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National Ordinance stipulating the Budget of Country Sint Maarten for the service year 2026 (National Ordinance Budget 2026)

Report No. 5

The Parliament, in its meeting of the Central Committee, has exchanged views with the Government on the Draft National Ordinance stipulating the Budget of Country Sint Maarten for the service year 2026 (National Ordinance Budget 2026).

The Parliament considers the draft to be adequately prepared when the questions below are answered in time for the public meeting so that the draft can be discussed in a Public meeting.

The Unified Resilient St. Maarten Movement-faction has taken note of the draft with interest and has the following general questions and remarks for Government.

The faction mentions project execution capacity and indicates that CFT warns that many earlier investments remain unexecuted. How confident are the ministers that they will be able to execute the projects stipulated in the budget 2026 and make use of all the funds allocated this year? (Ref: CFT advice pp. 1–2.)

The faction would like all ministries to answer the following questions. How much was your budget in 2025 and approximately how much of this budget was spent? Similarly, how much was your projected revenues in 2025 and approximately how much was collected? For both of these questions, the faction is not asking for audited amounts, but amounts based on the records of the financial controllers of the ministries. (Ref: CFT advice pp. 1–2.)

The faction continues and mentions vacancy budgeting. Across government, how many vacancies are actually funded in 2026 for each ministry, and how realistic is recruitment given past under-execution and seeing how late this budget is? Can each Minister give the number of vacancies in their ministry they hope to fill this year as well as the number of these for which recruitment has already started?

The faction mentions PJIAE concession and indicates that it sees that in the 2026 budget PJIA has not been paying concession and their exemption ends in 2027. Since the 2027 budget has already been made, does that budget reflect a payment of concession in 2027 and if yes, how much annually? (Ref: Verleende concessies pg 82.)

There is a lot of talk about a lack of knowledge, capacity in the government apparatus and the brain drain effect. Would each ministry be interested in allotting a part of their budget so that government can develop an inhouse training center/public administration school as was successfully done in 2006-2009? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek Pg 146.)

Ministry of Finance

The faction has the following questions related to the Ministry of Finance. Three different debt-to-GDP figures have now been presented for this budget cycle: 41–43% in the Minister of Finance's own speech, roughly 41% per CBCS, and roughly 31% per the IMF, as cited elsewhere in this same budget. A 10-to-12-point gap changes the picture of debt sustainability considerably. Could the Minister share which figure government is using as the basis for its borrowing decisions, and help clarify why the estimates from different sources vary so much?

The Central Committee briefing deck flags, as a high fiscal risk in its own words, that free liquidity at year-end 2026 is projected at only Cg. 5 million, against total payments of Cg. 578 million for the year, alongside hurricane risk in the same category. Given how thin that buffer is, the faction would like to know what specific contingency plan exists if revenue comes in even slightly under

projection, and has the Ministry set a minimum liquidity threshold for hurricane season, and does the projected Cg. 5 million meet that threshold?

The *Getallenboek's* own government-wide formation plan shows 1,908 of 2,844 total established positions filled across all ministries, 67%, with 774 positions entirely unbudgeted. This matches the pattern seen in nearly every ministry section of this budget individually. Can the Minister confirm whether this reflects a structural, government-wide capacity issue rather than a series of isolated departmental shortfalls, and whether there is a government-wide staffing recovery plan, or whether each ministry is addressing this on its own?

The tourist tax has been budgeted at Cg. 0 for three consecutive years (2025-2027), despite the budget itself stating an earlier version would have raised about Cg. 18 million a year. The Central Committee briefing deck confirms this isn't just a placeholder: its 2027 outlook explicitly states no new income-increasing measures are included and specifically names the tourist tax as excluded. What is actually holding it up, and by what date will it be resolved?

The 2026 budget allocates Cg. 800,000 for the preparation and approval of General Health Insurance legislation, alongside a further Cg. 117,000 for a GHI awareness campaign and Cg. 776,000 for project coordination, nearly Cg. 1.7 million in total. Given the legislation is still described as being in the preparation-and-approval stage, what is the actual target date for GHI legislation to reach Parliament, and does that timeline realistically close the healthcare deficit before reserves are projected to fall to Cg. 178 million by 2029?

The Tax Reform strategic goal for 2026, covering both the law repealing outdated tax legislation (Tax Reform Ordinance Phase 1) and the revision of the General National Ordinance on Land Taxes, is budgeted at only Cg. 300,000 total. Both are listed as still needing to be adopted, not yet passed. The faction would like to know if Cg. 300,000 is realistically sufficient to complete both pieces of legislation in 2026, and what is the current status of each, drafted, with the Council of Advice, or already tabled in Parliament?

Taken together, all three pillars of the Minister's own stated solution to the healthcare deficit, GHI legislation, the Tourist Levy, and Tax Reform Phase 1/ALL revision, remain pending legislation as of this budget, not law. Given the annual deficit figures cited elsewhere in this same budget cycle (ranging from Cg

35 to Cg 50 million) and an accumulated deficit in the hundreds of millions, would the Minister be open to a single, consolidated, dated roadmap covering all three, so Parliament can track them as one connected reform rather than three separate open items?

Within the Ministry of Finance's own capital budget, the "*Aflossing leningen*" (loan repayment) line falls from Cg. 82.45 million in 2025 to Cg. 16.94 million in 2026, a 79% drop. Is this because debt is being refinanced or restructured, because certain repayments were deferred to later years, or because the 2025 figure included a one-time repayment that will not recur? What does this mean for the government's actual debt service obligations in 2027 and beyond?

The overall capital investment "*wenselijkheidsbegroting*", the wish-list of capital projects under consideration, falls from Cg. 359.25 million in 2025 to Cg. 186.81 million in 2026, a 48% reduction. Can the Minister provide Parliament with the specific list of capital projects that were removed or deferred between the 2025 and 2026 versions of this list, so it is possible to see whether any people-facing infrastructure, roads, drainage, schools, healthcare facilities, was cut in favour of other priorities, and whether any of those projects could be reprioritized?

The faction mentions revenue realism. CFT says significant revenue and expenditure deviations from the 2025 budget need proper explanation. Which 2026 revenue estimates are conservative, and which depend on reforms not yet implemented? Which revenue estimates depend on legislation first coming to Parliament for approval? (Ref: CFT advice p. 2.)

Finance spending increase. Finance rises from Cg. 81.125 M to Cg. 90.592 M, a 10% increase. The Stafbureau rises 34%, Fiscal Affairs 74%, *Controle en Opsporing* 82%, and *Ontvanger* 21%. What concrete enforcement/revenue gains are expected from each increase? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 40.)

SPEAR project. A Cg. 10.9 M SPEAR allocation is placed under Finance, but execution will happen across ministries/NRPB. Who is accountable to Parliament for delivery and reporting? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 44.)

The faction mentions Tax ICT. Capital budget includes Cg 16.2 M for ICT implementation at the Tax Administration. What is the implementation timeline? (Ref: Getallenboek capital budget.)

The faction also mentions outstanding suppliers. How much has been paid in 2024 and 2025 and 2026 for outstanding amounts owed to suppliers and from what years were these outstanding. Give a total amount, i.e. Invoices submitted 2022, total paid in 2024 xxxxx, 2025 xxxxx and invoices still remaining outstanding since 2022 xxxxx; Invoices submitted 2023, total paid in 2024 xxxxx, 2025 xxxxx, 2026 xxxxx and invoices still remaining outstanding since 2023 xxxxx. Have these old outstanding amounts to suppliers been budgeted in the 2026 budget?

Ministry of General Affairs

As it regards the Ministry of General Affairs, the faction has the following questions and statements. Collaboration with Aruba on a youth development initiative like the Social Formation Traject (SVT) programme would likely require a formal inter-island cooperation arrangement, which falls under the Ministry of General Affairs. Separately from the Crime Fund legal question directed to the Minister of Justice, has the Ministry of General Affairs opened any government-to-government dialogue with Aruba on this? What is the process for establishing such a cross-jurisdictional cooperation agreement, and what would be a realistic timeline?

The faction mentions that on the record before Parliament, the Prime Minister stated that GEBE management was expected to submit its finalized collection and disconnection policy to the Supervisory Board for approval in June 2026. That month has now ended. Has the policy been submitted to the Supervisory Board, yes or no? If not, what is the new submission date, and could the Minister help clarify why the Prime Minister's own timeline was missed? A copy of the submitted policy is requested for Parliament's records.

If the policy has been submitted, the faction would like to know if the the Supervisory Board has approved it, and on what specific date will the approved policy be published and take effect for customers?

Under the Temporary Collections Policy agreed with ACP-SXM on June 26, 2026, GEBE committed to halting scheduled household disconnections pending finalization of that policy. What is the specific date the Temporary Collections Policy itself will be finalized and published, and will the Prime Minister ensure it is provided to Parliament in writing rather than announced only to the public?

The faction continues and indicates that GEBE has announced it is discontinuing further discussions with ACP-SXM and will instead communicate directly with customers as part of rebuilding trust. Direct communication is welcome, but a public communications shift is not a substitute for an approved policy. Can the Prime Minister confirm that this direct communication will include personal, written notice to each affected household, stating the amount due, the reason for disconnection, a payment deadline, and a payment arrangement offer, rather than general announcements, consistent with the standard already requested of GEBE in August 2025?

The faction states that at the June 26, 2026 meeting with ACP-SXM, GEBE's Temporary Manager acknowledged that the company's systems cannot centrally identify which households are currently disconnected, and that disconnections are tracked manually in the field with no system-level record. Can the Prime Minister confirm what steps are being taken to address this recordkeeping gap before a disconnection policy is implemented, and what is the specific date by which GEBE will have a reliable, system-level record of disconnected households?

The Government's own 2026 budget document confirms that GEBE has not produced audited annual accounts since 2021, meaning 2022, 2023, and 2024 all remain outstanding, and that even the last available 2020/2021 accounts carry a disclaimer of opinion due to the 2022 cyberattacks. Despite this, government took out a Cg 75.6 million loan on GEBE's behalf in 2024. The faction would like the Prime Minister to share how a disconnection and collection policy can be finalized and overseen while GEBE's own financial administration is still catching up, and what is the specific date by which the outstanding 2022–2024 annual accounts will be completed?

The Council of Ministers approved a one-year extension of the board's term on March 17, 2026, and then withdrew it on April 23, 2026 after receiving legal advice that no basis existed to extend it. Could the Minister walk

Parliament through what that legal advice found, and what changed between the initial approval and the withdrawal five weeks later? The faction is of the opinion that understanding this would help clarify whether a legislative amendment is needed so extensions can be handled cleanly in future.

The faction continues and notes the following regarding the SER. SER has indicated that draft LBHAM legislation it prepared following an October 2024 meeting with the Prime Minister, and submitted that November, was not taken up again until the Council was asked to resubmit it about a year later. Can the Prime Minister confirm what happened to that submission in the interim, and whether any internal process changes are needed to make sure draft legislation from the SER doesn't go untracked in future?

There appears to be some difference of understanding between the Prime Minister's office and the SER over who was responsible for consulting workers' and employers' organisations ahead of the extension request. Could the Minister clarify, for the record, which office holds that responsibility going forward, so there's no ambiguity next time an appointment or extension is due?

Given this is not the first time the SER board has gone without members since its establishment in 2010, the faction would like to know if a structural fix is being considered, for example staggered appointment terms or an automatic caretaker provision, so the Council doesn't lose continuity every time a term lapses? What is the realistic, dated path to getting the board reconstituted?

While the board is not currently in place, is there any legislation moving through Parliament, including in this budget cycle, that would normally have gone to the SER for advice first? If so, how is the Ministry handling that gap in the interim, and what's the plan to bring the SER back into that process once reconstituted?

In a previous motion, the Prime Minister was asked about progress on bringing the Ministry's legislative lawyers to full capacity so that the laws still needing to be passed can actually move forward. This has already been raised by a colleague. What is the current status of that process, and when are the remaining positions expected to be filled?

How many legislative lawyers does government have across all ministries combined? Within what timeframe can this overall pool of lawyers realistically

be expanded, and has government looked at Suriname as a recruitment source for legislative lawyers, given the difficulty finding candidates within the Kingdom?

The faction mentions Cabinet personnel costs. Cabinet personnel costs rise by 20.78%, including salaries up 24.57%. Is this due to new staff, salary corrections, or political appointments? (Ref: Getallenboek, AZ Cabinet, p. 6.)

Public Service Center. There is a large increase in project financing in the Public Service Center. What specific project is this and what improvement or profit will this result in?

Personnel affairs. There are many vacancies in each ministry to be filled. This will place a heavy burden on the P&O department to fulfill these placements as they too are short staffed and play an important role in facilitating the other ministries. What concrete steps have been taken in the first six months of 2026 to ensure vacancies will be able to be filled as soon as the budget is approved?

Jubilea: What concrete steps have already been taken to ensure civil servants received their jubilee and other outstanding payments that they are waiting on as soon as the budget has been approved?

The faction continues and considers that given that Sint Maarten already has several advisory councils in place, is SER's review or advice a legal requirement for legislation to proceed through Parliament, or can legislation move forward without it? If it is a legal requirement, which specific legislation mandates SER's involvement, and does the Ministry see any overlap between SER's mandate and that of the other existing councils?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

The faction has the following questions and comments related to the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication.

The Projects and Activities line under material costs grows significantly, from Gg. 108,000 in 2025 to Gg. 13.138 million in 2026, a 12,065% increase, largely attributed to the E6 Country Package. Could the Minister share a complete, itemized spending plan showing which projects receive funding, the

implementing party for each, and the timeline? Which of these projects does the Minister consider highest priority to execute in 2026, and what oversight mechanism is in place to ensure this Cg. 13 million is not left unspent by year-end? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 150.)

The faction notes that the ETT Department's budget rose 645%, from Cg. 1.748 million to Cg. 13.031 million, while the department is only 64% staffed, with 3 open budgeted vacancies and 3 unbudgeted vacancies. Could the Minister share how the Ministry plans to execute a budget that grew more than sixfold with the department still one-third short-staffed? Since we are now past Q2 2026, are there any indications yet of when the remaining positions will be filled?

The 2026 budget sets aside Cg. 1.1 million for the SME Empowerment and Support Programme, which aims to provide training and technical assistance to at least 50 small and medium businesses through SEDC. A separate line, the SEDC subsidy, sets aside another Cg. 250,000 specifically to keep SEDC's support services running for "50 or more" businesses. Could the Minister clarify whether these are the same 50 businesses being counted under two different budget lines, or two separate groups of business owners, and share a breakdown showing how each of these two funding streams tracks its own businesses?

The faction also notes that the Business Process Digitalization Programme sets aside Cg. 350,000 with the goal of cutting business licence processing time in half by the end of 2026. Could the Minister share the current average processing time being used as the starting point for that target, and would the Minister be willing to publish that starting number?

The subsidy to the Tourist Bureau grows 400%, from Cg. 307,000 to Cg. 1.537 million, and a related subsidy line for Economy, Transport and Telecommunication organisations grows 203%, from Cg. 460,000 to Cg. 1.395 million. As these increases aren't explained further in the narrative budget document, could the Minister share what these subsidy increases are specifically funding?

The faction notes a major spending jump and indicates that TEZVT rises from Cg. 24M to Cg. 41M, driven by material costs rising from Cg. 6M to Cg. 19M. The faction would like to congratulate the Ministry for receiving this budget increase for the ministry, especially as it regards the statistics department and

for tourism. Seeing the late budget, will the ministry be able to execute the majority of the funds budgeted still in this year? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 188.)

Subsidies increase. TEZVT subsidies rise from Cg. 767K to Cg. 2.932M, up 282%. Which entities receive these subsidies and what accountability requirements apply? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 150.)

Inhuur derden. Third-party hiring increases by 103% to Cg. 1.269 M. The faction would like to know which expertise is lacking internally, and why is hiring consultants more effective than filling vacancies? Will the ministry be hiring consultants for the statistics department as well? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 150.)

Ministry of Justice

The faction has the following questions for the Ministry of Justice. Traffic fatalities rose from 3 for all of 2025 to 7 in the first quarter of 2026 alone, alongside growing public and parliamentary concern, including a request for an urgent meeting of Parliament, over enforcement gaps and outdated provisions in the Traffic Ordinance. Given this trend, which specific provisions of the Traffic Ordinance does the Minister consider most urgent to amend, and by what date will amendments be tabled?

Based on fines issued by KPSM, which specific provisions of the Traffic Ordinance are most commonly violated? Would the Minister be willing to provide Parliament a breakdown of fines issued by violation type over the past several years, and by when?

On June 26, 2026, MP Roseburg submitted the “Ride Smart SXM” national road safety awareness and prevention proposal for inclusion under Priority Area 6 of the 2026 Crime Fund Policy Plan. Given that traffic fatalities have already risen sharply this year, and that the plan itself allows for a rolling review of allocated funds, with roughly Cg. 2.96 million of the fund’s Cg. 4.16 million balance still unassigned, this seems like a strong candidate for inclusion. Could Ride Smart SXM be added into the current 2026 Crime Fund Policy Plan through that rolling review process? If so, what would the timeline be for a decision, and

what would the process look like for consulting relevant ministries, law enforcement, and educational institutions?

The faction continues and state that the Cg. 1 million in VGT financing already sitting in the Crime Fund is earmarked for the Foreigner Detention Centre and is not available. The budget also shows a new Cg. 1.3 million TWO/Country Package stream in Justice with conditions the Ministry has not yet defined, and KPSM issues traffic fines whose revenue is not currently ring-fenced for road safety purposes. Could either of these two sources realistically be considered to fund Ride Smart SXM, rather than needing to identify entirely new money? Which source might be most suitable, and what would the timeline be to confirm it?

The faction indicates that combatting human trafficking is explicitly listed as one of the Ministry's own areas of concern for the Crime Fund in 2026. Yet none of the nine funded projects in this policy plan, across IBPS, the Court of Guardianship, the Public Prosecutor, or the Ministry of Justice itself, address human trafficking directly. Could the Minister help clarify why a named priority has no corresponding funded project, and does the Ministry intend to bring a human trafficking-specific project forward through the rolling review mechanism this year, or is it being addressed through a different funding channel entirely?

Currently, window tint on vehicles is illegal above the permitted percentage under Sint Maarten law, yet there is no corresponding ban on the importation of tint into the island. This creates an ongoing enforcement gap: importation continues freely while application remains illegal, with no end in sight. Would the Ministry consider introducing a yearly tint permit fee, paid alongside road tax (Motorrijtuigenbelasting), that grants permission to apply tint once paid? The permit would come with specific conditions tied to law enforcement safety, for example, a requirement to roll down windows immediately when stopped by police, with the permit subject to revocation for non-compliance. This would convert tint from something to be banned into something regulated, accountable, and revenue-generating. Is this something the Ministry of Justice would be willing to explore, and if so, what would be the process and timeline to develop it?

The faction mentions that the swearing-in of the new BAVPOL officers was conducted by the Minister of Justice. What is the current status of the

BAVPOL programme from the Ministry of Justice's side, and what oversight role does Justice play in their ongoing operation?

Would it benefit KPSM to expand the number of BAVPOL officers and have them handle basic administrative and custodial tasks that a full-fledged police officer does not need to handle directly, for example taking police reports or managing detainees held in the cells at the police station? This would free up trained officers to focus on more serious policing duties. Is this something the Ministry is looking into?

What is the Crime Fund's own balance and yearly income, from confiscated assets, fines, and asset-sharing, separate from outside money such as the Cg. 1 million in VGT financing the budget says is simply being held in the fund? Has the law governing the fund finally been finished, and if not, by when will it be?

The 2026 Crime Fund Policy Plan lists a total balance of Cg. 4,156,388.53 as of May 31, 2026, but the four organizations' combined project assignments, IBPS, Court of Guardianship, Public Prosecutor, and the Ministry of Justice, total only Cg. 1,196,100. That leaves approximately Cg. 2.96 million with no assigned project in this plan. Will that remaining balance carry over into 2027, or is it expected to be assigned to additional projects before the end of this year?

Could the Minister help clarify why the Foreigner Detention Centre repair, a basic legal obligation, is being routed through the Crime Fund's account instead of being budgeted as a normal capital project? Can the Minister confirm whether this sets a precedent for parking other ministries' bills in the fund, and will that practice continue?

What does the Cg. 25,000 set aside for "reorganizing the Crime Fund" actually pay for, and what is the delivery date for the annual plan and accountability rules that reorganization is meant to produce?

The faction continues and indicates that MP Roseburg submitted a formal letter to the Minister of Justice requesting clarification on whether Crime Fund resources could legally be used to support a Social Formation Traject-style youth development initiative, modelled on Aruba's programme. As this may also fall within the Ministry of General Affairs' remit given any cross-jurisdictional

agreement with Aruba, has either Ministry completed its review of that request, and what is the determination?

Aruba's SVT programme has produced 155 graduates since 2011, including participants who went on to military service and stable employment, and officials there indicated the facility is not currently operating at full capacity. Has either the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of General Affairs opened formal discussions with Aruba on a cross-jurisdictional collaboration, what would the estimated cost per participant be for Sint Maarten youth to take part, and what is the realistic timeline for a decision?

The 2026 Crime Fund Policy Plan already funds a two-year pilot Halt-type diversion programme for first-time and minor juvenile offenders (Cg. 350,000) and Project Singh, a structured skills-based rehabilitation pilot (Cg. 44,000). Given SVT's emphasis on discipline, mentorship, and structure has a substantially longer track record, would the Ministry consider incorporating SVT-model elements into the design of these existing pilots, or does it see SVT as a distinct initiative better pursued as a new project through the Fund's rolling review mechanism, using the approximately Cg. 2.96 million currently unassigned?

The faction mentions that the reconstruction of Point Blanche prison is listed as a key capital objective, with UNOPS and UNODC cooperation to meet international human rights and detention standards. The capital budget (Kapitaaldienst) shows the prison's construction/renovation/major maintenance line falling from Cg. 86,249,512 in 2025 to Cg 0 in 2026, a complete drop-off, with only Cg. 10,600 remaining for vehicles. The faction has four questions related to forementioned: (a) What is the current construction status, and does the 2026 figure of Cg. 0 mean the project is considered complete, paused, or funded through a different mechanism not shown in this line? (b) What is the projected completion date? (c) What is the total cost to date versus the original budget? (d) Have international human rights inspectors signed off on the facility design?

Programme 1 under Policy Objective 3 budgets Cg. 5.080 million for formally placing justice workers in their correct positions, including retroactive salary payments covering October 10, 2010 to December 31, 2022, over 12 years, yet only Cg. 5,000 is referenced as a "provide for" amount in the intended results. What is the total calculated liability for all retroactive payments across

the Ministry, has it been actuarially verified, and is Cg. 5.080 million sufficient to settle the full obligation, or will payments spill into 2027 and beyond?

Coast Guard (cost center 5570) shows a 2024 outturn of Cg. 0, a 2025 budget of Cg 3.363 million, and a 2026 budget of Cg 8.799 million, meaning it only appeared as a line item in 2025. What triggered this reclassification into the Justice Ministry, which cost centers or ministries previously absorbed these costs, and what specific operational expansion justifies a 162% increase from 2025 to 2026, with a full itemized breakdown by expenditure type?

The faction continues and states that the Unusual Transactions Reporting Center (FIU) was cut 44%, from Cg. 3.136 million to Cg. 1.743 million, even as the budget stresses FATF/anti-money-laundering compliance. The *Getallenboek* shows this is driven almost entirely by material costs falling 75%, specifically, the FIU's entire Cg. 1.198 million "Projects and Activities" line was reduced to zero, not spread evenly across the department. Could the Minister share what that Cg 1.198 million was previously funding, and how this reduction fits with the budget's own stated FATF priorities?

The Legal Affairs and Legislation Department is only 47% staffed, tied for the worst in government. How does that affect the Ministry's ability to draft laws, including court chambers reform, which does not appear anywhere in this 208-page budget? When will it be tabled?

Legislation for a three-judge panel system was previously put forward by MP Roseburg. It has been indicated by the Joint Court of Justice (HOF) that no budget currently exists for this. Is this something that can be looked into for budgeting purposes, and what would be required to move it forward?

TWO/Country Package funding appears as a new stream in Justice (Cg. 1.3 million), described as a 100% increase. What conditions come attached to this money, and what is the plan for continuity once it expires?

The faction mentions that now that ASYCUDA gives full, real-time visibility into every import, has the Government considered a small, targeted import duty instead of relying solely on duty-free marketing?

Since there is no fixed profit-margin percentage in our law, can the Minister confirm what protection, if any, exists against overcharging on goods

sold here? Would a declared purchase price captured through Customs give government and the public visibility into actual markups?

Would a small import duty also support the MSME and local-economy programmes already in this budget, by narrowing the price gap between imported and locally-made goods?

With national debt projected to reach Cg. 1.047 billion (31.3% of GDP) in 2026, while Customs is budgeted at only Cg. 3.771 million, has the Ministry assessed what a modernized Customs department could realistically bring in toward closing that gap?

Sint Maarten's abortion law remains outdated, unchanged since well before the Netherlands itself reformed its own law decades ago. Our French neighbours on the other side of the island have already modernized their law, and with an open border, women can and do simply cross to access care that remains illegal here. Is the Ministry of Justice looking into updating this law?

Given how easily accessible abortion already is just across the border, can the Ministry confirm whether the current law is still being enforced in practice, and if a review is underway, what is being examined and what is the timeline for any proposal to reach Parliament?

Can the Ministry provide Parliament with the real 2025 spending numbers, not just what was budgeted, for its internal "legal and expert advice" lines, so it is possible to see whether that money went unused in 2025?

Two internal "legal and expert advice" lines were cut for 2026 (Cg. 200,000 to Cg. 100,000, and Cg. 240,000 to Cg. 100,000), a combined reduction of about Cg. 240,000. Where did that Cg. 240,000 go? Was it redirected elsewhere in the Ministry's budget, or removed entirely, and would the Ministry be open to directing an equivalent amount toward the Legal Helpdesk, in coordination with the Ministry of VSA, yes or no?

The same question is asked of the Minister of Justice: what amount is budgeted for legal assistance under the Yellow Card procedure on the Justice side, how much of it is actually being used, and is there a remaining, unused balance?

The faction continues and inquires if the Ministry can provide Parliament, in writing and by a specified date, general statistical data covering approximately the past five years on cases involving the nonconsensual sharing of images (including intimate images) and online harassment/cyberbullying, including: (a) the number of complaints filed; (b) the number of cases brought before the court; (c) observable trends; and (d) age group indications where available?

Was this data obtained in coordination with KPSM as previously requested, and can it now be shared?

The faction mentions the personnel gap. Justice has 591 current personnel, 505 vacancies, and only 46 vacancies budgeted for 2026. Which critical departments remain understaffed, and what public-safety risks remain unresolved? (Ref: Getallenboek personnel summary p. 56.)

During the 2025 budget deliberations and later during the presentation from the Chief of Police, accidents and crime stats were requested. I cannot find where this report was submitted. In light of recent developments with traffic safety and the faction's efforts to assist with legislative amendments the faction has the following questions: (a) How many fatal traffic accidents have occurred annually from 2010 to 2026? (b) How many involved motorcycles? (c) How many involved pedestrians? (d) How many involved uninsured vehicles? (e) How many involved unlicensed drivers? (f) How many blood samples have been taken annually from 2010-2025? (g) How many hit-and-run investigations have there been annually since 2010 to 2026? (h) How many trained traffic reconstruction officers are currently in KPSM? (i) Does KPSM use collision reconstruction technology? (j) Does KPSM use body cameras, and are any body cameras budgeted in the 2026 budget? (k) Does KPSM carry out preventative breathalyzer testing on roadways, and is there budget for this in the 2026 budget?

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport

As it regards the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, the faction indicates that the budget includes only Cg. 21,963 for compulsory education (*leerplicht*) participation, with no visible enforcement or monitoring mechanism attached. Is the inspectorate responsible for monitoring school attendance currently active and operational? Is attendance being monitored for

students under 18, and are parents of children who are not attending school being fined, as required by law?

In September 2025 the Minister indicated the hair discrimination provision in the education law was expected to reach Parliament for handling in the first or second quarter of 2026. The faction notes that that window has now passed. What is the current status of the bill, has it been submitted to the Council of Ministers, sent to the Council of Advice for legal review, or tabled in Parliament, and at which of these stages does it currently stand?

What is the cause of the delay past the Minister's own Q1/Q2 2026 target, and what is the new target date for tabling the bill in Parliament?

With the 2026–2027 school year beginning within weeks, will this legislation be enacted before students return to class, yes or no? If not, what formal guidance, if any, will the Ministry issue to school boards in the interim, given that boards were already instructed in August 2025 to comply “in spirit” with a law that still does not exist?

School boards, including SKOS, raised concerns that the Ministry's proposed standards would protect some religious grooming practices (such as the hijab) but not others (such as Catholic biblical hairstyle requirements). Will the final law include an exemption or accommodation mechanism for faith-based institutions, and if so, what will it look like? Were school boards given an opportunity to review draft legislative text, as promised, and if so when?

Is there a line item in the 2026 budget for implementing and enforcing this legislation once passed, covering guidance development, school board consultation, and a complaints mechanism? If not, how will implementation be funded, and does its absence from the budget suggest enactment is not actually expected in 2026?

The 2026 budget gives Dienst Onderwijsinnovaties, the unit responsible for education policy and legislative modernization, a 29% budget increase, from Cg. 1.432 million to Cg. 1.844 million, yet the unit remains only 42% staffed, with 8 of 19 formation positions filled and 10 vacancies unbudgeted. The faction would like to know if the hair discrimination provision is being drafted within this unit, and if so, is this staffing gap a more accurate explanation for the delay than anything raised publicly so far?

The 2026 education budget includes Cg. 108,000 for “Execution of Key Legislative Products,” covering national decrees and amendments to primary and secondary education legislation. Does the hair discrimination provision fall within the scope of this specific budgeted line item? If not, under what line is that piece of legislation actually being funded and tracked?

The faction notes that *Afdeling Cultuur’s* budget more than doubles for 2026, from Cg 2.953 million to Cg 6.245 million, a 111% increase. The budget attributes this entirely to a Cg. 3.5 million allocation for the “Action Agenda Slavery Past” project under the TWO/Country Package, which shows up as the department’s “Projects and Activities” line jumping from Cg 578,000 to Cg 3.97 million. Could the Minister share a bit more detail beyond that label, an itemized breakdown of what this Cg 3.5 million actually funds (specific events, education programming, memorial or heritage infrastructure, research), along with expected outcomes and a delivery timeline for 2026?

The faction continues and mentions TWO/TF/UNESCO financing jump. Financing increases from Cg. 859 K to Cg, 5.244 M, a 710% increase. Which projects are included and does the ministry realistically believe that seeing the lateness of the budget that this large amount of money will be used this year? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 93.)

Subsidies. Subsidies remain very large at Cg. 75 M. Which subsidized entities have submitted audited financials, and which are not compliant? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 93.)

Capital projects. The John Larmonie Center has been on the budget for quite some time. Will this project realistically be able to start this year? What is the estimated completion date of this project?

The faction notes that Prins Willem Alexander School, and NIPA are also listed under capital expenditures. What are these funds earmarked for? Is it the building of a new PWA school in the St. Peters area? If yes, have funds already paid to the contractors in the past been recouped or will these funds be recouped? What plans are there for NIPA? (Ref: Getallenboek capital budget.)

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor

The faction notes the following regarding the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor. CDFHA drop. *Dienst Volksontwikkeling, Gezin en Humanitaire Zaken*, the department that runs sewing classes, literacy classes for adults, and community help desks including the Legal Helpdesk, was cut 44%, from Cg. 3.293 million to Cg. 1.833 million. Which programmes are being reduced to absorb this cut, and how will vulnerable groups be protected? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 120.)

Following on from that cut, can the Legal Helpdesk specifically still operate, let alone expand to other Community Helpdesk locations, on what remains?

The faction indicates that the Legal Helpdesk launched in September 2024 as part of the Community Helpdesk. Where exactly is it funded in the 2026 budget, and why does it not have its own line item? The closest match, "Empowerment programmes for community outreach" (Cg. 150,000), lumps the Legal Helpdesk's 8 advice sessions and 200 consultations in with hydroponics, senior fitness, digital skills, sewing, and fatherhood workshops, with no way to track it separately. Would the Minister be willing to commit to a dedicated line item for 2027?

Can the Ministry provide Parliament with the real 2025 spending numbers, not just what was budgeted, for cost center 7360 (Public Development, Family & Humanitarian Affairs), so it is possible to see whether Legal Helpdesk-related funding went unused in 2025?

The faction would like to know what amount is budgeted for legal assistance under the Yellow Card procedure. How much of that amount is actually being used? And is there a remaining balance, money left over that has not been utilized?

Can the Minister confirm that current law entitles fathers to seven days of paid paternity leave? Separately, is the Minister aware of any instances where government employees themselves have not received the full seven days they are legally entitled to, and if this has occurred, what corrective action has been taken?

The 2026 budget allocates Cg. 115,000 under Strategic Policy Goal 3.1 to hire a legal adviser strengthening *Afdeling Arbeid's* legal capacity, with the

intended result described as providing legal advice and support for all labor-law-related matters. Could this position's mandate realistically extend to a preliminary scoping of an ordinance amendment on extended paternity leave, or is its capacity already fully committed elsewhere?

Strategic Policy Goal 3.2 already funds Cg. 185,000 in employer/employee outreach for 2026, including the NESC.sx Job Portal, Career Expos, and Employability Enhancement Workshops focused on rights and duties. Could a future round of these existing workshops incorporate a module on parental leave and shared care responsibilities without requiring new funding?

Afdeling Arbeid's budget is set to grow from Cg. 831,000 in 2025 to Cg. 997,000 in 2026, a 20% increase, yet the department remains only 56% staffed, with 3 of its 9 formation positions unbudgeted. Given that gap, is there realistic capacity within *Afdeling Arbeid* to begin even preliminary research toward parental leave reform in 2026, or would that have to wait for the staffing shortfall to close?

The Getallenboek shows *Afdeling Arbeid* actually spent only Cg. 404,000 of its Cg. 831,000 budget in 2024, roughly 49% utilization, before its budget was raised again for 2026. Given that pattern of underspending relative to what was allocated, could a portion of the department's existing 2026 budget realistically fund the initial employer/employee survey and scoping work without requiring new money at all?

The government's annual contribution to SZV is budgeted flat at Cg. 5.5 million for 2026, unchanged from 2025. Has any feasibility work been done, even informally, on whether extended parental leave could eventually be administered through SZV's existing structure the way maternity leave is today, or would that require an entirely new funding stream outside this budget?

This 208-page budget does not contain a line item, under any ministry, dedicated to parental leave reform or a related feasibility study. Given that, can the Ministry confirm whether meaningful progress here would require a supplementary budget request in a future cycle, or whether there is room to begin foundational work using the existing 2026 allocations at *Afdeling Arbeid* or *Dienst Arbeidszaken*?

The faction mentions that several countries have moved toward significantly longer paternity leave in recognition of shared parental responsibility, some offering several weeks or months rather than days. Is the Ministry looking at extending Sint Maarten's father leave beyond the current seven days to bring it closer to these models, yes or no? If not, what is the specific reason seven days is considered sufficient?

During discussions with the Minister of VSA regarding job training for individuals recently released from prison, given the rise in crime, is a structured job pool or placement pipeline being explored where ex-convicts can access employment opportunities? The 2026 Crime Fund Policy Plan already funds two related Justice/VSA joint initiatives along these lines, Second Chance Builders and the Construction Skills Training programme, together supporting roughly 35 to 55 participants. Are these considered the foundation of that broader job pool concept, or is a larger, more structured placement pipeline with private-sector employers also being developed, and if so, what is the scale and timeline?

The 2026 capital budget shows Cg. 14.4 million allocated for the Mental Health facility, entirely within 2025, with no figure carried into 2026. Has the contractor already been chosen who will build the facility, and is it now complete and operational on the original schedule? If not, what caused the delay, and what is the new completion date? The faction continues and indicates that there are also rumors of necessary *meerwerk*/extra budget required to complete the building, how realistic is the current Cg. 14.4 million budget, and how confident is the Minister that this facility will be built without further unnecessary delays? (Ref: Getallenboek capital budget.)

General Health Insurance/SAAHA has been flagged as one of the main legislations that has to be passed to ensure survivability of healthcare in Sint Maarten. What concrete steps have been taken in 2025 to realize the GHI. When can parliament expect to receive this important realization and most importantly, how likely is it that GHI will be implemented by January 1 2027?

The faction mentions Health insurance/social insurance. Social Insurance and Sickness Costs remain around Cg. 35.795 M. Is this sufficient given healthcare cost pressures, SZV obligations, and hospital-related risks? Will this cover OZR payments? Will it also cover any additional project costs for the realization of the GHI? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 120.)

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure

The faction has the following questions related to the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure. The faction notes that eight BAVPOL officers were recently sworn in, the majority from VROMI's Inspection department. What specifically will these officers be doing in practice, for example enforcement related to noise pollution, environmental pollution, or other inspection areas, and what is their scope of authority?

The faction mentions low increase despite major infrastructure needs and mentions that VROMI increases only from Cg. 36M to Cg. 37M. How does this budget realistically address roads, drainage, permits, housing, environment, and infrastructure backlogs? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 188.)

Road safety. Especially given the many road safety concerns, what concrete steps have been taken by the ministry to separate the road funds from the regular budget as is legally required?

Material costs. The faction notes that VROMI material costs rise from Cg. 24 M to Cg. 26 M and would like to know which portion is road maintenance, waste management, contracts, consultancy, or emergency work. Does the ministry intend to paint the road markings with funds from the 2026 budget? Are there plans to paint the entire Brouwers road as there seem to be quite some accidents there? (Ref: Toelichtingenboek p. 188.)

Personnel capacity. VROMI has 110 current personnel, 15 budgeted vacancies, and 145 total required personnel. Which departments remain understaffed and how will this affect permit processing and inspections? (Ref: Getallenboek recap p. 46.)

Sargassum. How much has been budgeted in 2026 to combat the sargassum seaweed invasion of our beaches? What concrete plans have government undertaken to combat sargassum seaweed?

VROMI is 63% staffed (92 of 146 positions), and even if all budgeted vacancies are filled it only reaches 75%. *Beheersdienst*, the division running road

maintenance and waste collection, is the worst off at 68% (45 filled, 27 vacancies entirely unbudgeted). The Ministry's own risk register flags this as a "structural shortage" likely to cause service delays. Given that self-assessment, what is the recruitment timeline for the budgeted vacancies, and is there a plan for the unbudgeted vacancies, or are they not expected to be filled in 2026?

The faction indicates that the capital budget lists several major projects, the Cay Bay wastewater treatment plant, Middle Region upgrade Phase 2, Dutch Quarter Road, Prins Bernard Bridge upgrade, road paving and unpaved-road hardening, with figures spread across 2026 to 2028 in a way that is hard to follow in the document as presented. Could the Ministry provide Parliament a clean, single table showing each project's total cost, funding secured versus still needed, and expected start and completion dates?

Road maintenance ("*Onderhoud Wegen en Waterstaat*") rises 76% to Cg 1.9 million, while waste collection ("*Vuilophaal*") falls 14.5% to Cg. 6.85 million, even as the Ministry's own risk register warns that landfill and waste management shortfalls threaten public health and the island's tourism image. What specifically is being cut from waste operations to produce that decline, and was that a deliberate reallocation toward roads?

"*Accountants- en Advieskosten en SLA's*" (accounting, advisory, and SLA costs) rises 278%, from Cg. 674,000 to Cg. 2.55 million, with several individual lines going from Cg. 0 to new six-figure amounts, for example a contracted lawyer for the Minister's office and TWO-project-related advisory spending. Could the Ministry itemize which firms or SLAs this money is contracted to, and whether any of this could be delivered with in-house capacity instead, given the Ministry is only 63% staffed?

The subsidy to the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation was cut from Cg. 719,000 to Cg. 300,000, a 58% reduction, attributed to no new management agreement being in place, even as the Ministry's own policy plan lists sufficient housing supply as a strategic goal and the risk register warns of rising rents and overcrowding if housing isn't delivered. The faction would like to know what is holding up the new management agreement, and by when will it be signed.

The Cg. 370,000 waste-export feasibility study is explicitly funded in anticipation of receiving a subsidy for it. If that external subsidy doesn't materialize, is the study still going ahead, and from what budget line?

The faction notes that VROMI plans to merge 13 draft district zoning plans ("*bestemmingsplannen*") into one island-wide plan in 2026, a significant governance change with no dedicated capital line visible. What is the timeline for completion, and will the consolidated plan go to Parliament or public consultation before adoption?

The faction recognizes that a new Cg. 2.612 million TWO (Trust Fund/landspakket) financing stream appears for VROMI in 2026 with no prior-year comparison. What specific projects does this fund, and what conditions or reporting requirements come attached to it?

The Democratic Party-faction has taken note of the draft. The faction has the following general/interministerial questions related to the draft national ordinance. Which vulnerable or disadvantaged group will the 2026 budget policies and programs benefit, and which Dutch cooperation, *Landspakket* funds, subsidies, loans or Kingdom resources are involved?

What baseline inequality exists for these policies and programs, and what inequalities will be reduced in 2026?

Which specific budget lines reduce disparities in poverty, social security, housing, healthcare, and utilities as required by the UN Committee?

Does the Government have a 2026 social minimum calculation for Sint Maarten covering food, housing, utilities, transport, health, and basic social participation?

Has the Government formally requested a Kingdom Equal Rights contribution from the Netherlands to close rights gaps that cannot be financed from Sint Maarten's own budget?

The faction would like to receive an update on the tourist tax? How far along is the legislative process?

Which revenue generating measures are being pursued, what legislation is needed for these new measures, and when is the estimated implementation date for these new measures?

What Dutch cooperation funds are included in the budget, and are they separately budgeted as revenue and expenditure?

What tax-compliance measures will increase maximum available resources for social rights in 2026?

How will improved tax collection from profitable sectors be used to finance poverty reduction, social protection, housing, healthcare and education?

The faction continues and would like to know what are the Government's five highest priorities for 2026. How are these reflected across ministerial budgets?

Since nearly every ministry identifies recruitment and retention as a high risk and cites staffing shortages, what is Government's comprehensive strategy for attracting and retaining critical expertise across all departments to ensure sufficient implementation capacity for the reforms in this budget? How will Government reduce vacancy rates in critical departments?

Several ministries propose digital transformation and artificial intelligence initiatives. Will Government develop a single national Digital Government and AI Strategy to coordinate these initiatives, avoid duplication, and establish common standards?

What percentage of the Government's reform agenda depends upon external financing (TWO, Trust Fund, or Dutch financing), and what sustainability strategy exists to continue these initiatives once such funding sources end?

Which strategic objectives require collaboration between (all) ministries, and who is responsible for coordinating these inter-ministerial initiatives?

Can Government commit to reporting not only financial execution, but also policy outcomes, performance indicators, and implementation milestones in each quarterly execution report?

Ministry of Finance

The faction has the following questions as it relates to the Ministry of Finance. Does the 2026 budget contain a social minimum calculation? If not, how does the Ministry determine whether social spending is adequate?

Can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of tax revenues generated from casinos, lottery booths, and other gaming establishments?

What effective tax rates are currently applied to casinos and lottery operations?

Does the Government consider the approximately Cg. 8 million collected annually from the gaming sector to adequately reflect the level of economic activity generated by these industries?

Can the Minister explain the reasons for Sint Maarten's relatively low tax-to-GDP ratio of approximately 14.4%, particularly when compared to other Caribbean jurisdictions?

What measures are being considered to broaden the tax base and improve tax collection efficiency?

Can the Minister provide an update on the implementation and collection of taxes from short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO?

The faction indicates that given that tax reform is a strategic priority with modest national allocation and substantial reliance on external financing, how does Government intend to ensure national ownership of this reform process once external support concludes? What is the current state of the tax reform plans?

What measurable reductions in processing time, audit findings, payment delays, and financial reporting deficiencies are expected from the ERP/SOLL implementation over the next two fiscal years? What specific improvements should taxpayers expect?

What governance framework, capitalization strategy, and withdrawal criteria will govern the proposed Disaster Reserve Fund?

What strategy exists to reduce dependence on one-time revenues and improve fiscal resilience against external shocks? What reforms are expected to improve the quality and timeliness of annual accounts?

The faction would like to be provided with an overview of the Government's liquidity position, including available cash resources, principal short-term financial obligations and outstanding payables, significant receivables, known liquidity constraints, and measures taken to ensure timely financial commitments throughout 2026. If certain information is not readily available, please indicate what information is currently monitored by the Ministry of Finance for treasury and cash management purposes and provide the most recent available data.

Regarding the proposed indexation for civil servants' salaries. Can the Minister clarify how soon after the approval of the 2026 budget civil servants can expect to receive their adjustment?

Ministry of General Affairs

As it regards the Ministry of General Affairs, the faction has the following questions. Can the Minister provide the overview of all expected 2026 Dutch cooperation funds, *Landspakket* financing, subsidies, loans, technical assistance, and trust fund resources?

For each source, can the Minister state the amount received per ministry, expenditure function, right realized, beneficiary group, baseline inequality, and 2026 budget target?

Which *Landspakket* projects directly improve the living conditions of low-income households, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, children, workers and vulnerable neighborhoods?

What amount has been specifically budgeted for the hosting of a Kingdom Conference?

What objectives does the Government intend to achieve through the proposed Kingdom Conference?

Why can existing platforms such as IPKO not be utilized or expanded to accomplish similar objectives and policy goals?

What are the Government's intended outcomes for the proposed Kingdom Conference, and will Parliament be involved in defining Sint Maarten's negotiating position beforehand?

What are the advances for more regional engagement? How does Government intend to strengthen cooperation with Saint Martin beyond existing arrangements?

Can the Minister provide an update regarding the status of the audited financial statements and annual accounts of GEBE for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024?

When can Parliament and the public expect these financial statements to become available?

Will the Government commit to the regular publication of the audited financial statements and annual reports of all government-owned companies in order to improve transparency, accountability, and public trust, particularly in light of the repeated issues surrounding GEBE?

Which measurable service improvements should the public expect by the end of 2026 due to increased investment in public sector modernization, digital government, and institutional strengthening?

What institutional reforms are expected from the strengthened Personnel & Organization Department?

What milestones will determine whether Sint Maarten is materially better prepared for the 2026 hurricane season than it is today, following the proposed strengthening of the Office of Disaster Management?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

The faction has the following questions for the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication.

Is the Ministry still exploring the need for a Public Transportation Authority as mentioned in the governing Program?

Can the Minister provide a realistic timeline outlining the key milestones that stakeholders and Parliament can expect over the next 6 to 12 months regarding public transportation reform?

How will tourism revenue contribute fairly to financing social rights?

Does the Ministry have data on wages and working conditions in the tourism sector?

What amount is budgeted for small business support targeted at youth entrepreneurs and vocational training?

The faction would like the Minister to provide an update on the status of the Meteorological and Civil Aviation Building project, which was initially budgeted at Cg. 9.5 million.

What is the current status of the parliamentary motion that proposed reallocating the reduced projected expenditure from the Meteorological and Civil Aviation Building toward the development of a Motorsport Park, including a drag strip, multipurpose racing circuit, off-road course, and supporting facilities?

Can the Minister provide a timeline for the implementation of the Motorsport Park project?

Can the Minister provide an update on any allocations or plans to upgrade the Simpson Bay Bridge?

What policies and initiatives is the Ministry implementing to stimulate genuine economic growth through increased productivity, innovation, investment, and business development rather than growth driven primarily by inflation?

The faction would like to know if the Government would consider implementing a foreign driver's license fee, collected through car rental companies, for visitors operating vehicles on Sint Maarten?

Has the Ministry evaluated whether such a fee could contribute to traffic management, road safety initiatives, and increased law enforcement presence?

What is the status on the Philipsburg beautification plan?

Would the Minister consider pursuing Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to accelerate the development of additional parking facilities and achieve these objectives more efficiently?

The faction would like to know how will Government diversify the economy beyond tourism, and what indicators will measure tourism success beyond visitor arrivals.

How will SMEs benefit from Budget 2026, and how will Government increase productivity and improve Sint Maarten's competitiveness?

What strategy exists for food security and strengthening energy security? What progress is expected regarding digital economic development?

Ministry of Justice

As it relates to the Ministry of Justice, the faction would like to know what amount is budgeted for Miss Lalie's Center (MLC) and how is this amount determined.

What are the future plans for MLC and how will the construction of the prison affect this change?

What Dutch cooperation funds support justice, border control, anti-undermining, detention or prison reform in 2026?

Which human rights are realized through each Dutch-funded justice project, which vulnerable groups benefit and what measurable inequality or rights gap is reduced?

The faction would like to know if the Ministry has assessed whether additional traffic enforcement resources are required to address congestion, illegal stopping, and traffic safety concerns?

Has the Ministry evaluated whether additional law enforcement presence at traffic choke points and key locations during peak periods could improve traffic flow and reduce accidents?

Would the Ministry support the allocation of revenues from a potential foreign driver's license fee toward increasing traffic enforcement capacity and public safety initiatives?

Before introducing AI-supported immigration decision-making, what legal safeguards, privacy protections, and human oversight mechanisms will Government establish to ensure transparency and accountability? The faction would like to know what measurable outcomes are expected from AI-assisted immigration management, and how will stronger border security be balanced with efficient tourism facilitation.

Beyond physical reconstruction of the prison, what measurable reductions in recidivism, violence, and staff shortages does Government expect to achieve through prison reform?

How will Government measure whether prevention investments reduce crime rather than simply increasing enforcement activity? What is Government's long-term strategy for addressing violent crime, and how will it strengthen public confidence in the justice chain?

The faction continues and indicates that it would like to know how Government will address chronic staffing shortages across justice institutions. What indicators will measure success in reducing human trafficking?

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport

As it regards the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, the faction would like to know if the budget includes a school meal programme? If yes, how many children benefit? If not, how does the Ministry address food insecurity as a barrier to learning?

What amount is budgeted for special-needs education, school infrastructure repair, ventilation, heat protection and disability accessibility?

How many children are waiting for special-needs assessment, placement or support?

Which Dutch cooperation funds support education reform, early childhood development, data systems or inclusive education, and what inequalities will those funds reduce?

The faction continues and would like to know what amount is budgeted for youth mental health, youth protection, dropout prevention, vocational pathways and transition to work.

What amount is budgeted for cultural rights, local languages, heritage, libraries, community arts and cultural access for low-income households?

What is the update on the motor vehicle levy on gas and diesel to benefit sports development?

Which measurable improvements in literacy, numeracy, graduation rates, and workforce readiness does Government expect from the 2026 education budget?

How will education better align with labor market needs, and what reforms are planned to improve school governance and modernize vocational education?

What indicators will measure educational quality rather than just spending?

What policy priorities explain the significant increase for the Culture Department, and which tangible outcomes justify this additional investment?

Has Government evaluated whether the current student financing system sufficiently aligns overseas study with Sint Maarten's long-term labor market needs, and how will it evaluate the effectiveness of student financing?

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor

The faction has the following questions relating to the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor. What amount is budgeted for social assistance and which ICESCR rights does this allocation realize and which group benefits? (Which groups benefit: children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, unemployed persons, single-parent households, low-wage workers, migrants or undocumented persons).

What baseline poverty data is used and what is the 2026 poverty-reduction target?

Does the budget index social assistance to the cost of living? If not, why not?

What amount is budgeted for primary healthcare access, mental healthcare, non-communicable diseases, medication access and care for uninsured or underinsured persons?

What Dutch cooperation funds support health reform, medical referrals, mental healthcare, public health prevention or emergency preparedness?

Which health inequalities will these funds reduce and which indicators will be used?

Given the recurring deficits within the ZV, OV, FZOG, AVBZ, and OZR funds, is the Government considering reforms to broaden the healthcare contribution base?

Is the Government considering reviewing the current SZV income ceiling of Cg. 67,800?

Is the Government examining whether higher-income earners who currently fall outside the public healthcare system should contribute toward the sustainability of the healthcare fund?

Is the Government considering mechanisms to include independent contractors, sole proprietors, consultants, and other self-employed individuals within the healthcare contribution system?

Is the Government assessing contribution models for sectors in which workers frequently operate outside traditional employment structures, including construction, transportation, charter services, and hospitality?

The faction continues and would like to know if the Government has explored the introduction of a Digital Nomad Program that would include an annual fee or contribution mechanism for remote workers residing temporarily in Sint Maarten.

Are any of these measures currently being considered as part of the Government's strategy to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of SZV?

The faction would like to know how the Government intend to address increasing healthcare costs, and what measurable improvements are expected in preventive healthcare and reducing waiting times for healthcare services?

What progress is expected toward the new hospital, and how will Government strengthen mental health services and improve elderly care?

How will Government increase labor market participation, and what measurable poverty reduction outcomes are expected?

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure

As it regards the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure, the faction would like to know what amount is budgeted for affordable housing.

What amount is budgeted for emergency housing, rent support, tenant protection and prevention of homelessness?

Does the Ministry have current data on homelessness, overcrowding, unsafe housing and eviction risk?

The faction continues and inquires on what amount is budgeted for accessibility for persons with disabilities in public infrastructure.

Which Dutch cooperation funds support reconstruction, disaster reserve, stormwater pumps, waste, wastewater, climate resilience or infrastructure?

How does the Ministry prevent climate investment from benefiting mainly commercial and tourism zones while vulnerable residential neighborhoods remain exposed?

What measurable improvements in waste management should citizens expect? What strategy exists for infrastructure maintenance, and how will Government improve road maintenance?

The faction continues and would like to know what progress is expected regarding zoning reform. How will Government address illegal building and spatial planning? How will Government improve housing affordability and permit processing times?

The faction would also like to know how will climate resilience will be incorporated into infrastructure projects?

The Party for Progress-faction has taken note of the draft with interest and has the following questions and remarks regarding the draft national ordinance.

Ministry of Finance

The faction referring to its question posed to the Minister of VROMI about the Road Fund and its inclusion in the 2027 budget, would like for the Minister of Finance to explain if provisions were made for the road fund's inclusion in 2027, as is required by law? If the road fund is not in the budget 2027, what then is the Government's plan for infrastructure if and when another disaster happens? If it is not included in budget 2027, what is the Government's plan for road maintenance and management for the coming two years? What is the plan for infrastructure when another disaster happens?

The faction would like to know what the current status is of the Disaster Reserve Fund (DRF) and what the timeline is for establishment and capitalization. What measures are being put in place to ensure that the reflows from the airport loan go into the DRF and are not able to be used for a Minister's pet project and operational expenses. What will the governance structure of the DRF be?

The faction would like to know what the status of all pending tax legislation under the Ministry's purview is. This has been a question asked by this faction in Parliament since 2020.

The faction raises concerns about complaints received regarding delayed payments, due to software and system challenges. What is the status and or feedback of the new procure-to-pay system? Is it the intention to continue with the AIMS solution, and what is the plan for JOIN, the existing mandatory software solution that exists within Government? What is the fee breakdown for AIMS vs JOIN? Please provide the amounts for licensing, adding features, etc.

The faction would like to know if the ministries have the financial tools to be able to fully forecast and verify their financial status in real time? If not, is it the intention to provide such tools to the ministries? What is the Government's current relationship with EU funding agencies that could provide pathways to investment opportunities, outside of CAPEX loans?

The faction would further like to know if any consideration has been given to changing the legislation to allow ATS to assist with collections for

Government/tax office? If not, is this something the Minister is willing to consider? If yes, what is the timeline for completion of this legislative change, which I understand is not a lengthy or complicated amendment?

Ministry of General Affairs

As it regards the Ministry of General Affairs, the faction would like to know who is handling procurement of the generators for GEBE? Why was this task not given to GEBE directly, so that the responsibility for a successful or failed procurement would land appropriately? What is the current status of the generator procurement?

The faction would also like to know what is the current plan for staffing Legal Affairs? The faction acknowledges the critical role JZ&W plays in the processing of legal documentation for Government and asks what's their current staff count and is there a workaround possible until it is improved?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

As it regards the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, the faction would like to know what processes and procedures are being streamlined between the Ministry of TEATT and other ministries? The faction makes a specific reference to a situation whereby there was a challenge in Domain affairs regarding the Department of Economic Licenses granting vending licenses that include a space of operation on Government land, without discussion with Domain Affairs to ensure a rental agreement was possible or being worked on. This resulted in many vendors, some around for more than 20 years, making money with no rental income paid to Government. The faction would like to know if this is being worked on, considering the need for revenue generation.

Again, the faction highlights the impact other businesses can have on other ministries, for example, the establishment of educational institutions that require permission from ECYS or health-related entities that need authorization from VSA. The faction would like to know if processes are being put in place to ensure that TEATT does not simply issue a business license without doing the proper checks with those ministries?

The faction continues and queries if the Ministry of TEATT receives periodic financial and revenue reports from the Ministry of Finance that allow it to benchmark the performance of its departments and government-owned

revenue streams. If not, would the Minister support the implementation of quarterly reporting to better inform policy decisions, revenue forecasting, and operational planning?

The faction would like to know if the delayed presentation and approval of the national budget has affected the operations of the Ministry of TEATT? If so, can the Minister outline the practical challenges this has created for project implementation, procurement, staffing, contractual commitments, and the timely execution of the Ministry's policy objectives?

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport

The faction has the following questions related to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. The faction would like to know how are school boards held accountable for their funding, i.e., the payments and contributions they have to pay for their teachers and staff, are they paying them? What happens if they don't? What is ECYS able to deliver and execute, considering the budget constraints that exist?

The faction would like to receive an update on school maintenance? Is budget 2026 sufficient to support the shift from reactive to structured, as the Minister mentioned before? If not, how does the Minister plan to cover the shortfall?

The faction would like to know if the delayed presentation and approval of the national budget has affected the operations of the Ministry of ECYS? If so, can the Minister outline the practical challenges this has created for project implementation, procurement, staffing, contractual commitments, and the timely execution of the Ministry's policy objectives?

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure

As it regards the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure the faction notes the legal requirement to establish a road fund while considering the budget cuts made to each ministry

this year, and would like to know what is the plan for road maintenance for the remainder of 2026? Is the road fund included in the 2027 budget? If so, what will be the approximate starting amount of the fund? What legal format will the fund take? What measures are being taken to ensure the fund has proper governance in place, so it does not end up in a situation like Curacao's?

The faction would like to know if there are any further private-public-partnerships in process for infrastructure works?

Are there measures being taken to streamline the permit process? For example, ensuring that persons applying for a building permit are notified right away if they need a civil works permit, so that the 'go, come back' situation that has been happening for decades stops happening?

The faction would like to know if the delayed presentation and approval of the national budget has affected the operations of the Ministry of VROMI? If so, can the Minister outline the practical challenges this has created for project implementation, procurement, staffing, contractual commitments, and the timely execution of the Ministry's policy objectives?

The Soualiga Action Movement-faction has taken note of the draft and has no questions at this time regarding the draft national ordinance.

The National Alliance-faction has taken note of the draft with interest. and has the following questions and remarks as it pertains to this draft national ordinance.

The faction has the following general/interministerial, as well as Government Owned Companies related questions to the draft national ordinance. What specific governance reforms for government-owned companies have already been implemented?

When will GEBE submit audited financial statements? What is GEBE's current liquidity position? What is GEBE's current equity position? What is GEBE's current billing and collection backlog?

Why are GEBE's annual accounts and financial information still unavailable for recent years? How many recommendations from previous audits remain outstanding?

What measurable targets have been imposed on the management of TelEm? What is the status of TelEm's restructuring? Does Government have any financial exposure related to TelEm's losses?

When will TelEm's audited accounts be current?

How much additional government support is expected for PSS during 2026? What is the turnaround plan for PSS? What is Government's maximum financial exposure related to PSS?

Has it been evaluated whether some government-owned companies require restructuring rather than continued financial support?

Why are the Port's concession fee arrears not fully settled? What is the 2026 collection target for Port arrears? Why is there no stronger dividend or concession revenue projection from the Port?

What dividend or reinvestment plan exists for PJIAE? How is Government capturing value from the airport's financial recovery?

Will quarterly shareholder reporting be provided to Parliament on audited accounts, dividends, arrears, guarantees, loans, and fiscal risks?

What audited accounts are still outstanding for each government-owned company? What arrears collection plan exists for government-owned companies?

What guarantees, loans, or other exposures does Government carry for each government-owned company?

The faction believes that in watching the Minister's presentation, the first presentation and the second presentation do not align. If you watch, for example, in the second presentation slide six. What was actually approved by the Council of Ministers for the 2027 budget? In the presentation from the Minister 2027 budget on slide six says 642 and then in that same presentation on slide 7

has a different figure, which is 670. The faction would like to know what is the issue. But that's not the only one. The first presentation slide and the second presentation slide also has conflicting numbers, as well as in the presentation.

The faction indicates that it has also noticed four other different discrepancies and would like to note that for the record. For instance on slide number 6 when it talks about addressing SZV and healthcare deficits, it has the annual healthcare deficit at approximately 35 million guilders and in the other presentation that the Minister presented initially it has a healthcare fund insolvency that is on slide seven from the other presentation, annual deficits approximately 50 million guilders.

The faction has the following questions based on the presentation given by the Minister and they concern the Government owned Companies. The Minister mentioned that Government will stop with passive approach when dealing with Government owned companies and be more involved. Who are the shareholder representatives for the different Government owned Companies? Can that be clarified? The faction noticed in one of the slides that the Prison will be opened in 2027. Does the Minister of Finance have information Members of Parliament do not have, because according to the faction not one shovel has been put in the ground since the symbolic groundbreaking. So how are we looking in terms of the scheduling for the opening of the new prison next year?

The Minister made mention of different 'Onderlinge regelingen'. The faction would like to be provided with all the 'onderlinge regelingen' that the Government has that are currently active and have been active for the last 5 years.

Regarding the fact that the Council of Ministers approved the 2027 budget this week, the faction would like to know what consequences does that have for budget 2026, which we are about to start to debate. If a Member of Parliament comes with an amendment, would that not be allowed, because it would influence the already passed budget 2027 within the Council of Ministers. The faction would like some clarity on that and how that process would be? How does that influence any potential budget amendment that Members of Parliament would like to come with.

The faction noted that the Minister mentioned actual figures. The faction requested a couple of months ago for the actuals of the 1st quarter report of 2026 and it has not been received as yet. Can that be provided so that we can have a factual conversation?

The faction heard the Minister made mention of dividends. The faction would like to know when the Minister will return to Parliament to explain the dividend withholding tax, which was a major discussion last year. The Minister promised to return to Parliament to give some more insight and to return with experts to give explanations. When will that take place?

The faction took note of the Disaster Risk Fund. The faction is trying to correlate between the two because there was also a Disaster Insurance which was something regional. The Disaster Risk Fund had to do with the money that had to come back from the airport in interest. Is that what the Minister is talking about? The faction would like a detailed breakdown as to where we are with that today and when will that be enacted. The faction heard that it is busy being finalized and would like some clarity.

On one of the slides the faction saw about 61 million guilders. The faction would like to know where exactly is the additional 61 million guilders in revenue coming from. Can that be explained?

The faction would like to know regarding the Expenditure. Personnel cost increased by 21 million guilders. How many new positions are actually being created and what is the Government's plan on filling these positions. The 21 million guilders is based on the whole year but we are now halfway through the year. Is the Government on track with hiring, because the faction has not seen any aggressive hiring. Is there any idea or appetite to do a job mixer that was done in the past with Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of VROMI particularly? Can something like this be done across the board in order to fill the vacancies?

The Minister indicated that the expenditures are below budget, is it because Government is spending more efficiently or because projects are simply not starting? Regarding the Ministry of VROMI, the faction can state that it is because projects are not starting based on what was in the pipeline for 2024 and 2024 particularly. The faction has not seen one road tender published since 2024. Is this also part of the reason why there is not much money being spent in that regard?

The Minister mentioned that we are positive based on the figures and that we generated 36 million guilders extra for the year thus far that was not expected based on the projection back then. Why is it then that Government cannot give relief to the people? One of the things you keep hearing is that

Government does not have funds, but here is a positive financial overview where the Government gained 36 million guilders extra. The faction believes it knows why the Government has gained 36 million guilders extra, because the Government gains a tax based on the import of fuel based on a percentage. Is it based on the fact that the world-wide fuel cost has risen and the Government is therefore gaining more based on a percentage basis, and that's why there is a surplus in the first half of the year? If so, the faction believes that the only right thing would be, to give the relief.

The faction noted that in 2021 and 2022 relief was given to the people at the gas pumps. Why can't this be done if we are so positive with the figures for the first half of the year.

The faction would like to congratulate the Minister and the Ministry on the good job on continuing the process of the policy based budgeting, because we could see the difference in terms of the details and allocating funds with policy. But the faction is of the opinion that what is going to be even more important is actually executing the budget based on that. Now we have the policy based budget, but now holding the different ministries accountable to actually executing based on this. When we get advices etc. that we're able to see this advice is based on the budget that is based on this policy, and if not then certain things cannot be approved. The faction is hopeful that that continues in that direction.

The faction notes that in the second presentation the Minister mentioned a surplus of 31 million guilders in quarter one. Is that surplus due to the fact that expenses just weren't made? For example, the Ministry didn't spend 27 million guilders on goods and services and spent 10 million guilders less on personnel costs. The faction believes that is not a savings, that is an execution problem. We should not be conflating the two or misleading the public in terms of the Government has made more revenue or the Government has more savings, because it's actually an execution problem. An underspending of the Government. The faction is of the opinion that the first quarter report also indicates that. So even when we look at the presentation from the Minister, it contradicts the Government's own report of the first quarter report.

The faction notes that when we look at the accrual surplus and the cash reality, they point in opposite directions and obviously what was mentioned in the presentation, also when you look at the budget, the buffer the Government has is super thin. But more importantly the Government has not provided any

contingency behind of that. Are there any new revenue generating measures in the budget 2026?

The faction does not see any, or much, new revenue generating measures that the Government has identified and any key areas where the Government says, in policy, that these are areas that we are saving on.

The faction notes that even the end of the year surplus is probably not realistic. The Government starts with 30 million guilders and ends with 5 million guilders, but the 5 million guilders could be spent in a week in Government.

The faction notes that the Minister mentioned in her presentation dividend policy for the Government Owned Companies, but did not mention it in this budget 2026 and in September of 2025 mentioned that she will be coming before the end of year with a professional regarding the dividend withholding tax and that would have been a major thing for the Government in terms of income and revenue. Is that dividend withholding tax reflected anywhere in this budget? The faction does not see it in the policies nor in the revenue. Is the dividend withholding tax part of the revenue of the Government?

The faction continues and notes that in the presentation from the Minister, it was clear that the Government believes that healthcare is important and they plan to address this. But when we look at the budget itself, the *'ziekteverzekeringskosten'* has gone down to minus 100%. So, does that officially mean that we are done trying to pay SZV for civil servants insurance? Because if you look at the prior years they were budgeted. Now it's down to zero. Minus 219. Does that mean, the plan to have Government pay for this, is that plan done? Because we can't on one end say yes we want to ensure that SZV gets paid, but then it is not budgeted.

In addition to that, in the presentation by the Minister it says that revenue increased by 29.8 million compared to quarter 1 in 2025. But in the first quarter report, it also explains that much of this money, or the income, is because of previously booked under other income was transferred to the tax income after cleanup was done for unclear bank descriptions. In that same report, the first quarter report, it appears that other revenues are negative because amounts were removed from other revenues to correct that same category. How much of the 29.8 million guilders increase is actual new collection in quarter 1, and how much of it is a reclassification from prior periods?

The faction states that in the report it also mentions that permit revenues are down by about 4.8 million guilders mainly due to lower business

license, director license revenue or income. It also stated that the Ministry of TEATT, the permit department, is behind on sending files and invoices causing invoicing delays. Why is the Ministry of TEATT behind with operational license invoicing and to the Minister of Finance what is the cash flow impact for budget 2026?

The faction notes that in the report it states that the expenses are below budget mainly because there was no approved budget 2026, that's in the first quarter report. Are the quarter one expense actual savings according to the Government or are they delayed expenses that will be expensed in quarter 2, quarter 3 and quarter 4?

In the first quarter report, it states that the surplus for 2026 should be at the end of the year at 1.1 million guilders. While in the presentation from the Minister it was indicated that this surplus will be approximately 11 million guilders. What changed between the quarter one report and the presentation? It is off by 10 million guilders.

The faction indicates that it was happy to hear that the Government, presented by the Minister of Finance, will be taking the execution of the capital expenditure serious. We don't want to have all these loans and not execute. But again, when the faction looks at the reports, we have about 365 million guilders of project loans but only 2.5 million was spent in quarter 1. We executed less than 1%. The ambitions of the Government does not actually line up with the execution and we are already in quarter two.

The faction notes that in the presentation the Minister mentioned the GDP. Does the Government take ownership of the GDP, because we have the GDP for Central Bank that is reflected in the budget including inflation. Do we have our own GDP numbers from the Department of Statistics or are we saying that we accept these numbers as our reality and we don't have to depend on internal numbers in terms of GDP? And if that's the case we can then just continue because we don't have much resources and just use the data then from Central Bank and IMF going forward.

The faction notes that we don't even have a statistics website. The faction states that last budget debate the Minister was asked why is the website down? It's still down a year later. Where should the general public pull data from in terms of our GDP and when it comes to statistics. Does the Government believe the Central Bank numbers and IMF numbers as our reality and that is

what we will use going forward? Because again, in the budget and in the reports there's no reflection of our own internal Department's data.

In the first quarter report it states that no loan redemptions were done in quarter one and the Ministry says in that report that they followed up with Central Bank and they did not get a reply or clarification on why that was not done. That was about 3.3 million guilders in loans that was due in January .

The faction would like to know since the quarter one redemption was missed, was that later collected? And if so, in which month was that done? And if not, is the 2026 debt and liquidity projections still accurate according to the Minister.

The faction would like to know about the '*wachtgeld*'. In the budget itself there's a line item for '*wachtgeld*' and that has been increased. '*Wachtgeld*' is the funds that is put on the budget to pay for former Ministers or Members of Parliament if Government switches or Government term ends, they get a declining amount of salary for up to a year. So it's interesting that the '*wachtgeld*' amount almost tripled for 2026 which will indicate that the Government is expecting a change to happen in this year, but it's up to 710,000 guilders compared to what it was before. Can we get an explanation as to why? But then also when you look at the percentage drop in the '*toelichting*', it actually says minus 100, which it can't be because the number before was lower and it's gone up to 710,000. It can't drop by minus 100%. The faction opines that that is also something that needs to be corrected in the budget itself. When that is corrected, would all the other figures remain the same or would the whole amounts have to change?

The faction notes that the interest costs increased in 2025 by 3.4 million guilders. In 2026, it only increased about to 200,000 guilders. That would indicate, as the Minister mentioned, we have more interest cutting into potential projects and expenses without the execution of the loans that we have. We are reducing our opportunity to be able to execute as a Government because we have these loans. We're paying more interest but we're not executing. Would the Minister agree with that point or not?

The faction believed the Government was tasked with a very ambitious 4-year governing program and in its own budget last year and this year, it states that there's no new policies. But the governing program has a lot of new policies. So it's either the program that the government has put forward isn't being funded or nothing is happening. All the plans or the campaign discussions etc.

and the governing program basically can't be done and won't be done in two years.

The faction would like to know if we will see a revised governing program or a realistic governing program and see a reflection in the 2027 budget, and the governing program being reflected in the policies in terms of policy based budgeting.

The faction notes that in the 2025 budget presentation stated that the government will be looking to give relief to the people of Sint Maarten regarding GEBE. That's a fact. The faction does not necessarily see that in the budget 2026. Can the faction deduce that the government has not budgeted any relief for GEBE. In 2025 it was clear that the budget, in their plans, had budget relief. The faction has gone through the 'toelichting' and there is nothing budgeted for relief of GEBE. Can the faction deduce that any sort of financial help to be put into GEBE or directly to citizens that the government has not budgeted for that? And if that's the case, can we stop this discussion about relief from the government to the people because that does not exist.

The faction was happy to see the slide regarding the Government Owned Companies and the reporting on what's positive and what's negative. When it comes to TELEM, the faction is of the opinion that the government has to do their part in terms of ensuring that TELEM goes from negative to positive. TELEM is owed by the Government almost a million guilders. The faction does not see that budgeted inside of 2026. How much money, in terms of bills, does the Government owe TelEm for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026? And is that budgeted in budget 2026 and where is that budgeted in 2026?

Can we have a summary as Members of Parliament of the quarterly reports, that the Minister mentioned in her presentation, of the Government Owned Companies.

The faction would like to know where it can see the tourist levy legislation, or anything to do with the tourist levy, budgeted in the 2026 budget as was discussed in the presentation.

The faction states that there is a significant amount of money that is put on subsidies and that it saw a recent article from the Charlotte Brookson Academy. The faction also understood that there were individuals from Charlotte Brookson Academy that had conversations with the Minister of ECYS, and that the Minister told the Board that it is hands-off and that the Board has to resolve this. The faction continues and notes that right now there is a situation

where staff and teachers of CBA, monies are coming out of their salaries every month for APS, but they are not part of APS. Will the Ministry or Government provide them the necessary funds to increase the subsidy so that they could buy into APS or would the Government have a serious discussion with the Board of Charlotte Brookson, if individuals are not in the APS system allow them to then have their own insurance policy. What is the Government's position on this? Because it's not reflected in the subsidy.

The faction notes that in the advice from the Council of Advice it is mentioned that the way and manner that the Soul Beach was paid did not have the authority of Parliament to do that. It also states that it was illegal for the Government to pay out Carnival without it being budgeted and that they would have recommended that a budget amendment happened in 2025 to fix this.

The faction said accountability has to come from Members of Parliament as we're the ones that hold government accountable. The faction is hoping to see what these answers will look like and it will be very interesting to see how we handle the Public meeting going forward.

The faction notes that in the advice from the CFT and the advice from Council of Advice they both state that there's a difference of a half a billion guilders in terms of our national debt, which should be explained before going to Parliament. Why do we have a half a billion guilders difference? What is this difference of a half a billion guilders in the budget. The CFT says 450 million guilders difference. Do we have a difference of a half a billion guilders difference in our budget amount or not? And what is the position of Government on this?

The faction would like to know when can we expect an updated version of the '*rentelastnorm*'. What are the effects of not having an updated calculation of the '*rentelastnorm*' and if we get a calculation and it exceeds that amount, would we be able to continue to borrow or not?

The faction has seen where Government has increased the spending but the revenue generation plan seems to be always missing. The faction knows that no budget debate is complete without a credible plan to earn, collect and enforce and protect Sint Maarteners. So one of the questions that the faction is going to be highlighting is directly geared to revenue generation. The faction would like to know from the Minister of Finance, her position based on those two points namely the Soul Beach and how the Carnival subsidy was submitted. What is the Minister of Finance view based on the response from the Council of Advice?

The faction would like to know what is Government's actual revenue generation plan beyond the normal tax collection? Which new revenue generating measures are included in the 2026 budget and how much is each expected to generate? Were any of the revenue generating measures considered but left out of the budget? If so, why were they left out? Are there any plans that are near completion but maybe not '*beslisrijp*' to put into effect in terms of revenue generating? And if so, can mention be made of those that are in the pipeline besides the tourism tax levy?

The faction would like to know what is the status of the revenue generating meeting that was requested but never took place? Is it based on the request of the Minister that the revenue generating meeting did not take place. This meeting was requested on December 10th of 2025. The IS document is 431 of the parliamentary year 2025 /2026.

The faction brought a proposal on the table to have a meeting to discuss revenue generating yet that meeting cannot take place. The faction would like to know is it a issue on the government side why this meeting is not taking place? What is the current tax arrears amount owed to the Government of Sint Maarten how much of that amount is collectible and how much of that amount, in the opinion of the Ministry, is not collectible and why ?

The faction suggests to put a fee on director licenses as a revenue generating measure for foreign directors because the faction knows that within the region that takes place. Some islands even up to \$20,000 per year. Can this be considered? Has the Government studied whether director licenses or director registration fees for foreign directors can create revenue and if so, how much was the projection, if this was done? If not, can it be done and will it be considered?

The faction would like to know how many company directors are currently registered in Sint Maarten and how many of those are foreign directors in active companies registered in Sint Maarten. The faction believes with that we can guesstimate as to how much we can generate per year.

The faction notes that there's something called an alien landholders license for foreign property owners in Anguilla. An alien landholder license is basically in order for you to purchase a property and you don't have the belongsers rights in Anguilla, you will have to get approval from the government, the executive council in that case, to be able to purchase property there. There are also fees attached to that. A foreigner would have to pay more taxes. The

faction notes that a proposal was brought forward to implement it for foreign investors. Is this still the case or has the Minister changed her views and intend to keep it so for foreign investors. How does a Sint Maartener benefit from Sint Maarten as the faction gave the example of Anguilla because in all other countries there are some kind of benefit for the locals. Is this being thought of? And if not, why not ?

The faction would like to know about Mullet Bay. What is the current status of Mullet Bay? Has the Government had any recent discussions regarding acquisition settlement or public benefit related to Mullet Bay.

The faction saw an article from the Sun Resorts where they've hired a architect to start to do drawings. How and what will the people of Sint Maarten benefit from Mullet Bay?

The faction notes that two motions were brought and voted against because the Minister mentioned they're already working on it.

The faction would like a clear update. How are we looking with the first right of refusal in terms of the acquisition of Mullet Bay? How hard are we fighting for it? What are the last discussions? And how is it that Sun

Resorts could hire an architect without having any sort of discussion with Government or without Government coming straight forward to the people and explaining what the status is of Mullet Bay.

The faction would like to know from each cabinet all consultants and the last amounts paid over the last one year with legal affairs and other consultants within the cabinets of the ministries.

The faction would like to ask the Government directly about reduction in the cost of fuel at the gasoline stations. What is the latest update in terms of relief for the public? What concrete plans are being executed in terms of relief for the utility bills?

The faction indicates that the Minister of Finance listed the tourist levy in the presentation and linked to 2027. As a Parliament we have not received this legislation as yet nor GHI as yet. What is the realistic timeline of us getting this. There might be an opportunity to see this realized in the budget 2027. Where are we at now?

The faction noted that the Minister mentioned the dividend withholding tax and we do not see it reflected in budget 2026. If its in budget 2027 as an

income, where are we at today? When is it going to come to Parliament and when are we going to discuss this? The faction does not see the alignment with all the revenue generating goals that need legislation.

When are we going to discuss the road fund that is in budget 2027. When are we going to see this legislation? When are we going to discuss this fund ? When is this fund going to be established? Who is on this fund and what is the timeline pertaining to all of these things?

The faction would like clarity on the forementioned things of the past two budgets that were not accomplished. The Minister mentioned the flyover fees as revenue generating measure in 2025. We didn't get it in 2026. The tax on the pensioners has been pushed 2024, 2025 and 2026, and we do not see that legislation.

The faction continues and indicates that the Ministry of TEATT had the agency for agriculture. Where are we with that? We don't see that legislation. That was for 2025 and 2026. Is that budgeted in 2026 so that the Ministry can execute the agency? And if so, where are we with that legislation. What is the entity that we are trying to establish with the agency for agriculture?

The faction mentions the Governing program. The faction went through the Governing Program and watched the budget and notes that none of the policies of the Governing Program are seen back in the budget. What is the Government basing their route with?

The faction asks about vendors that are owed. Have we established the amount that is owed to vendors? The faction would really like a forensic audit of how and when these bills started to accumulate.

The faction mentions that Government lost a recent court case to a car rental company. The faction believes Government had to pay \$200.00,00 dollars because advices were not done.

The faction would like that we get a forensic audit on all car rental companies that Government owe. What is the timeline and when did they start? Also for all the cleaning companies. How much money do we owe cleaning companies that are out there? And when did they start? And did they have an advice? Under which SG and under whose leadership? And then we can go on to the printing companies. How many printing companies are owed money right now? How many software companies are owed money? All vendors in general. Where in the budget can the faction see it reflected what we owe.

The faction notes that some areas are inflated with no clear explanation as to what can be paid. Where can the faction see an increase in a certain area for potential legal fees. Where in the budget can the faction find if another vendor takes Government to court in 2026, that we are able to pay them out. How do we legally establish to pay them, if it is not budgeted for? If that's the case can we assume there is a surplus at the end of the year, which is the 5 million at the end of the year?

The faction noted that in the last budget debate there was a discussion about jubilees. The faction would like to know the total tally of the outstanding jubilees, over time, *toelagen* and every extra payment that is beyond salary that is owed to the civil servants from 2025 and 2026. And if that's the case, is it budgeted? Is the jubilee going to be correctly calculated ?

The faction would like to ask about the OBNA Bank that was taken over in 2025. The faction indicates that in 2025 it asked if the Government received the payment from OBNA Development Bank regarding the dilution of an entity that they had? The faction reminds the Minister that her cabinet stated that Sint Maarten was geMinister, the cabinet stated that the government of Sint Maarten will be continuing to take on the payments of the entities that fell under that asset.

The faction would like to know if the Government has taken over the assets of a bank, so they're entities that had a loan, how legally can the Government now operate as a bank? What legal basis does the Government have to take over these assets and now continue to collect? Where in the budget are these assets reflected. How much money is the Government expecting to collect from these entities? The faction would like a legal position on this as well.

The faction would like to know about the HR cycle. Is the Prime Minister going to review the HR cycle and change it back to how it was or make it fairer for our civil servants? The faction understood that there is a backlog in HR work and that the department of PnO is understaffed. Has the process started in terms of filling vacancies, and if the vacancies can't be filled, can they get external support? Will the Government be supporting PnO.

The faction would like note that persons are asking if bonuses will be included. Teachers are also asking, once the budget is approved and the COLA is adjusted, will the schools get an additional subsidy or the subsidy that they already have already included the potential 2.5% increase for their COLA and also the retroactive pay as the schools did not pay out as yet.

Ministry of Finance

The faction has the following questions and comments related to the Ministry and Finance. In 2025 the Minister stated that she had signed off on the dividend withholding tax, that it would generate roughly Cg. 10 million a year, and that it would be included in the 2026 budget with enforcement from 1 January 2026. The faction notes that it does not appear in the 2026 revenue tables. The only dividend line is the Cg. 6 million the government receives from public entities and the central bank. What is the current legal status of the measure, what is the revised enforcement date, and why is the projected revenue not booked?

The tourist tax levy was presented as a planned new revenue measure, and the government has indicated it is now expected in 2027 rather than 2026, with the legislative process still under way. How far along is the tourist tax levy at present, what specific steps remain before it can take effect, and on what date does the government now expect the first revenue to be collected?

The government committed to introducing new revenue measures before responsibly reducing profit and wage tax. The *Memorie van Toelichting* states the budget contains few policy changes and no new revenue measures, yet profit tax is budgeted at Cg. 46 million against Cg. 30 million realized in 2024. Which new revenue measures are in force in 2026, and what is the dated sequence toward the promised reductions?

The faction mentions that Finance and TEATT jointly committed to fee relief and financial solutions for marketplace vendors. What relief is funded in 2026, and in which post? Looking at the GDP, Inflation and other economic indicators does the Minister stand by these numbers? Have they been verified by IMF and Central bank?

The government committed to accelerated collection of overdue casino, lottery and long lease fees. The first quarter report notes payment agreements with eleven of thirteen casinos and casino and lottery fees of Cg. 1.9 million against Cg. 2.6 million budgeted. What is the total amount of casino, lottery and long lease fees still outstanding, and how much was collected in 2025 and in the first quarter of 2026?

What is the policy for vacation days payout? Are civil servants entitled to this? Is it a law or policy? Which department determines the payout? Can a Minister overrule to allow for a payout to happen? Does the Minister believe this should be allowed and that creates an extra financial opportunity for those wanting?

The government said it had engaged SOAB to recruit a qualified Head of Tax, would appoint an interim Head, and would add Tax Office vacancies to the 2026 budget. Is a permanent Head of Tax appointed, how many Tax Office posts are funded and filled in 2026, and what revenue effect is expected?

The faction continues and indicates that the government committed to compliance projects with SOAB and TWO, with cash only businesses a focus. Yet the first quarter report shows import duties collected at zero against Cg. 3.9 million budgeted, the main importer stating it had not been invoiced since January, and business and director licenses at Cg. 0.1 million against Cg 3.7 million. Given these collection failures during the ERP transition, what quantified compliance revenue is built into the Cg. 478 million tax projection?

The faction notes that a tax reform position paper was presented to Parliament and an action plan approved. Which legislative products have been enacted, which remain pending at Judicial Affairs, and what is the timeline for the rest?

The government committed to updating the function book and reassigning critical tasks ahead of retirements. Is the function book updated, and what is the succession plan for imminent retirements in Finance and the Tax Office?

The faction notes that consensus was reported on tax regulations between Sint Maarten and the Netherlands, pending the Minister's approval. Has the Minister signed, and is the matter scheduled for the Kingdom Council of Ministers? It is understood that the Minister selected Bearing Point based on their proposal years ago and is holding personal liability if the last company that won goes to court. Is there any truth to this? Was bearing point chosen? Is TWO standing guarantee for any potential lawsuits? Was the company officially informed that the Minister would not be going with them as the last winners? Was Bearing Point informed that they will be the company to proceed with tax reform and the relevant software? Can a copy of the LB be sent to Parliament?

How many persons left the tax and receivers officer during 2025/ 2026? Have those vacancies been filled? Who is the current head of tax office? Who is the current head of Fiscal affairs? Who is the current head of tax inspectorate? How many court cases were handled during 2025 and 2026? How many were won and lost? What is the reason for the losses?

The faction continues and mentions that across all ministries, capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2026 was Cg. 2.5 million against a Cg. 365.6 million capital budget, and Cg. 91.96 million of the 2023 to 2025 CAPEX loans remains unspent. For each commitment tied to a capital project, what is the realistic 2026 completion date and execution forecast?

Many commitment linked projects show little or no first quarter execution, among them the Home Repair Program, the Executive Protection Unit, ORGV, EPI vaccines, the awareness campaigns, the school sports program and the law faculty. What is the full year delivery schedule for each, or which commitments will not be met in 2026?

For every 2025 commitment not funded in the 2026 budget, does the government confirm it is deferred, and if so to which year and which budget?

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise. The faction would like the Minister to state the objective criteria used by the Ministry to determine whether a ministry's budget submission complies with Policy-Based Budgeting.

Can the Minister apply those same criteria to the Ministry of Finance itself, certify whether every programme within the Ministry satisfies the Ministry's own definition of Policy-Based Budgeting, and identify every programme that does not.

Can the Minister identify every ministry whose draft budget required material revision by the Ministry of Finance before inclusion in the 2026 National Budget.

Indicate whether any ministry's budget was accepted despite incomplete KPIs, missing baselines, absent implementation plans or unquantified outcomes, and enumerate those programmes.

Explain how the Ministry verified that every policy objective in the Toelichtingenboek is supported by an identifiable budget allocation in the Getallenboek.

The faction would like the Ministry to describe the review process the Ministry of Finance applies to the chapters submitted by the other ministries before the budget documents are sent to Parliament, including who performs the review and against which checklist. In that context, account for the following defects identified by Parliament in the documents as submitted: a chapter paragraph missing from the numbering of the AZ chapter (5.1.7), a capital table in the VROMI chapter containing a malformed figure and a total that does not follow from its rows (5.7.5.3), two different FTE totals and two different personnel cost totals within the Justice chapter (5.3.10 versus 5.3.2.1), and percentage columns in the TEATT and VROMI chapters that do not correspond to the figures shown. State whether these chapters passed the Ministry's review and, if so, how these defects survived it.

Please report on whether every budget increase approved for 2026 was supported by measurable evidence demonstrating expected improvements in outputs or outcomes.

Can the Minister enumerate every new policy initiative introduced in the 2026 Budget that was not included in the 2025 Budget and explain the basis upon which each was prioritized.

Please clarify how the Ministry distinguishes between policy objectives, operational activities and routine administrative functions when preparing the national budget.

The faction mentions that strategic Goal 2, the improvement of the national budget process on which Policy-Based Budgeting for the entire government depends, carries a programme budget of Cg. 177 in the table of paragraph 5.2.4 while the narrative states approximately Cg. 200. The faction would like the Minister to reconcile these two figures and explain how the government-wide rollout of a uniform budget instruction, modern revenue forecasting and quarterly reporting will be achieved with this allocation. Additionally can the Minister state whether the Ministry can certify that the 2026 National Budget fully complies with the principles of Policy-Based Budgeting, and identify any remaining deficiencies.

Please set out the implementation status of every major Ministry of Finance commitment included in the 2025 Budget, identifying those completed, partially completed, delayed, cancelled or carried forward into 2026.

Can the Minister reconcile the Ministry's 2025 policy commitments with the funding provided in the 2026 Budget and identify initiatives that continue without measurable evidence of success.

Specify which 2025 reform initiatives produced measurable improvements in revenue collection, expenditure management, taxpayer services or financial governance.

Can the Minister identify every major recommendation arising from audits, evaluations or internal reviews completed during 2025, including those of the SOAB, the Algemene Rekenkamer and the Cft, and state the implementation status of each.

Can the Minister also indicate which financial year of the *jaarrekening* of the *Land* was most recently adopted by Parliament, the current backlog of annual accounts, and the plan and timeline for bringing the accounts of the *Land* fully current, noting that the transparency objective of Strategic Goal 3 cannot be verified while the accounts are in arrears.

Please explain how lessons learned from implementation challenges in 2025 influenced the design of the 2026 Budget.

In addition the faction would like the Minister to state whether any 2025 performance indicators were removed, revised or replaced in the 2026 Budget and account for the reasons.

Please identify any reform initiative that has received funding for multiple consecutive years without demonstrating measurable outcomes. Clarify how Parliament can independently verify that the Ministry delivered on the objectives approved in the 2025 Budget.

The faction continues and would like to that the Minister furnishes Parliament with the answers to the written questions registered under IS 1060, IS 1061, IS 1616 and IS 1580, which remain outstanding, and account for the reason the customary response term was exceeded in each case.

Can the Minister reconcile projected 2026 revenue growth with current staffing shortages within the Tax Administration, noting that *Controle en Opsporing* stands at 3 filled positions on a formation of 23 per paragraph 5.2.8.

Please quantify the projected revenue contribution of economic growth, tax compliance improvements, arrears collection, tax reform, enhanced enforcement and ICT modernization separately, and indicate the methodology used to estimate the revenue expected from improved compliance.

The faction would like the Minister to set out, per tax type, the total tax arrears billed and outstanding as of the most recent date available, the amounts collected in 2024 and 2025, the age profile of the arrears, the amounts written off, and the collection target for 2026 on which the arrears component of the revenue forecast rests.

Specify which components of projected revenue growth depend upon reforms that are not yet operational.

The faction notes that the budget's surplus margin is Cg. 11.2 million, or 1.7 percent of revenue, while the Ministry's own risk overview in paragraph 5.2.9 scores structurally insufficient revenue due to a limited fiscal base, a sizeable informal sector or inefficient collection at likelihood 4 and impact 4. The faction would like the Minister to quantify the revenue shortfall at which the 2026 budget moves into deficit, and indicate which of the risks in paragraph 5.2.9 would, if it materialized, consume the entire margin on its own.

In addition, please distinguish what proportion of projected revenue growth is expected from structural improvements versus one-time or temporary factors.

Please explain the basis on which Parliament should approve projected revenue increases that depend upon reforms, systems and legislation that have not yet been implemented.

The faction would like it to be stated whether Government has formally approved a comprehensive Tax Reform Strategy and furnish its implementation timetable. Paragraph 5.2.6 states that only two staff members within the *Afdeling Fiscale Zaken*, itself at 29 percent of formation, are working full time on the reform, with a supporting budget of Cg. 300. Please confirm these figures

and explain how the country's central fiscal reform is to be delivered with this capacity, and what the reform would cost if resourced to plan.

The faction would like the Minister to reconcile the tax reform commitments contained in the Governing Program with those funded in the 2026 Budget and identify every announced tax reform that is not currently reflected in the 2026 Budget.

Please enumerate every legislative amendment required before projected fiscal benefits from tax reform can be realized, including the status of the Landsverordening belastinghervorming fase 1 and the revision of the Algemene Landsverordening Landsbelastingen whose adoption paragraph 5.2.6 commits for 2026.

Clarify how projected revenue increases have been incorporated into the Budget where enabling legislation has not yet been enacted.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to set out the sequencing of tax reform initiatives and explain why that sequence was selected, and identify any tax reform initiative that has been deferred with the reasons for postponement.

In addition please demonstrate how the Ministry ensures that individual tax measures form part of a coherent long-term tax policy rather than isolated fiscal initiatives, including alignment with the OECD standards referenced in the chapter and the fiscal impact of compliance with them.

Please state whether any tax holidays have been granted over the last 24 months and, if so, how many, indicating per grant the date, the sector and the duration. Report also on how many tax holiday applications have been denied since the Minister assumed office, with the principal grounds for denial. The faction continues and indicates that six tax holidays have been granted since 2020 and would like the Minister to set out, per establishment, the commitments and qualifications on the basis of which each holiday was granted, the follow-up and verification performed to date to confirm that those commitments have been met, the findings of that verification, and the consequences applied or available where commitments have not been met, including the estimated forgone tax revenue per grant.

The faction would like Minister to identify every dependency that must be completed before the modernization programme can generate measurable fiscal benefits, and specify which modernization components will be operational during 2026 and which remain in planning or procurement. Confirm also whether the remaining Cg. 300 that paragraph 5.2.3 states would be requested from the TWO in the first quarter of 2026 has been requested and received.

Please explain what measurable improvements taxpayers should expect during 2026 rather than after full implementation, and how the Ministry will measure whether modernization has improved compliance, efficiency and taxpayer services.

The faction notes that the differences table in paragraph 5.2.2 adds Cg. 400 in advisory costs for *Controle en Opsporing* to obtain support from the SBAB or ATS once the relevant legislation is amended and enters into force. Please state the status of that legislation, the expected date of entry into force, and how tax audit and investigation capacity is being maintained in the interim with 3 of 23 positions filled.

The faction would also like the Minister to explain the basis on which the Ministry concluded that existing institutional capacity is sufficient to deliver the Government's public financial management reform agenda, given that paragraph 5.2.8 shows 138 FTEs on a formation of 214, the *Afdeling Financiën* at 37 percent, *Fiscale Zaken* at 29 percent and *Controle en Opsporing* at 13 percent, and given the chapter's own statement that the mismatch between required and available capacity constitutes a structural policy risk.

Please identify which reform initiatives would be delayed if current vacancies remain unfilled throughout 2026, and the contingency measures in place.

The faction states that the personnel budget rises Cg. 6.9 million, of which the Ministry's own decomposition attributes Cg. 4.2 million to *personeel van derden*. Please break down this Cg. 4.2 million per engagement, indicating the function performed, the counterparty, the duration and the procurement method, and reconcile the presentation of external hires as personnel strengthening.

The faction would also like it to be clarified how reliance on external consultants will decrease over the implementation period, identify which capabilities will be permanently transferred to Ministry personnel, and specify the knowledge transfer arrangements per major engagement.

Paragraph 5.2.8 admits that essential functions in macro-fiscal analysis, cash management, internal control, oversight of state-owned enterprises and treasury are missing from or underdeveloped in the current functieboek, and that only three management functions are filled, one on an acting basis. The faction would like the Minister to set out the timeline of the functieboek actualization started in 2026, the interim arrangements for each missing function, and specifically how oversight of state-owned enterprises is currently being exercised, noting that the risk table scores SOE opacity at likelihood 4 and impact 4.

Please identify the accountable official responsible for each major reform programme, and explain the governance framework used to coordinate reforms involving legislation, ICT modernization, procurement, revenue administration and budget reform, including how Parliament will monitor implementation.

Please present a comprehensive overview of all vacancies and recruitment procedures currently being processed by P&O on behalf of the Ministry, indicating per procedure the department, the position and scale, the submission date, the current stage, the days pending, the cause of any delay and to whom it is attributable, and the anticipated completion and assumption dates.

The faction notes that the Ministry attributes future revenue growth to stronger tax compliance. Please explain how compliance is expected to improve before the principal modernization initiatives become operational.

The Budget projects increased revenue while acknowledging significant staffing shortages in critical enforcement functions. Please reconcile these two positions using measurable evidence.

The faction mentions that the Ministry promotes Policy-Based Budgeting as the government-wide standard and would like the Minister to explain how Parliament should evaluate programmes within the Ministry of Finance that do not yet satisfy that same standard.

Paragraph 5.2.6.2 states in the Ministry's own words that only 19 percent of the total budget is available for project and policy related initiatives, and that this entire amount is financed by the TWO and the Trust Fund. Confirm that no structural funding of the *Land* itself is allocated to the Ministry's policy agenda, state what happens to each reform if external financing is paused or withdrawn, and reconcile the figures in that paragraph, whose components (Cg. 26 million, Cg. 46 million and Cg. 17 million) total Cg. 89 million against a gross budget of Cg. 90.6 million.

The Ministry indicates that several projected fiscal gains depend upon future legislation, procurement, ICT implementation, staffing and external financing. Explain the basis on which Parliament should approve these projected gains before those dependencies have been satisfied.

Please state whether the Ministry considers the 2026 Budget to represent the full implementation of Policy-Based Budgeting or the first phase of a broader public financial management reform, and identify the components that remain to be implemented before the framework is considered complete.

Explain how Parliament can independently evaluate whether a policy objective has been successfully achieved where the Budget does not consistently provide measurable baselines, annual targets, outcome indicators or evaluation methodologies.

The faction would also like the Minister to Clarify how the Ministry intends to strengthen the linkage between policy objectives, budget allocations, programme outputs, measurable outcomes and quarterly performance reporting, so that Parliament can trace the use of public funds from appropriation to results.

Please identify the measures the Ministry will implement in preparing the 2027 Budget to ensure that every programme includes standardized performance information, including measurable baselines, annual targets, outcome indicators, responsible officials, reporting frequency and evaluation methodology. State specifically whether the Ministry will adopt a government-wide performance accountability framework for Budget 2027 under which no programme will be included unless it identifies the problem being addressed, the measurable result to be achieved during the budget year, the methodology for

measuring success, the accountable official, and the corrective action to be taken if performance targets are not achieved. If not, explain why.

Recognizing that the 2027 National Budget has already been substantially prepared using the same Policy-Based Budgeting methodology presented in the 2026 Budget, the faction would like the Minister to explain what mechanisms, if any, remain available to incorporate observations, recommendations or deficiencies identified by Parliament during its review of the 2026 Budget before the 2027 Budget is finalized and submitted.

Also, please state whether the Ministry has conducted a formal evaluation of the first implementation of Policy-Based Budgeting prior to preparing the 2027 Budget. If no such evaluation has been completed, explain how the Ministry concluded that the existing methodology was sufficiently effective to be applied to a second consecutive budget cycle without first assessing its strengths, weaknesses and implementation challenges.

The faction continues and indicates that interest costs of Cg. 26,128 constitute the largest single operational line in the chapter. Present the complete debt portfolio of the Land, indicating per loan the principal outstanding, the interest rate, the maturity date and the creditor, together with the refinancing schedule for the liquidity loans, the average interest rate assumed for new borrowing in 2026, and the sensitivity of the Cg. 26,128 to a one percentage point change in rates.

The faction continues and asks to report on the borrowing plan underlying the authorization of Cg. 42,111 in Artikel 2 of the draft budget ordinance, indicating the intended lenders, instruments, terms and drawdown schedule, and the projected debt-to-GDP ratio at year end 2026.

State the country's total outstanding public debt as of the most recent reporting date, disaggregated by domestic debt, external debt, guaranteed debt and other material liabilities. Indicate which obligations are included in the reported national debt and identify any significant liabilities that are excluded.

Please also clarify whether the reported national debt includes outstanding obligations owed to Social and Health Insurances (SZV), including unpaid employer contributions, reimbursement obligations or any other financial

liabilities. If not, state the total amount owed to SZV separately and explain the accounting and legal basis for excluding these obligations from the national debt.

State the country's current debt-to-GDP ratio, identify the methodology used to calculate this ratio, and indicate whether the ratio complies with the applicable fiscal norms or targets established by law, policy or international commitments.

State the country's current tax-to-GDP ratio, identifying the tax categories included in the calculation, the GDP estimate used and the methodology applied in determining this ratio.

In light of the Government's proposed tax reform agenda for the period 2026 to 2028, the faction would like the Minister to state the target tax-to-GDP ratio the Government seeks to achieve by the end of 2028, explain how each major tax reform measure is expected to contribute to achieving that target, and indicate the annual milestones the Ministry will use to measure progress.

The faction notes that paragraph 5.2.5 places Cg. 10,920 for the SPEAR project in the Ministry's budget while stating that the grant agreement was expected to be signed in the first quarter of 2026, a date that has passed, and that the project failed to start in 2025 as originally planned. Can the Minister confirm whether the grant agreement has been signed and provide its date; if it has not, state the legal basis of the appropriation. Please reconcile the Cg. 10,920 budgeted for 2026 with the project's own disbursement table showing USD 3.35 million in 2026 and specify which ministries and entities will execute which components under whose accountability.

The post *onvoorzien* of Cg. 1.2 million within *overige goederen en diensten* is explained in paragraph 5.2.6.1 by the statement that information is available showing financial risks identified up to approximately Cg. 1.2 million, for court cases and outstanding invoices from prior years. Please itemize the identified cases and invoices underlying this amount, and account for the classification of already-identified liabilities as unforeseen expenditure.

Provide a reconciliation of the following figures within the Ministry's own chapter: the departmental table of paragraph 5.2.1 presents the total of Cg. 90,592 as a 10 percent increase while the economic category table on the same page presents the identical total as 12 percent; the wachtgeld row moves from

Cg. 105 to Cg. 710 while the increase column prints minus 100 percent; and the differences table prints an increase of 63,157 percent for the overige goederen en diensten of the *Afdeling Financiën*. Correct each entry and confirm the accurate figures.

Please set out the realization rates of the Ministry's kapitaaldienst for 2024 and 2025 per project, the amount of 2025 capital appropriations expected to lapse unspent, and the composition and readiness of the Cg. 8 million in capital budgeted under the Belastingdienst ICT transformation in paragraph 5.2.5.

Please confirm whether the 2026 Budget contains any increase, indexation, adjustment or other change to the remuneration, allowances, pensionable salary or other employment benefits of Ministers, Ministers Plenipotentiary or former Ministers, including under the wachtgeld posts. If so, furnish the legal basis, the effective date, the financial impact, the budget lines in which these adjustments are reflected, and the rationale.

The faction notes that the Ministry's own risk overview in paragraph 5.2.9 scores the limited transparency of government-owned companies at likelihood 4 and impact 4. The following questions are posed to the Minister in his capacity as representative of the shareholder of TelEm Group. Please furnish the audited financial statements of TelEm for the financial years 2020 through 2024, and for any year not finalized state the reason, the audit status and the expected completion date, together with an overview of dividends received by the Land, and any loans, guarantees or arrears outstanding between the Land and the company.

Provide a summary of all pending litigation involving TelEm that may have a material financial or operational impact on the company, including the Flow matter and the SMPR-1 litigation, stating the nature of each dispute, the current procedural status, the estimated financial exposure, and the measures being taken to mitigate the associated risks.

The faction would also like the Minister to describe the current governance and executive management structure of TelEm, identifying the substantive holders of all executive positions, their employment status (permanent, interim, consultancy or secondment), their primary place of work,

and the performance objectives established by the Supervisory Board for each position.

Provide an assessment of the performance of the current Strategic Management Team since its appointment, including measurable changes in financial performance, customer retention, service quality, operational efficiency, staff turnover, employee engagement, and performance against the key performance indicators established by the Supervisory Board.

State the methodology used by the Supervisory Board to evaluate the performance of executive management and indicate whether any independent evaluation of the restructuring programme or executive leadership has been conducted since implementation commenced. If so, provide the principal findings and recommendations.

State the original objectives of the restructuring programme, identify which objectives have been achieved and which remain outstanding, and explain how the success of the restructuring programme is being measured.

Additionally, please identify the principal operational, financial, governance and human resource challenges that remain unresolved following the restructuring programme, together with the corrective measures currently being implemented and the expected timeframe for resolution.

The faction would also like the Minister to provide staff turnover statistics for the past five years, distinguishing between voluntary resignations, redundancies, retirements, dismissals and mutually agreed separations, and summarize the principal findings from employee exit interviews together with the corrective actions implemented by management in response.

In addition, please explain the recruitment strategy adopted following the restructuring programme, including the rationale for executive appointments, the recruitment methodology used, and the measurable outcomes achieved by those appointments.

The faction would like the Ministry to identify all functions outsourced since the restructuring programme, including payroll, human resources, finance and other corporate services, stating for each the rationale, procurement method, contract value, expected benefits and measurable outcomes achieved.

Can the Minister provide TelEm's current strategic plan for the period 2026 to 2028, identifying the principal commercial, operational and financial priorities, the measurable outcomes expected from each priority, and how this strategy differs from the restructuring plan originally approved by the Supervisory Board.

Can the Minister also provide an update on all strategic partnerships, network cooperation arrangements and commercial negotiations currently being pursued by TelEm, including discussions with Dauphin Telecom and any entities in Curaçao, and explain the expected operational and financial benefits of each initiative.

Please state whether the Government, the Supervisory Board or executive management has considered any proposal relating to strategic investment, privatization, merger, joint venture, sale of assets or other changes to TelEm's ownership or corporate structure during the past three years, and explain the current status of those considerations.

Explain how the Supervisory Board satisfies itself that TelEm is receiving effective executive leadership where members of the Strategic Management Team perform part of their duties outside Sint Maarten, and identify the governance mechanisms used to monitor executive performance, accountability and the achievement of strategic objectives.

Having regard to the restructuring programme, executive appointments, outsourcing initiatives and strategic reforms implemented to date, the faction would like the Minister to explain what objective evidence demonstrates that TelEm is in a stronger operational, commercial, financial and governance position today than it was immediately prior to the commencement of the restructuring programme.

The faction would like the Minister to explain which significant risks to TelEm's long-term financial sustainability, governance, operational performance and market competitiveness remain unresolved notwithstanding the restructuring programme, and state the timeframe within which management expects those risks to be addressed.

Please state the current status of the recruitment process for a substantive Chief Executive Officer of TelEm. If no recruitment process has

commenced, explain the reasons for the delay, identify the party responsible for initiating the process, and provide the expected timeline for completing the appointment.

The faction continues and notes that during the 2025 budget discussions, the Minister indicated that the recruitment process for a substantive Chief Executive Officer would commence following the handover of the turnover report. Please reconcile that commitment with the current status of the recruitment process and explain why the anticipated timeline has not been achieved.

Outline the concrete actions, milestones and expected timelines that the Government and the Supervisory Board intend to implement over the next 12 to 24 months to strengthen TelEm's operational performance, financial sustainability, corporate governance, customer service and market competitiveness, identifying the measurable outcomes expected from each initiative.

Also state the policy directives, strategic objectives and governance instructions issued by the Government to the Supervisory Board of TelEm since its appointment, indicating which directives have been completed, which remain in progress, and how compliance with those directives is monitored, evaluated and reported to the shareholder.

Are there any reform programmes, procurement processes, legal proceedings, staffing shortages, financing dependencies, contingent liabilities, obligations toward state-owned enterprises or other material matters not specifically addressed in the foregoing questions that, in the opinion of the Minister, may reasonably affect the Ministry's ability to achieve the objectives contained in the 2026 Budget or the fiscal position of the *Land*? If so, the faction would like the Minister to provide full particulars.

The faction continues and would like to know if the Minister believes that Sint Maarten's tax system is unfair by design, or unfair because of weak enforcement? Should Government prioritize collecting more from those already in the tax system, or bringing the informal sector into the system?

Does the Minister personally believe the tourist tax should move forward even if there is public or business-sector resistance? What is the Minister's view

on whether foreign investors and non-resident property owners should carry a larger share of the tax burden?

Does the Minister believe government-owned companies are being monitored strongly enough, or is Government learning about problems too late?

Which financial risk worries the Minister most: weak tax collection, healthcare fund deficits, public debt, or government-owned companies?

Does the Minister believe the public is getting enough value for the amount spent on consultants and third-party hires?

If tax reform makes the system more efficient but politically unpopular, would the Minister still support it?

Does the Minister believe Sint Maarten has a revenue problem, a spending problem, or an implementation problem?

The faction would like to know the Minister's opinion on whether locals should be protected differently from foreign investors in future tax policy?

The faction would also like to know how much of the projected operating surplus depends on optimistic revenue projections rather than guaranteed revenue?

Which revenue assumptions present the greatest risk of underperformance? What contingency measures are in place if projected revenues are not realized?

The faction states that no tax rate increases are planned while revenue increases by approximately Cg. 61 million. Can a detailed breakdown be provided explaining where every additional guilder will come from?

What percentage of projected revenue growth is due to improved compliance versus natural economic growth? Where is the full revenue generation plan, including each measure, legal deadline, implementation date, responsible ministry, and projected monthly yield?

What is the Government's actual revenue-generation plan, beyond normal tax collection? Which new revenue-generating measures are included in the 2026 budget, and how much is each expected to generate?

Were any revenue-generating measures considered but left out of the budget? Why were those revenue-generating measures left out?

The faction indicates that the budget states that revenue-increasing measures are not included in the projections. What are those measures, what is their expected yield, and when will each one be implemented?

What is the legal status, implementation date, expected yield, and responsible ministry for each revenue-increasing measure currently being pursued?

Why are major revenue measures being actively pursued but excluded from the budget projections? What is the status of the revenue-generation meeting that was requested but never took place? Was the revenue-generation meeting not held by the Minister's request?

Broadening the tax base is being presented without increasing tax rates. Which specific legislative measures are planned?

How much additional revenue is expected from improved compliance alone? How much outstanding tax debt remains uncollected?

What is the current tax arrears balance, broken down by tax type and age of the debt? How much of the current tax arrears amount is collectible? How much of the current tax arrears amount is uncollectible, and why? What is the total arrears balance for taxes, fees, concessions, erfpacht, and obligations from government-owned companies?

The faction continues and queries how many motor vehicles are currently registered on the Dutch side of Sint Maarten, disaggregated by vehicle type, including private vehicles, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, buses, government vehicles, and any other relevant categories. Of the total number of registered vehicles, how many are currently compliant with road tax payments as of the most recent reporting period?

How many registered vehicles are currently in arrears with road tax payments, and what is the estimated total outstanding amount in unpaid road tax?

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of road tax compliance rates over the past five years, indicating any observable trends? What mechanisms are currently in place to monitor and enforce road tax compliance, including coordination between the Tax Administration, the licensing authority, and law enforcement?

How many fines, penalties, or enforcement actions related specifically to road tax non-compliance were issued in the past two years?

What is the estimated annual revenue potential if full road tax compliance were achieved, and how does this compare to actual collections?

How much of the projected revenue increase comes from one-time collections instead of recurring income?

The faction would like to know if the Government has studied whether director licenses or director registration fees for foreign directors can create new annual revenue. What was the conclusion of any study on director licenses or director registration fees? If this was not studied, why has it not been pursued?

How many company directors are currently registered in Sint Maarten? How many foreign directors are active in companies registered in Sint Maarten?

The faction would like to know if the Government currently receives revenue from alien landowners? Does Government agree that alien landowners are a potential revenue source that should be properly regulated and collected?

What specific financial benefit does a Sint Maartener receive when buying land, building a home, or investing locally? Does Government agree that locals are often competing against foreign buyers with access to foreign loans, foreign grants, stronger financing, and outside capital? And what is Government doing to level the playing field for Sint Maarteners?

Does the Minister agree that the system currently gives no meaningful advantage to a person from Sint Maarten?

Has Government studied the National Alliance proposal to apply property tax to foreigners only and abolish or avoid such taxation for Sint Maarteners? If the proposal was studied, what was the conclusion? If the proposal was not studied, why not?

Does Government believe it is fair for local people and foreign investors to be treated the same when they do not compete from the same financial position?

The faction would like to know why is tourist tax still budgeted at zero when earlier budgets included approximately Cg 18 million for tourist tax. What is the obstacle delaying tourist tax: political will, legal drafting, system readiness, or execution?

What is the implementation status of the Tourist Tax System investment, and why is there system investment but no tourist tax revenue budgeted for 2026?

Why is Airbnb room tax still budgeted at zero while short-stay accommodation continues to operate in the economy? Why do accommodation platforms remain outside the practical tax net while residents and businesses continue to carry the tax load?

The faction states that room tax is decreasing while tourism remains central to the economy. Is the decrease due to weak compliance, lower occupancy assumptions, or rates that are not aligned?

Government is investing in tax modernization. Why does the tax-to-GDP ratio still decline over the multi-year period? Why is tax effort not improving during a period of tax modernization?

What exact revenue increase is expected from the Cg. 12.5 million Tax Administration modernization in 2026, 2027, and 2028? How many additional assessments, collections, audits, and compliance actions is the new tax system expected to produce in 2026?

What are the monthly milestones and revenue targets for the Tax Administration modernization? Does the increased Finance budget produce measurable revenue improvements and faster financial reporting?

When will annual accounts, procurement controls, and payment controls be current? Is the Cg. 300,000 budget and two dedicated staff members sufficient for serious tax reform? How will tax reforms be executed when Fiscal Affairs is at 29% occupancy and Audit and Investigation is at 13% occupancy?

The faction continues and would like to know what is the current status of Mullet Bay? Has Government had any recent discussions regarding acquisition, settlement, or public benefit related to Mullet Bay?

What is Government's current policy position on Mullet Bay? Has SUN Resorts hired an architect for Mullet Bay? What will the people of Sint Maarten receive from the bailout related to Mullet Bay? What is the status of the first right of refusal concerning Mullet Bay?

What is the structural budget result if project funds and other one-off receipts are excluded? What is the budget result excluding project funds, one-off support, and unimplemented laws?

The faction notes that Q4 free liquidity is projected to close at only Cg. 5 million. What is the minimum liquidity target and contingency plan?

What happens to the 2026 budget result if economic growth is 1 percentage point lower than projected? What is Government's fallback plan if the projected economic growth does not materialize? And how does Government justify rising expenditure when major revenue measures remain outside the projections?

The faction notes that no new tax policy is included in the tax budget. Why should Parliament treat expected growth in wages and consumption as a revenue plan?

Why does license revenue show conflicting projections across different tables, and what are the correct figures? Why does the expenditure table show one increase while the narrative gives another amount? And will the exact unrounded totals for revenue, expenditure, liquidity, and projected result be provided?

Which approved projects have not yet commenced?

Is Government delaying expenditures to improve first-quarter financial results? Which ministries account for the largest underspending?

If expenditures remain below budget because projects are delayed, should Parliament expect supplementary appropriations later this year?

The faction would like to know if a complete list of every TWO-funded project be provided to Parliament?

Which TWO-funded projects will cease after 2027?

What guarantees exist that temporary expenditures will not become structural? Which ministries account for the largest increases in goods and services? Which procurement controls are being applied to increased goods and services spending?

What items in goods and services are one-off project costs, and which will become structural?

What headcount by ministry, filled versus vacant, supports the personnel cost increases? What service-delivery improvements will the public receive from the personnel and material cost increases?

The faction continues and would like to know what debt-to-GDP ratio is considered unacceptable and at what level would Government stop borrowing.

The faction would like to know what impact would one Category 4 hurricane have on the debt ratio? Has the debt sustainability analysis been updated following recent global economic uncertainty?

Which capital projects are funded by borrowing, and what economic return is expected from those borrowed funds? Is Government building assets that produce economic return, or only creating additional debt service?

What methodology was used to calculate the returns from capital projects? Which projects have the highest expected economic return? Which projects were postponed because they failed cost-benefit analysis?

Were independent economic evaluations conducted before approving capital investments? Which capital projects are shovel-ready, and which are still only concepts?

What is the project-by-project readiness schedule for the Cg. 185 million capital service? Which projects have complete cost estimates and procurement methods? Which projects have confirmed land ownership and permitting status? Which projects include operating and maintenance costs for 2026 to 2029? Which projects have a revenue estimate or social benefit estimate?

What is the quarterly implementation schedule for each major capital project? Who is the responsible project manager for each capital project? What is the reporting structure for each capital project? Which projects are carry-overs from prior budgets, and why were they not completed earlier?

What business case documents exist for each major capital project? What maintenance plan exists for each major capital project? What measurable return is expected from each major capital project? Will capital funds be released before business cases, operating costs, procurement routes, project owners, and funding sources are submitted?

The faction would like to know if three concrete examples be identified where the new internal controls prevented waste or financial abuse? Has any ministry failed the new internal control standards? Have any disciplinary actions resulted from the strengthened controls?

Why has Government still not completed a national asset register? When will Parliament receive the national asset register?

How much government property currently lacks proper valuation? How much potential revenue is being lost because government assets are not being actively managed?

The faction continues and would like to know if Government has a formal dividend policy for profitable government-owned companies? If there is no formal dividend policy, when will one be adopted? How will dividends be tied to audited accounts, profitability, investment needs, and arrears?

Will a corrected version of the budget tables and project sheets be submitted before final approval? Will a technical errata be provided for all identified inconsistencies?

Which figures should Parliament rely on where tables and narrative explanations conflict? How can Parliament authorize debt, capital spending, and multi-year obligations if conflicting figures are not corrected first?

Will the Q4 2025 implementation report used as the basis for historical revenue data be submitted? Will the full revenue measures status list be submitted?

Will the tourist tax bill, implementation plan, and system status be submitted? Will a tax arrears and collection report be submitted?

Will a license and permit backlog report be submitted? Will the erfpacht arrears list and land pricing policy be submitted?

Will the audited accounts status for government-owned companies be submitted? Will a dividend and concession policy be submitted?

Will capital project business cases be submitted?

Will a Country Package fiscal impact matrix be submitted?

Will Government provide the list of all revenue advice received?

Will Government provide the property-tax model analysis, especially for foreign-owned property?

Additionally, the faction would like the Minister to please identify every consultancy contract exceeding Cg. 50,000, per Ministry.

What specialized expertise cannot currently be provided by Government employees? How many consultancy contracts will conclude during 2026? Will consultancy reports be shared with Parliament? Has Government evaluated the return on investment from consultancy expenditure over the past five years?

Ministry of General Affairs

The faction has the following questions and comments related to the Ministry of General Affairs and would firstly like to know how many PNO Advisors will be hired by the end of this year. Seeing that the ONE senior staff is past retirement and can leave at any given point, how many staff are awaiting official appointment / transfers to departments or higher paying positions. How many staff are owed back pay as a result of this? Is that included in the budget as well?

Have the 2026 salary scales been published already enabling civil servants to receive their indexation?

The faction continues and inquires if the Government conducts Exit Interviews regularly to determine why staff are leaving positions/ civil service. If no, why not? If yes, what does the data suggests? And what interventions are being put in place to address them?

What is the status of all function books review per Ministry?

Which B measures have been implemented by the department of PnO based on the original agreements with TWO?

The faction continues and inquires by when will the SER be fully functioning again.

The faction would like to know what is the exact status of the Electoral reform laws/ screening law and is there any extra associated cost with this legislation? Has the process started and what is the expected timeline?

The legislation for cabinet workers, is it budgeted for and is there any updates?

The faction states that in 2025 the government stated that generators for GEBE would be ordered, with arrival expected within eighteen to twenty four months, and that relief on high electricity bills would follow. The first quarter report shows the Cg. 75.6 million reserved for the GEBE engines still entirely unspent and sitting in a time deposit. When will the generators be ordered and the funds disbursed, and what electricity relief is actually funded in 2026?

The faction continues and states that the government committed last year to limiting building rentals, rental cars, vendor purchases, external security, gas card allowances and mobile subscriptions, and to a revised vehicle policy. Yet

goods and services rise to Cg. 169 million in 2026, up from Cg. 130 million budgeted in 2025 and Cg. 113 million realized in 2024, and building rent alone ran Cg 5.4 million in the first quarter against a Cg 4.0 million benchmark. What savings has each cost control measure produced, and how does the Government reconcile them with a Cg. 39 million increase in goods and services?

The faction would like to know what is the policy for vacation days payout? Are civil servants entitled to this? Is it a law or policy? Which department determines the payout? Can a Minister overrule to allow for a payout to happen? Does the Minister believe this should be allowed and that creates an extra financial opportunity for those wanting?

Can civil servants request vacation days payout? Must civil servants take vacation or let them roll over? How long can they roll over for?

Who determines if they must take vacation or if they can roll over? Is this policy or law? Is it the same across departments? Is it being treated the same across departments?

The faction mentions that the government said it had submitted an increased VKS budget for 2026. The *Getallenboek* raises the VKS subsidy from Cg. 530,079 to Cg. 650,000, yet a separate line lists Cg. 800,000 for the VKS. What is the total VKS allocation for 2026, and what explains the difference between these two figures?

The faction continues and indicates that mold remediation was to continue every three months, together with deep cleaning and SLS testing. The first quarter report lists structural exceedances "especially in the field of facilities" as the leading risk at General Affairs. What is budgeted for mold remediation and facilities in 2026, and how does that square with the facilities overrun the Ministry itself identifies?

The faction notes that the government reported that it had escalated concerns about foreign contractors winning Trust Fund projects to the Netherlands and the World Bank, and that it supported requiring foreign contractors to work with local ones. The faction would like to know what came of that escalation, and have local subcontracting terms been secured on any Trust Fund project in 2026?

The Country Package evaluation with the Netherlands, Aruba and Curaçao was to be finalized in early 2026. Is it finalized, what are its findings, and

how do they affect the roles funded by TWO now moving into the structural 2026 budget?

The faction continues and indicates that the government said it had begun the framework for the National Task Force and would add external stakeholders. What is its current composition and mandate, and what has it delivered since 2025?

The faction continues and notes that internal discussions on long term sustainable energy were reported in 2025. Has any plan or investment progressed beyond internal discussion, and is anything funded for it in 2026?

The Employee Engagement Council was trained and an internal events committee established. What measurable results have these produced, and at what cost?

The faction, referring to GEBE, would like to know what is the procurement status of the new engines, and has the tender process been completed? When are the new engines expected to arrive and become operational? Has Government calculated whether the new engines will reduce fuel costs, reduce the fuel clause, or lower consumer bills?

If public funds or public borrowing are being used to support GEBE's generator investment, what direct benefit will consumers.

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise.

The faction would like to please be provided with a complete overview of all policy objectives, projects and major activities budgeted for the Ministry of General Affairs in 2025, indicating for each whether it was completed, substantially completed, partially completed, delayed, cancelled or not commenced.

For every item not completed during 2025, please provide: (a) the reason for non-completion; (b) the revised implementation schedule; (c) whether additional funding is required; and (d) whether implementation has been rolled into the 2026 Budget.

Please state what percentage of the Ministry's 2025 policy objectives was achieved and describe the methodology used to determine this percentage.

The faction would like to be provided, for the Ministry as a whole and per cost centre, the 2025 amounts budgeted, committed, expended, remaining and carried forward, as at the most recent closing date available.

Please identify every project or cost centre that experienced overruns during 2025 and every project that came in under budget, and indicate in each case the reason and whether the intended policy outcome was affected.

Please identify every project whose completion date was revised during 2025, indicating the original date, the revised date and the reason for the delay.

The faction would like the Ministry to identify which recommendations of the SOAB, the Algemene Rekenkamer, the Ombudsman, the Raad van Advies and Internal Audit directed at the Ministry of General Affairs were implemented during 2025 and which remain outstanding, with the reason for each outstanding item.

Please identify every deliverable publicly announced by or on behalf of the Ministry during 2025 that has not yet been completed.

Where projects appear in both the 2025 and 2026 Budgets, please indicate the work completed to date, expenditure to date, remaining scope and expected completion date.

Did the Ministry conduct an internal evaluation of the implementation of the 2025 Budget? If so, please summarize the principal findings, the lessons learned and the improvements incorporated into the 2026 Budget. If not, please explain why not.

Please identify the five largest implementation challenges encountered during execution of the 2025 Budget, the principal risks that prevented full implementation, and how each has been mitigated in the 2026 Budget.

Please identify which 2026 policy objectives are dependent upon successful completion of unfinished 2025 projects, and which 2025 projects have been discontinued, with the policy reasons.

The faction mentions that during the handling of the 2025 Budget, Parliament adopted motion number 4 concerning the safeguarding of parliamentary oversight and the initiation of reform of the mandate of the Cft. Please provide a full account of the actions taken by the government in execution of this motion, including any formal steps taken toward the Kingdom partners, the current status and the timeline for completion. If no action has been taken, please explain why not.

During the handling of the 2025 Budget, Parliament adopted motion number 5 concerning the strengthening of legislative legal support and the securing of EU funding. Please provide a full account of the actions taken in execution of this motion, including the legislative drafting capacity added since its adoption, the EU funding instruments identified and applied for, the amounts secured to date, and how both elements are reflected in the 2026 Budget. If no action has been taken, please explain why not.

The faction notes that a number of intended results in the Ministry's programme tables under paragraphs 5.1.4 through 5.1.6 carry completion dates in 2025 or the first half of 2026 that have already passed as of the handling of this budget. State per such item whether it was delivered by its committed date and, where it was not, the revised date and the reason.

For each of the three strategic policy goals set out in paragraphs 5.1.4 through 5.1.6, please provide the 2025 baseline, the 2026 target, the key performance indicator, the measurement methodology, the reporting frequency and the responsible department. The tables of *beleidsactiviteiten* state intended results but contain no baselines, no quantified targets and no measurement methodology.

The faction continues and indicates that the combined budget for *beleidsactiviteiten* under the three strategic goals amounts to Cg. 160 (Goal 1), Cg. 285 (Goal 2) and Cg. 450 (Goal 3), a total of Cg. 895, which is approximately 1 percent of the Ministry's gross expenditure of Cg. 89,988. Please confirm this figure and explain how three strategic policy goals can credibly be advanced with 1 percent of the budget, and what policy result the remaining 99 percent delivers. Confirm additionally, for the record, that less than one percent of the Ministry's budget is allocated to its three strategic policy goals.

For each policy objective, please identify the activities considered essential for achieving the stated outcome together with the corresponding budget allocation and cost centre.

Please distinguish between policy objectives measured by outcome indicators and those measured solely by activity indicators and explain why certain objectives contain no measurable indicators or implementation timelines.

Please identify which policy objectives depend upon another Ministry, the TWO, the NRPB, a Kingdom partner or an external organization, and what happens to each objective if that dependency does not materialize.

Please explain how Parliament can objectively determine at year end whether each policy objective has been achieved, and how and how often the Ministry will report progress to Parliament during 2026.

Please identify which policy objectives are expected to be completed during 2026 and which continue beyond 2026, with the projected total multi-year cost of the latter.

Paragraph 5.1.8 states that the Ministry has 254 filled positions on a formation of 445, with 17 funded vacancies and 174 unfunded vacancies. The personnel overview in the *Getallenboek* states 272 staff and a formation of 455 for the Ministry of General Affairs. Please reconcile these figures and confirm which are correct.

The faction would like the Ministry to explain the methodology used to determine that only 17 of the 191 open positions would be funded in 2026, and who took that decision.

Please provide the list of the 17 funded vacancies by department and function, the anticipated recruitment timeline for each, and the average time-to-hire realized in 2025. Also please rank the 17 funded vacancies in the order in which they will be filled should recruitment capacity or funding fall short during 2026, and state whether the Minister commits that vacancies within the *Brandweer* and the ICT department rank above any vacancy in government communications or in the *Kabinet van de Gevolmachtigde Minister*. If the Minister will not so commit, explain the prioritization that places other functions above emergency and digital services.

In addition, please identify which 2026 policy objectives cannot be fully achieved if the funded vacancies remain unfilled, and the contingency measures in place should recruitment targets not be achieved.

The budget introduction claims that no department shows an increase in personnel costs of more than 50 percent relative to 2025. The line bruto salarissen vacatures rises from Cg. 649 to Cg. 1,564, an increase of 141 percent, the total budget of the Afdeling P&O rises 164 percent and that of the Publieke Dienstverlening Service Center rises 381 percent. Please provide a table of personnel costs per department for 2025 and 2026 substantiating the 50 percent claim.

The *Afdeling Personeel en Organisatie* is itself staffed at 56 percent (14 of 25) while it is responsible for recruitment and personnel provision for all ministries. Please explain how P&O will execute government-wide recruitment in 2026, and provide the government-wide vacancy statistics per ministry that P&O administers, including the number of recruitment procedures completed in 2025 and the number planned for 2026.

The faction notes the post *inhuur derden* rises from Cg. 1,549 to Cg. 2,385, an increase of 54 percent. Please identify each function performed through consultants, SLAs or external organizations, and for each the annual cost, duration, procurement method, knowledge transfer arrangements and exit strategy and indicate how institutional knowledge will be retained where critical functions continue to rely upon external expertise, and provide the Ministry's measurable indicators for determining whether capacity building has been successful by year end 2026.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to please state the current status of the update of the government-wide policy on sexual harassment and undesirable behavior in the workplace, the department responsible, the timeline for adoption and implementation, and the complaint, investigation and enforcement mechanisms available to civil servants in the interim.

Please identify the service standards applicable to each major public service delivered by the Ministry, with current performance and 2026 targets. If service standards have not been established, please indicate when they will be introduced. Also, please identify the measurable improvements in public service

delivery that citizens and businesses will experience during 2026, and how these will be reported and please list every public service scheduled for digitalization during 2026, and for each the implementation date, the expected reduction in processing time and the expected reduction in manual intervention.

The faction notes that the ICT budget rises from a 2024 realization of Cg. 2,784 to a 2026 budget of Cg. 7,192, an increase of 158 percent over realization, while the department is staffed at 40 percent (16 of 40) with only one funded vacancy. Please provide the 2025 realization to date against the 2025 budget of Cg. 6,063, and explain how a department at 40 percent capacity will absorb and execute a budget more than two and a half times its demonstrated spending capacity.

Please provide a breakdown of total ICT expenditure across all cost centres, distinguishing maintenance, replacement, modernization, cybersecurity and new digital services, and state the specific amount allocated to cybersecurity.

Paragraph 5.1.4 announces e-ID systems, single sign-on, document digitalization, further development of the e-government platform and e-signatures. The capital budget for Goal 1 amounts to Cg. 931 in 2026 with zero in 2027 and beyond. Please provide per component the milestones for 2026, the total multi-year cost, the funding source, and an explanation of how a multi-year digital transformation is financed with a single-year capital allocation.

Also indicate which public services will continue to require physical processing after 2026 and why.

Please provide a complete overview of the Country Package goals, measures and deliverables for which the Ministry of General Affairs is responsible or lead in 2026, per theme of the landspakket and per the applicable uitvoeringsagenda, and for each the current status, the deadline, the responsible department and the funding source.

Please identify which deliverables assigned to the Ministry have slipped across two or more consecutive uitvoeringsrapportages of the TWO, and the reasons.

Please identify the measurable outcomes achieved through Kingdom relations during 2025 and those expected during 2026, together with the evaluation methodology.

The faction states that an amount of Cg. 375 for the Koninkrijksconferentie is budgeted under overige personeelskosten of cost centre 3320. Please explain why a conference is categorized as personnel costs, provide the full all-in cost estimate of the conference across all budget posts, the intended deliverables, and whether the Netherlands, Aruba and Curaçao are cost-sharing.

The faction continues and indicates that the Cross-Border Platform with Saint-Martin under Goal 2 carries a budget of zero and is to be executed by personnel of departments staffed at 31 percent (Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties) and 42 percent (Buitenlandse Betrekkingen). Please explain how this objective is feasible, and what concrete results with Saint-Martin are committed for 2026.

Under the equivalent authorization to Article 3 in the 2025 budget ordinance, state the total amounts received by or on behalf of the Land in financing and contributions for the execution of the landspakket, per source, per purpose and per date, and list every subsidy applied for and every subsidy agreement concluded under that authorization in 2025, with counterparty, amount, purpose and current status.

The faction notes that Article 3 of the draft ordinance grants the Minister-President an authorization to receive financing and to apply for and conclude subsidies that contains no maximum amount, no conditions and no obligation to report to Parliament on its use. The faction would like Government to explain why, and how this open-ended authorization is compatible with the budget right of Parliament under article 100 of the Constitution.

Is the Minister-President prepared to accept an amendment to Article 3 introducing a maximum amount and a quarterly written reporting obligation to Parliament on all amounts received and all subsidy agreements concluded under it? If not, explain why an authorization without ceiling or reporting should be acceptable to Parliament.

The faction would like the Minister to indicate which anticipated receipts under Article 3 are already incorporated in the Ministry's 2026 revenue estimate of Cg. 11,492, and which are not.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to identify every recommendation arising from previous disaster seasons and evaluations, including the post-Irma evaluations, that remains outstanding, with the implementation status of each.

The 2026 hurricane season is under way. Please state the current staffing, equipment readiness and operational status of the disaster management organization, and confirm whether all rampen- en crisisplannen are current and exercised.

Paragraph 5.1.4 budgets Cg. 160 for the institutional framework and operational roadmap of the ODM, with the intended result that the ODM is fully operational with an approved mandate. Please provide the legal instrument establishing the ODM, the timeline for approval of its mandate, and its approved formation and current staffing.

Disaster-related capital expenditure amounts to Cg. 1,046 in 2026 and Cg. 1,204 in 2027, including Cg. 902 for specialized emergency equipment via the Brandweer and Cg. 144 for emergency generators. Please provide the procurement schedule and confirm delivery before peak season, and state the realization rate of the Ministry's capital budget in 2024 and 2025.

The post *calamiteitenbestrijding* of Cg. 2,900 includes the CCRIF premium, up 16 percent. Please state the insured coverage amount, the payout triggers, and the Ministry's assessment of the adequacy of this coverage against a direct hit scenario. Please distinguish the Ministry's total disaster-related expenditure across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The faction mentions *Facilitaire Zaken* (3450) and indicates that the 2024 realization was Cg. 42,117 against a 2025 budget of Cg. 33,923, an overrun of more than Cg 8 million. The 2026 budget is Cg. 34,063. Please explain the cause of the 2024 overrun, the controls introduced since, and the basis for considering the 2026 figure realistic. In addition the rent of buildings amounts to Cg. 14,587 for the entire government apparatus. Please provide a list per building of the lessor, the annual rent, the floor area, the occupancy and the contract expiry

date, together with the Ministry's strategy to reduce structural rental costs through government-owned accommodation.

The *Toelichtingenboek* states that new investments in housing for the police are necessary but that the 2026 financial framework does not allow them. Please state the operational and legal risks accepted by deferring this investment, and the plan and timeline for addressing it.

Afdeling Informatie, Communicatie en Technologie (3470). A new post of Cg. 198 is budgeted for ICT training. Please state the number of staff to be trained, the training providers, the procurement method and the measurable competency outcomes.

The faction mentions the *Afdeling Juridische Zaken en Wetgeving (3310)*. The department is staffed at 47 percent (8 of 17), the position of department head is vacant and only one vacancy is funded, while the Ministry states that extensive legislative reforms must be supported. Please provide the 2026 legislative agenda of the government per ministry, the drafting capacity assigned to each item, and the timeline for filling the department head position.

The transfer post 3020-443 rises 59 percent to Cg. 2,167, explained as a return to the structural level after a 2024 carry-over. Please specify what these transfers fund and to whom they are paid.

Afdeling Voorlichting en Communicatie (3420). This department is staffed at 93 percent (14 of 15) while the Brandweer, ICT and JZ&W stand at 47, 40 and 47 percent respectively. Please explain the prioritization that resulted in near-full staffing of government communications while emergency, digital and legislative functions remain half-staffed, and provide the total government expenditure on communication and public relations in 2026 across all cost centres, including external communication consultants. Confirm for the record that the government's communications department is more fully staffed than its fire service.

Secretariaat Raad van Ministers (3410). The budget rises 34 percent to Cg. 1,373 while the department is staffed at 33 percent (4 of 12). Can the Minister please specify what the increase funds.

Dienst Bestuur en Management Ondersteuning. The budget falls 73 percent, and the differences table states that a function is budgeted for three

months only, after which it will not be filled. Please identify the function, the reason for its discontinuation and the reallocation of its tasks.

The faction mentions Burgerzaken (3220). The budget falls 10 percent to Cg. 3,512 while a capital investment of Cg. 180 is budgeted for laser engraving of identity documents and driving licences. Please state the current backlog and processing times for passports, identity cards and civil status documents, the 2026 service standards, and the implementation date of the new engraving capability.

The Ministry's mandate includes elections and the civil registry. Please state what is budgeted in 2026 for electoral reform, for follow-up on outstanding advices concerning electoral legislation, and for modernization of the civil registry, and under which posts.

Advies Commissies (3350). The budget of Cg. 684 is unchanged against a 2024 realization of Cg. 223. Please list the advisory committees funded, the remuneration per member, the outputs delivered in 2025 and those expected in 2026.

In the departmental table of paragraph 5.1.1, the budget of the *Afdeling Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties* moves from Cg. 1,124 in 2025 to Cg. 2,758 in 2026, an increase of approximately 145 percent, while the table states 34 percent. Please reconcile the figures in this row and correct the table where necessary.

The revenue estimate of the Ministry rises 121 percent to Cg. 11,492, driven by Cg. 7,758 in project monies, while structural other revenues fall 28 percent from Cg. 5,189 to Cg. 3,734. Please specify what these structural revenues consist of and why they decline.

The post *subsidie aanstellingen* amounts to Cg. 5,919, described only as contributions to social and supporting institutions. Please provide the list of recipient organizations and amounts, the subsidy decisions underlying each, the performance agreements attached, and confirmation that accountability reports for 2024 and 2025 were received and approved.

The chapter numbering of the Ministry's section jumps from paragraph 5.1.6 to paragraph 5.1.8. Please confirm whether a paragraph 5.1.7 was removed from the document before submission and, if so, provide its content.

Please provide the realization rates of the Ministry's kapitaaldienst for 2024 and 2025, per project, and the amount of 2025 capital appropriations expected to lapse unspent.

In addition please provide a consolidated overview of official travel by the Minister, the cabinet and Ministry staff, covering: an evaluation of all 2025 travel against its intended outcomes and total cost; the schedule of travel planned for 2026 with purpose, estimated cost and expected deliverables per trip; and the post-travel reporting arrangements to Parliament.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to provide the audited financial statements of NV GEBE for the financial years 2020 through 2024, including an overview of the profit margin per kWh realized in each of those years. For any financial year for which the statements have not been finalized, please state the reason, the current status of the audit and the expected completion date.

Concerning the procurement of new generators for NV GEBE, please state the faction would like the Minister to indicate (a) whether the tender process has been finalized; (b) if not, the factors contributing to the delay; (c) when the tender is expected to be launched; (d) the projected timeline for the ordering, delivery and commissioning of the generators; (e) the interim measures in place to secure generation capacity and grid stability until the new generators are operational.

The faction would like an explanation regarding the methodology used to prioritize allocations where available funding was insufficient, identify which objectives received reduced funding compared to the Ministry's original budget request, and identify which objectives would receive priority should additional funding become available during 2026.

Please distinguish the proportion of the Ministry's 2026 budget allocated to ongoing operations, existing projects, new initiatives, institutional strengthening and policy implementation.

Paragraph 5.1.9 identifies the risk that insufficient funds are secured to pay long-outstanding invoices, leading to additional interest costs. Please state the current total of outstanding invoices of the Ministry and the age profile of those invoices.

Please also identify the five greatest risks to implementation of the Ministry's 2026 objectives, and for each the mitigation strategy, the responsible official and the monitoring frequency, including the corrective mechanism where objectives fall behind schedule.

Are there any policy objectives, projects, reforms, procurement processes, implementation challenges, financial risks, staffing shortages, legal proceedings, inter-ministerial dependencies, external dependencies or other material matters not specifically addressed in the foregoing questions that, in the opinion of the Minister, may reasonably affect the Ministry's ability to achieve the objectives contained in the 2026 Budget? If so, please provide full particulars.

Please provide a comprehensive overview of all vacancies and recruitment procedures currently being processed by the Department of Personnel and Organization (P&O) on behalf of all ministries. For each recruitment procedure, please indicate: (a) the ministry and department requesting the recruitment; (b) the title and salary scale of the position; (c) the date on which the recruitment request was formally submitted to P&O; (d) the current stage of the recruitment process (e.g. job evaluation, vacancy publication, application screening, interviews, assessments, reference checks, approval, offer of appointment, etc.); (e) the number of calendar days the recruitment procedure has been pending since receipt by P&O; (f) the principal reason(s) for any delay at the current stage of the process; (g) whether the delay is attributable to P&O, the requesting ministry, another government entity, or an external factor; (h) the expected date on which the recruitment procedure will be completed; and (i) the anticipated date on which the successful candidate is expected to assume duty.

The faction would like to know if the Minister could confirm whether the financial implications arising from the agreement concerning the retroactive payments to Fire Department personnel have been fully incorporated into the 2026 Budget? If so, please specify: (a) the total financial liability arising from the agreement; (b) the budget line(s) under which these payments have been provided; (c) the amount budgeted for 2026; (d) whether the budgeted amount is sufficient to fully settle the outstanding obligation; and (e) the anticipated timeline for payment.

The Ministry has indicated that the placement process for Fire Department personnel is currently underway. Could the Minister clarify whether the full financial impact of this placement process has been incorporated into the 2026 Budget? Please specify: (a) the number of employees affected; (b) the estimated annual increase in personnel expenditure resulting from the placement process; (c) whether the associated pension, social premium and other employer contributions have also been budgeted; (d) the budget line(s) from which these costs will be financed; and (e) whether any supplementary appropriations are expected to be required if the placement process is finalized during 2026.

The faction notes that the budget for the Cabinet of the Minister of General Affairs reflects an increase compared to the previous fiscal year. Can the Government provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for this increase and identify the specific expenditures that account for it?

The faction continues and would like to know which government service failure does the Minister personally believe is damaging public trust the most, and why has it not been treated as an emergency?

Does the Minister believe the current civil service culture rewards performance, or does it protect underperformance? Which ministry or department does the Minister believe is most weakened by the current staffing shortages, and what is the real consequence for the public?

Does the Minister believe digital government is being pursued as real reform, or mostly as a presentation point in the budget?

The faction would like to know the Minister's view on whether Sint Maarten is genuinely prepared for another major hurricane? Which delayed disaster-preparedness investment does the Minister consider most irresponsible to have postponed this long?

Does the Minister believe the Kingdom relationship is currently helping Sint Maarten become more self-reliant, or keeping it dependent? Which area of cooperation with Saint Martin does the Minister believe has the most value but the least progress?

The faction would like to know if the Minister believes that Government is honest enough with the public about what it cannot deliver because of capacity shortages?

What is the one reform within General Affairs that the Minister believes would immediately improve all ministries if it were fixed?

Government presents the 2026 budget as policy-based. What measurable indicators will be reported to Parliament in 2026 so Parliament can track whether the policies are actually being achieved?

If stronger performance indicators and multi-year policy links will only come in later budget cycles, how can Parliament properly measure results in 2026?

What measurable outcomes will Parliament receive by year-end to determine whether ministries achieved their policy objectives instead of merely spending their allocations?

Which policy objectives will be considered unsuccessful if they fail to meet their targets by December 2026? Will every ministry publish quarterly performance reports showing whether policy objectives were achieved?

Will those reports include measurable performance indicators instead of expenditure figures only? Will Parliament receive quarterly updates comparing actual results against the promised policy outcomes?

The faction continues and indicates that the budget says the budget principles and guidelines are contained in a separate document. Will that document be submitted to Parliament before the debate continues? Is Parliament being asked to debate the budget without the full methodological basis used to prepare it? Which ministries deviated from the budget principles or guidelines, and where are those deviations listed for Parliament?

Stronger accountability mechanisms and improved coordination are said to exist. Why was the budget still submitted beyond the constitutional deadline? Which ministries submitted their budgets late?

Were any corrective measures taken against late budget submissions? Has Government committed that the 2027 budget will reach Parliament before September as required?

The faction notes that General Affairs has only 57% staffing occupancy, with shortages in key areas such as the Fire Department, Legal Affairs, ICT, and Kingdom/Domestic Relations. How will cross-ministry reforms be delivered if the support ministry itself is understaffed? How can Government implement cross-ministry digitalization, legislation, and disaster readiness with key support departments understaffed?

What is the current status of the outstanding invoices and insurance funding risks mentioned under General Affairs?

Exactly how many vacancies are being filled across Government? Which vacancies are considered critical and why were these vacancies not filled earlier?

How many of the new or filled positions are temporary? Will temporary project employees become permanent government employees?

The faction would like to know what is the projected personnel cost after the TWO programme ends? Has Government conducted any productivity assessment before expanding personnel expenditure?

What is the financial exposure from Country Package measures that are still in the research phase? How can Parliament responsibly approve reforms if the financial consequences for future years are not yet known?

Will Government submit a financial exposure matrix for Country Package reforms before Parliament is asked to approve measures that may create future obligations?

The faction would like to know who is politically responsible for GEBE. Which Minister is ultimately answerable to Parliament for GEBE? Is it the Prime Minister, the Minister of VROMI, the Minister of TEATT, the Council of Ministers, or another Minister? Can Government stop shifting responsibility and clearly state who Parliament must hold accountable?

When bills are wrong, when the company is unstable, when appointments are delayed, and when the public suffers, who answers?

The faction would like to know if the Prime Minister accepts responsibility for the governance of GEBE? If not, who does?

What exactly is the legal mandate of BTP in relation to GEBE? What can BTP legally do? Is Government using BTP as a real regulator, or only referring to BTP when convenient? What teeth does BTP have?

The faction continues and would like to know how many GEBE board positions are currently filled. Did the GEBE board lawyer resign? If yes, when and why? Were there discrepancies or internal concerns that led to the resignation?

How is the board functioning during such a crucial time without legal expertise? Who on the GEBE board has technical expertise? Is the technical person an engineer? What are the technical qualifications of the board member responsible for technical oversight?

Who on the GEBE board has financial expertise? What are that person's qualifications? Can all CVs of the current GEBE board members be provided to Parliament? Were all GEBE board members interviewed before appointment? Were they asked to present their vision for GEBE before being appointed? Does the Prime Minister know whether the board's vision aligns with his own vision for GEBE?

What is the status of the strategic plan and financial statements connected to the late Mr. Troy Washington's role as temporary change manager?

Government came to Parliament for approval related to the larger generators. Why, after that urgency, have the generators still not been ordered? What caused the delay in ordering the generators? Was Parliament rushed for something Government was not ready to execute? Can we receive a timeline, what has happened in the meantime, and where we are with the generators for GEBE?

For the GEBE generators, is the Cg 75.6 million a loan, guarantee, capital injection, or another form of financing? What is the repayment plan for the GEBE generator financing?

What will be the impact of the GEBE generator financing on consumer tariffs?

The faction continues and would like to know what is the current status of the SER board. Are all SER board positions filled? If not, which positions remain vacant? When will the SER board be completed?

How long has the SER board been incomplete? What work has been delayed because of this? Does Government understand that advisory bodies cannot function properly if boards are not filled?

What is the Prime Minister's timeline to fix the SER board?

What is Government's position on a four-day workweek pilot? Can these questions be answered that were posed in writing.

The faction queries if aircraft registration is being looked into?

What is the status of military-related budget needs? The faction notes that a meeting was held about the military for Sint Maarten youth and participation whether via CURMIL or ARUMIL. The faction would like to receive an update on this.

Will Government provide the GEBE board composition and vacancies?

Will Government provide the resignation letter or explanation regarding the GEBE board lawyer?

Will Government provide the timeline and documents on temporary and large generator procurement?

Will Government provide the four-day workweek pilot plan and cost?

The faction continues and mentions that during a recent press briefing, questions were raised about the vetting and procurement process for the appointment of the Inspector General. What due diligence, background checks, and judicial verifications were conducted before the appointment was finalized?

Can the Prime Minister provide the timeline, selection criteria, and procurement process that led to the appointment of the current Inspector General?

Allegations have been raised regarding the handling of complaints during the Inspector General's previous tenure in another jurisdiction. Has Government requested the relevant personnel records or official documentation from the authorities concerned to verify these allegations? What specific steps has Government taken to independently determine whether the allegations are true or false?

Allegations have also been made that complaint files were not properly transferred during a previous leadership transition. Has the Ministry conducted an internal review to ensure that all complaints, investigations, and disciplinary records within the Inspectorate are complete and properly maintained?

What policies are currently in place to ensure that complaints against healthcare professionals are properly recorded, preserved, and transferred during changes in leadership?

Now that Government has been made aware of these allegations, what measures have been implemented to ensure confidence in the Inspectorate while the matter is being reviewed?

Will the Prime Minister provide Parliament with a written update on the outcome of any review into the appointment and background of the Inspector General before the budget debate concludes?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

The faction has the following questions and comments related to the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication. As a former Member of Parliament, the Minister publicly and formally called for N.V. GEBE to institute a permanent rate reduction on electricity and water for all seniors ages 60 and older through what the Minister referred to as a "Tariff 60" subsidy program.

At the time, the Minister stated that this should become a set rate so that seniors would no longer have to go through the annual hassle of registering with N.V. GEBE for a periodic decrease in their bills. The Minister also rightfully stated that our beautiful nation Sint Maarten was built by the hard work and sacrifice of our seniors and forefathers, and that those who have contributed to this country over decades deserve a more senior-friendly system.

The Minister further noted that approximately ten years prior, an UP-led Government required N.V. GEBE to implement senior relief, and that this was supposed to eventually become a full-fledged tariff. According to your statement then, that had not yet happened, despite N.V. GEBE budgeting annually for this relief, including an amount of NAf. 500,000 reportedly approved toward senior relief. See link below <https://www.721news.com/2021/10/mp-grisha-heylinger-marten-suggests-tariff-60-for-seniors/>

Now that the Minister is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, including the implementation and approval of GEBE tariffs, the faction respectfully request answers to the following questions related to GEBE.

Does the Minister still stand by the position she took as a Member of Parliament that seniors ages 60 and older should receive a permanent Tariff-60 rate reduction from N.V. GEBE? Does the Minister still support the original proposal that this Tariff-60 relief should apply to both electricity and water, and not only electricity? If not, what has changed?

What concrete actions has the Minister taken since assuming office to move the Tariff-60 proposal from a temporary or annual subsidy arrangement to a permanent tariff structure for seniors?

Has the Minister formally instructed N.V. GEBE to prepare and submit a full Tariff-60 proposal? If yes, on what date was this instruction given, and can Parliament receive a copy of the instruction?

Has N.V. GEBE submitted the comprehensive proposal requested by the Minister, including the discount structure, eligibility criteria, financial impact, and implementation plan? If yes, when was it received, and when will Parliament receive a copy?

If N.V. GEBE has not yet submitted such a proposal, what is the reason for the delay, and what deadline has the Minister given N.V. GEBE to comply?

How many seniors currently benefit from any form of senior relief at N.V. GEBE, and how many seniors ages 60 and older are estimated to qualify but are not currently benefiting? Does the Minister agree that requiring seniors to register or re-register every year creates an unnecessary administrative burden, especially for elderly persons who remain at the same place of residence? Will

the Minister commit to creating a system where eligible seniors are verified once and then automatically continue to receive the Tariff-60 benefit, unless their eligibility changes?

What legal instrument does the Minister intend to use to implement Tariff-60 as a permanent tariff? Will this be done through a National Decree containing general measures, ministerial action, amendment of the tariff structure, or another legal route?

In light of Article 12 of the concession, which allows social considerations for certain categories of users, the faction would like to know if the Minister agrees that seniors can be treated as a special category for tariff relief? If not, please explain why.

In light of the Minister's recent position that proper tariff decisions require verified, cost-oriented data and lawful oversight, what specific data is still needed before Tariff-60 can be implemented?

Has the newly activated supervisory mechanism for the electricity sector, including the role of BTP as Supervisor, been asked to review or advise on Tariff-60? If yes, what is the status of that review?

What would be the estimated monthly and annual cost of implementing Tariff-60 for all qualifying seniors ages 60 and older? How does the Minister intend to finance the Tariff-60 relief? Will it be financed through N.V. GEBE's own budget, a Government subsidy, a cross-subsidy in the tariff structure, or another mechanism?

Can the Minister guarantee that the implementation of Tariff-60 will not simply result in higher tariffs or charges for other households and small consumers?

The faction would like to know if the Minister has consulted with the Ministry of VSA, the Civil Registry Department, SZV, the St. Maarten Seniors and Pensioners Association, or other relevant stakeholders to identify and verify eligible seniors.

What safeguards will be put in place to ensure that the benefit goes to seniors at their actual place of residence and is not abused by landlords, family members, or commercial users?

Does the Minister still believe that Tariff-60 should be implemented urgently, as she previously requested when she asked the then Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication to implement the relief by Christmas of that year?

Will the Minister commit to implementing Tariff-60 before Christmas 2026? If not, what exact implementation date can the Minister commit to?

Will the Minister provide Parliament with a clear implementation timeline, including the responsible parties, legal steps, financial review, public communication plan, and expected start date?

Will the Minister commit to submitting the Tariff-60 proposal, or a full status report on the proposal, to Parliament within 30 days? In addition, Honorable Minister, this matter is not new. It was raised by the Minister with urgency when the Minister was a Member of Parliament. The request was clear then: make senior relief permanent, fair, automatic, and respectful. The question now is whether the same urgency exists, now that the Minister has the responsibility to help make it happen.

The faction states that the government committed to finalizing the Marketplace design so construction could begin, coordinating with VROMI and the Royal Caribbean Group. The budget shows a Marketplace capital line of roughly Cg. 145,000 and the updated building permit has been received. What is the full 2026 capital allocation and the construction start date?

The Government committed to laying the groundwork for the St. Maarten Tourism Authority. The budget funds the Authority at roughly Cg. 750,000, targeting operation by the end of 2026. Does that amount cover legislation, personnel and operations, and when will the Authority be operational?

The Government committed to establishing the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Agency, a primary sector framework, a Qredits two percent microloan scheme for ten farmers and ten fishermen, and training for seventy-five people. The Agency is funded at roughly Cg. 1.2 million. The microloan scheme is funded and live, how many farmers and fishermen have received loans? How much are expected to receive loans before the end of the year? How is government supporting these efforts? How will the government measure the effects of the micro financing and producing of product and it's scalability?

The Government committed to clearing ninety to one hundred percent of the licensing backlog by the end of July 2025, hiring temporary staff and digitizing licensing. The first quarter report shows business and director licenses collected at Cg. 0.1 million against Cg. 3.7 million budgeted, with the department's database behind and 2026 files not yet submitted. Was the backlog cleared, and what revenue has been lost from uninvoiced licenses in 2026?

The faction notes that in 2025 the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication said it was working on finalizing the lottery legislation and would like to know where are we with this, How many lottery booths existed in 2024, 2025 and currently in 2026? Are there any outstanding payments from lottery companies? If so, what is the total amount? From what years? What is the plan on collecting? Will the Ministry consider shutting down if they are severe backlogs?

Are persons still being paid a stipend to oversee the lottery numbers and payments? Who are these persons? What law is this based on and how can others get on? What is the expected revenue from lotteries in 2026?

What is the legal status of every lottery booth? Do they have a branch license? If the booths are independent wouldn't each booth need it's own license? How can a lottery booth legally accept cash and payments if they aren't all legally registered entities?

It was said that the Main lottery license holder has said they are not accountable to all independent operators. Is that a fact? The persons in the booths working, do they pay taxes? Do they pay SZV? When last were controls done to ensure they have all the proper documentation and how many booths were controlled in 2024/2025 and 2026?

The faction would like to know what is the total amount owed by Casinos, Did they adhere to the payment plan and schedule set by the last government? How many Casino licenses do we have and give a date for when each one was handed out and how many are active and their locations.

What is the expected revenue by casinos for budget 2026? Does the Minister believe that locals contribute significantly more to Casino income than tourist? What is the role of Casino controllers and how is enforcement going?

Where is the gaming control board? How far is the process? How much is budgeted for 2026? Which entity or department is working on it?

The faction indicates that the government committed to diversifying tourism into culinary, heritage, wellness, ecotourism, sports and agritourism, with a destination media library and an ambassador program. The budget shows a Cruise Conversion project at Cg. 90,000 and a Public Parade line at Cg. 18,000. What is budgeted for tourism diversification in 2026, and which niche products are funded beyond cruise conversion?

Philipsburg beautification and revitalization were committed, with Parliament to be engaged once a consultant's draft was ready. The budget shows a Clem Labega Square project at Cg. 15,000 and general beautification references. Is Cg. 15,000 the total Philipsburg allocation for 2026, and where is the consultant's revitalization plan?

The faction continues and notes that the Dutch SME guarantee scheme was to be explored with the Prime Minister and Dutch side partners. Is the scheme operational, and can Sint Maarten businesses access the funds?

The government committed to using ED card data and exit surveys and to shift tourism measurement from arrivals to economic impact. Is the data framework operational, and is any 2026 spending attached?

The faction would like to know why is the Stat website down for more than a year. When is the Ministry going to hire a department head and fill all the relevant vacancies? Does the Minister believe that Stat should be an independent entity?

The faction opines that work with BTP was to improve online recognition of Sint Maarten and the +1 721 country code and would like to know what concrete outcome has been achieved. Also, how can we get Sint Maarten to be recognized by YouTube, Amazon, Tik Tok etc. to increase entrepreneurship and support our creators in the orange economy? Is it possible to setup a committee to and associate budget to this task? What is the estimated cost and which line item would this budget come from?

The faction notes that a foreign driver's license fee was to be discussed with Justice and would like to know if a decision has been reached, and is any revenue budgeted.

The faction continues and mentions that BTP finalized the Starlink arrangement and deemed it legal. What is the regulatory basis, and are there any fiscal implications for BTP revenue?

The government committed to the R4 strategy of reshape, reform, rebuild and restructure. What measurable milestones were completed in 2025, and what is funded for 2026?

The faction recognizes the urgent need for stronger oversight, transparency, and accountability at NV GEBE, especially regarding tariffs, fuel clause calculations, concession compliance, financial reporting, sustainable energy obligations, and consumer protection. The faction is of the opinion that the people of Sint Maarten deserve proper supervision of a public utility that directly affects every household and business.

However, while the objective of stronger oversight is important, the faction is concerned that the recently published joint ministerial decree may lack sufficient legal weight in certain areas. The decree appears to go beyond the narrow appointment of supervisors and seems to establish a broader regulatory framework involving tariff methodology, fuel clause review, reporting obligations, sustainable energy monitoring, and enforcement measures. These matters may require a stronger legal instrument, such as a *landsbesluit houdende algemene maatregelen*, a national ordinance, or another properly grounded regulatory framework. In light of the above, we hereby submit the following questions.

Can the Minister clearly indicate the exact legal basis relied upon for the issuance of the joint ministerial decree assigning BTP a supervisory role over NV GEBE?

Does the Minister consider the decree to be limited to the appointment of supervisors, or does the Minister acknowledge that the decree also establishes broader regulatory obligations?

Which specific articles of law give Government the authority to use a ministerial decree to regulate or review tariff structures, tariff components, and fuel clause calculations?

Which specific legal provisions give BTP authority over electricity tariffs, water tariffs, and fuel clause calculations?

Which specific legal provision gives BTP authority to monitor sustainable energy obligations under GEBE's concession? Which specific legal provision gives BTP authority to impose or enforce reporting obligations on GEBE?

Can the Minister confirm whether all powers mentioned in the decree already existed in law before the decree was published? If these powers already existed, why were they not formally activated or used for more than 15 years? If certain powers did not already exist, how can they now be created by ministerial decree?

Does the Minister agree that a ministerial decree cannot create new general binding rules where the law requires a stronger legal instrument? Was consideration given to separating the process by first issuing a narrow ministerial decision appointing supervisors, and then regulating broader tariff, fuel clause, reporting, sustainable energy, and enforcement matters through a stronger legal framework?

Why did Government choose a ministerial decree instead of a *landsbesluit houdende algemene maatregelen* or another stronger legal instrument? Is Government prepared to guarantee that every article of the decree is legally enforceable if challenged?

Has Government assessed the risk that GEBE or any other affected party may challenge the decree in court? If the decree is challenged, which parts does Government believe are most likely to withstand legal scrutiny? If the decree is partially or fully suspended or annulled, what is Government's backup plan to protect consumers and ensure continued oversight?

Did Government request and receive formal legal advice before publishing the decree? Was the legal advice prepared by the Department of Legal Affairs, an external legislative lawyer, the Council of Advice, or another legal expert? On what date was the legal advice requested, and on what date was it received? Will the Minister provide Parliament with the formal legal advice that supported the decision to issue this decree? If Government is not prepared to provide Parliament with the full formal legal advice, will the Minister at minimum provide Parliament with a summarized version of that advice? Will such a summary clearly identify the legal basis relied upon, the legal risks identified, and the limits of what the decree can enforce? Will such a summary

clearly state whether the advice concluded that a ministerial decree is sufficient for all parts of the measure?

Did the legal advice specifically address whether tariff methodology, fuel clause review, reporting obligations, sustainable energy monitoring, and enforcement measures can all legally be handled through a ministerial decree? Did the legal advice consider whether the decree should instead have been issued as a landsbesluit houdende algemene maatregelen, national ordinance, or broader utility regulation framework?

Did the legal advice address the possibility of GEBE challenging the decree in court? If the legal advice warned of possible legal risks, why did Government proceed without first strengthening the legal basis? If the legal advice did not identify any significant legal risks, will the Minister confirm that Government stands fully behind the enforceability of every article in the decree?

The faction continues with questions and would like to know why was BTP selected as the supervisory body for GEBE. Was BTP formally consulted before the decree was published, and did BTP confirm in writing that it is prepared to carry out this role?

Does BTP currently have sufficient in-house expertise in electricity generation, grid management, water production, fuel clause methodology, tariff structures, and utility finance? Will BTP require external consultants to perform this expanded role, and if so, who will pay for those services? Will any cost connected to BTP's supervision be passed on to consumers through tariffs, fees, or other charges?

Has BTP received additional budget, staffing, or technical support to carry out this expanded role?

Will BTP be allowed to publish its findings directly, or will its reports first be submitted only to the Ministers? Will BTP's reports be shared with Parliament and made public, with confidential commercial information removed where necessary?

Can BTP only advise the Ministers, or can BTP directly compel GEBE to take corrective action? If BTP can compel GEBE to take corrective action, where exactly is that enforcement power established in law? If BTP can only advise,

why has Government presented the decree as a strong oversight and enforcement mechanism?

What is the current legal formula or methodology used to calculate GEBE's fuel clause? Who currently verifies GEBE's fuel clause before it appears on consumers' bills?

Was the recent fuel clause increase legally reviewed before it was charged to consumers? Did GEBE receive formal approval before applying the recent fuel clause increase? If approval was required but not obtained, what action has Government taken? If approval was not required, why did Government present the matter as if GEBE acted improperly?

How much additional revenue did GEBE collect from the recent fuel clause increase?

Will BTP review past fuel clause calculations or only future calculations? If BTP determines that consumers were overcharged, what legal mechanism exists to require reimbursement? Will Government commit to requiring refunds or credits to consumers if overcharging is confirmed?

Will Government publish the fuel clause formula in plain language?

Will Government publish the monthly fuel clause calculation going forward?

Will consumers be able to see the actual fuel purchase price, consumption data, generation cost, and adjustment formula used to calculate the fuel clause?

Can the Minister guarantee that the fuel clause is being used only for actual fuel-related costs and not to cover inefficiency, poor collections, or general cash flow problems at GEBE?

How can Government properly assess tariffs when GEBE's recent financial statements are not complete? How can BTP properly review tariffs and fuel clause calculations if GEBE's financial information is incomplete or outdated?

What is GEBE's current liquidity position, debt position, and total liabilities to fuel suppliers and other major creditors? How much does GEBE currently have in receivables, and how much of those receivables are considered

collectible? What specific relief can consumers expect from this decree, and when can they expect it?

Is Government promising lower bills, or only promising more oversight? Has Government clearly explained to the public the difference between oversight, tariff review, and immediate tariff relief?

Does Government accept that this decree alone may not result in immediate lower utility bills? Is Government willing to inform the public honestly about what the decree can and cannot legally enforce?

What protection exists for consumers while Government, BTP, and GEBE determine the legal and technical limits of this decree? If BTP finds irregularities but lacks the power to force correction, what will Government do? And will Government commit to bringing a stronger and more comprehensive utility regulation framework to Parliament, including clear rules for tariff setting, fuel clause transparency, renewable energy obligations, and consumer protection?

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise.

Can the Minister detail the Ministry's 2025 budget execution by department, showing the original budget, revised budget, actual expenditure, execution percentage and major variances.

Please itemize every major initiative funded in the 2025 budget and indicate whether each was completed, partially completed, delayed, cancelled or carried over into 2026, with the reasons for any deviation.

Please Reconcile the Ministry's principal commitments made during the 2025 budget handling, including the St. Maarten Tourism Authority, the Gaming Authority, economic diversification, licensing reform, digitalization, statistics modernization, investment promotion and regulatory modernization, with their current implementation status, expenditure incurred, measurable outputs achieved and revised completion timelines. Given the 72.8 percent increase requested for 2026, please also explain why the budget documents contain no consolidated implementation report demonstrating what was delivered with the resources approved in 2025.

The faction would like the Minister to identify all recommendations made by Parliament, the SOAB, the Algemene Rekenkamer, the Ombudsman, the Raad van Advies or other oversight bodies since January 2024 that remain outstanding, with the implementation status of each.

State the principal lessons learned from implementation during 2025 and explain how these have influenced the design of the 2026 budget.

The faction indicated that several deliverables in the Ministry's own programme tables carry committed dates in the first half of 2026 that have already passed as of the handling of this budget, including the dynamic price adjustment mechanism (Q1 2026), the online maximum price database (Q2 2026), the economic forecasting model with trained staff (Q2 2026) and the minimum viable product of the IETA digital case management platform (Q2 2026). Please state per item whether it was delivered by its committed date, and where it was not, the revised date and the reason.

Please describe the evidence and analysis used to determine the Ministry's strategic priorities for 2026, and substantiate the policy rationale for prioritizing economic diversification through agriculture, MSME development, investment promotion, tourism diversification and innovation over alternative policy options.

Clarify the long-term vision for the St. Maarten Tourism Authority, distinguish its intended functions from those currently performed by the Tourist Bureau, and explain how duplication between the Tourist Bureau, the STA and externally financed tourism initiatives will be prevented during and after the transition.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to outline the policy rationale for establishing the Sint Maarten Gaming Authority, the expected regulatory, economic and governance benefits, the implementation timetable, the remaining legal, regulatory and operational milestones, the intended date of completion of the establishment process and the date of commencement of operations. Please also explain how lottery and gaming oversight is being exercised in the interim, noting that external support for lottery supervision is budgeted at Cg. 300 under post 8330-416 pending the establishment of the SMGA.

The faction would like to know if there is currently a moratorium on the issuance of casino licenses? If not, why not, and how many casinos are slated to open in the next 18 months, per license status? In addition, the faction is requesting the Minister to indicate the concrete steps taken in the last 24 months toward stricter regulation of casino and lottery licensing and toward curtailing further uncontrolled growth of the gambling industry on the island, and provide a status update on casino license compliance, indicating per license category the number of licenses, the number in full compliance, the number in breach, and the enforcement actions taken.

Specify the concrete steps taken in the last 24 months to procure additional government revenue from the gambling sector, including the steps taken toward raising the fees for lottery booths, and quantify per measure the additional revenue realized to date and projected for 2026. Provide a status update on the Know Your Customer (KYC) screening process applied within the Ministry's licensing and supervisory functions, including in the gaming sector, and state what has been done to improve this process over the last 9 months.

The faction would like to know if the Carrying Capacity Study has commenced? If not, please state the cause of the delay and the revised start and completion dates. If the study has not been performed, please explain how the Ministry's tourism strategy can claim to incorporate its findings on destination sustainability, infrastructure constraints and resident quality of life, and what evidence base is being used in its place.

Explain how the proposed Tourism Master Plan differs from the 2005 Tourism Master Plan, identify the strategic gaps it is intended to address, and describe the implementation schedule and the involvement of the tourism industry, business community and civil society. The faction recollects that in a previous budget debate the updating of the 2011/2012 tourism roadmap was announced; please state the status of that update and how it relates to the new Master Plan.

Additionally, the faction would like the Minister to present a matrix linking every strategic objective to its corresponding budget allocation, responsible department, expected outputs, performance indicators, baselines, annual targets, quarterly milestones, reporting frequency and accountable official.

The faction notes that the budget of the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication rises from Cg. 1,748 to Cg. 13,031, an increase of 645 percent, driven by Cg. 11,312 under post 8210-435 for *Landspakket* measure E6, within a total of Cg. 13,138 under Projects and Activities. Please break this down into individual projects, indicating per project the budget, the implementing department, the procurement method and status, the implementation schedule and the expected deliverable. Further, please explain how a department with 9 filled positions on a formation of 15 will absorb and execute a budget seven and a half times its 2025 level.

In addition to that, the faction would like the Minister to break down every consultancy, advisory contract, project management assignment and technical assistance engagement financed through the ETT allocation, indicating per engagement the procurement method used, the contract value, the contract duration, the deliverables and the contract manager.

Detail the governance structure of the ETT programme, identifying who approves projects, who authorizes expenditures, who monitors implementation and who certifies project completion prior to payment. In addition, please indicate whether any ETT-funded activities duplicate work currently performed by existing departments, the Tourist Bureau, the proposed Tourism Authority, external consultants or other government entities, and explain how duplication has been prevented. The faction notes that the subsidies line rises 282 percent from Cg. 767 to Cg. 2,932. Please specify per subsidy the legal basis, the recipient, the policy objective, the performance conditions, the reporting obligations, and the measures ensuring recipients deliver measurable public value.

The faction notes that the marketing budget falls 10 percent to Cg. 3,785 and Tourist Bureau funding falls 4 percent, while the stated target is a visitor increase of at least 17 percent over 2024 levels with at least one new source market. Please reconcile the reduced allocation with the expanded ambition, substantiate the 17 percent target, and explain the methodology by which the economic return of marketing expenditure is measured.

The faction would like the Minister to report on whether tourism marketing contracts will be awarded through competitive procurement,

framework agreements or direct contracting, and describe the controls established to ensure transparency and value for money.

Paragraph 5.6.2.1 states that 10 percent of personnel costs, Cg. 19.3 million, is designated for the execution of primary tasks, while Cg 19.3 million is the entirety of the Ministry's personnel costs. Please correct this passage and state what portion of personnel capacity is actually assigned to the strategic policy objectives. And also state what percentage of the 2026 Ministry's budget is allocated to establishing new institutions and administrative structures, versus initiatives that are expected to produce measurable increases in national income, employment, investment or government revenue during 2026, and provide the underlying calculation.

Compare the estimated administrative costs of establishing and operating the St. Maarten Tourism Authority, the Gaming Authority and the Investment and Innovation Promotion Agency with the projected additional government revenues expected from each institution during their first five years of operation and provide the basis for each projection.

The faction mentions that the capital table includes Cg. 15,000 for the Clem Labega Square in Philipsburg and Cg 4,000 for the Vlaggenmast project, together Cg 19 million or 55 percent of the Ministry's 2026 capital programme. Provide for each: (a) the project scope, design documentation and current preparation status; (b) the economic substantiation and expected measurable return; (c) the procurement method and timeline; (d) the prioritization analysis under which these projects were selected above deferred infrastructure, statistical and enforcement investments; (e) an explanation of why both projects are budgeted under the strategic goal for economic emergency relief of vulnerable consumers.

The faction indicates that the same capital table budgets 6 vehicles for IETA at Cg. 50,000 each for a printed total of Cg. 28, an amount that does not follow from the stated quantity and unit price, and three rows carry asterisks without an accompanying note. Please provide a corrected capital table, state the correct amount for the vehicle acquisition, explain the meaning of the asterisks and confirm that the corrected table will be provided to Parliament before the plenary handling of the budget.

For the Vlaggenmast project and the Clem Labega Square individually, please state who initiated and proposed the project, on what date, on the basis of which needs assessment or study, and which community groups, business organizations or other stakeholders requested or were consulted on it. If no needs assessment or consultation took place, please state so explicitly.

Also itemize what the Vlaggenmast project of Cg. 4,000 consists of, including the design, dimensions, materials, site works and any associated features, the basis of the cost estimate, and the reference projects or benchmarks used to validate the price. Please provide the same itemization for the Clem Labega Square project of Cg. 15,000, including the surface area concerned and the resulting cost per square metre, and state which lower-cost design alternatives were considered and why they were rejected.

The faction would like for every capital project and every project exceeding Cg .250, to indicate whether the legal framework, engineering or design work, procurement documentation, financing, staffing, project management arrangements and implementation schedule have been completed, and identify every project not expected to commence during 2026 with the reasons. Set out the Ministry's organizational establishment showing approved positions, filled positions, funded vacancies, unbudgeted vacancies and vacancy rates per department, and identify the critical vacancies that pose the greatest implementation risk during 2026 with the expected filling date of each.

With 168 filled positions on a formation of 232, 13 funded vacancies and 51 unbudgeted positions, the faction would like the Minister to please explain how the Ministry intends to implement a programme of activities 72.8 percent larger than 2025 without a corresponding increase in institutional capacity, and which strategic objectives will not be achieved if the staffing complement remains unchanged throughout 2026. . The Statistics Department is staffed at 33 percent according to the table in paragraph 5.6.10 and 36 percent according to the text on the same page. STAT recruitment and strengthening is budgeted twice, at Cg 1,000 under Goal 4 programme 6 and at Cg 1,250 under Goal 6 programme 5, both booked to rekening 8350-410. Please reconcile the staffing percentages, confirm whether the two allocations overlap or are additional, and provide the recruitment plan under which all key STAT vacancies will be filled by Q4 2026 as the chapter commits, including how the Household Budget Survey

(Cg 597), the Labour Force Survey and quarterly GDP publication will be delivered at current staffing.

The faction would like for the Ministry to set out the Ministry's dependence on consultants, externally funded experts and technical assistance, noting that *inhuur derden* rises 103 percent to Cg. 1,269, and explain per assignment the cost, duration and how institutional knowledge will be retained after the assignment concludes.

Present a comprehensive overview of all vacancies and recruitment procedures currently being processed by the Department of Personnel and Organization (P&O) on behalf of the Ministry. For each recruitment procedure, please indicate: (a) the department requesting the recruitment; (b) the title and salary scale of the position; (c) the date the request was submitted to P&O; (d) the current stage of the recruitment process; (e) the number of calendar days the recruitment has been pending; (f) the principal reason for any delay and whether it is attributable to P&O, the Ministry or another entity; (g) the anticipated completion date and the anticipated date the successful candidate will assume duty.

Please specify the current implementation readiness of the St. Maarten Tourism Authority, including the status of the legislation, the governance structure, staffing, financing and transition planning, and confirm whether the allocation of Cg. 750, described in the programme table as an estimate covering personnel, consultancy and installation, is sufficient for an independent authority to be operational by the end of 2026 as the chapter commits.

Please outline the implementation plan for the Investment and Innovation Promotion Agency, including the legal basis, governance model, staffing, financing and expected economic outcomes, noting that the 2026 deliverable is limited to completing the research, business case and roadmap at Cg. 400.

The faction would like a summary of the implementation plan for the Ministry's digital transformation initiatives across licensing, inspections, consumer protection and internal operations, including the Business License System, the digital licensing system committed to reduce processing time by 50 percent by Q4 2026, and the IETA case management platform, indicating per system the milestones, dependencies and responsible official.

Specify how economic diversification will be measured beyond tourism growth, including indicators for investment, employment, business creation and sectoral expansion.

For every investment promotion initiative funded during 2026, the faction would like the Minister to please identify the minimum investment value, employment creation and projected government revenue expected before the initiative will be considered successful.

Describe how enforcement performance will be measured across inspections, compliance, licensing and consumer protection, including the baseline and 2026 target per indicator.

The faction would like a report on how Parliament will be able to determine objectively at year end whether the Ministry has successfully implemented the 2026 budget, and which performance indicators the Minister is prepared to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis throughout 2026.

Please outline the governance arrangements for the St. Maarten Tourism Authority and the Gaming Authority intended to safeguard independence, transparency and accountability, including board appointment procedures, reporting obligations to the Minister and to Parliament, and the applicability of corporate governance legislation.

The faction would like a list of all initiatives whose implementation depends upon other Ministries or government-owned entities and explain how these dependencies are being managed.

Also, demonstrate how the Ministry concluded that the allocation of more than Cg. 13 million for Projects and Activities and Cg 34.3 million in capital represents the most economical, efficient and effective use of public funds, describe the methodology used to evaluate, rank and approve the Projects and Activities financed under the 2026 budget, including the economic, social and financial criteria applied during project selection, and summarize the value-for-money analysis undertaken for each initiative exceeding Cg. 500.

Please detail the Ministry's strategy for increasing higher-value tourism while reducing pressure on national infrastructure and public services, and how visitor satisfaction, resident satisfaction and tourism competitiveness will be monitored during 2026.

The faction would like an explanation on how tourism diversification into sports, cultural, heritage, eco and wellness tourism will be implemented and measured. In this context, please explain how the film industry initiative will deliver at least two film productions on the island in 2026 with a budget of zero, and confirm why the programme numbering of Goal 5 skips from programme 7 to programme 9, indicating what programme 8 contained before submission.

The faction indicates that the cooperative campaign with airlines is cut 44 percent from Cg. 250 to Cg. 140 under the stated objective of attracting new airlines, while the online travel agency budget rises 210 percent citing excellent performance. Please provide the performance data supporting both decisions, and the route development targets for 2026.

The festivals line of Cg. 500 states that carnival resources are reallocated to subsidies and that parties remaining below performance norms will be removed. Indicate the performance norms applied, the parties evaluated, the outcomes of that evaluation, and the criteria and process by which festival and event funding is awarded.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to set out the coordination framework between the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, PJIA, the Port, VROMI and the private sector for destination development.

The faction would like to know about the cooling system project at the L.B. Scott Sports Auditorium. Please state the measures now being undertaken to improve the situation, what is currently being installed and what is slated to be installed, the budget and the posts under which it is carried, the responsible ministry or entity for execution, and the completion date.

Please state the current processing times for economic licenses, the size of the backlog, and the measures being implemented during 2026 to improve service delivery, including the temporary staffing of Cg. 88 for backlog reduction and the committed 50 percent reduction in processing time.

The faction would like for the Ministry to describe the Ministry's strategy for strengthening consumer protection, price monitoring and market inspections during 2026, including the modernization of the Maximum Price System, and note that the four activities under Goal 2 total Cg. 123; please confirm that this is

the entire operational budget for the strategic goal of protecting vulnerable consumers, and reconcile that amount with the Cg. 19 million in beautification capital placed under the same goal.

Please set out IETA's enforcement strategy for 2026, including inspection priorities, staffing, enforcement targets, expected compliance outcomes, and the allocation of enforcement resources between transportation, consumer protection, licensing and commercial regulation.

The faction notes that IETA's budget rises 31 percent to Cg 8,299 and its mandate expands across multiple strategic goals, while paragraph 5.6.10 states that IETA, currently 66 percent staffed with 41 unbudgeted vacancies, will be restructured under the revised functieboek to function with fewer staff. Please reconcile the expanding enforcement mandate with the shrinking formation, provide the restructuring plan and timeline, state the enforcement capacity in FTEs before and after restructuring, and provide the status of the functieboek update for the the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication as a whole, including the approval date and implementation timeline. Identify also the measures funded within the 2026 budget to bring IETA to full operational capacity.

The faction has the following questions concerning the new taxi price list for the Dutch side of Sint Maarten: (a) how far along the process of finalizing the new price list is, and the steps remaining; (b) whether there have been discussions with the French side concerning their price structure, and whether there is any intention to establish coordination or a mutual understanding of rates; (c) when the taxi associations can expect the finalized price list to be completed and formally handed over.

In addition to that please indicate the current permitting capacity as a percentage of the established caps for taxi permits, per category where applicable, the number of permits issued against each cap, and the number of pending applications.

Provide a status update on the steps taken concerning the Mobility Growth Standard framework, the strengthening of transport capacity planning for tourism activity, and the purchase or implementation of digital tools to improve coordination between key stakeholders in the transport sector, and state what the Ministry has done in the last 12 months to tangibly improve the

alignment between tourism activity, transportation services and overall mobility management.

The faction would like the Minister to name every transport-related policy developed or updated by the Ministry in the last 24 months, indicating per policy its adoption status and date. If no such policies were developed or updated, please state so explicitly.

Please identify all formally approved government policy documents, strategic plans, legislative programmes, implementation plans and other policy instruments that currently govern the development, regulation and modernization of the maritime sector. For each, please indicate its purpose, date of approval, responsible Ministry, implementation status and period of validity.

Identify the strategic objectives formally adopted by Government for the maritime sector for the period 2026 to 2030 and indicate the measurable performance indicators, implementation targets and reporting mechanisms through which Parliament can evaluate their achievement.

The faction would like the Minister to outline how the various maritime policy, legislative, regulatory, economic development and implementation initiatives currently being undertaken by Government are coordinated to ensure that they collectively contribute toward common long-term national objectives for the maritime sector.

Identify every maritime-related initiative contained within the 2026 budget and explain how each initiative contributes to the Government's long-term objectives for the maritime sector, including the expected outcomes, implementation timelines and responsible entities.

Please break down all maritime legislation currently under review, identify the legislative deficiencies that remain unresolved, explain the operational impact of those deficiencies and indicate the anticipated completion date for each legislative reform.

Specify the number of government entities that currently exercise responsibilities within the maritime sector and describe how policy development, regulation, implementation and oversight responsibilities are coordinated among those entities.

Please state the estimated annual contribution of the maritime sector to government revenues, Gross Domestic Product, employment, foreign exchange earnings and tourism, and indicate when this assessment was last updated and by whom and also identify the principal constraints limiting the development of the maritime sector, distinguishing between legislative, regulatory, institutional, financial, infrastructure, human resource and governance constraints, and indicate which of these constraints are addressed in the 2026 budget.

The faction would like for the Ministry to state the Ministry's estimated medium-term revenue potential from the following maritime sectors and identify the policy initiatives contained in the 2026 budget intended to realize that potential: cruise tourism, yachting, marina development, ferry transportation, maritime logistics, ship repair, marine services, vessel registration and maritime education and training.

Please identify all studies, feasibility assessments, economic analyses and policy reviews completed during the past ten years relating to maritime development, and indicate which recommendations have been implemented, which remain outstanding and the reasons for any recommendations that have not been implemented.

Please clarify why the 2026 budget devotes substantially greater attention and resources to aviation reform than to maritime development, despite the strategic importance of the maritime sector to tourism, trade, yachting and cruise activity.

Identify all outstanding international maritime compliance obligations including preparation for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), their implementation status, the budget allocated, and the legal, economic and operational risks Sint Maarten faces if maritime legislative and regulatory reforms are delayed beyond 2026, together with the contingency measures established.

Indicate the current operational capacity of the maritime function within the department of *Lucht- en Scheepvaart*, including staffing, inspections, vessel registration, enforcement responsibilities and identified resource gaps and also detail the status of aviation legislative reform, the remaining actions required to achieve full compliance with international obligations, and the Ministry's level of

preparedness for future ICAO oversight activities including any remaining deficiencies from previous audits.

The faction would like a description on how the aviation investments were funded in 2026, including the Cg. 272 legislative modernization, the Cg. 85 ICAO compliance work plan and the MDS/SMCAA building, will improve operational performance and regulatory compliance, and state the timeline for the establishment and staffing of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Please estimate the annual government revenue currently lost through regulatory non-compliance, unlicensed economic activity, illegal gaming, unregistered commercial operations, licensing deficiencies or other enforcement gaps, and identify the measures contained in the 2026 budget to reduce those losses, with the expected recovery per measure. If no such estimate exists, please state so and indicate when one will be produced.

Enumerate every initiative in the 2026 budget of the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication specifically intended to generate new government revenue, distinguishing between tax revenue, fees, levies, concessions, licenses, investment inflows and other non-tax revenues, and state per initiative the projected annual fiscal impact, the implementation timeline and the methodology used to estimate the additional revenue. Distinguish those revenues from projected increases attributable solely to general economic growth. Describe the Ministry's medium-term revenue-generation strategy, identify the structural reforms intended to expand the revenue base through new industries, investment attraction, gaming reform, maritime development, aviation, digital commerce, telecommunications or other emerging sectors, quantify the expected additional government revenues per reform over the next three fiscal years, and explain why this strategy is not presented as a measurable component of the 2026 budget with annual targets and indicators.

The faction would like to know if the Minister considers the revenue-generating measures reflected in the 2026 budget sufficient to address the country's medium-term fiscal challenges? If so, please provide the analysis supporting that conclusion. If not, please identify the additional legislative, regulatory or policy reforms the Ministry intends to pursue during this governing

term, their anticipated fiscal impact, and when the proposals will be submitted to Parliament.

The faction would like the Minister to specify what proportion of the projected government revenue growth in the medium-term fiscal framework depends upon initiatives under the responsibility of the Ministry, and how Parliament will be able to measure during and after 2026 whether those revenue expectations have been achieved.

The faction would like a list of the three initiatives whose failure would present the greatest risk to successful implementation of the 2026 budget, and the three initiatives that will have the greatest measurable impact on economic growth, explaining in the latter case how that impact will be independently verified.

Confirm whether the Minister considers the Ministry fully prepared to implement every initiative contained in the 2026 budget within the proposed timeframe. If so, please identify the evidence supporting that assessment. If not, please identify the principal constraints and the measures being taken to address them.

Provide Parliament with copies of all completed reports, studies, frameworks, evaluations and roadmaps referred to in the foregoing questions and in the Ministry's chapter, including but not limited to the Carrying Capacity Study, the Tourism Master Plan documentation, the mobility and transport frameworks, the IIPA business case and any gaming sector studies, and where a document is not yet completed, please state its expected completion date.

Can the Minister account for the procurement, financing and implementation of the Front Street and Boardwalk waste receptacle project by identifying the procurement procedure followed, the total project cost, the contractor(s) engaged, the payments made to date, the maintenance arrangements and the coordination established with the Ministry of VROMI to ensure the ongoing servicing of the receptacles.

Can the Minister substantiate the Ministry's strategy for expanding airlift and cruise capacity by identifying all route-development initiatives and airline and cruise line engagements undertaken since May 2024, the expected

implementation timelines, the projected increases in visitor capacity and the measurable outcomes anticipated over the next three years.

Can the Minister account for the utilization of public funds allocated to the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau by describing its organizational structure, staffing, operational responsibilities, annual work programme, marketing strategy, performance indicators and the measurable results achieved during 2024 and 2025. Reconcile all budget allocations made to the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau during 2024 and 2025 by identifying the projects financed, the expenditure incurred, the budget reallocations approved, the reasons for those reallocations and the measurable outcomes achieved through the expenditure of public funds.

Can the Minister reconcile the implementation and financial progression of the Marketplace project from inception to date by accounting for all approved design revisions, changes in project scope, procurement decisions, contract variations, consultant engagements, payments made, funding sources and the increase in total project cost.

The faction would like the Minister to distinguish between modernization and digital transformation initiatives inherited by the current administration and those initiated since May 2024, identifying the implementation status, the expenditure incurred and the measurable institutional improvements resulting from each initiative.

Document every policy initiative commenced by the Ministry since May 2024 and account for its implementation status, expenditure, measurable outputs, implementation challenges and anticipated completion date.

Can the Minister account for the Ministry's governance arrangements for the maritime sector by identifying the institutional responsibilities currently assigned, the operational capacity available, the status of the proposed Harbour Master function and the extent to which these governance requirements are reflected in the 2026 budget.

Please account for all official travel undertaken by the Minister during 2024 and 2025 by identifying the purpose, the expenditure incurred, the outcomes achieved and the extent to which each mission contributed to the Ministry's strategic objectives.

The faction would like clarification on the current ownership, governance and strategic partnership structure of Port St. Maarten Group by identifying any material governance, investment or partnership changes occurring since May 2024 and explaining the Government's oversight role in those arrangements.

Please account for the current implementation status of the proposed development of the lands situated between Port St. Maarten and Dock Maarten by identifying the approved project scope, the participating developers, the approvals obtained, the outstanding dependencies, the implementation timetable and the anticipated economic impact.

The faction would like to know what amount has been allocated as the Government subsidy to the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF) for 2026, and how does this compare with previous years?

Has funding been included in the 2026 budget for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the Philipsburg Market Place? If so, under which budget line or capital project has this been allocated?

Are there any projects, policy initiatives, procurement processes, legal matters, staffing shortages, inter-ministerial dependencies, external dependencies or financial risks not specifically addressed in the foregoing questions that, in the opinion of the Minister, may reasonably affect the Ministry's ability to achieve the objectives contained in the 2026 Budget? If so, please provide full particulars.

The faction continues and would like to know if the Minister believes Sint Maarten is too dependent on tourism, or is tourism still the only realistic economic engine?

What type of investor does the Minister believe Sint Maarten should stop attracting?

Does the Minister believe economic diversification is being pursued seriously, or is it repeated every budget year without real execution? What is the Minister's opinion on whether current tourism growth is improving life for residents?

Does the Minister believe consumer protection is strong enough, especially with the cost of living still high? Should Government intervene more aggressively in pricing, or would that damage the business climate?

Which sector outside of tourism does the Minister believe deserves serious investment now?

Does the Minister believe transportation and telecom policy are keeping up with what the economy needs?

What is the Minister's view on whether major projects are being approved with enough transparency and measurable public benefit?

What percentage of government revenue continues to depend on tourism?

Given international economic uncertainty, what stress testing was performed assuming tourism declines by 10%, 15%, or 20%?

If tourism marketing is expected to increase visitors by 17%, why does room tax decrease in the 2026 budget?

The faction would like to know why tourist tax and Airbnb room tax both are budgeted at zero while tourism remains the largest economic sector.

What return is expected from the Cg 3.785 million strategic marketing budget, measured in room tax, turnover tax, employment, and visitor spending? How much is being spent on tourism marketing?

What measurable increase in stayover arrivals is expected? What measurable increase in visitor spending is expected? What is Government doing to move beyond arrival numbers and focus on actual money spent in the economy?

What is the timeline for the St. Maarten Tourism Authority legislation, staffing, and funding, and what will it cost annually after 2026?

Why is casino and lottery fee revenue budgeted lower while gaming oversight is being strengthened? What revenue impact is expected from the St.

Maarten Gaming Authority and stronger gaming regulation? Where is the gaming revenue reform quantified in the budget?

What gaming revenue policy will be applied for license fees, compliance arrears, penalties, the authority funding model, and revenue estimates?

What new revenue is the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication generating in 2026?

The faction would like to know what is the projected revenue from business licenses in 2026. What is the projected revenue from operational licenses? What is the projected revenue from economic permits? Why does business license revenue fall from Cg 12 million to Cg 7 million while business licensing is being digitized and faster processing is being targeted?

Why are digital licensing and process improvements not generating at least stable revenue?

What is the number and total value of pending business license, transport, lottery, casino, and regulatory applications? What processing-time targets will be used for licenses and permits?

How will the Cg. 13.138 million in projects and activities produce measurable public results instead of only more spending? What procurement methods, deliverables, and measurable outcomes apply to the Cg 13.138 million in projects and activities?

What portion of TEATT's increased expenditure is temporary project funding, and what portion becomes structural cost?

What GDP, job creation, and revenue impact is expected from the Cg. 4.003 million economic diversification programme?

Why is the budget for emergency relief and price-system measures only Cg. 123,000 if cost-of-living relief is being presented as a major priority?

How can economic policy be data-driven if the Statistics Department is only 33% staffed?

What commitments were previously made to market vendors? Which market vendor commitments have been fulfilled? Which market vendor commitments remain outstanding? What is the timeline for resolving the marketplace situation? How many vendors are affected? How many vendors have received assistance? What amount has been paid out to vendors so far?

What is the final vision for the marketplace?

What revenue have vendors lost? Has Government calculated the economic damage to vendors?

Does the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication agree that delays in building permits affect economic development? Has TEATT calculated the economic loss caused by delayed permits? Has TEATT discussed delayed permits with VROMI?

What projects are being delayed because of permit issues? What is the impact of permit delays on business openings, employment, investment, and tax revenue?

Will TEATT work with VROMI to create a fast-track process for economically important projects? What public-private partnership criteria will be applied for Philipsburg and other economic development projects? How will value for money, risk allocation, revenue sharing, procurement method, and anti-favoritism safeguards be tested for public-private partnerships?

What is the status of the Planet Hollywood project?

What is the status of Vie L'Ven,?

The faction queries, for Clem Labega Square, which amount is correct: Cg. 15 million or Cg. 12 million? Will a corrected project budget for Clem Labega Square be submitted?

For the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Agency project, why does the project sheet appear to mix AWOS, agriculture agency start-up costs, and Philipsburg beautification? Will a corrected project sheet for the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Agency project be submitted?

For the taxi dispatch and field enforcement equipment projects, why do the titles and descriptions appear to be switched? Will the taxi dispatch and field enforcement equipment project sheets be corrected before approval?

The faction continues and queries for the Cole Bay Hill lookout, is the projected annual revenue Cg. 621 or Cg. 621,000. Who will collect revenue from the Cole Bay Hill lookout? What is the payback period for the Cole Bay Hill lookout after maintenance costs?

Will Government provide the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication revenue-generation overview?

What is Government's long-term vision for the tourism industry, and what will distinguish Sint Maarten from competing Caribbean destinations? What makes the proposed marketing campaigns strategic? Which markets are being targeted, what messaging will be used, and how will success be measured?

Why was a 17% increase in visitor arrivals selected as the primary performance indicator instead of visitor spending, average length of stay, repeat visitation, or visitor satisfaction? Is Government's priority increasing visitor numbers, increasing visitor spending, or both? How does this Budget achieve those objectives?

What objectives does Government intend to achieve through the establishment of a Tourism Authority? What functions will the Tourism Authority perform that are not already carried out by the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau?

How will Government ensure that the Tourism Authority operates independently and that destination marketing remains consistent regardless of changes in administration? Will the Tourism Authority have its own Board of Directors, and what criteria will be used to appoint its members?

Will the updated Tourism Master Plan include measurable implementation timelines, annual reporting requirements, and clearly defined performance indicators? Will the Tourism Master Plan include strategies for luxury tourism, culinary tourism, wellness tourism, marine tourism, and eco-tourism?

Will the Tourism Master Plan establish carrying-capacity guidelines for beaches, cruise tourism, and other tourism assets to ensure sustainable growth?

Will Government publish annual reports detailing the return on investment of its marketing campaigns, including visitor growth, visitor spending, and market performance?

What percentage of the tourism budget is allocated to marketing compared to the development of new tourism products and experiences? Why has Government allocated substantially more funding to marketing than to developing new tourism products? What new tourism products or visitor experiences are expected to be developed during 2026?

How does Government intend to encourage private-sector investment in new tourism products and experiences? The faction would like to know why the Budget contains so few initiatives specifically aimed at increasing cruise passenger spending?

What strategy is in place to convert cruise passengers into future stay-over visitors? What initiatives are planned to encourage cruise passengers to visit communities beyond Philipsburg?

Why does the Budget not include a dedicated strategy for marine and yachting tourism? Has Government conducted an economic impact study on the yachting industry, and will it be provided to Parliament?

What initiatives are planned to increase spending by yacht owners, charter guests, and professional crew while they are in Sint Maarten? Does Government intend to pursue the superyacht market through investments in marina infrastructure, yacht services, and marine tourism?

Why does the Budget not include a dedicated programme to support culinary tourism, including local chefs, bartenders, culinary trails, and food tourism? Has Government considered developing year-round culinary tourism experiences rather than relying primarily on annual events?

What initiatives are included in this Budget to attract higher-spending visitors rather than simply increasing arrival numbers? Does Government have a strategy to encourage investment in luxury accommodations, wellness tourism, concierge services, and premium visitor experiences?

What investments are being made to improve the visitor experience after arrival, including signage, beach amenities, beautification, accessibility, and

digital visitor information? Does Government measure visitor satisfaction, and how are those findings being used to shape tourism policy?

What specific budget allocations are dedicated to protecting beaches, reefs, and other natural resources that support tourism?

How does Government intend to balance a 17% increase in visitor arrivals with environmental sustainability?

What measures are being taken to ensure that increased tourism directly benefits locally owned businesses? What programmes are in place to help small tourism businesses become internationally competitive?

What key performance indicators will be used to determine whether the approximately Cg. 5.2 million allocated for tourism development has achieved its intended objectives by the end of 2026?

The faction would like to know if Government will publish annual performance reports on the Tourism Authority, marketing campaigns, and the Tourism Master Plan to enable Parliament to evaluate the effectiveness of these expenditures.

What is the destination brand that Government intends to market, and what unique visitor experience will distinguish Sint Maarten from competing Caribbean destinations?

The faction moves on to questions for the Ministry of TEATT and makes clear that TEATT is the Ministry responsible for the economic activity, tourism, transport, telecommunications, business regulations and consumer affairs. What revenue is TEATT generating in 2026 and what did they have in the pipeline that wasn't able to come on board that might be the case in 2027.

The faction would like to know what is the projected revenue for business licenses in 2026. What is the projected revenue for operational licenses in 2026? What is the projected revenue for economic permits for 2026?

What is the return on investment from the tourism budget for 2026? How much is being spent on the tourism marketing and what measurable increase in stayover arrivals can we expect in the latter part of the year?

Can the actuals be provided and also paint a picture as to what we can expect for the next 6 months?

The faction would like to know what measurable increase of visitor spending is expected. What is the government doing to move beyond the arrival numbers and focus on actual money spent in the economy? How can we chime in or zoom in to money that was actually spent?

The faction would like to know if the Minister agrees that delays in building permits affect the economic development? Has the Minister calculated the economic loss caused by delayed building permits? Has the TEATT Minister discussed with the Ministry of VROMI how they can work on fast tracking these things? And what major projects are being delayed because of permit issues.

The faction knows of the Planet Hollywood and Indigo Bay situation. What is the status or what discussions are being had between the Ministry of TEATT and these respective developers on getting these projects rolling?

The faction understood that the Ministry of VROMI and the Ministry of TEATT for the past months have taken over the role of the receivers office in terms of collecting. What is the legal basis for that? and who made this decision and why.

To the Ministry of TEATT, the faction would like to know what commitments were previously made to the market vendors. The faction knows that a motion was passed. There has been discussion ongoing on how to give them relief. What has been done in that regard. Which of those commitments have been fulfilled and which remain outstanding? What is the timeline to resolving the marketplace situation? Was the permit finally granted? Is that the case? When will the works commence? What amount has been paid out to the vendors so far or what sort of relief have they received thus far since the last budget debate? What is the last version of the marketplace? Can then the last version of the marketplace be provided to Parliament?

The faction would like to know if an assessment directly or indirectly has been conducted to determine how much revenue the vendors have lost. Can an update be given on their potential revenue loss?

Ministry of Justice

The faction has the following questions and comments related to the Ministry of Justice. It notes that phase 2 of the prison was to begin in October or November 2025, with the first 120 cells by the end of 2026 or the first quarter of

2027 and the full 196 cells by late 2028. The prison was largely funded in 2025, with operating costs of roughly eleven million dollars a year becoming structural from 2027. Is Phase 2 on schedule, and where are the 2027 operating costs reflected in the multiyear figures?

The faction notes that advances on the KPSM salary scale adjustment have already been paid. Retroactive KPSM arrears of Cg. 10 million appear in the payment arrears table, and the first quarter report flags a significant one off and structural cost increase. What is the total KPSM salary scale liability, and how much is funded in 2026?

The Crime Fund was to finance crime prevention projects. The Ondermijning project shows Cg 100,000, MOT Cg 1.198 million and ORGV Cg 2 million, all with little or nothing spent in the first quarter. Which projects are financed from the Crime Fund in 2026, and why is first quarter execution near zero?

The factions reminds that the government committed to regularizing the Court of Guardianship, as either a department or a foundation. The related project shows Cg. 50,000 budgeted with nothing spent and a status of pending. Which option was chosen, and what is funded in 2026 for staff legal certainty?

An Executive Protection Unit and work against human trafficking were committed. Both show Cg. 200,000 budgeted with nothing spent in the first quarter. Are these funded and staffed in 2026 given zero first quarter execution?

The faction continues and mentions that ASYCUDA implementation was to continue, with a UNCTAD technical team and an awareness campaign. Is it operational, and what is the funded implementation cost in 2026?

The government committed to alternatives to detention, including possible use of early release provisions and amendment of legislation. Is an electronic monitoring framework in place, and has legislation been amended?

Point Blanche programming was to be restored after the fire, with police holding cell repairs through NRPB funding. The faction would like to know the status of both.

Regional cooperation with Curaçao and Aruba on gun violence was committed. What agreements or operations have resulted?

Recommendations of the Law Enforcement Council were to be pursued with Kingdom partners. The faction would like to which have been implemented?

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise. The faction would like to be provided with a complete overview of every strategic objective, programme, reform initiative and major activity budgeted for 2025, indicating for each whether it was completed, substantially completed, partially completed, delayed, cancelled, or not commenced.

For every strategic objective or programme not completed during 2025, the faction would like the Minister to please provide the reason for non-completion, the revised implementation schedule, whether implementation has been carried forward into the 2026 Budget, and the additional resources required.

Please indicate what percentage of the Ministry's 2025 strategic objectives was achieved and explain the methodology used to determine this percentage.

Please identify every policy initiative publicly announced during 2025 that has not yet been implemented, and every reform initiative that was removed, postponed or abandoned between the 2025 and 2026 Budgets, with the reasons in each case.

Please identify the five greatest implementation challenges encountered during execution of the 2025 Budget, the policy lessons learned, and how each has been addressed in the priorities of the 2026 Budget.

Please indicate which recommendations of the SOAB, the Algemene Rekenkamer, the Ombudsman, the Raad van Advies and Internal Audit directed at the Ministry of Justice were implemented during 2025 and which remain outstanding. Please additionally provide, per inspection report of the Raad voor de Rechtshandhaving, the number of recommendations issued, implemented and outstanding, with the reason for each outstanding recommendation.

The faction notes that the *Parket van de Officier van Justitie* realized Cg. 7,219 in 2024 against a 2025 budget of Cg. 4,482, an overrun of more than 60 percent above the subsequent budget level. Please explain the cause of the 2024

overrun, the controls introduced since, and the basis for considering the 2026 budget of Cg. 4,581 realistic.

Please provide Parliament with the answers to the written questions registered under IS 1314, which remain outstanding, and indicate the reason the customary response term was exceeded.

For each strategic goal in the 2026 Budget, please explain the specific public problem the Ministry seeks to address, the evidence relied upon to identify that problem, why the selected policy response was considered the most appropriate, and whether the policy addresses the underlying causes of the problem or primarily its consequences.

The faction would like an explanation of the methodology used to determine the relative priority of the strategic goals where available financial and human resources were insufficient to fully implement all proposed initiatives.

Please identify which strategic goals represent continuation of existing policy and which constitute new initiatives, which goals have been retained despite not achieving their intended outcome in previous budget years, which goals saw their budget decrease while being described as a strategic priority, and which saw their budget increase despite the absence of measurable improvements, with the rationale in each case.

Can the Minister explain how the Ministry determined that the strategic goals included in the 2026 Budget represent the most appropriate response to the justice and public safety challenges currently facing Sint Maarten.

For every strategic goal, please identify each budget line item that directly contributes toward achieving that objective, the total allocation, the expected policy outcome, the responsible department and the implementation period, and explain the methodology used to classify expenditure as directly contributing, indirectly supporting or general operational. Please also identify every strategic goal without a dedicated budget allocation and explain how implementation will nevertheless be achieved.

Please identify every budget line among the Ministry's ten largest expenditure categories that is not directly linked to any strategic goal.

Also, please identify every strategic goal supported by less than 2 percent of the Ministry's total budget and explain how the Ministry expects to achieve that objective with the allocated resources. In this context, please confirm that the entire programme budget of Strategic Goal 6, prison reform and reduction of recidivism, amounts to Cg. 50.

The programme table of Goal 1 totals Cg. 21,229, consisting largely of the annual statutory contributions to the *Gemeenschappelijk Hof van Justitie*, the *Openbaar Ministerie*, the *Raad voor de Rechtshandhaving* and SBIR. Please separate, for each strategic goal, genuine discretionary policy expenditure from statutory obligations the *Land* would owe regardless of any strategic goal, and restate the true policy budget per goal.

Paragraph 5.3.2.2 states that approximately Cg. 34 million, being the entire *materiële kosten* budget, is available to directly support the execution of the strategic policy objectives, while the accompanying breakdown shows Cg. 2,949 for projects and activities and the remainder consisting of detention housing, food, damages, statutory transfers and subsidies. Please reconcile this claim with the breakdown and state the actual amount of discretionary policy funding.

Can the Minister identify every strategic goal that depends upon additional funding, supplementary appropriations or external financing before it can be fully implemented. Please also identify each budget post financed from the Cg. 2,361 in BZK subsidies and the Cg. 1,300 in TWO financing, the conditions attached to disbursement, and the consequence for each post if that financing is delayed, reduced or withheld.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to please provide the approved formation, current staffing level, funded vacancies and unbudgeted vacancies for every department and service within the Ministry.

The staffing table in paragraph 5.3.10 shows 590 FTEs on a total formation of 1,095, an occupancy of 54 percent, with 51 funded vacancies and 451 unbudgeted vacancies. Per service: the Landsrecherche stands at 26 percent (11 of 42), the Meldpunt Ongebruikelijke Transacties at 18 percent (7 of 40), the Gevangenis en Huis van Bewaring at 39 percent (90 of 230), the Douane at 44 percent (32 of 72) and the Stafbureau at 33 percent (13 of 40). Please explain,

per service, how statutory tasks are currently being executed at these staffing levels, and the operational and legal risks the Land is accepting in each case.

Please explain the methodology used to determine that only 51 of the 502 open positions would be funded in 2026, who took that decision, and how is this vacancy ceiling consistent with the chapter's own statement that the current ceiling does not provide the minimum capacity required to meet policy and compliance obligations.

Please identify every statutory function currently dependent upon consultants, temporary personnel or external service providers due to shortages of permanent staff, indicating per function the annual cost, duration and knowledge transfer arrangements.

Can the Minister please provide a comprehensive overview of all vacancies and recruitment procedures currently being processed by the Department of Personnel and Organization (P&O) on behalf of the Ministry. For each recruitment procedure, please indicate: (a) the department requesting the recruitment; (b) the title and salary scale of the position; (c) the date the request was submitted to P&O; (d) the current stage of the recruitment process; (e) the number of calendar days the recruitment has been pending; (f) the principal reason for any delay; (g) whether the delay is attributable to P&O, the Ministry or another entity; (h) the anticipated completion date and the anticipated date the successful candidate will assume duty.

In addition, please indicate how many candidates withdrew from recruitment procedures or declined appointment during 2025 and 2026 to date because of delays in the appointment process, broken down by department.

And please explain what contingency measures the Ministry has developed should critical vacancies remain unfilled during 2026 and how continuity of essential justice services will be ensured under those circumstances.

The faction notes that programme 1 of Goal 3 states that phase 1 would be completed by issuing all placement decisions (*plaatsingsbesluiten*) for the entire Ministry of Justice by 31 December 2025. That deadline has passed. Please state whether it was met, the number of placement decisions issued and the number outstanding per service, and the completion date for the remainder.

The same programme budgets approximately Cg. 5,000 for retroactive salary payments to justice workers covering the period 10 October 2010 through 31 December 2022. Please state the Ministry's total estimated retroactive liability across this period, how the amount of Cg. 5,000 was derived, the number of employees entitled, the payment schedule for 2026, and the consequences if the actual liability exceeds the budgeted amount.

Please state how the obligations under the CCSU Memorandum of Understanding are being tracked and reported, and reconcile the intended result that sufficient budget exists to cover the full functieboek of Cg. 79,808 with an occupancy of 54 percent rising to at most 59 percent in 2026.

Please explain how the Ministry determined the operational priorities of the Police Force for 2026 and identify the data, crime trends or risk assessments upon which those priorities are based.

Please provide the authorized strength, current staffing level, funded vacancies and unbudgeted vacancies for the Uniform Division, the Detective Division, the Traffic Department, Community Police, Special Units and Management, and explain the methodology used to allocate personnel between these functions. KPSM stands at 61 percent (211 of 344) with 6 funded vacancies against 127 unbudgeted; please explain how this allocation was determined.

Can the Minister identify the five largest investigative backlogs currently affecting the Police Force, the principal causes, the measures adopted to reduce them, and the expected improvements during 2026.

Please identify the Ministry's measurable performance indicators for policing during 2026, including targets for response times, case clearance rates, violent crime, property crime, community policing and investigative capacity.

Can the Minister identify every policing initiative announced during 2025 that remains unimplemented and indicate whether implementation has been incorporated into the 2026 Budget.

The faction would like to know if the Ministry of Justice can identify specific locations on the island as high-traffic tourism corridors for traffic monitoring and enforcement purposes? If so, please state which locations are currently recognized as such, and whether Maho, Mullet Bay, Simpson Bay and the Philipsburg cruise port corridor are considered priority enforcement areas.

Please state how many officers within the Police Force are assigned to traffic enforcement duties, how many of these are actively deployed in field enforcement operations, and whether dedicated traffic enforcement operations are conducted during peak tourism periods or high visitor volume days.

Please provide an overview of the number of traffic citations issued annually over the past three years for traffic obstruction, illegal stopping or unsafe passenger loading activities.

Please state how many companies are currently licensed or authorized to operate organized tour bus services on the public roads of Sint Maarten, whether regulations exist governing the size or type of buses permitted to operate within certain road networks or tourism zones, whether tour bus operators are required to follow designated passenger loading and unloading locations, and how compliance with such requirements is monitored.

Does the Ministry of Justice coordinate with the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure and the Ministry of the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication regarding traffic management in areas heavily influenced by tourism activity? If so, please describe the policies, working groups or strategic plans in place to manage increasing traffic volumes associated with tourism transportation services.

Has Government evaluated the need for designated bus loading areas, structured pick-up zones or other traffic management measures in major tourism locations, and are there plans under consideration to introduce such measures to improve traffic flow and safety in heavily visited areas? Has the Ministry of Justice conducted a formal risk assessment relating to the operation of large commercial passenger vehicles, including tour buses, in congested tourism areas where passenger loading or unloading occurs on or adjacent to active traffic lanes? If so, please indicate the specific traffic safety concerns or operational risks identified. If not, does the Ministry intend to undertake such a review, and by when?

Please provide the number of applications currently pending for residence permits, work permits, extensions, renewals, change of employer requests and other immigration services, and per category the statutory

processing period, the average processing time in 2025, the current average processing time and the 2026 target.

Can the Minister identify the oldest outstanding immigration application in each category and explain the principal reason for the delay.

Please provide the Ministry's measurable performance indicators for immigration enforcement, including employer inspections, overstayer enforcement, removals, permit processing and border enforcement activities.

The National Targeting Center is budgeted at Cg. 3,000 in 2026 within a stated total implementation cost of approximately Cg. 9,000, and the chapter describes the processing of Advanced Passenger Information, Passenger Name Records and biometric data through a selected multinational information technology company. Please state: (a) the legal basis for the collection and processing of API, PNR and biometric data of travellers; (b) how compliance with the Landsverordening bescherming persoonsgegevens will be ensured, including retention periods and oversight; (c) how the information technology company was or will be selected, and the procurement method; (d) the implementation milestones for 2026 and the full multi-year cost and funding source; (e) how the IBPS, staffed at 63 percent, will operate this capability.

The faction mentions that the acquisition of UNCTAD ASYCUDA for Customs is budgeted at Cg. 1,000 in 2026. Please provide the implementation timeline, the total cost of ownership, and an explanation of how Customs, staffed at 44 percent (32 of 72), will implement and operate this system.

Please provide the official detention capacity, current occupancy, average occupancy during 2025 and projected occupancy during 2026, per facility.

The post *Specifieke Kosten Orde en Rust* includes Cg. 3,153 as the annual compensation for housing detainees in the Netherlands and Curaçao. Please state the number of detainees currently held abroad, the cost per detainee per year, the legal and contractual basis, and the plan and date for their return once the new facility is available.

Programme 1 of Goal 6 concerns the completion of the Point Blanche prison rebuild with UNOPS, with capital referenced only under 2024 and 2025 and no capital budgeted for 2026. Please provide the total project cost, the expenditure to date, the terms of the UNOPS agreement, the current

construction status, the completion date, and an explanation of how a rebuild with zero 2026 capital remains on schedule.

The *Gevangenis en Huis van Bewaring* stands at 39 percent staffing (90 of 230) with 131 unbudgeted vacancies, while overtime at cost centre 5203 rises 50 percent explicitly for the prison project. Please provide the recruitment plan aligned to the new functieboek, confirm whether minimum safe staffing levels per shift are currently met, and provide the performance indicators for rehabilitation programmes, recidivism reduction, inmate safety and staff safety.

Programme 4 of Goal 6 budgets Cg 50 for the introduction of alternative sentencing, including community service and electronic monitoring. Please state the legislative and regulatory steps required, their status and timeline, and the realistic scope of what Cg 50 will deliver in 2026. Please also provide the status, legal framework and current balance of the Crime Fund, whose reorganization is budgeted at Cg. 25. The budget of the Meldpunt Ongebruikelijke Transacties falls 44 percent from Cg. 3,136 to Cg. 1,743, and the MOT is staffed at 18 percent (7 of 40), while the chapter announces strengthening of the FIU, the establishment of the national AML/CFT committee under *Landspakket* measure B14, and warns in its own words of categorical blacklisting risks in view of the CFATF fourth round mutual evaluation. Please reconcile the 44 percent budget cut with these commitments, state the timeline of the CFATF evaluation, and identify the specific deficiencies from the evaluation that remain open.

For the annual contributions to the *Gemeenschappelijk Hof van Justitie, the Openbaar Ministerie and the Parket van de Procureur-Generaal*, please state the legal basis and calculation method of each contribution, whether any arrears exist, and what performance information, annual accounts or reports the Ministry receives and reviews in return. Programme 7 of Goal 4 states that the *Raad voor de Rechtshandhaving* will be commissioned to conduct inspections and that timely implementation of recommendations will be ensured. Please list the inspections commissioned or planned for 2026 and provide the current implementation status of the recommendations from each RvdR report issued since 2020.

The faction notes that the budget of the *Voogdijraad* rises 20 percent to Cg. 2,236, including an increase of 127 percent to Cg. 500 for youth care allowances, described as the minimum estimated to guarantee adequate care

for these children. Please state the number of children in foster care and under guardianship supervision, the allowance per child, the standard of care this minimum provides, and what an adequate rather than minimum level would cost.

Please provide one consolidated overview of the Ministry's justice-chain ICT expenditure, including the annual SBIR contribution of Cg. 1,564, the reimplementation of the SBIR software suite, the Mendix low code platform (Cg 100), the justice intranet, and the Justice Backbone Fiber Network with Cg 1,300 in 2026 capital, stating per item the purpose, total multi-year cost, implementation status and responsible service.

Please provide an overview of all legislative initiatives for which the Ministry of Justice is responsible during 2026, including the BIBOB legislation underlying the screening authority for which Cg. 1,500 in capital is budgeted, indicating per initiative the current status, the drafting capacity assigned, the expected date of submission to Parliament and the principal implementation risks. Please also identify every legislative modernization initiative announced during 2025 that has not been completed, with the reasons.

The faction indicates that the chapter states that Sint Maarten has received a Tier III ranking on the US Trafficking in Persons report for the fifth consecutive year, and budgets Cg. 550 in 2026 capital for the National Reporting Center against human trafficking and human smuggling. Please provide the concrete milestones for the NRC in 2026, its staffing and location, the status of its registration as a public foundation, the date it will be operational, and the implementation status of the recommendations of the *Raad voor de Rechtshandhaving* report on trafficking cited in the chapter.

For every strategic goal, please provide the 2025 baseline, the 2026 target, the performance indicator, the measurement methodology and the reporting frequency.

Please distinguish which strategic goals are measured through outcome indicators, output indicators or activity indicators. Where only activity indicators are used, please explain how Parliament can objectively determine whether the intended policy outcome has been achieved, and explain how the Ministry evaluates whether improvements in public safety result from Ministry policies rather than external factors.

Please indicate whether quarterly performance reports will be produced for the strategic goals and made available to Parliament, and explain the methodology for determining at the conclusion of 2026 whether each strategic goal has been achieved.

Please identify the ten greatest implementation risks affecting delivery of the Ministry's strategic goals during 2026, indicating for each the likelihood, expected impact, mitigation measures and responsible department.

Please identify every strategic goal that the Ministry considers to be at high risk of non-achievement during 2026 and explain why it nevertheless remains a strategic priority, noting that the Ministry's own risk table scores Goal 4 at likelihood 3 and impact 5.

Please explain the governance structure through which implementation of the strategic goals is monitored, the officials responsible for oversight, and the corrective measures that will be implemented where evaluations indicate that a goal is unlikely to be achieved.

Can the Minister identify any significant legal proceedings, constitutional challenges, international obligations or Kingdom obligations that may materially affect implementation during 2026, and every strategic goal whose implementation depends upon another Ministry, public entity or external organization, with an explanation of how those dependencies are managed.

Please reconcile or correct the following items in the Ministry's chapter: paragraph 5.3.10 states 593 FTEs while its own table totals 590; the same paragraph states total personnel costs of Cg 79,752 while paragraph 5.3.2.1 states Cg 79,808; the differences table contains a row (5310.439, a reduction of 59 percent) whose states reason consists of a single period, for which the justification is missing; training expenditure at 5110.415 is cut 61 percent citing austerity while every strategic goal announces training programmes; and the risk table refers to Goal 6 as modernising van recidive, a title that does not match the chapter.

Please provide, for the Minister's three most recent official trips, per trip: the destination, purpose, duration, the composition and size of the delegation, the total travel expenses incurred including airfare, accommodation, per diems and incidentals, and the deliverables achieved.

The faction would like to know if there are any projects, policy initiatives, staffing shortages, procurement issues, legal matters, inter-ministerial dependencies or financial risks not specifically addressed in the foregoing questions that, in the opinion of the Minister, may reasonably affect the Ministry's ability to achieve the objectives contained in the 2026 Budget? If so, please provide full particulars.

Please provide a consolidated Policy-to-Performance Matrix for each strategic goal indicating: (a) the strategic goal; (b) the policy rationale; (c) the supporting budget allocations; (d) the responsible departments; (e) the measurable performance indicators; (f) the 2025 baseline; (g) the 2026 target; (h) the principal implementation risks; (i) the accountable official.

Concerning the Miss Lalie Center, the faction would like the Minister to please state whether the facility is currently functioning in accordance with its mandate as a youth rehabilitation and detention facility. Please provide the current occupancy against capacity, the average length of stay from intake to release over 2024 and 2025, the reintegration outcomes of youths released in that period, and confirmation that residents are receiving the level of education legally required for their age group, including the number of instruction hours provided per week, the qualifications of the educators, and how educational continuity with the regular school system is safeguarded upon release. If the facility is not functioning in accordance with its mandate, please state the deficiencies and the corrective measures planned for 2026, with their budget and timeline.

The faction would like a complete inventory of the operational equipment of the Korps Politie Sint Maarten, including ballistic vests, service weapons, ammunition, radios, vehicles and other operational protective equipment. For each category, indicate the quantity in service, the quantity beyond its recommended service life or expiration date, and the quantity currently unserviceable or awaiting repair.

Can the Minister state how many ballistic vests currently issued to operational police officers have exceeded the manufacturer's recommended service life or expiration date, since when this has been the case, the replacement schedule for these vests, and the anticipated date by which all operational officers will be equipped with compliant protective equipment.

Please detail the total 2026 budget allocated to the replacement and maintenance of operational police equipment, identifying the relevant budget posts, the planned procurement schedule, the official responsible for monitoring equipment replacement cycles, and whether a legal or operational risk assessment has been conducted regarding the continued use of expired protective equipment. If such an assessment has been conducted, summarize its conclusions.

Please provide the current condition assessment of all Korps Politie Sint Maarten facilities, including police stations, substations and holding facilities. For each facility, indicate the outstanding maintenance deficiencies, the date of the most recent technical inspection, and whether the facility complies with applicable occupational health and safety requirements.

The faction would like the Minister to outline the total 2026 budget allocated to the maintenance and rehabilitation of Korps Politie Sint Maarten facilities, identifying the relevant budget posts, the maintenance works scheduled for 2026, their anticipated commencement and completion dates, and the methodology used to prioritize these works.

The faction states that the Ministry has indicated that Phase II of the placement process for Justice personnel is expected to commence. Has the full financial impact of Phase II, including salary adjustments, allowances, employer contributions and other related personnel costs, been fully incorporated into the 2026 Budget, and is the allocated funding sufficient to complete the process without requiring supplementary appropriations?.

The 2026 Budget reflects increases in the salary-related allocations for several Ministers. Could Government explain the basis for these increases, indicate whether they result from salary adjustments, indexation, allowances or other personnel-related costs, and identify the legal or policy basis upon which these adjustments are founded? Given the significant decline in staffing within the Department of Judicial Affairs, how does the Ministry expect the department to effectively carry out its statutory responsibilities at its current staffing level?

Has the Ministry allocated sufficient funding within the 2026 Budget to recruit and appoint the additional personnel required to restore the Department of Judicial Affairs to an adequate staffing level?

The faction continues and would like to know if the Ministry has assessed whether the current salary scales and employment conditions within the Department of Judicial Affairs are sufficiently competitive to attract and retain qualified professionals, and if so, what conclusions were reached?

The Court of Guardianship has repeatedly identified the replacement of its vehicle fleet as an operational necessity. Why has no funding been included within the 2026 Budget for the acquisition of replacement vehicles?. The Budget reflects a significant reduction in the allocation for vehicle maintenance. What assessment led the Ministry to conclude that a reduced maintenance budget is appropriate despite the continued use of an aging vehicle fleet?

Has the Ministry conducted a cost-benefit analysis comparing the continued maintenance of the Court of Guardianship's existing vehicles with their replacement, and if so, how did that analysis influence the decisions reflected in the 2026 Budget?

What measures has the Ministry included in the 2026 Budget to ensure that the Court of Guardianship can continue to carry out its statutory responsibilities should additional vehicle failures occur?

The faction continues and would like to know if the Minister believes the justice system is currently strong enough to deter serious crime, or only strong enough to react after the fact?

Which is the bigger threat to public safety: lack of personnel, lack of equipment, weak laws, or weak leadership? Does the Minister believe the public still has confidence in law enforcement, and what does Minister think has most damaged that confidence?

Should Sint Maarten invest more in rehabilitation, or should the emphasis remain on punishment and detention? What is the Minister's view on electronic monitoring and alternative sentencing for certain offenders? Does the Minister believe the current prison situation is a human rights problem, a security problem, or a management problem?

Which crime issue does the Minister believe Government is underestimating the most: gun violence, money laundering, illegal immigration, or youth crime?

Does the Minister believe border control is being modernized for national security, revenue generation, or convenience for travelers? Should immigration policy be stricter, more flexible for economic needs, or better enforced under the existing rules?

Does the Minister believe Sint Maarten is doing enough to prevent young people from entering the justice system before they become offenders?

Is the proposed \$20 ED-card fee an official Government revenue measure or only a concept? What legal amendments are needed for the ED-card fee, and when will Parliament receive them? Will the ED-card fee apply to all passengers, only visitors, or also residents? What exemptions will apply to the ED-card fee? What is the projected net revenue from the ED-card fee after platform, vendor, banking, compliance, and enforcement costs?

What legal opinion supports the ED-card fee? What will be the impact of the ED-card fee on the visitor experience? What is the expected start date for the ED-card fee? How will the ED-card fee relate to tourist tax, so visitors are not double-charged without a clear policy?

If the ED-card fee can potentially generate approximately Cg. 22.6 million annually, why is that revenue not clearly reflected in the 2026 budget?

What revenue recovery is expected from ASYCUDA in 2026, 2027, and 2028? What Customs and excise revenue gain is expected from ASYCUDA? What revenue baseline will be used to measure ASYCUDA results? What are the implementation milestones for ASYCUDA? What Customs staffing plan is attached to ASYCUDA?

What anti-smuggling enforcement plan is attached to ASYCUDA?

Which ministry is responsible for ASYCUDA implementation: the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, or a joint steering committee?

How will Justice and Finance jointly manage customs modernization and revenue collection?

Can Government provide all onderlinge regelingen signed in 2023, 2024, and 2025? Can this be provided not only for Justice, but for all ministries? Can Government provide the date signed, parties involved, purpose, financial

obligations, duration, and legal basis for each regeling? Can Parliament receive a full overview before approving the budget?

The faction continues and queries what is the status of the national decrees, the LBs, for Justice workers? How many LBs are completed? How many LBs remain pending? What categories of workers are affected? What is the timeline for completion? What is the financial impact?

Is the required funding included in the 2026 budget? If not, where will the money come from? How many workers are still waiting for formal placement, correction, or payment? What is the status of life insurance for Justice workers?

Justice spending continues to increase, but what will the public actually see? Will there be more police on the road? Will response times improve? Will investigations move faster? Will the prison situation improve? Will border control improve?

The faction continues and would like to know how many vacancies exist in Justice. How many Justice vacancies will be filled in 2026? What service improvements justify the 11% increase in Justice personnel costs?

When will detention costs outside Sint Maarten decrease as a result of prison investments? How will the prison project reduce the annual cost of housing detainees outside Sint Maarten, and when will that reduction begin? What is the cost of continuing to send detainees abroad?

What is the timeline to reduce that cost? How will the NTC and ASYCUDA investments be managed, including privacy safeguards, project governance, and recurring costs?

Will Government provide the status list of all pending LBs for Justice workers? Will Government provide the cost estimate for resolving Justice worker placement and payment issues?

Will Government provide accidental insurance policies for Justice and emergency workers?

What is the Ministry's policy when a foreign national is the subject of an active criminal investigation and is also eligible for deportation? Which process takes priority? What protocols are in place between the Police Force, the

Prosecutor's Office, and Immigration to ensure that individuals under criminal investigation are not deported before investigations are completed?

If a foreign national is under investigation for a serious criminal offence, can that individual be deported before the investigation or court proceedings are concluded? If so, under what circumstances? What measures are in place to prevent suspects or key witnesses in serious criminal cases from leaving or being removed from the country before legal proceedings are completed?

How are cases handled where a foreign national is under investigation for causing a fatal traffic accident but has not yet been formally charged?

The faction would like to know, over the past five years, how many individuals were deported while they were still the subject of an active criminal investigation or pending criminal proceedings. In cases where deportation was carried out before criminal proceedings were concluded, what factors were considered in deciding to prioritize deportation?

Under what circumstances does the Ministry determine that deportation should take priority over the completion of a criminal investigation or prosecution?

The faction has questions for the Ministry of Justice and would like to know what is the current status of all the national decrees for the justice workers. How many more are pending and can we receive a full overview of said decrees? Regarding the life insurance, life/risk insurance, what is the current status of it and how can we as Parliament assist to expedite such? Where it is budgeted for 2026 for us to restart that program.

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport

The faction has the following questions as it related this draft and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

The faction notes that the government committed to a structured long term school feeding program, with interim breakfast support through the Division of Public Education. The 2026 budget contains no dedicated school feeding line, only a homelessness meals pilot covering seventy-five persons.

Where is the structured school feeding program funded in 2026, and what is the interim breakfast budget?

A one cent per liter fuel levy for sports development was committed, alongside exploration of a sports and culture lottery or subsidy fund and a ministerial reserve. The faction indicates that no dedicated sports fuel levy fund appears in the budget, and the School Sports Program shows Cg. 131,000 budgeted with nothing spent in the first quarter. Is the fuel levy legislation enacted, and which of the promised sports and culture funds are financed in 2026?

The government committed to higher education regulations, agreed USM funding and tuition rules, an associate degree, accreditation, and an updated strategic and revenue plan. The law faculty project is budgeted at Cg. 770,000 with nothing spent in the first quarter, and the Strategic Education Alliance at Cg. 572,000 with Cg. 263,000 spent. What is USM's 2026 funding envelope, and why was none of the Cg. 770,000 spent in the first quarter?

A review of the education function book, including compensation and competitiveness, was promised. The Teacher Recruitment and Retraining project shows Cg. 200,000 budgeted with nothing spent in the first quarter. Is the function book revised, and what compensation adjustment is funded in 2026?

The faction continues and notes that the government committed to reforms in primary and secondary education and the transition between them. The Reforms in Secondary Education project shows Cg. 100,000 budgeted with nothing spent in the first quarter. What reforms are funded, and on what timeline given zero first quarter execution?

The government committed to reviewing the lump sum funding model and engaging SOAB to audit noncompliant boards. The first quarter report warns that education subsidy overruns will continue without further measures, and education is roughly seventy percent of the Cg. 109 million subsidy line. What did the funding model review conclude, and what measure is applied in 2026 to contain those overruns?

Implementation of the Special Needs Education Policy was committed, including legislation, teacher training, infrastructure, assistive technology, individualized education plans and transparent funding. The faction is of the

opinion that no distinct implementation line is identifiable in the budget. What is budgeted for special needs implementation in 2026, broken down by component?

The government committed to assisting students affected by United States visa and Florida scholarship issues, raised the Monroe scholarship from 2,500 to 4,000 dollars per semester, and pursued new memoranda of understanding. The study financing database upgrade shows Cg. 50,000 budgeted with Cg. 1,000 spent in the first quarter. What is the total 2026 study financing budget, and how many affected students received the promised assistance?

The Education Supervision Ordinance was to be presented in the third quarter of 2025, covering accountability, performance, nondiscrimination and hair discrimination rules. Is it enacted, and if delayed, what is the new date?

The faction notes that the school bus cameras, audio and GPS monitoring were to be fully implemented in the upcoming school year, with a possible incident hotline. Is monitoring fully implemented, and is the hotline established?

A national artificial intelligence education policy was to begin, with the NIEP project introduced to schools in the third quarter of 2025. Is the policy drafted, and has NIEP been rolled out?

The Council for Labor and Education was to be established and the study financing priority list overhauled. Is the Council operational, and has the priority list been revised?

The Dame Ruby National Short Story Contest scheduled, and will it recur in 2026 with funding?

The faction also mentions that a youth mainstreaming strategy and action plan were promised, with youth participation embedded in government operations. Is the strategy adopted?

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise. The faction would like a the Minister to provide a matrix identifying every strategic objective contained in the Ministry's 2026 Budget together with the corresponding budget allocation, responsible

department, responsible senior official, performance indicators, baseline, annual target and reporting frequency.

The faction would also like the Ministry to identify every major policy, project or legislative initiative announced publicly since assuming office that has not yet progressed beyond the planning stage, and explain the principal factors contributing to the delay.

Please provide the Ministry's complete implementation calendar for 2026 identifying all major policy, legislative, procurement and operational milestones by quarter.

Identify every policy initiative, programme or project currently assessed by the Ministry as at high risk of delay, non-completion or non-achievement during 2026, together with the reasons for that assessment, the approved mitigation strategy and the corrective measures being implemented for each.

Can the Minister provide the Ministry's legislative agenda for 2026, indicating for each proposed legislative amendment the drafting status, consultation status, Council of Ministers status, expected submission to Parliament and expected implementation date?

Provide the Ministry's current strategic risk register for 2026 identifying the principal strategic, financial, operational, legal, staffing, procurement and implementation risks affecting delivery of the Ministry's objectives, together with the approved mitigation measures for each.

Please provide Parliament with the Ministry's internal performance dashboard or equivalent management reporting system currently used by senior management to monitor implementation of strategic priorities, and describe the Ministry's internal reporting structure for project management, monitoring and evaluation.

Can the Minister please provide the current implementation status of all Cabinet decisions relating to ECYS since the Minister assumed office?

Can the Minister please identify every project currently dependent upon external financing, donor funding or Kingdom support, indicating the funding source, value, implementation status and remaining financing gap?

The faction would like the Minister to provide the implementation status of every commitment made by the Minister to Parliament since assuming office, including commitments made during budget debates, Central Committee meetings, public meetings and written parliamentary responses.

In addition, please identify every parliamentary motion adopted relating to ECYS since October 2024 and provide the implementation status of each.

Provide an update on the implementation of Parliament's motion concerning hair discrimination within educational institutions, including policy development, consultations conducted, implementation timetable, schools covered, complaint mechanism and monitoring framework.

Please identify every parliamentary recommendation that remains outstanding together with the anticipated completion date.

Provide the Ministry's protocol for monitoring implementation of parliamentary commitments and identifying overdue actions.

Confirm whether all written responses previously provided to Parliament remain accurate and current. Where circumstances have changed, identify those changes and provide updated information.

Provide a complete policy-to-budget matrix identifying every strategic objective in Budget 2026 and the corresponding budget line financing its implementation.

Explain the methodology used to determine the Ministry's 2026 budget priorities and describe how competing priorities were evaluated and ranked.

Can the Minister provide a comparison of 2024 actual expenditure, the 2025 approved budget, 2025 projected expenditure and the 2026 approved budget for every major ECYS programme?

Identify all programmes budgeted in 2025 that were not completed, delayed or carried forward into 2026, including reasons and revised implementation schedules.

Please provide all audit findings, internal control findings and outstanding recommendations affecting ECYS since January 2023 together with

implementation status. Identify every programme that has experienced cost overruns, under-expenditure or significant delays during 2024 to 2026.

Please provide a breakdown of the 2026 ECYS budget showing allocations for administration, personnel, school operations, subsidies, infrastructure, teacher development, learning materials, student support, culture, youth, sports, ICT and policy development. Explain also the note in paragraph 5.4.1 that the Kabinet allocation had previously been increased to cover possible *wachtgeld* severance costs for the former cabinet, stating the amounts involved and their current disposition.

The faction mentions that the subsidies line of the Ministry amounts to Cg. 75,007 in 2026, approximately 60 percent of the Ministry's total budget of Cg. 125,970, and falls 3 percent against 2025. Please set out the subsidies per school board and per subsidized organization, the legal basis and performance agreements attached to each, confirmation that accountability reports for 2024 and 2025 were received and approved per recipient, and an explanation of how a declining subsidy line is consistent with the reform agenda the subsidized boards are expected to implement.

Please identify all programmes for which no measurable KPI, baseline or annual target has been established, and explain how the Ministry intends to evaluate their effectiveness.

Please provide a matrix reconciling every recommendation arising from the FBE Evaluation and the State of Education Reports with the corresponding budget allocation, responsible department, implementation timetable and expected outcome, and explain how Budget 2026 incorporates the recommendations of the FBE Evaluation, the State of Education Reports, the Governing Programme and the National Development Vision.

Please provide the approved organizational establishment for the Ministry together with current staffing, vacancies, vacancy rate and funded versus unfunded positions for every department, reconciling these with the staffing table in paragraph 5.4.19 (281 filled of a formation of 347, with 16 funded vacancies and 52 unbudgeted positions).

The faction would like the Minister to state the number of acting Secretaries-General, acting Department Heads and acting Division Heads

currently serving within the Ministry, indicating the duration of each acting appointment and the anticipated date of permanent appointment.

Please provide the Ministry's workforce turnover statistics for the period 2023 to 2026, including resignations, retirements, transfers, dismissals and recruitment, explain the principal causes of turnover identified through exit interviews or internal assessments, and outline the measures being implemented to improve staff retention.

Please identify all critical vacancies currently affecting implementation of Ministry priorities, explain the operational impact of those vacancies, and provide the Ministry's recruitment timetable for filling all critical vacancies during 2026.

The faction would also like the Minister to provide the Ministry's workforce development strategy, including succession planning for senior management, policy officers, inspectors and specialist educational personnel.

Paragraph 5.4.19 shows the *Dienst Inspectie OCJS* at 50 percent capacity, the *Dienst Onderwijsinnovaties* at 42 percent, the *Afdeling Cultuur* at 44 percent, the *Afdeling Jeugd* at 50 percent and the *Dienst Studiefinanciering* at 50 percent, while the accompanying text states that *Onderwijsinnovaties* carries 19 unbudgeted positions and the table shows 10. Please reconcile the text with the table, and explain how each of these departments is expected to deliver its strategic objectives during 2026 at these staffing levels, given the chapter's own warning that innovation, quality assurance and public education programmes risk delay or loss of effectiveness.

Identify the principal operational risks arising from prolonged vacancies and acting appointments, together with the approved mitigation measures.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to provide the complete evidence base upon which the Ministry concludes that Foundation Based Education remains the appropriate educational framework for Sint Maarten, including all evaluations, research studies, benchmarking exercises, performance analyses and stakeholder consultations conducted since its implementation.

Has the Ministry conducted a formal options analysis comparing continuation of the current Foundation Based Education model, substantial

reform of the current model, and replacement with an alternative educational framework? If so, provide the complete analysis, including the methodology used, options considered, evaluation criteria, stakeholder input, conclusions reached and any decisions taken by the Council of Ministers. If not, explain why no such analysis has been undertaken following completion of the 2025 FBE Evaluation.

State the original policy objectives of Foundation Based Education and identify the measurable performance indicators that were adopted at the time of its introduction to determine whether those objectives had been achieved.

Please provide the implementation timeline of Foundation Based Education from its introduction to the present, identifying each major implementation phase, the responsible department and the total public expenditure incurred.

The faction would also like the Minister to identify all internal reviews, external evaluations, consultant reports and independent assessments conducted on Foundation Based Education since its implementation, indicating which recommendations have been fully implemented, partially implemented or remain outstanding.

Please provide the Ministry's current governance structure for Foundation Based Education, identifying the departments, committees and officials responsible for curriculum development, implementation, teacher support, monitoring and evaluation.

Please state whether Cabinet has formally approved a long-term policy position regarding the future of Foundation Based Education following completion of the 2025 Evaluation and provide the relevant decision or policy document.

Provide a complete implementation matrix for every recommendation contained in the 2025 Foundation Based Education Evaluation, identifying the responsible department, implementation status, budget allocation, commencement date, completion date and performance indicators, and indicate which recommendations will be implemented during 2026 and which have been deferred, including the reasons for any deferral.

Please provide the Ministry's implementation timetable for all outstanding FBE reforms over the period 2026 to 2029, explain how implementation priorities were determined, and identify the criteria used to sequence reforms.

Can the Minister identify all FBE reform activities that currently lack dedicated funding and explain how implementation will proceed in the absence of specific budget allocations?

Please provide annual student performance data from the introduction of Foundation Based Education to 2026 for literacy, reading fluency, writing, numeracy, mathematics, promotion rates, repetition rates, dropout rates and secondary school placement.

Can the Minister explain the methodology used by the Ministry to determine whether Foundation Based Education has improved educational outcomes compared with the educational model it replaced, provide all baseline data used to evaluate its long-term effectiveness, and explain how current outcomes compare with those baselines.

Please identify which educational outcomes have demonstrated statistically significant improvement since implementation of Foundation Based Education and provide the supporting evidence.

Identify which educational outcomes have not improved or have deteriorated since implementation of Foundation Based Education and explain the Ministry's assessment of the contributing factors.

Please provide the number of teachers currently teaching under Foundation Based Education and indicate how many have completed initial FBE training, refresher training, differentiated instruction training, assessment training, literacy instruction training and numeracy training.

Can the Minister state how many teachers currently require additional Foundation Based Education training and provide the Ministry's timetable for addressing those training needs?

Explain how the Ministry assesses teacher competency in implementing Foundation Based Education and identify the performance standards currently applied.

Provide the Ministry's assessment of the principal implementation challenges identified by teachers during the FBE Evaluation and indicate which have been addressed.

Please identify the measures budgeted for 2026 to strengthen classroom implementation of Foundation Based Education, including mentoring, coaching, teacher assistants and professional development.

The faction continued on FBE and would like to be provided with the implementation status of the revision of the Foundation Based Education curriculum. Please identify which subject curricula have been revised, are under revision or remain unchanged, and provide the Ministry's timetable for reviewing all curriculum guides originally developed during the initial implementation of Foundation Based Education.

Please explain how the revised curriculum addresses the recommendations concerning literacy, numeracy, phonics, reading fluency and mastery of core competencies identified in the Evaluation. State whether the Ministry intends to introduce clearly defined grade-level learning benchmarks for every subject and provide the implementation timetable.. Explain how teachers, school leaders, curriculum specialists and other education stakeholders are being involved in curriculum revision.

Please explain the methodology used to determine whether EGRA, EGMA and the Foundation Based Education Exit Examination are fully aligned with the current curriculum.

The faction would like to know whether the Ministry has commissioned an independent psychometric validation of the Foundation Based Education Exit Examination and please provide the findings.

Please provide the implementation plan for revising the Foundation Based Education Exit Examination in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Evaluation.

Identify the budget allocations supporting the review, development, and validation of national student assessments during 2026.

Explain how classroom assessment, EGRA, EGMA and the Exit Examination will be aligned to ensure that students are assessed against the

knowledge and competencies prescribed in the revised curriculum. The faction would like to be provided with the Ministry's assessment of the extent to which classroom infrastructure, class size, learning materials and available teaching resources support effective implementation of Foundation Based Education. The faction would also like the Minister to state whether the Ministry has assessed whether current classroom layouts adequately support differentiated instruction and learning centres as envisaged under Foundation Based Education.

The faction continues and would like to be provided with the Ministry's assessment of the adequacy of teacher assistants within the public education system and identify the number of additional classroom support personnel required to fully implement Foundation Based Education.

The faction would like the Minister to explain how the Ministry intends to address identified shortages in classroom resources that affect implementation of Foundation Based Education.

Please provide the monitoring framework currently used to evaluate implementation of Foundation Based Education, including reporting frequency, responsible officials and performance indicators.

Please identify the role of the Inspectorate of Education in monitoring implementation of Foundation Based Education and explain how inspection findings influence policy adjustments.

Please provide the Ministry's process for reviewing and responding to concerns raised by teachers, school management, parents and other stakeholders regarding Foundation Based Education.

Can the Minister explain how the Ministry determines whether implementation challenges arise primarily from curriculum design, teacher preparedness, classroom resources, school leadership or broader systemic issues?

Explain which components of Foundation Based Education the Ministry considers demonstrably successful, which require substantial reform and which are no longer considered appropriate, together with the evidence supporting each determination. What objective performance criteria will the Ministry use to determine whether the current Foundation Based Education model should

continue, be fundamentally redesigned or be replaced by an alternative educational framework?

Provide the approved and actual establishment for teachers, school management, teacher assistants and specialist educational staff by school, indicating vacancies, acting appointments and projected retirements.

Please provide the Ministry's teacher recruitment and retention strategy, including measurable targets for reducing vacancies and improving workforce stability during 2026 to 2029, and explain how the Ministry intends to strengthen teacher morale, reduce burnout and improve retention within the public education system.

State the annual teacher turnover rate for the period 2022 to 2026, identifying resignations, retirements, transfers and long-term absences, together with the principal reasons identified through exit interviews or workforce assessments.

Provide a breakdown of all teacher professional development programmes budgeted for 2026, indicating the budget allocation, target participants, expected competencies and evaluation methodology for each programme.

Please explain how the Ministry measures whether professional development programmes result in improved classroom practice and student learning outcomes.

Can the Minister provide the Ministry's policy regarding scholarships for exceptionally talented students in academics, sports and the creative arts, including eligibility criteria, annual budget, number of awards granted during the past five years and any planned expansion of the programme?

The faction notes that the *Dienst Studiefinanciering* budget rises 11 percent to Cg. 4,377, including Cg. 420 in higher study grants, alongside Cg. 3,625 for access to further education. State the total outstanding study financing loan portfolio, the repayment amounts billed and collected in 2023 through 2025, the arrears and their age profile, the amounts written off, the measures budgeted in 2026 to improve recovery, and the projected additional revenue from improved collection.

Provide the implementation status of the proposed policy concerning Dutch as the language of instruction, including the evidence supporting the proposal, consultation process, implementation timetable, estimated financial implications and expected impact on student learning outcomes.

State whether the Ministry has conducted an assessment of teacher workload under Foundation Based Education and explain how that assessment has informed staffing, classroom support and teacher well-being policies.

Provide the Ministry's long-term workforce strategy identifying projected teacher demand, anticipated shortages by subject area and the measures planned to ensure a sustainable supply of qualified teachers over the next five years.

Provide the current condition assessment for every public school building, identifying urgent repairs, estimated costs, priority ranking and expected completion dates. Provide the Ministry's complete preventive maintenance programme for public schools, including annual maintenance schedules, budget allocations and responsible officials, and explain how the Ministry prioritizes school maintenance projects, identifying the criteria used to distinguish between routine maintenance, corrective maintenance and capital investment.

Identify all public schools currently affected by structural deficiencies, roof deterioration, drainage problems, plumbing failures, mold, indoor air quality concerns or other health and safety risks, together with the corrective actions planned for each facility.

Provide a detailed breakdown of all capital allocations for school infrastructure, furniture, equipment and ICT in 2026, identifying the schools that will benefit and the expected educational improvements resulting from those investments.

State whether all public schools are expected to receive the required textbooks, workbooks and instructional materials before the commencement of the 2026-2027 academic year. If not, identify the affected schools and explain the reasons. Please provide the Ministry's textbook procurement and replacement policy, including procurement timelines, replacement cycles, distribution procedures and quality assurance mechanisms.

Please provide the implementation status of the School Transportation Policy, including the approved policy framework, procurement status, implementation timetable, projected beneficiaries and budget allocation.

Please provide the implementation status of the Educational Care Center, including construction or facility readiness, staffing, licensing requirements, operational budget, referral procedures, projected opening date and expected service capacity.

Can the Minister explain how the Ministry measures whether investments in school infrastructure and learning resources improve educational quality, student safety and classroom effectiveness?

Provide the implementation status of the Special Education Policy Roadmap, identifying completed actions, outstanding milestones, budget allocations, responsible departments and expected completion dates. Provide current data on the number of students receiving special education services, students awaiting assessment or placement and the average waiting period for support services.

Provide the staffing establishment and current capacity of the Student Support Services Division, including educational psychologists, counsellors, social workers, speech therapists and other specialists. Explain how the Ministry intends to strengthen early identification and intervention for students with learning disabilities, developmental disorders and behavioural challenges, including the budget allocated for these initiatives.

Provide the implementation status of the Ministry's Artificial Intelligence initiative, including the approved strategy, implementation plan, procurement status, pilot projects, budget allocation, teacher training programme, governance framework and safeguards for student data and privacy.

Provide the organizational structure of the Department of Public Education, the Inspectorate of Education and the Department of Educational Innovation, identifying staffing levels, critical vacancies, current workload and the operational risks associated with existing capacity constraints.

Provide the inspection programme for 2026, including the number of planned school inspections, follow-up inspections, thematic inspections and the methodology used to monitor compliance with educational standards.

Please provide the Ministry's performance framework for the Departments of Public Education, Educational Innovation and the Inspectorate, identifying annual objectives, key performance indicators, reporting obligations and performance evaluation methodology.

Identify every consultancy commissioned by the Ministry since October 2024, indicating the purpose, contract value, procurement method, deliverables, implementation status and justification for engaging external consultants instead of utilizing internal expertise, and state the total number of consultants currently engaged by the Ministry.. Provide the Ministry's governance framework for monitoring strategic projects, identifying project steering committees, reporting arrangements, escalation procedures for delays and the mechanisms used to ensure accountability for implementation, including the roles of senior management, departmental management and project steering committees.

The faction would like to be provided with a complete overview of all government funding allocated to the culture, youth and sports sectors during the period 2022 to 2026, identifying annual subsidies, grants, project funding, beneficiaries and expected outcomes, and itemize the increase of the Afdeling Cultuur budget of 111 percent to Cg. 6,245 in 2026 per project and activity.

Please explain the rationale for the allocation of funds for the proposed indoor culture, youth and sports facilities, including project scope, implementation timetable, total estimated project cost, future financing requirements and expected public benefits.

Please provide the implementation status of all youth, culture and sports policy initiatives announced since the Minister assumed office, identifying measurable outputs achieved, implementation challenges and remaining milestones.

State whether the Ministry has evaluated the effectiveness of existing subsidy programmes for youth organizations, cultural organizations and sports federations, and provide the results of those evaluations.

Provide the Ministry's value-for-money assessment for its major education, youth, culture and sports programmes, identifying which programmes have demonstrated measurable success, which require redesign and which have not achieved their intended outcomes.

Provide a comprehensive list of every programme, project, policy initiative, event and capital investment that the Ministry considers to be fully funded, partially funded or currently unfunded under the 2026 Budget, and identify specifically every education, culture, youth and sports initiative that will not be implemented, will be delayed, or will only be partially implemented during 2026 unless additional funding is secured during this budget debate. For each item identify: (a) the approved budget requirement and the methodology used to calculate it; (b) the amount currently appropriated; (c) the resulting funding shortfall; (d) the expected operational and performance impact; and (e) whether implementation will proceed in full, in part, or be postponed.

The faction would like the Ministry to rank the underfunded and unfunded items identified in the preceding question in the order in which the Ministry would fund them should additional funds become available during this budget debate, stating the amount required per item, and confirm that the Minister will submit this ranked list to Parliament before the plenary handling of the budget.

The Ministry has repeatedly identified insufficient financial resources as a constraint affecting implementation. Outline every formal proposal, budget submission, policy memorandum or request submitted by the Minister to the Council of Ministers or the Minister of Finance since assuming office seeking additional financial resources for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, indicating the amount requested, the purpose of the request and the outcome.

Explain what specific actions the Minister has undertaken since assuming office to increase the financial resources available to the Ministry beyond the annual budget allocation, including negotiations within the Council of Ministers, external financing, donor funding, grants and public-private partnerships.

State whether the Council of Ministers has discussed the long-term financial sustainability of education, culture, youth and sports during the current governing period. If so, summarize the principal decisions taken and the measures approved to strengthen long-term funding for the Ministry.

Please provide the Ministry's strategy for securing additional funding for the 2027 budget cycle, identifying all proposals currently under preparation, every project, programme or reform the Ministry intends to propose for additional funding during the 2027 budget preparation process, the amount requested for each with its justification and expected outcomes, the consequences should those requests not be approved, and the timeline for discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Council of Ministers.

Explain what expenditure reprioritization exercises were undertaken during preparation of the 2026 Budget, including which proposed initiatives, projects or policy reforms were reduced, deferred or removed because of fiscal constraints.

Can the Minister describe the Ministry's strategy for diversifying funding sources for education, youth, culture and sports beyond annual government appropriations, including the use of international grants, regional cooperation, philanthropic funding, private sector partnerships and other lawful financing mechanisms? Please provide the Ministry's assessment of the adequacy of the current level of public investment in education, culture, youth and sports compared with regional benchmarks. If the Ministry considers current funding inadequate, identify the level of annual investment considered necessary to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and strategic objectives.

Has the Ministry developed a multi-year financial sustainability plan identifying the minimum level of funding required over the period 2027 to 2030 to successfully implement its strategic priorities? If so, provide the plan together with the assumptions, costing methodology and implementation schedule.

Please explain how the Minister intends to demonstrate to the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Finance that increased investment in education, culture, youth and sports will produce measurable social and economic benefits, and identify any cost-benefit analyses, return-on-investment studies or economic impact assessments that have been undertaken or are planned.

Please confirm whether the Ministry has explored the establishment of dedicated or earmarked funding mechanisms to strengthen long-term financing for education, culture, youth and sports, including special funds, statutory earmarks, public-benefit levies or other sustainable financing models. If so,

provide the status of those initiatives and any legal or policy constraints identified.

The faction notes that the Ministry has consistently indicated that limited financial resources constrain implementation of its mandate. Looking beyond identifying the constraint itself, explain what concrete measures the Minister, together with the Council of Ministers, has taken to resolve this structural funding challenge. For each measure identify: (a) the action taken; (b) the date initiated; (c) the responsible authority; (d) the additional funding sought; (e) the current status; (f) the measurable results achieved; and (g) the expected impact on the 2027 Budget.

Please reconcile the Ministry's stated commitment to evidence-based policymaking with any programme, reform or strategic initiative contained in the 2026 Budget that does not have clearly defined baselines, measurable performance indicators, implementation milestones or evaluation methodology.

Looking beyond Budget 2026, the faction would like the Minister to identify the three most significant structural challenges affecting the education system that cannot be resolved through incremental improvements alone, and explain the Ministry's long-term strategy, implementation roadmap, resource requirements and measurable indicators of success for addressing each challenge.

Can the Minister provide a matrix showing each major recommendation from the Foundation Based Education Evaluation Report and the State of Education Reports together with the exact 2026 budget line allocated for implementation?

Will the Minister commit to providing Parliament with a written Foundation Based Education Implementation Plan before the start of the new academic year?

Can the Minister provide Parliament with a school-by-school overview indicating when each public school last received new textbooks and workbooks?

Can the Minister provide Parliament with a school-by-school overview identifying which public schools have received new textbooks during the past three years?

Does the Ministry maintain a standardized list of approved textbooks and learning materials for all public schools? If different materials are used, how does the Ministry ensure consistency in delivering the Foundation Based Education curriculum across schools?

Does the Minister consider handwriting to be a fundamental component of literacy development and an essential skill within Foundation Based Education, particularly during the early years of primary education?

Has the Ministry assessed whether introducing a structured handwriting programme, such as Schrijfschrift or another evidence-based programme, could strengthen handwriting, writing fluency and literacy outcomes in public primary schools?

Has funding been allocated within the 2026 Budget to support structured handwriting instruction, handwriting workbooks and teacher training? If no funding has been allocated, will the Minister consider incorporating structured handwriting instruction as part of the upcoming curriculum revision?

The faction would like to know if the Ministry has minimum standards regarding classroom size, classroom layout and learning environments to support effective implementation of Foundation Based Education?

Can the Minister distinguish which school maintenance activities are financed through the Capital Service (Kapitaaldienst) and which are financed through the Ordinary Service (Gewone Dienst), and confirm whether both budgets are sufficient?

Can the Minister provide a complete overview of all Government funding currently allocated to the sports, youth, culture and heritage sectors, including annual subsidies, grants and project funding during the past five years?

How much funding is currently allocated separately to Sports, Youth, Culture and Heritage?

Does the Minister believe the current annual subsidy model provides sufficient long-term financial sustainability?

How many organizations requested funding during the past five years but could not be funded because of budget limitations?

Does the Minister agree that annual budget dependency limits long-term planning by organizations?

Has Government explored alternative financing mechanisms to reduce dependence on annual budget allocations for Sports, Youth, Culture and Heritage?

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the funding allocated specifically for monument preservation, restoration and heritage projects in the 2026 Budget? How much funding has been allocated for monument preservation during the past five years, and how does the 2026 allocation compare? Does the Minister consider the current budget allocation sufficient to properly preserve and protect Sint Maarten's national monuments and heritage sites? If not, what additional funding does the Ministry estimate is required to adequately preserve the island's built and cultural heritage?

How many monument restoration or preservation projects are scheduled for implementation during 2026, and what budget has been allocated to each?

Can the Minister provide a prioritized list of monument restoration projects planned for 2026, together with their estimated costs and implementation timelines? Does the Ministry have an estimate of the total financial resources required to restore all protected monuments currently in need of restoration?

The faction continues and would like to know how many protected monuments are currently considered to be in poor or deteriorating condition, and what funding has been allocated to address these cases in 2026.

Has funding been allocated for preventative maintenance of protected monuments to avoid further deterioration? If so, how much has been allocated?

The *Toelichting* refers to the establishment of a Monument Fund. Can the Minister provide an update on the status of this initiative, the anticipated funding source and whether any funding has been allocated in the 2026 Budget?

If no funding has been allocated for the proposed Monument Fund, when does the Ministry anticipate bringing forward a financing proposal? Has the Ministry identified alternative or sustainable funding sources, including grants or international partnerships, to support monument preservation?

Can the Minister indicate whether any external grants or Kingdom funding have been secured or applied for to support monument preservation and restoration?

Does the Ministry intend to provide financial assistance or grant opportunities to private owners of protected monuments to assist with restoration and preservation efforts?

How does the Ministry prioritize which monument preservation projects receive funding when available resources are limited?

Can the Minister explain how monument preservation priorities were reflected in the preparation of the 2026 Budget?

The faction would like to know what measurable outcomes does the Ministry expect to achieve in 2026 through the funding allocated for monument preservation and heritage.

Does the Ministry anticipate that additional funding will be required during the 2026 fiscal year to meet its heritage preservation objectives?

As it relates to Education, the faction would like to know if the Minister believes the education system is preparing students for the economy Sint Maarten actually has, or for an economy that does not exist here?

Which is the bigger issue in education: teacher quality, school infrastructure, curriculum relevance, or governance?

Does the Minister believe the Ministry is measuring educational outcomes honestly enough?

What is the Minister's view on whether public education is being treated with the urgency it deserves?

Should Government focus more on early childhood education, vocational education, or higher education?

Does the Minister believe the four-year-old policy is being implemented as a serious reform or as a political promise?

What is your opinion on whether culture and sports receive real policy attention, or only ceremonial attention? Does the Minister believe youth policy in Sint Maarten is preventing problems, or mostly responding after children are already at risk?

Which education reform would the Minister defend even if it is unpopular with school boards, teachers, or parents?

Does the Minister believe ECYS has enough internal capacity to manage the reforms listed in the budget?

Can an update be provided on the implementation of the four-year-old policy? Was the four-year-old policy completed?

What is the status of the air conditioning in the auditorium?

The faction notes that subsidies remain around Cg. 75 million. What performance conditions are attached to those subsidies?

Projects and activities increase by 115%. What are the specific outputs and quarterly monitoring indicators?

The faction mentions that the multi-year table appears to show an error where ECYS 2027 is listed as “1126.” Will a corrected table be submitted before approval?

How will education spending be tied to learning outcomes, youth outcomes, and labor-market needs? What school performance indicators will be used to measure whether increased education spending is improving results?

What truancy, youth programme, and subsidy-monitoring reports will be submitted to Parliament?

How will increased spending on projects and activities produce measurable outcomes instead of only higher expenditure?

What monitoring reports will be required from subsidized education and youth institutions?

The faction would like to know what are the top three education priorities for 2026.

The faction is curious to know if there are there teacher shortages?

What is being done about school repairs? How much of the budget goes directly into classrooms? How much goes to administration, projects, studies, and overhead?

What concrete youth programmes are funded in this budget? How many young people will benefit?

What is being done for after-school programmes?

What is being done for sports facilities?

What is the status of the soccer field?

What is being done for cultural development?

How does the Ministry measure whether these programmes reduce youth vulnerability? Which programmes are new? Which programmes are continuing? Which programmes were cut?

Will Government provide the policy on four-year-olds entering school?

Will Government provide classroom and staffing needs?

Will Government provide the subsidy overview and accountability reports?

The faction has questions for the Ministry of Education and stated that a motion was brought over a year ago regarding children that are born after October 1st and being denied to start school and being told that they're born late. The Minister said she communicated to all the different schools for them to

allow it and that a policy will be sent and that is why the motion didn't have her support. We are now going into another school year and this still hasn't been published. When will this policy be enacted?

The faction mentioned that the Ministry of ECYS has one of the largest budgets. What are the top three education priorities for 2026. How bad is the teacher shortage in the public schools and what is being done about the school repairs? How much of the budget goes directly into the classroom? How much goes to the administration, the projects, the studies and the overhead? And what measurable targets are attached to the subsidies in the subsidized schools? What accountability system is being used for schools receiving these subsidies?

The faction would like to know about the sport facilities. The faction indicates that the soccer federation has been receiving some hard times in getting the land officially over to them. Can the Minister reach out to the Minister of VROMI to have this finalized so that the federation can get the land to do what they need to do?

The faction would like to know from the Minister of ECYS regarding air-conditioning in the auditorium. Is that still ongoing? Is it now in the current CAPEX? Or are there structural changes that need to happen prior to this taking place? The faction would like to know, based on the budget, what concrete youth programs are funded in the budget of 2026. How many young people will benefit? What is being done differently than budget 2025 for after school programs in 2026? If any.

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor

As it regards the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development , and Labor the faction has the following questions and comments. How many draft legislations does VSA have pending at the SER? Are any of these expected to implemented during budget year 2026 and or 2027?

What is the status of policy/law regarding Rapid Permit processes?

How many labor and health inspections have been carried out this year? What are the impacts on our financials and SZV by not doing so?

How many construction site inspections are were done for the year? How much money does the government believe we lose through undocumented leakage? Can this Gap be filled with proper support and funneling of NIPA to the work force? Is there any pending collaboration between VSA, NIPA ad ECYS to help support the construction industry?

How many fines have been given?

What is the status of the new ambulance paid for by the 2025 budget (capex that was later removed than paid with liquidity finance had leftover).

The government committed to raising monthly SZV payments from Cg. 5.2 million to Cg. 6 million from May 2025. The budget shows the SZV contribution flat at Cg. 5.5 million with no change, SZV recorded a Cg 7.3 million loss in 2025, and arrears to SZV stand at Cg. 113.7 million. Is the Cg. 6 million monthly contribution funded structurally in 2026, and what is the plan to clear the Cg. 113.7 million in arrears?

The government committed to investigating and addressing discrepancies in the VSA budget posts. The first quarter report shows the Ministry at Cg. 25.3 million against Cg. 23.7 million budgeted, with social provisions over budget. Which discrepancies were corrected, and what drives the first quarter overrun?

The faction continues and indicates that a homelessness meals pilot, a reduced price senior grocery pilot, and a soup kitchen and food pantry were committed. The budget shows a meals project at Cg. 75,000. Which of these continue structurally in 2026, and at what funded level?

The faction also notes that the Home Repair Program and Transitional Shelter were committed. The Home Repair Program shows Cg. 740,000 budgeted with nothing spent in the first quarter; Transitional Shelter shows Cg. 1.44 million budgeted with Cg 198,000 spent. Why was none of the Home Repair budget spent in the first quarter, and what is the full year delivery plan?

The government committed to the ten year plan on noncommunicable diseases, awareness campaigns, EPI vaccines and child block tests. Awareness Campaigns show Cg. 200,000 and EPI Vaccines Cg. 167,000, both with nothing spent in the first quarter. Why is nothing spent on vaccines and awareness in the first quarter, and is the plan on schedule?

The faction mentions that the mental health project was to be subcontracted to locals, with a psychological help desk. The Development of Mental Health Legislation project shows Cg. 19,000 budgeted with nothing spent in the first quarter. Is the help desk operational, and what mental health spending is funded in 2026?

The faction continues and indicates that the HAP after hours GP policy was to be finalized by mid-July 2025 for ministerial approval. Is it approved and operational, and is it funded in 2026?

The faction also notes that a permanent pediatrician at SMMC was to be finalized. Is the permanent pediatrician in place?

Food labeling enforcement was to begin on the first of January 2026, with public sessions from July 2025. Is enforcement live as of January 2026?

Noting that the 2023 water agreement with the French side was to be reopened, the faction would like to know what is the status of those discussions.

An interim Inspector General was to be hired through TWO, with SLS food testing follow up. Is the interim Inspector General in post, and has food testing resumed?

National Health Insurance or restructuring of the OZR was named as the structural fix for SZV. What is the dated implementation plan and its budgeted transition cost? The first quarter report warns the SZV burden on the budget will keep rising without drastic measures.

The faction notes that local employment guarantees on NRPB and World Bank projects were promised. Have contract changes guaranteeing local subcontracting been secured?

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise. The faction would like confirmation whether any assumptions relating to the implementation of General Health Insurance (GHI/SAAHA) have been incorporated into the draft 2027 national budget, notwithstanding that the enabling legislation has not yet been approved by Parliament. If so, identify every affected budget line and the estimated financial impact.

Please reconcile how Government can budget for implementation of GHI while Parliament has not yet considered or approved the underlying legislation.

Also state the current legislative status of the GHI legislation, identifying every remaining procedural step, responsible institution, expected completion date and revised implementation timeline, noting that the intended result of programme F.3.1 in the Ministry's own chapter is the preparation and approval of the general health insurance legislation during 2026.

Can the Minister confirm whether any procurement, ICT development, staffing, public communication, contractual commitments or institutional restructuring related to GHI has commenced prior to Parliamentary approval. If so, provide the legal basis authorizing such expenditure.

The 2026 Budget allocates Cg. 800 under programme F.3.1 for the preparation and approval of the GHI legislation, booked as accountants- en advieskosten under the Stafbureau (7110), alongside GHI awareness activities. The faction would like the Minister to break down this Cg. 800 per activity and counterparty, and explain why public awareness funding is being budgeted before Parliament has decided whether to adopt the legislation.

Provide the complete financial model supporting GHI, including projected annual revenues, expenditures, reserve requirements, administrative costs and actuarial assumptions for the first ten years. And also state whether updated actuarial studies have been completed since the original GHI proposal. If so, provide the conclusions regarding long-term financial sustainability. In addition please detail every material policy change between the original GHI proposal and the version currently under consideration, together with the rationale for each amendment.

Please provide Government's latest actuarial assessment of SZV's financial sustainability, including projected annual operating results under current legislation for the next ten years.

Please identify every structural financial risk currently facing SZV, quantify the estimated financial exposure of each risk and indicate the mitigation strategy adopted by Government.

The faction notes that the post Sociale Verzekering en Ziektekosten (7330) is budgeted flat at Cg. 35,795 for 2026 and would like the Minister to

reconcile this flat allocation, and SZV's projected revenues, benefit obligations and reserve position for 2026 to 2030, under both: (a) the current healthcare financing model; and (b) the proposed GHI model.

Can the Minister state the current amount owed by Government to SZV, broken down by legal obligation, age of the debt, repayment agreements and expected settlement schedule? Indicate specifically whether the Cg. 22,000 for Medische Bijstand and the Cg. 5,500 Overheidsbijdrage SZV budgeted under the Stafbureau cover current-year obligations only, and under which post, if any, the settlement of arrears to SZV is budgeted in 2026.

Explain whether Government considers SZV financially sustainable if GHI is delayed beyond 2027, and identify the contingency measures prepared for that scenario.

The faction would like the Minister to provide the annual growth rate of healthcare expenditure over the past five years, identifying the principal cost drivers and the measures expected to reduce expenditure growth, and reconcile that growth with the fact that the Ministry's principal healthcare posts, including 7330, are budgeted flat for 2026 while the Ministry's gross budget rises 12 percent to Cg 108,822.

State what percentage of SZV expenditure relates to: (a) overseas referrals; (b) specialist care; (c) pharmaceuticals; (d) chronic diseases; (e) mental health; and (f) administration.

The faction would like an explanation on how the proposed GHI model improves the long-term solvency of SZV compared with the current system and identify the evidence supporting that conclusion.

The faction would like the Minister to identify every external consultant currently engaged in relation to GHI, healthcare reform or SZV restructuring, stating the contract value, procurement method, scope of work and expected deliverables. Note that the programmes for GHI (Cg. 800), mental health care (Cg. 600), NCD prevention (Cg. 500) and pharmaceutical cost containment (Cg. 250), together Cg. 2,150, are all booked as accountants- en advieskosten under the Stafbureau; identify the contractor and procurement method behind each.

State whether Government has completed a comprehensive risk assessment of GHI implementation. If so, provide the principal financial, legal,

operational and institutional risks identified together with the mitigation measures.

Please explain whether Government has conducted an implementation readiness assessment covering ICT systems, staffing, claims administration, provider contracts and institutional governance.

Can the Minister confirm whether Cabinet has approved a formal implementation plan for GHI. If so, provide the implementation milestones and responsible officials.

The faction continues and would like an explanation on how GHI aligns with the broader healthcare reform strategy and identify which reforms will proceed irrespective of whether GHI is approved.

State what measurable improvements in healthcare access, waiting times, affordability and health outcomes Government expects within three years of GHI implementation, including the baseline indicators against which success will be measured.

Please identify the evidence demonstrating that GHI represents better value for money than alternative healthcare financing models that were considered.

Can the Minister explain how the National Mental Health Strategy (programme F.3.3, Cg. 600), the pharmaceutical cost containment initiative (programme F.3.2, Cg. 250) and the NCD prevention programme (programme F.3.5, Cg. 500, a pilot training 10 to 12 nurses in cardiovascular risk management) are expected to reduce long-term pressure on SZV expenditure, including the quantified savings assumptions per programme and the year in which savings are first expected to materialize.

Provide the projected return on investment for each healthcare prevention programme included in the 2026 budget and indicate how these savings will be independently measured.

Please identify the three greatest implementation risks that could prevent successful healthcare reform during 2026 to 2027.

State which milestones Parliament should expect to receive quarterly reports on regarding GHI, SZV and healthcare reform.

Confirm whether Government will refrain from making irreversible implementation commitments or expenditures relating to GHI prior to Parliamentary approval of the legislation. If not, explain the legal basis for proceeding.

The faction would like the Minister to reconcile the Ministry's statement that GHI legislation remains under development with reports that implementation assumptions are already reflected in planning for the 2027 budget, and identify who authorized that approach. And confirm whether the Minister will provide Parliament with the complete actuarial reports, financial models, implementation plan, legal opinions and fiscal impact assessments before requesting Parliamentary approval of the GHI legislation.

The 2025 Budget identified the National Ordinance on the Supervision of Mentally Ill Persons as part of the Ministry's legislative agenda, and the 2026 chapter itself acknowledges that the current Landsverordenen Krankzinnigen is outdated and requires modernization. Can the Minister provide an update on the status of this legislation, indicating the stage of the legislative process, the principal policy issues remaining to be resolved, the anticipated date of submission to Parliament, and whether any budgetary or operational resources have been allocated in the 2026 budget to support its implementation.

Can the Minister state the current operational status of the Mobile Dental Clinic, including the reasons it has remained out of service, the date on which it last provided services, and the total number of schoolchildren affected by the suspension of the programme.

In addition, can the Minister confirm whether funding has been allocated within the 2026 Capital Expenditure budget to repair and recommission the existing Mobile Dental Clinic. If so, identify the budget allocation, procurement status, expected completion date and anticipated return-to-service date.

If the existing Mobile Dental Clinic cannot be economically repaired, indicate whether funding has been allocated to procure a replacement mobile dental unit and provide the procurement timeline and estimated commissioning date.

Can the Minister outline the Ministry's plan to restore preventative school-based dental services, including the projected annual number of schools

and students to be served, service delivery targets, staffing requirements and implementation timetable.

Please specify the funding allocated within the 2026 budget for the replacement and procurement of uniforms, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other operational gear for Ambulance personnel, indicating the number of staff to be equipped and the replacement schedule.

Within the *Dienst Ambulance* budget of Cg. 4,436, up 9 percent, detail the 2026 allocation for emergency medical equipment, consumable medical supplies and lifesaving equipment, identifying equipment scheduled for replacement, items reaching end-of-life, procurement timelines and inventory management procedures.

Present the current operational status of the national ambulance fleet, identifying: (a) the total number of ambulances; (b) the number currently operational; (c) the number undergoing repairs or maintenance; the average age of the fleet; (d) vehicle downtime during 2025; and (e) the minimum fleet required to meet national emergency response standards.

The faction notes that the capital table in paragraph 5.5.4.6 budgets Cg. 485 for vehicle acquisition by the Dienst Ambulance and Cg. 55 for a shelter system in 2026, with nothing budgeted for 2027 and beyond. Specify how many ambulances Cg. 485 procures, the procurement method, implementation schedule and expected delivery dates, and explain how fleet renewal is provided for after 2026 given the absence of any multi-year capital allocation.

Explain how the 2026 budget provides for the preventative maintenance and servicing of the existing ambulance fleet, including the maintenance schedule, budget allocation and performance targets for fleet availability.

The faction notes that the staffing table in paragraph 5.5.8 shows the *Dienst Ambulance Hulpverlening* at 34 filled positions on a formation of 36, with one funded vacancy, while the chapter itself states that required functions are missing from the formatieplan and that the plan must be revised. Present the current staffing establishment by function (including EMTs, ambulance drivers, dispatch personnel and supervisory staff), state which required ambulance functions are missing from the current formatieplan, confirm whether a

formation of 36 is sufficient to roster full ambulance coverage around the clock, and specify the projected recruitment during 2026.

Please describe the Ministry's workforce strategy for recruiting and retaining qualified emergency medical personnel, including an assessment of whether current salary scales, employment conditions and career progression are sufficient to remain competitive within the regional labour market, noting that the Ministry's own risk overview in paragraph 5.5.9 identifies braindrain, personnel leaving the ministry, as a standing risk.

Please also explain the contingency arrangements currently in place to ensure uninterrupted emergency ambulance services during periods of multiple vehicle failures, equipment shortages, staffing shortages or major incidents, and state whether the Ministry considers current operational capacity sufficient to meet national emergency medical demand. If deficiencies have been identified, specify the additional investments and corrective measures planned during the 2026 fiscal year.

The faction would like to know if the Minister believes the healthcare system is financially sustainable without asking residents to pay more? Which is the greater healthcare problem: cost control, access to care, quality of care, or weak management?

Does the Minister believe the public understands how serious the healthcare fund deficits are? Should Government move faster on general health insurance even if it creates public concern?

What is the Minister's view on whether social assistance is reaching the people who need it most? Does the Minister believe the social registry will genuinely improve fairness, or could it become another administrative system with limited results?

Which group does the Minister believe Government is failing most: seniors, low-income families, persons with disabilities, unemployed persons, or vulnerable children?

Does the Minister believe labor policy is protecting local workers strongly enough in the current economy? Should employers face stricter rules before being allowed to hire foreign labor?

What is the one healthcare or social reform that the Minister believes Government can no longer afford to delay?

Healthcare and social funds show average deficits of approximately Cg 50 million over five years. What is the exact reform timetable for 2026? When will the GHI legislation be ready, what will it cost, and who will pay? Which healthcare reform legislation has already been drafted?

What savings are expected from each healthcare reform? What savings are expected from pharmaceutical cost-containment measures? What pharmaceutical savings are expected in 2026, and how will they be measured?

The faction continues and queries what cost-control measures will be implemented in healthcare in 2026. What happens if Parliament does not approve the proposed healthcare reforms? Does Government have a healthcare contingency plan?

How will major health and social reforms be implemented when Public Health is at 50% occupancy and Social Development is at 40% occupancy? What controls are in place for the Cg. 22 million in medical assistance and Cg. 8.2 million in welfare support?

How will healthcare and social fund reserves be prevented from continuing to decline without structural intervention? What SZV sustainability projections were used in preparing the 2026 budget?

How will social assistance reach vulnerable persons while preventing fraud, duplication, or leakage? How will healthcare and social fund deficits be prevented from becoming larger obligations without structural funding?

What fallback measures will be used if healthcare, pension, and taxation reforms are delayed?

The faction would like to know what role does VSA play in accidental insurance for ambulance personnel. Are ambulance workers fully insured for injury, disability, and death while on duty? If ambulance workers are not fully insured, why not?

What is the status of life insurance for firefighters?

What is Government doing structurally for people who cannot keep up with the cost of living? Can a detailed breakdown be provided of what cost-of-living support is provided? Is the assistance in the budget one-time assistance or structural assistance? How many households will receive direct support? How will beneficiaries be selected?

The faction has some questions for the Ministry of VSA and would like to know what is the status of the accident risk insurance for the ambulance personnel and would like to know from the Ministry of AZ, what is the status of said insurance for the firefighters and if it's even being considered.

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure

As it regards the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure the faction has the following questions and comments. The government committed to AT Illidge Road, Arch Road, Cannegieter Street and Well Road under CAPEX 2025. The Ministry shows Cg. 80.3 million of its Cg. 134.8 million 2023 to 2025 loan portfolio still unspent and ran only Cg. 5.0 million against Cg. 8.5 million budgeted in the first quarter. Which named road projects are funded and scheduled in 2026, and why does Cg. 80.3 million of capital remain unspent?

The faction notes that a green zoning work plan and a move toward a zoning ordinance were committed, with coastal erosion and geotechnical studies on a six-to-eight-month timeline. No distinct study line is identifiable in the budget. What is budgeted in 2026 for the zoning studies and legislative process, and what is the current timeline?

What is the update on the road fund? Who will manage the fund? Will it be applied in budget 2027 as the Minister stated numerous of times? When will the updated and final legislation be sent to parliament?

The government committed to updating the UNESCO drainage and flooding studies and connecting water bodies. Drainage is named a structural focus area, yet roughly seventy one percent of the Cg. 163 million capital budget is IT and equipment. What share of 2026 capital goes to drainage and flooding, and are the hydrological studies funded? Is the Ministry of VROMI currently being audited for procurement procedures? Why? Under which line item was

this procurement? Why was no tender done after 50k guilders? How many contracts did this entity have during 2025 and 2026 across all ministries verify with the other Ministries and Ministers? It is understood it was a legal entity, please confirm?

The faction notes that continued clean up was committed, including car wrecks, Great Bay Beach, the Ring Road, trench contracts and illegal dumping. Waste collection and district cleaning ran under budget in the first quarter, at Cg. 1.2 million against Cg. 2.0 million. What is the 2026 allocation for the car wreck program and clean up, and why is district cleaning under budget?

Does VROMI follow procurement law? What are reasons they would veer off the law and apply article 47? And when?

Completion of the tenth and eleventh EDF sewerage projects in Dutch Quarter was committed. The related project shows Cg. 2.695 million budgeted with only Cg. 112,000 spent in the first quarter, and Phase 2 works from CAPEX 2023 are only scheduled to start in July 2026. What is the completion timeline, and why is execution so far behind?

External assistance was to make garbage contract bidding more transparent and timely. Has the procurement been reformed, and what is the current contract status?

The faction notes that a parking plan of approach with other ministries and support for public private partnerships were promised. Is the plan drafted, and is any partnership funded in 2026?

The government was to assess whether lottery booths sit on unoccupied government land. What did the assessment find, and what arrangements followed?

Discussions with the Chamber of Commerce on traffic flow and illegal dumping in the Ring Road area were to continue. What concrete measures resulted?

Continuing on the faction would like to note that amounts are in Cg x 1,000 unless stated otherwise. The faction would like to be provided with a complete overview of all policy objectives, capital projects, maintenance programmes and major activities budgeted for 2025, indicating for each whether

it was completed, substantially completed, partially completed, delayed, cancelled or not commenced.

For every project programme or activity not completed during 2025, please provide: (a) the reason for non-completion; (b) the revised implementation schedule; (c) whether additional funding is required; (d) whether implementation has been rolled into the 2026 Budget.

Please indicate what percentage of the Ministry's 2025 policy objectives, projects and programmes was successfully completed, and explain the methodology used to determine this percentage.

Please provide the total budget allocated to projects and programmes during 2025, indicating the amount budgeted, committed, expended, remaining and carried forward into 2026.

Identify every project that exceeded its approved budget during 2025 and every project completed below budget, indicating in each case the cause, the amount of the deviation, whether supplementary funding was required, and whether project scope, quality or expected outcomes were affected. In addition, please identify every project whose completion date was revised during 2025, indicating the original completion date, the revised completion date and the reason for the delay,

Please identify every project that experienced delays during 2025 attributable to procurement, contractor performance, consultant performance, utility relocation, land acquisition, permitting, financing, design revisions, legal proceedings or any other cause, specifying the cause per project,

Please identify the five largest implementation challenges encountered during execution of the 2025 Budget and explain how each has been addressed in the 2026 Budget. Please identify which 2026 policy objectives and capital projects are dependent upon completion of unfinished 2025 projects. In addition, please indicate which projects initiated during 2025 have since been discontinued and explain the policy and financial reasons.

The faction would like to know where projects appear in both the 2025 and 2026 Budgets, please indicate: (a) work completed to date; (b) expenditure to date; (c) remaining scope; (d) revised completion date; (e) estimated total project cost upon completion.

Please identify which recommendations of the SOAB, the Algemene Rekenkamer, the Ombudsman, the Raad van Advies and Internal Audit directed at the Ministry of VROMI were implemented during 2025 and which remain outstanding, with the reason for each outstanding item.

The faction notes that in October 2024, Parliament adopted a motion concerning coastal protection at Mullet Bay. Please provide a full account of the actions taken by the Ministry in execution of this motion, the current status and the timeline for completion. If no action has been taken, please explain why not.

During the handling of the 2024 Budget, Parliament adopted motion number 1 concerning a unified beach policy. The faction would like the Minister to please provide a full account of the actions taken in execution of this motion, the current status of the policy and the timeline for its adoption. If no action has been taken, please explain why not.

For every strategic goal contained in the Ministry's Budget, please provide: (a) the 2025 baseline; the 2026 target; (b) the performance indicator(s); (c) the measurement methodology; (d) the reporting frequency; (e) the responsible department. For each strategic goal, please identify the specific projects, maintenance programmes, policy initiatives and operational activities that directly contribute toward achieving that goal, together with the corresponding budget allocation, and distinguish this from expenditure necessary for the Ministry's general operations.

The faction notes that the combined budget for *beleidsactiviteiten* under the four strategic goals amounts to Cg. 1,986 (Goal 1), Cg. 550 (Goal 2), Cg. 536 (Goal 3) and Cg. 2,873 (Goal 4), a total of approximately Cg. 5.9 million against gross expenditure of Cg. 36,812, of which the largest components are TWO-financed consultancy and capacity trajectories. Please confirm these figures and state what portion of the policy budget is structural funding of the *Land* itself as opposed to temporary external financing.

Where multiple strategic goals rely upon the same financial resources, personnel or projects, please explain how those shared resources have been apportioned between the respective policy objectives.

Additionally, please distinguish which strategic goals are measured through outcome indicators, output indicators or activity indicators. Where only

activity indicators are used, please explain how Parliament can objectively determine whether the intended policy outcome has been achieved.

The faction notes that the performance targets under Goal 2 are formulated as 90 percent of the Service Level Agreements of identified interventions realized and 60 percent compliance with the agreements under those SLAs. Please explain why the Ministry has set itself a target under which four out of every ten of its own service commitments may go unmet, and what full compliance would cost.

Please explain the Ministry's methodology for determining whether a strategic goal has been successfully achieved at the conclusion of the 2026 budget year, including the evaluation process, responsible officials and the reporting mechanism to Parliament.

Please provide a complete register of every capital project included in the 2026 Budget, indicating per project the title, location, approved budget allocation, responsible department and project manager.

For each capital project, the faction would like the Minister to please indicate its current implementation stage: concept, feasibility study, preliminary design, final design, procurement documents completed, tender published, tender awarded, contract signed, construction commenced, substantially completed or completed. In addition, for each capital project, please indicate whether the following have been completed: (a) engineering design; (b) cost estimate; (c) environmental assessment (where applicable); (d) utility coordination; (e) land acquisition (where applicable); (f) procurement documentation; (g) financing approval; (h) project risk assessment.

The faction would like the Minister to please identify every capital project budgeted for 2026 that is not expected to commence during 2026 and explain the reasons. In addition, please identify every capital project currently awaiting design completion, procurement, financing, contractor selection, permits, utility relocation or legal approvals.

For every capital project, please indicate the planned commencement date, anticipated completion date, total project duration and planned expenditure during 2026, and for projects continuing beyond 2026 the estimated

completion percentage by year end 2026, the remaining funding requirement and the anticipated completion date.

Please identify all projects that have experienced one or more contract variation orders since commencement, indicating the original contract value, the revised contract value, the percentage increase and the justification, and identify all projects where revised completion dates have resulted in quantified additional costs.

The faction would also like the Minister to please identify the five capital projects presenting the greatest implementation risk and explain the nature of each risk, the mitigation measures adopted and the anticipated impact should those risks materialize.

The faction notes that the capital table in paragraph 5.7.5.3 includes an amount of Cg. 75,600 for GEBE generators. State the legal and financial construction of this allocation, including whether it constitutes a loan to NV GEBE, a capital contribution, an on-lending arrangement or direct procurement by the Land; which entity will own the generators upon delivery; and why this allocation is placed on the budget of VROMI while the tender and the shareholder responsibility for NV GEBE rest elsewhere.

State how the Cg. 75,600 is financed, given that the borrowing authorization in Artikel 2, fifth paragraph, of the draft budget ordinance amounts to Cg. 42,111; the current status of the tender and the contracting timeline; and the realistic expenditure the Ministry expects to commit in 2026. Confirm, for the record, that this single allocation for a government-owned company represents 94 percent of the Ministry's total 2026 capital table of Cg. 80,499 and approximately 46 percent of the entire capital service of the Land of Cg. 164,592, and that the Ministry's remaining capital programme for the country's roads, drainage and public infrastructure amounts to approximately Cg. 4.9 million.

State the consequences for the Ministry's capital programme if this amount is not committed during 2026, and whether the Minister will commit to not signing any obligation relating to the generators before Parliament has received the corrected capital table of paragraph 5.7.5.3 and the full financing construction. If the Minister will not commit, explain why.

The faction notes that excluding the GEBE generators, the Ministry's 2026 capital programme amounts to approximately Cg. 4.9 million, while the asphaltting of main roads (Cg. 5,000), the Middle Region upgrade phase 2 (Cg. 6,000) and the Cay Bay Waste Water Treatment Plant phase 1 (Cg. 25,600) are all deferred to 2027. Please explain how this is consistent with the chapter's statement that the poor state of the current infrastructure necessitates large-scale capital investment, and state per deferred project the preparatory milestones that will be completed in 2026 to guarantee a 2027 start.

The faction further notes that in the capital table of paragraph 5.7.5.3, the amount for the Dutch Quarter Road development programme second phase is printed as 3.14200, a malformed figure, and the column total of Cg. 80,499 does not follow from the amounts shown in the rows. Please state the correct amount per project and provide a corrected capital table.. The department *Nieuwe Werken*, responsible for the execution of capital works, has 4 filled positions on a formation of 9, a staffing level of 56 percent, with one funded vacancy. Please explain how a department of four persons will execute a capital programme of Cg. 80.5 million in 2026 and Cg. 40.6 million in 2027, and what external project management capacity is budgeted, where and at what cost.

The faction would like the realization rates of the Ministry's *kapitaaldienst* for 2024 and 2025 to be provided, per project, and the amount of 2025 capital appropriations expected to lapse unspent.

Please provide the Ministry's most recent condition assessment of the national road network, indicating the percentage of roads classified as excellent, good, fair, poor and very poor, and the date of that assessment.

Please provide the estimated monetary value of deferred maintenance relating to roads, sidewalks, drainage infrastructure, retaining walls and other public infrastructure under the Ministry's responsibility.

The faction states that the post *Onderhoud Wegen en Waterstaat* amounts to Cg. 1,900 for 2026, covering maintenance of the entire paved and unpaved road network and multi-year waterworks contracts. The differences table states that the corresponding 2025 contracts were budgeted for six months only. Please confirm that the approved 2025 budget therefore knowingly covered only half a year of road maintenance, state who took that decision, and provide the substantiation that Cg. 1,900 is adequate for a full year in 2026.

Please distinguish the 2026 maintenance budget between preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance and emergency works, explain the methodology used to determine these allocations, and provide the complete preventive maintenance programme for roads and drainage infrastructure during 2026 with planned frequencies and prioritization criteria.

Please identify every flood mitigation project announced by the Ministry since 2024 and indicate the current implementation status, budget allocation, completion percentage and expected completion date of each.

Please identify every drainage project planned for 2026 and indicate the project scope, commencement date, completion date and anticipated reduction in flood risk. In addition, identify every road rehabilitation project and drainage improvement project carried forward from the 2025 Budget into 2026, together with the reasons for the carry-forward and also provide the Ministry's key performance indicators for road and drainage maintenance during 2026, including targets for pothole repair response time, drainage cleaning frequency, emergency response time, infrastructure inspection frequency and reduction in flooding complaints.

The faction would like to note that the post *vuilophaal* falls 14.5 percent from Cg. 8,010 to Cg. 6,850, described as multi-year contracts for waste collection. Please state whether the collection contracts have been renegotiated, retendered or expired, whether the level of service to households changes in 2026, and if the contracts are unchanged, how a structural contract obligation can be budgeted Cg. 1.2 million lower. Please state the total 2026 budget for management of the landfill, the posts under which it is budgeted, the current contractor arrangements, and the measures and expenditure planned in 2026 to reduce fire risk and environmental impact at the site.

The waste export feasibility study is budgeted at Cg. 370 in the narrative of paragraph 5.7.1 and at Cg 367 in the activity table of paragraph 5.7.4.2, financed in anticipation of a subsidy. Please confirm the correct amount, the status of the subsidy, the procurement of the study, the delivery date, and what decision-making the study is intended to enable and by when.

The faction notes that goal 3 announces an updated *afvalverordening*, a new ordinance for a waste authority and an implemented communication strategy, all to be executed by personnel without a dedicated budget. Please

provide the drafting status of both ordinances, the responsible drafters, the target date for submission to Parliament, and the intended mandate and funding model of the waste authority.

Please provide the number of permit applications pending as of 31 December 2025 and as of the date of answering these questions, categorized by building permits, civil works permits, demolition permits, subdivision permits, excavation permits and other permit categories administered by the Ministry.

For each permit category, please provide the statutory processing period, the average processing time during 2025, the average processing time to date in 2026, and the target processing time for 2026. In addition, please indicate whether service standards have been adopted for permit processing. If so, please provide those standards together with the Ministry's performance against each. If not, please indicate when they will be introduced.

Additionally, please identify the oldest outstanding permit application currently pending and indicate the permit type, the date submitted, the current stage of review and the principal reason for the delay.

Please indicate the number of permit applications currently exceeding the statutory decision period, explain the primary causes, and identify which stages of the permit approval process contribute most significantly to delays, with the average duration of each stage. In addition, please indicate the number of permit applications returned due to incomplete submissions during 2025 and explain the most common deficiencies.

Please indicate which permit processes have been fully digitized, partially digitized or remain entirely manual, and provide per process the anticipated timeline for full digitization.

Please provide the number of permit applications approved, refused, withdrawn and still pending during 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date, and also please explain what corrective measures are being implemented during 2026 to reduce permit backlogs and processing times, and quantify the targeted reduction.

Please state the total revenue from building permit fees and other regulatory fees billed and collected in 2024 and 2025, and the amounts budgeted for 2026, and indicate when the proposal for updated service fees announced under Goal 4 will be submitted.

Please provide a monthly overview detailing the number of permits signed and issued for each month of 2025 and 2026 to date, per permit category, including the total number of civil works permits signed over those periods.

To enable comparison over time and consistent permit administration across administrations, the faction would like the Minister to provide the same monthly overview of permits signed and issued, per permit category and including the total number of civil works permits, for the 24 months preceding the current Minister's assumption of office.

Please provide a list of all permits issued during the current Minister's tenure for developments of four levels or more, indicating per permit the location and the number of levels, with ownership information redacted.

Please provide copies of all departmental and third party advices relating to the proposed ten story condominium building in the Maho ridge area, including the advices of the relevant departments and services of the Ministry and of any external advisors.

Can the Minister provide a copy of the civil works permit issued for the Aqua Resorts development, including the date of application and the date of issuance.

Can the Minister provide copies of the first 60 permits signed at the beginning of the current Minister's tenure, accompanied by a table indicating which of these permits include a civil works permit.

Please provide a copy of the demolition permit issued for the demolition works at the Philipsburg Marketplace, including the date of application and the date of issuance. If no demolition permit was issued, please state the enforcement actions taken by the Ministry

Can the Minister provide the number of pending applications relating to long lease requests, long lease transfers, long lease conversions, boundary adjustments, land surveys and other land administration matters, and for each category the average processing time, the oldest pending application and the principal causes of delay.

The faction notes that the programme for improving Domain Affairs processes and implementing a CRM system is budgeted at Cg. 402 under

Landspakket measure E7, with the intended result that backlogs are reduced and new issuance requests are handled within the statutory term. Please quantify the current backlog, the reduction target for year end 2026, the CRM implementation date, and the results achieved with the equivalent allocation in 2025.

Please state per year for 2024 and 2025 the total *erfpachtcanon* billed, the total collected, the total arrears outstanding as of the most recent date available, the age profile of those arrears, the amounts written off, and the enforcement actions taken against non-paying leaseholders. And please indicate whether the Ministry maintains a complete digital inventory of government-owned land, the date it was last updated, the percentage of government land recorded, and the anticipated completion of any remaining inventory work.

The revision of the *gronduitgifte- en grondprijbeleid* is budgeted at Cg. 264 as a continuation from 2025. Please state what was delivered in 2025, when the updated policy will be adopted, and from what date land issuance decisions will be taken under the updated framework.

The faction notes that the merger of the 13 draft bestemmingsplannen into one national bestemmingsplan is budgeted at Cg 743. Please state: (a) whether any of the 13 draft plans ever acquired legal status; (b) the procedural timeline for the national plan, including public inspection, objections and adoption under the applicable planning legislation; (c) the assessment framework governing building and land use decisions in the interim; (d) the contractor or consultant engaged and the procurement method; (e) the concrete steps planned for 2026 toward the nationwide zoning plan, with their target dates.

Also provide the current status of all other spatial development plans, zoning amendments and planning studies under preparation or revision, indicating per item the commencement date, current stage, reason (for amendments) and anticipated completion date.

The faction would like the Minister to provide a status update on the Coastal Erosion study, the Landslide study and the Green Zoning Framework, each funded under the IPDC programme, indicating per item the current stage, the contractor or consultant engaged and the expected completion date, and, where completed, provide Parliament with a copy.

In addition please provide a status update on the National Climate Adaptation Report and the National Climate Adaptation Strategy announced under Goal 3, including the responsible department, the expected completion date of each, and, where completed, please share the findings and reports with Parliament.

The faction continues and notes that the subsidy line to semi-private and NGO organizations falls 58 percent from Cg. 719 to Cg. 300 because, in the words of the differences table, there is still no new management agreement. Please confirm that this concerns the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation, state since when a valid beheersovereenkomst has been absent, on what legal basis payments were made in the interim, the status and timeline of the new agreement, and the consequences for the multi-year housing strategy and affordable housing targets under Goal 2.

The faction continues and indicates that goal 2 announces the development of a multi-year housing strategy based on the housing policy adopted in 2025, budgeted at Cg. 250 in external advice. Please provide the adoption date and content outline of the 2025 housing policy, the delivery date of the strategy, and the quantified housing production targets it will contain.

Please provide, for 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date, the number of building inspections conducted, compliance inspections conducted, complaints received, investigations completed, notices issued, stop orders issued and enforcement actions concluded. In addition, please provide the Ministry's performance indicators for inspection and enforcement during 2026, including target response time to complaints, target inspection frequency, target enforcement completion time and target reduction in outstanding enforcement cases.

The faction mentions that Goal 1 announces the entry into force of the *Landsverordening bestuurlijke handhaving* and an accompanying enforcement policy, to be executed by personnel. Please state the status and expected date of the landsbesluit bringing the ordinance into force, the status of the fine schedule and enforcement policy, the training programme for inspectors, and the number of administrative fines the Ministry expects to be capable of processing in 2026.

Please provide a complete overview of all procurement procedures relating to projects and services included in the 2026 Budget, indicating for each the project name, procurement method, current procurement stage, anticipated

tender publication date, anticipated contract award date and anticipated commencement date. In addition, please indicate the average duration of the procurement process for capital works, measured from completion of design, initiation of procurement, tender publication, tender closing, contract award and commencement of works.

Please identify every capital project or maintenance programme delayed due to procurement during 2025 and 2026, indicating the length of delay, the principal cause and the revised implementation schedule, and identify every procurement procedure that was cancelled, repeated or restarted during 2025 with the reasons.

Please identify every contract that has required one or more variation orders exceeding 10 percent of the original contract value and provide the original contract amount, the revised contract amount and the justification.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to identify all projects that cannot commence during 2026 because procurement documentation, technical specifications or tender documents have not yet been finalized.

Please provide the approved formation, current staffing level, vacancies and funded vacancies for each department within the Ministry. In addition, please identify all critical vacancies, including engineers, project managers, inspectors, permit officers, planners and surveyors, and indicate per vacancy the date it arose, the current recruitment stage and the anticipated appointment date.

The faction notes that paragraph 5.7.8 states in its text that 18 vacancies are budgeted for 2026, while the table on the same page and paragraph 5.7.2.1 both state 17. The personnel overview in the Getallenboek states 110 staff on a formation of 145 for VROMI, while paragraph 5.7.8 states 92 filled positions on a formation of 146. Please reconcile these figures and confirm which are correct.

Total personnel costs fall 4.5 percent to Cg. 10,925 and the vacancy salary budget falls 56 percent from Cg. 1,166 to Cg. 508, while the Ministry's own risk overview scores the structural personnel shortage at likelihood 4 and impact 4, its highest-rated general risk. Please explain how a declining personnel budget is consistent with the Ministry's own risk assessment, and who decided to reduce the vacancy budget. In addition, please explain how the Ministry intends to

achieve its 2026 implementation targets if all currently funded vacancies are not filled, and the contingency measures in place.

Please provide a comprehensive overview of all vacancies and recruitment procedures currently being processed by the Department of Personnel and Organization (P&O) on behalf of the Ministry. For each recruitment procedure, please indicate: (a) the department requesting the recruitment; (b) the title and salary scale of the position; (c) the date the request was submitted to P&O; (d) the current stage of the recruitment process; (e) the number of calendar days the recruitment has been pending; (f) the principal reason for any delay; (g) whether the delay is attributable to P&O, the Ministry or another entity; (h) the anticipated completion date; (i) the anticipated date the successful candidate will assume duty.

In addition, can the Minister indicate how many applicants under active consideration for appointment within the Ministry withdrew their applications or declined appointment during 2025 and 2026 to date, indicating per case the position, the stage of recruitment at withdrawal, the duration of the process at that stage and the reason provided where known. In addition please, identify all statutory or operational functions currently dependent upon consultants or external expertise due to shortages of permanent staff, indicating per function the annual cost, duration and knowledge transfer arrangements.

The faction notes that statutory tasks in the field of nature management are executed by the Nature Foundation under an SLA of Cg. 536 booked as *inhuur derden* because, in the words of the Toelichtingenboek, the required capacity is not yet present within the Ministry. Please provide the scope and term of this SLA, the performance standards and oversight arrangements, the legal basis on which statutory tasks including any enforcement elements are delegated to a private foundation, and the plan to build the capacity internally.

The differences table shows a new post of Cg. 160 on cost centre 9000, explained as an attorney on contract basis for the Minister. Please state the scope of this engagement, the proceedings or matters it relates to, the procurement method and the selected counsel, the contract term and rate structure, and why representation by the Landsadvocaat or the Ministry's own legal function does not suffice.

The post accountants, advisory costs and SLAs rises from Cg. 674 in 2025 to Cg. 2,550 in 2026, an increase of 278 percent, and the legal and advisory budgets of the individual departments have been centralized into the Stafbureau, where one line rises 830 percent. Please provide the complete list of advisory, legal and SLA contracts foreseen for 2026, per contract the counterparty, amount, purpose and procurement method, and the total amount the Ministry expects to spend on external legal assistance in 2026.

The Stafbureau budget rises from a 2024 realization of Cg. 511 to Cg. 3,923 in 2025 and Cg. 6,271 in 2026, an increase of 60 percent against 2025, with 8 staff. Please provide a full breakdown of the Stafbureau budget per post, identify which TWO and *Landspakket* trajectories run through it with their deliverables and end dates, and explain the governance and procurement controls applied to funds routed through this cost centre.

The faction would like to be provided with an overview of all legal proceedings to which the Ministry or the *Land* is party within the VROMI domain, indicating per case the subject matter, the financial exposure, the external counsel engaged and the costs incurred in 2024 and 2025.

The faction mentions Figures Requiring Reconciliation. The materiële kosten table in paragraph 5.7.2.2 shows overige materiële kosten declining from Cg. 3,111 to Cg. 2,827 while the increase column states 1,442 percent. Please correct this row and confirm the actual movement.

Paragraph 5.7.1 states that Cg. 4.6 million is available for project and policy expenditure out of a total of Cg 26.6 million in materiële kosten, while the table in paragraph 5.7.2.2 totals Cg. 25,888 and the components listed (Cg. 2.2 million TWO, Cg. 2.4 million Technical Capacity Building, Cg. 370 waste export study) sum to approximately Cg. 5.0 million. Please reconcile these figures.

Gross expenditure rises 2.5 percent to Cg. 36,812, presented as a net decline of 2.0 percent after deduction of Cg. 2,612 in TWO financing and Cg. 2,376 in other financing. Please identify each budget post financed from these amounts, the conditions attached to disbursement, and the consequence for each post if the financing is delayed, reduced or withheld.

The Technical Capacity Building project is budgeted at Cg. 2.4 million, corresponding to the activity *Uitbreiding van de personele capaciteit* under Goal

4 at Cg. 2,376. Please provide the detailed activities, the number and type of positions or experts financed, the participating departments, the measurable outputs, the funding source and end date, and the arrangements for absorbing these functions structurally. . Please explain the methodology used to prioritize projects and programmes where available funding was insufficient to accommodate all proposed initiatives, and identify every project or programme that was deferred, reduced or removed from the Ministry's original budget proposal, with the reasons. In addition, please identify which projects and programmes would receive priority should additional funding become available during 2026.

Please provide a breakdown of the Ministry's expenditure between capital investment, maintenance, operational expenditure, policy implementation and administrative support, explain how these allocations support the strategic goals, and indicate what proportion of the infrastructure budget is allocated to preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance, emergency works and new capital investment.

The faction continues and would like the Minister to please identify the ten greatest implementation risks associated with delivery of the Ministry's 2026 Budget, indicating for each the likelihood, expected impact, mitigation strategy and responsible official.

Please indicate whether the Ministry maintains an implementation dashboard or project monitoring system for capital projects and policy objectives. If so, please explain what indicators are monitored, the reporting frequency and whether this information will be made available to Parliament. In addition, please indicate how frequently capital project implementation is monitored and reported internally, and identify the officials responsible for monitoring project performance. In addition, please explain how implementation progress is monitored throughout the year, indicating the frequency of progress reporting, the departments responsible for monitoring and the corrective actions taken where implementation falls behind schedule.

The faction continues with questions and comments and would like to know if there are any projects, procurement processes, legal proceedings, staffing shortages, contractual disputes, financial risks, inter-ministerial dependencies, external dependencies or other material matters not specifically

addressed in the foregoing questions that, in the opinion of the Minister, may reasonably affect the Ministry's ability to achieve the objectives contained in the 2026 Budget? If so, please provide full particulars.

Has the Ministry allocated sufficient funding within the 2026 Budget for the routine cleaning, maintenance and upkeep of all public cemeteries, and if so, under which budget line has this funding been provided?

What maintenance standard or service schedule has the Ministry established for the upkeep of public cemeteries, and how will compliance with that standard be monitored throughout 2026?

Could the Minister clarify which Ministry, department or public entity bears the statutory responsibility for the preparation of graves prior to burial?

Where Public Works personnel perform grave preparation, are these duties formally incorporated within their job descriptions and corresponding job evaluations?

If Public Works personnel perform grave preparation outside their regular duties, what compensation, allowance or other employment arrangements have been established to reflect these additional responsibilities?

With the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season underway, the faction would like the Minister to provide an assessment of VROMI's current operational readiness to respond to a major natural disaster?

Has the Ministry completed inspections and preventative maintenance of all critical heavy equipment and machinery required for emergency response, and are all such assets currently operational?

Has the Ministry conducted a gap analysis to determine whether its existing equipment and resources are sufficient to respond to a major hurricane, and if so, what were the principal findings?

To what extent does the Ministry anticipate relying upon external contractors, mutual assistance agreements or equipment from third parties in the event of a major disaster, and has adequate funding been provided within the 2026 Budget to support such arrangements?

Has the Ministry allocated sufficient funding within the 2026 Budget for the ongoing training, certification and professional development of Public Works personnel performing specialized or technical functions?

The faction would like to know if the Minister could provide an overview of the technical training and certification programmes scheduled for Public Works personnel during 2026 and explain how these programmes support the Ministry's operational objectives?

What mechanisms does the Ministry employ to ensure that employees performing specialized or safety-critical functions possess and maintain the required certifications, licenses and technical qualifications?

The faction would also like to know if the Ministry has assessed the occupational safety, legal and operational risks associated with employees performing specialized work without the necessary certifications or formal training, and if so, what measures have been incorporated into the 2026 Budget to mitigate those risks?

Given the Ministry's extensive operational responsibilities during both routine operations and emergency response, has the Ministry assessed whether the current staffing establishment within Public Works is sufficient to execute its statutory responsibilities, and how is that assessment reflected in the 2026 Budget?

The faction inquires if the Ministry has conducted a comprehensive after-action review of its response to previous hurricane events and severe rainfall incidents, and could the Minister identify the principal lessons learned together with the specific budgetary allocations included in the 2026 Budget to address those identified deficiencies?

The faction continues and would like to know if the Minister believes the public is getting value for money from road repairs and district cleaning?

Does the Minister believe VROMI has enough capacity to properly inspect, enforce, plan, and execute at the same time?

What is the current *erfpacht* arrears balance, and how much is expected to be collected in 2026?

Why does leasehold revenue decrease from Cg. 9 million to Cg. 7 million while VROMI is improving leasehold registration with Kadaster? Why is better leasehold registration not linked to improved collection?

What is the status of the updated land allocation and land pricing policy, and what revenue impact is expected from it? How will the updated land policy generate fair revenue and faster decisions?

What is the backlog in building permits, domain requests, and enforcement cases, and what is the monetary value of that backlog?

How many building permit applications are pending? How many building permit applications are older than three months? How many building permit applications are older than six months? How many building permit applications are older than one year?

What is the target processing time for building permits in 2026? Does the Minister agree that faster permit processing is also a revenue-generation measure? What is being done to make building permit processing faster, fairer, and more transparent?

What is the status of digital permit processing? How many building permits were granted from June 2025 through June 2026, broken down month by month?

When will updated VROMI service fees be submitted, and why is no revenue estimate included in the 2026 budget? What fee schedule, legal basis, expected revenue, public consultation, implementation date, and fairness protections will apply to updated service fees?

What revenue is expected from administrative fines once the administrative enforcement ordinance becomes operational? What legal basis and safeguards will apply to administrative enforcement and fines? What safeguards will be used to make sure administrative fines are applied fairly and not arbitrarily?

Which VROMI capital projects have complete business cases, maintenance budgets, procurement plans, and implementation schedules? For each VROMI capital project, what are the maintenance costs, procurement method, land ownership status, and cost-benefit analysis?

The faction would like to know how will VROMI improve core services with only 63% staffing. How will VROMI address the poor service delivery, backlogs, and loss of public trust identified in its own risk section?

What is the implementation schedule for the Domain CRM, land allocation policy, land pricing policy, spatial-economic strategy, and zoning consolidation? What public-private partnership criteria will be applied for infrastructure projects?

How will value for money, risk allocation, revenue sharing, procurement method, and anti-favoritism safeguards be tested for VROMI public-private partnerships? Why does the VROMI risk table begin after a blank risk page, and will the formatting and presentation issues be corrected before final approval?

What is the status of the wastewater pumps? Can the Minister explain why he previously indicated that he did not know about certain wastewater matters, but later appeared publicly with information or an article concerning wastewater? What is the role of the Trust Fund, the World Bank, Government, or other partners in these wastewater projects?

Who is executing the district cleaning work? What is the current status of district cleaning contracts? Were any contractors selected without a proper tender?

Was it the plan to stop existing contracts and give certain preferred contractors the work? Can the Minister guarantee that no contractor was selected based on coalition preference or political connection?

Does the Minister have the legal basis to pay new contractors? Are any contractors currently working without a signed contract? Are any contractors being paid without a signed contract?

Can the Minister provide the contract for Acrobat X Ebenezer? Why is Acrobat X Ebenezer not being paid? Was the work accepted by Government? If the work was accepted, why has payment not been made? Has legal advice been requested? If yes, can that legal advice be provided to Parliament?

Is the Minister applying the same standard to all contractors, or only to some?

Can the Minister provide a list of all district cleaning contractors, their contract status, payment status, and outstanding amounts?

Can the Minister provide a list of all legal payments made by VROMI since he took office?

When was road work last tendered? Why haven't any road works been tendered in 2025? What is the status of the previously announced 1200 homes? Where exactly are the 1200 homes planned? Who will build the 1200 homes? What land will be used? What is the financing model? What is the timeline?

What is the status of the Over the Bank / Vineyard Heights housing project?

Will Government provide payment instructions for district cleaning contractors?

Will Government provide the overview of VROMI legal payments?

The faction would like to know from the Ministry of VROMI, what is the update on the wastewater infrastructure project, that's putting the underground infrastructure for the wastewater which had to start about a year ago. The faction would like a hard start date from the Minister of VROMI as to when that will take place.

The faction goes over to questions about district cleaning and would like to know what is the status of the current district cleaning contracts. Were there any contractors selected without a tender, because the faction noted some works taking place in and around the island but haven't seen any tender out. Are there any individuals busy executing district cleaning work without a contract? And if so, how is that possible? How were they selected? How and when will the tender be produced?

The faction stated that a few months ago there was an issue with the garbage tender that went wrong. The faction would like to know if this has been resolved. When will the tender go out? When will the rectifications of what went wrong take place. Can a list be provided of all legal payments made from the Ministry of VROMI. The legal consultants from the VROMI cabinet and the Ministry in its entirety over the last two years. Everything outside of the 'landsadvocaat'. The faction would like a clear overview.

Was the work for legal advice or consultation tendered? The faction would like to know from each cabinet all consultants and the last amounts paid over the last one year with legal affairs and other consultants within the cabinets of the ministries.

The faction would also like to know why haven't we seen any road works being tendered over the last two years? Why was the budget decreased to 600,000 guilders? How many permits were granted from June 2025 to June 2026 month by month? Can that be provided.

With regards to the Minister's view to build 1200 homes. Who is going to build these 1200 homes and when are they going to break ground to start?

The faction would like to know about the Vineyard Heights/Over the Bank project that is sitting there waiting to be executed. What is the Minister's plan with Over the Bank/Vineyard Heights.

The faction indicated that a process was started to regulate the land for the individuals to at least get ownership so that they can get proper GEBE connections to existing homes that don't have any building permits. Basically to legalize those situations. What has been done with that and if nothing has been done, when are we going to pick up the ball and continue to roll in allowing those persons to legalize their situation.

The United People's Party-faction has taken note of the draft with interest and has the following questions and remarks.

Ministry of Finance

The faction has the following questions and comments for the Ministry of Finance and would like to know what is the delay with the tourist tax and who is responsible? The faction further asks when the financial statements for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 will become available?

The faction indicates that the capital investments for TEATT are the only capital investments detailed in the elucidations, having a complete explanation? Can the minister explain how the ICT tax reform measures is intended to yield increased compliance?

The faction notes that Government is asking Parliament to approve another budget. However, the faction would like to know where the final actuals are for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024? The faction expresses its concern and would like to know how Parliament can effectively exercise its oversight function when Government has not accounted for the funds already spent.

The faction would like to know what happened to the 2025 budget amendment and where are the revenue-generating measures repeatedly announced by Government, including the tourist tax, foreign labor fees, and water sales to the French side? The faction notes the importance of these measures as Government is able to take these measures and collect money without burdening the people of Sint Maarten with taxation.

The faction would like to know what are the Ministry of Finance's three principal priorities are for Budget 2026 and what measurable outcomes the Ministry expects to achieve for each priority.

The faction inquires as to which observations and recommendations made by the Committee for Financial Supervision (CFT), Government considers to pose the greatest risk to the successful execution of Budget 2026. Which recommendations issued by the CFT have been fully implemented and which recommendations remain outstanding. The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved on each outstanding recommendation since Budget 2025 and what implementation timeline Government has established for completing the remaining recommendations? What specific measures are being implemented to mitigate the fiscal risks identified by the CFT?

The faction would like to know whether Government considers the revenue projections contained in Budget 2026 to be realistic and achievable and what economic assumptions support those projections? If projected revenues fall below budget, what contingency measures Government will implement to maintain fiscal stability without reducing essential public services.

The faction would like to know what external economic risks including inflation, tourism performance, global market conditions, interest rates, and natural disasters pose the greatest threat to Budget 2026 and how Government has or will prepare for these scenarios?

The faction would like to know what are the three greatest fiscal risks currently facing Sint Maarten and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026? The faction asks further how Government intends to balance fiscal discipline with the need to invest in economic growth, critical infrastructure, healthcare, education, and public safety?

The faction inquires about the lessons learned from the implementation of Budgets 2024 and 2025 that have been incorporated into Budget 2026 to improve fiscal planning, revenue forecasting, budget execution, financial oversight, and overall public financial management. The faction also queries how Government will measure whether these improvements achieve their intended results during 2026, please provide S.M.A.R.T. Goals?

The faction inquires about what structural reforms Government considers most urgent to strengthen public finances and ensure long-term fiscal sustainability?

The faction would like to know what was the reason for the late submission of Budget 2026. The faction notes that the Raad van Advies (RvA) expressed concerns regarding the late submission of Budget 2026. Therefore, the faction would like to know what structural, administrative, and legislative reforms Government is implementing to ensure future budgets are prepared, reviewed, and submitted within the constitutional deadlines.

The faction further notes that the RvA identified inconsistencies and insufficient explanations within the Budget 2026 documents. Therefore the faction would like to know what corrective measures have been taken to address each of these concerns. Will revised or supplementary information be provided to Parliament? What quality assurance measures will be implemented to prevent similar deficiencies in future budget submissions?

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to improve transparency, accountability, and public reporting on Government finances.

Looking beyond Budget 2026, the faction would like to know what long-term fiscal strategy Government has established to strengthen public finances, reduce structural financial vulnerabilities, and improve resilience to future economic shocks.

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to improve budget execution and reduce under-execution across Government. The faction would further like to know which ministries, departments, or budget chapters present the greatest implementation risks during 2026, and what corrective measures are being taken to address those risks. How will Government monitors budget execution throughout the fiscal year and how frequently will financial and performance reports be reviewed. What improvements have been implemented to strengthen financial management, internal controls, and financial oversight across Government?

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in implementing recommendations issued by the General Audit Chamber (G.A.C.) and other oversight bodies concerning public financial management. The faction would like to know which recommendations remain outstanding and what implementation timeline has been established for their completion.

The faction would like to know whether the transition to policy-based budgeting has been fully implemented across all ministries since the commitments made during previous budget cycles. What measurable improvements in planning, budget execution, and performance management have been achieved and which implementation gaps remain. The faction would further like to know what actions will be completed during 2026 to achieve full implementation.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved regarding the key performance indicators established for each ministry during Budget 2025. Which targets were achieved or not achieved and how have those results influenced Budget 2026?

The faction would like to know whether the Minister will commit to publishing quarterly performance reports comparing planned versus actual results for each ministry. The faction would also like to know how Government ensures that approved budget allocations produce measurable outcomes and improved public service delivery rather than simply increasing expenditure. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in improving the monitoring and evaluation of budget implementation across all ministries and what key performance indicators are being used to measure results. How Government will ensure timely corrective action where performance falls below approved targets.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening the monitoring of capital projects financed through the national budget. How many projects were completed on time and within budget. The faction would also like to know which projects experienced delays or cost overruns and what corrective measures have been implemented for 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in improving expenditure planning and budget allocation across Government and how this has improved budget execution. What additional reforms will be implemented during 2026 to ensure resources are allocated more efficiently. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening financial risk management. The faction would also like to know how Government identifies emerging fiscal pressures, implements mitigation strategies, and how these risks are reflected in Budget 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of Government-funded program's. The faction would like to know how program outcomes are being measured against budget allocations, and what improvements have been incorporated into Budget 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening financial oversight of Government-owned entities .The faction would like to know what improvements have been made in the reporting, governance, and accountability and what additional measures will be implemented during 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in modernizing the Ministry's financial management systems.

The faction would like to know which digital initiatives have been completed and which remain outstanding. The faction would also like to know what implementation timeline has been established for the remaining projects.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in improving internal financial controls, reducing

financial irregularities, strengthening accountability, and ensuring compliance with financial management procedures across Government. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening cash flow forecasting and treasury management, how has this improved Government's financial position and what additional initiatives are planned during 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in reducing payment arrears to suppliers and service providers. What the current value and age of outstanding obligations are, and what measures have been implemented to ensure the timely settlement of Government's financial commitments during 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening procurement planning, competitive tendering, contract management, and value for money in public expenditure, what weaknesses remain, and what additional reforms will be implemented during 2026. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in improving the timeliness, accuracy, and transparency of Government's financial reporting, what reporting deficiencies remain, and what additional improvements are planned during 2026?

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening financial accountability across ministries and how compliance with financial management requirements is being monitored. What corrective actions have been taken where deficiencies have been identified. What lessons were incorporated into the Budget 2026 revenue projections following the revenue shortfalls identified during Budget 2025 and which revenue categories continue to present the greatest collection risks.

The faction would like to know what contingency measures Government will implement if actual revenue collections fall below budgeted projections. Which corrective measures were implemented following the execution of Budget 2025 to address identified financial management deficiencies. What measurable improvements have already been achieved. How will the Ministry evaluate whether these measures improve budget execution during 2026?

The faction would like to know which ministries recorded the greatest over-expenditure and under-expenditure during Budget 2025. What were the principal causes of those variances, what corrective actions have been

implemented, and how Government will ensure those variances are not repeated during Budget 2026?

The faction would like to know what additional expenditure control measures have been implemented to prevent unauthorized spending, reduce budget overruns, strengthen expenditure monitoring, and ensure that approved appropriations are utilized efficiently throughout Budget 2026. What emerging fiscal risks Government considers most likely to affect Budget 2026 and how those risks were identified. What mitigation strategies have been incorporated into the national budget to minimize their potential financial impact. What improvements have been implemented within the Revenue Administration to reduce processing times, strengthen collections, improve taxpayer compliance, and increase operational efficiency.

The faction would like to know how these improvements will be measured during 2026. Historically, what percentage of budgeted revenues has actually been collected over the past five years and how does that compare with the revenue performance experienced during Budget 2025. What lessons were incorporated into Budget 2026 revenue forecasting and what measures are being implemented to improve the accuracy and reliability of future revenue projections. How Government evaluates the overall accuracy of its revenue forecasting methodology following the experience of Budget 2025. What improvements have been incorporated into Budget 2026 and what mechanisms are now in place to identify and address significant forecasting variances during the fiscal year?

The faction would like to know which new revenue sources Government expects to contribute to Budget 2026 and what the projected revenue is from each initiative. How Government assesses the long-term sustainability of these new revenue streams. What specific measures Government will implement during 2026 to broaden the national tax base by improving compliance, reducing informality, and expanding the number of registered taxpayers, while ensuring that compliant taxpayers are not subjected to disproportionate tax burdens. How many cases of tax evasion and tax fraud were identified during 2025, what enforcement actions were taken in each category, what additional revenue, penalties, and interest were recovered, and what new enforcement initiatives will be implemented during 2026 to further strengthen tax compliance.

The faction would like to know what the current value is of outstanding tax arrears owed by Government-related entities, government-owned

companies, and the largest private taxpayers, and what progress has been made in recovering these outstanding amounts since Budget 2025. What enforcement measures will be taken during 2026 against persistent non-compliance. What is the current backlog in tax assessments, objections, appeals, and outstanding tax cases compared to the position reported during the Budget 2025 process. What measurable progress has been achieved in reducing these backlogs. What timeline has been established to eliminate the remaining outstanding cases. How many tax audits were completed during 2025, what additional revenue, penalties, and interest were assessed and collected as a result, and how these results compare with previous years? What audit targets and expected revenue outcomes the Ministry has established for 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable improvements have been achieved since Budget 2025 to improve taxpayer services, reduce processing times, strengthen voluntary tax compliance, and enhance the overall taxpayer experience. What performance targets has the Ministry established for 2026 to measure further improvements. Which components of the digital modernization of the Tax Administration have been completed and which remain under development? How have these improvements reduced processing times and increased operational efficiency? When is full implementation expected?

The faction would like to know what the current value is of outstanding tax receivables, how that amount has changed since Budget 2025, and what percentage is considered realistically recoverable. What measurable progress has been made in reducing tax arrears and what specific collection strategy the Ministry will implement during 2026 to improve recovery rates. What is the current voluntary tax compliance rate? How has it changed compared with 2025, and what factors have contributed to that change? What additional compliance initiatives will the Ministry implement during 2026 to improve voluntary compliance.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Government advised Parliament during the Budget 2025 process that the Tax Reform legislative package was being finalized. Which components have since been completed, which remain outstanding, and what factors have delayed implementation where applicable? When will Parliament receive the remaining draft legislation?

The faction would like to know how many active tax holiday and fiscal incentive agreements are currently in effect. What measurable economic

benefits have they generated since Budget 2025 in terms of investment, employment, and economic activity. How does Government evaluate whether these incentives continue to provide value for money and justify the associated loss of Government revenue? What measurable economic returns have been generated from Government's fiscal incentive program's since Budget 2025, including new investments, business expansion, employment creation, and tax revenue, and how Government determines whether these incentives continue to achieve their intended policy objectives?

The faction would like to know what measures have been implemented during 2025 to strengthen Customs' ability to detect and prevent smuggling, customs fraud, revenue leakage, and undervaluation of imported goods, and what measurable results have been achieved. What additional enforcement initiatives are planned for 2026. Which Customs modernization initiatives have been completed, what operational improvements have resulted from these initiatives, which modernization projects remain outstanding, and what the implementation timeline is for full modernization of Customs? How many customs inspections, investigations, seizures, and enforcement actions were conducted during 2025. How these results compare with previous years? What impact they had on revenue collection and compliance, and what enforcement targets have been established for 2026? How is Customs cooperating with local, regional, and international law enforcement agencies to combat customs fraud, smuggling, money laundering, and other cross-border financial crimes? What measurable results have been achieved through these partnerships during 2025? What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in reducing customs clearance times while maintaining effective border controls? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what performance indicators are used to measure efficiency and what additional improvements are planned during 2026. Which legislative, regulatory, and administrative reforms affecting Customs have been implemented since Budget 2025. What measurable improvements have resulted from each reform and which reforms remain outstanding with their expected implementation dates? How will Government evaluate the overall performance of Customs since Budget 2025 with respect to revenue collection, trade facilitation, enforcement, and operational efficiency? What measurable improvements have been achieved and what strategic priorities have been established for 2026.

The faction has the following questions concerning governments incurred debts. What is the current level of Government debt and how it has changed since Budget 2025? What factors contributed to those changes and how does the

current debt position compares to the projections presented in Budget 2025? What measures are being implemented during 2026 to ensure long-term debt sustainability. What debt-to-GDP ratio does Government currently project for 2026, how does this compares with the projections presented during Budget 2025, and whether Government considers this level fiscally sustainable? What measures are being implemented to prevent the ratio from increasing beyond acceptable limits. Furthermore, the faction would like to know what are Government's projected debt service obligations, including principal and interest payments, for the next five years and how these projections compare with those presented during Budget 2025? What fiscal risks could affect Government's ability to meet these obligations and what measures are being implemented to mitigate those risks?

Based on Government's current cash flow projections, the faction would like to know what minimum liquidity reserve the Ministry considers necessary to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential public services. How does the projected 2026 liquidity position compares to that benchmark. What measures will be taken if liquidity falls below the desired level? The faction notes that the 2026 Budget projects approximately Cg 5 million in year-end liquidity. Based on current financial projections, the faction would like to know how long Government could continue operating following a major hurricane, economic shock, or other national emergency before additional financing would become necessary? What contingency financing arrangements are currently in place. Does Government intends to undertake any new borrowing during 2026? What the purpose is of each proposed loan, what measurable economic or public benefits are expected from the financed projects? How will Government evaluate whether those investments achieve the anticipated results?

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 regarding Kingdom loans and other financing arrangements and what projects have been financed through these facilities? What outcomes have been achieved and whether Government anticipates requesting additional external financing during 2026. What Government's medium- and long-term strategy is to reduce reliance on borrowing while maintaining essential public investments. What measurable fiscal targets have been established to achieve that objective? What are the three greatest financial risks currently threatening Government's fiscal sustainability and how these risks have changed since Budget 2025? What mitigation measures have been implemented? How will Government monitor their effectiveness throughout 2026? Additionally the faction would like to know how Government will report

to Parliament during 2026 on debt levels, liquidity, borrowing, and fiscal sustainability? How frequently will these reports be submitted, and will they include comparisons between projected and actual financial performance? What measurable progress has Government achieved since Budget 2025 toward reducing public debt, strengthening liquidity, building financial reserves, and improving resilience to future economic shocks. Which objectives remain outstanding, and what additional actions are planned during 2026?

The faction would like to know how Government assesses the current stability of Sint Maarten's financial sector compared with its assessment during Budget 2025, what emerging financial risks have since been identified? What measures are being implemented during 2026 to safeguard financial stability? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how Government and the Central Bank are coordinating to identify, assess, and respond to systemic financial risks? What joint initiatives have been implemented during 2025 to strengthen the stability of Sint Maarten's financial system?

The faction would like to know what significant regulatory or supervisory changes affecting the financial sector have occurred since Budget 2025? What impact have these changes had on financial institutions and consumers, and are additional reforms anticipated during 2026? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what regional and international financial developments currently pose the greatest risks to Sint Maarten's financial sector? How have these risks changed since Budget 2025? What contingency measures has Government incorporated into Budget 2026 to address them?

The faction would like to know what indicators Government uses to assess public confidence in the banking and financial sector? What do those indicators currently demonstrate, and what initiatives will be implemented during 2026 to strengthen consumer confidence? What are Government's strategic priorities for strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and long-term development of Sint Maarten's financial sector? How will success be measured during 2026?

The faction notes that during the Budget 2025 process, Government identified the Basic Bank Account legislation as one of its legislative priorities. The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since that commitment, what legislative and policy milestones have been completed? What steps remain before implementation, and when does Government expect the legislation to be enacted? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how many individuals currently remain without access to basic banking services, what

measurable progress has been achieved since Government identified the Basic Bank Account legislation as a priority during the Budget 2025 process? What specific targets has Government established for reducing financial exclusion during 2026? What agreements or commitments have been reached with commercial banks to improve access to banking services, what measurable improvements have resulted from those agreements, and what additional commitments is Government pursuing during 2026? Which groups continue to experience the greatest barriers to accessing banking and financial services, what targeted initiatives are being implemented to address those barriers? How will Government measure whether financial inclusion improves during 2026? Additionally, the faction would like to know beyond the Basic Bank Account legislation, what additional legislative, regulatory, or policy measures is Government considering to strengthen financial inclusion, consumer protection, and equitable access to financial services?

The faction would also like to know what financial risks or contingent liabilities could current and future developments involving ENNIA create for the Government and the people of Sint Maarten, how has Government's assessment changed since Budget 2025, and what measures are being implemented during 2026 to mitigate those risks? How does Government coordinate with the Central Bank regarding developments affecting ENNIA and what responsibilities fall within Government's authority? What measures are being taken to protect policyholders and safeguard financial stability?

The faction would like to know which financial sector reforms remain outstanding, what obstacles have delayed their implementation? What legislative or policy priorities has Government established for completion during 2026? What additional safeguards have been established to strengthen cooperation between Government, the Central Bank, and financial institutions in protecting consumers, maintaining financial stability, and responding to future financial sector risks?

The faction would like to know what is the current financial position of APS? How has that position changed since Budget 2025? What are the principal financial and actuarial risks affecting the long-term sustainability of the pension system? What specific measures will Government implement during 2026 to address those risks? Furthermore, the faction would like to know when was the most recent actuarial assessment of APS completed, what measurable progress has been made since Budget 2025 in implementing its recommendations? Which

recommendations remain outstanding, and what implementation timeline has been established for their completion?

The faction would like to know how have demographic and workforce changes since Budget 2025 affected Government's long-term pension obligations? What updated projections have been developed for the sustainability of the pension system? What policy measures are being implemented during 2026 to address these long-term challenges? How do Government and APS coordinate on long-term pension planning, funding obligations, actuarial monitoring, and sustainability planning? What measurable outcomes have resulted from this cooperation, and what additional initiatives are planned during 2026?

The faction would like to know how did the Ministry of Finance perform against the key performance indicators established for Budget 2025? Which targets were achieved, which were not achieved? What factors contributed to any shortfalls? How have those results influenced the priorities and performance targets contained in Budget 2026? Furthermore, the faction would like to know whether the Minister will commit to submitting quarterly reports to Parliament on the implementation of Budget 2026, including budget execution, revenue performance, expenditure performance, progress on key performance indicators, implementation of major policy initiatives, and explanations for any significant variances from approved targets?

The faction would like to know if Budget 2026 under performs due to lower revenues, implementation delays, or external economic shocks: what corrective measures will Government implement before seeking supplementary appropriations or additional borrowing?

The faction would like to know which legislative, administrative, and institutional reforms has the Ministry of Finance completed since Budget 2025 to strengthen public financial management, fiscal governance, and institutional capacity? Which reforms remain outstanding, and what are the expected completion dates for the remaining initiatives? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what is Government's long-term vision for maintaining sustainable public finances while supporting economic growth, protecting essential public services, and reducing the country's structural financial vulnerabilities?

The faction would like to know if the Minister can table the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for every ministry and commit to providing quarterly performance reports to Parliament?

The faction would also like to know if ministries fail to meet their approved 2026 targets, what consequences or corrective measures will follow?

The faction would like to know if the Minister can provide, for every ministry, all sources of revenue collected and outstanding revenue? Can the Minister provide, for every ministry, revenue lost or delayed for 2024, 2025 and 2026? Furthermore, the faction would like to know if the Minister can provide, per ministry, a list of all advisory contracts costing between Cg 46,000 and 49,999?

The faction would like to know whether Government will commit that, beginning with the 2027 Budget, every ministry will present measurable outcomes rather than only financial allocations?

The faction would like to know what are the implementation dates for the General Health Insurance, Tourist Levy and Tax Reform? Furthermore, the faction would like to know if these reforms are delayed beyond 2026, in which year does Government project that SZV will become financially unsustainable?

The faction would like to know whether Parliament will receive quarterly reports for every government-owned company containing audited financial statements, cash flow, debt position and Government guarantees? Will Government introduce legal deadlines for the submission of audited financial statements by government-owned companies, together with sanctions for non-compliance? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what governance improvements will be introduced under the Active Participation Policy, and how will Government measure their success?

The faction would like to know how much additional revenue is expected from improved tax compliance during 2026? When will the expanded payment plan arrangement also become available to businesses? How many individuals and businesses are currently outside the tax system? How many individuals and businesses does Government expect to bring into tax compliance by the end of 2026?

Furthermore, the faction would like to know of the projected NAf. 61 million increase in revenue, how much comes from economic growth, improved tax compliance, new policy measures and one-time revenues?

The faction would like to know how much does Government currently owe in outstanding obligations? Are all outstanding legal claims against Government

included in the projected budget surplus? What contingency measures are built into Budget 2026 to address a decline in tourism? What contingency measures are built into Budget 2026 to address a major hurricane or other disaster?

Furthermore, the faction would like to know how many new positions are funded in Budget 2026? What is the breakdown of those new positions by ministry, function, and cost? What is the current government-wide vacancy rate? How are salary allocations for long-term vacant positions managed? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how many employees in each ministry are currently on long-term sick leave, and what is Government's plan to address these situations?

The faction would like to know of the approximately Cg. 39 million increase in Goods and Services expenditure how much relates to temporary TWO-funded programs? How much will become permanent Government expenditure once TWO funding ends?

The faction is requesting Government to provide a list of every capital project exceeding Cg 1 million, including estimated cost, funding source, timeline, and expected outcomes? The faction would like to know what return on investment is expected from capital projects financed through borrowing? How will those returns be measured?

The faction notes that Government debt now exceeds NAf. 1 billion. The faction would like to know what debt-to-GDP ratio Government considers to be the maximum sustainable level? Furthermore, with projected year-end liquidity of approximately Cg. 5 million, the faction would like to know how long Government can continue operating after a major hurricane before emergency financing becomes necessary? In that regard, the faction would like to know how much funding has been allocated in Budget 2026 for disaster preparedness and emergency response? How much funding has been allocated in Budget 2026 for climate adaptation and climate resilience?

The faction would like to know what are the three greatest risks to the successful implementation of Budget 2026? How does Government intend to mitigate each one?

The faction would like to know which program's or policies in Budget 2026 are expected to deliver the greatest measurable improvements for the people of Sint Maarten compared with 2025? How will those improvements be measured?

Given the projected surplus, limited liquidity, Government debt exceeding Cg 1 billion, and the reliance on reforms that have not yet been implemented, the faction would like to know whether Government can state that Budget 2026 is financially sustainable?

The faction would like to know why there is a Cg 5,000 discrepancy in the Ministry of Justice's travel budget (Reiskosten), Can the Minister clarify this difference?

Ministry of General Affairs

The faction has the following questions and comments for the Ministry of General Affairs. What are the Ministry of General Affairs' three principal priorities for Budget 2026, and what measurable outcomes does the Ministry expect to achieve for each priority? What key performance indicators have been established to measure the Ministry's performance, and how will progress be reported to Parliament during 2026?

The faction notes that during the 2025 Budget debate, Government presented a legislative agenda that included reforms to the government formation process, disaster management legislation, civil service legislation, archives, the Basic Administration, digital identity, and interoperability. The faction would like to know which of these legislative commitments have been completed, which remain outstanding, what are the reasons for any delays, and when does Government expect each remaining initiative to be submitted to Parliament? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what measurable progress has been made in recruiting additional legislative lawyers since Budget 2025, how many legislative drafting positions within the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislation are currently filled or remain vacant, what impact has the additional capacity had on reducing legislative backlogs and improving the drafting of legislation, and what further staffing is still required?

The faction would like to know what is the current status of the Government Vehicle Policy, what accountability measures have been introduced regarding the use of Government vehicles, and what measurable reductions have been achieved in unauthorized vehicle use and operational costs?

Furthermore, the faction would like to know which administrative policies governing Government operations have been reviewed or modernized since Budget 2025, what measurable efficiencies have resulted from those reforms, and which policy reviews remain outstanding? How does the Ministry evaluate

and strengthen inter-ministerial coordination to ensure the effective implementation of Government policies and national priorities?

The faction would like to know what are the three greatest operational risks currently facing the Ministry of General Affairs, and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026?

The faction would like to know what is the current vacancy level within the Ministry and its departments, and which critical positions remain unfilled? What recruitment and retention initiatives will be implemented during 2026 to address staffing shortages across the public service? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what progress has been made in revising the Civil Service Remuneration Regulations, Leave Regulations, and the Civil Service Legal Framework, what consultations have been completed, and when will these legislative amendments be submitted to Parliament? What measurable progress has been made in workforce planning and succession planning, and which departments remain most vulnerable to the loss of institutional knowledge? What measurable progress has been made in modernizing the public service, and what additional reforms are planned for 2026?

The faction would like to know how is the Ministry, through P&O, improving employee benefits, career development, and professional growth opportunities for civil servants? Does Government have a structured programs that enables department heads to identify high-performing civil servants for scholarships, certifications, or degree programs that prepare them for advancement into higher-level positions? Does the Ministry have a dedicated budget for manpower development and professional training? If so, how much has been allocated for 2026, and how will those funds be utilized? Furthermore, the faction would like to know why does the extraordinary leave policy not provide leave for civil servants who must accompany their children to psycho-social or therapeutic appointments during normal working hours? Has Government considered implementing an employee referral programs that rewards civil servants who successfully recommend qualified candidates for Government vacancies?

The faction would like to know what actions has the Ministry taken in response to the Civil Servant Employee Satisfaction Survey, and which employee concerns will be addressed during 2026? How does Government measure employee satisfaction, retention, absenteeism, and staff turnover, and what improvement targets have been established for 2026? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what progress has been made in updating and implementing the Government's function books, which ministries or departments remain

outstanding, and when does Government expect the revision process to be completed?

The faction would like to know what is the current staffing level within the Fire Department compared to the approved organizational formation, and how many additional firefighters are required to achieve full operational capacity? What recruitment, retention, and training initiatives will be implemented during 2026 to address personnel shortages within the Fire Department? What is the current status of all outstanding retroactive payments and other financial obligations owed to fire and ambulance personnel, and when will these obligations be fully settled? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what corrective actions have been implemented following the recent labor dispute involving fire and ambulance personnel, and how will Government prevent similar disputes in the future? What is the current status of the Fire Department function book, what issues have delayed its finalization or implementation, and when does Government expect it to be completed?

The faction would like to know what investments are planned during 2026 for firefighting equipment, protective gear, emergency response vehicles, and station infrastructure? Can Government provide a full status overview of the fire trucks, ambulances, SUVs, pickups, and other emergency response vehicles purchased with NRPB funds, including the quantity purchased, cost per vehicle, operational status, maintenance schedule, and any vehicles currently out of service? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what local and international training opportunities will be provided to firefighters and emergency personnel during 2026, including leadership and incident command training, and which critical competencies remain unavailable? Following the training of fire officers through the Netherlands Institute for Physical Safety, what measurable improvements have been achieved in incident command capacity, leadership coverage, and management staffing within the Fire Department?

The faction would like to know does Government consider the current fire stations and supporting infrastructure adequate to meet national emergency response requirements, and if not, what improvements are planned? What measures are being implemented to improve emergency response times, and what response-time targets have been established for 2026? What are the greatest operational challenges currently affecting the Fire Department, and what additional resources are required to strengthen operational readiness? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to strengthen coordination between the Fire Department,

Ambulance Services, KPSM, the Emergency Operations Center, and other emergency response agencies during major incidents and national emergencies?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in implementing the National Disaster Management Plan, and which priority actions remain outstanding? Have all national emergency response plans, disaster protocols, and contingency plans been updated and tested for 2026? What lessons have been incorporated from recent hurricanes and emergency events, and what measurable improvements have been implemented as a result? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what is the current operational status of emergency shelters throughout Sint Maarten, and what investments are planned to upgrade shelters that do not meet current standards? What investments are being made to strengthen emergency communication systems, emergency warning capabilities, and continuity of communications during disasters? Has Government conducted national disaster simulation exercises or emergency preparedness drills during the past year, what deficiencies were identified, and what corrective actions have been implemented?

Based on Government's national risk assessment, the faction would like to know what are the greatest disaster threats facing Sint Maarten, and what mitigation measures have been prioritized in Budget 2026? What additional financial, human, technical, and infrastructural resources are required to strengthen national disaster preparedness and resilience? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what agreements are currently in place with regional and Kingdom partners to provide assistance following a major hurricane or national emergency, and have these agreements been tested or updated during the past year?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in implementing the Integrity Chamber recommendations issued to GEBE, and which recommendations remain outstanding? Has GEBE fully implemented all required integrity policies, including its Code of Conduct, complaints procedure, confidentiality policy, and whistleblower protections? What is the current status of the Compliance Officer and Confidential Advisor positions, and are these functions fully operational? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how does Government, in its capacity as shareholder, monitor compliance with governance, integrity, and reporting requirements at GEBE?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations contained in the PwC report, and what implementation timeline has been established for the remaining recommendations? What is the current status of GEBE's audited financial

statements, and what measures have been implemented to ensure future audits are completed within the required timeframe? What impact has the cyberattack had on GEBE's financial reporting, operational performance, customer services, and internal control systems, and what corrective actions have since been implemented? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what investments have been made to strengthen GEBE's cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, and business continuity capabilities?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in implementing the Least-Cost Power Development Plan, and which projects are scheduled for execution during 2026? What measures are being implemented to diversify energy production, reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, and increase the use of renewable energy? What measurable progress has been made in reducing non-revenue water, electricity losses, and other operational inefficiencies? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what role does the Bureau Telecommunications and Post (BTP) currently play in tariff oversight, and does Government intend to strengthen that role through legislative or policy reform? How does GEBE ensure transparency and accountability in the calculation of electricity tariffs, water tariffs, fuel clause adjustments, and other utility charges passed on to consumers?

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to improve customer service, reduce customer complaints, and restore public confidence in GEBE? What are the greatest operational, financial, governance, and infrastructure risks currently facing GEBE, and what mitigation measures are being implemented? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what role does Government foresee for GEBE in strengthening Sint Maarten's long-term energy security, economic resilience, and national development? What additional governance reforms does Government intend to implement to strengthen shareholder oversight, corporate governance, and accountability within GEBE?

The faction would like to know what assessment Government has made regarding the impact of inflation, global energy prices, and supply chain disruptions on the cost of living in Sint Maarten? How does Government monitor inflation, food prices, transportation costs, utility expenses, and other cost-of-living indicators, and how frequently are these assessments updated? What measures are being implemented to protect low- and middle-income households from rising living costs during 2026? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what assessment Government has made regarding the impact of inflation and rising utility costs on senior citizens and other vulnerable groups? What impact could rising energy, transportation, and import costs have on tourism, private

sector competitiveness, and the wider economy? What national strategies are being implemented to strengthen energy security, improve economic resilience, and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels?

The faction would like to know whether Government intends to establish a national framework for monitoring cost-of-living pressures and external economic risks, and if so, which ministry will be responsible for its coordination? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what opportunities exist for regional and Kingdom cooperation to strengthen energy security, supply chains, disaster resilience, and economic stability? What are the greatest external economic risks currently facing Sint Maarten, and what contingency measures have been incorporated into Government's national resilience strategy? What role will the Ministry of General Affairs play in coordinating Government's response to future economic shocks, national emergencies, and cost-of-living pressure?

The faction would like to know what are the Ministry's principal Kingdom-related priorities and initiatives for 2026, and what measurable outcomes are expected from each? What financial, technical, institutional, and policy assistance is Sint Maarten currently receiving from the Kingdom, and what measurable results have been achieved through these partnerships? What progress has been made in fulfilling outstanding agreements, commitments, and reform programs between Sint Maarten and the Kingdom, and which matters remain outstanding? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how Government evaluates the effectiveness of Kingdom cooperation programs, and what performance indicators are used to measure their impact? What role does Government envision for Kingdom cooperation in strengthening governance, institutional capacity, disaster resilience, and economic development? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting the relationship between Sint Maarten and the Kingdom, and what actions are being taken to address them? What long-term objectives has Government established for strengthening Kingdom relations and expanding future cooperation?

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to improve customer service standards across Government departments and public service centers? What measurable progress has been made in the digitalization of Government services, and which additional services will become available online during 2026? What measures are being implemented to reduce processing times, eliminate administrative bottlenecks, and improve the efficiency of Government services? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what investments are planned for information technology, digital infrastructure,

and Government modernization during 2026? What measures are being implemented to strengthen cybersecurity across Government systems and protect critical digital infrastructure? What lessons has Government learned from previous cyber incidents affecting public institutions, and what improvements have been implemented to strengthen cyber resilience? What are the greatest information technology, cybersecurity, and digital transformation challenges currently facing Government, and what investments are planned to address them?

The faction would like to know how Government intends to improve accessibility, convenience, and responsiveness for citizens accessing Government services? What key performance indicators are used to measure improvements in public service delivery, and will those performance results be reported publicly? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what is Government's long-term vision for digital government, innovation, and the modernization of public services?

The faction would like to know what role Government currently plays in overseeing Mullet Bay and other Government-owned entities while respecting the distinction between shareholder oversight and operational management? What progress has been made in resolving outstanding governance matters involving Mullet Bay, and what implementation timelines have been established for the remaining issues? What lessons has Government learned from recent governance challenges involving Government-owned companies, and how have those lessons strengthened corporate governance across the public sector? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how Government determines when shareholder intervention is appropriate, and what governance framework guides the relationship between Government, Supervisory Boards, and Managing Boards? Has Government identified systemic governance weaknesses across Government-owned companies and public entities, and what reforms are being implemented to address those weaknesses? What safeguards are in place to ensure Government exercises effective shareholder oversight without becoming involved in the day-to-day management of Government-owned entities?

The faction would like to know what key performance indicators does the Ministry of General Affairs use to measure its overall performance and the successful implementation of Budget 2026? Will the Minister commit to providing Parliament with quarterly progress reports on the implementation of major projects, policy initiatives, and the achievement of ministry performance indicators? If major Government initiatives fail to meet their approved objectives

during 2026, what corrective actions and accountability measures will be implemented?

The faction would like to know what legislative, administrative, or policy reforms does Government consider necessary to strengthen governance, public administration, and national coordination beyond 2026? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what is Government's long-term vision for strengthening governance, national resilience, emergency preparedness, digital government, and the overall effectiveness of the public service? Furthermore, the faction would like to know whether Government will commit that every ministry reports against measurable KPIs on a quarterly basis? What reforms are being implemented to modernize the public service? What progress has been made with Government's digital transformation agenda? What legislative priorities remain to be completed in 2026? What measures are being implemented to strengthen integrity and accountability throughout Government? What investments are being made to improve national disaster preparedness and resilience? How will Government improve communication and transparency with the public?

The faction would like to know whether the Government can provide the most recent SLS lab test results? Can the Government provide a timeline for when future test results will be made public? What steps have been taken to ensure real-time photographic documentation of mold remediation is now consistently available? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how frequently are staff complaints about building-related illnesses being addressed? What health support is in place for affected civil servants? What changes to the inspection schedule or remediation protocols have been made to ensure compliance with international best practices? Has there been an updated public remediation plan with clear deadlines for fully resolving the mold crisis?

The faction would like to know what are Government's priorities regarding Kingdom Relations during 2026? Following the motion of disapproval, what concrete steps has the Prime Minister taken to restore trust and ensure full transparency in decision-making? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what measures have been implemented to strengthen independent oversight and prevent conflicts of interest within the Council of Ministers?

The faction notes that there is no budget increase for Fire Department personnel. Therefore, the faction would like to know where the retroactive payment is reflected in the budget. Is the faction to understand that it is still not

known how much funding will be required once placement takes place? Does this Government not intend for the retroactive payment to occur in 2026?

The faction further noted that, according to the explanatory memorandum, which states "it is not fully financially feasible to place ICT and Fire Department staff at the appropriate pay scales under the new job classification book (2025)." However, the faction would like the Minister to clarify whether there are persons who are already eligible for placement in their correct function based on the approved 2025 function book, even if not all related payments can commence in 2026.

The faction would like the Minister to confirm whether the outstanding Fire Department payout, whether arising from salary corrections, allowances, overtime, legal claims, or any other settlement, is included anywhere in the 2026 draft budget. If it is included, the faction would like to know under which budget post it is reflected and what is the total amount reserved? If it is not included, the faction would like to know why has Government submitted a 2026 budget that does not disclose a known financial obligation to Parliament.

The faction would also like to know the total outstanding liability to Fire Department personnel as of the date of this debate, broken down by the principal amount, interest, legal costs, and any expected future accruals.

The faction would like to know whether Government has received legal advice on this matter. If so, when was that advice received, what is the estimated financial exposure, and will the Minister provide that advice to Parliament, subject to any necessary confidentiality protections?

The faction would also like to know whether Government intends to pay the obligation in one payment, through a phased settlement, or through a budget amendment. Furthermore, the faction would like to know the exact payment schedule?

The faction noted that the budget acknowledges that the Fire Department has only a 47% staffing occupancy. Therefore, the faction would like to know how Government can credibly speak about disaster preparedness while failing to fully disclose and fund its obligations to the very personnel responsible for emergency response.

The faction would like the Minister to commit to presenting Parliament, before the end of the third quarter of 2026, with a Fire Department recovery plan covering staffing, equipment, training, facilities, outstanding personnel obligations, and disaster-response readiness.

The faction remarks the massive resignation of civil servants, and would like to know what is the plan to make it more attractive?

The faction would like an update regarding the GEBE generators. The faction recalls that in the 2024 budget there was 74.6 /76.4 million was for the generators. Can we still afford the generators with the cost of inflation? If we can why haven't we purchased these generators. If Government cannot afford the generators, what is the plan for the loan, seeing that we took a loan that the people of Sint Maarten are paying for? What is the update with the funds for the loan from the Netherlands?

Social and Economic Council (SER)

The faction notes that Government has received the SER advice on short-term labor contracts. The faction would like to know what has been done the advice was received. Furthermore, the faction would like to know whether Government agrees with the proposal and is it still being worked on.

The faction notes that that Government also received the SER advice on the amendment submitted by the faction to the then Minister of VSA, Ms. Janssen-Webster, on the foreign labor implementation rules. The faction would like to know what has been done since receiving the SER advice.

The faction refers to the legislation concerning the Tourist Tax, the LBHAM foreign labor fees, and the amendments to the Civil Code regarding short-term labor contracts. For each SER advice, the faction would like to know the date the advice was received and the actions taken.

The faction notes stagnation of laws necessary for revenue generating measures because of the issue with the SER. Therefore the faction would like an update on SER issues?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

As it regards the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport, the faction noted that an amount of Cg. 1.2 million has been allocated for agricultural development under capital investments. Therefore, the faction would like the Minister to provide further details regarding this allocation, as reflected on page 193.

The faction notes that Cg. 4 million has been allocated for the Flag Pole Project. The faction remarks however that Government has not been able to

keep the national flag up. The faction also queries if this is not private land. The faction has also notes with interest the Cg. 15 million allocated for the Clem Labega Square in Philipsburg. The faction would like some more details on this and timeline projected.

The faction has taken note that the GEBE senior rate only applies to seniors whose bill is under Cg. 500. The faction would like to know how realistic is this threshold is especially considering the fuel clause. For example, an elderly person living alone, who is immobile and relies on a medical bed and other medical equipment. Their bill cannot be less that Cg. 500 per month.

The faction would like to see a standardize rate for seniors across the board. In a ministerial regulation (MR) which the faction submitted in line with views of Curaçao and Aruba and various countries, a standard tariff was created, regardless of your consumption.

The faction would like to know if BTP has entered the building of GEBE to inspect the books. After research the faction has found that the Minister does not need BTP. The faction understands that the Minister, together with the Public Prosecutor is able to examine GEBE's books to get the data the Minister needs to complete the Ministerial Regulation. The faction prepared and submitted a draft to the Minister in November. The faction further remarks that if this was known when the faction was responsible for the minister function, the ministerial decision would have been made up. The faction is not discrediting the appointment of BTP under the Electricity Ordinance; however, the faction believes that the follow up has not continued, and questions what the Minister is waiting for?

The faction would like the Minister of TEATT to provide clarity regarding page 193, where the Cg 1.2 million capital investment for the Agriculture Agency. It was unclear to the faction as the information included information relating to the Philipsburg Beautification Master Plan. The faction inquires if the 2 million is solely for the Agriculture Agency or does it include the Beautification Plan?

The faction noted that, under subsidies, Agriculture is allocated Cg 261,211; however, no foundation name is listed. Therefore, the faction would like to know why no foundation is listed and how this amount was determined.

The faction notes that the budget of the Department of Economic Affairs, Telecommunications and Transport increased from approximately Cg. 1.7 million to Cg 13 million, which is an increase of approximately Cg. 11.3 million for projects and activities. The faction remarks that this is a major increase, what are the plans with this increase? Within this Cg. 11.3 million, Cg. 4 million is for

agriculture. The faction notes the extensive agricultural program however the Policy Plan refers to activities scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2025. Therefore, the faction would like to receive an updated and realistic list of deliverables for 2026, together with a more detailed vision for 2027. The faction would like to know if something was started in 2025, fourth quarter and what was it?

The faction takes further notice of an additional capital investment of Cg 1.2 million for the Agency for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The faction would like to know what exactly what is the Cg 1.2 million for and how the amount was determined.

The faction would like to know what is the Flag Pole Project for Cg 4 million and how does Government intend to maintain the hoisting of the national flag?

The faction would like to know what the legal basis is for the of establishment the St. Maarten Tourism Authority. Under which law, and under which specific article?

The faction has noted that the 2026 budget explicitly removes the anticipated revenues measures from the tourist tax projections, despite indicating that the measures are being pursued. The faction also notes that previous budgets included approximately Cg 18 million in tourist tax revenue, while an investment of approximately Cg 1.216 million for a Tourist Tax System is still included. The faction would like to know why is a new tourist tax system is required. Why can't the existing border protection system not be utilized? Furthermore, the faction would like the Minister to explain the Cg 1.2 million and how this amount was determined?

The faction would like to know what is the delay? The faction remarks that research previously indicated that the tourist tax could generate approximately Cg 15 to 18 million annually at a minimum in a bad year. A draft legislation had already been submitted to the SER before the end of 2024. Aruba and Curaçao have already implemented similar legislation. Therefore, the faction would like to know who is currently taking the lead on this matter, considering that it involves three Ministers.

The faction would like clarification as to whether funds have been reserved to purchase a new Tourist Tax System. What happened to the Digital Embarkation and Disembarkation System that was supposed to modernize visitor processing and data collection? Why is that system not being used?

The faction has noted that funding has been allocated within the Ministry of Justice to introduce a Digital Travel Credential program to make engagement fast and smooth using biometrics. The faction would like to know how this programme differs from the Tourist Tax System. Furthermore, page 80 of the Policy Plan references Cg 1.5 million, while on another page references is made to approximately Cg. 819,000 over a three-year period for the establishment of a National Targeting Center (NTC) to leverage Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data to effectively screen travelers and speed up passenger flow. Costs approximately Cg 9,000 to fully implement Participation of strategic partners in the IBPS NTC will utilize Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record information to effectively screen high-risk travelers and accelerate passenger. The faction would like to know how these various projects are linked. If they are not connected, why not? The faction further notes that the ministries of Justice, TEATT nor VSA have been identified as a key stakeholder for the point-of-entry bubble within the Policy Plan, until a public health emergency of international concern hits.

In addition, the faction noted the introduction of a US\$20 fee for completing a digital embarkation declaration via the Government's www.entry.sx website. By introducing this fee the Government of Sint Maarten can collect more than \$12.6 million (Cg 22 million) annually for providing this service. The faction would like to know whether the National Targeting Center is a new department and, if so, under what legal structure will it be established.

The faction would like to know whether the existing digital system was assessed for its ability to collect or support the proposed tourist tax. If not, why not? If yes can the Minister provide Parliament with that assessment?

The faction would also like to know how much will this new system cost in total, not only the initial investment, but licensing, consultants, maintenance, integration, support, and future upgrades? What is this Government's Plan?

The faction would like to know whether the adjustments based on the advice of the SER have been completed and submitted to the Council of Advice regarding the draft Tourist Tax. If not, what deadline set for submission?

The faction would like to know how many more delays must the people of Sint Maarten accept before the tourist tax becomes real revenue. The faction asks Government to provide Parliament with one date: will the law be passed, when will the system be live, and when will the first dollar be collected? Does this Government work with deadlines? Have those deadlines been

communicated to the respective Secretaries-General? Is it on someone's Year Planning? How many staff are assigned to this legislation?

The faction would like to know what the three principal priorities are for the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication for 2026? What measurable outcomes are expected for each priority, what measurable economic outcomes the Ministry expects to achieve from the increased TEATT budget allocation during 2026, how those results will be reported to Parliament, and what key performance indicators the Ministry has established to measure economic growth, investment, tourism, transportation, telecommunications, and regulatory performance during 2026?

Economic diversification has remained a strategic priority in successive national budgets, including Budgets 2024 and 2025. The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since those commitments were made, which diversification initiatives remain outstanding, and what will be done differently during Budget 2026 to accelerate implementation?

The faction notes several initiatives to strengthen agriculture, fisheries, the creative industries, entrepreneurship, and innovation were identified in previous budgets. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, which initiatives remain outstanding, and what implementation timelines have been established for their completion during 2026?

Again the faction indicates that several initiatives to improve the investment climate and attract domestic and foreign investment were also included in Budget 2025. What factors delayed the implementation of those initiatives, what corrective actions have been taken, and how will the Ministry ensure timely implementation under Budget 2026?

Government committed during Budget 2025 to modernizing the Business License System and expanding digital services for businesses. Therefore the faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since those commitments were made, which implementation milestones have been completed, which remain outstanding, what operational, legislative, technological, or interdepartmental barriers continue to delay full implementation, and when does Government expect the modernized Business License System to become fully operational? Which risks identified during the implementation of Budgets 2024 and 2025 continue to affect economic growth and investment, what corrective measures have been implemented, and how have those lessons been incorporated into Budget 2026?

The faction indicates that several legislative and policy reforms to improve the ease of doing business and strengthen economic competitiveness have been identified in previous budgets. Which reforms remain outstanding, what has delayed their implementation, and when does Government expect to submit the remaining legislative proposals to Parliament? What legislative and policy reforms are planned to improve the ease of doing business, increase competitiveness, and strengthen long-term economic resilience? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what long-term strategy has the Ministry established to diversify the economy, attract investment, and create sustainable employment opportunities?

The faction further mentions that Consumer protection, affordability, and price stabilization were also priorities identified during Budget 2025. What measurable progress has been achieved since those commitments were made, which initiatives remain outstanding, and what additional measures will be implemented during Budget 2026 to better protect consumers from rising prices, inflation, and unfair commercial practices?

Government previously committed to developing a digital price monitoring system to improve price transparency and consumer awareness. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, what milestones remain outstanding, what factors have delayed implementation, and when will the system become fully operational and publicly accessible? How frequently does the Ministry monitor the prices of essential goods and services, and will those findings be published on a regular basis? How many consumer complaints, investigations, warnings, and enforcement actions were recorded during 2025, and what trends have been identified? What measurable impact have global inflation, rising energy costs, and supply chain disruptions had on consumers and businesses since Budget 2025, what mitigation measures has the Ministry implemented, and how effective have those measures been? What measurable impact have the Ministry's consumer protection, market oversight, and affordability initiatives had on reducing cost-of-living pressures affecting low-income households, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups, and what additional measures are planned during 2026? What measurable progress has been achieved in strengthening market competition, improving price transparency, and increasing consumer confidence since Budget 2025, and what reforms remain outstanding? What are the greatest consumer protection challenges currently facing the Ministry, and what legislative or policy reforms are required to strengthen consumer rights? What long-term strategy has the

Ministry established to improve consumer protection, market regulation, and affordability?

The faction also notes that tourism remained a principal priority under Budget 2025 and continues under Budget 2026. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, which tourism initiatives remain outstanding, and what corrective measures have been implemented to ensure improved results during 2026? Government has previously committed to establishing the St. Maarten Tourism Authority. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, what milestones remain outstanding, what factors have delayed implementation, and when does Government expect the Authority to become fully operational?

Implementation of the Tourism Master Plan has been identified as a priority in previous budget cycles. Which recommendations have been fully implemented since Budget 2025, which remain outstanding, what obstacles have delayed implementation, and what implementation schedule has been established for the remaining recommendations during 2026? What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in diversifying tourism beyond traditional source markets, which new markets have generated measurable growth, and what additional initiatives are planned during 2026? What measurable progress has been made in developing sports tourism, cultural tourism, eco-tourism, medical tourism, culinary tourism, and other niche tourism products? How does the Ministry measure the effectiveness and return on investment of tourism marketing campaigns, and what results have been achieved over the past two years? What measurable improvements have been achieved since Budget 2025 in enhancing the visitor experience from arrival to departure, how are visitor satisfaction levels measured, and what additional improvements are planned during 2026?

Government has continued to emphasize the Hostmanship Programme and tourism workforce development. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, what participation and certification results have been recorded, and what additional improvements are planned during 2026? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting the tourism sector, and what policy reforms, investments, or partnerships are required to strengthen its competitiveness? What long-term strategy has the Ministry established to ensure that tourism growth remains sustainable, resilient, and beneficial to the people of Sint Maarten?

The faction would like to know what the Ministry's principal priorities are for improving public transportation during 2026, and what measurable improvements are expected? Government committed during previous parliamentary discussions to modernizing the public transportation permit system. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, which reforms remain outstanding, what factors have delayed implementation, and when will the revised framework become fully operational?

The faction highlights previous parliamentary discussions regarding illegal transportation services and unauthorized operators, what enforcement strategy has been implemented, how many inspections, warnings, permit suspensions, and enforcement actions were carried out during 2025, and what measurable impact have these actions had on reducing illegal transportation activities?

Several concerns raised by public transportation associations during previous consultations and parliamentary discussions remained unresolved. Which concerns have since been addressed, which remain outstanding, and what implementation timeline has been established for the remaining issues? What measurable improvements have been achieved since Budget 2025 in the quality, reliability, accessibility, and safety of public transportation services for residents and visitors, and what additional improvements are planned during 2026? Following previous discussions regarding the coordination of public transportation licensing and regulatory approvals, what progress has been made in improving cooperation among the relevant Government departments involved in issuing permits, inspections, and operational approvals, and what additional reforms are planned to reduce administrative delays for public transportation operators? Has the Ministry completed a comprehensive evaluation of the current transportation fare structure, permit allocation system, and route management framework, what were the principal findings, and what reforms are expected as a result? What initiatives are being implemented to improve transportation services for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, students, and other vulnerable groups? What are the greatest operational and regulatory challenges currently affecting the transportation sector, and what additional resources or legislative reforms are required? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what is the Ministry's long-term vision for developing a modern, safe, reliable, and sustainable public transportation system?

The faction underscores the introduction of digital business registration and payment services, and asks what measurable improvements have been achieved in the overall business licensing process since Budget 2025, and how have these improvements reduced administrative burdens and improved the

experience of businesses? What is the current staffing level within the Departments of Economic Licenses and Economic Control compared to the approved organizational formation, and how are vacancies affecting service delivery? How many inspections were conducted during 2025, what were the most common violations identified, and what trends have emerged from those inspections? What measures are being implemented to improve business compliance while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens for compliant businesses?

The faction notes that although businesses can now complete certain registration requirements and make payments electronically, as the Ministry indicated during the Budget debate, business license applications may still require six to eight weeks to process. Which operational, legislative, staffing, or interdepartmental barriers continue to delay the licensing process, what reforms are being implemented to address those bottlenecks, and what target processing time has the Ministry established once the modernization program is fully implemented? How does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of inspections and enforcement activities, and what performance indicators are used to measure compliance? What are the greatest operational challenges currently affecting licensing, inspections, and regulatory enforcement, and what reforms are required to strengthen these services? What service standards and performance targets has the Ministry established for processing business license applications, how is compliance with those standards monitored, and what accountability measures are applied when those standards are not achieved? What financial, technical, and advisory support programs are available to small and medium-sized enterprises, and how does the Ministry measure their effectiveness? What legislative and administrative reforms are planned to improve the ease of doing business, reduce bureaucracy, and strengthen the overall business environment?

The faction inquires what legislative and administrative reforms are planned to improve the ease of doing business, reduce bureaucracy, and strengthen the overall business environment. What measures are being implemented to strengthen the Department of Statistics, and what measurable improvements are expected in the quality, timeliness, and reliability of national statistics during 2026.

The faction requests an update on the publication of national statistical reports, economic indicators, tourism statistics, and labor market data since Budget 2025, which publications remain outstanding, and the publication schedule established for 2026.

The faction asks how the Ministry utilizes statistical data to guide economic policy, tourism development, investment decisions, and broader national planning. What initiatives are being implemented to improve the quality, accessibility, digitalization, and public availability of national statistics.

What are the greatest operational challenges affecting the Department of Statistics and what additional financial, technological, or human resources are required to strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

The faction requests an update on the measures being implemented to strengthen aviation oversight, regulatory compliance, and passenger safety, and the measurable improvements expected during 2026.

The faction notes that modernizing aviation legislation has remained a Government priority over successive budget cycles and asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, which legislative reforms remain outstanding, what factors have delayed their completion, and when the remaining legislation will be submitted to Parliament. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in supporting the continued recovery, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability of Princess Juliana International Airport, and what additional initiatives are planned during 2026.

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening maritime transport, port development, cargo operations, cruise tourism, and maritime safety, and which initiatives remain outstanding.

The faction asks which maritime legislative reforms have been completed, which remain outstanding, what has delayed their implementation, and when Government expects to submit the remaining legislation to Parliament.

The faction further asks what the greatest operational and regulatory challenges are currently affecting the aviation and maritime sectors and what policy reforms or investments are required to strengthen these industries.

The faction notes that Government previously committed to modernizing telecommunications legislation and policy and asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, which reforms remain outstanding, what factors have delayed implementation, and when Government expects the remaining reforms to be completed.

The faction asks what measurable improvements in digital infrastructure, broadband coverage, internet reliability, and telecommunications services have been achieved since Budget 2025 and what additional improvements are expected during 2026.

The faction requests an update on the national strategy established to promote digital transformation, innovation, and the growth of the digital economy.

The faction asks what measures are being implemented to improve the affordability, accessibility, and quality of internet and telecommunications services for residents and businesses. What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening cybersecurity, digital resilience, and the protection of critical communications infrastructure, and what major risks remain.

The faction asks what the greatest challenges currently affecting the telecommunications sector are and what legislative, regulatory, or investment initiatives are required to strengthen the sector.

The faction would like the minister to explain their long-term vision beyond Budget 2026 for telecommunications, digital innovation, and technological development in Sint Maarten.

The faction asks what the current staffing level is across the Ministry of TEATT compared to the approved organizational formation, and which departments continue to experience the greatest vacancy levels.

The faction asks what is the measurable progress achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening recruitment, retention, succession planning, and professional development within the Ministry, and which critical vacancies continue to affect service delivery. What specialized training, certifications, and technical capacity-building programs will be provided to Ministry personnel during 2026. How staffing shortages are affecting project implementation, inspections, licensing, tourism development, economic policy, and the Ministry's other core responsibilities.

The faction asks what the greatest operational risks currently affecting the Ministry are and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026.

The faction notes that several initiatives identified in previous budget cycles experienced implementation delays and asks what the principal causes of those delays were, what corrective measures have been implemented, and how the Ministry will ensure more timely execution of Budget 2026 priorities.

The faction asks what measurable progress has been achieved in reducing the Ministry's dependence on external consultants while strengthening internal institutional knowledge and technical expertise, and which specialized functions still require external support.

The faction asks what key performance indicators the Ministry uses to measure economic growth, tourism performance, transportation services, inspections, telecommunications, and overall Ministry performance.

The faction asks whether the Minister will commit to providing Parliament with quarterly reports on major projects, tourism performance, investment promotion, transportation reforms, digital transformation, and ministry performance indicators.

The faction asks that if major policy objectives, implementation milestones, or performance targets approved under Budget 2026 are not achieved, what corrective actions, reporting mechanisms, and accountability measures will be implemented, and within what timeframe Parliament will be informed of significant implementation delays.

The faction asks what legislative initiatives the Ministry considers most urgent to strengthen tourism, economic development, transportation, telecommunications, and consumer protection.

The faction requests an overview of the policy reforms the Ministry considers necessary to improve competitiveness, strengthen economic resilience, modernize regulation, and improve public service delivery. What additional support the Ministry requires from Government, Parliament, the private sector, and international partners to successfully achieve its strategic objectives.

The faction requests the Ministry's long-term vision beyond Budget 2026 for creating a more diversified economy, strengthening tourism, modernizing transportation, expanding digital infrastructure, and improving the ease of doing business.

The faction asks what tourism growth targets have been established for 2026. What initiatives are underway to diversify the economy. What improvements will businesses experience regarding the ease of doing business. How many jobs does Government expects to create.

The faction asks what support will be provided to small and medium-sized enterprises. what major airport development projects are scheduled? What harbor development projects are planned? What initiatives are planned to attract foreign direct investment. The faction asks how consumer protection will be strengthened. The faction further requests an update on the vacancies that currently exist within the Ministry of TEATT. What key performance indicators will be used to measure the Ministry's performance during 2026.

The faction notes that Parliament previously debated a motion regarding the evaluation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a potential energy source for Sint Maarten and asks what progress has been made since that motion was debated. The faction asks whether Government has conducted or commissioned feasibility studies on LNG infrastructure and, if so, requests the principal findings.

The faction asks what steps have been taken to explore diversifying Sint Maarten's energy mix through alternative fuels, including LNG, and what implementation timeline has been established.

The faction requests an update on any partnerships Government has pursued with regional or international entities to facilitate the potential importation or distribution of LNG.

The faction asks whether the Ministry of TEATT has conducted an assessment of the impact that increased freight surcharges will have on consumer prices in Sint Maarten. What monitoring mechanisms are in place to track the effect of shipping cost increases on retail food prices? What steps Government will take to prevent excessive markups throughout the supply chain to ensure consumers are protected? The faction notes Sint Maarten's reliance on imports and ask what long-term strategies are being developed to improve food security and reduce vulnerability to external cost fluctuations? The faction further asks how Government will communicate with and update the public on the measures being taken to mitigate the rising cost of living resulting from these international developments?

The faction would like to know how Government intends to balance the transition to alternative fuels with its existing renewable energy goals and what impact this transition is expected to have on electricity tariffs? The faction also asks what regulatory or legislative amendments are being considered to enable the safe and efficient importation, storage, and use of LNG on Sint Maarten?

The faction asks whether the audit of all bus and taxi permits has been completed, together with its findings regarding approved, uncollected, revoked, and inactive permits. The faction further inquires how many uncollected bus and taxi permits have been revoked since the Ministry committed to enforcing its permit policy, how many enforcement operations have been conducted against unauthorized or unlicensed ("gypsy") transport operators since this commitment was made, and what the results?

The faction asks whether the Ministry has concluded discussions with Port St. Maarten and PJIAE regarding fair and transparent access for licensed taxi operators and what changes have been implemented. The faction further asks what progress has been made in reviewing the governance and operations of taxi associations to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with Government policies.

The faction would like to know whether an agreement has been reached with SZV regarding social insurance coverage for bus and taxi operators and, if not, what issues remain unresolved.

The faction asks what actions have been taken to address the prepaid taxi ticket system at Mullet Bay and whether the Ministry has determined if the system complies with the principles of fair competition?

The faction asks whether the island knowledge and customer service certification program for taxi drivers has been developed and when it will become mandatory. The faction also asks whether the Ministry has completed its assessment of extending public bus service beyond 7:00 p.m. and requests the findings?

The faction inquires whether standardized identification displays showing the driver's name, permit number, fare information, and photograph have been introduced in public transport vehicles? Has the Ministry completed its review of the legal framework governing taxi and bus associations? Are there any legislative amendments being proposed?

The faction would like to know what measurable results have been achieved through the Ministry's initiatives to create employment opportunities within the transportation sector. Has the Ministry completed its inventory of taxi dispatchers operating on Sint Maarten and what regulatory framework now governs their operations? Has the unified complaints register for public transportation been implemented? How many complaints have been received, how many complaints have been investigated, and how many complaints have been resolved?

The faction asks what changes have been implemented to ensure that the allocation of passengers and tour groups at the harbor is conducted fairly and transparently among licensed operators. The faction would further like to know whether the Ministry has decided to introduce an annual licensing or administrative fee for bus and taxi operators and, if so, when it will take effect.

The faction asks whether the proposed "No Loitering" measures and enforcement protocols at the harbor have been implemented and what impact they have had on unauthorized solicitation.

The faction asks whether the review of public bus and taxi fares has been completed and what changes, if any, have been approved?

The faction would like to know what measures implemented since concerns were raised regarding the slowdown in foreign direct investment to improve Sint Maarten's competitiveness as an investment destination. What measurable progress has been achieved in reducing the average processing time for investment proposals, business permits, and development approvals. The faction further asks whether the Ministry has conducted an assessment of investment projects that were delayed, withdrawn, or redirected to other jurisdictions because of approval timelines, and if so, what the principal findings were. The faction also seeks clarification on the actions taken to provide greater certainty, predictability, and transparency for both local and foreign investors.

The faction inquires what measurable impact the slowdown in construction activity has had on employment, business activity, and Government revenue. What initiatives have been implemented to stimulate the construction sector following the completion of the airport reconstruction project and the winding down of World Bank-funded projects. Has the Ministry established target timelines for processing major development applications and whether those targets are currently being achieved?

The faction asks what legislative and policy reforms have been implemented to reduce unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining transparency, accountability, and environmental safeguards. What progress has been made in diversifying the economy to reduce dependence on a limited number of large-scale investment and construction projects? Has the Ministry completed an assessment of the economic impact of delayed building permits on employment, private investment, and Government revenue and, if so, what corrective measures have subsequently been implemented. What measurable indicators the Ministry uses to evaluate whether Sint Maarten's investment climate has improved since these concerns were first raised.

The faction asks what progress has been made toward establishing the St. Maarten Transport Authority and what implementation timeline has been established for its creation.

The faction would like to know has Government completed its review of the vehicle inspection and roadworthiness regulations. What changes have been implemented? The faction also asks what progress has been made in introducing stricter vehicle emissions standards to reduce pollution from older vehicles. The faction would like to know whether Government has evaluated the feasibility of

introducing incentives to encourage the replacement of older, high-emission vehicles and what conclusions were reached.

The faction asks what progress has been made in implementing intelligent traffic management measures, including staggered school hours, improved traffic circulation, and other congestion reduction initiatives. Has Government completed its assessment of the proposed Link 1 connection between Weymouth Hill and Dutch Quarter. When is construction expected to commence?

The faction would like to know what progress on the evaluation and possible implementation of the "Ritsen" (zipper merge) traffic system and asks whether the Ministry has determined that such a system would improve traffic flow on Sint Maarten. The faction further asks what measurable improvements have been achieved in reducing average travel times along the island's most congested road corridors. What progress has been made in restricting unauthorized access from side roads onto L.B. Scott Road or implementing other traffic engineering solutions designed to improve traffic flow.

The faction asks whether the Ministry has developed a comprehensive National Traffic Management Plan. If so what milestones have been achieved since its development.

Ministry of Justice

As it regards the Ministry of Justice, the faction notes that Government continues to emphasize the importance of strengthening the Police Corps and recognizes that public safety is essential for the country's economy. However, the faction notes that there is a reduction of Cg. 621,000 in the budget for police material costs.

The faction notes that the policy paragraph for the landsbesluiten for the Justice workers seems to be based on outdated information. The faction would like to know whether the previously established deadlines and targets have been achieved. If not, the faction would like to know What are the new deadlines, or were the old dates and target achieved? Will legal positions and expected retroactive be paid out in 2026?

The faction commends the Minister while referencing the 5.3.6.2, policy program overview objective 3 on page 71. "Phase 1 will be completed by issuing all placement decisions across the entire Ministry of Justice by no later than December 31, 2025; ▪ Preparing the calculations and payments of retroactive salary payments for justice employees for the period from October 10, 2010 to

December 31, 2022; ▪ The Staff Bureau was tasked with ensuring a clear description of (legal) duties, powers (responsibilities), services and existing products; ▪ Provide for ~5,000 for retroactive payment ▪ Ensure sufficient budget to cover the full job classification book of Cg. 79.808.” Pg 71

The faction notes that the Minister of Justice has not yet responded to the draft amendment to the LTU regarding Article 3, which was submitted in December 2025 and further state that the Justice LTU is being updated to enable advanced passenger processing, DTC, residence monitoring, and biometric collection. Furthermore, the revised immigration legislation is intended to facilitate the settlement of investors and digital nomads, distinguish between access and admission, adapt the grounds for refusal, introduce a "stop ban," and establish reasonable conditions for deportation. The policy also states that legal expertise to support this effort will be coordinated with Legal Affairs (JZ) on page 80 of the elucidation. The faction notes that an amount of Cg. 60,000 has been reserved for this purpose and commends the ministry. However the faction highlights that questions posed to the Minister of Justice, General affairs and Education, Culture, Youth and Sport in writing on the proposed amendment to the LTU brought forward by this faction and only the Minister of ECYS has responded even after a reminder.

The faction would like to know whether ASYCUDA was included in the 2025 budget. The faction refers to budget post 5310-410, Police Wages and Salaries, and would like to know what the increase of approximately Cg. 1 million is for, directly? The Faction is concerned that the amount mentioned may not be sufficient.

The faction refers to budget post 5570-410, Coast Guard Wages and Salaries, and notes that approximately Cg. 500,000 was budgeted for in 2025, while approximately Cg. 4.5 million has been budgeted for 2026. The faction would like to know whether this is an error? Why is there such a disparity between the salary increase for police and the coast guard?

The faction would like to know how much has been budgeted for programs such as early conditional release, which are essential for managing prison capacity, as well as for electronic monitoring, which, according to the elucidation, is another option that will be applied strictly in accordance with the law. What is the update? The faction made mention of motions passed on this and so the faction would like an update.

The faction has the following questions for the Ministry of Justice: What are the three principal priorities in 2026 and what measurable outcomes are

expected for each priority. What measurable improvements does the Ministry expects to achieve through the increased Justice budget during 2026? How will these improvements be measured, and the results be reported to Parliament. The faction further inquires what key performance indicators have been established to measure public safety, justice services, border protection, detention services, and the overall performance of the Ministry during 2026.

Specifically, the faction asks which operational challenges affecting the justice chain remain unresolved, what corrective actions have been implemented since Budget 2025, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026. The faction would like to know what justice-related legislative reforms remain outstanding? The faction would further like to know what factors have delayed their submission, and when these legislative proposals are expected to be presented to Parliament.

The faction also seeks an update on the implementation of justice reform initiatives introduced during previous budget cycles, asking what measurable progress has been achieved, which reforms remain outstanding, what has delayed implementation, and what corrective measures have been taken to accelerate their completion.

The faction would like to know how the Ministry evaluates the effectiveness of the justice chain and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026. The faction further asks which strategic risks identified during previous budget cycles continue to affect the Ministry of Justice, what mitigation measures have been implemented, and how the lessons learned have been incorporated into Budget 2026. Looking beyond Budget 2026, the faction requests an overview of the Ministry's long-term strategy to strengthen public safety, modernize the justice system, and improve institutional resilience.

The faction welcomes the commencement of construction of the new Point Blanche Prison and requests an update on the broader detention sector reform program. The faction asks what measurable progress has been achieved beyond the physical construction of the facility. Which key milestones are scheduled for completion during 2026 and how the Ministry will measure and report whether the project is achieving its objectives relating to rehabilitation, institutional capacity, public safety, and compliance with international detention standards.

The faction further inquires what additional correctional officers, rehabilitation specialists, healthcare personnel, psychologists, vocational instructors, security personnel, and operational resources will be required once the new Point Blanche Prison becomes operational to ensure compliance with international correctional standards. The faction also asks what temporary

measures are currently being implemented to address detention capacity while the new prison is under development. How will Government ensure compliance with Kingdom obligations and international detention standards, and which recommendations remain outstanding.

The faction would like to know what rehabilitation, education, vocational training, and reintegration programs are currently available to inmates and how the Ministry measures their effectiveness in reducing recidivism. What measurable improvements are expected from the new Point Blanche Prison with respect to inmate rehabilitation, institutional safety, staff safety, recidivism, detention capacity, compliance with international standards, and the overall administration of justice, and how will those outcomes be measured and reported to Parliament.

The faction asks what the current staffing level within the prison system is compared to the approved organizational formation and how many correctional officers are expected to be recruited during 2026. The faction further inquires what specialized training and professional development programs will be provided to correctional personnel during 2026. The faction also would like to know how detention capacity challenges have affected the courts, the Prosecutor's Office, KPSM, rehabilitation programs, and the wider administration of justice. What is the greatest operational, security, financial, and infrastructure challenges affecting the correctional system and what additional investments or reforms are required?

The faction asks what measurable operational improvements are expected from the increased allocation to KPSM during 2026 and how will those improvements be reported to Parliament. The faction would also like to know the current staffing level of KPSM compared to the approved organizational formation, how many additional officers are required to achieve full operational capacity, and what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in recruiting and retaining police officers?

The faction further inquires about which critical vacancies remain and what additional initiatives are being implemented during 2026 to strengthen the long-term sustainability of KPSM? What specialized training, certifications, and international development opportunities will be provided to police officers during 2026? The faction further asks which critical training programs remain unavailable? What operational improvements are expected from the planned investments in police vehicles, protective equipment, forensic capabilities, digital policing, communications systems, and operational technology, and how the Ministry will determine whether these investments have improved policing outcomes?

The faction asks what measures are being implemented to improve police response times, strengthen community policing, and increase police visibility throughout Sint Maarten. Does KPSM currently monitor emergency response times and other operational performance indicators and will those results be reported periodically to Parliament?

The faction would like to know what operational and infrastructure challenges are affecting the current Police Headquarters. Specifically, the faction asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in assessing and addressing those deficiencies? Does Government considers the existing headquarters suitable to meet the present and future operational needs of KPSM? The faction further inquires what measurable progress has been made toward the development of a new Police Headquarters, which milestones remain outstanding, and what implementation timeline and funding strategy have been established. The faction also asks what progress has been made in repairing or replacing police holding cells and what additional investments are required to ensure compliance with safety and human rights standards.

The faction requests information regarding crime trends that have emerged since Budget 2025, including trends relating to violent crime, armed robberies, firearm-related offences, gang activity, domestic violence, and repeat offenders. What measurable results have been achieved through the Ministry's targeted interventions? How does the Ministry evaluates the effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives, intelligence-led policing, and community policing. What measurable improvements are expected during 2026?

The faction would like to know what the current staffing level is across the Ministry of Justice compared to the approved organizational formation, broken down by department. The faction further requests a status update on all outstanding retroactive payments, promotions, national decrees, and other personnel matters affecting justice workers. The faction also inquires what insurance coverage, occupational safety protections, and support services are currently available to police officers, correctional officers, immigration officers, customs officers, and other frontline justice personnel.

The faction would like to know whether the Ministry has conducted employee satisfaction, workplace wellness, or organizational climate assessments, what the principal findings were, and what corrective actions have been implemented as a result? What measures are being implemented to improve employee wellness, psychological support, stress management, and reduce burnout among justice workers. What are the greatest workforce challenges currently affecting the Ministry of Justice and the structural reforms

required to strengthen recruitment, retention, succession planning, and institutional capacity.

The faction asks what progress has been made in reducing the backlog of residency applications submitted on behalf of minor children, including those born in Sint Maarten, what the current processing times are for these applications, and what measures have been implemented to ensure that children are not adversely affected by prolonged administrative delays.

The faction notes the initiatives taken to modernize of Immigration services and ask which stages of the immigration process remain manual? What operational, legislative, technological, or interdepartmental barriers continue to delay full digitalization and when Government expects applicants to have access to a fully integrated digital immigration management system? The faction further inquires what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in reducing application backlogs, which measures have proven most effective, and what additional administrative, legislative, technological, or staffing reforms will be implemented during 2026 to further improve processing efficiency?

Beyond the digitalization of internal Immigration processes, the faction also asks what additional online Immigration services will become available during 2026, including electronic application tracking, digital communication, appointment scheduling, and status notifications, and how these improvements are expected to enhance customer service? The faction further inquires what the current staffing level within the Immigration Department is compared to the approved organizational formation and how existing vacancies are affecting service delivery? What measures are being implemented to restore public confidence in Immigration services, improve customer service, and reduce uncertainty caused by prolonged processing delays.

What progress has been made in reducing the backlog of residency applications submitted on behalf of minor children, including children born in Sint Maarten. The faction asks what the current processing times are for these applications and what safeguards the Ministry has implemented to ensure that prolonged administrative delays do not adversely affect the children's legal status or access to essential services.

The faction references previous parliamentary requests for information regarding residency applications involving minors, and requests for each of the past ten years, how many residency applications involving minors were submitted, approved, denied, and remain pending, and asks what trends the Ministry has identified? What are the most common reasons are for denying residency applications involving minors and are legislative or policy reforms being considered to address recurring issues? What is the current average

processing time is for residency applications involving minors? How does this compares to the Ministry's established service standards, and what measures are being implemented to reduce delays affecting children and their families?

The faction would also like to know approximately how many school-aged children currently residing on Sint Maarten remain without legal residency status and what level of coordination exists between the Ministries of Justice, ECYS, and Civil Registry to address this issue? What measures are being implemented to prevent children from remaining in prolonged administrative uncertainty due to delays beyond their control, and how does the Ministry ensures that immigration enforcement involving minors is balanced with the best interests of the child and applicable international obligations?

The faction recalls previous parliamentary concerns regarding the increase in serious traffic accidents and fatalities and therefore asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in improving road safety, strengthening traffic law enforcement, and reducing traffic-related deaths and serious injuries, and what additional measures will be implemented during 2026? The faction further inquires whether Government intends to modernize the legal framework governing the sale, registration, ownership, licensing, and operation of scooters and motorcycles, what reforms are being considered?

The faction asks if government supports mandatory registration, identifiable license plates, and traceable ownership records for scooters and motorcycles comparable to those required for motor vehicles? Does the Ministry considers the current minimum age, licensing requirements, helmet requirements, and enforcement measures for scooter and motorcycle operators to be adequate? If not, the faction asks what changes are being proposed?

What measurable progress has been achieved in reducing accidents involving scooters and motorcycles? what have been identified as the principal contributing factors, and what additional interventions are planned during 2026?

In addition, the faction asks whether Government supports the introduction of a Vehicle Clearance Certificate requiring all outstanding inspections, insurance obligations, taxes, and traffic fines to be resolved before ownership of a motor vehicle can be transferred, and what additional legislative reforms the Ministry considers necessary to improve road safety, strengthen enforcement, and increase accountability for all road users.

The faction would like to know the current staffing level within the Customs Department compared to the approved organizational formation, how many additional officers are required to strengthen border security, what operational improvements are expected from the investments in customs

technology, scanners, intelligence capabilities, inspection equipment, and cargo screening, and how the Ministry will measure the effectiveness of these investments in strengthening border security?

The faction further asks whether law enforcement agencies have identified significant changes in the methods used to traffic narcotics, firearms, cash, contraband, or human trafficking through Sint Maarten, and how Government is adapting its enforcement strategies. What level of operational cooperation currently exists between Customs, Immigration, KPSM, the Coast Guard, the Prosecutor's Office, and regional and international partners? What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening customs compliance, reducing smuggling, improving revenue collection, and combating customs-related fraud, what additional reforms are planned during 2026? The faction would like to know what are the greatest operational, technological, staffing, and intelligence challenges currently affecting Customs together with the reforms or investments required to address them?

The faction asks what measurable progress has Sint Maarten achieved since Budget 2025 in meeting international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing obligations, which recommendations remain outstanding, and what implementation timeline has been established to achieve full compliance? The faction also asks what additional staffing, technology, investigative capacity, and financial resources have been allocated to the Financial Intelligence Unit during 2026? How many suspicious transaction reports were received, analyzed, investigated, and referred during the past year, and what trends have emerged?

The faction further inquires about the current balance of the Crime Fund, how it has been utilized, and which projects will be financed during 2026? What measurable progress achieved in strengthening investigations into money laundering, fraud, cybercrime, corruption, and other financial crimes, what additional investigative capacity or legislative reforms are required? What level of operational cooperation currently exists between the Financial Intelligence Unit, KPSM, the Prosecutor's Office, Customs, the Tax authorities, and international partners, and The faction continues and asks what the Ministry considers to be the greatest financial crime risks currently facing Sint Maarten together with the legislative or operational reforms required to strengthen the country's response.

The faction mentions Government's commitment to implementing the new Criminal Procedure Code and asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025, does Government remains on schedule for its

planned entry into force, and what milestones remain outstanding before full implementation can be achieved? Which institutions within the justice chain have completed their implementation preparations and, which areas remain outstanding? What measurable progress has been achieved in preparing judges, prosecutors, police officers, customs officers, immigration officers, correctional personnel, lawyers, and other justice professionals for implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code, and are there any critical training requirements that remain outstanding?

The faction would also like to know what financial resources have been allocated for implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code, how the Ministry assesses whether those resources are sufficient, and are there any additional financial requirements anticipated before implementation is completed? What legislative, administrative, or institutional reforms remain outstanding before the new Criminal Procedure Code can be fully implemented? What operational risks could delay implementation, and what contingency measures have been established to address those risks. The faction further asks whether the Ministry will commit to providing Parliament with periodic implementation reports, including milestones, expenditures, remaining actions, and implementation risks?

The faction would like to know what financial and human resources are currently allocated to victim support services and does the Ministry considers those resources sufficient to meet existing demand? How many victims received assistance during the past year, what services were provided, and how the Ministry evaluates the effectiveness of those services? The faction further inquires what measures are being implemented to strengthen services for victims of domestic violence, gender-based violence, child abuse, and sexual offences.

The faction also asks what trends have been identified regarding juvenile offending, youth violence, gang involvement, and repeat offending, and what interventions are being implemented. The faction would further like to know what youth diversion, rehabilitation, mentoring, and reintegration programs are currently available, how the Ministry measures their effectiveness in reducing recidivism, what measurable progress has been achieved in reducing repeat offending among juvenile and adult offenders since Budget 2025, and what additional interventions are planned during 2026?

The faction would like to know what role that community policing and community engagement play in crime prevention and asks what measurable outcomes have been achieved through these initiatives?

The faction requests the Ministry's assessment of the principal social and economic factors contributing to criminal activity and asks what level of coordination exists with other ministries to address these underlying causes. What measurable operational improvements are expected from each capital project scheduled within the Ministry of Justice during 2026, and how will the Ministry evaluate whether those projects achieve their intended objectives? Which justice infrastructure projects have experienced delays, what caused those delays, and what revised implementation timelines have been established? The faction also asks what operational improvements are expected from the planned investments in police facilities, prison facilities, immigration offices, customs facilities, digital infrastructure, communications systems, and information technology, and how those improvements will be measured?

In addition, the faction would like to know which justice projects remain dependent upon Kingdom funding, grants, or other external financing, what contingency plans exist should that funding become unavailable? What are the greatest infrastructure and technology challenges currently affecting the justice chain together with the additional investments required to modernize justice services.

The faction notes that several departments received increased allocations under Budget 2026 and asks what measurable operational improvements does the Ministry expect to achieve from the additional investments and how will Parliament evaluate whether those improvements have been realized? The faction further inquires about the measures being implemented to improve budget execution, project management, revenue collection, and financial efficiency across the Ministry, which Justice services are expected to generate revenue during 2026? What assumptions support those projections, and how those projections will be monitored throughout the year?

The faction also asks what the greatest financial risks currently facing the Ministry are, what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026, and how the Ministry intends to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the justice chain while continuing to strengthen public safety, staffing, infrastructure, and institutional capacity?

The faction would like to know what key performance indicators does the Ministry use to measure public safety, criminal investigations, detention services, immigration processing, customs operations, financial investigations, and overall ministry performance?

The faction further asks whether the Minister will commit to providing Parliament with quarterly reports on budget execution, capital projects, staffing, crime statistics, immigration processing times, prison reform, implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code, and ministry performance indicators. The

faction would like to know what corrective actions, reporting mechanisms, and accountability measures will the Ministry implement, If major programs, implementation milestones, or strategic objectives approved under Budget 2026 are not achieved, and within what timeframe will Parliament be informed of significant implementation delays?

The faction would like to know what legislative reforms the Ministry considers most urgent to strengthen public safety, border protection, criminal justice, correctional services, and the administration of justice and what additional support does the Ministry requires from Government, Parliament, the Kingdom, law enforcement agencies, and regional partners to successfully achieve its strategic objectives. The faction would like know what the Minister's long-term vision is, looking beyond Budget 2026, for building a modern, resilient, efficient, and accountable justice system that improves public safety and public confidence?

The faction is also requesting information on the measurable targets established to reduce violent crime during 2026, the current staffing level of KPSM, the recruitment targets that have been established, and the vacancies that currently exist across Police, Immigration, Customs, Prison, and the other justice services. The faction further inquires how many officers are currently under investigation, how many officers remain on administrative leave pending investigations, how many officers have been dismissed, and how many officers are pending dismissal.

The faction would also like to know what additional measures are being taken to combat illegal firearms? what the latest implementation timeline is for the new prison, how border security coordination is being strengthened between Immigration, Customs, Police and the Coast Guard? What reforms are being implemented to improve residency and work permit processing, what programs are being implemented to reduce juvenile crime? What additional support is being provided for victims of domestic violence, what rehabilitation programs are being implemented to reduce recidivism, and whether sufficient staffing will be available before the new prison becomes operational?

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport

The faction would like to receive clarity on what the Culture Council is and what the allocated funds will be used for in 2026.

The faction notes that the policy plan indicates there is an insufficient budget for youth and sports programs. However, Cg 3 million has been budgeted for travel. The faction would like to know, if an additional Cg 1 million were made available for youth and sports programs, what programs the Ministry would be able to execute during the remainder of 2026.

The faction would like to know what are the Ministry's three principal priorities for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports during 2026, and what measurable outcomes are expected for each priority? What measurable improvements does the Ministry expect to achieve through the 2026 ECYS budget? How will those improvements be reported to Parliament? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what key performance indicators will the Ministry use to measure educational performance, student achievement, youth development, sports, and cultural program's during 2026?

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved in implementing curriculum modernization and broader educational reforms? Which initiatives remain outstanding, and what implementation timelines have been established for their completion? What measurable targets have been established for literacy, numeracy, graduation rates, examination results, and student achievement during 2026? Furthermore, the faction would like to know how does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of its educational policies and programs? How are those evaluations used to improve educational outcomes? The Ministry identifies several strategic challenges affecting the education system. Which challenges pose the greatest risk to achieving the Ministry's 2026 objectives, and what measurable actions and budget allocations have been prioritized to address them?

The faction would like to know what legislative or policy reforms does the Ministry intend to introduce during 2026 to strengthen education, youth development, culture, and sports? How does the Ministry ensure that Budget 2026 investments translate into measurable improvements in educational quality rather than simply increased expenditure? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what long-term strategy has the Ministry established to strengthen human capital development and improve educational outcomes across Sint Maarten?

The faction would like to know have all teachers received the negotiated 2% Cost of Living Adjustment, vacation allowance, and any other approved compensation, and if not, when will all outstanding payments be settled? Are teachers employed by subsidized schools receiving salary parity with teachers

employed as civil servants, and if not, what steps are being taken to achieve parity? The Ministry's staffing overview identifies teaching vacancies across the education system. What recruitment targets, implementation timelines, and contingency measures have been established to fill these vacancies, and how are the shortages currently affecting educational delivery and student outcomes? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what measurable recruitment and retention targets have been established for 2026, how will success be evaluated, and what contingency measures will be implemented if those targets are not achieved? What measures are being implemented to reduce teacher burnout, improve employee wellbeing, and strengthen teacher retention? How does the Ministry monitor teacher workload, absenteeism, staff turnover, and employee satisfaction, and what improvement targets have been established for 2026?

The faction would like to know is protected planning time guaranteed within teachers' schedules, and does the Ministry consider the current allocation sufficient to support effective instruction? What mental health, counselling, and employee assistance services are available to teachers, and how does the Ministry evaluate their effectiveness? What professional development, certification, and career advancement opportunities will be available to teachers during 2026? Government indicated during the 2025 Budget debate that it would strengthen digital literacy, conduct technology skills assessments, and implement STEAM-focused professional development for educators. What measurable progress has been achieved, what percentage of teachers have completed these initiatives, and what additional actions are planned during 2026 to prepare educators for technology-driven teaching and learning? Furthermore, the faction would like to know has the Ministry established a national teacher career development framework with transparent promotion criteria and leadership pathways? What initiatives are being implemented to encourage students and young professionals to pursue careers in education, particularly in shortage subject areas? Beyond recruitment, what structural workforce reforms does the Ministry consider necessary to build a sustainable education workforce capable of meeting Sint Maarten's long-term educational needs?

The faction would like to know what is the Ministry's overall strategy for strengthening inclusive education and ensuring that every student receives the support necessary to succeed academically? How does the Ministry assess the demand for specialized educational services across the education system, and how is that information used to determine staffing requirements, allocate specialized resources, and inform policy development and Budget 2026 priorities? What early identification and screening programs are currently

implemented to detect learning, developmental, behavioral, and communication challenges at the earliest possible stage, what percentage of students currently receive such screening, and how has early identification improved educational outcomes? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what support services are currently available to students with learning, behavioral, emotional, or developmental challenges within mainstream classrooms? How does the Ministry support teachers who are responsible for classrooms with students requiring diverse academic, behavioral, emotional, and developmental interventions, and what additional classroom resources, including teacher assistants, behavioral support personnel, or co-teaching models, are available to ensure that all students receive adequate instruction?

The faction would like to know how does the Ministry ensure that schools have timely access to educational psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, behavioral specialists, social workers, counselors, and other specialized professionals, and what measures are being implemented to address capacity constraints that delay support for students? What staffing standards or target ratios has the Ministry established for educational psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, behavioral specialists, counselors, and other specialized support professionals, how does the current staffing compare with those standards, and what plans exist to address any identified gaps? What professional training is provided to teachers to equip them to support students with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, behavioral challenges, and other special educational needs? Furthermore, the faction would like to know has the Ministry assessed the impact that increasingly complex classroom environments have on teacher workload, instructional quality, and student achievement, and what corrective measures are being implemented? In light of ongoing teacher shortages and increasingly diverse classroom needs, how is the Ministry ensuring that teachers have sufficient capacity, classroom support, and professional resources to identify and support students requiring specialized educational or behavioral interventions while maintaining effective instruction for all students?

The faction would like to know what interim classroom supports are available to students and teachers between the identification of a student's educational or behavioral needs and the commencement of specialized interventions, and does the Ministry consider these supports adequate? Recognizing that comprehensive educational and psychological assessments require appropriate referral documentation and may take time to complete, what systems has the Ministry established to support schools, teachers, students, and parents between the identification of a student's educational or

behavioral needs and the commencement of appropriate interventions, and does the Ministry consider these interim supports adequate?

The faction notes that the Ministry identifies the implementation of the Special Education Roadmap and the development of the Special Needs School as priorities. The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved? What milestones remain outstanding, and what implementation timeline has been established? What staffing structure has been developed for the Special Needs School, and what recruitment challenges remain for teachers, therapists, psychologists, and other specialized professionals? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what initiatives are being implemented to recruit, train, certify, and retain local special education professionals? Does the Ministry provide scholarships, study grants, or bonded scholarship program's for careers in special education, speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, and related professions? What transition plans have been developed for students who will move into the Special Needs School, and how are parents involved in that transition process? What partnerships currently exist with regional or international institutions to strengthen special education services, professional training, and knowledge sharing? How does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of inclusive education and special education services, and what measurable outcomes are expected during 2026?

The faction would like to know what national policies, procedures, and intervention protocols govern the support, suspension, expulsion, and continued education of students with persistent behavioral challenges, particularly those in the early primary grades? How many students have been suspended, expelled, or otherwise removed from school during the past five years, broken down by school, grade level, age, gender, and reason for the disciplinary action? What specialized behavioral intervention programs, therapeutic educational services, or alternative learning environments are currently available for students whose behavioral needs cannot be adequately addressed within a traditional classroom? Furthermore, the faction would like to know when a child has already received interventions through the classroom teacher, school counselor, the Mental Health Foundation (MHF), the Student Support Services Division (SSSD), or other relevant agencies, what additional interventions are available before suspension or expulsion is considered? What procedures are in place to ensure that students who are suspended or expelled are promptly placed in another suitable educational setting so that their education is not interrupted? What safeguards exist to prevent children from being left without access to education? How many compulsory school-aged children are currently not enrolled in school

because they have been expelled, cannot secure placement in another school, are awaiting specialized educational services, or are otherwise unable to access education?

The faction would like to know has the Ministry assessed the need for an alternative education program, behavioral support school, or transitional learning center for students who are unable to remain successfully in mainstream education, and if so, what funding, implementation timeline, and policy recommendations have been developed? How does the Ministry coordinate with the Ministries of VSA and Justice, schools, the Mental Health Foundation (MHF), the Student Support Services Division (SSSD), parents, and other stakeholders to provide early intervention and reduce school exclusion among at-risk students? Furthermore, the faction would like to know has the Ministry evaluated whether existing school disciplinary policies, including repeated suspensions and expulsions, are achieving their intended objectives, and what alternative evidence-based interventions are being considered to improve student outcomes?

The faction would like to know which schools have been prioritized for repairs, maintenance, and capital improvements during 2026, and what is the implementation timeline for each project? Has the Ministry completed a comprehensive assessment of classroom safety, ventilation, environmental conditions, and structural integrity for all schools, and what deficiencies were identified? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what is the Ministry's national implementation plan for air conditioning in classrooms, including budget allocations, school priorities, and completion timelines?

The faction would like to know what investments are being made to modernize classrooms, improve learning environments, and replace outdated furniture and educational equipment? The faction would also like to know whether teachers are still purchasing classroom supplies with their own funds, and what measures are being implemented to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for essential teaching materials? Furthermore, the faction would like to know what long-term technology strategy the Ministry has developed for schools, including digital learning, device replacement, internet connectivity, and classroom technology? What investments are planned to strengthen school safety, emergency preparedness, security systems, and disaster resilience across all educational institutions? What progress has been made in implementing preventative maintenance programs for school facilities, and how does the Ministry ensure maintenance is performed before major repairs become

necessary? Which school gymnasiums, sports facilities, playgrounds, and recreational facilities will be repaired or upgraded during 2026? What are the greatest infrastructure challenges currently affecting the education system, and what additional investments are required to address them?

The faction would like to know whether the current staffing level of the Inspectorate compares to the approved organizational formation, and how existing vacancies are affecting educational oversight? When does the Ministry expect to fill the current vacancies within the Inspectorate and the Department of Public Education, and what recruitment strategies are being implemented to address these shortages? How many school inspections were completed during 2025, what were the principal findings, and what inspection targets have been established for 2026? How does the Inspectorate monitor educational quality, curriculum implementation, student performance, and compliance across both public and subsidized schools? What corrective actions are required when schools fail to meet established educational standards, and how does the Ministry monitor the implementation of those corrective measures? Does the Ministry utilize national performance indicators or standardized benchmarks to evaluate school performance, and will those results be shared annually with Parliament? How are staffing shortages within the Department of Public Education affecting policy implementation, school support services, and administrative efficiency? Does the Inspectorate monitor instructional time lost due to educational excursions, special activities, and other non-classroom events, and what standards determine whether instructional time has been compromised? Has the Ministry established measurable standards to evaluate the educational value and learning outcomes of school excursions and external educational activities? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting educational oversight, and what legislative, financial, or organizational reforms are required to strengthen the Inspectorate?

The faction would like to know how many schools currently operate without a certified physical education teacher, and what impact this is having on curriculum delivery and student development? How many students currently receive physical education instruction from non-certified personnel, and what measures are being implemented to ensure educational quality until vacancies are filled? Has the Ministry completed its assessment of utilizing certified coaches and qualified instructors to supplement physical education programs within schools, and what conclusions were reached? Under which budget programs or funding allocations would school-based coaching initiatives and physical education support programs be financed?

The faction would like to know whether the Minister can provide a detailed breakdown of all sports subsidies allocated during 2026, including the recipient organizations, amounts awarded, and evaluation criteria? What accountability measures are in place to ensure organizations receiving Government sports subsidies achieve measurable outcomes and properly account for public funds? What youth development programs will be implemented during 2026, what objectives have been established for each programs, and how will success be measured? What measures are being implemented to increase youth participation in sports, recreation, leadership development, and healthy lifestyle programs? What investments are planned to improve sports facilities, community recreational spaces, and school sporting infrastructure during 2026? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting sports and youth development, and what additional investments or policy reforms are required to strengthen these programs? What long-term strategy has the Ministry established for sports development, youth empowerment, and healthy lifestyles in Sint Maarten?

The faction would like to know what the Ministry's principal priorities for culture and heritage are during 2026, and what measurable outcomes have been established for each priority? What initiatives are being implemented to preserve, protect, and promote Sint Maarten's cultural heritage, traditions, monuments, and historical assets? What financial and technical support is available to artists, cultural organizations, and the creative industries, and how are funding decisions evaluated? What measures are being implemented to strengthen cultural education and increase young people's participation in cultural activities and heritage preservation? How does the Ministry measure the effectiveness of cultural programs and investments, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting the cultural sector, and what partnerships or policy reforms are required to strengthen cultural development?

The faction would like to know what key performance indicators the Ministry uses to measure educational quality, youth development, sports, cultural program, and overall service delivery? Will the Minister commit to providing Parliament with quarterly reports on teacher vacancies, student performance, infrastructure projects, budget execution, sports subsidies, and ministry performance indicators? If major policy objectives or performance targets are not achieved during 2026, what corrective actions and accountability measures will the Ministry implement? What are the greatest strategic risks

currently facing the Ministry of ECYS, and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026? What legislative, administrative, or policy reforms does the Ministry consider necessary to strengthen education, youth development, sports, and culture beyond 2026? What additional support does the Ministry require from Government, Parliament, school boards, parents, and external partners to successfully achieve its objectives? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what is the Ministry's long-term vision for strengthening education, developing human capital, expanding youth opportunities, promoting sports, and preserving the cultural identity of Sint Maarten?

The faction would like to know what student performance targets have been established for 2026? How many teacher vacancies currently exist? What recruitment and retention targets have been established? What school maintenance projects will be completed during 2026? What additional support is being provided for special education? How is Government addressing school safety and bullying? How is education being aligned with workforce needs? How many students will receive scholarships? What youth development programs will receive additional funding? What investments are being made in sports? What investments are planned for early childhood education? What improvements are planned for digital education? What are the current school attendance and dropout rates? What vacancies currently exist within ECYS?

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor

The faction would like to know what are the three principal priorities for the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor during 2026, and what measurable outcomes are expected for each priority? What measurable improvements the Ministry expects to achieve through the increased VSA budget allocation during 2026, and how will those results will be measured and reported to Parliament? What key performance indicators has the Ministry established to measure healthcare quality, accessibility, social development, labor services, and public health during 2026? What are the greatest operational challenges currently affecting the healthcare system, and what measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026 to address them? What progress has been made in improving access to healthcare services, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026?

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to reduce waiting times for specialist consultations, diagnostic services, and medical procedures? Which medical specialties continue to experience the greatest

shortages, and what recruitment and retention strategies are being implemented to strengthen local specialist capacity? What investments are planned during 2026 for healthcare facilities, medical equipment, digital health systems, and healthcare infrastructure, and what implementation timelines have been established?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in establishing the Healthcare Professionals Register (BIG Register), and when does the Ministry expect it to become fully operational? How does the Ministry evaluate healthcare quality, patient outcomes, and service delivery, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026? What legislative or policy reforms does the Ministry intend to introduce during 2026 to strengthen healthcare delivery and improve patient outcomes? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what long-term strategy has the Ministry established to strengthen healthcare, improve accessibility, and ensure a sustainable healthcare system?

The faction would like to know what is the current financial position of SZV and each of its healthcare and social insurance funds, and what are the greatest risks to their long-term sustainability? What measures are being implemented to ensure the long-term sustainability of healthcare financing while maintaining quality patient care? What are the principal cost drivers contributing to rising healthcare expenditures, and what measures are being implemented to control those costs? How many overseas medical referrals were approved during 2025, what are the projections for 2026, and which medical specialties account for the greatest number of referrals? What investments are being made to expand local healthcare capacity and reduce dependence on overseas medical referrals?

The faction would like to know, following the 2025 parliamentary work visit to the Ministry of VSA and the subsequent parliamentary correspondence regarding patient protections for overseas medical referrals, what policies, legal protections, complaint procedures, appeals mechanisms, response timelines, and financial safeguards have been established for patients who experience medical complications, medical negligence, treatment disputes, or unexpected financial hardship while receiving treatment abroad, what measurable progress has been achieved since those discussions, and what additional improvements will be implemented during 2026? What financial assistance is currently provided for travel, accommodation, meals, and caregivers for patients receiving treatment abroad, and does Government intend to review or strengthen these benefits? How does SZV evaluate and monitor the quality, performance, and accountability

of overseas medical providers? What measures are being implemented to improve customer service, communication, and complaint handling within SZV? What structural reforms does Government consider necessary to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of SZV and the national healthcare financing system?

The faction would like to know what measurable improvements are expected from the increased allocation to Ambulance Services during 2026, and how will those improvements be reported to Parliament? What is the current staffing level within Ambulance Services compared to the approved organizational formation, and how many vacancies remain? What recruitment, retention, and workforce development initiatives are being implemented to address staffing shortages within Ambulance Services? What local and international training opportunities, certifications, and specialized emergency medical programs will be provided to ambulance personnel during 2026? Considering the training and professional development initiatives provided to ambulance personnel in recent years, what measurable improvements have been achieved in emergency medical response, clinical competencies, patient outcomes, and operational readiness, and how does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of these programs? What investments are planned for ambulance vehicles, medical equipment, communication systems, and emergency medical infrastructure during 2026? What are the current ambulance response times compared to the established national performance standards, and what improvements are targeted for 2026?

The faction notes the concerns previously raised by ambulance personnel regarding salaries, benefits, working conditions, career development, and industrial relations, and asks what corrective actions have been implemented since those discussions, which commitments have been fulfilled, which matters remain outstanding, and what implementation timeline has been established for the remaining actions? How does the Ministry coordinate Ambulance Services with the Fire Department, KPSM, the Emergency Operations Center, and healthcare providers to strengthen national emergency response? What are the greatest operational risks currently affecting Ambulance Services, and what additional investments or policy reforms are required to strengthen emergency medical response?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in implementing the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health Care, and which objectives remain outstanding? What mental health services are currently available on Sint Maarten, and where do the greatest service gaps continue to exist? What measures are being implemented to improve timely access to

mental healthcare, reduce waiting lists, and expand community-based services? How is the Ministry addressing the growing demand for mental health services, particularly among children, adolescents, seniors, and other vulnerable groups? What specialized services are available for persons living with chronic illnesses, including lupus, autoimmune diseases, and other long-term medical conditions? What initiatives are being implemented to improve access to nutritionists, physiotherapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other multidisciplinary healthcare professionals for persons living with chronic illnesses? How does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of mental health programs and community-based services, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026?

The faction would like to know, following the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health Care and subsequent investments in mental health services, what measurable improvements have been achieved in patient access, waiting times, continuity of care, treatment outcomes, and community-based mental health services, and how do those results compare with the objectives originally established by the Ministry? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting mental health and social care, and what legislative, financial, or policy reforms are required to strengthen these services? What long-term strategy has the Ministry established to expand mental healthcare, strengthen community-based services, and improve access to multidisciplinary care?

The faction would like to know what demographic projections has Government developed regarding the aging population through 2037, and how are those projections influencing healthcare and social policy? What is the current life expectancy on Sint Maarten, disaggregated by gender, and what trends have been observed over the past decade? How many persons currently receive AOV and APS pensions respectively, and what changes are projected over the next ten years? What is the current ratio of contributors to pensioners within the social insurance system, and what does this indicate regarding the long-term sustainability of the pension system? What were the principal findings of the most recent actuarial assessment of the pension system, and what reforms are being considered as a result? What percentage of pensioners currently live below the poverty line, and has Government evaluated the adequacy of AOV in relation to the minimum wage and the current cost of living? Has Government evaluated the feasibility of introducing a minimum pension guarantee, and what financial or legislative changes would be required to implement such a policy?

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to strengthen elderly care services, expand home-care programs, and support

seniors who wish to age in place? Following Government's continued commitment to supporting seniors who wish to age in place, what measurable progress has been achieved in expanding home-care services, reducing unnecessary institutionalization, improving access to community-based support, and increasing the number of seniors receiving care within their own homes? What are the greatest healthcare, financial, housing, and social challenges currently affecting the elderly population, and what additional measures are planned to address them?

The faction would like to know, following the commitment made during the 2025 Budget process that foster care stipends would be increased through Budget 2026, Budget 2026 reflects an increased allocation for youth care in foster families. What increase has been approved for the monthly foster care stipend, when will the revised stipend become effective for all eligible foster families, how many foster families will benefit, and does the Ministry consider the revised stipend sufficient to meet the current cost of caring for a foster child? How many children are currently in foster care, how many foster families are actively registered, and does the Ministry consider current capacity sufficient to meet demand? What financial, educational, psychological, and social support services are available to foster parents and foster families? What recruitment and retention initiatives are being implemented to increase the number of qualified foster families, and what measurable results are expected during 2026? What transition programs are available for young adults aging out of foster care, including support for housing, education, employment, healthcare, and independent living? Has the Ministry developed a national policy to ensure that young adults leaving foster care do not become homeless or unemployed, and if so, what measurable outcomes are expected? What measures are being implemented to strengthen child protection services, reduce response times, and improve interventions for vulnerable children? What is the current staffing level within the Youth and Family Services Division compared to the approved organizational formation, and how are vacancies affecting service delivery?

The faction would like to know the status of the launch of NESC and whether it will still take place in 2026. Furthermore, the faction would like to know whether the funds for the website management is for a third-party or whether this has been finalized through ICT.

What mental health, counselling, parenting, and family support services are available to children and families receiving social assistance? What are the greatest operational challenges affecting foster care, youth protection, and

family services, and what legislative, financial, or policy reforms are required to strengthen these programs?

The faction would like to know what long-term strategy has the Ministry established to strengthen child protection, foster care, family support, and youth development? What are the Ministry's principal public health priorities for 2026, and what measurable outcomes have been established for each priority? What measures are being implemented to strengthen disease prevention, early detection, and national screening programs, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026?

The faction continues and asks what progress has been made in reducing the incidence and long-term impact of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease? What progress has been made in strengthening food safety inspections, public health inspections, and environmental health enforcement, and are current staffing levels sufficient to meet demand? What national public awareness campaigns are being implemented to promote healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, nutrition, and physical activity, and how does the Ministry evaluate their effectiveness?

The faction would like to know what policies currently govern food safety, food additives, food labelling, and consumer protection, and are additional legislative reforms being considered?

The faction recalls the 2025 parliamentary work visit and subsequent correspondence regarding food additives and food safety, and asks what progress has been made in developing legislation or policy measures to regulate food additives, food labelling, and food safety, what legislative approach has been selected, and when does the Ministry expect these reforms to be submitted to Parliament?

The faction would like to know what progress has been made in strengthening the Ministry's legislative drafting capacity for public health legislation, has the Ministry secured the required legal expertise, and which public health reforms remain delayed due to capacity constraints?

The faction further asks what measures are being implemented to improve vaccination coverage and strengthen public confidence in immunization

programs? Based on the Ministry's public health risk assessment, what are the greatest threats currently facing public health in Sint Maarten, and what preparedness measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026? What lessons were learned from previous disease outbreaks and public health emergencies, and what measurable improvements have since been implemented? What long-term strategy has the Ministry established to strengthen disease prevention, improve population health, and reduce preventable illnesses?

The faction would like to know what are the Ministry's principal labor market priorities for 2026, and what measurable outcomes have been established for each priority? What is the current unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and youth unemployment rate, and what trends has the Ministry identified within the labor market? What initiatives are being implemented to improve employment opportunities, apprenticeships, internships, and workforce development for young people? What measures are being implemented to better align education, vocational training, and workforce development programs with the current and projected labor market needs of Sint Maarten, and what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025?

The faction continues and asks what progress has been made in strengthening labor inspections, workplace compliance, and enforcement of labor legislation, and are additional inspectors required? What measures are being implemented to strengthen workers' rights, improve working conditions, and ensure compliance with labor laws?

The faction is concerned for sectors experiencing persistent labor shortages, what measures are being implemented to increase the participation of local workers through training, reskilling, and workforce development before expanding reliance on foreign labor, and how does the Ministry measure the success of these initiatives? Which sectors continue to experience the greatest labor shortages, and what workforce development strategies are being implemented to address those shortages? What initiatives are being implemented to improve occupational safety and health, and have workplace accidents and occupational injuries decreased as a result?

The faction would like to know what are the greatest labor market challenges currently affecting Sint Maarten, and what policy or legislative

reforms are required to strengthen employment opportunities? How does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of labor policies, workforce development programs, and employment initiatives, and what measurable improvements are expected during 2026? What long-term strategy has the Ministry established to strengthen employment, workforce development, labor market resilience, and economic participation?

The faction would further like to know what are the principal cost drivers contributing to the increase in healthcare and social expenditures, and what measures are being implemented to manage those costs without compromising the quality of services? How does the Ministry measure the financial impact of investments in preventive healthcare, early intervention, and public health programs, and what evidence demonstrates that these initiatives are reducing long-term healthcare expenditures? How does the Ministry assess the long-term financial sustainability of healthcare, social protection, and labor programs, and what structural reforms are being considered?

The faction has the following questions for the ministry, what are the greatest financial risks currently facing the Ministry, and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026? What efficiency initiatives, digital transformation projects, and administrative reforms are being implemented to reduce operating costs and improve service delivery?

How does the Ministry prioritize limited financial resources among competing healthcare, social development, and labor needs?

How does the Ministry utilize data, performance indicators, and evidence-based decision-making when allocating resources and evaluating programs?

What additional financial resources, legislative reforms, or policy changes does the Ministry consider necessary to strengthen healthcare, social protection, and labor services over the long term?

What key performance indicators does the Ministry use to measure healthcare quality, social development, labor services, financial management, and overall ministry performance?

The faction would like to know if the Minister will commit to providing Parliament with quarterly reports on healthcare performance, SZV, ambulance

services, foster care, labor market performance, budget execution, and ministry performance indicators?

The faction would also like to know, If major programs fail to achieve their approved objectives during 2026, what corrective actions and accountability measures will the Ministry implement?

The faction asks, following the implementation of Budgets 2024 and 2025, what lessons learned have been incorporated into Budget 2026, what shortcomings identified during previous budget cycles have now been addressed, and what improvements have been made to planning, budgeting, implementation, and performance monitoring? Which commitments made by the Ministry during the 2024 and 2025 Budget debates remain outstanding, what factors contributed to those delays, and what implementation timeline has been established to complete those commitments?

The faction further asks what legislative reforms does the Ministry consider most urgent to strengthen healthcare, social protection, labor legislation, and public health? What policy reforms are necessary to improve healthcare accessibility, strengthen social protection, modernize labor services, and improve the overall effectiveness of the Ministry? What additional support does the Ministry require from Government, Parliament, healthcare providers, employers, community organizations, and international partners to successfully achieve its objectives?

The faction would like to know, looking beyond Budget 2026, what is the Ministry's long-term vision for improving healthcare, strengthening social protection, expanding employment opportunities, and improving the overall quality of life of the people of Sint Maarten? What national strategy has the Ministry developed to improve services for persons living with chronic illnesses, including lupus, autoimmune diseases, kidney disease, diabetes, and other long-term medical conditions? What additional measures are being implemented to strengthen nutritional counselling, preventative healthcare, and multidisciplinary treatment programs for persons living with chronic illnesses?

The faction asks what assessments has the Ministry conducted regarding the impact of the rising cost of living on vulnerable households, pensioners, persons with disabilities, and recipients of social assistance, what were the principal findings, and what additional support measures are planned during

2026? What additional reforms are being considered to strengthen the national social safety net and better protect vulnerable individuals and families from poverty and financial hardship?

The faction asks, if the Minister could implement one structural reform that would have the greatest positive impact on healthcare, social protection, and labor services, what would that reform be?

The faction would like to know, looking beyond Budget 2026, what does the Minister consider to be the single greatest challenge facing the Ministry over the next decade, and what actions must begin now to address that challenge?

The faction asks how many labor inspections are planned during 2026? Does the Labor Inspectorate have sufficient inspectors? Will Government review the minimum wage during 2026? What long-term measures are being implemented to reduce dependency on social assistance? How many persons currently receive social assistance? What new initiatives are planned for elderly care? What investments are being made to strengthen public health preparedness? How many vacancies currently exist within VSA? What recruitment initiatives are underway for healthcare professionals? What are the current waiting lists for specialist care, surgeries and diagnostics? What measurable targets have been established to reduce healthcare waiting times? What KPIs will be used to evaluate VSA's performance during 2026?

The faction notes that Cg. 790,000 has been reserved for the BIG. The faction would like to know whether this amount is realistic, given its current stage in the legislative process. The faction notes that there is a new Minister of VSA, will the projections change, will the outcome change? The faction would like to know whether the version drafted by the assigned legislative lawyer from General Affairs (AZ) will be used throughout the process.

The faction would like to know what the allocated amount of Cg. 800,000 for the SAAHA will be used for in 2026.

The faction notes that funds have been allocated for a GHI/SAAHA awareness campaign. The faction would like to know the status of this campaign, as this was budgeted during the faction's tenure in 2024 with the aim that the campaign would start immediately. The faction would like to know what has happened and how much is budgeted for SAAHA/GHI from Government funds or is it all under TWO funding.

The faction notes that it has been two years of URSM leadership and queries what is there to show. The faction further notes that for two years URSM held the responsibility for this Ministry and would like to know what exactly has been achieved with SAAHA. The faction would like to know what has been delivered and where is the legislation currently.

The faction would like to know how much Government has spent on SAAHA since 2024 and what tangible results the people of Sint Maarten have received for every guilder spent.

The faction would like to know why the draft legislation has not yet been submitted to Parliament and what has been the hold up for the past two years.

The faction underscores the importance of the SAAHA legislation and makes reference to statements made by SZV about income lost of Cg. 19 and 20 million.

The faction would like to know when this Government, under the new acting Minister of VSA, intends to submit this draft law to Parliament and what the expected submission date is.

Insurance for sole proprietors and bus drivers, the faction mentions that the country is promoting entrepreneurship, our locals can have a *eenmanszaak* but can't insure themselves, The faction clarifies further that because of what was happening with the SAAHA, it was dissected and brought it piece, piece and called it SZV one day. This specific legislation went to the Council of Advice and has been sent back since 2024 and has been sitting on the desk of the Minister of VSA. The faction just understood the SAAHA was canceled. The faction is of the opinion that the people needs to be informed of this. Additionally, the faction believes that if the SAAHA is not coming anytime soon then this SZV one day has to come, now.

The faction would like an update on the legal helpdesk? What is the purpose and function? Are we spending money on it? Is it free? Is it subsidized?

The faction requests feedback with statistics on the legal help desk, on how it has benefited the communities, the average amount of walk-ins and the average amount of cases that have been helped solve thus far.

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure

The faction would like to know what are the three principal priorities for the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure are in 2026 and asks what measurable outcomes are expected for each priority? What measurable improvements the Ministry expects to achieve through the increased VROMI budget during 2026? How will those results be reported to Parliament? What key performance indicators have been established to measure project delivery, infrastructure, housing, permit processing, environmental protection, and overall ministry performance, and what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in strengthening governance, transparency, and accountability within VROMI. Which governance reforms remain outstanding and what corrective actions have been implemented to address previous shortcomings?

The faction notes that the Staff Bureau received a significant increase in its budget while several executing departments experienced reductions and therefore asks what operational justification supports this allocation and how it will improve project delivery? The faction further inquires whether the Staff Bureau is formally functioning as the Ministry's Project Management Office and, if so, under what legal authority and organizational mandate?

The faction also requests that the Minister provide Parliament with a complete breakdown of every project, budget allocation, funding source, implementation schedule, and responsible department managed under the Staff Bureau? In addition, the faction would like to know how the current organizational and budget structure ensures that financial responsibility remains aligned with operational accountability? Has the Ministry of Finance, SOAB, or any independent oversight body reviewed the current organizational structure and project allocation model, and what recommendations were made, implemented, or remain outstanding?

The faction inquires about the Minister's assessment of the greatest governance and organizational risks currently affecting VROMI, what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026? The faction would like to know beyond Budget 2026, what long-term strategy the Ministry has established to strengthen governance, improve organizational effectiveness, and enhance accountability?

What is the current staffing level across the Ministry compared to the approved organizational formation, which departments continue to experience the greatest shortages, and how existing staffing shortages are affecting project

execution, permit processing, infrastructure maintenance, environmental management, and overall service delivery? The faction further inquires what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in recruitment, retention, succession planning, and workforce development, which critical vacancies continue to affect service delivery, which positions have remained vacant the longest, and what obstacles continue to prevent the Ministry from successfully recruiting qualified personnel?

The faction also asks what strategy is being implemented to reduce dependence on external consultants while strengthening institutional knowledge and technical capacity within the Ministry, what percentage of the Ministry's work is currently performed by consultants, and what measurable reductions are expected during 2026? The faction further requests an overview of the specialized training, certifications, and professional development opportunities that will be available to Ministry personnel during 2026.?

The faction would like to know what are the greatest workforce challenges currently affecting VROMI . What additional resources or reforms are required to strengthen organizational capacity, and whether the Minister considers the current staffing complement sufficient to successfully execute the Ministry's strategic objectives and capital program during 2026?

The faction inquires about the measurable operational improvements and public benefits expected from each major capital project scheduled for implementation during 2026 and asks how the Ministry will evaluate whether those projects achieve their intended objectives. The faction further inquires which projects are fully designed, funded, and ready for immediate execution, which remain in the planning, procurement, or design phases, what percentage of the 2026 capital budget the Ministry realistically expects to execute, and what measures are being implemented to improve budget execution compared to 2024 and 2025?

The faction would also like to know which capital projects remain incomplete from Budget 2025, what caused the delays, what revised completion timelines have been established, which projects are considered to have the greatest risk of cost overruns or implementation delays, and what project management controls have been implemented to mitigate those risks?

The faction further asks what measurable improvements have been achieved since Budget 2025 in procurement efficiency, transparency, and project delivery, what additional procurement reforms will be implemented during 2026? What internal controls exist to ensure value for money, accountability, and transparency throughout procurement and project execution and how the Ministry monitors and reports the progress of ongoing procurement processes? The faction would like to know whether Parliament will receive periodic updates

on major procurement activities and implementation timelines during 2026? The faction interested to know about the lessons learned from previous project delays that have been incorporated into the planning and execution of the 2026 capital program and asks whether the Minister will commit to providing Parliament with quarterly project implementation reports detailing project status, expenditures, milestones achieved, implementation delays, and revised completion schedules.

The faction also asks about measurable progress achieved since Budget 2025 toward fully operationalizing the Road Fund and asks which legislative, financial, or administrative barriers remain unresolved? When does Government expects the Road Fund to function as intended? The faction further inquires how much road tax revenue was collected during 2025, how much road tax revenue was allocated directly to road maintenance and rehabilitation, and whether the 2026 budget fully complies with the Road Fund legislation?

The faction would like to know which roads have been prioritized for rehabilitation, resurfacing, and maintenance during 2026? What criteria was used to establish those priorities? How the Ministry ensures that districts with the greatest road-safety and infrastructure risks are addressed first, what measurable improvements in road conditions the Ministry expects to achieve during 2026, and how those improvements will be evaluated.

The faction would like to know what progress has been made regarding the implementation of the national drainage improvement program and asks which districts remain at the greatest risk of flooding? Has the Ministry completed a comprehensive island-wide assessment of roads, drainage systems, retaining walls, culverts, trenches, and waterways, and what the principal findings were? The faction also inquires what preventative maintenance program is currently in place for roads, drains, trenches, waterways, and flood control infrastructure? The faction would like the ministry's opinion on whether the current resources are sufficient to maintain these systems effectively? What additional infrastructure investments are planned to reduce flooding, improve stormwater management, and strengthen climate resilience throughout Sint Maarten, and, considering historical flooding events, which districts remain the most vulnerable together with the targeted interventions that have been prioritized for those communities?

The faction would like to know the Minister's assessment of the greatest operational and infrastructure challenges currently affecting roads and drainage and asks what additional financial resources or legislative reforms are required to address them?

The faction would like to know what comprehensive strategy the Ministry has developed to address the repeated public concerns regarding sewage overflows, failing septic systems, wastewater discharge, and stormwater management, and what measurable progress is expected during 2026? The faction further asks how many complaints relating to septic overflows, sewage discharge, wastewater leaks, and drainage failures were received during the past two years, what percentage of those complaints have been resolved? Does the Ministry maintain a centralized digital database for wastewater, drainage, flooding, and sewage complaints, and will this information be made publicly available? The faction also inquires about the current average response time for sewage overflows and wastewater incidents and what service standards have been established for emergency response.

The faction further requests information about the public health and environmental risks that have been identified as a result of recurring sewage overflows and asks how the Ministry coordinates with the Ministry of VSA to address these risks? What are the measurable progress achieved since Budget 2025 for expanding the sewer infrastructure, wastewater treatment capacity, and long-term wastewater management projects, which projects remain delayed, and what implementation timelines have been established? In addition, the faction asks which districts continue to experience the highest number of wastewater and septic complaints, what targeted interventions have been planned for those areas? How has climate change been incorporated into the Ministry's planning for drainage systems, wastewater infrastructure, flood mitigation, and future infrastructure resilience. What are the greatest operational, financial, environmental, and infrastructure challenges currently affecting wastewater management and flood control. The faction would like to know beyond Budget 2026, what long-term strategy the Ministry has established to modernize wastewater management, strengthen drainage infrastructure, and improve climate resilience?

The faction would also like to know what the current housing shortage on Sint Maarten is? How many individuals and families are presently awaiting affordable or social housing? What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in completing the national housing needs assessment? What are the principal findings, and how are those findings influencing Government's housing policies and development priorities over the next ten years?

The faction further asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 on the affordable housing projects? Which projects remain

delayed, what caused those delays, and how many housing units are expected to be completed during 2026? The faction would like to know the current status of the Hope Estate and Upper Princess Quarter housing developments, including land transfer, planning, financing, infrastructure works, and projected construction timelines?

The faction notes that Government has repeatedly identified the Mortgage Guarantee Fund as an important initiative to improve access to homeownership, including during previous budget debates and the most recent VROMI parliamentary meeting. Therefore the faction asks what measurable progress has been achieved since this commitment was first announced? Which implementation milestones have been completed and which remain outstanding? What obstacles continue to delay the program, and when can Parliament and prospective homeowners realistically expect the Mortgage Guarantee Fund to become operational? The faction further inquires whether Government has finalized the eligibility requirements, income thresholds, qualification criteria, and administrative framework for the Mortgage Guarantee Fund, and when these requirements will be published for prospective applicants? The faction also asks what additional Government guarantees or financing mechanisms are being considered to expand homeownership opportunities rather than relying primarily on rental housing?

The faction would like to know whether the Ministry has formally assessed the housing needs of essential public servants, including teachers, police officers, immigration officers, customs officers, correctional officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, and other critical personnel. Will Government establish a formal housing allocation policy that gives priority consideration to essential public servants and other critical workforce categories? The faction recalls that during a previous meeting the Minister mentioned that young adults aging out of foster care could be formally recognized as a priority housing category and therefore the faction asks whether this will now be made definitive rather than remaining merely a consideration for inclusion? The faction also asks if housing support programs are available to assist their transition into independent living.

The faction further inquires about the current level of cooperation between Government and the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation (SMHDF), what additional support is required to accelerate affordable housing development? Has Government evaluated existing rental subsidy programs, and what revisions are being considered to better reflect the current cost of housing?

The faction would like to know what the current waiting period is for affordable and social housing? what measurable reductions the Ministry expects to achieve during 2026? Has the Ministry completed its assessment regarding the establishment of a dedicated Housing Department within VROMI? what organizational or legislative changes would be required to establish such a department? What are the greatest challenges currently affecting housing affordability, housing supply, financing, and land availability and what legislative or policy reforms are required to address them?

The faction notes that building permit processing times have remained a recurring concern and therefore asks what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in reducing processing times? What the current average processing times are for each major permit category? What service standards the Ministry has established? How many building permit applications are currently pending? What is the age profile of those applications is, and what reduction targets have been established for 2026?

The faction notes the initiatives introduced to digitalize permit services, and asks which stages of the permitting process remain manual? What operational, legislative, technological, or interdepartmental barriers continue to delay full digitalization? When does Government expects applicants to have access to a fully integrated digital permitting system?

The faction would also like to know what measures are being implemented to strengthen enforcement against illegal construction? How many stop orders, violations, enforcement actions, and demolitions occurred during 2025? What measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in preparing and implementing the National Spatial Development Plan? Which milestones remain outstanding, and when does Government expects full implementation to begin?

The faction further asks what measures are being implemented to protect Government land, prevent illegal occupation, and improve land management throughout Sint Maarten? The faction also inquires how the Ministry balances economic development, environmental protection, infrastructure capacity, and community interests when considering major development applications? In addition, the faction would like to know what is the greatest operational challenges currently affecting spatial planning, permitting, inspections, and land management? What reforms are required to improve efficiency? How does the Ministry intends to improve transparency, consistency, and public confidence throughout the permit application and approval process? The faction would like

to know looking beyond Budget 2026, what long-term vision the Ministry has established for sustainable land use, orderly development, and future urban planning?

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 in implementing the Nature Policy Plan? Which objectives have been completed and which remain outstanding. What implementation milestones have been established for 2026?

The faction would like to know what projects are currently being funded under the Service Level Agreement with the Nature Foundation? What are the expected deliverables for each project and how is performance being measured? How does the Ministry evaluate the effectiveness of the Nature Foundation Service Level Agreement? Have any independent performance reviews or audits been conducted? What measures are being implemented to protect environmentally sensitive areas, biodiversity, coastal ecosystems, and natural habitats from illegal development and environmental degradation?

The faction would like to know what measurable progress has been achieved since Budget 2025 regarding implementing climate adaptation and resilience projects? The faction further asks what funding has been secured? What outcomes are expected during 2026?

The faction would like to know what measures are being implemented to reduce illegal dumping, strengthen environmental enforcement, and improve public compliance? How many enforcement actions were taken during 2025?

The faction indicates that the waste collection budget has been reduced while landfill management costs have increased. What operational changes justify these budget adjustments? What impact will they have on waste collection services? What measurable improvements are expected in waste collection, recycling, landfill management, and waste reduction during 2026? How will the Ministry evaluate whether these improvements have been achieved?

The faction would like to know what are the greatest environmental risks currently facing Sint Maarten? What additional legislative, financial, or policy reforms are required to strengthen environmental protection and climate resilience? Looking beyond Budget 2026, what long-term strategy has the Ministry established for environmental protection, climate resilience, waste management, and sustainable development? What key performance indicators has the Ministry established to measure infrastructure delivery, housing

development, permit processing, environmental protection, project execution, and overall ministry performance?

The faction would like to know if the Minister will commit to providing Parliament with quarterly written reports on budget execution, staffing, capital projects, permit processing times, housing developments, environmental initiatives, and ministry performance indicators?

The faction notes that the Ministry's capital budget execution rates for 2024 and 2025 provide an indication of implementation capacity. What lessons have been learned from those execution rates and what structural improvements have been implemented? What measurable improvements does the Ministry expect to achieve in capital budget execution during 2026 and how does the Ministry evaluate value for money on major infrastructure projects, and are post-project evaluations conducted to measure project outcomes and lessons learned?

The faction would like to know what measurable milestones have been established for each of the Ministry's strategic objectives during 2026? What corrective measures are implemented when those milestones are not achieved?

The faction notes that several capital projects experienced procurement delays, implementation challenges, and budget execution constraints during previous budget cycles. What corrective measures have been implemented as a result of those experiences? How have those lessons been incorporated into Budget 2026? If major programs, implementation milestones, or approved performance targets are not achieved during 2026, what corrective actions, reporting mechanisms, and accountability measures will the Ministry implement? Within what timeframe will Parliament be informed of significant implementation delays?

The faction asks what are the greatest strategic risks currently affecting the Ministry of VROMI and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into Budget 2026? What legislative reforms does the Minister consider most urgent to strengthen housing, infrastructure, environmental management, project execution, and sustainable development? What additional support does the Ministry require from Parliament, Government, the private sector, and international partners to successfully achieve its strategic objectives? The faction further asks, looking beyond Budget 2026, what is the Minister's long-term vision for housing, infrastructure, environmental protection, resilience, and sustainable national development?

The faction would like to know how many complaints relating to sewage overflows, drainage failures, wastewater discharge, illegal dumping, road conditions, and infrastructure defects were received during the past two years, and what percentage have been resolved? Will the Ministry establish a publicly accessible digital reporting platform where residents can report road damage, drainage failures, sewage overflows, illegal dumping, and other infrastructure concerns while tracking the status of their complaints? What service standards has the Ministry established for responding to complaints involving roads, drainage, sewage, illegal dumping, and other public infrastructure concerns, and how is compliance with those standards monitored. What accountability measures are applied when those standards are not achieved?

The faction would like to know how does the Ministry coordinate with the Ministry of VSA regarding public health risks associated with sewage overflows, wastewater discharge, flooding, illegal dumping, and environmental hazards?

What measures are being implemented to improve communication with residents regarding road works, drainage projects, infrastructure maintenance, permit processing, and environmental initiatives?

The faction would like to know which three commitments is the Minister most confident will be fully achieved during 2026, and what measurable targets have been established for each commitment and which three projects or initiatives present the greatest implementation risk during 2026? What contingency measures have been established to reduce those risks? If additional financial resources became available during 2026, which infrastructure, housing, environmental, or community projects would the Minister prioritize, and why? If Parliament approves this budget today, what measurable improvements can the Minister guarantee residents will experience by the end of 2026 in roads, drainage, housing, permit processing, environmental protection, and public service delivery?

The faction would like to know what road maintenance projects are prioritized for 2026? Which major infrastructure projects will begin during 2026? What affordable housing initiatives are planned? What improvements are planned for waste management? What investments are being made in sewage infrastructure? What drainage improvements are planned to reduce flooding? What environmental protection initiatives are planned? How will permit processing times be reduced? What progress has been made on spatial planning reforms?

The faction would like to know what vacancies currently exist within VROMI and what KPIs will measure the Ministry's performance?

The faction asks further how many sewage or septic complaints have been formally recorded by the Ministry over the past year, and what is the trend compared to previous years? Which department or agency within VROMI is directly responsible for handling sewage and wastewater complaints, and what is the standard procedure for addressing them? What is the average response time from the moment a sewage complaint is received until the issue is resolved? What specific measures has the Ministry implemented or planned to improve sewage infrastructure and wastewater management in affected communities?

The Faction would like to know how will Government ensure transparency by reporting back to the public on the areas identified, actions taken, and timelines for long-term solutions?

The faction would like to know whether the waste export study has begun.

The faction would like to know what is the plan for burial space lots and what is budgeted for such? The faction would like to receive the response in written form and documented.

What are the plans for affordable housing? There is a difference between affordable housing and public housing? Can the minister make a distinction between the two?

How much money is allocated for road repair and what is the timeline and the road fund?

The Nation Opportunity Wealth-faction has taken note of the draft and has the following questions and remarks.

Ministry of Finance

As it regards the Ministry of Finance the faction indicates that the 2026 Budget projects Government revenue of approximately Cg. 647 million, representing an increase over the previous year. What assumptions were used to arrive at this projection, and how confident is the Minister that these revenue targets are achievable?

Despite projected increases in tax revenue, Government continues to face challenges with outstanding tax collections. What is the current value of unpaid taxes owed to Government, and what additional measures will be implemented during 2026 to improve tax compliance and collection?

The Budget outlines Government's debt projections over the coming years. What is the Minister's long-term strategy to ensure Sint Maarten's national debt remains sustainable while still financing critical investments?

Historically, several Ministries have struggled to fully execute their approved budgets. What additional oversight mechanisms has the Ministry of Finance introduced to ensure Ministries spend public funds efficiently and deliver the projects approved by Parliament?

The Budget references ongoing reforms to the tax administration. Can the Minister provide an update on the implementation of tax reform, including the modernization of the Tax Department and improvements in taxpayer services?

What progress has been made toward digitizing tax filing, payment systems, customs procedures, and other financial services to improve efficiency and reduce administrative burdens on citizens and businesses?

The faction continues and indicates that Government expenditure continues to increase, particularly with personnel and operational costs. What cost-control measures are being implemented to ensure expenditure growth remains sustainable without negatively affecting public services?

How is the Ministry strengthening transparency and accountability in Government procurement to ensure taxpayers receive maximum value for public funds and to reduce opportunities for waste or misuse?

The Budget introduces a more policy-oriented budgeting framework. How will the Ministry ensure that Ministries are held accountable not only for how much they spend but also for the results they achieve with those funds?

Finally, what three measurable financial objectives has the Minister established for the Ministry of Finance in 2026, and how will Parliament be able to determine whether those objectives have been successfully achieved by year's end?

The faction would like to know who does the formalization of the function book for political assistance fall under ? Is the function book for political assistance ratified by law?

Ministry of General Affairs

The faction indicates that the Ministry's personnel budget has increased by 8.7% and would like to know how many vacant positions will actually be filled during 2026? Which positions have been prioritized?

How much of the increase is attributable to salary adjustments as opposed to the recruitment of new personnel?

What measurable improvements in public service delivery should the people expect as a result of this increased investment?

Can the Prime Minister provide a timeline to indicate when all critical vacancies will be filled?

Why does Government continue to rely heavily on consultants instead of investing in permanent civil servants? Which consultancy contracts are expected to be awarded in 2026? Will these contracts be publicly tendered? What mechanisms are in place to measure whether these consultants deliver value for money?

When will citizens begin to experience these digital services?

The faction continues and mentions that the Budget speaks extensively about strengthening integrity within Government. How does the Prime Minister reconcile this commitment with the recent public integrity allegations surrounding his administration?

How many integrity investigations involving civil servants were conducted during 2025? How many resulted in disciplinary action?

There was a motion passed in regards to legislative lawyers. The faction indicates that it has not seen anything regarding such in this Budget. Where is the Ministry with that?

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication

As it regards the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, the faction has the following questions and comments. The budget places significant emphasis on increasing visitor arrivals. What measurable increase in stay-over and cruise visitors does the Minister expect by the end of 2026?

What specific marketing campaigns will be launched to attract higher-spending tourists instead of simply increasing visitor numbers? How much of the tourism budget is being allocated directly toward destination marketing versus administrative costs? What is Government doing to diversify tourism beyond cruise passengers and traditional North American markets?

Is the Ministry satisfied with the current quality of tourism product offerings, and what investments are being made to improve the visitor experience?

What initiatives are being undertaken to encourage repeat visitors?

How does Government intend to address complaints regarding beach accessibility, cleanliness, and public amenities?

Has the Ministry conducted any economic impact assessment on the return generated from tourism marketing expenditures?

The faction continues stating that while the budget projects economic growth, many residents continue to struggle with the high cost of living. How does the Minister intend to ensure ordinary citizens benefit from this projected growth?

What policies are being implemented to stimulate local entrepreneurship? What concrete support is available for small and medium-sized businesses?

Does the Minister believe enough is being done to reduce barriers to doing business in Sint Maarten? How many new businesses does the Ministry expect to be registered during 2026?

What sectors outside tourism is Government actively developing to diversify the economy?

What measures are being taken to reduce monopolistic practices and encourage fair competition?

The faction indicates that the budget speaks about reducing business license processing times by 50%. What is the current average processing time compared to the target?

How many outstanding business license applications currently remain pending? What accountability measures will be implemented if the 50% reduction target is not achieved? Will business license applications become fully digital during 2026?

What legislative amendments are required to modernize the licensing process?

What additional inspections are planned to ensure businesses comply with consumer protection laws? How many consumer complaints were received during 2025? How many resulted in enforcement action? Is the Ministry considering stronger penalties for businesses that repeatedly violate consumer protection legislation?

The budget emphasizes digital transformation. What specific digital services will become available to the public during 2026? What progress has been made toward expanding e-government services?

What cybersecurity protections are being implemented to protect citizens' personal information?

Is there a national broadband strategy to improve internet accessibility and affordability?

What improvements are planned for public transportation during 2026? Is Government considering regulating bus routes, fares, and service quality? How does Government intend to improve traffic congestion, particularly during peak tourism periods?

The faction continues and states that the budget indicates that the Statistics Department is operating at only about one-third staffing capacity. How has this affected Government's ability to make evidence-based decisions?

By what date does the Minister expect the Statistics Department to reach adequate staffing?

Ministry of Justice

As it regards the Ministry of Justice, the faction has the following questions and comments. Violent crime continues to be one of the greatest concerns facing our community. What measurable reduction in violent crime does the Minister expect to achieve during 2026, and what specific initiatives support that target?

The Police Force continues to face manpower challenges. How many police officers are currently active, how many vacancies exist, and how many new officers are expected to be recruited and trained during 2026? This questions also goes for all other law enforcements agencies within the Ministry of Justice.

How many officers are currently under investigation? How many officers are currently home during the investigation and how many are in active service during an active investigation? How many law enforcement officers respectively have been fired since the Minister have taken office? How many law enforcement officers respectively are pending to be fired?

Gun violence continues to claim the lives of many young people. What new enforcement strategies are being implemented to reduce the number of illegal firearms entering and circulating within Sint Maarten?

The budget anticipates increased costs associated with the new prison facility. Can the Minister provide Parliament with an update on the construction, commissioning, operational readiness, and expected opening date of the new prison?

How is the Ministry strengthening cooperation between Immigration, Customs, the Police Force, and the Coast Guard to combat drug trafficking, firearm smuggling, and human trafficking?

Businesses and applicants continue to complain about lengthy processing times for residency and work permits. What reforms are being introduced to reduce these delays and improve customer service?

What specific programs are being implemented to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce youth involvement in criminal activity before intervention by the criminal justice system becomes necessary? What additional resources have been allocated to strengthen victim support services, particularly for victims of domestic violence, sexual offences, and violent crimes?

Reducing repeat offending is essential to public safety. What rehabilitation, vocational training, and reintegration programs available for inmates, and how will the Ministry measure their effectiveness?

The faction states that public confidence in law enforcement depends on visibility and engagement. What plans does the Ministry have to strengthen community policing and improve relationships between the police and the communities they serve?

Do the Police Force and other law enforcement agencies currently have sufficient vehicles, protective equipment, communication systems, and investigative resources to effectively carry out their duties? If not, what additional investments are included in this budget?

Many criminal investigations are hindered because witnesses are reluctant to come forward. Is the Government considering strengthening witness protection mechanisms or introducing additional safeguards to encourage public cooperation with law enforcement?

What rehabilitation and educational programs are available for juvenile offenders, and what success has the Ministry achieved in reducing repeat offending among young people?

Can the Minister provide Parliament with the number of illegal firearms confiscated during 2025, and what new border enforcement or intelligence-led operations are planned to further reduce the illegal circulation of weapons?

The faction mentions questions posed in writing to the Minister of Justice and that these have not been answered as yet. The faction indicates that some of these questions reflects on budget when it talks about the police officers' salaries, when it talks about people who got promotions, those who have acting positions basically if they get an acting allowance, the pensioners who are not paid out as yet. Therefore the faction poses the questions here.

What was the rationale behind appointing the Chief of Police, Mr. Carl M. John, as acting Secretary General Justice (SG)? What legal authority or statutory basis was relied upon to make this appointment? Were other qualified candidates considered for the position, and what selection process was followed?

What led the Minister of Justice to choose the Chief of Police, Mr. Carl John as acting SG, while the staff continues to leave the Police Force of Sint Maarten (KPSM)?

Minister, please provide an inventory on all vehicles under KPSM with purchase date, being in use and not in use, the condition thereof, and maintenance schedule, respectively vehicles used by Management, patrol units, detectives, intelligence, arrest team, observation team and administration department.

How does the Ministry intend to address concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest, particularly in matters involving personnel and organizational decisions of KPSM?

What complaints are you aware of by justice personnel alleging unfair treatment or victimization under decisions made by Chief of Police? How are we to safeguard the interest of the justice personnel while having the same person serving acting SG?

When serving as acting SG, who runs KPSM? Who is the acting chief of police? How is it possible that the SG has returned in her function, while the acting SG is currently executing the office of SG?

Why should Mr. Carl John, chief of police, continue occupying the seat of the SG if the SG, Ms. Florence Marlin, is back at work?

The Ministry of Justice consists of a Staf Bureau that resorts directly under the SG. How many qualified persons are there within the StafBureau that could have taken up the role as acting SG?

It is public knowledge that the Chief of Police has sought other opportunities locally and abroad. How does his current position as acting SG

affect the other departments within the Ministry of Justice such as, Immigration, Customs and House of Detention?

The faction notes that the Chief of Police signs with the abbreviation MBA behind his name. What is the definition of that abbreviation mentioned behind Mr. Carl John's name in his writings?

The faction would like for the Minister of Justice to provide a breakdown of all work-related trips that the Chief of Police has taken over the past three years, reasons thereto and the implicated costs?

What complaint mechanisms are currently in place to protect officers and other justice workers from retaliation when reporting misconduct or unfair treatment by the Chief of Police or the members of the management team of KPSM?

The faction would like to request for the Minister of Justice to commit to an independent review of this appointment in the interest of transparency and public confidence.

What is the security screening procedure for justice workers within the Ministry of Justice? What is the role of the Chief of Police, Mr. Carl John, in relation to the security screenings for the personnel of KPSM conducted by the National Security Service of Sint Maarten?

What is the mandate given to the Chief of Police, Mr. Carl John, in relation to the security screenings of KPSM personnel conducted by the National Security Service of Sint Maarten?

The faction would like to be provided with the mandate given to the Chief of Police, Mr. Carl John, in relation to the security screening conducted by the National Security Service of Sint Maarten?

Based on the function book of KPSM, what is the overall employment capacity of KPSM? How many police officers have left or resigned from KPSM since the police chief's appointment in 2015?

The faction indicates that the Minister of Justice mentioned on many occasion that she is a lawyer, therefore as a lawyer, the Minister of Justice ought to know that an irrevocable court decision should be executed. What are the

number of irrevocable court decisions that is awaiting execution? What is the reason for noncompliance to the highest decisions in this country?

It is understood that the Minister compensated the acting Head of the National Detective (LR) after she lost her case against the Minister. What led to this illegal reimbursement of their legal fees?

How can other justice workers request compensation or reimbursement after they lost their court cases against the Minister of Justice?

What is the update on the justice policy relating to sexual harassment at the workplace? Please provide an update to the cases related to sexual harassment within KPSM.

It is understood that one detective resigned and another was put on nonactive leave within two days noticed. Both of which filed or made it known of the sexual harassment and sexual assault they have endured at the workplace. What can the Minister elaborate on these respective matters?

What is the outcome of the meeting held between the Minister and several victims in relation to sexual harassment within KPSM?

What is the update on Phase #1 batches for all active justice workers, respectively Police, Customs, Coast Guard, Court of Guardianship, Immigration, The Prison and House of Detention, Financial Intelligence Unit and the National Detectives?

What is the update on Phase #2 for the issuance of the batches, including the anticipated timeline for completion and distribution?

What were the delays in implementing Phase #2, and if so, what are the reasons?

What is the update on the issuance of the National decrees for justice pensioners?

Minister, there are crucial managerial positions where stability is needed, and these positions are currently filled with individuals in an acting capacity.

Why isn't an official department head of the National Detectives appointed as yet?

Why isn't an official department head of the Prison and House of Detention appointed as yet?

Why isn't an official department head of the Immigration Department appointed as yet?

Why isn't an official department section head of the Immigration Admittance Department appointed as yet?

Why isn't an official department section head of the Compliance Immigration Department appointed as yet?

Why isn't an official department section head of Division Head Basic Police Care appointed as yet?

The faction indicates that there is a management team in place at the Customs Department for nearly two (2) now.

When will Mr. Rogerrel Mauricia and Mr. Henk Lake receive their acting allowance or officially placed?

Minister, the NAGICO Insurance coverage for justice workers are of crucial importance. Please give a detailed updated on the validity of this insurance coverage for the justice workers. When will the justice workers be reimbursed for the funds paid to this NAGICO insurance policy which had already lapsed?

What discussions are being held with NAGICO Insurance to reinstate this insurance policy for all frontline justice workers?

How many investigations are currently being carried from reports by the Financial Intelligence Unit?

The faction is aware that complaints are being made against the acting section head of the Admittance Department within the Immigration Department. What is the outcome of those complaints? What is the procedure for handling these reports/complaints?

Who investigates complaints or internal affairs within the Immigration Department?

The faction continues and mentions that it is understood that the prison guards from Suriname are receiving a higher salary than the local prison guards. From whose budget are these Suriname prison guards receiving their salary?

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport

The faction states that improving the quality of education is one of the Ministry's primary objectives. What measurable improvements in student performance and educational outcomes does the Minister expects to achieve by the end of 2026?

Many schools continue to experience shortages of qualified teachers. How many teaching vacancies currently exist within the public education system, and what measures are being taken to recruit and retain qualified educators?

Parents and teachers continue to raise concerns regarding the condition of several school buildings. How much funding has been allocated for school maintenance and repairs, and which schools have been prioritized for renovation during 2026?

What additional resources are being allocated to support students with special educational needs, including those requiring specialized learning assistance or behavioral support?

What measures are being implemented to strengthen safety and security within our schools, particularly considering increasing concerns regarding violence, bullying, and emergency preparedness?

How is the Ministry ensuring that the national curriculum adequately prepares students for the modern workforce, particularly in the areas of technology, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and vocational education?

The Ministry continues to invest in scholarships and educational opportunities. How many students are expected to benefit from Government scholarship programs during 2026, and what steps are being taken to ensure

scholarship recipients return and contribute to Sint Maarten after completing their studies?

Beyond formal education, what new youth development initiatives are being introduced to reduce youth delinquency, promote leadership, and create opportunities for personal and professional development?

The faction continues and indicates that sports play an important role in youth development and national health. What investments are included in this budget to improve sporting facilities, support national sports organizations, and assist athletes representing Sint Maarten internationally?

Research consistently demonstrates that early childhood education has a lasting impact on student success. What additional investments are being made to improve access to quality early childhood education across the country?

The education system continues to embrace digital learning. What investments are included to improve classroom technology, internet connectivity, teacher training, and digital resources for students?

Can the Minister provide Parliament with the current school attendance and dropout statistics, and what interventions are being implemented to reduce absenteeism and improve student retention?

The successful implementation of the Ministry's policies depends on adequate staffing and administrative capacity. Does the Ministry currently have sufficient personnel to execute its 2026 objectives, and if not, what recruitment plans are in place?

Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor

The faction has the following questions related to the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor and firstly indicates that many residents continue to complain about long waiting times for specialist appointments and medical procedures. What measurable improvements does the Minister expect citizens to experience by the end of 2026?

The demand for mental health services continues to increase. What additional funding has been allocated to expand mental health care, and how many new professionals does the Ministry intend to recruit?

Can the Minister provide an update on the operational capacity of the ambulance service, including the number of ambulances currently in service, staffing levels, response times, and whether additional units will be added in 2026?

The Government continues to invest in healthcare services. How much funding has been allocated to the Sint Maarten Medical Center, and what accountability measures are in place to ensure taxpayers receive value for money?

The long-term sustainability of SZV remains a national concern. What reforms is the Ministry implementing to ensure that the social and health insurance funds remain financially sustainable over the coming years?

Many workers continue to raise concerns regarding labor violations, unpaid overtime, and unsafe working conditions. How many labor inspections does the Ministry plan to conduct during 2026, and does the Inspectorate currently have sufficient personnel to effectively enforce the labor laws?

The faction would like to know if the Government is considering any adjustment to the national minimum wage during 2026 in light of the increasing cost of living, and if so, what impact assessment has been conducted.

Many families are struggling with rising food, utility, and housing costs. Beyond social assistance, what structural measures is the Ministry introducing to improve the financial well-being of vulnerable households?

Can the Minister indicate how many individuals currently receive social assistance, how much has been budgeted for these programs in 2026, and whether eligibility criteria will be reviewed? What new initiatives are being introduced to improve healthcare services, home care, and social support for the growing elderly population?

What investments are included in this budget to strengthen public health preparedness for future disease outbreaks or other public health emergencies?

The budget highlights staffing challenges across Government. How many vacancies currently exist within the Ministry of VSA, which departments are most affected, and how will these shortages impact service delivery if they remain unfilled?

What measures are being implemented to recruit and retain doctors, nurses, specialists, and other healthcare professionals, particularly in areas where shortages currently exist?

Can the Minister provide Parliament with current data on waiting lists for specialist care, surgeries, and diagnostic services, and what targets have been established to reduce these waiting times during 2026?

The budget introduces a more policy-oriented approach with measurable objectives. What Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will the Ministry use to measure its success during 2026, and how frequently will Parliament receive progress reports on those targets?

Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure

The faction has the following questions related to the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure. Minister, which specific roads will be rehabilitated during 2026, and what is the exact budget allocation for each road project?

What objective criteria were used to prioritize road rehabilitation, and can the Minister provide the ranking methodology? What percentage of the road network is currently in poor or critical condition, and how has this changed since you took office?

When will the Dutch Quarter Road rehabilitation be completed, and what has caused the delay? What is the current status of Well Road, and when will full rehabilitation commence?

How much funding is allocated specifically for drainage improvements in flood-prone areas, and which areas are targeted? Which drainage projects will be completed in 2026, and what measurable reduction in flood risk will they achieve?

As it regards Waste Management the faction has the following questions. What is the current status of the landfill rehabilitation, and what percentage has been completed to date? When will construction of the landfill ring dike commence, and what is the full project timeline?

When will waste export begin, and what procurement has been completed for this purpose?

Why was the waste collection budget reduced by 14.5% (from Cg. 8.01 million to Cg. 6.85 million) despite acknowledged waste management risks? What measurable milestones for waste management will be achieved during 2026?

Regarding housing, the faction has the following questions.

Has the National Housing Policy been finalized, and if so, when will Parliament receive the implementation plan? How many affordable housing units will actually begin construction during 2026?

What is the status of the Mortgage Guarantee Fund, and when will it become operational?

What land has been formally identified and prepared for housing development? What measurable housing outcomes should Parliament expect by the end of 2026?

Regarding Infrastructure Delivery the faction would like to know how much of the 2026 budget is already contractually committed, and how much flexibility remains?

What percentage of the capital budget does the Minister realistically expect to execute during 2026?

Which capital projects are ready to begin immediately, and which remain in the planning stage? How is the Minister addressing the backlog of unexecuted capital investments from previous years?

The faction mentions Delayed Projects and has the following questions. Which projects approved in the 2024 and 2025 budgets remain incomplete, and why?

Which projects were carried over from previous budgets into 2026, and what new funding is required?

Have any projects been postponed because of budget limitations, and which ones?

The faction mentions Staffing Shortages. With only 63% of approved positions filled, how can the Ministry realistically deliver all planned 2026 objectives?

What is your timeline for filling the 18 budgeted vacancies, and which positions are critical?

How many vacancies remain unfunded, and what is the total staffing gap when funded and unfunded vacancies are combined?

How much of the Ministry's work is currently dependent on consultants rather than permanent staff? What is the Minister's long-term strategy to reduce dependence on external consultants and build internal capacity?

Capital Project Execution. Which capital projects have completed procurement, and which remain in procurement? Which capital projects have experienced procurement delays, and what caused them?

What internal controls exist to prevent cost overruns on capital projects? Which projects are at greatest risk of exceeding budget, and what mitigation measures are in place?

How does the Minister measure value for money for the Ministry's major expenditures?

The faction mentions Ministerial Accountability and has the following questions.

What does the Minister consider his five greatest achievements since assuming office? Which measurable improvements have citizens actually experienced under his leadership?

Which commitments that the Minister publicly announced have been fully completed?

Which three deliverables is the Minister personally prepared to be held accountable for before the next budget debate?

Why should Parliament have confidence that the Ministry can execute the 2026 budget more effectively than in previous years?

The faction mentions Commitments versus Delivery and would like to know which three projects will definitely be completed before the next budget debate?

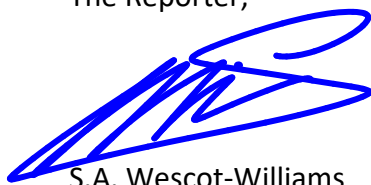
Which project concerns the Minister the most, and which commitment carries the greatest implementation risk?

If the Ministry again underperforms in 2026, what responsibility will the Minister personally accept?

This report is to be considered the Final Report.

Stipulated in the meeting of the Central Committee of July 6, 2026.

The Reporter,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S.A. Wescot-Williams', written over the printed name.

S.A. Wescot-Williams