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FOUR COVID-19 DEATHS IN THREE DAYS

SEE PAGE 4

Photo caption: Vaccination exercise to move into high gear this week. On Saturday, parliamentarians, top sports personalities and ancillary staff received their jabs at the Parliament Building.

GUEST EDITORIAL

BIOGRAPHY OF THE HONOURABLE LESTER BRYANT BIRD

On Sunday 21st February, National Hero Sir Lester Bird celebrated his eighty-third birthday. In recognition, thereof, PointeXpress is pleased to present a brief biography of his distinguished career.

Lester Bryant Bird was a student of distinction, a world class athlete, an excellent cricketer, an accomplished golfer, an outstanding lawyer and a revered and well-loved politician.

He represented Antigua and Barbuda on its national cricket team at the age of eighteen years and he also was selected to play for the Leeward Islands Cricket Team. He represented the West Indies Federation as an athlete in the Pan American Games of 1958, and was a bronze medalist in the long jump competition. He gained an athletic scholarship to the University of Michigan in 1958, and from the onset won most of his competitions with relative ease. To highlight a few, he won many of the Ohio relays, many of the Texas relays and the Pennsylvania relays, for three consecutive years. Thus, between 1958 and 1961 Lester Bryant Bird had arguably developed an undefeated and decorated track and field career. A gold medalist in long jump, Big Ten Champion, NCAA Medalist, an All American, and the distinct honour of admission to the Honorary Fraternity of Sphinx for his outstanding all round performance are but a few of the accolades gained by Lester Bird as an athlete, whilst at the university.

After successfully pursuing a law degree, he was called to the English Bar at Grays Inn, London, in 1969. On his return to Antigua, this talented, skillful young lawyer had a very successful law practice, representing many clients; and quite a large number pro bono. The Antigua Labour Party (ALP) was also a great beneficiary of his law career.

In 1971 he entered the political arena, for a seat in the Parliament of Antigua & Barbuda on an ALP ticket. He was made a Senator and sharpened his political skills on the Opposition Benches in the Parliament during the period 1971 – 1976. He was undoubtedly the preferred candidate for the constituency of St. John's Rural East in 1976, and was re-elected for the next five (5) consecutive general elections. He lost his seat in 2004, but quickly regained it, being re-elected in 2009, and was re-elected even more overwhelmingly in the recent elections in 2014. He also served as the Political Leader of the ALP for an unbroken period of eighteen years, from 1994 until 2012.

In 1994, he succeeded the Honourable Vere Corn-

wall Bird as Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda, and served in that capacity for another ten years, (1994 – 2004). He also served as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament from 2009 –2012.

Building the Country: Shaping the Nation

The Honourable Lester Bird's vision created modern Antigua & Barbuda, providing better quality jobs, improved living standards and higher education for a large number of people in our society. His work fashioned the post-colonial economy of Antigua and Barbuda, transforming it from its dependence on sugar and cotton that were irretrievably in decline.

It was the Honourable Lester Bird who was responsible for:-

- Invigorating Tourism throughout the late 1980's and 1990's, attracting Large-scale Investment in hotels and expanding the VC Bird International Airport
- Establishing the foundation for the major expansion of land-based and Cruise Ship Tourism that provided hundreds of jobs and commercial opportunities for men and women throughout the society
- Building the Hospitality Institute to qualify a wide cross section of people for better-paid jobs within the tourism industry
- Introducing the services industry (beyond tourism) such as Offshore Banking, Financial Services and Internet Gaming into the economy
- Modernizing St. John's by facilitating the construction of Redcliffe Quay and Heritage Quay
- Pioneering education and training in information technology through the Antigua & Barbuda Institute of Technology to make young people in Antigua and Barbuda competitive in the global ICT community
- Instituting an Economic Programme that raised the standard of living of all in the society through low taxes, high investment, and job creation
- The construction of a modern Hospital at Mount St. John to give quality healthcare to the people of our society
- Educating more Antiguan and Barbudans at Ter-

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tiary Level – a pattern which has continued based on the pillars that were laid throughout the 1980's up to 2004

- Introducing the “Land for Youth” scheme which gave young people a piece of the rock and empowered many of them to progress

- Placing more Women in Positions of Authority than at any time in the country's history as Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Tourism Departments, Senators and Law Officers

- Creating the ONDCP to ensure that money laundering and the illicit drug trade were not a part of the Antiguan economy.

Carving a place of pride for Antigua & Barbuda in Regional and International Affairs

The Honourable Lester Bird also gave Antigua and Barbuda a place of respect in Regional and International affairs that continues to resonate today. His contribution in this regard, spans over 28 years.

- He was one of the Caribbean's most effective spokespersons on the international scene

- He was a strong and impressive advocate of Antigua and Barbuda in the regional and international fora at the UN, the Commonwealth, the OAS, CARICOM and the OECS

- He was one of the architects of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the retention of the Eastern Caribbean Currency (now the strongest in the Caribbean)

- He was also one of the architects of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States(OECS)

- Under his Chairmanship of CARICOM, the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), now the Office of Trade Negotiations, was created to strengthen the negotiating capacity of all CARICOM countries

- As Prime Minister, he supervised the construction of the laws, regulation and enforcement agencies under which the International Financial Action Task Force against drug trafficking and money laundering and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force found Antigua and Barbuda's banking system and regulatory machinery in full conformity with the best international standards

- He was the first Representative of the Leeward Islands on the West Indies Cricket Board, and he had a strong voice in the selection of Clive Lloyd as the Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team

- He was also selected by CARICOM as the first Chairman of the Ministerial Sub-committee responsible for West Indies Cricket

- Fearless, in his defence of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, it was the Honourable Lester Bird, as Prime Minister, who instructed that the government takes the US to the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the jobs of local people in the Internet Gaming Industry. It was under his watch that the case was

won at the WTO in March 2004, and it has been a disappointment to him to witness the unfair handling of the judgement received by the US

Building St. John's Rural East

2009 – 2018

1976 – 2004

Over the years that the Honourable Lester Bird represented the people of St John's Rural East, he was concerned about raising the standard of living in the area, providing for the needs of young people, and building the infrastructure of the area. He was also keen to ensure that people in the constituency had jobs and could maintain themselves and their families financially.

He organized for:

- Constituents to buy lands
- Constituents to build homes
- Roads to be repaired and improved
- Sidewalks to be constructed
- Sports facilities to be built for young people (JCSC Basketball Court, and the Cricketing Facility next to the Clare Hall School)
- Computer classes and after school lessons to be given within the community
- Commercial businesses to be established in the constituency to ensure employment and development in the area

What must be underscored is that the Honourable Lester Bird's many economic innovations and policy choices placed Antigua and Barbuda in an enviably high position on the United Nations Human Development Index.

He brought “an element of experience which is unique in Antigua and Barbuda – a former Prime Minister during ten years of steady growth that placed the country well ahead of its OECS counterparts and a former foreign minister and tourism minister with more than twenty years of experience in hands-on management of the country's international affairs and its most important industry. He was also known for his oratorical skills – and spoke with an eloquence that commanded the attention of his audiences at home, regionally and internationally. During his tenure, he created an atmosphere of continuous nurturing and improvement, underpinned and sustained by his creed of excellence and a natural long-term vision for an educated, informed, productive and most importantly, a proud nation of Antigua & Barbuda.”

Information courtesy:

Maurice Merchant

Director General of Communications

Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Four COVID-19 deaths in three days

There have been four COVID-19-related deaths at the Mount St John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) over a three-day period. This brings to fourteen the number of people confirmed to have died from the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus.

The MSJMC Medical Director confirmed that on Thursday a male patient, age sixty-eight, passed away at the country's main health institution at 3: 33 p.m. He had tested positive for COVID-19.

Then on Saturday, three deaths were recorded: firstly, a female patient, age seventy-seven, who had underlying medical conditions, passed away 12:15 p.m. She had tested positive for COVID-19. Secondly, a second female patient, age fifty-seven, who also had severe underling medical conditions, has passed away at 9:08 p.m. She too had tested positive for COVID-19.

Then later Saturday night at about 11:45, the hospital confirmed the third death in a single day: a female patient, age eighty-six. She too had underlying medical conditions and had tested positive for the coronavirus.

"Our thoughts and condolences remain with the families and loved ones at this difficult time," Dr. Duncan stated.

He said there were thirty-one patients hospitalized up to midday Sunday with COVID-19 illnesses, five of whom were classified as 'critical care' patients requiring ventilators.

"Even as we do our part by wearing masks and practising physical distancing along with hand washing/sanitizing, we must remember we are fighting to protect our community. Together, with each of you, MSJMC will continue to work hard to combat this pandemic," the MSJMC Medical Director said.



MSJMC Medical Director Dr. Albert Duncan

Vaccination to be expanded this week

The national vaccination exercise which took off last Wednesday is expected to intensify this week with more frontline workers and other key personnel slated to receive their jabs.

Already, hundreds of healthcare workers, Cabinet members, parliamentarians and top sports personalities have received their first jab of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

These vaccines form part of the batch of 5-thousand which were donated

to the Antigua and Barbuda government from its Dominica counterpart.

On Saturday, it was the turn of parliamentarians and sports personalities including Sir Andy Roberts, Sir Curtly Ambrose and Sir Richie Richardson. The exercise continued on Sunday with members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force receiving their jabs.

Health authorities say this week the exercise continues with frontline workers in the health fraternity

as well as the police force, customs division and immigration department.

The government has decided to administer all 5-thousand doses to individuals as a first shot with the second jab slated for when the country receives the shipment of 40-thousand doses from India, now expected to arrive perhaps as early as the end of the week.

Last week, Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Josher has set a target of two months to have the entire popu-

lation, at least those who want to be vaccinated, to have access to the vaccine.

Along with the 40-thousand from India, the country will receive additional 40-thousand doses through the COVAX facility being administered by the World Health Organisation. In addition, the government has placed an order for 100-thousand doses in order to have adequate amounts to completely inoculate the population.

PM calls for temporary halt in political 'warfare' amidst COVID upsurge



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called on his political opponents to observe a 'ceasefire' and to join his government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am going to commit myself from today that I will aspire to have nothing negative to say about my political opponents. I am asking Opposition Leader Harold Lovell and his entire team to join us in a political ceasefire. It is critical at this time. The focus should be about getting our people vaccinated to protect lives and our livelihoods. I am making an earnest call for a political ceasefire between the opposition forces and government for us to understand that the priority at this time is to protect lives and liveli-

hoods by getting our people inoculated in order to achieve herd immunity," PM Browne told his radio and social media audience during his weekly appearance on a radio programme on 99.1 PointeFM.

The country's leader was at the time responding to a caller who commented on the government's position that there will be no lock-down of the country to fight the rise in COVID-19 cases.

PM Browne said that unless the COVID-19 situation gets to a point whereby the health system becomes overwhelmed, the country would not go into a lock down. He said that what is needed is for persons to come together and observe the protocols and encourage each other to get in-

oculated. The recent figures indicate that there are three hundred and seventy active COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda with forty persons hospitalized.

"There is no other way out and all of us is as vulnerable as each of us. We must understand that there are consequences that go beyond our individual decisions and we have to make decisions in the interest of ourselves and our loved ones and the entire nation as a whole," PM Browne stated.

On 16th February, political leader of the United Progressive Party, Harold Lovell, mounted a social media campaign outlining his support for COVID-19 vaccination, stating that he will take the vaccine.

"I will take the AstraZeneca vaccine or whichever vaccine is recommended by our medical and public health professionals. It is absolutely important to get vaccinated. It will protect my life, the lives of my family and friends and most of all the lives of the people of my wonderful country," Harold Lovell posted on his Facebook page.

The government last Wednesday commenced its vaccination programme, inoculating front line workers to include nurses, doctors, EMT officers, Members of Cabinet and Parliament and other healthcare workers. It will continue the vaccination drive in the coming weeks, also taking the vaccination programme to the sister island of Barbuda.

"I make this sincere call for a political ceasefire at this time, recognizing that the country needs us all. Each of us must take responsibility to fight this existential threat in our country. All of us must participate in the public education campaign and to convince everyone around us to continue to adhere to the health protocols in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to get vaccinated in order to achieve the much needed herd immunity so that we can return to normalcy as soon as possible," PM Browne stated.

PM again rebuffs calls for another lockdown, says it will hurt more than help

By Shelton Daniel

Unless and until Antiguans and Barbudans become vaccinated against the COVID-19 disease, the country's overall recovery from the pandemic will be practically impossible, according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

He was speaking on Saturday during his weekly radio programme, The Browne and Browne Show, on PointeFM 99.1.

The Prime Minister was making the dual point of why it was impractical to lockdown the country once again in response to a recent surge in new infections, hospitalizations and deaths from the disease - and why vaccination will be crucial for Antiguans and Barbudans who are desirous of travelling abroad.

The Prime Minister said tourism, the country's main source of economic sustenance, would fare even worse if visitors remain

wary of coming to Antigua and Barbuda should the virus not be brought under control through the achievement of herd immunity.

"It means potentially that business could be redirected to other countries that achieve herd immunity before us. It also means that Antiguans and Barbudans could be precluded from travelling to certain countries because we are considered to be high risk. So, if we have low participation [in the voluntary public vaccination programme] it will have significant economic and social consequences for the country, and we will see a significant increase in hospitalizations and deaths," he stated emphatically.

The Prime Minister referenced another local radio station where he said it had been brought to his attention that the CEO (who is a talk show host and an endorsed candidate of the political opposition) were

"making a mockery of the whole issue ... mixing politics and healthcare" which the head of government denounced as "incompatible."

PM Browne also dismissed reported calls by the same person for "a lockdown next Thursday and Friday ... how does that really help to fight this disease? The call that Serpent and others should be making at this time is for us to get vaccinated as soon as possible so that we can protect lives and livelihoods. They go hand in hand. You cannot ignore livelihoods and focus exclusively on lives... Ultimately, the focus is on lives, but at the same time you have to do both. You cannot ignore either, even though we are prioritizing lives."

To those calling for a return to total lockdown as had been applied in the earliest days of the pandemic, Prime Minister Browne reminded that

even with a more limited tightening of restrictions recently, many business operators were complaining about how the increase in curfew hours, among other measures, was adversely affecting them.

"You lock down the country, there are consequences to people. There are health consequences, job losses, people will not be able to eat... While locking down a country may reduce the level or rate of infections, I'm not aware that it has eliminated infections in any country. There are many countries within the OECS, and the wider Caribbean area, that have had far more COVID cases than Antigua and Barbuda . . . and they are still open for business... This has to be an issue where you use every ounce of intelligence and skill to manage the health risks and the economic risks concurrently while prioritizing the health risks."



Hotel agrees to take measures to avoid negative publicity



Hodges Bay Club Vice President of Operations Celia Morgan

The management of the Hodges Bay Club has agreed to work along with the government and the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) to avoid incidents that may lead to negative publicity both for itself and the country.

These were among matters discussed last week when Tourism Minister, Charles 'Max' Fernandez and representative of the ABHTA met through virtual means with the Chief Executive Officer of the hotel, Jeff Wellemeyer.

The hotel has been the centre of a social media campaign over a number of incidents at the resort, one of which included the erection of a barrier to the beach adjacent to the property. Another incident

included a photo of a staff member ostensibly serving drinks without wearing a face mask.

Fernandez said the meeting emphasized that the hotel, the association and the ministry should be keenly aware that information released in the marketplace, if not handled properly, may have a negative impact on the image of the country.

"We reiterated the position that all guests should be told in advance about the country's health protocols and that they are expected to adhere to them while vacationing here. I advised them to put out a brochure that is communicated to guests prior to arriving in the country," Fernandez outlined.

It was also emphasized

that images such as those making the rounds on social media not only hurt the Hodges Bay Club but potentially harmed the country's image.

"We told the CEO that it was very important for staff to wear face masks at all times as a means of protecting themselves, the guests and the entire country," the minister stated.

Last Friday, the Hodges Bay Club convened a press conference to address several of the matters raised in the social media posts. Vice President of Operations, Celia Morgan, expressed concerns over "misrepresentation and mixed messages, being pushed from divers' quarters, in respect of Hodges Bay Resort & Spa's compliance with the established COVID19 protocols of the Ministry of Health of Antigua and Barbuda and the erection of a barrier - which has since been taken down - while providing an alternate and safer way for the public to access the beach during the pandemic." According to Morgan, the barrier was removed on the day it was erected, even before the development Control Authority (DCA) paid a visit the following day.

"Our highest priority remains the safeguarding of our staff, their families and the Antiguan and Barbudan community in which we operate.

"There has been much social media debate about Hodges Bay Resort & Spa

blocking access to the public beach. The beaches of this beautiful twin-island state are an asset of all Antiguans and Barbudans. As a nation whose economy is driven by tourism, we share the beaches with visitors to our shores. At no point were locals ever denied access to the beach. This has always been and will continue to be the case," Morgan said in a prepared text.

She also expressed her concern over what she termed the use of racial slurs that were part of some of the social media postings. "We wish to remind all, that racial slurs and insult on social media do not help our industry and only damage the prospect for a bounce-back in tourism of Antigua and Barbuda at a time when we are most vulnerable. We as a society are better and can do better than that.

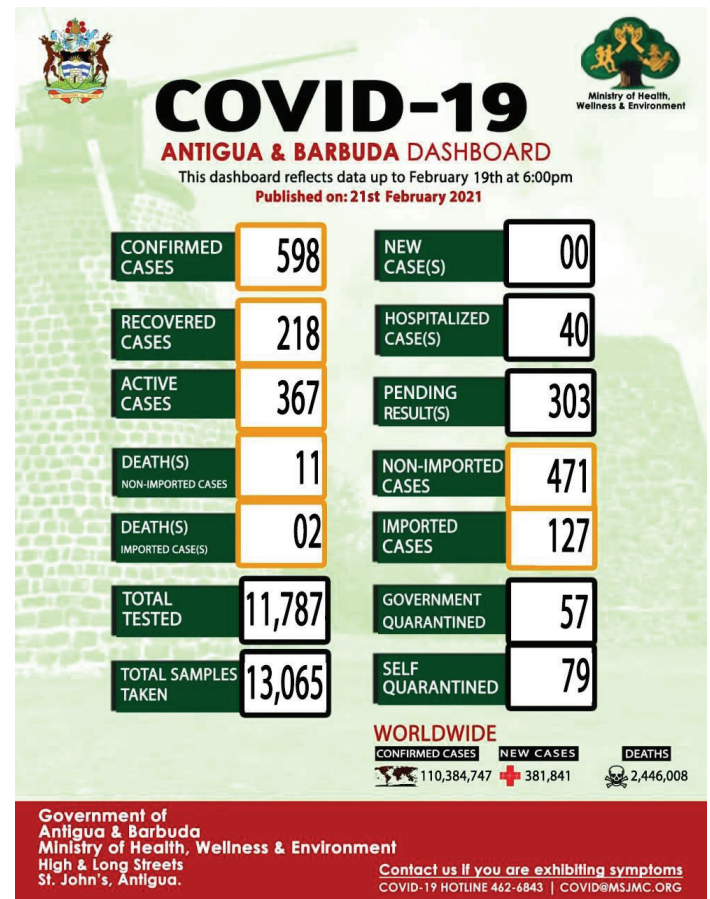
"Since the racial slurs and insults, we have lost forward bookings and would have had to refund a number of our in-house guests as a measure of assurance that everything is okay. This type of behaviour is simply not good for our tourism product," she revealed.

According to Morgan, the Hodges Bay Club is one of the few hotels that remained open throughout the pandemic providing employment to staff. She also recommitted the resort to joining the government in enforcing the health protocols as approved by the ministries of health and tourism.

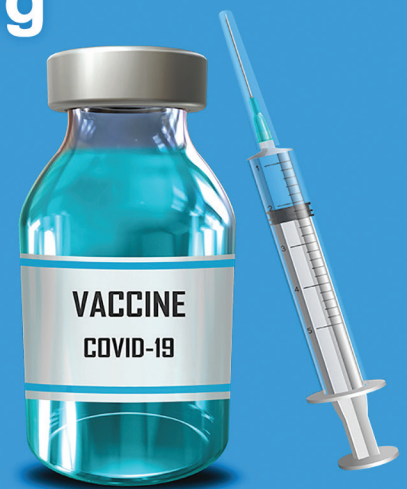
No new confirmed cases

The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) has no new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 19th February 2021 at 6 p.m.

Subsequent to the publication of the dashboard for Thursday 18th February 2021 with the cut off time of 6 p.m., an additional forty-five (45) samples were processed at MSJMC, increasing the pending results from one hundred and seven (107) to one hundred and fifty-two (152) in total. All one hundred and fifty-two (152) samples processed by MSJMC were negative. The additional forty-five (45) samples are reflected in the total samples taken and total persons tested columns of the dashboard. This dashboard information was published prior to one of the deaths that were reported on Saturday. The updated dashboard is expected sometime today.



**Coronavirus can affect anyone.
For elderly persons suffering
from a non-communicable
disease, e.g. diabetes,
COVID-19 can be very
serious or even fatal.**



#GetTheFacts #GetTheVax

EACH VACCINATED, ALL PROTECTED.



Flow salutes young 'superheroes'

Two boys who exhibited much bravery when they rescued two younger children from a burning house earlier this month, have been singled out for special recognition by the telecommunications company – FLOW.

Reports are that the incident happened at Cashew Hill when the boys ran into the burning wooden house to rescue the children. The house

was destroyed by the time the fire brigade arrived on the scene, but there were no injuries. Further tragedy was averted when two young superheroes – Silence Manyaka and Dimitri Brown “sprang into action” and entered the burning home in a remarkable display of bravery and selflessness.

Flow decided to recognize and

reward these young men for their bravery and quick thinking and for putting their own lives at risk to avoid what could very well have been a major tragedy.

Both superheroes received a mobile phone each as well 3 months Always on Prepaid Plans. Flow's Direct Sales Agent Supervisor, Percy Adams, presented the gifts.

Doctor says failure to vaccinate could have major economic impact

A member of the medical fraternity is warning nationals that the failure to get vaccinated on a large scale could have dire economic consequences for the country.

Medical doctor, Dr Alfonso Jerry Simon issued the warning during an appearance on the Browne and Browne show on PointeFM radio on Saturday afternoon. He warned that despite Antigua and Barbuda's many natural sceneries and historical sites, visitors will not return to the island in large numbers if they believe that travelling here is not safe.

"Don't believe for one second that if we in Antigua and Barbuda mess around with taking the vaccine that the other countries are going to wait on us. If St Kitts, St Lucia, Dominica or any other country get their vaccine programme up and running right now, and they can open earlier than we can, despite our brand new

fifth pier, our lovely beaches, hotels and attractions, they are going to be able to attract people to their shores. The governments of the developed countries – Europe, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom will advise their citizens to visit countries where the people are vaccinated," he warned.

He added that it is imperative that the vaccination programme is supported and that everyone should get the vaccine whenever it comes available.

"We can't stay shutdown forever! Some people may be able to work from home. However, the people who will pay for their services may not be able to afford them so everyone suffers. We have to get on board with the vaccination," he remarked.

Dr Simon was also critical of those who have taken to the airwaves expressing doubts about the vaccine

and the vaccination process, among other things. He said it was time "to put this nonsense behind us" and to move ahead with the vaccination. "The only protection against the virus is to get vaccinated. If we don't get vaccinated we are going to be left behind. The drivers of the economy cannot open unless the country has been largely vaccinated. This year, we have lost Sailing Week and we are going to lose other events if we do not," he declared.

Dr Simon said getting vaccinated is the first step for the country to return to normality.

Dr Simon said the vaccine is the only proven defence there is against the virus and only roughly one of a population of one hundred thousand who would have an allergic reaction to the vaccine and therefore not debilitating. "It's the only definitive treatment against the virus!" he declared.

Our National Legend Notice

NEWSPAPER RETRACTION

FOR THE OSCAR MASON ARTICLE

In our February 17th 2021 post of Black History Month Legends, it was incorrectly stated that **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** is the Great Grand-son of Oscar Mason. Please be advised that **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** is **NOT** a Great Grand-son or directly related to Oscar Mason.

We at the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this post may have caused to family and friends.

Sir Lester celebrates another birthday



National Hero and former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bird

National Hero and former Prime Minister, Sir Lester Bird celebrated his eighty-third birthday on Sunday in quiet reflection with family amidst COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings.

Sir Lester told **PointeXpress** that he was presented with a nice cake among other delicacies. However, there was no large gathering due to the current health protocols.

"Antigua and Barbuda was doing nicely until the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the country's forward movement. The current prime minister and the cabinet were doing a good job until COVID made it all difficult," he stated.

Reflecting on his time in government, Sir Lester said he and his team laid much of the foundation upon which today's successes have been built. "I am proud of what I did such as the Mount St. John's Medical centre, Heritage Quay and the pier among others. Prime Minister Gaston Browne has continued this work and only the pandemic has been able to derail his plans," he observed.

Sir Lester however noted that while he was the 'dynamo' of the team, he did not do it alone. He credited Sir John St. Luce, Hugh Marshall Snr, Sir Molwyn Joseph as key members of his team. He also singled out businesswoman Makeda Mikeal for the outstanding work she did as a member of his team.

Sir Lester was deputy premier/prime minister from 1976 to 1994 when his father Sir V.C. Bird retired from politics and he was prime minister from 1994 to 2004.

He gave himself the moniker 'Comeback Kid' following his electoral victory in 2009.

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I travelled to Antigua during the COVID-19 pandemic

— *Here's what it was like*

And why it was the perfect place to get away.



By Rondel Holder

As 2021 began, the New Year did not provide the fresh restart we always hope for as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hold its grasp on the world — making travel more difficult than ever before.

Out of the many reasons I prioritize travel, its impact on my mental health and ability to help me reset is always at the top of the list — and given that travelling this past year has not been the easiest, I was in dire need of a getaway. Kicking off the New Year, I decided to take matters into my own hands and check the list of countries opened to U.S. travellers to plan the perfect trip.

After looking at entry requirements, weather ac-

commodations, COVID-19 statistics, and the local government's management of the pandemic, I landed on Antigua and Barbuda for my trip.

Pre-travel process

Antigua and Barbuda requires a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within seven days of travelling. Printed proof of a negative test result is also required and is checked by both the airline before boarding and by immigration upon arrival. In-flight, passengers are required to fill out a health screening form asking about their potential exposure to the virus in recent weeks or current symptoms they may be

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experiencing. The completed form is collected after landing.

As someone with family and friends in the Caribbean and other parts of the world, I am very conscious that my vacation in paradise is also their home. With that in mind, I self-quarantined after taking the PCR test to limit my exposure in the days leading up to the trip. This extra level of consideration would definitely be appreciated if a traveller were to visit my home, so it was a no-brainer to extend that courtesy – especially as Antigua and Barbuda consistently has had essentially no major COVID-19 outbreaks since last March at the start of the pandemic.

Airport, flight and landing in Antigua

Airport protocol at both JFK International Airport and Antigua's V. C. Bird International Airport were both thorough and organized. Masks are required at all times other than eating and drinking, and social distancing is highly encouraged. Upon landing at the V.C. Bird Airport, it is hard to walk two minutes without being required to sanitize your hands. You are asked to sanitize before going to immigration, before handing over your passport, and even on the way out, your taxi driver will ask you to sanitize before entering their vehicle.

Leaving the airport, all visitors are asked to monitor potential symptoms for up to fourteen days and call a hotline if they experience symptoms that may be potential signs of COVID-19.

Current restrictions in Antigua

On the island, visitors are required to stay at pre-approved accommodations and participate in activities that are also pre-approved. The list of certified hotels, excursions and all other requirements and up-to-date protocol is available on their website.

Visitors are required to wear masks and remain socially distant in public. On our resort, we wore masks at all times except in the pool, on the beach and to eat. Resort, taxi and restaurant staff also all wore masks. During this time, as with anywhere else in the world, it is important to check hours of operation and capacity limits for different venues and attractions as they may change as needed for public safety. At the time of our travels, the popular Shirley Heights Sunday Night BBQ had limited capacity and we were unable to attend. Popular excursions and attractions, such as Stingray City and sunset cruises with Tropical Adventures are open and available.

Experience while travelling

Antigua serves copious amounts of quintessential West Indian island vibes. Driving around the one-hundred-and-eight-square-mile island your eyes are

meet with vibrantly painted homes, lush greenery, and locals whose smiles are as warm as the sun that kisses your skin.

Traditional Caribbean dishes and fresh seafood are in abundance both at restaurants and street-side vendors. The sounds of reggae and soca gently played in the background and added to the ever-present calm, which comes to a climax on the beach at night – where what seems like every constellation imaginable is in clear view – feeling the breeze rolling off the Caribbean Sea.

Antigua is known for having a beach for everyday of the year with three hundred and sixty-five spots to soak up the sun. All beaches are accessible to the public, even if attached to a hotel or private property. And as a beach lover, nothing made me happier than knowing you are bound to see a new, pristine beach within every two to three minutes driving on the same road.

Some of my favourites included Pigeon Point, Long Bay, Dickenson's Bay and Ffryes.

My visit to Antigua was exactly what I needed to safely venture into the world. It was the perfect place to explore, relax, and find peace that will be staying with me for the foreseeable future – or least until the next time I can travel.



Online symposium aims to enhance care and treatment for cardiac patients



By Dr. Gaden Osborne

Knowing the signs of a stroke and seeking urgent care can mean the difference between life and death.

In addition to being one of the world's biggest killers, stroke is also the leading cause of disability worldwide, and the recovery process can be lengthy.

Equipping local health care professionals with the tools to better assist patients in Antigua and Barbuda is the focus of an online symposium taking place on February 27.

The event, being held by Zoom, is the second of its kind organised by the country's Heart & Stroke Foundation (HSF).

The charity's president Dr. Georgette Meade – and one of the symposium's four expert speakers – says it is geared at everyone from physicians to nurses and pharmacists. Members of the general public with an interest in improving their cardiac health are also welcomed to join.

"We had very good feed-

back from our symposium last year and the plan is to host it as an annual event," she explained. "Attendees will have the chance to ask questions after each presentation."

Antigua neurologist Dr. Gaden Osborne, based at Mount St John's Medical Centre, says the hospital is seeing more young people suffering from strokes than ever before.

Some are as young as 17 years old. Poor diet, sedentary lifestyle and smoking are among the biggest risk factors, along with hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol.

"Better education about strokes could be one of the reasons we are seeing more young patients; people are getting better at recognising the signs and symptoms," Dr. Osborne explains.

"It sounds like a joke, but I have had patients tell me they woke up with weakness and thought it was just gas."

Stroke symptoms include sudden weakness or numbness in the limbs, garbled or slurred speech, droopiness in the face, confusion, loss of balance and lack of coordination.

"The quicker the person gets to hospital, the better off they will be in the long run. Time is of the essence," Dr. Osborne warns.

His 30-45-minute presentation will focus on cardioembolic stroke which occurs when the heart pumps unwanted materials into the brain circulation, resulting in the blocking of a brain

blood vessel and damage to the brain tissue.

Long-term disabilities stroke can range from an inability to walk, to difficulty speaking or swallowing, and visual disturbances.

Dr. Osborne studied at the American University of Antigua (AUA), before doing an internship in New York and a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology at the University of Michigan. In addition to stroke, his patients also include those suffering from Alzheimer's, epilepsy, and movement disorders such as Parkinson's.

"This symposium is very important because physicians who are non-cardiologists and non-neurologists need to be able to manage these patients, especially given the lack of human resources locally," Dr. Osborne continued.

"We only have one cardiologist to the best of my knowledge and I'm the only neurologist here, so physicians need to understand the mechanisms of stroke so we can better serve our patients."

He added, "I would also welcome questions from members of the public on risk factors, how to prevent stroke and secondary prevention too."

Around 87 percent of strokes are known as ischemic; caused by blockage of an artery. The remainder are hemorrhagic and can impair cognitive abilities including thinking, moving, feeling, talking, understanding, and writing. Black and Hispanic pa-

tients are at a greater risk of these than other population groups.

As the nation's sole cardiologist, Dr. Meade's own presentation will focus on management of chronic angina – chest pain caused when the heart muscle doesn't get enough oxygen-rich blood.

She will be discussing additional medical therapy for angina, and other ways to improve both heart function and patients' quality of life.

Dr. Meade will also give key information on new guidelines regarding the use of aspirin.

"We now know it is not wise to take an aspirin daily without a physician's guidance as it can cause stomach ulcers; the benefit is not necessarily matching the risk you are putting yourself at," she added.

The remaining guest speakers are Dr. Viviana Navas, a heart failure specialist from the Cleveland Clinic in Florida, and Dr. Victor Elliot, an interventional cardiologist from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, who will be discussing sudden cardiac death.

The cost of taking part in the symposium is EC\$100 for physicians and EC\$50 for allied health professionals. Tickets are available via the Ticketing app, or from the Hope & Grace Cardiac Centre at Woods Mall.

The event will run from 9am to 2.40pm on Saturday February 27. Call 462-4973 for more details.



Mary H. A. Scotland

Forever in our hearts

April 7th 1938 – January 30th 2021

Wife of

Jasper (Bobby) Scotland

Mother of

Robert (André) Scotland;
Her Excellency Sandra, Lady Williams;
Dr. Helene Scotland, Jo-Anne Scotland-Gilkes
and Nigel Scotland.

Mother-in-law of

Jennifer Scotland (née Smith) – deceased;
His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams;
Dr. Christopher Olukoga; Edward E. Gilkes III
and Vishundai Scotland née Seebarran.

Grandmother of

Veronica, André (Alex), Michael and
Jacinta Scotland; Brent Scotland; Chrislene
and Dominic Olukoga; and Creed Scotland.

Great grandmother of

Avianna Scotland

Daughter of

Roy H.S. Dublin and Rachel Dublin
(née Royer), both deceased.

Sister of

Haytheline (Helen) Dublin, deceased.

Aunt of

Lester Kelsick.

Cousin of

Hannah Royer (deceased) and her family;
Reynold Royer and family of Barbados;
Cornelia Allen; Andrew Senhouse and family;
Maurice, David, Fidelia and Bernard
Percival and their families; Magdalene
Uton (deceased) and family of Toronto;
The Hodges; The Matthiases;
the Dublins of Cedar Grove and the
Senhouses and Royers of Dominica
and their families.

TCI votes in new Government; Elections Observers say poll was free and fair



PNP leader Charles Washington Misick

The outgoing People's Democratic Movement (PDM) of Premier Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson took the remaining seat. Cartwright-Robinson, the territory's first female Premier, lost her At-Large seat.

The elections were monitored by a CARICOM Elections Observation Mission which concluded that the Elections were free and fair.

The three-member Mission, led by Dr. Robert Stephen Mahadeo Surujbally of Guyana, in a Preliminary Statement issued on Saturday, said 'the peacefulness of the elections ... reflected the tranquility of the society of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Mission highly commended the 'extensive public health protocols' implemented by the Elections Department to ensure the safety of both voters and election day workers in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. It said that voters and workers observed social distancing and wore masks and the polling stations

were sanitized throughout the day.

The Mission found that the voting process at polling stations was smooth and efficient. It noted that the polls opened late, but closed later to ensure the designated amount of time allocated to the voters to exercise their franchise was strictly adhered to. It also felt that more measures could have been put in place to assist the elderly and differently-abled voters, particularly as they were encouraged to visit the polling stations to vote at a specific time of day.

The Mission will prepare a final Report for submission to CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque. It will also be shared with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, the Leader of the Opposition and the Elections Department. Dr Surujbally was joined on the Mission by Mr. Ian Hughes, HE Ambassador Felix Gregoire and Ms Valique Gomes of the CARICOM Secretariat who provided support.

Voters in the Turks and Caicos Islands gave a landslide victory to the opposition Progressive National Party (PNP) of businessman Charles Washington Misick in General Elections held on Friday, 19 February, 2021.

Preliminary results released by the Turks and Caicos Islands Elections Department show the PNP captured 14 of the 15 seats at stake. The party took nine of the ten Electoral District seats and all five of the At-Large seats.

REAL TALK

With

**BEEF | RASTAMAN
KENTAE & BERNARD**

MONDAY & THURSDAY 7pm-Until TUESDAY 9pm-Until



Authorities clamp down on vaccination rush



(Barbados today): Government appeared set to ramp up COVID-19 vaccinations for the elderly by appointment only during the weekend shutdown, after days of frustrating long queues, blamed on many others “jumping the gun” for the jab.

“Wait for a call telling you it’s your turn and giving you an appointment,” the National Vaccination Committee advised the public in a statement released Friday night by the COVID Communications Unit.

Barbados Today encountered growing frustration and discomfort among el-

derly people who waited long hours in the sun for their turn to take the jab today.

“This weekend’s efforts will be concentrated on vaccinating Barbadians over seventy years old who have been given appointments to have the shot,” the committee announced, noting that over-70s account for the majority of the thirty-one deaths from COVID-19 to date. “The strict appointment system being used this weekend will make for more orderly and comfortable processing and shorter wait times at vaccination centres.”

While frontline workers and over-70 pensioners are currently receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, Barbadians who fit into other categories have overwhelmed vaccination centres, one of the campaign’s officials said Friday.

National Vaccination Co-coordinator Major David Clarke insisted frontline workers and over-70s are being scheduled for vaccines but said many others have been turning up. People between the age of eighteen and sixty-nine, some of whom have chronic non-communicable diseases, have come declaring that they too have registered online for the jab.

Major Clarke told Barbados Today: “So [Saturday], all the vaccination centres will only be doing persons seventy and older, unless it is a particular group that has been scheduled for an appointment. So if you have not been scheduled for an appointment, do not turn up at a vaccination site.

“People have been telling other people when they get their appointment and lots of people have been turning up. There should be no need for people to line up because we are doing an appointment system and if the appointment system works, you should only have ten people at a time waiting to get vaccinated.”

Scores queued up at West Terrace Primary School, St James, and were turned away after waiting for many hours because they had no appointment.

Barbados Today understands that doctors are sending their patients to the vaccination centres, now numbering a dozen.

Major Clarke said: “We have an appointment system and people are scheduled for a particular slot for their appointment, but what happened is that people turned up from early this morning because they heard that we were giving out vaccines at West Terrace.

BVI to implement Bill to reward whistleblowers

(BVI News): Amid the ongoing Commission of Inquiry (COI) and mounting calls for good governance in the territory, Cabinet is moving swiftly to implement the much-anticipated Whistleblower Act. When the Cabinet met on 3rd February, it reviewed the Bill entitled, Whistleblower Act, 2021 which seeks to allow individuals to disclose information about the corrupt practices of

others once it is in the public’s interest.

The law would also provide for protection against the victimization of persons who make these disclosures and to provide for a fund to reward individuals who make the disclosures.

However, the Bill has not yet been approved by Cabinet.

At this stage, it has been sent back to the Premier’s Office that will

then instruct the Attorney General’s Chambers to finalize the legislation.

Once the Attorney General finalizes the Bill, it will be resubmitted to Cabinet for approval before being introduced in the House of Assembly.

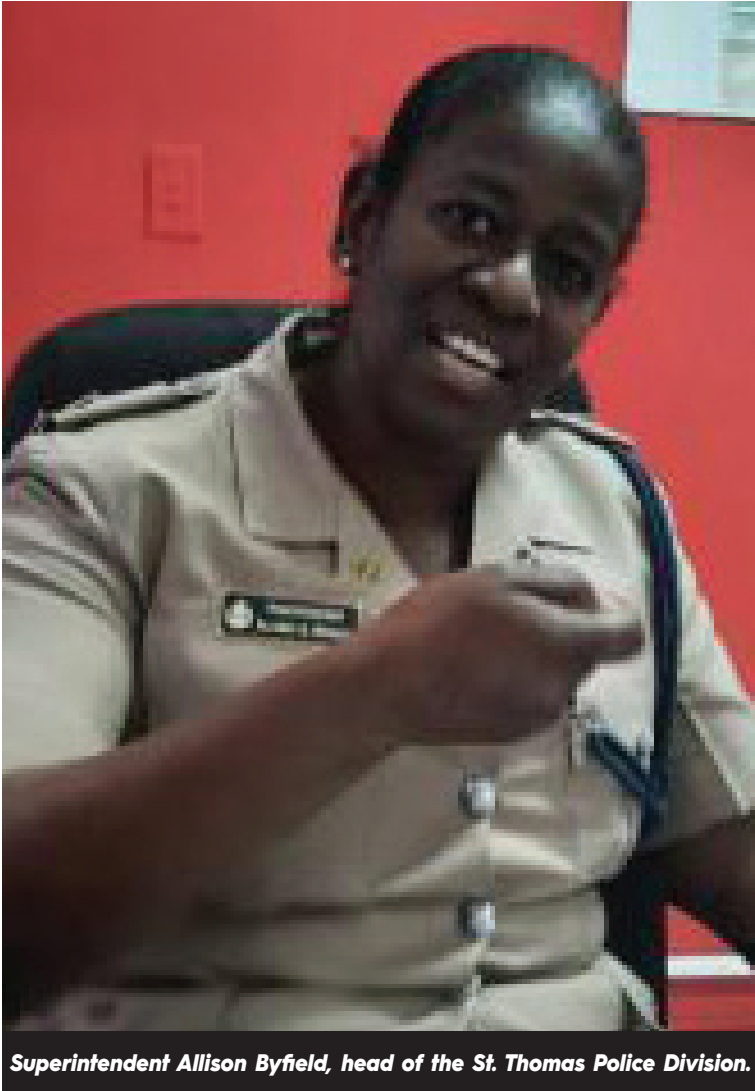
The Whistleblower Act has been promised for a long while and is expected to hold leaders in the highest public offices accountable.

The Bill comes amid

numerous political scandals regarding the misuse of public funds and a COI which is currently seeking to investigate instances of abuse and misconduct in local politics.

The Fahie administration — which is pushing the Act — has also been accused of victimizing public officers and other members of the public who speak against the government.

'Bounty or blood' - Decades of extortion crippling Jamaica's construction industry



Superintendent Allison Byfield, head of the St. Thomas Police Division.

proper roads.

So when two gunmen held up an excavator driver two weeks ago and stuffed a page-long demand of \$100,000 fortnightly - "corporation or slatara-tion" - into his palm, it brought work to a grinding halt and disappointment, fear and anxiety settled over the community.

Trinityville, however, is one of few communities hit by a long-standing criminal strategy that has for years crippled development and cost massive loss of lives in some of Jamaica's poorest communities.

From larger government and private projects such as Highway 2000, improvement on the Mandela Highway, Portia Simpson Miller Square, work on the Old Harbour bypass, and construction projects at The University of the West Indies, Gleaner stories over the last decade have chronicled the bloody trail left behind by criminals who prey on construction sites, bringing death to resistance.

Homeowners not

spared

Contractors at apartment complexes, The White Water Housing Project, and Unions Estate in St Catherine were also favoured targets over the years, and homeowners - like some in Portmore, St Catherine - are not spared by hoodlums making demands as they make additions to their dwellings.

Some projects, like cleaning work in the South and North Gully in Montego Bay, St James, come seasonally, and have attracted set perpetrators over the years. Gully clearing in sections of Bull Bay, Riverton and Seaview Gardens in the Corporate Area have also been targets, according to the contractors.

The bigger the site, the bigger the demand. And the bigger the demand, the heavier the hands of criminal organisations, who sometimes engage in deadly rivalries with each other for loots of upwards of \$100,000 weekly, or an estimated 40 per cent of construction costs in some locations, the contractors argued.

(Jamaica Gleaner):

A nefarious letter demanding bounty or blood from construction site operators in St Thomas has been turned over to the Counter-Terrorism and Organised Crime Unit (C-TOC) for deeper analysis, but for many residents of the sleepy Trinityville community, the damage has already been done.

Trinityville is not the typical community for this type of crime. The area recorded one stabbing murder all of last year - that of a man whose attacker ran to the police station after committing the act.

Here, gun-toting and masked intimidation are as foreign as piped water, Internet access and

Huge crowds mourn Myanmar woman killed in protests

(BBC): Huge crowds have turned out in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw for the funeral of a young woman killed in protests against a military coup. Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing was shot in the head just before her twentieth birthday, the first of at least three people to die in the protests. Thousands lined the streets to honour her, some making the three-fingered salutes used by demonstrators.

The military overthrew the elected government earlier this month. Promises to hold early elections have failed to satisfy protesters, who are also seeking the release of the elected leader Aung

San Suu Kyi and other members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party. The military alleges the NLD's landslide election win last year was fraudulent but has not provided proof.

Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing, a supermarket worker, was injured when police tried to disperse protesters earlier this month. She was kept on life support for ten days but died on Friday. She has become a focal point for demonstrators, with her image often displayed by people resisting the coup. Her coffin was driven through the streets in a black and gold hearse, accompanied by hundreds of mo-

torbikes.

Protesters took to the streets across the country again on Sunday, despite the previous day seeing the worst violence yet in weeks of protests. Two protesters were shot dead when police used live ammunition to disperse crowds. The deaths brought widespread condemnation, with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres saying: "The use of lethal force, intimidation and harassment against peaceful demonstrators is unacceptable."

Also on Sunday, the wife of prominent actor Lu Min said he had been arrested after posting a video denouncing the military

leadership.

The two-week-old civil disobedience movement in Myanmar now has its martyrs - represented in posters, paintings and cartoons at rallies which have continued to take place across the country. Their deaths will inflame public anger against the military government, but remind people too of the cost of resisting it. The plan now is to escalate the daily protests into a nationwide general strike, starting next week. This must damage an economy which is already suffering from the COVID pandemic - but its effect on the generals who seized power is harder to predict.

Russia announces development of third anti-COVID vaccine

(Russian Times): A third COVID-19 vaccine has been registered in Russia, the country's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced on Saturday morning. The drug, dubbed CoviVac, has been developed by the Chumakov Scientific Center in Moscow.

The new formula, which has yet to complete phase three trials, uses the most traditional technology out of all of the Russian-made anti-coronavirus solutions. CoviVac is a whole virus vaccine that contains either weakened or deactivated strains of the infection, cultivated specifically for its production.

Its developers have previously said that the vast majority of vac-

cines worldwide have been built on this technology and using it against the COVID-19 pandemic was a viable option.

The pilot batch of 120,000 doses is expected to become available for Russia's public in mid-March, Mishustin stated. The developers are also seeking to export the vaccine to other countries, following in the footsteps of the Gamaleya Center's pioneering Sputnik V.

The virus sample used to create the vaccine was collected from a COVID-19 patient hospitalized in the Moscow region, the head of Chumakov Center, Aidar Ishmukhametov, revealed back in December. The sample turned out to be both bold and 'cooperative'

enough to thrive in the laboratory, providing scientists with the material needed to produce the vaccine.

The first coronavirus vaccine registered by Russia, Sputnik V, relies on a unique two-vector human adenovirus technology. Basically, coronavirus particles are inserted into a weakened adenovirus, which is a genetically modified flu virus that cannot reproduce in the human body. It then triggers the required immunity reaction. Sputnik V uses two different adenoviral vectors for the first and second dose and is more effective defense compared to other vaccines that use the same vector for both shots.

All UK adults to be offered jab by 31st July – PM

(BBC): All adults in the UK will be offered their first dose of a coronavirus vaccine by the end of July, the prime minister has pledged.

More than seventeen million people have been given a jab since the UK's COVID vaccine rollout began in December 2020.

But Boris Johnson said he now wants the programme to "go further and faster."

He said the July target would allow vulnerable people to be protected "sooner" and would help to further ease lockdown rules across the country. NHS England chief executive Sir Simon Stevens said there were "early signs" the vaccine rollout was contributing to a fall in hospital admissions.

The PM is due to hold a final meeting with se-

nior ministers about how to ease England's lockdown later, before he sets out the full "road map" on Monday.

A speedy rollout of the vaccine to all vulnerable people is seen as critical to reducing the pandemic's death toll and relieving pressure on the NHS.

The government's previous target was to offer all adults the first dose by September.

The new plan means that by 15th April, all adults aged fifty and over, as well as younger people with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk, should have been offered a jab.

However, the order of priority for under-50s has yet to be outlined by the Joint Committee on Vac-

cination and Immunization (JCVI). Prof Adam Finn, a member of the JCVI, said he expected that a public announcement would be made on vaccine priorities at some point in the next week. He told BBC Breakfast: "The strategy from JCVI that's being provided as advice to the government is just being finalized at the moment, and then government will make their decision as to how to do this during the coming days, so I think there'll be some kind of public announcement around that in the next week or so."

The speedier rollout of the vaccine is likely to raise expectations - and pressure - for a swifter unlocking in England, but the government is still talking the language of caution. Senior ministers will finalize the plan today before

it is presented to the wider Cabinet for approval today. It is unlikely that any restrictions will change before 8th March, when the government hopes to get all children back into schools. The prime minister has long said that is his top priority.

But it is likely that a small tweak will be made from that date to allow people to meet one other person outdoors for social purposes rather than just for exercise. A Downing Street source said this would be the beginning of allowing people to meet each other for socializing once again as the government recognized the impact of not seeing loved ones.

It is understood various options - which could include reintroducing the rule of six - are being considered for the weeks beyond.

cont'd from pg 19

The second jab, the EpiVacCorona developed by the Siberia-based Vector Institute, uses synthesized particles of the virus instead. They are put into the human body by carrier proteins. Unlike some foreign competitors, all the Russian-made vaccines, including the brand new CoviVac, can be stored in regular refrigerators, which greatly facilitates the logistics and distribution of the shots.

More Russian anti-coronavirus vaccines are expected to be unveiled in the future. All in all, over twenty various COVID-19 jabs are under development in Russian

scientific centers, according to figures from the country's consumer protection watchdog Rospotrebnadzor.

The pioneering Sputnik V has already been approved for emergency use in multiple countries across the world. San Marino became the thirtieth nation to greenlight it, Russia's RDIF sovereign wealth fund, which bankrolled its development, said on Friday. At least ten million doses of the vaccine have been produced already. The scale of EpiVacCorona's production has been more modest so far, with around 80,000 doses made available.

APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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

Date: Monday, 22nd February 2021
Time: 8:30AM - 12:00PM
Affected areas: Western section of Potters

Date: Monday, 22nd February 2021
Time: 8:45AM-11:30AM
Affected areas: Section of Johnsons Village near the football field

Date: Tuesday, 23rd February 2021
Time: 8:30AM- 12:00PM
Affected areas: Buckleys Main Road

Date: Tuesday, 23rd February 2021
Time: 8:45AM- 12:00PM
Affected areas: Section of Swetes south of St. Ann Road

Date: Wednesday, 24th February 2021
Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM
Affected areas: Section of Bolans

Date: Wednesday, 24th February 2021
Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM
Affected areas: Section of Yorks west of the basketball court

Date: Friday, 26th February 2021
Time: 8:45AM - 12:00PM
Affected areas: Section of Johnsons Village near the football field

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

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



Malcolm X family demands reopening of murder investigation



Assassinated US black civil rights leader Malcolm X

(BBC): The daughters of assassinated US black civil rights leader Malcolm X have requested that the murder investigation be reopened in light of new evidence.

They cite a deathbed letter from a man who was a policeman at the time of the 1965 killing, alleging New York police and the FBI conspired in the murder.

Raymond Wood wrote his responsibility was to ensure Malcolm X's security team were arrested days before he was shot dead in Manhattan, his family says.

Three men were convicted of the murder.

The men - all members of the Nation of Islam political and religious movement - were each sentenced to

life in prison. One of them has since died, while the other two have been paroled.

By the time he was gunned down, Malcolm X - who was at one time seen as a public face of the Nation of Islam but then left the movement - had moderated his militant message of black separatism. However, he remained a passionate advocate of black unity, self-respect and self-reliance.

In 2020, the Manhattan district attorney launched a review of the convictions after meeting representatives of the Innocence Project, a non-profit legal group campaigning for justice for individuals it says have been wrongly convicted.

The letter says the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) covered up details of the assassination on 21st February 1965 in Harlem's Audubon Ballroom, Upper Manhattan, according to Wood's family and their lawyer.

Wood alleges that he was tasked with making sure that Malcolm X would have no door security in the building where he was due to speak in public.

At a press briefing on Saturday, Wood's family members provided no details about how and when Raymond Wood died. But they said he did not want to make the letter public until after his death, fearing repercussions from the

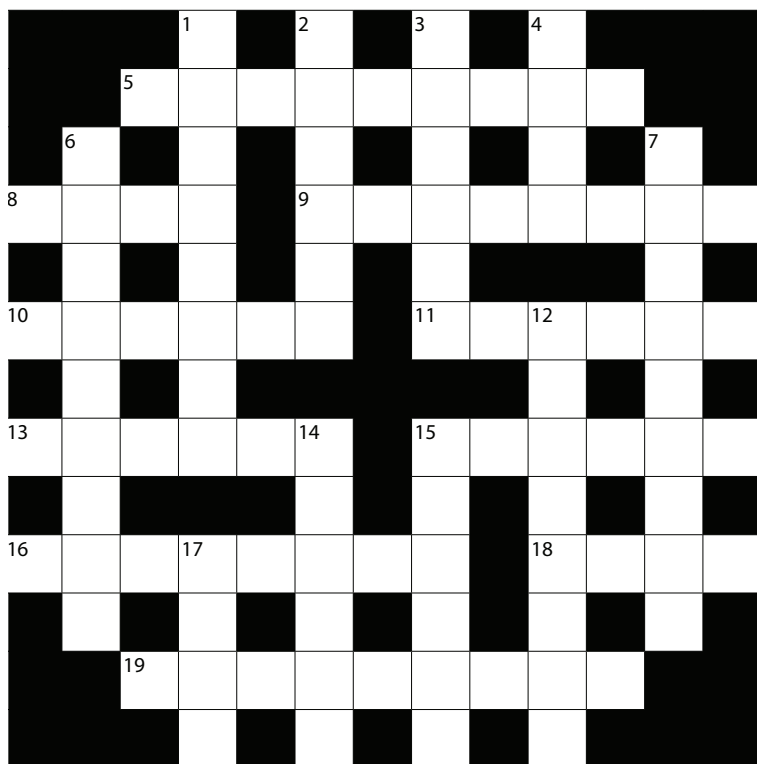
authorities.

"Any evidence that provides greater insight into the truth behind that terrible tragedy should be thoroughly investigated," said Ilyasah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's daughters.

In a statement, the NYPD said: "Several months ago, the Manhattan district attorney initiated a review of the investigation and prosecution that resulted in two convictions for the murder of Malcolm X. The NYPD has provided all available records relevant to that case to the district attorney. The department remains committed to assist with that review in any way."

The FBI has so far made no public comment on the issue.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 5 Clown in a diamond-patterned costume (9)
- 8 Member of an ancient Christian church in Egypt (4)
- 9 (Of a face) sprouting hair (8)
- 10 Slider over ice (6)
- 11 Felt hat with an indented crown (6)
- 13 Smoked ham (6)
- 15 Bob (6)
- 16 Ate greedily (8)
- 18 Under tension (4)
- 19 With a low neckline (9)

Down

- 1 Handyman (8)
- 2 Not so fast (6)
- 3 Force liquid out as a jet (6)
- 4 Exploit — white liquid (4)
- 6 Betting agent (9)
- 7 Ballet posture, on one leg (9)
- 12 Nettle (8)
- 14 Limited (6)
- 15 Prolonged affectionate embrace (6)
- 17 Heed (4)

DAILY COMICS

Dilbert



Garfield



Cathy



SUDOKU


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

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


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

MON 02/22  **82° Hi** DAY Partly sunny and pleasant
74° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy with a stray shower

Sunrise 6:30 AM	Sunset 6:12 PM	Moonrise 1:55 PM	Moonset 3:30 AM
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TUE 02/23  **82° Hi** DAY Mostly sunny
73° Lo NIGHT Partly cloudy

Sunrise 6:29 AM	Sunset 6:12 PM	Moonrise 2:50 PM	Moonset 4:22 AM
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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A project could be successfully completed today, Aries. Discussions may already be taking place about the next one, but you aren't inclined to think about that, at least not right away.

♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

If you're involved in the study of a particular subject, Taurus, today you might want to bury yourself in your books and learn as much as you can. This is good, because your concentration is especially good.

♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

This isn't the day to make investments, Gemini. You may read in the paper or online about some hot new stocks, but be very careful. If you're interested, consult a professional before investing money.

♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

Does a love partner appear to be moody today, Cancer? One moment your friend may be enthusiastic and optimistic about the future, and the next moment overcome with gloom.

♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

Are you working two jobs, Leo? Today one could demand a lot of you, probably at the expense of the other. You tend to be very conscientious and responsible, so this might bother you, but don't let it get to you.

♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your natural urge to innovate may seem to have vanished today, Virgo. You may not feel like doing anything outside of routine tasks that you can do automatically. You're suffering from low biorhythms.

♎ LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22

The urge to stay in and rearrange your furniture might hit you today, Libra. You may want to clean out the shelves in your kitchen, add some new knickknacks, or rearrange your books into specific classifications.

♏ SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Are you expecting an important communication, perhaps business related, Scorpio? If it comes today, it will probably come late. If you feel you must sit around and wait for it, find something else to do in the meantime.

♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A check you've been expecting to receive by mail will probably be delayed, Sagittarius. It's nothing to worry about. Chances are it got hung up at the post office and will arrive soon. Don't waste your time worrying needlessly.

♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You may not be your usual cheery self today, Capricorn. Gloom may have come over you. You may doubt everything that happens in your life. No matter how promising a career, romance, or money matter seems, you think the worst.

♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Happy memories of a beloved grandparent may float to the surface today, Aquarius, and you may wonder why. Something or someone you've encountered in the past few days may have reminded you of this person.

♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A meeting may take place today that you don't want to attend, Pisces. It could be long and boring, but you should still make the effort to listen. Colleagues will want to discuss the issues with you afterward.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CLOSURE NOTICE

The Ministry of Education, Sports & Creative Industries announces the closure of its headquarters in the Government Office Complex on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February, 2021. The closure is to facilitate the sanitization of workspaces, in the interest of the health and safety of employees and members of the general public. Regular hours of operation will resume on Wednesday 24th February, 2021. Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

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
Email: info@go-going-gone.com
Instagram: tts.auction_antigua
Facebook: Auction Antigua

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Sir Clive Lloyd says Brathwaite's exemplary leadership cannot be ignored



Former West Indies captain Sir Clive Lloyd

Former West Indies captain Sir Clive Lloyd believes Kraigg Brathwaite should lead the West Indies Test squad against Sri Lanka. Lloyd said Brathwaite's exemplary leadership in the surprising 2-0 series win over Bangladesh earlier this month should not be ignored by the selectors. While pointing to present Test captain Jason Holder's competency to continue in the role, Sir Clive said that in his view Brathwaite is slightly ahead to lead the side next month in their two-Test series against the Asian team. However,

Sir Clive noted that both players bring much experience to the squad and if the selectors decide to make the change they should sit with both players and discuss the matter. The Guyanese said if he were the chief selector Brathwaite would definitely be his choice. "As a selector, it's a beautiful position to be in," said the seventy-six-year-old. "I played a role in making Jason captain and he has had some good moments and some bad moments," explained Sir Clive. Holder, who has been the

captain since 2015, opted out of the Bangladesh tour, citing mental fatigue and concerns over the integrity of the bio-secure "bubble" for the series. The Barbadian was one of ten players declining selection, leading to a weakened side being picked for both one-day and Test series. The weakened fifteen-member Test squad contained four uncapped players and five others with less than ten Tests to their names. Brathwaite has received much praise throughout the region for his masterful leadership

and handling of the team, in particular, his bowlers and aggressive field placing.

Sir Clive, who led the regional team to world championships in 1975 and 1979, stated what made Brathwaite's performance eye catching was leading a West Indies team was already complicated, but that leading such an inexperienced squad was a really difficult challenge that he conquered.

Supporting his former teammate's view is former West Indies wicket-keeper, Deryck Murray, who said selecting Brathwaite to remain captain should be given serious consideration for the upcoming series on the back of the team's strong showing against Bangladesh. Murray noted Brathwaite should not be discarded as captain automatically.

Meanwhile, Sir Curtly Ambrose, who failed in bid to land England's bowling coach job recently, is of the view that Holder should maintain his position as captain.

Supporting Sir Curtly is former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bradshaw who is not in favour of replacing his fellow Barbadian just yet, and believes questions regarding the player's state of mind must be cleared up.

Bradshaw said that, provided Holder is in a good mental state, he should resume his duties leading the squad.

West Indies women's coach Walsh happy with camp



West Indies women's team head coach Courtney Walsh is happy with the talent he witnessed during the Cricket West Indies (CWI) recently concluded training camp at the Coolidge Cricket Ground.

The former West Indies fast bowler said that he had the opportunity to supervise twenty-four players who participated in the exercise that focused on the

basics and the mental aspect of the game.

Walsh said he was surprised that a number of the players had never been exposed to some of the basic drills they conducted and was happy that he had the opportunity to demonstrate new methods to the participants.

The Jamaican said the players played two 50-overs and one 40-overs

training games, giving them the opportunity to get some time on the field. The former Bangladesh bowling coach said there is much work to be done physically and mentally to be competitive at the highest level.

"We need the regional tournament to be played and more international tours to assist the players with their development,"

said Walsh.

"The team is being reprocessed and not necessarily rebuilt," Walsh stated. "The ladies need to play more cricket and the coaching staff will be in communication with the territorial boards to make sure programmes are put in place to keep the ladies in good condition leading up to the next camp."



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ON AIR

National sprinter settles into college life

National sprinter Soniya Jones left the island on 1st January 2021 for the United States on an athletic scholarship.

Jones, who is the daughter of former national athletes Sonya Williams and Evans 'Jawaki' Jones, has represented Antigua and Barbuda at World Juniors Under-20 and Youth Olympics at the age of fifteen years old in 2018.

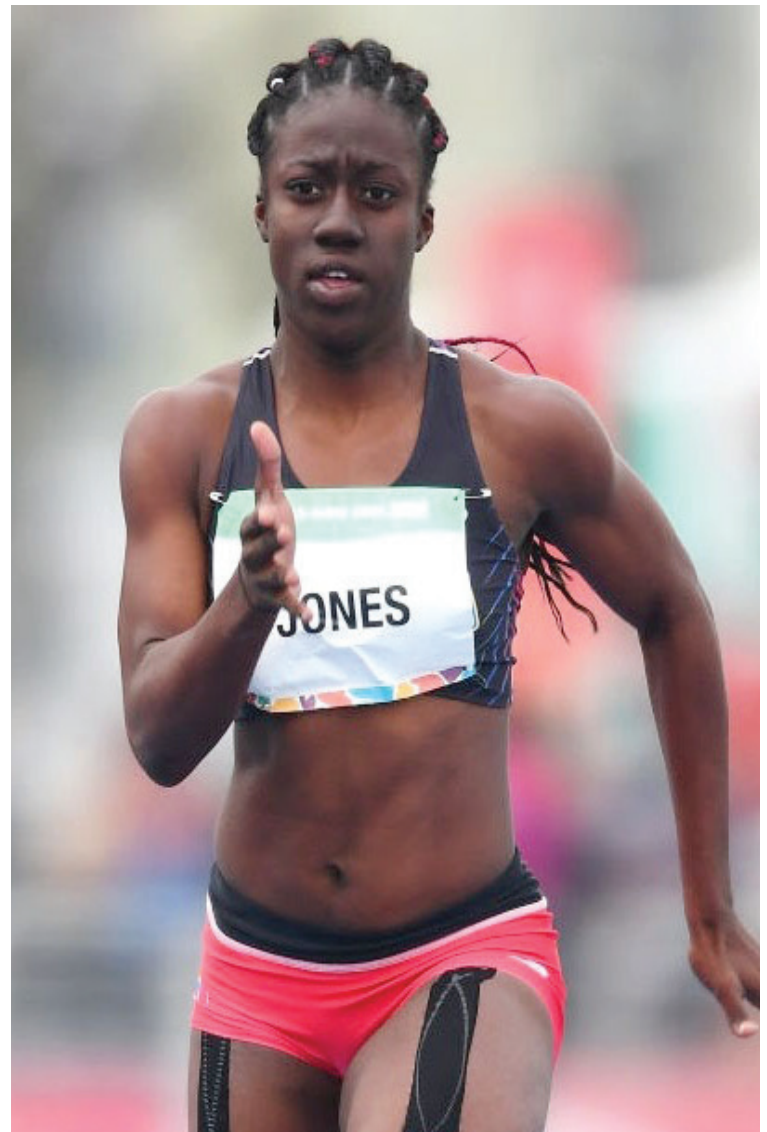
The All Saints native won silver in the 60m indoors 2019 at the World Prestigious Melrose Indoors Championship. Jones, a graduate of the Princesses Margaret School (PMS) where she graduated with eight CXC's, also has a CARIFTA Games bronze medal.

With personal best times of 11.49 in the 100m and 24.1 in the 200m, Jones is presently the nation's top female sprinter. Now at Central

Arizona College the sprint star has settled in well, both on the track and in class. Still yet to compete because of the coronavirus pandemic, Jones has been involved in intense training since 3rd January adjusting to the cold weather and regular training on campus.

The world has been hit financially by COVID-19 and universities and colleges across the United States are no different which has led to Central Arizona hosting a twenty-one-day fundraising campaign for their athletes. Each athlete, including Jones, is requested to raise a minimum of \$500.00 US, to assist with their studies and athletic participation.

Persons can log on to Central Arizona athletic website to make a donation. Jones' first official race will be in March.



National sprinter Soniya Jones

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HEADQUARTERS AND REGISTRATION UNITS

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) wishes to advise the general public that a relative of a member of staff at ABEC's Headquarters has tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member and other family members, have all tested negative and have not been in contact with the afflicted relative. However, out of an abundance of caution, the office's Headquarters on Queen Elizabeth Highway and all Registration Units will be closed for one-week, effective Monday, 22nd February to Friday, 26th February 2021. We encourage the general public to continue to adhere to all established COVID-19 protocols in minimizing the spread of the disease.

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"We got it wrong in the first instance" - Benjamin



Rowan 'Porridge' Benjamin Coordinator of Schools football

Coordinator of Schools football within the Ministry of Sports, Rowan 'Porridge' Benjamin, believes the decision to open up recreational sports before competitive

sports was a mistake.

"We got it wrong in the first instance," Benjamin explained on the **PointeFM Touchline** programme last week Wednesday. "The move should have been to open up competitive sports

first which would have been more organized and easier to control."

Porridge, as he is affectionately called in the sports fraternity, expressed his satisfaction that the government has halted recreational sports and hopes that when the issue is revisited the move will be towards opening competitive sports first.

"When you have recreational sports within the communities, who supervises the action, and can you stop individuals from showing up from all over and participating?" Benjamin noted, "What needed to happen is the protocols are sent by the world governing bodies to the individual associations and federations, who will tweak it to suit their environment, then submit it to the health authorities for approval, before passing it on to clubs who will then organize and manage their

training sessions under the protocols with small groups in training."

Porridge said that opening up recreational sports was always going to fail because of the difficulty in managing the numbers.

Highly respected sports administrator, Lucaso Brumant, who was also a guest on the programme, supported Benjamin's view but questioned his role as coordinator within the ministry in arriving at the original decision of opening up recreational sports first.

"As a coordinator of school's football isn't he part of the decision-making team; was he not consulted?" Brumant asked. "Hopefully, with the anticipated arrival of vaccines and the government's target to inoculate the entire population within two months, sports will slowly make its way back competitively later in the year."

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