

The Hague, August 7, 2022.

Chairman and members of the Kingdom Relations Committee of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament,

Because I miss energetic and urgency in the approach of the government (stronger: through new research everything that has been known for years is once again held against the light) it must almost be due to unwillingness to act or not to act. In dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl Kadushi explains in great detail how it works: after almost twelve years we continue on the road that turns an undivided country into a country with first and second class inhabitants. You have, of course, already figured it out: it is about laws and regulations in the social domain whereby in the privileged part of the Netherlands benefits apply at a certain level and in the disadvantaged part of the same Netherlands a kind of equivalent that does not resemble it in the slightest. A certain progress is pretended by giving a law in consultation, but in fact it is social legislation and regulations on two levels which is just not possible (something with discrimination, but well, you know that already...).

Note: In close connection with the legislation and regulations in the social domain there is the legislation and regulations in the tax domain. If the flat fee is replaced by a progressive rate as in the European Netherlands, you will only hit the better earning Caribbean Dutchman who in that case - fully justified - will contribute his proportionally larger share to the public domain. He or she who is against this must be the privileged Caribbean Dutchman who in this way should contribute a little more to the common cause, as all Dutchmen are expected to do. This contribution benefits "the Netherlands" in the broad sense, that the public entities must have sufficient resources to realize their budget speaks for itself.

On August 3, 2022, the St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) reported that the investigation report following the death of Regilio Pinas has been completed. The family has been or will be informed. While I am not very familiar with the regulations in these types of cases, it occurs to me that perhaps lessons for the future can be learned upon closer examination of this report. But in the absence of a functioning patient council, combined with an island board that doesn't value communication (highly) anyway, I wonder "what next?" Something about cover-ups, nightcaps and keeping your mouth shut about it. If there is anything to learn at all, it takes place out of sight. And just as butchers in general do not judge their own meat, here too the amount of self-reflection by those concerned (not only the medical sector on the island but also the administrators of the Ministry of Health) is probably very low. *How much better did the Chairman of the Board of Trustees promise for the future to the people after the protest march of April 5, 2022?* We are now four months on and we are not a step forward, at least not visibly. This behavior does not add to the credibility in the leadership (where I also think of the responsible Ministry of Health).

Note 1: I understand that the family does not know the report either, at most the report may be seen by them. Argument for this is "third party protection". A foul taste rises in my mouth: man dies, and

now "third parties must be protected". It seems the opposite world: instead of protecting a patient, "third parties" must be protected. Against what exactly? Against overly harsh conclusions of the investigation team? On the contrary, the population must be protected from the failing healthcare organization (and when I write this down, I am not just thinking of the staff of the local hospital). Note: (privacy) sensitive parts of text can of course also be blacked out before releasing the document.

Note 2: I address this letter in cc: also to the Inspectorate for Health Care and Youth where I hope that there is someone there who is independent enough and at the same time has a heart for public affairs and who perhaps shares my opinion that this form of communication and non-transparency does not help anyone on the island. Promises of improved behavior at the protest march of April 5th by the Chairman of the Supervisory Board appear to be worth nothing as of yet, or will there still be a change of course...?

[Dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl](http://dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl) reports with enthusiasm that the Dutch basic health insurance for students from the Dutch Caribbean has come a step closer. Because I am further supervising a student coming from St. Eustatius, I (or rather: the student) already ran into this problem before. And this was in 2019. After an initial reaction of the State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport that the Caribbean student was in a privileged position and that students from the Dutch Caribbean were facilitated to the maximum extent, now finally comes a "dissent". With a reference to my letters from July and August 2020 (http://statia.nu/bibliotheek/20200707_zvk_NL.pdf resp. http://statia.nu/bibliotheek/20200823_zvk_NL.pdf) I have already brought the problem and solution to your attention. The recent reporting in dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl ends with "*Later this year the care office in the Dutch Caribbean will provide further information*". I expect that this will not be new information, compared to what I had already "figured out" myself in 2020. In general: where legislation and regulations work in the European Netherlands, let this also (fully) apply to the Dutch Caribbean as much as possible and do not reinvent the wheel.

It is summer vacation again and once again students from the Dutch Caribbean have left for the European Netherlands to continue their studies there. And still there is no BSN available for these students (other than after registration with a European Dutch municipality). Before applying for that BSN (after arrival in the European Netherlands) you must have your own postal address, but to rent a house you need a bank account, which can only be opened when you have a BSN. A classic "Catch 22" situation! And if this is now being noticed for the first time.... The [National Ombudsman is desperately wondering where this BSN is now \(finally\)....](#)

Finally (because I'm rounding off) I ask your attention once again (to no avail so far) to the air connections with St. Eustatius. No, the Makana Ferry is not a good alternative for the air connections and with the monopoly of Winair the prices remain far too high (at least for a distance Sint Eustatius/Saba - Sint Maarten v.v. [comparable with a return ticket The Hague - Amsterdam]). Such a Winair return ticket costs about 300 US dollars. For an island where poverty is a serious problem, by no means a small amount.

Just a list of things that are important from the point of view of the resident. The administrator of the island has no eye for these problems. Let me hope that there are politicians in The Hague who can show some empathy with these fellow countrymen. And who can and - above all: want to - take the necessary administrative and corrective measures from there.

Finally, may I ask you to submit the relevant parts of this letter to your fellow committees with regard to the paragraphs that concern them? Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

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W <http://www.statia.nu> (English) or <http://www.statia.nu/nl> (Dutch)

Afterword: Did you know that in combating the erosion-causing goats actual action has now been taken. It appears that compensation is awarded to the owner of the goat that is taken from him. This compensation is obtained when the family name is X, and of course not when it is Y (with X belonging to the 'inner circle' of the government commissioner, but that must be coincidental).

Cc: *National Ombudsman*
Health Care and Youth Inspectorate