



One St. Maarten People Party

February 10, 2015

Dr. Lloyd Richardson
President of Parliament St. Maarten
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Dear Dr. Lloyd Richardson,

There has been much talk about unemployment amongst our young people and as a nation we should all be concerned. Many of our young people get involve in crime because they are hanging out on the block with nothing to do. The government has been talking about the introduction of a counterpart policy to put our people to work. But is that enough?

The OSPP is hereby proposing to establish the van Hugh Law to be named after our former Minister of Social Welfare, Health & Labour, Van Hugh Cornelius de Weever. In 1989 the parliament of the former Netherlands Antilles had passed a law commonly referred to as the "Lei di Bion". This law was passed but unfortunately it was never carried out in none of the then island territories of the Netherlands Antilles. The law as it is written will exempt the employer from paying part of the payroll taxes if he employs a young person between the age of 18 and 30 years. There are many other conditions attached to this law for the employer and the employee. We don't have to re-invent the wheel. This law can be amended to fit our needs here in Sint Maarten to put our young people to work.

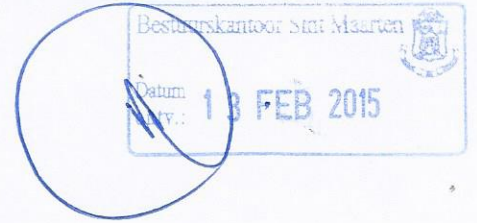
The Van Hugh law would differ somewhat from the Lei di Bion in as much as it would not exempt the employers from paying the payroll taxes for a period of time, therefore not reducing the revenue of the government. The employer in essence would be granted a tax credit in the amount of Nafis 9,000.00 (50% of the minimum wage of Nafis 1,500.00 x 12) per year; the employee must be employed uninterrupted for minimum one year on a full time basis; the employee must be between the age of 18 and 30 years; the employee must have been registered at the Labour Department for minimum six months as seeking employment; the job opportunity at the employer cannot be part of the core function of the business establishment; the Van Hugh law will only be applicable to Dutch citizens of this country who have been residing and registered at the Census Office on the island for one year or more and last but not the least the tax credit is applicable for a maximum period of three years with the employee remaining employed.

Together we will make St. Maarten S.H.I.N.E.

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February 10, 2015

Honourable Minister of Social Affairs,
Health & Labour
Mrs. Rita Bourne-Gumbs
The Government Administration Bldg.
Clem Labega Square, Philipsburg
St. Maarten

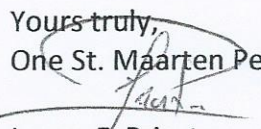
Dear Mrs. Rita Bourne-Gumbs,

We are very pleased to submit a copy of the proposal submitted to parliament to amend a law, commonly known as the Lei di Bion that was established in 1989 in the Parliament of the former Netherlands Antilles to combat the unemployment amongst the youth in the ages ranging from 18 to 30 years.

The OSPP has made some suggestions as to some of the amendments that we believe can be made to the law that would assist St. Maarten in putting the young people to work. We are also proposing that the law be named after the former Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Labour now member of Parliament Mr. Van Hugh Cornelius de Weever. We hope that together with your ministry the parliament of St. Maarten would see it fit to debate the Van Hugh law and make it functional for our young people.

Attached you will find copies of the letter sent to parliament and of the law "Landverordening van 14 December 1989 ter invoering van een regeling ter bevordering van de werkgelegenheid van werkzoekenden van 18 to 30 jaar.

Yours truly,
One St. Maarten People Party


Lenny F. Priest
Leader of the OSPP

Cc: Parliament of St. Maarten
Chamber of Commerce
St. Maarten Hotel & Trade Association
WICLU
Community Councils of St. Maarten

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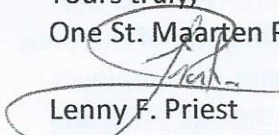
The OSPP is of the belief and conviction that if this law is adopted with amendments as stated above and the input from others, many of our young people could find themselves being employed within short hereby reducing the employment rate amongst them. The Van Hugh law must also be introduced to the business community and those young people seeking employment. The business community must be an integral part of this law from inception.

Our parliament should be open to ideas coming from the general public as we are in this together. Every young person that ends up in prison is one person to many and the prison bill will have to be footed by us the tax payers. We have an opportunity to make it right, let's roll up our sleeves and put our young people to work.

For your convenience we are enclosing a copy of the law "Landsverordening van 14 December 1989 ter invoering van een regeling ter bevordering van de werkgelegenheid van werkzoekenden van 18 to 30 jaar.

We want to thank you in advance and we look forward to you debating this law in the House of Parliament within short.

Yours truly,
One St. Maarten People Party


Lenny F. Priest
Leader of the OSPP

Cc: Mrs. Rita Bourne-Gumbs, Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Labour
Members of Parliament of St. Maarten
Chamber of Commerce of St. Maarten
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