



STINAPA INFORMATION

SON OF THE FIRST "COLORED CHINAMAN"

He is the son of a Dutch mother and a Bonairean Father; son of the well-known businessman, Miano from Antriol. "The first colored Chinaman" as he proudly calls his father. Ronnie Bernabela is a tourist guide, taxi-driver, and vice-president of the Taxi Union. He has already worked 31 years in the tourism sector on the different islands of the Antilles. He has been back for 9 years already on his birth-island. A gentleman who likes philosophy and gets you to think. But always with a poetic flair. "Nature is life. End of discussion!" is the decisive answer of Ronnie when asked what nature means to him. "From a little plant-seed to the child that is born. It is unbelievable. Nature is life." Patiently Ronnie explains that in the old days already, nature was a source of income to the people that planted crops on the island. Nowadays tourism is a source of income for the Bonaireans thanks to the beautiful nature we can offer them. In other countries Bonaire is being recommended as a tourist destination thanks to nature conservation efforts of the people. But according to Ronnie there is a lack of information and awareness about the added value that nature gives each of us. Information that will create a balance between nature and economic development. It's Ronnie's opinion that people need to understand better why certain things have become illegal. For instance the ban on catching turtles and conch. The local people have to see the advantages, preferably tangible. When something is outlawed they often think it is only to benefit the tourist and not the Bonaireans. Regarding the protection of nature Ronnie is very short: "There just is no choice. Either you protect nature or you slowly destroy her. Due to the lack of water, nature can not recover quickly enough". He is also very worried about the future existence of nature tourism if he looks at the building activity that is taking place. Especially in view of the new form of government. A new Bonaire in which the financial advantages do not reach the masses. The policy of Bonaire should be to inform the people about our natural resources and their development. The effect of nature conservation should be visible in the daily life of the Bonaireans. "Knowledge is power", Ronnie concludes.

Written by pa Natalie Wanga, translated by Marcel Nahr.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru