

For immediate release

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Successful launch of SmartGovernments platform Online tools help executing government priorities

Phillipsburg, July 4 '14 – The SmartGovernments platform was introduced on Thursday to an enthusiastic audience of dignitaries and other government officials. This free online platform is an initiative of BearingPoint and supports government and semi-governmental organizations in the Dutch Caribbean and Surinam in initiating, implementing and monitoring government priorities. After a successful launch last week on Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, the tool will now also be available for St. Maarten.

Executive Discussion

The online platform was launched during the *SmartGovernments* executive discussion in the Westin Dawn Beach Resort & Spa. Under the inspirational leadership of host Jörgen Raymann and in the presence of Minister of Finance, the Hon. Martin Hassink, Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, the Hon. Cornelius de Weever and Members of Parliament, a select group of dignitaries and executive officials discussed a best practices approach for initiating, implementing and monitoring government priorities. The main focus was on how to make sure that good initiatives bring tangible results.

SmartGovernments approach and platform

Management & IT consultancy firm BearingPoint initiated the development of the online SmartGovernments platform to offer a solution for universal challenges of government and semi-governmental agencies in the region when executing government priorities. Based on these experiences and best practices, the pragmatic SmartGovernments approach has been developed. The platform supports this approach by offering four online tools that initiate, implement and monitors government priorities.

Available at no cost

The best practices were discussed in the morning, after which the several components of the SmartGovernments platform were presented. BearingPoint gave a demo of the tools and its functionalities. The platform has been made available at no cost. It serves as a tool for and by the users, whose input and feedback will further extend its functionalities. The tools have been specifically developed to bring structure in the challenges that governments face in the region's small scale communities.

Enthusiastic audience

The audience showed lively interest for the initiative. Minister of Finance, the hon. Martin Hassink gave the opening speech and spoke about the importance of smart government: “There is a serious need, not only for efficiency in government, there is a need for Smart Government. Meaning we need to reach to the level that we can discuss and determine our vision and related policies extensively. We need to plan and take the actions required to make the execution of the established policies possible in an effective way and be able to monitor progress. This process takes time. We are a young country. Rome was not built in one day and St. Maarten will not either. Guidance and support in this growing process is of crucial importance.”

More information

The SmartGovernments platform consists of four tools. SmartVision, SmartStart, SmartDashboard and SmartEconomy will help ministers, executives, policy advisors and project managers of ministries and government agencies with their priorities during different stages. Users can get access to the portal via the website www.smartgovernments.net with their own unique code.

Note for the press, not intended for publication:

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