

Ministry of Justice unveils a proposal towards the improvement of Aruba's correctional system

Oranjestad, Aruba. March 16, 2026. The Ministry of Justice of Aruba presented a proposal to develop a new correctional facility designed to improve detention conditions and the country's correctional system. The initiative, based on a technical study conducted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), indicates that a new facility built to modern standards could both enhance the quality of detention and reduce operational expenditures (OPEX) per inmate by an estimated 18%.

The study found that although the Korrektie Instituut Aruba (KIA) remains operational, its infrastructure presents limitations that hinder the implementation of modern prison management practices. These constraints affect classification of inmates, implementation of rehabilitation programmes, and efficient management of services and resources.

A new facility would be designed as a regional benchmark for progressive correctional design and management. It would consider the specificities of diverse population groups, including individuals in pre-trial detention, women, young adults, people with addiction or mental health needs, as well as other vulnerable groups. This approach would allow meaningful processes of social reintegration through tailored rehabilitation programmes and improvement of living conditions.

Furthermore, the concept incorporates sustainability and resilience principles to ensure long-term operational efficiency, with an estimated service life of 40 years and the flexibility required to adapt to demographic changes and the evolving needs of the country's correctional system. In terms of costs, a preliminary financial analysis projects an investment of approximately USD 119 million over four years, with a potential implementation start in 2026 and completion estimated for 2028.

"UNOPS technical assistance provides the Government of Aruba with a solid foundation to move towards a more modern and efficient correctional system aligned with international standards," said Giuseppe Mancinelli, UNOPS Caribbean Coordinator. *"For Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, strengthening the Rule of Law is essential to building resilient and secure institutions. Through this work and our broader experience in the region, including projects in Sint Maarten, UNOPS continues to support Caribbean countries in developing more effective and sustainable justice systems".*

Additionally, this proposal would provide significant benefits for KIA staff and justice sector professionals by strengthening workplace safety, optimizing operational workflows, and staffing efficiency. Finally, It would contribute to strengthening the country's justice chain as a whole, including security agencies, the courts, and probation services, by fostering greater coordination and institutional integration.

The Government of Aruba is reviewing the recommendations and will assess the next steps required to advance the proposal, including the legal, institutional, budgetary and technical arrangements needed for the potential development of a new correctional facility.

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Notes to the editors

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About the Minister of Justice

mr. drs. Arthur Dowers is the Minister of Justice, Integration, Public Transport and Energy of Aruba. He is responsible for public safety, law enforcement, immigration policy, correctional institution, public transport and the island's energy transition. Dowers previously served two full terms as Minister of Justice and brings extensive experience in strengthening the rule of law, public safety and good governance in Aruba.

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