



# Bulletin

Government  
Information  
Services

Community Update 2

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October 3rd 2017

## Message from the Executive Council

Two weeks ago a second category 5 hurricane passed our shores. We were fortunate that the majority of the island sustained minimal damage from Hurricane Maria, but the Fort Bay harbor was severely affected. While the community continues to be challenged by mother nature, Saba is proving that it is up for the task. The Executive Council is very pleased with the way that the businesses and residents have come together to rebuild our island. To the right is a photo of the debris which the Saba Conservation Foundation, Sea Saba and Saba Divers removed from the harbor, this is an indication of what can be achieved when we work together. While much has already been accomplished in a short time-frame, we would like to remind everyone that some things will take time. Patience and perseverance are needed to sustain our momentum.



## Updates:

### Information Point :

The Public Entity Saba in collaboration with the Center for Youth & Family, with assistance from Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland SZW, has opened an information center for persons who recently arrived on the island from St. Maarten and locals with damages to their homes.

The Information Point is at the Social Affairs building (also Archives, behind the main Government Administration building). Opened Monday to Friday at 9 am to 12 pm

Personnel at the center can answer (your) questions and direct you to the right authority, as well as register all newcomers and persons with damages to their homes to coordinate help where it is needed.

### Airport:

The airport is undamaged and open for traffic. Winair released a statement today October 3<sup>rd</sup> that they aim to start commercial service to Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Barths, St. Kitts, and possibly other destinations. Until a flight schedule is in place, you can travel via a charter flight with Winair. Arrangements for this can be made via Claudio Buncamper [cbuncamper@fly-Winair.com](mailto:cbuncamper@fly-Winair.com).

### Harbor:

Several contractors and public works have worked hard to take measures to restore access and safety in the harbor area. A survey was done of the harbor. The first damage repairs of the harbor itself will take place within the upcoming days. The complete reparation of the harbor area, will take several months or maybe up to a year before completion. The big pier is operable and open for commercial business.

### Road Accessibility:

While most roads are accessible, the Well's Bay road is not. Until this is cleared, we advise not venturing to the Well's Bay.

**Landfill:** The landfill is fully operational, and activities have resumed. We would like to remind everyone that waste still needs to be separated and it is important that the community return to its recycling routine. Residents without bins are urged to separate their garbage into plastic bags.

**Rebuilding:**

The first order of building supplies has arrived. The aim is to start working on the homes with the most damage first.



**Humanitarian Drinking Water:**

Humanitarian drinking water has been distributed on the island since September 11. Since shops have now restocked, this water bank is now closed.

**Garbage bins and Mosquitoes:**

We have asked all residents to clean around their houses to prevent the mosquito population from growing. Our vector control team is also working on the issue. Several garbage bins were not properly secured during the hurricanes, and Public Works are retrieving them. We also ask the public to retrieve their garbage bins when possible. New garbage bins will be distributed after hurricane season. Until then, please use the nearest bin available.

**Economic Measures:**

The Executive Council wants to thank the businesses for their cooperation and actions to help restore our economy. The Executive Council has created a platform for the businesses to communicate and work together. The Executive Council is currently in talks with the National Government for some measures such as tax alleviation and creating new transport possibilities. The aim is to restart the economy as soon as possible.

**Tourism:**

The first tourist (visitor) since the passing of Hurricanes Irma and Maria arrived on Saba September 28<sup>th</sup>. He traveled from the UK to St. Kitts, where he took a power-boat to Saba. He plans to remain on the island for two weeks. His visit is a sign of hope for the hotels and other businesses in the tourism industry, who continue to work in close cooperation with the Island Government to strategize methods for saving the high season.

**Edge Service Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, and St. Maarten:** We are currently trying to establish ferry service between Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts, and St. Maarten with the Edge.

**Talks with Bonaire:** Contact has been made with the Tourism Corporation Bonaire to discuss possibilities for a stronger connection. Travel packages with Bonaire and Saba have also been reviewed and will be pursued further as travel logistics are finalized.

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 Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

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