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Course: Environmental Science

Assignment: Interview Directie Natuur en Milieu

Upon visiting the Directie Natuur en Milieu (DNM), there were three persons that were interviewed, the main person was Ms. Shahyra S. Croes. Seeing that there were four main topics that had to be discussed, questions were asked accordingly. The interview went on for approximately 50 minutes. It was a very up-close and personal, one on one interview.

**Personal and professional impression of waste management in Aruba**

People employed at DNM are either environmentalists, biologists, ecologists and microbiologists or people with a scientific background regarding the environment. DNM makes policies with stakeholders for the government. Furthermore, they inspect the waste facilities. Unfortunately, they have no authority to sanction anyone if they are not up to the standards, only the police can do that. Waste is mostly brought to Parkietenbos. Our waste is currently not recorded, the only thing we know is how much kilos waste comes in as the trucks are weighted at entrance and exit and whether it is household, commercial or construction waste. There used to be a company which converts waste to energy but up to their knowledge it is not functional anymore. There are some smaller companies like Ecotech and recycling companies but none are recording our waste. Unfortunately, there are also still some illegal dumping areas on the island but hopefully in the future these will all be eliminated. As soon as the new government has been sworn in they will be planning new ideas and plans regarding waste management.

**Desired future of waste management in Aruba**

Hopefully in the upcoming 5-10 years Aruba will have a enclosed landfill, better waste processing, less waste due to more recycling, and waste ordinance will be introduced. Also, hopefully more sanctions will be given to citizens and companies if the rules are not upheld with regards to waste management. The idea is there to realize awareness campaigns at schools, companies and hotels. As DNM is only creating policies their task is only to advise and much more they cannot do. The citizens can do much more by letting their voice be heard and by choosing the right parliament. Also by educating the children will have a large impact on the future of Aruba’s waste management.

**Obstacles seen in getting to this desired future scenario**

As recycling is expensive this will be the major obstacle in the future. Balashi recycles their bottles but other companies were also recycling but the costs were to high for them to maintain profitable and functional. The government plays a major role in the decision making and therefore, choosing the right government is very important. Having plans and ideas change constantly due to the change in parliament does not improve the status of Aruba’s waste management. Having laws changed in Aruba regarding waste management is a long process and therefore, time is also an obstacle. As most of our goods are imported, also its packaging is imported which is waste for the island, if companies and households buy more in bulk, the amount of packaging waste will be decreased which in turn will help our waste production.

**Market for improved waste management in Aruba**

There is certainly a market for waste management but nevertheless it is an expensive business and therefore needs to be well planned. We need to educate the people of Aruba and this will help in lowering the production of waste eventually. Also putting more responsibilities with hotels would be an option if we have rules and regulations to back it up. When the plans are set for educating the future of Aruba having volunteers to present will also help the future of waste management.

**The questions**

*Personal and professional impressions of waste management**in Aruba*

How did you get in this field of work and what are the requirements?, Does any recoding take place of what goes into Parkietenbos?, Are the types of waste that goes into Parkietenbos made note of?, Is there any other place that waste is stored in?, How is directie natuur en milieu involved in waste management?, How do you inspect these facilities?, What is the most populated place on Aruba (air,water,land)?, Take aways of working in this department.

*Desired future of waste management in Aruba*

How do you see the waste management in Aruba in about five to ten years, Can we as citizens help with the desired future of this department?, What were the best opportunities the Directie Natuur en Milieu has had?, Are there any goals to be met of this department?

*Obstacles seen in getting to this desired future scenario*

Why was Echotech stopped?, As employees of the government do you have much say?, Is statiegeld on bottles an option? (Balashi has/had this system), is the government a challenge to implement change?, Challenged faced to reduce waste., Compared to other countries can we use their examples in Aruba?

*Market for improved waste management in Aruba*

Does Bubali plas have something to do with our waste management?, Who could we as students talk to if there was a plan to volunteer to educate kids?, Can we put more responsibility on hotels?