



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor
Mr. R.J.J. Panneflek
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/139/2020-2021

Philipsburg, February 15, 2021

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper the vaccine roll out and cooperation

Hon. Minister Panneflek,

Herewith I submit to you a request by Members of Parliament, Mr. C.A. Buncamper, according 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, February 11, 2021

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

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek.	11 FEB 2021
Volgnr.	15/395/20.21
Par.	AB Ad

Subject: Questions for Minister of VSA.

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 VSA, the Honorable Richard Panneflek.

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

Minister of VSA
Mr. Richard J.J. Panneflek
Government Administration Building
Soualiga Boulevard #1
St. Maarten

Ref: Questions regarding vaccine roll out and cooperation agreement signed

Philipsburg February 11th 2021

Honorable Minister Panneflek,

Please allow me to congratulate you and the Ministry of VSA on the progress being made in combatting the spread of COVID-19 and the planned roll out of the vaccine.

Many people are quite uncertain about taking the vaccine, articles such as that of 15-elderly dying after taking the vaccine in the Netherlands contribute to that uncertainty.

I request that special attention is given to the seniors on our island, particularly as it pertains to providing information about their health risks and the facilities and services available to them. **Please provide an explanation to them regarding the cause of death of the 15 elderly recipients of the vaccine in the Netherlands:** there is no room for fear due to lack of credible information or misinformation. If we are counting on the vaccine to provide the protection it is intended to provide, then we should also ensure that those in a position do so, in fact get credible messages out to the public.

We have absolutely no control on the rest of the world population being vaccinated, however we need to get our economy back up and running and one way to do so is to create an environment in which our community is protected. That protection can be achieved by getting vaccinated. If we protect our community and lower the risk of our residents getting infected or spreading the disease, we increase the economic opportunities for our people and sooner rather than later be in a position to freely welcome our visitors from the US, Canada, Europe and the region back to the friendly island.

Can you kindly provide a timeline to vaccinate the population (registered and unregistered) of St. Maarten? Also provide insight into the source from which the Netherlands is purchasing the vaccines?

I was somewhat surprised to read in the daily papers that on Wednesday February 10th a collaboration agreement was signed between the 4 countries in the Caribbean Netherlands regarding medical care particularly with respect to medical care at hospitals in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. **While I applaud the collaboration within the Kingdom and favor a relationship in which the countries and entities support each other, does this agreement have any bearing on the country packages and the COHO which thus far are pending handling and approval by parliament?** I refer in particular to F2 in the Country Package under the heading "Care", (subsection F page 16).


If the above is true, the impression is created that government is expecting the Parliament to rubber stamp the proposed packages and entity, which is starting to become habitual, creating an impression that the democratic parliamentary rule is slowly deteriorating. The importance of the law is known and understood, but we agreed that the Prime Minister would come to the house of parliament and explain the law and the country package in detail. The Prime Minister has not been forthcoming with this commitment, however in the media reports the impression is given that the government is proceeding as would be said colloquially "like no body business".

The country packages still need to be properly worked out by the stakeholders and vetted, or is that simply proceeding as well? What are the consequences of these signed agreements should the parliament deviate from the proposal currently on the table? Finally, what is the role of the SMMC in this agreement of collaboration that was recently signed?

I look forward to receiving the answers to these questions and hope that the answers will provide the clarity sought.

Thanks you in advance for your answers I'll await them.

Respectfully,



Claudius A. Buncamper
Member of Parliament

Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party