



**M E M O**  
**MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND LABOR**

To: Prime Minister Dr. Mercelina  
From: Minister Richinel Brug  
Cc. SG VSA Ms. J. Arnell  
SG Secretariaat Ms. Cassandra Janssen  
Date: Wednesday December 17th, 2025  
Subject: Memo re. **“Additional agenda points Advice DIV-25-036801Memo”**

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**Dear Prime Minister,**

By means of this memorandum, and in my capacity as Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, I wish to formally inform you that advice **DIV-25-036801** was submitted to the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers for approval several weeks ago.

To date, this advice has not been placed on the agenda of the Council of Ministers for deliberation and decision. I understand that, in your role as Agendasetter, the placement of agenda items falls within your responsibility. However, I note that no clear reason has been provided for such. After some delay, you requested a discussion between my person, yourself and the SG of VSA on the matter. After a brief discussion all of us agreed that the document would be placed on the agenda of the subsequent COM meeting, with the additional decision point that the draft legislation presented during this discussion would be taken along by the legislative draftsman and the project leader in the execution of the project.

Given the time-sensitive nature of this matter, I find it necessary to outline the consequences should the advice not be placed on the agenda of the Council of Ministers meeting scheduled for **Thursday, December 16, 2025**.

In that event, the following actions will be unavoidable:

- The project currently being executed with funding from TWO will be brought to a halt;
- TWO will be formally informed of the specific reasons why the project is unable to continue, and all funds received will be returned;
- An official audit will be conducted and submitted to TWO, in accordance with the conditions attached to the original funding and project approval;
- The public will be informed that the project will no longer be executed by the Ministry of VSA, including the reasons for this outcome, as I cannot accept responsibility for non-execution resulting from circumstances beyond the Ministry's control;
- A formal report will be submitted to the Integrity Chamber and the Ombudsman, addressing the institutional risks associated with the

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Minister of PHSDL / Minister van VSA

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discretionary powers of the Agendasetter of the Council of Ministers in determining whether and when ministerial advice is placed on the agenda for decision-making.

As Minister, and as a public servant, I take the oath I have sworn with the utmost seriousness. I am obligated to act in accordance with the law, principles of good governance, and administrative integrity. I therefore cannot allow my name, nor that of the Ministry, to be associated with actions or omissions that may place the lawful execution of an approved project at risk, particularly where no substantive legal or procedural impediment has been identified.

I trust that this matter will receive the necessary attention and look forward to its timely resolution.

Please accept, Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,



Richmel S.J. Brug  
Minister of Public Health,  
Social Development & Labor