



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor
Mr. O.E.C. Ottley
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/050/2021-2022

Philipsburg, October 19, 2021

Re: Questions from MP R. Brison regarding challenges in the areas of housing, care-giving and medical care of our senior citizens

Hon. Minister Ottley,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, MP Mr. R. Brison, 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



Rolando Brison
Member of the Parliament of
Sint Maarten

To:

The Hon. President of Parliament
Mr. Rolando Brison
Parliament of St. Maarten
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 12 OCT 2021			
Volgnr. 15/112/21-22			
Par.	✓	✓	CMG

Philipsburg, October 8th, 2021

RE: Letter to the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Mr. Omar Ottley

Hon. President of Parliament,

Kindly receive the attached letter addressed to the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Mr. Omar Ottley of for further processing.

Sincerely,


Rolando Brison



Rolando Brison

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Hon. Minister of Public Health, Labor and Social Affairs
Omar Ottley
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg
Sint Maarten

Philipsburg October 8th, 2021

Hon. Minister Ottley,

I would like to recognize and applaud the Government's continued efforts to improve the well-being and care of our senior citizens. The country's rapidly changing age demographic confirms that we are facing a critical health care challenge which is predicted to grow and outpace many other population demographic indicators over the coming years. An aging population will bring new challenges with an increased demand in the areas of housing, care-giving, and medical care.

The challenge:

As indicated above the median age of our population is increasing. This translates to a greater burden on the hospital and our nursing home facilities, it also increases the demand for in-home and family caregivers, resulting in what is referred to by medical professionals as "caregiver burnout". The fact that a great number of the population is already over the age of 50 means that many of these issues are upon us right now.

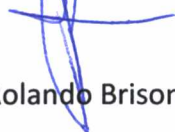
Based on the above, please provide the Members of Parliament with the answers to the following questions:

1. What is the Minister's views on the immediate concern to the elderly and their families?
2. Can the SMMC keep up with the demand for hospital beds for elderly care, especially with covid concerns?
3. I understand that there are concerns and frustration by family members who give care to their elderly, are family members equipped with the means to assist those elderly in their care, in the event of an emergency?

4. Has the Minister considered options to alleviate these concerns, outside of expanding facilities which can prove to be expensive?
5. Is there an in-home care solution?
6. Are there any technological advancements that the Minister is aware of that can help improve the care for our pensioners?
7. Has the Minister considered elderly persons who are neglected or abused by caregivers?
8. How can those vulnerable individuals reach out to authorities or caregivers for assistance?
9. COVID-19 has impacted the way we provide (emergency) health care. This is especially so for the elderly. Can we ensure the quality of healthcare for our elderly who do not have access to for example SMMC?
10. What percentage of the population is older than 50yrs?

I trust to have informed you sufficiently and look forward to receiving the answers to these questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rolando Brison', with a large, stylized flourish.

Rolando Brison