



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs
Ms. S.E. Jacobs
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/001/2021-2022

Philipsburg, September 14, 2021

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper regarding the water management contract and the fuel clause

Hon. Prime Minister,

Herewith I submit to you a request by Member of Parliament, MP Mr. C.A. Buncamper, according 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

Sint Maarten, September 8, 2021

President of Parliament
Parliament of Sint Maarten
Wilhelminastraat 1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 08 SEP 2021			
Volgnr. 15/990/20-21			
Par.	A	B	CP

Subject: Questions for the Council of Ministers

Dear Honorable President of Parliament:

Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament, I hereby request that you forward the attached questions to the Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of country St. Maarten.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

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



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Council of Ministers of St. Maarten
The Honorable Prime Minister Ms. S. Jacobs
Government Administration Building
Souliga Boulevard #1
St. Maarten

Questions regarding the water management contract and the fuel clause

Philipsburg September 8, 2021

Honorable Prime Minister and council,

During the last budget meeting I addressed the Minister of VROMI with various questions regarding the water management contract and also the fuel clause. Many questions until this day have remained unanswered and the need to ask these questions once again has arisen seeing the serious cost issues that are plaguing the schools, foundations, businesses, our citizens and lastly in particular our seniors. Since November 2020 until July of 2021 the fuel clause has increased with some 38% and the impact on the country is significant.

Seeing that the water management contract doesn't necessarily entail the setting of pricing for the sales of water or the fuel clause I decided to address the matter to the council directly.

With regards to the water management contract I have the following questions;

1. When was the last contract signed and what is the management fee for NV GEBE to manage the contract per year for the government?
2. How much water is sold yearly and what is the income? Please specify for me how much is commercial and how much is residential?
3. How much income does the government derive from the sales of water yearly? Can the last 5 years be shown in a table?
4. Who covers the water loses of more than 25% yearly and what is that loss in monetary value? How is that booked off?
5. What's the yearly maintenance expenses for the management of the water contract and is this reviewed and approved yearly by the government or is there a carte blanche for GEBE to invest and do as they feel?
6. What's the yearly capital investment expenses for the water management contract and who approves such and do the procurements procedure follow the government regulations?

7. Who signed the water purchase contract and what are the following aspects of the contract;
 - a) For how long is the present water contract valid?
 - b) How much water must be produced daily and at what cost per metric ton?
 - c) Who owns the water production plants and what are their ages?
 - d) Is there an overproduction taking place presently and if so what happens to that water? Has the French side been asked if they want to purchase it?
 - e) Is there a clause that states that once you pass your minimum mark the water price becomes significantly cheaper and are we getting that price presently?
 - f) Is there a take or pay clause and what is it exactly?

The government schools and various subsidized government entities and foundations are presently charged a commercial water rate presently of some Naf 20,36 per metric ton.

This rate is based on a Naf 8,- per metric ton sales rate and a Naf 12,528866 fuel clause rate per metric ton. Based on the above and the already tightened budget of various schools and foundations I have the following questions;

8. Who determines the criteria that the public schools and government subsidized entities and foundations must pay a commercial rate?
9. Can government intervene immediately and have this reversed and have all these government schools and subsidized entities be given a status of resident rate or a new flat government rate equal to the residential rate or even lower if possible?
10. How is the fuel clause rate calculated for the water production exactly and which factors influence the fuel clause?
11. Can the cost of the water production be explained seeing we pay the water producing company Seven Seas an amount of US\$ 1,19 per metric ton for the minimum contract amount and an amount of around 30% lower for more water?

Madame prime Minister seeing that the questions cover various ministries I decided to send the questions to the Council of Ministers as a collective body as the importance of the matter is of extreme urgency. If there's a need for any additional clarification I would gladly provide such.

I thank you in advance for your usual attention and understanding, and await your prompt response.

Respectfully,



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