



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Finance
Mr. A.M.R. Irion
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/281/2019-2020

Philipsburg, May 6, 2020

Re: Questions from MP S.A. Wescot-Williams regarding Solidarity initiative

Hon. Minister Irion,

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,



R. Brison
President of Parliament



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament Sint Maarten

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

Philipsburg, April 29, 2020

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

I hereby submit to you questions directed to Minister of Finance, Honorable Ardwell M.R. Irion,
regarding Solidarity Initiative, Political Authorities.

I kindly ask that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,


Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,
Member of Parliament
United Democratic Party

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN

Ingek. 01 MAY 2020

Volgnr. 15/809/19-20

Par. 



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams

Member of Parliament Sint Maarten

Minister of Finance
Honorable Ardwel M.R. Irion
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, April 29, 2020

Honorable Minister of Finance,

I wish to refer to your email of April 14th, registered under IS-747, concerning the document Solidarity Initiative Political Authorities, which is self-explanatory.

In particular I wish to draw your attention to the following passage from that document:

- that legislation will be established to regulate the contribution towards the pension of political authorities;
- that as of today political authorities, pending the formalization of the legislation as mentioned in the previous point, will commence contribution by means of approving the withholding of the salary post "VARIOUS ALLOWANCES" which now forms part of the overall compensation;
- that the commitment of the political authorities is confirmed by this signed solidarity statement.

This is what MPs and Ministers have voluntarily agreed to, anticipating the necessary legislation.

The "various allowances" referred to, amount to 6% according to the applicable law.

The government of St. Maarten has apparently applied a 10% salary reduction, starting April 2020 from the "political authorities".

In connection herewith, kindly respond to the following:

Kindly explain what the legal basis is for this 10% deduction?

Have all current political authorities signed the Solidarity Initiative and when?



How binding is this agreement?

What happens when/if a political authority withdraws from this agreement?

When will the parliament receive the draft legislation "to regulate the contribution towards the pension of political authorities"?

I look forward to your prompt response and remain,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah A. Wescot-Williams".

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,
Member of Parliament
United Democratic Party



**SOLIDARITY INITIATIVE
POLITICAL AUTHORITIES OF SINT MAARTEN**

February 2020

The Members of Parliament and Ministers of all political persuasions, express their solidarity with the people of Sint Maarten.

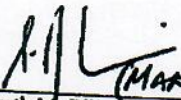
Taking into consideration:


- that after the destruction by hurricanes Irma and Maria, our country is in the process of rebuilding;
- that resources necessary to rebuild are scarce;
- that national and international efforts made towards rebuilding the country are recognized;
- that the political authorities recognize the need to seek alternative solutions to funding the recovery and rebuilding efforts;
- that one such alternative is found within a pension regulation for political authorities of which the benefits are charged to the budget of the country;

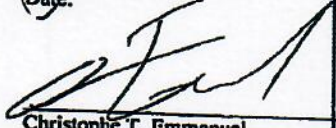
Resolve - Solidarity Statement:

- that legislation will be established to regulate the contribution towards the pension of political authorities;
- that as of today political authorities, pending the formalization of the legislation as mentioned in the previous point, will commence contribution by means of approving the withholding of the salary post "various allowances" which now forms part of the overall compensation;
- that the commitment of the political authorities is confirmed by this signed solidarity statement.


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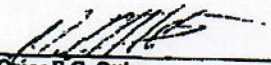

(MAR-04-2020)
Sidharth M. Bijlani
Member of Parliament
Date:



Melissa D. Gumbs
Member of Parliament
Date:


Christophe T. Emmanuel
Member of Parliament
Date:


Grisha S. Hisslinger-Marten
Member of Parliament
Date: 4 March, 2020

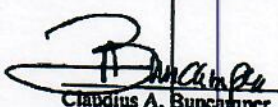

Ardwell M. R. Irion
Member of Parliament
Date:

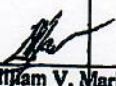

Omar E.C. Ottley
Member of Parliament
Date:


Drs. Rodolphe E. Samuel
Member of Parliament
Date: 5 MAR 2020


Rolando Blyson
Member of Parliament
Date:



Akem A. Arrindell
Member of Parliament
Date: 04/03/2020


Claudius A. Buncamper
Member of Parliament
Date: 4/3/2020


William V. Marlin
Member of Parliament
Date:


Silveria E. Jacobs
Member of Parliament
Date:


Raeyhon A. Peterson
Member of Parliament
Date:


Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament
Date: 16/03/2020

Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert

From: Sharlesha Vanterpool <Sharlesha.Vanterpool@sintmaartengov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Nancy R. Guishard-Joubert; Rolando Brison
Cc: Irion, Ardwell; Buncamper, Maria
Subject: Solidarity Initiative
Attachments: SOLIDARITY INITIATIVE.pdf

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN		
Ingek. 14 APR 2020		
Volgnr. 15/747/19-20		
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Dear MP Brison and Mrs. Guishard,

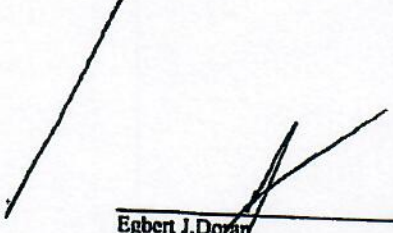
On behalf of the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ardwell Irion, please find attached the "Solidarity Initiative" signed by all MPs and Ministers.

Can you please confirm receipt hereof.
Thank you in advance.

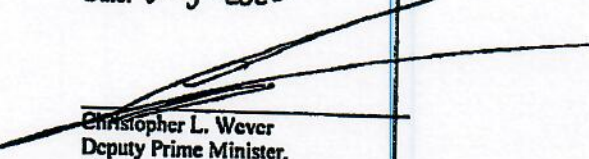
Hoping to have informed you sufficiently.


With kind regards,

Mrs. Sharlesha Harrigan-Vanterpool
Executive Assistant of Minister of Finance,
Mr. Ardwell Irion

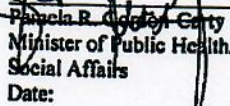

Egbert J. Doorn
Member of Parliament

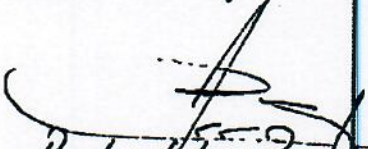
Date: 5-3-2020



Christopher L. Wever
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Public Housing, Spatial
Planning, Environment and Infrastructure
Date:



Egbert J. Doorn
Minister of Justice

Date: 5-3-2020



Pamela R. Grooten-Groot
Minister of Public Health, Labor and
Social Affairs
Date:


Richard J. J. Lemstra
Deputy Minister Plenipotentiary


Silveria F. Jacobs
Prime Minister,
Minister of General Affairs
Date:


Ardwell M.R. Irion
Minister of Finance,
Acting Minister of Education,
Culture, Youth and Sport
Date:


Melissa M.A. Arndell-Doncher
Minister of Tourism, Economic
Affairs, Transport and
Telecommunication
Date:


Rene F. Violonius
Minister Plenipotentiary

Date: