



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports  
Mr. W.S. Smith  
**Philipsburg**

UV/284/2017-2018

Philipsburg, August 21, 2018

Re: Questions from MP T.E. Leonard pertaining to the status of the committee to evaluate the teaching profession & the status of school repairs

Hon. Minister Smith,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. T.E. Leonard 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,



S.A. Wescot-Williams  
President of Parliament





From the Desk of

**Tamara E. Leonard**

Member of Parliament

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN

Ingek. 17 AUG 2018

Volgnr. 15/1857/17-10

Par. *J. V. N. J.*

Chairlady of Parliament  
Sarah Wescot-Williams  
Present

Philipsburg, Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2018

Subject: Questions to the Minister of Education pertaining to the status of the Committee to evaluate the teaching profession & the status of school repairs.

Honorable President,

The school year 2018-2019 kicked off on Monday August 2013 with recent press releases and statements such as “a shortage of 44 teachers at the start of the new school year”, “teacher’s union seek meeting with Minister Smith”, “18 teachers absent first day of school at PSVE” & “Minister Smith urging more young men in our community to become teachers”, dominating the media headlines.

Madam President, the former Minister of Education, a few months prior to the ending of her tenure, established in collaboration with the Witu a committee to strengthen the position of teachers in our society, create possibilities to broaden career development, lesson the burden on our teachers, etc. I am sure that such a committee would be the perfect platform to discuss and propose solutions for the current challenges in our education system, that have led to the headings and statements mentioned above. It is for this reason that I am requesting to Minister to provide an update on the status of this committee.

Another matter I would like to request the Minister to provide clarification on, is that of the repairs of our schools. It has been almost 12 months since the passing of Hurricane Irma. Yet, we seldom read or hear about any press releases pertaining to school repairs that are taking place. Almost all classrooms have roofs, doors, windows, ceiling fans, etc. that need to be repaired or fully replaced, while our teachers and students have to also deal with rising classroom temperatures.

Madam President I would like to ask the Minister of Education the following questions:

- 1) What is the status of the committee established by the previous minister of Education in collaboration with the Witu, to evaluate the teaching profession on Sint Maarten?
- 2) How many times has the committee met already?
- 3) Have results been presented to the Minister?





- 4) What is the status of repairs of all public and subsidized schools on the island?
- 5) Are our schools insured for the 2018 hurricane season?
- 6) What percentage of the insurance claim has gone towards the repairs of the schools so far?
- 7) When will the final settlement take place?
- 8) Which school boards have received funds from government for repairs to date?
- 9) Which schools are still making use of the pavilions?
- 10) When will the bidding process for the repairs of public schools take place?
- 11) To what extent has hurricane Irma placed an even bigger burden on our Public schools where it pertains to subsidized schools denying students entrance because of lack of space?

I look forward to a prompt, yet comprehensive and clean response to my questions.

Respectfully,

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Ms. Tamara E. Leonard  
Member of Parliament

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