

Honorable R. Burg
Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA)

Subject: Request for Immediate Resignation

Philipsburg, March 26, 2026

Dear Minister Burg,

The Unified Resilient St. Maarten Movement (URSM), under my leadership as President, writes to you with deep concern regarding your continued tenure as Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor.

After careful consideration, the party has taken the decision to formally withdraw its support for your position within both the party and the Government. As of this correspondence, the URSM no longer recognizes you as a member of the party, and we have lost all confidence in your ability to effectively serve in your ministerial capacity.

This decision has not been taken lightly. It is grounded in a pattern of conduct that has raised serious concerns about governance, cohesion, and respect for the principles of collective responsibility. In particular, it is deeply troubling that unresolved issues surrounding conflicting roles within your cabinet—specifically as they relate to the position and function of your Chief of Staff—have continued to undermine the integrity and proper functioning of your ministry.

Additionally, your repeated public posture—marked by statements and actions that contradict and, at times, directly challenge the policies and authority of the Honorable Prime Minister and Party Leaders Dr. Luc Mercelina—has further eroded trust and confidence. The continued doubling down on such positions in the media and other public forums reflects a disregard for the standards of unity and disciplined governance expected within the Council of Ministers and from the URSM Ministers.

Since the beginning of last year (2025), the Governing Board has received multiple signals regarding, inter alia, potential conflicts of interest between your Cabinet and the company of the husband of your Chief of Staff. These matters were addressed with you in several meetings, during which you were expressly warned of the implications.

The record reflects that we discussed with you a contract entered into with CZAR Management and Consulting B.V., which you confirmed had been concluded. Upon review of the contract and the underlying documentation it is evident that the contract was concluded upon the advice of your Chief of Staff for an amount of XCG 48,510 for a

period of 6 weeks. During one of those meetings held last year, the tailored-made nature of the tender for the MHF Technical Expert was also discussed, as it bore the clear semblance of being structured for the husband of your Chief of Staff. You confirmed at that time that you had entered into an agreement and that the individual had the right to participate in the new tender, further indicating that if he were successful, he could not retain both contracts.

At that time, the Governing Board was not privy to the contract period of the agreement signed on February 4, 2025, which was for a duration of six (6) weeks for the stated amount of XCG 48,510. The tender for the MHF Technical Expert, however, ran until March 6, 2026, meaning that by the time of selection of the tender, the initial contract would have already expired.

Despite having been provided with written communication on April 16, 2025, including correspondence from former Prime Minister Ms. Leona Marlin informing that civil servants are not permitted to conduct business with Government, directly or indirectly through the company of their spouses, and requesting the termination of the contract with CZAR Management and Consulting B.V., you nevertheless continued to engage in a business relationship with the company. It has further become apparent that payments made to the company exceed XCG 83,000, whereas the signed agreement reflected an amount of XCG 48,510.

Based on documentation made available, Legal Affairs rendered negative advice against the awarding of the tender to CZAR Management and Consulting B.V. on similar grounds previously raised by this Board. Notwithstanding these warnings, you failed to act accordingly and repeatedly maintained that you would "check with your legal," without taking corrective measures.

Further concerns arise from your deviation from the advice of the Supervisory Board of SZV to appoint the duly selected candidate. Instead, an alternative appointment was made as Adjunct Director, followed by the publication of a similar tender which was ultimately awarded to the same related company.

This sequence of events occurred after it had been made clear that the tender for the Technical Expert of the MHF Construction project could not be awarded via your Ministry due to the evident conflict of interest and the potential violation of Article 54 of the Landsverordening Materieel Ambtenarenrecht (LMA). The semblance was then created that the selected candidate for Director was effectively blocked to allow for the husband of one of your Ministry's department heads to be appointed as Adjunct Director to SZV, notwithstanding the fact that he had not achieved the highest score in the selection process. This, in effect, enabled the tender to be carried out through SZV for the same MHF role and subsequently awarded to the very same company against which negative advice had previously been issued.

It is also remarkable that you are now inviting the Integrity Chamber to review your Ministry, whereas documentation available clearly reflects your signature on the agreement with CZAR Management and Consulting B.V.—the very agreement you declined to provide to the Honorable Prime Minister, instead referring him to DIV, even after repeated requests.

Moreover, it is evident that shortly after assuming office, you authorized your politically appointed Chief of Staff to act on your behalf, a matter which was discussed with you and identified as not legally permissible given the nature of the function.

At this stage, it is evident that there has been a continued pattern of conduct, including your repeated undermining of the Honorable Prime Minister and your increasing disconnect from the Party. The Governing Board has made consistent efforts to address these matters and to avoid integrity breaches; however, these warnings have been disregarded.

You were expressly warned about the implications of Article 54 of the Landsverordenening Materieel Ambtenarenrecht (LMA), both last year and again in January of this year. At no point did the Board fail to act or attempt to ensure adherence to the standards of integrity that you yourself advocated during the campaign.

Given the current circumstances, it is clear that your continued conduct places not only yourself and your Chief of Staff in a precarious position, but also exposes the Party—who proposed you as Minister—to significant reputational and institutional harm. We cannot turn a blind eye to these developments.

Accordingly, and in light of the irreparable breakdown in the relationship, including the position expressed within the coalition that this relationship is beyond repair, the Party has no alternative but to part ways.

It is therefore expected that this separation will be reflected by your voluntary resignation from both the Party and the Council of Ministers. Should you maintain your position and refuse to resign, the Party will have no alternative but to pursue any and all available legal and constitutional measures to ensure that you vacate your position as Minister.

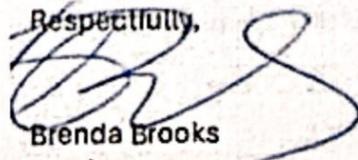
Leadership within URSM is anchored in accountability, integrity, and a unified commitment to serving the people of Sint Maarten. Regrettably, your actions demonstrate a clear departure from these principles, compromising both the credibility of the Government and the stability required to effectively govern.

In the best interest of the country, the dignity of the office you hold, and the preservation of good governance, I hereby call on you to tender your immediate resignation as Minister of VSA.

This request is made with the utmost seriousness and urgency.

I trust that you will act in the best interest of the people of Sint Maarten.

Respectfully,



Brenda Brooks
President
Unified Resilient St. Maarten Movement (URSM)