



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# PM REPEATS WARNING

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## ECCB Governor reassures about stability of EC Dollar - Pg 4



# Government acquires land to resolve longstanding issues

A resolution has been passed in the House of Representatives that will result in the acquisition of approximately three and a half acres of land at Lightfoot.

The land is being recovered from a failed housing project that got underway 15 years ago.

While twenty people who bought into the project did in fact become homeowners, 15 years on they are yet

to receive titles for the land.

Although the Cabinet intervened it was a requirement that a resolution be passed in the Parliament pursuant to section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap 233.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the land was part of the Bay View/Lightfoot Housing Project that was undertaken by Trinidadian developer, Mungalsingh, which ended up in

serious disrepute.

“A former administration had to move to acquire some of the lands, but I am told that this particular parcel of land, comprising three and a half acres, was apparently omitted from the initial acquisition and, as a consequence, there are some twenty families without titles to their homes.

“They have been living there for almost two decades and they have been

unable to get formal titles.

“This motion is to allow those individuals to finally acquire titles to their properties,” PM Browne explained.

The decision to acquire the lands was made at the Cabinet meeting of 15th January, 2020.

With the resolution passed, the Cabinet Secretary will now make a declaration to acquire the parcel of land for a public purpose.

## DAY 7/31

Max UV Index: 10 Very High  
 Wind: E at 20 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 26 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 64%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 3.5 mm  
 Rain: 3.5 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 2  
 Hours of Rain: 2

# 30°<sub>Hi</sub>



Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers

## NIGHT 7/31

Wind: E at 13 km/h  
 Wind Gusts: 18 km/h  
 Probability of Precipitation: 50%  
 Probability of Thunderstorms: 20%  
 Precipitation: 1.0 mm  
 Rain: 1.0 mm  
 Snow: 0.0 cm  
 Ice: 0.0 mm  
 Hours of Precipitation: 0.5  
 Hours of Rain: 0.5

# 26°<sub>Lo</sub>



Partly cloudy with a shower in places late

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST  
 5:47 AM

Sunset AST  
 6:40 PM



Duration  
 12:53 hr

## MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST  
 4:20 PM

Moonset AST  
 3:42 AM



Duration  
 11:22 hr



## PM repeats warning

The country's prime minister has repeated his stern warning to Barbuda's parliamentary representative and the members of the Barbuda Council concerning breaking the law in relation to the Peace, Love and Harmony project on the sister island.

Speaking in Parliament on Thursday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, said while he has no intention of instructing the police, there is an expectation that if anyone breaks the law on the sister isle, the police 'will do their job'.

Further, the prime minister stated that as Chairman of the National Security Council (NSC), he is prepared to convene a meeting of the council to review what he termed 'any threat to national security' on the island.

Directing his comment directly to the Barbuda MP, Trevor Walker, Browne said, "As the prime minister, where there is any violation to the laws of this country, I expect the police to act. Additionally, so far as any issue of national security, I am the chairman of the NSC and I will call a meeting anytime you create confusion that may be considered as a threat and to take appropriate action."

PM Browne made it clear that his statement was not a threat, but a promise to anyone found violating the laws of the land in a quest to de-



*Barbuda MP, Trevor Walker*  
rail the progress of the PLH project.

Browne reminded Walker that being the parliamentary representative for Barbuda did not place him above the law. He further cautioned the Barbudan against violating the property rights of the PLH group and urged him to 'tone down the rhetoric'.

Additionally, on the



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne*

strength of a report submitted by the Environmental Division last week, Prime Minister Browne dismissed claims that the PLH project poses an environmental threat to the island.

The prime minister also dismissed a suggestion by Walker that a referendum should be held in order to allow Barbuda to secede from

Antigua.

"Let me inform you, that Antigua and Barbuda is not a confederation. This is a unitary state. There will be no secession!"

You have to be guided by the laws and the Constitution of the country. You have no power that is greater than the Cabinet," he stated emphatically.

## PAY ATTENTION WHILE WALKING

YOUR FACEBOOK  
STATUS UPDATE  
CAN WAIT

Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Motorcyclists Safety

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



# ECCB Governor reassures about stability of EC Dollar

The Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank has highlighted the resilience of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union despite the economic challenges being experienced globally.

Addressing the recent ceremony to mark the change in chairmanship of the ECCB Monetary Council, Timothy Antoine said the resilience of the ECCU is evident in the fact that the EC dollar has been pegged to the US dollar for more than four decades.

“On July 6, the ECCU celebrated 44 years of stability with the EC dollar being pegged to the US dollar. This is a testament of the resilience of our currency union. Today, I confirm that our EC dollar is strong. As of last Friday, the backing in foreign reserves was 98.6 percent,” he revealed.

According to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, The EC dollar was



*Timothy Antoine*

pegged to the US Dollar on 7 July 1976 at E.C \$ 2.70 to US\$ 1. This is considered a noteworthy achievement which has allowed the people of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union to enjoy a fixed exchange.

Antoine stated COVID-19 has severely impacted our economies and reiterated the need for improvement

in several areas as a regional response is formulated.

Two of the areas the Central Bank governor identified were improved primary healthcare and food security.

“Our healthcare system needs significant investment, especially

at the primary level to reduce the instances of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and also to reduce the fiscal burden of healthcare. Fiscal and financial buffers are essential for both business and government for the inevitable ‘rainy day’,” he added.

The ECCB Governor pointed out that to capitalize on the opportunities that can emerge from the challenges being experienced, a growth mindset is required. Antoine is proposing that the sub-region devise a set position the currency union can follow for recovery and resilience.

## Island-wide Emancipation Dress Day today

To recognize Emancipation Day, 1st August, as the birthday of the Caribbean, the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission is dedicating Friday 31st July as “Emancipation Dress Day”.

Today, citizens across the island may clad themselves in African inspired or Afrocentric clothing as the reparations group calls on each citizen to show their pride in their heritage.

African clothing and fashion or African inspired clothing is a very diverse range of clothing that is able to provide a look into different African cultures. According to sources, the continent’s clothing varies from brightly colored textiles to abstractly embroidered robes, colorful beaded bracelets and necklaces to headpieces and wraps to dashikis.

To help celebrate the emancipation of the enslaved people in the region, the Reparation Support group is calling on persons to join them in recognizing the historic occasion through clothing and fashion today.





## Five additional cases of COVID-19, Ministry of Health holds press conference today

Antigua and Barbuda now has twenty-one (21) active cases of COVID-19.

This information came when the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment reported five (5) additional laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda in the dashboard issued on July 29th, 2020.

With these five additional cases added to the nation's COVID-19 dashboard, the total number of confirmed cases the country has had to contend with stands at 91.

The health ministry is making it clear, however, that of the 91 confirmed cases to date, only 21 are active, with 67 persons recovered from the disease. Antigua and Barbuda has recorded three (3) COVID-19 related deaths.

With testing now available on the island, approximately 1157 persons have been tested thus far.

In announcing five additional positive cases this week, the Ministry of Health indicated that four were imported while the fifth was not imported.

The ministry further disclosed, "One of the cases is that of an Antiguan national who had been in Barbados for six months and returned to Antigua.

"This individual was placed in quarantine upon arrival and has since been placed in isolation following the positive result."

In a statement addressing the issue last night, the ministry continued, "This type of situation is now considered to be a regional phenome-

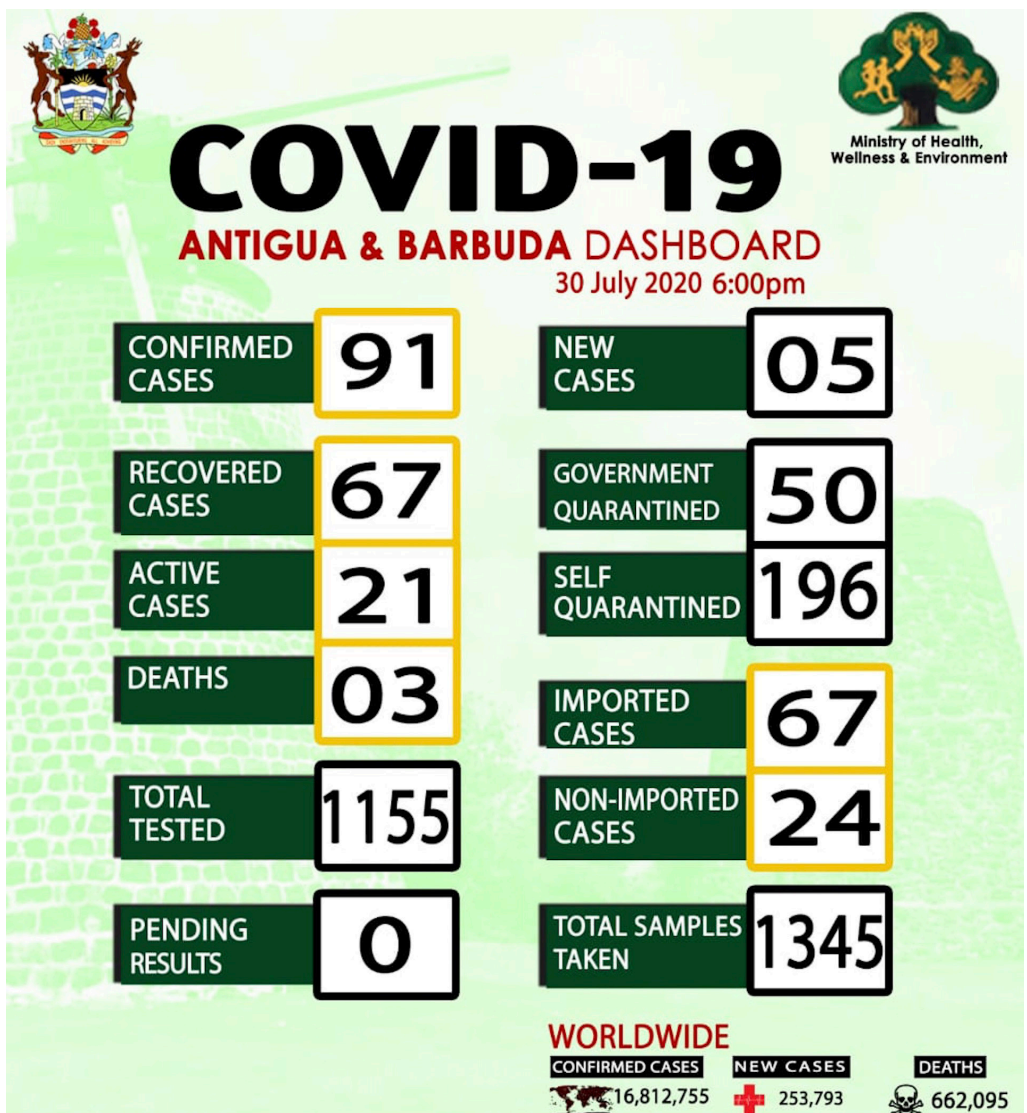
non and is expected since Caribbean countries are reopening their borders allowing for intra-regional travel."

The other three imported cases involve individuals with a recent travel history while the single non-imported case involves a person who came into contact with an individual who

previously tested positive.

These four individuals are also in isolation following their positive results.

It is expected that the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment will host a press conference today, Friday.



**Government of Antigua & Barbuda**  
**Ministry of Health, Wellness & Environment**  
 High & Long Streets  
 St. John's, Antigua.

**Contact us if you are exhibiting symptoms**  
 COVID-19 HOTLINE 462-6843 | [COVID@MSJMC.ORG](mailto:COVID@MSJMC.ORG)

# Minister of Health denies existence of two-tiered system

Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph, is denying the existence of a two-tiered system for persons entering the country since the reopening of the country's borders on 1st June.

Addressing the Parliament on Thursday, Joseph said he wanted to 'put to rest' rumors being circulated that visitors to the country are being processed by authorities at the airport in a manner which differs from that being extended to returning nationals.

The minister said this is not the case as visitors are going to hotels where health, and other protocols, are in place and being observed.

On the other hand, the MP

Joseph indicated that many returning nationals are of the view that they do not need to adhere to government regulations which stipulate that they must present a certificate indicating their COVID-19 status upon arrival at the airport. This, he continued, means that returning nationals could pose a serious public safety threat in that they could become the spark that ignites community spread of the coronavirus, a scenario the government wishes to avoid at all costs.

"When nationals return from say New York, and he or she is not checked at the airport and is allowed to go among the domestic popula-



*Health Minister, Molwyn Joseph*

tion, there is a risk that he or she can cause the spread of the virus to multiple individuals," the Minister of Health explained.

According to Joseph, nationals are required to enter quarantine upon reentering the country as the record shows that most of the im-

ported cases have been among returning nationals.

He also highlighted the fact that in Antigua and Barbuda persons entering government imposed quarantine are not required to pay for their upkeep. This is in stark contrast to several other countries in the region which require that quarantined individuals cover the costs incurred.

The health minister has reported that over 2500 nationals and residents have been accommodated at the quarantine centre since the country reopened its borders.

Joseph used the opportunity to commend health care personnel for their sterling service in providing superior care to COVID-19 patients.

He also reiterated appeals for the public to comply with health protocols including wearing masks in public spaces, practicing social distancing and washing hands frequently.

## Course offerings for Jamaican community

The Jamaica Consul General in Antigua and Barbuda, Onika Campbell, has successfully negotiated a series of diploma level courses with a Canadian university for the Jamaican community here, however they will also be accessible to nationals and other residents.

Campbell said the courses will be administered in collaboration with CICA University in Canada/WOLMI Diplomatic Academy and the Jamaican Consulate in Antigua and Barbuda.

"They are at diploma level and are incredibly good quality for anyone looking to develop a new skill, improve on what they already know, or to reenter the workforce. Picking up a new skill can make a massive difference to your career prospects,

enabling you to climb higher up the career ladder or even think about setting up your own business," she noted.

Campbell said the university is a reputable institution adding that it is among a handful of non-governmental organizations with consultative status at the United Nations.

A brochure circulated by the consulate shows an extensive list of courses in a wide range of subjects which are available to persons desirous of furthering their studies or obtaining the college credits necessary to pursue Bachelor's, Master's or PhDs.

Individuals desirous of additional information about the diploma courses may contact the Jamaica Consulate in the O'Beez Complex.



## Festivals minister to meet with fete promoters

Minister with responsibility for Festivals, Daryl Matthew, will meet with fete promoters next week to discuss their proposals on a way forward for their industry which will then be presented to the Cabinet for consideration.

Matthew said he recognizes that the cancellation of the 2020 Carnival activities, including a number of fetes, has taken a financial toll on this segment of the economy and it is his intention to raise promoters' concerns with the Cabinet.

"I will take a proposal to the Cabinet after a discussion with all promoters to put forward recommendations on how, at the appropriate time, we can go forward at some point in the future hosting some events," he disclosed.

One of the proposals revealed so far is that promoters be required to apply for permission from the Ministry of Health to stage an event. As part of the process, promoters would be required to identify the venue of the proposed event at which time the ministry would indicate, based on the size of the venue, the number of patrons who may safely attend.

"You may check temperatures of everyone entering the event as well as have on site representatives from the Ministry of Health to monitor the proceedings," he in-

dicated.

The Festivals Minister said the government is aware that the entertainment sector is vital to the economy and that it has the added responsibility of balancing the need to contain the coronavirus with ensuring that the economy is able to operate with restrictions in place.

"I understand the frustration of being cooped up for an extended period of time and the desire to attend fetes, especially at this time of the

year, however, we have a responsibility to protect the lives of everyone, including those who may attend these same events. There are some who say they will party irrespective of what may happen. We can't run a country like that," Matthew stated.

According to Matthew most promoters understand the difficulties the government faces. They are supportive of its actions and are cooperative.

"They have all suffered



*Minister with responsibility for Festivals, Daryl Matthew*

financial losses but at the same time they recognize that the government has acted with the health and safety of the society uppermost in mind," he declared.



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# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING

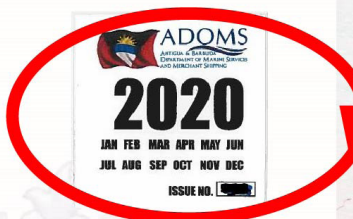


## PRESS RELEASE

ADOMS HOSTS JET SKI TOWN HALL MEETING

July 9th, 2020

FURTHER UPDATE



On July 9th 2020, the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) invited all owners and operators of jet skis, used for both pleasure and commercial operations, to a meeting at the Multi-Purpose Centre.

The objective of the meeting was to increase operators' awareness of the required safe jet ski practices, following numerous complaints from members of the public. The previous press release advised on the Coast Guard enforcement role and related penalties, where an offence is committed, or a jet ski is not licenced.

ADOMS, Ministry of Tourism and Port Authority also outlined their respective roles, in managing jet ski activity and gave clear guidance on the way forward.

Mr. Thomas Robinson (Chief Marine Surveyor) of ADOMS advised that the small craft regulations were now well established and the required safety standards have been publicized, including the requirement for personal watercraft (PWC) proficiency course certification. However, there are still a number of jet skis not adhering to the regulations and safe operational practices, particularly near shore, even though this is clearly stated on their Safety Certificate and Licence.

Mr. Robinson further advised, that ADOMS would withdraw the Safety Certificate and Licence of any jet ski, where evidence was provided of the jet ski operating in an unsafe manner. Mr. Elroy Daley (Manager of Beach Safety and Security) Ministry of Tourism advised on new additional powers for Beach Control Officers, to assist with enforcement action, where required. This included checking the marking of jet skis and ensuring that pleasure jet skis are not being used for commercial operations.

There will also be increased checks on commercial jet ski operations, to ensure that only those operators who have provided ADOMS with evidence of competence, are giving the required pre- hire safety briefing. Mr. Darwin Telemaque (Port Manager) Port Authority advised on the need for buoyed off safe swim areas on all beaches monitored by the Ministry of Tourism. This included the posting of signs marking the specific access and exit points on the beach for jet skis.

Full details of the safety requirements for jet skis can be found on ADOMS website:

<https://www.abregistry.ag/domestic-vessel-services/>

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## Sir Robin appeals for unity

Member of Parliament, Sir Robin Yearwood, has expressed surprise over opposition parliamentarians' apparent unwillingness to support the government's move to extend the State of Emergency for an additional ninety days.

The senior statesman expressed sadness over recent comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, and Barbudan MP, Trevor Walker, in their contributions to the debate on the motion to extend the SoE.

Addressing the contributions of both MPs, Sir Robin remarked, "I thought both sides would have been

on board on this matter. Instead, they came here with people's health as a political issue. This is one issue where we should put politics aside and act in the interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda."

The minister acknowledged that he is aware that there is discontent in some quarters regarding the extension of the curfew, particularly among those persons who were looking forward to attending various parties and social activities customary at this time of year which is commonly referred to as the 'fete season'.

According to Sir Robin, however, "Fete, fete,

fete may lead to COVID, COVID, COVID!"

Sir Robin's appeal for political solidarity in the best interest of the people of Antigua and Barbuda has been echoed by his parliamentary colleague, St. Paul MP, E.P. Chet Greene. According to Greene, the government's move should be embraced as a 'national moment of unity' instead of being used as an opportunity to sow division.

"I wish the parliament would unite in support of this motion as it is aimed at protecting the people of Antigua and Barbuda. We have nothing to gain politically from this move," he said.

Greene also praised the work of the country's health professionals in keeping the spread of the virus at a minimum.

He also showered praises on the staff of the Immigration Department and the Customs Division for their role in processing persons entering the country after the nation's borders reopened on 1st June.

He also revealed that the National Garment Manufacturing Initiative, located on the compound of the Simon Bolivar Park, has produced thousands of face masks which have been distributed free of cost to public sector employees.

### FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION LAND AT FITCHES CREEK

Instructed by **Peyton Knight & Associates Attorneys**  
 - At -Law, we shall sell by **Public Auction on Monday 17th day of August, at 12:00 PM**, one parcel of land situated at Fitches Creek registered as:  
**Registration Section: North Central; Block #12 2292B; Parcel #: 266 measuring 0.26 acre or approximately 11,325.60 square feet.** It is owned by Marlon and Alice Ho - Tack.

The property consist of one parcel of land. The auction will be held on site. Bidders **must** have a picture ID in order to be registered for the auction which will begin at 12:00 PM.

Further details may be obtained from

**Trevor "Teddy" Santos,**

Tel. no. (268)562 - 7653/ 464 - 7653

Fax (268) 560 - 7653

Email [info@go-going-gone.com](mailto:info@go-going-gone.com)

Web: [www.go-going-gone.com](http://www.go-going-gone.com)

**Trevor "Teddy" Santos**  
**Licensed Auctioneer**



### REGISTRATION NOTICE

The Antigua & Barbuda Social Security Board wishes to remind the public that our Registration Office continues to operate by **appointment only**.

To make an appointment, you may contact our Office via email [\[customerserv@socialsecurity.gov.ag\]](mailto:customerserv@socialsecurity.gov.ag) or by calling 736-3000/1/2/3.

Registration Forms for employees, employers and self-employed persons can be accessed via our web site [\[www.socialsecurity.gov.ag\]](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.ag).

Please note that valid passports and/or valid work permits are requirements for card renewals.

The Registration Office operates daily from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. until further notice.

--MANAGEMENT--



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## Webinar for Heritage Quay retailers

Antigua Cruise Port hosted an exclusive webinar for retailers operating in Heritage Quay last week.

During the webinar, retailers were offered business development and operational support to help them thrive in the midst of the myriad of challenges presented by COVID-19.

The featured speaker of the event was Angel Cicerone, a small business and retail marketing expert who specializes in helping retailers and restaurateurs thrive.

“Reemergence: The Other Side of COVID-19” was the focus of Cicerone’s presentation in which retailers were encouraged to “re-imagine” their businesses and approach the

“new normal” as an opportunity to reset their business models and marketing strategies in order to ensure their survival.

Cicerone stressed the importance of preparing for unexpected business scenarios and being open to new ideas, which can lead to the creation of new business opportunities.

She added, “From customer experience management, to collaboration with neighbors, to building and sustaining a digital presence, now is the time for business owners to take the lessons learned over the last few months and use them to develop a plan for action that will sustain them moving forward.”

General Manager of An-



*Dona Regis-Prosper, General Manager, GPH (Antigua) Ltd*

tigua Cruise Port, Dona Regis-Prosper, discussed the Cruise Port’s role in supporting the retailers.

“Helping these shop owners and restaurateurs to keep their doors open is a critical part of our role here, so we’re giving them as much support as we can. This webinar was one of several events and other initiatives that we have undertaken in recent months to help them navigate these difficult times.

“We are all assessing our operations and making modifications to come through this pandemic stronger than before. As a port community, it is best for us to work together, along with other partners, to see ourselves and each

other through this.”

On August 13, the Ministry of Tourism and the Hotel and Tourism Association will host a joint training session for the retailers under the theme, “New Health and Safety Protocols for Retailers”. During this session, the retailers will receive training on the guidelines and business practices required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Once completed, tenants will be certified as “COVID-compliant” and will receive decals confirming their certification to display on their storefronts.

A “Customer Service and COVID-19” webinar is planned for October.



*Angel Cicerone*



# Emancipation Day Message from Professor Sir Hilary Beckles Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission



**By Sir Hilary Beckles**

The CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) joins with all citizens of the English-speaking Caribbean and all others who understand and promote racial justice and equality in observing 1st August as Emancipation Day. We do this at a most important and inspiring time in our history when the Black Lives Matter and Reparations movements are sweeping the globe. We do this also while the COVID-19 pandemic is aggressively ripping the plasters from the sores of racial injustice and social and economic inequality in many of the societies in our hemisphere – and elsewhere.

The observation of this Emancipation period combines commemoration and celebration – commemoration of the epic struggles of our ancestors on the mother

continent Africa, in the Caribbean and elsewhere to rid the world of the scourge of chattel slavery. We are reminded that it took nearly a century after the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 before the final vestiges of this crime against humanity were eradicated in our region. We celebrate that achievement.

In the CARICOM region, 1st August 1834 is considered by many as the birth of the Caribbean. But it is again an opportunity to reflect on the issues associated with this birth. The CRC does not tire of stating the historical fact that the British government rewarded its planters, enforcers, investors and all others who promoted and profited from the enslavement of Africans with the sum of twenty million pounds – equivalent today of approximately two

and a half trillion pounds. And further, that the debt the British government incurred to pay this sum, equivalent to sixty percent of its then gross national product, was not retired until 2015. This is important as it provides one of the bases for the CARICOM reparations claim against Britain. But this is not the end of the historical importance of this emancipation period. The British Emancipation Act of 1833 made the British government irrefutably complicit in the enslavement of Africans, for that Act recognized in British law for the first time, that Africans were chattel, property which could be bought and sold, property for the loss of which they paid enslavers. The assessment of the value of their chattel in the Caribbean by the planters was forty-seven million pounds of which the British government could only provide twenty million. The remaining twenty-seven million was paid to the planters through the period of apprenticeship where the former enslaved were forced to provide free labour to the plantations for the first four years of their supposed freedom. In other words, the enslaved paid with their sweat and blood more than fifty percent of the supposed cost of 'their freedom'. In

the Caribbean region, many will understand the phrase and interpretation of 'put on put'. The case for reparations cannot be made stronger. It is these considerations that prompted Sir Arthur Lewis, who we consider as the father of the reparations movement in the Caribbean, to forcibly impress on Britain that it has an unpaid debt to the region of two hundred years of free labour. It is that debt for which the CARICOM governments now demand settlement.

This period of celebration allows us all to bask in the creativity of our people, to recognize our contributions to world culture through intellectual pursuits, the arts and religion and sports and political organization – the barbarity of our past oppression, notwithstanding. The reflection must also provide the basis for the shaping of our future through development planning and the preparedness and commitment to build regional societies in which the challenges of poverty, poor health and education, poor housing and infrastructure are eradicated and our people are enabled to live the lives envisioned by those who struggled to make emancipation a reality.

The CRC again wishes all a meaningful commemoration.



## Watchnight Gathering - The Virtual Version

The Guyanese poet laureate – and without doubt my favourite poet – Martin Carter described the period of intense colonial oppression in Guyana as ‘the dark time’. He proclaims it as a ‘carnival of misery’...where ‘the faces of men are strained and anxious’. But even then – as we must do in this our dark time – he saw hope – he never accepts defeat. In a lesser known poem ‘Let Freedom Wake Him’ he reaches out – ‘Give me your hand comrade, do not cry little one’ he urges ‘This is the bond we make in the dark gloom about us, hand in hand, heart in heart, strength in strength!’

It is from this weird bubble of gloom and hope that the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission reaches to you on this our fourteenth staging of this Watchnight Gathering - to recognize Emancipation Day – 1st August as the birthday of the Caribbean – that day in 1834 when for the first time since the middle of the sixteenth century, Africans in the Caribbean and their offspring were able to act through their own free will – whether it was to sing religious praise for freedom or beat drums and iron and dance in gay abandon – it was of their own free will. We celebrate that.

And it is from the gloomy rooms of our bubble that we acknowledge the dark time - the dark time visited on us by the Covid pandemic; the

dark time that makes our open borders seem reckless – next door in the USA, there are over four million infected people and one hundred and fifty thousand deaths; the dark time which suggests that another national shut-down looms as we remain in the uncertainty of community spread of the virus.

It is from these gloomy rooms that we recognize the inequalities in our society - that ‘stap ah you yard’ and social distancing are not the same for those who live in five bedroom homes as for those who cram together in the poor housing and sanitation of too many areas of our nation; that our policing needs to understand that in many instances the open air and the road may not be law breaking but life saving; that the closed economy is not the same for those with license to walk into bank managers’ offices at will as it is for the unemployed or those who through no particular fault of their own live pay cheque to pay cheque.

The emancipation spirit is about commemoration and celebration. Watchnight Gathering is staged so that we do not forget - that we do not in any way diminish through neglect or failure to memorialise the struggles of our ancestors, cruelly kidnapped from the shores of our mother country to be enslaved on Caribbean plantations producing development for the enslaving nations of Europe.



This Gathering – as unusual as it is in this virtual format – celebrates the victory of generations of our forebears over the criminality of Europeans who have committed the most heinous crime against humanity that this world knows.

This Gathering urges hope. Hope – for today we witness the fervent support of all races to the Black Lives Matter challenge to international racial oppression, injustice and socio-political inequities; hope – as we see the renewed call for reparations amplified throughout the USA, Europe and here in the Caribbean

We urge you, in this spirit of hope not to be only social media watchers of the colossal changes taking place across the world but to join - to engage where we are and where we can; to support our calls for the removal of the names of those who were either slavers or supporters of slavery from our public spaces; to intensify through formal and informal education processes the knowledge and interpretation of our history; to scrub colonial laws from our books and colonial symbols

from our ceremonial practices; to recognize and resist injustices in our society and importantly, to pressure our leaders towards more active engagement with the reparations movement. Like those before us who recognized the imperative righteousness of our quest for justice and an equal share in the fruits of our labour – past and present, let us soldier on.

This Reparations Commission joins with the other members of the CARICOM Reparations Commission – to include the recently formed bodies in Grenada and neighbouring St. Kitts and Nevis to share the hopeful spirit of emancipation – and further to emphasise that the way out of the gloom resides within us and is dependent on our actions.

*I thank you. ‘This is the bond we urge ‘in the dark gloom about us, hand in hand, heart in heart, strength in strength!’*

Dorbrene O’Marde  
Chairman  
Antigua Barbuda Reparations Support Commission.

# Climate Change killing the Caribbean one cut after the other

*(The writer is Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organisation 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).*

Amid the feverish work to cope with both the public health and economic effects of COVID-19 on their populations, Caribbean governments can be forgiven for dropping their guard against the existential dangers posed by Climate Change.

But their guard must be raised again. The dangers are enlarging; they need continuous and comprehensive attention, as the present hurricane season reminds.

The difference between the COVID-19 pandemic and Climate Change, is that while the circumstances that the disease has engendered seem interminable, they will pass or be significantly improved in the medium term, but the effects of Climate Change are set to worsen for a very long time.

Reports indicate that the planet could see a greater temperature increase in the next 50 years than it did in the previous 6,000 years combined. Recent studies show that today, 1% of the world is a hot zone, in which

life is barely possible. It is now projected that, by 2070, that figure will rise to 19%.

Fifty years from now might seem far away, requiring no immediate action. However, the destruction of global warming and sea-level rise, scientifically linked to Climate Change, is accretive. While in 2070 its impact will be grave, in each year, until then, it will affect almost every aspect of human life negatively and severely, in a gradual build-up. And, each year, crucial productive sectors of Caribbean economies will be steadily eroded, including agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

Consequently, farming communities will be driven off land that will either cease to be arable, or that are subjected to such rapid extremes of weather that crops are destroyed year after year. This pattern has already emerged in Central America, causing migration of farmers both within countries and across borders. The refugees, who have been desperately trying to enter the United States through its southern border, are living testimony to climate disruption.

On July 23, ProPublica and The New York Times Magazine, published an article on Climate Migration, which chronicles the large number of people, particularly farmers, across the world who have become refugees.

The publication cites a 2108 World Bank report that says, if nothing is done, by 2050 “there will be 143 million internal climate migrants across three regions of the world”. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the figure could reach as high as 17 million. The Caribbean has already witnessed such refugees – Dominica, continuously since 1979; Antigua and Barbuda in 2017; and the Bahamas in 2019. Fortunately, these refugees could be accommodated within national boundaries or in neighbouring countries; the doors to other countries were locked.

This phenomenon flags up the big issue of our time. Rich countries are among the largest contributors to global warming and sea level rise, causing migration and refugees. Yet, many of them across the world – the United States in North America; Britain, France and Italy in Europe, and Australia in the Pacific – are paying lip service to providing funds to help affected countries, while closing their borders to migrants. As this trend continues, Caribbean migrants will have no place to go.

The effects of global warming over the last five decades have been devastating agricultural production. CARICOM countries, except for Belize and



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

Guyana, are now net food importers. At least seven of the 14 countries import more than 80% of the food they consume, resulting in the region's annual food import bill estimated in 2019 at US\$5 billion.

This serious vulnerability has been alarmingly exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the foreign exchange earnings of countries have diminished. Stark choices have had to be made about foreign purchases. Should the priority be medicines, food, or building materials? This has caused governments to encourage more local food production.

However, these belated efforts in agriculture will be frustrated, if not overturned, by uncurbed climate change. Extreme heat, droughts, floods, saltwater encroachment due to rising sea levels and storms have harmed agricultural produc-



tivity and caused food price hikes and income losses. These events have wiped out crops, bankrupted farmers and forced them out of business, in many cases permanently. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, crop yield declines of 10-25% may be prevalent by 2050 because of climate change.

The effects on tourism would also be devastating. Suffice to say, that the challenges and dangers posed by global warming and sea-level rise are enlarging, requiring strenuous and sustained responses at the national, regional, and international levels.

Even now, there should be a joined-up effort by national government agencies to factor the effects of climate change into their economic planning. That planning should be advised by scientific research and data. National blueprints should also dovetail into a regional action plan. Integral to the plan should be coordinated international advocacy about the Caribbean plight.

In Washington, DC, CARICOM Ambassadors have started an international outreach by soliciting the convening power of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Secretary-General, Luis Almagro.

The idea to which the Mr. Almagro has given full support is to gather the leading financial and development institutions to consider actions to save the Caribbean from the catastrophic consequences of unrestrained climate change. There is good reason to give the Caribbean special attention; it accounts for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions and suffers hugely disproportional impacts.

Actions, like that taken by the OAS secretary-general, should be secured from other heads of multilateral institution such as the Commonwealth of which Caribbean countries are members.

Since 2010, more than 30 studies, aimed at quantifying the economic impacts of climate change on various vulnerable sectors of the Caribbean, have been conducted. Therefore, the nature and scope of the problem are well-known; it is time to stop the studies and to start the action.

In the words of the poet Dylan Thomas: "Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight; rage, rage against the dying of the light". And do so from the rooftops of the world.

Responses and previous comments: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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## Trinidad and Tobago General Elections – 30% of Election Candidates are Women

**Table 1: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES 2020**

	Political Party	Total Candidates	Women Candidates	Percentage
1.	Congress of the People (COP)	4	1	25%
2.	Democratic Party of Trinidad and Tobago	1	0	0
3.	Independent	4	0	0
4.	Independent Liberal Party (ILP)	1	0	0
5.	Movement for National Development (MND)	3	0	0
6.	Movement for Social Justice (MSJ)	5	2	40%
7.	National Coalition for Transformation (NCT)	2	1	50%
8.	National Organisation of We the People (NOW)	1	0	0
9.	New National Vision (NNV)	6	1	16%
10.	One Tobago Voice (OTV)	1	1	100%
11.	People's National Movement (PNM)	41	14	34%
12.	Progressive Democratic Party (PDP)	2	1	50%
13.	Progressive Empowerment Party (PEP)	28	11	39%
14.	Progressive Party	1	0	0
15.	The National Party (TNP)	1	0	0
16.	Trinidad and Tobago Democratic Front	1	0	0
17.	Trinidad Humanity Campaign (THC)	7	2	28%
18.	United National Congress (UNC)	39	11	28%
19.	Unity of the People	1	0	0
20.	Unrepresented People's Party	1	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>45</b>	

Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) congratulates all female candidates contesting the upcoming Trinidad and Tobago General Elections on 10 August, 2020. According to the list of candidates published by the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC), one third (45 of 150) of the candidates selected across the 19 political parties contesting the elections are women.

It is also noteworthy that 3 of the political parties contesting the election are female led.

With thirty percent (30%) of the selected election candidates overall being women this ratio meets the minimum threshold established globally for norms and standards in leadership and political participation.

This is aligned to the 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation.

Additionally, this recognizes that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sus-

tainable world.

Globally, Trinidad and Tobago ranks 50th in the representation of "Women in Politics". Whilst this is commendable, women still face socio-economic and cultural barriers to their equal participation.

CIWiL therefore calls on political parties and decision makers to introduce policies and strategies to remove the barriers that deter women from entering politics.

CIWiL also notes with concern, the limited availability

of sex disaggregated data on women's involvement and participation in politics.

The absence of this data makes it difficult to assess election participation or develop appropriate evidence-informed responses and policies needed to increase women's leadership and involvement in politics and decision making.

We therefore call on the government of Trinidad and Tobago and state actors such as the EBC, to ensure that data linked to the conduct of elections are available and accessible.

The equitable inclusion of women from diverse backgrounds in politics and decision making is an important factor to achieving gender equality.

This promotes democratic governance in political and public life in keeping with international commitments (Beijing Platform for Action, UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 indicator 5.5 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)), to which Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory.

CIWiL invites all stakeholders to collaborate in support of achieving a more just and equitable society, in which women are more involved in the decision-making processes that impact their lives. This is even more critical given the economic and social development challenges stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



## Jamaica: UWI students livid over increase in fees for courses linked to US dollar

Scores of students of The University of the West Indies (UWI), will be facing higher fees in the new school year despite a promise from the leadership of the university that it would not be increasing tuition fees.

Jamaican students, whose programme fees are quoted in United States (US) dollars, will be asked to pay more as The UWI has increased the exchange rate it uses to calculate fees set in that currency.

The university has increased its exchange rate from J\$135 to US\$1, to J\$141 for US\$1.

Most students affected hail from the faculties of Law, Medical Sciences and Engineering.

With the change, nursing students will pay \$30,000 more for their tuition fees.

Law, engineering and pharmacy students will pay \$60,000 more, while students studying medicine and surgery and dentistry will see their tuition fees increase by \$168,000. Animation and film studies students will see an increase of \$39,000 and \$45,000 respectively.

President of the Mona Law Society, Jhenelle Small, took to social media platform Twitter to express her dissatisfaction with the administration continuing to quote some tuitions in US dollars.

“Our fees do not need to be quoted in US dollars. There is no benefit to students as we are already disadvantaged given that most programmes quoted in US dollars are non-sponsored and are dependent on the fluctuations of the Jamaican dollar, which



*The University of the West Indies, Mona campus in St Andrew*

has no hopes of coming down,” Small tweeted.

The 21-year-old third-year law student also argued that quoting fees in US dollars is nothing but a strategy for the university to treat students pursuing these programmes as cash makers.

“This has been a long-standing issue that many representatives have spoken on without resolution,” said Small, who noted that her education is primarily financed through the Students’ Loan Bureau’s (SLB) Pay as You Study Programme, the Mona Law Bursary and contribution from her parents.

Small noted that the SLB’s Pay as You Study loan mandates

that students make a set monthly payment. It is also offered to most students with tuitions of over J\$1 million. Small had plans to go on the work and travel programme; however, her plan was stunted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“[The increase] will greatly affect my ability to afford higher education. SLB loans only assist with J\$1 million, leaving me to find the rest. Even with the current bursary I was awarded, there is still a great deficit that I will need to pay,” the Mona Law Society President told OBSERVER ONLINE.

Small also noted that although her situation is not desirable, it is significantly better than other

students’ circumstances.

She said at least five law students have indicated that they will have to take a leave of absence because they cannot afford the tuition.

In the meantime, second-year student Petajhay Shelly said the increase will bring a financial strain on her family.

According to Shelly, The UWI administration is acting in an unethical fashion with complete disregard for the situation of its students.

The university has indicated that it will examine the concerns of the students.

# Group strips Gonsalves of democracy prize

The Board of Directors and general membership of the New York-based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) voted unanimously on Monday to revoke the Democracy Prize it had awarded Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves in 2005, a press release said.

Gonsalves is the current chairman of CARICOM.

The decision was taken Monday night at a public town hall meeting Monday night, with an online viewership of over 55,000 and 120 members and supporters in attendance, the release said.

Gonsalves was awarded the prize at an extravagant ceremony in 2005 at which then Leader of the British House of Lords, Baroness Valerie Amos was keynote speaker.

"The move is yet another fallout from Gonsalves' controversial role in the Guyana elections. Gonsalves has backed Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), which claimed it won the March 2, 2020 for which there are no declared results. The declaration process has been hamstrung by multiple court challenges. The Guyana Court of Appeal is expected to rule on the matter Thursday," the CGID said.

The release said that the Vincentian leader has angered Guyanese by claiming that the incumbent APNU+AFC lost

the elections and that Granger should "take his licks like a man," and give up power.

CGID President, Burke, said Gonsalves' comments were undignified and unbecoming of a head of government.

He accused Gonsalves of regurgitating PPP propaganda adding that the prime minister was being "pugnacious, because article 106 (7) of the constitution mandates that an incumbent government only demits office when a president has been sworn in pursuant to an election," the press release said. "No elections results or winner have been declared. No president has been installed. Mr. Gonsalves, like the PPP, apparently wants President David Granger to demit office and leave the country governmentless? His comments are irresponsible and outrageous," Burke said. The motion to revoke the Democracy Prize was moved by CGID board member, Jason Benjamin, a past president of the University of Guyana Student Association.

It was seconded by another board member, Michelle Luard, a New York educator. The motion accused Gonsalves of violating the standards of democracy as required by the Charter of the Prize to which he was obligated.

Recipients of the prize must continuously promote and/or practice accepted standards of democracy as outlined in the Protocol of the Prize, the re-



*Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves*

lease said. The Protocol says awardees must engage in programmes and policies that strengthen human freedoms and dignity through the democratic ideal; work consistently to ensure that each person enjoys the right to select their own elected representatives; practice and encourage the democratic values promulgated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the face of government, opposition or private resistance; promote good governance, social justice, equal opportunity for all and national development.

They are required to foster a harmonious, open society in which there is equal rights for all and in which the rule of law is maintained and upheld; to ensure the human rights of all citizens are fully respected and that free speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and freedom of association are protected, and ensure that the poor and underprivileged are

respected and cared for.

The motion stated that Gonsalves violated the principles of democracy and the terms of the prize by interfering in the elections in Guyana in an egregious and partisan manner to help one side rather than act as an intermediary to help bring about an amicable and just solution.

It contended that in an editorial published in St. Vincent, Guyana and around the Caribbean, titled "A personal Editorial," Gonsalves "fanned the flames of racism; using inciting and incendiary language."

The Board mandated Burke to communicate its decision to Prime Minister Gonsalves and to request that the prize be returned by the end of August.

"The announcement of the motion was unanimously approved and was met with sustained, thunderous applause," the release said.



## Barbados: Government To Reduce Travel Taxes



*Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley*

Government will move this week to reduce travel taxes, says Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley.

However, she added that with regard to airlines, Barbados has an open skies approach, as far as possible, with the market determining the capacity and the ratio.

Ms. Mottley made the comments on Tuesday while participating in CARICOM IMPACS' five-day Virtual Security Conference, under the theme: Securing Our Community Within the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond.

The Prime Minister said officials were continuously looking for a credible rapid PCR gold standard test that would allow for the better processing of persons through the airport and seaport.

"At the same time, we are in

the midst of preparing new protocols for cruise going forward, because we recognise that to the extent that we can have some limited cruising from this winter onwards, we need to be able to have strong and residual protocols.

"But it is going to require co-operation between those home ports and those transit ports that will be facilitating the cruise and that is because, effectively, unless we create a bubble, you cannot guarantee that persons disembarking from ships are moving into a safe environment to re-embark to go to the next country. And it therefore means that if we do want to have a safe and credible cruising environment, we are going to have to use CARPHA and the CARICOM Secretariat

and IMPACS as the basis, and to a lesser extent CDEMA, who does the logistical supplies and delivery for us. We are going to have to use them more than ever," she stated.

During the discussion, which featured Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves; Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. Keith Mitchell; and Secretary General of CARICOM, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Ms. Mottley was asked about the 12-month Barbados Welcome Stamp.

She said there was a great response to the initiative which could also benefit the region. "If people come here within the bubble, I have no doubt that they are going to want to go to St. George's in Grenada or

the Grenadines or Castries, or whatever, because why would I come to the Caribbean and not fully experience the Caribbean. So, we have understood this as something that will add value to everyone in the region.

"It starts officially from the 1st of August but the forms are out there. We have been having persons coming from both sides of the Atlantic asking questions," she explained.

During the 90-minute discussion, the three Prime Ministers praised the work of regional institutions such as IMPACS, CARPHA, the CARICOM Secretariat, CDEMA, and RSS. Ms. Mottley said the funding necessities of those entities could not be ignored.

## US economy sees sharpest contraction in decades



*Food banks have seen a surge in demand*

The US economy shrank at a 32.9% annual rate between April and June as the country grappled with lockdowns and spending cutbacks during the pandemic.

It was the deepest decline since the government began keeping records in 1947 and three times more severe than the prior record of 10% set in 1958. Reduced spending on services such as healthcare drove the fall. Economists have said they expected to see the sharpest drop in the second quarter, with recovery thereafter. But as virus cases in the US surge and some areas re-impose restrictions on activity, the rebound is showing signs of stalling. More than 1.4 million people filed new claims for unemployment last week, up

slightly from the prior week for the second week in a row. Other data points to spending cuts and falls in confidence in July.

Jerome Powell, the head of America's central bank, on Wednesday warned of renewed slowdown, describing the downturn as the "most severe in our lifetimes".

He urged further government spending to help American households and businesses weather the crisis.

That call was echoed by other business leaders on Thursday as the figures brought into focus the scale of the economic crisis facing the country.

"The staggering news of the historic decline of the gross domestic product in the second quarter should shock us all," said Neil Bradley, chief poli-

cy officer at the US Chamber of Commerce, a business lobby group. "This jarring news should compel Congress to move swiftly."

The International Monetary Fund has predicted that global growth will fall by 4.9% this year. On Thursday, Germany reported a record quarterly decline of 10.1%, while Mexico's economy also reported a double digit contraction.

Compared with the same quarter a year ago, the US economy contracted 9.5%. Exports and imports were both down more than 20% from a year ago, while consumer spending - the main driver of the US economy - fell 10.7% year-on-year.

New York City pub owner Anthony LoPorto has been serving drinks at his Bean Post venue since 1994. He's never known it so bad.

After waiting months to reopen, he is now struggling to fill his tables as people worried about the virus or loss of income stay home. It is a drop-off in trade that is magnified across the US - a reason why the GDP numbers were so bad.

"This is now going on for months and we were told that there would be an opportunity for us to start getting back to some normalcy around this time - there's no signs of normalcy whatsoever," he says.

"I have a 'don't stop, won't stop' type of attitude... but it's getting to a point where I'm nervous and I've got to be honest - I'm nervous that even if I

continue to go on, what's going to happen with the neighbourhood?"

The more offices that close or keep staff at home, the more the Bean Post's custom dwindles.

"I don't believe in a quick bounce-back at all," he says. "This is a long time that people have not been making money."

"There are nights when there's just nobody around... There's just not enough money in people's pockets and not enough want in people's spirits."

**Presentational grey line**

The US has lost nearly 15 million jobs since February, despite strong hiring in May and June. The US census estimates more than half of American adults live in households that have seen incomes cut since the pandemic.

Economists warned it will take years for the US to recover from the devastation.

"Even when the economy saw rapid bounce-back in May and June, the Covid-19 economic shock inflicted so much damage in earlier months that the net result was an economic catastrophe for the second quarter," wrote Josh Bivens, director of research at the Economic Policy Institute.

"The fact that initial jobless claims have risen for a second week is worrying and underscores that the nascent consumption recovery is at risk," said Madhavi Bokil, vice president of Moody's Investors Service.



## Herman Cain, a onetime Republican presidential candidate has died from coronavirus

Herman Cain, a onetime Republican presidential candidate and former CEO of Godfather's Pizza, has died from coronavirus, according to an obituary sent from his verified Twitter account and Newsmax, where he was launching a television show.

Cain, 74, was hospitalized earlier this month, and his Twitter account said this week he was being treated with oxygen in his lungs. It is unknown where Cain contracted the virus. "We knew when he was first hospitalized with COVID-19 that this was going to be a rough fight," Dan Calabrese, the editor of HermanCain.com since 2012, wrote in a post Thursday. "He had trouble breathing and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. We all prayed that the initial meds they gave him would get his breathing back to normal, but it became clear pretty quickly that he was in for a battle."

As a co-chair of Black Voices for Trump, Cain was one of the surrogates at President Donald Trump's June 20 rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma -- which saw at least eight Trump advance team staffers in attendance test positive for coronavirus. Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh has told CNN that Cain did not meet with Trump at the Tulsa rally.

Cain had posted a photo of himself at the rally, seated closely among other attendees without a facial covering.

In a post earlier this month announcing Cain's Covid-19 diagnosis, Calabrese said they

"have no idea" where Cain had contracted the virus.

"I realize people will speculate about the Tulsa rally, but Herman did a lot of traveling the past week, including to Arizona where cases are spiking," Calabrese wrote.

Earlier this month, Cain appeared to support the decision not to require masks for Trump's July 4 celebration event at Mount Rushmore.

"Masks will not be mandatory for the event, which will be attended by President Trump. PEOPLE ARE FED UP!" Cain's Twitter account posted in a tweet that appears to have since been removed.

In commentary videos for his website that aired in June, Cain called on Americans to wear face masks, saying that the guidance now shows its effectiveness.

"If people take it seriously, social distancing, sanitizing, hand washing, and masks, then we're going to be fine trying to do both at the same time -- open the economy and then employ safety guidelines," Cain said in one video. His website, however, also pushed the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine despite several high-quality studies that have found the drug alone or in combination with others showed no benefit for Covid-19 patients.

Trump paid tribute to Cain Thursday afternoon.

"Herman had an incredible career and was adored by everyone that ever met him, especially me," Trump tweeted. "He was a very special



*Herman Cain, a onetime Republican presidential candidate*

man, an American Patriot, and great friend." Cain announced his candidacy for president in 2011. He briefly gained traction in the race for his 9-9-9 tax reform plan, which would have replaced almost all current taxes with a 9% income tax, a 9% corporate tax and a 9% national sales tax. After about seven months, he dropped his bid for the GOP nomination amid sexual harassment allegations, which he denied.

Cain was considered at an increased risk for coronavirus due to his age and history with cancer, according to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

In 2006, Cain was given a 30% chance of survival from stage 4 colon cancer that had spread to his liver. He underwent chemotherapy and surgery to remove the cancer from his liver and was declared cancer-free in 2007.

He told CNN in a 2011 interview that after beating cancer he felt he had to do "something bigger and bolder," leading him to decide to run for president. Cain was born December 13, 1945, in Memphis, Tennessee. He grew up in Atlanta

as the son of a chauffeur and a domestic worker.

He began his corporate career in the mid-70s working for Coca-Cola, went on to work for the Pillsbury Company in 1977 and climbed the corporate ladder to eventually be named CEO of Godfather's. He later led the National Restaurant Association, lobbying on Capitol Hill. Cain also worked as a civilian employee for the Department of the Navy early in his career.

He gained national attention for confronting former President Bill Clinton at a 1994 town hall meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, over the Democratic President's health care plan.

Cain had also sought the GOP nomination for a US Senate seat in Georgia in 2004, finishing second in the primary to Johnny Isakson.

A former director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Cain had been considered by Trump last year for a seat on the Federal Reserve Board.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria, and their two children, Melanie and Vincent, and grandchildren.

## Criminal case opened against FIFA president Gianni Infantino

A criminal case against FIFA president Gianni Infantino was opened by a Swiss special prosecutor on Thursday, plunging the football body into a new scandal and potentially threatening the tenure of the man who was brought in to restore its tarnished reputation.

FIFA said it and Infantino will cooperate with Swiss authorities after prosecutor Stefan Keller — barely a month into the job — concluded there is enough evidence to go to court after investigating the circumstances of a meeting Infantino had with Swiss attorney general Michael Lauber. The turmoil involving Lauber, who offered his resignation last week, centers on three meetings he had with Infantino in recent years — including one that he hadn't disclosed and claimed no memory of — just as he was leading a sprawling investigation into football corruption.

Keller, a regional court judge, uncovered “elements that make up reprehensible behavior,” an oversight panel monitoring federal prosecutors said in a statement. He opened a case against Infantino and regional prosecutor Rinaldo Arnold, a childhood friend of the FIFA boss, and sought authorisation to open a case against Lauber.

Keller, who was named to the post of special prosecutor on June 29, found possible infractions included abuse of public office, breach of of-

ficial secrecy, “assisting offenders” and “incitement to these acts,” the panel said, adding other criminal acts and proceedings could also be considered. Under the Swiss criminal code, conviction for abuse of public office can bring penalties of up to five years in prison or other detention, while breach of official secrecy and assisting offenders can incur up to three years each. Each charge can also bring financial penalties.

Suspects in such cases benefit from a presumption of innocence in Switzerland until legal proceedings are completed. It was unclear whether Keller believes the alleged wrongdoing was the mere fact that Lauber and Infantino had met, or if compromising information was divulged during their conversations.

FIFA said it “acknowledges” Keller’s decision, and vowed it and Infantino “will, as we have always done, cooperate fully with this investigation.” It also highlighted past troubles at football’s governing body before Infantino took office, and said meetings with prosecutors were necessary. “As president of FIFA, it has been my aim from day one, and it remains my aim, to assist the authorities with investigating past wrongdoings at FIFA,” Infantino said. “FIFA officials have met with prosecutors in other jurisdictions across the world for exactly these purposes.”

FIFA also revived a state-

ment from Infantino on June 25, when he said: “To meet with the attorney general of Switzerland is perfectly legitimate and it’s perfectly legal. It’s no violation of anything. On the contrary, it is also part of the fiduciary duties of the president of FIFA.”

At the time, Infantino also quipped: “this whole thing is quite absurd.”

In March, Lauber was found to have lied to and obstructed the oversight panel. Its probe began after reports last year said he had an undisclosed meeting with Infantino in a hotel in Bern in June 2017.

Lauber did not take notes at the meeting and both men later claimed not to recall details of their discussion.

It was their third meeting and had stayed secret when Lauber called a November 2018 news conference to acknowledge the previous two, which had been revealed in the “Football Leaks” series publishing confidential documents in the football industry.

Lauber and Infantino, in meetings brokered by Arnold, had previously met twice — soon after the FIFA presidential election in February 2016.

On Friday, Lauber offered to resign only minutes before a federal court upheld allegations that he lied about the third meeting — in essence rejecting his appeal of the March ruling.

“On the basis of general life experience, such a case of collective amnesia is an aberration,”



*FIFA president Gianni Infantino*

tion,” the federal court ruling said. Infantino became FIFA president in the fallout from the investigations that erupted around the football body in 2015. Sepp Blatter, who was the FIFA boss at the time and had already announced plans to resign in the wake of arrests of dozens of football officials, was banned from the sport.

Michel Platini, the favourite to succeed Blatter and then serving as UEFA president, was also suspended.

In the void, Infantino, who led the UEFA administration as general secretary, saw a route to leading FIFA. The Swiss-Italian was elected in 2016, beating Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman.

The Bahraini is senior vice president of FIFA and is in line to replace Infantino temporarily if he was suspended because of the criminal case.



## WHO warns partying youngsters not to 'let down guard' on COVID-19



Young people letting down their guard to enjoy the summer holidays are partly driving a spike in new COVID-19 cases in some countries, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

A fresh jump in cases in parts of Europe, the United States and Asia has fuelled fears of a second wave of new coronavirus infections and prompted some countries to impose new restrictions on travel.

"We've said this before and we'll say it again: young people

are not invincible," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news briefing in Geneva.

Evidence suggests that recent spikes of cases in some countries are being "driven in part by younger people letting down their guard during the northern hemisphere summer", he said.

The leader of the northeastern Spanish region of Catalonia on Monday warned young people to stop partying to help halt a surge in new cases or local au-

thorities may have to reimpose harsh restrictions.

Britain and several other European countries have placed restrictions on travel to Spain.

Maria Van Kerkhove, a top WHO epidemiologist, told the same briefing that nightclubs were "amplifiers of transmission".

"The majority of young people infected tend to have more mild disease. But that's not always consistent," she said.

The WHO this month urged travellers to wear masks on

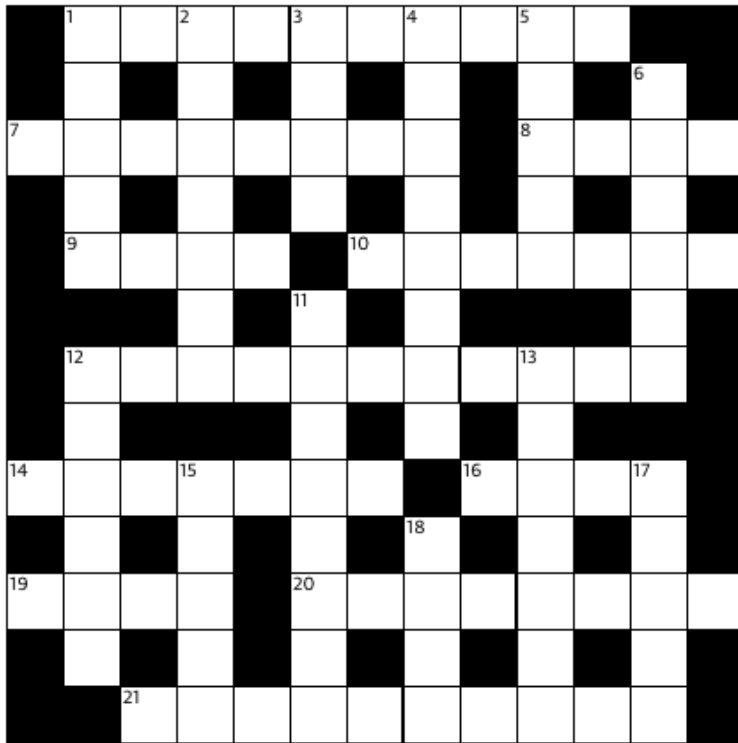
planes and keep themselves informed as COVID-19 cases surge again in some countries.

The WHO had said in June that it would update its travel guidelines ahead of the northern hemisphere summer holidays, but has not yet done so.

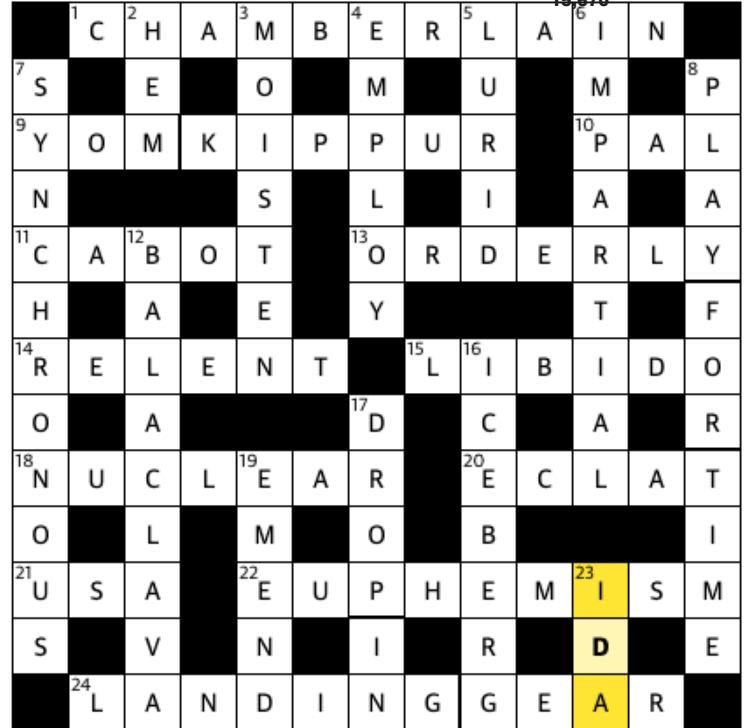
Its previous guidance for travellers has included common-sense advice applicable to other settings such as social distancing, washing hands and avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

# QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword No



Quick crossword No 15,670



## Across

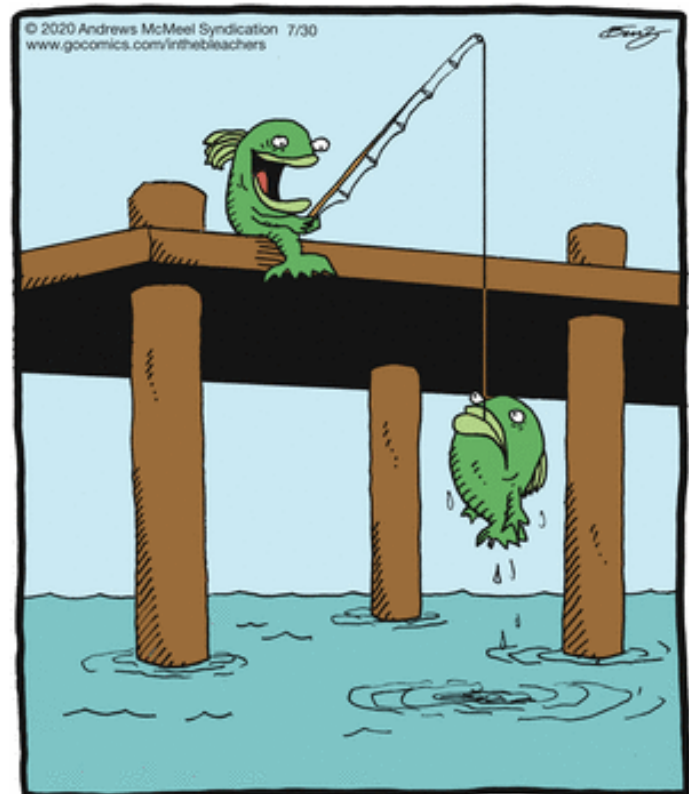
- 1 Regiment of the Household Cavalry (4,6)  
 7 Norwegian parliament (8)  
 8 Cosy corner (4)  
 9 Dilapidated building (4)  
 10 Legal pardon (7)  
 12 Where performers are congratulated by the audience (7,4)  
 14 Tailor-made (7)  
 16 Pleased (4)  
 19 Unpleasant child (4)  
 20 Hot spell (4,4)  
 21 African country founded in 2011 (5,5)

## Down

- 1 By and by (5)  
 2 Horseshoer (7)  
 3 Grasp securely (4)  
 4 Altercation (8)  
 5 Reel, say (5)  
 6 Special website bringing together information from diverse sources in a uniform way (6)  
 11 Impertinent rejoinder (8)  
 12 Fruit with a stone (6)  
 13 Permitted (7)  
 15 Paved area next to a house (5)  
 17 English county (5)  
 18 Felines (4)

## CARTOON CORNER

### In the Bleachers



"I can see the appeal!"





**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr. 19):** It might be time to change your status on a social media page or in some other public venue. If you've settled into a steady relationship, this could be a good time to discuss a joint future or make a major change.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20):** A good relationship will grow closer and adapt to a new vision of the future, but a stifling or unsatisfactory relationship may break down. It may be difficult to get a good night's sleep because you might be thinking of endless possibilities.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** If you have been waiting to make a decision about a purchase or an investment, your chance to decide should arrive soon. Once you feel entirely confident that you're making the right commitment, everything should go well.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** If you have been waiting to make a decision about a purchase or an investment, your chance to decide should arrive soon. Once you feel entirely confident that you're making the right commitment, everything should go well.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Body language can tell you more than words and a string of emojis. Those you can trust will look you straight in the eye, and those who have your best interests at heart may give you a warm hug just when it's needed.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Few things last forever. The conditions of your job may change, new people may arrive on the scene, or you might decide that it's time to seek greener pastures. You may be brimming with useful ideas and insights.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22.):** Someone you doubted might come through for you. You can appreciate someone's talents and skills without being jealous of their success. Your trust will be rewarded when you receive proof of a partner's loyalty.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may be content if things remain the same, but it might be necessary to adapt to an ever-changing world to stay relevant. A loved one or partner may surprise you by displaying dramatic shifts of behavior or sharing unusual ideas.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't hesitate to reach out now. You can receive valuable input by discussing your future with a partner or a good friend. Misunderstandings may be straightened out in record time.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your ambitions may be given an opportunity to grow and thrive. At the same time, you might have a chance to reinforce your loyalty and commitment to family. If you have faith, everything will sort itself out.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You might be poised to dramatically change your path since whatever has held you back has likely faded away. You have deep understanding and use universal truths, so don't waste the valuable knowledge at your fingertips.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):** If necessary, put things right with a candid fence-mending session. Your intuitions are on the mark, so you should know what to say and when to say it. Focus on brainstorming to determine whether your dream is feasible or worthwhile.

# Sports News

## James' late layup lifts Lakers past Clippers 103-101

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers showed some rust.

They knocked it off with time to spare.

Anthony Davis scored 34 points, James had the go-ahead basket with 12.8 seconds left and the Lakers moved closer to clinching the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs by topping the Los Angeles Clippers 103-101 on Thursday night in the second game of the NBA's re-opening doubleheader.

James had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists to help the Lakers move 6 1/2 games ahead of the Clippers in the West with seven games remaining. Kyle Kuzma added 16 points.

"It felt like a real game to



Lebron James, 23, of the Los Angeles Lakers dribbles the ball against Kawhi Leonard, 2, of the Los Angeles Clippers, last night.

me, two teams battling. ... Can't complain for the first game," Davis said.

Paul George had 30 points and Kawhi Leonard scored 28 for the Clippers, who had an 11-point lead midway through the third in a game with deep ebbs and flows. The Clippers got that lead after a 26-5 run; the Lakers immediately rebutted with a

36-14 run to reclaim control.

And it still came down to the final moments.

George's 3-pointer with 1:50 left cut the Lakers' lead to 99-98. James muscled his way to a layup on the next possession, and then George hit another 3 to tie the game at 101 with 29 seconds remaining.

James followed his own miss down the lane for the go-ahead basket, then was brilliant on the last defensive possession — forcing the ball out of Leonard's hands and covering George as his 3-point try at the buzzer misfired.

"We can't have self-inflicted wounds and I thought we had too many of them," said Clippers coach Doc Rivers, whose team — which remains short-handed with Lou Williams still in quarantine and Montrezl Harrell tending to a family matter — gave up 29 points off turnovers.

Thursday marked the

NBA's first game action in 141 days, the league getting back to work after the coronavirus pandemic forced a shutdown.

During the pandemic, a renewed discussion about racial injustice happened in this country — the conversation that surrounds this NBA restart. The courts have "Black Lives Matter" on them, and the Lakers and Clippers knelt together during the national anthem in a silent protest to demand equality. New Orleans and Utah did the same in the night's opener.

James — who is going to win his first assist title — had five in the first quarter to get teammates going, and then his first basket of the restart came on a dunk early in the second quarter to put the Lakers up 37-24.

But for a stretch that basically spanned a full quarter, spanning the second and third periods, the Lakers couldn't make a shot. They went 1 for 10 to end the half, then 0 for 9 to start the third and the Clippers took advantage.

They turned a 50-40 deficit into a 66-55 edge in the third. And then it was the Lakers' turn to rally, slicing the Clippers' lead to 77-76 going into the fourth.

"It was a good game," Leonard said. "Still had fun out there. It was great to be back on the floor."





## A winner should be declared

Former national player and coach, Derrick “Prettyboy” Edwards believes that it would be difficult and expensive to restart the 2019/20 football season that was brought to a halt on March 13 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The most prolific striker ever for the Antigua and Barbuda national team, Edwards is now Head Coach of the Grenades F.C who were leading the Premier Division in the ABFA domestic competition when play halted.

He is of the view that a winner in each division should be declared since ninety percent of the season



Former national player and coach, Derrick “Prettyboy” Edwards had been completed.

‘The ABFA don’t have the resources to restart the league,’ Edwards said in an appearance on PointeFM’s

‘Timeout” programme on Wednesday.

“I have no issue with the extension of divisions,” he continued.

This statement comes as many in the football fraternity expect the Premier League to move to fourteen teams with the anticipated promotion of the top four clubs in the First Division.

When the season’s completion was brought to a halt earlier this year, Grenade F.C had 31 points from 16 outings with Hoppers on 29 also from 16.

There were two rounds of matches left to be completed.

The ABFA has since met with all its members and a survey has been conducted. A decision regarding the fate of the season expected by the end of August.

## Rakeem Cornwall was not the problem

Rakeem “Jimbo” Cornwall was not the reason why West Indies lost to England by 269 runs in the final and decisive test in which the European team recaptured the Wisden Trophy earlier this week.

Rather, their defeat was the result of poor technique and the inability of the West Indies top order to bat for long periods.

The West Indies lost the two final games of the three test series which was played in a bio-secure environment for the first time in the history of cricket.

The Caribbean team’s batsmen averaged just over 27.00 over the course of the three Test series and were out lbw 19 times.

This was a clear display of their inability to read the bowling and pitch conditions by coming on the front foot to nullify the movement of the England fast bowlers.

Former England player, Gladstone Small, is quoted in Sportsmax Cricket and the Mason and Guest Show as questioning, “What did Cornwall bring to the table?”

This leads one to speculate if his selection in the third and final Test played a role in West Indies losing the game.

But this headline contradicts Small’s comments on the same media outlets where he criticized the regional team’s top order batsmen for their inability to make adjustments and gave them a failing grade of F for their efforts.

Small also pointed out that instead of the West Indies batsmen coming on the front foot to nullify the movement of the England bowlers, who are not express pace, they stayed on the back foot and were constantly trapped in their crease.

“What does Cornwall bring to the table?” Small asked, ten wickets in

his second test against Afghanistan with figures of 7 for 75 in the first innings followed by three wickets in the second innings producing the best opening figures by a Caribbean spinner since 1971.

His reward for this feat was to be left on the sidelines in the following Test instead of being allowed to build on the confidence of his previous outing.

There are sports journalists in the Caribbean who continue to marginalise the Antiguan all-rounder due to his size instead of focusing on his potential as an athlete.

Don’t make Cornwall a scapegoat while no one questions Shai Hope’s dismal batting performances since 2017 in Tests and Shane Dorwich’s poor glove work and failure to handle the short ball.

It was clear for all to see that West Indies failures were with the bat.

## Simple man from New Winthorpes

Robert Joseph has described himself as a 'simple young man' from the village of New Winthorpes.

"I started getting involved in cricket at the age of nine and not long after Mr. Skepple, the father of Greg and Kerry Skepple, started taking a group of youngsters to Factory to be a part of a juvenile programme with coaches such as the late Hayden Walsh Snr., Anthony Merrick and Keith Frederick," Joseph explained.

"I was very small and skinny," Joseph recalled, "hardly being able to get the ball off the pitch, but I had the focus to bat long and grind it out which Taddy Arindale complimented me for and encouraged me to stay focused."

As an athlete who eventually made his mark as a fast bowler in England, Joseph actually started his career as a batsman who bowled slow-medium to give front-line bowlers a rest.

After representing Antigua and Barbuda and the Leeward Islands at youth level, Joseph received a golden opportunity from Sir

Richie Richardson to attend boarding school in England at the tender age of 15.

Off the youngman went and set upon a journey that landed him on the footsteps of almost breaking into the full England set-up.

In a conversation with PointeXpress, Joseph explained that boarding school was tough and that the experience was compounded by the fact that he was required to adapt quickly to his new environment.

"It was cold and we had a house system with sixty boys living together that involved training three times a week two hours per session compared to training every Saturday at Factory for three hours which I was accustomed to," Joseph said.

The cricketer, who started as a batsman, remembered catching the eye of his coach one day during a practice session in England with his extremely fast bowling. This was the moment which launched his immediate transition from batsman to devastating fast bowler.

He also explained that the decline of his batting af-



Robert Joseph

ter suffering a broken wrist caused him to focus more on bowling.

Joseph has played professionally in England for Kent County Cricket Club, Leicestershire, Professional University Cricket Club, Toowoomba Qld, Australia and Claremont CC Cape Town, South Africa.

Joseph also possesses a wealth of coaching experience offering his expertise

to Australia and South Africa.

He also shared his desire with PointeXpress to make a contribution to the development of cricket in Antigua and Barbuda, the Leeward Islands and the Caribbean.

"I have sent my CV to the authorities in the Leewards with no response," Joseph said, "but I am still available and I am presently home looking at maybe moving back to the Caribbean if the schooling is comfortable for my two children."

# DEWS