



To members of the Island Council of the Public Entity of Saba.

Mr. T. Muller, secretary

1 Power Street

The Bottom

Saba

Amsterdam, 21st of December 2016

Concerning: heritage policy Saba

Dear Councilors,

The heritage organization Bond Heemschut is the oldest and biggest private organization for the protection of heritage and landscape in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Our patron is her Majesty Princess Beatrix. As an organization of active citizens and heritage enthusiasts we would like to draw the attention of your Council to the importance of having a cultural heritage policy on Saba to stimulate the social, cultural and economic potential of the island.

First steps are taken to protect the intangible heritage of the island of Saba. Heemschut thinks it is important that the council is willing to act to safeguard the special island culture and its traditions. Saba can be proud what its people have achieved culturally. Heemschut would also like to see a policy framework in place to protect the islands build heritage and burial sites. There has been little impetus in the past few years to come to a better protection of individual building or the build environment as a whole and historic private burial grounds. The build heritage and burial sites on the island of Saba needs more protection. See also the article of dr. Frans Brugman in Heemschut Magazine of June 2014.

Protecting the heritage is not enough. Heritage policy should also reach out to other policy terrains, f.e. to tourism. It is a missed opportunity of the Tourist Action Plan 2016-2018 that there is no mentioning of heritage or history. Tourists these days are looking for authentic places and experiences and historic monuments and stories.

Bond Heemschut, Vereniging tot Bescherming van Cultuurmonumenten in Nederland.

Opricht in 1911. Beschermvrouwe: H.K.H. Prinses Beatrix



I would kindly ask you as the island government to look into ways to better protect heritage and If you have any further questions or would like to reflect upon the matter, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Karel Loeff
Director

NB: A copy of this letter will also be send to mr. J. Johnson (Governor of the island of Saba), mr. G. Isabella (Commissioner Representative of the Dutch Government in the Caribbean), Mrs. J. Bussemaker (Dutch Minister of Culture)

Attached: article Dr. Frans Brugman, Saba nog steeds 'Unspoiled Queen'