



## PUBLIC ENTITY NEWSLETTER



### *Census Office Strengthens for a Digital Future*

With several important developments on the way, including the upcoming Second Chamber elections on October 29<sup>th</sup> and the rollout of the BSN (citizen service number) beginning from November 11<sup>th</sup>, PES is pleased to formally introduce new members of the Census team, dedicated to providing efficient services to all residents.

At the forefront is Hazel Durand (Team Leader), supported by Johannes Zandbergen and Julissa Hassell (All-round employees), and Rick van Eeden as Quality Advisor.

The Census Office is the go-to point for a wide range of essential services, including ID cards, driver's licenses, passports, marriage certificates, BSN and more.



### *Census Updates*

- **Card Payments:** Residents are now able to pay directly at the Census Office counter, using debit/credit cards, offering more flexibility and convenience.
- **Modernization of Processes:** The Census is investing in election software to strengthen election management. Finalizing the synchronization of the newly updated PIVA civil registry portal is also underway.
- **Digitalization of Services:** Karmac Group, a specialist in digitalization, is supporting the Census in converting old records into official digital copies. Implementation will begin in the coming weeks.

To support these changes, Census staff will also undergo a series of trainings, the first of which will occur in November.

Census will also regularly begin sharing tips via social media for residents planning to visit the Census office, such as reminding residents to always bring their ID card with them, or to alert Census when you have changed your address.

These efforts are all part of a broader mission to continue professionalizing and strengthening the Census Office, ensuring that the people of Saba have access to modern and efficient public services.

## ***Shaping the Future of Finance: Progress and Plans Ahead***

As part of the ongoing professionalization of government services, the Finance Department has actively taken steps to strengthen the team and their processes.

Most importantly, the department underwent a restructuring of the team during the middle of this year which gave way for a more efficient workflow and better alignment with the strengths of each team member. New roles were added to support this shift, including an Operational Manager, a Financial Control & Compliance Officer, and a Financial Policy Employee. This shift also aligns with the upcoming restructuring of the organization.

### ***Professionalization***

During 2025, staff members took part in several training initiatives, including a micro-credentials course with The Hague University of Applied Sciences (HHS) on the fundamentals of financial accounting, in order to better understand their day-to-day work and processes.



Additionally, employees took Dutch language and MS Office courses, as well as Centric Administration training for accounts payable and accounts receivable to deepen knowledge of the financial administration system.

The Planning & Control team will also begin an online course with Harvard University in Financial Accounting.

### ***Digitalization***

Significant progress has also been made in digitalization, with earlier implementations of the invoice recognition system and the Centric Betalen module. The latter enables clients to make payments via point of sale (POS) terminals at various departments including the Harbor and Daycare, paving the way to streamline processes.

### ***Future plans***

In 2026, we aim to expand the payment option via POS terminals to all departments offering paid services, including Agriculture and Saba Splash.

Looking ahead, the Finance Department will focus on:

- Mastering of the upgraded financial system and rolling out new modules
- Strengthening compliance and financial controls, with assistance from a consultant
- Reviewing and updating of financial ordinances and policies to ensure accuracy and compliance. This process will be led by the Financial Policy Employee in collaboration with the consultant and legal team.
- Leadership and coaching training to build management capacity within the department.



### ***More Than Just Policies: How PPB Builds Bonds***

The Policy and Project Bureau covers a wide range of undertakings, from the Nature and Environmental Policy Plan, to economic advisory, to communications. With such a broad scope of projects happening across different areas, Department Head Nicole Johnson encourages collaboration among the various teams. One of the ways that this is consistently reinforced is through these team-building activities.

The year kicked off with a Games Day, an introductory activity to help acquaint everyone. The competition then escalated with a scavenger hunt across the island, highlighting various significant locations. Most recently, a three-part challenge was held: a survival activity to test how teams would handle a crisis, a cooking competition using random ingredients, and an obstacle course.



Through it all, the spirit of friendly competition sparked connection and built strong bonds among team members, with the *Saban Survivors* being declared the winners. These activities have set the stage for cooperation across these teams, which will continue past the dissolution of the PPB following the organizational restructuring.



The evening wrapped up with a bonfire at Tent Bay, marking the end of the tenure of Justin Simmons-De Jong, who began as coordinator for NEPP. Over the past 5 years, Justin contributed to many projects, including reforestation and the climate plan. His work has laid a foundation that will impact generations to come and we wish him success with his future journeys!

On Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>, the community of Saba bid farewell to a son, a brother, a father, a friend and a firefighter: Sheldon Johnson.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy once again to everyone impacted by this extremely tragic loss.

While we navigate this grief, the Department of Community Development is offering support. If you need someone to talk to, please contact us via 416-4462, 416-7925, and 416-5842.



#### ***Upcoming Events***

- **Sea and Learn**  
October 1 - October 27  
Sea and Learn Foundation
- **Ospar Beach Clean Up Spring Bay & Tent Beach**  
October 4 & October 8  
Sea & Learn Foundation
- **Breast Cancer Walk**  
October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Starting Point: Windwardside, Tourist Bureau Parking Lot
- **Rum & Lobster Fest**  
November 1 - November 9  
Saba Tourist Bureau

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