



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

Parliamentary Year 2020-2021-141

**Temporary National Ordinance amending the National Ordinance for the remuneration of political authorities, the Reimbursement regulation travel and accommodation expenses Council of Ministers and the Reimbursement regulation travel and accommodation expenses Members of Parliament (Temporary National Ordinance on the amendment of the employment conditions of political authorities)**

**Report  
No. 6**

Parliament, in its meeting of the Central Committee, has exchanged views with the Government on the Draft Temporary National Ordinance amending the National Ordinance for the remuneration of political authorities, the Reimbursement regulation travel and accommodation expenses Council of Ministers, and the Reimbursement regulation travel and accommodation expenses Members of Parliament (Temporary National Ordinance on the amendment of the employment conditions of political authorities).

Parliament considers the current draft to be adequately prepared when the questions below are answered in time for the public meeting so that the draft can be discussed in a public meeting.

**United Sint Maarten Party-faction** has taken note of the draft with interest. The faction would like to know how the 25% is built up exactly. What does it mean financially for the salary? The faction would further like to see why the vacation days we have recognized for Parliament are not in our law. What is the difference between the recess we have and the recess teachers have? Why is it that we cannot use vacation days to cut part of our 25% personnel cost-cutting package for Parliamentarians? Why can't we give in vacation days during this temporary regulation to compensate for income loss? Who decides that?

The faction questions on what legal grounds the indefinite period is based on. Did all the other countries already pass their law for the political office holders? Seeing a great urgency, we are confronted with? Is there going to be a transitional period for these laws? How will this work exactly?

When does the role of the Ombudsman kick in? The faction has noticed that the provision has been made for the Ombudsman to carry out its task.

Seeing that our salaries are based on the highest salary scales of Civil Servants, how does this law now work with the Civil Servants' scales? How does that affect scale 17? Are those being adjusted or not?

The **Party for Progress-faction** has taken note of the draft. The faction has the following questions. Did the Government set aside the 5% temporary cut in the Duncan motion of April 27, 2020, and ending by 2020? Can it be understood from the opening remarks that the Government disregarded that particular point of that motion? The faction believes that that point is not accounted for in the calculations.

The **United Democrats-faction** has taken note of the draft. The faction would like the Government to indicate what, if any, savings we have achieved during 2020 based on the fact that for the largest part of the year 2020, the position of acting Minister Plenipotentiary has not been filled. Can the Government express in numbers what the savings are based on that post?

The faction would like to know if the Cft advice based on article 11 is on the draft amended Budget 2020 or on the draft Budget 2021.

The faction would like the Government to provide a rough general indication of the wage tax bracket of this law's salaries. In what tax bracket would the civil servants in the highest scales, Minister and Members of Parliament fall generally speaking? Are there any other not mentioned/ not considered job-related benefits (fringe benefits) that the Ministers enjoy at this time? And if so, can a number be put to those as well?

This report is to be considered as Final Report.

It was stipulated in the meeting of the Central Committee on January 26, 2021.

The Reporter,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a vertical oval shape with a horizontal line crossing it, and a small loop at the top.

R. Brison