



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport  
Drs. R.E. Samuel  
Government Administration Building  
**Philipsburg**

UV/132/2020-2021

Philipsburg, February 9, 2021

Re: Questions from MP C.A. Buncamper regarding scholarship financing of NIPA and USM courses

Hon. Minister Samuel,

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



# Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten, February 3, 2021

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

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN		
Ingek. 04 FEB 2021		
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Par.	J B	AG

Subject: Questions for Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports

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 ECYS, the Honorable Minister Rudolphe Samuel.

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

Philipsburg, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

The Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports  
Drs. Rudolphe E. Samuel,  
Government Administration Building,  
Soualiga Road # 1,  
Philipsburg,  
St. Maarten.

Subject: Scholarship financing.

Honorable Minister Rudolphe Samuel;

NIPA recently began offering associates classes for their new nursing program, and the University of St. Martin (USM) offers the secondary teachers certification and the bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. To the best of my knowledge, no scholarships or other financial assistance is offered to students attending the courses offered by NIPA and USM. While encouraging students to follow the courses has far more financial benefits for the government's coffers, this avenue is hardly or not at all pursued.

It is a known fact that government offers scholarships or other financial assistance to students wishing to further their studies in the Netherlands or the United States of America, some of which maybe following subjects similar to those offered by NIPA and/or USM. The three years nursing course at NIPA costs US\$3.500,= per year for each student, which, I am certain, is far less than what government pays for sending student abroad for similar courses.


Please let me have your reactions to the queries below, in order to provide clarity to the subject matter.

- Why aren't students who aspire to pursue their MBO (Associates) degrees not being encouraged to follow the courses offered by NIPA, instead of opting to study abroad?
- Will government consider granting scholarships or other financial assistance for this and other courses offered by NIPA and USM?
- Are there plans to offer scholarships or other financial assistance to students desirous of following the teachers' course at USM?

- How much money has government spent over the past 5 years on scholarships or financial assistance to students studying abroad?
- Do you agree that encouraging students to follow their studies at NIPA/USM would decrease government expense significantly?
- How many scholarships have been granted to students to attend USM over the past 5 years?
- How many scholarships have been granted to students to attend courses offered by NIPA in 2018, 2019 and 2020?
- Taking the situation with the current pandemic into account, how much money is reserved for local scholarships in the 2021 budget?

As awaiting your response, I thank you in advance for your usual attention and understanding.

Respectfully,



Claudius A. Buncamper BSc.

Member of Parliament

Faction Leader, United St. Maarten Party