

SOE BEING LIFTED WATCHFULLY!

PAGES 12-13

INSIDE:

- Cabinet on Christmas break
- Booster vaccinations get underway
- Remaining hostages in Haiti set free



THE VILLAGE CONCEPT has become so expanded and bandied to illustrate the preponderance of buzzwords, catchphrases and jargon that typify our techno-times – ditto: the global village ... the expo village ... the tourism village. We leave it for the sociologists and social psychologists to debate whether true village definition and identity is in any way abused or distorted by all this ‘village this’ and ‘village that’. But should that be the case, our annual celebration of an ancient place (still in existence) called Bethlehem, should provide whatever healing is needed – CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – that story in on PAGE15

GET YOUR SHOT NOW: Fauci says current vaccine boosters protect against Omicron

Vaccine makers do not need to make a new inoculation targeted at the Omicron coronavirus variant, according to Anthony Fauci, after data showed that booster shots of existing jabs continue to offer protection.

Dr. Fauci, the chief medical adviser to US president Joe Biden, released data on Wednesday that showed a third dose of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine boosted antibody levels well above the threshold needed to neu-

tralise the virus.

The data added to growing evidence that a third dose of the vaccines made by both BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna offered significant protection, even against the heavily mutated strain.



Starting at \$56,300



Drive out this Christmas in a **New Suzuki SWIFT** from Hadeed Motors Limited.
Reverse Camera, Touch Screen, Bluetooth and so much more.
Enjoy **FREE** Insurance, Licensing, Registration, Plates, Service, Gas and **5 Years Warranty**.

Visit our showroom , Chose your colour and Drive out your new car.

Take advantage of the 10% ABST Reduction, one step closer to owning your new ride.

Give us a call at 481-2500.

"The early in vitro and clinical studies... indicate that boosters reconstitute the antibody titers and enhance the vaccine protection against Omicron," Dr. Fauci said at the White House.

He added: "Our booster vaccine regimens work against Omicron. At this point, there is no need for a variant-specific booster."

Dr. Fauci's comments were the most definitive rebuttal yet to the idea that a variant-specific vaccine might be the only way to combat Omicron, which was first detected in Botswana and South Africa, and is ripping through the UK and Denmark.

Pfizer, BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are studying whether a variant-specific vaccine might be needed and have begun work to develop such a jab.

On Wednesday, Dr. Fauci presented data

from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases showing that a third dose of Moderna's vaccine boosted antibody levels by more than 20 times when tested in a laboratory.

The findings added to research from BioNTech/Pfizer which showed a booster shot increases antibody levels 25 times.

The data also suggested that a two-dose regimen was effective at keeping people out of hospital.

Discovery Health, the largest private health provider in South Africa, said this week that two doses of Pfizer's vaccine were 70% effective at preventing hospitalisation.

US officials reiterated the message that people should get vaccinated and boosted to protect themselves against COVID-19, noting that unvaccinated individuals were 14 times more likely to

die from the virus.

The warning came days after the US passed 800,000 COVID deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Rochelle Walensky, head of the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), said on Wednesday that the new strain accounted for about 4% of the country's infections and as much as 13% in New York and New Jersey.

But experts expected it to become the dominant variant within weeks.

Government data showed that just 61% of Americans were fully vaccinated, significantly below the levels in many other developed nations.

Just over 27% of the population has received a booster dose. **(REPRINTED from The Financial Times)**

ACB CARIBBEAN
Simply Smarter Banking

**ACB Smart Card Pick up!
for former RBC customers**



Don't join the main line to collect your ACB Smart Card. Please check with Security at the main entrance, for guidance.

Collection is alphabetical by location

Monday - Friday | 8am - 4pm

(debit card pickup continues after 2pm)

A-K Market Street
L-P Main Branch (Thames/ St. Mary's Street)
Q-Z ACB Financial Centre (High Street)

Requirements for collection:

- Two government issued IDs
- Proof of address

www.acbonline.com f @ in

Cabinet highlights: Ministers close out 2021 with even stronger resolve.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will use his New Year's Day address to the nation to announce the portfolio(s) that he will assign to former Education Minister Michael Browne who is being reinstated to Cabinet following his acquittal in the High Court this week on a criminal accusation that had resulted in him having to stand down until such an outcome.

Despite the 21-month State of

Emergency and associated curfew due to be lifted next week, private parties are limited to 25 persons (other than those held in bio-secure spaces).

Further, Cabinet reserves the right to review every seven

days the efficacy of the restrictions that are imposed in order to determine whether those restrictions are achieving the desired outcome.

Ten thousand (10,000) test kits are to be made available immediately to those who operate restaurants, clubs, bars even churches in order to encourage self-regulation. It is anticipated that those who get positive results from the rapid tests are to present themselves to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre for PCR test immediately thereafter.

The Police and the CBH enforcement officers to visit the

TOWNHOUSE MEGASTORE

We have matched the government's 10% ABS tax break so, ENJOY OUR ..

Big DOUBLE DOWN

SALE

This Is Your Chance To **DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE FOR CHRISTMAS**

WOW! WOW!

FRIDAY 9:00AM TO 8:00PM
SATURDAY 9:00AM TO 8:00PM



social spaces with regularity in order to ensure that the operators are abiding by the rules.

The regulations will be amended to restrict the absolute number of persons attending any bar or place of entertainment outside

of approved Fetes to 150 during the period December 24th 2021 to January 7th 2022.

The regulations will be further strengthened to mandate that owners and operators of bars, restau-

rants and clubs would have to satisfy the Central Board of Health (CBH) officials that they have sufficient mechanisms in place to limit the [numbers of] persons frequenting their establishments, [that] are fully vaccinated, and that they present



Don't Waste Your Time! Let Us Do It




BOAT CLEANING

STREAM CLEANING

Carpet Cleaning, Drapes
Cleaning And Upholstery Cleaning

INTERIOR CLEANING

Dusting, Polishing And Vacuuming

SAFE PRODUCTS

Non-Toxic
Bio-Degradable Guaranteed

Tile Cleaning
Carpet Cleaning
Upholstery Cleaning
Window Cleaning
Floor Buffing
Restaurant Cleaning
Cleaning Material And Equipment Supplied

Free!

ESTIMATES



COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL POST CONSTRUCTION MOVE-IN/MOVE-OUT

info@jakescleaningservices.com
www.jakescleaningservices.com
For Information: (268)562-3280

the approved proof of vaccination.

The authorities will continue to send SARS-CoV-2 positive samples to CARPHA for genomic sequencing in order to detect the omicron variant should it be present. To date, Antigua and Barbuda has NOT recorded a single case of this variant, although it is only a matter of time before it will reach the shores of many Caribbean countries.

In the past week visitors have come from more than 77 countries all carrying ID cards showing that they are fully vaccinated; yet, a small number has been identified as infected.

The population must, therefore, be prepared to live with COVID, and many will have to take a booster shot to protect against possible infection.

The Cabinet continues to ask the administrator to accelerate the sale and buy-back of LIAT's chattel assets. The object is to ensure that LIAT's former workers could have had some funds over the Christmas holidays. The Cabinet agrees that it will be unconscionable to use tax payers money to pay LIAT's staff 100% of the monies owed to them, even when the government's liability was

no more than 34% of the value of LIAT's ownership. The offer of a compassionate payment is the result of a clear understanding that the share value is \$0.00 and the government has no legal obligation to pay.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda took a decision to offer to the family of Franklyn "King Frank-I" Francis an Official Funeral. He was appointed the country's Ambassador to Ethiopia in 2014, had a history of involvement in the Rastafarian movement for decades, and was an outstanding sports-caster for many years. If the offer is accepted, it would be the very first time in the history of the Caribbean that a Rastafarian brethren has been accorded an Official Funeral. The Cabinet is giving consideration to a replacement Am-



bassador to Ethiopia from the Rastafarian Community.

The Barbuda Council is reminded that it is not authorized to issue leases to anyone. The Cabinet has learned that it has become a common practice to issue leases to relatives and friends, purportedly giving control of land contiguous to projects that are under development with the expectation that those leases will subsequently be sold for very high prices to the principals of the development. Those leases will not

be honoured. The Minister responsible for APUA announced that the reverse osmosis plant at Ffryes is to be commissioned commencing Monday 17th January. That plant will deliver 1,000,000 gallons of fresh water daily.

The Minister of Health reported that the Global Climate Facility (GCF) will provide a grant of US\$32 million in February to improve climate resilience in Antigua and Barbuda. Several projects have already been identified for funding.

The Minister of Housing reported that 307 parcels of land were distributed by CHAPA during 2021. New homes have been built in Lightfoot, Liberta, Table Hill Gordon, Seatons (where 110 parcels have been identified for distribution), Comfort Hall, and Signs.

Cabinet convened on Thursday for the very last time for 2021, and will not meet again until the second week of January 2022.

Form RLNC 6

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34
of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Golden Grove	612 1790D	228
Five Islands	54 1489 A	149

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE A LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an Application was filed in the Land Registry on the 3rd day of December 2021 by TALIA N. DACOSTA, Attorney At Law of STAPLETON CHAMBERS with offices situate at Stapleton Lane, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of SAMANTHA N. MARSHALL, the Executrix of The Estate of ZEPHANIAH NATHANIEL MONTGOMERY JOSEPH, also known as ZEPHANIAH JOSEPH, also known as ZEPHY JOSEPH, the Applicant herein for the replacement of Land Certificates numbered RL-200607872 and RL-200803259 dated the 28th day of December, 2006 and the 24th day of June, 2008 respectively issued to ZEPHANIAH JOSEPH, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 7th day of December, 2021

REGISTRAR OF LANDS

LAND REGISTRY
Antigua & Barbuda

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FROM ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD



December 18, 2021
8:00am – 4:00pm

MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTER (Paynters)
- Motor Vehicle Registration Decals ONLY

Please bring along:

- Completed Motor Vehicle Inspection Form
- Transaction Receipt
- Motor Vehicle Insurance Certificate

For further information please feel free to contact us at:

481-4736, 481-4737 and 484-4646

Thank you for your continued support and we apologize for any inconvenience caused.



The Caribbean Travel Awards 2022: VC Bird International Airport is Caribbean Airport of the Year.

Since it first opened in 2015, the new VC Bird has been at the forefront of Caribbean aviation, cultivating a modern, world-class experience that just keeps getting better, from outstanding duty-free offerings to a modern, comfortable VIP lounge and an all-around sense of comfort and ease – a welcome departure from the experience at many competing airports. That's without mentioning continued route growth, particularly from

the all-important US market.

In 2012, the construction of a new passenger terminal building commenced. The building spans 23,000 square meters with 46 common use counters, 15 self-check kiosks, a state-of-the-art baggage make-up system, four passenger loading bridges and more than 30 retail and food and beverage commercial spaces.

In 2025, the VC Bird International Airport will celebrate its 40th anniversary. In 1985, the airport was re-named after Antigua

and Barbuda's national hero and first prime minister Sir Vere Cornwall Bird.

It is one of the largest airports in the Leeward Islands, serving over 860,000 passengers per year.

VCBIA employs over 900 persons, making it one of the largest transport entities in the sub-region.

It services more than 50 destinations worldwide, and has a diverse commercial programme.

The Fixed Based Operation (FBO) at VCBIA provides service to a variety of business jets.

RLNC 5

Section 34 of the Act

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP. 374

Registration Section: Potters & Belmont
Block: 613-1891D
Parcel: 110

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 17th day of December, 2021 by DAVID DORSETT of WATT, DORSETT, HEWLETT LAW of 55A Newgate St., St. John's, Antigua the Applicants herein for the replacement of Land Certificate No. 5521/89 and dated the 21.11.89 issued to Veronica Victoria James, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a Land Certificate who has knowledge of the original Land certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 17th day of December, 2021

REGISTRAR OF LANDS

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **RAYMUNDO EMILIO CEDEÑO RODRIGUEZ** of Lower All Saints Road is applying to the Minister for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



VC Bird International Airport

NOTICE

To: Her Worship
License magistrate
Magistrates court
High street
St. John's
Antigua

To: Her Worship
Magistrate for District "A"
Magistrates court
High street
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
America Road
St. John's
Antigua

I, JUDY MCCOY of Cooks Hill in the Parish of Saint John in the state of Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY** give NOTICE that is my intention to apply at the Next Special Sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrates Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on the 6th day of **January 2022** next ensuring for a Tavern license in respect of my premise known as **"TONY WATER-SPORTS"** situated at Dickenson Bay in the parish of Saint John in the state of Antigua and Barbuda.

DATED the 5th day of November 2021

DAMIEN BENJAMIN

BENJAMIN LEGAL SERVICES
Solicitors for JUDY MCCOY

POINTVILLE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

PERCIVAL SERVICESTATION

OPEN 6:00AM. TO 10:00 PM

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.
INCLUDING MONEY GRAM SERVICE
GAS AND DIESEL AND OTHER PETROL
TIRE REPAIR AND SO MUCH MORE**

**PREMIUM
GASOLINE**

**GAS STATION --- 462 1464
OFFICE. --- 562 0165
ACCOUNTS --- 562 9477**

**PERCIVAL.SERVICESTATION@GMAIL.COM
FORT RD, ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**



Drive out this Christmas in a **New Suzuki Vitara** from Hadeed Motors Limited.

Bluetooth, apple CarPlay, Android Auto and so much more.

Enjoy FREE Insurance, Licensing, Registration, Plates, Service, Gas and **5 Years Warranty**.

Visit our showroom , Chose your colour and Drive out your new car.

Take advantage of the 10% ABST Reduction, one step closer to owning your new ride.

Life | Medical

Dr Courtney Lewis

*State goes
above and beyond
for me!*

'Own the moment'

Live in a better STATE of mind



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

268.481-7800
info@sicantigua.com
sicantigua.com



Life | Medical

Claudine Benjamin

*State is totally
hassle free!*

'Own the moment'

Live in a better STATE of mind

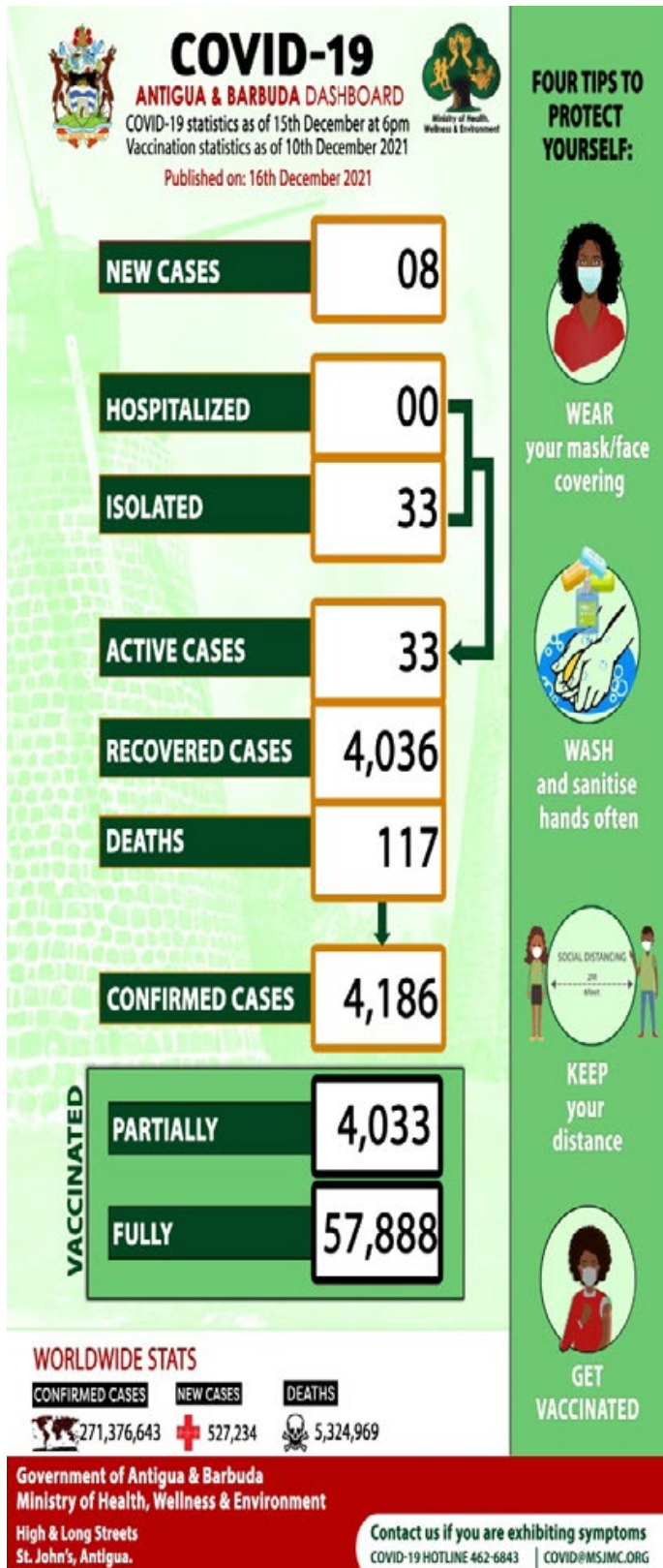


STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

268.481-7800
info@sicantigua.com
sicantigua.com



COVID Dashboard Update for December 16, 2021



The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness & the Environment revealed eight (8) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Two hundred and forty-five (245) samples were processed.

Three (3) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of per-

sons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 4,186; which is inclusive of 33 active cases.

There are no hospitalized cases.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda has fully vaccinated 57,888 individuals; while 4,033 have only received their first dose.

The Dashboard has been updated to reflect these changes.

TWIST SPA

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

10% OFF
 FOR ANY SERVICES PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 MONTH TWIST FITNESS MEMBERSHIP
- 1 MONTH SPA PASS
- BLENDZ COUPON
- SPHYNX WAX STUDIO \$85 GIFT CARD

Book an Appointment

CALL US: 562-8978

State of Emergency will definitely end on December 23

The State of Emergency (SOE) introduced back in March 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic will end at midnight on December 23, 2021.

The confirmation came from Prime Minister Gaston Browne as he introduced a motion in the House of Representatives on Thursday to formally end the SOE and the curfew that accompanied it for the past 21-months.

"From one second after midnight on December 24, the

State of Emergency will no longer exist; and the curfew, as well, will be eliminated. So, Mr. Speaker, from just after midnight on the 24th there will no longer be a State of Emergency until such time as the Government sees the need to re-introduce similar restrictions. However, the health protocols that have been established such as the wearing of masks, social distancing and the washing of hands, those remain in place," the Prime Minister explained.

The much anticipated lifting of the State of Emergency and curfew comes with a caveat, as the Prime Minister has put the public on notice that there will be strict limits to social events and even for private gatherings.

While fetes will be able to resume, promoters have been told that all patrons must be fully vaccinated and there will be limits placed on the number of attendees. Private events must not exceed 25 persons.

"The Cabinet on Wednesday

30 days of Festive Feast

Festive eatings this Xmas season... Family Feast

- 8 PIECES OF CHICKEN
- FRIES OR mashed potatoes
- COLESLAW
- CORN
- 2 BISCUITS

\$54.99

Treat yourself this Xmas no matter what. Santa BOX

- 2 PIECES OF CHICKEN
- BURGER
- CORN
- FRIES OR mashed potatoes
- COOKIES
- LARGE SODA

\$39.99

ADD A 2 Liter PEPSI \$9.50

Order Pickup + Delivery on AllMart

FOR DELIVERY 736-7845 / 562-9444 or DOWNLOAD THE APP... Apple Store / Google PlayStore

determined that no large fetes will be allowed over the next three weeks to allow for a safe yuletide season. We recognise that the yuletide season provides opportunities for spread of the virus from increased socialization and we do not want there to be large fetes from which there [is] significant spread and we are then unable to contain it," he stated.

According to PM Browne, the government is taking these steps especially in light of the fact that there is a new COVID variant – the Omicron variant which is spreading rapidly across the world. He added that while the variant has not yet been detected in the country, it is only a matter of time before that happens.

PM Browne is also advising that both law enforcement and health officials will be policing the adherence of the regulations as they relate to the number of persons at bars (no more than 100) or other social events.

The country's leader further explained that his government took a conscious decision to lift the State of Emergency and curfew at this time as it wanted to 'fully open' the country heading into the New Year, 2022.

"We wanted to go into 2022 with less restrictions as we seek to strike that delicate balance between saving lives and saving livelihoods. We can't be paralysed by COVID. We have to learn to live with COVID," PM Browne declared.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & THE ENVIRONMENT				
Booster Schedule				
VACCINE TYPE	DATE FINAL VACCINE DOSE RECEIVED	DATE BOOSTER VACCINE DUE	RECOMMENDED BOOSTER VACCINE TYPE	ALTERNATE BOOSTER VACCINE TYPE
AstraZeneca	May - June 2021	December 2021	AstraZeneca	Pfizer
	July 2021	January 2022		
Pfizer	August 2021	February 2021	Pfizer	AstraZeneca
Johnson & Johnson	May - June 2021	December 2021	Johnson & Johnson	Pfizer
Sinopharm	July 2021	January 2022	Sinopharm	Sinopharm
Booster Vaccines available at: Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre and Villa Polyclinic. Vaccination sites open: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-5:00pm Original COVID-19 vaccine card (paper) & ID are required				



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

**NO 15% ABST
INCLUDED**

12TH DEC - 24TH DEC 2021

CENTER SPREAD \$1600ec

FULL PAGE \$800ec

MINI PAGE \$500ec

1/2 PAGE-V/H \$450ec

1/4 PAGE-V/H \$300ec

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

For more info Call Us at :268-562-4989
or Email us at Pointefm99.1@gmail.com



**POINTE
ON DE
STREETZ
OUTSIDE BROADCAST**

15 MINS \$100

1/2 HOUR \$150

45 MINS 200

1 HOUR \$250

8 MENTIONS \$100

12 MENTIONS \$140

For more info Call Us at :268-562-4989
or Email us at Pointefm99.1@gmail.com



Entrepreneur creates Christmas Village highlighting Caribbean culture

Forsianne Joseph is spreading Christmas cheer and Caribbean love this Christmas, through her Caribbean Christmas Village.

The tradition of building decorative Christmas Villages has been around for centuries. While the Internet is inundated with Villages that depict Christmas in the temperate countries, it is rare to find Villages that showcase what Christmas is like in the Caribbean.

This was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Caribbean Christmas Village, the other being the building of good and lasting memories with her family.

The Caribbean Christmas Village highlights Caribbean culture and Christmas traditions generally celebrated in the islands, such as house-to-house caroling, midnight mass or attending church on Christmas Eve, the gathering of families and friends with lots of food and drinks, shopping, and weddings.

The Village comes alive, especially at night when the decorative lights are switched on and the buildings are lit. It features a harbour with yachts and a cruise ship, palm trees, a sugar mill, along with



Entrepreneur creates Christmas Village highlighting Caribbean culture

a mountain range and a farm made by Forsianne.

The Caribbean Christmas Village also depicts traditions that are unique to some Caribbean islands, like the Festival of Lights and Renewal in St Lucia, the Nine Mornings Festival in

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Christmas in the Park in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, Carols by Candlelight in Grenada, and Carnival in Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis.

"It is important to include our children in, and educate them about, Caribbean Christmas tradi-

tions so they can embrace as well as enjoy the experience. They must also see similar looking people and things in the Village to make it more meaningful. Likewise, the Village provides an avenue for adults to reminisce while celebrating Christmas," says Forsianne.

She also wants to take the opportunity to thank her friends and the musicians who contributed to the production of the Caribbean Christmas Village which can be found on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/user/forsip.

Persons are encouraged to like, subscribe, and

share the video, as a collective approach to showcasing Christmas in the Caribbean.

Forsianne is also featuring a countdown-to-Christmas segment – captioned Christmas Village Stories – from 15-24 December 2021. All are invited to be a part of the experience.

Forsianne Joseph is a human resources consultant, creative thinker and crafter, who enjoys Christmas and sharing her skills. She can be contacted at (268) 727-3076 or via e-mail at forsie@gmail.com or forsianne@siahrconsulting.com.

Reform the OAS or oversee its irrelevance



By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)

Our world exists today in troubled circum-

stances, governed by outmoded charters and laws that are no longer fit for purpose and do not respond to human needs.

When most of these Charters were signed 70 or more years ago, more than 70 countries were not independent and had no say in their formulation.

Therefore, the conditions of underdevelopment, poverty and disease – that today

plague nations around the globe – were not considered. If anything, they were regarded as the natural condition of colonized people that would be addressed by their predictable death. Life was cheap.

The Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) is one such governing document. It was signed in 1948 but brought into force on December 13, 1951 – seventy years ago.

The leaders of the 14 countries that signed the Charter were mostly autocrats who were more concerned with avoiding being overthrown by military coups d'état than they were about the will of their own people. They were especially concerned that – notwithstanding any actions they took to repress dissent among their own people – no other country should have any right to criticize.

Only one present day CARICOM country, Haiti, was a member of the Organization at that time.

The leaders were also

concerned with settling disputes between themselves peacefully and in acting collectively against external aggression against any of them. Not all of them succeeded in pursuing peaceful dispute settlements with neighbours. Military skirmishes, saber rattling, and other acts of aggression continued.

Significantly, while the 70th anniversary – on December 13, 2021 – of the Charter coming into force should have been an occasion for celebration, the date came and went with no commemoration by the OAS.

The Charter has been amended only four times in the last 70 years, and then only in response to urgent political crises. Yet it cries out for reform.

The CARICOM member countries of the OAS place great value on the major cornerstones of the Charter, particularly: the effective exercise of representative democracy; non-aggression; the pacific settlements of disputes; the multi-dimensionality

of security; the recognition that economic cooperation is essential to the common welfare and prosperity of our peoples; and the proclamation of the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex.

However, knowing that many of these principles – particularly as they refer to development – are recognized more by omission than commission, CARICOM countries have, at various times, urged that the Charter be rejuvenated, making it relevant to the present challenges that confront the Americas.

It is not sufficient for the Charter to recognize the indispensability of economic cooperation without commitment to ensuring economic development. It is not enough for the Charter to proclaim fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race – and yet be silent on positive action to end racism which still lurks in the shadows of some governance systems and, sometimes, displays itself even in the bright daylight of their flawed justice machinery. Nowhere in the Charter is it inscribed

that Member States should implement machinery to eradicate the scourge of racism from the Americas.

Is it adequate that the Charter declares – as a principle – that education of peoples should be directed toward justice, freedom and peace, without acknowledging that justice, freedom and peace will not be served while inequities of access to education continue to exist across the hemisphere?

In today's interconnected world where borders are no barriers to disease and no walls against Climate Change, is it right that the Charter should declare that "Development is the primary responsibility of each country", when small states today are ravaged by the effects of CO2 emissions from other countries that retard and erode their development with impunity?

Is it right that – against the reality of the loss and damage inflicted by Climate Change and Global warming – all the Charter says is that "member states should refrain from practicing policies and adopting actions or measures that have serious adverse effects on the develop-

ment of other member states," and yet not provide for adequate compensation or measures that would cause offending countries to cease and desist?

When the Charter entered into force, it suited the requirements of the leaders of the 14 countries that directed its authorship. But 1951 conditions and preoccupations of 14 leaders should not continue to prevail in 2021 circumstances for 33 countries. I say 33 because Cuba and Venezuela – who were among the original signatories – have withdrawn from the Organization; although there is a fiction that Cuba is still a member and that Venezuela is represented by the nominee of an "Interim" President who is recognized by fewer than 50 countries globally (and then only barely).

If the members of the OAS want the Organization to be relevant to the lives of their people, to their economic advancement and to their social improvement, they have to make its framework fit for purpose.

Governments should consider the establishment of a Group of Wise Persons – reflective of

the regional membership – to analyze the Charter and to make recommendations on how it should be reformed. The alternative is to limp along (mostly to be paralyzed) in the illusion that yesterday's Charter is still fit for purpose in our hemisphere of today.

There is a Biblical prescription against pouring new wine into old wineskins; for, surely, the old wineskins will burst and the new wine will spill – wasting the years and effort that were devoted to its production.

By seeking to retain a 70-year-old document – written at a very different time by representatives of only 14 countries – and to apply its outmoded approaches to 33 countries in modern day realities, the OAS members are pursuing an effort that can no longer be sustained. After 70 years, the governments of the OAS member states should recognize that it is time for a comprehensive study to recommend its reform, renewal, and relevance.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

Barbados: Entertainment ban lifted!

Live in person performances to return

Loop News - Government is lifting the ban on entertainment events after an impassioned plea by the fraternity.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley made the announcement on Wednesday during a press conference at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium, following a consultation with the social partnership.

This comes on the heels of a call by the Barbados Association of Event Professionals (BAEP) on Tuesday to remove the curfew and lift the ban on events.

The BAEP stated that the local industry was in a state of emergency and suggested that the “convenient removal and adjustment of the curfew to accommodate government functions” was discriminatory.

Addressing the nation, Prime Minister Mottley declared that the new directive will take effect from Friday, December 17.

Chief medical officer Dr Kenneth George outlined that promoters must get approval for outdoor or “open air events” and large gatherings from the COVID-19 Monitoring Unit, and the National Cultural



Chief medical officer, Dr. Kenneth George.

Foundation (NCF) will provide guidance regarding the number of patrons that can be accommodated.

Additionally, promoters, artistes and production staff will be required to take a rapid antigen test and be fully vaccinated to work behind and on stage.

Meanwhile, patrons must be either vaccinated or take a rapid antigen test 24 hours before the event.

“The objective is to try to create an environment where the transmission of COVID is either non-existent or limited,” remarked Dr. George on the health requirements.

He noted that “vaccine only events” were

at the discretion of the promoters and not mandated by the Ministry of Health & Wellness.

The chief medical officer also announced that organised sporting events will now be permitted, with similar vaccine and testing requirements.

Akin to entertainment events, spectators at outdoor events will be required to be either vaccinated or tested; while players, organisers and staff must be vaccinated and take a rapid antigen test.

“If there is an international sporting event that is being promoted as vaccine-only, those will be promoted as such by those private operators.”

Dr. George also revealed there will be an amendment to the accommodation requirements for places of worship.

The six-foot distancing requirement in places of worship can be narrowed to three-feet, providing that 70 percent of those gathered are fully vaccinated.

“At this point in time, we are not asking that, for you to enter a church, you be tested. You either do six-foot distancing or, if you want more people within a particular space, it should be three-foot distancing with masks, with the caveat that 70 percent of the population within the faith-based organisation is vaccinated,” he explained.

Graduations, paternal societies, and meetings, can also resume under the guidance of the COVID-19 Monitoring Unit.

“We have not agreed to a mandatory focus [on vaccinations] and therefore persons entering a particular space need to know that to enter that space they will be required to be tested using rapid antigen test.”

Government fires unvaccinated teachers in St. Vincent



President of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union, Oswald Robinson.

CMC - Several teachers have been formally dismissed from their jobs for failing to take a COVID-19 vaccine as mandated, without medical or religious exemptions, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Teachers' Union confirmed on Thursday.

The union told CMC News that, as of Wednesday, 12 teachers had informed the union that they had received dismissal letters.

"We expect that more would come in today and we are monitoring very closely what is hap-

pening, but the union's commitment is to assist all of its members, both vaccinated and unvaccinated," said the union's president, Oswald Robinson.

He added that a number of the teachers had indicated that they had not received any salary for December. "Salaries are supposed to be paid today and some people have already checked and they have not received any salary [for December]."

Under the government's vaccine mandate, frontline workers, in-

cluding teachers, would be considered as absent without leave – even if they did show up for work – once they were not fully vaccinated.

Some teachers had been turning up to work despite their unvaccinated status and Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves had warned that they would not be paid.

CMC News has obtained a December 10 letter to a teacher from Chief Personnel Officer Arlene Regisford-Sam, informing of her termination.

The letter stated that the teacher had failed to comply with Rule 5 of the Public Health (Public Bodies Special Measures) Rules 2021 and, as a result, had been deemed absent from duty without leave since November 22, 2021.

"Accordingly, on behalf of the Public Service Commission, I have to inform you that you are deemed to have resigned your office with effect from December 7th, 2021, and have ceased to be an officer, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the Public Service Commission Regulation, Chapter 10 of the Laws

of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines," the termination letter stated.

Robinson said he has told the fired teachers that the union would be fighting on their behalf.

"I sent a voice note out to them to tell them to just stay focused ... and we are moving forward with our legal battle ... and at some point in time we may have other actions coming up," he said.

He added that his executive would meet on Friday. "We are going to consolidate, we are going to strategise what we are going to do in the upcoming week," Robinson said.

"We are monitoring very closely, but we are definitely taking action. Our legal counsels are supposed to be filing sometime today or tomorrow and we are going forward in full force, straight to the end. We are not going to give up, we are not going to leave anybody unaccounted for."

The union leader said a programme may be implemented to assist teachers who have not received a December salary.

Regional tourism stakeholders alerted to hazards of marine pollution

St. Lucia Times - Marine pollution is an issue of major concern to regional tourism industry stakeholders and the matter has necessitated the commissioning of a consultative report to better address this crucial situation.

The report, conducted by St. Lucian marine consultant Cuthbert Didier, provides comprehensive detail on the myriad of oceanic hazards that has to be dealt with urgently to sustain livelihoods in the ever-developing 'Blue Economy'.

The new report proposes several recommendations to address marine pollution from pleasure vessels – notably yachts and tourism centres in the Caribbean islands, including Jamaica.

Citing increasing economic prospects in store for the marine industry, how significant is the timing of this report, and for further implementation of the recommendations?

"The timing is perfect, in that it was right during COVID. Several countries of the Eastern Caribbean and most of the islands involved in the study, their borders were closed, so there was a reduction in traffic," Didier explained.

"And it was seen firsthand the improvement in the water quality. But more importantly, the study really highlights the need for pristine, clear, unpolluted waters if they want to develop the yachting product and really maximize it in terms of the economic value," he added.

Heavy emphasis is focused on the 'black water' problem – a global issue negatively impacting the industry. Notably, the report seeks to help establish the development of a public-private partnership to reduce marine pollution from such vessels and tourism centres. The report was commissioned by the Caribbean Public Health Agency



(CARPHA), under Component 2 of the GEF IWeco Project, and placed emphasis on eight of 10 islands under the project.

Among the recommendations is for islands – including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago – to make the use of sewage pump-out facilities mandatory at all ports of entry: marinas, boatyards, and approved anchorage areas. The report also recommends that islands consider the introduction, in their customs declaration forms, of the size of holding tanks of vessels clearing in and out of the State. In addition, it states, there is a need to implement policy that seals holding tanks of yachts once on dry dock for long-term storage (beyond seven days) in boatyards. Also, the report recommends that measures be taken to consider the inclusion of water testing as a prerequisite for the licensing of operations – for not only

touristic centres along the coastlines – but also marinas, boatyards, anchorage areas and touristic beaches.

The recommendations were made against the background of findings that include:

- That while the yachting [sector] had traditionally served a relatively small niche market, it was noted in 2005 that there had been substantial growth over the last two decades for both charter cruises and bare-boating;

- That this, combined with more recent data, confirmed the significant expansion of yachting in the region over the last 30 years; and

- That continued growth is expected.

Furthermore, the report states that marine pollution – for which solid waste and waste water are among the more prevalent sources – is widespread across the region and poses a serious threat to the blue economy.

Haiti: Remaining missionary hostages freed!

News Americas, NEW YORK, NY, Thurs. Dec. 16, 2021: It's certainly an early Christmas miracle for the missionaries who remained kidnapped in Haiti.

Christian Aid Ministries on Thursday morning glorified God after news broke that the remaining 12 hostages who were held by a gang in Haiti are now free.

"Join us in praising God that all 17 of our loved ones are now safe. Thank you for your fervent prayers throughout the past two months," the Ministries said in a statement on their website at 11:00 a.m. Thursday.

400 Mawozo reportedly released the additional 12 persons that they kidnapped in Haiti's capital on Oct. 16th, Haiti National Police spokesman Garry Desrosiers said.

The aid workers were abducted just east of Port-au-Prince and were among a group of 12 adults and five children, including an 8-month-old.

Of the group of 17 missionaries, all but one was American. The other one is Canadian.

They were the longest-held hostages in the country, where kidnappings for ransom have continued unabated.

The first two of the hostages were released in late November, followed by three more missionaries on Dec. 5th.



People walk in the streets near the site of an oil tanker explosion on December 15, 2021 in Haiti. (Photo by RICHARD PIERRIN/AFP via Getty Images)

Nigerian lawmakers reject bill seeking gender equality

(AP) — Nigerian senators have for the third time in five years rejected a bill that sought to promote gender equality, citing “socio-cultural and Islamic concerns”.

The proposed law was dropped after some lawmakers in the country’s upper legislative chamber, mostly northern Muslims, argued that the bill went against their interpretation of their religion’s principles.

The bill would have criminalized discrimination on the basis of gender or marital status, and also was aimed at improving enforcement of existing laws against gender-based violence.

Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, is deeply divided along religious and ethnic lines. Women rarely make it to top positions of power, and only 7% of the nation’s senators are women.

Among them is the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Biodun Olujimi from Ekiti state in southern Nigeria, who said the proposed



law would stem a tide of gender-based violence against women.

Cynthia Mbamalu, program manager at YIAGA Africa – a nonprofit leading the campaign for the legislation’s passage – called its latest defeat “a major setback on our path towards a more developed society”.

The reason senators gave for rejecting the bill “shows the Senate is yet to appreciate the im-

portance of advancing equality of all citizens”, Mbamalu said Thursday. “It means our country is not ready to realize its full potentials for the benefits of all citizens.”

Many of the senators who opposed the legislation during a plenary session on Wednesday said their resistance was strictly a religious issue.

“Equating opportunities actually infringes on the provisions of the Quran

... and also the Bible,” argued Sen. Yusuf Yusuf who is from Taraba state in northern Nigeria. “If we have it as ‘Gender Opportunities Bill’, fine. But when you bring equality into it, it infringes into the practice of the Islamic religion.”

Others echoed his concern, prompting the sponsoring senator to change the bill’s title from “Gender & Equal Opportunity Bill” to “Gender Equity Bill”.

Opponents nevertheless blocked the bill from going forward.

Senate President Ahmad Lawan said lawmakers see the need for gender equity in Nigeria but acknowledged a need for “further consultations” on the bill.

Olujimi, the bill’s sponsor, vowed to make another attempt, saying she had the support of 62 of the 108 senators.

Records fall and borders close as world races to get control of Omicron



(CNN) - The rapid spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant has broken pandemic records and shuttered borders in several parts of the world, as governments and scientists scramble to understand the implications of the strain before it supersedes Delta and becomes dominant worldwide.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said the United States was "looking over (its) shoulder" at the encroaching variant while battling an ongoing Delta outbreak

on Wednesday, as he urged people to get vaccinated and receive booster shots to shore up the American population's protection.

"We are already in a Delta surge. I mean, the cases are going up," Fauci – director of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases – told CNN. "And then you have – looking over your shoulder – the Omicron variant which we know, from what's going on in South Africa and in the UK, is a highly transmissible virus."

Much of the world's attention is on those two countries which have been battered by Omicron waves earlier than most of the world.

Both nations recorded their highest number of new COVID infections ever on Wednesday, and Britain's top scientists warned that milestone would likely be topped again soon. In London, Omicron has become the dominant strain of COVID, just days after Britain announced its first cases of the variant.

But hospitalizations have, for now, remained lower than in previous waves in South Africa where the first outbreak of Omicron was detected last month -- leading the country's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) to strike a cautious tone of optimism.

"Although the data are still being gathered, the evidence suggests that the current wave may be milder," the agency said on Wednesday.

Many scientists around the world remain reluctant to draw such conclusions. England's Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, said on Wednesday that the data in South Africa is incomplete and warned that even a less severe disease could rip through the country's healthcare system unchecked.

Whitty urged people to prioritize social interactions, though Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has so far resisted implementing restrictions on mixing.

"I want to be clear: I'm afraid this is going to be a problem," Whitty said. "(The) exact proportions of it, of course, South African scientists and UK scientists and scientists globally are trying to determine at the moment."

US military spending grows as policy shifts to 'prioritise China'

Al Jazeera - Months after US President Joe Biden's administration pulled the last American troops out of Afghanistan as part of his promise to end the country's "forever wars", the United States Congress approved a \$777.7 billion defense budget, a 5% increase from last year.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed the budget legislation on Wednesday in an 89-10 vote, following the US House of Representatives which approved the legislation last week.

While the measure was welcomed by leading members of the Democratic and Republican parties as a bipartisan achievement, progressive legislators and advocacy groups are questioning the budget's enormous price tag – and criticising policymakers who have justified it – by pointing to intensifying competition with China.

"For the last 20 years, we heard that the terrorist threat justified an ever-expanding budget for the Pentagon," said Stephen Miles, executive director of Win Without War, a Washington DC-based group that advocates for a more progressive American foreign policy.



"As the war in Afghanistan has ended and attention has shifted towards China, we're now hearing that that threat justifies it," Miles told Al Jazeera.

Several US legislators cited countering China as a top priority in the defense budget, formally known as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Congresswoman Elaine Luria, a conservative Democrat, said on Twitter on December 7 that the legislation "makes critical investments in our national defense, and takes important steps to counter the threat of a rising China".

In some cases, the push to focus on China took a more alarmist tone. "The threat that the Chinese military poses is not a distant threat. It's not something that might happen in 2030, 2035 or sometime in the future," top Repub-

lican Senator Jim Inhofe said in April, warning against cuts to defense spending. "It's a problem we face today, right now. It only gets worse over time," he said.

Ties between Beijing and Washington have soured amid numerous points of tension in recent years, including a trade war during Donald Trump's presidency and an ongoing US push against growing Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Chinese government has slammed US relations with Taiwan, an autonomous island that China considers its own, and rebuked Washington's attempts to deepen alliances with its neighbours, including a recent effort to supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Meanwhile, the US has accused China of commit-

ting "genocide" against Uighur Muslims in the country's western region of Xinjiang, and Washington recently announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, citing "egregious" Chinese human rights abuses.

But officials from both countries say they are trying to cooperate on common challenges such as global warming and COVID-19 vaccinations, while managing the competition to avoid further tensions.

Still, the Biden administration explicitly cited China when making a \$753 billion defense budget request in May. "To defend the nation, the Department in this budget takes a clear-eyed approach to Beijing and provides the investments to prioritise China as our pacing challenge," Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks said at that time.

Congress ended up giving the Biden administration about \$24bn more than it asked for, taking annual defense spending above its most recent peak of \$740bn reached in Trump's final year in office.

Ex-McDonald's boss to repay \$105m over staff relationships

BBC - McDonald's has settled a lawsuit in which its former chief executive, Steve Easterbrook, has returned equity awards and cash worth over \$105 million.

The fast food chain had claimed that Mr. Easterbrook hid and lied about sexual relationships with three staff.

Mr. Easterbrook apologised for failing to uphold the firm's values and fulfil his responsibilities.

The British businessman, 54, initially received the \$105m in a severance package in 2019.

He was fired in November that year after admitting to having had a consensual relationship with one employee.

At the time, McDonald's said Mr. Easterbrook had "violated company policy" and shown "poor judgement".

But further investigation uncovered two more hidden relationships and the firm said that, had it been aware of this, it would not have approved his multi-million dollar pay-off.

"This settlement holds Steve Easterbrook accountable for his clear misconduct, including the way in which he exploited his position as CEO," Mc-



Ex-CEO Steve Easterbrook has apologised for failing to uphold the firm's values.

Donald's chairman Enrique Hernandez Jr said on Thursday.

"Today's resolution avoids a protracted court process and moves us beyond a chapter that belongs in our past."

In July 2019, an anonymous tip-off led investigators to find that Mr. Easterbrook had sent sexually explicit photographs of three employees to his personal email from his company address.

Investigators also found messages showing that he approved a grant of company shares worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to one of the employees "shortly after their first sexual encounter".

McDonald's said it had not initially found the

photos and messages because Mr. Easterbrook had deleted them from his phone.

It claimed Mr. Easterbrook violated his duty to the company by lying when asked about his behaviour in an effort to secure a bigger severance package, committing fraud. But Mr. Easterbrook's lawyers called the suit "meritless", claiming McDonald's had details about his relationships on its computer systems at the time it negotiated the severance deal.

The case has come as McDonald's faces scrutiny over alleged sexual harassment in its restaurants.

In April, the chain announced it would implement new training at its

39,000 restaurants to prevent harassment and promote safe and respectful workplaces. The majority of its restaurants are run by franchisees, who will be required to meet the new safer workplace standards starting in January 2022. The announcement came after it faced lawsuits by some female employees.

Mr. Easterbrook, 54, first worked for McDonald's in 1993 as a manager in London before working his way up the company. He left in 2011 to become boss of Pizza Express and then Asian food chain Wagamama, before returning to McDonald's in 2013, eventually becoming its chief executive in 2015.

NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

BANNED ITEMS

The public is being reminded that in accordance with the *Litter Control and Prevention Act No. 3 of 2019 section 26 #1*, it is **illegal** to import any type of banned/ prohibited items. Any individual or Body Corporate found with any banned item/s in their possession will be fined and the item/s confiscated. This fine is inclusive of anyone who imports, buys or sells any of the items listed below.

BANNED ITEMS

- Single use shopping plastic bags
- Plastic forks, knives, straws and spoons and lids
- Expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) including bowls, plates and cups



NON-COMPLIANT INDIVIDUALS/BODY CORPORATE WILL BE FINED

Individual - \$1000

Body Corporate - \$5000

For further updates please visit our Facebook page @ The National Solid Waste Management Authority or scan the QR code provided. For additional information please call the Litter Control and Prevention Hotline at 727-2467 or the NSWMA hotline 562-1347



**MERCURY
PHASE OUT**
KATICA & BARBARA

Organizations with Storage Bins for Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Establishment	Location
Epicurean	Epicurean Drive Jolly Harbor Perry Bay
Crab Hole Liquors	Cobbs Cross
Welch Supermarket	Pares Main Road
Christian Union Church	Wireless Road
Gloria's Supermarket	Whenner Road
Board of Education	Popeshead Street
Public Works	St. John's Street
APUA	Cassada Gardens
North Coast Hardware	Blue Waters Main road
Lingies Lights & Windows	Utility Drive
V.E.G. International	Herberts Main Road
Kennedy's Enterprises	All Saints Road
Quality electrical sales & services	Hawkins Drive
Nunes Hardware	Church Street
Townhouse Mega Store	All Saints Road
Lighting Expo	Sir Georges Walter High Way
ACT-Online	Cassada Gardens
Electrall Sales and Services	Upr Newgate & Goodwin St,



MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & THE ENVIRONMENT

Vaccination Sites Operation

MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL & EXHIBITION CENTRE AND VILLA POLYCLINIC

Holiday Schedule

OPEN

Friday December 24 2021

9am - 12noon

Friday December 31 2021

9am - 12noon

CLOSED

Saturday December 18 2021

Saturday December 25 2021

Monday December 27 2021

Tuesday December 28 2021

Saturday January 1 2022

Monday January 3 2022

We do apologize for any inconvenience caused.
Regular service will resume on Tuesday 4th January, 2022.

Normal operating hours continue on other days
Mondays - Fridays 9:00am - 5:00pm.



Get your COVID-19 BOOSTER vaccine

Starting 16th Dec 2021

Booster Vaccines available at Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre and Villa Polyclinic.
Mon-Fri | 9:00am-5:00pm



Vaccines Available

AstraZeneca, Pfizer
Villa Polyclinic & Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Centre

Johnson & Johnson
Villa Polyclinic

Sinopharm
Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Centre

Original COVID-19 vaccine card (paper) & ID is required

Eligible persons should have received the last dose of their Covid-19 vaccine 6 months ago.

ELIGIBLE PERSONS:

- All persons 18 years and over are eligible, but priority will be given to persons 60 years and over.

“We cannot continue with the foolishness with these guys,” says Andrew Mason on Russell only choosing West Indies when convenient

SPORTSMAX - The issue of Andre Russell's loyalty to West Indies cricket was up for discussion on the Mason & Guest talk show in Barbados on Tuesday night and it sparked a contentious conversation between the show's host, Andrew Mason, and Cricket West Indies (CWI) vice-president Dr. Kishore Shallow.

Mason believes the CWI

is seemingly willing to bend over backwards to accommodate players' fancies.

Russell had declared himself unavailable for the West Indies tour of Pakistan for three T20 Internationals, citing personal reasons. A relatively inexperienced West Indies team has so far lost [all] of the three matches, [the last of which was played] on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Russell signed on to represent the Melbourne Stars in Australia's Big Bash League. On the weekend, he scored an unbeaten 42 from 21 balls and was named Man-of-the-Match in the Stars' six-wicket win over the Sydney Thunder.

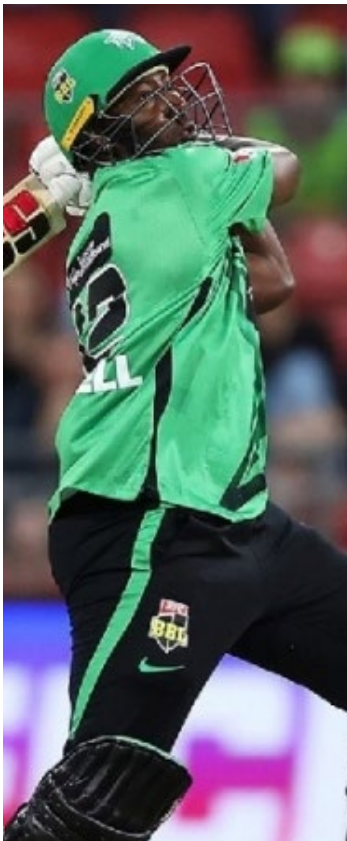
On Tuesday, Dr. Shallow sought to explain why Russell was in Australia and not in Pakistan helping the West Indies. “Russell indicated to the lead selector that he was mentally fatigued in the bubble, and in the Big Bash League – where

he is now – he would be required to be in a bubble,” Dr. Shallow said. “That was the rationale provided to the lead selector.”

An obviously exasperated Mason was unable to contain his displeasure at the situation where certain players only choose to represent the West Indies when it suits them.

“Yes, Dr. Shallow, they have got to get the opportunity to make money, but there is a word called ‘sacrifice,’” Mason declared, adding that such situations are almost unique to the West Indies.

“The other players don't do it to their countries, and I am sure Russell is going to be ready to play for us in the World Cup



in Collaboration with

Presents

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Ages: 5 - 16

Basketball | Netball | Tennis | Rounders | Traditional Sports

Mack Pond Sports Complex | All Saints Village

Dec 29th 2021 - Jan 2nd 2022 | 9:30a.m - 12:30 p.m

High Stakes Media268
Sports World 268
268-726-6647 | 268562-8436

Sponsor:

Refreshments will be provided || Registration Forms are available
Covid Protocols will be in place

and we are going to pick him.

"We cannot continue with the foolishness with these guys."

Sir Andy Roberts also weighed in on Dr. Shallow's explanation, suggesting that the players seem to make their decisions based on money only.

"These guys just don't want to play for the West Indies because the fees ain't that high," said the long-retired fast bowler. "I am not saying that they should not be allowed to go, but they should only go if the West Indies do not require their services."

This is not the first time Russell has faced criticism over his decisions on when to represent the West Indies.

In December 2020, the

iconic Antiguan fast bowler Sir Curtly Ambrose publicly criticized Andre Russell, who declined an invitation to play for the West Indies against New Zealand but later went to play in the Sri Lanka Premier League T20. Chief selector Roger Harper told media that Russell declined the West Indies invitation, citing the need to clear his mind after being in quarantine lockdown for both the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) in Trinidad and Tobago where he played for the Jamaica Tallawahs franchise, and then the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Abu Dhabi where he played for the Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Because he wants to clear his head for a while to get his mind together,

I have no problem with that because cricket is a high-pressure game," Ambrose said then.

"So if you want to clear your head for a while, take your mind off cricket, I have no issues with that; but if you are going to reject playing for your nation, your country, and then two weeks later you're playing for somebody else, that to me is a no-no."

In a later interview, Ambrose provided further clarity. "The game has evolved. There is a lot more cricket being played now and many different T20 tournaments around the globe and there's lots more money as well; so guys are going to go where the money is and I have no issues with that," Ambrose said.

"A cricket career can be a very short one. Once you have an injury it could be all over for you; so with guys going around plying their trade with different franchises making money to set themselves up financially, I have no issues with it.

"However, I think it needs to strike a balance somewhere; because most of these guys who are playing their trade around the world, it's because they played for the West Indies team why people saw them and gave them contracts.

"So, for me, you need to find a balance somewhere where you can give back to West Indies cricket. You need to give back to West Indies cricket at some point as opposed to abandoning West Indies."

Antonio Infantino suspended for doping

Antonio Infantino's athletics career saw him win three English Schools sprints titles and three victories over 200m at the British Indoor Championships before he switched to represent Italy five years ago and has since raced for the Az-

zurri at the World Championships and Olympics.

But on Wednesday (Dec 15) the Italian Athletics Federation (FIDAL) announced he was suspended for breaking the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code.

According to FIDAL, he broke WADA rules 2.1 and 2.2 relating to the "presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an athlete's sample" and "use or attempted use by an athlete of a prohibited

substance or prohibited method".

Infantino was born in Welwyn Garden City to Italian parents who had met in London. A talented footballer, he was in the Watford academy in his youth, whereas in



athletics he won English Schools gold at 100m in 2005 and 200m in 2007 and 2008.

After going on to study philosophy at King's College London he won the British Universities 200m title and went on to finish first at the British Indoor Championships over 200m.

He did not always receive the gold medal for these victories, though, because he switched to run for Italy in 2016 and won the 2018 British indoor 200m, for example, wearing Italian colours, with the British title instead going to runner-up Edmond Amaning.

Infantino also won AAA and Inter-Counties titles and then took Italian 200m titles when he switched nations. After one of his British indoor 200m victories, he told AW he had always been encouraged to support the Italian football team as a child and that his favourite athletics moment was Pietro Mennea's long-standing world 200m record of 19.72 from 1979.

In 2016 he reached the European 200m semi-finals in Amsterdam for Italy, ran in the heats of the World Championships in 2019, and at the Tokyo Olympics this year finished fifth in his heat in 20.90.

His best times, however, are 10.26 for 100m and 20.41 for 200m – both of which were set in 2019.

Novak Djokovic crowned ITF world champion for record seventh time



Men's world number one Novak Djokovic has been named the 2021 ITF World Champion for a record seventh time, while women's number one Ash Barty has picked up her second crown, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said on Thursday.

Djokovic – who finished the year as number one for a record seventh time – won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon; while he fell short at the Tokyo Olympics and the US Open final in his quest for a rare golden slam. The Serb was tied with American great Pete Sampras on six wins for the title first awarded in 1978.

Barty – who won her first Wimbledon title this year and a bronze medal at the Olympics in mixed doubles – previously won the award in 2019. “After such a rewarding year for me, my team, family and fans, it is a great honour to be named ITF World Champion for the seventh time,” Djokov-

ic said. “I am very grateful and proud for the results I’ve achieved and fortunate I had a chance to compete for the Serbian national team, too.”

Djokovic is tied with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer on 20 Grand Slams and could make the record his own if he wins next month's Australian Open – a tournament he has won a record nine times.

Croatian duo Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavić were named ITF men's doubles world champions after winning nine titles this season; while Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova won the women's doubles award for a second time.

“It has been an incredible year for us - Wimbledon, Olympics, nine titles, year-end number one, and now first Croatian pair ever to be named ITF World Champions,” Pavić said. “It's something special and we're very happy about it.”

ISAIAH THOMAS REPORTEDLY SIGNING 10-DAY CONTRACT WITH LAKERS

Isaiah Thomas will sign a 10-day contract with the Los Angeles Lakers, according to NBA insider Marc Stein and The Athletic's Shams Charania.

Thomas will join the roster under the hardship exemption, which allows a team to exceed the 15-player maximum. Los Angeles is without several players due to injuries and the NBA's Health & Safety Protocols.

Thomas, 32, last played an NBA game during the 2020-21 season when the New Orleans Pelicans signed him to a 10-day contract.

He averaged 7.7 points across three games. The two-time All-Star is coming off an impressive 42-point outing in his NBA G League debut on Wednesday.

Thomas played for USA Basketball in November, hitting a clutch 3-pointer in the World Cup qualifying opener against Cuba.

Over the next 10 days, the Lakers will face the Minnesota Timberwolves, Chicago Bulls, Phoenix Suns, San Antonio Spurs and Brooklyn Nets.

Thomas played 17 games for Los Angeles during the 2017-18 season.



Isaiah Thomas dropped 42 points for the Grand Rapids Gold in his NBA G League debut.

IDEWS