

Flash Edition -- *SXM Weekly News* -- 10/31/17

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Three messages are below. Please read all three.

**1. Dutch Side Government Falls;
New Coalition Forms, Agrees to Kingdom
Conditions for Aid, Integrity, and Border Security**

The fragile Dutch Side coalition government of Prime Minister William Marlin fell Monday night, after a tidal wave of criticism from citizens and from other politicians regarding the alleged souring of the relationship between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the island government of Dutch St. Maarten. Voices in opposition to Marlin appeared united in implying that the island's recovery from Irma was in jeopardy under current conditions.

As reported in Monday's *SXM Weekly News*, Marlin had just refused millions of dollars in hurricane recovery aid offered by the Kingdom of the Netherlands because of conditions attached to the aid package. The new coalition with a majority voice in the Dutch Side government was able to reverse Marlin's "no conditions" edict, accepting the conditional aid offer.

Though technically a "no confidence" vote by parliament is necessary to formalize the collapse of the Marlin coalition, people close to the situation are saying that's a foregone conclusion.

It's also possible Mr. Marlin could dissolve parliament and force new elections, delaying any transfer of power for weeks at least. But doing that in the face of the island's pursuit of an expedited recovery from the devastation of hurricane Irma does not seem likely; island residents would have no patience with any action that could impede recovery.

Once the transfer of power has been completed, it should fast-track the recovery effort.

Financial problems. Thanks to the temporary closure of most timeshare resorts and hotels on SXM, many employees are earning little if anything. That hits them on top of severe damage to many of their homes. Government revenue has

also collapsed thanks to the lack of tourists, compounding financial woes.

This change of government would install long-time tourism maven Theo Heyliger in the new majority coalition. He's the person largely responsible for the "new" SXM Airport; the "new" A. C. Wathey Cruise and Cargo facilities; the beautification of Front Street, Back Street, and Great Bay Beach; and the Simpson Bay Lagoon Causeway, all of which have enriched the island experience for tourists. That kind of pro-business, pro-labor, and pro-tourist orientation should help the island economy long term.

There have been worries on the island about crime due to high unemployment rates. Fast-tracking recovery efforts should help ease short term recovery unemployment and hopefully help businesses get online sooner -- further helping ease SXM's unemployment.

We'll continue watching all of this for you and we'll keep you posted both here and on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.

Please see these stories from *The Daily Herald* for more information:

<https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/70592-the-hague-wants-explicit-approval-of-st-maarten>

(Hague Wants Explicit Approval of All Conditions); and

<https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/70562-coalition-splits-new-majority-inks-declaration-to-work-together>

(New Coalition)

2. We need your help to continue to bring you SXM Weekly News, now in its 25th year of publication.

With your help, we can continue:

- To offer all the latest island news of interest to tourists -- airline news, accommodations news (including hotels and timeshares that are coming or going out of business), benefits news (new benefits are coming in this Monday's SXM Weekly News), and lots of island news of significance to all readers. (The recovery is going faster than almost anyone expected.)
- To constantly update and expand

everythingxsm.com, our SXM website, with an enormous reservoir of island info for you -- including our Weather Center for early warnings throughout hurricane season.

- Our legendary vacation giveaways giving you an opportunity to experience vacations that are over-the-top fun, in celebration of our site surpassing key visitorship levels (next: we'll surpass 5.5 million visitors in 2018).
- Our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site which was so helpful in getting everyone instant notification about Irma, what was happening on SXM, how / where to go for evacuations on C-130s, even info on luggage recovery. See the Files area of our Facebook site for an incredible amount of current, valuable island info that's constantly updated. Lots of pictures too -- and nearly instant answers to your questions around the clock from our admins and members around the world.

You can help us by joining or renewing your membership in JMB Website Supporters, our Island Discount Program that delivers about 300 island discounts and other benefits -- including advertising your SXM timeshare for rent or for sale to our millions of readers on everythingxsm.com.

In fact, we've now expanded those listings in two big ways: 1) by enabling all JMB Website Supporters members to post rentals not only for 2018, but 2019 as well, something we don't normally do until the preceding March. And 2) we'll enable our members to start advertising villas or non-timeshare condos they personally own on an entirely new page on our site which will be heavily promoted online and in future editions of *SXM Weekly News*.

But we need your help now to make all this happen through your membership in JMB Website Supporters. Current promotional pricing was to end tomorrow,

11/1, but because this special Flash Edition of Weekly News won't finish mailing until Wednesday night we're extending the end of the sale though this Friday, 11/3 -- but that's it.

Please do it now:

New JMB memberships:

Five years, \$109; Three years, \$89; One year, \$39

http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34

everythingsexm.com/secret

Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

JMB Membership Reinstatements: Four years, just \$89; three years, \$69; one year, \$34

<http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

3. Get SkyMed Before You Need It...Like Now

SkyMed Takes You Home® in a medevac jet when you become critically ill or injured when traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 you'd otherwise have to pay *in cash, in advance* to arrange an emergency medical evacuation yourself. Why risk that? Learn much more and get SkyMed now -- *before you need it*. See www.getskymed.com. Contact Jeff for answers to your questions: jeff.berger@skymed.com or phone his SkyMed line at 508-747-8281. Call or email today.

Thank you.

Jeff Berger, Editor/Publisher
SXM Weekly News

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