

Parliamentary Motion of St. Maarten

The Parliament of Sint Maarten, in its meeting of today, June 23rd 2025

Considering:

- The Ministry of TEATT is currently responsible for overseeing animal welfare and activities through their department of Livestock, Agriculture & Fisheries (LVV)
- The Ministry of VSA is responsible for Public Health and Community Development and Family Affairs
- That LVV issues permits for importation of animals without an administrative fee attached.
- Veterinary medicine is an integral part of public health and plays a crucial role in safeguarding human health and well-being through various contributions, including disease prevention, food safety, and biomedical research.
- The proliferation of stray animals on Sint Maarten poses significant risks to public health which can be fatal or cause severe illness in humans.
- Stray animals are a primary vector for several infectious diseases such as leptospirosis, ringworm and echinococcosis, with bites and contact with contaminated surfaces or waste serving as common transmission routes.
- Environmental contamination occurs through fecal shedding of pathogens and stray animals that aren't treated, increases the risk of parasitic and bacterial infections in the community, especially among children and the vulnerable populations.
- Aggressive behavior from unsterilized stray animals contributes to injuries, psychological trauma, and increased demand for healthcare services.
- Mass sterilization programs are internationally recognized as the most humane and effective method to control the stray animal population, reduce disease transmission, and protect public health without resorting to culling.
- Successful sterilization campaigns in other regions have demonstrated a reduction in stray animal numbers, fewer human-animal conflicts, and a measurable decrease in disease incidence.

Rationale:

- Reducing the stray dogs population through sterilization directly lowers the risk of zoonotic disease transmission, decreases environmental contamination, and mitigates aggressive behavior and bites and prevent road accidents.
- A focused, well-funded sterilization campaign will provide long-term cost savings for public health by preventing outbreaks and reducing the need for emergency interventions.
- Collaboration with local veterinarians and animal welfare organizations ensures efficient use of resources, maximizes the number of animals sterilized, and enhances community engagement and education.
- Investing in sterilization aligns with global best practices for public health and animal welfare, supporting Sint Maarten's reputation as a safe and responsible destination for residents and visitors.

Resolve:

1. To allocate an amount of XCG 45.000,00 from the budgets of the Ministry of TEATT and VSA for a comprehensive sterilization campaign targeting stray animals on Sint Maarten, with the primary

1

objective of reducing public health risks associated with zoonotic diseases and environmental contamination.

2. To ensure the campaign covers the costs of spaying and neutering stray animals, necessary post-operative care, and public awareness initiatives to promote responsible animal management.
3. That a progress report be submitted by both the Ministries of TEATT and VSA to Parliament within six months of the campaign's commencement, detailing the number of animals sterilized, funds utilized, and measurable public health outcomes.
4. That the Ministry of TEATT adjust its legislation necessary to levy a fee for animal imports to structurally support this program.
5. That this motion takes effect immediately upon approval.

And goes over to the order of the day:

Signature of Signatories

MP Francisco A. Lacroes

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

- The Government of Sint Maarten.
- The Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA).
- Relevant veterinary and animal welfare organizations.

2

Parliamentary Motion

The Parliament of Sint Maarten, in its meeting of June 23rd 2025,

Considering:

- The high and persistent rates of road accidents among vulnerable scooter and motorcycle riders.
- The Minister of Justice's call for urgent modernization of road safety measures.
- Evidence that enforcement, graduated licensing, and public awareness can reduce effectively road injuries and fatalities.
- The strain that these preventable accidents place on our healthcare.

Resolves:

To request the Government of Sint Maarten to:

- Modernize road safety measures to reduce injuries and fatalities and promote respect for traffic laws.
- Enforce helmet and protective gear laws for all riders.
- Conduct regular checks for valid licenses, insurance, and vehicle safety.
- Implement graduated licensing with restrictions for new riders.
- Launch public awareness campaigns on road safety and legal consequences of non-compliance.
- Report to Parliament within three months on enforcement and outcomes.
- Develop road safety education programs in schools.
- Provide support services for accident victims and families.
- Establish a Road Safety Fund from fines and insurance contributions for awareness, victim support, and infrastructure upgrades.
- Partner with private stakeholders to promote safety technology.
- Ensure all new public infrastructure meets high safety and accessibility standards.

And goes over to the order of the day:

Signature of Signatories

Francisco A. Lacroes

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Government of Sint Maarten
The Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA)
The Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Parliamentary Motion

The Parliament of Sint Maarten, in this meeting of June 23rd 2025

Considering:

- The ongoing shortage of affordable, resilient housing for local families.
- The need to strengthen the Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation (SMHDF) and modernize housing policy.
- The importance of public and private collaboration to address urgent housing needs.

Resolves to:

To request the Ministry of Public Housing (VROMI) to:

- Strengthen SMHDF's capacity to build, manage, and maintain social housing via a red carpet policy.
- Accelerate construction and upgrading of affordable homes under SMHDF, prioritizing resilience and basic services.
- Present, within 90 days, a detailed plan to Parliament for the construction and delivery of new affordable housing units, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including clear targets, timelines, and funding sources.
- Evaluate, increase and implement the rent subsidy program
- Explore new funding for social housing projects and neighborhood improvements.
- Engage private sector and NGOs to increase affordable housing options.
- Report to Parliament every six months on the progress of affordable housing construction, the impact of the rent subsidy program, and the effectiveness of measures to address housing quality, maintenance, and tenant satisfaction.

And goes over to the order of the day:
Signatures of Signatories

MP Francisco A. Lacroes

Lyndon C.J. Lewis

ARION

JOHN COOPER

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Government of Sint Maarten
The Ministry of Public Housing (VROMI)
The Sint Maarten Housing Development Foundation (SMHDF)

Parliamentary Motion

The Parliament of Sint Maarten, in the meeting of June 23rd, 2025

Considering:

- The previous motions dated April 18, 2013, unanimously adopted by all 13 members present, and January 29, 2011, unanimously endorsed by all 15 members of Parliament, both of which called for urgent action on national energy diversification and sustainability.
- The imperative for the Government of Sint Maarten to promptly execute these proposed measures in light of ongoing energy security, economic, and environmental concerns.
- The rising global and regional momentum toward fuel diversification, including the adoption of cleaner alternatives such as Liquid Natural Gas (LNG), to ensure long-term energy resilience and competitiveness.
- The critical role of the harbor and G.E.B.E. in facilitating energy transition and supporting economic growth, as well as the need to optimize operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the benefit of all citizens.

Resolves:

To request the Government of Sint Maarten to:

- Request the Supervisory Boards of G.E.B.E. and the Harbor Group of Companies to develop and present a comprehensive plan for the implementation of fuel diversification strategies, including but not limited to LNG and other sustainable energy sources, for the country.
- Request the Supervisory Boards to tender a fair and transparent proposal that supports all citizens of Sint Maarten and investigates new income-generating and cost-cutting measures to accommodate all vessels docking at the harbor, as well as all operations at the G.E.B.E. power plant.
- Urge the government to make a policy to enable the supply of fuel and electrical power to cruise ships docked at the harbor, allowing them to conserve their own fuel, and to provide LNG to ships that have already transitioned to LNG usage, thereby positioning Sint Maarten as a regional leader in green port operations.
- Request the Board of G.E.B.E. to explore the technical and financial feasibility of transitioning from heavy fuels to LNG for local power generation, and to report findings and recommendations to Parliament no later than 15th October 2025.
- Upon agreement on terms, direct the Government, the Supervisory Boards of the Harbor Group of Companies, and G.E.B.E. to establish a joint venture for the procurement, storage, and distribution of LNG or alternative fuels, ensuring that the cost per kilowatt hour does not exceed the prevailing ceiling set throughout the Caribbean region.
- Request that the concessionaire provide specified contributions for public street lighting and support for solar-rechargeable equipment at key sporting facilities, including but not limited to Raoul Sports Complex, Jose Lake, John Cooper Junior, the Little League field in Philipsburg, and the Philipsburg Sports Auditorium, to ensure their independent operation and resilience, with additional support from donated generators.
- Require regular progress reports to Parliament on the status of these initiatives and the measurable

And goes over to the order of the day:

Signature of Signatories

Francisco A. Lacroes

Lyndon C.J. Lewis

ARION

JOHN COOPER

JOHN COOPER

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Government of Sint Maarten
The Supervisory Board of G.E.B.E.
The Supervisory Board of the Harbor Group of Companies
The Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication (TEATT)
The Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (VROMI)

Parliamentary Motion

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its meeting of June 23rd 2025,

Considering:

- The current foster care stipend of 225 XCG (two hundred and twenty five Caribbean guilders) per child per month is inadequate, causing hardship for existing foster families and deterring potential new foster parents.
- There is an urgent shortage of foster families, and foster parents are essential for providing vulnerable children with safe, supportive homes to help them recover from trauma.
- Parliament has committed to strengthening child protection and supporting foster families for this 2024-2028 term.

Resolve:

To request the Minister of Justice and Finance to:

- Make increasing the foster care stipend from 225 XCG (two hundred and twenty five Caribbean guilders) to 775 XCG (seven hundred and seventy five Caribbean guilders) per child a priority and ensure this adjustment is implemented in the budget amendment 2025.

And goes over to the order of the day:

Signature of signatories:

MP Francisco A. Lacroes

Lyndon C.J. Lewis

ARION

JOHN COOPER

JOHN COOPER

Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Government of Sint Maarten
The Ministry of Justice
The Court of Guardianship (CoG)
The Foundation Judicial Institutes St. Maarten (SJIS)
Relevant child protection and social service agencies

