



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication
Ms. L.N.L. de Weever
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/252/2020-2021

Philipsburg, May 25, 2021

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper regarding removal of vendors alongside Walter Nisbeth road

Hon. Minister De Weever,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. C.A. Buncamper, according 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



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

St. Maarten, May 24, 2021

The Ministers of TEATT and VROMI
Honorable Ludmilla de Weever and Honorable Egbert Doran,
Government Administration Building,
Soualiga Road # 1,
Philipsburg,
St. Maarten.

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 21 MAY 2021			
Volgnr. IS/678/20-21			
Par.		WB	GR

Removal of vendors alongside Walter Nisbeth road

Dear Ministers,

On Friday May 21, 2021 I had the privilege to sit with the local vendors whom occupy a parcel of land alongside the Walter Nisbeth road to make their daily living by means of selling food. Most if not all have a vending permit with a permanent location or at least defined location. During the month of April of this year the vendors were invited to a meeting with to my understanding Ms. Valya Pantophlet and SG Miguel de Weever and informed that as of July 1st 2021 tentatively they can no longer operate from their present location.

While I totally understand that some of the parcels of lands have been granted to persons and or entities I need to understand the process as the alternative granted to them cannot be considered feasible for them.

At present they pay a yearly fee of Naf 1200,- for their vending permit and now they are offered a location at the festival Village for a monthly of US\$ 500,- per month to start with, moving up to some US\$ 660,- and during the carnival period a fee of some US\$ 1000,-.

In these difficult times I cannot comprehend why such a move is being made while in my opinion we can have some discussions with the parties involved like the land owners, the SOG and the vendors.

Seeing I have already spoken to the vendors and indicated to them that I will be asking all involved to show some sort of understanding in this matter I will also be approaching the landowners involved to show some understanding for at least until the end of the year or when we have a proper economy moving again.

Among the various vendors we have one that has been on the pond fill to my understanding for over 30 years and many have made significant investments in food trucks and buildings, all with the approval or under the watchful eye of the government.

Reading the above I need to ask the following questions to understand the matter more in-depth;

1. Did the legal landowners request that the vendors be moved and was a specific reason given?
2. How many vendors are on properties granted to 3rd parties by government? Can an indication be given which ones aren't?
3. Does the government deem it fair that in this period of time to move the vendors from their locations which they pay Naf 100,- per month to a location controlled by SOG for US\$ 500,- per month?
4. Is there an agreement with SOG and the government regarding the granting of these locations to vendors at cost some 9 times higher than presently being paid?
5. Many vendors made significant investments in their places. Who will compensate them for such?
6. Why did government CONTINUE to issue yearly permits to the vendors when the properties in question were given out sine 2015 and 2017 respectively?
7. Does the government have any other parcels of land on the Walter Nisbeth road where a vendors village can be created tentatively until better can be found within a price range that they can afford?

I will await your reaction and response to the above questions.

Respectfully,



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.
Member of Parliament
Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party