



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs  
Mr. W.S. Smith  
Administration Building  
Clem Labega Square  
**Philipsburg**

UV/401/2018-2019

Philipsburg, August 19, 2019

Re: Questions from MP S.A. Wescot-Williams regarding English language motions-plan of action

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



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament of Sint Maarten

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

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek. 14 AUG 2019	
Volgnr.	LS/1393/18-19
Par.	A. V. W. J.

Philipsburg, August 13, 2019

Ref: English Language Motions - Plan of Action

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

I hereby submit to you questions directed to Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs, Honorable Wycliffe S. Smith, regarding the motions establishing English as the first official language.

I kindly request that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,

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



# Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

## Member of Parliament of Sint Maarten

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

Philipsburg, August 13 2019

Dear Honorable Minister Smith,

For brevity sake, I refer you to my letter dated October 11, 2018 and the corresponding documents, registered at the Parliament of St. Maarten on October 16<sup>th</sup> of that year. To this date, a response from the Ministry has not been forthcoming.

I need not elaborate how crucial this matter is in the process of nation building, and transparency and openness towards the community. It also allows for citizens to much better and more confidently weigh in on matters of policies, legislation etc.

I therefore kindly, yet urgently request your action plan for:

English: First official language for St. Maarten

Simultaneously, please provide an initial budget for the steps as outlined in the action plan.

I look forward to receiving this information ahead of the 2020 draft budget's presentation to Parliament, in order to allow the Parliament to debate and ensure the executions of its motions aforementioned.

Respectfully,

  
Sarah A. Wescot-Williams  
Member of Parliament

cc. Honorable Leona Marlin-Romeo, Prime Minister

Wilhelminastraat # 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten  
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# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

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

UV/067/2018-2019

Philipsburg, October 17, 2018

Re: Questions from MP S.A. Wescot-Williams regarding motion English language

Hon. Minister Smith,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mrs. Sarah 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S.A. Wescot-Williams', written over a printed name and title.

S.A. Wescot-Williams  
President of Parliament



# Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

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## Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek. 16 OCT 2018	
Volgnr. 15/202/18-19	
Par.	ney

Chairperson of Parliament  
Parliament of Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, October 11<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Chairperson:

I hereby submit to you questions directed to Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs Honorable Wycliffe Smith regarding the "Motion of the English Language" and kindly request that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams  
Member of Parliament of Sint Maarten

# Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

## Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarter

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

Philipsburg, October 11 2018

Ref: Motion of the English Language (2x)

Dear Honorable Minister Mr. Smith,

Please take note of the attached Motions, passed by Parliament on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 and respectively on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

1. What is Government's position on these English language motions?
2. What action has been undertaken by government on these motions? If none, why not?

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Sarah A. Wescot-Williams  
Member of Parliament

Wilhelminastraat # 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten  
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**PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN**

**Draft Motion**

The Parliament of Sint Maarten in its meeting of today, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2016; <sup>15<sup>th</sup> Dec</sup>

**Considering:**

- The motion of the Parliament of St. Maarten dated September 17, 2015 regarding English as the first official and "mother tongue" language.
- That the government has declared that the plan to establish English as the first official language requires a considerable investment;
- That the aforementioned motion calls for a plan of approach, which shall include the following components;
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  - *Establishing English as the first and "mother tongue" language for Sint Maarten.*
  - *Gradual introduction of the use of the mother tongue as the first official language.*
  - *A plan for the civil service.*
- That the draft budget 2017 for the country does not provide an allocation of funds to develop the plan of approach;
- That government's policy drafting capacity across the board is heavily taxed;
- That this initiative will strand if no concrete action is undertaken;

**Resolves:**

- To instruct the government of St. Maarten to allocate f 500.000 in the first budget amendment 2017, due by May 15 of the same year, to the development of the plan: English as the first official language of St. Maarten.

And goes over to the order of the day

Copies of this motion to be sent to:  
The Government of St. Maarten  
The Governor of St. Maarten

