



MINISTER OF FINANCE
Minister van Financiën

To: Parliament of Sint Maarten
Attn. President of Parliament, Hon. S.A. Wescot-Williams
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek.	03 MAR 2025
Volgnr.	151663/2421
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Philipsburg, March 3, 2025

Subject: St. Maarten Carnival 2025 Subsidy

DIV No.: 5406

Excellency,

In conjunction with the National Accountability Ordinance and our Constitution, I wish to inform Parliament of the following:

On January 25, 2025, the St. Maarten Carnival Development Foundation (SCDF) submitted a request for an incidental subsidy of NAf 600,000 for the year 2025.

Following this request, the Council of Ministers (CoM) was advised to approve the subsidy. On February 21, 2025, in alignment with this advice, the CoM approved the subsidy from the Marketing budget.

However, as stipulated in Article 12, first paragraph, subparagraph j, of the National Accountability Ordinance, it is required that an overview of subsidies be included in the relevant budget. It was observed that while this overview was present in the budget 2025, it did not accurately reflect the Carnival subsidies.

On February 27, 2025, the CoM resolved to rectify this oversight by adding the subsidy amount for SCDF to line-item Subsidy, budget post 8270 from the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and Telecommunication, through a budget amendment for 2025.

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In 2024, the previous Government, on April 26, 2024, debited an amount of NAf 200,000 from the festival budget post (8240-80040-43516) under marketing to provide the SCDF with an incidental subsidy in support of the 53rd St. Maarten Carnival Celebration. However, no correction was made to account for this transaction. I believe it is essential to adhere to proper procedures. Hence, the decision made by the CoM and my communication to Parliament.

Furthermore, please be advised that, starting in 2026, the Carnival subsidy will be included as an annual line item in future budgets.

I trust this information is sufficient.

Sincerely,



Ms. Marinka J. Gumbs
Minister of Finance

CC: - The Council of Ministers

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