Update on the Advancements of Construction of the new Point Blanche Prison

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As works progress on the construction of the new Point Blanche Prison Facility, the Ministry of Justice would like to provide an update on recent site developments, upcoming activities, and the environmental controls in place.

Implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the project forms a cornerstone of the broader Detention Sector Reform Program. The project transitions Sint Maarten's correctional infrastructure beyond traditional confinement by integrating dynamic security, rehabilitation, and structured inmate management. Designed in alignment with international human rights and detention standards, the facility embeds social, gender-responsive, environmental, and sustainability principles into future operations.

Over the past weeks, considerable progress has been made with site excavations and security fencing, paving the way for targeted demolition works in the coming weeks. Recognizing that heavy civil works inherently generate temporary noise and dust, the project team and contractor have instituted and enforced mitigation measures, to minimize environmental disruptions. These proactive steps reflect a continuous commitment to safety, security, and the daily well-being of prison personnel, inmates, and neighboring Point Blanche residents while maintaining prison operations.

Some of these mitigations include restricting high-impact demolition and noisy machinery to designated operational windows, ensuring quiet periods to prevent continuous disturbance. The contractor has reinforced active dust control measures on site, including regular water spraying. The necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including masks and earplugs, has been made available to both staff and inmates, all while ensuring active and frequent communication with prison management. Health and Safety personnel are constantly surveying and controlling operations, while measuring impacts and tailoring responses accordingly.

Delivering a project of this scale within an active correctional environment relies on close collaboration, and continuous communication, among all partners. Grounded in this coordinated approach, the Ministry of Justice and UNOPS remain committed to delivering a secure, humane, and resilient facility while managing active construction with care, transparency, and operational responsibility.

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Photos

For media inquiries contact:

Ismery Carrosco Bera
PR & Communications Officer
Ministry of Justice, Sint Maarten
ismery.carrosco-bera@justice.gov.sx

Gabriella Remy
Communications Officer - PR & Outreach
UNOPS, Sint Maarten
gabriellar@unops.org