



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

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

UV/424/2019-2020

Philipsburg, September 3, 2020

Re: Questions from MP S.M. Bijlani regarding the SSRP

Hon. Minister Irion,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. S.M. Bijlani 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

Linette A. Gibs

From: Ann A. Groen-Gumbs
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Linette A. Gibs
Cc: Valerie Brazier; Garrick J. Richardson
Subject: Fwd: QUESTIONS ON SSRP
Attachments: SSRP QUESTIONS FOR MIN FIN AUG 28 2020.docx

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 28 AUG 2020			
Volgnr. 1311160/19-20			
Par.		W	GR

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From: Cookie Bijlani <cookie.bijlani@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 2:30:22 PM
To: Ann A. Groen-Gumbs <ann.groen-gumbs@sxmparliament.org>; Rolando Brison <Rolando.Brison@sxmparliament.org>; Irion Ardwell <Ardwell@gmail.com>; Irion Ardwell <Ardwell.irion@sintmaartengov.org>
Subject: QUESTIONS ON SSRP

Honorable Minister,

Please See the attached questions sorry for sending them late.

*Cookie.Bijlani.
Member of Parliament*

*Director of,
Om Jewelers
Gemsland Jewelers
Dutch Delight (Convenience Store)
V.President IMA (Indian Merchants Association)
PHF & PP Sunrise Rotary
V. President Sunrise Rotary
Tel: 1 305 395 7793 1 721 5889454*

1. Why employers have to pay monthly wage tax, AZBZ and OV/ZV on 100% of the declared wages whereas the employee is expected to be paid 20% less of their individual wages.
2. Currently June Stimulus is being handled by the SZV portal, so the funds for June stimulus has not reached the businesses while they have paid employees for June, July and Now August. So stimulus cash is 3 months behind with the economy being in bad shape there is not enough cash flow for business to keep paying their employees and have to take decision to close their establishments thereby sending home their employees.
3. Which month's stimulus would be held back with long pending approval of liquidity support from the Netherlands? Is it the now being processed June Stimulus or for the months thereafter?
4. What is the future of SSRP? Will it continue for July and months after that?
5. What is the update of discussions with the Kingdom Partners?
6. Examples given to understand the calculations of employees 20% is very clear and with proper calculations. However it does not explain how employer will get, employee's 20% contribution to the employers, if no deduction is to be done for minimum wage earners. (I agree for minimum wage earners, there should be no deduction).

7. According to the instructions since June and July 20 Payroll has already been executed, employers are supposed to implement June payroll subsidy in month of August Payroll. It looks like we will not get the June subsidy even in the month of August 20, should we not implement June Payroll SSRP instructions?
8. If we do not get the funds for June 20 SSRP in August 20, can we hold on the payment till we get the subsidy?
9. According to the government and SSRP employers were informed that they will get SSRP Payroll Support for April, May and June 20 and we were also told that the government is working on the 3rd quarter July/Aug/ Sept 20. Now it is end of August we did not get June 20 SSRP Payroll Support can we hold the payment for August if we have already paid June and July 20.
10. Since there is no talk/ information from the government to the employers regarding the 3rd quarter and there is no hope of opening our economy until November/ December 20 in the tourism sector can employer hold on the payment until the economy opens up? Because there is no work available, and no payroll subsidy being given in spite of the promise.
11. If the senior employees have already agreed in the month of April and May 20 to accept 20% cut in their salary voluntarily, do they have to still do it in the month of August 20 as per June Payroll SSRP.

12. Is this 20% employees contribution is for only the month when employers get June 20 Payroll subsidy. Will it continue for further months if we get the subsidy?
13. How do we adjust 20% by using employee's vacation if they agree?
14. According to the instructions employees can contribute by giving their working hours, what exactly they mean? Are they trying to say the employee works regular hours 173.33 but they will get paid for 138.66 hrs (20 % hrs less)?

This means that the Taxes will be calculated on 20 % less salary which is actually being paid. As employees are not giving cash but Hours.