Bonairean Darion Pietersz Becomes PADI Dive Instructor Through Murphy Henar Foundation

Kralendijk, Bonaire, June 8, 2026 — A significant milestone for Bonaire's diving community has been achieved as Darion Pietersz has become the first participant to successfully graduate as a PADI Dive Instructor through the support of the Murphy Henar Foundation. His achievement not only serves as an inspiration to young Bonaireans aspiring to build careers in the diving industry but also demonstrates that there are multiple pathways to professional success on the island.

The Murphy Henar Foundation was established in memory of Murphy Henar, a beloved employee of Buddy Dive Resort who was known for his passion for the ocean and his commitment to mentoring young people. According to Tina Wall, Dive Operations Manager at Buddy Dive Resort and a key figure within the foundation, the organization's mission is to create opportunities for Bonaire's youth within the diving industry. "Murphy always took newcomers under his wing," said Wall. "He did not just teach people how to dive; he taught them how to become better professionals. The foundation continues that legacy."

From Car Wash Employee to Dive Instructor

Darion began his career at Buddy Dive Resort working in the car wash department. From there, he advanced to the dive shop, earned his Divemaster certification, and eventually set his sights on becoming a dive instructor. When he was ready to take that next step, the Murphy Henar Foundation provided financial support, making him the first instructor-level candidate sponsored by the organization. "Darion was born and raised on Bonaire and has developed himself step by step," Wall explained. "When he decided he wanted to become an instructor, we felt that this was exactly the kind of ambition the foundation was created to support."

Wall noted that pursuing instructor-level training is not always straightforward for young people on Bonaire. The cost of certification programs can be significant, and language barriers may present additional challenges. "Many young people on Bonaire learn in multiple languages simultaneously, which can make training programs more demanding," she said. "However, with guidance, practical experience, and determination, they can achieve remarkable success."

An Alternative Pathway to Success

Wall emphasized that the diving industry offers meaningful career opportunities for young people who may not always thrive within traditional educational systems. "Diving combines theory with hands-on experience, teamwork, responsibility, and interaction with people," she said. "Not everyone excels in a classroom environment, but some young people truly flourish in learning environments where mentorship and practical

experience are central." The foundation currently supports several Bonairean candidates, including both employees of Buddy Dive Resort and students who have expressed an interest in pursuing careers in the diving industry.

Inspiring the Next Generation
For Darion, earning his instructor certification represents an important milestone in his professional journey. Asked why he wanted to progress from Divemaster to Instructor, he explained that he was eager to continue developing his skills and share his knowledge with others. Today, he looks back on the experience with pride. His message to other young people on Bonaire is simple: "If you have a dream, you have to give it a try yourself. Come experience it and discover whether it is right for you." And for future students considering training under his guidance, his answer is immediate: "Yes, of course I will help them," he said with a smile.

Through Darion's success, the Murphy Henar Foundation hopes to inspire more local young people to develop their talents within the diving industry and seize opportunities when they arise.

About Buddy Dive Resort
Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire is one of the Caribbean's leading dive resorts, offering world-class shore diving, full-service dive facilities, professional training programs, and comfortable accommodations. As a PADI 5-Star Instructor Development Center, Buddy Dive provides a full range of scuba education from entry-level courses to instructor development and continuing professional education. Over the last few years, Buddy Dive Resort was recognized as one of the World's Best Dive Resorts & Operations in Scuba Diving magazine's Reader's Choice Awards: Top 100 Gold List.

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