



Profile text Island Governor Saba

1. Saba, the Unspoiled Queen

Saba is the Unspoiled Queen of the Caribbean, a five square mile island located in the northeastern Caribbean Sea. The Public Entity of Saba is a special municipality within the Netherlands and has 2158 inhabitants. Mount Scenery on Saba is the highest point of The Kingdom of the Netherlands and Saba has a great diversity in nature both on land as in the Caribbean Sea. Known for its Caribbean charm, Saba has a close knit society with strong ties among the community. Saba is at the same time ambitious to maintain and improve the living standards for its citizens. The planned construction of a new sea harbour is a prime example of this. The Saba University School of Medicine attracts many foreign students to Saba and is another important economic and social factor on the island.

2. Challenges and opportunities for Saba

Saba is a small island with a big heart. Therefore a lot of work has to be done by a relatively small group of people. Being part of the Netherlands as a special municipality means that there are a lot of administrative and political connections directly with the national government which involves extensive communication with national governmental actors.

The demographic changes for Saba have a big impact on housing, infrastructure and public services on the Island. The isolated location makes connectivity a challenge and the cost of living are relatively high. Therefore Saba wants to develop its economy while at the same time maintaining the identity of both the island and the society.

3. Core competences of the profile for the Island Governor of Saba

The opportunities and the challenges that face Saba ask for an Island Governor with a clear and sharp profile. The five core competencies of the Island Governor should be:

Integrity

The Island Governor always acts confidently and transparently according to generally accepted norms and values. He or she possesses a well-developed moral compass. The Island Governor serves as an example, actively promotes integrity awareness, and encourages others to act accordingly. This applies to the Executive Council, the Island Council, and the civil service organization, as well as externally in the society of Saba.

Making connections

The Island Governor provides direction within the Island Council, the Executive Council and the wider community and hereby establishes and maintains partnerships. In its role, the Island Governor encounters different people, groups, and potentially conflicting interests. The Island Governor is explicitly expected to be the one who bridge differences and brings and keeps parties together.



Recognizable

The Island Governor is always aware of the surroundings and the contextual situation and acts accordingly. The Island Governor identifies with the people and organizations with whom he or she interacts. Despite the varying roles (one moment as Chairperson of the Executive Council or Island Council, the next engaging in attentive conversations with residents), the Island Governor is always recognizable as being the Island Governor.

Resilient

During major events and crisis situations, the Island Governor knows what is expected of her or him. The Island Governor continues to act effectively under pressure and exudes calmness and confidence.

Independent

The Island Governor is expected to operate with a high degree of independence and not enter into any special ties with one or more parties. This applies to both administrative and political matters, as well as socially. The Island Governor, based on authority, position, and trust, stands above parties and is accepted as such, both in political relations as in relations with residents, social organizations, and other stakeholders. In addition, the Island Governor is seen as a "point of contact" for the municipality and the community. This requires independence, and the Island Governor must be able to consistently express that independence in his or her functioning. The Island Governor will need to have a natural authority and maintain a sufficient distance from stakeholders.

4. Expectation of the fulfilment of the role of Island Governor

The Island Governor has different roles. Below the expectations for the Island Governor are elaborated on for each role.

The Island Governor as mother/father figure of the island:

- Is empathetic, caring and has an eye for the needs of the society of Saba.
- Actively engages with the society of Saba and is visibly present at important events on the island.
- Acts inclusively to ensure that all of Saba's residents are involved in the decision-making process and recognizes the diversity of Saba's people.
- Recognizes citizens and organizations for their contributions to society.
- Is the Island Governor of and for everyone on Saba.

The Island Governor as Chairperson of the Island Council:

- Guides the debate in the Island Council and facilitates sound decision-making. The Island Governor ensures that everyone is involved in the decision-making process, respecting the political role of the members of the Island Council and that of the Executive Council.



- Is consistent in decision-making and stands by the decisions made in both the Island Council and the Executive Council and ensures that these are also implemented.
- Is knowledgeable and professional. For example, the Island Governor is thoroughly familiar with the laws, procedures, and regulations for chairing the Island Council meetings or is willing to delve into them and seek support and advice in this matter.
- Is sensitive to the various interests and opinions within the Island Council, between the Island Council and the Executive Council, and to the mutual (personal and political) relationships.

The Island Governor as Chairperson of the Executive Council:

- Leads the Executive Council as a team and facilitates sound decision-making.
- Is decisive and functions as captain of the ship.
- Ensures policy consistency and plays a connecting role between the Island Council and the Executive Council.
- Is professional and knowledgeable. The Island Governor is fully familiar with the laws, procedures, and regulations required for decision-making within the Public Entity or is willing to delve into them and seek support and advice in this matter.
- Plays an important role as guardian of integrity.

The Island Governor as portfolio holder for public order and safety:

- Is a strong leader who is resilient and decisive.
- Shows commitment to victims, local residents, emergency responders, and any volunteers involved in emergencies.

5. Other points of interest

The Island Governor must have a strong and well-founded (social) connection with Saba or the Caribbean region.

The Island Governor must be fluent in English and Dutch, both in speech as in writing. Knowledge of Spanish and or Papiamentu is a plus.

The Island Governor preferably has a university degree or equivalent experience. Saba is one of three Dutch Caribbean islands with direct ties to the Netherlands. Therefore knowledge of the Dutch administrative and political context and of the Caribbean region is a key requirement. The Island Governor must monitor relevant national and regional developments that are important to Saba.

The new Island Governor must be based on Saba or, if applicable, settle on Saba as soon as possible after appointment.

The above competencies and skills form the basis for the annual consultation meetings between the Island Council and the Island Governor.



In addition, several legal requirements apply under the BES Public Entities Act (WolBES), including: Dutch nationality (Article 75); Secondary positions (Article 79); Incompatibilities (Articles 80 and 82); and Actual residence on Saba (Article 85).