



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport  
Drs. R.E. Samuel  
Government Administration Building  
Philipsburg

UV/130/2020-2021

Philipsburg, February 5, 2021

Re: Questions from MP M.D. Gumbs and MP R.A. Peterson regarding status update on NIPA

Hon. Minister Samuel,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Members of Parliament, Ms. M.D. Gumbs and Mr. R.A. Peterson, 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

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PFP Faction



## Members of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, 1 February 2021

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

Subject: PFP Questions to Minister of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports

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 ECYS, the Honorable Minister Rodolphe E. Samuel. 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

Raeyhon A. Peterson, LL.M.  
Member of Parliament



## PFP Faction

# Members of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, 1 February 2021

Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports  
Drs. Rodolphe E. Samuel  
Soualiga Road 1  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Subject: Status Update of the National Institute for Professional Advancement (NIPA)

Honorable Minister Samuel:

Since opening its doors, the National Institute for Professional Advancement (NIPA) has helped vocational students further their studies and land in careers that match their skill sets and professional goals. With Hurricane Irma and the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of such an institution was made even more apparent. It is with this in mind that we submit the following questions to your person:

1. What are the current enrollment numbers for NIPA?
2. What is the current financial status of NIPA?
  - a. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the finances of the institution?
  - b. Have any cuts been made to mitigate any financial issues, i.e. suspending board stipends, spending adjustments at management level, adjusting course hours, etc?
3. It was brought to our attention that the Director of NIPA, Mr. Sergio Blomont, is no longer carrying out his function at NIPA. This was made apparent by an announcement at the school's January 2021 graduation ceremony, introducing the 'Interim Director Jan McIntoch.'
  - a. What is the reason for Mr. Blomont's apparent removal?
  - b. What is the duration of the Interim Director's term?

Thank you in advance for your responses, which we kindly request be sent within two weeks' time.

Respectfully,

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

Raeyhon A. Peterson, LLM  
Member of Parliament