

Regarding:
Request for a
copy of NA's
proposal

Date:
Jun 8, 2011

**Chairlady of Parliament
Drs G. Arrindell**

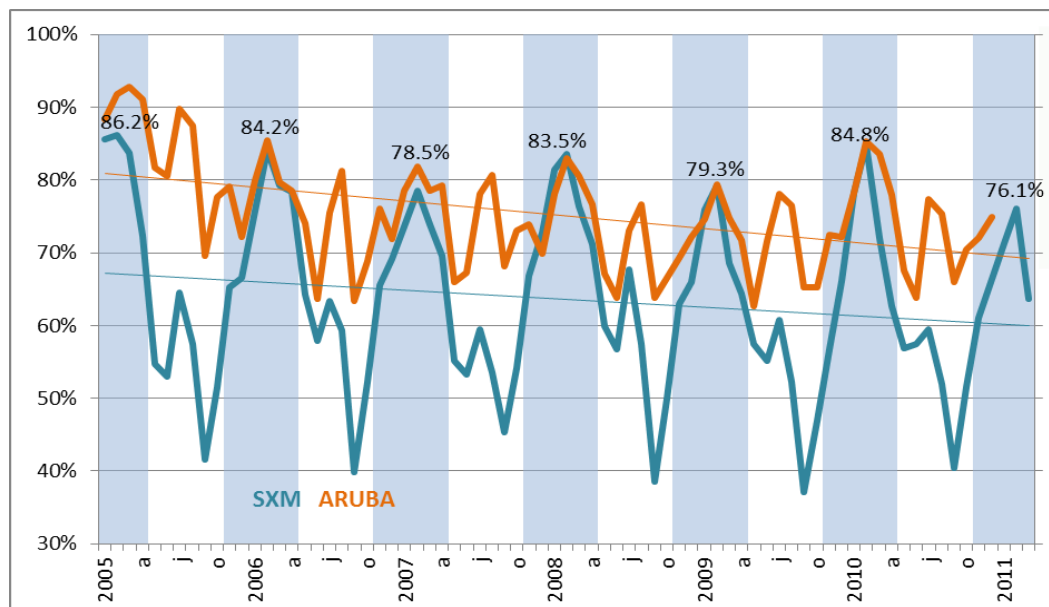
Parliament Building
Backstreet, Philipsburg
St. Maarten

Honorable Chairlady of Parliament,

The SHTA understands that the National Alliance faction has presented to you its draft amendment to the civil code to stem the alleged abuse of short-term labour contracts.

While we understand that the purpose of this draft amendment is to ensure job security and stability on the island, the SHTA is surprised that the proposal was submitted from the faction that was not present in our state of the economy meeting with Parliament on May 19th in which the need for short term contracts was attributed to the seasonal nature of our tourism industry compared to the rest of the region and Aruba in particular (due to the many similarities between the two destinations). *See the graph below which clearly illustrates this point.*

Average Monthly Occupancy Figures; St. Maarten versus Aruba



The SHTA is hereby requesting a copy of the proposal, while insisting that any proposal with potential far-reaching consequences for St. Maarten's economy - and especially proposals related to St. Maarten's Labour Laws - should first be properly vetted through a Tripartite Committee and/or other forms of structured dialogue between St. Maarten's social partners.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association

Cc: Honorable Minister of Labor, Cornelius de Weever