



Decision List BC Meeting March 18, 2025

Subtitle	Weekly BC meeting
Date	03/18/2025
Time	9:00 – 12:00
Location	Courtroom
Chair	Governor Johnson
Attendees	Eviton Heyliger and Jonathan Johnson
Absentees	Bruce Zagers

1.0.0 Welcome

2.0.0 Minutes

Attachment:

BC Meeting Minutes 11-03-2025

BC Minutes 10.2025

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.0 Discussion papers

3.0.1 Agreement to clean Cove Bay

Last year, PES made a substantial investment to repair and enhance the Cove Bay facilities. We believe the Cove Bay facilities require a caretaker to ensure more consistent and proper management. Considering this, the board decided to relinquish their responsibility for the facilities.

In the interim, we have entered into an agreement with Ramirez Home Improvement & Cleaning Services for a trial cleaning period of two months, starting on March 7th, 2025. Their services include comprehensive daily cleaning of the entire recreational area, kitchen, and bathrooms.

Decision:

Approved.



3.0.2

BC proposal Vacancy Youth & Family Counselor

With the recent development of the Community Development Policy Plan—an initiative that integrates all stakeholders and establishes a one-stop shop for our clients—we must further organize our department's capacity to effectively implement this model and ensure high-quality service delivery.

The position of Youth and Family Counsellor is of great importance for our community, especially for struggling youth and families. With this position, we can start with prevention and interventions at an earlier stage before issues further escalate. The Youth and Family Counsellor will play a key role in supporting schools, youth programs, and other stakeholders, ensuring that young individuals receive the guidance and resources they need to thrive.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.3

Butcher and meat inspection trainings

Over the past year two butcher trainings have been organized with Ter Weele with the aim to strengthen the local skill base and facilitate the professionalization of the butcher station. In combination with a steady flow of goats and recently also pigs being brought in, the butcher station now provides quality products on a continuous basis.

To further the professionalization of the butcher station, the aim is to organize more training sessions in the coming year. Three trainings are planned:

- April: Meat inspection training, organized by SVO (Slagersvakopleiding);
- May: Training of the government butcher at Ter Weele in Holland;
- September / October: Training of Ter Weele on Saba.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.4

Community Development and Culture Policy Plan 2025–2028

In this proposal, we would like to present the Community Development and Culture Policy Plan 2025-2028, and seek approval for initiating the



implementation of the plan.

The first theme addressed in the Saba Package Agreement 2023-2027 is **Development of community welfare and well-being**. This topic is being addressed because: 'The context of Saba shows that people in poverty often have several problems (multiproblematiek) and need support in various areas, for example working, housing, debt problems, social support, welfare, parenting support, child support and more. The expertise of various professionals is needed to be able to work on solutions. Unfortunately, the Public Entity Saba and related social organizations currently fall short of adequately addressing the multifaceted challenges within the community of the island.'

As requirement in the Saba Package Agreement, 'The Public Entity Saba (PES) will develop a multiannual policy and implementation plan to address the multifaceted challenges of the community of Saba. The ministries of BZK, VWS, SZW and OCW will collaborate to support PES in drafting this plan and ensuring an integrated approach, which is necessary to address the multifaceted challenges of the community of Saba.'

The presented Policy Plan is an umbrella document for the Community Development and Culture Department. It outlines our strategic approach to enhance the well-being of the Saban community. It focuses on key areas such as social work services, employment opportunities, domestic safety, youth development, education, and culture. It captures programs and activities that are of structural nature, have recently been started and/or will be initiated to contribute to community development, social inclusion, and cultural participation. Additionally, the plan highlights the interconnectedness of these themes and demonstrates how integrated actions can reinforce each other to create a more positive and sustainable impact on the community.

The Policy:

- Bundles and coordinates more effectively the different financial streams from the Dutch government.
- Aims to improve the quality of execution of tasks in the areas of social welfare, social support, youth care, domestic violence and child abuse, the youth +13 program, collective prevention, education and equal opportunities in education.
- Execution will be monitored through a structural cooperation method with regular meetings (PES, BZK, SZW, VWS, OCW, relevant RCN departments).

Decision:



Approved.

3.0.6 Training on new BES Childcare Act

On January 1st, 2026, the BES Childcare Act will go into effect. With this change, a new framework will be used for childcare inspections. As the two local inspectors, will require training to start working with this new framework.

The training is being organized in Utrecht by the Inspectie van het Onderwijs for all local inspectors in the Caribbean.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.7 Pandemic preparedness vacancies

The ministry of VWS has made a budget of \$260,000 available via a special purpose grant for Saba to work on Pandemic Preparedness, this is in line with preparations the GGD's in the European Netherlands have been making in recent years. The budget is meant for the hiring of 2 additional professionals in this specific field, a policy advisor and an information specialist, under contract or in a flexible construction.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.8 Reduction of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Prices

In November 2024, cost calculations for Saba Splash and Transported RO Water began. However, the finalization of the calculations were delayed until recently due to factors such as the closing of the 2024 financial year and uncertainty about 2025 subsidy amounts. As a result, the actual selling price of Saba Splash and transported RO water were somewhat uncertain for the first months of 2025.

In January, the rates for drinking water and transported water remained at the additionally subsidized rates (\$ 1.50 & \$2.50 for Saba Splash, and \$30.00 for 1,000-gallon truckload of RO water). However, a cautious approach was taken for February and March and it was decided to revert back to the standard selling prices.

Initially, during the 2025 budget and cost calculation process, it was assumed that these prices could not be further reduced for the year.



However, after reevaluating the budget and reallocating funds, it became apparent that a portion of the free allowance could be used to lower the selling price of transported RO water. This is because the Water Management Budget will be separated into RO Water and Saba Splash with the Quarter 1 Budget Amendment. Since Saba Splash costs will be fully subsidized, part of the free allowance allocated for water management in 2025 can now be used to reduce the selling price of RO water.

Through these adjustments, we are now able to subsidize the price of RO water to \$40.00 per 1,000 gallons

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.9

Repairs and Upgrades for Child Focus Foundation Building

The Child Focus Foundation building is a key community facility in the Windwardside. It serves two important purposes:

1. Afterschool Programs: The building is where children from the primary school attend various afterschool activities that promote their development in education, culture, and sports.
2. Hurricane Shelter: It also functions as a critical hurricane shelter for the Windwardside, providing refuge during emergencies.

After a recent evaluation, it was found that the building requires significant repairs and upgrades to ensure it remains safe and functional for both purposes.

Departments Involved:

- Community Development & Culture: The building supports cultural and community development through youth programs.
- Health & Sport: The after-school activities promote physical health and well-being for the children.
- Safety & Crisis: As a designated hurricane shelter, the building plays a crucial role in crisis preparedness and community safety.

Reasons for Immediate Action:

1. Afterschool Program Support: The building is central to the



community's afterschool activities, providing a safe and engaging environment for children to learn and develop skills in a variety of areas, including cultural education and sports. Ensuring a well-maintained space is key to supporting these programs.

2. Hurricane Shelter: In its capacity as a hurricane shelter, the building must meet stringent safety standards, especially during the hurricane season. It is essential that the facility be properly equipped and reinforced to provide a secure refuge in times of crisis.

The renovation works include the following:

- Renovation entrance area
- Renovation bathrooms
- Renovation kitchen
- Renovation office
- Renovation activity room
- Replace doors
- Paint interior

Decision:

Approved.

4.0.0 Formalities

5.0.0 Incoming pieces/request (on paper)

6.0.0 Announcements

1. Governor Johnson
2. Commissioner Heyliger
3. Acting Island Secretary van Duin

7.0.0 Signing

8.0.0 Closing