



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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PM URGES COMPLIANCE

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Half-a-million dollars donated to Food Relief Programme



Minister of Social Transformation, Hon. Dean Jonas along side CAF Executive Director, Corinna Delowsky and Jamilla Kirwan, Media Relations Specialist, Ayre Group. **Story on Page 3**

APUA to embark on major expansion

The national utility company – APUA – is about to embark on a major expansion programme after it successfully negotiated a loan from a local bank.

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, said APUA secured a consolidation loan from the Antigua Commercial Bank for approximately \$170-million. The money will be used by the utility company to upgrade much of the services that it offers to consumers.

Of the amount, \$130 million represents new money that will enable APUA to build out better broadband infrastructure and improve its water distribution system.

“APUA will be investing in fibre to home network as well as investing in the underwater cable so that

it doesn’t have to rely on Cable and Wireless/FLOW with what in my view is usurious arrangement for rental of their underwater cable,” the prime minister emphasized.

Under the current arrangement, APUA rents the use of the cable from FLOW, but is able to offer internet services than the company; an arrangement the prime minister describes as ‘vulgar’.

In addition to offering its customers even cheaper internet services, the loan will also assist with the digital business framework which the government is seeking to establish.

With the new financing in place, hope is coming for those APUA water customers who have been complaining about inconsistent water supply as well as a discoloured water

supply.

“The APUA loan will help it build out the water infrastructure that will improve the water distribution network.

“Two new reverse osmosis plants will be commissioned within nine months and a third in eighteen months.

“This will bring water production to 10 million gallons daily, enough to meet the daily demand,” Browne reported.

He said the money will also go towards the re-piping exercise now underway by APUA.

“All those old pipes that have been underground for decades in places like the Point, Ottos and other parts of the island, will be replaced with funds from the loan,” he added.

DAY 6/10

Max UV Index: 12 Extreme
 Wind: ESE at 13 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 20 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 25%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 6%
 Precipitation: 0.0 mm
 Rain: 0.0 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm

31°_{Hi}



Beautiful with times of sun and clouds

NIGHT 8/10

Wind: ESE at 9 km/h
 Wind Gusts: 17 km/h
 Probability of Precipitation: 60%
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 60%
 Precipitation: 2.2 mm
 Rain: 2.2 mm
 Snow: 0.0 cm
 Ice: 0.0 mm
 Hours of Precipitation: 1.5
 Hours of Rain: 1.5

24°_{Lo}



Partly cloudy; a couple of evening showers followed by a thunderstorm in spots late

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST
 5:33 AM

Sunset AST
 6:41 PM



Duration
 13:08 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET



Duration
 11:42 hr

Half-a-million dollars to gov't COVID-19 Food Relief Programme

The Calvin Ayre Foundation has donated EC\$594,000 to the Ministry of Social Transformation towards the Grace Initiative COVID-19 Food Relief Programme.

The relief program centers around providing relief support for vulnerable families who have been adversely affected by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the cheque handover ceremony, Corinna Delowsky, Executive director of the CAF underscored the importance of the foundation's role in helping the twin-island state navigate the financial crisis COVID brought on the economic climate. "We are all navigating uncharted waters," said Executive Director of the CAF, Corinna Delowsky, "We realized that there could be more difficult days ahead and that our current situation might be extended. So, we're playing our part in allotting these funds over the next four months, which



Minister of Social Transformation, Hon. Dean Jonas along side CAF Executive Director, Corinna Delowsky and Jamilla Kirwan, Media Relations Specialist, Ayre Group.

period is likely to be most critical."

The donation comes on the heels of the CAF donating millions of dollars' worth of medical-grade supplies to the Ministry of Health to help fight the disease.

Delowsky went on the state, "We are an organization that supports the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda in times of crisis," she said, "This time will be no different."

Chairman of the Ayre

Group and Special Economic Envoy to the Government, Ambassador Calvin Ayre, stated that like any employer and citizen, he is concerned about the future of the country's economy. Ayre stated that though he is concerned about the country's economy, feeding the vulnerable and food security are of immediate concern in this time of crisis.

"We know current projections dictate that things are likely to get much worse before they improve, he said, "But I can assure the government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda that the Ayre Group and the Calvin Ayre Foundation are here for the long haul."

Accepting the donation on behalf of the Ministry, Minister of Social Transformation, Dean Jonas expressed his gratitude for the donation which will further assist

the program in ensuring the most vulnerable who are affected by COVID-19 obtain some level of support.

"The generous donation of the Calvin Ayre Foundation has assisted the Government and in particular the Ministry of Social Transformation, in achieving its mission to help those who are struggling to survive in very difficult circumstances," Min. Jonas said, "It is donations like these that also provide a window of opportunity for those who are forced to reconsider their lifestyle to make changes for a more sustainable future for themselves and their families".

Prime Minister Browne, also expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Ayre and the CAF over the weekend.

The donation, totaling EC\$594,000, will be distributed in installments for four months.



Calvin Ayre

'Missing vessel' not found

Head of the Defense Force is expressing concern over what, so far, appears to be a hoax call about a missing vessel that was reported last week.

Head of Defense Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin, under whose command the Coast Guard falls, was providing an update on the call issued by the coast guard for assistance in locating a missing vessel.

In a media release, the coast guard reported that on Wednesday, it received an alert from a station in Montserrat that intercepted a distress call from a vessel which goes by the name Love Lane and captained by Christian Ferguson.

With the assistance of French authorities, the ABDF Coast Guard carried out several search efforts on

Wednesday and Thursday but came up negative in locating the missing vessel.

The ABDF Coast Guard therefore appealed for the public's assistance in verifying that the named vessel, Love Lane and occupant, Christian Ferguson, really do exist and were in fact in distress at sea.

"All of us are a bit concerned that up to Sunday there was no word from anyone regarding the vessel. We are hoping that this was not a prank call that has resulted in wasting our limited resources," Col. Benjamin stated.

According to the Chief of defense Staff the entire matter has been 'rather strange' as no one seems to be aware of that particular name of a vessel or the supposed 'captain'.

He is advising the public that prank

calls are not tolerated because of the seriousness of the action and the cost and manpower involved in searching for missing vessels and occupants.

Meanwhile, the First Antigua Barbuda Regiment (1ABR) successfully conducted training exercises over the period June 13-14, 2020, in the Christian Valley to Old Road Areas.

In related news, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force has answered a call issued by Prime Minister Gaston Browne for the army's farm to make a contribution to the nation's food security.

Commanding Officer of the 1st Antigua and Barbuda Regiment Major Troy Lake, reported that production at the army's farm at Crabbs had doubled in the last month, with the

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CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS: ☎ (268) 480 7733 📠 (268) 480 7042

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Water Distribution Update

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, June 11th, 2020 - The past two (2) months, April and May, have been recorded as one of the most intense periods of drought within the last eighty (80) years. This has not only affected the availability of water in natural catchments, but also resulted in the rapid depletion of storage for residents as well. In light of this, the demand for water produced by the Authority has increased whilst production remains the same.

Over the past few weeks, specific areas of the island have experienced delayed delivery of water service and prolonged periods of water suppression for various reasons. There has been a sharp increase in demand due to COVID-19 protocols and more frequent fractured mains as a result of the shifting of mains as a consequence of the unprecedented dry conditions. The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) Water Business Unit would like to advise customers that efforts are being made to produce a more consistent and reliable service to customers with the introduction of a water conservation schedule for challenged areas.

APUA joins with fellow water production companies throughout the region who aggressively attempt to mitigate the impact of drought to consumers. St. Lucia, Grenada, Nevis and even larger territories such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and further abroad in California and parts of Florida in the United States have resorted to the introduction of water conservation schedules or legislative restrictions on water usage.

The APUA Water Business Unit recognizes its obligation to provide potable water to customers and to improve its communication in this regard. In the coming week, customers will experience adjustments to their regular times that water service is received as the Authority seeks to initiate the implementation the 2020 Water Conservation Schedule and monitor its effectiveness and efficiency. This schedule will be released on Friday, June 19th 2020 during a scheduled press conference.

APUA is committed to continuing to meet the needs of its customers and every effort is being made to provide this critical resource.

VACANCY

Our client is seeking suitable applicants for the role:

MANAGER - GENERAL INSURANCE

The General Insurance Manager will be responsible for the management and supervision of the general department's operations. Responsibilities include managing adjusters, investigators, and appraisers as well as ensuring claims are processed in a timely manner and resolving issues that arise during processing. In addition, the manager will ensure the growth of the department in line with the company's mission and vision.

Skills

- Leadership and management skills
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Decision making skills
- Organizational skills
- Analytical skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite

Qualifications: Education

- BSc. in Management, or related field.
- ACII certification (or in pursuit of similar qualification, e.g. CII certification) or equivalent
- Five (5) years' experience in Underwriting and Claims Management
- Proficiency in Policy and Contract wording
- Risk Management

Experience and Additional Competencies

- Five (5) years' experience in Financial Services
- Knowledge in reinsurance negotiations and reinsurance contracts
- Experience in the interpretation of financial statements

All interested persons should send a copy of their application to include a CV and Cover Letter to nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com — Deadline: June 15th, 2020

PM urges compliance

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is pushing back against suggestions that returning nationals are treated less than tourists visiting the island since the opening of the airport two weeks ago.

The prime minister was responding to a chorus of complaints from returning nationals who take issue with the requirement for them to undergo a 7-14 day quarantine at one of the government's bio-secure facilities.

He disclosed that the government has certified a number of hotels as bio-secure places and in order to achieve this designation, these properties have had to put in place strict protocols to protect their guests as well as the local population.

"When you see the lengths that these properties go to protect staff and guests, these conditions do not exist in most homes. Therefore, we are very

cautious in determining who can self quarantine at home. They must first convince the health authorities that it is safe where they are to do so," Browne declared.

Unfortunately, according to the prime minister, rather than recognizing that the government is taking these steps to protect the domestic population, the returning nationals are making an issue of it.

"They are fussing about everything; even to make a contribution towards their meals," he noted.

Browne wondered aloud why would these returning nationals who are unsure of their COVID-19 status, want to return to the country, live among their relatives and potentially spread the virus.

"They are creating an unnecessary amount of discord that is totally unhelpful. They ought to recognize that the most responsible thing for us to do



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

is to take steps to protect the domestic population," he remarked.

The prime minister said the protocols that have been put in place by the

Antigua and Barbuda government rank among the best in the world with other Caribbean states seeking to adopt them as well.

"The health minister, the Chief Medical Officer and I have been on the phone constantly with our colleagues from across the region who wants to copy what we are doing here in Antigua and Barbuda. We have no issue sharing our regime as we are one Caribbean," Browne emphasised.

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produce being utilized by the army and other non-profit institutions. He reported that the army personnel were able to harvest 180 pounds of butternut squash, 113 pounds of tomatoes, 14 pounds of seasoned pepper and 17 bundles of spinach.

In May, the farm, which was recently cleared for planting, produced 72 pounds of tomatoes and combined total of 12

pounds of sweet and seasoned peppers along with bok choy and spinach.

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall said that she has received information on the excellent work being done at the army farm and will be making a visit to the facility to assess the development and examine ways in which the Ministry can provide additional support.

COVID-19: A catalyst for entrepreneurship Series:

AllMart – The e-commerce marketplace of Antigua and Barbuda

By Angelica O'Donoghue

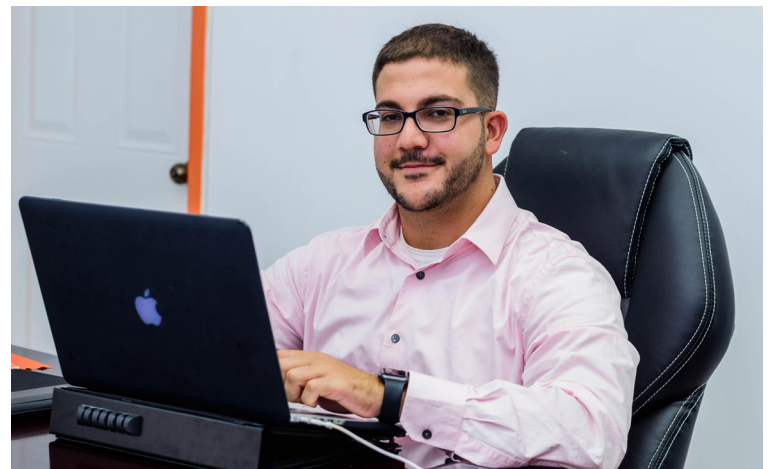
COVID-19 has undoubtedly transformed the way we go about our daily routines. The way we shop, may perhaps be one of the biggest changes most persons have had to adapt to during the government issued a stay-at-home order.

So, the concept of an operationalized online platform offering local online shopping right here in Antigua and Barbuda during one of the most challenging periods in our history is definitely one for the books. In this week's series, we explore how Andrew Doumith's 'AllMart- Local Marketplace', has personified the true spirit of COVID-19 catalyst for entrepreneurship series.



AllMart is not the “Amazon of the Caribbean”. A point our featured entrepreneur was sure to point out from the beginning. AllMart is a revolutionary, all commodities e-commerce marketplace designed to enable and empower the local community as it works towards its overarching mission of bringing the community into the future. At the same time while giving a fair advantage to local merchants to compete with their global competitors. “AllMart represents an infinite number of storefronts, which each offer their unique brand and flavor. Here, customers can appreciate the transparency of knowing exactly where their products are coming from, they always know that they can visit their seller locally should they have any issues after their purchases, and, most importantly, they know that their purchases supported the local business community,” Doumith highlighted.

Andrew explains that though the business officially came on the market in



Andrew Doumith

May 2020, it was in its early stages of testing's a few months prior.

According to the entrepreneur, “AllMart, was conceptualized back in May 2018 after sitting with my brothers and sister one evening discussing the need for a complete shopping experience because of the difficulties faced when shopping in the Caribbean. These conversations sparked different ideas and after some months, with much deliberation and research, the end goal of enabling and empowering merchants in our developing country of Antigua was born.”

This unique shopping experience is said to have been specifically inspired “to transform the shopping ex-

perience for the consumer, but also to take merchants of all kinds into the digital world with ease, with no investment or risk, and without ever having to worry about the complexities of technology.”

Speaking with Andrew we learned that with this platform, merchants who partner with them get the opportunity to enhance their shopping experience, thereby generating more sales and building a happier, more loyal customer community.

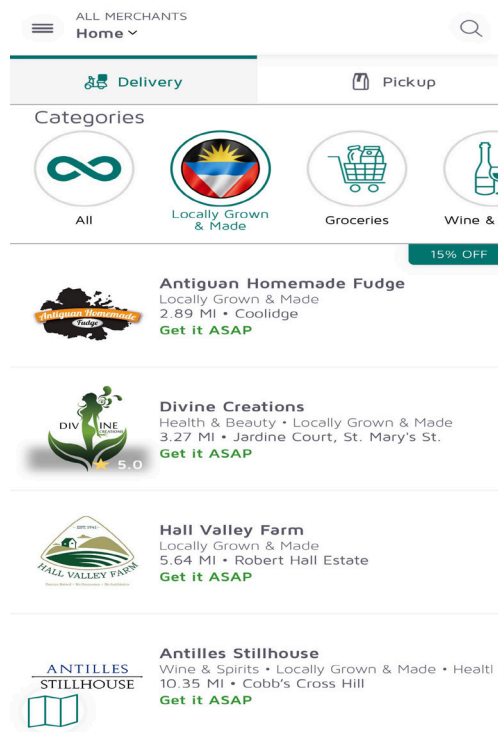
Though personal shopping services and delivery apps have made their mark in Antigua since the introduction of COVID-19, Andrew explains that AllMart is a bit different from that.

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"I wouldn't quite say there were any other businesses like AllMart at the time we became operational. Sure, there are many delivery service companies out there. And, fortunately for Antigua, more and more have been popping up seemingly every day since the start of COVID-19. However, AllMart takes a significantly distinct approach. I would never merely consider AllMart a delivery service. Matter fact, delivery is only a small portion of what makes us who we are. AllMart caters to everyone by aiming to be the world's most inclusive e-commerce platform. You can think of it as 'The Shopping Mall in your Pocket', he illustrated.

Despite being a young business, AllMart found an ingenious way of not only offering a service but also empowering the wider community through employment opportunities. According to Andrew, AllMart, because of its platform has the added benefit of providing jobs. Through "enabling and empowering our local community of drivers, merchants, and customers is at the heart of what we stand for. This was the main inspiration behind the creation of AllMart. One of the most rewarding aspects of AllMart is the large number of employment opportunities it creates both for drivers and merchants. As the demand for local online shopping continues to rise, merchants are going to need to employ more team members to assist in the online sales process," he stated.

AllMart has set a goal for itself; that of adding over a hundred employment opportunities to delivery drivers by the end of the year. "Although we recognize that this is a big goal, we do think it is possible with Antiguan to buy locally online instead of internationally now that they have the opportunity to do so. Without a doubt, achieving this milestone of employing 100 delivery drivers will only be possible with the



increased number of merchants and customers. This makes community support and local patronage more important than ever before," Andrew summarized.

Just as most businesses, COVID-19 did present some challenges to this young start-up. Andrew described the impact of COVID on his business as a "double-edged" effect.

"Firstly, starting with the obvious 'bad' which was more on an economical level, the majority of customers do not currently have a lot of buying power because of the economic challenges caused by COVID. We are realizing first-hand that shoppers are mainly seeking key necessities rather than non-essentials at the moment," he declared.

The 'good', although AllMart was not created as a response to COVID as it has been in the works for the past two years, it has interestingly benefited tremendously from the COVID crisis. Mainly, COVID has caused both businesses and shoppers in Antigua and the wider Caribbean to experience an unprecedented paradigm shift in digital transformation adoption. Businesses now have a stronger appetite



than ever before to sell and market their products online, whereas their shoppers have a stronger desire than ever before to shop online rather than in-stores," The young businessman detailed.

Before ending our interview, the dynamic entrepreneur made sure to give some timely advice to other budding and potential entrepreneur. "The one piece of critical advice that I will give to all current or potential entrepreneurs is to always design their solution to cater to the needs and problems of your audience. Always keep in mind that for any business to be successful it must clearly offer an easy to use solution that solves a problem that is problematic enough for the customer to justify paying their hard-earned monies to solve. To do this, it's important to interview your potential target audiences thoroughly before designing the solution to the defined problem you plan to solve. One of my biggest passions is inspiring, mentoring, and potentially collaborating with vibrant entrepreneurs that want to make an impact. To connect your startup, feel free to reach out to info@actantigua.com," he concluded.

Statutory bodies hit hard by COVID-19

Several of the government statutory bodies have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and they have had to turn to the central government to bail them out.

And according to prime minister and finance minister, Gaston Browne, this is a double whammy for the government as its own revenues are down significantly because of the crisis.

Browne said the government's well-crafted plans for economic growth of around 5-percent this year have been upended by the pandemic and it now has to turn to borrowings to pump money into the economic to stimulate economic growth.

He said the government plans to borrow as much as \$150-million to help stimulate agriculture and other productive sectors of the economy

such as construction.

"We are finding it extremely difficult to pay public servants and when you add this to subsidizing various statutory bodies it is not easy.

"For example, in March we had to give Social Security \$5 million and last month the amount was \$4-million," he remarked.

The prime minister revealed that the social security scheme is not the only statutory body that his government has had to bail out in recent weeks.

"Even Medical Benefits is looking for some levels of subsidy now as their revenues, too, have reduced significantly.

"Additionally, the St. John's Development Corporation has turned to the government seeking a monthly subvention of \$400-thousand," he


explained.

Browne describes the impact of the pandemic as creating 'a most difficult time to govern' but he expressed the confidence that his government has the wherewithal to tackle the problems it created head-on.


He emphasized the vulnerable nature of the country's economy due to two main factors; its high debt burden and its near total reliance on tourism.

The prime minister referenced a Caribbean Development Bank report that stated that Caribbean economies could contract from 15 to 30 percent based on tourist arrivals between March and September.


He said one reason why the government went ahead and reopened the economy was to avert much of this impact.




**Ministry of Social Transformation
and the Blue Economy**




**Mr. Raymond Hughes
Seaview Farm
D.O.B 14th June 1916**



Happy 104th Birthday!



The Hon. Dean Jonas, Minister,
Ms. Sharon Stevens, Permanent Secretary,
Ms. Dale O'Brien, Director (Ag),
Mr. Gerard Brookes & Ms. Tanya Williams
Community Field Officers (South Zone) & Staff of
Community Development Division, Family & Friends
wish Mr. Raymond Hughes a Happy Birthday.
You deserve the best! Today is your Big Day
to be above the rest



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

BARBUDA ENERGY RESILIENCE PROJECT CONSULTANCIES

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority in partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) wishes to invite interested eligible firms to express interest in providing consultancy services for the Barbuda Energy Resilience Project. The Authority serves as the executing agency.

PREPARATION/SUPERVISION RECONNECTION SUPPORT PROGRAMME CONSULTANT

The objective of this consultancy is to undertake the preparation and supervision of a Reconnection Support Programme (RSP) for Barbuda. During the Preparation phase the Consultant will be expected to undertake analysis to identify the unconnected consumers on Barbuda and design the most effective RSP. During the Supervision phase the Consultant will support APUA in procurement of services or works required to deliver the RSP and supervise the implementation of the RSP. The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of three (3) months.

The consultancy team should have the following qualifications and experience at a minimum:

- Bachelor's degree Social Development, Sociology, Social policy, Gender and Development Studies, International/Community Development, Public Policy or other related field with at least ten (10) years' experience
- Electrician with Level III in Electrical Installation (Caribbean Vocational Qualification) or equivalent.
- Minimum of Five (5) years directly related experience in building inspection for compliance with electrical codes or seven (7) years of experience in electrical construction or building trades including reading construction plans, estimating and commissioning of new construction.
- Prior experience on Barbuda or with APUA's electrical codes and national laws would be an advantage.
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking as well as excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Individual résumés are not required at this stage of the procurement process.
- Experience in the region

ELIGIBILITY

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) In the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 per cent beneficially owned by citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) In the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) 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 the CDB.

Interested consulting firms must provide the following information to establish their competence in the performance of the services required:

General background of the consulting firm;
Description of similar assignments undertaken in Engineering and Design Supervision for electrical utilities
Experience as a consulting firm having been contracted for at least two (2) similar assignments with one (1) within the last five (5) years.

For complete details to prepare and submit eligible expressions of interest please visit:

1. Engineering Design and Supervision Consultant:
<https://www.caribank.org/work-with-us/procurement/procurement-notice/barbuda-energy-resilience-project>
2. Preparation/Supervision Reconnection Support Programme Consultant:
<https://www.caribank.org/work-with-us/procurement/procurement-notice/barbuda-energy-resilience-project-0>

Deadline for the submission of expressions of interest is **Monday 15th June 2020 by 4:00pm.**

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND SUPERVISION CONSULTANT

The objective of this consultancy is to design specifications for: the undergrounding approximately 8km of the distribution network on Barbuda; and the installation of Solar PV Hybrid systems on approximately 11 Government buildings. The consultancy must ensure the design delivers an environmentally sound, climate resilient, socially inclusive and sustainable electricity system; and second provide supervision and monitoring support to the executing agency during the procurement and implementation phase. The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of six (6) months.

The consultancy team should have the following qualifications and experience at a minimum:

- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering with at least ten (10) years' experience
- Bachelor's degree Social Development with at least ten (10) years' experience or equivalent
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance with at least five (5) years' experience or equivalent
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking as well as excellent communication and analytical skills.
- Individual résumés are not required at this stage of the procurement process.
- Experience in the region



Working towards Category 1

The Antigua-based Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) says it is working assiduously towards regaining its Category I status after the U.S Federal Aviation Authority downgraded it to Category 2 about a month ago.

Director General of ECCAA, Donald McPhail, said the organization is working on the matter with what he termed ‘a serious amount of speed’ to regain Category 1, which means that the airports it serves will carry that status.

“There were fourteen areas of deficiency identified when the recent survey was conducted that led to the downgrading to Category 2. Of that number, the ECCAA office corrected eleven with three left outstanding,” he revealed.

One the three, main rec-



Director General of ECCAA, Donald McPhail

ommendation was for all the ECCAA member territories must pass legislation empowering the Director General to make regulations. This will remove some of the powers from the minister as currently constituted under the legislation.

“The recommendation is for the minister to continue making economic regulations while all regulations dealing with safety

will come from the director general, the technical person in this regard,” McPhail explained.

He confirmed that Antigua and Barbuda was ahead of the other territories with passing the necessary legislations that is a prerequisite for a return to Category 1. The director general declined to name the countries that lag behind with passing the required legislation.

However, he noted that correcting the deficiencies, including passing the necessary legislation ‘requires a fair amount of work’.

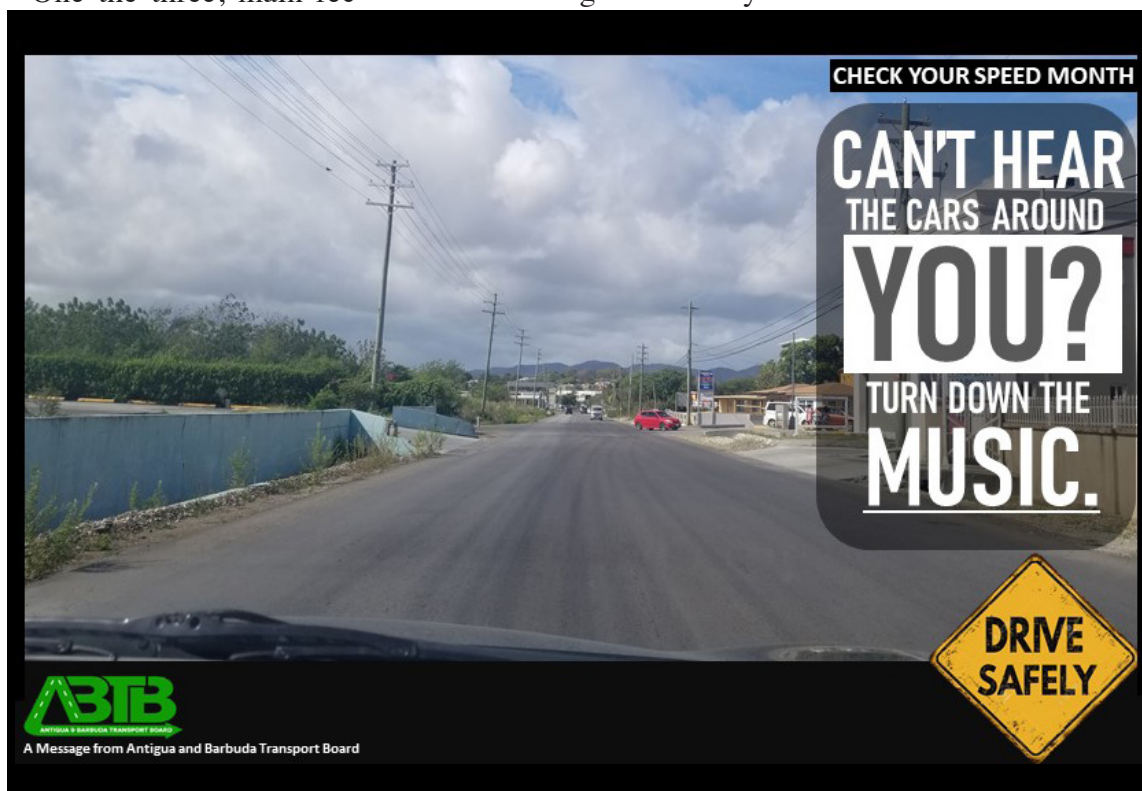
The ECCAA head said the main impact from losing Category 1 is that none of the organisation’s members can operate new airline services into the United States, “We have all the same privileges as under Category 1, but we cannot offer new ones,” he reported.

The government reported that last week, Minister of Aviation, Sir Robin Yearwood, had informed the Cabinet that assistance is forthcoming from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to place the nation’s airport back into a Category 1 status.

The countries of East Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority were downgraded to a Category 2, about one month ago. Every effort is being made to ensure that the OECS states—all members of ECCAA—are returned to a Category 1.

However, an official familiar with the subject, said despite Antigua and Barbuda’s best intentions, regaining the Category 1 status does not rely on the actions of the Antigua and Barbuda government alone.

The official said the civil aviation authority headquartered in St. John’s is an OECS entity therefore the downgrading affected all the countries served by the authority.





SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER School of Management, Sciences and Technology

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. In 2019, the UWI placed 32nd among the 150 best ranked universities across Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) Latin America University Rankings. After 71 years The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 3% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The Five Islands Campus is seeking to fill positions of Senior Lecturer/Lecturer on the Five Islands Campus in Antigua & Barbuda. The Senior Lecturer/Lecturer will provide academic leadership for the School of **Management, Sciences and Technology**.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- a Ph.D. or other doctoral level qualification.
- Demonstrated scholarly research and a significant potential for carrying out scholarly research.
- An appropriate record of teaching combined with a willingness to undertake training in teaching at the tertiary level.
- Experience in the administration of internship programmes.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Teach bachelor's and master's level courses in their area of specialization.
- Supervise master's and doctoral research.
- Develop new courses and programmes
- Modify and upgrade course material on an ongoing basis.
- Be involved in interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Develop innovative research.
- Advise and supervise students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Coordinate internships and other student programmes.
- Participate in campus-related and outreach activities.
- Conduct original, high quality scholarly research for publication in leading academic journals.
- undertake an appropriate teaching and administrative load.
- Provide scholarly inputs into the School's outreach programmes.
- Develop funding proposals and raise funds to support scholarly research.
- Participate in relevant university committees and boards.
- Provide leadership, as required in support of the overall strategy of the School.

The School of Management, Sciences and Technology seeks to fill six (6) posts. Applicants must be able to deliver content across multiple areas at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The available posts are as follows:

2 Senior Lecturers/Lecturers in Management. Specialized areas include Organization Development, Financial Management, Financial Institutions & Markets, International Financial Management, Managing Financial Institutions, Team Building & Management, Compensation Management, Business Strategy & Policy, and Business, Governance & Society.

1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Accounting. Specialized areas include Advanced Accounting Theory, Auditing, Advanced Financial Accounting, and Government Accounting.

1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Economics. Specialized areas include Research Methods for Economists, History of Economic Thought, Finance & Development, and Advanced Financial Economics.

1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Marketing. Specialized areas include Marketing Management, International Marketing Management, Marketing Research and Integrated Marketing Communication.

1 Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Specialized areas include International Tourism, Caribbean Tourism, Tourism Planning & Development II, and Tourism Management.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, curriculum vitae giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current organization) and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to hr.fiveislands@uwi.edu addressed to the **Director of Administration and Finance, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies**. Full CV and application forms, which must be completed and can be obtained at <http://www.uwi.edu/jobs>, must be submitted. The final date for receipt of applications is June 29, 2020. In order to expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.

Coping in Mind Spirit and Body in a time of a Pandemic “Covid -19”

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.”

Throughout our lifetime, crises of different types have challenged us. Some economic, others natural disasters or social crises. How we interpret, react and bounce back from the crises of today are what will define how we survive crises of tomorrow.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has been described as the “unknown enemy” we are at war with the biggest health crisis. It has been characterized with “Uncertainty” “Fear” and “Worry.” It is a health crisis that has invaded the world penetrating the bloodstream of the

world’s economic life.

First, the Uncertainty: we do not yet fully know our enemy.

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing—or has already changed our collective view of uncertainty, both health and economic but there is no reference case for the COVID-19 crisis in living memory. There have been flu pandemics, financial crisis, and localized threats and disasters e.g. hurricanes with regional and national implications, e.g. Hurricane Irma. But from our vantage point, the COVID-19 pandemic is more global in scope, more profoundly impactful and far-reaching and more complex than any other crisis that today’s

population has experienced or contemplated.

Instead of panicking and stockpiling goods e.g. toilet paper that others can’t find, we should be asking: How can we as a church and I as an individual help those in need?

Our attitude toward COVID-19 and its uncertainty should be marked by the Christian virtue of measured concern not panicking but heeding our Saviour’s encouraging warning, “Do not be anxious about your life ... Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul”

Secondly the Fear Factor: Let’s be real: everyday fear is a companion joining us whenever we venture out to supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitals or just to get a basic service, as wearing a mask would always remind us. So much about coronavirus (COVID-19) is outside of our control. Not just the virus itself, but all the other aspects of life that might be impacted, from work and finances to socializing and travel. Give yourself credit as you cope with this tough time and recognize that dealing with this challenge



*Shirlene A. Nibbs MBE, Managing Director
Nibbs & Associates.*

can make you more resilient.

Feeling stressed is an understandable response to the current coronavirus pandemic.

You might be worried about contracting the virus, about how your loved ones will cope, about the disruption to your studies and routines, and about whether you’ll still have a job and enough money.

These stressors, along with travel bans, events being cancelled, and the constant media hysteria are enough to (bring on mental meltdowns and the contemplation of ending one’s life).

Through faith in God and out of love for neighbors, Christians must think first how to contribute to the physical and spiritual care of those who are vulnerable, self-isolated, sick, or dying.

The Christians walk

Cont’d on pg 13



NOTICE

Pharmacy Hours

Major Pharmacies

CLARE HALL | NEVIS STREET | BROWNE'S AVENUE | ALL SAINTS

For medication **PICK UP & DROP OFF**

Drop-off until 12noon, Pick-up until 3:00pm

Pick up in **48 Hours**

Satellite Pharmacies

GRAY'S FARM | JOHNSON'S POINT

8:00am - 12noon

Regular prescription services resume
(wait for prescription to be filled)



Reduce the spread of COVID-19

Mask wearing and social distancing protocol strictly enforced.



Please use Hand Sanitizer Provided.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

should be grounded in Faith not Fear

The third area is Worry: The biggest area of worry for most people is finances. Some of us have lost jobs, revenue, income just to name a few. But with a plan and a realignment of your life you can make it. First, look at your budget/expenditure and do a re-evaluation.

Start assessing your budget/expenditure and determine what are the cuts that you need to consider as cutting costs can make getting through the current financial situation less stressful. Before you can do that, you first need to understand where and how you're spending. Whether you have a budget in place, or you don't, make a detailed list of everything you spend money on in a normal month. Start with your fixed expenses first. This includes everything you have to spend money on each month to maintain a basic standard of living, such as:

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Utilities
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Loans

Make a second list of variable expenses, including discretionary spending. This list may include things such as:

- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Hobbies and entertainment
- ☐ Personal care or self-care
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Dining out

☐ Shopping

The key is to put every expense in your budget into its own category. Another way to think of it is like this: must-haves, need-to-haves and nice-to-haves.

Assess if you can still save despite your new financial circumstances. Needs and Wants.....I have had no choice but to walk the talk as I am a self-employed Professional with most of my business opportunities rooted in the Tourism Industry.

So, let's look at a practical example that you most definitely can relate to:

Most people own a smartphone. So, in using your phone you notice it is low on battery, and no charging opportunities exist. So, you adjust, and you are aware there is actually no capacity for your luxuries, for example - browsing or social media streaming of videos, you just need to look at the basics of making calls and sending out messages... doing the bare essentials.

This is a situation that all are in, I personally have made a conscious effort to cut spending even though I am frugal.

I have used this Pandemic as a "Fiscal transformation opportunity" Backyard Gardening

"During stressful times like these, taking up something that rewards you as well as helps you keep positive is definitely a bonus

We are in crisis mode, prioritizing your expenses matters. For example, pay-

ing the rent or your mortgage and keeping the lights on should naturally take precedence over buying new clothes.

Some of the extras you may be able to immediately cut from your budget include:

- ☐ Dining out
- ☐ Entertainment
- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Travel
- ☐ Extracurriculars for kids
- ☐ Electronics and gadgets
- ☐ Gym memberships
- ☐ Unnecessary subscriptions

Ordinarily, removing these things from your budget might be painful. But if you are being diligent about social distancing and stay-

ing home, then cutting out these expenses may be less of an ordeal.

Another nice-to-have expense category to cut is anything that's outsourced. For example, if you pay someone for lawn care or house-keeping, those are expenses you could temporarily put on pause.

The goal is to trim as much of the fat as possible from your budget to preserve as much of your income and savings as possible.

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. -2 Timothy 1:7

Reprinted from the Moravian Church June 2020 Newsletter.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Date: Monday 15th June 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 11:30 AM

Affected areas: Section of Bathlodge near s-corner.

Date: Tuesday 16th June 2020

Time: 09:30AM - 10:00 AM

Affected areas: Scotts Hill, American Rd, Radio Range and section of Ottos.

Date: Thursday 18th June 2020

Time: 08:30AM - 12:00 PM

Affected areas: Small section in Hodges Bay near Le Bistro.

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page.

Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEFENCE FORCE

"Always Ready to Serve"

On May 18, 2020 Second Lieutenant Jaheel Cannonier assumed the position of Training Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force.

A graduate of the Princess Margaret Secondary School and the University of the West Indies Open Campus, Second Lieutenant Cannonier, who is also #2 Platoon Commander, has been trained in Martinique, Guyana and the People's Republic of China.

During his five year career in the ABDF, Cannonier has also completed or participated in other training exercises and operations, to include the Joint task force training and operations, Basic First Aid (Red Cross), Mass Casualty Emergencies (NODS) and of Regional Security System Peace Keeping Operation - Dominica.

Second Lieutenant Jaheel Cannonier believes strongly in the ABDF Core Values. "Through hard work, determination, perseverance and consistency anything is attainable."

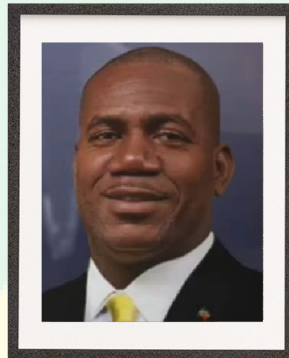
2 Lieutenant Jaheel Cannonier
#armyproud

2 Lieutenant
Jaheel Cannonier
#2 Platoon Commander
Training Officer

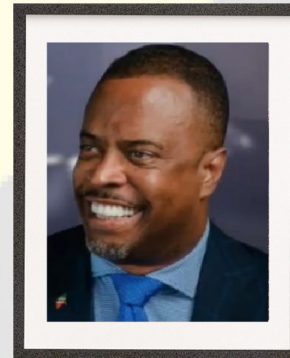
PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENTS OF CABINET JUNE 2020



Dr. the Honourable Timothy Sylvester Harris
 Prime Minister
 Minister of Finance and Sustainable
 Development, National
 Security and Immigration, Skills
 Training Empowerment Programme



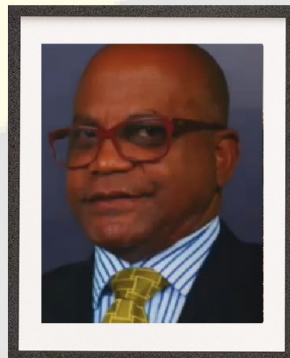
Honourable Shawn Richards
 Deputy Prime Minister
 Minister of Public Infrastructure,
 Posts Urban Development



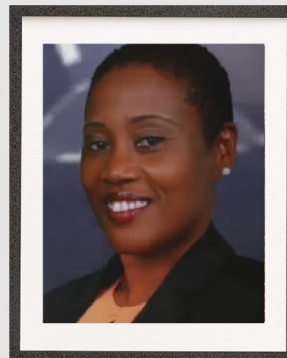
**Honourable Mark Anthony
 Graham Brantley**
 Minister of Foreign
 Affairs and Aviation



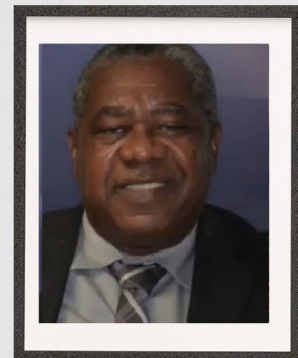
**Honourable Alexis
 Allison Jeffers**
 Agriculture, Fisheries
 and Marine Resources



**Honourable Lindsay
 Fitz-Patrick Grant**
 Minister of Tourism and Transport



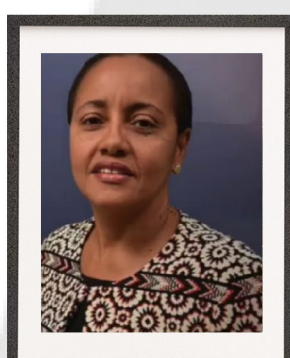
**Honourable Akilah Mawusi
 Kamilah Byron-Nisbett**
 Minister of Health and
 Communications



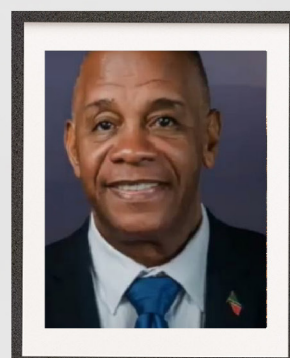
**Honourable Vincent
 Fitzgerald Byron**
 Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs



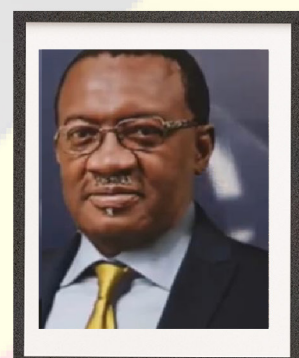
**Honourable Jonel Franchette
 Herbert Powell**
 Minister of Education, Youth,
 Sports And Culture



**Honourable Wendy
 Colleen Phipps**
 Minister of International Trade, Industry and
 Commerce, Labour and Consumer Affairs



Honourable Eric Rohan Evelyn
 Minister for Environment
 and Cooperatives



**Honourable Eugene
 Alastair Hamilton**
 Minister of Human Settlements,
 Social Development
 and Gender Affairs, National Health Insurance

Jamaica Is Fighting 'Super Gangs' Says PM

Gangs, which are responsible for 80 per cent of murders in Jamaica, are evolving, says Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

Speaking during an emergency press conference to announce states of public emergency in the Central and West Kingston divisions this morning, the prime minister underscored that gangs are no longer community-based, but forming networks to strengthen their organisations and target state projects.

"They are going across formerly and geographically defined political areas," said Holness.

"Their collaboration and alliances lend themselves to the formation of, what I call, 'super gangs'. They create the platform for the insemination of more nefarious kinds of activities, including cyber activities, and other kinds of criminal activities that would be considered foreign to the Jamaican context," he explained.

Minister of National Security, Dr Horace Chang said two thirds of all gangs in Jamaica are rooted in the Kingston Central, Kingston East and Kingston West divisions, which are responsible for most of the murders in the Corporate Area. The Kingston Metropolitan Region, which includes, parts of St Catherine, accounts for some 55 per cent of the country's murders; and Kingston and St Andrew alone, are responsible for 42 per cent, ac-

cording to the police commissioner.

There are some 134 gangs operating from Bull Bay in the east, to Ferry, on the St Andrew/ St Catherine border, in the west, Chang outlined; or two thirds of the 389 active gangs in Jamaica. And, he says, the level of cooperation among them has been increasing.

"They struggle over spoils, extortion or imported weapons and other criminal activity that feed the economy of the gangs. It generates increasing homicides and certainly for this year we have seen the number of murders in the KMR region stand at more than 55 per cent of the total for the island," Chang said.

The police commissioner, Anderson, said there has been a spike in violent activities in the Kingston West and Kingston Central divisions, as gangs network and fortify to benefit from activities, such as extortion.

"Within the last quarter we have seen a spike as gang members and gang organisations seek to benefit from extortion in the market district and have created alliances that extend from St Andrew South all the way across to Kingston East," he said.

South Coast Highway project being targeted

Holness said the issue of extortion is particularly "worrisome," as the situation takes place in a context where busi-



Prime Minister Andrew Holness speaking during this morning's emergency press conference at Jamaica House.

nesses are struggling due to the recession. He revealed that the St Thomas leg of the South Coast Highway was also being targeted by criminals.

"And we are also very particularly concerned that a national road project has started and we are seeing signs of gangs, including politically connected persons, operating in such a way as to seek to extort and to disrupt or to prevent work from taking place," he said.

"I want to make it clear that this is a national project and we will not allow thugs to disrupt our national project," the prime minister insisted.

He said the evolving nature of gangs requires a coordinated approach from the state to retard them. He said the states of public emergency will allow the security forces to move

across the divisions along with the gangs.

"As they move from one community to the next, to the next, we can move along with them within this zone," he said.

Chang, noting that the response to criminal activities in the division required extraordinary measures, was optimistic that the security forces will be able to weaken and destroy gangs in the divisions.

"We want to assure the public that the security forces will expand and increase their activities; the government will seek and ensure that they are provided with the requisite legislative, fiscal and other facilities to improve their efficiency and ensure they can deal with the level of gang activity in Jamaica," he said.

Guyana's Granger hints at state of emergency if elections are scrapped because gov't needs money



President David Granger

President David Granger on Sunday hinted that a state of emergency would have to be declared to pave the way for the reconvening of a Parliament and the approval of funds for government spending, if the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) scraps the March 2, 2020 general and elections.

"It is possible... I know it has been done before. It is not an option that I would embark on without receiving agreement of all the parties concerned. I don't think it should be undertaken lightly or arbitrarily," he told reporters at State House.

He recalled that the Parliament had been recalled in 1990. That was when then President Desmond Hoyte had dissolved Parliament to hold general elections, but later reconstituted it to allow for electoral reforms, including house-to-house registration, and elections were called in 1992.

Faced with a "massive shortfall" in revenues and a "massive increase" in expenditure, Granger said there was a huge gap that he hoped would be partly closed by the convening of Parliament after the elections cycle concludes. "Right now, we are not running on empty but we are running with very low funds," Granger said.

The President said the reconvening of Parliament would require "some form of agreement" or legal mechanism. In 1990, the elections had not yet been held unlike now. Granger conceded that Guyana would face "uncharted territory" in finding a way for Parliament to approve funds if GECOM annuls the elections.

Granger appeared to stress repeatedly that the GECOM Chairman would say that alleged fraud and other irregularities were so severe that she would

be unable to deliver a result from a credible election. "I think they can very well say that- that we cannot make declaration because the information indicates that the process has been badly flawed," he said.

Asked where would that leave Guyana, the President said that would be a matter for the Commission or the Courts because "we would be in a legal no-man's land" as the country has never had a situation where there has been no declaration. "I do feel that in this case it is not impossible that the Election Commission will say that based on the evidence that was presented, we cannot declare because the information indicates that there has been widespread fraud or that the process is flawed," he said.

Granger repeatedly cited a bloated list as the primary route for so many irregularities.

Chief Elections Officer, Keith Lowenfield told GECOM Chairman Claudette Singh in a report that based on impersonation and other regularities, only 185,302 votes are not tarnished and of that the People's Progressive Party (PPP) would get 56,627 votes and A Partnership for National Unity+Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) will get 125,010.

Of the 460,352 valid votes cast, the incumbent A Partnership for National Unity+Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) has won 217,920 and the People's Progressive Party 233,336. The three 'joinder' parties- A New and United Guyana (ANUG), Liberty and Justice Party (LJP) and The New Movement (TNM) got a total of 5,214 votes.

(Demerara Waves)

Royal Saint Lucia Police Force considering action against unlawful Black Lives Matter protest

Despite being denied permission by police, Black Lives Matter protestors gathered earlier today at Constitution Park to voice concerns over police killings. Assistant Commissioner of Police Wayne Charlery told Loop News that it was “very much a possibility” that action would be taken against the organizers of the protest for proceeding despite not receiving approval for the event. “That is a consideration that is on the table right now,” said Charlery.

Charlery reacted to a Loop News story in which organizer Aaron Alexander said that he had dialogue with the police during the protest and they were allowed to continue until a specific time. Charlery said: “It was not really that the police ever gave them any time or it was ever allowed.”

“In instances of this where there’s an unlawful gathering, the police needs to dialogue with them using all the persuasive skills that is possible so that the crowd can disperse.

So you would have seen that I was speaking to Mr Isaac and Mr Alexander, throughout that time they would be asking ‘give us more time’ and I would tell them you need to finish this off. I was trying as peacefully as possible to have the crowd disperse by speaking to the obvious two leaders at the time.”



Assistant Commissioner of Police Wayne Charlery

Charlery noted that the activity continued for a bit longer than he wanted but he was satisfied that police were able to have the crowd disperse without exerting any higher level of force.

Alexander previously told Loop News: “Nowhere around the world people are getting permission to march. People just march and protest and that’s what we did.”

However, organizers did write to the police for approval, which was denied. Acting Police Commissioner Milton Desir released a statement explaining why he was not able to approve the protest during the pandemic:

“On Wednesday, June 10, 2020, an application was received from organizers of Black Lives Matter Saint Lucia, with the subject “Black Lives Matter Saint Lucia Rally” seeking permission to hold a rally at Constitution Park, Castries, on Friday, June 12, 2020, commencing at 9 am for a duration of three hours.

The application indicated that approximately 300 persons were expected to be in attendance.

We have realized that permission may be granted for other activities such as religious services, etc. on a case by case basis under the strict

protocols of the Chief Medical Officer.

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer, the decision to not approve the application at this time was taken based on the current law in relation to the Emergency Powers (Disasters) (COVID-19) (N0. 8) Order 2020 on restrictions for mass crowd events and also factoring the health risk.

The current law does not allow the Commissioner of Police to approve such an event, at this time, scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2020.

The Acting Commissioner continues to have further consultation with the Chief Medical Officer on the stages in which Saint Lucia will be permitted to hold mass crowd events in a safe manner, during COVID-19 pandemic, with the required amendments to the law to permit these events.”

“Once the laws can safely be relaxed, the Acting Commissioner will be in a position to legally approve such mass crowd events.

In the interim, he urges Saint Lucians to feel free to share their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement, via other mediums with the rest of the world, until such time that we can publicly express our views safely through a mass crowd event.”

Jamaica: Employers Who Breach Redundancy Regulations To Be Prosecuted



The Ministry of Labour and Social Security is reminding employers that redundancy exercises implemented without properly notifying the minister, will result in prosecution.

In a release, the ministry said under the Redundancy Payment Regulations, employers must notify the minister in writing within 21 days of the date the redundancy will take effect. It says employers who breach the regulations will be subject to a fine, not exceeding \$250,000, or a prison term of three months, or both fine and imprisonment.

The reminder comes as several sectors seek to implement

measures to weather the economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tourism industry has been worst affected to date, with thousands laid off as restrictions on travel and movement caused businesses in the sector to close their doors. The industry has projected earnings of US\$1.4 billion to US\$1.5 billion this year, far from the US\$4.4 billion that had been expected pre-COVID-19.

The industry is expecting to pick up some steam with the reopening of the country's borders to non-nationals tomorrow, June 15.

Bahamas: Sandals' November Reopen To Have 'Devastating Effect'



NASSAU, BAHAMAS — Trade Union Congress (TUC) president Obie Ferguson said last night he was trying to understand Sandals' rationale for pushing the reopening of its Royal Bahamian Resort on Cable Beach to November, while warning that the move will put some 600 workers at 'serious risk'. Ferguson told Eyewitness News last night that he was unaware of the planned November 1 reopening date. The company's Emerald Bay property in Exuma is set to reopen July 2. In a response to Eyewitness News inquiries, a Sandals representative said: "As with all our countries where there exists more than one resort, we have undertaken a phased re-opening process, guided by demand. Reminder that all dates announced are indeed subject to change."

Back in March Sandals said it would provide its employees with two weeks fully paid vacation, maintain partial salaries and retain established benefits during what at the time was intended to be a temporary closure until May 15. The TUC is the umbrella union for the Bahamas Hotel Bahamas Hotel Maintenance & Allied

Workers Union (BHMAWU), which is the bargaining agent for the Sandals Royal Bahamian employees.

"I got a couple of calls from a few of the workers about it and I have been trying to verify if what was said to me is in fact so," Ferguson said. "I have not been able to verify whether what was told to me is in fact the position. What I can say is that workers, while they are anxious to return to work have this fear regarding potentially coming into contact with guests who may have the Coronavirus. That seems to be a major concern among the members. They are anxious to return as they are not earning any money and have commitments." On the potential November reopening of the Royal Bahamian property, Ferguson said: "That really puts the workers at serious risk and would cause some other issues that would have to be addressed."

"You are talking about not having any income for another few months. If that is the case I'm trying to find the rationale for the company opening up in November because that's a really long time."

Family want answers after Black man found hanging in California

Amid protests against racial mistreatment and injustice across the United States, the family of a 24-year-old Black man found hanging from a tree in Palmdale, California have called for answers over his death.

On Saturday, hundreds of people marched in Palmdale following the death of Robert Fuller, who was found hanging from a tree near City Hall early on Wednesday. During the demonstration, Los Angeles Supervisor Kathryn Barger formally called for an investigation into the death by the state's attorney general.

Authorities initially said Fuller's death appeared to be a suicide, but are awaiting the results of an autopsy. Community members have questioned how they came to that determination so quickly.

"Everything that they've been telling us has not been right," Fuller's sister, Diamond Alexander, who was among the protesters, said, the New York Times reported. "We've been hearing one thing. Then we hear another. And we just want to know the truth."

"My brother was not suicidal. He wasn't," she added.

Protesters have taken to the streets regularly in small and major cities across the US since the May 25 death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died after an officer in Minneapolis knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. The four officers in-

involved in the death have since been terminated and criminally charged.

The Friday night killing of Rayshard Brooks, who was shot during a tussle with police in Atlanta after they were called on him for falling asleep in a fast food drive-through restaurant lane, has further stoked the unrest in the country.

'We have a history with nooses'

The city of Palmdale, in a statement on Saturday, said it "joined the family and the community's call for justice, which includes a full investigation into [Fuller's] death".

"The City will settle for nothing less than a thorough accounting of this matter," the statement said.

In her statement on Saturday, Los Angeles Supervisor Barger said an independent investigation "will lend additional expertise and oversight into this important investigation and provide the community with the answers they deserve".

The responses come after community members confronted city officials during a Friday night news conference, according to local media.

During that meeting, many asked why authorities were so quick to label the incident a suicide given the lack of video cameras in the area to capture the death, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Some community members also detailed examples of what they described as racism in the



People gather around a tree where the body of Robert Fuller was found on Wednesday

city, including the presence of Confederate flags, the newspaper reported. "We have a history with nooses. We don't like ropes around our necks," said one man, according to the newspaper, referencing the practice of white mobs committing extrajudicial killings of Black people, often by hanging, that existed prominently in the US throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Fuller's death has also brought attention to

the death of another Black man found hanging from a tree on May 31 in Victorville, a desert city 72km (45 miles) east of Palmdale.

A sheriff's spokeswoman told the Victor Valley News that foul play was not suspected in 38-year-old Malcolm Harsch's death, but the man's family have also cast doubt on the findings and expressed fears the death would be too quickly labelled a suicide.

French leader rejects racism but colonial statues to remain

French President Emmanuel Macron has vowed Sunday to stand firm against racism but also praised police and insisted that France wouldn't take down statues of controversial, colonial-era figures, as he addressed the issues for the first time since George Floyd's death in the U.S.

In a televised address to the nation on Sunday evening, Macron called for the nation's "unity" at a key moment when the country is trying to put the coronavirus crisis behind while being shaken by a series of protests against racial injustice and police brutality. Echoing American protesters, demonstrators in France have expressed anger at discrimination within French society, particularly toward minorities from the country's former colonies in Africa. Unusually for a French leader, Macron acknowledged that someone's "address, name, color of skin" can reduce their chances at succeeding in French society, and called for a fight to ensure that everyone can "find their place" regardless of ethnic origin or religion. He promised to be "uncompromising in the face of racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination." However, he insisted that France will not take down statues of controversial, colonial-era figures as has happened in some other countries in recent weeks. Amid calls for taking down statues tied to France's slave trade or colonial wrongs, Macron said "the republic will not erase any trace, or any name, from its

history ... it will not take down any statue." "We should look at all of our history together with lucidity" including relations with Africa, with a goal of "truth" instead of "denying who we are," Macron said. He didn't address accusations of police violence but said forces of order deserve "the nation's recognition." Meanwhile, his government is facing growing pressure to confront racism and police violence. At least 15,000 people demonstrated in Paris on Saturday, the latest in a string of French protests galvanized by the May 25 death of Floyd — a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck — and the Black Lives Matter movement, but increasingly focused on France's own tensions between police and minorities. In response, the government banned police chokeholds and vowed to stamp out racism among police — but that has now angered police unions, who say they're being unfairly painted as white supremacists and staged protests of their own. Government minister Sibeth Ndiaye — a close Macron ally and the most prominent black figure in current French politics — wrote an unusually personal essay Saturday in *Le Monde* calling for France to rethink its color-blind doctrine, which aims at encouraging equality by ignoring race altogether.

"We must not hesitate to name things, to say that a skin color is not neutral," she wrote. She called on the French to



French President Emmanuel Macron

"confront our memories" about their history and find a "shared narrative" with former colonies. Macron's speech also sought to "turn the page" of the virus crisis, as France will reopen nearly everything starting Monday. Restrictions had started being gradually eased on May 11 after two months of stricter lockdown. "We are going to get back our way of life, our taste for freedom," Macron said. "In other words, we are going to rediscover France fully again." Restaurants in the Paris region will be allowed to open indoor spaces starting on Monday — instead of outdoor seating only. Macron vowed to make from saving as many jobs as possible his top priority.

A forecast last week from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development showed France's economy will suffer more than most from the coming recession. The economy is expected to shrink at least 11% percent this year, pushing many out of work and torpedoing Macron's goals of bringing down unemployment, rehauling the retirement system and

making France more globally competitive. France is reopening its borders with other European countries at midnight and will start allowing visitors from other continents on July 1.

Despite having one of the world's best health care systems, France was dangerously short of all kinds of masks and testing capacity as coronavirus patients overwhelmed intensive care wards in March. More than 80 lawsuits have been filed accusing his government of manslaughter, neglect or otherwise mishandling the virus crisis. Macron sent in the army to help and ordered strict lockdown measures that slowed the spread. But nearly 30,000 people have died, about half of them amid residents of nursing homes, and more than 150,000 have been infected. More than 200 new virus clusters have emerged since France started reopening May 11, according to the national health agency.

"Dozens of thousands of lives have been saved by our choices, our acts," Macron stressed.

Coronavirus: India to use 500 train carriages as wards in Delhi

India is to convert another 500 railway carriages to create 8,000 more beds for coronavirus patients in Delhi, amid a surge in infections.

Home Minister Amit Shah announced a package of new emergency measures for the capital, including a rapid increase in testing for Covid-19. Nursing homes will also be requisitioned.

He met Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to address the crisis.

India's daily number of confirmed new cases has reached almost 12,000.

The total number of 320,922 officially confirmed cases puts India fourth in the world - after the US, Brazil and Russia - in the pandemic.

The death toll in India stands at 9,195, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University from official sources.

The Hindustan Times reports that Delhi is the third worst-hit state in India after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

It reports that Delhi's bed capacity across private and government hospitals for Covid-19 patients stands at 9,698, of which 4,248 beds are vacant.

Mr Kejriwal's government plans to use 40 hotels and 77 banquet halls as makeshift hospitals.

India began converting railway carriages into quarantine or isolation wards in April, when large parts of the rail-



Train carriages at New Delhi station

way network were suspended owing to the pandemic.

Last month the national government announced plans to end a national lockdown that began on 25 March.

Road and plane traffic in-

creased as restrictions started to ease, and many businesses and workplaces reopened. Markets are crowded again.

The lockdown has imposed huge economic costs on India, throwing millions

of people out of work, especially migrant workers in precarious, meagrely-paid jobs. Food supply chains were also put at risk.

Mexico desperate to reopen 11 million-job tourism industry

An irony of the coronavirus pandemic is that the idyllic beach vacation in Mexico in the brochures really does exist now: The white sand beaches are sparkling clean and empty on the Caribbean coast, the water is clear on the Pacific coast and the waters around the resort of Los Cabos are teeming with fish after 10 weeks with no boats going out. There are two-for-one deals and very eager staff. It's all only an airline flight — and a taxi ride, and a reception desk — away, and that's the problem.

There are a number of ways to think about it: Might it be safer to travel than stay home? How much is mental health worth, and, if people are going to socially distance anyway, why not do it in a beautiful, isolated place?

On the other hand, despite the pandemic, flights are often crowded, even hotels in Mexico that bend over backward to disinfect everything have little capacity to actually test their employees, and while fellow guests are likely to be few and far between, they also probably won't be wearing masks.

It was all on display as the first excited tourists arrived at the Moon Palace beach resort near Cancun last week, to the sound of mariachis and welcoming employees lined up — at a safe distance — to greet them.

"The customers all took off their masks as soon as they came into the hotel," said Gi-

bran Chapur, vice president of Palace Resorts. "You can't be all covered up when you are on vacation, thinking you have to be in reclusion. If you wanted to do that, you would have stayed home." The Moon Palace staff, however, kept their face masks on. With only about 300 tourists on beaches that can hold thousands, it seemed a good place to practice social distancing. "What better place to be than someplace where there is nobody, as opposed to being in New York, where there are 500 people everywhere you look," Chapur said.

In Quintana Roo state, where Cancun is located, tourism is the only industry there is, and Cancun is the only major Mexican resort to reopen so far. Mexico's tourism income crashed in April, when it was only 6.3% of what it was one year ago. Hundreds of thousands of hotel rooms were closed. Tourism provides 11 million jobs, directly or indirectly in Mexico, and many of those workers were simply sent home to wait it out.

The situation is so desperate that Mexico's tourism secretary proposed making the industry one of Mexico's "essential activities," so that it could reopen just as the construction, mining and automotive industries have already started to do. But federal health officials were less enthusiastic, noting that tourism implied travel, crowds and being outdoors.



The beach is empty where a few tourists spend time on the waters' edge in Cancun, Mexico, Saturday, June 13, 2020

The delay in reopening anywhere else but Cancun has created a desperate situation. At the Pacific coast resort of Huatulco, dozens of vendors who run seaside fish and curio shops defied lockdown measures to reopen their businesses, saying their money had run out and they couldn't take it anymore.

Other beach resorts are drawing up plans for limited reopenings as early as next week.

"It has been very difficult," said Armida Castro, the mayor of the twin Baja California resorts of Los Cabos,

"We had a list of needy people, elderly people and disabled people" to whom the government distributed aid packages, she said.

But then beach vendors, waiters and musicians who had lost work were added and the list swelled to 50,000; and the local government increased food packages and all available official vehicles were recruited

for distribution.

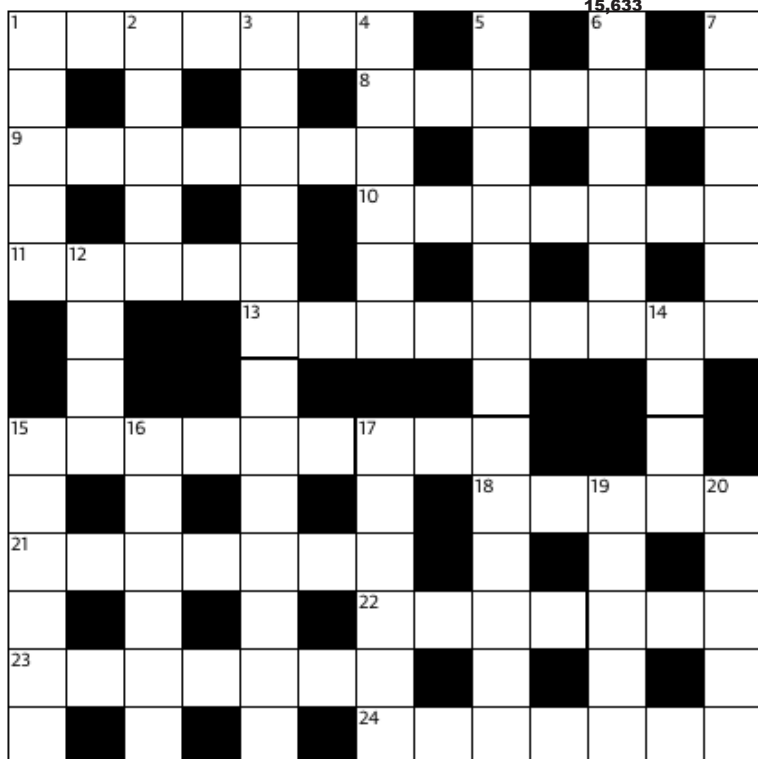
Castro said she can't remember seeing Los Cabos, known for its beaches, deserts and sport fishing, so deserted. The normally bustling marina at Cabo San Lucas now has plenty of room.

While Los Cabos hopes for a soft reopening in June or July, with limits on hotel capacity, it's hard not to look at this as a lost summer.

"October will be the big test," Castro said, referring to the month when cruise ships traditionally return and sport fishing tournaments host around 350 boats angling for marlin or dorado. The fish are definitely biting, Castro said, noting: "It has been nine weeks now without any sport or commercial fishing, so that should be attractive and interesting for sportsmen and fishermen."

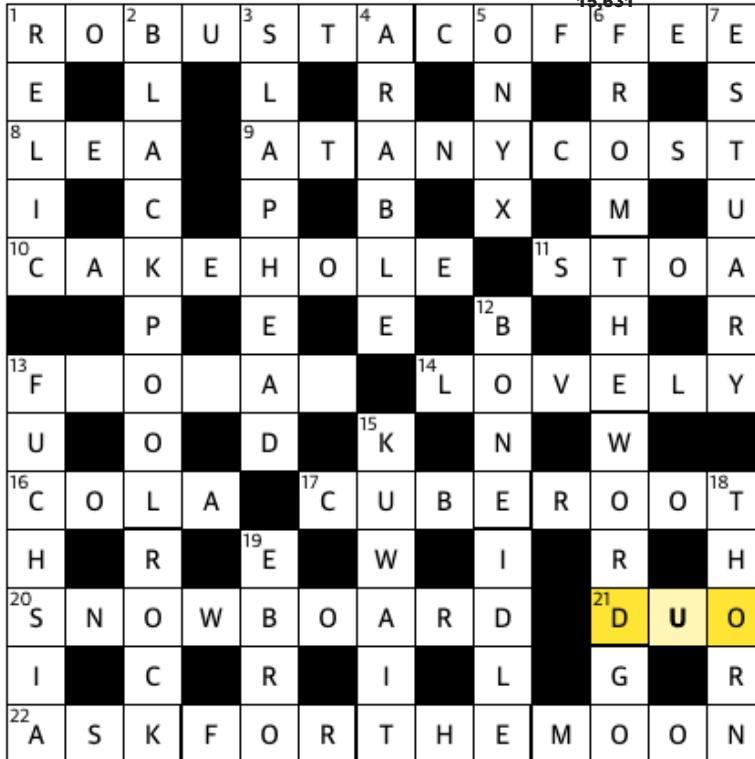
The attractions at Mexican resorts are better than ever, and it's not just due to less crowding.

QUICK CROSSWORD

 Quick crossword No
 15,633


Across

- 1 Shrub with berries used to flavour gin (7)
 8 In a shrewd way (7)
 9 Unit of explosive power (7)
 10 Tooth doctor (7)
 11 Rapid simultaneous shooting (5)
 13 Luxurious car (with a chauffeur?) (9)
 15 Go to sleep! (6,3)
 18 Violent disturbance (5)
 21 Behaved dishonestly (7)
 22 Nero or I (anag) — from which a common metal comes (4,3)
 23 It's offensively ugly (7)
 24 Hovering singer (7)

 Quick crossword No
 15,634


Down

- 1 The first king of England and Scotland (5)
 2 First name of the leader of the Brexit Party since 2019 (5)
 3 Place to fill the tank (6,7)
 4 Unsystematic (6)
 5 Hum yon quartet (anag) — basic explanation of all modern physics (7,6)
 6 Sign of the zodiac (6)
 7 Evergreen shrub with white flowers (6)
 12 German-based supermarket chain (4)
 14 Hopeless (informal) (2,2)
 15 Growth found on tree trunks and rocks (6)
 16 Bloke (6)
 17 Once popular songs (often golden) (6)
 19 Bowed instrument slightly larger than a violin (5)
 20 Examine (5)

CARTOON CORNER

Garfield





ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19): It may be necessary to fight off an itch to try something new and exciting, especially if it's going to become a costly undertaking. You and a loved one might dream of doing something that will disrupt your budget.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20): You're an attention-grabber, so perhaps you can cash in as an influencer. Your recommendations might carry more weight than others' because you may be known for being slow to jump on the latest fashion bandwagon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have the power to pack a wallop. Some people may think you're more talented than you really are, but once you have their attention, you can show off. If you believe in yourself, you can live up to your image.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you read between the lines, you might end up seeing something that your friends forgot to mention. Remain skeptical of opportunities that are dispersed in online groups or social media messages.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A positive attitude beats negativity this weekend. You may receive an opportunity for extra work or put plans in motion that will help you earn more money. Be ready to get up and go, and you'll be happy that you went.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Money and business could be on your mind when all your special someone wants to do is unwind. Be sure to spend as much time with loved ones as you do with the paperwork and everyone should be

satisfied.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.): Someone might not be exactly what they pretend to be, but finding out what is hidden could be worth your time. Digging deeper might reveal a person who doesn't share everything until trust is earned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It may take some innovative thinking and careful maneuvering to get your way. Once you have it there's no reason to slow down, because you can probably stick to any new enterprise like glue. Partners will give great input.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Two heads are likely better than one only when the two of you are on the same wavelength. Use your best judgment with financial plans or when making a major purchase and you might be amazed at who you'll impress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your good judgment can be used to brighten someone's day. There are occasions when it can be wise to relax arbitrary standards. When you're lenient and let someone bend the rules, you may gain their respect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Negotiations are like a game of ping-pong. You lob an offer, and they send it back with a slight twist. Even if things look daunting, you might be able to make an unexpected move that can be a winner for all concerned.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You may be aware of the buzz over the latest-must have fashion item or smartphone app, but it probably won't be the answer to any problems. Try not to give in to peer pressure to make a purchase that doesn't fit your needs.

FIFA allow transfer windows to open across two seasons

FIFA have given official permission for football leagues across the world to be allowed to open transfer windows before their current seasons.

The green light is contained under new measures announced last week and approved by the Bureau of the FIFA Council in response to delays to leagues restarting because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“In order to give priority to clubs to complete their 2019/20 season with their original squad, provide

flexibility, and allow MAs (member associations) to properly plan their football calendar, those associations following a dual-year calendar are permitted to commence the first registration period for the 2020/21 season prior to the completion of the 2019/0 season, subject to certain conditions,” the rules now state.

COVID-19 has thrown the usual summer window into disarray with months of action put on hold.

The new measures could



prompt a change of thinking among elite clubs in Europe, most of whose leagues were not planning to sign players before their seasons end.

Another significant amendment from FIFA relates to the number of

clubs one player is permitted to register for and represent in official matches.

That number has traditionally stood at two but will now be increased to three in order to avoid any concerns regarding unemployed players.

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Quinland wins shooting competition

Antigua and Barbuda Sharp Shooters Club presented their half-year in-house shooting competition yesterday.

First place went to Dwain Quinland with a score of 225, while second place was a tie at 212 by Barry Beharry and Jeffery Skerritt and third place with 192 was Joseph Reis.



Dwain Quinland



Barry Beharry



Jeffery Skerritt

CWI to host West Indies professional players draft 2020

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will host the West Indies professional players draft for the Colonial Medical Insurance Super 50 Cup and the West Indies Four-Day Championship today (Monday) June 15, 2020 via a Zoom meeting.

The draft shall be conducted over two rounds and each franchise must pick a player in each round. Based on CWI's draft structure, each franchise will contract a minimum of 15 players, 13

pre-selected and two from a player pool during the live draft.

The event will be monitored by CWI's auditors KPMG to ensure that the process is carried out efficiently and smoothly CWI's Cricket Operations, manager Roland Holder said.

For the 2020/21 season, each franchise will be allocated a picked number according to their final league position and performance of the franchise in the 2019/20

West Indies Championship

They will have 90 seconds in each round to make a pick. Where a selection is not made within the time period, the franchise will miss their turn and will have to wait until all their other franchises have made their

selection in that round, before making its selection.

The CWI Board of directors has agreed that the requirement to contract at least 2 players from outside of the franchise territory will not apply to 2020/21 season.



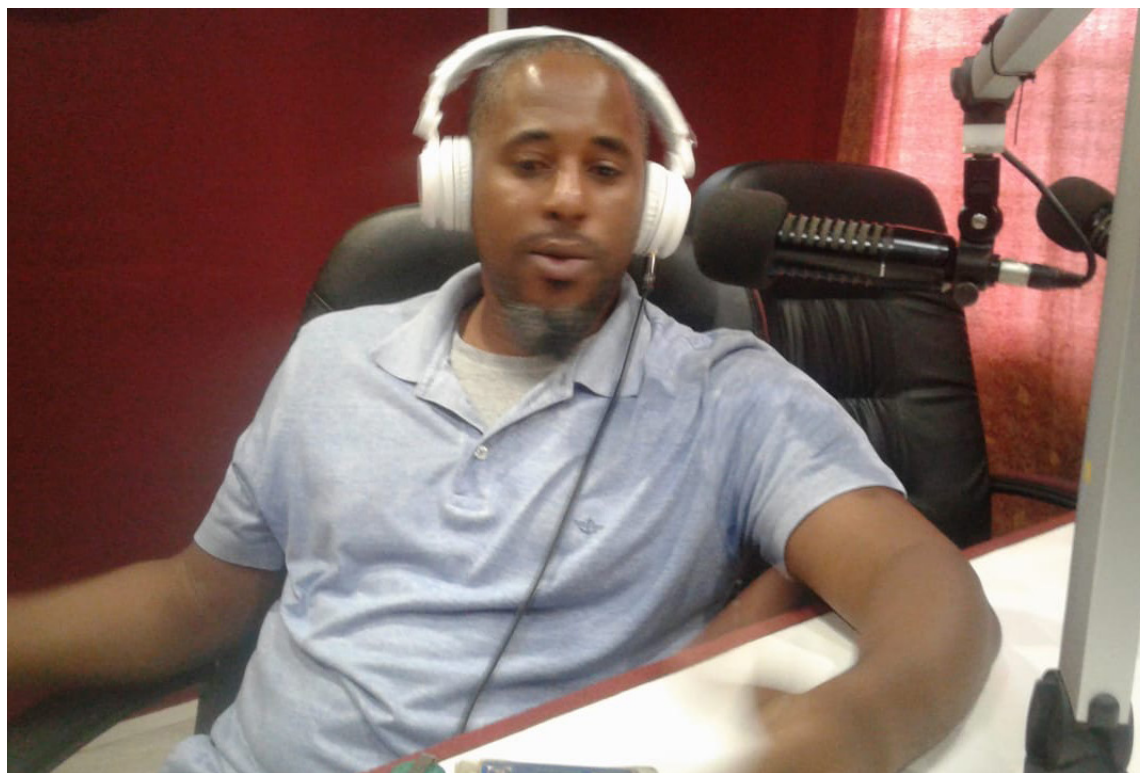
Kerry Whyte: 'Soup' for the game

Former Under-15 and 19 national player, Kerry Whyte, has always had a passion for cricket from the tender age of seven.

"I had the record of wearing my school uniforms from seven in the mornings until ten in the nights because I was playing cricket eight hours daily in the village," Kerry said.

He said his parents always knew where to find him when he was not home on time; just find where a game of cricket is being played in the area and that's where he was.

"I played most of my cricket in the village until my second year at the Princess Margaret School, I was encouraged to get involved by one of the teachers," he recalled. Whyte says his most two memorable moments in the sport was the two years he spent playing for the Under-15 national team where they were victorious in the Leeward Islands tournament



Former Under-15 and 19 national player, Kerry Whyte

the second year in Nevis.

"We blew away our opponents and I had a spell of 6 for 12, a game I will never forget," Whyte explained.

The man from English Harbor enjoyed a smooth transition from Under-15's to the Under-19 national set up but was unfortunate never to represent his

country at the senior level. Kerry believes cricket politics and finding a professional career outside of sport might have hampered his chances.

"I am very disappointed with the lack of growth in cricket administration and facilities," Whyte expressed.

He expressed the view that young players need assistance with equipment and more nets and

prepared practice pitches around the island to assist with their development.

The former national youth player is hoping to transition into the administrative part of the sport and he is presently working with the Skepples in New Winthropes to develop the cricket ground and cricket in general.

Kerry said there's much young talent around the island but more effort needed to be put into scouting nationally to discover the diamonds in the rough.

 **DEWS**