



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor
Mr. R.J.J. Panneflek
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/363/2019-2020

Philipsburg, July 13, 2020

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper regarding unemployment benefits

Hon. Minister Panneflek,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mr. C.A. Buncamper 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,

W.V. Marlin
Vice President of Parliament



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, July 6th 2020

President of Parliament
Parliament of Sint Maarten
Wilhelmina straat 1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN		
Ingek. 06 JUL 2020		
Volgnr. 15/1022/19-20		
Par.	JUB	AG

Subject: Questions for Minister of VSA

Dear Honorable President of Parliament:

Pursuant to article 69 of the Rules of Order of Parliament, I hereby request that you forward the attached questions to the Minister of VSA, the Honorable Minister Richard Panneflek.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully,

Claudius A. Buncamper
Member of Parliament
Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Minister of VSA
Mr. Richard J.J. Panneflek
Government Administration Building
Soulaliga Boulevard #1
St. Maarten

Ref: Questions regarding unemployment benefits

Philipsburg July 6th 2020

Honorable Minister Panneflek,

Below is a complaint that I received and I decided to ask the relevant questions in order to get the correct answers.

“The unemployment benefit doesn’t seem to work. Lots of people applied for it but got a food box instead. Food box doesn’t pay the bills. When you send an email to complain, nobody answers.”

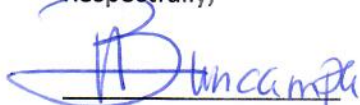
Based on the above complaint I have the following questions;

1. How many persons have applied for financial assistance and how many have been denied or granted a food box instead?
2. Are any arrangements being made for the persons requesting financial assistance to help cover their water and electricity bills? Paying the water and electricity bills of those in need is also a form of providing assistance, while ensuring that GEBE doesn’t remain with too many unpaid outstanding bills. The average of the applicant’s last 6 months bills can be used to avoid any abuse. The amount in excess of the last 6 months average will be for the consumer.
3. How often does a recipient receive a food box? How long are the contents of the food boxes expected to last the recipients?
4. What is the average value of the food boxes compared to the unemployment benefits due to Covid19?
5. Is there a timeframe for the persons requesting financial assistance to get a response?
6. Many applications for financial assistance are being jeopardized because the applicants are not receiving their stamped documents from the tax office / receivers. Can’t this requirement be waved seeing that it is the government that is unable comply? Or is this statement incorrect?

7. How is the process for application for unemployment benefits going? Which entities or departments handle the intake, approval and disbursements?
8. If there are different entities involved, is there proper sharing of information? Please explain exactly how the process works so that I too can understand it correctly.

I thank you in advance while I await your response.

Respectfully,



Claudius A. Buncamper
Member of Parliament
Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party