



One St. Maarten People Party

August 6, 2014



Ministry of Health, Labour & Social Affairs
The Government Adm. Building
Clem Labega Square
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Attention: Mr. Cornelius de Weever
Minister of Health, Labour & Social Affairs

Dear Minister Cornelius de Weever,

There has been much talk and discussion about the construction of a new hospital and we are seeking some clarification from you as it falls under your ministry.

The information that we have dating back to some four years ago indicates that there were ongoing negotiations about the expansion of the St. Maarten Medical Center during the tenure of the former director Dr. Scott. An article had appeared in our dailies back then that the expansion would have cost approximately 25 million guilders.

Today your coalition partner in government is indicating that a new hospital will be built here on St. Maarten. For argument sake and for clarification can you please provide us with some information since health falls under your ministry?

1. Will a new hospital be built on St. Maarten? If yes, where will it be built?
2. Has the St. Maarten Medical Center or the Government of St. Maarten acquired a parcel of land for this new hospital? Based on decisions made by your government the price of land has skyrocketed to \$495.00 a square meter and according to our estimate a hospital would require at least 4000 square meters to accommodate future expansion, parking and the beautification of the surrounding area. The cost of the land alone would be 2 million dollars based on the price that the Vorst land is being bought for.
3. How will this new hospital be financed through the floating of bonds, loans or government financing or some other means?
4. Will the St. Maarten Medical Center be demolished? If yes, how will the in and out patients be attended to during the construction period?
5. What will be the cost of this new hospital? The OSPP has done some research and we have located two new hospitals that were recently built in the Cayman Islands and Tortola in the range of \$80 to \$120 million dollars. Is this also the plan of your ministry or the government that you are part of to construct a hospital in

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that price range? This cost does not include machinery and equipment and neither does it include the training of the personnel.

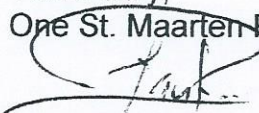
6. Information reaching us indicates that there is also a proposal to continue with the expansion of the St. Maarten Medical Center at a cost of 50 million guilders. This would result in an increase of 25 million guilders representing a whopping 100% increase. Is this true? Does this additional 25 million guilders increase represent the purchasing of state of the art equipment for the center and the training of the staff?
7. We believe that a company by the name of Licom N.V. had won the bid dating back to some years ago. Will they be awarded this contract in the amount of 50 million guilders or will it have to go on bid again?

Mr. Minister de Weever, the OSPP and the general public would appreciate you providing us with some clarification on this issue. Will we be building a new hospital or will we be expanding the St. Maarten Medical Center by just adding a new wing to it? And at what price tag?

The OSPP supports the expansion of the St. Maarten Medical Center by adding a new wing but would want to evaluate the additional 25 million guilders increase.

We truly look forward to your response in order for the public to be better informed.

Yours truly,
One St. Maarten People Party (OSPP)


Lenny F. Priest
Leader of the OSPP

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