



## GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF THE SECOND DRAFT BUDGET 2025

- *Ontwerplandsverordening tot vaststelling van de Begroting van het land Sint Maarten voor het dienstjaar 2025 (Landsverordening begroting 2025)(Zittingsjaar 2024-2025-185)*
- *Draft National Ordinance stipulating the Budget for Country Sint Maarten for the service year 2025 (National Ordinance budget 2025) (Parliamentary Year 2024-2025-185)*

In order to ensure that the handling of the second draft Budget 2025 flows efficiently, the following guidelines should be considered by the factions and the Members of Parliament:

### Central Committee meeting

- The Central Committee meeting will commence on **Monday, June 9, 2025, at 10.00 hrs. and will be scheduled to continue on Tuesday, June 10, and Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 10.00 hrs.**
- The Council of Ministers will be present for the entire Central Committee meeting, while only the Minister of Finance will give a presentation at the start of the Central Committee meeting.
- After the presentation by the Government, each Member of Parliament will have the opportunity to ask the Government questions on the second draft Budget 2025.
- Each Member will receive a maximum of 60 minutes to pose questions and make comments related to the second draft Budget 2025.
- During the Central Committee meeting, Members of Parliament are requested to direct their questions in the following sequence when posing their questions:
  1. Ministry of Finance
  2. Prime Minister and Ministry of General Affairs;
  3. Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning Environment, and Infrastructure;
  4. Ministry of Justice;
  5. Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport;
  6. Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor; and
  7. Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport, and Telecommunication.
- Members of Parliament are requested to expressly state when they will move on to the following ministry and ask questions for that ministry.

*Note that following the sequence mentioned above will assist the Secretariat of Parliament in preparing the Final Report. This will also help the Government apparatus prepare the answers to the questions posed for the Note following the Final Report.*

- At all times during the answering of the questions, at least two (2) Ministers will be present in the Parliament building to ensure that the meeting can run smoothly.
- Each Minister will be in Parliament a maximum of two (2) times to answer questions that were posed regarding their ministry.

- If possible, factions/Members of Parliament are encouraged to pose most of their questions in the first instance after the presentation by the Government.

*In order to ensure a smooth handling of this draft National Ordinance, the Secretariat of Parliament requests your cooperation by submitting your questions to the Secretariat once you start speaking or after speaking on the same day. This will assist in quickly drafting the Final Report of the second draft Budget 2025. In the event you wish for the Secretariat of Parliament to forward your questions to the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, please state this expressly.*

#### Public Meeting

- The Public meeting will commence on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10.00 hrs. and will be scheduled to continue on Thursday, June 19, and Friday, June 20, 2025, at 10.00 hrs.**
- The Council of Ministers will be present for the entire Public meeting.
- After the presentation by the Minister of Finance, each Member of Parliament will have the opportunity to ask the Government questions about the second draft Budget 2025.
- As is customary, each Member of Parliament will be given the opportunity for 90 minutes in the first and 45 minutes in the second round to speak on the second draft Budget 2025.

#### General remarks:

- In general, based on the training on the Rules of Order for Parliament, factions are encouraged to prepare and do their research together. Factions can also use the approach of creating a list of questions on the budget and sharing these up amongst the faction members. A faction consisting of two(2) Members can choose to have one (1) Member pose the questions of the faction related to three (3) ministries, and the other Member can pose the questions of the faction related to the other four (4) ministries. **The aforementioned approach will prevent that in the report; one faction would have seemed to ask the same questions two or even three times.**
- Lunch and supper: During the budget handling, there will be a lunch break from 13.00 to 14.00 hrs., during which lunch will be served. There will also be a supper break from 18.00 to 18:30 hrs., during which a light supper will be served.
- Meetings will go on at most 21.00 hrs. An exception can be made if the specific meeting is nearing its end.