



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs
Ms. S.E. Jacobs
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/156/2020-2021

Philipsburg, March 1, 2021

Re: Questions from MP C. T. Emmanuel regarding matters concerning Stichting Overheids Gebouwen

Hon. Prime Minister,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. C.T. Emmanuel, 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



Christophe Emmanuel

Member of the Parliament of
Sint Maarten

To the Chairman of Parliament
Mr. Rolando Brison
Wilhelminastraat 1
Philipsburg

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
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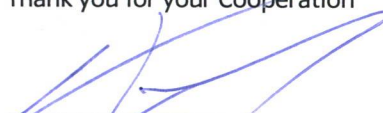
February 18th, 2021

Re:

Dear Chairman,

Please find attached letter to be forwarded to the Honorable Minister of General Affairs, Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs concerning questions seeking clarification about operations of the St. Maarten Festival Village and general operations and other related matters concerning the government ZBO Stichting Overheids Gebouwen (SOG),

Thank you for your Cooperation


Christophe Emmanuel
Member of Parliament



Parliament of Sint Maarten

To: The Minister of General Affairs
Honorable Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Road #1
Philipsburg

February 18th, 2021

RE: Matters concerning Stichting Overheids Gebouwen

Dear Minister,

There have been many complaints made publicly by several groups and organizations who wish to make use of the St. Maarten Festival Village. Their complaints have centered around the procedures and manner which the facility is operated by the Stichting Overheids Gebouwen (SOG), a government ZBO. Some of these complaints have reached my person and is extremely concerning.

Additionally, the facility has been sitting in an eye-sore state since Hurricane Irma with no visible repairs having taken place. Very little, if anything, is known about the Festival Village operations or about SOG by the public or Parliament. I believe it is essential that we ascertain what is happening at this facility as well as obtain clarity on related matters as they refer to SOG itself.

To that end the undersigned Member of Parliament is seeking answers to the following questions from your person:

1. Who are the members of the board of Stichting Overheids Gebouwen?
2. What is the term of board members and when does the term of the current board expire?
3. How long have the current members of the board been serving on the board?
4. Is there a supervisory board for SOG? If yes, Who are the members? What is the term of this board? When does the term expire?
5. What is the financial compensation to board members for serving on the boards?

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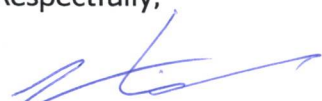
6. What is the financial situation of SOG currently? Please provide financial reports from the last 5 years.
7. Has an audit ever been executed on SOG? If yes, when and please provide audit results/report.
8. Please provide a copy of the articles that govern SOG as a ZBO.
9. What is the annual operational cost of SOG? Please provide a detailed list with cost.
10. Which facilities does SOG currently manage for government?
11. What are the annual management costs for each of these facilities?
12. Were these facilities damaged by Hurricane Irma? If yes, have they been repaired and what was the cost of repairs?
13. How many third party contractors does SOG utilize at these facilities? Please list names and services they provide as well as the cost of their services and how often these contractors provide these services.
14. Does SOG employ permanent employees? If yes, how many? If not, who manages the day to day operations?
15. Why has the St. Maarten Festival Village not been repaired after being damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017.
16. Has SOG received insurance funds to repair the Festival Village? If yes, please list the amount. If not, why not?
17. What is the total estimated repair cost of the Festival Village? Please list areas to be repaired.
18. Does SOG have a plan of action for the repair and upgrading of the Festival Village? If yes, please provide details. If not, why not.
19. What are the details (financial and operational) of the agreement SOG currently has with persons renting booths in the Festival Village? Please provide a copy of this agreement.
20. How many persons are currently renting booths in the Festival Village and at what cost?

21. Do people who currently rent a booth in the Festival Village form part of an association in the Festival Village?
22. If yes, please explain the working relationship between SOG and its renters.
23. Does SOG derive revenue/income from any other means?
24. How much funds has SOG raised from events held in the Festival Village for the past 5 years? Please list the name of events and how much was paid to SOG.
25. Please detail the entire process of third parties who wish to rent the entire Festival Village for an event. Including costs.
26. Is it true that SOG owes Sheriff Security company over 1 million US dollars for services the company rendered to SOG?
27. If yes, please explain how this debt was built up and why has it not been paid?
28. What are the consequences of this situation for SOG and the Village?
29. What is SOG's relationship with the TelEm Group of Companies?
30. Is there an agreement between SOG and the TelEm Group of Companies? If yes, Why was this agreement entered into? For what period is this agreement? When does it expire? Please provide a copy of this agreement.
31. Does TelEm have exclusive rights in the Festival Village? If yes, please explain in detail what these rights entail.
32. If there is an agreement between SOG and TelEm, what is the monetary value attached to this agreement? In other words, how does SOG benefit from this agreement with the TelEm Group of Companies?
33. Do third parties who rent the village have to adhere to stipulations outlined in the agreement between TelEm and SOG? If yes, why? And doesn't this put third parties at a disadvantage?
34. Is it the intention to renew this agreement with the TelEm Group of Companies once it expires?
35. Does SOG have a similar relationship as TelEm with any other company in the Festival Village or any other facility it manages?

36. Is SOG currently engaged in any legal proceedings with any companies or individuals?

Awaiting your swift response to above questions.

Respectfully,



MP Christophe Emmanuel