NEW INTERIM PRISON DIRECTOR

Minister of Justice, the Honorable van Hugh Cornelius de Weever recently appointed Drs. Alwin Keli to the position of Interim Prison Director after having undergone a thorough recruitment process, which commenced in mid-2018.

Keli holds a master’s degree in Law and has actively pursued an MBA in Educational Management as well as a degree in Business Information Technology. Keli has accumulated a wealth of managerial experience with over 30 years in various management functions, in the areas of Security, Justice and Vocational Education.

Keli has served for 15 years in the army of the Dutch Kingdom; he started as a second lieutenant and climbed in ranks to Captain.

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If you have questions or feedback regarding the information herein or the newsletter in general, please don’t hesitate to reach out through email or phone. We look forward to keeping you informed!

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

In civilian life, he was among others: Director of the FEFFIK Vocational Training Center, Assistant Director of Security and Operations at the Bon Futuro prison, Section Head Police Affairs at the Department of Justice, Acting Head of the Security Service of the previous Netherlands Antilles and the Head of the Bureau Military Affairs.

Minister De Weever selected Keli based on a shared vision, and Keli’s ability to realize such; of creating a true rehabilitation institute for prisoners through education and vocational skills that would provide for seamless reintegration into society after having been incarcerated.

The Minister is pleased to have Mr. Keli on board and believes that he will be a valuable contribution to the Ministry. It is the aim to ensure that his vast wealth of knowledge will be transferred as he serves as a counterpart to prepare management for their leading role, in the achievement of our shared vision.
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MR. TYRONE YATES

Q. What is your function?
A. I am a Financial Controller.

Q. How long have you been working with the Ministry of Justice?
A. I have been working with the ministry since February 1, 2015.

Q. What are you passionate about?
A. I'm passionate about loads of stuff; life, food (cooking & eating), our culture, music, art, travelling, my journey of continued learning & being confident in my own judgment & decisions.

Q. Who would you like to swap places with for just one day?
A. I would have to say, if he were still alive; Marcus Garvey.

Q. If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go?
A. I’d love to visit Machu Picchu, the Incan city in the Andes Mountains in Peru. From the first time I learned about the Incas in primary school, I have been fascinated by them.

Q. What do you do in your free time?
A. I like to chill, relax, unwind and watch the best crime series ever created; Law and Order. I am a Law and Order freak!

Q. What’s the best thing that has happened to you so far for 2019?
A. I got accepted into the college that I wanted to and I am currently pursuing another degree.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
A. Ideally, retired from government and sipping mojitos on a beach somewhere! Hopefully, I'll be in a senior position within government or perhaps owning a small restaurant or wine bar. I really do not ask much out of life, I would like to be happy, healthy and living comfortably.

Q. Who inspires you?
A. That’s a tough question, lots of people inspire me on a daily basis. But, I would have to say firstly my parents.

Q. What is your status? Are you married, engaged?
A. I'm single

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

On Wednesday July 27th, 2016 the CFO of Telem Group Mrs. Helma Etnel met with Minister of Justice the Honorable Edson Kirindongo at his office on A. Th. Illidge road. In the presence of the Chief of Police Carl John and members of the Justice cabinet, the signing of the contract for the long awaited security surveillance camera project took place. This project has been worked on for quite some time and will be very instrumental in monitoring public safety and security.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER ACCOUNTS

For those of you that keep up with happenings via your Instagram and Twitter accounts, we are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Justice now has opened accounts on both of these platforms.

Follow us on Instagram: @ministryojusticesxm
Follow us on Twitter: @sxmjustice

REMOVAL OF CAR WRECKS DURING MAY

During the month of May the ministry of VROMI in collaboration with the Police Department will start the clearing of car wrecks.

These works will be carried out in phases and we will start with Phase 1, which entails the following:

a) All owners of car wrecks that are on their private property can call the Ministry of VROMI to have it removed free of charge. Once the owner can prove they own the car wreck and sign a waiver not to hold government accountable for any damages, the wreck will be removed.

b) The Police department and the Ministry of VROMI will continue removing the car wrecks located on public property.

c) Please note that if persons have parked cars illegally on your property this will not be part of this phase.
WORKING VISIT WITH MINISTER DEKKER

On April 11, 2019 Minister Dekker and State Secretary Knops visited the Simpson Bay Substation, Miss Lalie Center, Philipsburg Station, Point Blanche Prison and held a press conference at VNP Office along with Minister Cornelius De Weever and Justice Cabinet members.

Various photos of the visit were posted to the Ministry of Justice Facebook page, along with footage of the press conference. Please do feel free to check the page to see more documentation of the visit.

SWEARING IN OF PRISON, POLICE & IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

Various officers of the prison, police and immigration department were sworn in by the Minister of Justice over the last two months. The Minister offered words of advice and encouragement to these officers to remember to carry out their jobs with dignity and to the best of their ability. The officers were excited and proud to receive their commendations.

MOU BETWEEN MINISTRY AND NIPA

On Monday April 8th Mrs. Peggy Ann Dros Richardson, President of the Supervisory Board of Directors for the National Institute of Professional Advancement (NIPA) and Minister Cornelius De Weever, representing the house of detention, signed an MOU with the purpose of the ministry of Justice utilizing NIPA’s expertise in technical vocational education and training to ensure that those in the system are offered the best possible rehabilitative options through education and for personal advancement.
16 GRADUATE FROM POLICE ACADEMY

The St. Maarten Police Force KPSM now has a second class of full-fledged police officers added to its service as the Class of 2016 received their certificates of completion. Sixteen officers took the Basic Police Training (Basis Politie Opleiding) and the force held a ceremony commemorating the milestone on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at the Philipsburg police station.

“They are a true testament of commitment, and I would like to call this graduating group the Class of Perseverance. You must be congratulated for not only passing the course, but for enduring all the challenges along the way, which also included Hurricanes Irma and María. Congratulations to the families, friends and colleagues who had to endure and encourage you to persevere,” said De Weever.

“As you are already aware, the duties of a police officer mainly focus on protecting people and property. They patrol the areas they are assigned, respond to calls, enforce laws, make arrests, issue citations, and occasionally testify in court cases. What you and the general public may not be aware of is the reality that there can be no tourism without our police officers, there can be no recovery without you and there can be no prosperity without our law enforcement.

“You provide the safety and security for us who live here and for the millions who visit as well. I would like to encourage you to read, read as much as possible, invest in yourself and don’t forget to write as well. Write those traffic tickets and police reports to ensure that our social order is maintained and prevention will be achieved. Life learning will help you to continue to grow in your career.”

In his closing remarks, De Weever said, “In order to achieve continued success continue to exhibit good conduct, responsibility, team spirit, professionalism, reliability, commitment and leadership skills. These are all qualities of great leaders.

Do not compromise your principles, do not compromise yourself, your class, your Force or your island. Continue to make St. Maarten proud.

“I must repeat and acknowledge the work that all of you did during the entire Carnival season. I am very proud of this Force and will continue to invest and facilitate what is due to you. This graduating class today brings us a step closer to filling the gaps at the St. Maarten Police Force.”

Pictured above: Various moments captured of the Class of 2016 during the Graduation Ceremony held at the Philipsburg Police Station on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.