



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor
Mr. R. Panneflek
Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/264/2019-2020

Philipsburg, April 24, 2020

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper concerning illegal dismissals and rising unemployment

Hon. Minister Panneflek,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. C.A. Buncamper 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,

R. Brison
President of Parliament

Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert

From: Claudius Buncamper <cabuncamper@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Rolando Brison; Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert
Subject: letter Minister VSA
Attachments: 20200418_162311.PDF
Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman,
Attached a letter I would appreciate can be booked in and forwarded formally to the Minister of VSA, Mr. Richard Panneflek.

Thanks and warm regards,

Member of Parliament of Sint Maarten
Claudius A. Buncamper BSc
Ponnum Drive #16
St. John's Estate
St. Maarten



Chairman of Parliament
Mr. Rolando Brison
Wilhelmina starraat # 1
Philipsburg
St. Maarten

Ref: Letter to Minister Richard J.J. Panneflek

Philipsburg April 18th 2020

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman,

I request your assistance to have attached letter sent to the Minister of VSA, Mr. R. J. J. Panneflek.

Considering the urgency of said letter I will also be sending it directly to the minister by means of an email.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claudius A. Buncamper'.

Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.
Member of Parliament



Minister of Public Health, Labor and Social Affairs
Mr. Richard J.J. Panneflek
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Boulevard #1
St. Maarten

Ref: Illegal labor dismissal and rising unemployment

Philipsburg April 18th 2020

Honorable Minister Panneflek,

Since the reaching of COVID19 to our shores here in St. Maarten there's much unrest and uncertainty in the business world globally and locally. This uncertainty has led to many business owners starting to send home employees in ways that do not adhere to the laws of this country. While I understand that businesses are in business to make money they have an obligation by law to follow the procedures as set forth by law regardless of the situation.

The government through the Minister of Finance is finalizing a stimulus plan to help the businesses and residents of this country to cope with the projected hardships in the next 3 months. It's with this backdrop that I ask of you not to grant any dismissals at this point in time and have the businesses make use of the payroll support.

Presently we can read in the media of hotels and many companies sending letters to their employees asking them to sign such letters to terminate all working relationships with the companies. To my understanding since mid March many businesses have already sent home employees some with pay and some without pay, when the flights and cruise ships basically stop calling the island. The food drive registration of some 9208 persons must be a clear sign that people need food and most probably cannot afford to purchase it.

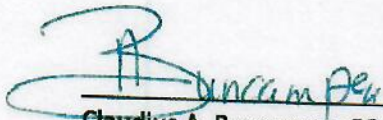
The dismissal (illegal) practices should be stopped instantly and I believe your intervention as Minister to address this matter is urgently needed. Mass dismissals will only lead to unrest in the country, something we can ill afford at this time or anytime in general.

The unemployment is rising by the day as these matters go unresolved and this means that the government will need to make additional provisions on its already meager budget to accommodate such a significant rise in unemployment. It's with this in mind that I ask how much involvement is there regarding your ministries input in the stimulus plan regarding the unemployment aspect in the stimulus.

Lastly I ask that your ministry takes the lead on creating an workers payment fund (to cover the huge unemployment group) for the event that the recovery takes longer than the lifespan of the stimulus plan presently being prepared. The manner of funding the fund can be discussed as in my opinion the wellbeing of the workers lies in your portfolio under the heading of labor policies and the labor laws of the country.

Awaiting a positive response most soonest I remain,

Kind regards,



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.
Member of Parliament