



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

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

UV/395/2019-2020

Philipsburg, August 5, 2020

Re: Questions from MP S.L. Duncan regarding human resource capacity frontline and essential workers COVID-19

Hon. Minister Panneflek,

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,

R. Brison
President of Parliament



SOLANGE LUDMILA DUNCAN

MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

July 30, 2020

Rolando Brison
President of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN

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RE: Questions to the Minister of VSA regarding human resource capacity

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We continue to operate in quite tumultuous times due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. With new cases on the rise in St. Maarten, I must assume that there is or will be, an increased strain again on both front line and essential workers on the island and within Government in particular. A lack of human resource capacity has a direct impact on Government's ability to deliver programs and services and perform the tasks necessary to assist our people in these dire times.

For departments like Collective Preventive Services (CPS) and the Department of Social Services who deliver pertinent health and aid services to the general public, it is absolutely necessary that workers are not unreasonably overwhelmed and overworked.

Mr. Chairman, I kindly ask that you direct the following questions to the Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA);

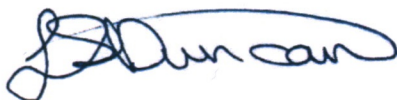
1. How many critical vacancies are there in the Ministry and have interviews or recruiting processes begun?
2. Has the Department of Personnel & Organization conducted a survey or ascertained the personnel needs of the Departments mentioned above and any other departments deemed as essential and in specific relation to the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. Are there any current proposals or programs to retrain or upskill civil servants and employees as it regards building capacity in Departments that may be in dire need?

4. Has the Committee of Civil Servants Unions (CCSU) been contacted about or presented any proposal as it regards the movement of personnel from one Ministry to another for the purpose of capacity building or other labor-related matters?

I would also like to make a suggestion to the Minister of VSA; that an internal retraining or upskilling program be established so that civil servants may have the opportunity to move fluidly from one department to another, one ministry to another, in order to provide urgent capacity and support to those essential departments that may be lacking in manpower.

Thank you for your cooperation in forwarding this letter to the Minister of VSA and I look forward to a response from the Minister at her earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Solange Ludmila Duncan

Member of Parliament