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Bermuda Government signs agreement with Microsoft Corporation to use Online Safety Materials

The Department of E-Commerce within the Ministry of the Environment, Telecommunications and E-Commerce (METEC) has announced an agreement that was recently signed with the Microsoft Corporation that will allow the use of a full package of materials designed to educate people about online safety – especially children, at no cost to the government. This is the first agreement of its kind that Microsoft has signed with a country in the Caribbean Region.

The agreement follows the passing of the Criminal Code Amendment Act 2007 that provides comprehensive laws to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, especially on the internet.

The materials that will be supplied by Microsoft include security videos and documents produced by Microsoft that are connected with the issue of online safety and security.

This is one of several initiatives that the Department of E-Commerce is undertaking to encourage security and safety on the Internet. The Department is presently working on another significant project with the local Telecommunications Industry in the area of online safety, which will be unveiled later this fall.

Minister of the Environment, Telecommunications and E-Commerce, the Hon. Neletha Butterfield, J.P., M.P. said: “We at METEC are thrilled to be able to use these tools and materials from the world’s leading software manufacturer, Microsoft. Through initiatives such as this agreement with Microsoft, we will continue to keep online safety in the forefront of our efforts to ensure a safe online experience for all Bermuda residents, especially our children.”

Nancy Volesky, Director of E-Commerce said: “We have been working closely with the Microsoft Corporation since Bermuda co-hosted the 8th Annual Microsoft West Indian

Government Conference earlier this year, which was the first time Microsoft had ever partnered with a country for this event. The ongoing partnership with Microsoft at the corporate level continues to benefit Bermuda and demonstrates that Bermuda remains a successful and sophisticated business technology jurisdiction in the eyes of global technology leaders.”

Rick Marcet, Public Sector Director of Microsoft Corporation said: “We are honoured to work with the Government of Bermuda to take positive steps for the protection of our most vulnerable citizens, and it is another example of how public and private sector partnerships contribute to a more healthy society.”

As part of the agreement, representatives from local law enforcement will also attend conferences hosted by Microsoft for internet security for international law enforcement.

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