



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Justice
Ms. A.E. Richardson
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/025/2021-2022

Philipsburg, September 28, 2021

Re: Questions from MP G.S. Heyliger-Marten regarding recent developments following inmate protest at PB Prison

Hon. Minister Richardson,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, MP Mrs. G.S. Heyliger-Marten, according to article 62 of the Constitution and Article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

Pursuant to article 69a of the Rules of Order, if you are unable to answer the questions within three weeks please notify my person stating the underlying reason. In doing so you can send the answers that you already have and answer the remaining questions in writing within (another period of) three weeks.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament



Grisha S. Heyliger-Marten

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

The Hon. Chairman of the Parliament of St. Maarten
Mr. Rolando Brison
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Road #1
Pond Island, Philipsburg
Sint Maarten

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Philipsburg, September 23rd, 2021

Ref: letter for Hon. Minister of Justice regarding recent developments following inmate protest at Point Blanche Prison and House of Detention

Honorable Chairman,

Please find attached a letter addressed to the Hon. Minister of Justice for your urgent attention.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Grisha S. Heyliger-Marten
Faction Leader UP faction, and Second Vice Chair of Parliament

Cc.: Mr. Garrick Richardson –Secretary-General of Parliament



Grisha S. Heyliger-Marten

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

The Hon. Minister of Justice
Ms. Anna E. Richardson
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Road #1
Pond Island, Philipsburg
Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, September 23rd, 2021

Ref: recent developments following inmate protest at Point Blanche Prison and House of Detention

Honorable Minister,

Since my letter to you dated September 1st, 2021, I have received additional letters from inmates as well as other information about a number of issues following a recent protest by inmates:

1. Following the protest, a 19-year-old inmate was moved to the Miss Lali Youth Detention Center.
2. A seventy-two-hour lock-down was instituted at the Point Blanche Prison and House of Detention.
3. Prisoners started receiving their daily breakfast at 11:00 a.m., instead of the standard time of 8:00 a.m.
4. In general, inmates are being "punished" by the management for speaking out against the conditions or their treatment.

Seeing the serious nature of this information I received, I am hereby requesting the Minister to provide the Parliament with a written report about the occurrences since the recent protest by inmates, and a response to the letters from the inmates.

It is also my understanding that there are issues with the schedule of releasing prisoners who have partially completed their sentence. This is even more serious, seeing that all three locations where inmates are being held are at full capacity, and the maximum holding period at the Philipsburg location is 3-10 days. An additional issue is that there is a waiting list for convicted citizens to sit out their sentence.

In this regard, I am requesting the Minister to provide Parliament with answers to the following questions:

1. What is the policy regarding early release of inmates who have (partially) completed their sentence, if any? Can Parliament receive a copy of this policy?
2. Does this policy ensure that the "waiting list" of those awaiting to sit out their sentence is managed properly and all those who have been sentenced are being treated equally?
3. Do the overall detention and release policies ensure adequate rehabilitation of inmates, so that they can make a meaningful contribution to society after finishing their sentence.
4. Are there adequate recreation facilities for female inmates? If not, why not?
5. When last has there been a procurement process for providing food to the detention facilities, and who is currently providing that service?
6. Is the menu standard, and are proper nutrition requirements taken into account?

I look forward to Parliament receiving a response to this letter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Grisha S. Heyliger-Marten
Faction Leader UP faction and Second Vice-Chair of Parliament