



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of General Affairs
Mr. W.V. Marlin
p/a Council of Ministers
Philipsburg

UV/180/2016-2017

Philipsburg, March 28, 2017

Re: Questions from MP C.M.M. Connor regarding precarious situation at prison/House of Detention

Hon. Minister Marlin,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. C.M.M. Connor pursuant 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,



S.A. Wescot-Williams
President of Parliament



From the Desk of

Claret M. M. Connor

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten, March 27, 2017

The President of Parliament
Honorable Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
1 Wilhelminastraat
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten.

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek.	27 MAR 2017
Volgnr.	191579/16-7
Par.	DS VS nrg.

Refnr: UP 17-002A
Subject: Inquiries regarding precarious situation at the
prison/House of Detention

Honorable President,

As you are aware, the situation at the prison is becoming more worrisome by the day for the people of St Maarten. As an elected representative, I feel it necessary to address the Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs regarding what appears to be the lack of a clear plan of approach from the current administration with regards to the situation at the prison.

The attached letter highlights some concerns and/or inquiries of my person directed to the Prime Minister.

I trust that my letter will be delivered and look forward to receiving the responses to the aforementioned inquiries posthaste.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Claret M. M. Connor
Member of Parliament

CMMC/ks



From the Desk of

Claret M. M. Connor

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten, March 27, 2017

The Prime Minister of St. Maarten
Honorable William V. Marlin
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten.

Refnr: UP 17-002
Subject: Inquiries regarding precarious situation at the
prison/House of Detention

Honorable Prime Minister,

As you are aware, the situation at the prison is becoming more worrisome by the day for the people of St Maarten. As an elected representative, I feel it necessary to address you as Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs regarding what appears to be the lack of a clear plan of approach from your administration on the implementation of urgent measures that should be executed for the improvement of the conditions at the prison.

As far back as 2011, many expert advices and recommendations have been presented to Government to remedy the situation at our prison including agreements the Government of St Maarten has committed itself to with partners in the Kingdom. However, to date little or nothing has been realized.

It therefore obliges me to submit the following inquiries to your administration, and correspondingly request a written response of same.

1. Provide an update on execution of the plans for the renovation of the prison cells (phases 1, 2 and 3).
2. Provide an update on the execution of the plans for the upgrading of the offices.
3. Are periodic joint unannounced controls of the prison with other law enforcement units, also in conjunction with the marines stationed in St. Maarten still ongoing? If yes when were the last controls carried out and by whom?
4. What is the status of the security at the entrance of the prison and the security conditions of the surrounding grounds?
5. Has a new scanner been delivered to the House of Detention? If yes, is this functional? If not, what steps have been taken to replace this equipment?
6. What is the status of the fencing around the prison grounds? Has new fencing been installed?
7. What has come about of the completed expansion plan of the prison by the previous Minister of Justice?



8. Has financing been secured for the above mentioned expansion plans? Was a draft decree ever submitted for formalization? If yes, what are the reasons for the delays?
9. How are the inmates separated at the prison? Can you, please update me if there is an active policy at the prison in how inmates are handled?
10. Is there an isolation policy for those that may be considered dangerous inmates? Please indicate how this is executed.
11. Is the House of Detention in full compliance with CPT rules and regulations such as adequate library, exercise/airing facilities, job training, prisoners per square meters, etc?
12. What was the outcome of the SOAB investigation into sickness at the prison? Was this investigation finalized? If yes, what was the outcome? If not, why?

Honorable Prime Minister, I am convinced that any further delay in addressing the pending requirements to remedy the situation at the prison can seriously undermine our national security.

I look forward to a receiving the responses to the aforementioned inquiries posthaste.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Claret M. M. Connor
Member of Parliament

CMMC/ks