



Ardwell M.R. Irion

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Honorable President of Parliament
Mrs. Sarah Wescot-Williams
Wilhelminastraat # 1
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

June 18, 2025

RE: Concerns Regarding the Government's Refusal to Provide Requested Documents

Dear Members of the Presidium,

I am writing to formally express my deep concern regarding the Government's persistent refusal to provide essential documents requested by Parliament in the course of our oversight duties.

As you are aware, Parliament's right to receive information is firmly grounded in Article 63(1) of the Constitution of Sint Maarten, which explicitly states that ministers are obligated to provide Parliament or any of its members with the information requested unless doing so would conflict with the interests of the Kingdom, the country, or the law. The Government's consistent failure to comply with this duty severely undermines our constitutional role and the principle of transparency.

Disturbingly, the Government has attempted to justify its noncompliance by referencing the National Ordinance on the Public Disclosure of Government Information (Lvo Openbaarheid van Bestuur). This legal reference is wholly inappropriate. That ordinance governs public access to information by citizens and does not limit the constitutional right of Parliament to receive information from the Government. Invoking it to obstruct Parliamentary oversight is a misapplication of the law and a distortion of our institutional relationship.

In light of the upcoming public budget debate, I respectfully request the Presidium to:


Ensure that all documents and supporting materials requested during the Central Committee meeting are delivered to Parliament prior to the public session.

Demand from the Government a formal written legal justification, particularly regarding the refusal to provide information under "point 4," to be presented to Parliament before the public debate begins.

This pattern of withholding information directly contradicts the Government's public claims of transparency. A government that truly values openness should not consistently delay or deny the sharing of critical information with the people's elected representatives, especially in matters of national importance such as the budget.

I urge the Presidium to take this matter seriously and to act swiftly in defense of Parliament's constitutional rights.

Regards,



Ardwell M.R. Irion

Member of Parliament

Philipsburg, Sint Maarten