



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Finance  
Mr. A.M.R. Irion  
Administration Building  
Clem Labega Square  
**Philipsburg**

UV/147/2019-2020

Philipsburg, January 17, 2020

Re: Questions from MP S.L. Duncan regarding Government's plan for local entrepreneurship and MSME development

Hon. Minister Irion,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. S.L. Duncan 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,

W.V. Marlin  
Chairman of Parliament

**Linette A. Gibs**

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**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Ministers of TEATT and FIN re: MSME  
**Attachments:** Min FIN TEATT MSME Development.pdf

**From:** Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:42 AM  
**To:** Linette A. Gibs  
**Cc:** Ann A. Groen-Gumbs; Garrick J. Richardson; Valerie Brazier  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Ministers of TEATT and FIN re: MSME

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 16 JAN 2020			
Volgnr. 15/447/19-20			
Par.	ok	no	neg

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**From:** Solange L. Duncan <[Solange.Duncan@sxmparliament.org](mailto:Solange.Duncan@sxmparliament.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:40 AM  
**To:** William V. Marlin <[William.Marlin@sxmparliament.org](mailto:William.Marlin@sxmparliament.org)>; Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert <[nancy.joubert@sxmparliament.org](mailto:nancy.joubert@sxmparliament.org)>  
**Subject:** Letter to the Ministers of TEATT and FIN re: MSME

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Please find attached a letter to be sent to both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of TEATT regarding an inquiry on Government's plans it pertains to local micro, small and medium enterprises and a suggestion for the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee.

I await your confirmation that the letter has been sent to the respective Ministers.

Thank you for the cooperation.

Sincerely,

S. Ludmila Duncan  
Member of Parliament





# SOLANGE LUDMILA DUNCAN

## MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

Thursday 16th January, 2020

Chairman of Parliament  
Mr. William Marlin  
Wilhelminastraat #1  
Philipsburg,  
Sint Maarten

**RE: Inquiry into Government's plan for Local Entrepreneurship and MSME Development and related Tax Reform/Relief as well as a suggestion for a standing Inter-ministerial Committee**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I hereby submit a number of questions to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications (TEATT), respectively, on their ministries' plans regarding the development of locally-owned micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

After Hurricane Irma many new small businesses were established while many existing businesses worked to recover from damages. Institutions like Qredits have definitely made a positive impact in improving access to financing for local businesses however there is so much more that can be done.

As a former senior policy advisor at the Ministry of TEATT, I am well aware of the lack of policy cohesion and joint collaboration on fiscal and economic policy related to MSME's in particular. I believe that this gap in collaboration, impedes both Ministries' efforts to effectively address economic issues on St. Maarten.

I respectfully requests answers to the following questions;

1. What is your Ministry's current plan or policy as it regards the stimulation of, support of or relief for locally-owned MSMEs and entrepreneurs?
2. Are there any inter-ministerial committees currently established by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of TEATT to work on joint economic and fiscal policy matters?
3. If the answer to question number 2 is no, would you consider the following suggestion?

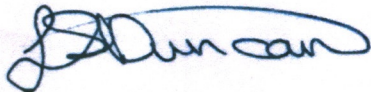
I would like to suggest the establishment of a standing inter-ministerial committee between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of TEATT tasked with the following but not limited to;

1. Overall synchronization, alignment and coherence on economic policy and fiscal policy, pertaining to locally-owned and run MSME's and entrepreneurs.
2. Improvement of St. Maarten's local investment climate with an emphasis on connecting investors to new and established MSMEs.
3. Promoting cooperation and partnerships between government and the private sector to stimulate local investment and business development.
4. Ensuring that women entrepreneurs and business owners are considered in policy and program design.
5. Conducting of research on the state of affairs of local small businesses and entrepreneurs on St. Maarten as it relates to national economic and fiscal policies.
6. Creation of an environment that encourages local entrepreneurship and small business development and growth.

I await the submission of any pertinent information as requested above and hope that my proposal for the establishment of a standing inter-ministerial committee can be taken into serious consideration.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued success in your endeavors.

With kind regards,



Solange Ludmila Duncan  
Member of Parliament