



**Minister of Public Housing, Spatial
Planning, Environment and
Infrastructure**

Christopher Emmanuel
Minister

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To: The Council of Ministers

Philipsburg, December 8th, 2017

Subject: investigation request into actions of Minister Emil Lee

Honorable Ministers,


The media on the island has brought to the forefront a situation whereby Minister Emil Lee removed the license plate from the government vehicle and used it on his personal truck. From my own basic knowledge of number plates usage, I believe that this is not in accordance with the law. Minister Lee explained that he was given permission from then Prime Minister William Marlin to swap the number plate to his personal vehicle. This has been vehemently denied by the former Prime Minister. Furthermore, I can also attest to the fact that no such permission was granted as I was present at the time of the discussion, when he was informed by the Prime Minister that this was not a good idea as there were certain rules when it comes to exchanging number plates on vehicles.

Minister Lee in his statement mentioned, amongst other things, that the vehicle was purchased just before Irma, thus implying that it was a rather new vehicle. From my own personal observations of said vehicle, I have strong suspicions that this is not the case. My suspicions are compounded by the fact that in one of the pictures published by the media an orange number plate is clearly visible under the MR-4 number plate that was placed on the truck.

Minister Lee indicated that he purchased one and a half barrels of fuel to supply volunteers that were assisting with the delivery of relief good. He stated that the persons were using their personal vehicles and didn't have a government bond book to buy fuel for their vehicles. It is currently unclear who the persons are that are being referred to and the type of vehicle they own. In this regard it would be of great importance to also verify what type of fuel was purchased by Minister Lee, diesel or gas. I believe it also is of importance to be informed where and how the fuel was dispensed to said persons and why the persons were not provided with access to a bond book.

I am therefore hereby requesting that an official investigation be launched by the Prosecutors Office into this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Christopher Emmanuel
Minister of Public Housing, Spatial Planning,
Environment and Infrastructure



Cc: His Excellency the Governor Eugene Holiday
The Prosecutor's Office of St. Maarten
Members of the Parliament of St. Maarten