



***Omar E C Ottley Achievement as
Minister of VSA as of April 21 2021.***

Health:



The Mental Health Foundation signed off on the purchase of 6,267 m² of land in St. John's Estate. With the support of Ministry VSA, the project for construction was approved by the World Bank and NRPB to develop a state of the art facility that will meet the mental health care needs of the population.



Launched a Nation– Wide Drive to 85% Vaccination Campaign in collaboration with key stakeholders in an effort to protect the population.



Signed off the Non Communicable Disease (NCD) Plan to prevent and control NCD's, as it is a national priority. In collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), guidelines and legislation were developed to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare.



First Government Minister to serve as a member of the committee on credentials at PAHO/ WHO Directing Council.



Signed off the first phase of the new legislation Pharmaceutical Cost Containment Program to reduce the cost of medication in Sint Maarten.



Increased the sickness and accident insurance wage limits established in the Sickness Insurance Ordinance/Ziektekostenverzekering to 120,000; improve to improve the state of healthcare funds.



Desalination Resource Development Program (DRDP). This program will provide scholarship and internship possibilities for Sint Maarteners who demonstrate the knowledge and traits within the field of Energy/Water production and distribution, as well as supporting technical fields. The program will

stimulate capacity building, to strengthen our local resources to be able to own and operate our own water production facility. The goal of this program is the scholarship aspect, however this will also provide internship opportunities at Seven Seas Water Production company or at GEBE NV. Then possibility also exists to make available remaining funds to be donated to local educational facilities within the field of mechanical / engineering programs to assist students whom are interested in this specific educational trajectory.



In collaboration with TEATT: Regulation of the Maximum price for PCR, Antigen and Serology Covid-19 testing, as well as the maximum price for self test kits. This was done to halt the steady increases in the costs of tests on the market.



Endorsed DCHA – Dutch Caribbean Health Alliance agreement between hospitals of the Dutch Caribbean which will allow the hospitals within the kindgdom to provide affordable basic health care, combined procurement for medication and equipment, sharing of specialized medical professionals and training of medical personnel in order to give the best quality of care.



Covid-19 Pandemic exit strategy, to return to some form of normalcy in Sint Maarten, in an effort to bring back stability to the economy.

✓ Enforced the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) to safeguard the the manufacturing, preparing, Storage and selling of consumables on Sint Maarten.

✓ Let's get Fit Health Initiative: kicked off first fitness and nutrition sessions to promote healthy lifesyle and get everyone moving, regardless of their age.

✓ Committed to the 1,000 smiles SXM pilot project in collaboration with SMDF, to provide free dental service to at least 1,000 persons who have limited resources.

✓ Completion of the foundation, preparation for 7 water tanks, retaining wall , technical building, waste water sewage plant of the new Sint Maarten
General Hospital

✓ Automated the EHAS pre-approval process to increase tourism safely after Covid lock down.

✓ Nationa Mental Health Conference with the purpose of streamlining a community based approach to the MH challenges faced within the community.

✓ Work shop mental health and substance use activities at local and kingdom level.

✓ Commence a research project to establish a national health levy for Sint Maarten.

✓ SZV Building Project with wellness center and community park

✓ RFP Cannabis: will open an extra source of income for Government and will benefit persons with a medical indication.

✓ Made History with after hour house doctor care (HAP), to provide primary care (diagnosis & treatment of acute illnesses) , small procedures, wound care and prescribed medication for a maximum of 3 days.

✓ Delivery of brand new state of art ambulance

Labor:

✓ Revamped and relaunched the job portal. The job portal will serve as the primary tool for the National Employment Service Center (NESC) and will aid greatly in boosting the job matching process between employers and suitable job seekers. A fully automated dynamic and robust platform; a first of its kind for the Government of Sint Maarten.

✓ Updated the incidental work instruction which was signed off and put into effect; which ensures not only economic benefits for Sint Maarten but also the employment of our local labor force. This has instruction has been enforced in the signing 3 Scope of Services (SOS) agreements with three major developers for the construction of large developments, These 3 developments (Indigo Bay Project, Simpson bay Development

and the new PJIAE Terminal with Ballast Nedam) are estimated to create about 460 job opportunities and have an operational arrangement with the Government of St. Maarten under the auspices of VSA, which guarantees that the majority of employment goes to the local labor force.



Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the Simpson Bay resort on Friday December 10th, which branches off of the Minister's incidental work policy with the aim to strengthen the local work force.

The MOU documents the collaboration agreement between the Simpson Bay Resort and VSA's National Employment Service Center (NESC), to facilitate the proper training for St. Maarten residents in the hospitality industry. The agreement allows persons registered with the NESC, to take part in the training free of charge. Simpson Bay Resort stated that the training certificate will not only be recognized locally, but throughout all its hotel chains and affiliate hotels worldwide.



INSO Job Fair: in collaboration with the construction developers of the Sint Maarten General Hospital facilitate the recruitment of local labor and oversee the process, to ensure persons on the local labor market receive the first opportunity for employment.



Prepared and submitted proposal to the SER, to increase the Minimum Wage.



Launched Short Term Contract (STC) Survey; to obtain feedback and data from the business community

STC's. This data will be used to assess the pro's and con's of STC's and aid in labor reform.



Signed MOU with Royal Caribbean Group to create an expansion of Sint Maarten's Job Market within the cruising industry.



Got the approval from the Council of Ministers for the indexation of the hourly minimum wage for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021.



Indexation of the hourly minimum wage 2023 to Naf. 9,95,



increased minimum wage from Naf 9.95 per hour to Naf 10.40 per hour



NIPA initiative Scholarship Program, using the funds donated from the incidental policy to help strengthen the local work force in the fields where we have shortages of skilled labor and expertise.



Attended the International Labor Convention in Geneva which resulted in such and such being addressed etc



Ottley opportunity scholarship for Nipa



Largest National Job fair

Social



Adjusted the payout date of the widows and old age pension; from the 5th of the month to the 28th of each month.



Started the Tender to relaunch the Home Repair program, which is a continuation of the Department of Community Development, Family & Humanitarian Affairs (CDFHA) 2017 recovery program, which targets the most vulnerable groups(elderly, single parents, unemployed) in our community, who do not have the means to repair their homes.



Together with the Ministry of Justice, signed off on an official policy that was commissioned by both Ministries to strengthen government's response to combat Domestic Violence (DV), Child Abuse (CA) and Gender based Violence (GBV) through legislation and procedures that prevents their occurrence.



Introduced "Community Day" on every last Friday of the month. During this time, persons can choose to share ideas and suggestions with the Minister or discuss matters that may be affecting them health wise, social or labor wise.



Held first Community Outreach Day, in collaboration with the Department of Community Development, Family & Humanitarian Affairs (CDFHA). The Community Outreach Day was held on Saturday, December 18 at the De Weever Property in Dutch Quarter. The CDFHA and the Social Services

Department also had an information booth open for family members and others who needed to find out about the services that are available from the department. In addition, persons in need and the elderly were able to have one on one discussions to address their specific needs whether it be financial, medical or legal assistance or a disability.

✓ Signed off on bilateral agreement to allow the continuation of the food assistance program under the auspices of SMDF (Sint Maarten Development Fund).

✓ Launch of the Agro- Ecology Program in collaboration with CDFHA, Red Cross Netherlands and Spaceless gardens. The program aims to “improve the skills and knowledge of targeted registered participants and less fortunate members of the community through diverse hands-on educational program that focuses on Agro-ecology and home gardening as a way of alleviating poverty by growing food.

✓ Held the 1st annual Family Event themed “Strengthening the Pillars, Celebrating Families in collaboration with CDFHA, SXM Hillside and Eco Resort. This event brought about awareness to the the awareness to the importance of families in our society and strengthen family bonds while engaging in physical activity outdoors.

✓ Started collaboration with the Ministries of VROMI and JUSTICE to address and resolve the ongoing sewage/septic issues that have been plaguing members of the community for many years.

✓ Collaborated with the Minister of Education to commit to feeding school children and the vulnerable

Population by establishing a commercial kitchen.

- ✓ Launched survey on social and economic conditions in collaboration with NRPB, the SENA (socio-economic needs assessment) to gather information which will be used for the planning and development of policies.
- ✓ In collaboration with CDFHA and the Tax Office, facilitated a Tax Service Program to assist seniors/pensioners who have not yet filed or are behind in filings.
- ✓ Held Community Fun Days in Dutch Quarter and St. Peters in collaboration with CDFHA, to bring fun filled activities to the communities while assisting families with financial/medical aid and employment registration.
- ✓ Re- launched the Home Repair Program on May 25th 2022 for three (3) months, to assist seniors, the disabled, single parents and unemployed parents.
- ✓ Anti- Gang and Positivity School Tour to encourage the youths to stay on the right path and convince those who may be heading in the wrong direction to change course for the better by finding their purpose.
- ✓ Held Community Fun day for the community of Sucker Garden.
- ✓ Repaired the lights of the St. Peters and Cay Bay Basketball Court.
- ✓ Single Mothers/Women empowerment program “Beter Together” to enhance the community by assisting women, particularly single mothers in self care, parenting, budgeting resource management, love and relationships.

- ✓ Water agreement to assist French Side with water shortage
- ✓ Healthy Food program for kids
- ✓ GEBE deposit reduction from 50% to 25% for vulnerable groups.

TEATT

- ✓ Signed on to port master plan that will allow extension of boardwalk
- ✓ Food Basket Project: Increased from 12 to 72 items
- ✓ Expedia Media Marketing Campaign: Sint Maarten is suffering from what is called a summer crisis, where the number of visitors are not what we would like to see, although we aren't doing too bad given the circumstance. And this campaign will help to boost the tourists influx to Sint Maarten
- ✓ Civil Aviation authority receives upgraded Licenses
- ✓ Meeting with bus drivers association to discuss various issues and concerns with the routing system, price list increase and more.

- ✓ Launched the MSME(Sint Maarten Enterprise Recovery Project) Development program
- ✓ Reconvenes airlift between Dominican Republic and Sint Maarten
- ✓ Relaunched PR and Marketing with Big Idea Advertising, Diamond PR and USP PR Marketing
- ✓ Revamping Philipsburg Vendors Market Place
- ✓ Amendment to the Lottery Oversight Committee
- ✓ Sign largest Water Park in eastern Caribbean
- ✓ MOU to reduce the cost of the travel to Dutch Caribbean Islands, by making it more affordable, efficient and sustainable.
- ✓ Online business license application
- ✓ Re-establishing the EDC (economic development corporation)