

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



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1. Foreword

2022 was the Integrity Chamber's third operational year focussing on continuing to contribute to a government and society built on integrity. We actively promoted the importance of integrity, not only to government, its entities and companies, but also to the general public as well. By performing our legal tasks, we strived to educate, inform and encourage all stakeholders to prioritize integrity in their actions and decisions.

We are particularly pleased with the success of our Meet & Greet events with the public, one at the Simpson Bay Community Centre and another at the Senior Citizens Recreational Centre in Hope Estate, where we had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with the community about the importance of integrity. We also produced an informative video series entitled "Let's Talk About Integrity," which aimed to increase awareness and understanding of the work we do.

Furthermore, we have continued to provide information sessions for the employees of government and its entities, after having previously met with their boards in earlier years. These sessions were well received and aimed to reinforce the importance of integrity at all levels in the organizations.

In 2022, we also have continued with our "Quick Scan" advices by means of which we assess the integrity structure of a ministry in order to determine the biggest challenges and loopholes to integrity. At the request of the Council of Ministers of Sint Maarten we rendered an advice regarding the position of a Supervisory Board member of the Princess Juliana International Airport. Finally, this year the Integrity Chamber launched its first comprehensive investigation, regarding bidding procedures within the Council of Ministers.

As a result of our efforts, the Integrity Chamber is now known by more organizations and people and more people find their way to the Integrity Chamber requesting information concerning possible integrity issues or suspected misconducts. We have received positive feedback from government officials, organizations, and individuals, all of whom have praised our work and see great value of our

contribution to Sint Maarten's integrity agenda. We are proud of the progress we have made in promoting integrity, and we remain committed to "building integrity for future generations", our slogan on which we act.

We appreciate the good working relationship with our fellow advisory institutions such as the Ombudsman, General Audit Chamber, Social Economic Council and Corporate Governance Council. By working together, we strengthen each other and build a stronger Sint Maarten, together. We look forward continuing to do so.

Looking to the future, I wish that the Integrity Chamber will continue to make progress in promoting and safeguarding integrity in Sint Maarten. I am confident that, with the continued support and engagement of all stakeholders, we will achieve our goal of a more transparent and accountable society, where integrity is valued and upheld by all.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to our secretariat for their continued commitment, support and collaboration in promoting integrity in Sint Maarten. We firmly believe that integrity is the cornerstone of good governance, and that it is essential to building public trust, fostering economic growth and promoting social justice. We look forward to continuing our work in the years ahead and to making even greater strides towards building a stronger and more resilient Sint Maarten.

It is with great pleasure that I, also on behalf of my fellow members Boasman and Lodder, present to you the Integrity Chamber's Annual Report for the year 2022.

H.W. (Rian) Vogels
President
Integrity Chamber
Sint Maarten



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Integrity is
doing the
right thing.

2. Legal Basis

This Annual Report describes the legal tasks and other activities of the Integrity Chamber, which finds its basis in the National Ordinance Integrity Chamber (*Landsverordening Integriteitskamer*, AB 2017, no. 41) (hereafter: the Ordinance). The Ordinance was adopted by Parliament in December 2017 and entered into force on December 28, 2018.

The annual report, as required by Article 36 of the Ordinance, contains a description of and the number of the activities of the Integrity Chamber, except where there is a regulated requirement of confidentiality, as is stated in Articles 37 and 38 of the Ordinance.

The annual report of the Supervisory Council, as required by Article 14, paragraph 4, of the Ordinance, is included in the annual report of the Integrity Chamber.

Scan this QR code to read the Ordinance:



3. Organisation

The structure of the Integrity Chamber consists of members, a secretariat, and a Supervisory Council. This structure allows it to function independently and remain neutral in the execution of its tasks.

Mission

"It is the Integrity Chamber's mission to instil the need for integrity awareness and ethical behaviour within Government and the community, and by doing so, stimulating and increasing, a level of trust internally in Sint Maarten and outwardly in terms of international relations."

Vision

"It is the Integrity Chamber's vision to instil the continuous importance of personal and public integrity within all levels of government, businesses, and the public."

Core Values

The Integrity Chamber recognizes the following core values as values that are indispensable to the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation:

- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Respect
- Independence

With the establishment, implementation, and application of processes and procedures that exhibit the above-mentioned core values, the integrity of the organisation will be ensured.

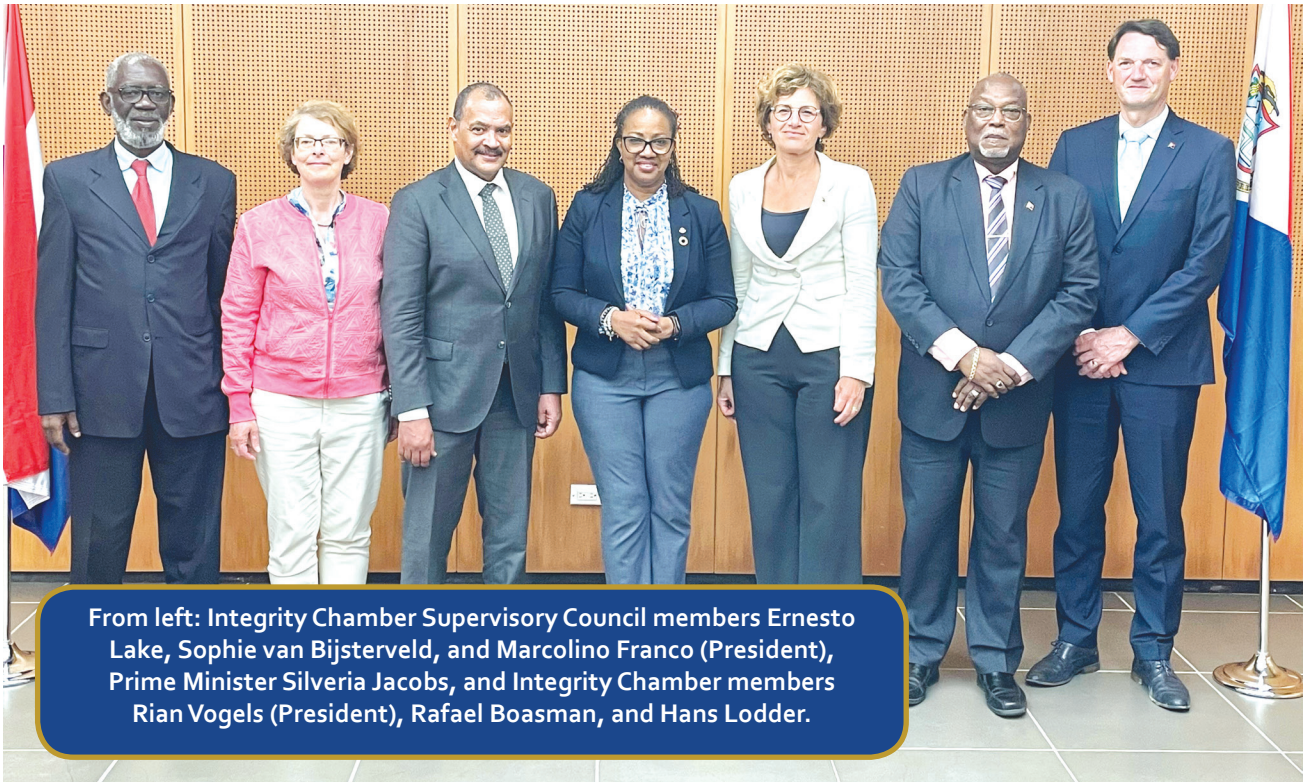
3.1 Members

The Integrity Chamber is comprised of three (3) members. The members are appointed for a term of three (3) years and can be reappointed once for the same term. The current members are:

- **Mrs. H.W. (Rian) Vogels**, also president, appointed by Royal Decree on the binding recommendation of the two (2) other members, from January 1, 2020, for a period of three (3) years, and reappointed for another three (3) year term.
- **Mr. R.A. (Rafael) Boasman**, appointed by National Decree on the binding recommendation of the Council of Ministers of Sint Maarten, from January 10, 2019, for a period of three (3) years, and reappointed for another three (3) year term; and
- **Mr. H.R. (Hans) Lodder**, appointed by National Decree on the binding recommendation of the Council of Ministers of the Netherlands, from January 28, 2019, for a period of three (3) years, and reappointed for another three (3) year term.

3.2 Secretariat

The Integrity Chamber is supported by a secretariat, headed by the director, Ms. Charna Pompier. The secretariat carries out the daily activities of the Integrity Chamber. Pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Ordinance, the Integrity Chamber is an independent administra-



From left: Integrity Chamber Supervisory Council members Ernesto Lake, Sophie van Bijsterveld, and Marcolino Franco (President), Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs, and Integrity Chamber members Rian Vogels (President), Rafael Boasman, and Hans Lodder.

tive body with legal personality. Therefore, the staff of the secretariat is solely accountable to the members of the Integrity Chamber. To execute the tasks of the Integrity Chamber, the secretariat has qualified personnel who have legal, policy writing, research, and communication expertise. In addition, the secretariat has various supporting staff to facilitate the independence of the organisation.

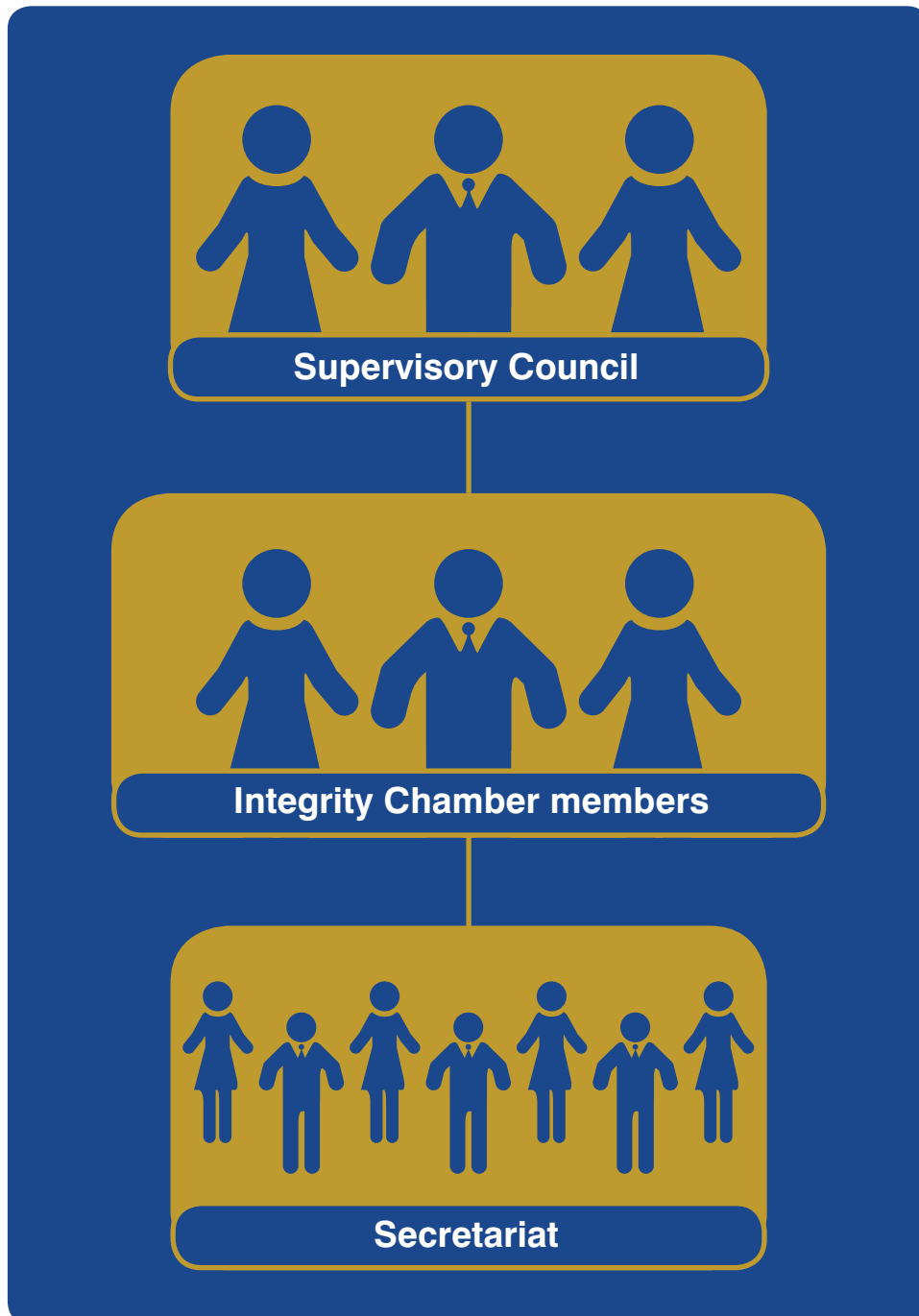
3.2 Supervisory Council

The Integrity Chamber has a Supervisory Council, which oversees specific activities of the Integrity Chamber based on Article 14 of the Ordinance. The Supervisory Council is comprised of three (3) members. The members are appointed for a term of three (3) years and can be reappointed once for the same term. The current members are:

- **Mr. M.C.F. (Mike) Franco**, also president, appointed by Royal Decree on the binding recommendation of the two (2) other members, from January 1, 2023, for a period of three (3) years. The president was selected in 2022 and appointed in 2023.
- **Mr. E.L. (Leon) Lake**, who was appointed by National Decree on the binding recommendation of the Council of Ministers of Sint Maarten from January 1, 2020, for a period of three (3) years, and reappointed for another three (3) year term; and
- **Ms. S.C. (Sophie) van Bijsterveld**, who was appointed by National Decree on the binding recommendation of the Council of Ministers of the Netherlands from January 1, 2020, for a period of three (3) years, and reappointed for another three (3) year term.

A special task of the Supervisory Council is the granting of authorization for on-site investigations. The Supervisory Council also handles complaints against the Integrity Chamber regarding the manner in which its authorities are executed. The complaint procedure of the Supervisory Council can be found on the website of the Integrity Chamber.

Scan this QR code to read the complaints procedure.



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Integrity
is being
trustworthy.

4. Tasks

The Ordinance outlines the core tasks of the Integrity Chamber. Those tasks are:

- to give advices and proposals on policies for the general promotion of integrity;
- to investigate suspected misconducts; and
- to strengthen awareness on integrity in the community.

4.1 Advices and Proposals

Based on Article 16, paragraph 1, of the Ordinance, the Integrity Chamber is tasked with giving advices or making proposals on policies to improve integrity in Sint Maarten. Advices and proposals can be given on the Integrity Chamber's own initiative or at the request of the Prime Minister, the responsible minister or Parliament.

When writing advices and proposals the aim is to identify, assess, and address procedural gaps or loopholes to better the integrity infrastructure of Sint Maarten. The Integrity Chamber oversees the implementation of its advices and proposals.

4.1.1 Consultation

The Integrity Chamber also has a special advisory role based on Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Ordinance. In accordance with this article, the Integrity Chamber must be heard (i.e., consulted) in cases prescribed by the National Ordinance, in all exceptional cases of a significant nature, and in any other cases in which Government or Parliament deems it necessary. Examples include draft legislation and regulations meant to improve integrity.

4.2 Investigations of suspected misconduct

Articles 25 and 26 of the Ordinance gives the Integrity Chamber the authority to investigate suspected misconducts within administrative bodies (i.e., Government, government entities, and government-owned companies).

Investigations can be started in response to a notification of suspected misconduct or on the Integrity Chamber's own initiative. Anyone can file a notification of suspected misconduct. A (suspected) misconduct relates to an act or failure by an administrative body to adhere to values and norms, legal requirements, or other obligations through which the interest of society, or the proper functioning of an administrative body could be harmed.

Examples of misconduct include conflicts of interest, non-compliance to regulations, favours for family and friends, intimidation, and discrimination, leaking of confidential information, misuse of organisational resources, abuse of authority, financial misconduct, etc.

Article 26, paragraph 3 of the Ordinance, gives the Integrity Chamber further authority to issue a binding advice based on the findings of the investigation.

4.3 Awareness

Article 16, paragraph 5, of the Ordinance, tasks the Integrity Chamber with the responsibility of continuously providing information to

citizens to strengthen awareness on integrity in the community. This goes further than only strengthening awareness among civil servants and employees of government-owned compa-

nies, but also includes all of society. The Integrity Chamber does this on its own initiative but also provides information sessions on request when possible.

“

Integrity is
equality.

5. Activities 2022

In this chapter, the various activities executed in 2022, based on the core tasks of the Integrity Chamber, are described. In the first half of 2022, the budget amendment by Parliament made it necessary to reduce its planned activities. However, the organisation was successful in reaching several of its goals for 2022, such as creating awareness of the work of the Integrity Chamber, and helping the community better understand the importance of integrity.

5.1 Submitted Advices and Proposals

In 2022, the Integrity Chamber rendered two (2) advices, one (1) request for an advice was declined, and no proposals were submitted.

The following two (2) advices were submitted:

- One (1) unsolicited advice: "*The Quick Scan of the Ministry of TEATT*"
- One (1) requested advice: "*The Advice on Supervisory Board Positions at PJIA*"

The administrative bodies did not provide the required responses to the advices in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 4, of the Ordinance. The Integrity Chamber will follow-up on the implementation of the advices based on Article 16, paragraph 4, of the Ordinance.

The summaries of the submitted advices are presented below.

5.1.1 The Quick Scan of the Ministry of TEATT

The Quick Scan of the Ministry of TEATT (hereafter: Ministry) was conducted with the purpose of determining the risks, challenges, and areas for improvement of its current integrity infrastructure (legislative system). The information gathered throughout the Quick Scan provided vital information, revealing the most pressing and urgent needs within the organisation.

Legislation, regulations, and moral codes, though necessary, cannot be fully effective in reducing and preventing integrity risks or misconducts if certain organisational elements are not in place. An organisation also requires having certain elements in place for the effective and efficient fulfilment of organisational objectives. During the study, three (3) organisational elements were observed: Bureaucratic Processes, Ministerial Autonomy, and Human and Material Resources. Apart from a general analysis of the Ministry, the Integrity Chamber specifically approached the following five (5) departments / executing agencies:

- The Department of Economic Licenses
- The Department of Economic Inspection
- The Department of Tourism
- The Directorate of Economy, Traffic & Telecommunication
- The Department of Civil Aviation, Shipping & Maritime

Recommendations were made by the Integrity Chamber to curb the most pressing integrity risks occurring within these departments / executing agencies, and the Ministry on a whole, such as, developing policies and procedures to manage the identified integrity risks within the Ministry, the implementation of a Code of Conduct and the appointment of Confidential Advisors. The purpose of these recommendations are to enhance the Ministry's integrity infrastructure, to minimize integrity risks and to guide employees within their daily tasks and contacts with third parties. Other recommendations were provided in the areas of bureaucratic processes and ministerial autonomy to clarify procedures and to improve accountability and transparency.

Pertaining to Material and Human Resources, the recommendations made by the Integrity Chamber included providing (refresher) courses for employees to upgrade their knowledge and skills for their function, improving the awareness of integrity-related topics and emphasizing the importance of integrity. Creating an inventory of the material needs of the Ministry and prioritizing acquisition based on urgency, were recommended to enable the ministry to perform their tasks in a more effective and efficient manner.

The administrative body has not yet responded to the Quick Scan recommendations. The Integrity Chamber will continue to follow-up on the required response.

Scan this QR code to read the full advice:



5.1.2 The Advice on Supervisory Board position PJIAE

The Integrity Chamber received a request from the Council of Ministers of Sint Maarten regarding the position of a Supervisory Board member of the Princess Juliana International Airport Exploitatiemaatschappij N.V. (hereafter: PJIAE or Airport). In the request, the Council of Ministers of Sint Maarten expressed its concern that a court ruling could potentially damage the reputation of, and integrity at, the Airport. The Council of Ministers requested advice on what the court judgment means for the Supervisory Board member's position within the Airport and/or what policies should be in place to deal with these kinds of matters.

The Integrity Chamber advised that anything that raises questions about the integrity of an individual or the corporation, should be managed and handled as an integrity issue.

The Integrity Chamber also advised the establishment, implementation, and enforcement of the recommended policies to ensure a comprehensive integrity infrastructure within the Airport.

Scan this QR code to read the full advice:



5.1.3 Declined request for advice

The Integrity Chamber received a request for an advice to determine whether there was a breach of integrity, according to the standards of the Integrity Chamber. The request did not specifically detail the administrative body's concerns or possible integrity issues.

To ensure accountability and transparency in its working methods, the Integrity Chamber invited the administrative body to clarify its request. The clarification was not provided and the request for an advice was therefore not fulfilled.

5.2 Consultations

The Integrity Chamber did not receive any requests for consultations based on Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Ordinance during 2022.

5.3 Investigation Activities

The Integrity Chamber was approached throughout 2022 concerning their investigative tasks. Persons approached the Integrity Chamber to inquire about filing a notification. The Integrity Chamber was also approached by persons seeking more information about how the organisation could assist them. Reporting a (suspected) misconduct can be a daunting task. For this reason, there are three (3) important factors that come into play: awareness of the organisation's existence, understanding the operations of the organisation, and viewing the organisation as trustworthy. Given the time that it takes for an organisation to achieve this, the Integrity Chamber is pleased with the level of engagement experienced through both formal and informal approaches, and the level of trust that has been demonstrated.

5.3.1 Inquiries

Persons regularly contact the Integrity Chamber requesting information concerning possible integrity issues or suspected misconducts, submitting a notification, examples of misconduct, or other information concerning the Integrity Chamber's tasks.

Submitted notifications in previous years, for example, have occasionally not resulted in investigations because the reported suspected misconducts and the related organisations were outside the scope of the Integrity Chamber's jurisdiction. Therefore, to avoid the reoccurrence of these situations, the Integrity Chamber began registering inquiries and introduced the possibility to have discussions with persons requesting information. In the interviews, the integrity issues are discussed, as well as possible solutions. Eight (8) inquiries were handled, one (1) of which led to a notification.

5.3.2 Notifications

In 2022, three (3) notifications of suspected misconducts were reported to the Integrity Chamber.

The notifications of suspected misconduct fell within the following categories:

- Undesirable workplace behaviours
- The abuse of authority
- Non-compliance with applicable legislation/regulations

The first two (2) notifications were considered inadmissible. The first decision of inadmissibility (undesirable workplace behaviours) was based on Article 19 of the Ordinance, which states that a suspected misconduct should first, if possible, be reported to the administrative body where it took place. It is important that the administrative body is aware of what has happened. They should also be allowed the opportunity to resolve the issue.

The second decision of inadmissibility (abuse of authority) was based on Article 24, paragraph 1 sub b of the Ordinance. The submitted notification stated that the administrative body was not in compliance with applicable legislation. However, upon review, the administrative body was in compliance. Therefore, there were no grounds to investigate the notification of suspected misconduct.

The third notification was considered admissible (non-compliance with applicable legislation/regulations). A preliminary investigation was conducted.

5.3.3 Investigation

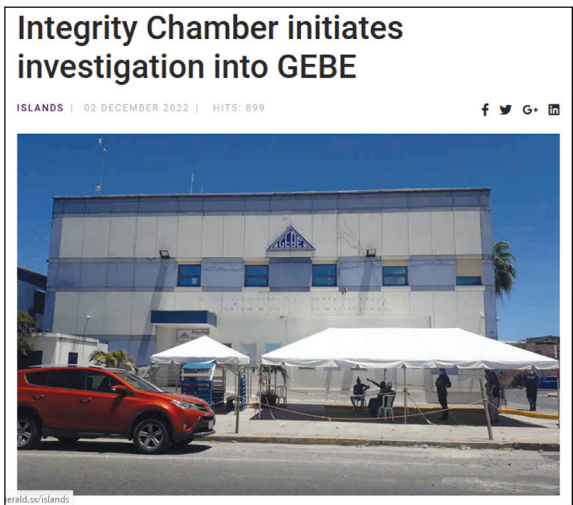
In 2022, a preliminary investigation was conducted. The notification was related to a complaint that a third-party had been occupying government long-lease land without the necessary permits. Based on the findings of that in-

vestigation, the Integrity Chamber concluded that the notification of suspected misconduct was not sufficiently substantiated to warrant a comprehensive investigation. However, the Integrity Chamber informed the relevant ministry of their responsibility to ensure compliance and enforcement of applicable regulations.

The Integrity Chamber also started a comprehensive investigation based on another preliminary investigation, previously completed in 2021. The Integrity Chamber decided to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the notification of suspected misconduct, as meant in Article 26 of the Ordinance. The misconduct of the notification is described as, *"a violation of, or non-compliance with, existing bidding procedures within the Council of Ministers"*.

At the end of 2022, the Integrity Chamber launched a comprehensive investigation into N.V. GEBE on its own initiative. This investigation will be completed in 2023.

Articles 37 and 38 of the Ordinance prohibit the Integrity Chamber from sharing confidential information about its performed activities. However, statistical information regarding suspected misconducts, such as, the number of notifications reported, the number of (preliminary) investigations executed and the outcome, as well as the number of binding advices submitted, can be found in Chapter 6.



5.4 Awareness Activities

Awareness is an important vehicle for positive change. Continuous promotion of integrity through awareness campaigns is necessary to encourage, develop and unite the public and reinforce the belief that integrity is everyone's responsibility.

The Integrity Chamber promoted the importance of integrity with various activities. Information Sessions, Informational Videos, "Meet & Greet" community outreach events and the "Let's Talk About Integrity" video series, were part of the Integrity Chamber's attempts to further provide information concerning the tasks and authorities of the Integrity Chamber, as well as facilitate discussions on the importance and necessity of integrity in the community.

5.4.1 Information Sessions

The Integrity Chamber organised information sessions within various ministries and departments. Civil servants were invited to participate in these information sessions in an effort to generate more awareness about the Integrity Chamber and the importance of integrity. The integrity sessions took place at the various departments and were executed by a member of the Integrity Chamber and an employee of the secretariat.

The information sessions created an opportunity for direct connections to be established with the organisations. This was started on the Integrity Chamber's own initiative, and thereafter, several organisations requested additional and/or more in-depth sessions. A total of seventeen (17) information sessions were provided. Additionally, three (3) sessions on integrity in the workplace, were provided to the entire staff of the Ministry of VROMI.

#	Administrative Body	Number of Sessions
1	VKS	2
2	KPSM	2
3	VDSM	1
4	Point Blanche Prison	1
5	National Detectives	1
6	Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard	1
7	Public Prosecutor's Office	1
8	Ministry of VSA	2
9	Court of Guardianship	1
10	Immigration and Border Protection Services	2
11	Ministry of TEATT	1
12	Foundation Judicial Institutes Sint Maarten	1
13	Customs Department	1
14	Ministry of VROMI (Integrity Sessions)	3
	Total	20



Integrity Chamber member Rafael Boasman (standing left) with staff of the Ministry of VSA



Integrity Chamber member Hans Lodder presenting to staff of the Customs Department.



5.4.2 Informational Videos

The Integrity Chamber created informational videos using graphic animations and voice recordings to convey messages on various topics related to integrity. These videos were used to summarize large topics and make difficult concepts easier to understand. A total of six (6) informational videos were published on the following topics:

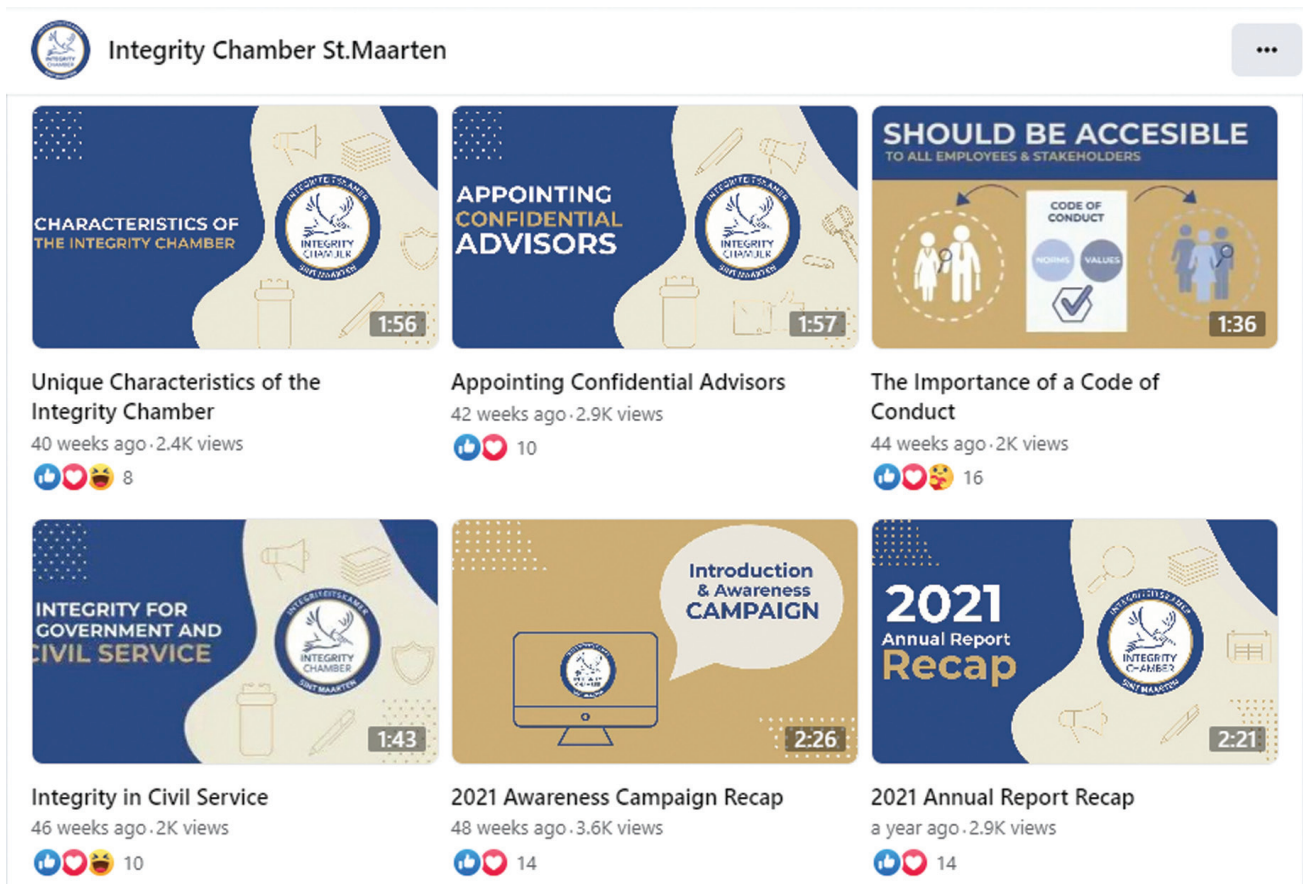
1. 2021 Annual Report Recap: Overview of the activities from the year 2021.
2. 2021 Awareness Campaign Recap: Summary of the 12-week Awareness Campaign launched in 2021.
3. Integrity in Civil Service: Explanation of the importance and requirements for integrity in the civil services of Government.
4. The Importance of a Code of Conduct: Description of the benefits and meth-

ods to implement a Code of Conduct within an organisation.

5. Appointing Confidential Advisors: Discussion on the tasks and benefits of Confidential Advisors.
6. Unique Characteristics of the Integrity Chamber: Review of the structure, jurisdiction and tasks of the Integrity Chamber.

Each informational video received approximately 2,600 views in 2022.

Scan this QR code to view the videos:



5.4.3 “Meet & Greet” Community Outreach Events

The “Meet and Greet” events featured a short presentation on the Integrity Chamber and the importance of personal integrity, followed by an informal get-together. Two (2) events were hosted, one (1) at the Simpson Bay Sports Community Centre and another at the Senior Citizens Recreational Centre in Hope Estate.

The events provided the public with a casual setting where they could become familiar with the Integrity Chamber and the people behind the organisation. These gatherings were meant to build trust between the Integrity Chamber and the community and facilitate conversations about integrity in a relaxed environment.



Integrity Chamber Meet and Greet in Hope Estate.



Integrity Chamber Meet and Greet in Simpson Bay.

5.4.4 "Let's Talk About Integrity" video series

The Let's Talk About Integrity video series was launched in the second half the year. It featured interviews that allowed for a more informal approach to discussing integrity, where the public could be more connected to the content. The interviews were conducted with reputable opinion leaders and professionals in the community to provide a variety of contexts in which integrity could be applied. The series featured eight (8) videos with the following guests and corresponding topics:

1. Secretariat of the Integrity Chamber – Introduction video explaining the purpose of the series and what to expect.
2. Former President of Parliament, Grisha Heyliger-Marten – "The Importance of Integrity"
3. Minister of Finance, Ardwell Irion – "The Impact of Integrity on Government Finances"
4. Interim Director of Foreign Affairs, Patrice Gumbs – "The Impact of Integrity

on the International Image of Government"

5. President and Founder of the Integrity Advancement Movement Foundation, Achken Roberto Richardson – "The Impact of Integrity on Equal Treatment in the Civil Service of Government"
6. Integrity Chamber Policy Advisor, Amanda Browne – "Government, Society and Integrity"
7. General Managing Director of WIB St. Maarten, Derek Downes – "Financial Misconduct"
8. Integrity Chamber Director, Charna Pompier – "Conflicts of Interest"

In 2022, the video series received on average 9,800 views per video.

Scan this QR code to view the videos:



Integrity Chamber St. Maarten



Interview with Amanda Browne - "Let's Talk About Integrity" Series

31 weeks ago · 9.4K views



37



Interview with Achken Roberto Richardson - "Let's Talk About..."

32 weeks ago · 8.1K views



31



Interview with Patrice Gumbs - "Let's Talk About Integrity" Series

33 weeks ago · 10.5K views



28



Interview with Minister Ardwell Irion - "Let's Talk About Integrity" Series

35 weeks ago · 11.9K views



49



In this video of the "Let's Talk About Integrity" series, the Integrity Chamb...

38 weeks ago · 14.7K views



76



Introduction to "Let's Talk About Integrity" Video Series

39 weeks ago · 10.1K views



175



Integrity Chamber meeting with Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations.



Integrity Chamber meeting with the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands.

5.5 Contact With Other Organisations

Networking

The members and the director of the Integrity Chamber met with important stakeholders to maintain good working relationships. This included but was not limited to (High) Councils, Ministers, Secretary Generals, (supervisory) board members and/or management of government entities. In the meetings, the activities

of the Integrity Chamber were presented and discussed as well as the mutual expectations and the working relationship. Contact was also sought with similar organisations in the Kingdom, namely, the Dutch Whistle-blowers Authority, the Bureau of Integrity Amsterdam, the National Ombudsman of the Netherlands, and a professor of Integrity and Quality of Organisations at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

There is no international pre-established network of Integrity Chamber. It is therefore important for the Integrity Chamber to establish a network of persons and organisations in the field. The Integrity Chamber continued its efforts to expand its network with both private and public organisations that are involved in integrity-related activities.

Cooperation Protocols

The Integrity Chamber is an independent organisation. However, to prevent an overlap in activities and to promote coordination and consultation between organisations that are also tasked with investigating suspected misconducts, Articles 22 and 23 of the Ordinance requires the establishment of Cooperation Protocols with the Prosecutor's Office and the Minister of General Affairs, respectively. The protocols outline the working arrangements between the organisations.

5.6 Operational Activities

5.6.1 Professional Development

Enhancing the expertise and improving the quality of professional skills is of great importance in the execution of the tasks of the Integrity Chamber.

Representatives of the Integrity Chamber participated in the "Communication Force of the Kingdom 2022" Congress, as well as certification courses for Confidential Advisors. Integrity trainings, and trainings on safety and security were also provided to maintain the standard of knowledge on the subject of integrity within the secretariat.

5.6.2 Supporting Activities

The Integrity Chamber has three (3) supporting activities, namely: Finance, Administrative Support, and Information and Communication Technology (currently provided by third parties).



ties). Activities in these areas were executed under the supervision of the director of the secretariat. Day-to-day activities within these three (3) areas are ongoing.

The necessary provisions for the supporting activities are made available to maintain the independence of the Integrity Chamber.



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*Integrity is
keeping your
promises.*

6. Statistics

The Integrity Chamber recorded the following statistics for the Annual Report 2022:

Task	Description	Quantity
Unsolicited advices and proposals	The number of unsolicited advices and proposals issued.	1
Requested advices and proposals	The number of requests for advices and proposals received.	2
• Admissible requests	The number of admissible requests.	1
• Inadmissible requests	The number of inadmissible requests.	1
Inquiries	The number of persons/organisations requesting information concerning integrity issues and the services of the Integrity Chamber.	8
Notifications	The number of notifications received.	3
• Admissible notifications	The number of admissible notifications.	1
• Inadmissible notifications	The number of inadmissible notifications.	2
Preliminary investigations	The number of preliminary investigations carried out.	1
Comprehensive investigations	The number of comprehensive investigations performed.	2
Binding advices	The number of binding advices given.	0
Awareness activities	The total number of activities executed to raise awareness.	36
• Information Sessions	The number of information sessions provided.	20
• Informational Videos	The number of informational videos published.	6
• “Meet & Greet” Community Outreach Events	The number of community outreach events hosted.	2
• “Let’s Talk About Integrity” Video Series	The number of interview videos published.	8

7. Financial Overview

7.1 General Financial Management

The budget of the Integrity Chamber is part of the annual budget of the Government of Sint Maarten. Article 15 of the Ordinance states that, in agreement with the Integrity Chamber and the Minister of General Affairs, Parliament provides the Integrity Chamber with all facilities for the proper and independent performance of its duties.

As an independent administrative body with legal personality, the Integrity Chamber regulates its finances independently. The president of the Integrity Chamber is responsible for budget management.

7.2 Budget 2022

Based on an agreement established in 2018 between the government of Sint Maarten and the government of the Netherlands, both countries shared financial responsibility of the Integrity Chamber from 2018 till 2021. As of 2022, the Government of Sint Maarten is fully responsible for the financing of the Integrity Chamber.

The 2022 budget for the Integrity Chamber was originally NAf 2,472,932. The budget consisted of personnel costs and material costs and was based on the planned activities of the Integrity Chamber. This budget was submitted to the Government of Sint Maarten in March 2021.

On January 21, 2022, the Parliament of Sint Maarten passed an amendment to reduce the Integrity Chamber's budget from NAf 2,472,932 to NAf 1,772,932, a total decrease of NAf 700,000. Contrary to what is regulated in Article 15 of the Ordinance, the amendment was passed without consulting the Integrity Cham-

ber. After several talks with Government, the Integrity Chamber submitted a formal request to the Prime Minister in June 2022, to reamend the budget to NAf 2 million, to ensure the proper and independent functioning of the organisation. The additional amount was approved, however not via an amendment to the budget of the Integrity Chamber.

7.3 Expenditures

The overview of the operating budget for 2022 is presented below.

Financial Year 2022

Budget post	NAf.	NAf.
Budget		2.000.000
Personnel	868.450	
Members Integrity Chamber & Supervisory Council	358.774	
Material costs	691.768	
Total Costs		1.918.992
Balance		81.008

The uncertainty regarding the budget amendment, negatively affected the operations of the Integrity Chamber, especially in the first half of the year. The results show that Parliament's amendment was unrealistic; a budget of NAf 1,772,932 would not have been sufficient. The increase allowed the Integrity Chamber to continue its operations, however its independency was hampered.

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Integrity
is showing
gratitude.

8. Supervisory Council Annual Report 2022

8.1 Legal Framework

The Supervisory Council of the Sint Maarten Integrity Chamber was established in 2020 in accordance with Article 13 of the Ordinance.

8.2 Composition of the Supervisory Council

The Supervisory Council consisted of two (2) members: Mr. E.L. (Ernesto) Lake and Ms. S.Ch. (Sophie) van Bijsterveld. In accordance with the Ordinance, the Supervisory Council has made a binding recommendation to the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to appoint Mr. M.C.F. (Marcolino) Franco as chairman of the Supervisory Council per December 1, 2022. The appointment went into effect per January 1, 2023.

8.3 Complaints Regulation and Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Regulation of the Integrity Chamber Sint Maarten as referred to in Article 14, paragraph 2 of the Ordinance, established on November 29, 2020, was published in the National Gazette dated December 23, 2021, and can also be consulted on the website of the Integrity Chamber (under 'Publications'). No complaints were filed in 2022.

8.4 Activities of the Supervisory Council

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, the meetings of the Supervisory Council took place online exclusively.

The Supervisory Council held internal work meetings, joint meetings with the Integrity Chamber and meetings with the president of the Integrity Chamber.

The internal work meetings of the Supervisory Council mainly focused on the recruitment procedure for a president of the Supervisory Council, the finetuning of the working procedures of the Supervisory Council and the preparation of meetings with the Integrity Chamber and with the president of the Integrity Chamber.

The joint meeting of the Supervisory Council and the Integrity Chamber took place twice in 2022. During the meetings with the Integrity Chamber in 2022, administrative matters were primarily discussed, such as the outlook and the intentions for the coming year, the annual report, the budget of the Integrity Chamber and the financial position of the Integrity Chamber, as well as practical matters, such as Information Technology facilities. Developments relating to the functioning of the Integrity Chamber were also discussed. In particular, other subjects were discussed, such as the state of affairs with regard to received notifications, the handling of notifications, whether or not to initiate an investigation, advices issued by the Integrity Chamber upon request and on own initiative, the embedding of the Integrity Chamber in the midst of other public institutions and acquiring public awareness of the existence and significance of the Integrity Chamber.

Meetings with the president of the Integrity Chamber took place throughout the year, on average once per six weeks. The meetings of the Supervisory Council with the president of the Integrity Chamber mainly related to interim mutual exchanges of information in areas as mentioned above.

