

PCN ORGANIZES CONGRESS ABOUT MANDATORY PENSION

Kralendijk- Pensioenfonds Caribisch Nederland (PCN) is organizing a congress on Bonaire on 15 November, 2018 with the theme "Mandatory Pension".

PCN is responsible for the pension of government employees and those working in the healthcare and education sectors. However, this only concerns a relatively small percentage of the total population on the BES islands.

By means of the congress, PCN would like to contribute to the general discussion about the introduction of a mandatory/general pension, where all employees who do not yet participate in any scheme, would automatically and compulsorily participate.

"It is good to realize that most people on the islands do not have any form of supplementary pension on top of their AOV," says PCN chairman Harald Linkels. "In fact, employees who fall under PCN are a relatively privileged group with a good and sound supplementary pension. But most employees in the private sector have to get by with only the AOV when they reach the age of 65," says Linkels.

The PCN chairman says that all sorts of investigations, such as those of Nibud and more recently that of Regioplan, show that a single person on the islands needs at least around 1100 dollars per month to transfer from. "Almost twice the amount of the AOV", says the PCN chairman.

Through the congress, PCN wants to contribute to the discussion about the introduction of a general or compulsory pension for all employees who are not covered by another pension scheme.

During the congress, various speakers will sketch a picture of the pension situation on the Dutch Caribbean islands, look at the way mandatory pension functions in Aruba, and explore a number of possibilities for a compulsory pension on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

The PCN chairman believes the social partners on the islands should also take their own responsibility for the pension issue. "We can always look in the direction of Holland and expect them to come up with something, but in the end we also have to develop initiatives ourselves and take responsibility. There is no reason why the local governments, in consultation with employers and employees, could not come to a general pension scheme, which ensures that everyone will have more income in the post-employment phase," says Linkels.

According to the PCN chairman, trade union umbrella Usibo in particular is strongly in favor of a general pension, but practically stands alone in their plea. PCN will shortly provide more information about the program for the congress and ways in which interested parties can register.

Photo: the board of PCN (fltr, Roy Hooker, Harald Linkels, Gerard Bergsma and Valdemar Marcha.
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