



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport  
Mr. W.S. Smith  
**Philipsburg**

UV/060/2018-2019

Philipsburg, October 15, 2018

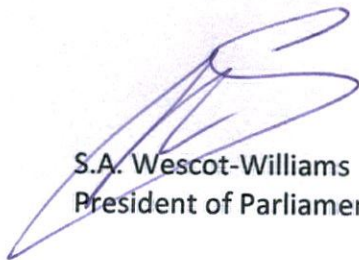
Re: Questions from MP S.E. Jacobs regarding schools

Hon. Minister Smith,

Herewith I submit to you a request from Member of Parliament, Ms. S.E. Jacobs pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,



S.A. Wescot-Williams  
President of Parliament



Silveria E. Jacobs

Member of the Parliament of  
Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek. 15 OCT 2018	
Volgnr. 15/193/18-19	
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To: Ms. Sarah Wescot- Williams  
Chairlady of Parliament  
Wilhelminstraat # 1  
Philipsburg  
Sint Maarten

October 12, 2018

Dear Chairlady of Parliament

Please find attached documents to be forwarded to the Honorable Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Mr. W. Smith in response to his answers provided during the continuation of meeting OV #2 IS/872/2017-2018 date August 22, 2018, which was held on Thursday October 11, 2018.

1. Letter to the Minister
2. Clarification questions round 1 (agenda pt.1)
3. Questions for round 2 (agenda pt.1)

Members of Parliament  
Silveria Jacobs





Silveria E. Jacobs

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Member of the Parliament of  
Sint Maarten

To: Mr. Wycliffe Smith  
Honorable Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport  
SoualigaRoad # 1  
Philipsburg  
Sint Maarten

October 12, 2018

Dear Honorable Minister Smith,

As I will be off island for medical reasons during the week of 15th -22nd October and not knowing when this Urgent meeting #2 will be reconvened, I hereby submit my request for clarifications(*attachment #1*) on several questions asked by my colleagues and I during round 1, for which your answers have been received on Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Also, please find *attachment #2*, my additional questions that are to be counted towards round 2.

If any of the clarifications are deemed to be new questions, please indicate such and add those answers to the round 2 list.

I would appreciate if these questions are answered on the floor of Parliament when the meeting reconvenes, as well as in writing in the interest of transparency in representing the people.

Hoping for your cooperation in this regard and the speedy finalization of the meeting, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Silveria E. Jacobs'.

Silveria E. Jacobs  
Member of Parliament  
National Alliance Faction

Attachment #1

Agenda pt.1 OV #2 IS/872/2017-2018 date August 22,2018

Please take note of MP Silveria Jacobs's requested CLARIFICATIONS related to the numbered questions that were answered by Hon. MinECYS Smith on October 11, 2018 during the continuation of OV2.

5. As 27 teachers are still missing, Please inform Parliament how schools are adjusting to make education possible whilst awaiting the filling of the positions.
20. Clarify what portion of the 5.5 million US dollars is reserved to be paid for Public Schools' repairs. It is mentioned that approximately 933 K was paid out to repair "subsidized" schools, however no number was attributed to public schools, can Minister provide clarity on this?
32. Are Edu. Inspectors being actively recruited? If yes, How many are needed and at what stage are we at in the process?
35. Are there sufficient teachers at NIPA to teach the BSAD courses. This is requested on behalf of students who have lodged complaints during my recent visits.
39. Minister is requested to inform Parliament in writing once the new courses offered via MIC - IT have been validated by the Ministry.
42. Wasn't the Tertiary law expected to be presented by June 2018? What is the new projected date? Have management challenges been rectified with the additions to the Mgt team. Who is monitoring the conditions of the agreement, USM, DEPT of Education or SOAB?44. Several actions had been highlighted in the agreement between USM and Government of St. Maarten, including SOAB carrying out an investigation in order to provide recommendations for improved financial and operational management of the University. Has this report from SOAB been completed and handed in to Government/Ministry ECYS and USM? If so, has USM been carrying out these recommendations?
45. Is Government at all involved in assisting the library with the challenges mentioned In the interest of continuity in the service they provide to the community and promotion of literacy, education and research possibilities for students in particular.
48. Thanks to Hon. Minister for providing clarity on this issue and validating the immediate actions taken to reopen schools, including all that was done to ensure that the schools would be safe havens for students, teachers and families. It is also commendable that Minister seeks to uphold the integrity of the participants by not releasing confidential documents which had previously been leaked and publicly disseminated, however a synopsis of the psychosocial assessment



compared to a follow up assessment to gauge improvement would be appreciated as no indication of follow up is evident in the answers provided.

67. The number of operators (30) does not answer the question as to how many buses are currently transporting students. How many busses are currently being invoiced per bus operator, and what is then the total number of busses? Has it been established how many busses are needed for the number of children requesting transportation to and from schools? Can Minister expect to save any funds based on this?
77. This member of parliament hereby expresses grave concern about the lack of information concerning the timeline for construction and finances to be able to execute the 55 plus million dollars needed for the repair and reconstruction of our schools. As such the Minister is requested to establish and present a timeline for the start of the construction to commence based on where the process is right now, as well as provide a projected timeline for repair and reconstruction per school. The minister is hereby requested to organize a working visit for this MP and any interested members of parliament within 2 weeks to be able to get a firsthand view of the actual situation currently being faced by our stakeholders in education.

Agenda pt.1 OV #2 IS/872/2017-2018 date August 22,2018

Questions for ROUND 2

Education Care Center (ECC)

1. What is the prognosis of the ECC program. Does the Minister feel that the goals of the program are worth pursuing and are you willing to make budget available to be able to do so in the interest of catching and rehabilitating students who are at risk to become drop outs due to repeated suspensions and other infractions, including behavioral challenges which could be remedied?
2. Have you met with the ECC team to get a hands on impression of the challenges and or ideas to get the best return on the program?
3. What are key issues encountered during ECC program? What steps have been taken to solve these problems and prevent them in the future?
4. What were the benefits of last school year's program?
5. How many Public Schools have you visited, before and after you were provided with the information which has been provided to Parliament?
6. Has an updated psychosocial assessment been done of teachers and staff of the schools at the end of last school and/or for the new school year?