



April 19, 2022

Prime Minister of Aruba  
H.E. Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes  
L.G. Smith Blvd 76  
Oranjestad

Your Excellency,

Thank you for inviting me to join the meeting of March 29<sup>th</sup> at the offices of DIP, to discuss the unfortunate boating accident at Palm Beach that caused a young visitor to lose her life.

As discussed at length in the meeting, lack of regulation and consistent enforcement causes a lax culture that does not focus on discipline and safety.

In follow up to the conversation on March 29<sup>th</sup>, I hereby submit AHATA's recommendations for increased safety for all that enjoy the popular beach areas.

- The precario license of the watersports vendor location on the beaches should require, at the very least:
  - For each captain/driver to have a valid boat license.
  - That none of the employees violate the law at the beach or while in the boat(s).
  - Regular and random drug tests of captains/drivers.
  - CPR certificates for each captain and boat mate.
  - Liability insurance, of minimum \$1 Million.
  - Any violation of these requirements should result in immediate revocation of the precario.
  
- Watersports vendor permit needs to include at least the following requirements:
  - All captains/drivers to have a boat license.
  - Propellor cover for outboard motors.
  - Liability insurance, of minimum \$1 Million.
  - CPR certificates for each captain and boat mate (renewed annually).
  - All staff abiding to all laws.
  - Any violation of the requirements should result in immediate revocation of the permit.

- Introduce mandatory protocols for handling of the boat(s) and customers, such as: turning off the engine when close to clients and helping them board the boat. Note: The rules can be determined by a committee of responsible boating/watersports experts. These mandatory rules can be included in permit requirements.
- Update the boat license process to require a course on rules and safety protocols.
- Create a required schedule of patrol and enforcement by Beach Police and Maritime Police on the beach and at sea and ensure that they have adequate staff and equipment to do so.
- Coordinate/delineate patrol responsibilities between Coast Guard and Maritime Police.
- Introduce structural sharing of information on violations between Maritime Police, Beach Police, DIP, and Directie Scheepvaart (Shipping Inspector).
- Provide AHATA with a copy of the watersports vendor precarios, so the hotel security teams can help ensure discipline and report certain violations of rules (i.e. location of umbrellas, number of umbrellas, cleaning up of equipment, etc) for the vendors located near them. Note that AHATA has requested DIP for copies of the precarios repeatedly, since January 12<sup>th</sup>, to no avail.
- Limit number of watersports permits to operate at the Palm Beach and Eagle Beach areas.
- Limit and control the number of boats that can park in the waters in front of the Palm Beach and Eagle Beach.

We hope that the urgency of this matter will not be lost as time goes by, because much can be and should be done to ensure a better level of safety for the residents and visitors that enjoy our popular beaches. Most important of all is consistent enforcement to maintain a level of discipline.

Kind regards,



Tisa LaSorte  
President and CEO

cc: Director of DIP, Mr. Haime Croes  
Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Danguillaume Oduber  
CEO of A.T.A., Mrs. Ronella Croes  
Minister of Justice, Mr. Rocco Tjon  
Director Shipping Inspection, Mr. Rene Donata