



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Justice
Ms. A.E. Richardson
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/069/2021-2022

Philipsburg, November 2, 2021

Re: Questions from MP A.E. Arrindell regarding the departure of the police in providing assistance to the MHF

Hon. Minister Richardson,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. A.E. Arrindell (IS/197/2021-2022 dated November 1, 2021), 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



Akeem E. Arrindell

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten

To:
The President of Parliament
The Honorable Mr. R. Brison
Parliament of St. Maarten
Wilhelminastraat # 1,
Philipsburg, St. Maarten



October 29th, 2021

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 Minister of Justice, the Honorable Anna E. Ridchardson.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Akeem. E. Arrindell



Member of Parliament
United St. Maarten Party.



Akeem E. Arrindell

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten

To:

The Minister of Justice,
The Honorable Anna E. Richardson,
Government Administration Building,
Soulaliga Road # 1,
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

October 29th, 2021

Subject: Departure of Police

Dear Minister Richardson,

The situation surrounding the care of mental health patients admitted to the Mental Health Foundation (MHF) and persons with mental health issues roaming the streets and the rising incidents involving violence and bodily harm while subduing such persons is of concern. Several incidents involving violence have occurred while providing service or assistance to persons suffering from mental illness. These incidents are on a rise and there was a case that resulted in the death of a patient in a holding cell.

In recent years there were several incidents that required restraining actions due to the violent behavior of patients, that led to injuries to the patient, police officers and/or nurses. It is of tantamount importance to improve the quality of service to the mental health patients, as well as the workers providing the service. The Police Force (KPSM) has played a major role in assisting the MHF when called upon. This assistance was established in a Protocol on December 10th 2018. KPSM's assistance does not come as a surprise, as the police officers are trained and well versed in applying and subduing force. However, it was recently brought to my attention that the KPSM has ceased it's assistance to the MHF.



Akeem E. Arrindell

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten

Taking the above into account, I hereby put forward the following questions to you.

1. Is the established Protocol of December 10th, 2018 still in place? If so, does it mean that the Police can be called upon by the MHF for assistance when needed?
2. On July 25th 2021 you mentioned the launching of an in depth investigation into the death of a mental health patient while in detention in a holding facility at the House of Detention under supervision of MHF. Have you in the meantime received the outcome of this investigation? If yes, can you apprise me of the contents thereof?
3. Is the House of Detention still providing a facility to MHF for temporary placement of their patients? If yes? How does this relate to the fact that the police are no longer assisting MHF?
4. Are the patients transferred and accompanied by the police for detention at the House of Detention?
5. How long are patients isolated while in detention at the House of Detention?
6. Does the MHF provide 24 hours service to their patients during the time that the patient is in detention in the holding facility at the House of Detention?
7. Is there any policy in place to deal with incidents involving mental patients, whereby intervention of the Police is warranted?
8. If KPSM has indeed terminated its assistance to MHF, are there any policies in place for KPSM to continue rendering assistance to the workers at MHF, specifically the nurses who are directly involved with restraining violent patients?
9. Police officers have trained to deal with violent persons, and must be prepared to act, resist and prevent any possible harm, and in the event of successfully restraining a violent patients with aggressive behavior. Will you, in cooperation with the Minister of VSA, consider providing similar training to the MHF nurses, who are directly involved with restraining violent mental health patients?
10. Would you consider appointing nurses that provide assistance to mental health patients as "Buitengewoon Agent van Politie" as a further means of protection?



Akeem E. Arrindell

Member of Parliament

Sint Maarten

I thank you, honorable minister, for your kind attention and looking forward to your prompt replies to the questions and concerns mentioned above.

Respectfully,



Akeem E. Arrindell



Member of Parliament
United St. Maarten Party