

-----  
National Ordinance stipulating the  
Budget of Country Sint Maarten  
for the service year 2025  
National Ordinance Budget 2025)  
-----

|                         |   |    |    |
|-------------------------|---|----|----|
| STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN |   |    |    |
| Ingek. 16 JAN 2025      |   |    |    |
| Volgnr. 15/503/24-25    |   |    |    |
| Par.                    | 7 | WB | GR |

*Gewezigd*

**AMENDMENT BY THE MEMBERS LACROES, LEWIS AND OTTLEY**

Received 16 January 2025

The undersigned proposes the following amendment:

The National Ordinance stipulating the Budget of Country Sint Maarten for the service year 2025 (National Ordinance Budget 2025) is amended as follows:

- A. Article 2 paragraph 1 is amended as follows:
  - 1. The budget for current expenditure of Sint Maarten for the 2025 fiscal year is set at Naf 573,209,635.
- B. In Appendix 1, the ordinary service expenditures of the Parliament is amended as follows:
  - Under budget post 1010 Gross wages and Salaries budget "5,781,899" is to be replaced with: 6,464,171.

**Explanatory Notes**

The budget amendment aims to adjust the Parliament budget by an additional Naf. 682,272 to be taken from the surplus. Article 2 paragraph 1 will now reflect Naf. 573,209,635 as opposed to Naf. 572,527,363. Therefore, the new projected surplus will be Naf. 936,986.

Since the inception of Parliament on October 10, 2010, each faction within Parliament has been allotted a number of faction workers to support the faction. By letter of March 31, 2011, the President of Parliament proposed the allotment of faction workers to each faction in connection with the preparation of the draft budget of Parliament for 2012. This proposal was accepted by the Faction leaders meeting at the time.

Due to certain challenges, in its meeting of June 27, 2017 the Presidium of Parliament approved a revamping of the current allotment of faction workers with the establishment

of the current document entitled "Regulations for faction staff" which would take effect 2020. However, due to the change in the makeup of the constellation of the Presidium as a result of a change in governing parties, the draft was once more topic of discussion in the Presidium meeting of March 29, 2018.

The new Presidium proposed some substantial changes to the allotment of the amount of faction staff that have now been incorporated in this draft. The (amended) draft was approved by the Presidium. The Faction Leaders meeting also approved the draft on April 12, 2018.

Within the 2017/2018 amendments, the Members of Parliament at the time introduced WO level positions to attract better-qualified staff, the monthly budget for salaries for faction workers, adjustments to the categories regulating the size of the faction staff, amongst others. Since the amendments of 2018, the drafts approved by the Presidium has been used ever since for the allotment of faction workers to the factions.

These drafts have to date not been handled by Parliament as per article 17 paragraph 3 of the Rules of Order.

Furthermore, the salaries that are offered to faction workers are:

1. Beleidsadviseur, WO level (academic), scale 13, trede 15 (NAfl. 10.323) per month.
2. Ondersteunend Beleidsmedewerker, HBO level, scale 11, trede 7 (NAfl. 6.803) per month.
3. Secretaresse, MBO level, scale 6, trede 8 (NAfl. 3.540) per month

While the draft allowed for Category 1 factions to have 2 out of the 3 level functions from the Functieboek including the WO, the combination of WO and HBO exceeds the monthly maximum. In addition, with this new adjustment it also allows for factions with 2 or more MPs to hire 3 persons as opposed to 2, once the combination of academic levels chosen do not exceed the monthly maximum.

As St. Maarten's Parliament gains more strength within its legislative role, Members of Parliament struggle to retain qualified personnel due to the limitation in maximum monthly budgets and established regulation as per 2018. Therefore, to boost the active participation in the development of St. Maarten and elevation of the work produced by Parliament, this amendment proposes that each faction should have the possibility to have two high level academic positions no matter which category the factions fall within. The bare minimum should allow for 1 x HBO and 1x WO and or whatever combination other than 2 x WO. In addition, this will enable Members of Parliament to attract legislative lawyers, fiscal lawyers, and constitutional lawyers to assist in addressing the backlog of laws and in drafting new legislation, especially given the severe understaffing currently faced by the Government.

In addition, a new category has been added to reflect a fairer disbursement of staff depending on the number of members elected per faction. Once the budget is approved, the amendments to the policy "Regulation faction staff" will be submitted to the Presidium for further handling.

### *Financial Consequences*

This would require an amendment to category 1 including the budget to Naf. 17,126 as opposed to 13,863. This is a monthly difference of Naf. 3,263 and Naf. 39,156 yearly increase to the 2025 budget. +22,841 monthly/274,092 yearly increase.

Therefore, the new proposal entails the following:

- Category 1: a faction consisting of one (1)) is entitled to a maximum monthly budget: NAFL. 17,126;
- Category 2: a faction consisting of three (3) members is entitled to a maximum monthly budget: NAFL. 17,403;
- Category 3: a faction consisting of four (4) or five (5) members is entitled a maximum monthly budget: NAFL. 24.206;
- Category 4: a faction consisting of six (6) or more members is entitled to a maximum monthly budget: NAFL. 37.792;

The Parliamentary Term of 2024 -2028 currently has a total of 7 factions with the following seat allocations:

| FACTION | SEATS | ELIGIBLE<br>FACTION<br>WORKERS | 2018<br>MAXIMUM<br>BUDGET | 2025<br>MAXIMUM<br>BUDGET | DIFF.<br>NEEDED        |
|---------|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| NOW     | 1     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 17,126                    | 3,263                  |
| SAM     | 1     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 17,126                    | 3,263                  |
| UPP     | 2     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 23,929                    | 10,066                 |
| URSM    | 3     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 23,929                    | 10,066                 |
| DP      | 3     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 23,929                    | 10,066                 |
| PFP     | 3     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 23,929                    | 10,066                 |
| NA      | 3     | 2                              | 13,863                    | 23,929                    | 10,066                 |
|         |       | <b>MONTHLY</b>                 | <b><u>97,041</u></b>      | <b><u>+121,267</u></b>    | <b><u>+56,856</u></b>  |
|         |       | <b>YEARLY</b>                  | <b><u>1,164,492</u></b>   | <b><u>1,455,204</u></b>   | <b><u>+682,272</u></b> |



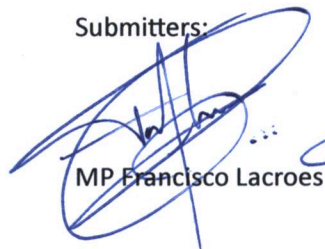
### Overview Older Proposals

|       | Faction<br># of<br>MPs | 2010 -2017                        | Monthly Maximum<br>(Naf.) |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| CAT 1 | 1                      | Max. 2 staff<br>1 x HBO<br>1x MBO | 10.343                    |
| CAT 2 | 2-4                    | Max. 3 staff<br>2x HBO<br>1x MBO  | 17.146                    |
| CAT 3 | 5 or<br>more           | Max. 4<br>2 x HBO<br>2 x MBO      | 20.686                    |

|       | Faction<br># of<br>MPs | 2018  | Maximum Monthly<br>Budget (Naf.) |
|-------|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| CAT 1 | 1-3                    | Max. 2 staff<br>1 x Wo and 1x HBO<br>or<br>1x MBO or 1x HBO | 13.863                           |
| CAT 2 | 4-5                    | Max. 4 staff<br>1 x WO<br>1 x HBO<br>2 x MBO                | 24.206                           |
| CAT 3 | 6 or<br>more           | Max. 5<br>2 x WO<br>2 x HBO<br>1 x MBO                      | 37.792                           |

Sint Maarten, 16 January 2025

Submitters:



MP Francisco Lacroes



MP Lyndon Lewis



MP Omar Ottley