



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

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PRICE \$3

# ANOTHER DNA DEFECTION

*Story on Page 3*



The ministry of education has identified five schools as part of a pilot project with an ambitious goal to improve the delivery of education to students in Antigua and Barbuda. **Story on Page 4**



### Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2020

Date	Cruise Ship	Arrive-Depart
25 February, 2020 Tuesday	 MSC Divina	07:00 18:00
25 February, 2020 Tuesday	 Britannia	07:00 18:00
26 February, 2020 Wednesday	 Celebrity Summit	17:00
26 February, 2020 Wednesday	 Serenade Of The Seas	08:00 17:00
27 February, 2020 Thursday	 Celebrity Silhouette	17:00
27 February, 2020 Thursday	 Seven Seas Explorer	08:00 19:00
28 February, 2020 Friday	 MSC Preziosa	08:00 18:00

## The Living Word

Water into Hope

Read: John 4:4–14

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. John 7:37

Tom and Mark’s ministry refreshes lives. This is clear in the video they share of a group of fully clad children laughing and dancing in the refreshing water of an open shower—their first ever. The men work with indigenous churches to install water filtration systems on wells in Haiti, easing and lengthening lives as diseases connected to contaminated water are prevented. Access to clean, fresh water gives the people hope for their future.

Jesus referred to “living water” in John 4 to capture a similar idea of a continual source of refreshment. Tired and thirsty, Jesus had asked a Samaritan woman for a drink (vv. 4–8). This request led to a conversation in which Jesus offered the woman “living water” (vv. 9–15)—water that would become a source of life and hope within them, like “a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (v. 14).

We discover what this living water is later in John, when Jesus said, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink,” declaring that whoever believed in Him would have “rivers of living water [flowing] from within them.” John explains, “By this he meant the Spirit” (7:37–39).

Through the Spirit, believers are united to Christ and have access to the boundless power, hope, and joy found in God. Like living water, the Spirit lives inside believers, refreshing and renewing us.

How has Jesus satisfied your thirst through His Spirit? How will you share what Jesus has done for you?


Dear God, thank You for leaving us Your Spirit. Work in us so that our lives point others to You.

### DAY 2/28

Max UV Index: 9 Very High  
Wind: ESE at 15 km/h  
Wind Gusts: 22 km/h  
Probability of Precipitation: 44%  
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
Precipitation: 1.0 mm  
Rain: 1.0 mm  
Snow: 0.0 cm  
Ice: 0.0 mm  
Hours of Precipitation: 1  
Hours of Rain: 1

Mostly sunny with a shower in spots

# 28° Hi




### NIGHT 2/28

Wind: E at 9 km/h  
Wind Gusts: 17 km/h  
Probability of Precipitation: 40%  
Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
Precipitation: 0.5 mm  
Rain: 0.5 mm  
Snow: 0.0 cm  
Ice: 0.0 mm  
Hours of Precipitation: 1  
Hours of Rain: 1

Partly cloudy with a passing shower or two

# 23° Lo




### SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
6:26AM

Sunset AST  
6:14PM

Duration  
11:48 hr




### MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
9:36 AM

Moonset AST  
10:19AM

Duration  
12:43hr





## Vere Cornelius quits DNA

Joanne Massiah's Democratic National Alliance (DNA) has been hit with yet another high profile desertion.

Businessman Vere Cornelius, the DNA's candidate for St. John's Rural East in the last general election, has resigned from the party.

*Pointe Xpress* obtained confirmation for this on Thursday night from Cornelius himself, who also told us that he has applied for membership in the United Progressive Party (UPP) from which the DNA splintered in 2017.

Cornelius told us his resignation was dated February 24, but actually handed to Massiah a day earlier. Asked whether he was unhappy with the DNA or its leadership, Cornelius said he "just decided to move on", and has "applied to the UPP for membership".

Pressed about reports that his talks with the UPP were already well advanced long before he decided to formally quit the DNA, Cornelius replied: "Since the general elections were over in 2018, I've had people from within my constituency expressing interest for me to come over and be a member of the United Progressive Party Branch within my constituency. I have had many conversations with my constituents.

"When you are thinking of representing people ... eventually you have to listen to the voice of the people. I did go through the constituency and spoke to quite a number of people within the area, and the consensus came back that this was the correct move to make."

However, word on the ground has been rife of the UPP having already prom-

ised the seat to another disgruntled turncoat, Sean Bird of V.C. Bird family fame and Antigua Labour Party (ALP) navel strings.

Cornelius said he could not speak to whatever conversations that may have taken place between Bird and the UPP.

"All I can tell you is that I have applied to the UPP for membership and, at this time, that is as far as I can proceed."

Cornelius would not acknowledge or confirm that his defection to the UPP was based on any promise made to him regarding future candidacy for the Rural East seat, currently held by Maria Browne. He stuck doggedly to his stance that he has only applied for UPP membership.

DNA leader Joanne Massiah told us she was attending a function and could not

speak with us when we contacted her for comment on Thursday night.

Asked what sort of reaction he got from party colleagues upon informing them that he was quitting, Cornelius said Massiah "was pretty much supportive, and she just told me that if that was my decision she would just accept it, and she just wished me the best of luck going forward."

Another DNA senior member, Anthony Stuart, told us he had missed the party's most recent executive meeting, and therefore could not confirm whether Cornelius had actually resigned or the reasons for him doing so – matters that would likely have been discussed. Stuart therefore declined to comment, but seemed very interested in learning the details of whatever Cornelius had told us.

## Joseph heads Caricom COVID-19 committee

Antigua and Barbuda Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, has been named by CARICOM to head a special Working Group to formulate recommendations/protocols for a possible regional response to the COVID-19 disease.

This happened on Wednesday when CARICOM Ministers of Health held an emergency meeting to discuss the growing global concerns of the coronavirus, the COVID-19.

This second Emergency Meeting of CARICOM's Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD-Health) was also joined by CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados and Secretary-Gen-

eral Ambassador Irwin LaRocque. It was a virtual meeting with the ministers linked by information technology and chaired by Joseph.

The Working Group, which has been mandated to meet on Thursday morning, included representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat; the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA); CARICOM's Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS); the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Ministers of Health from Grenada and Jamaica.

It will report back to a reconvened



*Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph*

Meeting of the COHSOD-Health on Friday afternoon.

The CARICOM Chairman, in proposing the establishment of the Group, urged that it recommends a possible

*cont'd on pg 4*

# New approach to education

The ministry of education has identified five schools as part of a pilot project with an ambitious goal to improve the delivery of education to students in Antigua and Barbuda.

Direction of Education, Clare Browne, rolled out the Schools Transformation Programme (STP) at a townhall meeting held at the auditorium of the Antigua Girls High School this week.

Browne said the programme is using three primary schools – Potters, Greenbay and Golden Grove – and two secondary – Ottos Comprehensive, and Pares Secondary as part of the pilot or testing phase of the project.

According to the director the STP is based on three pillars – readiness to learn, readiness to teach, readiness to act and the aim is to develop strategies to turn

around or change schools that are not performing at optimum levels.

“We are seeking to improve the schools so that they obtain a higher level of performance in their overall results whether it students performing better at Grade 6 examinations at the end of school Caribbean Secondary School Certificates exams,” he explained.

He further explained that the townhall meeting was designed to sensitise the parents and other stakeholders of what is expected under the STP. He identified two of the schools that are participating in the pilot phase as being institutions with overall good performances, but in the case of one of the two, there’s a general perception in the society that it has a serious problem with discipline.

The schools he named are the Potters Primary which he said has been performing quite well at the Grade 6 Assessment for a number

of years and the Ottos Comprehensive School, which although its results are good, many in society are of the view that much fighting and other deviant behaviors are common at that institution.

Browne appealed to parents and other stakeholders to become more involved in their children’s education, while at the same time appeal to businesses in the various communities to support the schools.

“Education is everybody’s business. That old African proverb ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ is quite apt in this case. The record shows that when parents get involved the children do well, and conversely when the community get involved in education, the school does well,” he stated.

For the transformation to be successful, all must be involved; teachers, students, parents, businesses, the ministry and other stakeholders, he declared.

## WILL ANNEXED FORM P7 (b):

### Rule 15

## THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

### (Probate)

In the Estate of JAMES VESTA FRANCIS aka JAMES THEODORE DREW FRANCIS aka JAMES THEODORE DREW late of Liberta, St. Paul’s, Antigua, Deceased

## ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that an application has been filed by **JOAN FRANCIS** formerly of Newgate Street, in the Parish of St. John’s, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda, presently residing in 668 East 225th Street, Bronx New York, in the United States of America for a Grant of Letters of Administration with Will Annexed of the above named deceased who died on 12th day of September, 2014 without revoking a will bearing the date of 6th day of September, 1999 wherein the Applicant is the sister and beneficiary of the estate.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration with Will Annexed to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2020

JOAN FRANCIS

Filed by Peyton J. V. Knight of Peyton J. V. Knight & Associates, Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Upper Newgate Street, P. O. Box 131, St. John’s Antigua, and pknightslaw@gmail.com and (268)-562-1653.

## WILL ANNEXED FORM P7 (b):

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## ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION

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PEYTON J. V. KNIGHT & ASSOCIATES  
SOLICITORS

## cont’d from pg 3

course of action for regional governments to consider.

The first case of the COVID 19 disease in Latin America has been reported in Brazil and in the United States a California man has been sickened by the disease but with no indication of how he became infected.

Meanwhile, work on the Margetson Ward is progressing with haste to ready that area of Holberton Hospital to handle any outbreak of the coronavirus should anyone become effected here in the country.

The ministry of health is advising all residents to take precautions to guard themselves from infection. These include frequent handwashing with soap and water and to cough into a handkerchief or their shirtsleeve.



## Cabinet lifts 'stop' order

Government is moving to lift a 'stop' order imposed by the Barbuda Council on the PLH Tourism Project on Barbuda.

The matter reached this week's meeting of the Cabinet where it noted that the Council has no authority to issue stop orders.

"A stop order, wrongly

and unlawfully issued by the Barbuda Council, attempted to usurp the authority of the Development Control Authority; though the request has now gone to the DCA, it cannot proceed with a stop order before consulting with Cabinet, it was agreed," the Post-Cabinet statement revealed.

A government spokesman said the decision to stop the project had 'imperiled the jobs' of some eighty-one (81) individuals as each day sixty-five (65) people leave Antigua for Barbuda to join another sixteen from the island who are all employed by the project.

He explained that the issue surrounds a decision by the developers of PLH to fill in empty spots in the proposed site with sand from offshore in what is seen as an attempt to avoid the accumulation of water and also as a defense high tide encroachment.

"While the Council has issued a stop order to PLH,

they have authorized the knocking down of the last sand dune specifically to sell sand. This act is clearly harmful to the environment," the spokesman pointed out. He accused the council of acting in a manner designed to stop the project from moving forward.

Meanwhile, the spokesman reported that some officials are deliberately leaking information about the project before that information reaches either the Cabinet or the developers. "All officials are put on notice that the final arbiter within the law is the Cabinet," he said.



## Training underway for Barbuda shredder

An intensive training programme is currently underway for key personnel from the Solid Waste Management Authority and the Central Board of Health to operate the newly commissioned shredder in Barbuda.

The shredder, which is part of the European Union housing project, is a major component of the initiative and will serve as part of the waste management unit.

Coordinator for the United Nation Development Program-Antigua Project Office, Mellissa Johnson disclosed that immediately following the assembling and training of key personnel, the actual shredding of waste materials will commence.

According to Johnson, technicians from both Antigua and Barbuda are being trained to use and operate the machine and they will soon start the process of shredding materials from green waste, galvanize, building materials among others.

It was October 2019 when the EU handed over a brand new state of the art shredding machine to the twin island state, as part of the rebuilding process following the passage of hurricane Irma in September of 2017.

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# Local News

## Lee Malvo may soon go free

The US Supreme Court dismissed on Wednesday the pending case of Lee Boyd Malvo, who was convicted for his role in the serial sniper shooting spree that rocked Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia 17 years ago.

Malvo is originally from Jamaica but lived for some time in Antigua where he met and befriended an American, John Allen Muhammad, the mastermind of the shooting rampage.

Last fall, the court heard arguments in the case after a lower court ordered a new sentence for Malvo, who was 17 when the crimes were committed in 2002 and was originally sentenced to life without parole. In court, lawyers



*Lee Boyd Malvo on October, 2003, in Virginia Beach, Virginia*

for Malvo said his sentence deserved a fresh look because the Supreme Court had issued new guidance on juvenile offenders in recent years. At the time, Virginia argued against Malvo.

The one-sentence order, which was expected, comes two days after Vir-

ginia's governor signed a bill making juvenile offenders who were sentenced to life imprisonment eligible for parole after serving 20 years. Both sides told the Supreme Court there was no reason to continue the case.

Malvo, who is now 35 years old, was one of two people convicted in the sniper attacks that left 10 dead. His partner in the shootings, Muhammad, was executed in November 2009 in Virginia for his part in the spree.

The ruling is likely to have a broader impact on other inmates who were convicted as juveniles because Malvo is also serving life sentences for his crimes in other states.

## Government committed to improving Barbuda relationship

A packed and heavy legislative agenda outlined for 2020 is aimed at the broad welfare of the twin island state, but the sister isle of Barbuda is high on the pri-

ority list.

This was expounded upon by Information Minister Melford Nicholas during the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing on Thursday morning.

"I know that there are some thorny issues that we are going to have to tread," Nicholas stated. "We know that despite our best efforts, we still have had some contretemps with managing a positive and favorable outcome with Barbuda."

He said the development of Barbuda "continues to be an issue, because for a number of reasons we still find that despite our best efforts at defining a positive future for Barbuda, it still runs ... perhaps counter-intuitive to the wishes and desire of persons who now manage the Council in Barbuda."

The Minister said Government was therefore seeking "to renew and distill that framework in terms of what the law does."

He explained that, "Even though we went to Parliament and did amend the Barbuda Land Act more than a year ago, and we are now seeking to put in place [a] land registry for Barbuda ... there is still going to be a bit of resistance."

The Central Government in St. John's has faced local resistance in Barbuda to almost every infrastructural project or economic development investment it has tried to undertake or implement in Barbuda, where some influential persons have succeeded in convincing residents that the initiatives are nothing but decoys to dispossess them.

### TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

#### Invitation to Consultation on the Implementation of Article 164

Article 164 (Promotion of Industrial Development) is enshrined in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC), which is a special provision for the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) of CARICOM. The provision is designed to promote the development of fledgling industries in LDCs of CARICOM, which are allowed to suspend Community Origin Treatment and levy higher duties on imports of identical products originating from Most Developed Countries (MDCs) of CARICOM and Third States.

Recognizing the persistence of disadvantage within the LDC, the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) at its Seventy-Fourth Special Meeting approved the renewal of Article 164 in 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda will be adopting a phased approach to the implementation of Article 164 in which two products, water and paints will be implemented on March 1st, 2020. However, the Government will grant a two month grace period to allow importers and manufacturers sufficient time to adjust to the new tariff rates. In this regard, as an important stakeholder in the implementation of Article 164, a two part consultation will be held on Friday March 6th, 2020 from 9:00am – 12:00pm, which will include customs officials, Prices and Consumer Affairs and other public sector stakeholders.

Accordingly, session two will be convened from 1:00pm – 4:00pm on Friday March 6th, 2020, and will cater for the private sector stakeholders including brokers, manufacturers, importers, distributors/wholesalers of paints and bottled water. Both session will be held in the Conference Room at the Customs and Exercise Department on Lower Church Street. The consultation will be facilitated by representatives from the Ministry of Trade and the Customs and Exercise Department.

Please register your participation by responding via email at [nao@candw.ag](mailto:nao@candw.ag) or by calling 562-4504 on or before Tuesday March 3rd, 2020.



## We can double CIP revenues

The Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) has the potential to double its yields this year thus solidifying its position as the country's main non-tax revenue source. That's the assessment of chairman of the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU), Ambassador Colin Murdoch, who along with Chief Executive Officer, Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, met with the Cabinet on Wednesday to discuss the matter.

Ambassador Murdoch reported that the CIP doubled its revenues from 2018 to 2019 by approximately 100 percent. "In 2018, the CIP brought in some \$55 million, however, by 2019 that figure jumped to more than \$100 million," he disclosed.

He noted that both Dominica and St Kitts-Nevis brought in more money individually that Antigua and Barbuda through their CIP programmes while the demand for second passports remain high in several regions of the world.

But to do better, Murdoch is of the view that the CIU must be more agile in its response to changing circumstances. "We have to operate more like a business and less like a department of government. By this I mean we have to adopt more quickly to market conditions as well as paying attention to what our competitors are doing," he suggested.

Chief Government spokesman, Lionel Max Hurst said



*Chairman of the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU), Ambassador Colin Murdoch*

the Cabinet listened attentively to the recommendations from the CIU duo and it took several decisions to improve the programme.

"Major changes have been made several times throughout the CIP's seven years by returning to the Parliament to amend the 2013 law; however, those changes were not so focused upon profitability. At this time, changes that could attract more traffic and more revenue are being contemplated," Hurst noted.

Primarily, he added, commissions paid to agents, for example, that are currently among the lowest-paid in the region by the Antigua and Barbuda CIP will be increased.

Cabinet has greenlighted a plan to bring more files by increasing the incentives to agents; it will not lessen the revenue to Government under the NDF option.

There will also be a change to the Real Estate option that will allow for two persons to pay \$200,000.00 each, or for the same \$400,000.00 total,

Dubai and others will be diverted to the University support option at \$150,000 per file—the same amount which would be paid-in currently to the CIU.

The spokesman said the Cabinet anticipates that the attractiveness of the increased commissions will be felt in as little as two weeks, if the announcement goes out shortly.

"It was so ordered, where necessary, amendments to the law that will come in two weeks when the Lower House is expected to convene. A stronger performance is anticipated!" Hurst declared.



### Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

Ministry of Headquarters  
Cassada Gardens  
St. John's, Antigua

Telephone # 1-268-468-8500/01/02/03  
Facsimile # 1-268-468-8518/468-8519

Ref: PUCATE 7/298

10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

To whom it may concern:

#### Re: Air Traffic Controller Assistant

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is advertising vacant positions for Air Traffic Controller Assistant within the Air Traffic Services (ATS) at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

#### Position Requirements:

- A sound basic educational background with no less than five (5) CSEC subjects with passes at grades 1 and 2 proficiency level.
- English, Mathematics and a Science subject are compulsory, Geography will be an asset.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are a must.
- Initial shortlisting does not guarantee a placement into the V.C. Bird Air Traffic Services.
- Applicants must be between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty Four (24) years and should successfully qualify for a Class 3 Medical Certificate and Psychiatric Evaluation.

Applications should reach the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy no later than **28th February 2020**.

*Please note, only suitable applicants will be contacted.*

  
Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transport and Energy

Cc: Sir Robin Yearwood- Minister of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy

# Caricom's role as Haitian crisis worsens

*(The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)*

On February 20, the UN Security Council received a grim report of deteriorating human rights and collapsing rule of law in Haiti. The troubling situation includes widening malnutrition, kidnappings for ransom, rapes and gang violence.

And, while all of this is happening, the courts in the Capital, Port-au-Prince, have been closed since September 2019, and the President Jovenel Moïse, unable to secure Senate approval for a government, has been ruling by decree.

For every country in the world, apart from the most failed of failed states, the closure of courts to arbitrate disputes, try criminals, protect citizens from abuse and, generally, to dispense justice, would be a frightening development.

Neighbouring countries and others that proclaim deep commitment to human rights worldwide would have condemned this situation and demanded action to remedy it.

Further, the unchecked power of a President to rule entirely as he wishes would create consternation within democratic countries and among democratic nations of the global community.

The situation is particularly alarming in Moïse's case since in the Presidential election of November 2016, he received less than 20 percent of the

voter turnout which was not large and that followed a series of postponed and controversial elections. He was not a leader elected with overwhelming support.

Yet, there has been deafening silence on Haiti. Apart from the UN Special Representative, Helen La Lime, the principal external interlocutors in Haitian affairs, the U.S., Canada, the European Union, and the Representative of the Organisation of American States (OAS), have sought no action to curb the downward spiral into increased violence and a growing movement by groups of Haitian people to take the law into their own hands.

Disappointingly, the OAS Secretary-General, Luis Almagro, who has needed no urging to condemn governments in Venezuela and Nicaragua for violations of human, civil and political rights, has not seen it fit to bring the troubling situation in Haiti to the attention of the Permanent Council of the OAS.

Instead on February 24, in the wake of popular protests, including by the Police, Mr. Almagro chose to tweet that he condemns violence and "advocates for the solutions that the country needs".

Mr. Almagro is capable of much more than such a trivial response to Haiti's continuing descent into recession, with at least 4.6 million Haitians facing a humanitarian crisis.

To be clear, Mr. Almagro should bring charter violations of all states to the attention of the OAS – Venezuela and Nicaragua which he has done, but others too.

None of this is fair to the people of Haiti. It is no wonder that so many of them believe that they are a nation to



By Sir Ronald Sanders

which the global community prefers to blind its eyes while their suffering continues.

Of course, the lack of any consideration of Haiti in the OAS is tied to the support of the Moïse government for the positions of the governments of the U.S. and the Lima Group on Venezuela, and the backing of the U.S. government for the re-election of Luis Almagro as the OAS Secretary-General. The government of Haiti's vote is vital to the achievement of 18 votes that are required to achieve these purposes.

The Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the UN, José Singer, starkly pointed out the chaos in Haiti to the UN Security Council meeting on February 20.

There is, he said, "a deep constitutional crisis, rampant violence fuelled by illicit traffic and the excessive accumulation of small arms, weapons and ammunition, which has significantly contributed to the spread of organized crime including gangs".

The Dominican Republic government is gravely concerned about events in Haiti because refugees fleeing the country regularly cross the land border of the Island that Haiti

*cont'd on pg 9*



*cont'd from pg 8*

and the Dominican Republic share. He lamented the dissolution of the UN Peace keeping force last October – a regrettable development on which I commented publicly.

The government of The Bahamas also has similar reasons to be concerned, particularly as its islands have been the reluctant recipients of Haitian refugees, and there is now popular demand to send them back to Haiti, especially after the ravages last year to Grand Bahama and the Abacos Islands.

In July 2019, the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) attempted to play a role in resolving the deteriorating situation in Haiti.

The Community sought the agreement of Moïse to send a team of Heads of Government, led by the then Chair, Allan Chasten-et the Prime Minister of St Lucia.

CARICOM received no reply. Subsequently, the CARICOM Secretary-General, Irwin LaRocque, again wrote proposing that a technical mission be sent to Port-au-Prince. That too met with deafening silence.

So concerned were the CARICOM leaders about the worsening situation in Haiti that the current Chair, Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, was mandated to speak with President Moïse by phone during the recently held CARICOM Summit in Bar-

bados.

Moïse did not attend the meeting, sending instead his appointed Foreign Minister, Bochart Edmond, who arrived on the last day of the meeting. It is left to be seen whether this second attempt by CARICOM to engage Haiti will yield any results.

The UN Special Representative, Helen La Lime, told the UN Security Council of the failure to reach a political settlement in Haiti.

She said, “Despite progress regarding the nature of the reforms to be undertaken, including that of the Constitution, political actors have yet to settle on a formula that would lead to the designation by President Moïse of a consensual Prime Minister and the formation of a new government.

The lack of agreement on this matter, as well as on the remaining length of President Moïse’s term, threatens to needlessly prolong a situation that has already lasted too long.”

While she did not say it, a big part of the impasse in reaching a solution is that the opposition parties do not trust the interlocutors who have been trying to broker a settlement. They might have more confidence in CARICOM, but first President Moïse must agree to CARICOM engagement with all political players in Haiti.

**Response and previous commentaries:** [www.sir-ronaldsanders.com](http://www.sir-ronaldsanders.com)

## GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA MINISTRY OF WORKS

### SECOND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT CLERK OF WORKS REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has obtained financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDB will be made only at the request of GOAB and upon approval by CDB and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. The Financing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purposes of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOAB shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

This Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Works (MoW), through the establishment of a Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU). A Project Coordinator within the PIMU shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities. Engineering Consultants shall be retained by MoW to assist with the supervision of the contract.

MoW (hereinafter referred to as “the Employer”) intends to engage the services of a Clerk of Works (CW) for the duration of the project implementation phase.

The objective of the consultancy is the effective and timely achievement of the project outputs and outcome(s) through efficient delivery of services.

CW will report to the Project Coordinator, PIMU or an officer designated and will be assigned exclusively to the unit. His/her duties will include, but will not be limited to:

1. Monitor and inspect work of construction contractor for assigned projects on behalf of the Consultant.
2. Review contract documents, drawings and specifications in order to maintain familiarity with assigned projects and insure construction contractor's full understanding of documents.
3. Review contractor shop drawings and provide comments on conformance/non-conformance to Resident Engineer.
4. Act as liaison between consultant and contractor.
5. Conduct on-site observation and spot-checks of work in progress.
6. Ensure contract compliance by the contractor, such as conducting tests specified in contract and installing materials/equipment as specified in contract, and report deficiencies to Resident Engineer and contractor.
7. Provide reports on all on-site matters, including third-party inspections, progress, safety concerns, and causes for delay.
8. Maintain job-site files, documents, reports and daily log; prepare periodic reports for Project Manager as required.
9. Attend all job-site meetings in conjunction with project manager.
10. Receive, record, present for approval, and maintain custody of samples submitted by construction contractor.
11. Review requests for progress payments measurements submitted by construction contractor and forward with recommendations to Project Manager.
12. Perform related duties as assigned.

#### Prospective candidates must possess the minimum following qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in construction technology, quantity surveying, building science or related field and four years of related experience in civil construction in capacity such as clerk of the works or project manager's assistant.
2. Ability to read and interpret engineering drawings, specifications, codes, and other material pertinent to construction.
3. Working knowledge of civil construction components and systems.
4. Knowledge of construction materials means and methods.
5. Knowledge of applicable building codes, Life Safety and hazardous materials.
6. Excellent written and oral communication skills and ability to establish and maintain professional working relationships.
7. Ability to wear/use personal protective equipment as needed on construction site

The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of twenty-four (24) months.

GOAB now invites interested eligible individuals to submit Expressions of Interest indicating qualification and experience required to provide these services.

Individual Consultant shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) the persons are citizen or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
  - (b) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.
- Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to qualifications and experience on similar assignments. All information must be submitted in English. Further information may be obtained from the third address below between 0800 and 1600 hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Four (4) hard copies of the Expressions of Interest must be received at the first address no later than 1500 hours local time on 30th March, 2020 and one electronic copy must be sent to CDB at the second address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked “Expression of Interest – Clerk of Works (CW) Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project.”

Following the assessment of submissions, the most technically capable and appropriately experienced applicant will be invited to negotiate a contract to provide the consultancy services. GOAB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not selecting any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

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St. John's Street  
St. John's  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
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Fax: +268 462 4622  
Email: [projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag](mailto:projectcoordinator.works@ab.gov.ag)

Procurement Policy Unit  
Caribbean Development Bank  
[procurement@caribank.org](mailto:procurement@caribank.org)

# Visiting yachts being strictly monitored

Government says protocols are in place to deal with persons who arrive in Antigua and Barbuda aboard yachts that originate from or have visited countries and regions where the coronavirus is known to

have spread.

Information Minister Melford Nicholas was on Thursday morning responding to a question, during the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing, about the yachts that regularly and continually dock at English Harbour from areas such as the Mediterranean.

Italy has become one of the main secondary hotspots for COVID-19 transmission and mortality outside of China where the epidemic ignited.

“The Port Authority and the Ministry of Health have set these protocols in place, I believe, from the very beginning once we knew that this issue had been in place,” he stated.

Nicholas described this mobilization of vigilance as “a repeat”, given that “just a few cycles ago we had Ebola ... we had put these protocols in place at that time.”

He said it was “now a question of refreshing and going back to those particular protocols”, because much of what had been in place then, is common to the approach now as well.”

Meanwhile the serious and meticulous approach taken by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda towards the globally expanding threat of COVID-19 will be sustained when the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment holds another major press conference today at its headquarters in St. John’s.

These press conferences – hosted by Health Minister Molwyn Joseph, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas and other senior officials – are in addition to the multiple daily and weekly updates issued by the Ministry via print, broadcast and social media platforms.

Italy has reported that several of its cities where the virus has spread have been quarantined.

According to this week’s Cabinet notes, a weekly chartered flight which arrives in Antigua from the Italian city of Milan on Fridays, would usually drop-off 150 passengers and pick-up the same amount who had arrived the previous week.

“That charter will arrive on Friday, February 28, 2020, only to pick-up the last group that it discharged, and will continue the fixed pattern in the following week,” the notes stated.

“However, beginning [yesterday], Thursday, [May 27th 2020] and continuing during the days following, the several Ministries in Antigua, collaborating with the agents of the Charter, will develop a questionnaire that will be provided to passengers in Italy before alighting. Any unwell passenger, or a passenger who emanated from any of the cities that are on a government quarantine list, will not be allowed to board.”



## Presentation of MEPA Trust FY 2016, 2017, 2018 Audited Financial Statements

The Marine Ecosystems Protected Area (MEPA) Trust Inc. was pleased to share with the General Public our Audited Financial Statements for 2016, 2017 and 2018 in the 21 February 2020, 24 February 2020 and 26 February 2020 Point Xpress Newspaper respectively. These Financial Statements were audited by Grant Thornton, a highly reputable, independent, internationally recognize accounting and audit firm.

The Antigua and Barbuda Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust is one of eight National Conservation Trust Funds set up throughout the region. It was established in 2015 as a non-profit company under the Companies Act of Antigua and Barbuda. The MEPA Trust was designed to accommodate a diverse range of funding flows that will catalyze and support the protection, recovery, and effective management of Antigua and Barbuda’s Protected Areas.

**Mission:** Work with multi-sectoral partners to catalyze and support the protection, recovery, and effective management of Antigua and Barbuda’s protected areas to build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

**Vision:** Antigua and Barbuda’s marine and terrestrial ecosystems are vibrant and healthy, natural and human communities are adaptive and resilient to change, and ecosystems are sustained for future generations.

## Current Board Composition

The MEPA Trust Board is a majority Non-Governmental Board. It currently has nine (9) seated directors, with three (3) being Government Directors and six (6) being Non-Government Directors with the Bankers Association’s nominee to be seated in March 2020.

## The Directors are:


- Garry Gore – Private Founder Member Director, Board Chair
- Ruth Spencer - Private Founder Member Director, Board Deputy Chair
- Vashti Ramsey-Casimir – Government Director (Ministry of Tourism), Board Secretary
- Ashton Williams – Non-Government Director (Environmental Awareness Group), Board Treasurer
- Dr. Sherry Constantine - Non-Government Director (The Nature Conservancy)
- Dr. Nicola Bird - Non-Government Director (Integrated Health Outreach)
- Patrice Simon - Non-Government Director (Antigua Barbuda Hotel & Tourism Association)
- Mark Archibald - Government Director (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Barbuda Affairs)
- Franklyn Braithwaite - Non-Government Director (Antigua & Barbuda Marine Association)
- Andrea A Jacobs – Company’s Pro-bono-Lawyer

On behalf of the MEPA Trust Board and Secretariat, I would like to thank our past Board Members, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, our national and international donors, partners, and stakeholders for their continued support in partnering with the MEPA Trust to support conservation activities that will enhance the sustainable development of Antigua and Barbuda.

Additionally, I would also like to thank the Pointe Xpress Media for its full support and expression of Corporate Social Responsibility in assisting the MEPA Trust Inc., to publish its financials for the general public’s access and knowledge in light of openness, transparency, accountability and good governance.

The MEPA Trust’s mandate is to provide a sustainable flow of funds that will enable the Trust to support long-term management and expansion of Antigua and Barbuda’s areas of land and or sea; which are specifically dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, natural resources and other activities that contribute substantially to the conservation, protection and maintenance of Biological Diversity.

Sincerely,



Garry Gore  
Chairman, MEPA Trust Inc.

MEPA Trust Inc. Secretariat

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## Jamaica: PM: Crime 'Above Our Capacity' ... But Investments In Personnel, Tech Will Bear Fruit, Says Holness

Amid a spike in murders across Jamaica, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has admitted that the country's crime problem has "evolved currently, over and above our established capacity to address it".

Despite the imposition of states of emergency in almost half the police divisions across the country, murders have soared by 10 per cent since the start of the year when compared with the corresponding period in 2019. In an exclusive interview with *The Gleaner* on Tuesday, the prime minister said that his administration was fighting back by deploying technology, systems, and increased personnel to tackle what many

believe is Jamaica's number one problem. "What we are doing now, in an intense way, is to put in place resources, systems, and personnel integrated with technology to address the crime situation," Holness told *The Gleaner* at Jamaica House. Arguing that the crime surge was not a recent phenomenon, the prime minister suggested that an inadequate allocation of resources in the country's security apparatus over 30 years had resulted in the current state of affairs.

### NO QUICK FIX

Signalling that cramping crime was not an overnight assignment, Holness said it would take time to reduce the current levels of violence in the society.

"I am confident that we are at a good place now in terms of the investments that we have made, and those investments will bear fruit," said Holness, whose administration has pumped an additional \$2 billion into the national security budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Holness, who has defended the imposition of states of emergency despite calls from the parliamentary Opposition for the Government to employ other strategies, noted that the use of extraordinary powers by the security forces has helped to reduce the frequency and intensity of crime. He said that the SOEs have lowered "the volume (of crime) a bit, and whilst we have this respite, we are using it to improve our police stations – conditions under which police personnel work – we are using it to introduce greater technology".

But despite that assurance, the reduction in crime in six of the eight police divisions under states of emergency has not applied cumulative shock to the criminal underworld. Instead, murders have ballooned in most other non-emergency zones, with St Andrew North recording almost 270 per cent more killings this year than in 2019. Up to February 22, when the latest police stats were issued, there were 22

murders in St Andrew North – and the body count there continues to increase, with another homicide on February 25. More than 210 Jamaicans have been murdered this year at a rate of almost four a day.

### PRESSURE ON GANGS

The prime minister said, however, that the efforts of the security forces were bearing fruit with the number of gangs that had been targeted and brought before the courts. At present, Uchence Wilson, an alleged gang leader, and 17 of his alleged cronies are on trial for breaches of the Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) Act 2014, commonly known as the anti-gang legislation, between 2015 and 2017. A ruling is expected soon.

At the same time, six alleged members of the Westmoreland-based King Valley Gang are on trial for breaches of Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) 2014 in relation to crimes committed between 2016 and 2018.

However, there have been prosecutorial pitfalls as well, with 19 alleged members of the Westmoreland-based Dexter Street Gang walking free last October. In that case, the prosecution's main witness, a self-confessed member of the gang, had died.



Prime Minister Andrew Holness responds to questions during an interview at Jamaica House on Tuesday. Credit: Gladstone Taylor

# Vincentian Appointed As New PANCAP Director



*Vincentian Dr Rosmond Adams brings over ten years experience as a public health specialist to the Partnership*

The Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) welcomes the appointment of Dr Rosmond Adams as the new Director effective 2 March 2020.

A Vincentian by birth, Dr Adams is a Medical Doctor by training and holds Master of Science degrees in both Public Health and Bioethics. He is a public health specialist with more than ten years of experience in the health sector both at the national and regional levels in the areas of surveillance, communicable diseases including HIV, emergency response and health security.

Dr Adams began his public health career as the Coordinator of the

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) programme in the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He then served as the National Epidemiologist where his work focused on strengthening public health surveillance and strategic information to guide health policy, programmes and action.

In his previous post, he served as the Head of Health Information, Communicable Diseases and Emergency Response at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) where he led the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Caribbean Regional Health

Security Strategy as a common strategic framework for the CARPHA Member States to strengthen their capacity to manage and respond to emerging disease threats and other public health emergencies.

Dr Adams serves on numerous national, regional and international public health advisory committees, including the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Coordinating Mechanism (GCM) on NCDs. Asked about his immediate priority, the Director emphasised that the sustainability of the region's HIV response is paramount. "The HIV and AIDS epidemic is a threat to Regional Health Security considering that our productive population is being impacted," stated Dr Adams, "I am optimistic that the region can end AIDS, but a lot of work must be done and the gains made so far must be sustained whilst ensuring that we scale up our response and renew our commitment to this goal". Dr Adams succeeds Mr Dereck Springer whose tenure ends on 28 February 2020.

PANCAP is a Caribbean regional partnership of governments, regional civil society organisations, regional institutions and organisations, bilateral and

multilateral agencies and contributing donor partners which was established on 14 February 2001. PANCAP provides a structured and unified approach to the Caribbean's response to the HIV epidemic, coordinates the response through the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS to maximise efficient use of resources and increase impact, mobilises resources and build capacity of partners.







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## BVI : No confirmed coronavirus case | Suspected person quarantined pending further tests — Premier

Premier Andrew Fahie has sought to dispel public fears over the first suspected case of the Novel Coronavirus in the British Virgin Islands.

Addressing the public during an impromptu press conference at the House of Assembly on Thursday (February 27), the Premier said: "First of all, we do not have a confirmed case of the coronavirus in the BVI."

"We have a case in terms of a person who had entered the BVI that was coming from away [and who] showed some symptoms that created concerns. And since then, the person has been tested and quarantined," the Premier further said. The individual is under quarantine at their home, Fahie stated. He said initial tests were conducted and more samples have been sent to Trinidad for further testing.

"All the tests have not returned as yet because they are still two or three days



From left: Health Minister Carvin Malone, Premier Andrew Fahie, and CEO of the BVI Health Services Authority Dr Ronald Georges at a press conference on Thursday, February 27.

off before the final results come. But we can say it is most unlikely, but we cannot confirm 100 percent."

The leader of government business said the other tests were conducted "to be on the side of caution".

Person in question arrived via aircraft

The Premier said the person in question had entered the territory on an aircraft last weekend. He said,

based on the aircraft's flight manifest, the said individual was among a total of six passengers — five of whom are non-nationals.

In the meantime, a search is reportedly underway for several other persons who were said to be in contact with the individual in question. Those persons along with the five passengers will be assessed, the Premier told members of the media.

"We want the people of the Virgin Islands to know that we continue to exercise all options to ensure the safety of the people of the Virgin Islands as much as possible," he said.

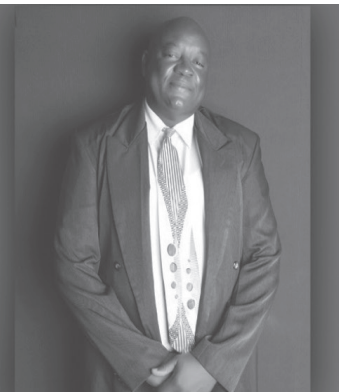
A meeting with local stakeholders was recently had to examine and look at the areas that need strengthening as it relates to safeguarding against the coronavirus, Premier Fahie said.



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# Guyana seeking oil marketer for next 12 months

## -no face-to-face meetings to be held

Guyana yesterday invited expressions of interest to market its share of oil from the Stabroek Block offshore operations for 12 months.

The Department of Energy (DoE) advertised in Stabroek News for Expressions of Interest for the provision of marketing services for its share of crude and made it clear that it would not entertain face-to-face meetings with any of the bidders.

“.... Firms may request clarification up to Seven (7) days before the EOI submission date Thursday, March 12, 2020. Response to all request for clarifications will be posted on the following website: [www.motp.gov.gy](http://www.motp.gov.gy), by March 7, 2020 at 09:00hrs. No face-to-face meeting will be permitted or entertained by the Department of Energy,” the advertisement also states.

Last year, the DoE had been flayed for engaging in hurried face-to-face meetings with potential buyers of Guyana’s first oil shipment.

In July of last year, DoE Director Dr Mark Bynoe had said that it would go to tender, either during the then current quarter or the next, for “a fee-based marketing service” to market its share of crude oil from expected oil production. However, on December 13th 2019, financial news service Bloomberg reported that government had sent correspondence to refiners around the globe inviting them to bid for three million barrels of Liza Blend crude, which this country began exporting this year.

There was no prior announcement of the planned bidding, and in the wake of the report, the DoE rushed



Dr. Mark Bynoe

to explain the nature, and details of its plans, with Bynoe saying that its intention was to conclude the process before going public in order to protect government’s negotiating position.

Government’s argument did not fare well with the public and it faced scathing criticisms over the move, which many associated with similar secrecy to its signing of the 2016 renegotiation of the Production Sharing Agreement it has with ExxonMobil and partners for the Stabroek Block.

“The decision was made after multiple rounds of consultations internally. There are some things we will speak to at the beginning, during, post and some we won’t be able to speak on at all... What we were aiming to do was to come to you when the matter was concluded not during because what it

can do is weaken the government’s negotiating position. It doesn’t help for us to be conducting commercial business through the media,” Bynoe had contended as he defended the decision taken.

“So it was never the intent for Guyana to be shielding what is happening here. I was hoping that we can have a wrap-up here where we can say to you this is what was done,” he added.

Shell Western Supply and Trading Limited, a subsidiary of international energy company Shell, operating out of St. Michael, Barbados got the contract and Guyana would have already received its first lift.

However, it is still unclear what price was paid and how and when the money for those sales would be transferred to the state.



## Trump wealth order probe urged over Scottish golf resorts



The Trump Organisation owns the golf resorts at Turnberry in Ayrshire and Menie in Aberdeenshire

*Scotland's first minister has been urged to use unexplained wealth orders to investigate how Donald Trump paid for his Scottish golf resorts.*

Scottish Greens co-leader Patrick Harvie said the US Congress had heard concerns about possible money laundering involving some of the president's business deals.

He claimed there were "big questions" over Mr Trump's dealings in Scotland. Mr Trump's son Eric said the claims had "no basis in fact".

He accused Mr Harvie of making "disgusting statements" that were "reckless, irresponsible and unbecoming for a member of the Scottish Parliament".

And he said the Green politician had "long expressed deep-seated animus to the Trump Organisation", which he said had "invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Scotland while creating thousands of jobs".

Donald Trump opened his controversial golf course on the Menie estate in Aberdeenshire in 2012, before purchasing the Turnberry

golf resort in Ayrshire in 2014 - into which the Trump Organisation claimed to have invested about £150m within the first two years.

An inquiry by the House of Representatives into allegations about possible links between Mr Trump and Russia heard allegations that Turnberry may have been used for money laundering - a claim that Mr Trump has always strongly denied.

What is an unexplained wealth order?

An unexplained wealth order (UWO) is a type of order issued by a UK court

to compel someone to reveal the sources of their unexplained wealth.

It was introduced to target suspected corrupt foreign officials who have potentially laundered stolen money through the UK.

The first unexplained wealth order was issued in 2018 to Zamira Hajiyeva, the wife of Jahangir Hajiyev, the former chairman of the International Bank of Azerbaijan, who spent £16m in Harrods. The media has sometimes nicknamed UWOs "McMafia laws" - after the BBC crime drama about a Rus-

sian crime family living in London.

Speaking in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday, Mr Harvie said the purchase of Menie and the Turnberry golf resort were part of Mr Trump's "huge cash spending spree in the midst of a global financial crisis".

Mr Harvie said that the House of Representatives had heard testimony which stated: "We saw patterns of buying and selling that we thought were suggestive of money laundering" - with particular concern expressed about Mr Trump's golf courses in Scotland and Ireland.

He added: "Trump's known sources of income don't explain where the

money came from for these huge cash transactions.

"There are reasonable grounds for suspecting that his lawfully obtained income was insufficient.

"Scottish ministers can apply via the Court of Session for an unexplained wealth order, a tool designed for precisely these kinds of situations."

The orders can be issued by the courts to compel their target to reveal the source of funding, and are often used to tackle suspected international money laundering.

Mr Harvie said seeking the order would "make it clear that Scotland is not a country where anyone with the money can buy whatever land and property they

want, no questions asked".

Ms Sturgeon responded by saying that "Scotland is not that kind of country and should never be that kind of country", but that she did not want to give Mr Harvie answers without the full information in front of her.

She added: "I think most people here would recognise that I am no defender of Donald Trump, of his politics or any of his other dealings."

Ms Sturgeon's spokesman later said that the decision on whether to apply for a unexplained wealth order is made on behalf of Scottish ministers by the Civil Recovery Unit, which reports to the lord advocate.

He said the government had last year received a

report from campaigners seeking an order, which it had passed to the Lord Advocate on that basis.

Sarah Malone, executive vice president of Trump International, Scotland, described Mr Harvie's comments as "utterly baseless and malicious" and called on him to retract them.

She added: "This attention seeking behaviour is not what is expected of a responsible elected member of Scottish Parliament.

"Is this seriously how Scotland treats its inward investors? The Trump Organization has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into our economy and this sort of garbage is seriously harmful to future inward investment."

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## WHO pledges to support African countries on joint coronavirus disease preparedness and response strategy

As the threat of coronavirus disease looms over the continent, the World Health Organization (WHO) promised to support African Union Member States on a common preparedness and response strategy. WHO joined Health Ministers in an Emergency Meeting on the Coronavirus Disease Outbreak, which was convened on 22 February by the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa joined H.E. Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission in welcoming the ministers. WHO has conducted a survey with countries to assess their overall readiness for COVID-19 and found the regional readiness level was an estimated 66%.

“WHO finds there are critical gaps in readiness for countries across the continent,” said Dr Moeti. “We need urgently to prioritize strengthening the capacities for countries to investigate alerts, treat patients in isolation facilities and improve infection, prevention and control in health facilities and in communities.”

The African Ministers of Health discussed a joint communique on how to prepare for and potentially respond to COVID-19 and expect to conclude their



As of 20 February 2020, countries reported that since 22 January, countries report that 210 people have been investigated for COVID-10 in the WHO African region. 204 cases have been ruled out and six cases are still pending.

discussions in a few days.

WHO plays an active role in supporting countries to coordinate preparation efforts and so far has deployed more than 40 experts to ten countries to support coordination, treatment, infection, prevention and control, community engagement, surveillance and laboratory disease control. WHO has assisted countries in building their diagnostic capacity for COVID-19, and currently 26 laboratories are able to test for the new pathogen, up from just two early this month.

“The threats posed by COVID-19 has cast a spotlight on the shortcomings in health systems in the Afri-

can Region,” said Dr Moeti. “Countries must invest in emergency preparedness. This investment is worthwhile when you consider the cost of responding to outbreaks, which for the 2014 Ebola outbreak was estimated at close to \$US 3 billion.”

Preparedness efforts which countries already have in place are paying off. For instance, investments in Ebola preparedness for the nine neighbouring countries to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have yielded some dividends in relation to COVID-19. Most of these countries now have partner coordination structures in place, points-of-entry screening has been

strengthened (particularly at major airports) and isolation units have been upgraded to manage suspected cases. Over the years, WHO has developed a national influenza network of laboratories and health facilities. The laboratories, which are members of the network have been able to scale up their diagnostic capacity quickly and health facilities in the network are monitoring for severe acute respiratory infections and influenza-like illnesses. using these conditions as a proxy for COVID-19 as they present with similar symptoms. So far this monitoring has not found any clustering or spike of influenza-like cases.



## Canada to stop paying Harry and Meghan's security

Canada will soon stop providing security for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the federal government has confirmed.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have been providing assistance to the couple since their arrival in Canada "intermittently since November 2019".

It had not been clear whether Canadians would be paying for their security following their move.

The couple will formally step down as senior royals from 31 March.

They will no longer carry out duties on behalf of the Queen but arrangements will be reviewed after 12 months. They have indicated that they will split their time between the UK and North America.

RCMP has been providing security to the couple at the request of the Metropolitan Police.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex choosing to re-locate to Canada on a part-time basis presented our government with a unique and unprecedented set of circumstances," said Canada's federal Public Safety Minister Bill Blair in a statement on Thursday.

"The RCMP has been engaged with officials in the UK from the very beginning regarding security considerations.

As the duke and duchess are currently recognised as Internationally Protected Persons, Canada has an obligation to provide security assistance on an as needed basis." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had faced repeated questions over who would be paying to provide security for the prince and his wife Meghan. "The assistance will cease in the coming weeks, in keeping with their change in status," according to the statement from public safety.

Neither the Metropolitan Police nor a spokeswoman for the couple would comment on security matters.

The Canadian government's confirmation was first reported by CBC News. Earlier this year Harry and Meghan announced they would be stepping back from royal duties and working to become financially independent. Details of how this would work were then unveiled, following days of talks with the Queen and other senior royals. The couple had previously spoken about how they had struggled under the media spotlight.

The couple have been in Canada with their son Archie for much of this year, after briefly returning to the UK in January following an extended six-week Christmas break on Vancouver Island. When news broke that the couple



*Meghan and Harry have been living in Canada intermittently since November 2019*

would be spending part of their time in Canada, one of the main preoccupations was about who would foot the bill, especially if they are spending the bulk of their time as private citizens. A public opinion poll released in January by the non-profit Angus Reid Institute indicated that 73% of Canadians had no interest in paying any of the costs for security and other expenditures associated with their relocation.

## GOT NEWS

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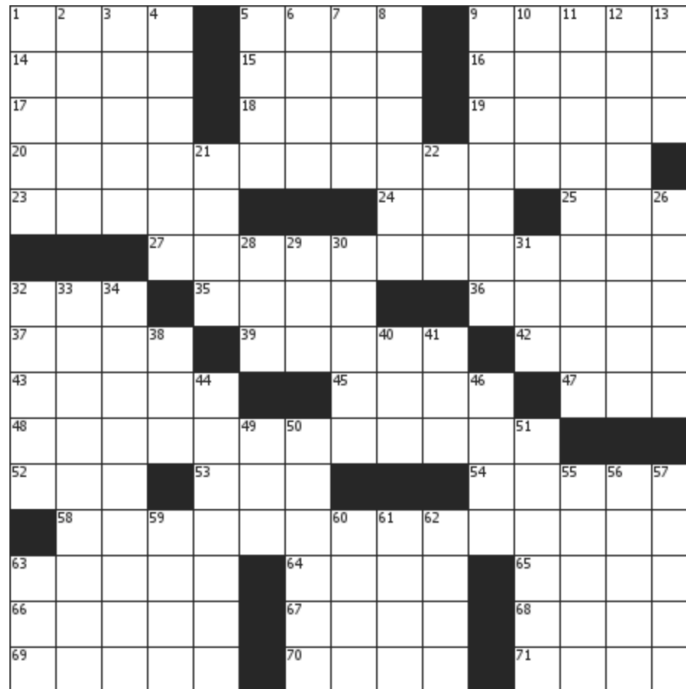
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## Across

1. One may accompany a coin toss  
 5. "Hair" do  
 9. Parkinsonism drug  
 14. Bit of seasonal merriment  
 15. Hit hard  
 16. Maritime raptors  
 17. Object of a mil. search  
 18. L.A.'s La Cienega, e.g.  
 19. Many mall visitors  
 20. Romance going nowhere?  
 23. Come after  
 24. Milne marsupial  
 25. Actress Peeples  
 27. Formula for an alchemist?  
 32. Reasons for repeats, maybe  
 35. \_\_\_ Fein  
 36. Cited, in a way  
 37. Literature, philosophy, etc.  
 39. Fraction of a mil  
 42. Cádiz kiss  
 43. Range of power  
 45. Can  
 47. Identity theft target: Abbr.  
 48. Elia's army?  
 52. Mouth, slangily  
 53. Medical research org.  
 54. Scarpia's killer  
 58. "How big is the Milky Way?," e.g.?  
 63. Emerald, for one  
 64. Block measures?  
 65. Bender  
 66. Free  
 67. Troubles  
 68. Biblical physician  
 69. "Gypsy" composer  
 70. Silver lead-in?  
 71. Marked, as a ballot



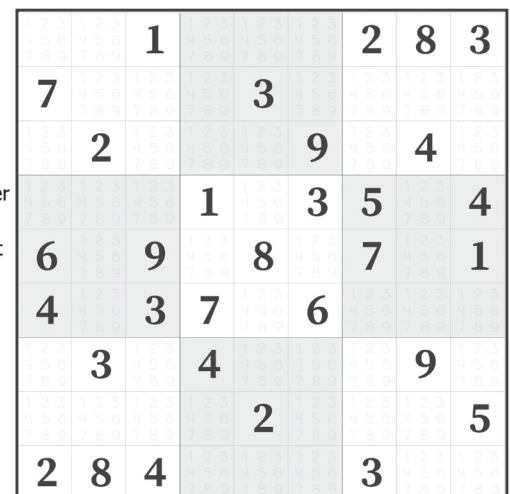
## Down

1. Pod swimmer  
 2. Keokuk resident  
 3. Lineup on a bar  
 4. Stay out of sight  
 5. "Mamma Mia!" group  
 6. Wiglet  
 7. Request from a party leader  
 8. "Rats!"  
 9. Releases  
 10. Cologne crowd?  
 11. Some hoops matchups  
 12. Broke  
 13. Nitwit  
 21. Old Royale 8's, e.g.  
 22. Jack of "Barney Miller"  
 26. Supplement  
 28. It can't be helped  
 29. Taproom site  
 30. Switch type  
 31. Spawning salmon's protuberance  
 32. Likely to wait, probably  
 33. Self-determining sort  
 34. Final fling, maybe  
 38. Biol. or chem.  
 40. "\_\_\_ the World Ends": 1975 hit  
 41. NOW issue  
 44. Where Puff frolicked  
 46. Accident scene figs.  
 49. Put the kibosh on  
 50. "Wanna bet?"  
 51. Repress, with "up"  
 55. Sitting Bull, for one  
 56. "You Send Me" singer  
 57. Asked for a hand?  
 59. "\_\_\_ Eyes": Eagles hit  
 60. Former Cunard flagship, for short  
 61. Hard to look at  
 62. Flying A rival  
 63. Public transport

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## Sudoku



daily comics presented by 32central.

## Non Sequitur



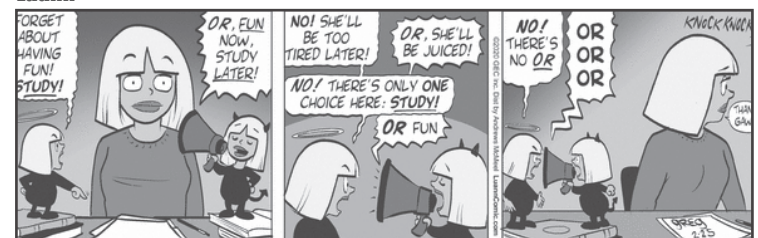
## Garfield



## Cathy



## Luann





## Player Spotlight: Vashami Allen

Meet 22 year old Grenades defender Vashami Allen who has been in fine form during 2019/2020 season.

The national player was introduced to the sport by All Saints United coach Schyan Jeffers and Dread I at the tender age of 10.

The 6'1" 205 pounds have represented All Saints United, Fort Road, Central F.C in Trinidad and presently Grenades.

Allen said, playing professionally in Trinidad was a great experience, and he is looking forward to competing abroad again.

He noted that there was more intensity in their training methods in Trinidad but in league play the pace was slower than here in Antigua.

Vashami who was omitted from the last national team says, he is looking forward to representing his country again.

The powerfully built defender says his future plan is to win silverwares and play professionally.

When asked about the positive parts of



his game he highlighted overlapping, free kicks, crossing and defending.

The Grenades player is a big Chelsea fan, favorite players is Liverpool Trent Alexander Arnold and favorite movie Ace Ventura pet detective.

Keep an eye of this young Gem as he continues to impress football fans on a weekly basis.



## Simon promotes AUA Rohrman Triathlon

Former long distance runner Cordover "Popeye" Simon appeared on the Timeout program earlier this week to publicise the upcoming AUA Rohrman Triathlon.

Simon noted with the confirmed participation of last year winner Aurelien Raphael has led to a number of French athletes signing up to participate.

Popeye as he is affectionately called added, the event has been a plus to Antigua and Barbuda sports tourism, and called for the sport to be introduced in the schools.

The Rohrman triathlon festival named in honour of the late Jonthan Rohr for triathlete and AUA student.

The event is a non-profit endeavour aimed at boasting Sports development and Sports tourism on the island.





# Empire edge Blue Jays 1-0

In ABFA First Division yesterday (Thursday) Cool and Smooth Empire traveled to Cedar Grove to lock horns with Blue Jays who dismantled them in the first round 5-1 at King George.

But this time around the men from Gray's Farm was ready for the challenge as they edged past the Cedar Grove outfit 1-nil via a Ra-keem Beauty Joseph first half penalty.

The strike move the USVI international to 16 goals in 14 appearances leading the way in the division.

Empire started off with an electrifying style of play cutting through the Blue Jays on a regular basis. With more clinical finishing the game could have put to bed in the first half.

But Blue Jays gave a tough physical bounced back in the second half controlling more of the play but failed



to make the break through.

The win move Empire to the top of the table on 39 points from 17 games one clear of Sap on 38 from 18 outings

At the technical center Aston Villa hammered Potters Tigers 7-nil to move to 33 points tied with Tryum but occupy third on goal average.





## Gillian Brazier Shoot-Out returns

The Concerned Parents/Teachers Sports Association presents the 17th Annual Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out.

The event which will be hosted at the JSC Sports Complex from April 5th to the 12th will feature two teams from Juel Ontario in Canada.

It is more than basketball, it's life, it's fun, it's comradery, come on out and support our athletes with a contribution of only \$10 E.C.



## Antigua State College, Pares Secondary play to draw in U-19 cricket

In the Ministry of Sports Under-19 two day Cricket program Antigua State College and Pares Secondary played to a draw earlier this week.

Playing on Monday and Tuesday

Pares Secondary posted 145 for 8 with talented jahiem Norde stroking 98 not out. Grayson Cuffy bagged 5 for 45 off 12 overs.

Antigua State College responded

with 280 for 3 with Jalen Francis and Daren Benta punishing the Pares attack.

Benta smashed 114 and Francis hammered 97.

# XCAPE

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## Joseph, Guishard top goal scorers in divisions



Rakeem Beauty Joseph of Empire



Alvah Guishard of Bendals F.C.

The two top marksmen in first and second division have been making their presence felt and it's time football fans take notice of the talent in the lower tiers.

Rakeem Beauty Joseph with 16 strikes in 14 games is the top gun in the first division and has led the Cool and Smooth outfit to the top of the table in the division.

Speaking to Pointe FM Beauty says, he is happy with his performance so far this season, but is especially elated with the development of his young

teammates.

Empire with an average age of 18 in the team has been in fine form and Rakeem leadership and forcefulness has been a key ingredient.

The left footer says his aim is to accumulate 25 goals this season despite missing his team first three games.

Meanwhile just below in the second division Bendal's F.C has a hidden automatic rifle that has been terrorizing the second tier with 21 conversions in 15 appearances.

The name is Alvah Guishard and the

undiscovered Gem is making his presence felt with his consistent output.

Last Wednesday Master Ballerz felt his full wrath when he smashed 5 goals in his team 6-2 win which move them to second in the table on 42 points from 15 matches behind Garden Stars who have 48 but have appeared in 18 games.

The Antigua Grammar School graduate is also a formidable goal keeper. Antigua and Barbuda keep your antenna focus on young Guishard as he climbs the ladder in local football.