To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Affairs
Mr. drs. R.E. Samuel
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/294/2019-2020

Philipsburg, May 19, 2020

Re: Questions from MP M.D. Gumbs and MP R.A. Peterson regarding exam class students MPC

Hon. Minister Samuel,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Members of Parliament, Ms. M.D. Gumbs and Mr. R.A. Peterson pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The latter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament
Sint Maarten, 18 May 2020

President of Parliament  
Parliament of St. Maarten  
Wilhelminstraat 1  
Phillipsburg, St. Maarten

Subject: Questions for Minister of ECYS

Dear Honorable President of Parliament:

Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament, we hereby request that you forward the attached questions to the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports, the Honorable Minister Drs. Rudolph Samuel. Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Ms. Melissa D. Gumbs, M.I.B.  
Member of Parliament  
PFP Faction Leader

Mr. Raeyhon A. Peterson, LL.M  
Member of Parliament
PFP Faction

Members of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Minister Drs. Rudolph Samuel
Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sports
Soualiga Road 1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Honorable Minister Samuel:

We took careful note of an open letter distributed by social media and the subject of a Daily Herald article on May 15 by students of the Milton Peters’ College’s VWO exam class. The impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on global education and academics cannot be understated and calls for collaborative communication and consultation prior to making decisions. With this in mind, the PFP faction has the following questions for the Minister:

1. Has the Minister reviewed and read said letter?
2. What spot-assessments have been made, with MPC and other schools, to identify the quality and effectiveness of their online learning experience since March 2020?
3. What provisions will the Minister be implementing to facilitate online learning for potential future scenarios where it may be required?
4. What measures will be put in place to protect students who have to physically go to school to take their exams?
5. Did the Minister or the outgoing caretaker Minister receive and review the 24 March 2020 document titled Tweede Kamer, vergaderjaar 2019-2020, 31 289, nr. 416?
6. Did the Minister hold any consultation with the SVOBE school board and MPC management in or since March 2020 with regards to the content of the above-mentioned Tweede Kamer document?
7. Did the alignment as discussed in the above-mentioned Tweede Kamer document take place with the Minister and/or the outgoing caretaker Minister?

Given the short time-frame between the decision’s announcement and the timeline for compliance, we would appreciate if the answers can be given by the Minister of ECYS by the end of this week.

Respectfully,

Melissa B. Guudos, M.I.B.
Member of Parliament
Faction Leader, Party for Progress

Raelynn A. Peterson, LL.M
Member of Parliament
Party for Progress

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