



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication
Mrs. M. Arrindell-Doncher
p/a Council of Ministers
Philipsburg

UV/038/2017-2018

Philipsburg, November 8, 2017

Re: Questions from MP C.M.M. Connor regarding status vendors Philipsburg marketplace

Hon. Minister Arrindell-Doncher,

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



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Sint Maarten, October 6, 2017

The President of Parliament
Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Present

Subject: Letter for Minister of TEATT

Honorable President;

Via you Madame President I herewith submit a correspondence dated ^{November} ~~October~~ 6, 2017 directed to the Honorable Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Telecommunication and Transportation (TEATT), Melissa Arrindell-Doncher with the following subject: Status of vendors of the Philipsburg Marketplace.

Trusting to have informed you adequately, I remain,

Respectfully,



MP Claret M.M. Connor

.../dil



November 6, 2017

Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Telecommunication and
Transportation
Honorable Melissa Arrindell- Doncher
Government Administration Building

Subject: Status of the vendors of the Philipsburg Marketplace

Honorable Minister Doncher,

As member of Parliament and representative of the people, I hereby address you by means of this communique on the issue of the vendors of the Philipsburg Market. These patrons approached me about the abrupt and unprofessional manner in which the stalls of the vendors were removed following hurricanes Irma and Maria about two months ago.

Honorable Minister Doncher, you would agree with me that this matter could have been approached much differently as the vendors who have been occupying this area over the years were not contacted prior. To add insult to injury, they were not informed of any options or alternatives for another location.

In view of their plight, please inform me in writing as to what discourse has been taken with regard to the vendors of the Philipsburg Marketplace following the passing of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Specifically:

- a. What are the new plans for the area?
- b. Are there technical or architectural drawings available for the reconstructed Market Place? If so, please provide these.
- c. Was there a Term of Reference published for the reconstructions of the Market place?
- d. Was the contract placed on bid? If so, which contractor has been selected?
- e. What is the timeline involved for completion?
- f. Has any further dialogue taken place with the patrons of the Market place since the removal of the stalls? If so, when and how often are they kept abreast?

Likewise, the vending at the Philipsburg Marketplace is the sole source of income for these patrons. To that end can you inform if:



- a. Government is looking at an alternative location where vendors are able to operate temporarily? If yes, where will this location be?
- b. In view of loss of income for these patrons, have Government offered relief in form of applying for social- and/or unemployment aid? In other words, what compensation packaged will be afforded to these persons?
- c. Additionally, will Government waive fees or provide a discount on the annual vending fees for the months that the vendors have not been able to operate?

Honorable Minister, improvements to enhance our tourism product are always welcomed. However, even in the wake of natural disaster as we have endured, Government still has a moral obligation and responsibility to consult with all stakeholders involved in the industry in the rebuilding of the country; in this case the street vendors too deserve this respect.

In closing, as elected and appointed representatives of the people, we (yourself included) must ensure that our citizens remain duly informed and most importantly given hope as to the status of the livelihood as co-contributors to our economy.

I look forward to your response to the aforementioned questions in writing without delay.

Respectfully,



MP Claret M.M. Connor

CMMC/dil