

Same people in health care almost 14 years ago

- Since 10/10/10, we have been operating with the same people in healthcare.
 - Research suggests that individuals should hold such positions for no more than seven years, though I stand to be corrected.
 - The system has not been working from the very beginning.
 - People have been crying out for help, demonstrating through walks, marches, and protests, but no one is listening.
- Patients sent abroad for major surgeries, such as open-heart surgery or procedures involving the pancreas or colon, are often returned home after only a few days, even against medical advice.
 - This sometimes results in emergencies during flights.
 - Once home, local doctors cannot provide the necessary post-operative care.
 - Patients often have to be sent back out on emergency, which is very costly by air ambulance.

For instance, an air ambulance to Colombia can cost \$60,000 one way, creating unnecessary healthcare expenses.

- It would be much cheaper and more effective if patients were allowed to stay in Colombia or other countries for recovery rather than being sent back to St. Eustatius only to be flown out again shortly after.
- Healthcare could be much more affordable with competent management and timely medical intervention.
 - Doctors abroad frequently asked the question why patients are sent to them when it's too late for effective treatment.
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- When patients need follow-up visits, ZVK often delays approval and typically refuses to send them back to Colombia or other counties, where they were receiving appropriate care, until the situation becomes critical, necessitating emergency transfers.
- St. Maarten's hospital is particularly problematic due to poor hygiene and indifferent medical staff.
 - We urgently need proper oversight and a clear vision in healthcare to ensure timely and adequate care for all patients.
- Referrals: Bonaire is deciding for our patients, whom they don't even know.
 - Our main concern is Bonaire deciding for our patients. They don't know who we are.
 - If a doctor requests a companion to accompany a patient, Bonaire often declines it.
 - Most of the time, it's an elderly or disabled person who can't read or travel alone.

We would like to handle our own affairs.

- ZVK Bonaire shouldn't tell or decide for St. Eustatius, whether a person is allowed to go to Colombia or not or travel with a companion or not, they should not make decisions for us because they don't know us.
- We need control over how healthcare is operated on St. Eustatius, ensuring our people can go back to Colombia to get the help they need without delays in their health progress.

Lost of lives

- Many have lost their lives due to the lack of empathy or care for our people because they weren't sent out for medical attention or were sent when it was too late, returning in a coffin.
 - Bringing back a body to the island is also very costly.

NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE

- They don't care about our people and what they and their families are going through daily, up until now, no one seemed to care no matter how much we pleaded.
- But looking into the eyes of you the Tweede Kamer I see Hope, and we have Faith!

TWEEDE KAMER

- In talking with the Tweede Kamer, we felt a little more relief for our people, seeing that you are listening and hearing us.
 - We thank you in advance and are most grateful, as no one else seems to realize:
 - **OUR LIVES MATTER TOO!!!**
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