



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY MARKS THE START OF THE MAIN WORKS OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The main works of the Airport Terminal Reconstruction Project have now officially started, marked by an optimistic groundbreaking ceremony at the Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) today, Monday, October 18, 2021.

The project's main works were opened with a round of applause from those in attendance as the terminal keys were symbolically handed over by PJIAE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Brian Mingo to the contractor, represented by CEO of Ballast Nedam International Projects B.V., Roy van Eijdsen. This handover was overseen by the Honorable Prime Minister Ms. Silveria Jacobs.

"Sint Maarten remains vulnerable in a changing climate. We have had to pivot to stay on our path to recovery, but we are on track. This milestone is of utmost importance, with an anticipated outcome of having the Princess Juliana International Airport, the people's airport, even better than before," said PJIAE CEO Brian Mingo about the groundbreaking.

In addition to Mingo and Van Eijdsen, present at the ceremony were the entire Council of Ministers, except Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication (TEATT) Roger Lawrence, who is abroad on a work visit. Also in attendance were representatives and staff of the Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK), Ballast Nedam, Royal Haskon-



L to R: PJIAE CEO, Brian Mingo, Honorable Prime Minister, Silveria Jacobs and Ballast Nedam CEO, Roy van Eijdsen.

ingDHV, the Steering Committee of the Sint Maarten Trust Fund, the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB), the Supervisory Board of PJIAE, the Holding company (PJIAH) and the rest of the airport's management board.

"The Government of Sint Maarten is committed to the revitalization of our economy through the reconstruction of the airport's terminal. The airport remains a vital component of the country's economic growth, and I look forward to the successful completion of this project, which will have tremendous benefits for the people of Sint Maarten," said Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs.

As one of the most anticipated reconstruction projects on the island, the Airport Terminal Reconstruction Project will see a revitalized terminal facility rebuilt at the country's main international gateway. The project aims to restore passenger capacity to pre-Hurricane Irma levels and enhance the overall travelling experience, with the latest technology and amenities for advanced airports.

"A fully restored terminal building is the single most important condition for Sint Maarten's successful recovery from the 2017 hurricanes and

the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, I am thrilled to witness today's event and I am very proud that the NRPB has been able to help get this long-anticipated project up and running," said NRPB Director Claret Connor.

The project's main works were preceded by mold remediation and waste disposal activities, which were completed in the second quarter 2021. These necessary activities cleared the terminal building of potentially dangerous mold and debris left over from the passing of hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

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AS OF NOVEMBER 1ST 2021; FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELERS WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE A COVID-19 TEST TO ENTER ST. MAARTEN

The Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, Omar Ottley announced during press briefing that as of November 1st 2021, fully vaccinated persons will no longer require a COVID-19 test to enter St. Maarten.

This will only be applicable for travelers that are fully vaccinated with the approved vaccines of the RIVM and the WHO organization. The Minister went on to state that this is something that the ministry has been monitoring for some time, and with proven research has decided to proceed in this direction.

Research has shown that the viral load of a fully vaccinated person, who is infected with COVID-19, lowers much faster than a person that is unvaccinated. This means that while there are a few break through cases of fully vaccinated persons, the chances of these persons spreading the virus or becoming severely ill is tremendously low.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>

The Minister stated that the vaccine allows your body to fight the virus once the infection moves from the nasal cavity and into the bloodstream. Severe illness is avoided by being vaccinated, as your body will be better prepared to fight the virus.

On St. Maarten, there is a recorded 1.6% death rate, in which 0.04% were fully vaccinated. A similar percentage is recorded for the number of fully vaccinated hospitalizations. "This shows that the vaccine is highly effective and we can move towards allowing fully vaccinated persons to enter without requiring a test" said Ottley.



Honorable Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, Omar Ottley

Minister Ottley announced that his short term plan is to also develop the COVID-19 recovery Digital COVID-19 Certificate (DCC), which allows persons to register their past infections and show proof of natural immunity.



Newly appointed Duty Manager for Air France and KLM in SXM, Sammy Gomez

NEW DUTY MANAGER FOR AIR FRANCE/KLM

Mr. Sammy Gomez was appointed as the Duty Manager for Air France and KLM airlines on St. Maarten. In 2006. Mr. Gomez began to work in the airport industry with Halley Aviation Services. Throughout the years he was employed he was employed as a counter agent for various airlines and later worked his way up through different positions like Fueling, Weight and Balance Agent to Supervisor.

"Although a big step, I'm always ready for a challenge and I know that my years of airline experience will be put to use", stated the newly appointed Duty Manager.



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Princess Juliana International Airport



On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the SXM Airport

HAPPY SECURITY DAY

OCTOBER 14, 2021

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Princess Juliana International Airport

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the SXM Airport

HAPPY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER DAY

OCTOBER 20, 2021

/ SXMairport / SXMtweets / SXMairport

WORLD TOURISM DAY PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED



@becksphotos

And the WINNER of the World Tourism Day Best PRE-Posted Photo competition goes to Ambient

Digital Service Aviation photographer Franklin Wilson received 889 LIKES from our online users.



Franklin Wilson of Ambient Digital Service receiving his winning luxury retail basket courtesy of JL Penha

World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27 and since September 1, 2021, 27 images were posted on the SXM Airport social media page for the public to vote for their favorite image.

SPECTACULAR LANDINGS



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CELEBRATING YET ANOTHER "SPIRIT WEEK" WITH THE SPIRIT AIRLINES STAFF AT SXM AIRPORT

