



nationale ombudsman

Return address: P.O. Box 93122, 2509 AC The Hague, The Netherlands

State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations
Mr. drs. R.W. Knops
P.O. BOX 20011
2500 EA THE HAGUE

Dear Mr. Knops,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 June 2020 in which you both, in coordination with the Government Commissioner of St. Eustatius, answered the questions I posed in my letter dated 11 May.

It is good to know that since 8 June 2020, drinking water will be available from taps between 05:00-20:00 and possibly longer. The Government Commissioner has informed me of a notification sent by Stuco to its customers stating that drinking water was now available 24/7 again. It was also good to hear that those who are completely dependent on the supply of drinking water by the drinking water network will no longer have to pay for the supply of drinking water from 1 June 2020.

I will continue to follow with great interest the temporary measures and the progress of the projects intended to ensure that the provision of water is structurally improved.

Looking back

I do wonder how it even got to the point where the citizens of St. Eustatius were not or barely able to get drinking water from the tap, especially since a new drinking water system was installed in 2014. With the current investigation I want to gain insight into how this situation was able to occur and how it could have been avoided, so lessons can be drawn to prevent future issues.

I would like to talk to you about this matter. I would also like to ask the same question to the Government Commissioner of St. Eustatius.

A copy of this letter will also be sent to the Government Commissioner of St. Eustatius.

Kind regards,

Reinier van Zutphen
Nationale Ombudsman

Page 1

Date:

6 July 2020

Reference

1493594

Subject

Reaction to the letter dated
19 June 2020 regarding the water
issues on St. Eustatius

National Ombudsman

Bezuidenhoutseweg 151
2594 AG The Hague

P.O. Box 93122

2509 AC The Hague The Netherlands

T +31 (0)70 356 35 63

post@nationaleombudsman.nl

www.nationaleombudsman.nl