



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

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## Staten van Sint Maarten

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

UV/008/2017-2018

Philipsburg, October 6, 2017

Re: Questions from MP T.E. Leonard regarding layoffs staff St. Maarten Cable TV

Hon. Minister Marlin,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. Tamara E. Leonard 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



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Sint Maarten, October 6, 2017

President of Parliament  
Sarah A. Wescot-Williams  
Present

Honorable President,

St. Maarten is in a dire economic state due to Hurricane Irma.

This is no time to add more uncertainty in our community, and more importantly an increase in unemployment. By means of this letter via you Madam Chair; I want to issue a call to the Prime Minister and seek some answers on a very troubling topic.

After hearing the plight of the workers at St. Maarten Cable TV, a company acquired by St. Maarten Telephone Group of Companies TelEm, I am prompted to call on the Prime Minister as Shareholder Representative to preserve the 30 or more jobs at the company.

I also urge him to work with the management of TelEm to keep Cable TV as is and operational for another year.

I am certain the Prime Minister is aware of the planned layoffs. However, for good order sake, the following are some questions for the Prime Minister:

1. Is he aware of the planned layoffs at Cable TV?
2. If yes, has government call on TelEm to revisit the layoffs in light of the recent devastating hurricane?
3. Can it be confirmed that TelEm, by extension, government intends to ultimately layoff all of the staff and rehire individuals on new contracts at the loss of accumulated benefits for Cable TV?
4. How does TelEm, by extension, government plan to tackle the payment of pension to employees of Cable TV whom do not have pension plan, and will be left to fend for themselves if laid off?
5. Was a redundancy planned to established showing how lay off will take place, and how those jobs will be absorbed by TelEm employees? If yes, provide a copy of plan. If no, why not?
6. What hurdles are there to keeping the employees on for another year?



The situation at Cable TV should be taken from the human aspect. Dismissals will not affect the employees alone, but their families as well. Moreover, every family now more than ever is dependent on government action to boost the damaged economy. Inaction could bring with it even more hardship on top of that from Irma.

I look forward to a prompt, yet comprehensive and clean response to my questions.

Respectfully,

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Tamara E. Leonard,  
Member of Parliament