



# Omar E.C. Ottley

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## Member of Parliament of St. Maarten

Honourable Minister of Finance  
Minister Marinka Gumbs  
Government Administration Building  
Soualiga Rd. #1  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Subject: Questions regarding Reduction of Dutch investments in Sint Maarten**

Dear Honourable Minister Gumbs,

Following the recent public announcement on the floor of the Dutch Second Chamber of Parliament on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>, in which the Netherlands stated that investments in the country packages for the Dutch Caribbean and Temporary Work Organisation (TWO) will be reduced by 20%, amounting to a decrease of €17 million for 2025-2027, I have following questions:

1. What is the Minister of Finance's plan to ensure the financial sustainability of St. Maarten, and how will the Government ensure that the plans outlined in the country package are still achieved despite the reduction in funding?
2. What specific measures will be implemented to ensure proper savings and fiscal responsibility in light of this financial reduction?
3. Have there been any discussions or negotiations with the Netherlands regarding this reduction? If so, what were the outcomes?
4. Per Ministry, which projects will be impacted, and how soon will the reprioritization of tasks outlined in the Country package take pace?
5. I understand that the Prime Minister is currently out of the country. Can you confirm whether his trip is related to efforts to secure additional funds for St. Maarten?
6. The Prime Minister had previously announced that his trip to Washington, D.C. would result in St. Maarten receiving €200 million. Can you provide any updates on the results of this trip?

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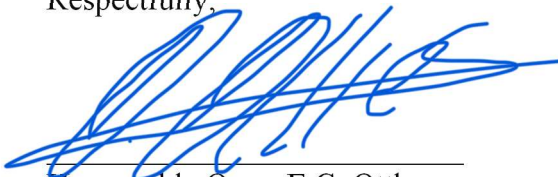
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7. As there has been no public update on the Prime Minister's trip, has St. Maarten received
8. Lastly, in the event that the Netherlands reduces or withdraws funding for St. Maarten's TWO, can you elaborate on which cuts or adjustments the government would have to make? How would this affect the legislative and financial trajectory of the country?

I appreciate your attention to the above, and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



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Honourable Omar E.C. Ottley  
Member of Parliament  
Leader of the United People's Party (UPP)

the promised €200 million? If not, what is the status of these funds?