

Motion

The Island Council of the Public Entity St. Eustatius in its public meeting of today, Thursday May 27th 2021

Considering that,

- The land lease was increased in 2018 by the Executive Council without the approval of the Island Council and without consultation of the people of Statia.
- The tariffs for Lease land has increased by more than 700% in the last 3 years on St. Eustatius.

The tariffs as set by the Executive Council in 2018

		Nieuw tarief	Nieuw tarief	Nieuw tarief
Erfpacht	Huidig tarief	01-jan-19	01-jan-21	01-jan-22
Landbouw/veeteelt	usd 55,86 acre	usd 150 acre	usd 300 acre	usd 500 acre
Particulier (woning)	usd 0,11 m2	usd 0,50 m2	usd 0,75 m2	usd 1,00 m2
Commercieel	usd 0,22 m2	usd 1.00 m2	usd 1,50 m2	usd 2.00 m2

- The OLE is not optimally using the instruments at its disposal to efficiently carry out the land policy for the benefit of all Statians. (Grond beleid Nota 2021, p. 15)
- The vast majority of persons that should be considered for lease land are living below the accepted social minimum.
- Increasing the tariffs for lease land astronomically will have a huge negative impact on the spending power of this group of the population.
- Lease land is one of the primary means for the majority of Statians to realize their dream of constructing their own home and/or making an economic investment.
- as a result of the poor banking services afforded the people of Statia people are not afforded the possibility of buying land.
- The conditions to qualify for a loan are very unfavorable and require considerable own financial input. Without substantial own input one cannot obtain a loan even if one's income can easily support monthly loan payments.
- Lease land is a means of investing in the economic development of Statia.
- That lease land is there to provide young people with the opportunity to enter the housing market.

Resolves

To request the Executive Council

- To freeze the current level of the tariffs and to commence a study as to the impact of the increases of the lease land tariffs since 2018.

- Commence with the informing of the population as to the lease land policy 2018 via townhall meetings, newsletters and government media programs.
- Commence the implementation of the instruments available to the OLE to efficiently carry out the old land policy before 2018.

And goes over to the order of the day.

Mr. Reuben Merkman

Mr. Clyde van Putten

Ms. Rechelline Leerdam

Mr. Nicolaas Sneek

Ms. Frini (Adelka) Spanner