



# Bulletin

Government  
Information  
Services

## Community Update

www.sabagov.nl | September 18th 2017

### Message from the Executive Council

Two weeks ago, Saba and its sister islands were dealt a severe blow by Hurricane Irma. Our thoughts are with the community, especially those who have lost their homes or have damage to their property. We will continue to work to rebuild Saba and restore it to the Unspoiled Queen that it has always been. The road to full recovery will be challenging but as a resilient people we will continue to make swift progress and with the community support Saba and her people will be standing on its feet even stronger than before!

The Executive Council has been in close contact with the business community of Saba. Already there have been two meetings at the Government Administration Building to discuss updates and to strategize the best approach for Saba to move forward post hurricane Irma, such as new distribution lines for the supermarkets. We have direct lines with all of the Ministries, as well as the crisis management organizations in the Netherlands. Our colleagues Piet Gerritsen, Sarah van der Horn and Nicole Johnson are currently in the Netherlands assisting with this process. In our discussions with the Ministries, we have already provided a preliminary overview of what is needed for Saba and there have been talks with the Ministry of Economic Affairs about a supporting package for businesses.

Already we have seen extensive efforts by our community to clean up the island. However, there are still some areas where there is debris. We have seen many people assisting with the task of restoring our island. We want to encourage everyone to please continue. Public Works and the fire department will also assist but every helping hand helps to make the process more efficient. Please also be aware that we now have new mosquito breeding locations on island. Do your best to remove any debris and clean gutters, which can become mosquito breeding spots.

The Executive Council would like to thank all of those who have assisted with the island wide cleanup, especially the members of the military, government workers, the fire department, the police, medical students and all other volunteers. Your efforts and contribution towards our recovery is greatly appreciated.

### Preparation for Hurricane Maria



#### 5:00 AM AST Mon Sep 18

Location: 14.6°N 59.5°W  
Moving: WNW at 13 mph  
Min pressure: 977 mb  
Max sustained: 90 mph

While we have been working towards restoring our island, we must now focus our attention on Hurricane Maria which will begin passing us tonight. The disaster management team is back in place and had its first meeting yesterday. We would like to ask the community to again come together during these next hours to prepare for the passing of hurricane Maria and, whenever possible, to assist your

neighbors with their preparations as well. Use these next hours to ensure that you have all of your needed supplies and we also advise you to refill your car's gas tank before the gas station closes today. Governor Johnson will update the community during this phase, you can also find updates on the GIS social media pages.

After hurricane Maria has passed us, another island assessment will be made and the community will be updated via means of this bulletin, as well as Social Media.

Always remember, we are a community who comes together to help, not just for the preparation of hurricanes but in the restoration afterwards. We need to continue to maintain this sense of community and cooperation during these upcoming challenging months. **#SabaStrong**.

### From Response to Recovery after Irma

Last week, Saba began moving towards a recovery phase after hurricane Irma, where decisions will be made and actions taken to ensure the recovery of our economy and the restoration of our island. To facilitate this, a special team has been formed, which consists of the Executive Council, various department heads and policy workers. Much is already being done to restore normalcy. Some of these developments are:

1. Several tourists who weathered hurricane Irma on Saba have been transported to Curacao via Statia with the assistance of the Military. On Curacao further arrangements were made for them to travel back to their home country.
2. The victims of Hurricane Irma whose homes suffered significant damage are being assisted by Social Affairs Advisor Krijn Pons in finding adequate housing while their homes are repaired.
3. Drinking water has been distributed to persons and families who qualify based on the criteria established.
4. The first containers with food items arrived this past weekend. In addition to this a large order of building supplies is also expected.
5. Long-term alternatives for food and transport are being investigated together with the private sector.
6. Yesterday, the military returned to Saba to assist during the preparation and aftermath of Hurricane Maria.
7. The Executive Council has submitted a preliminary assessment on the damages from hurricane Irma to the relevant ministries in the Netherlands. This assessment is a comprehensive report which outlines infrastructural damage, as well as the impact on the business community and the economy.
8. The Executive Council met with the Island Council members to give a general update on the steps made while preparing and during the recovery of Irma.
9. King Willem Alexander visited Saba last Tuesday. Together with his delegation he was able to offer support to the people of Saba, especially the victims of Hurricane Irma, who lost their homes.

This bulletin is a publication of G.I.S, Public Entity Saba and aims to provide updated information to the community of Saba after the passage of Hurricane Irma.

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