



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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Photo Caption: An empty classroom as schools across the country close over covid19 concerns.

Editorial: Testing, testing, testing!

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# TESTING, TESTING, TESTING!

There is now an understandable sense of urgency by most residents about the need to bring this present COVID-19 outbreak under control. Last month, the number of confirmed cases totalled over seventy, a single month record, and already the month of February is off to a quick start. At present, the total number of cases stands at an alarming eighty!

With a country the size of Antigua and Barbuda, just about every one now knows someone who has been affected by the virus. Yet there have been instances where some individuals continue to ignore the warnings and the advice to adhere to the health protocols. It is quite simple, if we are able to think of our family members who may be inadvertently placed at risk by our behaviour; this may in some ways help bring about the necessary change in our behaviour.

Just this week, institutions in both the public and private sectors have had to close down operations for days in some cases as these institutions dealt with the fallout of a person or people within their ranks who have been exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus. The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force,

the Seventh Day Adventists Schools, the Princess Margaret School and the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) are just a few, and now all public schools have been closed as a precautionary measure.

It is very likely that the number of institutions and businesses will continue to grow as more test results are returned with positive findings.

The government has instituted a number of measures, inclusive of targeted testing, to help contain the spread of the virus and while these are commendable, perhaps it should consider adding another to its arsenal: more randomized testing.

We welcomed the announcement that health-care professions, teachers, and police officers are among those already identified for testing. However, we would also suggest that this programme be expanded to include members of the wider society as well.

The programme of testing is an expensive undertaking and it is widely known that the government's resources have been stretched significantly, but it is also important to get a sense of just how widespread the infection is in the country.

This will better arm health authorities to take immediate action to limit the interaction of affected persons with others long before their status would have been known hitherto.

Despite the best efforts of those involved in contact tracing, it is widely felt that there are some people who deliberately or otherwise do not provide as accurate information as would be needed to do a proper job. Some of these statistics could be picked up from individuals who on their own are able to get tests done, and with this information they would be in a position to undergo quarantine as determined by the protocols.

The vaccine is some weeks, perhaps months, away. It is important that as a country we begin to turn the corner with this pandemic.

Utilizing the government's health infrastructure through the community health centers and clinics may be the silver bullet needed to finally bring the positivity rate and hospitalization down.

Until then, please, please for the sake of you, your family, and our country continue to be vigilant and respectful of the protocols that are put in place to protect us all.



# 80 active cases

The number of people with active COVID-19 disease now stands at 80 as the latest information from health officials announced nineteen new confirmed cases on Thursday.

The Ministry of Health said the latest results from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) have revealed nineteen new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Tuesday 2nd February with the cut off time of 6 p.m., one hundred and forty-seven (147) additional samples were processed by MSJMC, increasing the pending results from one hundred and ninety-eight (198) to three hundred and forty-five (345).

Of the one hundred and

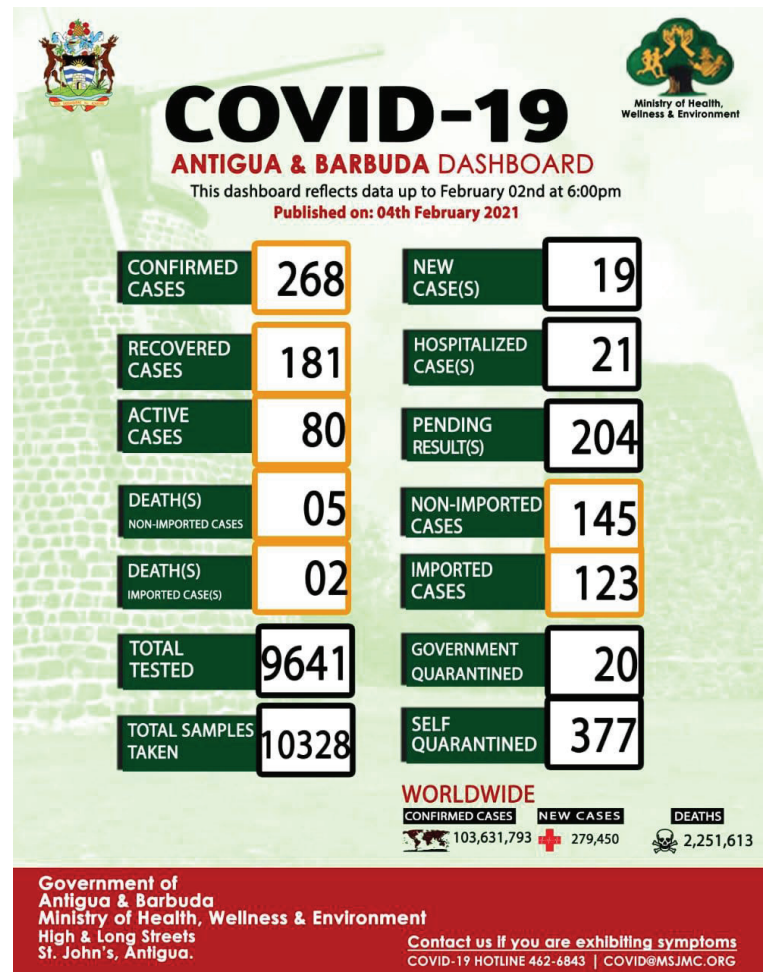
forty-seven (147) samples processed by MSJMC, one hundred and forty-one (141) were negative and six (6) positive; of the one hundred and ninety-eight (198) processed by CARPHA, one hundred and eighty-five (185) were negative and thirteen (13) positive.

Seventeen (17) cases are non-imported and two (2) imported. Investigations have begun and contact tracing and testing are ongoing.

The one hundred and forty-seven (147) samples from MSJMC are reflected in the total persons tested and total samples taken columns of the dashboard.

Meanwhile, two recoveries have been recorded, bringing that total to one hundred and eighty-one (181).

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Anti-



gua and Barbuda is two hundred and sixty-eight (268); which is inclusive of eighty (80) active cases.

This latest development is expected to have placed the country's health system under severe strain.

**BROWN AND BROWNE**  
PRIME MINISTER HON. GASTON BROWNE  
SATURDAYS 4PM  
SENATOR COLIN BROWNE  
CHANNEL 9

# Press Statement

## Issued by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda during its weekly meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd February 2021 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne, reviewed the regulations and guidelines enacted recently to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Antigua and Barbuda, made a number of changes to the protocols to further protect the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

Cabinet therefore decided on the following:

- a) All learning institutions, to include Pre-Schools, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary will move to remote learning with immediate effect for fourteen (14) days; in the first instance, resuming on February 22nd;
- b) Citizens and residents are reminded that government has instituted a waiver of duties and ABST on the importation of all computers and related devices for educational purposes;
- c) Funerals are limited to a maximum of twenty-five (25) persons with the exception of Official and State Funerals which are managed by the State;
- d) Persons sentenced to or placed on remand at Her Majesty's Prison or any other penal institution will be subjected to a COVID-19 test prior to their entry and upon their departure from the institution to protect the prison and general population;
- e) Only authorized and approved taxi operators will be allowed to collect visitors and returning nationals and residents from the V.C. Bird International Airport;
- f) The Government will further increase targeted COVID-19 testing across the state to include but not limited to teachers, nurses, airport workers, military and police officers;
- g) Government will move to appoint at least fifty (50) additional special constables to ensure stricter compliance with all COVID-19 protocols;
- h) The Cabinet reminds the general public of its responsibility to each other by adhering to the various protocols designed to manage the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Cabinet also reiterated that all should practise proper hand sanitization protocols, the wearing of mask and observing social distancing.



# MSJMC suspends all visitations

The country's main public hospital is suspending all visitation with immediate effect in a move designed to protect its patients and staff.

"Due to the rise in cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community, all visiting at Mount St. John's Medical Centre, except in specific special circumstances, is suspended, with effect from Friday February 5, 2021. We have taken this difficult and important decision to protect patients and staff," a statement from the institution explained.

MSJMC said it recognizes that this action may be upsetting for patients and their families; however, the restrictions are in place to reduce the number of people on units and departments, and to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Until further notice, visiting will only

be permitted in the following circumstances and a mask must be worn:

- For patients who are receiving end-of-life care or are terminally ill and in the late stages of their illness
- For birthing partners in maternity units – during active labour
- For one parent or legal guardian to room-in (with child) in the pediatric unit – From 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- For patients who are minors in the Emergency Department – One parent or guardian will be allowed to visit
- For long-stay patients and those with dementia or where best interest decisions or exceptional clinical/social matters are being discussed, at the discretion of the nurse manager.

The hospital said free internet is

available for all patients. It is encouraging all patients to keep in touch with friends and relatives using their own phone.

"In order to minimize the foot traffic throughout the hospital, anyone attending an outpatient or diagnostic appointment, or coming to our Emergency Department is asked to do so alone, unless they need to be accompanied by a caregiver. People coming to the hospital are reminded to use our hand hygiene and temperature stations when entering and leaving, wear a face covering and maintain physical distancing," the statement further explained.

Visitors are reminded that when in the hospital, they must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth at all times.

## Local bank donates to cancer awareness



Left to right: Ms. Salma Crump, Mrs. Eunetta Bird, Mrs. Ladesa James-Williams and Ms. Natasha Charles.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have curtailed CIBC FirstCaribbean's Annual Walk for the Cure last year, but thousands of dollars were still raised.

The pandemic forced the organisers to hit the road in a completely different way for the ninth year of cancer awareness and fundraising with a 'Drive for the Cure' replacing the traditional Walk for the Cure, last October.

A cheque in the amount of EC\$46,230.00 was present-

ed to the Breast Friends Organisation and the Oncology Department of Mount St. John's Medical Centre, to be divided equally.

Speaking during the presentation, the bank's country manager, Ladesa James-Williams, said that the bank is committed to continuing the campaign to raise awareness of cancer and funds to support survivors and families.

International Cancer Day was observed on 4th February, 2021.

# GOT NEWS?

Send your news stories to  
[news@pointville.ag](mailto:news@pointville.ag)

# Schools shut down again due to pandemic

**By Shelton Daniel**

Schools across Antigua and Barbuda have again been shut down in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

It is the second time learning institutions throughout the twin-island state have been shuttered since COVID-19 made its confirmed arrival here in late March 2020.

But, following a major spike in cases since the New Year began – including those requiring hospitalization; and an increase in the number of fatalities – the Cabinet of Prime Minister Gaston Browne decided that a shutdown of all schools, at least for the next two weeks, is necessary.

It followed intense deliberations between the members of Cabinet and several invited officials from the education and health

departments “to properly examine the issue of closure of schools.”

According to the post-Cabinet briefing notes, these officials included “the Chief Medical Officer, the Director of Education, the Head of the Teachers Union, the Principal of the Princess Margaret School, the Consultant Pathologist/Head of the Laboratory at the Mount St. John’s Medical Center, the Representative of Private Schools, the Nurse/Epidemiologist, the Epidemiologist/Statistician and one other official.”

It said this interaction between the Cabinet and the health/education officials “examined the impact which closure of schools would have on single-parent households, on families, on the teachers, the cleaning staff, the communities in which the students live, and other unintended

consequences of closure.” The period of closure is from Thursday 4th February 2021 and the date of resumption is Monday 22nd February 2021.

“While the school compounds are to be closed, exceptions for entry will be made for teachers (and administrators) who have a need for use of the school’s devices and Internet services, in order to conduct online learning. Exceptions will also be granted to students who may have the need to complete SBAs and do not have the required infrastructure at their homes, in order to complete those necessary assignments,” the notes added.

It said Cabinet further “reminded the education officials that customs duties and ABST have been waived on the importation of computers and

required devices for educational purposes.” To this end, it stated, “more than 5,000 laptops have been ordered by the state and will arrive as soon as supplies become available.”

During the post-Cabinet media briefing on Thursday morning, Information Minister Melford Nicholas indicated that teachers would be among those included in the frontline of priority for receiving COVID vaccines when they become available locally.

“Given the issue and the fallout that we have had in a certain number of schools – the Princess Margaret being the most prominent – we are likely to make the vaccines ... well, in the first instance, we are going to be employing some testing across the board for all of the teachers in the schools ...”

## Government senators ‘give back’



**Left to right: Senators Osbert Fredrick, Colin O’Neal, Eustace ‘Teko’ Lake and Phillip Shoul.**

Four members of the Senate on the government benches have

come together and have jointly made a donation of items to the Fiennes

Institute, the government-operated elderly care facility.

Senators Osbert Fredrick, Colin O’Neal, Eustace ‘Teko’ Lake, and Phillip Shoul made a donation of several boxes of adult diapers, milk and cheese to the institution.

In a brief presentation on Thursday, Senator Fredrick said the senators decided to come together and undertake this charitable mission as their way of ‘giving back’ to the society.

“Before we made the donation, we called Wal-

ton Edwards, Master of Fiennes, and asked what are the items most in need at the institution. Based on his recommendation we purchased the items. We are making the presentation today, but we are also giving a commitment to be back in six weeks, making another presentation,” he stated.

Edwards accepted the donation from the senators and expressed gratitude on behalf of the residents, several of whom were present at the brief ceremony.



# Ease on further lockups and increase of fines...Special Constables to be recruited

**By Shelton Daniel**

Cabinet has given the thumbs down to a proposal from Attorney General Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin for an increase of the fines applied to those who break state of emergency laws such as the observing the curfew hours and wearing face masks when in public.

During an interview on state television earlier this week, Benjamin, who is also the Minister for Public Safety, expressed frustration with the stubbornness displayed by many who fail to adhere to the 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew, flout social distancing, dispense with face masks or wear them improperly, and also congregate in numbers in excess of regulated limits.

Benjamin promised then that he would be proposing an increase in the current level of fines as a stronger deterrent to such obduracy which is blamed, among other things, for a significant increase in the number of coronavirus infections since the start of 2021.

During the post-Cabinet media briefing

on Thursday morning, Information Minister Melford Nicholas explained why the suggestion was shot down.

"We considered it but we did not increase the fines. We believe that there [are] sufficient negative reasons why people would not want to pay any fines, for that matter, given the financial situation that most individuals and families find themselves in. So, it's a question of enforcement ..."

The Cabinet also decided on a new approach when it comes to detaining or incarcerating persons who have been arrested and charged for violating COVID State of Emergency regulations. Further lockups have been suspended and those charged will be ticketed instead. As stated in the post-Cabinet briefing notes, "The Cabinet also decided that those persons who would normally be detained for curfew violations are to be issued tickets rather than be confined to small spaces at the police stations."

During the subsequent media briefing, Information Minister Melford Nicholas elaborated further on

this. "On one occasion where the police used a Coaster Bus [to accost and round up] a number of persons for breaking curfew - that in itself creates an inadvertent cluster. So if there was one [infected] person among that [group] and the other nineteen were not yet affected, we could have inadvertently created a situation where we - by virtue of enforcement on one side - created a cluster and caused an undesirable outcome. And so, the notion of using ticketing is to ensure that there are no unnecessary clusters built up into the areas of the police department where they normally detain persons."

Asked about the possibility of persons who have been charged failing to pay the tickets, or to do so on time, Nicholas said there was "recourse to further penalties that would involve imprisonment" whose risks could be mitigated by testing before and after entry into penal facilities.

Pressed by one reporter that persons might deliberately violate the curfew, knowing that even if they failed to pay the fines,

the authorities would still be reluctant to lock them up for fear of creating risky custodial clusters, Nicholas warned that persons so minded should "not test the government's resolve" as "it would not be so difficult to [procure] other places of confinement. They would go to prison in those circumstances if they defy the regulations."

Cabinet has also decided, Nicholas noted, "to employ a number of persons to assist the police in observing and certainly surveilling, and helping with the whole question of enforcement ... The decision to engage the services of what we would have as special constables, the Attorney General has been asked to recruit these persons."

Explaining further, Nicholas said "these persons would be civilians who are part of the established Government services. Where they may not be fully occupied and we believe we can divert some of those resources, give them the necessary training and equip them under the law to be able to support the police in these measures."

# Government House responds to misinformation on social media



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

Government House has issued a statement to clarify what it says is 'confusion' being created on social media regarding a photo published in a local paper this week to commemorate the attainment of one hundred and one years by a centenarian.

"The Office of the Governor General is particularly disturbed by the confusion being spread by persons on social media to a recent article in a local newspaper which featured the 101st birthday celebration of one of our elderly treasures - a centenarian," the statement noted.

It said the article included a photograph with a caption which clearly states:

"Mr. Limerick with Governor General Sir Rodney Williams on his 100th Birthday".

This is a reference to an event which took place one year ago, 1st February 2020.

The Government House statement drew attention to the fact that the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a

pandemic on 11th March 2020 and Antigua and Barbuda declared a State of Emergency on 25th March 2020.

"To suggest that the Governor General is not wearing a face mask while visiting a centenarian when face masks were not required at the time when the photo was taken, is not only mischievous and misleading but highly irresponsible. This is particularly troubling since the Governor General made a conscious decision not to visit any centenarian during the State of Emergency in light of the elderly being in a high risk category for contracting the disease," the statement continued.

It further noted that this is the type of miscommunication that breeds anxiety and confusion among residents in Antigua and Barbuda.

The statement said this activity is unacceptable, noting that this is not the time to jest. "This is the time to protect ourselves and to be our brothers' keeper by acting responsibly," the statement concluded.



## STARTING POINTE

with

# Shelton Daniel

## MONDAY TO FRIDAY

**8:30am-10:30am**





POINTE FM

99.1 FM





DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
NEVIS ST. | ST. JOHN'S | ANTIGUA  
268 462 5644

## MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
PAUSE TO BID FAREWELL TO **TYRON “SCALY” MASON**

***For Immediate Release – Wednesday 03<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021 (St. John's, Antigua)...*** It is with deepest sorrow that the Department of Culture is once again bidding farewell to one of Antigua and Barbuda's extra-ordinary musicians.

Mr. Tyron Mason also known as “Scaly” built upon a musical platform that was originally cemented by his Father - Cultural Icon Oscar Mason. His contribution to music here in Antigua and Barbuda and especially his involvement with Carnival left an indelible mark on the many productions that he participated in and paved the way as a leading saxophonist and musician. He was a member of the Mason Brothers Band, All Star band and other bands that have provided musical support to Calypso and Soca artistes for many decades. Antigua and Barbuda, the region and the World has lost another great soul.

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Department of Culture, we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends and the music fraternity on the passing of Tyrone Mason. May he rest in perpetual peace and may the legacy of his contributions live on eternally.

# CARICOM united voice urgent in COVID Vaccine Crisis

*(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)*

Developing countries, including the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are being left behind in the roll-out of vaccinations against COVID-19 that is now underway in rich countries.

The most recent information from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is that 36 countries in the Americas, including the 14 independent CARICOM States, have been notified that, between the end of February and August 2021, they will be receiving only a small percentage of AstraZeneca vaccines that they ordered and for which, in some cases, they have already paid under a World Health Organization (WHO) arrangement called COVAX.

According to a COVAX statement, it is estimated that around 35.3 million doses will be arriving in the Americas in this first stage – a drop in the bucket or just 5% of the 630 million people of the area from Mexico to Argentina, including the Caribbean.

There is also no indication of what happens after August, but what is clear

is that these countries will not get enough vaccines to inoculate their populations in 2021.

For developing countries taken collectively, the situation is even more dire. Reports indicate that 90% of persons in developing countries will not have access to any COVID vaccine in 2021, and that rich nations, representing less than 15% of the world's population, have already purchased more than 50% of the most promising vaccines.

PAHO Director, Carissa Etienne, has made it clear that "with more than 45 million confirmed cases and more than one million deaths, countries and territories throughout the Americas, particularly the poorest among them, are experiencing an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis."

This is a matter that demands an urgent response from all developed countries acting in concert.

There has been no such collective response to date, and no obvious machinery for doing so. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which once spoke effectively for developing states, is now a shadow of the powerful body it was at its formation under the leadership of India, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia and Yugoslavia.

The global south is voice-



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

less as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to infect and kill millions of people and decimate economies and livelihoods.

There is also no unified response from the 36 countries of the Americas, including CARICOM, although they collectively need to immunize approximately 500 million people to control the pandemic – and they need to do so fast.

A research study, sponsored by the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research in Massachusetts, states that: "In monopolizing the supply of vaccines against COVID-19, wealthy nations are threatening more than a humanitarian catastrophe: The resulting economic devastation will hit affluent countries nearly as hard as those in the developing world". The study, entitled "The Economic Case for Global Vaccinations: An

*cont'd on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

Epidemiological Model with International Production Networks", also points out that even if wealthy countries are fully vaccinated by the middle of this year, and poor countries remain largely shut out, "the global economy would suffer losses exceeding \$9 trillion, a sum greater than the annual output of Japan and Germany combined".

Developed countries are, therefore, not immune from the consequences of failing to help inoculate developing countries. This is now the world's problem, and the world should be tackling it. However, that is not happening. Instead, we have seen a rush to "COVID nationalism", with the richest and most powerful nations focusing only on themselves. If this continues, there will be a terrible price to pay.

At a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on January 27, after a presentation by PAHO officials on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which I described as 'chilling', I called for

action in all international fora, including the OAS, to tackle the problem of neglected countries urgently.

Encouraged by CARICOM Ambassadorial colleagues in Washington, Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the OAS drafted a Resolution on the urgency of delivering vaccines to the 36 developing countries in the Americas, including CARICOM States. That draft resolution, once agreed by CARICOM countries, will be put to the OAS for adoption.

The resolution will, among other things, request those member states with the capacity to do so, to take actions to facilitate equitable distribution of vaccines globally and in the Hemisphere. It will also encourage the International Financial Institutions to provide low-cost funding to all developing countries, particularly small states, to help address the subjugation of the coronavirus and the rebuilding of economies.

This is not a matter for the OAS only. CARICOM states, in their own inter-

ests, should be raising their voices everywhere, including at the Summit of the Americas, scheduled for this year with the participation of the U.S. President and the Prime Minister of Canada.

No meeting of the leaders of the Americas, convened in this epoch of the COVID-19 pandemic with all the evidence of the millions of lives it has taken, and the decimation of economies and the livelihoods of people, can responsibly ignore its far-reaching consequences.

Leaders of the Americas have to give their peoples concrete plans to contain the virus and to restore vibrant economies. They have to give their nations good reasons for optimism and confidence that their lives can be made better. To do so, they must also commit to helping their neighbours. For no one is safe until all are safe.

CARICOM countries must also act collectively to argue for their joint survival.

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



**TALKING POINT**

DR. MASERATI

TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
10:30AM TO 1:30PM

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE



**Dr. Eldean Eudelle**

# A doctor's plea

Dr. Eldean Eudelle

protocols set by the government. We need to learn to adapt. So yes, schools will be closed, a measure that the government deemed vital in its efforts to fight the transmission of this disease. Many other countries have adapted to home schooling. Educational systems have revamped their curriculum to cater to virtual classrooms. Why can we not adapt?

Adapting is not easy. No one can ever tell you that it is. But we must make efforts to. Parents, you must remember that school was not just a place where underpaid educators were to baby sit your children. Now you have to adapt to having your children at home and seeing to it and encouraging them to adapt to these new means of learning. While we adapt and embrace our new reality, we must have faith that the government will do all in its efforts to assist the people of this twin island nation to adapt too.

I am tired of hearing people talk of returning to normal. But a future with an enduring coronavirus means that normal no longer exists. As we find different ways to adapt and discover what works, that is how we are going to start reclaiming parts of our

society and life as we adapt and embrace our new reality. What is needed are more sophisticated testing strategies that can increase our speed and ability to detect surges in the virus. We might need to establish a handful of sites that test only patients who have developed symptoms in the last four days, to increase sensitivity to sudden increases in transmission. We need testing strategies that allow you to put on brakes quickly enough to stop surges.

OBGYN is my specialty area and I think that maybe eventually we should have universal testing for pregnant women to measure the asymptomatic spread of the virus among people who have been infected but do not show symptoms. Women could be an ideal sample testing population because they already visit hospitals and clinics for delivery and maternity check-ups.

I recently read that one hospital in New York tested every pregnant woman who came in to deliver and found fifteen per cent had the coronavirus. Most of those testing positive, eighty-eight per cent, showed no symptoms, a sign of how crucial such test-

My fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, there is a good chance the coronavirus will never go away. Even after a vaccine is discovered and deployed, the coronavirus will likely remain for decades to come, circulating among the world's population.

Such diseases are endemic, stubbornly resisting efforts to stamp them out. Think measles, HIV, chickenpox.

It is a daunting proposition, a coronavirus-tinged world without a foreseeable end.

With so much else uncertain, the persistence of the novel virus is one of the few things we can count on about the future. That does not mean the situation will always be as dire. There are already four endemic coronaviruses that circulate continuously, causing the common cold. This vi-

rus may just become the fifth, its effects growing milder as immunity spreads and our bodies adapt to it over time.

For now, though, most people have not been infected and remain susceptible. And the highly transmissible disease has surged in recent weeks even in countries that initially succeeded in suppressing it. Left alone, it will simply keep burning through the world's population.

This virus is here to stay. The question is, how do we live with it safely?

Combating endemic diseases requires long-range thinking, sustained effort and international coordination. Stamping out the virus could take decades, if it happens at all. Such efforts take time, money and, most of all, political will. We need to be patient. Follow all the



ing could be.

We need to adapt. As we adapt we need to think of our mental health too. Living long-term with the virus also means addressing the mental health effects. There is an assumption that increases in depression and anxiety are a temporary problem that will eventually disappear along with the virus. But for some people, the trauma, fear and stress will accumulate and fester like a wound if left unaddressed. The psychological recovery is going to be as important as economic and logistical parts of this.

This yearning of ours for a quick fix has

turned in recent weeks toward a vaccine, now being portrayed as a solution that will quash the virus once and for all.

But the world has achieved that only once, with smallpox, a measure of just how difficult it is for vaccines to wipe out diseases. And it took nearly two centuries after the discovery of a vaccine, and an unprecedented international effort to vanquish smallpox, which stole hundreds of millions of lives.

The coronavirus could become relatively benign, causing milder infections as our immune systems develop a mem-

ory of responses to it through previous infection or vaccination. But that process could take years.

It is sad to say this, but I believe many of you will not make the shift toward long-range thinking until the virus spreads more widely and affects someone you know. It is like people who drive too fast. They come upon the scene of an accident, and for a little while, they drive more carefully, but soon they are back to speeding again. Contrast that with people who have lost someone to drunk driving: it mobilizes them and becomes a cause for them. Even-

tually, everyone is going to know someone who got infected or died from this virus. That is what it may take.

Did you know my mother? My mom died on 3rd April 2020. COVID-19 took her from me. The fight against COVID-19 has become my cause!

My fellow Antiguan and Barbudans: Wear your masks! Practice social distancing! Wash your hands! Avoid contact with other persons if you feel you were exposed

Let us adapt together! Let us embrace our new reality! Together we can!

God bless us all.



The Antigua Public Utilities Authority's Telecommunications Business Unit is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the following positions:

## SALES CONTROLLER

The Sales Controller is responsible for leading the Corporate and Retail sales teams and functions. This includes setting sales quotas, creating sales plans, analyzing data, managing the relationships with key corporate customers, monitoring sales zones and building the sales teams through training, mentoring and implementing performance interventions to maximize their potential for success.

### KEY TASKS INCLUDE:

- Meeting marketing and sales financial objectives by forecasting requirements, preparing budgets & scheduling expenditures, analyzing variances and initiating corrective actions;
- Developing sales plans by forecasting and developing sales quotas, projecting sales volumes and profit for existing and new products, analyzing trends, establishing pricing strategies while monitoring costs, competition, supply and demand;
- Completing sales audits, identifying trends, determining improvements and recommending changes;
- Achieving marketing and sales objectives by planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating advertising, merchandising, and trade promotion programs including developing field sales action plans;
- Developing and sustaining rapport with key accounts by creating and maintaining a portfolio of corporate customers; exploring their specific usage patterns to recommend service plans that best fit their needs while anticipating new opportunities for business;
- Managing the relationships with outside vendors and re-sellers of our products and services;
- Managing the remuneration schemes and performance of sales teams including setting & monitoring of targets, issuing assignments & sales calls, formally assessing performance of teams and individuals routinely;
- Preparing comprehensive monthly reports to include growth trends, customer churn & receivables by product line.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- People Management, Telecom and/or Marketing Industry experience;
- University Degree in Marketing, Business Management (or related field).

### KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Experience in planning and implementing sales strategies and customer relationship management;
- Proven leadership experience managing and directing a sales team with the ability to inspire and motivate them to achieve targets;
- Dedication to providing outstanding customer experiences.

## CORPORATE SALES REPRESENTATIVES

The Corporate Sales Representatives utilize various sales strategies to attract new business clients to meet our customer acquisition & revenue growth objectives. This includes generating sales leads, qualifying prospective customers, working with our channel partners and ultimately selling APUA Telecommunications products and services.

### KEY TASKS INCLUDE:

- "Getting the sale" using various customer sales methods (Referrals, cold calling, presentations etc.);
- Developing a trusted advisor relationship with key accounts, customer stakeholders and executive sponsors;
- Meeting personal and team sales targets; forecasting sales, sales strategies/models and evaluating effectiveness;
- Evaluating customer's needs and building long lasting relationships;
- Ensuring the timely and successful delivery of our solutions according to customer needs and objectives;
- Identifying opportunities within assigned territory and collaborating with sales teams to ensure growth attainment;
- Reporting and providing feedback to management using financial statistical data.

### THE IDEAL CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE/BE:

- Proven sales experience and knowledge of APUA Telecoms products and services;
- Knowledge of sales techniques, pipeline management and sales software;
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills;
- Self-motivated & driven - ability to deliver results without supervision;
- A valid driver's license and vehicle to perform duties.

### INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO APPLY IN WRITING TO:

The Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
Crn. High Street & Independence Drive  
PO BOX 416  
St. John's, Antigua  
OR email - [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2021

\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\*



# Antiguan artiste, Zamoni, continues to make big strides the music arena



Members of YZG Records, (left to right) Jay Abnormal, Jahny Gwaap, Zamoni, DoubleM, Lani

Antiguan singer Zamoni Martin—who goes by the stage name 'Zamoni'—has no intention of disappointing his fans.

The singer, most known in Antigua for his soca hits, has been keeping busy and has many accomplishments to show for it.

In December, Zamoni signed three local artistes to his five-year-old record label, YZG Records. They are Jay Abnormal, Lani, and Jahny Gwaap.

The three now join Zamoni and his brother DoubleM—who started the label—on their journey towards success in the music industry.

Zamoni explained how YZG records came about saying, "We started a movement called YZ gang (which stands for Yungstarz), having the possibility

to move mountains if they stand strong, united and focused."

He expounded on the introduction of the three new talents saying that, "After years in the industry and learning the know-hows, we just said instead of just building us let's build our friends with the same interest and same mindset as us, instead of someone taking advantage of them in this cold industry."

"The focus is on having a force from Antigua to make an impact internationally then we can focus on outside acts," he added as he emphasized that the current focus is on Antiguan artistes who are "different and special" in their field.

Also, in Zamoni's catalogue of recent achievements is his drill style song

'Lit' which features popular Vincentian singer and songwriter Problem Child.

In just a month, the song has garnered 15,000 views on YouTube alone and about 30,000 on all platforms.

Zamoni shared that it is "slowly being added to international playlists."

Another major hit is his song 'Rodeo' with Dripilot which was featured on American rapper The Game's recent mixtape.

'Rodeo' has been streamed about 400,000 times collectively.

Zamoni's EP 'Wishful Thinking,' which made its way unto Switzerland's Hot 100 Charts, is also continuing to progress steadily.

The talented 'Don't Look Back' singer who currently resides in Switzerland has many more interesting col-

labs in the pipeline.

He said: "I've been more focused on the western international market, meaning dabbling in different genres. Also, on pushing my brand to make a global impact."

"This year is all about branding for me. Making the world know who we are. Putting myself and my team in an international position whether in music, acting or modelling," he revealed.

"For this year look forward for more music, from me and all the artistes under the YZG umbrella!" he exclaimed.

His fans can also expect the release of his 'Wishful Thinking' album later this year with local, regional, and international collabs as well as a few soca releases.



# Canadian of Antiguan roots lands high profile job in that country's music industry



**Craig 'Big C' Mannix**

Universal Music Canada (UMC), the country's leading music company, has announced the appointment of **Craig 'Big C' Mannix** to the role of Senior Director, Urban Marketing.

With an impressive track record and decades of experience across almost every facet of the music business, Mannix is the first new hire focused on urban marketing for UMC's domestically signed urban repertoire.

"At the start of my career at Virgin Records, I had the opportunity to work with and learn from 'Big C'. I've always wanted to reunite though it had to

be at the right time and for the right reason - in support of our incredible Canadian artists on the world's stage," said **Jeffrey Remedios**, Chairman and CEO, Universal Music Canada. "With Craig's wealth of insight, creativity and experience rooted in every element of the music business, that time has now come as he builds and leads with us in this important space."

Reporting to JP Boucher, Vice President Marketing, Mannix will work across UMC departments in partnership with artists and their teams to create the vision for artist's projects, developing strong

domestic and global campaigns designed to engage fans within Canada and around the world.

"I'm honoured to be joining Universal Music Canada and to be a part of a team that is dedicated to giving Black Music and Black Music culture the respect and focus that it needs to grow within the Canadian market and beyond," said Mannix.

Most recently, Mannix served as an A&R manager at Sony Music Entertainment Canada. Previously, he owned and operated a lifestyle marketing agency called Offshoot Communications for fifteen years where he

worked with Nike, Adidas and Nokia on product placement and marketing. He also helped guide the direction of iconic lifestyle brands such as LRG, Fresh Jive and Casio G-Shock.

In addition to his work in music, he is a founding member of Advance, Canada's Black Music business collective and sits on the Board of Directors for the Remix Project.

Mannix is the son of Florence Isaac of Coolidge and the late Eddie Mannix of Coolidge. While he was born in Canada, Mannix attended school in Antigua. He is a former student of the Sunnyside Tutorial High School.

# SVG MP calls on gov't to free ganja prisoners; wipe records

**(lwnsvg):** Member of Parliament for South Leeward, Nigel "Nature" Stephenson is calling on the government to free the country's ganja prisoners and expunge their criminal record.

"If you're really so concerned about these people, find a mechanism. Some of these persons can be pardoned. After all, they wanted the same thing that you want — gold. Whether it's a pot or pan, they wanted money. And that is where the government is also in this industry," Stephenson told the budget debate on Tuesday.

He said he made the case during parliamentary discussion in 2019 for the wiping of the record of persons who plant, smoke, or sell marijuana so that they could get a clean police record when seeking employment.

Stephenson said that this should be done as the state itself is now benefitting from the medical marijuana industry through the granting of licenses, and other fees.

"And I was told that there are enough rules on the books already for that. But since we are going there as a government to benefit from something that these people have sacrificed so much for,



South Leeward MP, Nigel "Nature" Stephenson

why not reach out to them?" he said.

"And I'm asking and I'm making a very strong plea on the behalf of those persons, who are involved in the marijuana trade. I'm making a very strong request of this government because I've heard that those persons who are locked up at present for marijuana now, surely they were not an incubator of the coronavirus. But the coronavirus reached them in prison," he said.

Stephenson told Parliament he was not sure which figure to believe about the amount of money that the government has earned from the medical marijuana industry.

"Because I've heard in this house before that, from licenses for cannabis, I've heard figures between \$15 and \$17 million in revenue received from licenses and other fees — application fees. But

in this year's budget, I'm hearing just a little over \$5 million. But you're gonna have to work that out," he said.

"But the point I want to make here is that \$5 million would do a hell of a lot of good for our traditional farmers."

He said that Minister of Agriculture Saboto Caesar is an integral part of this, having marketed the nation to foreign investors as an ideal place to grow medical cannabis because we have over 50 years of experience.

"Who have the over 50 years of experience? The traditional farmers," Stephenson said.

"Those who, over the years, have had to leave the comfort of their own homes because the economics of circumstances largely were not ideal. They can't find jobs.

"Some of them have been socially excluded

and birds of a feather flock together. They find like minds and go into the hills and they plant this marijuana. Well, nowadays, people call it cannabis. But them fellas know is marijuana. So when I talk about medical cannabis, or medical marijuana; same difference.

"But the people who have kept that going for all these years making the sacrifices leaving their homes, sleeping in tents, and shanties, dodging bullets from police, jumping off a cliff like Tarzan on ropes to keep this industry going for over 50 years, those, I have been arguing, are the people who should be considered first in any legal marijuana farming."

He said it is not that traditional farmers enjoy engaging in illegal activity.

"But they are forced to do so. They took their chances. Now the government sees an opportunity where they can make whether it's 15 million, 16 million, or \$5 million that we heard about last night. Whatever it is, they are now building an industry on the sweat, blood and tears of the traditional farmers because a lot of them died perpetuating that method of farming."



# Guyana terminates agreement with Taiwan

(CMC): The government of Guyana on Thursday announced the termination of an agreement with Taiwan to establish an investment office in the country.

The announcement was made less than a day after Taiwan said that it had an investment office in Georgetown.

This led to questions surrounding Guyana's commitment to the One China Policy and its diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said the decision to terminate the agreement was as a consequence of "miscommunication."



Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd

"The Government of Guyana has noted various media releases on the matter of a Taiwan Office in Guyana. The Government of Guyana wishes to clarify that it continues to adhere to the One China policy and its diplomat-

ic relations remain intact with the People's Republic of China. The Government has not established any diplomatic ties or relations with Taiwan and as a result of the miscommunication of the agreement signed, this agreement has since

been terminated," it said.

On Wednesday, the United States Embassy in Georgetown announced the establishment of a Taiwan office and welcomed the move as Washington has long expressed growing concern about China's deepening influence in the Caribbean and Latin America.

While there had been no formal announcement by the Foreign Ministry in Georgetown, Taiwan said it signed the agreement on 11th January and started operations on 15th January.

Historically, Guyana has supported China and the "One China" policy - which does not recognize Taiwan as an independent state.

## Integration movement working

(CARICOM Today): St. Kitts and Nevis Ambassador to CARICOM, Lionel Sydney Osborne, said that the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) is working and it has had a significant impact on the lives of the people of the region in general and St. Kitts and Nevis in particular.

Speaking on the weekly radio and television show 'Working for You', Osborne listed the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and IMPACS (Implementation Agency for Crime and Security) as some of the (Institutions) of CARICOM that have had major

successes in the region.

"In terms of health, and more specifically, now you have the Caribbean Public Health Agency and one understands the importance of CARPHA in terms of the discussions that we must have globally and regionally," said Ambassador Osborne, who also heads the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Ambassador Osborne said that CARPHA represents the Federation and all of the Caribbean. With the present COVID-19 pandemic, the health agency has been actively engaged internationally in ensur-

ing that the Caribbean Community has equitable access to the vaccines that have come on stream.

He said that the CXC plays a vital role in the education of Caribbean students with regional exams at the secondary and tertiary levels, while the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) has played a major role in making an immediate and coordinated response by means of emergency disaster relief to an affected Participating State in times of natural and man-made disasters.

IMPACS he said, "is an umbrella organization

that revolves around all of us so that we are not standing alone in terms of dealing with matters of security and crime."

Additionally, Ambassador Osborne spoke about CARIFESTA's (Caribbean Festival of Arts) unifying role in the development of the various art forms within the Community. He also mentioned CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute). The CARDI helps in the increase in food supply to the region, food and nutrition security, reduction in hunger and poverty, and the stability of the region's agricultural sector.

# Republic Financial registers \$58.4 million in profit

**(Barbados Today):** Republic Financial Holdings Ltd. (RFHL) has recorded a profit of US\$58.4 million for the quarter ending 31st December 2020.

Announcing the results this week, Chairman of RFHL Vincent Pereira said he expected continued pressure on the Group's performance, but he remained confident that the financial institution would be able to meet the challenges.

"The uncertainty over the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and the timing of any economic recovery will continue to place downward pressure on our performance.

"However, we remain confident of the future as our strong capital base and our robust governance structure will provide the platform to meet the challenge.

"Our focus remains on building the Group's resiliency through various initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, supporting our customers through these trying times, expanding our suite of electronic products and making it easier for clients to access these products remotely," said Pereira.

He said compared to the first quarter of 2020, last quarter's results re-

flected the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic "since we experienced

a reduction in both our net interest margins and fees and commissions".

"This was off-set by the positive impact of our acquisition of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) operations in June 2020. The net result is an increase of US\$2.6 million or 4.6 per cent over the corresponding period last year," he added.

Total assets stood at US\$15.6 billion at 31st December 2020, an increase of US\$380.8 million or 2.5 per cent over the total assets at December 2019. This increase was mainly due to the BVI acquisition in June last year.

Pereira said "going forward, we will continue to work with our customers, provide a safe working environment for our employees and assist the communities we serve via our Power To Make a Difference Programme."

The Power to Make a Difference Programme is a social investment initiative which generally seeks to enhance the quality of life of disadvantaged individuals and groups in societies in which Republic Bank Limited and its subsidiaries operate.

## STEPS TO MINIMIZE RISK OF COVID-19



In response to Public Health direction, we have taken these steps:

✓ Screen employees daily for any of these symptoms:

fever OR shortness of breath OR cough Other symptoms:  
• chills  
• muscle pain  
• sore throat  
• loss of taste or smell



Send sick employees home.



Make hand washing and hand sanitizer available.



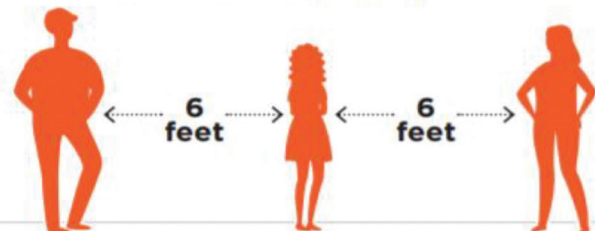
Clean and sanitize surfaces frequently.



Limit face-to-face contact to under 10 minutes.



Remind customers to stand at least 6 feet apart while waiting to order or for pick-up.



Thank you for helping prevent the spread of COVID-19.



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



# Facebook faces reckoning in Myanmar after blocked by military

**(Reuters):** The Myanmar military's shutdown of Facebook access following the ouster of the democratically elected Aung San Suu Kyi caps years of tension between the social media company and the most powerful institution in a nation where Facebook is used by half the population.

The junta on Wednesday banned Facebook Inc until at least Sunday, after the regime's opponents began using it to organize. A new civil disobedience page had gained nearly 200,000 followers and the support of Burmese celebrities in the days after the coup, while a related hashtag was used millions of times.

"The Tatmadaw sees Facebook as their internet

nemesis because it's the dominant communication channel in the country, and has been hostile to the military," Human Rights Watch Asia Deputy Director Phil Robertson told Reuters, referring to the country's army.

"Since the Burmese people are rapidly moving online to organize a massive civil disobedience campaign, shuttering access becomes a top priority."

A company spokeswoman on Thursday urged Myanmar authorities to restore access to Facebook and WhatsApp to the country's fifty-four million residents.

Facebook will have to decide how to play the delicate balance of protecting the democratic pol-

iticians and activists versus cooperating with the new regime to get services restored—an especially acute example of the political dilemmas the company faces worldwide.

In nearby Vietnam, for example, Facebook recently acquiesced to government demands that it censor more political criticism to avoid a blockade.

The service has mostly avoided shutdowns outside of countries such as China, where it has long been blocked, but currently faces pressure in India, Turkey and elsewhere.

In Myanmar, where the company has a small team, Facebook in recent years has engaged with civil rights activists and democratic political parties and

pushed back against the military after coming under heavy international criticism for failing to contain online hate campaigns.

In 2018, it banned army chief Min Aung Hlaing - now Myanmar's military ruler - and nineteen other senior officers and organizations, and took down hundreds of pages and accounts run by military members for coordinated inauthentic behaviour.

Ahead of the Myanmar's November election, Facebook announced it had taken down a network of seventy fake accounts and pages operated by members of the military that had posted either positive content about the army or criticism of Suu Kyi and her party.

# US missionary gets fifteen years for sex abuse at Kenya orphanage

**(AP):** A Christian missionary from Pennsylvania expressed remorse as he was sentenced to more than fifteen years in federal prison Thursday for sexually assaulting girls at a Kenyan orphanage he led.

Gregory Dow, sixty-one, of Lancaster, and his family started the Dow Family Children's Home near Boito, Kenya, in 2008 and operated it for about a decade.

Some of his funding came from US churches and faith-based groups.

Federal prosecutors say he returned home in 2017 when Kenyan authorities began investigating sexual abuse allegations.

The FBI said he abused four girls, including two who were eleven when the abuse began.

Prosecutors said his wife even took his victims to a medical clinic for birth control im-

plants, "which allowed Dow to perpetuate his crimes without fear of impregnating his victims."

Dow pleaded guilty to the four-count indictment last year.

"Under the guise of faith-based charity work benefitting orphaned children, Gregory Dow travelled halfway around the world to prey on incredibly vulnerable victims," said Acting US Attorney Jen-

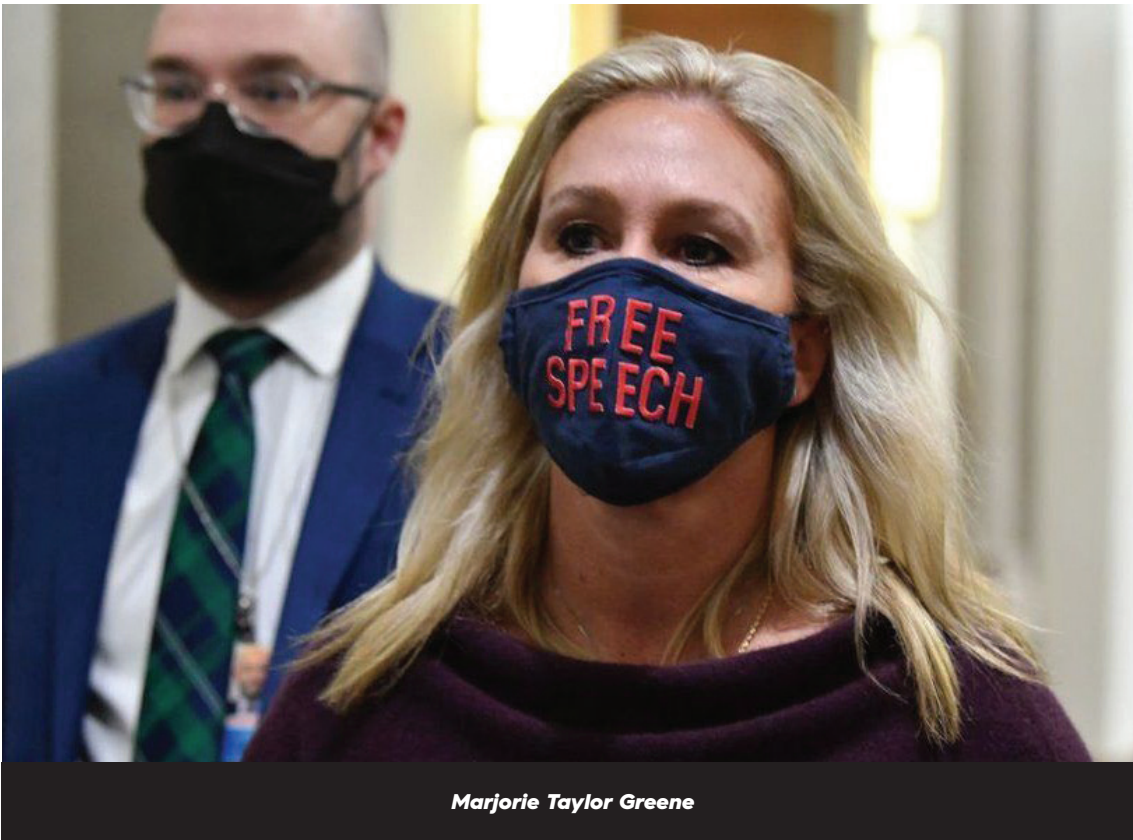
nifer Arbittier Williams.

"His crimes are nearly incomprehensible in their depravity."

The federal public defenders said Dow expressed remorse in court and apologized for his crimes.

"Despite his lengthy sentence, he remains forward-thinking and focused on his personal growth and atonement," said Assistant Federal Defender Katrina Young.

# US House votes to punish Republican



Marjorie Taylor Greene

**(BBC):** The US House of Representatives has voted to punish a Republican lawmaker over incendiary remarks she made by expelling her from two committees. Marjorie Taylor Greene had promoted baseless conspiracy theories and showed support for violence against Democrats. The Democratic-controlled chamber passed the motion by 230-199.

Before the vote, the new Georgia congresswoman expressed regret for her past views, which included that school shootings and 9/11 were staged. Eleven Republicans joined the entire Democratic caucus in voting to relieve Mrs. Greene of her committee assignments on Thursday.

The Georgia Republi-

can was widely known for her support of QAnon, a conspiracy theory which claims that former President Donald Trump was waging a clandestine war on a Satan-worshipping cabal of child-abusers and cannibals. And before taking office, Mrs. Greene also liked posts calling for violence against Democratic lawmakers, and suggested Muslims should not serve in government, among other comments online.

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy condemned the remarks on Wednesday, but refused to punish Mrs. Greene, saying the comments date from before she was elected.

Ahead of the vote, top Democrat Nancy Pelosi said she was "profoundly concerned" by Repub-

licans' "acceptance of an extreme conspiracy theorist."

On Thursday, Mrs. Greene expressed regret for her past comments, but stopped short of an apology. The forty-six-year-old also sought to pin blame on the media, saying they were "just as guilty as QAnon for promoting lies."

Mrs. Greene has now been stripped from her two assignments on the education and budget committees. It is highly unusual for one party to intervene in another party's House committee assignments. They are typically the job of party leaders and are a vital channel for lawmakers to advance legislation. There's also the symbolic value: veteran lawmakers may be rewarded with a position on the more

prestigious committees.

After an afternoon of procedural manoeuvres and debate, a majority of the House of Representatives took the unprecedented step of voting to strip one of its members of her committee assignments because of what it deemed dangerous and toxic speech she made before she was elected. Republicans warned that sanctioning Marjorie Taylor Greene set a dangerous precedent, where the majority party in the chamber could tell the minority how to allocate its committee seats. Republicans warned House minority leader Kevin McCarthy, had a "long list" of Democrats they would target if and when they run things. Democrats countered that the real precedent would be if a member of the chamber made threats against her future colleagues - and the House did nothing. Because the Republicans refused to sanction one of their own, the majority had to step in.

"Let us not do nothing," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. "Let us do the right thing."

In the end, only eleven Republicans joined all the Democrats in voting to punish Greene - a sign that the partisan divides in the chamber are as deep and as daunting as ever. The House has sanctioned the conspiracy-minded Mrs. Greene, but it may have started a new cycle of political retribution.



# Trump is plotting a campaign revenge tour, targeting GOP defectors after Senate impeachment trial

**(Business Insider):** A Donald Trump comeback tour is in the works once he's beyond a second Senate impeachment trial, Business Insider has learned.

That's the strategy emerging out of Mar-a-Lago, the Trump-owned private club in South Florida where the former president now lives. Trump and his small post-White House team

are holed up there planning out potential trips to campaign against Republicans who voted in support of his removal from office, according to six people close to the former president.

"I'm sure he wants to get out a roulette wheel with all their faces on it," said one of the Republicans who remains tight with Trump.

For now, the ex-presi-

dent is shying from the spotlight as House Democrats prepare to make their case next week on the Senate floor that he bears direct responsibility for his supporters leading a deadly riot at the US Capitol on 6th January.

Nobody in Trump's orbit believes he will ultimately be convicted by the Senate. That would require a two-thirds vote, something that has never happened before to a current or former president in more than two hundred and thirty years of American history.

But Trump and his staff also know they need to be careful before the Senate trial. They are getting advice that it's not the right moment for him to go back out in public quite yet delivering stemwinding diatribes at campaign rallies targeting incumbent Republicans.

"Even he recognizes that we have Trump fatigue," said the Republican close to Trump. "Even he knows that you can get overexposed, and he wore the electorate out. And that was part of the problem. He clearly wore the country out with his behaviour between the

election and the inauguration."

"Honestly, Twitter did him a favour," the Republican added, referring to the social media company's lifetime ban on the now-former president.

Minus that free megaphone, some Trump advisors are pushing him to speak publicly as soon as possible. They are concerned that he may be losing his grip on the GOP the longer he stays quiet. And there is an argument that Trump staying silent for too long could undermine his chances to be a serious contender to once again secure the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, a former Trump campaign advisor noted.

The Republican electorate for now still seems to be squarely with Trump.

Roughly three quarters of Republican voters (seventy-six per cent) still believe Trump's incorrect claim that the election was stolen from him, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday. A little less than half of all voters said Trump should not be convicted for his role inciting the 6th January riot.

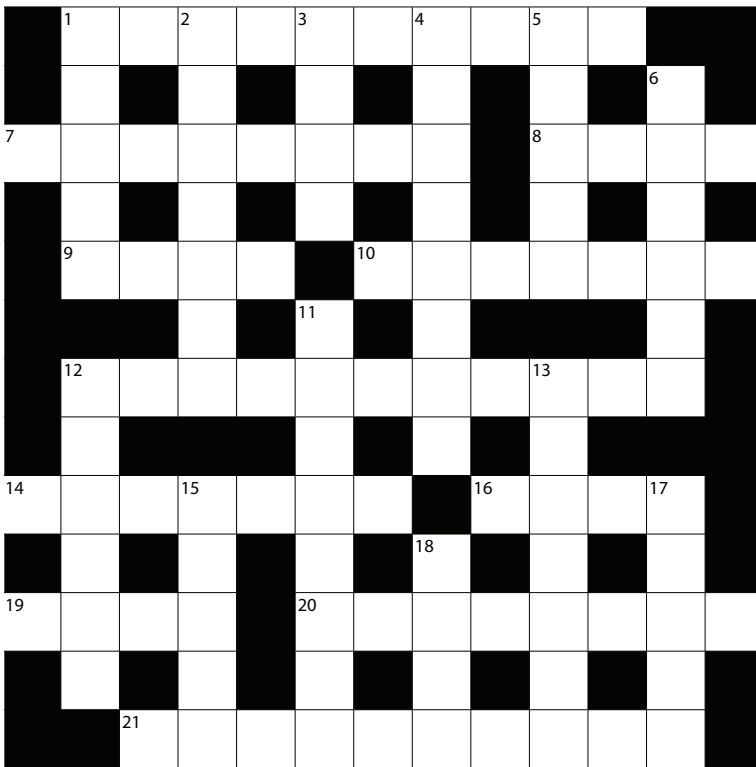
## PET CORNER



This young male dog named Tux is about six months old and is available for adoption at the Humane Society's Animal Shelter in Bethesda. All dogs are dipped for fleas and ticks, wormed, vaccinated and spayed or neutered all of which is included in the adoption fee of \$100. If you would like to adopt Tux or any of our dogs, please contact us at 461-4957 or visit the shelter Monday to Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm.

The Antigua & Barbuda Humane  
Tel: (268) 461-4957  
Email: [antiguaanimals@gmail.com](mailto:antiguaanimals@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.antiguaanimals.com](http://www.antiguaanimals.com)  
Facebook: Antigua & Barbuda Humane Society

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 V-shaped hairline point on the forehead (6,4)  
 7 Tube, the use of which may be banned during British droughts (8)  
 8 Ancient region of north-western European (4)  
 9 Jedi master of Obi-Wan Kenobi (4)  
 10 Relating to Russian rulers from Ivan the Terrible to Nicholas II (7)  
 12 Container for domestic electrical connections (8,3)  
 14 Society of distinguished scholars (7)  
 16 Cereal grain that's been germinated and kiln-dried and used in distilling (4)  
 19 Entice — bait (4)  
 20 Measure used in recipes (8)  
 21 Abrupt cessation of the taking of drugs (4,6)

### Down

- 1 Tipsy (5)  
 2 Capital of Saxony (7)  
 3 Historical predecessor of Liberal (4)  
 4 Short mildly erotic film seen from a coin-operated booth (4,4)  
 5 Foreshadow (5)  
 6 East and West counties in England (6)  
 11 Broken down into constituent parts (8)  
 12 Lift (car) (4,2)  
 13 Member of a 1950s' and 1960s' youth subculture of nonconformism (7)  
 15 As a result of (3,2)  
 17 Honestly (5)  
 18 Not socially acceptable (to certain people) (3-1)

## DAILY COMICS

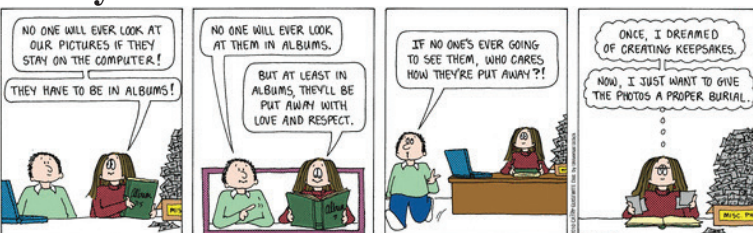
### Dilbert



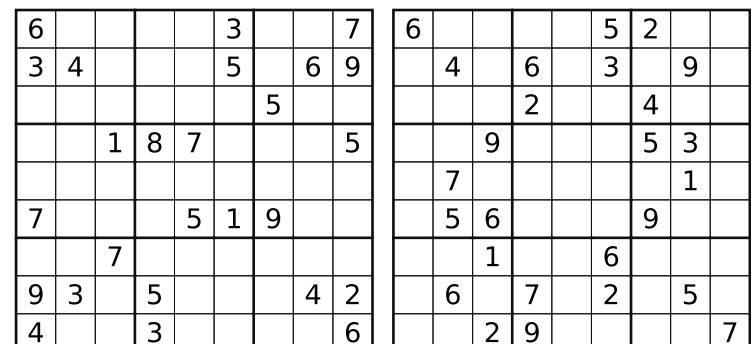
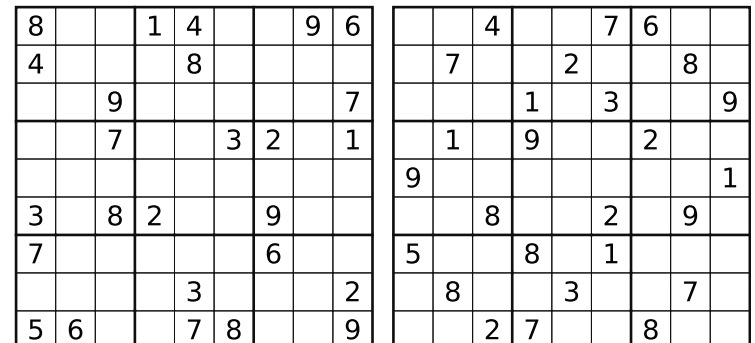
### Garfield



### Cathy



## SUDOKU



### 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.

## LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

FRI  
02/05



82° Hi

DAY  
Partly sunny and nice

75° Lo

NIGHT  
Mostly clear with a passing shower

Sunrise  
6:38 AM

Sunset  
6:05 PM

Moonrise  
12:49 AM

Moonset  
12:29 PM

SAT  
02/06



82° Hi

DAY  
Sun and some clouds with a shower

74° Lo

NIGHT  
Patchy clouds with a couple of showers, mainly early

Sunrise  
6:37 AM

Sunset  
6:05 PM

Moonrise  
1:51 AM

Moonset  
1:20 PM

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You can enjoy a surge of power today, which might cause some problems with one of your relationships. This person thought they were the one in charge, and it's going to be a bit painful for them to face reality today.

**TAURUS** | Apr. 20-May 20

Experiment in your relationships today. Switch roles with the other person and mix it up a bit. If you're usually the one who drives the discussion or organizes all the plans, ease up and let them do all the heavy lifting for a day.

**GEMINI** | May 21-June 20

Take each hour as it comes today. Let the day unfold as it will, and try not to push things in any one direction. Resist the urge to fill up your free time with errands or tasks. Being busy just to be busy is no way to exist right now.

**CANCER** | June 21-July 22

You're starting to take on a role as supportive mentor to the rest of your crew. This might feel a little bit uncomfortable for you, but it's the right way for things to be evolving. Now more than ever, you are better at connecting with others.

**LEO** | July 23-Aug. 22

You have a great insight into major events going on right now, and a lot of people would love to know what you know. Resist the temptation to lord your power over other people who are at disadvantage. You don't want to burn any bridges.

**VIRGO** | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Be encouraging and help others ride the wave of good energy that you're on right now. It's easy for you to create good times for your people because you're feeling exceptionally generous and warm toward the people you care about the most.

**LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Keeping in touch with your inner self is extremely important right now. You need to start listening more to that nagging voice in your head. It knows who you really are, and it will lead you to what you really need in life.

**SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21

A friend's curiosity might be driving you a little bit crazy today. They might want to know things that you don't want to tell them. This prying act of theirs is fairly new, and since you're not really liking it, you need to nip it in the bud.

**SAGITTARIUS** | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

One of your authority figures could be a little difficult to deal with today, but you probably won't be interacting too much with them. When you do, just smile while you listen to them talk and then go right back to what you were doing.

**CAPRICORN** | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Surround yourself with people who are down-to-earth and grounded today. You know, the people who might not always know what the hottest trends are. These people have the right kind of focus, and you could really benefit from it.

**AQUARIUS** | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Everyday events and typical conversations take on more significance today. You are able to see the hidden meanings just under the surface, which will put a whole new slant on what is happening on the surface of things.

**PISCES** | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

One of your newer relationships has more twists and turns than a Hollywood thriller. At first, things with them were great, then suddenly they started getting stressful. How are you two going to get closer if you don't understand how they think?

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### THE CATHEDRAL AND PARISH OF ST. JOHN

Considering the current restrictions there will be no in-person worship at any of our parish churches for the next two weeks. We do apologise for any inconvenience.

### CHSS DARE TO D.E.A.R. BOOK DRIVE 2020

Clare Hall Secondary School is inviting past Clarehalites, entertainers, radio personalities and the general public to participate in its DARE to D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Book Drive 2020. Send us a video recording about your favourite book and donate a copy or multiple copies of that book to our school library. Give us a call at 462-3487 or mail us at admin@chss.edu.ag. The book drive culminates in December 2020. We DARE you to D.E.A.R. with us and help us promote literacy amongst our students.

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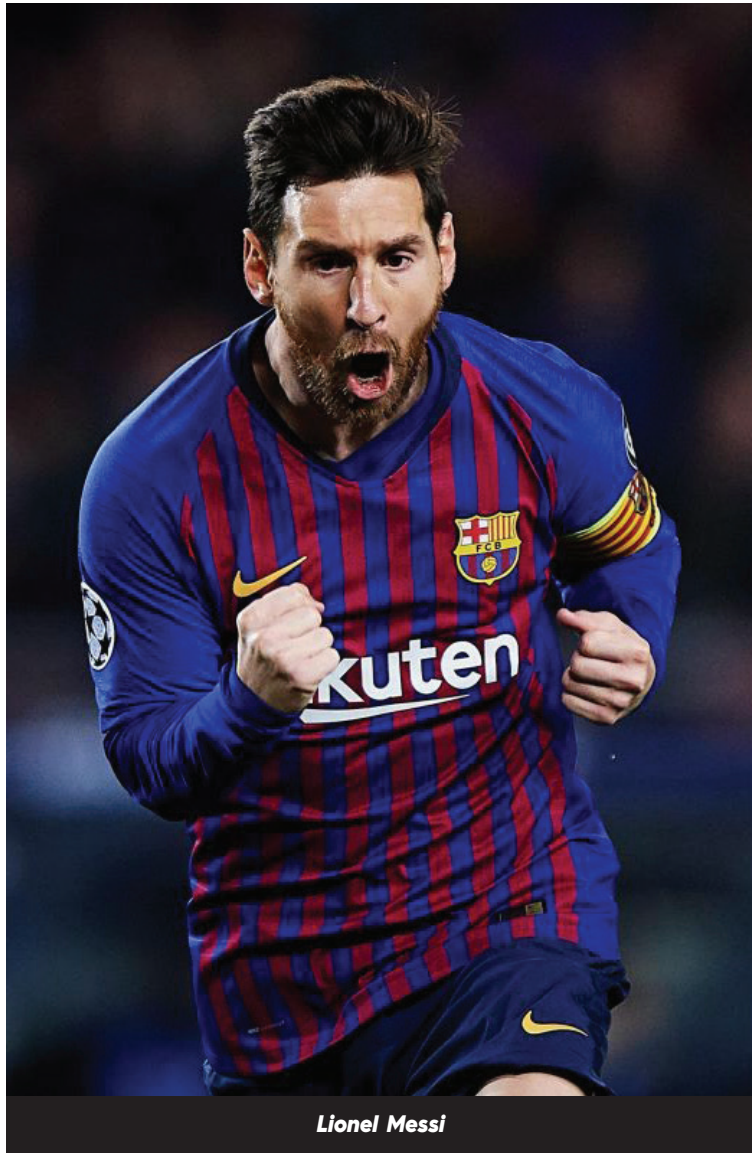
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# Messi denies PSG and Man City transfer rumour



Lionel Messi

The Lionel Messi camp has made it clear that the Argentine forward has not spoken to anyone at the Ligue 1 champions and is yet to decide on his future. The Barcelona FC star is waiting until the end of the season to decide whether to remain with or depart from the club.

Messi's contract expires in the summer and he has been linked with several leading European clubs, including the Ligue 1 champions and Premier League leaders. However, talk of any discussions with PSG is premature as Messi has not had contact with the French club, and has not spoken to any players nor new manager, Mauricio Pochettino, says goal.com.

There has also been no contact with Man City—managed by former Barca boss Pep Guardiola—or any other prospective suitors, his representatives

stated. Messi is said to be tired of the constant media speculation, and says that it will be he and nobody else who will announce at the end of the season where he will be playing in 2021-22 campaign.

The Argentine captain is free to speak to non-Spanish clubs, with his contract expiring this summer—players out of contract at the end of the season can speak to foreign teams from 1st January onwards. However, Messi is choosing not to.

Messi has been the center of speculation ever since last summer, when he attempted to secure his release from his contract at Barcelona by activating a clause in his contract that would have allowed him to walk away for free. However, he did not activate this clause in time after weeks of rumours.

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**WEAR A MASK CORRECTLY**  
When you leave home mask up,  
protect yourself and our community.



**SOCIAL DISTANCE**  
6 feet apart in public



**WASH OR SANITIZE HANDS**  
Wash your hands regularly  
and sanitize



**STAY INFORMED**  
Listen to our Health Professionals

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**SAVE LIVES**

**A SAFETY MESSAGE FROM HON. E.P. CHET GREENE MP, ST. PAUL'S**

# Australian Open to go ahead despite players' quarantine anger



Forty-seven players and their entourages have been placed in isolation in their hotel rooms in Melbourne for two weeks. This means that they will no longer be able to leave their rooms to train, after three coronavirus infections were reported on two chartered

flights carrying them to Melbourne.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley has confirmed the year's first Grand Slam will go ahead from 8th February, despite anger from players forced into hard quarantine

in Melbourne due to COVID-19 cases on their chartered planes.

Other players who arrived in different planes are also undertaking a mandatory fourteen-day quarantine, but are permitted to leave their hotels for five hours a day to train, raising questions about the integrity of the Grand Slam.

Tiley said the tournament would start as scheduled but governing body Tennis Australia would look at altering the lead up tournaments to help affected players.

"We are reviewing the schedule leading in to see what we can do to assist these players," Tiley told the Nine Network on Sunday. Earlier, quarantine authorities said they

had recorded a fourth COVID-19 infection among the passengers on the two chartered flights carrying players to Melbourne.

Some affected players complained about their detention. Some of the players in detention complained on social media that if they were informed about the rule before they would not have played the Australian Open, instead opting to stay home. Swiss player Belinda Bencic said she and the other forty-six players were at a disadvantage.

"We are not complaining about being in quarantine. We are complaining because of unequal practice/playing conditions before quite an important tournament," she said.

## Tokyo 2020 chief pressed to resign after saying women talk too much

Yoshiro Mori said he would not stand down after saying female participants meant meetings tended to drag on. Mori has since apologized for making sexist remarks about talkative women in sports.

Mori, a former Japanese prime minister with a history of demeaning remarks, told a meeting of the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) this week, that meetings attended by too many women tended to drag on because they talked too much.

Referring to his time as chairman of Japan Rugby Football Union, Mori said, "Women have a strong sense of rivalry: if one raises her hand to speak, all others feel the

need to speak, too. Everyone ends up saying something."

He added, "If I say too much, the newspapers are going to write that I said bad things, but I heard somebody say that if we are to increase the number of female board members, we have to regulate speaking time to some extent, or else we'll never be able to finish. I am not going to say who said that."

Mori said there are seven women as members of the organizing committee but everyone understands their place. At a hastily arranged press conference on Thursday, a "deeply remorseful" Mori acknowledged that his comments had been "inappropriate" and ran counter to

the Olympic spirit.

But he added, "I am not thinking of resigning. I have been working hard and devoted myself to helping the Tokyo Olympics for seven years. I will not be stepping down," Mori noted. Asked why he had claimed that women talked too much at board meetings, he replied, "I don't talk to women that much these days, so I don't know."

Accounts by Japanese media present at the online JOC meeting said several attendees laughed, but his comments were condemned by female politicians and sports administrators. "Mori please resign" was trending on Twitter in Japan on Thursday.



## The desire of two young Antiguanans to cross the Atlantic

The desire of two young Antiguanans Joseph 'JoJo' Nunes and Travis Weste to row 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from the Canary Islands to Nelson's Dockyard was celebrated by the nation last Thursday.

After forty-seven days, six hours and fifty-seven minutes at sea, the two young men arrived last week Thursday, becoming the first Antiguan duo to make the journey. Team Antigua pairs were guest on the PointeFM Touchline programme on Wednesday discussing their journey.

Nunes said he lost over thirty pounds but noted that overall, the trip was good despite experiencing some challenging days. JoJo, as he is affectionately called, pointed to

Christmas Day when the team experienced bad weather, leading to the duo having to rethink and re-organizing the rest of their journey.

Nunes said they had left Antigua with the goal of breaking the record but on 25th December extremely poor weather conditions damage their dreams and there was no other option but to reset their goal.

Weste said they immediately looked at each other and made the decision that they were not going to allow the disappointment to hamper the rest of the trip, but instead they were going to complete the mission by rowing home making themselves, family, and the nation of Antigua and Barbuda proud.

Weste explained that



Joseph 'JoJo' Nunes and Travis Weste

the journey was mentally and physically challenging, with each individual taking turns every two hours to row while the other rested. He also indicated that in two years' time he will look to undertake the challenge again, while Nunes expressed he

would not attempt the trip again. "I had fun, learned a lot and that's it," Nunes stated.

Strong, mentally and physically tough, talented, and patriotic are some of the words one could use to describe Antigua and Barbuda's newest stars.

**DEWS**



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