

# TWO-MONTH TARGET FOR FULL VACCINATION

SEE PAGE 5



I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE!

*Photo caption: Registered Nurse Shana-Kay Johnson was among 64 healthcare workers who received the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine on the first day of the vaccination exercise, Wednesday February 17.*

#GETTHEFACTS #GETTHEVAX  
EACH VACCINATED,  
ALL PROTECTED

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# 'WILDLY UNFAIR': UN BOSS SAYS 10 NATIONS USED 75% OF ALL VACCINES

***Antonio Guterres urges wealthy nations to lead global effort to ensure people in every country get inoculated for COVID as soon as possible.***

(Al Jazeera): The United Nations chief has sharply criticized the "wildly uneven and unfair" distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, pointing out that just ten countries have administered seventy-five per cent of all vaccinations.

Addressing a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Antonio Guterres said one hundred and thirty countries have not received a single dose of vaccine.

"At this critical moment, vaccine equity is the biggest moral test before the global community," he said.

Guterres called for an urgent Global Vaccination Plan to bring together those with the power to ensure fair vaccine distribution - scientists, vaccine producers and those who can fund the effort - to ensure all people in every nation get inoculated as soon as possible.

The secretary general further called on the world's leading economic powers in the Group of Twenty to establish an emergency task force that should have the capacity to bring together "the pharmaceutical companies and key industry and logistics actors."

Guterres said a meeting on Friday of the Group of Seven top industrialized nations "can create the momentum to mobilize the necessary financial resources."

Reporting from the UN headquarters, Al Jazeera's diplomatic editor James Bays said there was a broad agreement over the potential future problems in the fight against the pandemic due to the

uneven distribution of vaccines.

"Rich countries are vaccinating people but many other parts of the world are not. You're never going to get rid of COVID-19 if you have it spreading in some parts of the world and potentially mutating, and potentially in the future making vaccines not work," Bays said.

"Less than one per cent of COVID-19 vaccines so far globally have been administered in the thirty-two countries currently facing the most severe humanitarian crises."

### Call for ceasefires

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, whose country holds the Security Council presidency this month, urged the UN's most powerful body to adopt a resolution calling for ceasefires in conflict zones to allow the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines.

The UK said more than one hundred and sixty million people are at risk of being excluded from coronavirus vaccinations because they live in countries engulfed in conflict and instability, including Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia.

"Humanitarian organizations and UN agencies need the full backing of the council to be able to carry out the job we are asking them to do," said Barbara Woodward, the UK's ambassador to the UN.

Woodward said ceasefires have previously been used to carry out vaccinations, pointing to a two-day pause in fighting in Afghanistan in 2001 that enabled 35,000 health workers and volunteers to

vaccinate 5.7 million children below the age of five against polio.

Thirteen ministers were scheduled to address the meeting on improving access to COVID-19, including new United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

On Tuesday, Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said Mexico would stress the importance of equal access for all countries to COVID-19 vaccines at the council meeting.

He was sharply critical that countries where vaccines are produced have high vaccination rates, while Latin American countries have problems obtaining any jobs.

The World Health Organization's COVAX programme, an ambitious project to buy and deliver coronavirus vaccines for the world's poorest people, has already missed its goal of beginning vaccination in poor countries at the same time that shots were rolled out in rich countries.

Numerous developing countries have rushed in recent weeks to sign their private deals to buy vaccines, unwilling to wait for COVAX.

Woodward said the UK supports reserving five per cent of COVAX doses as a "last resort" buffer to ensure that high-risk populations have access to COVID-19 vaccines.

The coronavirus has officially infected more than one hundred and nine million people and killed at least 2.4 million of them. But many countries have not yet started vaccination programmes and even rich nations are facing shortages of vaccine doses as manufacturers struggle to ramp up production.

# Opening round of vaccination continues, public to register on website

By **Shelton Daniel**

Sixty-four shots of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine against the COVID-19 disease were administered on Wednesday at the Mount Saint John's Medical Center when Antigua and Barbuda's nationwide programme for mass public inoculation was launched.

The five thousand doses of the vaccine which Antigua and Barbuda received as a gift from Dominica is being dispensed free of charge and only to those willing to receive it; beginning with frontline workers in the medical, healthcare, emergency services, law enforcement, military and other security services, prison staff and inmates, and persons considered most at risk for serious illness from the deadly virus.

The inoculation programme continued on Thursday with members of the Cabinet - including the Cabinet Secretary - receiving their first shots, which are to be followed by a second or booster dose some weeks later.



Speaking Thursday morning at the weekly post-Cabinet press briefing, Information Minister Melford Nicholas clarified that the five thousand doses so far obtained will not be used to inoculate only twenty-five hundred persons initially and the other half reserved for the follow up shot to these same persons. Rather, five thousand people will be given a first dose and

administered their second dose when larger supplies of vaccine arrive by the end of this month and afterward.

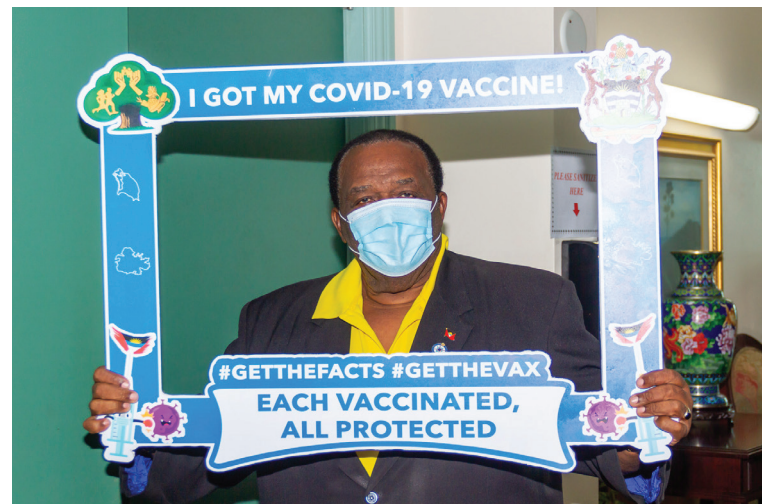
In the meantime, members of the wider population who wish to be vaccinated when the supplies become available and the programme rolls out into the communities are being encouraged to pre-register via a special website that is being set up for

this purpose.

Said Minister Nicholas: "Persons, when they are registering to take the vaccine, will be required to give their street and village address ... their Social Security or Medical Benefits number, some form of ID ... That will help the public health officials to determine, if you take the vaccine today, at what period of time ... you would be required to re-

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turn for your second dose ..."

He added that the vaccine registration website is in the final stages of being configured and the link for it would be made public as soon as that process is completed; so that "persons can identify themselves and indicate their readiness to take the vaccine ... You will go online and fill out electronic form that is there ... The information will be accumulated by the health officials and then they in turn will be able to notify you - because you will be required to give your number and

email address - of an appointed time that you can go and get the vaccine."

Nicholas said for those persons who are not savvy or inclined where use of the internet and associated information technology (IT) is concerned, the registration could be done on their behalf. "If you have IT access devices and your neighbour doesn't, you can allow your neighbour to utilize your facility or you can do it on their behalf; it doesn't matter. If the person doesn't have WhatsApp on their phone or they do not have email, they can nominate a person who can receive the notification on their behalf."

He stated further that "each of the Parliamentary Representatives [MPs] will be asked to fan out in their communities and mobilize to get people registered in the first instance, and bring the inoculation programme within the communities ... So, persons will not have to worry about where to go or to have to find travel and all those types of arrangements. We are going to get it as close to people as possible."

Nicholas promised that "over the next six to eight weeks - even two months, three months - we will be working fastidiously to ensure that we achieve that great number" of inoculating at least righty per cent of the population in order to achieve herd immunity.

# Media workers may be considered for earlier inoculation

**By Shelton Daniel**

Information and Broadcasting Minister Melford Nicholas has taken on board a suggestion for media practitioners to be pushed higher up the queue of priority sequence for receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The suggestion was made to the Minister on Thursday morning during the regular weekly post-Cabinet press briefing by one of the participating media personnel.

The representative for Pointville Communica-

tions - which includes PointeFM 99.1 radio and the PointeXpress newspaper - suggested that the minister could use the influence of his portfolios to advocate for media workers who are interested in being vaccinated to be "bumped-up" the waiting list rather than waiting in line for inoculation when it becomes available to the general population.

Media workers are among essential services who are granted curfew passes in order to carry out their duties of public information and communication

when it requires them to get to or from work during stipulated curfew hours.

Minister Nicholas agreed with the suggestion, giving the reporter a thumbs up and declaring it an excellent idea that he would promote.

"I think it's a fair request, it's a fair consideration. I will certainly represent that. The media has played - and I think there is no precedent for it in Antigua, what has happened last year with all the media houses coming on board and collaborating with State media in

this manner is unprecedented - and I am fully, as the Minister Responsible for Information, thankful for it; and your request that you have just made, I think it's a valid request. I think it's worthy of consideration and I will so represent. We will, through the media forum that we have, give indication as to the outcome of that representation."

The press briefing's moderator subsequently disclosed that an identical recommendation had been broached with him by a representative of another radio station.

## Vaccination of frontline workers continue

More than one hundred frontline workers were vaccinated on Thursday, the second full day of the vaccination programme being launched by the government.

Some sixty-four people receiving the jab on the first day, Wednesday, to include frontline employees such as nurses, doctors, orderlies and lab technicians and pharmacists, along with employees from a variety of other areas.

At the end of the programme on the second day, sources at Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) say the number of those receiving their

shot totalled more than one hundred, bringing the two-day total close to two hundred persons. On day two, the net widened to include staff of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as well as district nurses.

"The process will be ongoing at the hospital with more employees being offered the opportunity to get vaccinated. The MSJMC is not mandating that employees receive the vaccine; however, it is recommending that all employees and the community receive the vaccine when it becomes available to them," the



Dr. Kevin Belzaire ready to take COVID-19 vaccine

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# Two-month target for full vaccination

The government has set a two-month target to have the entire population of Antigua and Barbuda inoculated against the COVID-19 virus.

That is according to Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph during brief remarks on Thursday at the public vaccination of all members of the Cabinet as well as both the Speaker of the House of Representative and his deputy.

Sir Molwyn noted that the country has had some successes in slowing down the spread of the virus in the past but recent upsurge in the number of confirmed cases of infection gives rise for the need for additional weapons in the fight against COVID-19.

"Today (Thursday 18th February), the Cabinet members will arm themselves with that defence of inoculation. All Cabinet members are being inoculated today. I have

been informed by the prime minister that no Cabinet member will be allowed to attend future meetings unless he/she is vaccinated," the health minister reported.

Sir Molwyn used the opportunity to speak of the efficacy of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine which is the brand being used to inoculate the Antigua and Barbuda population. This has become an issue for some in the country.

"The fact of the matter is, that the World Health Organization (WHO) has authorized the use of this vaccine; the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) too has authorized this vaccine as well as the United Kingdom regulatory authority. Over fourteen million people in the UK have received this vaccine without major incident. I want to say to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, the Cabinet is

demonstrating that it has the confidence that this vaccine is the best option for the people of Antigua and Barbuda today," Sir Molwyn remarked.

According to the health minister, the critical feature of the vaccine is that it will prevent hospitalization and death which he described as the "two most challenging" COVID-related issues in the country. "Our COVID numbers are going up and we must have an intervention in order to slow down and eventually, to eradicate those numbers. The ministry of health is interested in achieving full inoculation within the next sixty days. If it can be done faster, it will be done!" he declared.

Beyond the members of Cabinet, Sir Molwyn appealed directly to all parliamentary representatives to go into their respective constituencies to encourage constituents to par-

ticipate in the vaccination programme. "It takes more than what we are doing now; the wearing of masks, social distancing, washing of hands, building the immune system, practising good hygiene must continue. This must not stop! The combination of all this is what I believe will lead the country to a point where Antigua and Barbuda can open as a marketplace where people can feel safe to visit," he added.

Sir Molwyn noted that while the borders are open, the country wants to be able to welcome back visitors in large numbers once again.

The minister explained that the decision to opt for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine comes not just from the WHO/PAHO recommendations, but from a team of local experts who reviewed the data and gave the vaccine the "thumbs up."

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sources say.

"The vaccine couldn't have arrived at a more desperate time for our community," said Dr. Albert Duncan, MSJMC Medical Director. "We are currently witnessing a surge in community infections and increasing hospitalizations. There is likely still a long road

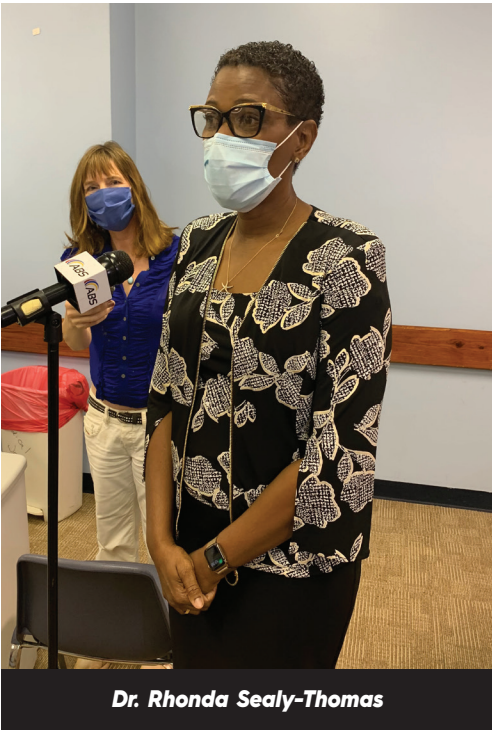
ahead, but now we have the tools to win this war and to save lives. With our team beginning to get the vaccine today - the message we're sending is that we are ready to lead the way out of the pandemic."

The Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is administered in

two doses at a four- to twelve-week interval. The vaccine can be stored, transported, and handled at normal refrigerated conditions (two to eight degrees Celsius or thirty-six to forty-six degrees Fahrenheit) for at least six months and administered within existing healthcare settings.

Until the pandemic is over, the hospital is encouraging the public to continue taking important precautions to help slow the spread of the virus. This includes wearing a mask, washing and sanitizing your hands frequently, physical distancing and limiting gatherings.

# CMO assures nation 'vaccine is safe'



**Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomas**

Chief Medical Officer Dr Rhonda Sealy-Thomas, who was the first to receive the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine at the inaugural vaccination exercise at the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) on Wednesday, is telling the nation what to expect after the vaccination process.

She emphasized that the vaccine has been determined to be safe, not just by the World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) but also by the Technical Working Committee set up by the Ministry of Health.

After receiving the vaccine jab, she said individuals may feel soreness in the muscles where injection is administered. She cautioned that there may be other mild reactions such as slight headache or fever.

"These will be a reaction as a modified form of the organism is introduced into the body. That is to be expected; that's what we want. This is the body's natural responses. There are some side effects that we will expect such as a slight temperature or general malaise. This is quite normal," she stated.

The Ministry of Health has put in place an education committee to undertake a public campaign to generate a high degree of participation in the vaccination programme.

Thursday's public vaccination of members of the Cabinet and front-line workers forms part of the programme to assure the public that taking the vaccine is safe for everyone.

# Moravian Church goes virtual

At least one member-church of the Antigua Christian Council – the Moravian Church – has announced plans to transition all services to virtual platforms with immediate effect due to COVID-19 concerns.

In a circular sent to its members the Moravian Church said, "After prayerful consideration and out of the abundance of caution, the Executive Board and Ministerial Staff of the Moravian Church Antigua Conference have agreed to transition exclusively to online worship services in light of the rise in cases of the Coronavirus, COVID-19 in

Antigua and Barbuda."

The decision will affect the remaining services for February and according to the circular, it will come up for review on 4th March.

"This will take effect from Sunday, 21st February - Sunday, 28th February, 2021. With immediate effect Funeral Services will be conducted at the cemetery only. A limit of 25 persons, as stipulated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda are allowed at the cemetery," it stated.

The Moravian Church is asking its members to "be guided accordingly." It

added that board meetings and other scheduled meetings should continue via conference call or other online media such as Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp, etcetera, as the circumstances allow.

"Only have physical meetings if there are no other options," it declared.

Prior Church decisions will remain in effect. These include visitations, which are still suspended in an effort to safeguard the sick or elderly who may be at risk. In the interim, it is advising pastors, elders, stewards and the general membership to call to check on persons by telephone and help as needed.

**TALKING POINT**  
TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
10:30AM TO 1:30PM

DR. MASERATI

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

# CARICOM unified in call for equitable distribution of vaccines

The fourteen independent CARICOM states have joined in one voice to call for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

A resolution which CARICOM sponsored was adopted by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States by acclamation on Wednesday.

The resolution was presented on behalf of CARICOM by Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador, Sir Ronald Sanders, who was the architect of the original resolution and who was the chief negotiator for its adoption along with Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador Anthony Phillips-Spencer, the Chair of the CARICOM caucus.

Speaking for CARICOM, Ambassador Sanders told the OAS that its thirty-four member states accounted for forty-five per cent of the infected cases and forty-eight per cent of the deaths globally. "That is almost half the global number of infected cases and nearly half the number of deaths in the world."

The Ambassador added, "Those figures alone should give each of us - and all of us - every good reason to be gravely troubled

about the damaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of our peoples. In many - if not all - our countries, our hospitals are finding it enormously difficult to cope."

Sir Ronald explained that while the majority of developing states, including in Latin America and the Caribbean, are still without stocks of vaccines, "some developed countries have ordered vaccines, in one case five times the size of its population, and are hoarding them, at a time when they are desperately needed throughout the world."

Ambassador Sanders cited studies which indicate that some of the world's rich nations, representing only fifteen per cent of the global population have bought sixty per cent of the available vaccines."

He said, "The world will not survive if fifteen per cent of the world holds for itself sixty per cent of vaccines, and eighty-five per cent of the people must struggle for an equitable share."

Presenting grim figures for the member states of the OAS, Sanders emphasized that only two countries have managed to give one shot of

vaccines to more than ten per cent of their populations. The countries are the U.S. at twelve per cent and Chile at ten per cent.

He revealed that only three other countries have inoculated more than one per cent of their people, but "none of the remaining twenty-nine member states have sufficient vaccines to inoculate more than 0.95% of their people."

The Antigua and Barbuda diplomat also warned wealthy countries that "even if they are fully vaccinated by the middle of this year, and poor countries remain largely shut out, the global economy would suffer losses exceeding nine trillion US dollars, a sum greater than the annual output of Japan and Germany combined." "No one will benefit," he said, "We are truly all in this together."

The resolution called for a scaling-up of production by the main vaccine producing countries, faster distribution of the vaccines, low-cost financing from international financial institutions so that developing countries can buy needed stocks. It also expressed grave concern about inequitable access and distribution of vaccines.

## Barbuda People's Movement to hold primary

The Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) is holding a primary on Saturday to select five candidates to contest the upcoming council elections slated for 29th March.

Secretary of the Barbuda Council, Paul Nedd, said candidates will take part in the primary and the top five will be declared as candidates for the elections. The candidates are McKensie Frank, Wade Burton, Nadia Harris-George,

Nico Antonio, Primrose Thomas and newcomer, Melanie Beazer.

Nomination of candidates is slated for 17th March.

Meanwhile, the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is unlikely to contest the local government elections.

In matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nedd is calling for residents of both islands to adhere to the protocols as published by the

Ministry of Health in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus.

"We have to follow the protocols in order to ease the pressure on the health fraternity. I would also suggest that the Central government, the Council and the medical fraternity should convene a meeting specifically to deal with COVID-related issues pertaining to Barbuda," he stated.



# 23 new COVID-19 cases

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) has revealed twenty-three (23) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 17th February 2021.

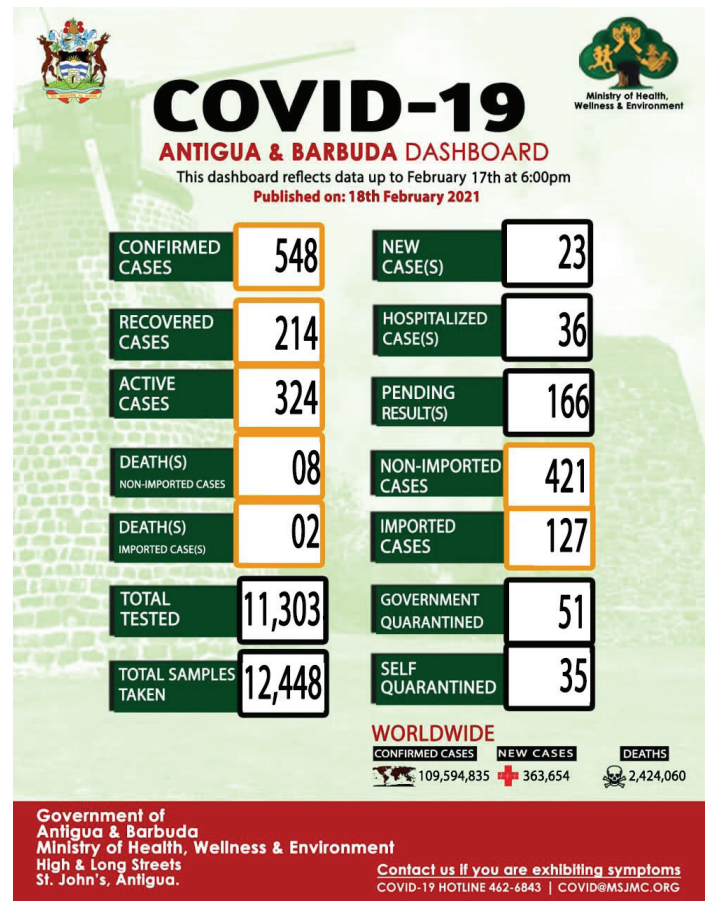
Of the one hundred and fifteen (115) samples processed by MSJMC, ninety-one (91) were negative and twenty-four (24) positive. One (1) of the positive cases was a repeat test. Investigations have

been and contact tracing and testing are ongoing.

One (1) recovery has been recorded bringing the total to two hundred and fourteen (214).

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is five hundred and forty-eight (548); which is inclusive three hundred and twenty-four (324) active cases.

Meanwhile, one hundred and sixty-six (166) samples are pending.



## OUR NATIONAL LEGEND ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

### Tim Hector

Leonard Churchill Hector aka Tim Hector (1942-2002) played many roles — political philosopher, educator, literary and music critic, cricket administrator, political leader, and newspaper editor.

Best known for his editorship of the newspaper Outlet and his co-founding of the Afro-Caribbean Liberation Movement, Hector struggled for the independence of his native island Antigua. As a disciple of C. L. R. James, he was one of the Pan-African movement's most vital figures, and his regular column "Fan the Flame" in Outlet was followed avidly throughout the Caribbean.

Tim has been the recipient of numerous awards for his contribution to Journalism, Sports and Education. Respected internationally for his incisive and thought-provoking articles, as Editor of the Outlet Newspaper, he is renown for his investigative reports and has won acclaim the world over.

For his journalistic work PEN, an international writers' organization gave him an award. A most fitting tribute by a most prestigious body.




A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

REVISED LAWS OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 1992  
THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, CAP 44

FORM OF NOTICE OF ELECTION  
ELECTION FOR THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

1. Nomination papers may be delivered by the candidate or his proposer or seconder to the Returning Officer at the Barbuda Registration Unit between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the 17th March, 2021.
2. Forms of nomination papers may be obtained at the place and time aforesaid. The Returning Officer will, at the request of any elector, prepare a nomination paper for signature.
3. If the election is contested, the poll will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

  
.....  
Lorna Simon, DCN  
Supervisor of Elections  
8th February, 2021


NOTE

1. Subject to Section 13 (3) of the Barbuda Local Government Act, the attention of candidates and electors is drawn to the rules for filling up nomination papers and other provisions relating to nomination made under Section 16 of the Barbuda Local Government Act Cap 44.
2. Every person guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice will, on conviction, be liable to the penalties imposed by the Representation of the People Act, CAP 379.
3. Electors and their proxies should take note that application to be treated as an absent voter and other applications and notices about proxy voting must reach the Returning Officer by the 22nd day of March next, if they are to be effective for this election.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, CAP. 44

NOTICE under Section 13 (2) of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Governor-General has, by Proclamation dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021 fixed the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 as the date for the holding of an election under the Barbuda Local Government Act for the purpose of filling five (5) seats now vacant as a result of the statutory retirement of the five (5) members of the Barbuda Council.

  
Lorna Simon, DCN  
Supervisor of Elections  
8th February, 2021

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA


Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992  
The Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44

By the Supervisor of Elections

Appointment of Returning Officer

Mrs. Vernest Mack

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by Section 11 of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44, I do hereby appoint you Returning Officer for the Barbuda Local Government Election of 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

  
Lorna Simon, DCN  
Supervisor of Elections

8th February, 2021

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



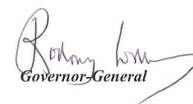
BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

*By virtue of the power and authority vested in me under*  
Section 10 of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44 – Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992 and Section 20 of the Interpretation Act, Cap. 224.

*and of all other powers and authorities me thereto enabling, I do hereby*

direct Lorna Simon, the Supervisor of Elections appointed under and by virtue of Section 67 of the Constitution to be the Supervisor of Elections for the purposes of Part IV of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44.

*Given under my hand at Antigua the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021.*

  
Governor-General

# Caribbean people at risk of prolonging COVID-19 to their detriment

*(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)*

People in the Caribbean, who refuse to take vaccinations to counter the Coronavirus, will cause the COVID-19 pandemic to remain longer in the region, endangering lives, livelihoods, and entire economies.

Whatever genuine fears may exist, these people must be educated about the value of the vaccine to their own health and they must be encouraged by all influential agencies to take it.

If they need convincing, they should look at the experience of other countries where more than 139 million people have taken the vaccine and not one of them has died from it.

The Churches, whose leaders have been preaching against the vaccine, are doing neither their followers nor their countries any good. Similarly, the representatives of trade unions, who argue that their members have the right not to take vaccines, might consider enlightening them about the benefits of the vaccine to their individual well-being, their families, the wider community, and the businesses from which they

derive a living.

At the rate at which vaccines are currently available and being rolled out in the world, the Caribbean will be behind Britain and the U.S. in controlling the virus by at least a year. If a significant number of people remain unvaccinated, the delay will be even longer.

Caribbean countries cannot afford a year, let alone a more extended period, to suppress the virus. Many economies are already in dire straits, poverty is expanding, unemployment is rising, economies are declining, hospitals are besieged, and many more people are dying.

This is why at a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organisation of American States (OAS) on 17 February, all independent CARICOM countries joined Antigua and Barbuda in promoting adoption of a resolution calling for equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally.

Action is necessary to get vaccines into Caribbean countries so that at least 80 per cent of the people can be inoculated to build 'herd immunity'. This is achieved when a large part of the population is immune to the disease. If enough people are resistant to the coronavirus, it will have nowhere to go and it will peter out.

Right now, every country in the Caribbean is way behind developed countries with which they interact for tour-



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

ism, trade in goods and other commercial and social activity. For example, at the time of writing (February 18), Britain has inoculated 23.7 per cent of its population with the first dose of the vaccine; the U.S 12.3 per cent; Canada 3.48 per cent; and many of the countries in the European Union almost 3 per cent. No country in the Caribbean has vaccinated more than 0.9 per cent of their populations.

The main reason for this is that rich countries, representing only 16 per cent of the world's population have bought, and are hoarding, 60 per cent of the available vaccine candidates. This means that 40 per cent is left for 84 per cent of the global population, including the Caribbean.

This situation demands urgent attention if the Caribbean is to survive the already devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. That is

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why the Antigua and Barbuda initiative at the OAS was strongly and fully supported by other CARICOM nations. It is also why the resolution received full support at the OAS. Twenty-nine of the Organization's 34 member states, including the Caribbean, are among the over 100 nations that have vaccinated less than 1 per cent of their people.

The Caribbean

needs greater access to vaccines and at an affordable price. Hence, the donation of 570,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine by India to CARICOM countries is a great relief. The rollout has started in a few countries. But, there are not sufficient stocks to accelerate the inoculation programme to get all CARICOM countries to at least 80 per cent of their popula-

tions.

The main vaccine manufacturers have to be urged to ramp-up their production at an affordable price. Concentrating on selling only to the rich nations will not eliminate the global pandemic. A research study, sponsored by the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research in Massachusetts, shows that even if wealthy countries are fully vaccinated by the end of this year, but 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".

What should worry every citizen and resident of Caribbean countries is that their economies have already declined so significantly that, even if there is recovery later in 2021 or in 2022, it will not be sufficient to return them to 2019 levels.

Foreign direct investment in the Caribbean declined last year by more than 50 per cent. With many economies across the region in a state of prolonged inactivity, the downward investment trend for 2021

is even more precipitous. The year 2022 is unlikely to get any better unless each country gets the virus under control.


The populations of Caribbean countries, amounting to 20 million people, are competing with 450 million people in Latin America and another 360 million in the U.S. and Canada to achieve 80 per cent inoculations. They are also competing against 7 billion people globally. They cannot afford to leave themselves behind - they must get themselves inoculated.

Leaders and influencers in every sector - the Churches, the trade unions and the media - have to support Caribbean governments that have tried their best with scarce and reduced financial resources to manage the coronavirus and now to inoculate against it.

No Caribbean country can afford to be a year behind the nations with which they interact for their livelihood and development.

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

THE BARBUDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (CAP. 44)



WRIT OF ELECTION

**ELIZABETH THE SECOND**, by the  
Grace of God, Queen of Antigua and Barbuda and  
of Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the  
Commonwealth

To the Returning Officer appointed under section 11 of the Barbuda Local Government Act, Cap. 44.

**GREETINGS:**

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 14(2) of the Barbuda Local Government Act Cap. 44, the last election was held on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2019; and


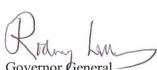
**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 14(2) of the said Act an election shall be held at regular intervals of two years between each election, to elect five members of the Barbuda Council to fill the seats left vacant by the retiring group of five members of the Council; and

**WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13(1)(b) of the said Act that the Governor General shall appoint a date to hold an election for the purpose of section 14(2) of this Act;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SIR DR. RODNEY WILLIAMS**, KGN Knight Grand Collar and GCMG Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda hereby appoint Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, as the date on which an election under the Barbuda Local Government Act shall be held for the purpose of filling the aforesaid five seats.

**AND I COMMAND** that, due notice being first given, you do cause an election to be held according to law of five elected members to serve in the Barbuda Council as aforesaid and that you do cause the names of such members then so elected, whether present or absent, to be certified to me without delay.

GIVEN under my hand and Public Seal  
this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021 and  
in the Sixty-ninth year of Her Majesty's Reign,  
and in the Year of Our Lord 2021


  
Governor General

# White House says Biden supports study of slavery reparations

**US has never made headway in discussions on how to compensate Black people for more than 200 years of slavery.**

**(Al Jazeera):** US President Joe Biden supports a study on whether descendants of enslaved people in the United States should receive reparations, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Wednesday, as the issue was being debated on Capitol Hill.

Psaki told reporters that Biden “continues to demonstrate his commitment to take comprehensive action to address the systemic racism that persists today.”

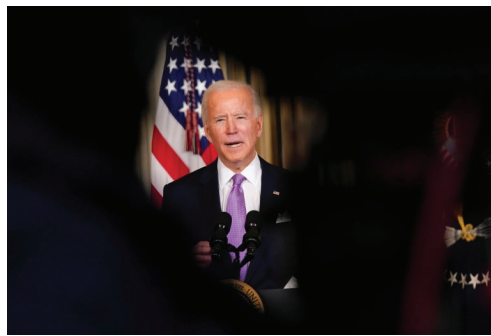
Reparations have been used in other circumstances to offset large moral and economic debts – and were paid to Japanese Americans interned during World War II, families of Holocaust survivors and Black people in post-apartheid South Africa.

But the US has never made much headway in discussions of whether or how to compensate Black people for more than two hundred years of slavery.

HR-40, a bill to fund the study of “slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies” has been floated in Congress for more than thirty years but has never been taken up for a full vote.

Democratic Representative Sheila Jackson Lee in January reintroduced the bill, which was being debated by a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

Fellow Democratic Representative Steve Cohen, who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, told a hearing on Wednesday it was fitting to consider HR-40 at a time when the country is reckoning with police violence against Black peo-



ple and a pandemic that has disproportionately affected people of colour.

Last year, Biden told the Washington Post newspaper that “we must acknowledge that there can be no realization of the American dream without grappling with the original sin of slavery and the centuries-long campaign of violence, fear, and trauma wrought upon Black people in this country.”

But like nearly all of the Democratic presidential candidates at the time, he did not embrace the idea of specific payments to the descendants of slavery, instead promising “major actions to address systemic racism” and further study of the matter.

“I do not buy the concept, popular in the ‘60s, which said: ‘We have suppressed the Black man for three hundred years and the white man is now far ahead in the race for everything our society offers. In order to even the score, we must now give the Black man a head start, or even hold the white man back, to even the race,’” he said at the time.

Biden’s Vice President, Kamala Harris, said in August 2019 that the issue is complicated and deserves to be examined carefully, arguing that monetary compensation would not solve the wider problems stemming from systemic racism.

“This stuff needs to be studied,” she said during a Des Moines Register editorial board meeting. “If we’re talking about writing a cheque, I don’t think it is that simple,” she said.

“And frankly, I don’t support an idea or a notion that after all this, we’re going to say: ‘Okay, I’m going to write you a cheque, and then be quiet.’ Because that won’t solve the problem, which is the systemic issues that are present and will continue to exist, whether or not you write a cheque.”

Some politicians, academics and economists have called for reparations to be paid to an estimated forty million Black people. Any federal reparations programme could cost trillions of dollars, they estimate.

Supporters say such payments would acknowledge the value of the forced, unpaid labour that supported the economy of southern US states until the Civil War ended slavery in 1865, as well as the burden of decades of legal and de facto segregation that followed.

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD



## 'Standard Operating Procedures'



*A standard operating procedure (SOP) is a set of step-by-step instructions compiled by an organization on how to carry out specific tasks or routine operations. SOPs aim to achieve efficiency, quality output and uniformity of performance, while reducing miscommunication and failure to comply with industry regulations. In many organizations it is important to have continuity, in the event that key person(s) are absent.*

- Wikipedia

### Who creates them?

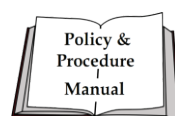
*While some organizations hire specialists to observe and compile data, it is always best to rely on information from the people who are immediately involved. A company may ask its members to be a part of its SOP initiative if they do not have an existing one. Managers, supervisors and other executive members of management usually oversee this process, while line staff are asked to document some of their routine tasks step-by-step. The information is then placed in a format that is concise, reviewed and then approved for use.*

### SOP TIPS

- A standard and simple **format**.
- Proper documenting of **steps**, including hierarchy.
- Simple **language** so that information can be retained quickly.
- Include **templates**.

### Benefits

1. They're used as training documents.
2. Aid in maximizing production requirements.
3. Ensure compliance standards are met.
4. Maintain tasks uniformity.
5. Ensure that things go according to schedule and that processes are channeled through appropriate personnel.



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**AVOID THE LINES**

Let's remain safe and exercise precaution as we get  
through this time together!

*We kindly encourage the general public to utilize our emails, online links and social media to limit physical contact as a means of mitigating the spread of Covid-19. Let us continue to remain safe by exercising the necessary precautions.*

**Tel:** (268) 562-8173

**Email:** [abnab@ab.gov.ag](mailto:abnab@ab.gov.ag)

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# Barbadians told 'stay at home'



Barbados Attorney General Dale Marshall

Stay at home during the day and during the night unless you are doing business with an essential service, are an essential worker or there is an emergency.

That is the word from Barbados Attorney General Dale Marshall, who on Thursday announced the changes in the Emergency Directive No. 4 which will govern the lockdown period until 28th February 2021, including the Stay At Home Weekend.

This gives legal teeth to the recommendation by Minister of Health Jeffrey Bostic that the weekend be added to the national

pause to curb the number of people on the road as Barbados continues to fight the community spread of COVID-19.

Marshall, like Bostic, said there were too many people moving about and too many vehicles on the road.

"We get the sense that Barbadians are not quite understanding what is expected of them. In fact, they are operating on the assumption that the only time that they have to stay in their homes is from seven in the night until six in the morning and that during the daylight hours they can do as they please and go

hither, thither and yon," he said.

Noting it was a "common sense thing," the Attorney General said they were making it clear on this occasion.

"We have stipulated in this directive now that during the daylight hours unless you have legitimate business with any of the exempted businesses or any of the essential services ... then you are expected to stay within the curtilage of your home."

The curtilage covers the boundaries of your property.

The Stay At Home Weekend will be in effect from 7:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 a.m. Monday.

During that time, bakeries will open for baking, but not bread depots for sales. Gas stations will be closed - fill up on Friday - and parks and beaches will also be closed.

Service at places of worship will continue with ten people only; funerals with no more than ten mourners, including an officiant and funeral director; and

weddings with a bride, groom, two witnesses and marriage officer are allowed.

Marshall warned that owners of shops who applied for assistance but opened in breach of the law would be denied financial assistance from Government.

A Government-issued emergency pass will be one of the exemptions to the directive. Staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are allowed to show their ID if stopped by police. Similarly, farmers and fishermen can also present their IDs as proof.

Passes are being issued to caregivers, but those are done through the Ministry of Elder Affairs. Members of the public are asked to note there will be a vetting system so expect delays, because some people are trying to finesse the system.

Marshall said passes would be revoked if they were abused by individuals.

The directive went into effect from midnight last night until midnight 28th February.

## Vieux Fort security guard tied up and robbed at gunpoint

**(Loop ST. Lucia):** A security guard of Vieux-Fort was earlier this week robbed at gunpoint by several masked gunmen.

Robbed was Julian Modest, who was at the time on duty at Lushe Bar, located near the Laborie/Vieux-Fort Highway and Massy Stores, La Tourney.

Modest, a resident of Black Bay, Vieux-Fort, was robbed of cash and his cell phone by an estimated seven masked men in the wee hours of Monday morning, 15th February.

He suffered head injuries during his ordeal.

The thieves, who made their entry into the pop-

ular business establishment through the back door, tied Modest up with shoelaces inside the building.

He was subsequently set free by a vendor who sells near Massy Stores, La Tourney.

According to information emanating from the

police, images of the thieves were captured on the bar's CCTV camera, but they could not identify the bandits. They say the victim also could not identify them.

Nothing in the business establishment was stolen nor tampered with, according to the police.

# No pomp and pageantry at this year's ceremonial opening of Parliament



Ceremonial opening of Parliament in Jamaica

**(Jamaica Gleaner):** The usual pomp and pageantry that would take place for the ceremonial opening of Parliament was dimmed by COVID-19 containment measures.

The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) commenced the ceremony with the escorting of Governor General Sir Patrick Allen.

This opened the curtains for a quick show as Mem-

bers of Parliament and Senators descended from either side of Duke Street, observing the social distancing protocols.

Their entry was the antithesis to previous years of greetings, jeering, and cheering by supporters of both the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the People's National Party (PNP).

Fifty-five-year-old Yvonne Codlin said she

came out to see Prime Minister Andrew Holness, officers from Mounted Troop Division, and JDF soldiers.

Though restricted to a wheelchair, Codlin said nothing could stop her from leaving her house on Mark Lane for the ceremonial opening.

She, however, was disheartened at this year's staging, expressing that

she does not believe things will go back to normal.

"Back in the 80s, the place full and block. You can't get space to see," she said.

She added: "Things change, people change, even before COVID come in."

Another JLP supporter, who requested anonymity, said she has been attending the ceremony for many years and expressed that she missed her counterparts and the usual excitement in supporting their party leaders.

One thing that stayed consistent with previous years, was the fainting of a JDF soldier, who was serving as a line marker.

Restricted to a corner on Sutton Road, about twenty PNP supporters were donning their party colours.

"Every year me come, I was late this morning but me a stay till it done," said Anita Hall from Jungle, St Andrew Southern.

Though supporters were disappointed with the scaling down of activities, many expressed that they understood why these measures had to be taken.

# GOT NEWS?

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





# T&T PM says Opposition Leader 'making mischief,' following demand to 'fire Deyalsingh'



PM Dr. Keith Rowley of Trinidad & Tobago

**(The Trinidad & Tobago Guardian):** Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has issued an official statement, in response to the Opposition Leader's call for the health minister to be fired, following Minister Deyalsingh's apology over misspeaking on the donation of COVID-19 vaccines from Barbados.

The full text of the statement, follows...

Response to the Opposition Leader's Latest Attack on the Minister of Health:

"This is pure mischief and the usual disruptive behaviour of a deranged Opposition Leader struggling for relevance.

As all CARICOM coun-

tries are busily engaged in positioning ourselves to obtain vaccines from a turbulent pandemic market environment, we in Trinidad and Tobago are careful to obtain and accept vaccines ONLY from sources which have WHO approval and certification. This is for the protection of our population.

It was in this situation of constant regional communication that Prime Minister Mottley of Barbados indicated to me (not the Minister of Health) that Barbados was offered 50,000 doses of a vaccine from India and that she was making a gift gesture of 2000 of these doses available to Trinidad and Tobago for "essen-

tial persons" (including PM and Cabinet).

I accepted the offer knowing that not all suppliers of these products from India had received WHO clearance. I anticipated and it did come to pass that by the time we got the items and waited a while, the WHO only recently certified the source supplier in India and thus we were able to use these vaccines, not on the Cabinet, but on our frontline health care givers.

Our national program remains on track as we have continuously informed the national population.

Monies have been paid, local preparations have been made, or-

ders and negotiations outside of the COVAX supply are currently underway and we are close to receiving and using our anticipated supply.

Vaccines are currently said to be available from many sources around the world, not all of which carry the quality assurance stamp of the WHO. It is up to individual governments to determine how they treat with the various sources and supply chains. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, in protection of our citizens, we will maintain our policy of working within the COVAX, WHO and PAHO and expect to receive our safe quotas from myriad sources as soon as they become available.

We will ignore the persistent attempts of the irresponsible Opposition whose only aim is to undermine the national effort and disturb the psyche of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Notwithstanding the best efforts of the Opposition Leader and her few followers, the people of Trinidad and Tobago can continue to rest assured that their interests are well served in the management of this pandemic challenges by a Government which has been careful at the beginning and remains competent and caring to the end."

# Biden pledges \$4 billion to global coronavirus vaccine effort that Trump spurned

The White House is throwing its support behind a push to equitably distribute coronavirus vaccines, pledging four billion dollars to a multi-lateral initiative the Trump administration chose not to back.

President Biden will on Friday announce an initial two billion dollars in funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to be used by the COVAX Facility, an initiative of the World Health Organization, senior administration officials said.

The U.S. will release an additional two billion dollars over two years once other donors have made good on their pledges, and will use this week's Group of Seven summit to rally countries to do more.

The money, which was appropriated by a bi-

partisan Congressional vote last year, will give a much-needed boost to a program jointly led by Gavi, the WHO and the Center for Preparedness Innovations.

COVAX aims to get coronavirus vaccines to countries that have been cut out of a vaccine race that's seen rich countries snap up the majority of doses, leaving everyone else to wait.

Although more than one hundred and ninety countries have joined COVAX, the Trump administration opted out, in part because of the former president's feud with the WHO.

In remarks published Thursday, French President Emmanuel Macron said the United States and Europe should provide coronavirus vaccines

to developing countries by donating up to five per cent of the doses they have ordered.

Asked by journalists about whether the U.S. will share doses, administration officials stressed that the country remains focused on vaccinating all Americans, but may consider sharing down the line.

Vaccine-hoarding, shipping mishaps spark confusion about second doses

Securing an appointment for a first dose of the coronavirus vaccine might feel like a victory. But then there is round two.

Scarce supply of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines has stirred anxiety about whether the required second dose will be available. Different

protocols in different jurisdictions – as well as several mishaps in recent weeks – have added to the frustration and concern in the greater Washington region.

Officials in Prince George's County are so worried about a shortage of second doses that they have held some first doses in reserve, slowing the pace of vaccinations – even though the federal government now automatically schedules its second-dose shipments. In Anne Arundel County, a data error temporarily disrupted shipments, forcing the abrupt cancellation of two second-dose clinics this month. In Harford County, a second-shot clinic was partially derailed by hundreds of residents trying to get their first shot.



# Facebook Australia: Tech giant faces growing criticism over news ban

Facebook is facing mounting criticism after it blocked news content in Australia amid a dispute with the government over a planned law.

The law will force tech giants to pay for news content on their platforms.

Facebook says the legislation "fundamentally misunderstands" its relationship with publishers. But politicians, publishers and rights groups in several countries have accused it of bullying, and raised concerns over access to information.

Under Facebook's new rules, Australian users are blocked from viewing and sharing local and international news, while local publishers are restricted from sharing or posting any links on their pages. Several government health and emergency

pages were also blocked, but Facebook later said this was a mistake and many of these pages are now back online.

Who has criticized the move?

In a statement posted on Facebook, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the social media company's actions to "unfriend Australia" were "as arrogant as they were disappointing." He added that he was in "regular contact with the leaders of other nations" over the issue and would not be "intimidated." Morrison later raised the issue with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as he sought to gain international support, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

Other Australian officials have also criticized the move. Treasurer Josh

Frydenberg said the ban on news information had a "huge community impact." About seventeen million Australians visit the social media site every month. It is the most important social platform for news in the country. Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan accused Facebook of "behaving like a North Korean dictator." Others suggested that a news vacuum could be filled by misinformation and conspiracy theories.

Human Rights Watch's Australia director said Facebook was censoring the flow of information, calling it a "dangerous turn of events." A local campaigner with rights group Amnesty International said it was "extremely concerning that a private company is willing to control access to infor-

mation that people rely on."

The move also faced criticism outside Australia.

Julian Knight, the head of the British parliamentary committee overseeing the media industry, called Facebook's action "bullying." "I think it's staggeringly irresponsible - at a time when we are facing a plethora of fake news and disinformation in relation to the COVID vaccine," he told the BBC.

"This is not just about Australia. This is Facebook putting a marker down, saying to the world that 'if you do wish to limit our powers... we can remove what is for many people a utility'."

Global publishers also reacted, with the company behind the Guardian newspaper saying it was "deeply concerned."

## Some power restored in Texas but water woes persist

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP):** Power was restored to more homes and businesses in Texas on Thursday after a deadly blast of winter this week overwhelmed the electrical grid and left millions shivering in the cold. But the crisis was far from over, with many people still in need of safe drinking water.

Fewer than a half-million homes remained without electricity, although utility officials said limited rolling blackouts could still occur.

The storms also left more than 320,000 homes and businesses

without power in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. About 70,000 power outages persisted after an ice storm in eastern Kentucky, while nearly 67,000 were without electricity in West Virginia.

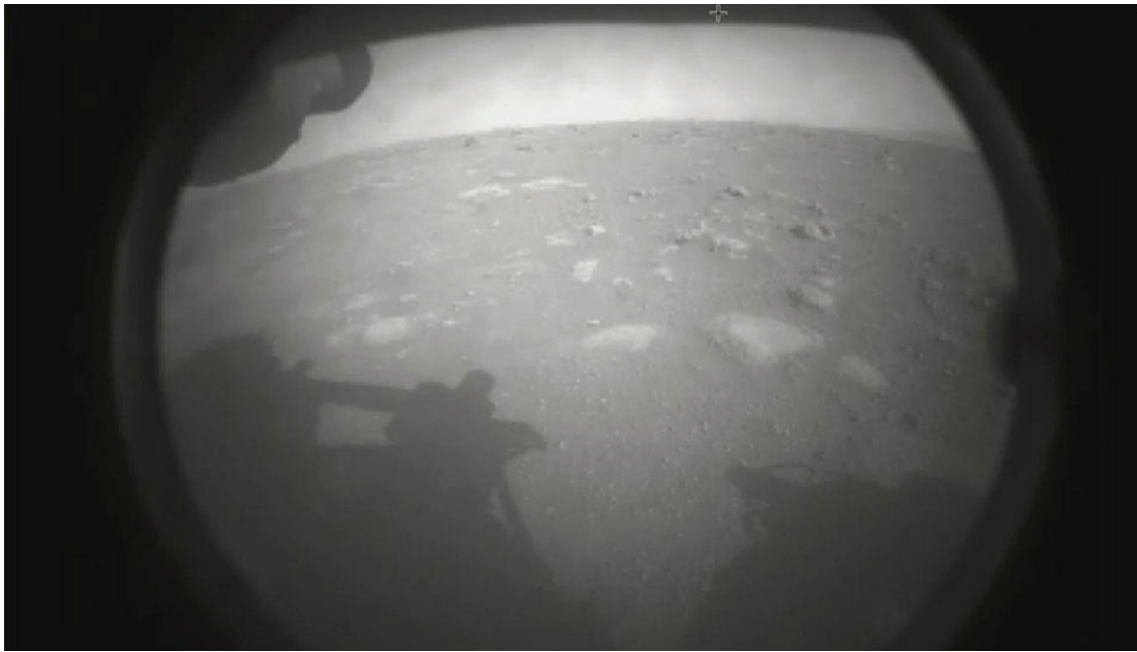
Snow and ice moved into the Appalachians, northern Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, and later the Northeast. Back-to-back storms left fifteen inches (thirty-eight centimeters) of snow in Little Rock, Arkansas, tying a 1918 record, the National Weather Service said.

The extreme weather was blamed

for the deaths of over three dozen people, some while trying to keep warm. In the Houston area, one family died from carbon monoxide as their car idled in their garage. A woman and her three grandchildren were killed in a fire that authorities said might have been caused by a fireplace they were using.

In Texas on Thursday, just under 500,000 homes and businesses remained without power, down from about three million a day earlier. The state's grid manager, the Elec-

# Nasa's Perseverance rover lands on Mars



The American space agency has successfully landed its Perseverance rover in a deep crater near the planet's equator called Jezero.

Engineers at Nasa's mission control in California erupted with joy when confirmation of touchdown came through.

The six-wheeled vehicle will now spend at least the next two years drilling into the local rocks, looking for evidence of past life. Jezero is thought to have held a giant lake billions of years ago. And where there's been wa-

ter, there's the possibility there might also have been life.

The signal alerting controllers that Perseverance was down and safe arrived at 20:55 GMT. In the past they might have hugged and high-fived but strict coronavirus protocols meant they had all been separated by Perspex screens. A respectful fist bump was about all they could manage.

Nonetheless, the excitement was evident. And the applause continued when the first two images came in. They were tak-

en by low-resolution engineering cameras with dust covering still-attached translucent lens covers, but it was possible to see a flat surface both in front and behind the rover.

Mike Watkins, the director of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the home of the agency's Mars missions, saluted the achievement of the Perseverance team. He said such successes would pave the way for eventual human missions to the Red Planet.

"We're not ready to go

there with astronauts yet, but the robots are ready," he stated.

"It is just fantastic to be able to do that and to learn from each rover, learn from the science and the engineering and to make the next one better. Every time we do one of these missions, we make fabulous discoveries and each one is more exciting than the last."

Landing on Mars is never easy, and even though Nasa has become expert at it, everyone on the Perseverance team had spoken with great caution going into Thursday.

This is the second one-tonne rover put on Mars by the US space agency. The first, Curiosity, was landed in a different crater in 2012. It trialled innovative descent technologies, including a rocket-powered cradle, that Perseverance has also now put to good effect.

Controllers will spend the coming weeks commissioning the new rover, checking that none of its systems were damaged in what would have been a rough ride to the ground.

*cont'd from pg 19*

tric Reliability Council of Texas, said the remaining outages are largely weather-related, rather than forced blackouts that began Monday to stabilize the power grid.

"We will keep working around the clock until every single customer has their power back on," said ERCOT Senior Director of System Operations Dan Woodfin.

Woodfin warned that rotating outages could return if electricity

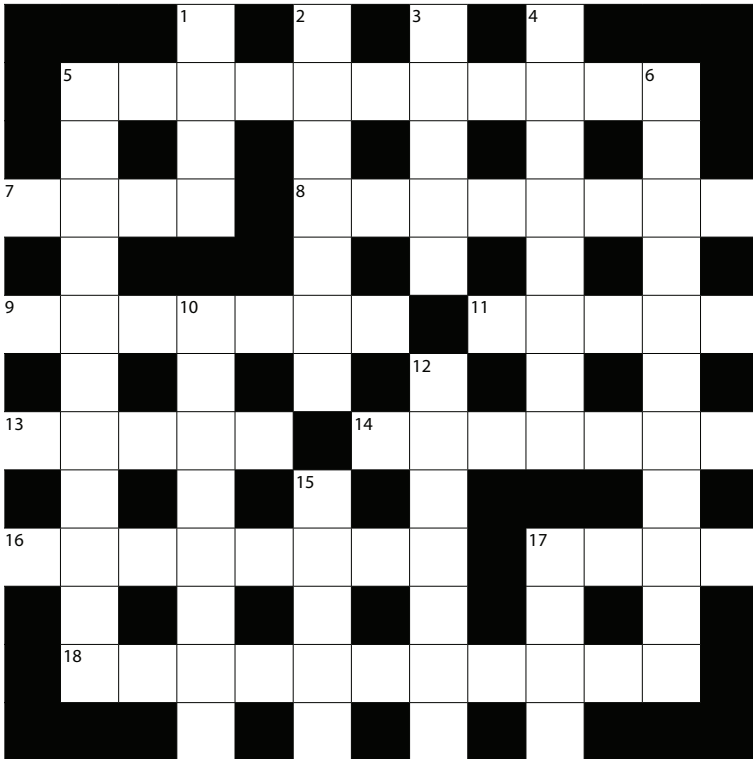
demand rises as people get power and heating back, though they would not last as long as outages earlier this week.

Adding to the state's misery, the weather jeopardized drinking water systems. Authorities ordered seven million people – a quarter of the population of the nation's second-largest state – to boil tap water before drinking it, following record low temperatures that dam-

aged infrastructure and pipes.

Water pressure fell after lines froze, and many people left faucets dripping to prevent pipes from icing over, said Toby Baker, executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Gov. Greg Abbott urged residents to shut off water to their homes, if possible, to prevent more busted pipes and preserve pressure in municipal systems.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 5 Polite form of words to attract attention (2,3,6)
- 7 Short drive in a car (4)
- 8 Part of a cruciform church — patterns (anag) (8)
- 9 Russian revolutionary, assassinated, 1940 (7)
- 11 Special set of circumstances (5)
- 13 Defect (5)
- 14 Nonstandard dialect from Newcastle-upon-Tyne (7)
- 16 Member of the radio audience (8)
- 17 Nub (4)
- 18 Crowd body movements at a sporting event (7,4)

**Down**

- 1 City at the confluence of the Saône and Rhône (4)
- 2 Filmed scene not appearing in the final cut (3-4)
- 3 Plaintive cry (5)
- 4 Festival celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt (8)
- 5 Policy of a country seeking to extend its control over others (11)
- 6 Outlay (11)
- 10 1970s' news and information service, like Ceefax and Prestel (8)
- 12 Trial (7)
- 15 Special way of doing something (5)
- 17 Landlocked central African country, capital N'Djamena (4)

**DAILY COMICS**

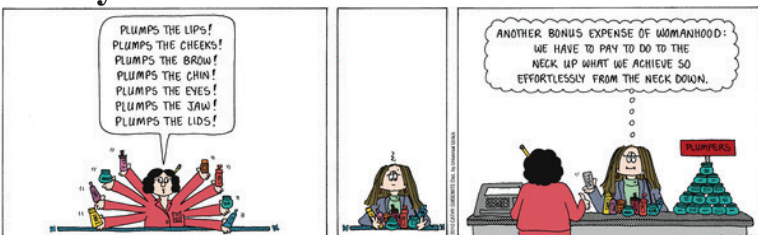
**Dilbert**



**Garfield**



**Cathy**



**SUDOKU**

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**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 02/19**  **82° Hi** DAY Sunny to partly cloudy and delightful  
**74° Lo** NIGHT Mainly clear with a passing shower

Sunrise 6:32 AM    Sunset 6:11 PM    Moonrise 11:37 AM    Moonset 12:50 AM

**SAT 02/20**  **81° Hi** DAY Partly sunny with spotty showers  
**74° Lo** NIGHT Mainly clear

Sunrise 6:31 AM    Sunset 6:11 PM    Moonrise 12:18 PM    Moonset 1:42 AM

**YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE**

<p><b>♈ ARIES</b>   Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>Challenges surrounding your online network or loose connections can arise today. This can feel draining as you are in restoration mode, but you have to discuss and settle the issue. This could be surrounding compensation in your industry.</p>	<p><b>♎ LIBRA</b> Sept. 1 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>Despite your innate expertise when it comes to one-on-one relationships, today's Venus-Mars square could be the reason you're second-guessing a romantic partnership, Libra. Not to worry; this, too, shall pass.</p>
<p><b>♉ TAURUS</b>   Apr. 20-May 20</p> <p>A significant relationship in your career, potentially with a manager, can feel challenged today. Your unique ideas, and original thought could feel brushed aside. This can feel deflating—especially if you've worked hard on what you've presented.</p>	<p><b>♏ SCORPIO</b> Oct. 1 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>Make today count. You can make a final decision to exit an important and seemingly stable work relationship for something that seems out of the ordinary on the surface. It's time for a much-needed change.</p>
<p><b>♊ GEMINI</b>   May 21-June 20</p> <p>A chance to speak publicly and share your thoughts on a topic can come through for you. This energy places the focus on your public persona as a great speaking and entertaining wordsmith.</p>	<p><b>♐ SAGITTARIUS</b>   Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>Take a step back and soak it all in. It's not everyday the sun transits through your domestic fourth house of home, family, and emotional foundations, let alone while simultaneously squaring off with the moon in your committed relationships.</p>
<p><b>♋ CANCER</b>   June 21-July 22</p> <p>Dear Crab, it's time to come out of your shell. You may feel as though you're being thrust into giving your opinion or sharing your views with your industry—surrounding a topic that is vital to your professional growth.</p>	<p><b>♑ CAPRICORN</b>   Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Integration of change is the theme as today can mark a fresh start with a new work routine, and overall wellness plan. Your energy levels increase and you are able to accomplish more. Put yourself first.</p>
<p><b>♌ LEO</b>   July 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Single or already attached, today's square between the sun and the moon in your experimental eleventh house is bound to create friction. You're either in the mood to explore your horizons, or perhaps looking to spend more time with friends.</p>	<p><b>♒ AQUARIUS</b>   Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>Tension can leave you feeling stressed, dear Aquarius. The key is not to allow this. Discrepancies over a paycheck, your salary, or how much you charge for your services can occur. Take your time and allocate for what's missing.</p>
<p><b>♍ VIRGO</b>   Aug. 23-Sept. 22</p> <p>Your focus is on your life path and career goals. Now, as a reward, you can receive a title elevation, pay increase, or even a new opportunity that can set you on a better path.</p>	<p><b>♓ PISCES</b>   Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>Hidden information can develop today, but it's ultimately for your own benefit. This could be surrounding a working relationship or even a new idea that you haven't expressed to others publicly.</p>

**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.

**AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA A.D. 2021**

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 02 March 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by Ms. Laura Nicholas of Cedar Grove, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Mount Pleasant, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a vacant parcel of land of an area of approximately 11,835.22 sq. ft. / 0.27 Acre.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-  
**REGISTRATION SECTION: Hodges Bay & Thibous**  
**BLOCK: 43 1896A**  
**PARCEL: 643**

Parcel No. **643** of Block No. **43 1896A** is bounded by the following:  
On the North by: Parcel 560 ;  
On the South by: Public Road;  
On the East by: Parcel 644 ;  
On the West by: Parcel 642

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:  
Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer  
Office: (268) 562-7653  
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653  
Email: info@go-going-gone.com  
Instagram: tts\_auction\_antigua  
Facebook: Auction Antigua

**AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA A.D. 2021**

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 12:00 p.m. on site, the under mentioned property owned by the late Mr. John Richards of Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.

The property is located at Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 6,534 sq. ft. with a single storey two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom residential dwelling of wooden and masonry walls thereon of an area offering approximately 862 sq. ft. of living space.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-  
**REGISTRATION SECTION: Five Islands**  
**BLOCK: 54 1292E**  
**PARCEL: 8**

Parcel No. **8** of Block No. **54 1292E** is bounded by the following:  
On the North by: Parcel 167 ;  
On the South by: Parcel 9 ;  
On the East by: Public Road;  
On the West by: Parcel 7 ;

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:  
Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer  
Office: (268) 562-7653  
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653  
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# Sandals congratulates West Indies team

Sandals Resorts International, as Principal Partner of Cricket West Indies, is extending heartiest congratulations to the West Indies players and management on their recent 2-0 Test Series win over Bangladesh. Kudos to Skipper Kraigg Braithwaite as well as Coach Phil Simmons for their leadership during what was a very difficult tour,

the title sponsors said. "It was heartening to see the team bounce back with such fight and determination after losing the T20 series, particularly as this team comprised a number of debutants. While every single player deserves praise, special congratulations go out to the Player of the Series Nkrumah Bonner, as well as Rakheem

Cornwall for being not only the Player of the Match in the second Test but also the leading wicket taker. Kyle Mayers must also be recognized for his match-winning double century in the first Test, while Joshua Da Silva and Jomel Warican also had key contributions," a Sandals Resorts International media release stated. The resort group is

also offering congratulations to Cricket West Indies and the Bangladesh Cricket Association for putting on a successful tour in what it terms "these difficult times." Sandals said it is proud to be associated with Cricket West Indies, and it wishes the West Indies players at all levels all the very best on their future tours.

## Coaches complete in-house training



**Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley**

Director of Sports Heather Samuel Daley said coaches attached to the Ministry of Sports have been active and recently completed some in-house training a few weeks before the closure of schools.

The training entailed coaching education, developing coaching ability and the ability to explain processes, while going through a biomechanical workshop with Deputy Director of Sports, Evan

'Jawaki' Jones.

"The coaches have also been watching and producing videos of their work. Before the closure of learning institutions around the island, the coaches were dispatched to work alongside physical education teachers within the schools," stated Samuel Daley.

The former national sprinter, now a certified coach, highlighted the important role that the sports medicine department has been playing since instituted a few years ago.

The department has been able to prevent a number of career-ending injuries to athletes, assist with documenting injuries allowing injured athletes to be compensated for their medical bills, and getting rapid response from the

medical services when requested.

The department presently houses five employees with one female, but the Director said they will be looking to expand the unit in the immediate future when COVID-19 is brought under control, while hoping to attract more females.

"The coaches have also been exposed to child protection workshops and all of the coaches, except for the individuals employed in the last twelve months, are trained in first aid," said Samuel Daley.

"The relationship with the Physical Education Department within the Ministry of Education is good but could be better, and we are hoping to foster a more productive and cohesive relationship in the immediate future," stated Daley.



## Walsh impressed with Windies performance in Asia

West Indies Women's head coach Courtney Walsh said he was happy to witness the regional team performance in Bangladesh in their recent 2-0 series win, and noted that the team played some good cricket in tough conditions.

The former West Indies fast bowler said the young players have now created a competitive environment within the set-up where players will have to fight for selection.

Walsh was high in praise for Rakeem 'Jimbo' Cornwall. "Jimbo' bowled long accurate spells, putting the host under tremendous pressure," stated the former West Indies captain.

Walsh also praised Jamaican Nkrumah Bonner, who was

exceptional with the bat. He noted that Bonner has been around for a long time, playing for Jamaica and the Hurricanes in regional cricket, but has now taken his opportunity with both hands by pinning down a position in the next Test series here in Antigua.

The Jamaica and West Indies superstar believes that rotation of players might be the best way forward in keeping them fresh and injury free. "England, Australia and some of the other power players in cricket have been rotating their players," explained Walsh.

Speaking to PointExpress, Walsh also voiced his concerns for Jamaica's cricket, after watching the team struggle. The team has



West Indies Women's head coach Courtney Walsh

thus far lost all of their Super50 being played at the Coolidge Cricket Ground and Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.

"I want to see my country perform well and hope they can turn things around in their remaining games," Walsh stated.

### cont'd from pg 26

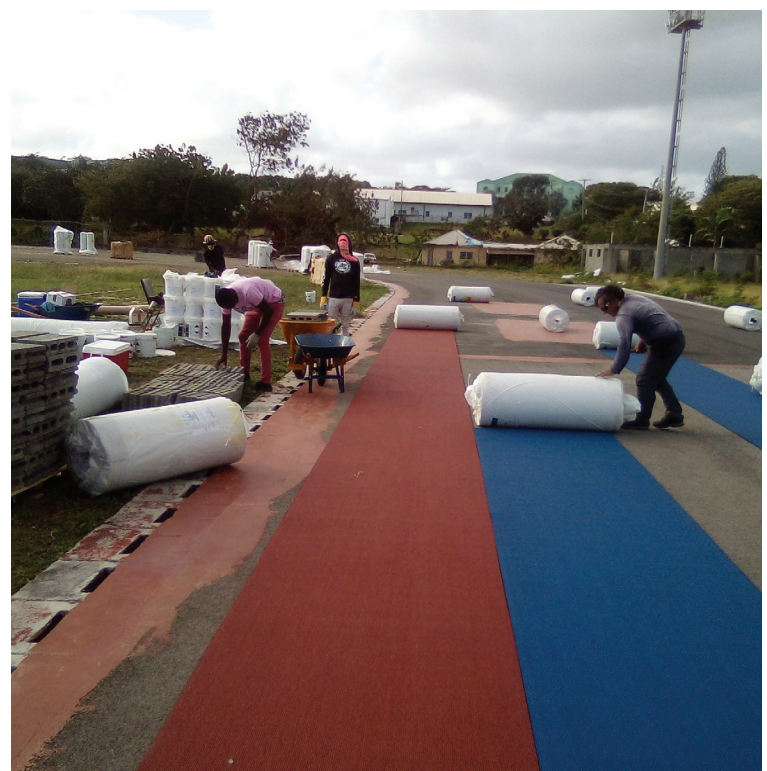
explained. Samuel Daley thanked the Minister of Sports and the president of the National Olympic Committee, E.P. Chet Greene, for their consistent presence visiting the site. "It shows their commitment in seeing the first phase of the project completed."

Acknowledged the greatest sprinter the island has produced to date, Samuel Daley is appealing to the public to adhere to all rules and regulations when the track is completed.

"Signs will be placed around the facility highlighting the guidelines. Also making his presence felt at the site has been

the Deputy Director of Sports. He said it has been four years since the inter-school athletic meet has been held, and when the track is completed and COVID-19 is brought under control the nation can expect the production of better athletes and faster times.

Jones noted that the new track is internationally certified and will be an inspiration to the upcoming athletes. The track has created excitement and many retired athletes have been coming out of the woodwork ready to compete again, Jones stated.



## Directors looking forward to the completion of YASCO



Left, Deputy Director of Sports Evans Jones and Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley

Director Heather Samuel Daley and Deputy Director of Sports Evans 'Jawaki' Jones are both elated with the progress of the track at YASCO.

Two technicians are presently on island installing the Mundo track with the assistance of members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force. The

Director, who is present daily at the facility, said

Minister of Sports Daryl Matthew specifically assigned her the task of overseeing the timely completion of the track, knowing the importance of the project to the athletic fraternity.

Samuel Daley noted that,

once there is not much rain, the project should be completed in three weeks. "As a coach I am very excited and extremely happy and can't wait for the end of the venture," the former national sprinter

*cont'd on pg 25*

**DEWS**



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