



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports

Mr. W.S. Smith

Philipsburg

UV/286/2017-2018

Philipsburg, August 23, 2018

Re: Questions from MP Mrs. S.A.Wescot-Williams pertaining to the Memorandum of Understanding by medical schools to create a Caribbean disaster medicine center

Hon. Minister Smith,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mrs. S.A.Wescot-Williams 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



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To:
Parliament of Sint Maarten
Attention: President of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
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Philipsburg, August 22nd 2018

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

I hereby submit to you questions directed to the Minister of Health, Labour & Social Affairs (VSA) Honorable Emil Lee, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs Honorable Minister Wycliffe S. Smith and Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication Honorable Stuart A. Johnson regarding a Memorandum of Understanding by medical schools to create a Caribbean disaster medicine center.

I kindly request that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,


Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament (MP)



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs
Honorable Minister Wycliffe S. Smith
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, August 22 2018

Dear Honorable Minister Wycliffe S. Smith,

Kindly take note of a recent press release under the caption *Medical schools sign memorandum of understanding to create Caribbean disaster medicine center*.

The release goes on to explain more about both institutions and the MOU.

I hereby pose the following questions in connection with aforementioned:

1. Is the Minister aware of (details of) this announced collaboration? If not, please gather all relevant information and then kindly respond to the following questions:
2. Does the Minister agree that this agreement could potentially offer a good opportunity for St. Maarten to further solidify the diversification of our tourism product in the areas of medical and or education tourism?
3. Would this be a priority of Government?
4. If the Minister agrees, how does the Minister envisage pursuing St. Maarten's interests in this regard?

Respectfully Submitted,

Hon. Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament

Medical schools sign memorandum of understanding to create Caribbean disaster medicine centre

By Caribbean News Now contributor

PEMBROKE PINES, USA — American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC) and Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (HMFP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), with the aim of establishing a centre of excellence for disaster medicine in the Caribbean.

“As a medical school with its main campus in the Caribbean, AUC is ideally positioned to develop medical education and training opportunities in the areas of hurricane preparedness and emergency response to benefit the region and beyond,” said Heidi Chumley, MD, MBA, executive dean at AUC. “We’re excited to work with HMFP to explore a wide range of collaborative efforts, and apply our combined expertise to the challenges facing the country of St Maarten and the region.”

HMFP is the academic physician group exclusively affiliated with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), a major Harvard Medical School teaching affiliate in Boston. HMFP deploys members of its emergency medicine department to collaborations across the globe to build capacity in disaster preparedness and response systems, and provides continuing education and training to healthcare professionals and first responders.

“This collaboration with AUC offers a uniquely positioned platform to develop academic, research, and operational capacity in a region where hurricanes and tropical storms pose a threat,” said Gregory R. Ciottono, MD, FACEP, FFSEM, director of the Division of Disaster Medicine at BIDMC and associate professor of emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School. “We’re looking forward to engaging with experts in the Caribbean through this centre of excellence in disaster medicine, and exposing more medical students to this challenging and immensely rewarding field.”

Currently in the planning stage, the centre could potentially include academic exchanges involving faculty and medical students, continuing education and training programs, conferences and symposia, and on-site teaching on AUC’s St Maarten medical sciences campus by Harvard Medical School faculty, and leverage the wide range of medical and healthcare resources and programs within Adtalem, the parent organization AUC in St Maarten, Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM) in Dominica and Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) in St Kitts.

Adtalem has recently become embroiled in a massive controversy over its decision to relocate RUSM from Dominica to Barbados following Hurricane Maria in September 2017, thus impacting some 30 percent of Dominica’s economy and thus its ability to recover from the devastation caused by Maria.

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