



The right Direction

MINISTER ANGEL MEYERS
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HOUSING,
SOCIAL PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sewage Treatment plant
- Garbage Collection
- Dutch quarter Town Hall Meeting
- SMHDF update
- Zoning plan adjusted
- Hurricane Tips

Sewage Treatment Plant A.TH. Illidge rd

Honorable Minister Meyers visited the Sewage treatment plant located on Illidge Road between the Salt pond and the Fresh pond. The visit was not only meant to take a tour of the treatment plant to view operations but also to sign a renewal contract between Windward Roads to manage the sewage treatment plant.

The current installation was taken into operation in October 2012 after being built by Windward roads, replacing the old Imhoff tank type of plant originally built in 1989. Since then Windward roads has also managed the facility. The management contract is based on combined efforts by Windward Roads and VROMI employees.

The new plant is an activated sludge process, where nutrients

are removed from the sewage by controlling all naturally occurring biological processes, and no chemicals are added. Solids such as foreign objects and debris are removed automatically and discarded on the landfill. The treated water that is produced during the process is discharged into the fresh pond.

The plant has a capacity of 4500 cubic meters of sewage per day. At present approximately one third of the treated sewage is transported to the facility by septic truck.

Other sources of sewage include pressure lines from Philipsburg, Fort Willem, Belvedere and Middle Region; the sewage is pumped to the plant through a network of pumping stations. There is also a line from the Cul

de Sac valley that does not require pumps; the water flows by means of gravity.



The Ministry of VROMI is Taking Accountability

The Ministry of VROMI is taking accountability for the garbage collection. The Minister of VROMI, Honorable Minister Meyers is hereby apologizing to the community of Sint Maarten for the inconvenience that occurred during the time of transition of the new haulers inconsistency of the collection of garbage. As government, we are here to serve the people of Sint Maarten. We took and are still busy taking the necessary steps to rectify the situation. We are maintaining our accountability to the community of St. Maarten and taking pride in our country.

Government still stand by bringing in extra local garbage collectors at the cost of the contracted haulers if the hauler's performance is not improved in their contracted parcel. We are however seeing progress in the garbage collection. An evaluation is still being conducted and also inspections are being carried out to ensure the contractors are following the gar-

bage collection schedule.

During the time of transition from the old to new haulers Parcel 5 and 6 were experiencing the most difficulties. Parcel 5 and 6 consists of the areas St. Peters, Reward, Cul de Sac, Cay Hill, and Bush road. Since then the contractor has hired a new Manager to oversee operations. There have been some improvement however, Government is still monitoring the progress the company is making.

The Philipsburg area's garbage also had a delay in collection during the transition phase. The Minister made clear the difference between residential waste, which the haulers were contracted for and the commercial waste. The collection of commercial waste is on the responsibility of the individual businesses. According to the Articles 19 and 20 of the Waste ordinance (AB 2013, GT no. 135), it is forbidden for the producers of

Commercial waste (Businesses), to deliver for collection to the Haulers/Collecting Services their Commercial waste. The producers of Commercial waste are obliged to dispose of this waste regularly to the assigned landfill at their own expense; whether it be by themselves or via third parties. The Minister met with the representatives of the Indian Association to clearly define the roles of the parties involved. In the interim Government is picking up the garbage in the commercial area of Philipsburg, while working collectively on a permanent solution.

The garbage collection schedule for all parcels are currently being formatted to be made available for the public. The schedules will be displayed in the public newspapers, the government website (www.sintmaartengov.org) and also the Ministry of VROMI Facebook page.



Dutch Quarter Town Hall Meeting

The Government of St. Maarten hosted a public town hall meeting for Dutch Quarter residents on Thursday May 12, 2016, in connection with the Dutch Quarter sewerage project, in the Community Center Zorg & Rust. The activities of the Dutch Quarter Sewerage project include;



- Improvement to the A. T Illidge road through construction of a new gravity sewer collector and new pump station
- Construction of a sewer network, including house connections in communities
- Discharging of sewerage into the main sewer line to convey to the existing wastewater treatment plant
- Local upgrade of the drainage
- Upgrades, new pavement and sidewalks
- Install street lights



- Install fire hydrants

The Dutch quarter area will benefit from this project by property values being increased, improved infrastructure and living conditions that brings at least 25% of the district out of a socially deprived situation, 75% reduction in waste water and drainage water on the streets and ultimately the impact will reduce smell, mud and incidence of diarrhea, and dengue in the district of Dutch Quarter.

The project will also reduce traffic congestion at peak hours in adjacent side roads and the traffic flow.

Residents should keep in mind, during this project there will be traffic deviations leading to congestion, parts of A.T. Illidge road will be closed for works and traffic flow on secondary roads will be disrupted due to the civil works.

The Dutch Quarter Sewerage project will be financed by the 10 EDF, whom is the main European Union instrument for providing community development aid on St. Maarten.

The project will cost roughly 6 million Euro of which government will contribute at least 1.4 million euros. The project is expected to start on February 1st, 2017 with a duration of 24 months before completion.

In the weeks to come the public tender for the construction of the project will be published. The signing of the construction contract should take place in early December 2016.

To see the complete town hall meeting please visit the DCOMM TV Special;

- <https://youtu.be/z8JABdZSmvk>
- https://youtu.be/ZaShHnM2M_U

SMHDF First Homeowner for the Year 2016



Minister Angel Meyers presented the keys to the first homeowner for the year in the St. Maarten Housing Development Foundation (SMHDF) Belvedere Villas Sales Program. Marie Alexander is a long time tenant of the foundation. She was waitlisted for three years before this purchase of her

three bedroom/two bath house became a reality. The Foundation gifted her a chandelier to mark the milestone. Seven more tenants are soon to become homeowners under the program.



THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Zoning process to be continued

The Minister of VROMI, the Honorable Angel Meyers announces the continuation of the process to establish development (zoning) plans. Up to now, three draft zoning plans were officially placed on public review, pursuant to a public hearing. These pertain to the areas: Simpson Bay, Cul de Sac and Cay Hill – Little Bay. The Ministry of VROMI will continue with the public hearings and public reviews for the other ten draft zoning plans in a phased manner, starting with four areas: Dutch Quarter, Middle Region, Cole Bay and Cay Bay – Billy Folly. Two prior rounds of town hall meetings facilitated the preparation of these draft zoning plans.

Minister Meyers explains that some delays in the process occurred, amongst

other reasons, because new members to the Committee of Experts had to be appointed. The Committee of Experts is an independent Committee that advises the Minister of VROMI regarding objections that may be submitted when a draft zoning plan is placed on public review. The Committee is currently up and running and has rendered advice with respect to the objections submitted to the draft zoning plan for Simpson Bay. The Minister is awaiting the advice from the Committee regarding the objections submitted to the draft zoning plans for Cul de Sac and Cay Hill – Little Bay.

Minister Meyers considers that it is now high time to continue with the process, as there are currently very limited means in order to

ensure a sustainable spatial development of Sint Maarten. The temporary provision in the zoning ordinance for planning permits expired in 2012 and a recent verdict from the Common Court of Justice confirmed that it is legally impossible to revise any existing planning permit, except through the process of a zoning plan. The lack of proper spatial planning leads to adverse effects that are difficult to reverse on an ever increasing scale. This can be seen for example in inadequately planned developments in the hillsides, in the occurrence of incompatible developments competing for space such as residential and industrial functions in close proximity, and in inadequate roads and other infrastructure.

The announcement for the public hearing and subsequently the public review of the subsequent draft zoning plans that are in

preparation will follow soon. The draft zoning plans, which will be presented during the hearings will consist of an elucidation, a map with common zoning or land-use designations, as well as land-use and building regulations applicable thereto. Zoning plans are intended to provide a legal framework for possible future development, to designate and/or reserve land for desired use, to prevent undesired development and to offer legal security to residents and developers about future spatial developments.

For more information about zoning plans and the zoning process persons can visit the website:

www.sinmaartengov.org/government/VROMI/Pages/Zoning-Development-Plans

Hurricane Preparedness Tips!

June 1, 2016 - November 30, 2016

- Have stocked food and supplies not only for the storm but for the possible aftermath in case you lose power and water
- Keep all necessary emergency numbers available
- Remain indoors when the Eye moves over your area because the storm will resume shortly
- Prepare/ strengthen your home by storing loose objects in your yard, trim or remove damaged trees and limbs, secure and reinforce roof, windows and doors Make a family emergency plan
- Identify your trusted sources of information during the hurricane and safety shelters in your district
- Put together a disaster supply kit, including flashlights, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, and copies of critical information / documentation
- Follow the hurricane timeline to know when the storm is anticipated to hit and the impact that is projected for your location.
- Fill your car's gas tank
- Have multi-purpose tools available

The Minister of VROMI wishes the public of Sint Maarten a safe Hurricane Season 2016!

