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Chapter IV Budget of the Kingdom

Kingdom relations

Towards new relations and stronger governance

The Kingdom is on the eve of major reforms. In 2008 the new relations in the Kingdom should be shaped. Curaçao and St. Maarten will acquire the status of a Country within the Kingdom. Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius choose for more intensive ties with the Netherlands. The target date for the new relations is Kingdom Day, December 15, 2008.

Strengthening administrative effectiveness

The political process offers a unique opportunity to contribute, together with Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, to the creation of an administration that is in a better position to serve the population to the best of its ability. That requires an administration on the basis of efficiency, integrity and transparency. Together with the islands efforts will be made to realize improvements in order to contribute to a favourable starting position for the islands in the new political situation.

Within the scope of the political reforms and within the cooperation policy, measures will be taken to improve the quality of the administration and the administrative machinery. Also public finances will be put in order, the economy will be stimulated and safety and legal certainty should be increased. These improvements are beneficial to the future of the populations of the islands. Implementation of the measures is primarily the responsibility of the islands themselves. In this connection the Netherlands will give support in the form of financial, economic and legal expertise. Funds have also been reserved for the strengthening of the offices of the lieutenant governors.

Public finances

Rapid implementation of the agreements with regard to debt rescheduling and the financial supervision linked to it, is a matter of great urgency. Expectedly, in 2008 the supervisory body will be operational in all the islands.

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Datum
15 juni 2007

Blad
2 van 2

As soon as the supervisory body is operational, the restructuring of debts and payment arrears can be started. It is expected that for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba such restructuring can be started during the fall of 2007. In addition to debt rescheduling, the Social and Economic Initiative is an important stimulus to achieve sustainable economic development. For each island specific measures will be taken to stimulate the economy.

Maintenance of law and order

Citizens in the Netherlands Antilles are demanding more safety. The cooperation within the scope of the Netherlands Antilles Safety Plan (PVNA) will be continued in 2008. The cooperation started in 2005 and has led, among other things, to the number of robberies in Curaçao being halved. For such purpose the Netherlands pays 10.5 million Euro on a yearly basis. Also with Aruba a comparable Safety Plan will be started in 2008.

Preservation of Monuments and Historic Buildings in the Netherlands Antilles

A strong incentive will be given to the elimination of the backlog in the maintenance of monuments in all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles. The monuments represent an important part of the history of the Kingdom and, consequently, are of great cultural and historical value. A number of the monuments are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. For this purpose the Dutch cabinet will make €8 million available during the coming cabinet period.

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To download Chapter IV of the Budget of the Kingdom, go to
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