JVO MEETINGS 2019 SUCCESSFUL

Justice Ministers of the four countries in the Dutch Kingdom concluded their Judicial Four-Party Consultation (“Justitieel Vierpartijenoverleg” JVO) session at Sonesta Maho Beach Resort’s Rainbow Room on Wednesday, July 10th, 2019.

Minister of Justice and Security Ferdinand Grapperhaus of the Netherlands and Justice Ministers Cornelius de Weever of St. Maarten, Quincy Girigorie of Curaçao and Andin Bikker of Aruba signed a letter of intent and a decision list outlining continued cooperation with the countries’ law enforcement.

Grapperhaus has allocated 4.4 million euros for, among other things, better police training for police personnel for St. Maarten’s Police Force KPSM, the Caribbean Netherlands KPCN, Aruba KPA and Curaçao KPC, and the Coast Guard. The regional strength of the police forces within the Kingdom has improved considerably in recent years by improving the quality and better guaranteeing knowledge and expertise in the countries.

The first steps were taken three years ago and much progress has been made in a relatively short period of time. This development continues with this additional money. This is a co-financing commitment whereby the countries themselves foot the bill for the cost of travel and accommodation. The courses offered are the same as in the Netherlands, but are translated to the local context where necessary.

“It is good that the ambition to improve cooperation that has been deployed is being continued. My two police chiefs – those from the Caribbean Netherlands and those from the Dutch police – and I support this process with advice and action. It is important for this area and for the kingdom that we work together on a better police force. None of us can fight alone against the criminals who threaten our citizens and society, ”said Grapperhaus.

Also agreed on by the ministers were the strengthening of the detective cooperation; the joint approach towards subversive crime; the strengthening of law enforcement, also in cooperation with the United States; strengthening of border control on the islands; and the immigration and refugee policy.

All ministers said that they were pleased that the bond between them as ministers who started in 2018 is growing stronger with each meeting.

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We look forward to keeping you informed!

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
HON. VAN HUGH C. DE WEEVER

#workingforyou
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:
MARCUS PANTOPHLET

Q. What is your function?
A. My current function is Detective at the Intelligence Unit at KPSM (Police Force of Sint Maarten).

Q. How long have you been working with the Ministry of Justice?
A. I have been employed with the Ministry of Justice since July 2011.

Q. Who inspires you?
A. To answer that question, I would have to narrow it down to all persons that made some kind of impact on my life. So I'd say my parents, family members, friends, teachers as well as mentors.

Q. What are you passionate about?
A. I would say that I am passionate about my job. I enjoy helping and defending others. Especially those unable to defend themselves.

Q. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go?
A. There are a lot of places that I would like to visit. I'd like to visit Brazil, Egypt, Japan, Rome and the list goes on.

Q. What's your secret talent that no one knows about?
A. I often get complemented on being a good listener and just being myself I guess.

Q. What do you do in your free time?
A. It really depends on my mood. I enjoy reading, doing research, listening to music, going out on the weekends and hanging out with friends/ good company.

Q. What's the best thing that has happened to you so far for 2019?
A. The best thing I would say is being healthy and experiencing life in 2019. There are many persons that were not afforded that opportunity.

Q. Tell us one thing about yourself that you would love to share with your colleagues.
A. I would say that I am always willing to assist them in getting the job done. Team work makes the dream work.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
A. In ten years, I see myself as being a department head or a team leader within the organization.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

On Wednesday August 13, 2014, the Minister of Justice the Honorable Dennis Richardson signed a letter along with Henk Van Den Heuvel the Director/Owner of the LICCOM Company in the presence of members of his cabinet including the Prison Director Edward Rohan. It concerned an agreement for preparations for the expansion of the Prison at Point Blanche on two levels. The signing of the letter of intent was another step in the process of executing the plans to expand and upgrade the facilities at the Point Blanche Prison where all inmates were housed. With this letter of intent, the Prison at Point Blanche would be scheduled to be expanded with two levels thereby doubling its present capacity.

MOU SIGNED WITH JUSTICE ENTITIES

On Monday, June 17, 2019 the Ministry of Justice, House of Detention and Prison Point Blanche signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Public Health Social Development & Labour, and Foundation Judicial Institute Sint Maarten. The purpose of the MOU is to establish partnership between these entities to facilitate various initiatives as it pertains to training and employment opportunities for a specific target group.

“My aim as Minister of Justice has always been to introduce rehabilitative programs for our prison population, so that when these individuals have finished serving their time they can easily reintegrate back into society,” said Minister De Weever. “It is not about incarceration, because they can still contribute to society, and the safety net needs to be in place to facilitate their reintegration into society.”

The MOU focuses on knowledge, information sharing, and sensitivity training both internal and external and offer training opportunities amongst the population of St. Maarten to enhance skills and competencies to prepare persons with a criminal background for the demands of the labour market. Therefore, this MOU supports a variation of activities, which aims at assisting this clientele and raise awareness on the importance of inclusion.

“The work has started to ensure that this MOU becomes a “living” document,” said Minister De Weever.
SYMBOLIC HANDING OVER OF WEAPONS TO VOLUNTARY KORPS

On June 26th, the Honorable Minister of Justice Cornelius De Weever was present for a symbolic handing over of weapons to the Voluntary Korps of St. Maarten (VKS). During this ceremony, Minister De Weever thanked the members of the VKS for their tireless works in assisting in the protection of the people of St. Maarten. The minister noted that he is very pleased to be able to provide the officers with much needed weapons that will facilitate them in their efforts. Pictured below is Head of VKS, Tony Rogers graciously accepting the weapons.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE DAY

International Criminal Justice Day was celebrated on July 17, 2019 with a wide array of activities. This year’s theme was centered around “Corruption vs Development”. As the ministry of justice, the ministry is at the frontline in fighting against corruption. During the day, members of the KPSM, Immigration, Customs, Coast Guard, VKS, HvB Point Blanche Prison and Youth Brigade were all requested to be present.

The morning of featured a march by judicial officials, breakfast, church service and speeches by the Governor as well as the Minister of Justice.

“Awards of Appreciation” were handed out during a special reception evening commending selected Ministry of Justice Employees as well as the Annual Award for Team Competition winner.

Employees honored for over 25 years of service with the ministry were: Derie Leonard, Leonard De Wind, Humphrey Concincion, Marjonette Reenis-Cathlin, Shasira Gysbertha, Gracilyn Scott, Geovanni Sprott, Rudolf Bloeiman, Carlyle Rogers and Georges York.


The Honorable Minister of Justice Cornelius De Weever would like to congratulate all honorees on their accomplishments.

COAST GUARD OFFICERS SWORN IN TO DUTY

On Friday, July 5th, 2019, the below individuals were sworn in by Minister of Justice Cornelius De Weever as Coast Guard officers. The Minister, in his address to the men and women advised them to carry out their duties with respect and dignity. The Coast Guard has been actively recruiting new members and is pleased to have this addition to the team to assist in keeping our waters safe.

Pictured above: Minister of Justice, Honorable Cornelius De Weever with newly sworn in Coast Guard Officers.
MINISTER OF JUSTICE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH VKS

Minister of Justice, Cornelius De Weever and Chairman of the Board of the VKS, Franklyn Richards on Tuesday morning signed an agreement for the deployment of VKS Officers for the House of Detention and Prison Point Blanche.

“The Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten (VKS) has been supporting and will continue in carrying out its duties supporting building the community of St. Maarten,” said Richards.

The agreement signed between the two entities states that the VKS should deliver members of the Voluntary Corps on a daily schedule to the Point Blanche Detention Center as determined by the Director of the Prison. The VKS will also ensure that there is sufficient members of the Voluntary Corps in work-shifts and in accordance with deployment based on a work schedule agreed upon with the Director of the Prison.

“I am very pleased to sign this agreement as it continues to guarantee round the clock security at our detention center,” said Minister De Weever.

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE LAWS SIGNED


MINISTER DE WEEVER SIGNS TREATY IN CUBA AT CUSTOMS CONFERENCE

Minister of Justice, Cornelius De Weever headed a delegation to Cuba to attend the 41st Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council Conference from May 20-24, 2019. During this time Minister De Weever signed a treaty “Agreement establishing the Caribbean Customs Organization and on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.”

“The theme of the conference, which is Unity: Today, Tomorrow, Together is much in line with the objectives of the Caribbean Customs Organization,” said Minister De Weever. “Our objective in the Caribbean region is to raise awareness of customs and to support each other nationally and regionally in the field of customs.”

Countries that attended the conference are as follows: Anguilla, Aruba, Curacao, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands, Turks & Caicos, United Kingdom, France, Montserrat, BVI, Guyana, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and Antigua.

MINISTER CORNELIUS DE WEEVER VISITS WITH STAFF OF POINT BLANCHE PRISON

Pictured above: Minister Cornelius De Weever and Point Blanche prison staff after meeting held on July 12, 2019.
VACANCIES AT MISS LALIE CENTER

The Government of Sint Maarten is currently seeking motivated professionals to make an active contribution to the Ministry of Justice. Current vacancies include: Pedagogic A Worker, Pedagogic B Worker, Education and Day Program Coordinator and Behavioral Therapist. For details on job requirements, please visit the Ministry of Justice Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/ministryofjusticesxm.

All interested, qualified candidates can submit a digital application, cover letter and curriculum vitae to Ms. Amparo Sabina, via email address misslaliecentersxm@gmail.com. Please note that closing date is July 30, 2019.

SECOND ROUND OF REPAIRS TO POLICE STATIONS

A few short weeks after the conclusion of the first round of repairs, second phase renovations to the Philipsburg and Simpson Bay police stations were given the green light on Friday, June 14th. On behalf of the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB), Director Claret Connor signed a works contract with Drive Tech, an experienced Sint Maarten based contracting company.

As part of the Emergency Recovery Project of the St. Maarten Trust Fund, Drive Tech will renovate the roofs, ceilings, floors and wall partitions of both stations, which suffered extensive hurricane damage in 2017. Simultaneously, works will be completed to the air conditioning system and ducts, the IT system and electrical cabling on behalf of the Ministry of VROMI. The total costs for the second phase are approximately 1.1 million US dollars.

Signing on behalf of the NRPB was Director Claret Connor and Gaston Fraser on behalf of Drive Tech NV. Also present at the signing were the Minister of Justice, the Honorable Cornelius de Weever, Representative of the Netherlands, Chris Johnson, Police Chief Carl John and the supervising contractor Ravindra Patandin of ILACO Suriname NV.

The works are expected to be completed within approximately three months. During the brief signing ceremony, all parties expressed their satisfaction with the project which foresees in renovations that will make the police stations more resilient and better able to withstand future hurricanes.

AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICERS SWORN IN

The Honorable Minister of Justice, Cornelius De Weever administered the oath to two (2) additional security officers of the Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) that successfully completed the extra-ordinary police course (BAVPOL). The airport’s employees were sworn in as Auxiliary police. The swearing in ceremony was administered at the Justice Minister’s office on July 12, 2019.

Auxiliary police officers are law enforcement officers which are associated to the police department, as they may provide support to full-time officers. During the brief ceremony, Supervisor of the Security Department, Mr. Previn Hodge was sworn in once again after approximately 20 years. Hodge was a part of the first group of officers of the former Netherlands Antilles that was previously sworn in as an Auxiliary Police officer (BAVPOL), however he had to be sworn in again under the new Country status of St Maarten.

Meanwhile, Security Officer Hosea Hicks was also sworn in after he had successfully completed and passed the BAVPOL course in June of 2016.