To the Hon. Minister of Finance
Mr. A.M.R. Irion
Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/252/2019-2020

Philipsburg, April 2, 2020

Re: Questions from MP M.D. Gumbs regarding Stimulus package

Hon. Minister Irion,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. M.D. Gumbs 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. Brison
President of Parliament
Good afternoon Honorable Minister,

Regarding the attached, please note that the PPF faction has the following comments:

1. We would like further clarification from the Minister on question 45, regarding resource management. The question was pertaining more to the potential influx of administrative work with these programs and plans in place, and how the respective and responsible departments would handle them. I don’t believe the EDC will be doing administrative work while also burdened with managing the crisis itself, so from a staffing perspective, what support will be implemented to mitigate this?

2. MP Petersen sent the attached email to the Minister separately and this may have been not included in the Minister’s document. We have therefore not received an answer on the question and would like the Minister’s attention to it.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in replying to the Minister.

Best regards,

Melissa D. Gumbs
Member of Parliament
PPF Faction
Good afternoon Honourable Minister.

My apologies for this second email on the same topic. It’s been brought to our attention some confusion around a particular group in light of the stimulus package. I am writing to the businesses and workers in the Province. In many cases when working in a bar or restaurant, many employees must work a check for their monthly paycheck because of the ad hoc style of employing. Some employees don’t have bank accounts (Dutch citizens). In light of the package I see that the goal is to get everyone some compensation, along the lines of the principle of equality.

We know that the statement that two weeks ago told all employers to pay their employees with the exception of 2 kitchen staff numbers and two outside staff numbers, while the business employs more than 15 persons in total in a normal week. These staff numbers were told not to some extent they were contained (bar/taco, cleaning staff etc), some businesses have already started laying off people.

Keeping that in mind we would like to suggest that perhaps through a joint venture with the Inspectors TEATT that a check be done by those businesses to confirm how many employees are actually working, to make sure that all get the proper compensation, and to prevent that employers messed up the system during this short term stimulus package plan. Just to make sure that some of the monies do not get lost into the wrong hands in the midst of all of this.

Kind regards,

Raphaël Peterson, LLM
Minister of Parliament
Parliament of St. Martin

On Mar 30, 2020, at 1:26 PM, Melissa D. Gunits <Melissa.Gunitis@Parliament.gov.ms> wrote:

Good afternoon, Honourable Minister,

Please see attached the questions and feedback of the PNP Faction, regarding the short stimulus plan that was sent to Parliament last week. It would appear that the email sent last Friday did not, in fact, send properly. Our apologies for the late submission of questions and we understand if they may be answered at a later date than in the meeting scheduled for 14:00 today.

Best regards,

Melissa D. Gunits
Minister of Parliament

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