



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

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

UV/371/2019-2020

Philipsburg, July 21, 2020

Re: Questions from MP A.J.G. Romou unanswered question unfed children and status affairs reopening school year 2020-2021

Hon. Minister Samuel,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. A.J.G. Romou 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



Angelique J.G. Romou MSc.
Member of the Parliament of
Sint Maarten

Honorable President of Parliament
Parliament of Sint Maarten
Wilhelmina Straat #1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
Ingek. 17 JUL 2020			
Volgnr. 13/1042/19-22			
Par.	1	2	10

13 July 2020

Ref: Questions for Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

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 Honorable Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport the Honorable Minister Rodolphe Samuel.

Thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,
MP Angelique J.G. Romou MSc.



Angelique J.G. Romou MSc

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Honorable Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
Drs. R. Samuel
Soualiga Rd. #1 Pond Island
St. Maarten

13 July 2020

Re: MP Angelique J.G. Romou's unanswered follow up questions on unfed children from the public schools and questions regarding the status of affairs as it pertains to the reopening of the school year 2020/2021

Dear Honorable Minister Samuel,

I hereby provide you with previous questions and new questions as it pertains to the state of affairs of Education.


My questions to you honorable minister are:

- 1. Who should be held accountable for the remaining children who were not fed in the public schools and were a part of the schools' regular feeding program as a result of COVID ?
- 2. Was the Department of Public Education communicating with the honorable Minister informing that so many children had not been fed since the month of March? If no, why not?
- 3. If yes what was done to lessen the numbers, seeing that the number remained so high?
- 4. What will be the Ministry's strategic plan moving forward to ensure that these children will continue to be fed for the months to come?
- 5. Have the Ministry considered having the PTA's from these schools reach out to the many NGOs and private institutions who usually assist with great programs like these?
- 6. We are now in the mid of July and with schools opening in a couple of weeks, how and when will parents be informed as to what to expect when school restarts on August 10th ?
- 7. Is August 10th 2020 still a feasible date to reopen schools?
- 8. What is the status of the multiple school repairs that were to be done? What does this mean for our youth, teachers and school staff when school reopens in August?

- 9. Are there any infrastructural changes being made at the schools? For example; installation of Hand Sanitizer Dispensers, extra sinks in order for children to wash hands regularly etc.?
- 10. With government experiencing liquidity issues, what has been secured for public schools to ensure they have the needed funds and assistance to properly implement safety measures at the school? For example; purchasing face masks, hand sanitizers, thermometers etc.
- 11. What safety protocols have been put in place at the schools?
- 12. What safety measures will be put in place for school staff? Especially teachers who have health issues and are vulnerable for COVID complications?
- 13. Seeing that social distancing is one of the most effective ways of mitigating COVID 19, how will social distancing take place in classrooms where there are average 25 to 30 students in a classroom?
- 14. Is the ministry promoting blended learning? If yes, how and if not, why not?
- 15. Has the Ministry put in place a contingency plan should we have to close schools once again and resort to distance learning, due to an outbreak of a second wave?
- 16. What is the plan for parents who are skeptical about having their children return to school, is there a distance learning plan in place for these children?
- 17. Have you had any conversations with Bureau Telecommunications & Post, TELEM or UTS to discuss bandwidth and connectivity at the schools and to facilitate distance learning?
- 18. With students studying in the US having to possibly return, they as well need to ensure they can stay connected and be able to follow classes online in an optimal manner and bandwidth has been an issue for years in St. Maarten, what is being done on the side of MECYS to ensure equitable education for all?
- 19. What is the Ministry's evaluation of the distance learning efforts of the public and subsidized schools that occurred from March to June? How did evaluation take place and if there is report, I would appreciate if it would be shared with parliament.

Honorable Minister as your colleague parliamentarian, it is my task to represent the people of St. Maarten and to hold Government accountable, hence my questions which are to seek answers but also to spark the creative thought process and eventually to be able to provide solutions which can only benefit the people of St. Maarten, for which we took an oath to represent and serve.

Hoping to have informed you sufficiently and I am looking forward to your answers in order to provide clarity on these questions in a timely manner.

Yours Sincerely,

MP Angelique I.G. Romou MSc.