



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/191/2020-2021

Philipsburg, April 12, 2021

Re: Questions from MP G.S. Heyliger-Marten regarding TELEM's Fiber To The Home (FTTH) project

Hon. Prime Minister,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by the Member of Parliament, 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.

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

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek. 06 APR 2021	
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Par.	GR

Philipsburg, April 6st, 2021

Ref: *questions regarding FTTH TELEM*

Honorable Chairman,

Please find attached a letter addressed to the Hon. Prime Minister, Ms. Silveria Jacobs 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. Prime Minister
Ms. Silveria Jacobs
Government Administration Building
Souliga Road #1
Pond Island, Philipsburg
Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, April 6st, 2021

Ref: questions regarding FTTH TELEM

Honorable Prime Minister,

Several persons in the community have contacted me with concerns regarding TELEM's Fiber To The Home (FTTH) project.

These concerns have raised questions about the financial feasibility of the FTTH project and its overall effect on TELEM's financial health. Additionally, the concerns raised bring into question the benefits of FTTH to the citizens of Sint Maarten and their access to the improved and affordable data services available through FTTH.

Therefore, and in order to get clarity on this matter, I am hereby requesting answers to the following questions:

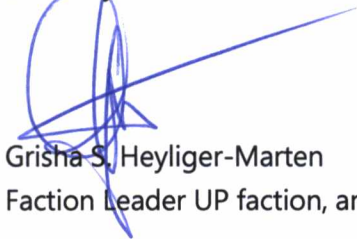
1. Is it correct that TELEM no longer offers FTTH all the way to residences as was the case in the past?
2. Is it correct that new applicants now have to pay for the trenching if they want the fiber to be connected their homes?
3. If the answer to one or both of the previous two questions is yes, what is the reasons for this change in policy, and how much do applicants have to pay for the trenching work carried out, if done by the subcontractor?
4. If there has been a change in policy, why was this done by a Government owned company in these time of financial hardship for many citizens, and taking into consideration that telecom services are essential?

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5. Is it correct that the trenching work was offered at no additional costs to the applicant when MER was the subcontractor in the past, and that it was stopped when KN became the subcontractor?
6. Was this a stipulation in MER's contract and not in the new company KN's contract?
7. If the policy change took place, when did this happen, why, and what were the reasons given to applicants?
8. Was a new financial feasibility study done/business case made prior to making this policy change in order to establish the financial effects for TELEM compared to the original feasibility study/business case?
9. If so, what was the outcome, and can this information be shared with Parliament?
10. What happens to applicants who cannot afford to pay for the trenching? Can they still get FTTH services?
11. If they cannot afford to pay for the trenching services in order to get FTTH, which other options do they have, if any?
12. If they don't have any other options to get FTTH, do they remain connected on the copper or the coaxial lines?
13. It is my understanding that the copper and coaxial lines are supposed to be phased out once the fiber is in place. Will the customers who cannot afford to pay for the trenching work have to give up their copper or coaxial lines?
14. If so, does this not force (potential) TELEM customers right into the hands of its competitors?
15. Is there a conflict of interest, seeing that the CEO of TELEM's brother is the Civil Supervisor for this same FTTH company KN?

I look forward to receiving the answers to these questions at your earliest convenience, and 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