



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Justice
Ms. A.E. Richardson
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/335/2019-2020

Philipsburg, June 19, 2020

Re: Questions from MP M.D. Gumbs and MP R.A. Peterson regarding call to undocumented persons to voluntarily leave Sint Maarten

Hon. Minister Richardson,

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 letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament



PFP Faction

Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, 15 June 2020

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

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
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Par.	H	V	GR

Subject: Questions for Minister of Justice

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 Justice, the Honorable Minister Anna Richardson. Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

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

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



PFP Faction

Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, 15 June 2020

Minister Anna Richardson
Ministry of Justice
Soualiga Road 1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Honorable Minister Richardson:

The Party for Progress Faction has taken note of your statements in the Council of Ministers press briefing of 10 June 2020, as well as your subsequent interviews on various radio stations on Friday, 12 June 2020, regarding the call to illegal immigrants/undocumented persons to voluntarily leave Sint Maarten shores for their country of origin. While the intention is clear (to finally tackle our long-running illegal immigration problem) and we do agree that it must be addressed, we do have several questions regarding the Ministry's planning and overall execution of such an undertaking:

1. Is your declaration meant to be an execution of article 15 of the Landsverordening Toelating en Uitzetting (the LTU) and, if so, what legal basis is being utilized for the execution of the article, to ensure that Sint Maarten is not in violation of international human rights laws and conventions?
2. Please inform of the following:
 - a. What is the duration of time for the 'voluntary departure' period?
 - b. When will detainment and deportation efforts commence?
 - c. Where will detainees be held until their deportation is executed?
3. Considering the 'public secret' of undocumented persons crossing the borders to evade immigration-related events and efforts, were the relevant authorities of the French Side of the island informed of this ministerial plan prior to the announcement made, to allow their authorities time to prepare for the potential cross-border after-effects?
4. In your press tour, you mentioned that the residency permit process will be stopped.
 - a. Does this include renewals/extensions of existing residency permits?
 - b. Will consideration be given to those persons who may have been in the process of filing their requests and/or renewals and then found themselves in a COVID-19 related lockdown?
5. Illegal immigration, worldwide, is fueled by many factors, one of which is the continued exploitation by companies and individuals of illegal immigrants. What disciplinary measures (fines, closures, etc) will the Ministry implement and execute for companies and/or persons who have hired illegal immigrants or falsified documentation in order to hire illegal immigrants?

We kindly request that the answers be given by the Minister within one week.

Respectfully,

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

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