



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/292/2020-2021

Philipsburg, July 8, 2021

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper regarding questions posed during the Budget 2021

Hon. Minister Samuel,

Herewith I submit to you questions from Member of Parliament, MP 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

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

Sint Maarten, July 6, 2021

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN	
Ingek. 06 JUL 2021	
Volgnr.	15/070/20-2
Par.	AG

Subject: Questions for Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports

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 ECYS, the Honorable Minister Rudolphe Samuel.

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

Philipsburg, July 6, 2021

The Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
Drs. Rudolphe E. Samuel,
Government Administration Building,
Soualiga Road # 1,
Philipsburg,
St. Maarten.

Subject: Budget questions.

Honorable Minister Rudolphe Samuel,

During the budget 2021 debate recently held I requested that all questions asked be turned over in writing to us but to no avail. Please find below all questions that I have posed on the floor of parliament during the debate.

POLICIES

1. Can the government give any sense of direction and timeframe when it comes to the evaluation of the Foundation Based education method? It's been running for nearly 20 years now
2. Have any monies been allocated in the budget of the ministry be it operation/capital to ensure that the Prins Willem Alexander school roof be completed before we get a hurricane and we suffer another serious setback with the school?
3. Can a timeframe be given for the research been done regarding the SMVTS and the Public education? Can also an indication be given why the minister deemed it necessary to have such a research done at this time?
4. The reorganization of the DPE is based on a CoM decision of 2017. What exactly does that decision say and can we get a copy of said?
5. With regards to the school bus policy that is still in the making, can we get an indication of how many persons that are moving schoolchildren are licensed through economic affairs for such or is just a free for all?

Schoolboards + employees / Education

6. Who selects and appoints the members of the school boards and how is this process done? Is there an ordinance for such?
7. Board members maximum durations of school boards should have a maximum term of 8 years. Will such be considered as we have board members that are there for donkey years creating tunnel vision that is not in the best interest of education system. We need a vision

change and government should set conditions to their subsidy. Will government execute these types of condition settings to the subsidy

8. What's the policy of scholarships versus the job market availability?
9. Are the thousand's of work permits presently being granted tied to returning students or not to ensure they can get a job?
10. The student support policy is based on what all exactly; job market needs, grades, place of study etc.
11. I asked before if the Ministry/Government would tie the scholarship program to a job contract so when our graduated students return home they can get a job, instead of begging for something? We need to start protecting ALL jobs in the country for our own people. Is this something government can execute or wants to execute?
12. The Foundation Based Education was introduced some 19 years ago and until this day has not been evaluated.
 - a. If the process, in this case the FBE Curriculum, is working as it was intended to. *Can we not see the based on the results what's happening.*
 - b. Whether the goals set are being met. *Can we verify this now*
 - c. Whether there is a need to make adjustments. *Is this presently not clear that it's not yielding the fruits it was too.*Why is it taking so long and who will do this evaluation and based on what and when?
13. What's the vision for the maritime program at NIPA and what's the government's policy on the Maritime program besides building a boat for the regatta?
14. How do we expect to train teachers modern education (innovation in education) when the curriculum is outdated?
15. Based on information reaching me, many of the management teaching staff at NIPA are brought in from abroad, teaching in their country's model, which differs from our models as stipulated by National ordinance. This can affect the graduates' diplomas and certificate's if these are not recognized by the examination board of our own country. Has this issue been addressed and if yes what's the outcome?
16. There's a standoff brewing between the 9 subsidized schoolboards and the Minister of education and based on there last letter exchange of June 25th 2021 this will lead right into a mayor issue when the school year opens. What is the government's intention on resolving this matter, seeing its based on the presently still unratified laws that are being implemented to comply with the 2nd tranche liquidity support?
17. When is the program "Fostering Resilience Learning Project" when it comes to the rebuilding of the Charles Leopold Bell school to start? Can a timeframe other than sometime in the future be given?
18. I'm surprised that the implementation and monitoring of St. Maarten Vocational Training School (SMVTS) transformation Plans in collaboration with Division Public Education will be



done this year yet when I was answered that at present the whole research for said schools was still ongoing. When exactly will the research be finished?

19. Can you indicate to us which schools will be repaired during the summer so at least those kids can look forward to some sort of relief when they start the new schoolyear?
20. Minister when it comes to the school bus policy and I read your answers given its clear that you have absolutely no clue what's happening with regards to the policy and who is licensed to move the children under your ministry's responsibility. A policy that cost government any place between 3.5 – 4.0 million a year wouldn't it be efficient if that truly gets some priority instead of listing many reasons why it couldn't instead of finding one reason how we could do it?
21. What exactly is done with the Naf 41.000,- per year or say Naf 205,- per school day among the public schools to have the feeding program carried out?
22. When I asked about the equality in vacation pay for the teachers, you indicated that at present there's no legal basis to cut any monthly subsidies established by National decree. So I ask now once again; Is 10% being cut from the schoolboards monthly subsidized amount yes or no?
23. The ministry presently has no legal basis to not maintain equal treatment of its teachers and yet it does not apply equal treatment. Why is that and isn't this an illegal act by the ministry? Please note the temporary laws have NOT been ratified and are thus NOT law. So why is the government of Sint Maarten presently ensuring compliance with the measures as stipulated by the Dutch Government in terms of cutting the personnel budget by 12.5%
24. Must I understand that many schoolboards are being confronted with unqualified teachers and have been given a 2-year dispensation period so the teachers can be upgraded through the Professional Development Program? If yes how many teachers are we talking about and at which schools all?
25. Are there any plans to extend the afterschool programs at the public schools so all kids can attend going to public schools instead of what's happening now?
26. While I know we are half way through the year will the youth desk be reimplemented in 2021 yet?

As awaiting your response, I thank you in advance for your usual attention and understanding.

Respectfully,



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