



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

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

UV/042/2021-2022

Philipsburg, October 13, 2021

Re: Questions from MP M.D. Gumbs regarding export and other taxes

Hon. Minister Irion,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, MP M.D. Gumbs, according to article 62 of the Constitution and Article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

Pursuant to article 69a of the Rules of Order, if you are unable to answer the questions within three weeks please notify my person stating the underlying reason. In doing so you can send the answers that you already have and answer the remaining questions in writing within (another period of) three weeks.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament



Melissa D. Gumbs, MIB

Member of the Parliament of
Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, 4 October 2021

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President of Parliament
Mr. Rolando Brison
Wilhelminastraat 1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Subject: Questions to Minister of Finance Regarding Export and Other Taxes

Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order, I request your assistance with forwarding a set of questions to the Minister of Finance, the Honorable Minister Ardwell Irion. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Respectfully,

Melissa D. Gumbs, M.I.B.
Member of Parliament
Faction Leader, Party for Progress



Melissa D. Gumbs, MIB

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, 4 October 2021

Minister Ardwell Irion
Ministry of Finance
Soualiga Road 1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Honorable Minister Irion:

As we continue to fight the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been much discussion regarding tax reform and the introduction of new taxes, as well as the abolishment of others. One of the concerns highlighted in the general public has been regarding the retail tax, as well as an export tax that is being applied to goods and services leaving the country. With these considerations in mind, I have the following questions regarding both subjects:

1. Is it the intention of the Ministry of Finance to incentivize or discourage for the exportation of goods and services from Country St. Maarten to the wider world?
2. Is the waiver previously provided to companies who engage in re-exporting still applicable?
 - a. If yes, what are the requirements for companies to engage in this economic activity?
 - b. If not, when and why was this decision made? If we look at competitors to this particular economic activity, for example the CARICOM countries and the US, there are no export taxes, thus allowing for economic stimulation and participation by small and medium enterprises.
3. If the waiver has been removed, what considerations have been given to those enterprises that engage in export or re-exporting, in order to mitigate the risk of the already high cost of doing business inflating to an unsustainable point?
4. Regarding the much-discussed retail tax, would everything that is imported have to be consigned to people who are legally registered to receive goods or would it be possible to consign goods to an unregistered party? The untaxed purchases (for example, Amazon) coming in via handlers is only a part of what is being untaxed. One could assume there is much more coming in via containers that is being sold to unregistered parties. Unless there is going to be legislation that all receiving parties must be registered traders, then we can already predict the loopholes.

Respectfully,

Melissa D. Gumbs, MIB
Member of Parliament
Party for Progress

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