

# SMART NATION CURACAO - DATA DAYS CONFERENCE 2022

Digital Strategies for a Secure Data Driven Society

By: Minister Charles Cooper – Minister of Traffic, Transportation and Urban Planning

## The road towards becoming a Secure Data Driven Society

The digital economy is one of the most exciting sectors nowadays and the revolution of the Internet has made all kind of ICT-services possible within our communities. The supporting telecommunication infrastructures providing broadband networks has made several new digital services and developments possible including cloud computing, e-Learning platforms, work-from-home possibilities, online Government services, and Artificial Intelligence amongst others.

In Curacao we have several well-developed telecommunications infrastructures supporting our digital economy. With the introduction of the new legislation on electronic communication networks and services, which is under my supervision as we speak, we will make even more progress towards a more resilient and diversified telecommunications infrastructure that will bring additional opportunities for new, and more innovative players in the market, but also new operators providing 5G mobile services.

We are also working together with the Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post on a new framework for the introduction of Number Portability which will give end users more freedom to change from telecommunication providers while maintaining their own telephone numbers. So yes, if you are not happy with the quality, pricing, or service from your current telecoms operator, you can change

to another provider without hassle. On behalf of the Ministry of Traffic, Transportation and Urban Planning and on behalf of the entire Government of Curacao we are promoting and supporting all of these new types of services especially considering the benefits of our citizens in the end.

In the coming months we will also be introducing more and new exciting developments as the new telecommunication legislation will bring more diversity in the market. This is just one way on how we have to embrace new technology and innovation. The best part of this, is that we do not only support our citizens with these technology advancements, but we also create new possibilities to cater our project to the rest of the region. Yes, from now on, all eyes have to be focused on Curacao as we thrive and position ourselves to be the leading country in the region with regards to technology and innovation.

With all of this in mind, the Smart Nation Curacao Platform, which is organizing this wonderful event today, has been explicitly designed to leverage our digital economy and other important national developments. All of these great initiatives are predefined within the 6 pillars for a comprehensive Smart Nation development. So there's definitely a PLAN and a STRATEGY ... !!! This plan needs your input and commitment so together we can make it all happen.

It's all about working in multi-stakeholder groups, each one focusing into their own area of expertise, to introduce new developments and synchronize with already existing ideas and projects. At the end of the day, it's also about improving people's lives with the use of technology and make ourselves a more "liveable future" – hence, introducing a better quality of life by means of digital data driven solutions.

The 6 pillars of Smart Nation Curacao are:

1. Education, Science & Development
2. Infrastructure, Transportation, Data & Services
3. Urban Planning, Energy & Environment
4. Public Safety & Security
5. Smart Destination for Leisure & Business
6. Health, Wellness & Living

As part of the Government of Curacao, we will do our outmost to support the further development of our underlying ICT-infrastructures in the overall benefit of Smart Nation Curacao. The digital economy is taking us to new frontiers, and we are committed to take real actions and to create the enabling conditions to make this happen. We have some of the most exciting and developed communications facilities and connectivity infrastructure in this part of the world, and Curacao as a Digital Hub in the Caribbean can easily target and cater nearby markets within a blink of an eye with our wonderful Data Driven solutions. Curacao has to become the leading Smart Nation in the region, and by embracing Digital Transformation we can definitely help to realize this achievement.

Let's make great use of this conference to talk, discuss and venture into new possibilities of how we can embrace Digital Transformation and really turn Curacao into a Secure Data Driven society where data is not just a commodity but where it can be effectively used to help our businesses, markets, and government recover and thrive.

