget for this year? What is the expected amount that Government would have to pay to the Police staff once placement is finalized? And what guarantee will the Police have that they will receive their monies once they are placed in their proper scales? Where in the budget can we find where monies are allocated for retroactively paying them for their new placements or rightful placements?

The faction would like an explanation on the budget of the Raad voor de rechtshandhaving. How is the reporting by this type of institution including the Raad voor de rechtshandhaving with respect to the use of their budget? Is the reporting up to date?

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

In the opinion of the faction Education has been forgotten about. The faction didn't see the subsidy for the Charlotte Brookson Academy of Performing



Arts (CBA) in the budget. This school is a school providing education on an academic level but also caters to performing arts. Can Government indicate how much subsidy CBA will receive in subsidy in 2019 for the performing arts subject? The faction has been unable to locate a budget post for this on pages 38 till 50 of the budget. Would this subsidy fall under the Department of Education or maybe under the Department of Culture?

After the hurricane, one of the things given to the schools (primary schools, public schools) was meals for the students provided by the Red Cross. Children going to school hungry was unfortunately one of those situations that was happening before Irma but thereafter this program was put in place. It was much appreciated by many parents. Back in 2014 there were a variety of meal programs in our schools, in particular our public schools and after Irma again the Red Cross carried it out. Can Government indicate whether this program, the breakfast program from before, is still running? Is that of the Red Cross still running at this point as well? How much is Government contributing to the meals program, if any at all? If not, can an arrangement be made or can we have any allocation on this budget for meal programs for the students of the public schools? Maybe we can make arrangements with companies that owe taxes, they can perhaps adopt a school for a meal program instead.

The Sint Maarten Vocational Trade School. This particular point in the Capital Investments is one that the faction has an issue with. Back in 2017, a bidding process was done for the building of these class rooms. Someone was awarded the project. This was in late 2017. Yet it is on the Capital Investment of 2019. Can a clarification be given whether this is a new bidding process that is going to take place or is this the same project from back in 2017? If so, is it not on the budget of 2017? And if so, why is it on the Capital Investments of this year's budget?

School bus transportation has been one of the financial challenges of the Ministry of Education. This is something that they have been dealing with for years. They are waiting on a bidding process, which should have taken place before, but basically the faction would like to know the amount of monies being spent on bussing right now. And while an official bidding process is yet to take place, more cuts have been made for the prices of some routes and in particular that of Colebay. Can Government indicate whether that is indeed the case and based on what such cuts were made?



For example, there is an increase in the budget for USM. What is the plan underlying that increase? And is it in the direction of what the Governing program states with respect to USM?

Plan oprichting instelling voor juridische opleidingen; is there some indication for the plan for this "opleiding"? Is it to be more than a lawyer's education? Is there any information already available?

The faction misses in the policy priorities references to the Governing Program where some of the policy items can be found back. Perhaps an indication can be given of such?

Reference was made to the Council of Education and Labor and it is specifically mentioned that one of the priorities is the monitoring of the Council of Education and Labor. Can Government provide an update regarding this Council and its functioning? Have there been any reports from the Council?

Are there any recent reports and recommendations from the National Sports Institute (NSI) where sports on Sint Maarten are concerned?

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

With all that our country has gone through after the passing of hurricane Irma, even looking at the number of sexual abuse cases that have surfaced in the recent months, the faction is missing a budget that takes socio, emotional matters seriously. The faction has sung this tune for a while now where it pertains to offering proper social help for our people. Social help for prisoners being released and putting them back into the community. Do we have anything in the budget to ensure that they get counseling? The minute they are convicted and go to jail they lose their rights to health insurance and the like. Is there anything in place now within this budget to cover those things for a certain period of time when they come out? That eventually they can get back on their feet and can go back into the community.

What are the plans of Government for labor taking into account that the economic activities spurred by the hurricane are diminishing?

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

The airport is currently in negotiations with the World Bank and another possible investor. Would there be any consequences to the monies that the Government has already injected in PJIA if PJIA chooses not to proceed with the



World Bank but with the other investor? Would such a choice have any effect on Government's 2019 budget?

The faction doesn't see much going on in the Ministry of TEATT. What will Government do to stimulate the economy?

Currently the Ministry's budget is NAFI. 25 million. If it were to be increased to NAFI. 30 or 40 million, what is the procedure? If Government have a plan of approach also for the difference of NAFI. 15 million, how will Government synchronize that to get it approved?

What are the plans for the Gaming Control Board?

Situation surrounding casino controllers. A considerable amount is mentioned in the budget for the repayment of casino controllers/ What is the status of this? Are there any bottlenecks with the casino controlling? What are Government's plans if any? What do casino controllers do?

The matter of payment of lottery and casino businesses. Can Parliament receive a status of the collection, including the number of businesses falling under these categories as well as the branches of these businesses?

Can the statistics be provided per year for the last 5 years to include the existing licenses, requests, grants and whatever changes to the policy of public transportation in general for the last 5 years?

What are the plans for the market areas and how are these progressing?

There is an approved amount for enterprise recovery as part of the Trust Fund. Does the Ministry of TEATT have a MSME (micro small medium enterprise) enterprise policy? What does it entail? Has the coordination between the Trust Fund and the Ministry of TEATT regarding such started?

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

How much money does the Ministry expect to collect for the big business permits? Such as buildings and restaurants that are being build now.

How much money does the Ministry expect to spend salvaging the boats in the Lagoon in this 2019 budget?



Is the Ministry responsible for the maintenance around the Bell property around the flagpole? If so, how often is maintenance done at this tourist attraction? And is it coordinated with TEATT? Which Ministries really cover these expenses? When will this project be completed? How much will it cost? It is actually very dangerous how the tourist has to climb up the hill there. Where in the budget does it reflect the completion of that project if it is there at all? Do we have any insurance on that specific project so that in the event does happen and a tourist decides to sue, are we covered?

The Ministry of VSA got NAFl. 1 million for calamities and stuff of that nature. VROMI looks like it got NAFl. 150.000 for external expenses. Knowing the serious situation of VROMI, including housing repairs and the dump solution, why is that amount so low?

The faction misses in the VROMI budget, how Government plans to tackle our road infrastructure from a sustainable point of view. Can Government give some explanation?

The faction would like to know what the amount for the Rent Committee (Huur Commissie) is based on. There was to be an update of the Huur Commissie law. Is that something in the making? What is the current status of the Rent Committee? And are there any bottlenecks being encountered? The faction points to a possible bottleneck being the outdated law based on which the Committee needs to function. What are Government's plans if any?

A large number of vehicles have been listed for the VROMI Ministry among others. But yet the VROMI Ministry has a serious issue with transportation means to carry out its duties amongst others inspections. Of the car listed in the overview Parliament has received, how many of them are operational?

Reference is made of GEBE's shares not being yet rectified. Can this be explained?

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

The faction with interest has taken note of the draft national ordinance.



### Ministry of Finance

Mention was made in the presentation of the Minister of Finance of a negative amount of NAFI. 2.5 million in expenses based on cost cutting measures still to be determined for 2019. Can the Government indicate what these measures will entail?

The faction also notes a budget post in the budget for NAFI. 1 million for ATS. That is a very good development seeing that ATS has enabled SZV to deal with a lot of their collections and improve in the collections of their fees. Are they already doing work? Is ATS presently already part of the Government and assisting with the collections of taxes?

Mention was made in the presentation of the Minister of Finance of a lowering of the budget for roads and waterways. As it stands right now, we still have the issue of a lot of roads that need to be repaired and seeing that we are approaching the hurricane season, we will definitely have to make sure that our waterways and canals are clean of debris. Can Government give an indication what this lowering of the budget for those particular areas will do to the ability of Government to maintain the roads and the waterways?

In the budget the Personnel cost is at about 45% of the total budget. Can Government give the last rationalization analysis of Personnel cost and indicate what has been done with those recommendations? What have been done with the recommendations from the Audit Chamber? What have been done with the recommendations from SOAB? What have been done with the recommendations with regards to Personnel cost by IMF?

Furthermore, the Minister of Finance clearly defined in his presentation a lot of the measures that would have been taken by countries facing crises that we have faced, were not taken and that in large part due to the fact that we received liquidity from the Netherlands. With that in mind, what is the minimum liquidity balance Government needs to guarantee uninterrupted Government operations?

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



The faction has taken note of the draft and indicates that it is seeing a trend of a threatening behavior of approving the budget or else. When Holland says jump, we say how high.

The faction would like to bring some conditions to the Government on behalf of the people of Sint Maarten:

- the first one being that the Government actually gives a clear plan of approach on how it plans to deal with the Post Office workers;
- that the Government hires a dedicated IT person or team to deal with the tax situation and also give a 3-month plan on how they plan to deal with it;
- that the Government establishes a dedicated Calibration department within the Ministry of Economic Affairs so that our consumers and our businesses can stop being ripped off;
- that the Government gives a clear indication (date) as to when the finalization of the Function book will take place;
- that the Government gets the fine books for the controllers so that they will be able to do their task. Because a few months ago, in October or November, Parliament was informed that the fine books would be ready by December 1, 2018;
- that Government gives Parliament a 3-month plan how it plans to tackle the roof repair situation seeing that Parliament was informed that Government only completed 7 roofs. The faction doesn't want to hear what the St. Maarten Development Fund, Red Cross or Yellow Cross did but rather how much money Government is planning to invest in this for 2019? And also, how much money the Government is putting into the Mental Health Foundation (MHF)? The Director and staff of the MHF is basically crying out for assistance. It is a problem that affects everybody;
- that Government comes with a plan of approach for the shelters. After a lot of back and forth, Parliament received a tour of the shelters in October and was told about water tanks that could hold 10.000 liters of water will be put on the ground as well as a 16 KVA generator with a diesel tank of 100 liters. What is up with these plans? What is the plan for the upcoming hurricane season? Because last year the same question was asked and the answer was "we are not ready" and here we are again a few months shy of another hurricane season. What is the plan?



The faction would like an explanation or reaction from Government on each of the abovementioned conditions. If these conditions are not, the faction would have a very difficult time approving this budget.

The faction would like a guarantee from Government that a local CFO will be hired to fill the vacant position at the airport. Can Government give its views on hiring a local CFO?

Going through the budget the faction sees a lot of zeros but also changes that could have been made. For example, there is NAFI. 20.000 budgeted for the TEATT Staffbureau while in 2017 only NAFI. 1000 was spent. Why didn't Government cut there instead of sport tourism? With these types of things Government can save NAFI. 500.000. The faction recommends that Government let's all Ministries look over the line items and to realistically look at the budget post and say how much did we spend in the previous years? And if we really need to increase the budget, what policy are we attaching to this?

The faction agrees with comments made by the Council of Advice that legibility, availability and elucidation of the budget need improvement. Structured planning is needed in getting it on time to the Council of Advice and the other entities for a proper perusal and proper advising procedures to take place. Constantly requesting the Council of Advice for "spoedadvies" is not a good look for Government.

The budget needs to be more policy oriented and policy aligned in accordance with article 14 of the Accountability Ordinance. The faction would like to receive an elucidation per Ministry of the aforementioned.

Why wasn't Government aware that article 25 Rft could have been used in the initial submission of the budget?

Mention was made of being in deficit/arears many years before hurricane. Minister Gibson was trying to save NAFI. 20 million per year and if not for the hurricane, this would have been done totaling NAFI. 60 million by the end of 2017. These savings were intended for arears at APS and SZV etc. Was this done or not? And if not, why not? Was this used as liquidity support post hurricane?

Ministry of General Affairs



A draft training plan was presented to Parliament in 2018 for the IT department. This came about after the Government IT infrastructure was attacked several times by ransomware attacks and ransom and fines had to be paid. There is a list of workers in the department that had to do the training. Have these civil servants in the meantime been given the opportunity to do the training? And if not, when is it the intention of Government to start these trainings?

The faction would like a copy of the development operation agreement that has been signed and proposed by the World Bank. What are the fees attached to this for the World Bank?

Can an overview of all court cases per ministry be provided and the outcome thereof?

It is rumored that the World Bank has rented or is about to rent a building down by the old Carl & Sons, where the Labor Department used to be housed. Is that the case? The NRP is down at that location. Any building that the World Bank is renting, who is responsible for paying the rent? Is it the World Bank that will be paying the rent or the Government? If it's the World Bank that is paying the rent, will they be paying the rent from the Trust Fund money?

Previous Governments saw the reduction of the Government vehicle fleet as a cost saving measure. Steps were taken to implement policies to reduce the fleet and move towards compensation of civil servants who needed to use their own vehicles. This came with a drop in maintenance fees. Has this Government implemented any type of policy where the Government owned car fleet is concerned? And is that then why we are seeing increases where that is concerned? The vehicles have a 5-year policy but according to the faction the jeeps that the Ministers use are not 5 years old yet. Can this be explained? How can money be saved with this purchase? It was also mentioned that the Minister of General Affairs and Minister of VROMI need replacement vehicles. The faction would like to know what happened to the Land Cruiser of the Minister of General Affairs? What happened to the 2 vehicles that were in operation in the Ministry of General Affairs? Specifically, the Audi and the Toyota Jeep 4 Runner. Is there a policy that the Audi shouldn't be used every day?

Travel budget for the Ministry was NAFI. 149.000 for 2018 and NAFI. 47.000 so far for this year (January, February and March). Does this include the staff and other delegation members or just for the Prime Minister?



With regards to the shelters, how far are we? What does it mean that the plans are ongoing? What are the concrete plans?

It was stated that the Ministry of General Affairs doesn't have consultants, yet a name of a company was mentioned. Can this be clarified? What are the tasks of these consultants and the task of these consultants?

Which projects and tasks/services are being carried out based on the 2019 budget?

Are the buildings that we owned reflected as assets within our budget as well as inventory value? Is the insurance that we pay for these properties reflected in the budget and where? How much was paid out in advance for the damaged property of Government including schools and other buildings? How much was paid out already from that advance to school boards? When will repairs to schools start and when will they be effectuated? What contingency plans are in place while schools are being repaired to be able to house the students? What is the total payout of the insurance projected to be? And is this going to be reflected in the budget? The faction would also like some clarity on the insurance payout and exactly how much was paid out for the Library based on the damages? How much money was received based on the damage to the Library? What was the assessment (not the general payout) from the adjustor (whether from Henderson or Smith and Olov)? Is World Bank Trust Fund money being used to repair the Police station? What of the Police station is being repaired?

The Fire Department received a container of equipment from the Netherlands. What is the status of the equipment? Because the equipment seems to be over 10 years old.

Can the budget post for "Rampenbestrijding" be clarified? Is the necessary equipment for the members of the EOC that were missing right after Irma in place for the upcoming hurricane season? Is it reflected anywhere in budget 2019?

#### Ministry of Finance

The faction refers to the freeze of vacancies except for critical ones and would like to know what all the critical vacancies are right now within the Government, per Ministry. So, a clear-cut overview of the critical vacancies and the status thereof.



The faction also mentions the freeze hiring of consultants unless approved. How much consultants were hired within the last year up to now (2018-2019)? How much was spending on consultants during 2018 per Ministry? The faction would also like to know the specific tasks of these consultants. Do these consultants work in the cabinets? And if yes, is this the norm?

A Curaçao based company, namely Bearing Point, was granted the bid to restructure our whole tax system. Is Bearing Point a Curaçao based company or Sint Maarten based company? And if it is a Curaçao based company, how did they rank in terms of bidding and when did the bidding take place? If a Sint Maarten company or various Sint Maarten companies also took part in the bidding and they were also close in terms of rank, they should have been given preference. Because once they get the money, they have to pay taxes here. Basically, all we are doing is contributing to Curaçao's economic development and not ours.

The faction points out that mention was made of the reorganization of the Tax Office and the financing of it by the Netherlands. How does this relate to the recent news of a tender being awarded to Bearing Point? After the hurricane the then Government came with a roof program where money was to be pledged here and there. A Member of Parliament at the time criticized that funding would be going to a Florida based company to import the material. The argument that was made about the NAFl. 3 million shows similarities with the current situation with Bearing Point where NAFl. 12.3 million was awarded plus NAFl. 2 million extra for consultancy fees. How did the bidding process go? What relations are there within the Ministry, Bearing Point and individuals?

How much do we expect to generate from the NAFl. 85 million investment in the Tax Office? What is your return of investment or expected return of investment?

Persons are receiving tax assessments for deceased family members. This is very inefficient. Where is the disconnect within Ministries in sending information to each other?

There seems to be an attack on small businesses in this country and also certain individuals concerning the Tax Office of recent where they send out a barrage of assessments and letters to individuals concerning filing taxes of 2015.



Did Dorris Lucinda Henson Hickinson file her taxes for 2012, 2013 and 2014 seeing that she received a letter where she is being requested to file for 2015?

The budget has about NAFI. 3.8 million more than it should according to the Kingdom Council of Ministers (Rijksministerraad). The faction requests for Government to provide documentation indicating opinions from CFT on this matter.

Can Government verify what if any payments were made to Minister Ferrier himself when he was in office that does not fall within his salary payment? The Minister of VSA once mentioned that the Minister received vehicles. Were these vehicles paid for by Government or were they a donation to the Ministry of VSA? And if they were from whom? Government shouldn't be keeping any secret donations given to them. How did the Ministry of VSA acquire those vehicles?

Can an overview of all items that were purchased in 2018 to today such as furniture and vehicles be provided? Who in Facility would be able to provide this overview?

What is our tax compliance currently and how was this amount calculated?

The faction would like to also see NAFI. 90 budgeted for the purchase of Mullet Bay seeing that the Central Bank stated that it is only worth \$50-55 million.

Who decides on the budget of Parliament? Who makes the necessary adjustments?

Are there any vacancies at the Treasury department? How many fte's are there in that department? Is there any other way that the department can get support?

The faction can't understand the NAFI. 5 million concession fees for GEBE seeing that the management of GEBE indicated that they have financial challenges. How realistic is it that the Government will receive NAFI. 5 million in concession fee from GEBE? Has Government had any talks with GEBE pertaining to their ability to pay this amount? The same goes for other Government owned



companies where Government has budgeted that it will receive dividends/concession fees.

Line items that are supposed to be for small business support are at NAFL.  
O. How is it possible seeing that the Government program even mentions small businesses but when you look at the budget it is not reflected there?

Also, no mention for support for Qredits. Are they still depending on World Bank? Is it coming from the Kapitaaldienst? Does this Government plan to support Qredits in any way in 2019?

More than half of the list of Capital Investments was already on the list of 2017. Why were many of these investments that had been budgeted already in 2017 not executed? And why are they still on the budget? What is occurring with funds coming from Capital Investments and what with funds from other loans? And what happened to insurance monies received?

The faction points to the concern of the Council of Advice where it pertains concrete income generating measures. The faction echoes the sentiments of the Council.

Can Government give an explanation about the realities of the budget and the actual expenditures? Are the 2018 line items actual expenditures or what was projected to be spent in 2018? Same goes for 2017. This information is important to be able to make comparisons.

A department can have a line item with an amount attached to it in the budget. The department goes over to making up an advice to access these funds and is then told that there is a liquidity problem. Has that been one of the reasons why many hiring processes were not finalized in the years they had to be finalized? Is that one of the reasons we are having issues now? It was stated that cuts in Personnel cost were easily done because many of these things were fictitious. Can Government explain how this was easily done? Cutting personnel cost is actually human beings providing services. Does this mean Government is willing to cut these services? Government needs to explain how all these easy cuts in personnel don't translate in a cut in services to the people of Sint Maarten.

How many of the policy priorities in this budget that can be found in the back of the book can actually be found in numbers?



Ownership of buildings and rent agreements are not clearly elucidated in this budget.

How much money was spent on Ministers' travel per Ministry from January 2018 to date?

Can a copy of the letter from Government to the Kingdom Council of Ministers requesting the use of article 25 RFT be provided?

Is there somewhere perhaps in the getallenboek where the loan amounts can be seen?

Ministry of Justice

Can Government provide the partnership agreement signed with the Minister of Justice of Holland in October 2018?

Can copies of all agreements that have been signed with representatives of the Dutch Government since January 2018 be provided (RST etc.)?

Can Government explain the conflict that has been playing out in terms of the electronic supervision (ankle bracelet) in the media? Which company did Government contract first for the ankle bracelets? And which company is now providing them? Has the agreement with the previous company been officially ended and are there any outstanding fees?

The building that was once Sarimar was bought by Government. Was there a board representing Sarimar when that building was sold? If there is a board or was a board, who are the board members or who were the board members? Was a real estate company hired to sell the building to Government and what was the commission to that real estate company?

When will the police Function book be completed? Can Government specify what the critical vacancies are within Justice?

How many consultants are working in the cabinet of the Minister and is it the norm that consultants work in the cabinets of Ministers? Mention was made that there are currently 3 consultants working in the cabinet, 2 of which are sole proprietorships. Can the names of these sole proprietors be given? How much were they paid and for what services?



What exactly does Government expect to get done with the NAFL. 17 million listed in the Kapitaaldienst in relation to the prison? Especially in comparison to the NAFL. 84 million for the Ministry of Finance for the Tax Office. Did the Minister fight for his budget?

Given the report of the Public Prosecutor in the newspaper today, does Government really believe that Member of Parliament Heyliger should spend 60 days in Bonaire?

Is Government familiar with the international prisoners transfer program? Holland is signatory to this program/treaty since January 1988. Was the Minister aware that MP Heyliger was to be transferred from the Philipsburg prison cells to Bonaire? And if yes when? Can all the officials involved in the transfer that fall under the Minister then move without his authorization? Did the Public Prosecutor contact the Justice Minister in the Netherlands knowing that MP Heyliger would be transferred to Bonaire? The plane had to land in Curaçao, did the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands contact the Minister of Justice in Curaçao? Did the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands contact the Minister of Justice in Sint Maarten? Did the Minister sign off on the transfer? Do all international transfers in terms of information to the authorities in the host country follow proper procedures? Have all international treaties been followed correctly? How much money has been spent to date on prisoners overseas? What would be the difference in terms of cost if these prisoners were housed and home here in Sint Maarten? How many prisoners were released from January to date? Based on the number of prisoners that have been released from January to date, how many convictions in terms of jail time was given to any other convicts in the prison? What is the status of the electronic security system at the prison (camera's, smoke alarms etc.)? Who controls it? Is it the Ministry, prison personnel or third parties? Are there any plans to create a ward in the prison for mentally challenged inmates?

There are justice officials who are using private e-mail addresses. This is a major breach of security. What are the plans of the Ministry moving forward to address this issue?

What is the difference/discrepancy between the wenselijkheidsbegroting of the Minister and the actual budget?



Why is Mr. Doran not in the position of Head of Customs? What is the current position of Mr. Doran since his vacancy is a critical vacancy?

A number of vehicles are parked in the yard of the gentleman who used to accompany the Minister to meetings. What is the reason for these cars being parked there? How many vehicles were received from the Netherlands after the hurricane and how many are in operation to date?

BAVPol classes 1 and 2 went to court over a year ago. Since the court ruling, have the BAVPol been paid out? If not, why not? What is the intended date to pay those workers?

Were the personnel cuts indeed easy to make or will these cuts hamper the functioning of Government? Have critical functions also been cut?

Can measurable policies intentions related to this budget be provided (policy oriented in accordance with article 14 of the Accountability Ordinance)? Can a clearer Multiyear plan be provided?

The faction notes that it sees exorbitant consultancy fees in the budget. Does this mean that our civil service core is not capable of carrying out the tasks? Or do we not have them? Or the process to hire them is taking too long?

Over the years there has been a lack of policy and or legislation in order for the Youth detention center to function properly. Have there been improvements in this area projected in budget 2019 to legally take place? As well as preventative measures.

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

What is the status of all the sports facilities throughout the Dutch side? For example, Raoul Illidge, Melford Hazel Sport Facility and L.B. Scot Sport Auditorium. What is their condition? How much money does the Government plan to put into these sport facilities? Because sport is very important for the development of our youth. Different programs started recently.

How much money did the Government receive in insurance payout for the Library? What happened to the money?

The faction would like to see NAFL. 10 to 15 million in the Capital Investments for education for a solar panel project for all the schools. Also a few



million guilders for the Library. Furthermore, the faction would like to see NAFI. 1 million for generators for all the schools not only for when electricity goes off but also because they are used as shelters during the hurricane season.

What status are schools operating in right now?

The faction noticed a NAFI. 500.000 cut for afterschool programs 2018-2019. Was the NAFI. 1.7 million that was budgeted in 2018 not put to use? Are we able to cut NAFI. 500.000 for afterschool programs after we deemed it in 2017 as something very important to make serious social changes within this country? Was an assessment done? This is a serious alarming development. How many afterschool programs does this affect? How many students does this affect? How many afterschool teachers will be affected by this as well?

The Ministry's budget would cut by NAFI. 5 million. The Minister is taking a 10% cut in salary, yet there is a huge increase of the budget post "Rechts- en ander deskundig advies" for the Minister for consultancy fees at the tune of NAFI. 1 million. Why are such fees needed by the Minister whilst we can cut half of that of youth programs? What exactly are these consultancy fees for third parties for?

The cabinet of the Minister also saw an increase of NAFI. 100.000. The faction would like to know why.

There is a new line item for the Staf bureau called "Bezoldiging vacatures" for NAFI. 400.000. What is this intended for? Where did it come from? Was it moved from somewhere else?

The personnel budget of the Department of Education was cut with NAFI. 467.000. Was this part of what was called the fictitious employees that we would not be able to hire? Or is this for much needed personnel in order to be able to execute the much-needed changes in education reform?

Nothing has been put there to finalize policies to regulate and reduce the amount for school bussing. It is alarming that some Governments are not willing to take cost cutting measures where they belong. What is lacking in terms of cooperation with the Ministry of TEATT in this respect?



What effect does the budget cut in education reform by NAFI. 600.000 have on the execution of policy and programs intended to bring much needed improvements in education in this current millennium?

There is also a cut in subsidies for schools and school boards such as SVOBE, FAVE and Catholic schools. And also changes in subsidy to USM. This requires much explanation.

There was talks of a Financial division for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports because so much money is being subsidized to these entities that you need a better checks and balance. What are the plans of this Government pertaining to this?

There is a cut in intangible heritage of NAFI. 5.000 and an increase for NAFI. 10.000 for tangible. Are there specific policies attached to these changes?

The Sport Department didn't see many changes, only in personnel.

Electricity has gone down for some but remember that a request was sent about 2 years ago to GEBE to reduce the rates to put schools and community centers under a different rate than the commercial rate. GEBE had agreed to do that. This is a way to cut cost for Government. Does this mean that we have become smarter, use of more LED? What is causing the drop in electricity bills when we have not yet dropped the rates?

Another alarming cut of NAFI. 484.000 for the Inspection, which division is solely responsible to maintain the quality of education in schools. This needs to be explained whether it was inflated. What exactly is fictitious? How many inspectors are we losing or cannot hire to carry out the crucial execution of inspection in our schools and other tasks?

Can the Government explain the cut of NAFI. 358.000 in personnel cost for the Innovation Department?

A cut of NAFI. 827.000 for the Division Public Education for personnel cost is mentioned. That's a lot. Does that mean that we have less teachers in public education now? Or is that a clean up of some mess that existed? This really needs a lot of clarification.



The budget post Diverse specifieke goederen; book, toilet paper? What is being cut here? How are we able to cut so much from the operation budget of Public Education? Maintenance budgets for schools are being cut. Were we underpaying for maintenance while there is so much maintenance needed at schools right now? It doesn't jive with the reality of our situation. When will schools start to lack or continue to lack with these cuts?

Cleaning contract for schools for 2018 and 2019 for NAFI. 350.000. This needs to be elucidated. Was a bidding process done? Was it clear, transparent and with integrity?

Very alarming overview for this Ministry. A total cut of NAFI. 5 million, NAFI. 4 million in personnel and NAFI. 1 million for projects.

Why is the NAFI. 1.9 million from USONA for 1 tablet for every child under loans (leningen)? This was not a loan.

There is nothing in the budget for arts facilities and the Library. But also, nothing from the World Bank.

The cuts in Division Public Education personnel budget. Most of the budget is not for the office staff but for teachers. Can this be clarified?

There is NAFI. 3.5 million budgeted for sports in the Capital Expenditures. Can a breakdown in detail be provided what this NAFI. 3.5 million is to be spent on? What tangible can be done with the NAFI. 3.5 million? 4 classrooms for Vocational Training School are being constructed where the old police houses were. On the budget there is NAFI. 1 million for building of 4 classrooms. Can Government explain what happens when the 4 classrooms are complete in terms of chairs, desks, class board and all necessary instruments that a classroom needs to accommodate students? So basically, a shell is being built? NAFI. 1 million is not sufficient. Can a detailed schematic breakdown be provided of what the NAFI. 1 million is supposed to do?

The roof of MPC where the sport facility area is, needs to be repaired. Same goes for Cay Hill basketball court, Cay Bay court, Middle Region court. The faction would like an update on these facilities. Can an update be provided of these facilities? Can an update be provided on the Prince Willem Alexander school, which is no longer there, and area?



How much was the Library appraised for in the insurance payout? What is the amount?

What is the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport's opinion on the fact that schools give detention on weekends? Is it appropriate for children to be in detention on a Saturday and Sunday?

Capital Expenditures under "Verstreckte studieleningen"; what are exactly the plans for this line item?

A motion was passed a few months ago instructing the Minister to come with a solution within 60 days for fighting and bullying. It is 150 days since then, can Parliament receive an update on this motion? What is the cost, if there are any, attached to this motion? And the solution that has been found? The budget doesn't reflect the results of this motion. There is no budget for parental support, positive peer pressure, rehab program catered to the youth. Can Government point out where in the budget supports these items that were in the motion that is already months late? So, the Minister agrees with all the MP's that voted against the motion because it was very reactive and unrealistic in the timeframe given? Can this be clarified?

The former Minister of Education had a plan to collaborate with the Ministry of TEATT to promote sport tourism more. Sport tourism is not properly reflected in the budget of the Ministry. This is an area where this Ministry together with the Ministry of TEATT can bring in income for the island.

Is the school bussing issue a concern for this Ministry?

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor

A NAFI. 2.5 million cut for projects. This is another Ministry providing social services for the people of Sint Maarten.

NAFI. 3 million cut "Overdracht aan het Land". Can Government explain this? Overdracht of what?

Cut in social services and noodvoorzieningen at the tune of NAFI. 1.1 million. Are those the people who are no longer needy after the hurricane? Based on what statistics can we make that cut? Even Government's contribution to SZV is cut by NAFI. 1.1 million. Is Government going to owe them more now?



Were the vehicles leased from BZK, donated or purchased? Who was the secret donor? Did the vehicles come from the manufacturers with the GPS installed? If that is the case, what is the price tag of those vehicles? If that is not the case, were these vehicles outfitted with the GPS in Sint Maarten? And if that is so, at what cost? Did a bidding process take place to outfit these vehicles with the GPS tracking system? Can Parliament receive information on the donation of the vehicles to Mental Health? What transaction took place with the secret donor turning the vehicles over to the Mental Health?

Is the Minister a shareholder at Princess Heights? If yes, what decision level does the Minister take at Princess Heights?

What is the amount of space required in m<sup>2</sup> for hurricane shelters? Where is the bunker going to be located? Is it an underground bunker or is it a top bunker? What kind of bunker is it going to be? Are there schematic drawings for this bunker? What exactly does the Ministry of VSA plan to do with NAFl. 4.4 million (Kapitaaldienst)? Mention was made of 2 shelters that would be financed by the EU. When will this happen? Are they going to be built or erected? Are they going to be placed in containers or in locations? Where? If these shelters will be able to house 1000 persons, at what cost for the EU? Is there any input from the Ministry of VSA for outfitting these buildings with generators, diesel, first aid kits, blankets etc.? Where is the land where these 2 buildings will be located? Who will man these buildings in time of emergency, in time of hurricane come June 1<sup>st</sup>? State secretary Knops stated over a year ago that in case of a hurricane, the Dutch Government would guarantee sufficient hiding places. Are these shelters guaranteed and, where are they? How many shelters has the Dutch Government guaranteed? How many shelters do we have right now? Are they up to date in terms of maintenance? Are these shelters equipped?

From the 2019 budget, how much money is allocated for the Mental Health Foundation? Even though it doesn't come out of the budget but is funneled through SZV. Can the support for the Mental Health Foundation be pointed out in the budget?

Are there any consultants in the cabinet of the Minister from January 2018 till now? And if yes, how much were the fees? And what were the tasks of these consultants?



The faction would like a breakdown for the travel of the Minister. Was the trip in January to Italy also paid by the Ministry? And if so, was it a work visit and can some more explanation be given?

What was actually done in terms of the roofs project? How many roofs did Government repair? The faction would like to know the exact number. Why is it still taking so long with assessments (a year and a half later)?

What has the Minister of Social Affairs done in securing the wellbeing of people of Sint Maarten for the upcoming hurricane season?

Why the name change from National Health Insurance to General Health Insurance?

The increase of NAFL. 1 million for "Calamiteitsbestrijding"; what policies, projects and programs are related to this? What exactly are the plans for this fund?

Can the Ministry present measurable policy intentions, ongoing and new ones, as related to the budget?

How many functions were not filled in 2018? How many are extremely necessary to be able to carry out the necessary social services? What effect will these personnel cuts have in the Ministry's ability to carry out its services?

It was mentioned that certain cuts were made seeing that the World Bank was carrying it. Can this be elucidated? With hurricanes constantly occurring, wouldn't it make more sense to then move the funds to a budget post to be able to deal with it yourself in the event it happens or reoccurs instead of requesting assistance from others again? Will the Sint Maarten budget then not ever have an emergency fund of its own under VSA?

In 2016 there was an audit to be done on the Sint Maarten Medical Center (SMMC). Was this audit done? And if yes, can Parliament be provided with the findings of that audit? If not, why wasn't the audit done? What is the status of health care in Sint Maarten? In 2017 a company named Van Geeman was hired to conduct an audit. The company was paid €25.000. Can Parliament be provided with the original copies of this report? How was the company approached to conduct whatever they were assigned to conduct? Who proposed the figure of €25.000? And did they receive this amount in euros or was it



converted in our legal tender? What is the status update on INSO in terms of any buyers? Did the Minister of VSA sign any agreement with the Italian Government on his work visit to Italy? If no, why then would the Italian Government want to see this project finished? What role does the Italian Government play in the building of the Sint Maarten General Hospital? If INSO is financially sound, why are they selling?

There is nothing in this budget in terms of the six-month contract, living wage, proposal on the abuse of the six-month contract? Where is the proposal right now? Given the minimum at what it is right now, doesn't Government think that the minimum wage should be increased to a living wage? Why isn't there anything regulated in the budget for the six-month contract? Are the civil servants in VSA working on policies for the six-month contract? And if they are, what are these policies and where are these policies? How does Government plan to tackle the loophole of using interns from Holland as workers instead of hiring locals? How many interns does the Minister of VSA have employed at Princess Heights?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

How much money did the Government spend this year on Carnival? How much money did Government spend on the recently held Music Festival? And how much money did Government spend on the Heineken Regatta? These events are very important to generate revenue for the country and boost our tourism product. But it is also very important to take care of the social ills that we have.

When last was the list of Government controlled products implemented by the Ministry of TEATT? And if it hasn't been implemented in the last 2 years, the faction would like to know why not?

In the budget, loans to the airport are included for approval. What is the status of other offers that were made to the airport such as Piper Jeffrey? What happened to that offer? The rumor is that the offer was not rejected but placed on a backburner and the information didn't reach the Members of Parliament because it was shoved under the table. What is the status of those offers? Loans to the airport are included in the budget. What is the status of the different offers?

"Rechts- en ander deskundig advies" went down from NAFL. 100.000 to NAFL. 50.000. This is the ministry that creates our policies. The faction knows for



a fact that the ministry doesn't have a lawyer anymore. Doesn't make sense that there is no lawyer anymore but the post to pay lawyers gets lowered as well.

Two years ago, some Members of Parliament recommended to increase the sports tourism budget post. It was initially NAFI. 0 and the recommendation was to bring it to NAFI. 100.000. It is budgeted now for NAFI. 50.000. There are more than NAFI. 100.000 requests that come in every year. Some of the money for uniforms can be used for this.

Cruise conversion has been on the budget for the last 5 years and never been used. Now that the airport is down and room availability is at 70% at hotels. What is the realistic plan for cruise conversion? Can't this budget post be used better somewhere else in the ministry where the people of Sint Maarten will have the immediate effect?

The faction doesn't see any money under the line item Consumer Protection Agency. It has actually been removed. Why?

A huge opportunity is being missed by not putting any money under the e-zone line item under TEATT.

Government is projecting higher income from hazardspelen en loterijverordening without having the right legislation in place to do so. So, what is Government basing these income projections on. Is the legislation ready to come out?

A cut for the Statistics department. Outside entities want to help us but we don't have any statistics. So, the faction can't understand this cut. Can the cut be elucidated?

Mention was made of it being very costly to establish a new (Calibrations) department. What is the cost? How many persons are needed to man this department? Can this be further elucidated? Calibrations amount to 10% of the workload of the Ministry of TEATT, hence it's not necessary to have such a department. What formula did Government use to calculate such? Government is of the opinion that such a department is not a priority right now. How does Government set its priorities then (comparing to the purchase of new vehicles for Ministers)? Is consumer protection through calibration not a priority?



Are tint meters calibrated at all? Is there any other Calibration department within Government? Or is only the Ministry of TEATT responsible for calibration on the Dutch side of the island?

When will the maximum prices be implemented (hasn't been implemented since 2008) and what are the steps that the Ministry has taken since this Government took office to get this done?

What is the date that the fine book will be enforced? When will civil servants be able to use this fine book?

What are the critical vacancies within the Ministry? Have these vacancies been kept on the budget for 2019 or have they also been swept away with the easy cuts that the Ministry of Finance has made? How far is the hiring process of said persons?

Presently there are 10 employees within the Ministry of TEATT carrying out controls. However, in the media there was an article published that 3 employees were following a training in Saba. Can clarity be provided on this?

Article 34 of the National Ordinance of Calibration refers to penalties while in a recent meeting the Minister mentioned that there are no penalties/no consequences. Can this be clarified? How does the Ministry plan to make amendments to this law so we can work more efficient? Saba has a different law then we have so how is it that the employees went to Saba for the training? So, are they training to work in Saba or training to work in Sint Maarten?

Is Government aware of the plane that landed on the airport that took Mr. Heyliger to Bonaire? Was it a registered plane that was allowed to be on the island? Was Government (shareholder of PJIA) aware that during those hours the "kidnapping" of MP Heyliger was taking place? Can Government give an opinion on the extension of his 60 days being in Bonaire?

Can Government indicate when the signage for the roads will be replaced for the safety and protection of road users?

The law amendment of the Permit Ordinance that was approved in November 2018 by Parliament concerning permit holders being penalized if they sell alcohol to under aged persons. The draft was sent to the Governor and the Governor sent it back for Government's take prior to signing. Over 3 months



later, what is the stance of Government on moving this piece of legislation forward which has been approved by Parliament and which have positive consequences for the protection of our youth? Is it correct that the original law cannot be found?

When last were the bingo balls and the lotto balls checked? And how often are they checked? How is it stipulated by policy or by law? Isn't it a task of the Ministry and why hasn't it been done since 2009? When last were the scales of the Customs, Police and Coast Guard checked? Is the tint meter to check the tint on car windows also supposed to be controlled by the Ministry of TEATT?

Is the Business license department fully equipped and staffed? Are there any vacancies there? If not, what is being done to tackle this issue? How much did this department generate in 2018? And what was the projection for 2019?

Has the policy for number plates been updated at all in the past 2 years? Can Parliament receive a copy of this policy? Any changes, do they come with any budget changes whether on the income or expenditures side?

A number of gaming businesses are having challenges opening bank accounts in Sint Maarten. These are businesses with licenses that Government issued. How does Government see itself intervening in making sure that at least these businesses would be able to establish bank accounts so that they can deposit the daily revenue into a safe, secure system? What is Government's position on this? What other policies than the Gaming Control Board that should be put in place, are there in terms of checks and balances?

The Ministries of ECYS and TEATT have been collaborating throughout the years on and off to bring integrity to the manner in which school bussing is being handled. How is the collaboration going to continue?

Is the increase in consultancy fees the Ministry's way of coping with the cut in personnel costs? How many consultants are there in the cabinet of TEATT? And if so, what are their tasks? How much was paid out in consultants? And is this the norm within the cabinet?

Is there a maximum price for bread? And the weight of the bread? When last was this controlled and checked? If the maximum price of bread is NAFL. 2,35, can Government clarify why wholesome bread is being sold for NAFL. 8 to 10?



After the hurricane, because of the casino closures several casino controllers were put to do other work in the Ministry. Some of them are doing calibration work. Do they have a besluit instating them? Are they moved officially over or are they casino workers doing calibration work?

There are cuts amounting to NAFI. 3 million in this Ministry and the budget for this Ministry has not grown over the last 5 years. Does Government agree that investing in the economy will create more revenue?

There are 3 vacancies namely 1 department head and 2 policy advisors. Have these ads already gone out? How long have these positions been vacant? Who is currently the acting department head of EVT?

There is NAFI. 40.000 available for the Small Hotels Association. What is the plan for this budget post? Will the monies be given to the association or has Government received plans from the association in terms of marketing? How is this money going to be allocated and executed?

What is the procedure now for getting a lottery booth? What is the procedure for branch licenses for lottery booths? Every lottery booth on the road, do they have branch licenses? Do they need a branch license? How many branch licenses has Government given out? Does Government know that there are random lottery booths on the island in different structures? Does Government think this adds to the beautification of our island? How many lottery booths do we have on the Dutch side? How many controls were executed on these booths over the last 6 months? How many were found in violation? What happened after they were found in violation? How much had to go? What are our laws pertaining to lottery booths on the island? Is there any difficulty within the Ministry pertaining to lottery booths? If a lottery booth is visited right now and there is no branch license, would this mean that the inspectors are not performing controls? Wouldn't it also mean that Government is losing much needed revenues? The Ministry of VROMI is seemingly working on allocating spaces for new lottery booths. How is the Ministry of TEATT issuing branch licenses before the Ministry of VROMI has done its part?

The Ministry is working together with its French counterpart on having one website for the country; 1 website, 1 message, 1 marketing. This could potentially save cost. At the end of the day it is still 2 different countries. A new domain would be needed because right now the Dutch one refers to the Dutch



spelling while the French one the French spelling. What kind of domain would Government use? Every popular name that has Sint Maarten in it is already gone. How many domains does Government have registered right now under the Ministry? The faction would like to know of them by .com, .nl and .sx. When were they registered? Wouldn't it be very difficult to get the new domain to the top of the GOOGLE list?

Who handles the tourist website for Sint Maarten? Is it a local company or a foreign company? What is the name of the company? Was the proper bidding process followed while awarding this bid to this company? Is there a policy or what is Government's opinion on awarding bids by giving local companies preference?

There is NAFI. 205.000 budgeted for a public transportation assessment. Can this be elucidated? We need a public transportation system due to demand. What is Government's opinion on the "hulp chauffeur" system right now? And how does Government plan to address it? Increasing the amount of T's and G's on the road without a proper policy is not going to work.

Does signage for example digital billboards fall under TEATT? And if so, is there any policy currently?

Does the Ministry plan to hire a lawyer? Having 6 vacancies in the department of EVT is drastic (3 budgeted, 3 not budgeted). This is a very important department. Does Government think it's urgent to have these vacancies filled? Has the Minister evaluated the SG TEATT? If so, is the Minister satisfied with the performance so far? Does the Minister think that it's only necessary to evaluate employees and not those that work directly under the Minister?

What are the plans for the market area and restrooms there? Is there any collaboration with VROMI to get town on the level it should be? Is there any collaboration with the Trust Fund?

How many permits were issues to import and export animals over 2017 and 2018? How much revenues were collected for these permits?

Are the gas pumps at the gas stations checked by the controllers of the Ministry of TEATT? Who controls the GEBE meters (electricity and water



meters)? Is it the same inspectors that carry out the calibration? If not, who deals with this? It was stated that controlling the GEBE meters would be too much work for the controllers but that they are doing a course in June. So, does this mean that after June they will be checking on an on and off basis?

Which Capital Expenditures cuts would the Minister like to see back in his budget?

Does Government think Front Street and Back Street should be fixed especially seeing that Carnival is around the corner? Does Government think the lookout point should be fixed?

According to the Government, was the SXM Music Festival a successful event? How are we going to support any future event if we don't have the budget for it? Even though the events should become self-sufficient in about 5 years.

Budget post 4420180032, investment promotion. What are the plans for this? What is the idea for this line item? What are the plans for SME development budgeted at NAFL. 140.000?

Cruise conversion has been on the books forever. Are there plans currently? If not, it is suggested to refer it to e-zone development.

Is Government satisfied with inspections taking place on the island? What is being done to tackle the containers in Suckergarden? Were there fines implemented the last time? Were the fines paid? Who do these containers belong to? Is it the port or regular citizens of the island?

Has the BLISS program been finally implemented fully in the Ministry? And if not, why not? What is the timeline? What is the timeline to have AIMS fully implemented?

What were the findings of the checks conducted today on the bread (March 22, 2019)? And what is the maximum price? Can Parliament be provided with the reports of the last 3 months on the controls?

Is the system to track the busses an intention for 2020 as it is not in this year's budget (Capital Expenditures)?



Has the Ministry of TEATT given the Ministry of Finance advice that lowering the profit tax and having tax holidays will boost our economy? Or is this just an opinion of the Minister?

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure

What is the current status of the Rent Committee? What is their function exactly and what is their current status? Are they functioning? How much is Government subsidizing them, if Government is subsidizing them?

How much money has the Government spent on roofs?

Can an overview be provided of the amount of building permits requested and finalized from 2015 to date? Can an overview be also submitted of the number of requests submitted to Domain Affairs and finalized from 2015 to date?

Was the NAFI. 356.000 that was spent in 2018 for the 7 roofs? The total time to fix the roofs is 2 years. When does Government plan to start? Yet NAFI. 0 is budgeted for roof repair in 2019. This is quite disturbing to the faction. How does the Government plan to move forward with this?

What is the update on EnviroPower? And what is the update on EnviroGreen? What is the difference? Why is it that when one Government go out there is a lack of continuity?

Has the Minister of VROMI evaluated the SG VROMI in the last year? Since January has the Minister started the process? Was the Minister satisfied with the performance?

Has the Minister of VROMI had personal involvement in this budget? Has the Minister made changes in this budget or was this done by the organization and the Minister just approved it? Is the Minister happy with this budget and can the Minister work optimally with this budget?

Is it true that there are department heads going on strike until the Minister does what they have asked him to do? Is this also taken up in their evaluation process? Who is the head of Inspection? Has the head of Inspection been evaluated in the last year? Actually, since hurricane Irma? Were the



evaluations satisfactory? If not, what has been done about it? Has the head of Inspection been coming to work since hurricane Irma? Since January 2018, how many building stops have been put in place? The Ministry of VROMI has been underperforming the most since hurricane Irma. Has the Minister gone through the process with P&O to get rid of underperforming department heads? Is the Minister satisfied with all the evaluations of all the department heads in the Ministry? The department head of Inspections and a few others have not been evaluated. So, what is the Minister basing his evaluations on? What standards are being used?

What is the process of a citizen going to VROMI to report an illegal construction happening? And what is the timeline for VROMI to show up and put a stop to this? What happens when VROMI comes and they give a warning and the building continues? What happens again when VROMI comes? Does VROMI remove the building itself after the final warning? Or do they make the owners move the building? How long is this process?

Windward Roads has to pay a fine of NAFL. 2 million. This resulted in the company having to render services of up to NAFL. 2 million to VROMI. Has the Ministry used this provision already? Is this provision allocated anywhere in the budget? Does this "credit" from Windward roads mean that VROMI still goes through a bidding process? Has Windward Roads used this provision? How does VROMI know that the prices are not now inflated? How is it possible that a company such as Windward Roads, referred to by the papers as a criminal organization, continue to get Government contracts? While other companies with lesser court charges are not allowed to continue to work for Government?

Can the faction receive an update on the car clean up? How many cars to date have been picked up? In which districts and how much was budgeted? How much was spent so far? Which towing companies were used? How is that process? Was there a bidding process? Or companies that are used often were used?

How much metal is collected on a daily basis that goes to the metal park across from the dump? How much metal leaves the island on a weekly basis? Is this measured? What is the cost per shipment?

Where in the budget can we allocate monies to speed up the building permit process? This is a complaint that is heard often and there are no solutions coming out of the Ministry.



The bridge by Cul de Sac is being painted, what kind of quality paint is being used? What kind of paint is VROMI supposed to use? What is the international standard in quality of paint that would last at least a year?

Has the Ministry considered instead of patching up holes in the road to cut a piece a road and do it completely over?

Doesn't Government think that it should finish the lookout point (steps at the Flag)? Isn't it important for our tourism product? How much does it cost? Is the Ministry in talks to finish this?

How much does it cost to have all the signs and mirrors back up? Can Government provide an update on the stoplights? What would be the cost to have them back up and running? Does it have to come out of the Kapitaal dienst or Gewone dienst? When and how can it be executed?

What are Government's plans from today till the first Carnival event to make Front street look a little better?

The faction would like to see all policies, plans and projects related to the VROMI budget. Are the projects listed in the Capital Expenditures ready to go? Have the plans been executed? Have the terms of reference been written? Are contractors and consultants just waiting on these funds to be able to start?

The area from the old Government building to the Post Office is an eyesore. What are the plans of Government for that area? Is this reflected in our 2019 budget? The Meerjarenplan is not clear. Can this be clarified?

**The members of the United St. Maarten Party faction** have the following questions.

The faction has taken note of the draft and mentions that the budget is long overdue in the House of Parliament. The budget seems to have gone through the world tour event to Parliament and was then pulled back because a Member of Parliament posed a bunch of questions. Every year we go down the same road. We go through the numbers, the highlights of several revenue items as well as expenses, compare the needs with the wants. We make Capital Expenses based on the legal criteria set as well and the approval of the CFT. Try



to balance the budget and now more than ever borrow and most concerning, borrow to cover operational expenses. Then the Government proposes cost cutting measures and income generating measures. A bit of cutting expenses takes place. The revenue generating measures due to the social effects or lack of political pressure just never happen. A year passes and we repeat the same thing, a waste of everyone's time. The faction would like to suggest that we have a real debate concerning the budget and how we are going to increase revenue without breaking the people, businesses and how we are going to provide adequate public services so the people of Sint Maarten with the resilience they have left, can actually get the help they need to get back on their feet and further build this island.

The faction send a letter when the first version of this budget was submitted to Parliament in November. The letter is dated November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and the point of the letter was to highlight some serious grievances and inconsistencies with the way that budget was sent. The faction would like to know if Government received this letter and if so, why the faction hasn't received an answer to the letter? Because it is an unfortunate trend that the faction doesn't receive answers. It was very curious to learn 4 days later that the budget meeting was cancelled due to compliance with article 25 of the Rft. The CFT themselves pointed out to Government the need to comply with article 25 of the Rft. The Council of Advice also pointed out that the budget was not in compliance with the recommendation from the CFT. What really took place in that time line? Why is it that at the final minute that it reached Parliament it was decided to cancel the meeting after both the CFT and the Council of Advice had warned Government?

The faction mentions that in November 2018 an amendment of budget 2018 was also submitted. This just showed poor planning. What was the logic of trying to pass at the same time budget amendment 2018 and budget 2019 as it was almost the end of 2018? Where is the budget amendment 2018 now?

Every single time the budget comes to Parliament, the faction requests a fully digital version of the budget. The faction is happy to have received the searchable PDF file of the budget. The faction would also like this type of document for the Elucidation.

Definition as per the law of the budget in accordance with the Accountability Ordinance is a policy budget for a service year comprising a regular service and capital service divided into chapters according to the



classification shown in annex 1 accompanying this national ordinance. The faction has been unable to find and verify whether the annex 1 of the Accountability Ordinance has ever been completed. The faction is of the opinion that the emphasis on the policy in the budgets is getting worse. It is not clear how Government intends to spend the monies listed in the budget. It is severely lacking in this budget.

Articles 11 till 14 of the Accountability Ordinance are very clear about everything that has to be included in the budget. The faction refers to article 14, paragraph 3, of the Accountability Ordinance and asks how this process is done.

#### Ministry of General Affairs

Mention was made concerning the Trust Fund that most projects were ready. Can Parliament be provided with a list of all the projects that are ready to start via the Trust Fund outside all the consultancy money that has already been paid? Has the Government discussed the manner in which the World Bank is managing the Trust Fund with the donor? And in these discussions, what is the Dutch Government's view? Is the Dutch Government of the opinion that everybody but the World Bank is getting the best bang for their buck? Is the Dutch Government in a position to change its mind and have the funds managed more effectively? It is seemingly taking very long for monies to be used on projects for the wellbeing of the people of Sint Maarten. What is the planning for the repairing of homes and the promised shelters?

There are a lot of difficulties with the way the World Bank operates. Has the Government sat with the Dutch Government to explain that the decision to let the World Bank manage the funds was less than an optimal decision?

Are any reservations being made for expenses that are scheduled to be made from the Trust Fund but are likely not to be made due to the requirements of the World Bank for which the local companies will not be able to qualify?

Bodyguards at the cost of NAFl. 800.000 for the Executive Branch. Ministers already have this. Historically, in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, where have we seen the dangers for political people? Has it been in the Executive Branch or more in the Legislative Branch? The faction mentions that each Minister already has budgeted drivers and proposes for these drivers to be trained as bodyguard personnel if there is a fear for Ministers.



Why is it that in the sections of the policies in the budget, the policies are not sufficiently tied to the figures?

Where is the NAFI. 1.2 million for calamity going too? And why does it fall directly under the Minister of General Affairs which means it doesn't go through the regular advisory process?

#### Ministry of Finance

Government needs to give a total breakdown of the NAFI. 132 million in the Capital Investments. Almost a billion guilders in loans and debts that Sint Maarten has. We have become a country that doesn't show how it plans to pay down its debts. How serious is this Government to present a budget that doesn't represent the needs of our people after a devastation like hurricane Irma to improve our infrastructure, our way of life and how we intend to prepare for the next calamity to come?

Mention was made that the Government will loan about NAFI. 40 million for 2019. Is that true yes or no? In one of the budget posts there is a loan that is also showing for NAFI. 5.2 million. Can that loan be explained? Who is it loaned to and for what?

Can Parliament receive a breakdown of the amount of liquidity support that has been provided since the hurricanes of 2017 to the Government of Sint Maarten in the form of loans with the attached terms (including dates, origin and purpose of the terms of the loans)?

Which investment is Government making that will generate an income?

The faction proposes for Government to borrow \$50 million and purchase Mullet Bay. This can be used to build at least 4 resorts which Government can control the property. We will have return on our investment in the form of employment. How is it that for all these years Mullet Bay was at \$350 million and now the Central Bank did its due diligence and did another appraisal that puts the value at \$50 million? ENNIA was illegally including the beach, cliffs and lagoon for all those years in their appraisal. Where in this budget or policy is there a plan van aanpak to deal with this Mullet Bay situation? What budgetary support is being provided to the Central Bank to keep this process of the restructuring of ENNIA going, to keep policy holders safe and preventing this property from going on auction?



On the Kapitaal dienst inkomsten, under 41100, it shows a loan of NAFI. 40 million. It is clear that this NAFI. 40 million is for loans. Where did the available funds of NAFI. 10.6 million come from listed under this same post? What will happen to this money that is now available due to the surplus? What was it supposed to be spent on?

NAFI. 48.8 million; is this expected to be collected in 2019 as a result of the upgrading of the Tax Office? How will this be done? The Minister mentioned in the media that payment arrangements can be made but cannot exceed 18 months. Can Government explain the grace period that it plans to offer to those who have to pay their taxes? Is it over 6, 5, 18 months or not exceeding 18 months? What will happen if the taxpayer is unable to meet these terms? What are the consequences of such a payment if it leads the taxpayer to go bankrupt? What is Government's position on this? What is the status of tax reform? How much longer will we maintain an uncompetitive fiscal environment?

How much debt has the Government build up to the Netherlands in liquidity support?

The CFT made mention that the airport should be borrowing the money directly and not Government borrowing the money. What is the Government's sentiments on the report of the CFT concerning the way the loan should be given?

Are any reservations being made for expenses that are to be made from the Trust Fund but are likely not to be made due to the requirements of the World Bank for which local companies will not be able to qualify?

To date how much money has been collected in road tax? Government is losing revenue based on a bad decision concerning the number plates and stickers.

The faction recognizes the effort of Government to raise NAFI. 1 million which is based on collecting the 10% of medical cost due from civil servants who are currently in scales 6 and higher. How far back will Government go in this recuperating scheme?

Government will collect NAFI. 25 million in dividend from the Central Bank in 2019. In 2017 and 2018 it was NAFI. 21 million. Can Government explain the increase of approximately NAFI. 4 million?



The faction would like to see a plan of approach to generate revenue from alcohol and tobacco on this island. It is something that needs to be done but in a responsible manner.

Post 5401 18240, Time share fee. Can Parliament get an explanation on the legislation to change that fee?

In the budget there is a provision for the Harbor to pay a concession fee of NAFL. 5.5 million. Did Government receive any concession fee in 2017, 2018 and to date? There is also a projected NAFL. 5 million concession fees from GEBE. Is this realistic? Or is it from the water distribution part of it?

This issue with Bearing Point and whether a contract has been signed. If a contract was signed, can Parliament receive a copy? If not, then when did the process of the selection of bidders start? Who were the selection committee members and how did they score the final candidates? Is there a report of the scores of the committee? And can Government present that report and the date it was made? Why did it take so long to conclude the selection process if a process was done? Is it true that Minister Gibson awarded a Chinese company who was one of the last two candidates along with a local company? Bearing Point is the best candidate, how did the other candidates score? There is a huge price difference between what is being presented by Bearing Point than the bids of the other candidates on this project. Can Government explain to Parliament how this process went? Was the IT department involved in the selection process of this project?

The issue of consultants in the cabinets of all Ministries. Can Parliament be provided with all the contracts of all consultants working in the cabinets of the Ministers? There are increases in the Minister's budgets. For what?

The board of GEBE seemingly has a budget of NAFL. 1 million for the board. Can Parliament get full details of the budgets for the boards of all Government owned companies?

The faction is of the opinion that there is no legal basis for a Financial Recovery Plan. There is conflicting information between this budget and the Financial Recovery Plan. There is no synchronization between the two. Is the Financial Recovery Plan reflective to start in 2019? Who created this Financial Recovery Plan? The Ministry or was a consultant hired?



The faction refers to the proud notion for Ministers that they have taken a salary cut. But if you really look at the figures in some Ministries, you realize that the Minister's salary has decreased but the cabinet costs have increased. So, then what are we really cutting? The faction refers to a NAFI. 3 million (Rechts-en deskundig advies) increase in the Ministry of Finance for a consultancy pool for all Ministries. Why does this money fall directly under the Minister and not for example under FBB? This is a new practice.

Based on article 45 of the Accountability Ordinance immediately upon receipt by Parliament the budget must also be sent to the General Audit Chamber. The faction just wants to verify if this was done. Was this done?

The way the Kapitaaldienst has been handled and calculated. The CFT stated that the maximum amount for loans should be NAFI. 14 million. In the end we have Capital Expenditures to the tune of NAFI. 132 million. Kapitaaldienst inkomsten, 41001214 and 41001215. The post 41001214 is "Opname van geldleningen" of NAFI. 40 million. Some points under Kapitaaldienst are not clear. Can this be better elucidated?

The Belastingdienst is scheduled to provide NAFI. 48 million. What exactly is the justification for this? How did Government come to this number? How is this money going to be translated into Capital Investments? What happens if there is a shortfall? What happens if Government's very ambitious plan to put additional pressure on an already tight economy for tax compliance, fails?

"Financieel beheer" for NAFI. 15 million. Where is this coming from? Is it coming from the Trust Fund? Is it from the Netherlands? The faction refers to arrangements with BZK which have not yet been finalized as per the elucidation. The faction feels uncomfortable approving a budget based on arrangements that are still in progress especially because the entity we are dealing with has moved the goal post before.

NAFI. 60 million will be provided to improve the tax infrastructure of the country (Belastingdienst Plan van Aanpak). So, what is this Plan van Aanpak? There is no detailed Plan van Aanpak attached to this budget at all. Can Government explain this? Numbers are being thrown in the Kapitaaldienst that add up to NAFI. 132 million without proper sourcing on how or why we are actually going to be doing this.



The faction has a discomfort with the fact that the emphasis is more on tax collection than revenue generation. Sint Maarten needs to do a better job at collecting taxes that is owed. However, there is a fine line ceiling as to what that can be. Because if you don't create some sort of revenue generation, so stimulate the economy so people can collect more, all you are really doing is forcing them to pay what they already have a hard time paying. While NAFL 85 million is being proposed for Capital Investments in the Ministry of Finance for the Tax Office, the Ministry of TEATT will only get NAFL 1.7 million. That is a huge disconnect seeing that TEATT has to do income generating measures. The faction is not seeing monies for customer training and route development. There is too much emphasis on the Ministry of Finance which has NAFL 85 million out of the NAFL 132 million. Why would Government even consider doing something like this?

The faction would like to highlight the zeros in the budget. These are things that have received zero support. One of them is the Mental Health Foundation. Same goes for the Library. Zero investment in hospitality training. You can't create a good tourism product if you don't educate your people properly. Why have these entities not received the necessary funding that they need?

The Council of Advice made mention of 10 items that keep recurring in budgets. The faction needs Government to explain how these things are going to be addressed and they are: 1. SMART objectives; why isn't this being done? 2. Sticking to deadlines, 3. Government picks and chooses what to react to as it pertains to the advice of the Council of Advice; what is the plan van aanpak pertaining to responding to the Council? 4. Poor policy guidelines, 5. Making poor use of cost cutting measures without proper justification, 6. The need to properly justify concessions. The Council found the GEBE and Harbor concessions very unrealistic. How did Government calculate these concessions? Does Government have any tangible documentation with commitments from these organizations that they will indeed pay these concessions? 7. It is unclear how Government is sourcing its Capital Expenditures, 8. Time pressure, 9. Debts to SZV. Can the faction get better explanation what the plan is? Plan for APS. How are we going to catch up on these things?

It was mentioned that CFT did not advise Government to look into getting the EIB loan directly from the airport. Can this be clarified?



It was stated that time pressure is caused by lack of resources in the Ministry, can Government then explain that the futile efforts of creating a 2018 budget amendment only added to the pressure within the Ministry?

It was also stated that cost cutting measures would be across all Ministries. Can it then be clarified that it has only been put under the Ministry of Finance? What is the logic behind it? Why hasn't the pool of experts been spread over several Ministries? What legal basis does the Ministry and/or SOAB have to allow SOAB to manage this fund?

What will the role of the Minister of Finance be in terms of "wachtgeld" for Ministers? Is it a MB, LB or just an advice that has to go to the Governor? On what grounds has the wachtgeld for former MP Matser been refused?

#### Ministry of Justice

The faction has taken note of a number of brand-new vehicles purchased under the Ministry of Justice, for the Police. Were those vehicles purchased based on the Capital Expenditures of 2019 or based on insurance from damaged vehicles and the money Government received?

How is the border control working out? Have border control efforts managed to curb the influx of undocumented persons or expelled anyone to date? Have border control efforts managed to control undocumented persons from working without paying taxes while the Sint Maarten people who are documented to pay their taxes without getting adequate public services?

The faction takes note that there is a 0% increase in consultancy fees. Does the Minister believe he has enough for consultancy fees for his Ministry? Even though the Minister took a cut in salary of NAFI. 27.000, he has increased the salaries of the members of his cabinet by triple that amount. What is the sense then of the cost cutting measure of cutting the Minister's salary and then increasing the salaries of the cabinet members?

Afdeling Justitiële Zaken is taking a 25% cut. What is the role of this department? What resulted in such a large cut? Reference was made of the possibility of this department merging with the Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of General Affairs. Is this a reality? Is it something that is already in the pipeline? Or is it an official plan?



Budget post prison 5202, Gevangenis en het Huis van Bewaring. 20% cut in personnel cost. What does this encompass? Only Point Blanche? Police station cells? Simpson Bay cells? Can this be clarified? Isn't this cut going to result in an even worse situation when it comes to detention in Sint Maarten?

A 200% increase (NAFI. 4.3 million) in material cost. The faction would like some clarification on budget post 5202 43489. What is it intended for? Why such a high increase in budget post 43499 with no real elucidation what it is for?

New budget item of NAFI. 450.000, does this mean that in the past there was no budget for maintenance of the building (budget post 43430)? Is there a training plan or syllabus that can be shared with Parliament?

Despite the trias politica and the separation of the 3 branches, the Judicial branch is still primarily funded from the coffers of the Government of Sint Maarten. Are budget posts 5213 and 5215 the only two budget items from the budget of Sint Maarten that go towards that section of the trias politica? And if not, what are the other sources of funding that go to the Judicial branch of this country? Particularly, what comes from the Netherlands? What portion of tax payer's money is going towards the amount of work that the Prosecutor's Office is doing (arrests etc.)? What portion comes from the Netherlands or any other organization? What is the contribution of the Netherlands to these 2 budget items? What is the agreement and what is the status of this agreement that determines who pays for what in the judicial system? Are all the salaries of all the judges, prosecutors and court house staff covered under these posts? Budget post 5212 is a new budget item. Where is it coming from and what is the reason for it? 5212, Coast Guard seems to be an expense swap between salaries. Can this be explained? Why was this budget item swapped?

The Executive protection unit is booked in this budget at NAFI. 783.000 but as a subsidy. This is very strange for various reasons. Subsidies are typically for organizations that have a shortfall and need it. Who are we then subsidizing in this case? Which NGO? Why is this put as a subsidy? This would also mean that no bidding process would take place where local companies can bid. Would the Subsidy Ordinance apply if this item is a subsidy? Can clarity be provided?

Subsidy to the Youth detention center; what is the intention of this subsidy item (43499)? Who do we intend to subsidize this to? What is the policy in terms of giving this subsidy to an organization? Is the subsidy for Turning Point (NAFI. 1.2 million) enough? What is the request that Turning Point has



submitted? Is it below what was requested? What is the budget post Reclassering? NAFI. 200.000 for Justice Academy; can this be elucidated?

Did the Minister have to make a compromise of cutting salaries in order to receive more material cost?

There is no budget for the Afpak team in this budget. Can this be explained? A projected increase of 6% for the verblijfsvergunningen, that is surprisingly low seeing the amount of people coming into the country. What are the current fees and are these mandated by a law or ministerial or country decision? 100 Chinese workers came in to work on 1 project alone, Maho. From Labor department there are the work permits. These two are connected. On labor side there is an increase of 30%. So how come the increase on the Justice permit side is so low? "Deposito vreemdelingendienst" is at NAFI. 0 this year, why?

The NAFI. 5.7 million for the prison, what is this going to do? What is this going to fix? How far is it from what the Ministry really needs to get our prison system back to where it needs to be? Line item ICT equipment (BMS) for NAFI. 4.9 million; what is this? Who is executing this project? Has it gone on bid already? What is the purpose of this? Under Douane, mobile scan for NAFI. 1.2 million. What is this device?

Is there a need for more monies in the Capital Expenditures to make sure that the ankle bracelets can continue? What is the policy on who qualifies to be able to get an ankle bracelet as opposed to going to prison?

The Formation plan of the Ministry is 243 employees while it should be 255. This is a shortfall of 12. The shortfall according to the faction is significantly higher. There is a disconnect between these figures and what was presented to Parliament in the past. Can this be clarified?

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

Absolutely no repairs have been done since 2017 after the hurricane, in 2018 and 2019. The facilities look as if the hurricane just destroyed them. The little repairs that have been done are a joke.

It is a fundamental right of every child to be able to access books in a library. This budget shows a lack of seriousness from this Government where the library is concerned.



Is the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport familiar with article 34 of the Accountability Ordinance? What did the wish list of this Ministry look like? Only NAFI. 4.5 million has been allocated for Capital Investments for one of the largest Ministries in terms of personnel. Where are the investments in culture, sports, sports tourism? What was the Ministry's request Capital Expenditures? Why wasn't there no Capital Expenditures listed in this budget for the Library?

What is the Ministry's role in terms of our cultural centers and community centers? Perhaps management, assistance with funding, repairs etc.

Is there a plan for this NAFI. 1 million for consulting fees under the Minister's budget? And why not allocate this directly to departments (Budget post 43476)? What are the procedures compared to a department head using such a budget post within their department? The Minister doesn't have to go through the SG and controller of the Ministry.

Subsidies for schools are allotted based on the number of students. In case there is a subsidy reduction for a school, does that mean that there will be less students? Several reductions in "Onderhoud gebouwen" at public schools for example Genevieve de Weever. What is the reason for these reductions? Will there be scaling back on the maintenance at these schools?

Budget post 43503 60086, SLA, contracts and licenses schoonmaak scholen. In 2017 it was an amount of NAFI. 270.000, in 2018 NAFI. 0 and in 2019 it is NAFI. 350.000. What is the reason for this? Was there no cleaning of schools last year? Was this contract cancelled? Was it appropriated to something else? What is the reasoning for the NAFI. 80.000 increase between 2017 and 2019?

A decrease of NAFI. 1.1 million can be noticed for subsidies. What is the validity behind this estimate? Is it tied to a decreased number of students? Have some schools closed?

Total personnel cut of NAFI. 3.8 million signifies a 13% cut from the previous year. What is the reason for getting personnel cost back to 2017 levels while there was an increase in 2018?

An amount of NAFI. 382.000 is budgeted for collection by the Ministry. Are there any policies or things in the pipeline that are income generating



measures from the Ministry of Education? Indirect income can be for example obtained when someone or organization wants to make use of the L.B. Scot Sports Auditorium. Fees need to be paid. How is this managed? Do these fees go to the foundation? Can this be elucidated? Does Government have any information on any such organization that collects fees related to the use of sports facilities? What is their income and expense like on an annual basis?

With reference to the policy document where there are 6 main themes listed that are tied to the NRRP. Does this budget sufficiently address all of these issues? Can this be elucidated?

Is it still the intention to bring a plan to Parliament as a result of the motion that was accepted a few months ago and that the Minister had to come back to Parliament with, within 60 days? And does this tie into the policy plans in the budget?

Where is the funding for NSI? Is NSI receiving an increase? The faction misses the funding or significant increases to be able to achieve the goal listed here (continued support of National Sport Institute and more structural support of the Sint Maarten Sport and Olympic Federation). What funding is being allocated to make this a reality? The faction doesn't see significant increases to justify or explain that the goal listed here is a realistic one.

The faction refers to an article of Mr. Wycliffe Smith from 2017. We have to practice what we preach. Why hasn't the Minister lived up to the motion and presented it back to Parliament in 60 days?

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

In previous parliamentary meetings different organizations came to Parliament giving presentations concerning medical marijuana. We are seeing other countries who are now moving forward with this even in the Kingdom. Are we going to introduce legislation in this respect to generate much needed taxes?

How far back will Government go in recuperating the 10% in medical costs from civil servants in scale 6 and higher?

This budget is not lined up with the Governing program. The CFT has pointed out to Government the importance of synchronizing the AOV pension age with that of the Government pension. Is it the intention of Government to carry out such synchronization? If it is, when? How much has Government spent



in 2018 on medical expenses on persons who do not have any medical insurance? How much of this amount was spent on undocumented persons? How much was spent on documented persons who live on Sint Maarten without the required medical insurance?

Another issue plaguing the community is the issue of referral. Government needs to indicate how it intends to solve these issues with SZV pertaining to persons who are being transferred to other countries for medical reasons. Seemingly there is a lot of wait time for these patients to be treated and time spent abroad which is costing SZV much more money. Is there a policy by SZV or the medical society on best to treat obese or overweight patients (whether or not through a surgery)?

By the third quarter of 2019, INSO is expected to be sold. Does that mean that the country of Sint Maarten or SMMC are expected to wait until the third quarter of 2019? The goal post pertaining to INSO seems to be moving constantly. What does this third quarter deal mean for the much-needed building of the hospital? What is the plan B? Is it really that we are going to continue to have tunnel vision as if INSO is the only company in the world that can build the hospital? Or are we going to start looking at alternative means? Why don't we take the steps for a second bidding process? Why the tunnel vision or insistence on making INSO build this hospital no matter what?

Are there any specific policy guidelines pertaining to interns? Are there any further policies in place that dictate the payment or salaries or stipends for interns? If not, are there any plans to do so? Is there any structure behind the idea of getting interns from NIPA to work in the local horeca industry? Is there any cap in terms of the number of interns that businesses can hire? Or is it that a company can have 50% of their staff as interns? Is there any sort of cap on foreign workers for businesses?

What is happening with regards to the so called "animeermeisjes" work permits? There seems to be some controversy. The Ministries of Justice and VSA sign off on permits but the Embassy in the Netherlands is blocking certain workers from coming into the country? What is going on here? Is it now that the Netherlands can determine who can and can't work in our country? If the Embassy is being used as a loophole who can come and who can't, then why have a Ministry of Justice and Labor at all?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication



Where in the budget is the \$5 million reflected for liquidity support for the airport? Apparently, Government already gave the airport the \$5 million but it is not reflected in the budget. It was also mentioned that it was a \$ 15 million bridge loan to the airport. Is it \$5 million, \$15 million or \$20 million bridge loan that Government is looking to offer the airport? Or is it a different amount? The issues of the airport should be dealt with the bondholders before any decisions are taken. If the loan arrangement is not in place soon, the rebuilding of the airport is not going to happen anytime soon or even this year. Can Parliament be provided with all information on the agreement that was signed for the \$100 million? Was it signed or wasn't it signed? Has this Government taken a decision concerning the airport? Pertaining to 1. the dissolution of the Holding company and 2. the sale of shares of the airport to the Dutch Government. Can Government inform Parliament pertaining to these two decisions? Did Government even have a discussion about that?

The TEATT budget projects NAFL. 50.000 for sports tourism. The facilities however aren't ready to bring in anyone for activities. If invested well there can be a good return on investment.

The financing of the airport the faction finds very confusing. The proper procedure of a national ordinance to grant a loan was bypassed with the argument that it would be incorporated in the 2019 budget. The initial amount that was given to the airport, was the total amount given to the airport or is there a separate line item for the loans to be given to the airport? The faction needs some clarity on this.

Why is it that Government is exploring the possibility to get the money from EIB and World Bank and then now have to loan it to the airport? The CFT advised for the EIB to deal directly with PJIA and loan the money directly? Why did the Government choose to go against the advice from the CFT in this case (page 3 in the response to the CFT advice)? What was the CFT's reaction after the Government ignored the advice?

The faction asks about agriculture in the budget. What is the policy related to the management of any agricultural activities from the Ministry of TEATT? What are the plans for these budgeted funds (NAFL. 50.000)?

With the current personnel stop, is it possible for Government employees to move in the Ministry of TEATT as long as their salary don't change?



With the introduction of system that registers what is entering our country through the ports, we can look at a lower duty on alcohol and tobacco while maintaining a competitive edge. Can Government give its views on introduction of such a low duty tax?

Budget post 8220, Economic licenses, and 84009-8240, room tax revenue to decrease from NAFI. 2.9 million to NAFI. 2 million compared to last year's. From all reports occupancy is better than ever. More hotel rooms are available in 2019 compared to 2018 but the revenue is expected to decrease. Can Government explain?

53404-8220 license revenue is projected to increase from NAFI. 5.2 million in 2018 to NAFI. 8.3 million in 2019. Based on what? Is Government expected to collect outstanding revenues from business license fees? Or is it based on new businesses that have been established or are expected to be established in 2019?

53450-8230, vehicle inspection revenue. The revenue is budgeted at NAFI. 30.000 in 2019. How many vehicles do we have registered for which road tax is paid? Can Parliament receive a breakdown per type of license plate? How many times does each type of category require inspection? What does Government receive per inspected vehicle? The faction also takes note of a change in the number plates. Can an explanation be provided what the difference is between BUS and B? is this the new norm and can Government elaborate on this? How many T's and G's were given out in the last two years (2018 and 2019)? Have any taxi or bus permits been given out in 2018 and 2019 so far?

A lot of people are busy with online shopping on this island which leads to a down trend in business activities for businesses on the island. How does Government see itself helping those businesses that will normally get the business from the local population patronizing those businesses? How does Government see itself recuperating revenues from that? What are the plans that Government has? And how does Government see itself safeguarding businesses on this island?

What is Government's plan in securing that the gaming companies (lotteries, casino's etc.) as license holders are able to have and maintain bank accounts?



What is Government's plan for the tourism product today that we have in Sint Maarten? How does Government see the revitalization, rebranding and reimagining of Sint Maarten after hurricane Irma? We are seeing the shift from Philipsburg to the Simpson Bay strip as the night life entertainment. How does Government see itself partnering in fixing the infrastructure of the strip?

What in the TEATT budget is in accordance with the Governing Program? What is the vision plan for the Ministry? How does the Ministry see itself pushing the economy?

Tourists are asking if the restrooms at the market are operational, not clean. Who is managing them?

What is the vision and plans pertaining allowing facilities to sell food on? the Ring Road?

Were any concessions or waivers given to businesses for the rebuilding of hotels?

What is the source of funding to cover the Tourism Master Plan? Where are we so far in the year where these entities are concerned particularly Carnival Foundation, Regatta, SXM Festival? Have they received subsidies? If not, where is that so far?

What permit does the Ministry of TEATT give for someone to be able to do an event on a beach such as Mullet Bay? How is TEATT able to coordinate with the other aspects (Justice, Fire department)? There is a huge disconnect here. Is there some sort of follow up to make sure the person organizing the event is actually able to keep the event? When someone asks for a permit to have an event on Mullet Bay beach, does the Ministry inform them that they have to consult with the Towers management first?

NAFI. 100.000 budgeted in the Ministry's cabinet for consultants. What are the plans/intention for this?

Why were the plans to improve Philipsburg removed from the Kapitaaldienst and no longer in this budget?

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure



How much money has Government collected so far from Rainforest Adventures for Emilio Wilson Estate for erfpacht in comparison to the amount of money that Government has to pay on an annual basis for the loan arrangement that was taken out to purchase the land?

Post 5302 049220 "Canon erfpacht". The total amount that Government is collecting. In 2017 Government collected NAFI. 3.3 million, in 2018 NAFI. 3.3 million. In 2019 NAFI. 4.7 million. Where will this increase come from? Did the canon increase or does Government own more land now? The increase in erfpacht is 39%. What measures/policies are being put in place to make this goal of almost 40% increase in erfpacht payments? Similar can be seen in inspections. What is the justification or policies in place in order for the Ministry to be able to make these collections? What is being done to make sure that these fees don't decrease?

Why is it that the Ministries of TEATT and VROMI didn't see an increase in consultancy fees?

What is the plan of approach in handling the Mullet Bay property? Is there anything from Domain Affairs perspective that Government can inform Parliament that is happening with aforementioned property? Especially seeing the fact that the meetbrief is illegally running into the water. Has the Ministry been in contact with the owner? Has the Ministry been working with Kadaster?

Several personnel cuts in the VROMI budget. Do these cuts negatively affect VROMI in its ability to execute its tasks effectively? Is it going to be a reduction in staff, hours or efficiency?

Is there a reason why there are so many items on NAFI. 0 in the VROMI budget? Some of these posts have been there for years. Can Government give Parliament a quick review of these zero items? Are they really zero items or have they been moved from one budget post to the next?

Budget post 9115 semi private NGO organizations; one of the zero items that was transferred to another budget post was the St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation. There is a subsidy of NAFI. 510.000 which is an increase of NAFI. 36.000. Can Parliament get a breakdown of how this subsidy works? Is this amount enough in Government's opinion? What is the purpose of the subsidy? Besides the St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation, are there any other organizations and NGO's who receive subsidy from Government



(VROMI) or have submitted requests for subsidy? The faction would like to receive a list of all organizations being subsidized. Does Government apply the Subsidy Ordinance on the subsidy given to the St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation and then they pass it on to others? Or does the Ministry apply the Ordinance to individual cases? Has the St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation requested any additional funds besides this that Government put aside?

What was the wish list of the Ministry of VROMI in accordance with article 34 of the Accountability Ordinance? What is the total ball park figure for the Ministry of VROMI to function accordingly?

Does Government understand that evaluations are actually a legal requirement by the LMA law that governs the civil service?

Budget 904, ROB yard. There is a reduction of NAFI. 200.000. Another reduction of NAFI. 600.000 in road repairs and NAFI. 500.000 in afwatering. What was the reasoning for these reductions? With these reductions, how is VROMI going to guarantee at least equal or better efficiency in performance in the carrying out of these tasks?

The concession of GEBE is listed at NAFI. 5 million. Both the CFT and the Council of Advice indicated that there is not sufficient documentation to back the reality of whether GEBE can live up to such a condition of a concession or not. Can VROMI provide Parliament with any sort of additional information as to a. how they came to the NAFI. 5 million concession fees from GEBE and b. is there some sort of letter of intent, a contract or any sort of documentation that the Ministry of VROMI possesses to solidify the intention to collect this NAFI. 5 million? How realistic is it to collect this income? GEBE is owed money by Government while they have to pay a concession. What is the legal basis for a “verrekening” of this GEBE concession?

On the income side, budget post 9240 5324505, “verkavelingsplannen”. In the past this was budgeted at NAFI. 84.000 but now it is at NAFI. 0. Why is this? Have the fees been reduced? Aren't we giving out such plans anymore? A very steep decrease in the leges for building permits at NAFI. 1.8 million. What is the reason for this drop? With the amount of building going on the faction would have expected an increase. What is the logic behind this 33% cut?



The faction was very happy to see the pull up spots for four busses in Philipsburg in the Capital Expenditures of the budget that was presented in November. In this budget it disappeared. What happened between the end of November 2018 and beginning of March this year? Why was this removed? Who decided on this removal? Was the Minister of VROMI in support or in protest of this removal? Can Parliament receive the wish list/vision of the Minister of VROMI for what the Capital Expenditures was supposed to be?

What is the number 1 issue that VROMI is faced with that people say that need to be fixed? And the one that the economy and business sector is telling Government that needs to be improved. The thing that has been bothering us for over 30 years. It's the dump. Why is it, that not a single guilder, is allocated in the Capital Expenditures for this? What portion of our taxes is going to the dump?

On page 83 of the getallenboek, there is a breakdown of the different positions in the workforce. It is supposed to add up to 152. But it is adding up to 114. The faction would like to know where the difference in number of employees is coming from? Which one of these are critical vacancies and which one does Government plan to fill this year? Is it already budgeted for? Does the budget account for 152 or 114?

In terms of environmental awareness, PR campaigns, signage etc., is lacking. Is there any source with the VROMI budget where this can be allocated? What budget post is used to handle the invasion of Sargassum seaweed in Sint Maarten? What fund does Government tap into to have this cleaned up quickly? What policies are in place for the handling of this? The number of garbage bins at Mullet Bay are not sufficient. Are there any plans to make an additional number of garbage bins available on our beaches in particular Mullet Bay? What is the frequency of collection for picking up garbage at beaches? Daily, weekly?

Restrooms at Kim Sha beach/Simpson Bay beach. This area has become a lot more popular with tourists/cruise passengers now. The Ministry of TEATT took it upon itself to acquire a small container right after the storm to be used as a restroom. The intention was that VROMI would take over the maintenance. Has this been done in the meantime? Is the toilet at this beach being monitored and kept clean? And are there any plans to have more toilets at the beaches?

In the November version of the budget there was a post and it's called description other structures, number 1121: lifting station Philipsburg West. The amount was NAFL. 675.000 falling directly under the Ministry of VROMI. The



purpose of this was to create lifting stations on the Western side of Philipsburg so that tour busses are able to pull over. Why was this removed from the current Kapitaaldienst?

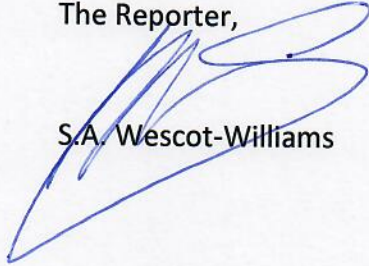
Noticeable reduction in this version of the budget compared to the November version of the Capital Expenditures. It was NAFI. 9.175.000 it is now NAFI. 6.7 million. A NAFI. 3 million reduction in the Ministry of VROMI's ability to do capital investments. When did this happen, when was the Minister made aware of this and what is the logic behind it?

What would a monthly affordable rent be in the opinion of Government for a family of 4 (2 parents and 2 children)? Has Government taken inventory of the affordable housing needs on Sint Maarten? How many affordable homes are projected to become available in the next 12, 24 and 36 months?

This report can be considered the end report.

Adopted at the meeting of the Central Committee of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.

The Reporter,



S.A. Wescot-Williams