



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTX PRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 29TH MARCH 2021

|

ISSUE 209

|

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

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# THE UWI - WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The region-wide debate on the findings of a report on the governance and other matters related to the administration, role and future of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has been more than passing interest for this publication.

The UWI was founded in 1948 and it has since educated hundreds of thousands who have gone on to become leaders of governments and industry, not just in the Caribbean, but much wider afield. Indeed, the achievements of The UWI when taking into account its limited financial base is nothing short of spectacular.

The UWI and West Indies Cricket are arguably the only two regional institutions that truly unite the people of these island-nations. However, unlike Cricket West Indies, which has had its peaks and valleys, The UWI has been constant in its 'inward stretch and outward reach,' the title of a book of one of its

most venerable sons, the late Professor Rex Nettleford.

The UWI, in the words of a popular Jamaican maxim, 'likkle but tallawah!' and it is the source of much pride of Caribbean peoples, even for those who have never attended the regional university but who nonetheless appreciate its value and contribution towards the creation of a Caribbean ethos, a Caribbean identity.

It is not gainsaid that the current Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles has performed a herculean task in strengthening the teaching and academic research of The UWI, but he has also been able to forge new relationships with other international tertiary institutions, thereby giving the university a global footprint and reputation.

Sir Hilary has been a much respected voice and the face of the UWI over the past six years and he has done so

with calm and distinction and without bravado and pomposity. He is the quintessential Caribbean man; a role model for all and a reminder that there is a role for scholarship and learning in our society not merely to adorn one's resume but more importantly, for these two key ingredients to fuel a life of service of the highest level and at the highest level.

Along with his stellar work for and on behalf of the university, Sir Hilary has been the Caribbean's leading voice in the region's call for reparations from the colonial powers who enslaved millions of Africans they forcibly removed from Africa to work under the worst conditions imaginable in the Caribbean to create wealth for generations of people in the colonising European powers.

The call for settlement of this unjust act is not without precedent. The Jewish people were compensated by Germany and others

for the atrocities of the 1930s and 40s under Nazi rule.

The people of African descent in the Caribbean expect no less. In fact, given the centuries which the enslaved people toiled without reward, there is a case to be made that their descendants desire more.

The question that immediately comes to mind is: what is the connection, if any, between this report commissioned by The UWI Chancellor, a scion of the privileged class, and the seeming unfettered haste to emasculate Sir Hilary? This in our mind is the burning question that needs answering.

One thing is now patently obvious: any move to undermine The UWI or Sir Hilary will not have the support of the majority of the people of the Caribbean, who are the rightful owners and heirs of The UWI.

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REGISTERS FOR RUSSIAN VACCINE



Antigua and Barbuda has become the 57th country to register for the purchase of the Russian anti-COVID-19 vaccine, the Sputnik V.

Reports from Moscow said the Ministry of Health and Wellness has registered Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against the coronavirus, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said on Friday. According to the RDIF, the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment of Antigua and Barbuda have approved the Russian Sputnik V vaccine against coronavirus.

Sputnik V is now approved for use in 57 countries globally with a total population of over 1.5 billion people. "The vaccine was registered in Antigua and Barbuda under the emergency use authorization procedure," RDIF said in a press release.

"Registration of Sputnik V will help save many lives and protect the population of Antigua and Barbuda. The high efficacy of Sputnik V was confirmed by the leading medical journal The Lancet.

The Russian vaccine is now one of the key

tools to prevent the spread of the virus being included in vaccine portfolios of over 50 countries around the world," RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev said.

The government has made no secret of its desire to access other vaccines such as the Russian Sputnik because of the unavailability of vaccines produced by western nations. Additionally, the government took the view that registering for the vaccine ahead of the World Health Organisation (WHO) approval of the vaccine will give the

country a 'leg-up' in negotiating prices and availability.

More than twenty-five thousand residents have received one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, additional AstraZeneca vaccines have been placed in storage for a second dose with additional vaccines pending to replace what has been used. However, enough doses of that vaccine is not available immediately to allow the government to inoculate at least eighty percent of the population to achieve 'herd immunity.



## MORE GOV'T SHARES TO BE DIVESTED FOR PUBLIC PURCHASE

*By Shelton Daniel*

The ongoing divestment of shares in West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) for public purchase is only the beginning of that drive to further the economic empowerment of ordinary Antiguans and Barbudans. That was in essence the declaration on Saturday by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is also Minister for Finance, Corporate Governance and Public-Private Partnerships. He was speaking during his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show, on PointeFM 99.1 “We want to move pretty quickly to ... divest some shares and to list a few other institutions, which includes State Insurance Corporation [SIC]. We’d given a public undertaking to that effect. We also want to, let’s say, corporatise APUA-PCS ... to list that and make sure it’s available to Antiguans and Barbudans.” Prime Minister Browne was looking

ahead beyond the implementation of his government’s decision to divest one-fifth of its fifty-one per cent majority stake-holding in WIOC and to make that amount – equivalent to twenty per cent of the company’s total share value – available for public subscription.

The WIOC shares are being sold to the public at EC\$60 per share with a minimum purchase of fifty shares, amounting to EC\$3,000. The maximum amount of shares that can be purchased by any one person is fifteen thousand and ninety-six at the same unit price. Prime Minister Browne went on to disclose that his government was looking to go the same route with its shareholding in the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB). “We are holding discussions with them about listing the bank as well, and we believe that based on the deal that we

have with the bank that [the government’s shares in ECAB] should go up to about forty per cent because we have some preference shares that we are now seeking to convert into ordinary shares. And, as you know, ECAB has purchased the branch of Scotia Bank, which means that it will now be a bank that has over two billion dollars in assets. So it will be the largest bank in Antigua and Barbuda; one of the largest within the OECS sub-region. We are now seeking to convert our preference shares into ordinary shares, get them to list on the Eastern Caribbean Stock Exchange, and then we will divest ... some of our shares.”

Prime Minister Browne stressed that Antiguans and Barbudans would be the first beneficiaries from this divestment of government’s shares in ECAB. “We are making every effort to ensure we empower the people of Antigua and Bar-

buda with increased ownership, especially through shares in these very profitable companies.”

The Prime Minister also spoke of the National Asset Management Company (NAMCO), which was established in 2017. “We intend to list NAMCO as well, and to make shares available to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. NAMCO has not started to trade in earnest. It’s actually a holding company, but at some point I think it will have sufficient dividends [to] increase its ownership portfolio and become a very good company in which Antiguans and Barbudans – and even individuals within the OECS sub-region – could invest.”

Browne described these opportunities as indicative of “a very strong portfolio of companies that [government hopes] to list and make shares available to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.”



# MSJMC TO RESTART CLINICAL SERVICES

Suspended clinical services at the country's main health care institution, the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) are to restart effective today, Monday 29th March 2021. A MSJMC statement said this includes all outpatient clinics, elective surgeries and laboratory and imaging (radiology) services. "MSJMC would like to reassure the community that the hospital has adopted many strict protocols to ensure safety, including the provision of a quick temperature check at all main entrances, requiring masks for all staff and visitors, and maintaining social distancing in waiting areas, as well as following sanitising protocols throughout the hospital," the statement added.

Head of Marketing and Communications at MSJMC, Salma Crump, said the hospital continues to follow the highest level of safety precautions as the hospital monitors COVID-19 in the community.

"As the country begins to

ease some of its COVID-19 restrictions, it's important to understand that when you need medical care, you should seek treatment. The pent-up patient demand for surgical and as well as other services is immense though, so we're asking for continued patience and understanding as we work on rescheduling appointments and getting patients back in front of their doctor for an in-person consultation. We remain committed to providing safe care for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients," she noted. Added Crump: "Restarting services has only been possible thanks to our committed and hard-working team who have done an exceptional job in challenging circumstances. We're also incredibly grateful to our partner organizations (like the community clinics) that have supported us and ensured patients continued to have access to the care or treatment they need whilst the temporary suspension of services had been in place.

We would like to thank our patients, their families and caregivers and the community for their patience and

understanding as we have worked to re-open their hospital."

## VACANCY



Our client is seeking suitable applicants for the role of:

## IT OFFICER

**Position Overview:** The IT Officer will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining the computer systems and networks of the Organization. Install, configure computer systems, diagnose hardware and software faults and solve technical and application problems.

### REQUIREMENTS

- High degree of honesty and integrity
- Confidential
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrate the ability to handle multiple priorities
- Strong problem solving skills and demonstrated ability to take initiative and work independently
- Ability to think logically
- Strong Analytical & Research Skills
- Ability to prioritize numerous tasks and manage shifting priorities while maintaining strong organizational skills
- Maintain a high level of accuracy and attention to detail
- Excellent customer service skills

### EDUCATION/TRAINING

- Bachelor Degree Information Technology/Finance/Economics
- Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point
- SQL & programming languages
- Webpage/site development
- C+ & Networks+ or similar certifications

All interested persons should send applications to:  
nibbsandassociates268@gmail.com Deadline: April 15th, 2021

# NO MODERNA VACCINES UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Antigua and Barbuda will not be able to purchase COVID-19 vaccines from the US based company, Moderna until sometime in 2022.

That is because the company has several contracts in place to supply vaccines to the US and other governments and it will not be selling vaccines commer-

cially until early 2022.

The company made the announcement in a letter to the Antigua and Barbuda government in response to a request to purchase vaccines to help inoculate the Antigua and Barbuda population.

A letter from the company was received over the weekend with the information.

Some residents have been saying that they intended to wait until vaccines from both Moderna and Pfizer are available in the country before deciding to get vaccinated.

But as senior government officials have been emphasizing all along, 'the best vaccine is the one that is available now.'

As it is, Antigua and Barbuda is having difficulties in acquiring additional vaccines to complete the vaccination exercise.

The issue is a worldwide shortage of vaccines and the pharmaceutical companies seem to gravitate to countries with larger populations and/or deeper pockets.

## BARBUDANS GO TO THE POLLS TODAY

All systems are in place for the holding of Council



Elections in Barbuda today.

Four officials from the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) have been on the sister island over the past several days to ensure the effective administration of the poll. This year's Council Elections will be different from all previous elections as strict health protocols will

be in place because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. "We had the entire area sanitised on Sunday following which went set up the four polling stations that will be in place to accommodate voters at the Holy Trinity School. Each voter must sanitise his/her hands before entering the polling station and after each person has voted the voting booth will be sanitised before being made available to the next voter," Returning Officer Vernest Mack told PointeXpress.

Mack and her team will also enforce the government mandated protocols such as the wearing of masks, social distancing and hand sanitising at the

poll.

The Returning Officer has much experience overseeing elections in Barbuda. She said they have always run smoothly and she does not anticipate any problems this year.

The Barbuda People Movement has nominated five candidates for the poll – Nico Antonio, Melanie Beazer, Wayne Burton, Mackensie Frank and Nadia John. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's candidates are Tyrone Beazer, Wesley Beazer, Hasketh Daniel, Mackiesha Desousa and Kelcina John.

The polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.

## NOTICE

The Eastern Caribbean  
Supreme Court  
IN THE HIGH  
COURT OF JUSTICE  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
ANUHPB 2021/

In the Estate of GRATHIEL  
AMELIA MARTIN, late of Free-  
town Village, St. Phillip's, Anti-  
gua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF  
APPLICATION FOR GRANT  
FIRST PUBLICATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that an Application has been filed by **LINDA JOSIAH**, St. Phillip's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 11th day of December, 2013.

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

Dated the 26th day  
of March, 2021

**TALIA N. DACOSTA**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
STAPLETON CHAMBERS

Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Stapleton Chambers, Stapleton Lane, P. O. Box 2891, St. John's, Antigua, email: craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com, Tel No: 268-562-7185; Fax No. 268-562-7967

# NEW ALL-FEMALE GUILD EXECUTIVE ELECTED AT THE UWI FIVE ISLANDS



*Candidate for Treasurer Michelle Paige*



*Candidate for President  
Shakita Christopher*



*Candidate for Public Relation Officer  
Roshineque Ferris*



*Candidate for Secretary Kemoya Dennis*



*Candidate for Vice-president  
Chaneil Imhoff*

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Five Islands (FI) Campus has created history with the election of its first all-female executive of its Guild of Undergraduates. Guild elections were held last Thursday for positions to make up the new Guild executive for the 2021-22 Academic Year with the term of office starting on 1st June 2021. The new Guild President is Shakita Christopher, Vice President Chaneil Imhoff, Secretary Kemoya Dennis, Treasurer Michelle Paige, Public Relations Officer Roshineque Ferris, and candidate for union committee Malika Ward.

Christopher said the new Guild has several priorities it wants to implement during its one-year tenure. Firstly, it wants to reach out to the business community to arrange internship programmes for students in their final year of studies. "What we want is to have in place a system where when the

student reaches his/her final year that they can join a company or organisation depending on the course of study so that they can gain 'real world' experience. This means that at graduation, not only would that individual possess his/her degree but with several months' experience of working on the job," she explained.

According to the incoming president, the new executive will also pursue a scholarship scheme to assist those students who may be facing financial challenges.

She also wants to see a log system where students' complaints can be properly recorded and acted upon.

Christopher said not only is she the first female president of The UWI Five Islands, but throughout The UWI university system she is the only female presently holding the position of president.

# PM BROWNE AMONG 40 WORLD LEADERS INVITED TO GLOBAL SUMMIT

*By Shelton Daniel*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is one of only two CARICOM leaders who have been invited by US President Joe Biden to a climate summit slated for next month.

Forty world leaders have been invited to participate in the virtual summit that will be hosted by the American leader on 22nd and 23rd April 2021.

Last week, during his first press conference since taking office on 20th January, President Biden disclosed that the

Global Summit on Climate has been timed to coincide with the annual observance of Earth Day on 22nd April.

It is part of Biden's effort to ensure that the threat of climate change is treated as a top international priority, after four years of being brushed aside by the administration of his predecessor, Donald Trump.

During his weekly radio program, The Browne and Browne Show, last Saturday on Pointe FM 99.1, Prime Minister Browne expressed his

appreciation at being invited by his American counterpart to be part of this summit. "Obviously, climate change remains the most significant existential threat facing the planet, and we all have to work in solidarity to address that issue," he stated, adding, "My interest would be to support the interests of small island states here in the Caribbean and globally."

Prime Minister Browne, who is also chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said he and the other membership representatives "would also like to encourage the larger nations ... to take immediate steps to reduce their [carbon] emissions ... We also want to encourage them to increase their funding and assist SIDS [Small Island Developing States] globally to adapt and mitigate against the effects of climate change."

He described next month's summit as "a great platform" that would include "all of the developed countries and emerging economies of Asia." PM Browne highlighted China as "a large developing country with a lot of resources, but one

of the biggest polluters." The Antigua and Barbuda leader said it was his intention at the summit "to use that opportunity to call upon friends to reduce the emissions, because at the end of the day, with the profligate use of fossil fuels, we are paying ... the consequences here in the Caribbean. We are suffering disproportionately based on the frequency and [ferocity] of these storms."

He added that the "persistent droughts" experienced in Antigua and Barbuda were further manifestations of climate change, added to the steady death of coral reefs due to ocean acidification. "So, it's an issue of survival for us ... I think it's a great forum for the Caribbean to make its case in the most strident but respectful way to bring greater attention and global awareness to the dangers and challenges we are faced with, and ways and means in which they can help us to mitigate against the effects of climate change." Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Jamaica is the other regional leader invited to the summit.

## 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, 29th March 2021

Time: 8:30AM-12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Anchorage Road near Sandy Lane

Date: Monday, 29th March 2021

Time: 8:45AM-11:00AM

Affected areas: Section of Cassada Gardens near Jim Daddy Workshop

Date: Tuesday, 30th March 2021

Time: 8:45AM-11:00AM

Affected areas: Section of Radio Range east of the football field

Date: Wednesday, 31st March 2021

Time: 8:45AM-11:00AM

Affected areas: Section of Fitches Creek south of the Anglican Church

Date: Thursday, 1st April 2021

Time: 8:45AM-12:00PM

Affected areas: Section of Mahico Drive

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.



## PRESS STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

On 25th March 2021 the Honourable Madame Justice Ann Marie Smith began making an oral ruling in the court case filed by former Commissioner of Police, Mr. Wendel Robinson, against the Police Service Commission. Her Ladyship indicated that her written ruling would be available in about a week and a half. The parties are yet to receive the written ruling and reasoning of Her Ladyship. Her Ladyship has declared, among other things, that the removal of Mr. Robinson as Commissioner of Police by the Police Service Commission was unlawful and void.

It is needful that a chronological account be given of the latest court case involving Mr. Robinson:

1. 26th October 2018 – the Mr. Robinson obtains a High Court order quashing the Police Service Commission's decision to suspend Mr. Robinson as Commissioner of Police, Mr. Robinson having been suspended under the Police Act and Regulations. Mr. Robinson is reinstated as Commissioner of Police by the court. The Police Service Commission again suspends Mr. Robinson pursuant to its powers under the Constitution.

2. 25th November 2019 – Mr. Robinson is terminated as Commissioner of Police

3. 27th June 2020 – Mr. Robinson files a constitutional motion challenging his termination

4. 10th November 2020 – Police Service Commission files an application seeking to

have the constitutional motion struck out on the ground that section 105 of the Constitution does not vest any rights in a Commissioner of Police. Later that day at a hearing of the matter, counsel for Mr. Robinson makes an oral application for summary trial

5. 16th February 2021 – Her Ladyship the Honourable Madame Justice Ann Marie Smith hears (1) argument on the Police Service Commission's application to strike out the constitutional motion brought by Mr. Robinson and (2) argument that the matter should proceed to summary trial on the ground that no defence had yet been filed by the Police Service Commission

6. 25th March 2021 - Her Ladyship the Honourable Madame Justice Ann Marie Smith pronounces that the constitutional motion was to be struck out but that she would proceed nonetheless to issue administrative orders as there has been no defence filed by the Police Service Commission and that it is clear upon a reading of the affidavit and exhibits of Mr. Robinson that he is entitled to administrative orders.

Upon the court making its pronouncement, counsel for the Police Service Commission immediately applied for a stay of the court's judgment and order and a stay of proceedings pending an appeal, which Her Ladyship the Honourable Madame Justice Ann Marie Smith indicated she was prepared to grant. Mr. Robinson then indicated that his counsel was not present and that he would wish that his counsel be heard on the Police Service Commission's application for a stay of the court's judgment and order and a stay of proceedings. The court then scheduled the hearing of the application for a stay until 30th March 2021 at 11:00am.

The Police Service Commission acknowledges the important and indispensable role of the court in the delivery of justice to persons who are aggrieved at the decisions of public authorities. However, the Police Service Commission findings the declaration made by Her Ladyship the Honourable Madame Justice Ann Marie Smith concerning and on account of this concern is mounting an appeal against the decision of Her Ladyship. Her Ladyship has agreed with the contention of the Police Service Commission that the constitutional motion of Mr. Robinson ought to be struck but then proceeded to make administrative orders on the claim. The Police Service Commission will ask the Court of Appeal to review Her Ladyship's decision to determine if such a decision was right in law.

Kelvin John  
Chairman  
Police Service Commission Nevis Street  
St. John's, Antigua

# FORCEFUL CALL FOR THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE UWI VC SIR HILARY BECKLES



***Aziz Hadeed***

The ongoing discussions surrounding matters of governance and the re-appointment of the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles took an interesting turn at last Friday's meeting of The UWI Five Islands Campus Council in St John's.

That is when the chairman of the UWI FI Campus Council, Aziz Hadeed, gave a full endorsement of Sir Hilary and his leadership of the university over the past

six years of his first term. "Let me state further, that The UWI Five Islands Campus will support any process that calls for the immediate confirmation of the Vice-Chancellor's continued term of service to enable him to fulfil his visionary leadership plans with The UWI," Hadeed stated in his opening address to the meeting.

Hadeed noted that any move to strengthen the institution is a good one, and the UWI FI supports

the Vice Chancellor and his team as they work together to transition The UWI to the next level of development.

The local businessman was unequivocal in his admiration and support for Vice Chancellor Sir Hilary whom he credits for cementing the university's academic and international reputation. "Sir Hilary has provided visionary leadership to the university during the first term of his tenure with the Triple A Plan as his foundation. His leadership skills, output and global recognition have strengthened the foundation of The UWI to help shape the vision for the global higher education sector. I see his stewardship as a pinnacle of success, with The UWI as the primary beneficiary.

"Within this context, his team has taken The UWI to the top of the best ranked universities in the world and this outstanding achievement should be celebrated by all stakeholders of The UWI," Hadeed declared. He cautioned The UWI not to be "distracted or derailed" by efforts to

diminish the accomplishments achieved by the institution. Indeed, he opined that Sir Hilary has been able to further strengthen the institution by giving it a face and a voice around which the people of the region have coalesced to provide global leadership on the issue of reparations and other critical matters.

Hadeed also wants the report commissioned by the Chancellor of The UWI, Robert Bermudez, to be discussed not only among the internal organs of the university but also among the people of the Caribbean, themselves key stakeholders in the process.

A report commissioned by Chancellor Bermudez and submitted last year has been widely condemned in some sections of Caribbean society, causing many to interpret some of the findings and recommendations as a veiled attempt to diminish the role of the Vice Chancellor within the university apparatus.

Sir Hilary's appointment for renewal is up this year.

# Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board

## Thinking About Your Next Course?

So, you've made the decision to pursue further education, but now what? How do you know what programme, short-course or institution is right for you? Here are a few things to consider before taking the next step.



Make sure you're truly interested in your intended subject area. Depending on your particular programme, you could be studying for a few months to a few years. That's a lot of your time!



Have you thought about what happens after your programme is over? Be sure to think ahead and consider your long-term goals. Make sure your programme helps you achieve these.



Once you've figured out what subject area you want to study, you should consider your learning style and if your programme fits into that. Do you prefer lectures or practical experience? Exams or coursework? Read up on your programme to find this out.



When selecting where you want to study, be sure to read up on the programme information for all of the institutions you're considering. What may be called 'Diploma in Social Work' at one place could have a different meaning at another.



Once you've made your short list of programmes and institutions, be sure to check out their accreditation status...are they accredited?

Here at ABNAB, we can help you with this!

**Tel:** (268) 562-8173  
**Email:** [abnab@ab.gov.ag](mailto:abnab@ab.gov.ag)

**Location:** Prime Minister's Drive  
**Facebook:** abnab

**Instagram:** abnationalaccreditationboard

# VILLA AND POINT COMMUNITY RESIDENTS GATHER TO CLEAN UP COMMUNITY CENTRE



Residents and friends from the Villa and Point community gathered to clean and organise the completed Villa Community Centre on Blackburn Park on Sunday.

Approximately fifteen people participated in the cleaning after a call was made for greater community participation.

According to the organiser of the cleanup, Constituency Liaison Officer Kem Hodge, "Since the handing over of the

community centre, it has not been cleaned. Knowing the government is strapped for cash in this critical time in was a voluntary effort on all who participated." Hodge explained that cleaning the multi-functional center would have required significant financial support. However, he noted the community centre will be for everyone, so everyone should welcome the opportunity to help take care of it.

**COLONEL'S CATCH**

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apple Store / Google Play

Cont'd on pg 13



The cleanup crew consisted of a wide array of people, including parliamentary representative for the area, Prime Minister Gaston Browne. "A magistrate, police officer, marketing personnel, civil servants, musicians were all part of the effort," Hodge continued.

The liaison officer further noted that although much of the work inside was completed, the group intends to make the community centre clean-up sessions a more frequent event.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Browne accepted a timely donation of five thousand books from Ronald Mind towards a community library in the center.

The community centre mainly includes an entrance hall, auditorium and supporting make-up room, audio-visual room, meeting room,

power distribution room, equipment control room, athletes' locker room, pump room, storage, and management room of sports equipment and ground equipment, auditorium equipment room, western-style kitchen, reading room, telecommunications room, computer room, public toilet, and sanitary ware storage room.



**Motor Vehicle License Expired  
or due to be renewed  
by 31 March?**





**ATB**  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD  
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

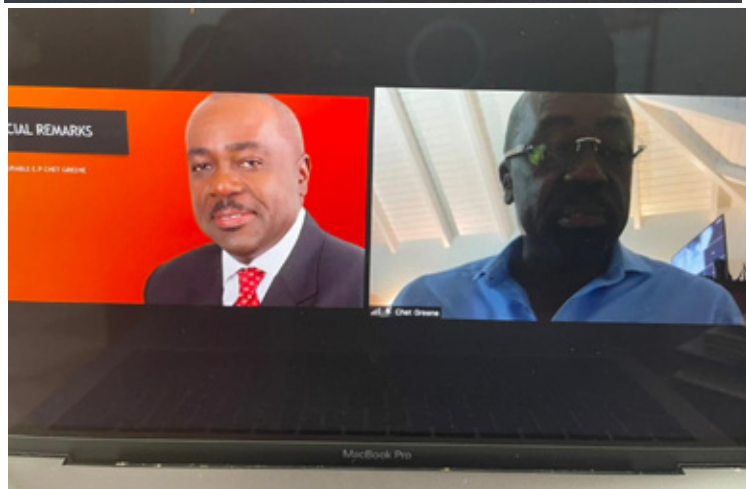
**DON'T WAIT,  
ACT NOW.**



**DRIVE  
SAFELY**

# FIFTY ENTREPRENEURS

## *and students benefit from JCI Antigua Business Webinar.*



On 25th and 26th March, some fifty entrepreneurs and tertiary level students benefitted from a business webinar aimed at the development, empowerment, and sustainability of small businesses.

The seminar, a joint collaboration between JCI Rise Committee, JCY (JCI Antigua junior arm), and JCI Antigua Business Sem-

inars Committee, was staged to offer entrepreneurs and upcoming business owners throughout Antigua and Barbuda the opportunity to learn and grow their business from major players in the industry.

Participants benefitted from a wide range of topics, which included, business planning, financial essential, creative leadership,

cost, customers, competition, and intellectual property. Leaders and key resource experts in their professional fields from Antigua and abroad presented each topic. International presenters included Unotida Nyoni from South Africa, a renowned author, speaker, and financial analyst. The seminar also featured presentations

from the registrar of the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office, Ricki Comacho, Past JCI President, Dr. Nneka Hull James, JCI Senator Elton Issacs, and JCI Senator Dorothy Peters-Nicholls who presented on finance essentials. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, The Hon. E.P. Chet Greene was

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also a featured guest speaker at the seminar. The minister spoke on the importance of entrepreneurship to the development of any economy.

Throughout the information-packed sessions, participants received the opportunity to introduce their small business and/or business ideas to their colleagues.

Under the theme, 'Rise to Lead,' the non-profit organisation stated that, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. In order to create a sustainable future, we must learn to become dynamic leaders, become equipped to handle the ever-changing society, and learn to become self-efficient."

For several years, JCI Antigua, under their subcommittee charged with business seminars, has hosted dozens of seminars, which have benefitted a wide array of business and workforce professionals.

According to the Business Seminars Committee, "the aim is to educate the business and wider community on vital topics, to aid the professional development of persons within Antigua and Barbuda and to help generate funds that will assist our organisation with the implementation of our projects and programmes."

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## **CALLS FOR ACCESS TO VACCINE FOR SMALL ISLAND STATES**

Mirage - The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) is calling for the international community to show solidarity with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by ensuring they have access to COVID-19 vaccines.

With tourism a leading employer and economic pillar for many of the SIDS, the United Nations specialised agency has stressed that pledges to ensure 'nobody is left behind' in the recovery phase of the crisis must be backed up with firm actions. Given the relatively small size of the populations of the SIDS, the cost of mass vaccinations will be minimal compared to the potential benefits of restarting tourism. Moreover, given tourism's wide value chain and proven ability to create opportunity for all, the impact of rolling out mass vaccinations and allowing tourism to restart will go beyond economic benefits.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili says: "By sharing vaccines with Small Island Developing States, the international community can help accelerate the restart of tourism in these leading destinations. Due to the size of the populations of the SIDS, the cost of mass vaccinations will be small, but the benefits will be significant. It will restore confidence in visiting SIDS, allowing the many social and economic benefits of tourism to return."

By sharing vaccines with Small Island Developing States, the international community can help accelerate the restart of tourism in these leading destinations

Secretary-General Pololikashvili made the comments after a meeting with His Excellency Dario Item, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to Spain, at the UNWTO headquarters in Madrid. One of the thirty-eight SIDS, Antigua and Barbuda is a top tourism destination and is looking to the restart of the tourism sector to protect businesses and jobs and to drive economic growth at both the national and individual level. Ambassador Item affirmed Antigua and Barbuda's application to become a Member State of UNWTO, pending ratification by the upcoming UNWTO General Assembly (October 2021, Marrakesh, Morocco).

According to UNWTO data, prior to the start of the pandemic, tourism accounted for more than thirty per cent of total exports in the majority of the thirty-eight SIDS. In some countries, this proportion has risen as high as ninety per cent. The significance of tourism makes these destinations especially vulnerable to falling tourist numbers, making the timely restart of the sector of vital importance.

# **COVID-19 VACCINE CARD COLLECTION EXTENDED, SHIFTS TO THE VILLA POLYCLINIC.**

The general public is advised that persons who received vaccination at the Villa Polyclinic, Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA), and the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Center can still collect their outstanding vaccination cards from Monday 29th March 2021 to Thursday 1st April 2021. The collection period will close for the Easter Holidays commencing Friday 2nd April 2021. Card collection will shift to the Villa Polyclinic to facilitate this extension. Card collection takes place between the hours of 9 am to 3 pm. For vaccine card collection, an ID must be presented.

Pre Registration for the COVID-19 Vaccine continues. For online registration, please visit [www.vaccineantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.vaccineantiguabarbuda.com) and select the "Vaccine Registration" tab. Upon clicking the tab, you will be required to fill out your general information and when completed, click "submit". Your registration is then completed. Registration call center numbers are 788-8299, 736-8295, 736-8298, 736-8299, 780-8618, 780-8652, 780-8678 and 780-8461, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, closed on public holidays.

Pre-registration is vital for efficiency in the next phase of the vaccination process.

## **AFTER YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE:**

Even after vaccination, continue to follow COVID-19 protocols, control Chronic Illnesses, stay hydrated, exercise regularly, eat a balanced diet and get adequate rest.

The general public is also advised to be mindful of the safety and security of your vaccine card. Your vaccine card is essential for your second vaccine dose.

If you had any persistent adverse reaction following your COVID-19 vaccine, call the COVID-19 hotline at 462-6843 weekdays only, to report your reaction and to seek guidance.

# A SUBVERSIVE REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES



***Dorbrene E. O'Marde BSc (UWI), St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda***

Let me correct a mistake that many, myself included, have been making. The Byron Report or the 'The Report of The UWI Chancellor's Commission on Governance of The UWI' has ceased to be. The contents of that document now constitute the CHANCELLOR'S REPORT (referred to in this article as The Report). This was confirmed in the

Press Statement made by Sir Dennis Byron, Chair of the UWI Chancellor's Commission when he indicated that the report of the Commission was accepted by the Chancellor. The Chancellor is described as a private sector scion who has enjoyed a distinguished career in business as Chairman of Bermudez Biscuits Co. Ltd., Chairman of Bermu-

dez Group Ltd. and Chairman for Massy Holdings Ltd. He succeeds as Chancellor, individuals of highest academic and professional standing such as Sir Hugh Wooding (1971-1974); Sir Allen Montgomery Lewis (1975-1989); Sir Shridath Ramphal (1989-2003); and Sir George Alleyne (2003-2017). The impact of the Report is best summed up in

the March 22nd editorial of the Trinidad Express which suggests that the team of experts led by Sir Dennis Byron discovered that The UWI is an archaic and unwieldy institution that is ill-equipped for the 21st century world of innovative teaching and learning, managerial accountability and operational transparency'. Neither Chancellor nor the authors of The Chancellors Report have rejected this characterization, as far as I am aware.

The Report seeks to enforce a strategic shift of institutional power from the Vice Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles to a figure head Chancellor seemingly in search for executive power. The whitewash in the report, that the role of the Vice Chancellor is not affected by the recommended changes in the governance structure, borders on incredulity. For it is clear as Columnist Dr Sheila Rampersad in an article in the Trinidad Express states "If the recommendations relating to

the Vice Chancellor's Commission on Governance of The UWI [now the Chancellor's Report] are accepted, it would mean less authority for Beckles and more for Bermudez. It would be a radical shift in structure and operations for the regional tertiary institution.'

My considered view after study of the Report is that it is a harsh indictment of an institution that it – the Report itself - describes as 'the 'most successful endeavour as a region' and as 'a major force in regional integration' whose alumni are currently leaders in virtually every sector in the English-speaking Caribbean. The Report continues to highly praise The UWI as 'recognised globally as a significant tertiary education institution...ranked in the top 1% of universities in the Latin American and Caribbean region'.

In a curious twist of logic and contrary to its own recognition, the Report suggests that the university presently runs the risk of 'becoming irrelevant to the development of the region'. It said 'irrelevant! And as precursor to its findings, the Report iterates to the Caribbean public that 'the recitation of past accomplishments and historical contribution is no longer enough to justify public financing of an institution that is required to be an apex innovator providing the human capital needed to build Caribbean civilisation in increasingly turbulent and uncertain time.' I vehemently reject this ahistorical approach to Caribbean de-

velopment. If history is not important to the Chancellor, then what is?

The findings discussed in the Report are mostly prefaced by terms such as 'absence of', 'lack of accountability', 'failure to', 'inadequate', 'gaps in', 'weakness', 'unwieldy', 'absence of', 'ill-structured', 'insufficient', among other similar condemnations. I find it extremely curious that the assessment of The UWI's 'management practices and its features of transparency and accountability' is done without clear, detailed assessment of its performance. For to me, the central, if not only goal of management is continuous improvement towards higher performance, results.

Like any concerned regional citizen and/or organization, I must ask the question, 'how has this 'archaic, ill-equipped, unwieldy' organization produced the results that the Chancellor himself recognizes and praises?' How has this university, plagued by the pains that accompany all regional organizations that depend on regional government funding, managed to impose itself majestically on the international higher education community?

How has it managed to establish at least ten (10) global structures involving partnerships with other international partners as part of its globalisation thrust – in China, West and South Africa, Cuba, USA, UK, Canada and Colombia? How does its Vice Chancellor get elected as President of 'Universities Caribbean', a pan-Caribbean organization

comprising leaders of universities in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, the French Antilles, and the Dutch Antilles which has a mandate 'to revitalise, energise, and effectively integrate the regional university sector and to enhance its quality and regional impact.' How does he, on the strength of his scholarship and his transformative role at The UWI find himself addressing the House of Commons in the UK, or seated at the table of the US Senate Sub-committee meetings?

I maintain that there is severe dissonance between the picture the Report paints of The UWI and what exists. For while the Report is critical of the digital transformation of the university, the work produced by the University's central Marketing and Communications office - was recognised at the 36th annual Educational Advertising Awards (announced on March 1, 2021) and rewarded with two gold awards and one merit award for creativity, marketing execution and message impact in its public education and communication campaigns on climate action and the COVID-19 response.

The Silicon Valley-based company EON Reality quite recently announced a grant to The UWI of US\$-25million to support the rise of The UWI Global Campus whose agenda opens up a whole new world for programmes in areas such as Engineering, Medicine, Science and Technology.

The University of Glasgow has

committed to finance to the tune of 22Million Pounds the University of Glasgow-The UWI Centre for Development and Reparatory Justice. Clearly other important voices do not find The UWI 'ill-equipped for the 21st century world of innovative teaching and learning'.

The Report has already done and will continue to do irreparable international damage to The UWI, its faculty, its graduates and students. My degree from the university allowed me without any further qualification entrance at graduate level to the University of Toronto/Canada and to Tulane University/USA. The degree prior to this report was 'acceptable for post-graduate entry into universities throughout the world, including leading institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, and Yale, amongst others' – this is the Report's language, not mine!

Does the Chancellor think this will hold, the acceptance and recognition of degrees from 'an archaic and unwieldy institution that is ill-equipped for the 21st century world of innovative teaching and learning, managerial

accountability and operational transparency'? Who suffers but students wishing to pursue post-UWI graduate studies elsewhere in the world? Aren't the international research and teaching prospects of present faculty dimmed – they come from a university damned by its own regional 'experts', impugned by its own Chancellor? It is hard to imagine a more subversive act in the world of tertiary education.

But the most unacceptable and perhaps most disastrous recommendation of the Report is the transference from Governments to the peoples of the region of a significant proportion of the financing of tertiary education. The present model of 80% Government/20% student is rejected in favour of doubling the student contribution. At no time does the Report chastise Governments - as it should - for not delivering on their correct analysis of the importance of tertiary education to the development agenda of the region and its role in lifting the masses out of the inter-generational poverty imposed on us through enslavement and colonialism.

Instead the Report proposes some nebulous student financing/loan scheme without identification of the source of capital for the scheme. The source cannot be Governments so it must be from the profit driven private sector – at a further cost to students and their families. It is not an acceptable proposal.

The Chancellor must be aware that such a recommendation would wave the reddest of flags to the Vice Chancellor who leads a Reparations Commission that unequivocally calls for reparations payments in support of education; a Vice Chancellor who has pointed out time and time again that the Caribbean suffers from the lowest ratio of university graduates per population in the world and one committed to the improvement of social justice in this region; a Vice Chancellor who has already successfully negotiated with Governments creative funding mechanisms that have significantly reduced the debt burden the institution carries.

In closing, I condemn the report for not acknowledging that The UWI, like

all regional institutions is in a constant developmental flux, that it has not - especially under the VC's leadership sought to sit on its achievements; that it has been subjected to a number of previous performance reviews and although the implementation of some recommendations may be slow or lagging, it has not failed to struggle forward, scoring major successes that the Report even acknowledges.

And pardon me, in face of all evidence, for the inference that the language of the Report and its implications do support the machinations already in train to oust Sir Hillary from his position. And you will pardon me also for insisting – without being able to quote one single such sentence in the report – that it is Sir Hillary's commitment to social justice – including reparations - that is under the gun here.

Dorbrene E. O'Marde  
BSc (UWI), (in my persona)

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

March 26th 2021



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# CRYPTO FOR THE PEOPLE?



***By Cristal Clashing***

In the last 6 months, the buzz about cryptocurrencies has been on the rise in Antigua and Barbuda. There was the introduction of Bitcoin Cash to local businesses in August 2020. In September 2020, economic envoy and investor Calvin Ayre

last six months, the buzz about cryptocurrencies has been on the rise in Antigua and Barbuda. There was the introduction of Bitcoin Cash to local businesses in August 2020. In September 2020, economic envoy and investor Calvin Ayre

held a Bitcoin SV virtual conference where he sent invitations via mass text encouraging the Antiguan public to attend. If you follow world news, you may have seen that billionaire and innovator Elon Musk invested heavily into Bitcoin in

February 2021. As Antiguan and Barbudans, we are beginning to hear increasingly more about bitcoin, cryptocurrency and even blockchain, but for some of us our eyes glaze over and it all goes over our heads.

Why it's so hard to understand?

So why is cryptocurrency so difficult to wrap our heads around? There are several reasons that contribute to the high barrier to understanding cryptocurrencies. One is that we are not typically educated on wealth creation. We are instead taught to generate wealth from running our own businesses and managing our savings. Financial asset investment as a form of wealth creation is a generally foreign concept to us. Related to that, is the second reason. As a region, we don't have the power to call much of our own shots when it comes to our banking systems. We are subject to larger powers that be, namely the US financial system alongside British and European financial institutions. Thirdly, we don't understand the technology behind it because the average person is not a computer science whiz.

However, because we don't understand financial asset investments;

because we don't have much autonomy within our own financial systems; and because the technology is dizzying to us, we don't appreciate the opportunity that is unfolding across the world and even within our tiny island state.

The promise of crypto

So why have cryptocurrencies gotten so much attention? It is because they offer much quicker transactions than regular international wire transfers. It is because it requires almost no paperwork when compared to opening a bank account. It is because it offers an equal opportunity platform for wealth creation regardless of what country you're in... or who you are.

Investing in cryptocurrency, like any other financial asset, can be a risky business but with risk comes opportunity. It may be more useful to think of cryptocurrencies as crypto assets that can increase and decrease in value over time. The value changes of cryptocurrencies are

much more volatile than in regular stock markets. With hundreds of cryptocurrencies to choose from, knowing which one will gain traction and increase in value is difficult to predict. The risk comes in potentially losing money if the cryptocurrency of choice loses value and doesn't recover. However, in theory, the opportunity for wealth reveals itself when you take a chance on several types of reputable cryptocurrencies early enough and one or several of them increases in value over time.

Ushering a new era of education

So who is benefitting from the wealth creation? So far, it is those with some education and experience in the banking and the financial sector. It is those who work and dabble within the field of computer science and are intrigued by this technology. What about the average person? How do they get involved in cryptocurrency?

For now, it's ultimately down to self-education.

This is not the time to be spoon-fed knowledge but to seek knowledge for yourself. The cryptocurrency space in Antigua is bigger than we realise. It's likely you already know someone or are two persons away from someone who is knowledgeable about cryptocurrency. Before investing in anything make sure to do thorough research and question everything. With digital currencies (different from cryptocurrency) set to make an emergence in the OECS in the upcoming week, you can start educating yourself with knowledge around the blockchain technology that cryptocurrency and digital currencies are built on.

One such opportunity is The UWI Five Island campus' public advocacy series. On Monday 29th March 2021 at 6:30 p.m. they will be hosting a virtual discussion on blockchain technology with the creator of ECCB's digital currency, DCash, which is set to launch on March 31st, 2021.

# CARICOM BUSINESS



## *A Weekly Business News Aggregation Service*

*Compiled and Edited by the Directorate of Trade and Economic  
Integration at the CARICOM Secretariat*

### *ECCB digital currency goes live March 31*

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) digital currency, DCash, will go live on March 31, starting with Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia. DCash, considered legal tender, is a real-time payment option available within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) and offers a safer, faster, cheaper method for making payments and sending/receiving funds to and from other DCash users and merchants. Consumers can access it via the official app, DCash Wallet, and conduct financial transactions using their smart devices. DCash can be obtained from participating commercial banks, credit unions, or other authorised institutions.

### *G7 supports expansion of IMF reserves*

The world's seven largest advanced economies have agreed to support the first expansion of the International Monetary Fund's reserves since 2009, a step meant to help developing countries cope with the coronavirus pandemic. This means the allocation of SDRs would increase to the equivalent of \$500 billion from the \$293 billion agreed in 2009 just after the global financial crisis. Britain, which is chairing the Group of Seven (G7) this year, said G7 finance ministers had agreed to support a "new and sizeable" increase in the volume of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), an internal currency used by the IMF.

### *Fitch Affirms Jamaica at 'B+'; Outlook Stable*

Fitch Ratings Agency, has affirmed Jamaica's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B+' with the outlook remaining stable. The Stable Outlook is supported by the expectation that the public debt level will return to a firm downward path post-pandemic, which is underpinned by political consensus to maintain a high primary surplus, the resilience of external finances, and stronger economic policy institutions. The general government deficit is projected at 4.3% of GDP in fiscal 2020-2021 (ending March 31) from a surplus of 0.9% a year ago. Expenditure growth is projected at only 3.8% (compared to an average of 7.8% between fiscal 2017-2018 and fiscal 2019-2020). Revenues declined by a projected 12.3%. Debt-to-GDP is projected to reach 110.9% by end-March 2021 from 94.8% a year before, largely reflecting exchange rate depreciation and GDP contraction (61% of total government debt is in foreign currency). Fitch expects that the economy will grow by 4.5% in 2021, with risks to the downside stemming from uncertainty around the vaccine roll out and a possible third wave of the virus. Fitch expects that growth will accelerate in 2022 to 5.2%.

## *The Bahamas: Banks suffer 37% profitability decline*

Bahamian commercial banks saw total private sector loan arrears increase by \$76m during the 2020 fourth quarter as the sector's collective profitability shrunk by 37% year-over-year. The Central Bank, in its economic review of the year's final three months, said the credit portfolio deterioration experienced from October onwards accounted for all but \$10m of the year's total \$87m increase in loan arrears as deferrals continued to unwind amid COVID-19's economic devastation. Total private sector loan arrears rose by \$75.8m (10.9%) over the quarter and by \$86.7m (12.6%) on an annual basis to \$773.1m," the Central Bank said. The expansion in total private sector loan arrears was mainly due to an \$86.7m (21.7%) growth in mortgage delinquencies to \$486.2m. Nonperforming loans increased by 25 basis point to 8.5% of total private sector loans. This was mainly due to the 21.7% growth in mortgage delinquencies to \$486.2m

## *Small businesses to raise up to \$5M on capital market*

Bahamian small businesses will soon be able to raise up to \$5 million through crowd funding, without having to file a prospectus with the Securities Commission of The Bahamas. According to Minister of State for Finance Senator Kwasi Thompson the Securities Industry Business Capital Rules, 2021 will modernize the rules for small businesses to raise capital, mak-

ing the process of crowd funding less costly and less bureaucratic. "The shares created under this framework would be transferable and can be traded on a secondary market such as BISX," he said. Thompson said protection for small businesses has also been built into the rules with limitations on the number of shares that an individual outside investor may hold, thus protecting the small business owner from hostile takeovers.

## *Regional tourism plummets 65.5% in 2020*

Tourist arrivals to the Caribbean fell by 65.5% in 2020, according to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), but it is forecasting a 20% rise in arrivals in 2021, with a similar increase in visitor expenditure, when compared to 2020. According to the CTO tourist arrivals to the region in 2020 fell to just over 11 million, a decline of 65.5% relative to the record 32.0 million tourist visits in 2019. Nonetheless, this compares positively to the global average of 73.9% decline during the same period. Cruise arrivals experienced a 72% decline to 8.5 million visits, when compared to the 30 million visits in 2019. The CTO also estimates that across the region visitor expenditure declined by 60 to 80%, in line with the decline in stayover and cruise arrivals. However, preliminary data indicates that the average length of stay for 2020 remained at roughly seven nights, the same as in 2019

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DR. MASERATI

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE

# STAKEHOLDERS SAY CRUISE SHIPS COULD RETURN IN SHORT TERM



## *Prime Minister Andrew Holness*

**Jamaica Observer** — With Americans being vaccinated against COVID-19 at a very fast rate, Jamaica could see the return of cruise shipping in the short term, local officials and stakeholders argue. A good sign, they say, is the announcement by the Royal Caribbean Group, the second largest cruise company in the world behind Carnival Cruise Line, that they will resume cruising in June 2021 for vaccinated crew members and guests.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness, in his recent budget debate presentation, noted that Jamaica was keeping a close tab as to what is happening in the United States, making a direct link between the rapid pace of the vaccination exercise in that country and a potentially earlier than expected return of cruise shipping to the island. “With the vaccination programme in full swing in the United States, the Port Authority of Jamaica

(PAJ) is cautiously optimistic that Cruise operations will resume on or before the start of the season in November 2021,” Holness told Parliament. He added that the Government, in the interim, has been doing major infrastructural work in the major cruise towns, so as not to be caught flat-footed in the imminent return of a sector that has consistently demonstrated a high level of profitability and dependability. Holness gave as an

example the reconstruction of the Reynolds Pier in Ocho Rios, which he said has been reconstructed to create a second berthing facility capable of accommodating the largest classes of cruise vessels.

A new promenade, the prime minister added, has been installed, linking the Reynolds Pier to the Ocho Rios Fishing Village, Island Village, the Main Cruise Terminal and the Town of Ocho Rios.

# COMMISH REMINDS ST. LUCIANS THEY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN FIGHTING CRIME



***St. Lucia Commissioner of Police Milton Desir***

LOOP News St. Lucia - Commissioner of Police Milton Desir is reminding St. Lucians that they have an important part to play if the country is to be successful in the fight against crime.

Desir delivered the reminder as he addressed the issue of crime in the wake of a bloody weekend that saw three people shot dead and a similar number shot

and injured between Saturday and Sunday. "Crime-fighting," he said, "is not the police alone. We know that is a big responsibility — that we have to fight crime, where we could prevent and investigate when it happens. But crime-fighting in general, to see a reduction in the crime situation, everybody has to be involved."

Desir said that various

agencies, schools, families, and communities all have a part to play.

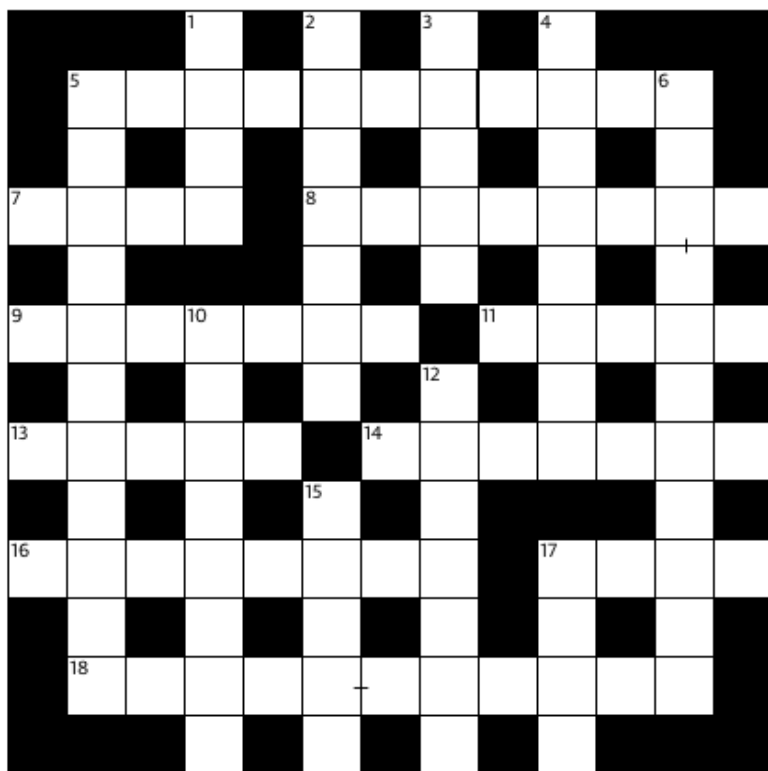
"So it's something that we have to work at holistically so that we could see a total reduction in crime," the top cop said. "However, the police, we will do our part."

At the same time, Desir outlined activities being undertaken by the police to suppress crime.

"We are continuing to have our patrols, we also doing intelligence-driven patrols... we will do also what we call hotspot policing, that is where based on the statistics — having analyzed it you will find areas where crime is more prevalent — so you would have your resources directed in those areas," Desir said. He added that the police would also keep a constant gaze on known troublemakers, will continue to do stop and searches and conduct traffic stops. Meanwhile, the commissioner has asked for patience from the public regarding crimes not yet solved.

"We will do all we can to ensure that justice is served and especially to persons who have lost their loved ones. Sometimes we believe that some cases take long but we would rather it take some time. We asking persons to be patient, let us gather the evidence that is needed to bring these cases to court," Desir said.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

- 5 Same here! (4,3,4)  
 7 Unfriendly giant (4)  
 8 Meet (8)  
 9 Stranded (7)  
 11 Disjointed (5)  
 13 Police informer — baccy (5)  
 14 Member of a band of robbers (7)  
 16 Half-hearted (8)  
 17 Personal belongings (4)  
 18 Shrewd — a PhD twister (anag) (5-6)

## Down

- 1 Dossier (4)  
 2 In a pile (7)  
 3 Seedless and flowerless green plants (5)  
 4 Short-lived (8)  
 5 Massive things that threaten to crush everything their way (11)  
 6 Run-of-the-mill (3-8)  
 10 Raised track across water or marshland (8)  
 12 Supposed source of technical glitches (7)  
 15 Florida resort on the Gulf of Mexico (5)  
 17 Intestines — backbone (4)

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



## ♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Dance and enjoy romance under the light of tonight's Full Moon. In the week to come, you may experience a positive and uplifting shift in your key relationships. Cement existing partnerships with acts of loyalty.

## ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Widen your sphere of influence in the week ahead. You won't meet anyone by sitting around the house, so get out and about for the best results. You and a special someone might find time for special moments tonight.

## ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You like books but especially enjoy the book of love. Although there is no actual user's manual for romantic gestures or encounters, you can use your imagination to delight your loved ones this week.

## ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

During the upcoming week, you may have the enthusiasm and desire to add creative touches to every project. Put the pedal to the metal when you have something to accomplish that requires a discerning eye.

## ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

The traffic lights of love will likely be green in the week ahead, so feel free to cruise the streets of romantic bliss. Someone may admire your good manners and judgment and express a desire to get to know you better.

## ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Love might be your favorite four-letter word in the upcoming week. The kindness and sensitivity that other people demonstrate might make you feel treasured. Make smart decisions about spending.

## ♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

The Full Moon in your sign can brighten the night as well as your own inner landscape. You may shine in the reflected light of a loved one's success and enjoy heightened romantic thoughts in the week ahead.

## ♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Plan your work and work your plan. In the week to come, you may handle both career and money matters with an air of refinement and delicacy that everyone likely will admire. Take time to chat with close friends.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your inner compass might point you in the right direction so that you can find the one you cherish the most. The week ahead is likely to offer you more opportunities for happy social interactions and pleasures.

## ♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Show your family how much you love them. Your home could be the center of dynamic activity in the week ahead. There could be helpful changes within the family unit. You can expect to hear some good news.

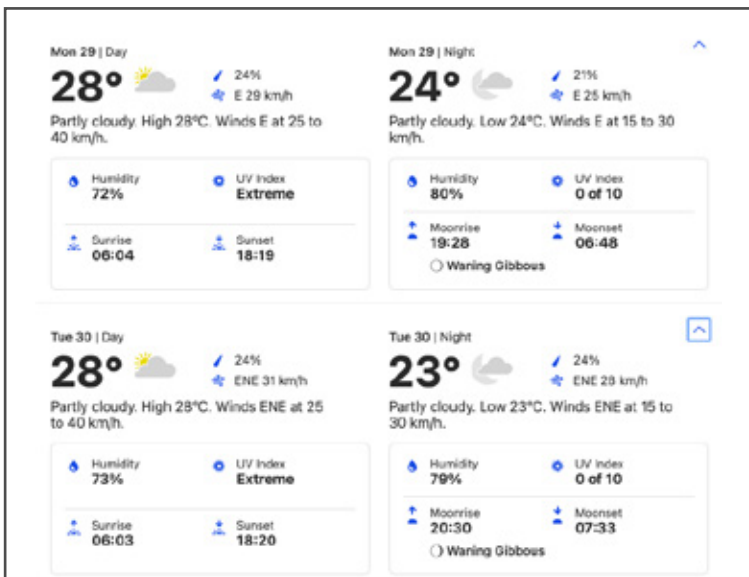
## ♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Don't let one lucky break or a few successes go to your head and make you cocky. No matter how good you are, there is always something new to learn. Keep your feet on the ground and your ego in check in the coming week.

## ♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Express your love of beautiful things and invest in them as the week unfolds. Your creative side may be activated by inspiring people, and you can put your own imaginative ideas to use on anything you work on.

## LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST



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Dilbert

March 28, 2021

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



Garfield

March 28, 2021



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# Mozambique: Dozens dead after militants assault on Palma

(BBC) - Dozens of people are dead following an attack on the town of Palma in northern Mozambique, according to a spokesperson from the country's defence department.

Seven were killed trying to escape a siege on a hotel, said Omar Saranga. Hundreds of others, both locals and foreigners, were reportedly rescued.

The area has been under attack by Islamist militants since Wednesday. Witnesses have described hiding out while waiting to be rescued by boat, on a beach strewn with headless bodies.

Marine traffic websites showed a string of vessels around Palma, and the port of Pemba to the south, as people tried to escape by any means - cargo vessels, passenger ships, tugs and recreational boats.

One contractor told the BBC many who escaped the hotel via convoy hid at the beach overnight on Friday and were evacuated by boat on Saturday morning.

He said more people were delivered to safety after him, and that the boats would be return-



ing on Sunday to rescue more still.

He said civilians living and working in the area appeared to be co-ordinating the rescue effort.

"Local suppliers and companies, these guys were heroes of the entire operation. In the wee hours they managed to co-ordinate and reach out to the evacuees on the beach and got them onto boats and got them to safety."

"Where the hell was the support from big companies, from countries?" he asked.

One source close to

the rescue operation told AFP news agency that a boat with about 1,400 people on board had arrived in the port town of Pemba, which is about 250km (155 miles) south of Palma, on Sunday afternoon.

Aid agencies said several more small boats packed with displaced people were en route to Pemba and likely to arrive overnight or on Monday morning.

What's the situation now in Palma?

The exact number of casualties in Palma, a town of about 75,000

people in Cabo Delgado province, is unclear. Many are still unaccounted for.

The town and beaches are strewn with bodies "with heads and without", according to Col Lionel Dyck, whose private security firm, Dyck Advisory Group, is contracted by the Mozambique police in the area.

The armed group is reported to have taken control of Palma, but those claims are hard to verify amid a communications blackout.

# 2 tugboats deploy to Egypt's Suez Canal as shippers avoid it

SUEZ, Egypt (AP) — Two additional tugboats deployed Sunday to Egypt's Suez Canal to aid efforts to free a skyscraper-sized container ship wedged for days across the crucial waterway, even as major shippers increasingly divert their boats out of fear the vessel may take even longer to free.

The MV Ever Given, a Panama-flagged, Japanese-owned ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, got stuck Tuesday in a single-lane stretch of the canal. In the time since, authorities have been unable to unstuck the vessel and traffic through the canal — valued at over \$9 billion a day — has been halted, further disrupting a global shipping network already strained by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Dutch-flagged Alp Guard, a specialist tugboat, arrived at the location Sunday, according to the stuck ship's technical management company, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management. The Italian-flagged tugboat Carlo Magno was also close, having reached the Red Sea near the city of Suez

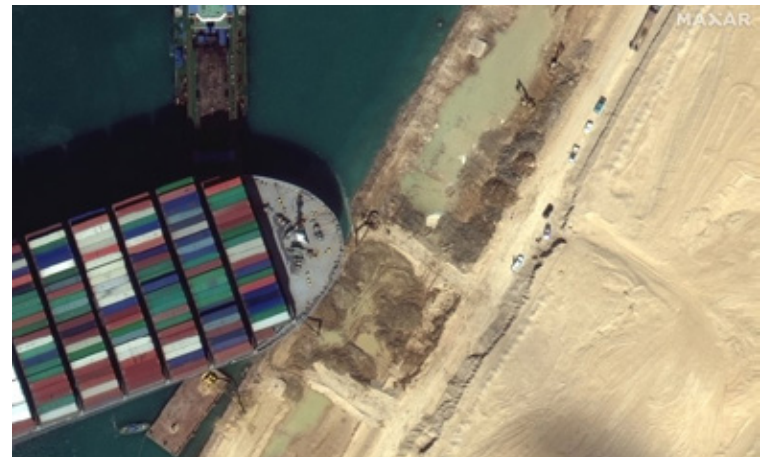
early Sunday, satellite data from MarineTraffic.com showed.

The tugboats, along with at least 10 others already there, will be used to nudge the 400-meter-long (quarter-mile-long) Ever Given as dredgers continue to vacuum up sand from underneath the vessel and mud caked to its port side, Bernhard Schulte said.

Excavators dug Sunday on the eastern wall of the Suez Canal, hoping to free the bulbous bow of the Ever Given that plowed into the embankment, satellite photos showed. Bernhard Schulte said the team was also waiting for the arrival of additional equipment to dredge the canal's seafloor. The THSD Causeway, a dredger registered in Cyprus, was expected to arrive by Tuesday.

Authorities canceled Sunday's planned freeing attempts "until sufficient tug power is in place," said canal services firm Leth Agencies. They plan to conduct an effort to free the vessel Monday to coincide with high tides, it said.

Officials have been desperately trying to



avoid unloading the vessel, which likely would add even more days to the canal's closure. Taking containers off the ship would require a crane and other equipment that have yet to arrive.

On Saturday, the head of the Suez Canal Authority told journalists that strong winds were "not the only cause" for the Ever Given running aground, appearing to push back against conflicting assessments offered by others. Lt. Gen. Osama Rabei said an investigation was ongoing but did not rule out human or technical error.

Bernhard Schulte Ship Management maintains that their "initial investigations rule out any mechanical or engine failure as a cause of the grounding." However, at least one initial report suggested a "blackout" struck the

hulking vessel carrying some 20,000 containers at the time of the incident.

Rabei said he remained hopeful that dredging could free the ship without having to resort to removing its cargo, but added that "we are in a difficult situation, it's a bad incident."

Asked about when they expected to free the vessel and reopen the canal, he said: "I can't say because I do not know."

Speaking on Sunday to the pro-government Egyptian television channel Extra News, Rabei said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi had ordered the canal authority to prepare for all options, including taking containers off the vessel. He said officials had been in talks with the U.S. about that possibility, without elaborating.



# CWI AGM RESCHEDULED... BARBADOS AND GUYANA WERE 'NO SHOWS'


The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Cricket West Indies (CWI) that was scheduled for yesterday (Sunday) has been rescheduled to Sunday 11th April 2021, after representatives from Barbados and Guyana failed to show Sunday morning.

The event could not

proceed since the CWI Articles of Association stipulate that nine representatives from the full members boards have to present in-person to constitute a quorum. Jamaica Cricket Association, Leeward Islands Cricket Board, Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board and the Wind-

ward Islands Cricket Board were present. Despite given proper notice to attend, when the roll was called there were no representatives present from the Guyana or Barbados cricket boards. If there is no quorum within thirty minutes of the appointed time for the meeting, it shall stand

adjourned to the next business day or to such other time and place as the Board of Directors may determine. CWI made attempts to reach the Barbados Cricket Association and Guyana Cricket Board but were unsuccessful. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

A full-page photograph of Sachin Tendulkar in his blue India cricket uniform. He is wearing batting pads and holding a cricket bat in his right hand, which is raised. The word 'INDIA' is visible on his jersey. The background is a blurred stadium.

# POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULT FOR TENDULKAR

Sachin Tendulkar has revealed he tested positive for coronavirus.

The cricket legend revealed the news on social media to his thirty-five million Twitter followers on Saturday.

The 'Little Master,' who scored close to 16,000 runs in 200 Test matches for India, had been experiencing mild symptoms before undergoing a test. Tendulkar said he has quarantined himself at home and is following all the necessary protocols as advised by his doctors.

The cricket icon thanks all the healthcare professionals who are supporting him and many others throughout India.

## BENNA BOYZ VICTORIOUS



Antigua and Barbuda brushed aside the US Virgin Islands 3-0 on Saturday to continue their unbeaten run in World Cup Qualification.

After playing to a 2-2 draw in their first encounter earlier in the week against neighbours Montserrat in Curaçao, the Ben-

na Boyz, led by veteran strikers Peter Byers and Quinton Griffith, were too much for the host.

Byers opened the scoring in the twenty-sixth-minute, followed by a penalty conversion by Griffith in the thirty-second, before completing his brace in the forty-fourth.

The Benna Boyz, mixing experience and youth, were the superior team throughout the game and should have won by a bigger margin. But local coaches Schyan Jeffers and Kajawawa Warner were pleased with the result.

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