



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA IS SENDING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO SVG TONIGHT

**SEE PAGE 3**



*Smoke and ash billow from  
La Soufriere on St. Vincent  
on Friday.*

**PM DEFENDS DECISION TO ACCOMMODATE  
SVG VOLCANO EVACUEES**

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## EDITORIAL

# A TIME TO CLOSE RANKS

A defining feature of the Caribbean is our ability to close ranks in a time of crisis and come to each other's assistance. One will recall Hurricane David in Dominica. Having been devastated, many Caribbean countries quickly mobilised resources and sent immediate help. During the widespread drought in Antigua and Barbuda in the early 1980s, Dominica supplied this country with food and water, and other countries also came to our aid. After Hurricane Luis in 1995, again, many Caribbean countries came to our aid by sending necessary items to our shores. When Grenada experienced Hurricane Ivan, again, Caribbean neighbours sprang into action to help. Haiti, in the aftermath of the massive earthquake in 2010, is another example of the Caribbean's capacity to aid each other. More recently, we have the examples of Antigua and Barbuda with Hurricane Irma and Dominica with Hurricane Maria. It is that deep and abiding recognition that in reality, the water

separating our various countries is really an artificial barrier because, in reality, the Caribbean has always been, and will always be, a single unit. Today, one of the elements that make up that unit is in need. St Vincent and the Grenadines needs us! It is time for us, once again, to close ranks and demonstrate why as a people we are so admired and respected on the international stage. The Caribbean is known for standing on principles. One of those guiding principles is that no country in the Caribbean should ever be left behind or should be neglected in a time of need. It was heart-warming to hear the Government of this country immediately indicating that Antigua and Barbuda stands ready to immediately receive an initial two hundred and fifty nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with preparations being made for another two hundred and fifty. Other countries, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, have also indicated that they too

stand ready to help. It is a mark of maturity that despite our differences on certain geopolitical and regional issues, the Caribbean has always been able to shelve those petty squabbles and assist each other.

In a very real way, it is a recognition that we are really one people as we have a shared history of trans-Atlantic slavery. It was only by sheer chance that some enslaved Africans ended up in Antigua, some in Jamaica, some in Guyana, some in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and so on. If one were to do a genealogical trace, it would become painfully clear that many people in the Caribbean are blood relatives.

Even more than that, the history of migration between the islands means that those ties have been cemented over time. One only has to recall that when we were colonies of Britain, one could move from one island to the next without let or hindrance; and move we did. Take the example of Sir Arthur Lewis, whose image adorns our One Hundred Dollar bill. He

was born in St Lucia, but his parents were from Antigua. Many of those kinds of examples exist. In Antigua and Barbuda's particular case, we have a high number of police officers who were born in St Vincent and the Grenadines and they have served this nation well. They built lives here, married to Antiguan, and their offspring continue to give yeoman service to the nation in many fields of endeavour. The people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines are therefore our people!

We implore you, dear readers, to assist in any way that you can. Give of your time, talent, and resources to assist our brothers and sisters in their hour of need. Our grandparents used to say that when you see your neighbour's house on fire, wet yours. It is an admonition that we do not know when that fire will reach us. Today it is St Vincent and the Grenadines, but tomorrow it could be Antigua and Barbuda.

Let us close ranks and show the world how we as Caribbean people love each other!

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA IS SENDING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO SVG TONIGHT



Several containers loaded with emergency supplies donated by public and private sector entities are leaving for St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) tonight.

Director of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), Philmore Mullin, revealed that his department has been coordinating the relief supplies that include blankets, bedding materials, flashlights, lanterns, water tanks and bottled water which will sail to Kingstown aboard a Tropical Shipping vessel.

He reported that two water bottling companies – Oasis and GCS Bottling – will also donate to the cause. Oasis is donating as much as two containers of water while

GCS bottling is donating several hundred cases.

The NODS director said one of the concerns is the water supply on the island. “Each time the volcano coughs, it spills ash even into the ‘green zone’ contaminating the water supply. My plan is to reach out to our neighbours – Mega Distributors to request some small water storage tanks to send down the SVG so that the people can place them inside their homes to protect them from the ash,” he stated.

Mullin also plans to reach out to “our traditional partners” such as the Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce, the Salvation Army and other civil society entities for

assistance to help the thousands of displaced people in SVG.

He said the staff at NODS spent Sunday packing and labelling the items that are to be shipped to SVG via container Monday ship today.

“This is a major coordination exercise we are undertaking to assist the people of St Vincent as well as to prepare for those evacuees who will be accommodated here in Antigua and Barbuda, based on a commitment from the government. There is no specific date when they will arrive because the preparatory work that is taking place in SVG for their departure is constantly being interrupted by the volca-





nic eruptions," Mullin explained. The NODS director has also visited the Jolly Beach hotel where two hundred and fifty Vincentians will be housed during their stay in Antigua. He said he has only one concern following the

inspection. “The space between the building housing those Antigua and Barbuda residents on quarantine and the building earmarked to house the Vincentians is quite narrow... I would have preferred more space between

them...we may have to place a wire fence between these buildings," he reported.

Regarding the need for negative COVID-19 tests for all the evacuees, Mullin said there may not be enough time to have this done but health authorities here have arrived at an acceptable solution. "We will accept a negative rapid test in the absence of a PCR test. However, all evacuees will have to do a PCR test on arrival. They will also be required to quarantine for up to two weeks before being allowed to intermingle with the local population," he stated. Meanwhile, preparations for their arrival continue apace.

# TENDER NOTICE

## — INVITATION TO BID —

## CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE ROADS – PICCADILLY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE 1

**CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY (CHAPA)**

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA), invites interested vendors to submit a bid/proposal, for works and/or services related to the **Construction of Concrete Roads (Phase 1) – Piccadilly Development Project.**

The **scope of works** and supporting documents related to this tender will be made available via a link at the Tenders Board website at [www.tendersboard.gov.ag](http://www.tendersboard.gov.ag) under **News/Notices**.

The link will provide access to an e-Procurement Platform hosted by EASIBUY where you will be required to register before being able to download the tender documents.

Please be advised that the eligibility of your bid/proposal, is subject to the completion of a Vendor Registration Form, which is also available from the e-Procurement platform.

**Bid/Proposal** for this tender can be submitted by:

uploading to the e-Procurement Platform or submitting two (2) hard copies in sealed envelopes addressed to: Chairman, Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance and **Corporate Governance, Parliament Drive and with the heading “Construction of Concrete Roads (Phase 1) - Piccadilly Development Project”** – Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA).

Bid submission shall be no later than **12:00 noon on Wednesday 19 May 2021.**

Queries or Clarification Requests regarding the specified requirements of this tender, must be emailed to: **Chairman, Tenders Board (tenders.board@ab.gov.ag)**, with the subject heading – CHAPA Piccadilly Development Project, Query. Please note that the final day for considering queries related to this tender, is **2:00 PM on Thursday April 15 2021**.

# PM DEFENDS DECISION TO ACCOMMODATE SVG VOLCANO EVACUEES

By *Shelton Daniel*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has provided further details of the considerations that went into his government's offer of refuge to two hundred and fifty residents of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines who may be forced to flee because of a volcanic eruption there.

After several weeks of heightened activity and elevated alert levels, the La Soufriere Volcano finally blew its top on Friday with a series of explosive eruptions.

This resulted in a heavy blanket of ash covering several parts of the country and the population bracing for worse, amid rapid evacuation of areas most at risk.

Although for now the evacuations have been limited to mostly internal relocation, Prime Minister Browne on Saturday recalled an appeal from his Vincentian counterpart

Dr. Ralph Gonsalves. Speaking on his weekly PointeFM radio programme, The Browne and Browne Show, the Antigua and Barbuda leader also explained why the initial number of evacuees has been set at two hundred and fifty for the time being.

"Several weeks ago, Antigua and Barbuda gave the commitment to accommodate five hundred [Vincentians] at the Jolly Beach hotel, in the event [of] an eruption ... I had a call from Prime Minister Gonsalves on Thursday [stating] that from all indications the volcano will erupt and they will need to call upon that commitment ... I indicated to him at the time that we would be utilising the hotel that we had pledged to quarantine Antiguan and Barbudans who were returning home ... and in the first instance we could get probably about two hundred and fifty

rooms available between Thursday and Monday of next week ... so that we would be in position within the first instance to accept two hundred and fifty Vincentians, with the understanding that as we are able to make more rooms available we would assist in accommodating several more."

Noting the strong ties of shared history, geographical closeness and formalised inte-

gration between the islands of the Eastern Caribbean, Prime Minister Browne said it was both a natural expectation and a moral obligation for these territories to assist each other in times of natural disaster or other acute situations of distress.

He therefore expressed disappointment in the reaction of some local elements to his government's humanitarian posture. "It is

## 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, 12th April 2021

Time: 8:30AM-1:00PM

Affected areas: Jennings, Hermitage Bay & Christian Valley

Date: Tuesday, 13th April 2021

Time: 8:30AM-12:00PM

Affected areas: Section Five Island near Valley Church

Date: Tuesday, 13th April 2021

Time: 9:45AM-11:30AM

Affected areas: Newfield, St. Phillip's, Freetown, Mill Reef & Long Lane

Date: Thursday, 15th April 2021

Time: 8:45AM-11:30AM

Affected areas: Section of Mount Joy west of Cochrane Estate

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.





unfortunate that our political opponents will see this as a xenophobic issue and suggest that the decision of the government is a bad one.”

PM Browne singled out United Progress Party (UPP) candidate and Observer Radio talk show co-host Franz Chalver Defreitas as a prima donna example of such “bad-mindedness” – a common rendering in the local parlance for mean-spirited-

ness. “I don’t know why Franz in particular would want to go down that road ... Franz has not lived here in Antigua and Barbuda for many years. He returned recently from the United States – incidentally with his empty hands – and he has no empathy for anyone here, especially our Caribbean brothers and sisters.”

The Prime Minister, who is also the elected Member of Parliament for Saint John’s

City West, said such disdain towards fellow Caribbean people who come to Antigua was not unique to Defreitas, but a defining characteristic of the entire UPP.

“It is deep in their psyche that they do not love our Caribbean brothers and sisters ... because I cannot imagine that during a time of crisis in which these individuals are being displaced by a volcano, that anyone would question the benevolence of our

government to give support to our Caribbean brothers and sisters at this critical time,” the Antigua and Barbuda leader lamented.

He gave the assurance that all precautions pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic would be taken, including requirements for testing, vaccination and quarantine as applicable to the evacuees who are allowed into Antigua.

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# 'ALL HANDS ON DECK' AT CBH



The week ahead will be a very busy one for the staff at the Central Board of Health (CBH) as the department contends with several national health exigencies.

Chief Health Inspector, Sharon Martin, said the department shifted into top gear when the announcement was made that there will be a re-opening of schools on a limited basis to accommodate fourth and fifth formers in the secondary schools and grades five and six in primary

schools.

The CBH is required to inspect each school plant to ensure that all the requirements are in place to observe the health protocols as mandated by the Ministry of Health.

"I told my staff that we had to redouble of efforts to complete the task in time for the reopening of schools by today, 12th April. Then we learned that the preschools also had to be inspected to allow them to reopen this week as well. I will be joining the teams out in the field to en-

sure that we get these inspections done as soon as possible," she stated.

According to Martin, her only concern relates to adequate time to complete the task in a proper manner. "All hands are on deck to complete the task at hand and have the inspections completed this week," she added.

The Chief Health Inspector said some preschools have announced that they will not reopen until Wednesday as they too needed 'some extra days' to have the cleaning and sanitising of their premises done.

In addition to inspecting the school plants, Martin, who is a member of the Port Health committee, was among officials who met at the Nevis Street Pier on Sunday afternoon to begin the planning for the arrival of evacuees

from St Vincent and the Grenadines. Also attending that meeting was Port Manager, Darwin Telemaque.

The meeting was slated to put a plan in place to welcome the Vincentians to Antigua and Barbuda 'in a respectful' manner.

## NOTICE

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION  
FORM P7, Rule 15

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

In the Estate of *MIGNONETTE  
JACQUILINE WILLIAMS* late of  
Swetes Village, St. John's, Antigua,  
Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF  
APPLICATION FOR GRANT  
FIRST (SECOND)  
PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **NAKIMA WILLIAMS** of Swetes Village, St. Paul's, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. 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 4<sup>th</sup>, day of April, 2021

**CUMBERBATCH &  
ASSOCIATES**  
Attorneys-at-Law for the  
Applicant



# Russian COVID vaccines arrive



fortnight. According to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the donations have been made via the Russian Direct Investment Fund.

"These are in essence a small quantity to help us determine demand for the Sputnik vaccine here in Antigua and Barbuda, and they have indicated that [should there be] strong demand for the Sputnik ... they will sell us some Sputnik on a commercial basis," he told PointeFM's Browne and Browne

Show on Saturday.

"The Sputnik vaccine has proven to be one of the most efficacious brands on the market, even a higher level of efficacy than the Astra-Zeneca," he added. Because of this, the prime minister said, he wanted "to encourage citizens and residents to avail themselves of this Sputnik vaccine. We are prepared to give out a full one thousand next week, with the understanding that by the following week – or within fourteen days

by Shelton Daniel

One thousand doses of the Russian-manufactured Sputnik V vaccine were delivered to Antigua and Barbuda on Saturday.

It marks the first half of a donation of two thousand doses by the Russian Federation to the twin-island state, with the remaining one thousand doses expected within the next

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– we'll have another thousand. And, if it is that these vaccines go pretty quickly, then we will make arrangements to get some commercial volumes of the Sputnik ..."

PM Browne stated that the Russian agency had "not provided any precise quantities" in terms of what it would be able to supply. "They have about one billion [vaccine doses] on order presently, so they did indicate to us that they may not be in a position to sell us the volumes that we require because of this strong demand that exists globally for the vaccine."

But, he noted, the immediate priority would be on getting people inoculated as soon as possible with the vaccine supplies that were available and on-hand, until additional procurement could be made.

The prime minister said his government's vaccine policy would not be shaped by any of the geopolitical tussles that exist between Russia and other powerful countries. "When it comes to getting vaccines for our people to protect lives and livelihoods, we will be going wherever we can get them," he stated in his typical style of never mincing words.

In that vein, the PM continued, "We can't just sit back and wait for the west to make vaccines available to us ... Moderna, for example, told us that they cannot supply us with vaccines before February of next year. If we had to wait until [then] ... a lot of people will die and a lot of people will get ill."

Prime Minister Browne pointed out that because of his government's practical approach, the country is now in a position to inoculate "an additional eleven thousand individuals" as of this week, bringing the country's total to thirty-eight vaccinated since the programme roll-out. He described these numbers as "a pretty strong rate of vaccination, especially in the context of the difficulties accessing vaccines."

The People's Republic of China has reportedly pledged twenty thousand doses of its Sino-Pharm vaccine, which the PM said "should be here perhaps in a couple of weeks." If those supplies become available as per the promised schedules, he said, Antigua and Barbuda "should be in a position to vaccinate half the population by the end of this month."

# READY FOR THE VACCINE ROLL-OUT



Over the weekend dozens of persons gathered at both the Heritage Hotel and Antigua and Barbuda Science and Innovation Park for a two-day training in preparation for phase two of the vaccine roll-out.

The trainees and trainers at the sessions all made up the administrative staff complement that will engage in the management of the COVID-19 vaccination process at all four vaccine centers.

Though the clinical as-

pect of vaccination is handled by health professionals, the administrative staff at the vaccine centers explained that the management of people, resources, and customer service is a huge part of the vaccination process.

The training sessions, held under the theme 'Vaccinating through excellence,' witnessed staff from phase one, along with newly recruited personnel showing up for hours of intense



training in data management and customer service.

The sessions, which started on Friday, saw data managers and staff assessing what took place during phase one of the vaccination process and adjusting for what will happen in phase two.

On Saturday, 10th April, data personnel, customer service representatives, and volunteers met and were thoroughly trained in good practices in customer service, expectations, professionalism, communication skills, accountability, flexibility, and respect within the centers.

The staff complement, which consists of volunteers from various government departments, the new work experience job programme, and youth volunteers received the opportunity to engage in meet and greet forums with their respective vaccine centers colleagues and site managers.

According to Senator Shenella Govia, who leads personnel on the administrative arm of the vaccination sites, "The sessions were important to ensure we are fully equipped to handle the vaccination process at each center. On Tuesday, 13th April, the Villa Polyclinic, Precision Center, Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Center, and the Glanville's Polyclinic will be open to the general public for COVID-19 vaccination. We intend that every citizen and resident who walks through these centers will experience the highest level of service, no matter who you are. COVID-19 has affected everyone and the vaccination process has proven to be the surest way for us as a nation to see the light at the end of the terrible tunnel. If it means dedicating our time, energy, and resources to do so, everyone who is a part of this process is willing to do so, especially our young people who have turned out to assist."

The sessions were conducted by Mrs. Michelle Warner-Morris, Mr. Osbert Josiah, Senator Shenella Govia and site managers. Mrs. Morris, a data manager and customer service connoisseur focused on the importance of offering exceptional customer service for this historic, national endeavour. Morris impressed on the staff complement that their role in the vaccination process is something to be proud of, as they are a part of the solution to help bring about herd immunity and a sense of normality to Antigua and Barbuda through the vaccine programme.

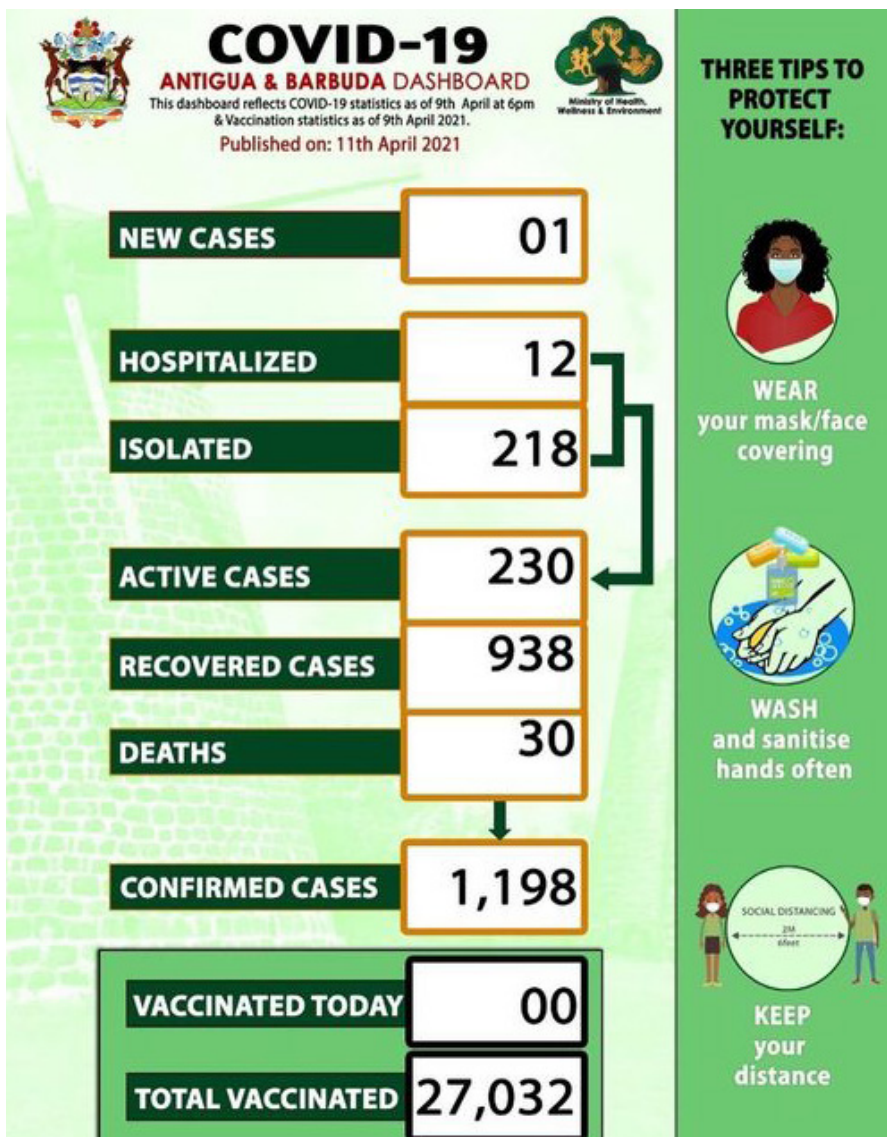
According to the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment, "The public is encouraged to actively participate in phase two of the COVID-19 vaccination programme to create herd immunity, whereby the majority of the population is protected from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. With herd immunity, it is expected that the country will return to some degree of normalcy, which will include the facilitation of economic, social, and cultural activities and the ease of travel.

The four vaccination sites under phase two will be open from Tuesday, 13th April 2021 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.





## One new COVID case...active cases down to two hundred and thirty



The Ministry of Health is reporting that the latest results from the Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) have revealed one new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 9th April 2021 at 6 p.m.

This new case was as a result of one hundred and seventy samples processed by MSJMC.

Two recovered cases have been recorded, bringing the total to nine hundred and thirty-eight.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is one thousand, one hundred and ninety-eight (1198), which is inclusive of two hundred and thirty active cases. Of these active cases, twelve are hospitalised.



# Non-communicable diseases are the greatest health crisis



**Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph**

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph is again putting the nation on notice about the seriousness of the challenges that the nation faces because of the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Speaking at Sunday's day of prayer at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre, Sir Molwyn said in the long-run the nation will have to contend with non-communicable diseases as the COVID crisis subsides. "Let's not forget, the greatest public health threat we face in Antigua and Barbuda over the

long run is the epidemic of non-communicable diseases, not COVID. For the entire year 2020, the

record shows that there were three hundred and sixty-nine deaths in Antigua and Barbuda. Of that total, there were five COVID deaths [that had issues related to underlying] non-communicable diseases," he disclosed. The minister acknowledged that there is an urgency to address the issue of non-communicable diseases. He urged the people of the nation to accept greater responsibility

for their own health, their eating habits and dieting. "We pray that the people of Antigua and Barbuda will continue to engage in regular physical activity and to also practise good hygiene," Sir Molwyn interceded.

The national Day of Prayer brought together the leaders of government and the clergy who were all united in a common cause to seek God's protection for the nation and its people.



#drivesafeantigua

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board





# MSJMC resumes limited visitation effective today

Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC) is returning to limited in-person visitations effective today, 12th April.

The health facility has published a new schedule on its website; however, it notes that there are several exceptions.

Marketing and Communications Manager, Salma Crump, identified these exception as cases "where long-stay patients and those with dementia, mental health issues, intellectual or learning disabilities, or where best interest decisions or exceptional clinical/social matters are being discussed, at the discretion of the nurse manager/physician."

Additionally, she noted this policy also includes patients who are receiving end-of-life care or are terminally ill and in the late stages of their illness. "The data is trending in the right direction," said Crump, "The number of patients hospitalised has declined, the positivity rate is lower and the number of new cases suggests that transmission has slowed.

With proper precautions, we can resume limited visitation safely in most patient care areas."

Crump added, "These restrictions have been unimaginably difficult for patients and their loved ones and imposing them have been one of the most - among many - difficult decisions we have

had to make. But we also know it has been essential in protecting our patients and staff and minimising the spread of the virus."

MSJMC's chief communicator Crump also issued a reminder that the COVID-19 virus is still active in the community and the various strains circulating can be especially vir-

ulent. "We must not let our guard down. Please do your part to help continue the positive trends we are finally experiencing: wear a mask, continue to physical distance, gather within health guidelines, and, when it is your turn, please make every effort to get vaccinated," she urged.

MSJMC UPDATED VISITING HOURS (Non-COVID-19 Patients)

Patient Population	Visitors	Hours/Duration	Notes
Adult Inpatient (Medical & Surgical)	LIMITED VISITING	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Our care team will act as a liaison for warded patients who cannot communicate on their own.
Pediatric Inpatient	(PARENTS/ GUARDIANS ONLY)	6:00 pm - 6:00 am	One parent (at a time) can visit. One parent/guardian can room-in overnight
Neonatal ICU (NICU)	PARENTS ONLY	11:00 am – 1:00 pm 4:00pm – 6:30pm	One parent (at a time) allowed on the unit.
Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	LIMITED VISITING	11:00am - noon	Exceptions will be made for end of life.
Labor & Delivery, Maternity	LIMITED VISITING	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm	For labor and delivery - ONE birth partner/coach will be allowed in the room during ACTIVE LABOUR delivery, postpartum and recovery room.
Emergency Department	LIMITED VISITING		ONE visitor is allowed (only) for patients with specific caregiving needs. ONE parent of a patient under the age of 18 will be allowed back into the care area with their child.

# LIAT SUSPENDS SERVICES DUE TO VOLCANIC ACTIVITY



LIAT has suspended all flights in the southern part of its network as of Friday 9th April 2021 due to the volcanic activity in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The suspension, which affects all flights south of Dominica, has been caused by the explosive eruption of the La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent. This eruption has spewed large ash clouds into

the atmosphere and forced the closure of airports and airspace in the vicinity. LIAT has cancelled flights to/from the following destinations for 10th, 11th and 12th April 2021, until further notice:

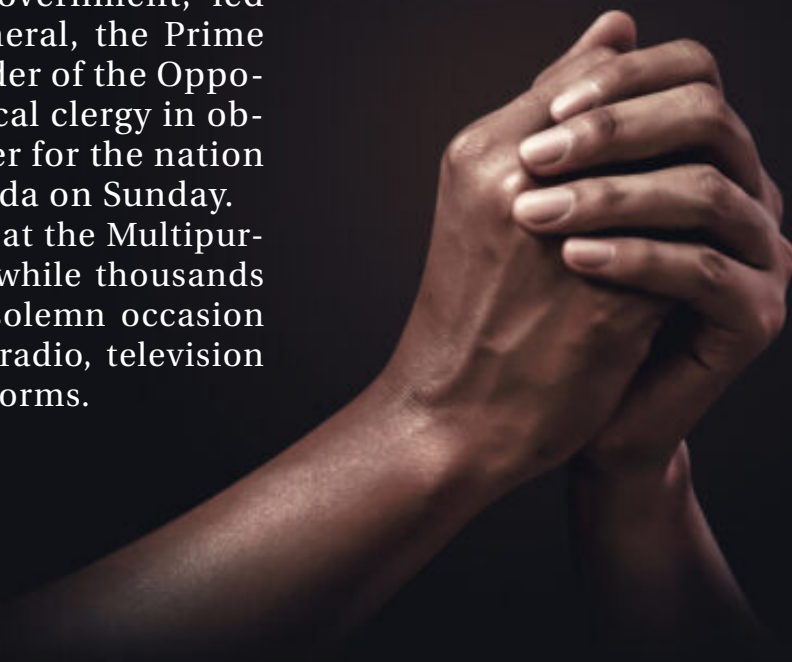
Barbados  
St. Lucia  
St. Vincent  
Grenada

Passengers are asked to monitor their e-mails for updates. Passengers wishing to reschedule are asked to contact our Reservations

Call Centre for assistance. The airline will be working with authorities to assist in relief and evacuation efforts into St. Vincent as soon as possible. LIAT will issue further updates and advisories via its website ([www.liat.com](http://www.liat.com)) and social media platforms. The management and staff of LIAT wish to extend our prayers and sincere wishes to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines at this challenging time.

## A nation stood in unity for prayers

Senior officials of government, led by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, joined with local clergy in observing a day of prayer for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda on Sunday. The officials gathered at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre while thousands of others joined the solemn occasion via live broadcast on radio, television and social media platforms.





In his remarks, the Governor General noted that these are trying times not only for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, but also for the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines and this will “test the strength and unity of the countries in our region.” “This national day of prayer is a petition to the Almighty to overcome all adversities and difficulties that permeate our lives. Our country has been hit with earthquakes, droughts and hurricanes across the centuries – and we survived. Our ancestors endured over three hundred and sixty-five years of slavery – with eventual freedom in 1834. We battled the ‘Great Fire’ that raged through Antigua one hundred and ninety years ago, and lived to tell the tale. History confirms that an omnipotent and omnipresent God has walked beside us through the ages,” he remarked.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne quoted widely from Scripture, stating that all members of his government are “men and women of faith.” Browne said holding a national day of prayer was not being done “for convenience,” but since taking office in 2014 his government has held similar observances annually. “We set aside time to give thanks in all circumstances; it’s our policy to give thanks regularly. This is now institutionalised for us and not being done just because of the times. We remain hopeful and optimistic about the future. The Scriptures speak about the virtues of hope, faith and love and that the greatest is love. We are hopeful that God will see us through this pandemic,” he declared. On the issue of faith, PM Browne insisted that whilst members of the government may not “wear their belief on their

sleeves,” nonetheless they all firmly believe in the faithfulness of God. “We have no doubt that this nation will see a strong recovery because we believe that God will deliver this nation from all the consequences that would have resulted from COVID-19. We are not daunted; we see this as a period to build our resilience, to come together in solidarity, to work with each other notwithstanding our differences,” he stated. The prime minister also emphasised his oft repeated phrase “to be our brother’s keeper and our sister’s protector.” Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle noted that the occasion was not a time for politicians to posture but for those who are called by the Creator to serve to take the lead. He, however, went on to state that “it is unfortunate” that it took the COVID-19

pandemic to bring the nation together in prayer. Pringle added that while Antigua and Barbuda boasts of being a Christian nation, it cannot always say that it has always put Christ first. Also addressing the special service was Director of Education, Clare Browne, who among other things, provided information on the plans that are in train to reopen schools on a limited basis beginning today, 12th April. He also said the Ministry of Education remains hopeful that the continued management of the coronavirus pandemic will see conditions favourable to allow for the full opening of all schools shortly. The observance of a day of prayer saw members of the clergy drawn from a wide cross section of denominations offering prayers for the well-being of the nation.

**STARTING POINTE**  
with  
**Shelton Daniel**  
**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
**8:30am-10:30am**

ON AIR

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COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
99.1 FM

# The ECCB is the world's first currency union to issue digital currency



**By Christal Clashing**

On Wednesday, 31st March 2021, the OECS currency union, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) launched DCash, a digital currency based on the Eastern Caribbean Dollar. As a pilot programme, it is available in four countries: Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Grenada. The launch of DCash is a progressive step coming from the small cluster of the OECS islands as DCash is the first digital currency to be launched by a currency union. With being such a small union compared to that of the European Union, the currency union benefits from its small size in launching forward-thinking initiatives such as DCash. DCash as a digital currency

DCash as a digital currency exists only in digital or electronic

form and as a currency can be transferred from person-to-person or person-to-business through the DCash Wallet app found in the app stores of Android and Apple phones. DCash uses blockchain technology to ensure the security of transactions. Blockchain technology means that every transaction made is recorded and can never be erased. This ensures that there can be no doctoring of transactions made on the system. Any security risk rests on access to the phone app itself which the ECCB has mitigated. Unlike other apps, there is no saved username or password option for easy log-ins. To sign into the DCash Wallet a user must enter their email address and a twelve-character password each time they access the app.

How it differs from cryptocurrency

To be very clear, DCash

is not a cryptocurrency. Although DCash and cryptocurrencies both operate on blockchain technology, there are several key differences. DCash is regulated by the centralised body of the ECCB. Cryptocurrency, on the other hand, is not regulated by a central body. It is decentralised using thousands of computers around the world to verify and track transactions on blockchain technology.

Another marked difference between DCash and a cryptocurrency like Bitcoin Cash is that DCash is a stable currency that is 1:1 with a fiat currency, in this case, the EC Dollar. That means there is no fluctuation in value. DCash \$20 will be always equal to EC\$20 in physical currency. Bitcoin Cash, in contrast, has a value that fluctuates. An initial US\$20 can drop to US\$16 then move to US\$22 in the space of a few weeks or days, making it a more volatile currency or asset. Serving the unbanked One population that DCash can serve is the unbanked - those without bank accounts or who do not have bank accounts at the local DCash partner

institutions of Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) and the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB). By going to the St. John's Cooperative Credit Union, persons can exchange their physical EC dollars for DCash credit and vice versa. They can then send DCash credit to anyone who has a verified account on the DCash Wallet. This means that DCash becomes borderless as money can be sent across the region easily without a bank account and without any transaction fees.

DCash's pilot programme

It is important to remember that as a pilot programme, the primary goal of the ECCB is to assess the possibility of a long-term commercial offering of a digital currency. It does not replace physical EC cash but can be used instead of it with vendors who have signed onto the programme. In Antigua, vendors accepting DCash include Packed Grocery Delivery, 268Buggies, Stanhope Shepherd, Stuart A. Lockhard Legal Service, One Poor Mining and Solange & Sunny.





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## **BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **Guyana set to grow by 20.9% in 2021**

Guyana's economy will remain resilient against the effects of COVID-19, maintaining its growth trajectory as the petroleum sector 'picks up steam', the World Bank has said. Guyana grew at an extraordinary rate of 43.5% in 2020, having completed a year of oil production. The positive spillover effects have been dampened by a deep contraction in the non-oil economy, triggered by COVID-19 mitigation measures. Despite the lingering adversities, projections remain positive, with the country set to record economic growth of 20.9% at the end of 2021, 26.0% in 2022 and 23.0% in 2023.

### **Inflation increased in Cayman by 1% in 2020**

Average annual inflation in the Cayman Islands rose by 1.0% in 2020 relative to 2019. There were increases in the first two quarters of 2020: 3.0% and 2.1% respectively. Meanwhile, there were declines of 0.4% and 0.7% in the last two quarters, respectively. The highest average inflation rates were communication (5.9%), food and non-alcoholic beverages (5.1%), education (4.2%), clothing and footwear (3.9%), health (2.3%), and household furnishings and equipment (1.6%). However, the index for housing and util-

ities moved up by 3.9% in the fourth quarter of 2020. The main contributors to this increase were electricity rates up by 11.6% and water supply up by 8.5%.

### **Jamaica: Remittances up 39.5% in December 2020**

Jamaica continues to experience healthy growth in net remittances with the latest numbers for December 2020 showing inflows of US\$282.4 million, representing an increase of 39.5% or US\$79.9 million relative to December 2019. The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) reports that this increase emanated from an increase in gross remittance inflows of 35.3% or US\$78.7 million aided by a decrease of 6.2% or US\$1.2 million in outflows. In its latest remittances bulletin for December, the BOJ attributes the increase in gross remittance inflows to an improvement of 42.7% via remittance companies as well as an increase in other remittances of 0.7% for the month of December. Remittances from the USA accounted for 67.1% of total flows, up from 63.2% recorded for December 2019. Other source countries, which contributed a notable share of remittances for the month, were the United Kingdom at 12.7%, followed by Canada and the Cayman Islands at 10.1% and 6.0%, respectively. Overall, the January to December 2020 period had remittance inflows totalling US\$2.9 billion.



# Bahamas: Central Bank Reserves decline to \$2.2 billion

The Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBOB) in its recent monthly economic assessment said external reserves dropped by \$62.8 million to \$2.2 billion last month. Government borrowing bolstered reserves to \$2.3 billion at the end of 2020. "This decrease was reflective of the ongoing travel restrictions related to the COVID19 pandemic, combined with the demand for foreign currency by the public sector and the commercial banks. In particular, the Central Bank's foreign currency transactions with the public sector reversed to a net sale of \$48.8 million, from a net purchase of \$9.1 million in 2020," the bank stated in its Monthly Economic and Financial Developments Report for February. The CBOB also stated that domestic demand for foreign currency dropped by \$132.4 million in February, with sales amounting to \$373 million.

# Fitch Downgrades Suriname

Fitch Ratings has downgraded Suriname's Long-Term Foreign Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'RD' (Restricted Default) from 'C'. Suriname's Short-Term Foreign Currency IDR is affirmed at 'C'. The downgrade of Suriname's IDR to 'RD' reflects the non-payment of USD49.8 million of rescheduled

external debt service on Suriname's 2023 and 2026 notes due March 31. This marks an event of default under Fitch's criteria with respect to the sovereign's IDR as well as the issue ratings of the affected securities. Another USD25.4 million semiannual interest payment is due April 26 on the Suriname 2026 notes. The government of Suriname continues to negotiate with creditors for a comprehensive restructuring of its external bonds. The national authorities are concurrently pursuing a funded IMF program, but did not reach an agreement in time to trigger an extension of the debt service payment date by one month, as set out in the second consent solicitation terms agreed in December 2020.

# Jamaica declines by 8.3% in fourth quarter

The Jamaican economy declined by 8.3% in the 4th quarter of 2020 relative to the similar quarter of 2019. This was largely due to a decline in the services industries of 11.1%. According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica all industries within the services industries fell, except producers of government services, which grew by 0.2%. The industries that primarily contributed to the decline were hotels & restaurants (53.8%), wholesale & retail trade; repairs; installation of machinery & equipment (8.8%), other services (21.6%) and transport, storage & communication (10.4%). The goods producing industries grew by 0.2% mainly due to increased output levels in construction (6.3%) and mining & quarrying (6.3%). However, agriculture, forestry & fishing and manufacturing declined by 7.2% and 0.4%, respectively

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

DR. MASERATI

SENATOR COLIN BROWNE



## STATEMENT OF CONDOLENCE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA HIS EXCELLENCY SIR RODNEY WILLIAMS

GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, DSc, PhD, MBBS on the passing of His Royal Highness

### THE PRINCE PHILLIP, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH



In responding to the official notification from Buckingham Palace regarding the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams wrote: "On behalf of the nation of Antigua and Barbuda, Lady Williams and I express our grief at the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh and extend our utmost condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the other Members of the Royal Family.

"His Royal Highness dedicated himself to the service of the Commonwealth and his sense of duty and commitment has been an inspiration to many. We commend the life and work of His Royal Highness and his long and distinguished support of charitable causes throughout the world" In respect for the life and service of HRH The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Office of the Governor General will open a book of condolences at Government House with the following signing schedule:

Tuesday April 13, 2021

9:00 am

Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams

The Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Maria Browne

The British High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

1:00 pm -3:30 pm

Members of the Cabinet and Members of Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Wednesday April 14 – Friday April 16, 2021

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Members of the General Public

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### ALL COVID 19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE OBSERVED.

The Governor General's Flag will be flown at half mast until the day of the funeral service of HRH The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.





**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**  
*Office of the Prime Minister*

Queen Elizabeth Highway  
St. John's  
Antigua and Barbuda

Tel. (268) 460-5100  
Fax. (268) 462-3225  
[pmsecretariat@ab.gov.ag](mailto:pmsecretariat@ab.gov.ag)

9<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

*Your Majesty,*

The Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda join with the citizens of The Commonwealth of Nations in extending our sincerest condolences to you and The Royal Family on the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness has served the United Kingdom and our Commonwealth with distinction. As a husband and father, he exhibited honour, commitment, and faithfulness. His impact has been exemplified in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme which has positively influenced and empowered thousands of young people across the world including those of Antigua and Barbuda.

May God the Father provide comfort and strength to you and your family and the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth in this time of sorrow.

Please accept, Your Majesty, our deepest condolences and the assurances of my highest esteem.

  
Gaston Browne, M.P.  
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda



# AIR QUALITY BEING MONITORED



***Director of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Anthony Headley.***

Barbados Advocate - Efforts are being made to monitor the air quality in Barbados following the recent eruption of the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent.

Director of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Anthony Headley, revealed the above in a recent virtual press conference.

“Currently, the EPD has an air quality monitoring station located at the CIMH, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology.

We’ve observed over the last month at least an increase in dust levels. We currently monitor, as I have indicated, the dust at that location and since April 6th we have seen a 66 percent increase in dust levels and that is associated with the current haze that we are seeing,” the EPD’s Director explained.

“We are going to be putting another station into operation and this will assist us in terms of understanding the levels of dust, if there is dust fall from this particular eruption. We will also be putting in place as a result of the eruption – and I am hoping to work with Dr. Kenneth George (Chief Medical Officer) on that – to notify persons if the levels of dust increase beyond the WHO (World Health Organisation) standards for dust in our current environment,” Headley added.

“These monitoring stations would allow us to monitor the dust levels in terms of concentration of air against the WHO standards, which will allow us to put preventative measures in place, as well as, particularly, a warning system to inform persons when the air quality has deteriorated below WHO standards,” Mr. Headley remarked.



# ECONOMIST: T&T IS ALMOST BROKE



***Dr Roger Hosein (left) speaks with the head of the Full Gospel Men's Fellowship International***

Trinidad Guardian - Although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected economic growth of 2.1 percent for T&T this year, economist Dr. Roger Hosein warned on Saturday that the economy is in dire straits.

He said while he has great respect for the IMF's projection, he believes the agency is being overly optimistic about T&T's economic outlook. In its latest Global Economic Outlook, the IMF said T&T's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would grow by 2.1 percent this year and by 4.1 percent in 2022. But according to Hosein, the last time

the economy grew was in 2018 and that was a mere 0.1 percent.

He said the IMF's projections are based on numbers they received from the natural gas and oil sectors, but over the last four months of 2020 and the first three months of 2021 natural gas production has been on the decline.

"I could be wrong, but based on the evidence of the last seven months, my understanding of the econometrics is that this 2.1 percent could be wrong," he said in his address at a business luncheon hosted by the Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship International at

Passage of Asia Restaurant in Chaguanas.

Hosein said T&T's GDP projection is still lower than the rest of the Caribbean and there is little to celebrate.

"Between 2007 and 2021 we produced 4.379 billion barrels of oil and gas, so you would expect to see something substantial. After producing this oil and gas, we see economic activities going backwards. This bothers me deeply. So we now have an economy that is about 17 percent lower than in 2014 and that is about 30 percent to 40 percent lower than in 2007," he said.

He added: "Prior to COVID-19, I was very worried about Trinidad and Tobago's economy and then COVID-19 made it even worse. Then I looked at the World Economic Outlook and that has me concerned."

Warning that the country is almost broke, Hosein pointed out: "We have some money in the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund (HSF). If you look at the numbers, most of the money was spent on trans-

fers and subsidies."

Hosein noted that T&T's labour force has been declining over the last few years, but he qualified that by saying that he is not fully sure of the reasons.

He called for policymakers to immediately form a task force to determine why the labour force is shrinking and what can be done to reverse it. To solve the problem, he proposes that Government use migrant labour in important sectors.

"There is a potential role for the Venezuelans here. My view is that the re-registration process must register all the Venezuelans here. We want to make sure we know who are the Venezuelans here and their skills," he said, adding that the migrants should not be working in informal sectors like bars, but in areas of the economy with potential for export.

Hosein said the country's Government must do its best to improve the ease-of-doing-business as investments are needed to diversify the economy.

# FISHING IN THE SOUTH OF ST LUCIA DISRUPTED BY VOLCANIC ASH

LOOP SLU - The ashfall from the La Soufriere Volcano in St. Vincent which erupted last Friday, April 9, has impacted fishers in the south of Saint Lucia.

The situation has resulted in a bad few days of fishing for many fishers of the south who went to sea between Friday and Sunday. Denvar Fanus, a fisher of Micoud, told Loop News that the situation is of much concern to them.

"We could not fish properly. There were ashes in the water, in our boats, and all over our bodies," Fanus said.

He added that they could not see other boats that were not too far away because of the ash, which had affected their visibility.

"The water was black, white, blue, all type of colors," Fanus said.

According to reports, fishers in Choiseul returned from sea very early on Friday because of the same problem.

President of the Choiseul Fishermen's Co-operative, Richardson Jn Baptiste told Loop News that on Friday, the fishermen returned to shore early because of the ex-



*The Laborie jetty, from where St Vincent could be seen on a normal day\_1*

plosion from the volcano, which they heard while at sea. He added that residents in certain parts of Choiseul also heard the explosion. According to Jn Baptiste,

because of the situation only seven fishers from the community went to sea on Saturday.

This morning, a few fishermen of Laborie, who had just returned from

sea, said they had not caught any fish because of the ash on the sea.

"The ashes chased the fish away," one of them said.



# VOLCANO BEHAVING MORE LIKE 1902 KILLER ERUPTION — EXPERT

iWitness News - The ongoing eruption of La Soufriere is more like the 1902 eruption which claimed 1,600 lives at a time when early warning systems and evacuation capabilities were not as advanced. Speaking Sunday on NBC Radio, geologist Professor Richard Robertson said while most people know of the 1979 eruption, what is currently happening at La Soufriere is more akin to more than a century ago.

“The activity pattern we have currently is more similar to a 1902 type of eruption of that kind of scale, rather than a 1979 scale. The people who lived through 1979 know the kind of eruption we have had.

“What does that mean? It means, unfortunately, that it is likely going to cause more damage and destruction to St. Vincent. But it also means that there will always be a safe place in the south of the country which might have a lot of ash every now and then, but you can still sustain life and limb and it would not — which is what we all worry about — get so big that it destroys the whole country. That currently doesn't seem to be the case.

Robertson's comment

came as he warned that pyroclastic flows could become a major issue.

Pyroclastic flows resulted in many of the deaths recorded in 1902. No one died as a result of the 1979 volcanic eruption.

He said the monitoring team now has evidence that there have been pyroclastic flows.

When a pyroclastic flow occurs, a mass of superheated air and volcanic material, rather than rising into the atmosphere, collapses on itself, rushes down valleys at up to 200 kilometers per hour, and destroys everything in its path.

“So, if you visualise that you have something that is shooting down the mountainside, it is going faster than Bolt ... sometime 200 kilometres per hour... Fortunately it stays in the valley, but sometimes it spreads out to the surrounding higher paths.

“But when it meets anything in the valley — whether it is trees, cars, buildings — it has enough force that it pushes them out of the way, destroys them, and it keeps going. It has so much force, so much energy and so much heat, that when it gets to the coastline ... it is so hot that it then boils



***Magum, a community in the red zone, northern St Vincent, is blanketed in ash on Saturday***

the top of the sea ... and it then creates a cushion of bullets that it then shoots across the sea even faster and it only runs out eventually.”

Robertson said the flows that the team had observed might have been from one of the previous explosions that have occurred since La Soufriere erupted explosively on Friday, and not necessarily the activities of Saturday night. “So far, it seems that we had not observed them from the observatory but there is evidence that they have occurred,” he said, speaking from the monitoring station in Belmont, near Rose Hall, which offers a commanding view of the volcano. “There is one on

a video that we have access to that happened on the leeward side,” he said, speaking of his team's evidence that pyroclastic flows have occurred.

“That tells us that in addition to the venting that's happening, these things can happen and are beginning to happen, which means that the volcano itself, the mountain, Soufriere, and any communities there, not only they had to survive the heavy ash but now they have the potential of being destroyed by these flows that go down the mountainside,” Robertson said.

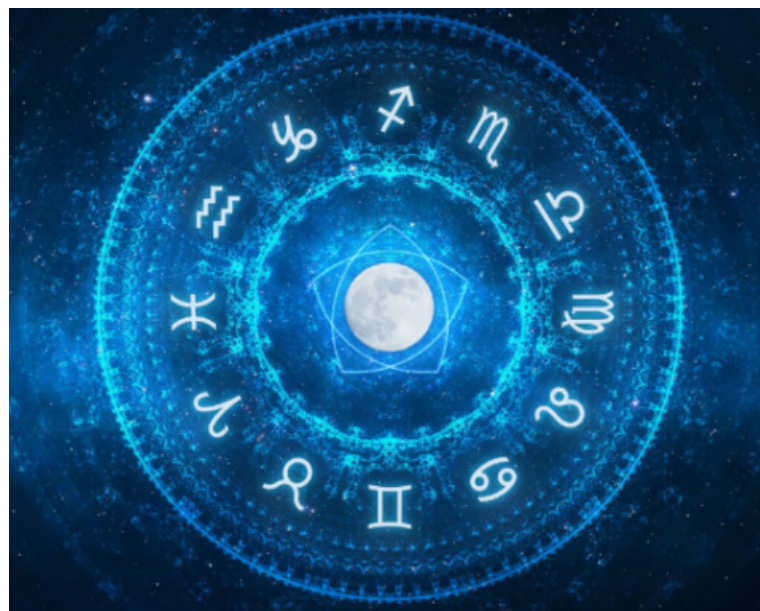
The whole of St. Vincent, some of the Grenadine islands, as well as neighbouring countries are blanketed in ash.



## QUICK CROSSWORD

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8	6	7	1					
	1	2						

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



### ♈ ARIES | Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The New Moon in your sign may subtly shift your attention to your inner fantasies and wishful thinking. Your romantic nature may be stirred and imaginative ideas kindled as the week unfolds.

### ♉ TAURUS | Apr. 20-May 20

Being part of the bigger picture, perhaps by interacting with people on social media, may be your cup of tea. As the week begins, you may be challenged to avoid jealousy and unfair generalizations.

### ♊ GEMINI | May 21-June 20

You may accept people at face value in the week to come. Challenge yourself to look deeper and you'll make new discoveries. People appreciate your sensitivity to their feelings.

### ♋ CANCER | June 21-July 22

You will likely find your way out of an impasse with someone after a struggle. In the upcoming week, your interest in building your reputation and receiving more recognition may grow stronger.

### ♌ LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

In the week ahead, a small fragment of knowledge may lead you to speculate about how to achieve a richer life. It's not just wishful thinking if it inspires you toward greater joy and authenticity.

### ♍ VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

As a member of a group, you can emphasize your best points as the coming week unfolds. This can lead other people to notice the benefits of being your ally or companion.

### ♎ LIBRA Sept. | 23-Oct. 22

A loved one may be popular and in demand, and you could be glad for it, but you may still suffer a few pangs of jealousy. As the week unfolds, you can find ways to make peace with this.

### ♏ SCORPIO Oct. | 23-Nov. 21

Be glad that you can see the large patterns that count and aren't distracted by nonessential details. Take notes and gather facts but wait to make the purchase you dream of later in the week.

### ♐ SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Use the internet or a library to expand your horizons and enjoy mysteries from afar this week. They could be a little disappointing viewed from a closer perspective right now.

### ♑ CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your home can be a place where dreams come true. The pressure to achieve something spectacular could build up this week until you are ready to take drastic action.

### ♒ AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

As the week progresses, you might look forward to a competition or become more enthusiastic about your job. Your friends may become involved in your family life or influence your key decisions.

### ♓ PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Destiny is constantly being configured, as all choices are factored in. Instead of holding ungrounded fears and apprehensions, use your free will to create the life you dream of.

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**BLESS OUR LAND LORD**

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**TIME: 3:00PM**

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**ABS** **WIOG** **Apua**

**VIRTUAL EVENT LIVE**



# LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

Mon 12 28°/24° Partly Cloudy 3% ESE 17 km/h

**Mon 12 | Day**  
**28°**  
 Partly cloudy. High 28°C. Winds ESE at 15 to 25 km/h.  
 Humidity 61% UV Index Extreme  
 Sunrise 05:53 Sunset 18:22

**Mon 12 | Night**  
**24°**  
 Mostly cloudy. Low 24°C. Winds SE at 10 to 15 km/h.  
 Humidity 77% UV Index 0 of 10  
 Moonrise 06:18 Moonset 18:59  
 ● New

Tue 13 29°/24° PM Showers 39% SSE 15 km/h

**Tue 13 | Day**  
**29°**  
 Afternoon showers. High 29°C. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 km/h. Chance of rain 40%.  
 Humidity 72% UV Index Extreme  
 Sunrise 05:53 Sunset 18:22

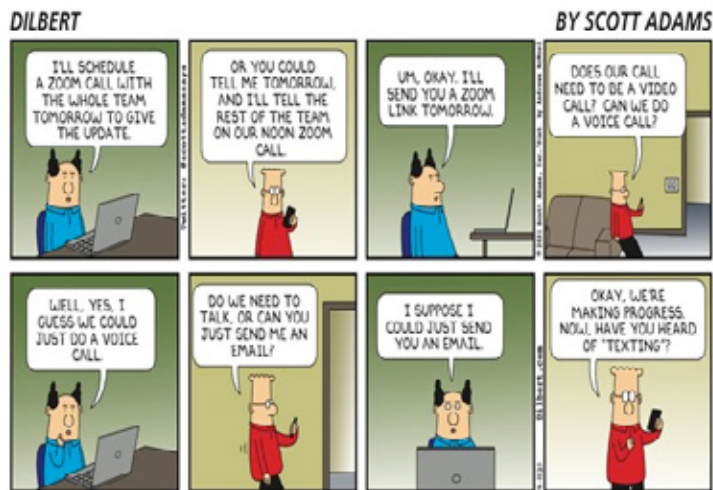
**Tue 13 | Night**  
**24°**  
 Showers early. Low 24°C. Winds SSW and variable. Chance of rain 40%.  
 Humidity 83% UV Index 0 of 10  
 Moonrise 06:54 Moonset 19:47  
 ● Waxing Crescent

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## COMICS



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION NOTICE

Please be advised that pension payments for March 2021, will commence on Monday 12th, April 2021 according to the following distribution schedule:

A-F Mon 12 April

G-K Tues 13 April

L-P Wed 14 April

Q-T Thurs 15 April

U-Z Fri 16 April



# For Chauvin's trial attorney, it's all about raising doubt

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Derek Chauvin's defense attorney was questioning George Floyd's girlfriend about the couple buying drugs when he abruptly shifted gears for what seemed an innocuous question: He presumed the couple had pet names for each other. Under what name, he asked, did she appear in Floyd's phone?

Courteney Ross first smiled at the question, then paused before replying: "Mama."

The fleeting exchange called into question the widely reported account that Floyd was crying out for his deceased mother as he lay pinned to the pavement. And it appeared to be one in a series of moves aimed at undermining a dominant narrative of Floyd's death — established through bystander video and saturation news coverage and commentary — of a reckless, arrogant cop ignoring a man's "I can't breathe" cries as his life is snuffed out.

At another moment in the trial, Nelson asked a paramedic if he had responded to "other" overdose calls before quickly correcting himself to say "overdose calls" — per-



*Defense attorney Eric Nelson questioning one of the prosecution's witnesses last week*

haps a simple mistake, or an attempt to plant the idea that Floyd's death was an overdose.

Expert witnesses for the prosecution have asserted drugs did not kill Floyd.

Nelson has repeatedly called the bystanders at Floyd's arrest a "crowd" and "unruly" and suggested there were more people present than seen on camera. He drilled a fire department captain

on taking 17 minutes to reach the scene when an ambulance called first arrived much sooner. And he persistently suggested Chauvin's knee wasn't on Floyd's neck for 9 minutes 29 seconds as prosecutors have argued — suggesting instead it was across Floyd's back, shoulder blades and arm.

"Many times as an attorney, you've got some facts that are just ... bad for you. But you either

want to downplay them or create another narrative," said Mike Brandt, a Minneapolis defense attorney who is closely watching the case.

Any good defense attorney has to try and "take what you can get," Brandt said. "Sometimes, we say in a trial, you want to throw as much mud on the wall as you can and hope some of it sticks."



# Iran: 'Terrorist act' at underground Natanz nuclear facility



*A satellite image of Iran's Natanz nuclear facility taken last October*

**BBC World News** - A nuclear facility in Iran was hit by a "terrorist act" a day after it unveiled new advanced uranium centrifuges, a top nuclear official says.

He did not say who was to blame but urged the international community to deal with nuclear terrorism.

Israeli media suggest the incident was a result of an Israeli cyber-attack.

Last year, a fire broke out at the Natanz underground facility, which the authorities alleged was the result of cyber sabotage. The latest incident comes as diplomatic efforts to revive a 2015 nu-

clear deal - abandoned by the US in 2018 under the Trump administration - have resumed.

On Saturday, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated new centrifuges at the Natanz site - which is key to the country's uranium enrichment programme - in a ceremony broadcast live on television.

Centrifuges are needed to produce enriched uranium which can be used to make reactor fuel, but also material for nuclear weapons. It represented another breach of the country's undertakings in the 2015 deal which only permits Iran to pro-

duce and store limited quantities of enriched uranium to be used to produce fuel for commercial nuclear power plants.

On Sunday, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI), Behrouz Kamalvandi, said an "incident" had occurred in the morning involving the nuclear facility's power network.

He did not provide further details but told Iran's Fars news agency there had been "no casualties or leaks".

Later, state TV read out a statement by AEOI head Ali Akbar Salehi in

which he described the incident as "sabotage" and "nuclear terrorism".

"Condemning this despicable move, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasises the need for the international community and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to deal with this nuclear terrorism," he was quoted as saying. "Iran reserves the right to take action against the perpetrators."

The IAEA said it was aware of the reports of an incident but would not comment.

Last July, sabotage was blamed for a fire at the Natanz site which hit a central centrifuge assembly workshop.

Israeli public broadcaster Kan said it could be assumed that the incident was an Israeli cyber operation, citing the discovery in 2010 of the Stuxnet computer virus (believed to have been developed by the US and Israel) which was used to destroy centrifuges at Natanz.

Haaretz newspaper also said the incident could be assumed to be an Israeli cyber attack.

# Jordan's King Abdullah and estranged Prince Hamza make first joint appearance since rift

AMMAN (Reuters) -Jordan's King Abdullah and former crown prince and half-brother Prince Hamza made their first joint appearance since a rift shook the country, attending a ceremony on Sunday marking 100 years of independence.

State media showed the monarch and other members of the royal family laying wreaths at the memorial to the unknown soldier and tombs of royalty in the Raghdan palace in Amman. Hamza pledged allegiance to King Abdullah late on Monday following mediation by the royal family, two days after the military warned him over actions that it said were undermining Jordan's security and stability.

On Wednesday, in the first statement since the matter came to light, King Abdullah said sedition had been quashed and Hamza was "under my care" with his family at his palace.

The monarch said the crisis was "the most painful" because it came from both inside



*Jordan's King Abdullah*

the royal family and outside it.

Hamza's absence after he appeared in a video on April 3 – saying he had been ordered to stay at home and accused the country's rulers of corruption and authoritarian rule – led to speculation about his whereabouts.

In announcing last week that the military had warned Hamza over his actions, the

government said Hamza had liaised with people linked to foreign parties seeking to destabilise Jordan and that he had been under investigation for some time.

Hamza had been widely expected to succeed Abdullah as Jordan's next king, until the monarch made his own son, Prince Hussein, heir instead in 2004, in line with family tradition.

While Hamza and Abdullah have publicly buried the hatchet, the dramatic events of the last week exposed faultlines within a royal family that has helped shield Jordan from the turmoil that has consumed neighbouring Syria and Iraq.

The rift within the monarchy has shaken the Jordan's reputation as a stable country in a volatile region.



# 'Prince Philip would have been touched by public reaction'

by Gyles Brandreth

*Writer and broadcaster Gyles Brandreth reflects on public reaction to the Duke of Edinburgh's death, and how next weekend's low-key funeral will be a poignant moment in the life of the Royal Family and the nation.*

(BBC World News) - I think the Duke of Edinburgh would have been pleasantly surprised by the reaction to his death.

He was very much somebody who didn't really think about himself very much. In fact, he made it a policy not to talk about himself, and he was quite dismissive of how he was seen, and I don't think he gave it much thought. I think he couldn't have failed to be touched by it, particularly by the extraordinary international response.

It's been striking that leaders from across the world have responded in the way they have. In a sense, it's a reward for the fact that he traveled to more countries than any other member of the Royal Family ever. Although he didn't take compliments well and he was always wanting no fuss, saying 'let's keep this low key', he would have been gratified.

The public reaction to the



*Many young people knew about Prince Philip through the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme*

Duke's death reflects a couple of things. One is the people's affection for the Queen. In a sense, what has struck people is the sudden realisation that the Queen is alone. She met Prince Philip in the 1930s, they fell in love in the 1940s, and were married in 1947, which is longer than most people have been alive, and now she is alone. So it's partly a sense of affection for the Queen and her loss.

But this is also someone who has lived 100 years. He has been there all our lives, so people can pause and reflect on a whole century that has gone by. This is the phenomenon of someone who has always been there, and people have stopped to think that he always did what

he was asked to do. He was asked to support the Queen and he did, and he turned up in the right uniform on the right day at the right time without fail, for more than 70 years.

It reflects the success of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme too. My grandson, when he heard the news yesterday, happened to be working for a charity in order to get his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award. So the Duke of Edinburgh meant something to him, even though he's only 16. And the award scheme means that children and young people understand what he was about even though they could only see him as a very old man. I think it's surprised

people seeing all the tributes because he's been retired for three years. But people have also seen the news footage and discovered: a) how dynamic he was; b) how good-looking; and c) how active he was in so many areas over so many years – and that will have surprised many younger people.

Another trait that has come to light is his wicked sense of humour. Some of his jokes would probably now seem politically incorrect, but of course it was the humour of somebody of his generation. My favourite joke of his - and I heard him say this - was: Whenever you see a man opening a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.



## TIGER WOODS CRASH INVESTIGATION CRITICIZED

Evidence released last week from the investigation into why Tiger Woods crashed his car and nearly died in February continues to point to a simple cause that ties all the valuable clues together, forensic crash experts told USA Today Sports.

They believe the evidence is consistent with Woods being unconscious when he left his lane and then went on a straight path of

pure danger for nearly 400 feet instead of staying with the road as it curves right. Woods didn't hit his brakes during the recorded collision sequence, didn't steer out of the emergency and didn't remember driving.

But the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department instead gave other reasons for the crash last week and barely mentioned the possibility of Woods be-

ing unconscious.

"The conclusion are misguided and the investigation obviously wasn't thorough," said Jonathan Cherney, a former police detective who now works as a car crash reconstruction expert. Cherney suspects it is because Woods is a celebrity and because there were no other people injured in the crash. Cherney said responding officers were not as criti-

cal of the case as they would have been if Tiger had slammed into an opposing vehicle coming from the other direction with multiple passengers.

The former detective said the Sheriff gave a broad legal reason – unsafe speed – to cover everything, and called it a day without looking closely at the driver and his activities behind the wheel prior to deviating from his lane.



*Dr. Kishore Shallow*

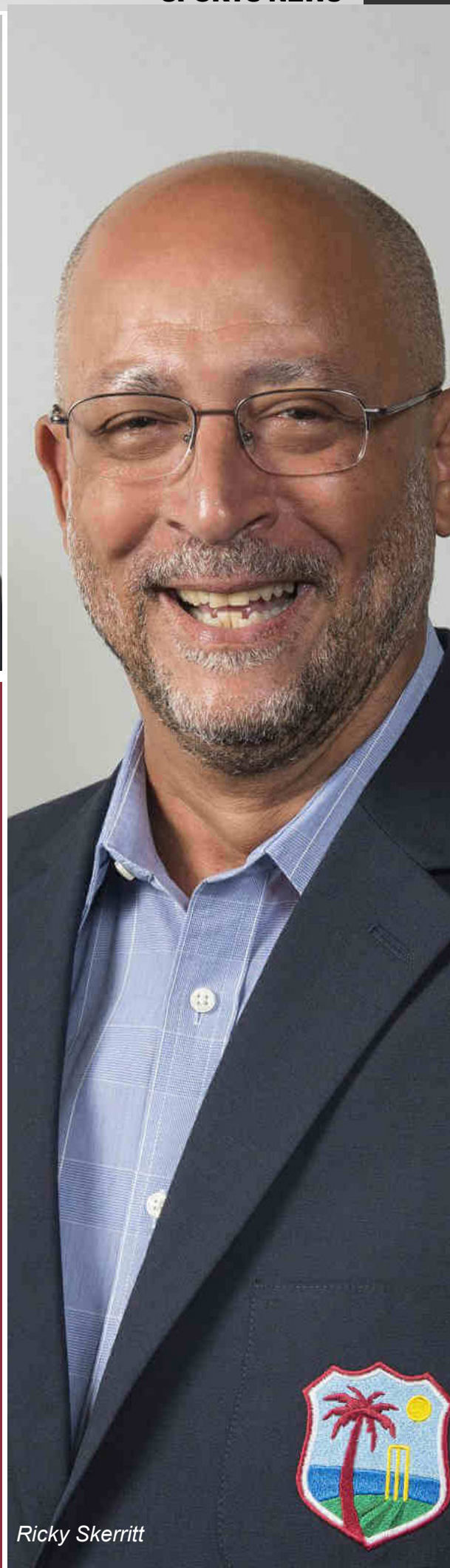
# SKERRITT AND SHALLOW START SECOND INNINGS

Ricky Skerritt and Dr. Kishore Shallow were re-elected unopposed on Sunday at Cricket West Indies' (CWI) annual general meeting (AGM) held virtually.

Both men now start their second innings as president and vice president, respectively, leading the regional organization for a second term.

Skerritt was first elected president of CWI in March 2019. The AGM was originally scheduled to be held on March 29, but the Guyana Cricket Board and the Barbados Cricket Association boycotted the elections, leading to the postponement.

After much criticism from many quarters of West Indies cricket, Anand Sanasie and Calvin Hope withdrew their candidacy, resulting in Skerritt and Shallow being re-elected unopposed for a second term.

*Ricky Skerritt*

## DARREN SAMMY SAYS GAYLE IS 'BIG-TIME'



Former West Indies captain Darren Sammy says Chris Gayle's explosive ability remains invaluable and he should be selected in the squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Gayle's recent recall to the regional team set-up against Sri Lanka and his struggles during the series have drawn criticism in some quarters with some

believing the selectors should have opted for a younger player.

Two-time World Cup-winning captain Darren Sammy disagrees with the negative sentiments toward Gayle.

After watching Gayle in the Pakistan Super League, and the IPL last year – measured with his outstanding career – the Universe Boss

(as Gayle is affectionately called) is a 'must pick' in Sammy's opinion.

Sammy noted that "Chris has over 20 T20 centuries and knows the big occasion and his experience cannot be underrated."

Talking about his own removal from the West Indies team, Sammy said, "You seek forgiveness when you do something wrong," but

the former Skipper has no remorse for a career-ending post-World Cup rant.

Five years after his fiery speech criticizing Cricket West Indies hierarchy and then president Dave Cameron at the conclusion of the T20 World Cup, Sammy says he would do it all over again if he had to.

## DEWS



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