



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/197/2020-2021

Philipsburg, April 19, 2021

Re: Questions from MP G.S. Heyliger-Marten regarding business closing hours and inspections

Hon. Minister De Weever,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by 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. 12 APR 2021			
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Par.	U	GR	

Philipsburg, April 12, 2021

Ref: *letter recent developments regarding business opening and inspections*

Honorable Chairman,

Please find attached a letter addressed to the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications 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 Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication
Ms Ludmila N.L. de Weever
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Road #1
Pond Island, Philipsburg
Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, April 12th, 2021

Ref: recent developments regarding business opening and inspections

Honorable Minister,

By means of this letter, I would like to express my deep concerns about a number of recent developments related to the Ministry of TEATT.

In the first place, I have been receiving a number of complaints from bar and restaurant owners on the island. These owners, whose establishments are open at night, complain that they are being targeted by TEATT inspectors who chase away their customers with their conduct.

This is a worrying situation for different reasons, especially now that the island is showing signs of recovering from the effects of the Covid-19 related drop in business activities.

My second concern is related to the change of business closing hours from 4 a.m. to 12 midnight.

With regards to the reported conduct of the TEATT inspectors, I would like to receive answers to the following questions:

1. Is there a policy in place for the inspectors?
2. Are there procedures in place for how they are to approach businesses?
3. What is the ultimate objective of the inspections?
4. Are the inspectors always in uniform when conducting the inspections?

Wilhelminastraat # 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten
Tel: + (1-721) 542-0812 / 542-0635 | Fax: + (1-721) 542-0306
Email: info@sxmparliament.org | www.sxmparliament.org

5. Seeing that the hotels are not at full capacity at the moment, how many complaints are received from them about noise pollution?
6. Do all business licenses include noise pollution limitations?
7. Is there an overall inspection in order to prevent overlap of inspections?
8. Have all inspectors completed a BavPol training?
9. If not, what is the difference between those who have and those who haven't?

Regarding the change of closing hours, I have taken note of the reasoning behind your decision, and I appreciate your concern for the public health in these trying times. I am aware that the policies and actions of TEATT need to take into consideration the public safety as well the interests of the private sector on Sint Maarten.

However, prior to establishing these policies and actions, it is important that all interests are carefully weighed, and decisions are taken in the best interest of Sint Maarten in general.

I therefor would like to receive answers to the following questions:

1. Has changing the opening hours of only those businesses who violate the established protocols been considered?
2. If not, why not, and if so, what is the reasons that this principle was not applied?
3. Has the effect on those employees who will lose income because of this new measure been taken into consideration?
4. Has the effect on Government (loss of tax income, and increased dependency on SSRP funding) been taken into consideration prior to taking this measure?

I look forward to receiving the answers to these question, and trust that the Ministry of TEATT will address these matters in a satisfactory manner for all involved as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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

Cc.: Mr. Garrick Richardson, Secretary General of Parliament