

# DARYLL MATTHEW APPOINTED MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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*Hon. Daryll Matthew sworn in as Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries in ceremony at Government House after the resignation of former minister Michael Browne Photo credit: Deshon Matthew*

# ***The Post-Cabinet briefing: A review***

On Thursday November 26, Information Minister Melford Nicholas, announced that one of his Cabinet colleagues was about to be charged with a serious crime and that Prime Minister Gaston Browne had accepted the minister's resignation.

The portfolio assigned to that minister was reassigned to Daryll Matthew later Thursday morning.

It was a remarkable moment to witness - a Cabinet minister announcing to the public that a colleague of his was about to be charged with an offence and, as has been the policy of the government, he had no choice but to resign.

This historic occurrence took place during the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing which has become an important pillar in an age of openness and transparency.

When Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his administration assumed power in Antigua and Barbuda on June 13, 2014, he promised a new era of good governance based on integrity, honesty and transparency. One measure

introduced was the inclusion of the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister in Cabinet meetings as an observer who would take copious notes which would then be shared with the public.

These notes form the foundation of the post-Cabinet report which was circulated among all media houses in Antigua and Barbuda, embassies and other stakeholders. Each week, media houses anticipate the report which contains information that is valuable and of great interest and importance to their audiences.

Since its introduction in 2014, the post-Cabinet press briefing has evolved and expanded to become more comprehensive. Initially the reporting consisted of weekly live updates aired on Observer Radio, ZDK and ABS Television. This method of information dissemination proved cumbersome and led to the decision to hold a press conference on the morning following the Cabinet meeting to which all media houses would be invited and where they would have the

opportunity to question the Cabinet spokesman, Melford Nicholas, or Chief of Staff, Lionel Hurst.

The post-Cabinet press briefings morphed yet again due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Formerly, they were held in the Conference Room at the Office of the Prime Minister, however, these became virtual events held immediately after Cabinet when national anxiety over the spread of the virus was at its peak.

The sessions are now held in the Media Room of the Parliament building.

The post-Cabinet press briefings have become a critical part of our country's maturing democracy. They provide important insight into the workings of the Cabinet as it tackles critical issues related to the economy, health, national security and other developments of interest to society. They have become a vital part of the nation's weekly routine.

Regardless of how routine they may have become, they are nonetheless a critically important part of the way that our government con-

ducts its business. It is to the government's credit that no matter the circumstance or national crisis, the post-Cabinet briefings remain constant.

One should not lose sight of the fact that in a spirit of openness, the legal issues surrounding a now former member of the Cabinet of Ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, the matter was not 'swept under the table', but reported openly by the Cabinet spokesman. There was no attempt to obfuscate. Rather, the issue was handled head on.

Kudos must be given to the government for its policy of openness!

These post-Cabinet briefings assumed a life of their own. It would be foolhardy for this government, or any other, to contemplate eliminating them as they are an important contributing factor to the national discourse.

It is too important a pillar in the structure of good governance to be discarded.

After all, democracy is not an end point, democracy is a fluid and evolving construct.

# Former education minister granted bail, committal hearing set for March



Former Minister of Education, Science and Technology MP Michael Browne exits All Saints Magistrates Court after bail hearing

All Saints West Member of Parliament, Michael Browne, who is facing charges for predictable offences, was granted bail on Wednesday when he appeared before All Saints Magistrate's Court.

44 year-old Browne was represented by attorney-at-law Gail Pero who told the court during the bail hearing that her client has no previous convictions, is gainfully employed and will not interfere with the victim or witnesses.

Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel Edwards accepted the mitigating factors submitted to the court by Pero and granted bail to the politician in the amount of \$15,000 with the conditions at-

tached that he pay \$6000 of the bail amount in cash, provide two Antiguan sureties, surrender his diplomatic and regular Antigua and Barbuda passports and report to a police station three times per week.

Magistrate Edwards also instructed Browne that he is not to make any attempt to interact with the victim or witnesses directly or indirectly. He was also ordered to stay 50 feet away from them at all times.

Browne's committal hearing has been set for March 23 at which time he will learn whether sufficient evidence has been gathered to escalate his matter to the High Court for trial.

## LIAT to start limited flights on Monday

LIAT, The Caribbean Airline, will resume commercial operations on November 30 with flights to limited destinations.

A visit to the airline's website [www.liat.com](http://www.liat.com) revealed that the airline will operate flights from Thursday through Monday to seven destinations across the LIAT network. The countries included in the initial schedule are Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and St. Vincent.

LIAT's return to these destinations will restore regional connections to the destinations which were impacted by the suspension of the airline's commercial operations

earlier this year.

LIAT announced that additional destinations will be added to its schedule for December 2020.

The airline has completed all training and regulatory requirements for the territories ahead of its November 30 relaunch. Also, several new procedures have been implemented to ensure the safety of staff and passengers and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. It will now be mandatory for passengers to wear masks at check-in and onboard, cleaning and sanitization protocols have been enhanced and new boarding procedures have been imple-

mented.

Passengers will be able to book flights on the LIAT website or through the airline's reservations call centre.

The airline has also published its policy for persons who want to utilise their accumulated credits to book flights during the new limited schedule. Passengers seeking refunds, however, will have to wait for the administration process to be completed.

LIAT, which is currently under administration, is being restructured following the decision of the government of Antigua and Barbuda to reorganise the airline.

# Press Statement Issued By Hon. Dean Jonas

Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and The Blue Economy

## The Age of Consent in Antigua and Barbuda



*Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy Hon. Dean Jonas*

The Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, the Honourable A. Dean Jonas, is underscoring the fact that in Antigua and Barbuda, a 13-year old is NOT at the Age of Consent for sexual relations which, according to law, is 16 years.

The minister believes that this public declaration is necessary to ensure that no child or adult is of a mistaken view. A slip of the tongue during an unscripted statement, wrongly portrays the min-

ister as misstating the law. The minister has since remarked that in an age where misinformation and taking a single sentence out of context are commonplace, he would not wish for any citizen or resident of Antigua and Barbuda to confuse the legal "Age of Consent" with a personal "Yes to Sex".

No child under the age of 16 years can grant consent. The laws of Antigua and Barbuda are very clear and the Ministry of Social Transformation stands firm in its work to uphold those laws.

In a recent statement, Minister Jonas expounded on the prevention of violence against women and girls in all forms, whether physical, emotional, sexual or financial. He remains committed to ensuring that his ministry, working with the other agencies of the state, ensures that strict policies are implemented in order to eliminate or reduce the incidence of violence or sexual predatory practices against girls and women. He has been a strong advocate of this position, acting through his portfolio as the Minister with responsibility for Youth and Gender Affairs.

Resources will continue to be made available to those victims affected by gender-based violence. The affected women and girls will continue to be supported through access to services and community involvement and, where practical, action will be taken to ensure victims/survivors are safe and that they receive the necessary services they need.

Minister Jonas reiterated his commitment to remaining dedicated to the call for action to end violence against women and girls; he always stands ready and committed to play an active role to support those efforts that respond to the call against gender-based violence and predatory sexual practices aimed at girls and women.

The minister added that

the government, through his ministry, will fix those public institutions that fail our women and girls by not identifying those whom they know are perpetrators of abusive situations. Minister Jonas added that when our institutions fail to believe victims and prevent victims from speaking-out, even after many years of enduring painful memories of abuse and neglect, they send a signal that condones and enables violence. He shared that through his ministry, they will do even more to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

The minister stated: "I am encouraging survivors and advocates to share their stories and become agents of change in their homes and communities. Remember, there is NO statute of limitation on rape and victims of all ages still have a right to report the crimes committed against them. It is vital that men acknowledge their responsibilities and change their behaviours and attitudes. The conduct and behaviour of men must change, if we are going to end sexual harassment and abuse of women, whether in their workplace, in their homes, or in social circumstances. I remain committed to actively working to implement national strategies to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls."

# Daryll Matthew appointed Minister of Education



*Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries  
Hon. Daryll Matthew*

Responsibility for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has been assigned to Daryll Matthew following the resignation of the former holder of the post, Michael Browne.

Browne resigned his min-

isterial post and position in the Cabinet after he was arrested and charged with a serious crime.

Matthew received instruments of appointment in a brief ceremony held at Government House presid-

ed over by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

Matthew now heads a newly titled Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries.

Browne tendered his resignation prior to being charged on Thursday morning and this decision was communicated to the Cabinet through its formal channels.

Speaking with reporters after receiving the instruments of appointment, Matthew explained that he will retain his present portfolio, National Festivals, Sports, Culture and the Arts.

"It is with a heavy heart, but with immense pride that I accept the responsibilities conferred on me here. It is certainly not the circumstances I would have preferred, however, I do commit and pledge to do my best in this ministry with these additional re-

sponsibilities. I do accept that to whom much is given much is expected," he remarked.

He also acknowledged the difficult circumstances under which education is being administered.

Under the policy outlined by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, any Cabinet member charged with a serious crime must tender their resignation in order to address their legal issues. Should the Cabinet member implicated in such a situation clear their name, the Browne administration has assured that the person under scrutiny will be welcomed back into the Cabinet.

Michael Browne maintains that he is innocent of the charge leveled against him. He was released on bail when he appeared before the Magistrate's court in All Saints on Thursday morning.

## Ottos man fined after trying to hide drugs in his mother's bedroom

The man who scammed to hide drugs in his mother's bedroom after spotting the police has been convicted of drug possession and ordered to pay a \$6,000 fine.

Deon Lloyd appeared in the St. John's Magistrates' Court before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh where pleaded guilty to possession of 199 grammes of cannabis.

Chief Magistrate Walsh gave the shopkeeper until March 1, 2021 to pay the full sum or he will be imprisoned for a period of eight months.

Police officers went to Lloyd's Lower Ottos home to execute a search warrant on November 20. The court heard that Lloyd was in the living room and had his front door open when he spotted the lawmen. According to police, he quickly sprang to his feet and ran to his bedroom from where he removed the marijuana and placed it in his mother's room.

An officer immediately gave chase to him and a search was conducted in the woman's bedroom where the

illegal drugs were found.

Lloyd's mother was not at home at the time of the incident.

The lawmen also found a sum of money and a scale in Lloyd's bedroom.

In his defence when answering the charge against him, Lloyd told the court that he is the owner and operator of a cook shop but business had slowed down since the start of the pandemic. As a result, he has been struggling to support himself.

# Browne's Avenue man fined for gun, ammunition and drugs

A 25-year-old man from Browne's Avenue was fined a total of \$50,000 for three offences to which he pleaded guilty.

Wednesday in the St. John's Magistrates' Court, Tyree Smith admitted to possession of an unlicensed 9mm firearm, possession of twelve 9mm rounds of ammunition, possession of 1015

grams of cannabis and possession of cannabis with intent to transfer.

The charges were brought against him after police carried out a search on a property at Cashew Hill where Smith was present.

During the November 13 search, the illegal items were seized and Smith was arrested and taken into custody.

Two others, 35-year-old Elijah Ofari Lewis and 31-year-old Matthew Ricardo Edwards, both of Cashew Hill, were also charged for the same offences but they pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution withdrew the charges against Lewis and Edwards leaving Smith to be sentenced by Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh.

He was fined \$30,000 for possession with intent to transfer, \$10,000 for the firearm and \$10,000 for the ammunition.

The magistrate reprimanded and discharged him for possession of the drugs.

Smith, who was represented by Wendel Robinson, has six months to pay the fines or he will spend a year in jail.

# WIOC shares will become available early in 2021

Arrangements to make shares in the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) available to the public are nearing completion and, according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the shares will become available for sale by January or February next year.

"I am pleased to announce that we have made significant progress with the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange through which

the shares will be offered," he told Thursday's Investment Forum.

It is expected that the shares will be offered through a regional bank as they can only be sold through an agent of the stock exchange. Under the arrangements being made, WIOC shares will be available exclusively to buyers from Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne said the government will reduce its shareholding from 51

percent to 41 percent when it sells 10 percent of its shares.

He revealed that one of the other two shareholders - Venezuelan National Oil Company and a Chinese entity, Fancy Bridge - will likely offer some of their shares for sale as well.

"We are encouraging our people to seize the opportunity to invest in WIOC, one of the most profitable companies in the country. WIOC

has equity of US\$90-\$100 million and assets amounting to approximately US\$120 million. It is a 'very safe' investment," he assured.

The prime minister also announced that other entities in which the government has an interest will also be divested. These include the State Insurance Corporation and the National Asset Management Company (NAMCO).

# ERC Investment Forum hailed 'successful'

Thursday's Investment Forum organised by the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC) to promote local investment in a number of projects being spearheaded by the government is being hailed as a success.

Just hours after the event concluded at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort, Chairman of the sub-committee planning the event, Ambassador Daven Joseph, reported that he had received several inquiries from nationals, at home and in the diaspora, who were requesting additional information about the projects and how they can get involved.

"The response has been remarkable with people expressing interest in several projects and expressing a strong desire to invest. People are not only expressing interest in the Willoughby Bay Development, but the other projects unveiled at the forum on Thursday," he remarked.

He added that the ERC welcomes the interest of potential investors.

"We still want more people to come forward as there is always room for locals to take control of these projects," he stated.

During the event, presentations were made led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne who urged nationals to put aside their risk-averse posture and develop an entrepreneur-

ial spirit that will result in great benefits for themselves and the nation.

As many nations begin to look inwardly because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the prime minister said Antigua and Barbuda will have to become more self-reliant as foreign direct investment will very likely decline.

Since assuming office in 2014, Browne remarked that his administration has encouraged local ownership and investment.

"The objective of these initiatives is to facilitate broader ownership as we want nationals to control the commanding heights of our economy. The only way to achieve this is by ownership," he stated.

Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, meanwhile, said he is pleased with the enthusiasm of the participants who attended in person at Sandals and online via ZOOM.

"This shows me that there is an appetite to see the national economy rebound and hence the level of support from those who participated. I am told that approximately 150 persons joined by virtual means," he remarked.

ERC member, Patrick Ryan, also encouraged increased participation by nationals in Antigua and Barbuda's economic affairs.

"Our goal today is to present a picture of a

large scale development, which is basically a co-op where each individual owns his/her own entity which is ultimately linked to the larger project," he explained.

Ryan noted that Antigua and Barbuda has much to offer to those willing to invest and expressed his desire to see nationals come forward in large numbers to claim a stake in these developments.

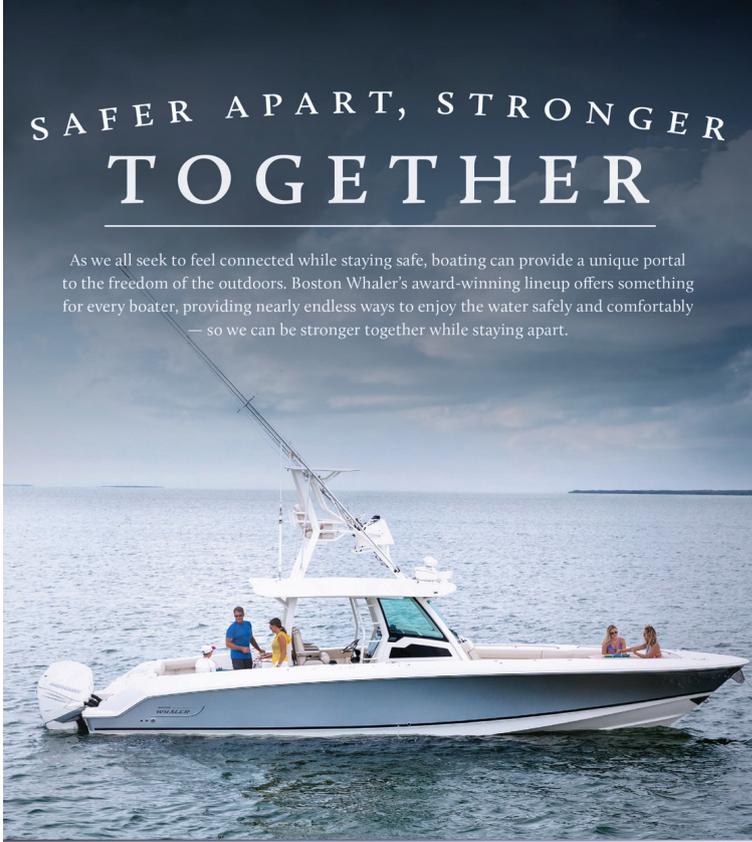
Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, who was invited to offer remarks, congratulated the ERC's technicians and other members of the planning committee for their work.

While he declined an

earlier offer to participate in the ERC's work, following Thursday's presentations, Pringle said he anticipates a bright future for Antigua and Barbuda, whether under the watch of an ABLP or UPP-led government.

"What is important is the vision going forward to see a plan for Antigua and Barbuda. Not only an economic plan, but a national plan going forward for the nation," he stated.

He is also suggesting that the projects be private sector led in order to achieve a greater buy-in by the public.



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# TENDERS NOTICE

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

***Construction of a Two-Storey Science Lab Building with Civil Works  
Sir Novelle Richards Academy School***

**Basic Education Project II (BEP II)**

**Ministry of Education, Science and Technology**

**in conjunction with**

**the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the *Ministry of Education, Science and Technology*, in conjunction with the *Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)*, invites interested vendors to submit a bid/proposal, for the supply of works and or services related to the **Construction of a Two-Storey Science Lab Building with Civil Works** to include **Site Drainage** and **Sanitation**, at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy School.

The **Scope of Works** and **Supporting Documents related to this tender**, can be accessed through our **e-Procurement Platform**, via the following link:

<https://goab.easibuy.com/advertisements/1303?token=f4c5904fe270f8d411031da5>

The e-Procurement Platform for this tender is hosted by EASiBUY. Should you require any assistance in accessing the platform, please feel free to contact *Mr. Daniel Knight* at **Daniel.Knight@ab.gov.ag** or *Jamal Barnes* at **Jamal.Barnes@ab.gov.ag**

Please be advised that the eligibility of your bid/proposal, is subject to the **completion of a Vendor Registration Form** which can also be accessed from the site.

**Bid/Proposal** for this tender, must be uploaded to the e-Procurement Platform, no later than **12:00 noon** on **Tuesday, 15 December, 2020**. Queries or Clarification Request regarding the specified requirements of this tender, must be directed and delivered to: **Chairman, Tenders Board (tenders.board@ab.gov.ag)**. Please note that the **final day for considering queries** related to this tender, is **2:00 PM** on **Thursday 03 December 2020**.

# The Haitian people: Sadly and badly in need of a champion

*(The writer is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the U.S. and the Organization of American States. He is also a senior fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and at Massey College in the University of Toronto)*

Human rights and constitutional violations in Haiti have been ignored for too long by the Organization of American States (OAS). The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has also avoided dealing with incendiary political issues in Haiti.

Meanwhile, more suffering is being piled on the poor people of Haiti whose body count from malnutrition and organized violence continues to grow. Against this background, it is not surprising that Haitians are seeking every means of escape from their homeland.

In desperate situations, criminals take advantage of the vulnerable. Thus, a brisk trade has begun in trafficking young Haitians - this time into the Caribbean. Evidence of this is the discovery by police in Guyana on November 7 of 26 Haitians, including 2 boys and 5 girls who were being transported to the Brazilian border by a human trafficking ring.

Both the OAS and CARICOM are obliged under their charters and declarations to call to account member states whose governments act unconstitutionally or take actions that violate the human, civil and political rights of their people.

The two organizations were active and vocal throughout the

5-month impasse in the Guyana elections, from March to August this year, and afterwards. During that entire period, the constitutional and electoral situation in Haiti was worse. But not a word of condemnation of the Haitian Presidency was uttered by either body.

Haitian President, Jovenel Moïse, has been running the country by decree with no elected parliament since 2019, amid accusations of corruption, protests and the deployment of the military which has been accused of atrocities.

The Chair of CARICOM did publicly declare, in January 2020: "CARICOM is deeply concerned at the continuing unsettled political, economic, humanitarian and social situation in its Member State, Haiti. Indeed, we are particularly concerned about the several incidents of violence and the associated and tragic loss of life". Since then, CARICOM said nothing more.

Yet, four months later, in its April 2020 update on Haiti, the World Food Programme said that almost four million Haitians need urgent food assistance, and that at least 1 million of those are suffering from severe hunger. President Moïse has been close-mouthed about the gangs that, according to the Miami's Herald's Jacqueline Charles (a Haitian expert), "have been on a rampage in poor neighbourhoods - kidnapping, raping and killing at will".

An Editorial in the Trinidad Express Newspaper pointed out on November 25, "The US position is particularly hypocritical

in the context of its backing of Haitian President, who has been



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

ruling by decree since dismissing parliament, and who continues to preside over unending human rights abuses and the rise of Tonton Macoute-style death squads."

It is well known in the OAS that it is the US government that is principally behind no action on Haiti by the organization whose Secretary-General, Luis Almagro, has been ardent in calling out other countries, particularly Venezuela and Nicaragua, on human rights. The US and the "Lima Group" of countries in the OAS have been dependent on Haiti's vote to secure the bare majority needed to secure adoption for controversial resolutions against the Venezuelan and Nicaraguan governments. Hence, the suffering of the poor people of Haiti is ignored.

Whether by coincidence or cooperation, on the same day - October 29 - US Under Secre-

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tary of State, David Hale, and Secretary-General Almagro urged Moïse to hold “overdue legislative elections as soon as possible”. Moïse has ignored them, continuing to operate with untrammelled power, including by making appointments of personal loyalists to key posts in violation of the Constitution which requires such appointments to be approved by the Senate.

Recently, he has appointed the Commander of the Armed Forces, the Head of the Police Force, the Governor of the Central Bank, and the chairman of the National Credit Bank. The holders of these offices were all appointed without the senatorial ratifications required by the constitution. Consequently, they are not vested with the administrative and financial independence necessary to carry out their duties as guaranteed under the Constitution. They are instruments of the President, vulnerable to his sole dictates.

Unrest and violence continue as groups demonstrate against corruption and call for elections. The Police has been active in breaking up protests, reportedly shooting dead one protestor and injuring two more on November 18.

Even within the Police force, protestors exist. A secret group called “Fantom 509” has been actively protesting poor wages and conditions. The recently appointed Police Commissioner, Leon Charles, commanded his officers to confront and lock up colleagues who are “Fantom 509” members.

On Friday, October 30, President Moïse officially put the Constitution of Haiti “on hold”. He formed a committee, to “re-vise” the draft of a new constitution, which, reportedly, was drafted by persons appointed by him. In any event, the President has no authority to modify, reform or change the Constitution.

This unconstitutional behaviour

is yet another dangerous threat to democracy and political stability in Haiti if it continues unchallenged. It violates both the Charter of the OAS and the Inter-American Democratic Charter. It is also inconsistent with the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society. At the very least, they should rebuke Moïse for his violations of the constitution.

It is unlikely that between now and January 20, when US President-elect Joe Biden assumes the Presidency, that there will be any movement by the US government - by itself or in the OAS - to address the plight of the Haitian people. Nonetheless the OAS - and CARICOM within it - should act.

The Haitian people are not a political problem; they are human beings sadly and badly in need of a champion.

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

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CHANNEL 9



### By Tony Deyal

"Mrs. Brown," the doctor said to the yoA word to the wise is proverbially sufficient but in the Caribbean it is generally a swear or "cuss" word (or "bad wudd") and almost always results in more words to the point where one of my neighbours, in verbal battle with another, got so fed up with the increasingly loud revelations about her sexual and sanitation habits, as well as those of her maternal ancestors, that she took up her son's Webster's dictionary and threw it at her tormentor saying, "Take dat!" It was my first experience of how dangerous throwing words can become. They both ended up in "cuss-tody". What this also demonstrated to me is that hitting someone on the head with a dictionary, or even a thesaurus, makes it clear that the adage, "Words don't hurt" has to be dispensed with, disregarded, ignored, discounted and even ridiculed.

The British, however, after centuries of creating, popularising, defining, refining, using and abusing words to insult, offend, affront, upset and attack others, have finally come up with a "ranking" for every swear word in the English language. Some like "Arse", "Bloody", "Bugger" and "Sod-off" are "mild". "Medium" is a mild-and-a-half and includes "A.se-Hole", "Balls", "Bint", and "Tits". My Jamaican friends

# PURE "BAD WUDD" AND WORSE

will realise, and some might even appreciate, that "Strong", while undoubtedly applicable to "John Crow Batty Rum", is also perceived by Ofcom, the regulator for communications services in Britain, as including "Bloodclaat", "C\*ck", "D\*ck" and a simile for "cranium" which increasingly repositions the meaning. This category also includes "Beaver", "Bastard", "Punani", "Snatch" and others with similar meanings. However, stronger than "Gash", "Flaps" or "Fanny" and declared "Strongest" of all British swear-words are the "C" word, the "F" word and a maternal addition to the "F" word which originated in the U.S. and dates back to the 19th Century.

The British are not unique with their swear words. While some of them are not seen as "slang" in the Caribbean (like "Ginger" which we know as an ingredient in Mauby and other drinks) we have most of theirs and many others in our vocabulary. Our history gives us Spanish and French as well as African, Amerindian and Indian dialects which were rounded off during the Second World War, with American.

I doubt that any child in today's world, the Caribbean especially, has grown up without knowing, using and sometimes adding to the key words. What we learn though, mostly the hard way, is when and where they should not be used and that "pain" is a four-letter word. In the old days, we had the "College Exhibition" examination that preceded the "Common Entrance." We had to buy English Dictionaries and, whether Oxford or Cambridge, we graduated with honours or "Blues" in finding and using the strongest of the swear words and, doing that, as Shakespeare wrote in Othello, "not wisely but too well". We paid the price in "leather" - the instrument of punishment our teachers

used on us with our parents' consent and which, when we reached home after the news had already arrived with embellishments, was meted out in large quantities on our rear ends. For those who believe that kinky leather is a recent phenomenon, we were on the receiving end from much earlier. Far from the punishment fitting the crimes it amplified them to the point of our being treated like Public Enemy No. 1 and, given the severity, sometimes No. 2. Eventually we learnt to watch our P's, C's and F's.

At Secondary School, we found Chaucer and introduced to other precocious boys in the burning heat of puberty, his "Miller's Tale", "Wife of Bath Prologue" and "Merchant's Tale". However, taking the early cake, bake and ice-cream was the great William Shakespeare. Whether he was really Bacon or some other writer, he actually used the letter "C" for the "C" word in Twelfth Night when Malvolio describes a letter he received from the Countess Olivia, "These be her very c's, her u's, and her t's and thus she makes her great p's." Critics see the "a" in "and" as a pun for the missing letter of the spelling of the "C" word.

Hamlet also has this delicious pun when, trying to lay his head down in the lap of Ophelia, he speaks of "country" matters. There is no question, in my mind, what the character Cloten means in "Cymbeline" when he orders music to be played outside the heroine's bedroom, "I would this Musick would come; I am advised to give her Musick a Mornings, they say it will penetrate". When the musicians entered, he continued, "Come on, Tune; if you can penetrate her with your Fingering, so; we'll try with Tongue too..." We did the play Henry V for our "O" Levels (now CSEP) and were not aware then in the scene where Henry meets his future bride

*cont'd on pg 12*

*cont'd from pg 11*

Katharine there are word-plays within the play on the "C" and "F" words. Understandably, our teacher, Brother Lawrence of the Irish (Catholic) Presentation order, skipped that part. Even though I knew that none of my classmates would have saved my Bacon, I would have sent Brother Lawrence a French letter on behalf of Shakespeare. Now, in the winter of my life, all I can do is behave Bard.

Or, like Donald Trump behaves, as Trinis say, "More bad than bad." It was bad enough when on August 11, 1984, Ronald Reagan, getting ready for his regular 9 a.m. live broadcast, was asked by the audio engineer to do the usual "microphone test" before broadcast. He was a former on-air commentator and quickly obliged with, "My Fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw

Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." According to Politico magazine, "News of his flippant remark soon leaked to the media, turning what Reagan believed to be a harmless private quip into an international embarrassment..." For those who thought that Reagan's joke was in bad taste, Trump did worse. He dropped an F-bomb on Iran and the explosion was heard all around the globe. He was on his friend Rush Limbaugh's show discussing Iranian support for U.S.-designated terrorist groups. Among his "choice" remarks directed at the Iranians was "If you "f..." around with us, if you do something bad to us, we are going to do things to you that have never been done before." Although Trump has constantly used other swear words and phrases like "bulls...", "ass" (e.g. Joe Biden "was only a good vice

president because he understood how to kiss Barack Obama's ass") and all three words of "S.O.B." this was his worst.

Yet, it was nowhere in the class of the three Caribbean men who entered a swearing contest.

The Barbadian swore non-stop for an entire minute and the crowd cheered. The Antiguan got a tremendous round of applause when he made it up to three minutes. However, on his way to do his bit onstage, the Jamaican tripped on the steps and cursed the designer, the carpenter and the organisers for a non-stop twenty minutes flat. Then he got on the stage and asked, "Can I start now?"

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen swearing that no Trinidadians were allowed to participate because the competition was for amateurs only.*

**PROBATE**

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7

Rule 15

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
(Probate)**

**In the Estate of ZELYN BARNES late of  
Barnes Hill, St. George's,  
Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR  
GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **SYLVANUS RONIE BARNES** of Barnes Hill, St. George's Parish, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 4th day of December 2016.

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

Dated this 18th day of November 2020

**SYLVANUS RONIE BARNES**

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

**PROBATE**

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7

Rule 15

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
(Probate)**

**In the Estate of DOROTHY DERRICK late  
of St. Phillip's Village, St. Phillip's,  
Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR  
GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT** of St. Phillip's Village St. Phillip's Parish, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 7th day of October 2018.

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

Dated the 16th day of November 2020

**DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT**

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

**PROBATE**

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7

Rule 15

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
(Probate)**

**In the Estate of ETHEL ALBERTHA C.  
KNIGHT late of Prince Klass Street, St.  
John's, Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR  
GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT** of St. Phillip's Village St. Phillip's Parish, in the state of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the nephew of the deceased, the deceased having died testate on the 18th day of April 2019.

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

Dated this 18th day of November 2020

**DANE EUSTACE KNIGHT**

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

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2020



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SUPPORTS THE  
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COMPLETED

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ZIGGY MARLEY  
RELEASES  
NEW FAMILY  
ORIENTED  
ALBUM

# Pointville Communications supports the NIA Mentor Award for female entrepreneurs



We will be talking about **entrepreneurship, mentorship, life trajectories** and so much more.

The Nia Mentor Award  
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@

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and **POINTE TV**

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Purpose + Excellence

On October 29th, the NIA Mentor Award was launched by Marcella Andre, Chief Executive Officer of the communications consultancy, Nia Comms, and her longtime colleague, friend, and communication specialist, Jamilla Kirwan.

The NIA Mentor Award aims to empower, support and provide financial and strategic assistance to female entrepreneurs.

The eventual winner will have access to EC\$7,000.00 and a wealth

of knowledge from several accomplished business women.

As part of building awareness about the NIA Mentor Award, Andre and Kirwan will begin a series of conversations with entrepreneurs and business professionals which will be aired live on Pointville Communications Incorporated's mediums.

Pointville Communications, which officially launches its television station on December 1, has made this avenue available to the NIA Mentor

Award in support of the venture and as part of its commitment to facilitate opportunities for nation building.

The first in the series of programmes organised by Andre and Kirwan will air at 7:00pm on Friday 27th November and every Friday following until a winner is announced in early 2021.

The shows can also be viewed on the The Nia Mentor Facebook page and on Pointe TV, Channel 9 on CTV.

# Plantations of Antigua series is completed

Agnes Meeker has completed a labour of love and a 25 year project investment with the publishing of Plantations of Antigua Volume III, the final book in the series.

The series presents a brief history of more than 200 plantations that once dotted this island. For Ms. Meeker the series represents part of her fierce love for Antigua and Barbuda.

"This island Antigua, my love and my birthright, being a 6th generation Antiguan born on my mother's side," said Meeker describing her passion for her country.

Having resided abroad for a period, Agnes returned home 25 years ago and became fascinated with the island's 110 sugar mills.

"There was a terrible drought at the time making moving through the bush a lot easier than today, when the island is as green as I have ever seen it. I then set out to find out the story behind each mill, but then, why stop there when there were twice as many mills originally, most of which were damaged during the 1834 earthquake and were never rebuilt due to the advent of steam. It was exciting and exhilarating, walking in the steps of people past, finding and



documenting their stories," said in an interview with PointeXpress.

After 20 years of collecting information on every estate she could find, she built on a map at the Museum that Desmond Nicholson devised based on a CVE mill study in 1997. To make the publication manageable, Ms. Meeker then compiled according to parish.

Volume I covers St. John's, Volume II, St. George's and St. Peter's and Volume III St. Philip's, St. Paul's and St. Mary's.

The books are very detailed include information pertaining to each estate from vast and varied sources. Data on the owners of each estate, stories of slavery, ghosts stories, personal memories, statistics, maps, prints and photographs are included.

According to Agnes, "When you think of it, near-

ly every place name on Antigua stems from these estates, as do many of our surnames. Nowhere has this ever been recorded in one place, so this became my objective."

Agnes paid tribute to the invaluable support from Don Dery who helped to unravel all the information and steered her through the publishing maze.

She also leaned on the work of other authors including To Shoot Hard Labour by Sir Keithlyn Smith and Fernando Smith, the former who was a dear friend. Vere Oliver's History of the Island of Antigua and others were also invaluable to her research.

The internet was another important source. In the last five years, a lot of information started to surface on the internet, and this continues to grow. In this regard, Ms. Meeker said genealogical sites

were helpful. Using the internet as a resource, she has been able to assist many visitors to Antigua whom the Museum referred to her who were trying to research their ancestry.

Agnes views her publication as merely one side of the complex history of Antigua and Barbuda.

"There are always two, three or more sides to a story. Hopefully this work will help flesh out a bygone era. Antigua's history is extremely rich and diversified and I firmly believe that more of this history needs to be taught in the schools. We also need to be preserving the windmills which are crumbling annually and which we are losing rapidly, like everything else historical on this island to include the forts."

Agnes proudly added, "Antigua is so beautiful, as many of you who are now into hiking during these Covid times, are discovering. As you walk, imagine all those who have trod this soil before us, all with tales to tell. It's fascinating. It gives me goosebumps."

Plantations of Antigua Volume III is available on Amazon and a limited number of copies are also available at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda.

# Ziggy Marley releases new family oriented album



Iconic, Grammy award winning reggae artist, Ziggy Marley has released his new album, 'More Family Time' amidst the challenges facing the entertainment industry. It is an album designed to bring families together during the COVID-19 pandemic. The songs are fun and whimsical but are also designed to impart knowledge.

On the album, Marley, brings his family together with vocals provided by his children Judah, Gideon, Abraham and Isaiah. The family dog, Romeo also makes an appearance. Several of his industry friends including Ben Harper, Alanis Morissette, Sheryl Crow, Busta Rhymes, Jamie Lee Curtis, Angelique Kidjo, Tom Morello and Lisa Loeb are also featured on the album. His brother, Stephen Marley, is also a part of the production.

Among the songs are 'Play In The Sky' with Ben Harper, in which he sings about the importance of playing outdoors, 'My Dog Romeo' which features the barking of his dog, 'The Garden Song of Miracles' with his brother Stephen in which they teach

children the magic of watching plants grow and 'Move Your Body', which features vocals from his four-year-old son, Isaiah.

"A lot of the songs bring some of my ting dem from childhood. When I was growing up, manners was the most important thing. It was my Grand Aunty who really kinda take care of us when my parents were away and it was about manners, manners a get you through, manners; so 'Please, Excuse Me, Thank You' is really coming from my childhood but really teaching my children now. It's about the present and the past," he said.

This is Marley's second children's album. His first, 'Family Time' received the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Children's Album and he also took home a Daytime Emmy Award for 'I Love You Too', which shares its title with his 2012 debut children's book, a multicultural picture collection based on the beloved song, which explores a child's relationship with parents, nature and the unstoppable force of love.

Marley, who has been planting potatoes, beans and strawberries during the pandemic, said his song, 'The Garden Song of Miracles' was about slowing down and appreciating the magic of nature.

"The things about me inspire me. The dog inspire me. Nature, levity, these things are inspirational to me. Even the 'Garden Song Of Miracles' is about planting and seeing a tree grow or a fruit tree or a tomato, but that is a miracle in itself. If we just can realise what a thing that is, it is such a miracle. We have to stop be-

ing so jaded and stop being so not open-minded and start appreciate things. We are very busy, we need to take some time and appreciate some little things," he said.

Marley said he had a lot of fun working on the album and it gave him an emotional respite from everything that has been happening in the world.

"It really brought some joy when things were sad for us, for me, it kinda give me something to lift my spirits. During the pandemic and Black Lives Matter and George Floyd protests in America where I am, there was a lot of energy so it just come like a breath of fresh air, it give me a breather. We need to do that sometimes, it can't be always tension, it is good to take a breather," he said.

While he was tapping into his inner child for the album, Marley, the eldest son of Reggae Icon Bob Marley, also curated a photo book, 'Portrait of a Legend' in honour of what would have been his father's 75th birthday. It is the first book authorised by the Bob Marley Foundation. He said the photos show the late legend in his natural state to help fans get a better understanding of his life off the stage.

"What it did for me, it brought me back. I remember the time, nostalgia, is a melancholy vibe," he said of watching his father in his youth.

Asked about his fondest memory with his father, Marley said the most impactful was going to Zimbabwe with his brother Stephen and his father for that country's independence. He was 11 at the time.

A portion of proceeds from 'More Family Time' will benefit Ziggy's 501(c)3 URGE, which supports the education, social development and overall well being of the Chepstow Primary School and the One Love Youth Camp, both in Jamaica.



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**SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY**

# Opposition denounces new state of emergency proclamation in the Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas (Caribbean News Now) - The Bahamas' main opposition Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) has called out the government for its alleged "abuse of power" following its proclamation of another state of emergency in the coronavirus-stricken nation.

"We will refuse to allow the matter to be debated this week in the House and will not waive the notice requirement," said opposition leader Philip Brave Davis in a statement cited by The Tribune.

"The issue of the proclamation is an abuse of power. Civil lib-

erties have been suspended long enough and we say the suspension must end and go no farther."

Bahamas' Governor-General C.A. Smith read out the proclamation Tuesday night, extending his emergency powers to the end of the year. This is his third proclamation of a state of emergency since the pandemic began.

According to the Tribune report, the new proclamation was issued a week after Prime Minister Hubert Minnis sought the Parliament's approval to extend the country's state of emergency that was set to expire on November

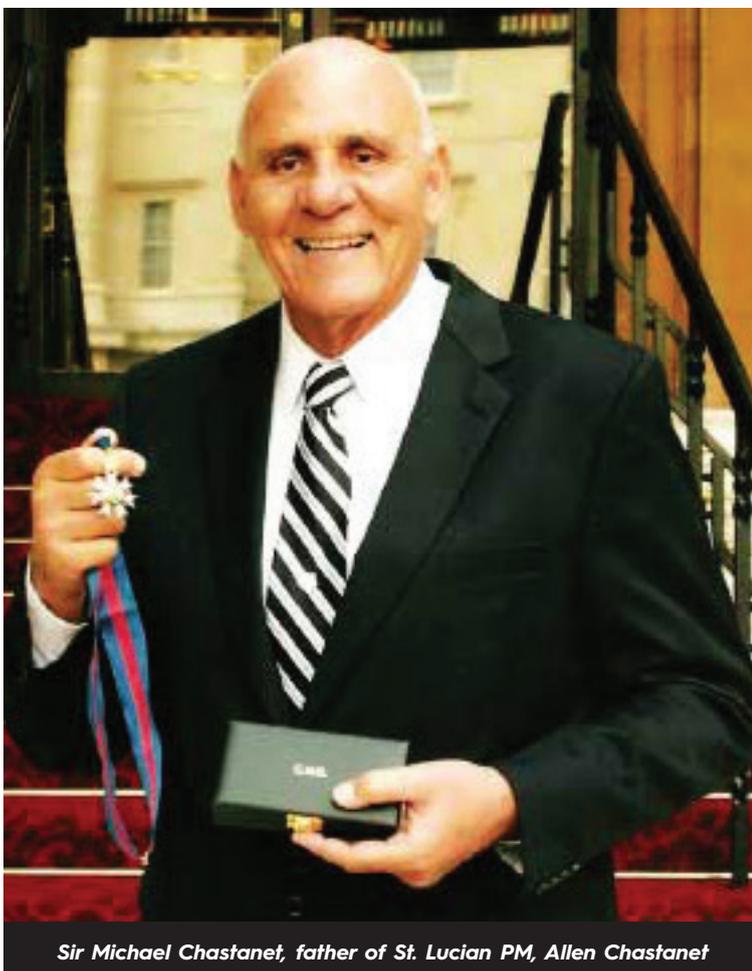
30. Minnis requested that it be extended to until December 28.

Attorney General Carl Bethel told The Tribune newspaper that a new proclamation was issued because the government "wished to avoid debate on a new proclamation in the middle of the Christmas holidays."

The Bahamas has been under a state of emergency since March 18, shortly after the country recorded its first COVID-19 case.

Today, The Bahamas has 7,469 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 163 deaths, according to the World Health Organisation.

# St. Lucia PM denies facilitating his father in getting government business



Sir Michael Chastanet, father of St. Lucian PM, Allen Chastanet

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (St. Lucia Times) - Prime Minister Allen Chastanet Wednesday made it clear that he has not facilitated his father, businessman Sir Michael Chastanet, in obtaining business from the government.

"I can assure everyone categorically - at no point have I recommended or pushed business my father's way," Chastanet declared.

He made the comments while a guest on Andre Paul's programme 'That Makes Me Mad'.

The PM was responding to a question about his father

renting office space to government agencies.

According to the PM, Sir Michael has been in the business of renting space to successive governments agencies for many years.

"We have pre-COVID, a shortage of office space. In fact, we have been hunting to get more and more office space and certainly with the situation of mold it has been even more complicated," the PM explained.

"My father has been in that business from long ago," Chastanet stated.

# World Bank green lights \$7.5m for COVID-19 fight in Guyana



Tahseen Sayed, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (Stabroek News) - The World Bank on Wednesday approved US\$7.5m (\$1.5b) for the Guyana COVID-19 Emergency Response Project to support the country in tackling the current pandemic.

"The World Bank is working with member countries in the Caribbean to help them respond to COVID-19 and prepare for a resilient recovery. This financing for Guyana will help the country tackle the current crisis and handle future emergencies," said Tahseen Sayed, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean.

She added "The project

will strengthen care for COVID-19 patients, improve the country's ability to identify positive cases, and enhance the health system's capacity to deliver critical care to vulnerable populations, including the elderly and people with chronic conditions."

A press release from the World Bank said that the Guyana COVID-19 Emergency Response Project will boost laboratory capacity, support screening and surveillance, bolster contact tracing, and equip healthcare facilities for more effective treatment and care of COVID-19 patients.

The project, the release said, will also include ac-

tivities specifically targeted to reach local communities across the country and in the hinterland through expansion of contact tracing and psychosocial support to vulnerable households. Risk communication materials will be translated into local languages to ensure that vulnerable groups can tap reliable information about the virus and its spread. The project will also contribute to preparing the health system for the effective deployment of a safe and approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Guyana accesses interest-free financing from the International Development Association (IDA), with a maturity of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years. In late July 2020, Guyana also benefited from a US\$1 million grant through the World Bank-administered Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF), which was disbursed to PAHO/WHO.

The former APNU+AFC government had not been successful in receiving substantial help from the World Bank even though an early

application was made. This was believed to be due to the five-month electoral crisis.

This is the second major credit received for the COVID fight in recent weeks and will again raise questions about the extent of the debt the PPP/C government intends to absorb.

Earlier this month a US\$22m loan was approved by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the purchase of medical equipment and personal protective equipment for frontline workers among other things. A release from the IDB explained that the sum which was released under the Contingent Credit Facility for Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergencies will be used to finance public expenditures necessary to contain transmission of the disease and mitigate further health and economic consequences.

Specifically the loan is earmarked for the purchase of medical equipment, laboratory equipment and inputs, ambulances, and personal protective equipment for health workers, surveillance officers, border personnel.

# Amnesty International: Return of deported children to T&T gives government second chance to do the right thing

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad (Amnesty International) - The return of at least 16 children and an estimated 12 adults to Trinidad following their deportation to Venezuela on 22 November gives the authorities of Trinidad and Tobago a second chance to uphold their domestic and international obligations to provide protection for people seeking safety from danger, said the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Refugees International and 14 other organizations in an open letter to Prime Minister Keith Rowley on Wednesday.

"We are relieved that the 16 children and estimated 12 adults are back in Trinidad. The authorities must now reunite the returned children with their families without delay, grant them access to apply for asylum, screen to determine if they have been trafficked, and provide them with medical attention," said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty International.

According to initial information available, at least some of the children who returned to Trinidad on 24 November had family already registered there with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), making

it even more necessary for the authorities to have given them access to asylum procedures, according to the country's obligations under international law.

In a press conference on 24 November, Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of National Security seemed to suggest that they may have been trafficked, underlining the need for them to be screened in compliance with the nation's Trafficking in Person's Act to identify potential trafficking victims, and to provide them with protection and reparation.

Reports indicate that some 50 children have been deported this year, despite the fact that Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires countries to act in their best interest and refrain from detaining them or deporting them to situations where they could face ill-treatment or danger.

The Minister of National Security also indicated that the children were being held by authorities to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Even amidst the pandemic, many countries have successfully kept access to asylum open while also following strict health protocols. The pandemic cannot be used as

an excuse to deny safety to those who need it most.

As indicated by 25 human rights organizations in a previous open letter to Prime Minister Rowley, Venezuelans are fleeing grave human rights violations that a recent UN-appointed Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela has stated could amount to crimes against humanity. This, combined with an ongoing humanitarian crisis, means they will continue to seek international protection/asylum outside their country, even in a pandemic. Trinidad and Tobago must find ways to grant legal residency for Venezuelans through re-opening the registration process, or passing national refugee legislation which would facilitate its compliance with international law.

"As Venezuela's humanitarian crisis continues to worsen, governments have an obligation to help those seeking protection abroad – even amid a pandemic," said Aviva Shwayder, communications officer at Refugees International. "Starting with the reunification of these children with their families, the government of Trinidad and Tobago can and must do better for displaced people within its borders."

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# Paris police beat Black man, sparking fresh outrage in France

PARIS, France (Aljazeera) - French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin ordered several Paris police officers suspended after the publication of videos showing them beating up a Black man and using tear gas against him with no apparent reason.

The incident came as President Emmanuel Macron's government is pushing a new bill that restricts the ability to film police, which has prompted protests from civil liberties groups and journalists concerned that it would allow police brutality to go undiscovered and unpunished.

Videos published on Thursday by French news website Loopsider show the violent arrest of a music producer identified only by his first name, Michel, in the 17th arrondissement or district of the French capital on Saturday.

Three officers followed Michel inside his music studio after they apparently saw him walking in the street without wearing a mask, Loopsider reports. The published video images, both from a security camera inside the studio and filmed by neighbours outside, show officers repeatedly punching him and beating him with a truncheon.

The officers then left, called in reinforcements and threw a tear gas grenade into the studio to get those inside to come out, according to Loopsider. It reported that nine others who were recording music in the studio basement were also beaten. Michel told Loopsider that the officers hurled repeated



Paris police officers suspended after the publication of videos showing them beating up music producer identified only by his first name, Michel [Thibault Camus/AP Photo]

racist insults at him, and he was taken in custody for 48 hours.

Darmanin tweeted that the body that investigates allegations of police misconduct, the Inspectorate General of the National Police, known by its French acronym IGPN, is looking into the case, saying, "I want disciplinary proceedings to be led as soon as possible."

The Paris police prefecture said in a statement that IGPN would seek to establish the exact circumstances surrounding the man's arrest.

The Paris prosecutor's office is also investigating police actions. The prosecutor's office said on Thursday it has dropped the proceedings against Michel opened on the day of his arrest, and instead opened an investigation

for "acts of violence by a person in position of public authority" and "false declaration".

It is the second such police brutality investigation in Paris this week prompted by video footage. The government ordered an internal police investigation on Tuesday after police officers were filmed tossing refugees and migrants out of tents and intentionally tripping one while evacuating a protest camp.

That same day, France's lower house of parliament approved a draft law meant to strengthen local police and provide greater protection to all officers. It notably makes it a crime to publish images of officers with the intent to cause them harm. The bill, which enjoys public support after recent attacks, will now go to the Senate.

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# Violence against women intensified since coronavirus outbreak: UN



Demonstrators march during a protest to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in Lima, Peru November 25, 2020 [Angela Ponce/Reuters]

AllJazeera - Women around the world on Wednesday marked International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, highlighting how lockdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic have left many trapped with their abusers and exposed to greater danger.

The United Nations said since the outbreak of COVID-19, all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, had intensified, with shelters at capacity and help-lines in some places seeing a five-fold increase in calls.

“Men’s violence against women is also a pandemic - one that predates the virus and will outlive it. It too needs our global, coordinated

response and enforceable protocols. It too affects vast populations of all ages,” said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in a statement.

Last year, 243 million women and girls experienced sexual or physical violence from their partner. This year, reports of increased domestic violence, cyberbullying, child marriages, sexual harassment and sexual violence have flooded in, she added.

In the Turkish city of Istanbul, several hundred people gathered to protest against domestic violence against women.

One woman taking part, who declined to give her name, said: “The law does not protect women as it should. We are here to make

our voice heard. There are femicides happening almost every day in this country but people who are committing the crime are walking free.”

In Italy, protesters gathered outside Parliament bearing banners reading “If they touch one [of us], they touch all” and “Women are not toys”.

Italy went through one of the world’s strictest lockdowns between March and May and last month introduced new restrictions.

Its quarantine is creating conditions for increased murders of women by family members in the same home, according to a study by the Italian Economic and Social Research Institute.

“We have witnessed an increase in domestic vio-

lence during confinement measures,” said protester Serena Freddi. “This shows the home is still a place of conflict and violence for women.”

Spain held a minute’s silence for murdered women on Wednesday and in Portugal, the OMA observatory, which monitors femicide, said so far in 2020 30 women had been murdered, half of them victims of domestic violence.

The country’s Interior Minister Eduardo Cabrita said there was a 6 percent drop in the number of complaints about violence in the first 10 months of 2020 from a year ago, which he said was a worrying sign that women were struggled to access help during lockdown.

The government launched a video campaign called #ISurvived, which warns of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and hopes to spread the word about the support available to victims of domestic violence.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel said in her weekly podcast, “statistically, every 45 minutes a woman in our country is attacked by her current or former partner. These are the cruel facts. Every single case tells a horrible story...We must never look the other way when girls or women are threatened with violence or attacked.

# Turkey court jails hundreds for life for 2016 coup plot against Erdogan



Defendants were paraded when the mass trial opened in August 2017

ANKARA, Turkey (BBC) - A court in Turkey has given life sentences to 337 military officers and others, in one of the biggest trials linked to the 2016 coup attempt.

Air force pilots and army commanders were among the nearly 500 defendants accused of trying to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

They allegedly directed the plot from the Akinci air base near Ankara.

Mr. Erdogan says US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen masterminded the plot, which led to mass arrests.

Mr. Gulen has denied any involvement in the attempted coup in July 2016 that killed 251 people and injured more than 2,000. Mr Erdogan was on vacation at the time at a resort.

Thousands of civilians rallied in support of Mr. Erdogan in a night of turmoil, confronting rogue soldiers and preventing the plotters from seizing power.

The trial began in August 2017, and the charges included seeking to kill President Erdogan and seize key state institutions. Turkey's biggest court - in Sincan near Ankara - was packed for the verdicts.

Officers who conspired against Mr. Erdogan seized aircraft at the Akinci base, taking then chief of staff General Hulusi Akar and some other officers hostage.

Former air force commander Akin Ozturk was jailed for life last year for his role in the plot.

The indictment states that 25 pilots

in F-16s bombed targets in Ankara, including parliament, which was hit three times, as well as key security buildings. The bombing killed 68 people in Ankara and injured more than 200. Twenty-five of those in the dock were generals and 10 were civilians.

More than 10 of the military officers - including F-16 fighter pilots - and four civilians got 79 "aggravated" life sentences each. The "aggravated" sentence requires harsher prison terms than for a normal life sentence.

Six were put on trial in absentia, including Mr. Gulen and Adil Oksuz, a theology lecturer accused of being a key co-ordinator in the coup plot.

Among those receiving "aggravated" life terms was businessman Kemal Batmaz, accused of assisting Adil Oksuz.

The Hizmet movement led by Mr. Gulen has been branded a "terrorist" organisation by Mr. Erdogan. He was once an ally of the president, but since the coup attempt the 79-year-old cleric has remained a fugitive in Pennsylvania and Turkey wants his extradition.

Mr. Erdogan carried out a sweeping purge of state institutions after the plot, sacking or suspending more than 100,000 public sector employees, including teachers and judges, who were accused of links to Mr. Gulen.

There have been many trials of alleged plotters and courts have issued more than 2,500 life sentences.

**LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST**

**FRI 11/27**  **28° Hi** DAY Mostly sunny with a passing shower  
**25° Lo** NIGHT Clear to partly cloudy

Sunrise 6:19 AM    Sunset 5:31 PM    Moonrise 3:53 PM    Moonset 4:43 AM

**SAT 11/28**  **29° Hi** DAY Mostly sunny  
**24° Lo** NIGHT Clear

Sunrise 6:19 AM    Sunset 5:31 PM    Moonrise 4:29 PM    Moonset 5:33 AM

**YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE**

**♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19**

You have a lot more influence over the attitudes of others than you may realize. Use your famous diplomacy and see what happens. You might be surprised how it inspires people to come to an agreement.

**♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20**

Fanciful ideas and romantic wishes have been blooming inside your head. Today, the time is right to share them with a person who loves you the most. Give them a glimpse of what you're thinking.

**♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20**

Reach outside of your comfort zone to find something new in your life. Talk to people who you wouldn't typically talk to and see what they have to say. Go somewhere you've never been.

**♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22**

Mix up your regular exercise routine a bit today. Mundane physical exertion will do more to hinder your good energy levels than improve them. If you don't have any sort of regular routine, you definitely need to start one.

**♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22**

Things are not going very smoothly for someone in your life who always seems to have the world on a string, and it may throw you for a loop. Suddenly, the person you looked to as an example no longer exists!

**♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22**

You're known for your great advice, but at least one of your people is in a situation they may be too embarrassed to talk to you about. Put out some feelers today. Send a few probing messages.

**♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22**

Your bright attitude is more powerful than you imagine, especially today. If a door person holds the key to a place you want to explore or information you need, turn on the charm.

**♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21**

Full of mysterious clues and confusing comments, this day could bring out the amateur sleuth in you. Follow your instincts and poke around in a few places until your curiosity is satisfied.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

Being out in the natural world is the right way to rejuvenate yourself, get a new perspective on where you're going, and find a new friendship right now. Visual beauty brings another level of joy, so take a long walk.

**♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

The amount of romance in your life is about to go up, up, up! The sky's the limit when it comes to the chemistry between you and a very special someone. Most of the explanation can be found in your brimming confidence.

**♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

When it comes to your finances, you can't let your reputation come before your bank account. If you're afraid of being called cheap, you need to get over it. The people who toss those terms around are deep in debt.

**♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20**

The company you keep says a lot about who you are, and that fact is more important than ever right now. New folks can be entertaining, but be sure you totally understand their motivations.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**

The Halo Foundation Inc is again hosting its annual Christmas card competition which is open to youngsters aged seven (7) to eighteen (18). All entries should be 'Caribbean Christmas' themed. Deadline for submission is December 11, 2020. Call 562-5193 for more details. Prizes to be won.

**FREE MATHS CLASSES IN ST. PAUL'S**

Another learning opportunity is being offered in the St. Paul's community. CXC Math classes facilitated by veteran mathematician, Anthonyson King. These classes are geared toward 4th and 5th form students and those desirous of retaking CXC Mathematics. You must be a resident of St. Paul. Classes commence on Wednesday 14th October and will continue every Wednesday at 4:00PM. Early registrations are encouraged to facilitate scheduling. All COVID-19 health protocols will be strictly enforced.

**RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS**

The Labour Department wishes to inform the public that the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has decided that until further notice, work permit renewal applications are not required to be advertised by employers. ALL new work permit applications, including change of employers, MUST be accompanied by proper proof of advertisement, copies of applications received in response to job advertisement and a proper justification for the work permit application. Please be guided accordingly.

**SATELLITE OFFICE REOPENED**

The English Harbour Satellite Office has reopened. Employers can now make all statutory payments (Medical Benefits, Social Security, Education Levy and Inland Revenue) from Monday to Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm and on Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Drop Box service is also available. Other services offered include acceptance of claims by the Medical Benefits Scheme and Social Security. Member and employer registration are also offered by the Medical Benefits Scheme.

**CLOSURE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT**

The Quality Assurance Unit within the Ministry of Tourism will be suspending operations from December 15th, 2020 to January 15th, 2021. All small and large property owners/operators are asked to take note as no hotel inspections and Covid-19 certifications will be executed during this period. For more information contact the department at 468-4061/4003. We we look forward to serving you with increased commitment and fervor in 2021.

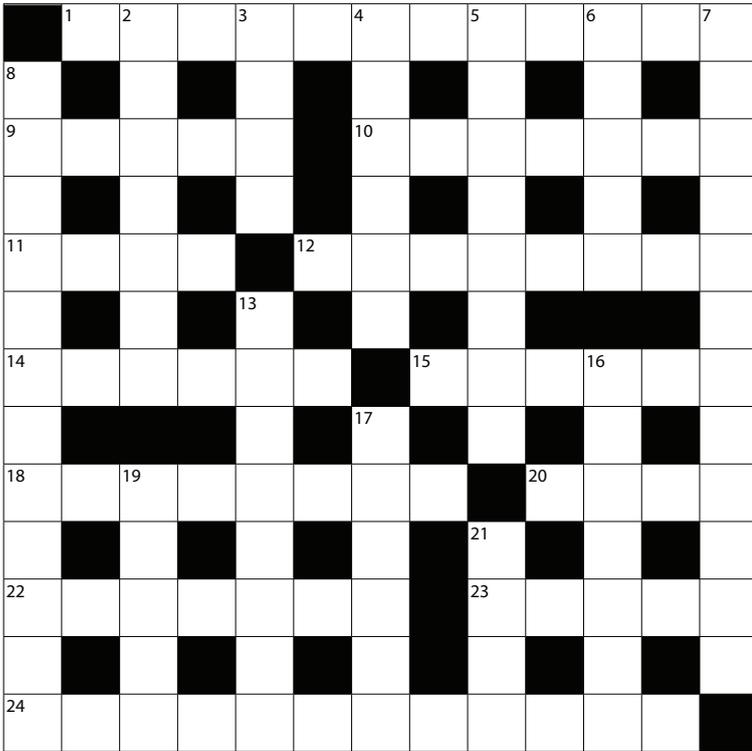
**GEMONITES MOODS OF PAN CANCELLED**

The West Indies Oil Company Gemonites Steel Orchestra wishes to inform all its patrons that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gemonites Moods of Pan festival 2020 has been cancelled. We wish to thank all our loyal patrons and sponsors for your steadfast support over the past 20 years and we look forward to the future when we can, once again, bring you to the place where the best in pan play. The Gemonites Moods of Pan is Antigua and Barbuda's premier music festival and we look forward to delivering to you our audience the finest quality music when we return in 2021.

**Tell us what's happening in your community.**

Submit community notices to [news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

**QUICK CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 1 Recollected (6,2,4)
- 9 Supporting framework (5)
- 10 Put down (7)
- 11 Top of one's head (4)
- 12 Extra high male singing voice (8)
- 14 Inconstant (6)
- 15 Nibbles (6)
- 18 Front part of the brain (8)
- 20 Whimper (4)
- 22 Letters in sloping type (7)
- 23 Berkshire racecourse (5)
- 24 Neater column (anag) — terminology (12)

**Down**

- 2 Living in water (7)
- 3 Most recent (4)
- 4 To do with a fin on a fish (6)
- 5 Against (8)
- 6 Lifeless (5)
- 7 Very disappointed (12)
- 8 Extreme astonishment (12)
- 13 Vulgar (8)
- 16 14th-century English poet (7)
- 17 Edible shellfish (6)
- 19 Area of knowledge under discussion (5)
- 21 Small hard viral skin blemish (4)

**DAILY COMICS**

**Dilbert**



**Garfield**



**Cathy**



**SUDOKU**

8			1	4				
		2	4					7
4	7			6				
	9		5					3
		4	9		2	8		
2			3				9	
			2				6	5
3			9	7				
		1	6					8

			3			7	5	
	6					8		
	2			5				6
1	4			3				
		2	8	7	4	5		
				1			4	9
8			4				9	
	4						7	
	9	3		6				

	5		1			7		
					5	1		
			5		4	9		
1		7		4		9		
		2			6			
	3		1	6			2	
8	3			5				
	7	4						
6			9			2		

7	1							4
	4							8
		8	1			3		
8	4			9				
2		5	7	4				9
			6			2		3
	7				1	6		
	5							3
6						4		7

**How to play**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.



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# Romanian weightlifting athletes stripped of medals

On Wednesday the International Olympic Committee stripped two Romanian weightlifting athletes of their medals from the 2012 Olympic Games and disqualified a third over the use of anabolic steroids.

Roxana Cocos, who won silver in the women's 69kg category and teammate Razvan Martin, a bronze medalist in the men's category of the same weight, tested positive for stanozolol among other substances in re-

tests of samples ordered by the IOC.

A third Romanian weightlifter, Gabriel Sincaian, who did not finish in the men's 85kg weightlifting event in London 2012, was also disqualified after his test came back positive for the same substances.

All athletes now face sanctions by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).

The IOC stores and regularly orders re-tests of hundreds of

samples from past Olympics in an effort to root out cheats, by using new testing methods not available at the time or looking for substances that were not known.

An independent investigation into the IWF conducted earlier this year by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren found widespread corruption within the organisation, including cover-ups with fines paid directly to former president Tamas Ajan.

## Russell receives No Objection Certificate



Cricket all-rounder Andre Russell

Andre Russell will be issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Cricket West Indies to compete in the Lanka Premier League (LPL)

T20 tournament.

On October 16, Russell instructed CWI chief selector Roger Harper that he opted not to tour New Zealand because

he wanted to "clear his head" and he was "going from one lockdown tournament to another.

The Jamaican was drafted by the Colom-

bo Kings on October 19 in round two for US \$50,000 to compete in the Sri Lanka tournament. Russell then proceeded to pull out of the tournament because of injury, but earlier this week, it was revealed that Russell would compete in the LPL.

In a Whatsapp message to Newsday Wednesday, CWI president Ricky Skerritt confirmed an NOC has been received by CWI and was being processed. Russell is not a contracted player and has the right to choose franchise T20 cricket over West Indies.

On Tuesday West Indies coach Phil Simmons speaking to journalists via Zoom said he was not aware that Russell was in Sri Lanka. Skerritt said players will not be penalised for choosing leagues over West Indies cricket.

# CWI conducting inspections ahead of Bangladesh tour

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will, this week, send a two-member inspection team to Bangladesh to conduct a detailed assessment ahead of the scheduled ICC Future Tours Programme (FTP) tour in January next year.

The tour is due to feature matches in both the ongoing ICC Test Match Championship and the ICC One-Day International Super League. The reconnaissance will be conducted by CWI Board Director, Dr Akshai Mansingh (member of the CWI's and ICC's Medical

Advisory Committee) and Paul Slowe, CWI's Security Manager.

While in Bangladesh, they will visit all the proposed facilities for the tour in both Dhaka and Chattogram, attend matches in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup and also get a firsthand look at the country's COVID-19 response protocols.

CWI's CEO Johnny Grave said: "We would be the first International Team to visit Bangladesh since the onset of the pandemic and, acting always with the health and safety of

our touring party at the forefront of our minds, we have decided to conduct a pre-tour recce by sending two highly experienced professionals to assess the BCB's bio-secure plans and protocols. Our respective medical and operations teams have held a number of positive meetings over the last few weeks and following receipt of the report from our inspection team, a recommendation will be made to our Board of Directors on whether it is safe to tour Bangladesh early next year."

The tour of Bangladesh would be the third tour for the West Indies Men's team since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are presently in New Zealand for three T20 Internationals, two Test matches and two 'A' Team Four-Day matches. Earlier this year they visited England where they played three Test matches, in a bio-secure environment, which marked the return to the game on the international stage. The West Indies Women's team also toured England in September for five T20 Internationals.

# Pakistan cricket squad quarantined

Six members of Pakistan's cricket team have tested positive for COVID-19 while on tour in New Zealand. All six have been moved from managed isolation into quarantine and the team's exemption from social-distancing rules for training has been suspended.

Health officials said all 53 members of the visiting squad were tested on arrival in the country.

New Zealand, widely praised for its pandemic response, had previously seen a to-

tal of 2,040 cases and 25 deaths. Pakistan, meanwhile, has seen 356,198 confirmed cases and 7,843 deaths.

New Zealand's cricket authorities said two of the cases were "historical" and the other four were new. Historical refers to a positive test returned sometime after a person has recovered.

Some members of the Pakistan team had contravened protocols on their first day in managed isolation in Christchurch and would be reminded of their

responsibilities, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said.

The Pakistan team is

scheduled to play two Test matches and three T20 matches while in New Zealand.



# Diego Maradona: Huge crowds bid farewell as Argentina grieves



Diego Maradona fans mourn his death

Huge crowds of fans have been paying their final respects to football legend Diego Maradona in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires.

Thousands filed past the footballer's coffin, weeping, blowing kisses and praying. Later people lined the streets as his funeral cortege passed by.

But there were tense scenes as police tried to control unruly

crowds.

Three days of national mourning have begun after the national hero died of a heart attack on Wednesday aged 60.

Maradona's coffin - draped in Argentina's national flag and football shirt, bearing his trademark number 10 on the back - was on public display at the presidential palace on Thursday.

By mid-afternoon queues

stretched back for more than a kilometre, and police clashed with mourners as they tried to close off the palace in anticipation of the wake scheduled for 16:00 local time (19:00 GMT).

There were reports of tear gas and rubber bullets being used as officers in riot gear struggled to hold back the crowd.

Diego Maradona "will live in our heart forever"

One well-wisher, Rubén Hernández, thought the police had overreacted.

"We were calm lining up and suddenly, the police started to fire rubber bullets," he said, quoted by Reuters news agency. "Crazy, I just want to say goodbye to Diego."

The authorities then extended access to the casket for a couple more hours, but it was still not enough for many mourners to reach the coffin.

The motorised funeral cortege then drove his body to the Bella Vista cemetery on the outskirts of the city, where he will be buried in a private ceremony.

## Napoli bids farewell to club legend Maradona

Napoli on Wednesday bid farewell to Diego Maradona, who won the hearts of the southern Italian city of Naples by leading the club to its only two league titles in 1987 and 1990.

"Always in our hearts Diego," the club tweeted alongside a blue

heart emoji shortly after the news broke that the Argentine had died of a heart attack.

In a second post with a photograph of the Argentine in the club's blue jersey they tweeted everyone is waiting for our words.

"But what words can we use for pain like the

one we are experiencing? Now is the time for tears, then there will be time for words."

Maradona spent seven years at the then unfashionable Napoli between 1984 and 1991, during which he also lifted the 1989 UEFA Cup, Napoli's only European trophy.

Italian sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora, a native of Naples, also paid tribute to Maradona.

"The death of Maradona is terrible news. He was more than a champion, he was a football genius, an absolute champion," Spadafora said.

## Nunes, West leave for Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge on Sunday

Joseph Nunes and Travis West dubbed Team Antigua Pairs will leave the island on Sunday for England where they will overnight. They will then be subjected to a COVID-19 test before moving on to the Canary Islands to participate in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

Appearing on the Pointe FM's Touchline programme on Wednesday, Nunes said preparations have been hectic as there have been several unexpected

changes. New paperwork had to be completed because of the lockdown in England paired with the uncertainty that has accompanied the coronavirus pandemic.

"Things change every day," his teammate West said, "and it has hampered training somewhat, but we are prepared and ready for what lies ahead."

The pair will take a COVID-19 test on Thursday before leaving over the weekend.

Prime minister, the Hon. Gaston Browne,



Team Antigua Pairs Joseph Nunes and Travis West with Touchline hosts Veron Edwards and Vernon Springer

Minister of Sports, Darryll Matthew, Hon. E. P. Chet Greene and Hon. Max Fernandez all phoned in to Touchline to wish them the best as they leave on their

adventure. The last team from Antigua to take on the challenge were the Island Girls who became the first all-black team to row across the Atlantic.

# DEWS



# TOUCH LINE

with  
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**VERNON A. SPRINGER**



**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**7:00am - 8:30am**

