



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Finance
Mr. A.M.R. Irion
Administration Building
Clem Labega Square
Philipsburg

UV/179/2019-2020

Philipsburg, February 12, 2020

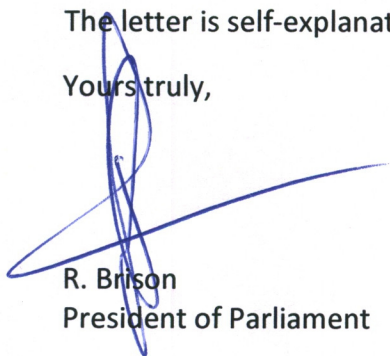
Re: Questions from MP S.A. Wescot-Williams regarding Motion of Parliament of July 2, 2019 - Budget

Hon. Minister Irion,

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

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,



R. Brison
President of Parliament



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament Sint Maarten

To:
Parliament of Sint Maarten
Attention: President of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 10 FEB 2020			
Volgnr. 15/550/19-20			
Par.	1		nej

Philipsburg, February 10, 2020

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

I hereby submit to you questions directed to Minister of Finance, Honorable Ardwell M.R. Irion, regarding the Motion of Parliament of July 2, 2019 - Budget.

I kindly ask that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,
Member of Parliament
United Democratic Party



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament Sint Maarten

Minister of Finance
Honorable Ardwell M.R. Irion
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, February 10, 2020

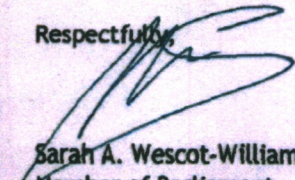
Ref:
Motion of Parliament July 2, 2019 - Budget.

Honorable Minister Irion,

Please find attached the motion of Parliament of July 2, 2019 (Motion no.5), passed by Parliament on the same date. This Motion was sent to the Government of St.Maarten.

- What steps has the Government taken to execute aforementioned motion?
- Has Government considered this motion in the preparation of the budget 2020? If not, why was it not considered?
- Is Government in favor of presenting a proposal to formally address the "cost of politics" (salaries, unemployment benefits, travel, etc.)? If not, what is Government's view on the conditions imposed by the Dutch Government for liquidity assistance 2019?
- How is Government progressing with the other conditions?
- Does Government concur with the Integrity Commission (2014) that there must come clarity regarding the function of MPs, either this function is full time or it is part-time with commensurate reduction.

Respectfully,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,
Member of Parliament
United Democratic Party

PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

DRAFT MOTION

The Parliament of Sint Maarten in its meeting of today, July 2, 2019;

Considering:

- The country's serious financial challenges, exacerbated by the hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017;
- That due to these challenges, the budget of the country 2019 has undergone several changes, seeking to comply with the norms as applicable to the budget of St. Maarten, at the same time avoiding to put the proverbial knife in expenditures and programs that provide employment (civil service), care, and social programs, direct and indirect through subsidies, and even seeking some room for new initiatives;
- That this proved only possible with a call on the Dutch Government for liquidity assistance, as was done in 2017 and 2018;
- That the budget for the country St. Maarten because of above and other reasons and the necessary consultations has suffered a serious delay;
- That the Government in order to stay within the financial parameters has had to cut and prioritize throughout the 2019 draft budget;
- That the Dutch Government has again conditioned the liquidity assistance and has reiterated that matters such as pension reform, the 2015 instruction, adjustments to the salaries of Ministers and Members of Parliament, justice agreements, etc. be included in the draft 2019 budget;
- That the Ministry of Finance has slashed the proposed travel budget of Parliament from ANG 873,950 (2018) to ANG 378,143 (2019);
- That the salaries of Members of Parliament are regulated by law and even have safeguards for legislating, requiring a 2/3 majority to establish or amend;
- That the Parliament is not adverse to a discussion regarding salary norms across the board, however this brings more into picture than just salaries of Members of Parliament and Ministers;

- That the condescending attitude towards the Parliament of St. Maarten by the Dutch Government and the pressure on the Government of St. Maarten to circumvent Parliamentary oversight, is unacceptable in our democratic system and that of the Kingdom;
- That the Parliament of St. Maarten nevertheless considers it its duty to assist the Government to bring down the expenses as we await the more fundamental discussions on the way forward;
- That the Parliament is not in favor of the Government's proposal for a so-called voluntary reduction in salary (solidarity act), but prefers a more fundamental addressing of the cost of politics, to use a term of the IMF, as this arrangement is not a structural one;
- That in reviewing the Parliament's budget and Parliament's emoluments, some reductions are possible:

Resolves:

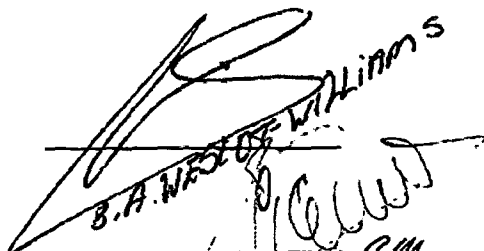
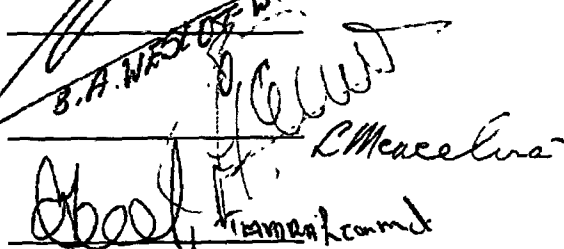
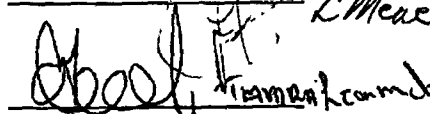
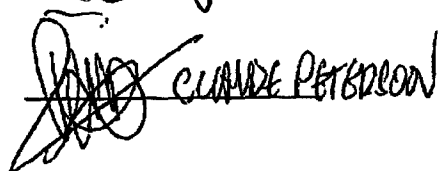
- To eliminate monthly the ANG.500,-- allowance granted to Ministers and Members of Parliaments;
- For the budget 2020 deliberations, that the government presents to parliament a proposal to eliminate fringe benefits such as vacation allowance etc. for politicians and others in the higher(st) salary brackets (at a savings of approximately ANG. 300.000,--.);
- To restrict all government travel delegations to not more than two (2) persons;
- To establish the travel budget of Parliament at ANG. 500.000,-- ;
- To cut Government travel across the board with (another) 10%;


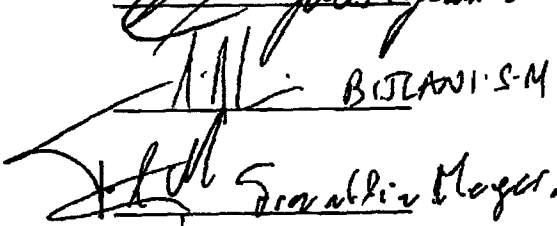
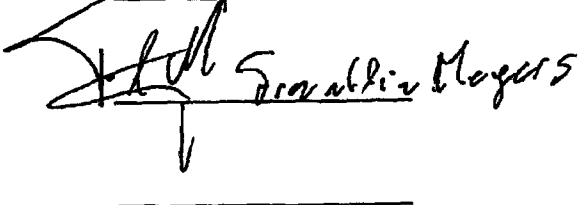
- That more than ANG.500, -- per month in mobile telephone cost will be for account of the individual Ministers and Members of Parliament;
- To collect immediately the 10% medical self-contribution from Members of Parliament and Ministers.

And goes over to the other of the day,

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Governor of Sint Maarten
The Government of Sint Maarten
The General Audit Chamber of Sint Maarten


B.A. WEST OF WILLIAMS

MARCELINA

ABOU

CLAUDE PETERSON


JULES C. JAMES

B. J. L. A. S. M.

GERRIT H. MEIJER



PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

Tuesday, July 02, 2019

Public Meeting, no. 28 (Continuation)

Voting list

Motien no. 5

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	Sarah A. Wescot-Williams	✓	
2.	Sidharth M. Bijlani	✓	
3.	Rolando Brison		✓
4.	Chanel E. Brownbill		✓
5.	Egbert J. Doran		✓
6.	Christophe T. Emmanuel		✓
7.	Jules C. James	✓	
8.	Ardwell M.R. Irion		✓
9.	Silveria E. Jacobs		✓
10.	Tamara E. Leonard	✓	
11.	William V. Marlin		✓
12.	Luc F.E. Mercelina	✓	
13.	Franklin A. Meyers	✓	
14.	Claude A.H. Peterson	✓	
15.	Frans G. Richardson	✓	

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