



---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### **The Meteorological Department Curaçao will discontinue its services for the BES Islands**

Starting on January 1, 2016, the Meteorological Department Curaçao (MDC) will not be responsible anymore for the meteorological services or the issuance of weather forecasts for neither the general public nor the aviation and maritime sectors for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. This job will now be performed by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).

At the time of dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles, the Dutch Minister, noting that the service delivery done by MDNAA was performed at the international level, requested the MDC to provide these services to guarantee the continuity of meteorological services for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. A protocol regulating the cooperation between the Meteorological Departments was then signed by the Ministers of Curaçao and the Netherlands.

With effectiveness from January 1, 2016, KNMI will be responsible for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba to prepare the weather forecasts and warnings for the general public. In addition the KNMI will provide services to the aviation and marine sectors in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

During the visit of our Minister in The Hague with the State Secretary responsible for meteorological affairs, it was also decided that the responsibilities for the four Meteo employees working in Bonaire will be taken over by the KNMI per January 1, 2016.

The Government of Curaçao is always willing to assist the people of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba since sudden and hazardous weather situations can have adverse consequences.

For the Meteorological Department Curaçao, it was a pleasure to be responsible and to monitor, forecast the weather for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba during the past years. We also thank the governors of the BES Islands for the trust they have put in our services. Now that the KNMI is taking over this responsibility, we wish them good luck.

---