

# 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/092/2020-2021

Philipsburg, December 14, 2020

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper to MinVSAthe role of the inspectorate of labor with numerous labor complaints

Hon. Minister Panneflek,

Herewith I submit to you a request 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



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

St. Maarten, December 8, 2020

President of Parliament  
Parliament of Sint Maarten  
Wilhelmina Straat # 1  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 08 DEC 2020			
Volgnr. 15/238/20-21			
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Subject: Questions to Minister of VSA.

Dear Honorable President of Parliament;

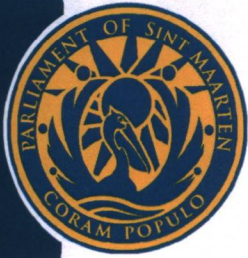
Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament, I hereby request that the attached questions to the Minister of VSA, the Honorable Richard Panneflek.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Claudius A. Buncamper  
Member of Parliament  
Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party (USP)





# Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

## Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

St. Maarten, December 8, 2020

Minister of VSA,  
Honorable Richard Panneflek  
Government Administration Building,  
Souliga Boulevard # 1,  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Subject: Questions to Minister of VSA.

Honorable Minister Panneflek;

As a result of the challenges we face from COVID-19, the country is now confronted with numerous complaints of labor abuse against employees of a number of companies such as Little Switzerland and the Towers at Mullet Bay, just to name two. The employees' complaints amount primarily to not being dismissed and still not being paid. Our labor laws are clear and specific when it pertains to the dismissal procedures, yet these are not being adhered to by some companies.

The social and economic effects these actions by some employers will have on our country can be devastating. Sending employees home with very little financial means will most certainly result in unwelcome civil unrest, which the country does not want at a time that we are trying to preserve our season. Some companies are transferring their assets to their sister companies overseas and leaving their employees here stranded.

In view of the above, through this medium, I request clarification and where possible direct action on the following:

- What is the role of the Inspectorate of labor in these cases?
- How successful is the labor office in assisting employees who have fallen victim to employers who wrongly dismiss them without adequate compensation?
- Why is the government seeking legal advice against the owner of The Towers at Mullet Bay instead of issuing the employees a yellow card? The case against the owner of the Towers at Mullet Bay can be costly and may drag on over a lengthy period of time.

Questions to Minister VSA/1

Questions to Minister VSA/2

- Why isn't the labor office mandated to represent the employees that have been wrongly dismissed or sent home without adequate compensation in court?
- How can employees be guaranteed that they are/will be rightfully compensated by their employers(s) who have received financial subsidy via the SSRP?
- What repercussions are in place for employers who have received support via the SSRP and have not passed on the payment to their employees?

I thank you in advance while I await your response.

Respectfully,



Claudius A. Buncamper  
Member of Parliament  
Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party (USP)