W.I.F.O.L.

Chamber of Commerce No. 22257 | W.I.F.O.L. Building, Walter J.A. Nisbeth Road 89, Great Bay, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

W.I.F.O.L. Board Responds to Parliamentary Concerns and Recent Disconnection, Disputes N.V. GEBE Arrears Claim

Board will keep paying current bills, demands a full accounting of the XCG 199,184.29 claim, and seeks assurance that supply will not be interrupted again while the dispute is unresolved.

PHILIPSBURG, Sint Maarten – November 17, 2026 – The Board of W.I.F.O.L. is responding to the concerns raised by Members of Parliament about the union's utility accounts with N.V. GEBE, following the disconnection of electricity and water to the entire W.I.F.O.L. complex on October 27, 2026.

The Board shares Parliament's concern. The October 27 disconnection left the tenants, members and community organizations who rely on the building without electricity and water. Supply was restored only after the involvement of the Newly legitimately elected Board. The Board is determined that this should not happen again and that the underlying arrears are resolved properly and transparently.

In letters dated November 4, 2026, N.V. GEBE has since claimed a combined XCG 199,184.29 on two accounts in the name of "WIFOL" and proposed monthly payment arrangements. In its reply of November 12, 2026, the Board declined to sign the arrangements in their present form and demanded a full accounting before any settlement is discussed.

The arrears built up before the current Board was elected on September 17, 2026, under a previous administration that held office since 2013. The Personal responsibilities and liabilities of the Previous Board must be taken into consideration, especially in light of improper management of the Association's funds.

The Board has questioned the claim itself. N.V. GEBE has publicly acknowledged that the 2022 ransomware attack destroyed its billing records, so later invoices relied on estimates. Charges older than five years may be time-barred under Article 3:308 of the Civil Code of Sint Maarten. It is unclear which of two WIFOL entities holds the accounts, and the proposed arrangements give no breakdown while leaving large balances open for later "re-negotiation."

W.I.F.O.L. has asked N.V. GEBE to provide the supply contracts, invoices, meter readings, tariffs, previous payment arrangements and a full payment statement within 14 days, after which it will meet to agree on the amount actually owed. In the meantime, it will pay current monthly bills under protest. Having seen the impact of the recent disconnection, the Board has asked N.V. GEBE to confirm in writing that supply will not be interrupted again while the dispute is unresolved.