



Preparatory School

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Dear Parents,

This morning government officials tried to close our premises without invoking proper legal grounds and/or following correct procedure. Police officers have intimidated staff, parents and above all students to prevent them from exercising their right to education. More important, the police force has violated our COVID-19 protocols and frustrated our “stop and drop”-procedure. In short, this morning our students’ mental and physical health was severely compromised.

LU maintains that it complies with the current and applicable legislation. Barring the introduction of new (emergency) legislation, we do not see grounds to change our position on opening the school.

However, the manner in which certain government officials have conducted themselves this morning, poses a severe risk for the wellbeing of our students if repeated. Unfortunately, an on-site discussion with the responsible Minister and police officers has failed to convince us that the government of Sint Maarten shall refrain from such irresponsible behavior.

LU has decided that the school will remain closed tomorrow (August 12th, 2020). As stated before, we believe that we have the right to open, but unfortunately, we have no guarantees that our students will not be put in harm’s way once more. After extensive deliberation with our legal counsel, we have decided to file for injunctive relief to prevent this unacceptable governmental behavior from happening in the future; tomorrow this case will be heard at 2 pm.

Until this case is heard, LU cannot trust the government from refraining from the behavior it showcased this morning. As we cannot risk further traumatization of our students, we have an urgent interest in obtaining injunctive relief, so that we can assert our right to open without undue intimidation from the people who should serve and protect us.

It is important to address the fact that daycare centers and/or early stimulation centers have opened in other institutions on Sint Maarten without issues and/or government pushback. Therefore, toddler and preschool rooms will open as planned tomorrow.

Note that LU is not giving in or backing down, we remain of the opinion that we are entitled to provide education at our campus, and we will do everything in our means to do so.

Trusting to have informed you sufficiently, I remain.

Sincerely,

Mr. Daunesh Alcott

Head of LU