Motion (2012/2013, No. 05)
Breakfast Program

Motion - Romain Laville;
Independent Faction Member in the Parliament of Country Sint Maarten, with its address at
Parliament Building, Wilhelmina Street 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten.

Considering:

1. the fact that many children go to school hungry every single day, as a result of parents not
   being able to provide proper meals in the morning; due to this fact, many children
   experience difficulties concentrating on their academics;

2. the fact that there are many households on the island that are struggling to make ends meet,
   often with one income provider;

3. the fact that Government has not entered into any public-private partnerships where
   incentives are offered to companies to establish a breakfast program for primary schools;

4. Article 6 of the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child (survival and development),
   "Children have the right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and
   develop healthily;"

5. Article 24 of the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child (health and health services),
   "Children have the right to good quality health care – the best health care possible – to safe
   drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them
   stay healthy...;"

6. a research article entitled The Impact of Health and Nutrition on Education, protein-energy
   malnutrition and iron-deficiency anemia have significant negative effects on the brain
   function, cognitive learning, and social behaviors of children, on school attendance, and
   academic achievement; better health and nutrition are positively associated with gains in
   schooling in areas that include, but are not limited to, enrollment at younger ages, less grade
   repetition, less absenteeism, more grades completed, and better performance on tests
   scores (Leslie and Jamison, 1990);

7. an article entitled Nutrition and its Effects on Academic Performance, it has been found that
   proper and healthy school canteens lead to the prevention of diseases associated with poor
   diet, reductions in rates of obesity, and the development of life long healthy eating habits
   (Ross, 2010);

8. goal #1 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals which aims to eradicate
   extreme poverty and hunger;

9. the fact that the increase in the cost of living has subjected many families to purchase goods,
   which may not necessarily be healthy or nutritious in essence;
10. the fact that many public and semi-subsidized primary schools on the island do not offer breakfast programs or have canteens;

Resolves:

To request the Minister of Healthcare, Social Development, and Labor and the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports Affairs with the task of partnering with wholesalers, supermarkets, restaurants, and other companies on the island, by means of incentives, to create a breakfast program for all primary schools on the island;

and proceeds to the order of the day.

Signed on this 17th day of April, 2013.

Romain J. Laville, MP

Copies of this motion to be sent to:
The Governor of Sint Maarten
The Government of Sint Maarten
The Council of Advice of Sint Maarten
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