



# 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/088/2020-2021

Philipsburg, December 8, 2020

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper regarding the contractor working at TELeM

Hon. Prime Minister,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed 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

Sint Maarten, December 1, 2020

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

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 01 DEC 2020			
Volgnr. 15/213/20-21			
Par.	J	V	AG

Subject: Questions for Prime Minister.

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, the Honorable Silveria Jacobs.

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

Prime Minister  
Silveria Jacobs  
Government Administration Building  
Soualiga Boulevard #1  
St. Maarten

Ref: Questions regarding contractor working at TeLEm

Philipsburg, December 1, 2020

Honorable Prime Minister Jacobs,

It has been brought to my attention that in the previous contract between Telem and MER Sint Maarten B.V. a number of local contractors, who were sub-contracted by MER Sint Maarten B.V., have been left hanging with huge unpaid invoices for the work they carried out. Some of the local sub-contractors have taken MER Sint Maarten B.V. to courts and won their cases, but there are no assets and no money that can be seized in order to pay the local sub-contractors. I believe that MER Sint Maarten has since filed for bankruptcy, but I have no confirmation to substantiate this. I have learned also that the mother company MER in Israel has a court case against TELEM.

If this is the case, then this turns out to be a very disturbing situation seeing that MER Sint Maarten B.V. was the company working for the government owned company TeLEm. No arrangements for securities were in place to protect the subcontractors in the event of a breach of the contract.

Presently there is a new contractor doing the fiber network for TELEM. Based on the above, I hereby pose the following questions;

- 1) Is there any clause in the present contract between TELEM and the current contractor to protect the local contractors from being duped again?
- 2) If there is no such clause, will government ensure that such a clause is included in the present contract in order to protect the subcontractors?
- 3) Will government, through the labor department, review and adjust the policies for doing business on the island to ensure that the local labor market is protected from exploitation and abused when foreign companies leave the island?
- 4) Why was the mother company of MER Sint Maarten B.V. not compelled to guarantee the works of MER Sint Maarten B.V. seeing that the work contract was signed with the mother company and **NOT** with MER Sint Maarten B.V.

- 5) There are numerous complaints that many of the subcontractors working for the new contractor K-N are employing illegal foreign laborers. I suggest that Government ensures that the competent authorities carry out regular worksite visits to prevent these illegalities from occurring.
- 6) Can government also verify with SZV if the existing workers are duly insured by the companies?

Seeing the serious issues we are having in this country with a shortage of jobs, local must be protected that the available jobs are for them and not for the undocumented foreigners in our country.

I thank you in advance while I await your response.

Respectfully,



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