



# 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/192/2020-2021

Philipsburg, April 12, 2021

Re: Questions from MP S.L. Duncan regarding mental healthcare and social services

Hon. Minister Panneflek,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. S.L. Duncan 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. Bryson  
President of Parliament



# SOLANGE LUDMILA DUNCAN

MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF  
SINT MAARTEN

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. n 7 APR 2021			
Volgnr. <i>S/562/20-21</i>			
Par.	<i>A</i>		GR

April 7, 2021

Rolando Brison  
President of Parliament  
Wilhelminastraat #1  
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

**RE: Questions to Minister of VSA regarding mental healthcare and social services**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament, I hereby request that you forward the attached questions to the Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, Honorable Richard Panneflek.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Solange Ludmila Duncan**  
Member of Parliament



# SOLANGE LUDMILA DUNCAN

## MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN

April 7, 2021

Hon. Richard Panneflek  
Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor  
Government Administration Building  
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

**RE: Inquiry into the Ministry of VSA's policies on mental health and social services**

Dear Minister Panneflek,

Covid-19 has not only had a tremendous effect on our economy but on our healthcare sector as well ; especially mental health and social services. The Ministry of Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA) has a responsibility to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens receive the full range of welfare services possible to them as per the law.

In order to ascertain the Ministry of VSA's current policies and processes as it regards mental health service provision, I hereby ask the following questions;

1. There has been a visible increase in mentally ill persons walking on the public roads. Has the Ministry liaised with the Mental Health Foundation or other institutions to ascertain the demand for additional services?
2. Is there any coordination amongst various Ministries to increase budget provision to the Mental Health Foundation and other social organizations?
3. Our senior citizens have always been dependent on their families and various support organizations to receive food but also emotional and physical support. Are there any new initiatives aimed at seniors who may have been negatively impacted by Covid-19?
4. Currently, what is the scope of social services being provided to residents who have lost their jobs or are in need of psychological therapy; our most vulnerable?

5. Has the Ministry taken note of the increase in homelessness and what is the Ministry actively doing to assist these persons?
6. Many residents have not physically visited their doctors for about one year now and some clinics have not re-opened for walk-ins. Is the Ministry monitoring the provision of telemedicine and teletherapy on the island and what will be the general policy going forward?
7. Is data being collected on the impact of Covid-19 on the healthcare sector with possible recommendations? Will there be a State of Health report? If yes, when can this report be expected?

Thank you for your cooperation Minister and I look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards,



**Solange Ludmila Duncan**  
Member of Parliament

CC: *President of Parliament*  
*Secretary General of Parliament*