THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED ... *Titus 2:8*

Year 52 NO. 49 BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I. FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2010 EC$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend
Maximum Price ULG per gal 22/04/10

DELTA	$13.37
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Thousands ready to march next Monday- Labour Day

Prime Minister, Leader of the Labour Party and Parliamentary Representative for Constituency #6, Dr. Denzil Douglas crowns Miss Labour 2009/2010, then 15 year old Tamara Dorset of Constituency #6.

Residents here are gearing up for this holiday week-end, which as usual features an exciting line-up of events climaxing on Monday May 3rd, 2010, LABOUR DAY with the grand parade of workers through the streets of Basseterre, starting at 9 a.m, following the laying of wreaths on the

(cont'd on page 3)

Scenes from the massive Labour Day march last year. Once again the yearly march is expected to attract thousands of workers and their families who are eagerly awaiting to hit the road on Monday morning in a massive show of solidarity with their Labour Leaders.
(Photos Courtesy Willett's Photo Studio)

St. Kitts and Nevis delegation returns from Brasilia for inaugural CARICOM-Brazil Summit

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, APRIL 27TH 2010 (CUOPM) – St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas returned here Tuesday after leading a public-private sector delegation to the inaugural CARICOM-Brazil summit.

Other members were Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade, Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affiars, Mrs. Astona Browne; Senior Trade Policy Officer, Mr. Samuel Berridge; Assistant Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Crios Freeman; President of the CAIC and Plant Manager of Harowe Servo Controls, Mr. Carol Evelyn and Mr. Jose Rosa, member of the St. Kitts and

(cont'd on page 3)

14 graduate from Union's training programme

By Melissa Amsterdam

"Building Awareness of Rights and Responsibilities of Workers in the Workplace", was the theme of a two-day workshop which concluded here on Saturday last, April 24th, at Masses House, Headquarters of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union.

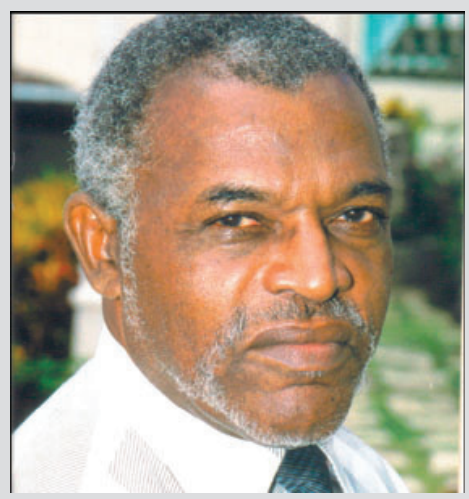
Sponsored and organized by the Union, the April 17th and 24th workshop was deemed a very important and timely exercise by the Union's President Mr. Clifford Thomas. It catered primarily for Shop Stewards and Executive Members of the Union.

At the closing ceremony on Saturday afternoon, 14 persons received certificates of participation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Labour, the Hon. Sam Condor, addressed the gathering at the closing ceremony. He commended the Union for taking the initiative to implement such a training programme, which he stressed, was critical to the survival and success of the Union.

Hence he encouraged the President and his team on the Executive to continue more training exercises for its members.

As a passionate and dedicated member of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union, Minister Condor said: "This is a session to empower people and to spread the good news of the Union. There are some people, who mistakenly believe that the Union is outdated, they are wrong. We come



President Mr. Clifford Thomas

from a tradition of a vibrant Trade Union".

He reminded the participants during his speech that the Trade Union is a very important organization.

"This country is what it is today because of the Union. It has a proud history," he said.

Minister Condor emphasized that everyone regardless of where they work can become a member of the Union. "It is part of your constitutional right to have freedom of association," he outlined.

"My life is committed to the cause of the ordinary people, anywhere I see people being abused I become upset," Minister Condor said. "As a lifelong Trade Unionist, God has made it possible for me to be in a position where my voice can be heard".

Minister Condor encouraged all to participate in the upcoming Labour Day activities saying that, "people tend to politicize this event, it is not about political parties it's a day set aside for workers. It's a day to recognize the achievements of workers"

"The Trade Union is about coming

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THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN - ESTABLISHED MAY 1957

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Editorial

A legacy more valuable than gold

Monday 4th May, 2010 will be a Public Holiday of more than passing significance. It will be the day when workers in the Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis join with millions of other workers around the world to celebrate the heroic struggles and achievements for better conditions of work everywhere.

Our heroes may have passed on to their eternal rest, but they have left for us a legacy more valuable than gold, to be enjoyed and treasured and enhanced, and to be bequeathed in turn to our children and succeeding generations undiminished.

What is that legacy we may ask? It is multifaceted, and its realisation is still unfolding as time passes.

We have been transformed from a chattel dwelling people of slavish mentality to that of a proud, respected and respectful, property owning generation.

An ignorant, despairing, listless and poverty-stricken black community has bloomed into a highly educated, aspiring and relatively prosperous people.

Once tightly fettered by a colonial strait-jacket, destined to be forever servants of a distant master, we are now masters of our political destiny, proud and ably represented by our dynamic Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas and his Ministers of State, in the major international arenas of the world.

In case you are still in doubt about the legacy, just enquire of the Development Bank of St. Kitts-Nevis or other lending institutions, how many of our nationals have equipped themselves to return and serve in leadership positions in this country or remained abroad and are making top notch contributions in institutions and businesses all over the world.

That is why thousands of people take to the streets on Labour Day, to count and to be counted. Workers who enjoy a regulated working environment where certain rights, all underpinned by the Constitution and Labour Law, designed to assure them of conditions of work in conformity with the Decent Work Agenda of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), will make up the bulk of the marchers. It will be their march, their celebration. It will be as usual an awesome spectacle.

The Labour Party massive enthusiastic crowds will be celebrating a fourth successive term of a Labour Government in office, representing a Labour Movement which has forged improved working conditions for all, over the years, through negotiation, consultation and legislation.

Other activities are planned also, to extend the celebrations throughout the weekend. Saturday night will see the multitalented showcase of young Labour beauties vying for the coveted Miss Labour Title at Carnival City.

This is always a production of very high standard and one not to be missed. Those who participate will go on to make a significant contribution to this country later in life. Let us give them our support and encouragement. If one were to have a line up of all these beautiful ladies whose potential these shows have released, we would get an appreciation of the great contribution these shows have been making, in the development of our young people over the years.

A special round of commendation and thanks are in order for the organisers and for the professionalism which they have brought to these shows.

Over the years the Sundays have been earmarked for more in formal and more general interaction, taking the form of sporting events or picnics. Events planned for this Sunday include music and games making it a Fun Day for the enjoyment of all the Labour Stalwarts.

Overall, we can expect the march to be of its usual massive proportions, and the other activities to be of their usual high standard.

Let us all be a part of it and show our solidarity with one another and with the workers of this twin-island Federation and the world at large.

OECS Tourism Ministers look for ways to improve intra-regional travel

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, APRIL 27TH 2010 (CUOPM) – LIAT – the Caribbean airline has been invited to submit proposals to Eastern Caribbean Ministers of Tourism, through the OECS Secretariat, outlining various ways in which member states can assist in improving intra-regional travel.

So said the Federation's Minister of Tourism, Sen. the Hon. Richard "Ricky" Skerritt, who was among OECS Tourism Ministers meeting in St. Lucia for the 9th Council meeting against the backdrop of an overall 12 per cent decline in stay-over arrivals in the sub-region last year, with at least five OECS countries registering double digit slides.

Minister Skerritt and his colleagues acknowledged the difficulties LIAT face in a small market without economies of scale in many instances, with high maintenance and equipment costs, but also emphasizing the need for LIAT to continue to find ways to minimize the cost of travel.

The Ministers are of the view that the adverse impact of the global economic crisis on sub-regional tourism will extend well into 2010.

The high cost of intra-regional travel has been a major concern among OECS countries, some of which say that the situation has impacted negatively on their tourism sector.

A delegation from the airline met for over two hours with OECS Tourism Ministers to make a presentation on the carrier's operational and marketing strategies.

St. Kitts Tourism Minister Ricky Skerritt told reporters that the presentation by the airline, which was followed by what was described as a lively discussion, focused on LIAT becoming more tourism friendly, recognising the importance of intra-regional travel to the tourism dependent economies of the OECS.

"I think all concerned acknowledged the difficulties LIAT face in a small market without economies of scale in many instances, with high maintenance and equipment costs, but also emphasizing the need for LIAT to continue to find ways to minimize the cost of travel," Skerritt said.

"We have invited the airline to submit proposals to us through the OECS Secretariat outlining various ways in which member states can assist in improving intra-regional travel," he added.

The regional carrier has had a monopoly of intra-regional travel since it purchased the assets of its former competitor, Caribbean Star, in October 2007.

But the airline has been criticized especially by St. Lucia and Dominica for having a fare structure that discourages intra-regional travel.

In the case of St. Lucia, the island is the airline's third largest tourist market.

Passengers boarding a LIAT aircraft at St. Kitts' Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport (Photo by Erasmus Williams)

Tourism Minister Hon. Allen Chastanet, a leading critic of LIAT, was absent from the OECS Council of Tourism Ministers meeting being grounded in the UK as a result of the volcano related travel crisis.

The meeting also proposed that the regional airline review its baggage policy, particularly issues dealing with baggage allowances as it relates to specific groups travelling for sports and entertainment.

"We requested that wherever possible the airline facilitate at little or no cost the second baggage piece for those specific groups or individuals," Skerritt said,

In the sub-region, an 11.9 percent fall in the number of stay-over arrivals was recorded last year. Declines in the number of stay-over arrivals were recorded in all member countries, of which five recorded double-digit contractions.

"All indications are that the adverse impacts of the global crisis on tourism performance in the OECS are likely to extend well into 2010, given the lag in the response of employment and incomes to the recovery of economic activity, as the major tourism source markets in the USA and Europe climb out of economic recession," OECS Director General Her Excellency Dr. Len Ishmael said.

She added that in the case of the United Kingdom and, to some extent, Europe, the demand for travel to the Caribbean, including the OECS, will be dampened by the imposition of an increase in the UK's Air Passenger Duty on airline tickets.

"The likely continued slow recovery of tourism means that some of the policy measure that OECS Member States found it necessary to adopt in the immediate aftermath of the onset of the global crisis, may have to be sustained into 2010," she said.

"These might include expanded but carefully targeted marketing, and negotiation of new airlift capacity."

The OECS Director General said that a continued programme of support to small and medium sized hotels and other core tourism enterprises might also be warranted, linked to adherence to relevant operating standards and the achievement of appropriate performance measures.

7th Meeting of Senior Officials of Legal Affairs Committee (SOLAC) in St. Kitts

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, APRIL 27TH 2010 (CUOPM) – The Seventh Meeting of Senior Officials of the Legal Affairs Committee (SOLAC) began meeting here Monday in preparation for the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC).

During the April 26th and 27th meeting, SOLAC officials are discussing several issues including a Redraft of the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty; a Redraft of the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Legislation; the Draft Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on Procedures Related to the Deportation of Criminal Offenders.

Participants will also consider the Reports on the Fifth Meeting and Sixth SOLAC Meetings in Trinidad and Jamaica respectively; the Report on the Meeting of Officials on Institutions and Associate Institutions in Barbados; Maritime Delimitation of CARICOM Members; Examination of Possible Maritime Boundaries and Baselines of CARICOM Members; Treaty Law and Practice Seminar set for the Bahamas in July and Matters of the Practice of Law in CARICOM.

Also down for discussion are papers related to Law School Interns for Legal Services/Office of the General Counsel CARICOM Secretariat; Audit of CARICOM Legislative Drafting Facility (CLDF) Instruments; Update on Draft Agreement on Jurisdiction and Enforcement and Judgements in Civil and Commercial matters and Draft CARICOM Financial Services Agreement and CARICOM Investment Code and Riles of for Organs and Bodies and Revised Rules of Procedure for the Legal Affairs Committee as well as on the upcoming Intellectual Property Meeting.

There will also be a demonstration of the CARICOM Law Website and updates on the Reconstitution of the Inter-Governmental task Force for the Revision of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

St. Kitts Marriott Resort from the court yard
(Photo by Erasmus Williams)

St. Kitts and Nevis delegation returns from Brasilia

(cont'd from page 1)

Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Prime Minister Douglas was among the 10 CARICOM Heads of Government who attended the first Brazil-CARICOM Summit in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia.

Organization of American States (OAS) Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, also participated in the Summit, which was hosted by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The OAS reported as follows on Monday's proceedings:

This historic encounter took place within the context of strengthening Brazil-Caribbean co-operation, and led to the signing of some 60 agreements between Brazil and the Caribbean Community in the areas of trade, agriculture, science and technology.

"I welcome this level of South-South co-operation which I believe is an important step in strengthening relations between the countries of the Western Hemisphere," Mr. Ramdin said.

The Assistant Secretary General also expressed satisfaction with "the open and frank debate on issues of significance to the hemisphere, in particular, the small economies of the Caribbean Community."

"This high-level consultation and the technical co-operation agreements will inevitably contribute to stronger relations between Brazil and its Caribbean neighbours, and enhance multilateralism throughout the Americas," said the OAS diplomat.

According to the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat, the summit was "expected to identify avenues for the development of cooperation between CARICOM and Brazil in many sectors; political, commercial, economic, cultural, consular, and educational.

"The Heads of Government based on preliminary consultations have shown a commitment to enhance cooperation and collaboration and a quest for mechanisms to monitor that cooperation and strengthen their historical and cultural bonds," the statement added.

It said that several bilateral meetings between CARICOM and Brazil preceded the summit and made reference to the 2005 Inter-Sessional Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Suriname that was addressed by Brazilian President His Excellency Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva.

The meeting in Brasilia was also attended by CARICOM Secretary-General His Excellency Edwin Carrington who led a five-member delegation.

Thousands ready to march next Monday- Labour Day

(cont'd from page 1)

graves of the fallen Labour Leaders, including the Rt. Excellent, Sir Robert L. Bradshaw, First National Hero.

The Labour Day March which starts and culminates on the grounds of the Patsy Allers Playing Field in St. Johnston's Village, West Basseterre, is expected to attract thousands of workers and their families who are eagerly awaiting to hit the road on Monday morning in a massive show of solidarity with their Labour Leaders.

Following the traditional address by the Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party Leader, Dr. the Hon. Denzil L.Douglas, at the end of the mammoth march, workers will converge on the grounds of the playing field for the grand finale and picnic which will bring the curtains down in the evening on a week-end loaded with fun, excitement and endless entertainment.

This year's LABOUR week-end programme of activities is expected to be even more exciting than in recent years, as it comes just a little over three (3) months after the ruling St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Party was returned to government for a historic fourth consecutive term.

This following the decisive and overwhelming mandate given to the Prime Minister and his hard working people-oriented team of ministers by the working class people of this country to govern the affairs of the twin-island Federation for five more years- embracing the Party's election campaign theme of "Capable Hands in Serious Times."

The people's victory in the January 25th, 2010 polls gives an added dimension and impetus for workers and their families, to openly demonstrate their appreciation and gratitude for the unprecedented achievements of this government in the areas of education, health care, housing and tourism etc. and to come out in their numbers to celebrate with their Party and Union leaders.

The week-end long programme of activities is organized jointly by the St.Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union and the Labour Party (both sister organizations).

Once again, there is a buzz of excitement in the atmosphere for the staging of the annual Miss Labour Pageant to be held this Saturday 1st May at 8p.m at Carnival Village, Basseterre, St.Kitts.

It will be held under the theme 'Celebration' and a surprise overseas guest artiste is expected to headline the show.

The contestants in the order of Constituencies 1 to 8 are: Janaie Browne, Kyanna Pinney, Amaany Greene, Shanice Blake, Saleema Aleah Hendrickson, Patricia Francis, Tevrhen Bedford and Denise Harrigan.

The reigning Labour Queen is Tamara Dorset from Constituency #6.

Pageant coordinator, Vincent Fough, has informed that preparations for the staging of the annual Miss Labour Pageant are going smoothly. He said the eight (8) charming multi-talented contestants are all in place for the pre-opening number and their individual performances.

The girls are rearing to go as they put on the final touches for their four (4) performances on stage, namely:- Speech, Creative Wear, Performing Talent and Evening Wear.

Speaking to the selection of this year' s theme 'Celebration', he highlighted that in light of the fact that the Labour Party has just come out of the January 25th General Elections with a fourth historic term for, it is in keeping with the celebrative mood.

Additionally, Fough stated that the topic speech for each contestant is 'Progress within Your Constituency', explaining that each contestant will have to talk about the development of their constituencies, touching on areas of social and educational aspects.

Commenting on last year's event, Fough remarked, "It was great. We had a good show and we expect the same momentum this year."

Local guest artistes will include former Kittitian Superstar finalist and Miss Labour contestant, Ticoya Henry; Charlie Miller; a cultural presentation by Masqueraders, Angelic Step, and two upcoming dance groups, Rising Stars Dance Group and Dynesty Academy of Arts.

The house band for the event will be The Royalties out of St.Kitts. An after party will be held at Club Kactus located at Bird Rock, Basseterre.

The contestants are expected to make an appearance on The People's Show, tonight (Wednesday) 9 p.m on ZIZ television.

The eight (8) contestants will be showcased during a minimotorcade starting at the Patsy Allers Playing Field at 3 p.m. It will conclude on Friday 30th April with a Block Party on Church Street, outside Masses House.

"May is Labour month", declared Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Sam Condor while speaking at a Labour Party public meeting in Old Road last week Thursday night- gearing up the masses for what is anticipated to be a spectacular 2010 Labour Day weekend.

The St.Kitts/ Nevis Prime Minister and Leader of the ruling Labour Party, Dr. the Hon. Denzil L. Douglas, supported by other platform speakers, Hon. Glenn 'Ghost' Phillip, Hon.Marcella Liburd and Party Chairman, Hon. Dr.Timothy Harris, too appealed to the workers of this country to come on out in their numbers to participate in the globally celebrated annual Labour Day parade which highlights the social and economic progress of national workers.

Come May 15th are the annual conferences for Women from 9 a.m to 12 noon and the Youth Conference from 1-5 p.m.

Sunday 16th May has been set for the Labour Party's National Conference from 9a.m-5p.m.

The month of activities end on Sunday 23rd May with the Annual Requiem Mass at the St.Paul's Anglican.

St. Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union Outreach

By Cde Clifford Thomas - President

World Day for Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)

The 28th of April of each year has been recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as World Day for Safety and Health at work.

It is expected that throughout the world, Governments, employers and workers through their representative organisations will promote activities to mark this important day.

These activities will recognise and pay tribute to the millions of workers worldwide who, during their contribution to the world economy, may have lost their lives, use of limbs, sight, and hearing or otherwise received serious personal injury.

We are of course, conscious of the very dramatic occurrences, particularly in the mining industry, and resultant rescue operations in coal mines or gold mines in far flung countries such as China, Japan, United Kingdom, Africa and the United States of America.

There is no doubt that mining is one of the most dangerous occupations in existence. However, the huge demand for energy to fuel economic development in all of our countries has dictated that millions of workers be embroiled in the production of coal with the resultant exposure to extreme forms of Occupational Health and Safety.

In all workplaces, including the home, and in all categories of employment, there exist threats to health and safety. Consequently many years ago the member countries of the ILO agreed that there must be a campaign to promote Occupational Health and Safety Awareness aimed at reducing the incidence and cost of occurrences.

Such a campaign must be embraced by all stakeholders. Responsibility must be shared between Governments, employers, workers and their representative organisations, and other institutions and organisations such as Social Security and insurance companies.

In promoting a campaign of occupational safety and health attention must be paid to the identification of hazards in the workplace. This can be done by workers themselves, by union representatives, by management, or by an external inspection agency whether governmental or private.

It is important that an audit is done on a regular basis.

There must also be an assessment of risk. Once the degree of risk is determined, then action must be taken in accordance with the assessment in order to ensure prevention or drastically reduce the chances of an occurrence.

Occurrences may have immediate consequences, such as injury or trauma or both.

In other instances the consequences may manifest themselves only after an extended period. These include the consequences of continual stress, noise, vibrations, lung damage, kidney or other organ failure due to ingestion of toxic substances through the skin or mouth or nose.

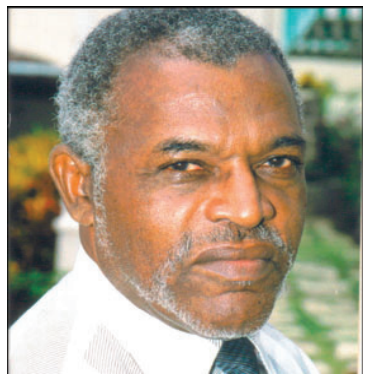
Symptoms of injury or illness may not be easily related to the workplace or nature of the work operation. They may not manifest themselves for many years, long after exposure to the particular hazard.

This is why the emphasis must be on prevention rather than treatment. But when treatment becomes necessary, then the attitudes of both employers and government become of critical importance.

Too often do we encounter cases of a worker who has been literally discarded and cut adrift by an employer when it becomes evident that he or she cannot continue their usual level of output as a result of illness or injury.

Workers complain that they have a real hassle to obtain adequate assistance to pursue medical attention to their ailments, whether from government institutions, social security or employers in whose employment they became injured or ill.

We are calling on the stakeholders concerned to be more considerate



to our injured workers who lose their livelihood through injury or illness of an occupational nature. They are at their most vulnerable. They face increased financial and psychological pressures.

When a doctor advises a worker to seek a change in their work situation because of health reasons, it is not good enough for an employer to say "Oh! Well we have nothing else to give you to do, so go and join the unemployed".

Sadly too many situations such as this are emerging; we need to take another look at alternative solutions.

World Day of Safety and Health brings out an awareness of multiple issues. We cannot entirely abolish accidents in the workplace, but we can continue to work to reduce them to a minimum. We can also strive to bring maximum relief to those affected including their dependants.

By working together we can accomplish much. Workers be united and support one another. Celebrate and recognise World Day of Safety and Health at work.

The Hard Road: Seeking justice for victims of pneumoconiosis in China

Pneumoconiosis is the number-one occupational disease in China, accounting for around 90 percent of all cases.

More than 10,000 workers are diagnosed with this deadly lung disease every year. Yet only a handful get anything like the compensation they are legally entitled to. Most only receive a small lump sum that can cover medical costs for a few years; many get nothing at all. And countless other victims cannot even get the official diagnosis they need to initiate a compensation claim.

A new research report, published today by China Labour Bulletin, examines in detail the myriad obstacles encountered by migrant workers in their quest for redress, and outlines a comprehensive series of measures to improve workplace safety, ensure workers' rights are protected and make certain that if employees do contract pneumoconiosis, they get the compensation they both need and are legally entitled too.

The Hard Road: Seeking justice for victims of pneumoconiosis in China shows that the current laws and procedures for work-related injury compensation claims are completely out of step with the reality faced by migrant workers, most of whom will have already left their jobs and moved back home by the time clinical symptoms of the disease become apparent. As a result, what should be a relatively straight forward process of disease diagnosis and classification, disability assessment and benefits calculation can, if the worker does not have proper documentation and the employer and local authorities refuse to help, turn into a convoluted marathon involving up to 22 separate administrative and judicial hearings.

The Chinese government does now recognize the seriousness of the occupational disease crisis in the country, and is attempting to remedy the problem by revising existing laws. However, as this new report shows, the deficiencies of China's occupational disease laws and regulations are only a small part of an extremely complex problem. In addition to legislative reform, employers who currently flout the law must be made to honour their legal obligations and officials in charge of occupational disease diagnosis, assessment and compensation must adopt a more proactive, humane and sympathetic approach towards pneumoconiosis victims seeking redress.

The report uses CLB's own legal case studies, including jewellery workers, coal miners and construction workers, to illustrate the tangled mass of obstacles faced by China's victims of pneumoconiosis and show that, through determined collective action, however, there is a way through the logjam.

The Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) in the context of its 20th Anniversary is dedicating the month of April to health and safety issues

More than 250 trade unionists have already participated in four regional seminars which took place in Latvia. In these seminars trade unionists and workplace Health & Safety Officers have discussed the new amendments to the Law on Labor Safety adopted this year in Latvia as well as trade union's role in this field.

This 28th April, a closing ceremony for the month will be organized for about 80 participants: trade unions' Health & Safety officers, employers' organizations and enterprises, representatives from municipalities, researchers and state authorities, e.g. State Labor Inspectorate and ministries.

The LBAS published this year the "Guidelines on Labor Safety for Health and Safety Officers" which are now being distributed to trade unions and employers' organizations in Latvia. Information on this campaign is regularly reflected in national media and LBAS web-site: www.lbas.lv

JOIN NOW
The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union
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Apply at: Masses House . Church Street . Basseterre
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Liechtenstein Parliament approves TIEA with St. Kitts and Nevis

Photo: Members of the Parlaiment of Liechtenstein.

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, APRIL 26TH 2010 (CUOPM) - The Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) signed between the Governments of St. Kitts and Nevis and Liechtenstein has been ratified by the Liechtenstein parliament.

By a large majority, the Liechtenstein Parliament approved 11 tax agreements submitted by the government and which are compliant with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD's) standards on tax information exchange.

Ratified on April 22, the bilateral tax agreements are those with Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, Monaco, Andorra, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the Liechtenstein government, the agreements are due to enter into force once the domestic ratification procedures in the respective partner countries are complete.

All agreements are based on the OECD Model Convention and provide for information exchange in suspected cases of tax evasion on the basis of a justified individual request. Upon entering into force, the agreements signed last year with the various partner countries will apply to tax years 2010 and beyond. The government points out, however, that the agreements exclude administrative assistance based on stolen client data pursuant to an "ordre public" clause.

Commenting on the latest development, Liechtenstein's Prime Minister Klaus Tschütscher said: "The decision by parliament underscores the political consensus in our country with regard to rapid implementation of our international commitments."

"The conclusion of these agreements, especially with a series of EU member states, constitutes an important step toward more legal certainty in the cross-border persecution of tax evasion in Europe."

With its Declaration of March 12, 2009, Liechtenstein committed itself to the global standards on transparency and information exchange in tax matters defined by the OECD. Since then, Liechtenstein has signed 16 such agreements, and on March 30, 2010, the government approved the draft laws intended to provide a legal basis for the agreements now ratified by parliament.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH WALK

Dr the Hon Timothy Harris, Member of St. Christopher #7 is pleased to advise his constituents that a health walk will take place on Saturday 1st May 2010.

The walk will start at Belle Vue opposite Lida Lake's Residence and ends at Ottleys' Hard Court.

A healthy breakfast will be served.

Walk start at 5:30 am

- Public Notice - Labour Constituency #4

Residents of Constituency #4, Challengers to New Guinea are asked to take note that there will be a

Monthly Constituency Meeting

on Thursday 29 April, 2010 at the Old Road Community Center starting at 7:00 pm.

All residents of the community and the extended environment are asked to be punctual as important matters related to the continued strengthening and development of the community will be discussed.

The Honorable Glenn "Ghost" Phillip, our new elected and exciting Parliamentary Representative will be present to listen to the views and aspirations of his constituents.

A special guest is also scheduled to address the general body.

ADVERTISE WITH US

Students Exhibit Superior Reading Ability After Students Reading Recovery Participation

Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 26th, 2010 (SKNIS): A superior level of reading ability was demonstrated by Tecoya Warner of the Sandy Point Primary School and Ajani Davis of the St. Joseph Primary School as they completed the Reading Recovery Programme carried out in primary schools throughout the Federation.

The closing ceremony for the Reading Assessment Project which identified these students as needing help in their reading and which caused them to be enrolled in the recovery programme was held on Friday April 23.

The training their teachers received to assist them in overcoming reading challenges went a long way in helping them achieve their new reading status.

Prior to the Reading Recovery Programme which took place from September 2009 to March 2010, the teachers were engaged in a Reading Assessment Project from October 26 - November 3, 2009 in which they learnt to ascertain present reading levels, evaluate the early intervention programs and analyze reading errors to pinpoint areas for future programmes.

At the start of the project 80% of primary school students on St. Kitts were reading at or above their required grade levels and 89% on Nevis. Three areas of weakness were identified including Phonics, Reading Fluency and Reading Comprehension.

Project Coordinator, Eleanor Phillip was given a sterling commendation by teachers for the professional manner in which the project was conducted as well as by OAS Representative Mr. Starrett Green.

The Organization of American States (OAS) was the main funding agency for the project to the tune of U.S. $46,835, while Government shouldered the remaining cost of U.S. $12,380.

Mr. Green explained that he was satisfied that his organization had placed high priority on the needs of the Federation in determining the type of assistance that should be granted. The project is one which helped to fulfill the

Education White Paper literacy objective of having 95% of primary school students able to read at or above the required grade level at promotion time, by the year 2014.

Minister of Education and Information Hon. Nigel A. Carty told those present that he has observed a three-fold benefit to the Reading Recovery Programme which will ensure its sustainability in the future: a key component to truly successful programmes. Minister Carty said the fact that teachers had upgraded their reading teaching skills as well as the fact that the ministry of education had received new learning tools and forged new partnerships during the project is highly commendable and augurs well for the future of students and teachers specifically, and the education system generally.

He assured programme counterparts that the Ministry would ensure that all of the recommendations coming out of the initial phase of the project would be considered and implemented including the identification of a teacher to pursue post graduate studies in reading with responsibility to train and supervise teachers in the teaching of reading.

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Minister Phillip attributes longevity to strong family support

BASSETERRE ST. KITTS (April 25, 2010) — Minister of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Hon Glenn Phillip, is attributing longevity among the country's senior citizens to hard work during their lifetime and strong family support upon their retirement.

Minister Phillip made the remarks on Saturday at Half Way Tree as he wished one of his constituents, Mr Allan Davis, advance birthday wishes. Mr Davis who was at that time surrounded by some of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, turned 93 on Sunday April 25, 2010.

"This milestone has been a testament to what he has done," said Phillip. "He is a man who has worked hard and also he has strong family support now that he is retired and I think this has really helped him to survive this long.

"It is also a testament to the longevity and of his personal lifestyle over the years and is really fruitful for anyone to make such a milestone. I would like to say publicly congratulations to Mr Davis and his achievement."

Accompanying Minister Phillip in paying homage to the celebrant was the Supervisor of Social Services, Mrs Anne Wigley, who also talked of strong family support as a positive ingredient and expressed thanks to Mr Davis' daughter, Mary Dias, who had left her job to take fulltime care of her father.

"Mr Davis to me is looking better than when I saw him last year," remarked Wigley. "By the help of God he is really doing well and I am made to understand that his daughter, Mary Dias, has decided to look after him. I think she is not working now, just to make sure he is taken care of, which I always admire about people because we want more of that in St. Kitts to care for their elderly."

Mrs Anne Wigley presented Mr Davis with a fruit basket on behalf of the Ministry of Health, Social Development, Community, and Gender Affairs and Culture and wished him all the best and continued healthy life for him to "make the big century."

Mr Davis, who expressed thanks to those who came to wish him well, has five children, 23 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. The supervisor of Social Services also thanked Minister Phillip, the Parliamentary Representative and members of the community for having turned up to encourage Mr Davis.

Picture caption: Minister Glenn Phillip (left) looks on as Anne Wigley presents a fruit basket to Allan Davis. On the right is Davis' daughter, Mary Dias.

National Commission for UNESCO Advocates Local History in National Schools

Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 23, 2010 (SKNIS): Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO Mr. Antonio Maynard praised the launch of the Basseterre Past and Present as a strategic education tool for residents.

The launch took place during UNESCO's Global "Education For All Week."

Mr. Maynard told SKNIS the Commission is working feverishly to give schools access to as many new learning materials as possible to ensure that accurate information is passed on to students regarding their history.

Specifically, the Basseterre Past and Present Website, found at historicbasseterre.com was funded by UNESCO following a submission by the National Archives. The site features photos with accompanying stories which relay information about the history of Basseterre.

Mr. Maynard added that the Federation's past must become a tool for its economic empowerment, and as such, the National Commission was seeking to package the Country's cultural heritage to heighten that likelihood. He said this included ensuring that students are well informed about their history and see it from the perspective of their ancestors.

He stated that presently the Commission is working to establish a National Scientific Slave Route Committee in collaboration with the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster Office based in Jamaica. The mandate of that Committee would be to initiate an inventory of sites and places related to the slave trade as well as to oversee the production and development of educational and teaching materials also related to slavery and the slave trade in the Federation.

The Secretary General revealed that the implementation of such

St. Kitts Preserves Record of Slaves and Earns International Recognition

Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 22, 2010 (SKNIS): The ceremony for the unveiling of inscription into the UNESCO Memory of the World Listing has actively demonstrated the value of the National Archives in the public Service structure.

National Archives Director Mrs Victoria O'Flaherty said this event, coupled with the launch of the website, "Basseterre Past and Present" marked two significant milestones for the department that holds the key to national history.

She explained that St. Kitts' Register of Slaves became a candidate for inclusion on the World Registry when other archivists, from throughout the region and the University of the West Indies, recognized the value of the register and recommended that a proposal be submitted for further recognition. Mrs. O'Flaherty, who was given the privilege of pursuing it further, commented that she was pleased when it was accepted from the very first draft without requests for amendments.

Pertaining to the UNESCO listing, she gave some insight into the history of the historical document, "when England Abolished the Slave Trade in 1807, the abolitionist James Stevens suggested that a register of the enslaved be made to ensure that the planter class did not resort to smuggling more persons into the islands illegally. As a result Britain agreed and the registry was developed as a means of keeping inventory of existing slaves. The list was to be updated every three years and sent to England.

Mrs. O'Flaherty explained that tracing family background from the registry is very unlikely as no attempt was made to indicate familial ties, as that was not its purpose. The columns listed name, age, sex, colour, place of birth, and occupation. Titles were seldom included and some of the slaves were brought directly from Africa and others were traded across island. She added that some 20, 000 names were on that first list of slaves.

"One benefit of being recognized to such an extent is our increased eligibility to request funding for the repair of the document," said O' Flaherty. The archivist also expressed the hope that having such a listing would advance interest in our tourism industry as similar items have raised the curiosity of "heritage tourists."

St. Kitts is fortunate to be one of the only islands that has been able to preserve the registry of slaves.

The simultaneous launch of the Basseterre Past and Present Website was another activity geared at adding value to the Tourism product. More specifically, it was done in an attempt to give students and nationals of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis a glimpse into their history by way of old photographs presented in digital format and accompanying stories. The web address for the activity is www.historicbasseterre.com.

In keeping with the Ministry of Education's thrust towards increasing the presence of Black History in the Schools Curriculum, UNESCO and the Archives are partnering with the ministry on this project to provide the website first and foremost as a "Student friendly" learning tool for schools.

Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas accepted the certificate of recognition designating the register as an item of value to the world.

Also making presentations at the event were Minister of Education and Information, Hon Nigel Carty, Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO Antonio Maynard and H.E. Dr. David Doyle Honorary Counsel of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to France and the permanent delegate to UNESCO.

Application Opportunity
The Mary Jane Francis
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Interested parties, please email a cover letter, resume and three references to **ecaines@aol.com**

PRESS RELEASE

Coca-Cola Identifies Authorized Canned Products

In keeping with our commitment to provide regular updates to consumers, The St. Kitts Bottling Company Ltd. publishes the following list of authorized Coca-Cola canned product released on the local market.

Diet Coke	code 0090	expires 28/6/10
Classic Coke	code 0089	expires 27/12/10
Regular Sprite	code 0062	expires 29/11/10
Diet Sprite	code 0084	expires 26/6/10

The Company wishes to advise the public at large that any product not identified with any of these codes and expiration dates combinations are not authorized by Coca-Cola for sale in the local market, and therefore may subject consumers to the high risk of consuming inferior quality products.

"Wolves in sheep's clothing"

By: The Thinking Citizen

God bless and prosper the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party and the Labour Party Government of Dr. Denzil L. Douglas. The present Labour Party which grew out of the Worker's League and from the Labour Movement has transformed the social and political landscape of St. Kitts and Nevis, especially in the three important areas of Housing, Health and Education.

During the 30s, 40s and the 50s the sugar plantation owners and managers accommodated villages for their workers on lands that were least suitable for sugar cane cultivation.

So villages for estate workers were located at Ogee Ghaut, Cayon Ghaut, Ottleys Ghaut, Lodge Ghaut and Mansion Ghaut. Robert Bradshaw and the Labour Party worked to change all that. The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHA), was established to implement Housing Development Projects on St. Kitts.

With funding from the British Government the CHA purchased certain sugar cane fields and developed them into Housing Projects for ordinary working-class people in urban and rural areas.

Dorset was a cane field at one time and so was the area now known as Greenlands. Pond Pasture was a real pasture (and race course) on which the cattle of Pond Estate grazed daily. Pond Site (Corner House) and New Pond Site were also cane fields which were developed into Housing Projects in order to eliminate the over-crowding and slum conditions that existed in New Town.

Up until 1979 and from 1995 up to the present time, the Labour Party Government provided the working-class people with hundreds and hundreds of affordable homes and with an unprecedented number of lots for housing.

Although the Sugar Estates Lands were acquired by the Labour Party Government, not one Labour Party Government Minister ever took unfair advantage of his position and took unto himself, Sugar Estates Lands.

Shortly after 1980 the PAM Government Ministers took some of the best pieces of Sugar Estates Lands for themselves, their friends and their families. The PAM Ministers took for themselves lands in the Bird Rock and Earle Mornes area and failed to provide lands for housing for the landless people of East Basseterre.

The PAM Government provided land for its trumps and half-trumps at Morgan Heights, Spooner's, Whyte's Estate, Stapleton Estate, Bourryeaux Estate and Pond Estate. PAM built some so-called Low Income Houses at Pond Estate, east of East Street. The houses were substandard, with faulty electrical wiring and constructed of chicken wire. The houses were built with the assistance of the Venezuelans.

The record of the Labour Party in Housing is unparalleled and unsurpassed. While the PAM Party provided relatively few houses, the Labour Party provided hundreds and hundreds of houses. While the PAM Party provided poorly-constructed chicken-wire, sub-standard houses, the Labour Party provided an abundance of good quality, properly constructed affordable houses.

Another area in which the Labour Party Government has excelled is the area of Public Health. The Labour Party Government constructed Public Health Clinics in the rural areas in places such as Cayon, Tabernacle, Dieppe Bay, Sandy Point, Old Road, and staffed the Clinics with qualified and properly trained Public Health Nurses.

PAM was in power from 1980 to 1995 and during that period the PAM Government did nothing but a little patching here and a little patching there to the JNF General Hospital which the PAMites, during their period of opposition called the "Horse Stable". Furthermore only PAM trumps and half-trumps were employed to do the occasional patching.

It was the Labour Party Government that after 1995 transformed the JNF General Hospital into the modern, up-to-date, state-of-the-art Hospital that it is today. Of course one cannot compare our Hospital with the major hospitals in Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Barbados. But in spite of that, one has to admit that the Labour Party Government has developed and improved the services and facilities of the JNF Hospital to a successful and remarkable degree.

The Pogson Hospital in Sandy Point is transformed under Labour into a modern Medical Centre equipped to better serve the critical needs of the people of Sandy Point and the surrounding areas.

Public Education is another area in which the Labour Party and Labour Government reigned supreme. Public Education under the Labour Government was democratised and liberalised under the guiding hand of Mr. Fitzroy Bryant, that visionary Minister of Education whom the PAMites loved to hate.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School became a highly regarded institution of learning, so much so that students left Antigua and Montserrat to attend the Grammar School in St. Kitts.

During the 1960s and 1970s St. Kitts and Nevis was blessed with an abundance of scholarships for university training. Scholarships were made available to eligible candidates under programmes sponsored by CIDA, USAID, the British Development Division (DEVDIV), the British Council and CFTC.

Scholarships for training in Cuba became available during the 1970s, but the flow was reduced to a mere trickle during the period of PAM rule. The PAM Government was not in favour of training the sons and daughters of Sugar Estate Workers at universities overseas.

PAM was a dismal failure in government as the Prof. Randolph Williams and the Sir Louis Blom-Cooper Commission of Inquiry Reports both attest to. The PAM Government raped and plundered the government's financial and other resources particularly at statutory corporations such as the Deep Water Port, CEMACO and the Frigate Bay Development Corporation.

Only the members of the opposition CCM/PAM Coalition as well as the supporters say that the PAM Government did a good job during the period between 1980 and 1995. But we are not surprised for they are not really interested in good governance or in raising the standard or level of public debate. They are striving to be elected just to be able to benefit from the fruits of high office.

Nowadays, PAM is showing a belated and unusual interest in the matter of land for local people. PAM is playing politics with the matter as usual as PAM was never interested in the matter when the party was in power. Between 1980 and 1985 the PAM Ministers of Government and the party's trumps and half trumps took whatever pieces of government land they wanted for themselves and forgot all about the needs of the poor landless worker.

PAM is currently talking about the matter of the retirement of Civil Servants at age 55 and the matter of the VAT. The hypocrites in PAM seem to have forgotten the large number of Civil Servants whom their party put off at age 55 and the even larger number who were put off even before the age of 55 "with immediate effect".

We remember the case of Sir Edmund Lawrence, then Mr. Edmund Lawrence. How much time did the Simmonds Administration give to Mr. Edmund Lawrence when he was dismissed by PAM from National Bank?

Even before the members of the opposition CCM/PAM Coalition understood the details of the VAT, they took to the airwaves to criticise and condemn the Tax. How on God's green earth can such reckless and irresponsible behaviour be construed as trying to lift the standard of public debate? How can a matter which is not properly understood be debated honestly and intelligently? It sounds more like the Blind leading the Blind.

History is replete with examples of men who aspire to high office not because of a desire to serve their fellowmen selflessly, but only to be able to enjoy and benefit from the fruits of high office. The Bible refers to such people as "wolves in sheep's clothing".

Constituency #7 of the
St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party
will be holding
A Take-Away Dinner
at the Edgar Gilbert Pavilion, Molineaux
on Saturday, 22nd May, 2010 - at 4:30 p.m.
Ticket: $20.00

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Letter of interest and CV to be sent by 7 May, 2010 to:

Frank Wagner Psy.D.
Vice-President
Special Projects
University of Medicine and Health Sciences
P. O. Box 1218
Basseterre.

For the benefit of our readers we publish Proposals for implementation of VAT

Government of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis

White Paper on VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

A Simpler and More Efficient Tax
Tax Reform Unit

April 2010

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CARTAC Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre
CARICOM Caribbean Common Market
CED Customs and Excise Department
CET Common External Tariff
CSC Customs Service Charge
ECCU Eastern Caribbean Currency Union
EPA Economic Partnership Agreement
IBC International Business Company
IMF International Monetary Fund
IRD Inland Revenue Department
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
VAT Value Added Tax
WTO World Trade Organisation

Foreword

The economy of St. Christopher and Nevis has made significant strides in transitioning from an economy heavily dependent on sugar production to a services based economy with Tourism and Financial Services as the leading sectors. However, the present Tax System has not kept pace with the development of the economy and continues to be based to a large extent on the levying of duties on imported goods. This results in distortion and inequity in the Tax System which must be addressed. In addition to the transformation of the economy and the need to ensure harmony between the system of taxation and the economy we must also address the unfolding international pressures that favour free trade and the necessity for countries to open their borders.

As the Government seeks to achieve macroeconomic stability and growth in order to fulfill our mandate to maintain an acceptable standard of living for all of our citizens the domestic Tax System must be placed on a sound footing. We believe that this objective can be achieved by the introduction of the VAT which is a modern, broad based tax on consumption, charged at various stages of production with a mechanism which allows businesses to offset the taxes that they have

paid against the taxes that they charge.

The introduction of the Value Added Tax would therefore reform our Tax System making it simpler and more efficient and create more equity by taxing all aspects of consumption including services.

Government would also need at the same time as the VAT is being introduced to examine the entire Tax System to ensure that the system as a whole supports the smooth implementation of the VAT and that there are no disparities that arise as a result of this change to the Tax System.

We will therefore be looking at other areas such as the existing Excise Tax and a Business Tax.

This White Paper is intended to give our people an overview of the VAT system and how it works in the hope that it will invoke meaningful discussion and consultation.

It is imperative that all citizens and stakeholders acquaint themselves with the policy and administrative issues related to VAT as it will affect all of us. The Tax Reform Unit will be engaged in public consultation exercises throughout the Federation. I therefore encourage all citizens and stakeholders to participate and to contribute to the discussion aimed at crafting a successful VAT for our Federation.

Dr. Hon. Denzil L. Douglas
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

This White Paper serves to initiate dialogue with the Private Sector, Civil Society and Government Officials with a view to eliciting their ideas on the administrative and functional considerations for the VAT.

Definitions

"Business" includes any business , profession, trade, venture or undertaking, provision of personal services or technical and managerial skills, and any adventure or concern in the nature of trade, but does not include employment; "Certificate of Registration" refers to the document issued by the Inland Revenue Department to a VAT registered taxpayer as proof of registration. It bears the taxpayer's name, taxpayer number, location of the business and the effective date of registration and is displayed in a conspicuous place in the business at which the registered person engages in taxable activity;

"Consumer" means one who uses the goods or services;

"Credit Note" refers to the document issued by a supplier, to a consumer, subsequent to the issuance of a receipt where the amount charged on purchases exceeded the amount that was actually payable;

"Debit Note" refers to the document issued by a supplier, to a consumer, subsequent to the issuance of a receipt where the amount charged on purchases was less than the amount that was actually payable;

"Excise Tax" an indirect tax imposed on the importation, manufacture, sale or consumption of various commodities such as liquor and tobacco within a country;

"Exempt Imports" means goods which are free of VAT only at the point of importation. If they are resold by a registered person VAT is chargeable

"Exempt Supplies" These supplies are not subjected to VAT on importation or resale. VAT paid or expenses incurred during the supply of these goods and services are not deductible.

"Goods" mean real or tangible property, thermal or electrical energy, heat, gas, refrigeration, air conditioning, and water, but does not include money;

"Import" means to bring or cause to be brought goods or services into St. Christopher and Nevis or the territorial sea;

"Input Tax" means tax paid or payable in respect of a taxable supply to, or an importation of goods by a taxable person;

"Output Tax" means the tax charged on a taxable supply made by a taxable person;

"Registration Threshold" is the minimum yearly gross sales which will determine whether a person or business would be required to charge and collect VAT;

"Services" means anything that is not goods or money;

"Supply" means a sale of goods; a grant of the use or right to use goods; a transfer or provision of utilities. A supply of services means anything done which is not a supply of goods or money, including the granting, assignment, cessation, or surrender of a right; making available a facility or advantage; or refraining from or tolerating an activity.

"Taxable Activity" means an activity which is carried on continuously or regularly by any person in St Christopher and Nevis whether or not for profit. This activity could involve or be intended to involve, full or partial supplying of taxable goods or services to another person for consideration.

"Tax Invoice" means a document which notifies an obligation to make a payment to a person or business;

"Taxable Period" refers to a calendar month;

"Taxable Person" means a person liable to pay tax, whether registered or not registered;

"Taxable Supply" means a supply of goods or services in St. Christopher and Nevis in the course of, or furtherance of, a taxable activity, other than an exempt supply;

"Value Added Tax or VAT" is a tax levied on taxable goods and services consumed within the federation of St. Christopher and Nevis;

"Zero Rated Supply" is a good or service that will be taxable but at a rate of zero percent.

Overview of the Current Tax System

The current tax system in St. Christopher and Nevis comprises direct taxes (tax levied on income and property) and indirect taxes (levied on consumption). The Inland Revenue and Customs and

Excise Departments have the responsibility of collecting these taxes. Direct taxes in the Federation include Corporate Income Tax, Traders Tax and Property Tax while indirect taxes are comprised of Import Duty and Consumption Tax. Indirect Taxes are levied on imports and goods consumed locally.

For the 2008 fiscal year indirect taxes and direct taxes accounted for 51% and 26% of Total Recurrent Revenue respectively, while the 2009 fiscal year realized 44% and 29% respectively.

The indirect taxes are targeted towards consumption and are levied at various stages with multiple rates.

Furthermore, these taxes are applied mainly on goods and only on a few services. This results in inefficiencies and inequities within the system. It also contributes to the high cost of conducting business in some sectors because of the difficulty in administering and complying with these indirect taxes. There is clearly the need to reduce the level of taxation on most goods and expand the tax base to include more services so as to spread the burden of taxes more equitably.

Apart from the domestic situation, St. Christopher's and Nevis' exports to regional and international markets are being adversely affected by the current tax system as the cost of these exports includes domestic taxes.

The current system does not allow for a refund of taxes paid on inputs that go into the local production of goods for export. As a result, these goods become less competitive since their prices include domestic taxes.

Overview of VAT

A Value Added Tax is a tax on consumption. It is not a tax on business. It is charged on the value of imports and on the value added (mark-up) on goods and services supplied by one business to another or to the final consumer.

VAT is an indirect tax that is broad based (levied at multiple stages of the distribution chain) with the provision for businesses to offset the tax paid on their own purchases of goods and services against the tax charged on sales of goods and services.

The tax will be levied:

• on imports,

(cont'd on next page)

White Paper on VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

(cont'd from last page)

• transactions between businesses,
• transactions between businesses and the final consumer and
• transactions with the Government.

Under the proposed legislation, a VAT registrant will charge VAT on the sale of his/her taxable goods or services (Output Tax) and pay VAT on his/her purchases and imports (Input Tax). If the VAT charged on the sales is more than the VAT paid on the purchases, the difference must be paid to the Inland Revenue Department. If output VAT is less, the registered person or business will be allowed to carry forward the excess credit to the following tax period.

If after four consecutive tax periods/months the excess for a given tax period is not used, then the business will be eligible for a refund. Where at least 50% of the amount of the taxable supplies of a registered person for the taxable period is taxed at a zero rate, the registered person would qualify for a refund in a shorter period.

The Comptroller of Inland Revenue reserves the right to use the amount to be refunded to settle any other tax, levy, interest and penalty balances that the taxpayer may have outstanding before a refund is processed.

The VAT as proposed will be levied on goods and services at:

• a standard rate,
• a rate of zero percent for certain goods and services, and
• some supplies will be exempt.

The proposed VAT will replace the:
• Consumption Tax;
• Hotel and Restaurant Tax;
• Cable TV Tax;
• Vehicle Rental Levy;
• Insurance Premium Tax;
• Export Duty;
• Public Entertainment Tax;
• Lotteries Tax Act;
• Gaming Machine Tax;
• Traders Tax;
• Telecommunications Levy (IDD Calls) and
• Parcel Tax.

The current Excise Tax will be reformed to support the implementation of VAT. The Excise Tax is being proposed for a small range of goods such as alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, petroleum products, motor vehicles and aerated beverages.

Main Features of the VAT

Registration

A critical mechanism in designing a VAT is the threshold requirement. The registration threshold is the minimum yearly gross sales which will determine whether a person or business would be required to charge and collect VAT. The proposed VAT registration threshold will be between the range of $100,000 - $150,000 per annum.

Any person or business engaging in a taxable activity is required to register to collect VAT on behalf of the Government if they meet the registration requirement. The proposed VAT legislation defines "taxable activity" as a supply within St. Christopher and Nevis, whether or not for profit, of goods or services, in whole or in part, by a person required to be registered or registered person to another person for consideration. A taxable activity also includes the import of goods or services into St. Christopher and Nevis.

Once the registration threshold is determined after consultations with stakeholders, the Inland Revenue Department based upon information from its database would identify an initial pool of registrants. Potential taxpayers not identified in the initial pool would be encouraged to visit the Inland Revenue Department and commence the registration process.

The proposed legislation makes provision for a person who carries on a taxable activity to apply for registration to the Comptroller of Inland Revenue if:

• at the end of any period of 12 or lesser months the person made taxable supplies of at least the registration threshold amount;
• at the beginning of any period of 12 or lesser months, there are reasonable grounds to expect that the total taxable supplies to be made by that person will be at least the registration threshold amount or;
• during the previous 3 months the person made an average monthly taxable supplies of at least a quarter of the registration threshold amount and
• there are reasonable grounds to expect that the total value of the taxable supplies to be made by the person during that period and the next consecutive nine months will exceed the registration threshold amount.

Notwithstanding the meaning of taxable activity and these four conditions, promoters of public entertainment, licensees and proprietors of places of public entertainment are required to apply for registration at least forty-eight (48) hours before the commencement of the first public entertainment they promote. An auctioneer is also expected to apply for registration on the date on which he/she becomes an auctioneer.

Under the proposed VAT legislation, a person who is required to apply for registration must apply to the Comptroller of Inland Revenue within 14 calendar days of the date the person is obligated to apply. The Comptroller shall register the applicant and then inform him/her in writing of the decision within 21 days of receipt of the application.

The Comptroller will be authorized to register any person who is required to register and failed to do so. Registration in that case will take place with effect from the date on which the taxable person was required to register. A taxable person is a person who is registered or who is required to register under the VAT legislation. If a person only makes exempt supplies he/she will not be required to register for VAT. However, if he/she makes both taxable and exempt supplies and his/her taxable supplies either reaches or exceeds the threshold amount annually, then he/she will be required to register.

For the purposes of VAT, ''Person" includes the Federation, the Nevis Island Administration, a natural person, trust, company and partnership.

Government Departments and Statutory Corporations would be required to be registered for VAT.

All government departments and statutory corporations would pay VAT on their inputs or purchases. However, to avoid providing government departments with a competitive advantage in the marketplace, departments that are in direct competition with the private sector will be required to charge VAT on their sales. Other government departments, with the approval of the Comptroller, will not be required to charge VAT if the fee for the supply is nominal in amount or not intended to recover costs.

The proposed legislation also makes provision for persons below the threshold amount per annum to voluntarily apply to the Comptroller of Inland Revenue for registration once they meet certain stipulated requirements. These may include whether the person supplies goods to a company making zero rated supplies, if the person is in compliance with the tax laws administered by the Inland Revenue Department, whether the person keeps proper records and if the person has filed regular and reliable tax returns.

VAT Certificate of Registration

All registered persons will be issued a VAT Certificate of Registration indicating:
• name
• taxpayer number
• location of the business
• the effective date of registration.

The certificate must be placed in a conspicuous place in the business at which the registered person engages in taxable activity. If the business has more than one location/ branch then a copy of the certificate must be placed in a conspicuous place in each location/branch. Only registered taxpayers can charge VAT and issue VAT invoices and VAT sales receipts to clients/customers. In addition, only registered persons will be able to claim VAT as a credit for purchases made.

When a taxable person ceases to carry on taxable activities, that person is required to inform the Comptroller of Inland Revenue in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the date of such cessation. The Comptroller is required to cancel that registration once satisfied that the taxable person is not carrying on a taxable activity or will not do so within twelve (12) months from the date of cessation. The cancellation will take effect from the last day of the tax period during which all taxable activities ceased or from such date as the Comptroller may determine.

However, any liability or obligation of the person to pay tax due or file current returns while that person was a taxable person is not affected by the cancellation. The Certificate of Registration must be surrendered upon cancellation of the person's registration.

Taxable Supplies

A Taxable Supply means a supply of goods or services in St. Christopher and Nevis in the course or furtherance of a taxable activity. This also includes a supply of zero-rated goods and services, but does not include a supply of exempt goods and services (the nature of zero-rated and exempt supplies is described below).

A supply of goods includes a sale of goods or a grant of the use or right to use goods, while a supply of services means anything which is not a supply of goods or money.

VAT would be payable or collected by a person in the following cases:-

(a) by the taxable person selling goods or services

(b) on the importation of goods by the importer of the goods; or

(c) an importation of services paid by the recipient of the services.

The time of supply of goods and services occurs on the earliest of the date on which:
• the goods are delivered or made available;
• the performance of services is completed;
• an invoice for the supply is issued by the supplier; or
• payment for the supply is received.

When goods are supplied under a credit agreement, the supply takes place on the date of commencement of the agreement.

Zero Rated Supplies

Zero-rated supplies are goods and services that will be taxable but at a rate of zero percent.

Though the tax is charged on the supplies at zero percent, the registered taxpayer is allowed to claim a full credit for taxes paid on inputs used in the production or business activities relating to the supply of these goods or services.

Zero rates are intended for the benefit of the final consumer. It is important to note that only goods and services will be zero-rated not businesses or individuals. Any change to the schedule of zero-rated supplies would require an affirmative resolution whereby the legislation would be amended in Parliament.

Government proposes to zero-rate the following:

ITEMS

1. rice, sugar, flour, milk, infant formula and infant and adult disposable diapers
2. goods and services for export
3. fuel (will attract excise tax only)
4. sale of commercial real property that is subject to Stamp Duty where the transfer is from one registered person of commercial real property to another registered person (to the extent that the property was used by the initial registrant in making taxable supplies)
5. a supply of services directly in connection with land, or any improvement to the land, situated outside St. Christopher and Nevis
6. medicines for chronic diseases (HIV/AIDS, Diabetes, Hypertension/Cardiovascular diseases, cancer and mental illness)

Exempt Supplies

There are some supplies that are not directly subjected to VAT. These supplies are exempt supplies. This means that no VAT will be charged on sales to customers. However, businesses, institutions and persons who are engaged in

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White Paper on VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

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the supply of exempt goods and services will not be allowed to claim credits for VAT paid on purchases and inputs associated with these exempt supplies.

It is important to note that only goods and services will be exempt not businesses or individuals.

Any change to the schedule of exempt supplies would require an affirmative resolution whereby the legislation would be amended in Parliament.

Government proposes to exempt the following:

ITEMS

1. some of the services provided by licensed financial institutions, such as banks, credit unions and other similar institutions granted
2. educational services
3. residential rentals to the extent provided in the proposed VAT regulations
4. a sale of real property, including land, attributable to a dwelling subject to stamp duty as may be provided in the proposed VAT regulations
5. domestic transportation
6. supply of locally produced agricultural products by the producer
7. a supply of water provided to a residential dwelling for domestic use by the Nevis Island Administration Water Department or the St. Christopher and Nevis Water Services Department
8. supply of the first 100 units of electricity for domestic use
9. daycare services
10. a supply of any goods or services by the State, or Nevis Island Administration if the consideration for the supply is nominal in amount or not intended to recover costs as determined by the Comptroller
11. a supply of an approved charitable organisation, or an association not for gain in connection with a taxable activity, where the consideration for the goods or services is nominal in amount or not intended to recover the cost of such goods or services
12. a supply of religious services by an institution of religious worship
13. services supplied to an offshore business entity and exempt companies registered under the Companies Act No.22 of 1966

Exempt Imports

There are some goods that will be imported into the Federation free of VAT, that is, the Customs and Excise Department will not charge VAT on the importation of these goods. Other import taxes will be applicable. These goods are not normally for re-sale. However, where Customs Officers receive information that the goods have not been used for their intended purpose and are being re-sold, officers would recapture from the original importer the VAT that was not charged on importation.

Government proposes to exempt the following:

ITEMS

1. bona fide unsolicited gifts of food which do not exceed 45 kilograms
2. unconditional gift of goods to an approved charitable organization and not for sale
3. a passenger allowance of $400
4. goods which are shipped or conveyed into St. Christopher and Nevis for transshipment or conveyance to any other country
5. goods imported by St. Christopher and Nevis nationals returning home for permanent residence as may be provided in the proposed VAT regulations
6. containers temporarily imported under Customs Tariff Heading 8609.00
7. items covered by paragraph 10 of the List of Conditional Duty Exemptions of the Common External Tariff of the Caribbean Common Market issued under Schedule 4 of the Customs Duties Act, Ch. 15.04
8. an import of goods if the Comptroller of Customs is satisfied that VAT has previously been paid on the sale or importations of such goods
9. goods temporarily imported into St. Christopher and Nevis to the extent provided in the proposed VAT regulations
10. an import of used goods, not including merchandise, owned by a citizen of St. Christopher and Nevis or a person resident in St. Christopher and Nevis who has died abroad
11. the human remains of a citizen of St. Christopher and Nevis who has died abroad
12. currency notes and coins imported under the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Agreement.

Returns

Every registered taxpayer must file a VAT return for each month on or before the 15th day of the following month. Registered businesses are expected to calculate the tax and submit their payment with their tax return.

The return is to be filed with the Comptroller of Inland Revenue and must be in the prescribed form, stating the information necessary to calculate the tax payable for the period. Returns should be submitted to the St. Christopher or Nevis Inland Revenue offices.

Assessments

VAT is a self-assessed tax. However, the Comptroller of Inland Revenue may make an assessment of the amount of tax payable by the person where a taxable person fails:

- to file a VAT return,
- to submit adequate supporting documents or,
- the Comptroller is not satisfied with the return or import declaration furnished.

Input Tax Credit

Registered businesses will pay VAT on the importation of goods at the Customs and Excise Department. Businesses will also pay VAT on the purchase of goods and services from other businesses. All VAT paid by businesses in respect of their operations for a calendar month is termed as Input VAT.

When businesses file their monthly returns with the Inland Revenue Department they will have the right to deduct the Input VAT which they have paid on their purchases during a particular month. This deduction is referred to as an Input Tax Credit.

However, businesses will not be allowed a deduction for input taxes paid where they do not have a tax invoice evidencing the payment of VAT.

Payments

The VAT payable by a registered taxpayer for a tax period (one month) is the total amount of VAT collected (output tax) by the business in respect of taxable supplies during the month, less the total VAT paid on purchases or imports (input tax) for that month. The due date for the payment of VAT is the same as the due date for filing the VAT return.

In the case of an importer of goods, payment is due at the time of import.

Promoters of public entertainment must pay a security deposit prior to the hosting of the entertainment. The promoter will be allowed to host the entertainment when he has paid the deposit and received the Comptroller's written approval.

Refunds

A credit arises when a taxable person's input tax for a period exceeds his output tax for the same period. The credit will be carried forward to the next tax period and treated as input tax deductible in that period. Any further excess will be carried forward to subsequent periods.

However, if any excess for that period remains after carrying forward as an input tax deductible in four consecutive tax periods, the taxable person may file a claim for a refund for the remaining amount.

Where at least 50% of a taxable person's taxable supplies for a period is taxed at a zero-rate, and the person reports a credit for that period, the person may file a claim for a refund in respect of the excess credit attributable to the zero-rated supplies.

Unless the Comptroller orders an audit for the tax period, interest will be payable on refunds that remain unpaid four months after a refund claim is filed.

Accounting and Records

In this Part, "records" mean accounting records, books, computer-stored information, or any other relevant documents that detail the registrant's business transactions.

The proposed VAT legislation requires every registered person to:

- issue sales invoices
- keep accounts, books and records as prescribed
- produce relevant accounts, books and records whenever and wherever they are required to do so by the Comptroller or a person authorized by him/her
- produce any other information as may be required.

These books and records must be:

- kept in English
- maintained in St. Christopher and Nevis
- retained for 6 years after the end of the tax period to which they relate.

They must contain information that will enable the Comptroller or persons authorized by the Comptroller to determine a taxable person's liabilities and obligations or the amount of refund to which a person is entitled.

The records must be completely up-to-date and must easily relate to the figure shown on the return for each taxable period. The books and records including electronic data to be maintained by registered persons should include the following:

- purchases and sales books
- purchase invoices/import and export documentation
- sales invoices, services billing invoices
- credit and debit notes
- income and expenditure records
- cash register tapes or similar records
- bank statements
- tax invoices
- accounting instructions manuals, and system and programme documentation that describe the accounting systems used Claims for input tax paid must be supported by Customs declarations or approved invoices. Only original invoices will be accepted for purposes of refunds. In the case of sales to non-registered persons, an invoice or a receipt must be issued for each transaction.

Objections and Appeals

The proposed legislation makes provision for a taxable person who is not satisfied with a decision by the Comptroller of Inland Revenue to appeal that decision. The decision to be appealed is termed as an appealable decision under the proposed Act. The objection has to be made to the Comptroller of Inland Revenue within 30 calendar days after notice of the decision has been served. The objection must be in writing, stating precisely the grounds for the objection.

However, except with leave of the Comptroller, a person may not be allowed to object to an assessment unless he has paid 50% of the amount due.

If after receiving the decision on the objection the taxable person is dissatisfied with the results, that person may lodge a notice of appeal with the Appeal Commissioners within 30 calendar days after being served with the notice of the decision.

An appeal may also be filed if the Comptroller has not made a decision on an objection 90 calendar days after the objection was lodged. However, that appeal will only be considered if the Comptroller certifies that the person assessed has paid the tax due under the assessment. The appeal would also be considered if the person is unable to pay the full amount but has given sufficient security for the unpaid tax and the penalty and interest that may become payable.

A person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Appeal Commissioners may within 30 calendar days after being notified of the decision, lodge a notice of appeal with the High Court.

A person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the High Court may appeal to the Court of Appeal and the Court

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may:

• confirm, increase or order the reduction of any assessment

• make such other order as it thinks fit

• make such order as to costs as it thinks fit.

The burden of proving that an assessment is excessive or that a decision of the Comptroller is wrong is on the person objecting to the assessment or decision.

Penalties

Under the proposed VAT legislation there are several penalties including penalties for the following offences:

• failure to register.

• failure to notify the Comptroller of Inland Revenue of change in address or closure of business.

• issuance of false invoices.

• failure to pay.

• failure to file.

• failure to comply with notice for recovery of tax.

• failure to keep proper records.

• failure to comply with notice to give information.

• non-compliance with price quotation requirements.

• making false or misleading statements.

Recovery of Unpaid Taxes

VAT is collected by businesses on behalf of the government. If VAT is collected but not paid to Government, the Comptroller of Inland Revenue would be authorized to recover the amount through garnishment, seizure of property by court action, or through legal proceedings.

The Comptroller of Inland Revenue may also, by order of the court, temporarily close businesses for a period between 3 to 30 days where taxable persons repeatedly violate the provisions with respect to:

• filing of returns

• issuing proper tax invoice

• improperly claiming tax refunds

• impeding tax administration

• failing to pay tax when due.

Treatment of Selected Sectors

Diplomatic Missions and Staff

Diplomatic missions (including offices of international organizations) and their staff who have been accorded duty and tax-free status will continue to be exempt from import duty in respect of goods imported. However, new arrangements for VAT will be implemented for administrative efficiency and to ensure obligations with international agreements are not violated.

In keeping with the underlying principle that VAT must be paid on all transactions except where goods are zero rated or exempted, Diplomatic Missions and staff would be required to pay VAT on local purchases.

Financial Services

Some of the services provided by financial institutions, such as banks and other similar institutions granted licenses under the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, will be exempt

from VAT. This is because of the technical challenges in identifying the value-added on which the tax should be applied. If a Financial Service provider makes a local purchase from a VAT registrant the institution will be required to pay VAT.

Insurance Sector

Insurance companies will be required to charge VAT on all insurance premiums except premiums on life insurance.

Banking Sector

VAT will not be collected on loan or interest payments.

Off Shore International Financial Sector

The supplies of International Business Companies (IBCs) and services supplied to other entities within the offshore sector will be exempt.

Tourism Services

Tourism services, such as spa treatments, gym membership and golf services will be subject to VAT. However, VAT on hotel rooms is proposed to be set at a lower rate after consultations with stakeholders.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

VAT will not be charged on goods sold by farmers but will be paid on purchases they make, except when the goods or services purchased are zero-rated or exempt. However, when agricultural products are sold in the formal sector (such as the supermarkets) they become subject to the VAT.

The reasons for exempting the Agricultural Sector are as follows:

• most agricultural producers would most likely be below the threshold and do not follow normal business practices.

• their location and size of operation make them difficult to monitor.

• the peculiar nature of their operations makes it difficult to match taxable sales with taxed expenses and the administrative cost of doing so would be prohibitive

• agricultural production is predominantly basic foods, which based upon the Government's policy, should not be subjected to tax.

Real Property

Land transactions are not subject to VAT since they are already taxable under the Stamp Duty Act.

Education

Education services are exempt from VAT. This means that education establishments will pay tax on taxable goods and services purchased, but will not charge tax on the services they provide.

Exports

The general principle is that exports should be free of domestic taxes so that they remain competitive on the external market. That is, no taxes will be paid on goods or services exported.

A registered business involved in the export of taxable goods is entitled to claim a credit for all taxes paid by it in the production of the goods and services to be exported from the Federation at the time the export is made. The draft VAT Act provides for major exporters to receive their refund in a much shorter period than other businesses.

In contrast, VAT would be collected on goods and services sold locally and any VAT paid on inputs into the production of such supplies will be credited against the amount of tax to be charged on sales.

Small Businesses

Businesses whose turnover falls below the proposed threshold, an amount between $100,000 -

$150,000, would not be required to register for VAT. Small businesses would pay VAT on their purchases and not be permitted to charge VAT on their sales.

A small business who sells to other registered businesses may find it beneficial to register under the VAT so that the registered VAT businesses will benefit for tax credits in respect of tax charged on their purchases. If the small business is not registered, it breaks the VAT chain, and any businesses purchasing from an unregistered small business will not be able to claim credits for tax paid by the registered business in earlier transactions.

Small businesses will be allowed to apply for registration under VAT; however, these businesses must satisfy certain bookkeeping and other requirements. The Comptroller of Inland Revenue reserves the right to approve or not approve the application for registration.

If the small business becomes registered, it will be treated in the same way as other registered businesses. The Inland Revenue Department will provide assistance to small businesses not registered for VAT as part of its advisory visit campaign.

Businesses Enjoying Fiscal Incentives

Businesses that have already been granted licenses under the Fiscal Incentives Act or the Hotels

Aid Ordinance will continue to enjoy import duty and income tax exemptions in accordance with their licenses.

However, based upon the underlying principle that VAT must be paid on all transactions except where goods are zero rated or exempted.

These businesses will be required to register and collect VAT on taxable sales, pay VAT on their imports and domestic purchases and file a tax return monthly.

The VAT paid on their imports and domestic purchases (input tax) will be credited against VAT collected on sales.

Transitional Issues

The proposed VAT legislation makes provision for transitional arrangements in regards to VAT.

The transitional section of the proposed Act provides measures to combat instances of price hikes not associated with VAT and establishes the ground rules for the treatment of certain transactions caught in the period of transitioning to VAT.

As mentioned before, it is intended that a VAT in St. Christopher and Nevis would replace a wide range of existing taxes including Consumption Tax. Therefore, at the time of the introduction of VAT, businesses will hold inventories whose value includes payments of Consumption Tax under the old regime. This will result in a temporary cascading of the VAT, as its value would include Consumption Tax. Businesses would be encouraged to deplete their stocks or utilize bonded warehouses prior to the implementation date.

Implementation

The implementation process for the introduction of a VAT has a number of key components:

• Enactment of VAT and Excise Tax legislation.

• Publicity, public consultation and education.

• Strengthening staffing and organization, including systems and procedures.

• Registration and training of taxpayers.

• Training of technical staff

Publicity, Public Consultation and Education

The introduction of VAT, like any other substantial change, needs to be explained to the public to avoid uncertainty to potential taxable persons and the general public. Hence government will implement programs to:

• Consult adequately with the business community and the general public.

• Publicize the change in the tax regime adequately and in a timely manner.

• Provide information to all the interested stakeholders.

A Tax Reform Unit within the Inland Revenue Department was established and it is expected to conduct workshops and seminars targeted at specific interest groups of businesses that may be eligible for registration and individuals. The team will also be engaged in advisory visits to taxable persons. The team will also be available to meet with members of the general public to answer any questions and/or concerns that they may have.

Registration and Training

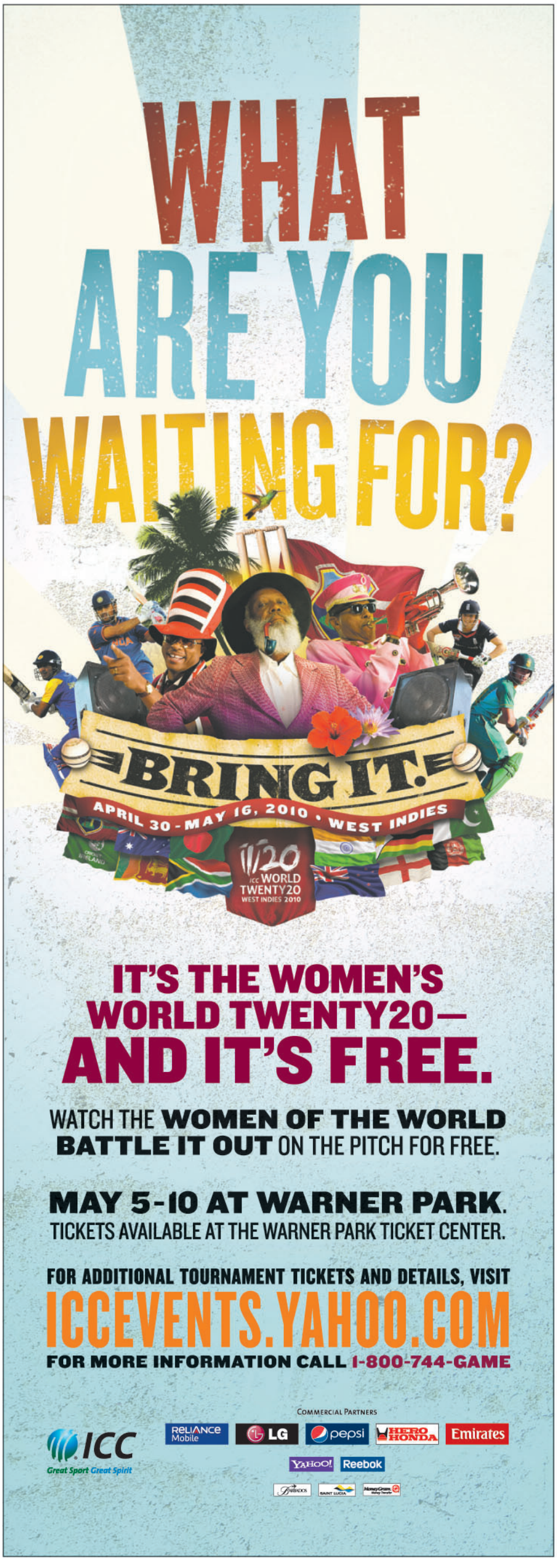
The Inland Revenue Department and the Customs and Excise Department will identify the potential VAT and Excise taxpayers and provide them with assistance during the registration process. All taxable persons will be required to comply with the bookkeeping requirements.

They will be guided through public education sessions and advisory visits.

Training and assistance will also be provided to professionals, sole traders and partnerships.

Conclusion

The proposed VAT should be seen as an opportunity to completely reform the existing tax structure. It is envisioned that it will simplify and improve the efficiency in the tax system thereby encouraging voluntary compliance amongst taxpayers. We seek the support of all and welcome any suggestions to realize the successful implementation of VAT in the Federation.



Renowned American Pop-Star Joins the Line-Up of Performers for the 14th Annual Music Festival

Basseterre, St. Kitts (April 23, 2010) – Ten-time Grammy winner, singer, producer, and songwriter Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds is the first international super-star to sign on to perform at the 14th Annual St. Kitts Music Festival, which will take place on the island from June 24-26, 2010.

Kenny Edmonds began playing in the local R&B scene as a teenager growing up in Indianapolis, Indiana as a member of Bootsy Collins' funk group, where he earned his nickname "Babyface." He then joined the funk outfit Manchild, which secured a record deal and released three albums in the late 1970's. After their breakup, Edmonds partnered with Antonio "L.A." Reid in the early 80's and formed the urban funk group called The Deele which recorded notable hits on the R&B charts. Edmonds and Reid began producing and writing for other artists, landing hits in Pebbles' "Girlfriend" and the Whispers' "Rock Steady". The pair co-founded the LaFace label in 1989 and further hits followed in Bobby Brown's "Every Little Step," Johnny Gill's "My, My, My," (nominated for the Best R&B Song Grammy), Whitney Houston's "I'm Your Baby Tonight", and Madonna's "Take a Bow." Edmonds biggest success came in 1992 with Boyz II Men, whose recording of "End of the Road" became one of the longest-running number ones in pop history. Kenny was co-nominated for an Album of the Year Grammy for his production on "The Bodyguard" soundtrack and went on to work with artists Celine Dion, Mariah Carey, Gladys Knight, Aretha Franklin, En Vogue, Mary J. Blige, Toni Braxton, TLC, OutKast, and Usher to name a few. In 1993, Edmonds released his 2nd solo album "For the Cool in You" which went triple platinum and producing his first Top Five pop hit, "When Can I See You Again," and won his first Grammy as a performer for Best Male R&B Vocal.

Throughout his career, Edmonds impeccably crafted explorations of love, romance and relationships have made an indelible imprint on the evolution of contemporary pop music throughout the world with over 125 Top-10 R&B and Pop hits, 42 #1's R&B hits, and 51 Top-10 Pop hits (including 16 #1's). He is the recipient of numerous awards, including Soul Train Music Awards, BMI Awards, NAACP Image Awards, and American Music Awards. Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds was the recipient of the third BET Walk of Fame Award (previous honorees were Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston), and was named BET's "Entertainer of the Year" at the First Annual BET Awards Ceremony. He will receive a star on Hollywood's legendary Walk of Fame in Feb. 2011 and is currently in the studio working on new material for his next solo album, due for release in late 2010.

"I am truly excited about being a part of a very exceptional Music Festival!," stated Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds. This will be my first visit to St Kitts and I am looking forward to exploring as much of the island as time will allow, experiencing the unique Kittitian hospitality and performing for everyone at the Festival."

"We are thrilled to announce Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds' participation in our 14th Annual St Kitts Music Festival," said Senator Ricky Skerritt, Minister of Tourism & International Transport. "Kenny has had an undeniable presence in virtually every major facet of pop music for over the past three decades and his performance will reinforce the musical variety that has made the St Kitts Music Festival outstanding."

Now in its 14th consecutive year, the festival attracts both locals and visitors alike. It features various musical styles on the popular market, including R&B, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Reggae, Soca, Calypso, Gospel and Contemporary music. Past artists have included such prominent acts as John Legend, T-Pain, Michael Bolton, K.C. and the Sunshine Band, Wyclef Jean, Ne-Yo, Air Supply, Dionne Warwick, Billy Ocean, Kenny Rogers, Boyz II Men, King Konris, Stephen Marley, Regina Belle, Maxi Priest, and Lord Nelson.

Music lovers from the US and Canada can get to St. Kitts via non-stop service on American Airlines from New York (JFK) or Miami, on Delta Air Lines from Atlanta, and on US Airways from Charlotte as well as via connecting service through San Juan on American Eagle or via flights on regional carrier Liat from Antigua. Canadian visitors can connect via select US gateways. From the UK, British Airways operates direct flights from London Gatwick airport on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Located in the northern Leeward Islands of the Caribbean, St. Kitts offers a diverse tourism product developed from the destination's natural beauty, cultural heritage and rich history. The island's stunning variety of tourism attractions include hiking through the tropical rainforest, riding the Caribbean's only scenic passenger railway, visiting the Caribelle Batik factory, touring Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park (an UNESCO World Heritage Site), and traditional vacation pastimes such as watersports, golf, shopping, tennis, gourmet dining, gaming at one of St. Kitts' two casinos or simply relaxing on one of the island's sandy beaches. Accommodations range from intimate plantation inns to larger hotels or resorts.

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Dr. Harris calls on St. Kitts and Nevis to embrace aquaculture

Dr Timothy Harris (left) listens attentively as Dr Barrington Brown gives an update on St. Kitts and Nevis Aquaculture Pilot Project and Environmental Research (SNAPPER). On the right is Senior Fisheries Officer, Joseph Simmonds.

BASSETERRE ST. KITTS (April 25, 2010) — Senior Minister with responsibility for Marine Resources, Dr Timothy Harris, has said that while the sea is providing less fish resources than other avenues like aquaculture, St. Kitts and Nevis has a head start in the area of fish farming.

"Fishing under manmade controlled circumstances relative to fishing being conducted in the open natural environment has been the fastest growing area over the last ten years in terms of fisheries output," reported Dr Harris.

The Senior Minister made the observation after a visit, last week, to the Conaree Beach-based St. Kitts and Nevis Aquaculture Pilot Project and Environmental Research (SNAPPER), where he concluded that in another ten years more fish would be had from aquaculture and other related types of environment than from the natural sea, lakes and other kinds of water bodies.

Accompanied by the Senior Fisheries Officer, Joseph Simmonds, Minister Harris was on an invitation to tour the project, his first since taking over the Marine Resources docket, by the project coordinator and chief operating officer, Dr Barrington Brown. The project has been ongoing since 1999.

"I want to firstly commend him (Dr Brown) for the initiative he has taken in getting into a hitherto untried area of operation," said Minister Harris. "This adds an interesting dimension to our marine outlook in that largely we have in the main been involved primarily in sea fishing and the development of aquaculture has not yet taken off in St. Kitts."

Dr Barrington Brown watches as fisheries officer attached to SNAPPER, Samuel Hyliger, casts the nets.

Dr Barrington Brown (centre) shows Dr Harris (right) and Simmonds some of the fish ponds.

He recalled that in the past there were efforts in the Canada area of St. Kitts to start a shrimp farm, which did not succeed. But with Dr Brown's research into fresh water fish (tilapia) farming in brackish water has given St. Kitts a head start, saying it is academically interesting as it provides a new way of looking at knowledge, and a new way of applying technology.

"It is important that St. Kitts and Nevis at least has a head start in that particular technology in that particular approach, because following the global pattern in the end it appears that this is where the world will get its greatest spool of fish resources and we want to be integrated into that particular approach," said Dr Harris.

He said that his Ministry would have to look into its incentive mechanisms to see how it would be able to get more people of the Barrington Brown type to become involved with fishing. He explained that these would have to be people who have a certain level of preparedness, maturity, interest and knowledge to allow for ongoing self interested research, a lot of which Dr Brown has done to be able to provide the kind of stable leadership over an entity such as SNAPPER.

Accordingly he revealed that the government has been very helpful to the venture at Conaree, as it have made available the services of one of its more experienced officers at the Fisheries Unit, Samuel Hyliger, to that particular project.

"I left there very satisfied, even more interested as to the prospects for aquaculture in St. Kitts and Nevis and wanting to see what more we can do to sustain ventures like that to help them grow and develop into profitable ventures," pointed out Dr Harris.

The Minister observed that Dr Barrington Brown has found some degree of interest coming from abroad which he said speaks to the potential for growth, not only domestically but beyond the domestic market and if that can grow, then the country could develop in years to come, a sustainable and prosperous aquaculture industry, that would also earn foreign exchange.

"We are going to add to the level of employment and employment opportunities for people in the country and hopefully as we do all these things we are also improving on the human resources of the country especially skills that such an operation would require, could be developed over time and be made available for ongoing use of these particular entities," added Minister Harris.

April 2010 wettest on Nevis in 12 years; Water Department reiterates call for conservation

Manager of the Nevis Water Department Mr. George Morris (file photo)

CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (April 26, 2010) — Chief of Air Traffic Services on Nevis Mr. Daron Sutton, told the Department of Information on Monday, that April 2010 has been the wettest ever recorded since the Met Office at the Airport in Newcastle began its Air Traffic Control/MET operations in 1998.

"This April has been the wettest April so far. Rainfall as of today 26th [April, 2010] is 169.3 mm. The second wettest April was in 2005 with 104.1mm," he said.

According to Mr. Sutton, rainfall totals for 2010 to date was 240.4 mm. The average monthly rainfall for the year so far was 60.1 mm. Two thousand and nine was the driest year with an average monthly rainfall of 58.93 mm. It has been recorded as the driest year to date with a total of 707.1 mm of rain, whereas the highest rainfall was in 2004 with 1619.4 mm.

Meantime, General Manager of the Nevis Water Department Mr. George Morris said though Nevis had enjoyed a weekend of much rainfall (38.1mm according to statistics from the Met Office at the airport in Newcastle), after a prolonged drought since November 2009, there was need for continued conservation.

"I would want to say that we still have to use precaution because we are doing much better than a month ago but I would still like to echo the sentiments of conservation. It is not because we are seeing water in abundance right now, [we have to] remember where we came from within a couple of months.

"The emphasis is on conservation, we should still try to conserve water. When we have more water from our surface springs, we would take less from ground water sources. We get a lot of wastage in schools and public buildings" he said.

The Water Official said a representative from the Department was slated to attend a drought management conference in St. Lucia from May 27-28. He said the Caribbean Basin Initiative Management Project in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank would sponsor the conference on the topic "Drought Management Issues, Challenges and Lessons for the Caribbean Water utilities".

Notwithstanding, Mr. Morris explained that the weekend's rains had a positive impact on the island's water resources as a result of reduced consumption. He said there was less need for portable water therefore, there was a lessened demand on the Department's wells even for a short period of time.

He said during the drought their three water sources - the Nevis Peak Source, the Camps Springs and the Maddens Source – were flowed at maximum capacity.

In addition, Mr. Morris noted that the larger pipes placed in the areas of Fothergills along with the rains helped to alleviate shutting off the water supply at nights in some areas. The work that was done at Golden Rock helped the department to move a greater volume of water from Fothergills to Stoney Hill also assisted.

Heavy rains at Pinneys on the Nevis Island Main Road (file photo)

YOUTH ACTIVITY CLIMAXES WITH JUBILANT MARCH

Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 23, 2010 (SKNIS): Activities for the local celebration of Global Youth Service Day climaxed today (April 23) with a march through the streets of Basseterre.

Students from several primary and secondary schools joined with youth partners, and representatives from the local CARICOM Youth Ambassador Programme as well as staff of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment to raise the awareness of the public towards the importance of volunteerism and youth involvement.

"It was good. I really enjoyed the march," said one student. Another noted that "she has never heard of the international commemoration but felt it was important to take part in the march to highlight the positives performed by a large majority of young people in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The students of the Cayon High School clearly felt the spirit as they led the march with clapping and singing.

"I'm very satisfied with the support that we received for this week's activities," Director of Youth Geoffrey Hanley said at the end of the march. "We asked the children the question: 'How will they be able to change the world?' And we're talking about the globe, as well as their own individuality in terms of their attitude and what they can do to make a change in their lives and the life of others."

Mr. Hanley told SKNIS that the group planted several trees at Fortlands in Basseterre before the start of the march. During this week, they also delivered care baskets to the Joseph N. France Hospital and the Cardin Home, tidied Cockle Shell Beach and painted a public bathroom at St. Johnson's Village. Local entrepreneur Ashley Allers was moved by the volunteer service and donated several cans of paint to apply a paint border on the bottom of the bathroom walls.

"I must say a special thank you to all the persons that participated or contributed to this year's celebration, the Youth Director said. He paid tribute to staff members Diane Dunrod Francis and Rudell Williams for organizing the activities. He also thanked businessman and youth activist Khrystus Wallace for delivering a rousing empowerment-themed speech to the marchers who gathered at Independence Square.

Wallace encouraged the participants to remain positive, work hard and believe in themselves.

Local activities for Global Youth Service Day conclude with worship on Sunday, April 25, at the Zion Moravian Church. The April 23 to 25 international observance takes place in 100 countries and is organized for youth to identify and address the needs of their communities; organizations to provide opportunities for youth engagement; and media and policy makers to promote awareness of young people as assets and resources to their communities.

African Grammy Award winner to perform in St. Kitts

BASSETERRE ST. KITTS (April 26, 2010) — Ivorian singer, dancer and percussionist Dobet Gnahoré will be in concert in St. Kitts on the evening of Thursday May 13 at the Blue Martin at the St. Kitts Marriott, thanks to Alliance Française of St. Kitts and Nevis and other sponsors. Proceeds from the concert will go towards earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

In making the announcement on Friday April 23, Rita Schneider, Director of Alliance Française of St. Kitts and Nevis noted that Dobet Gnahoré of Ivory Coast in West Africa, and American India Arie, in February won a 2010 Grammy Award in the category "Best Urban/Alternative Performance for solo, duo, group or collaborative performances with vocals" for the song 'Pearls' inspired by the Dobet Gnahoré's track 'Palea', from her second album 'Na Afriki'.

"I am happy to get to come to St. Kitts a musician of such caliber," said Schneider. "It is the first time we are having an artiste from Africa, and it is really refreshing as she will bring a new blend, and different styles of music. I urge all music lovers to come out and experience an evening of compelling performances of modern-traditional African music blends and dance."

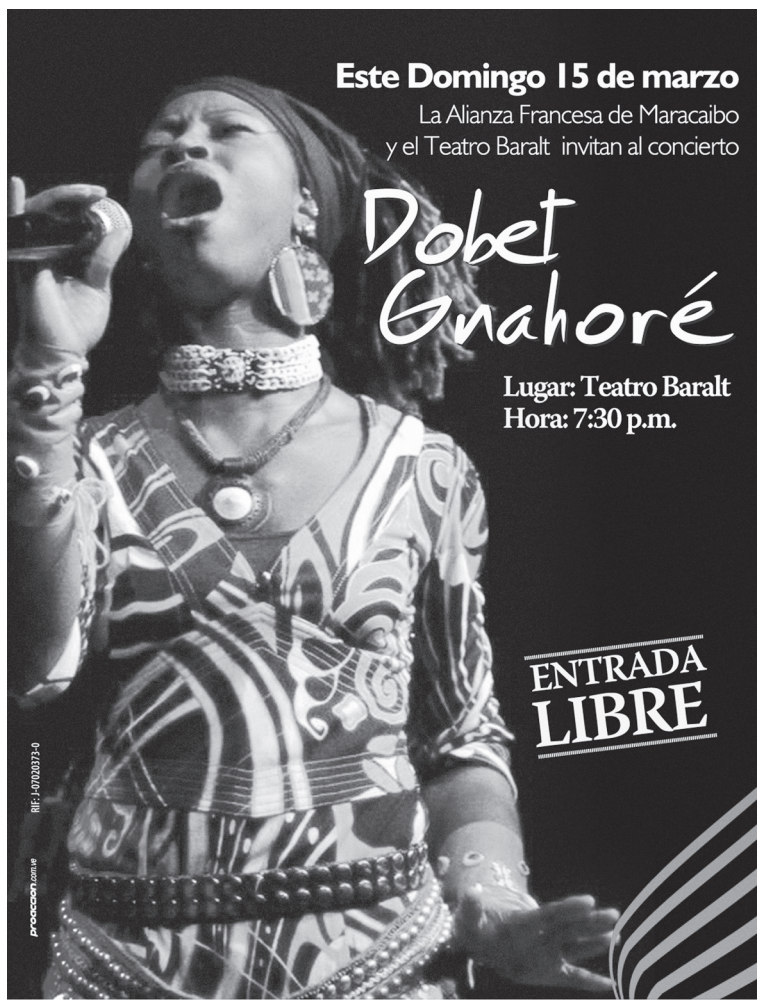
Director of Alliance Française of St. Kitts and Nevis, Rita Schneider (left) and office assistant Kelly Jeetlall review posters advertising Dobet Gnahoré's forthcoming visit to St. Kitts.

The singer who is also being sponsored by the (French) General Delegation of St. Lucia, Frigate Bay Resort, WINN FM 98.9, ZIZ Broadcasting Corporation, St. Kitts Bottling Company, Air Caraibes, and Harper's Office Depot, will perform in St. Kitts only one night, following her performance at the St. Lucia Jazz Festival.

Dobet Gnahoré, who is widely travelled, inherited the force of the "Bété" tradition from her father, Boni Gnahoré, a master percussionist who plays with the Abidjan-based Ki-Yi Mbock Company, directed by Werewere Liking.

It was within this Ivory Coast-based company that Dobet met French guitarist Colin Laroche de Féline, who went there to immerse himself in African melodies and rhythms, after being introduced to them by Toroma Sika in France.

Director of Alliance Française of St. Kitts and Nevis, Rita Schneider, is appealing to all residents to make a date with the Ivorian singer, who will give them their money's worth even as they raise funds for the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. "Thursday May 13 is a day not to be missed. Tickets are available from the Alliance Française of St. Kitts and Nevis offices in Greenland."



An image of Dobet Gnahoré as portrayed by a poster issued last year on her visit to Venezuela.

LIFELINES

"LifeLines is a monthly column dedicated to addressing issues of mental, behavioural, and social health. The column appears on the 1st weekend of the month, and is written by professionals in the field of social work, mental health, and community medicine".

Dealing with Grief and Loss

Death – and the subsequent feeling of grief that accompanies the loss, is an aspect of our lives that we cannot escape, and a facet of life that is important to understand. Helping people deal with loss and grief is often neglected, because loved ones, friends and otherwise well-intentioned persons, who are keen on helping the grieving person 'get through' the torment that is the experience of grieving, erroneously try to do everything possible to erase the object of grief from the person's mind.

While the intention is an altruistic one, formulated to guide the grieving individual back to a life of "normalcy" and "moving on" as quickly as possible, forcing an individual through such a necessary process without allowing for due process to occur can make the grieving process more difficult, harder to navigate, and more unlikely to ever have the possibility of reaching closure so that life could in fact, go on. This article will look at some issues of grief and loss and seek to enhance people's understanding of the process, so that persons giving support to grieving loved ones can do so with sensitivity and respect.

The Time Frame of Grief- The time frame allotted to the grieving process is as unique and specific to an individual, as a person's features are specific and unique to him. No two people are alike! There is no magic time period by which a person should "be over it", nor is there an arbitrary time line on which a person travels that automatically transitions him from 'grieving' to 'healed in an instant'. The time frame for dealing with grief is personally determined and includes, but is not limited to, factors like personality, personal coping skills, outside support, traumatic vs. natural loss, ability to "prepare" for the loss, personal spiritual beliefs and spiritual support, to name a few.

The implication here is that there must be overt respect and sensitivity shown to the grieving individual, allowing him the comfort of knowing that others understand his need to get through grief at his own pace, and in his own time. That acknowledged freedom alone is significant, for it allows him the ability to sort out his sorrow in the way that is relevant to him, so that an eventual move towards healing could occur.

The Manifestation of Grief- In the same way that the time line allotted to personal grieving is internally driven, so too is the way that grief presents itself, and that must be acknowledged with respect. No broad brush could paint a common picture of how a person deals with the death of a loved one. Many have experienced anecdotal stories of comparison suggesting that a person be more like "so and so", who "is not crying anymore, so [I] don't understand why she doesn't stop crying by now".

Grieving individuals manifest their grief differently. One individual may need to have quiet time to reflect on the loved one on a daily basis; another may cry frequently; yet another may pick up and carry on with the outward normalcy of life in quick time, and yet another may have difficulty in speaking the person's name out loud. One may engage in looking at pictures and touching possessions of the deceased, and yet another may immediately seek to remove their loved one's personal possessions (like clothes) from the home so that they could try to continue with their life.

One act does not signal more or less love or caring than the other! It is simply what it is – the fact that in processing the pain of grief, each person must be aware of and comfortable with the road he must take in order to reframe a life that had been disrupted by the event of a death. As persons supporting people in their grief, this must be known and understood.

The two issues presented above account for a tiny part of the vast discussion on the complexity of grief and the way it impacts individuals suffering from loss. However, in the same way that we must understand people's personal and individual response to processing death, it is just as important to highlight similarities among things that impact people at all times.

Anniversaries and "firsts"

Anniversaries and "firsts" will always have the ability to jolt the individual (no matter how well adjusted they may appear) into the painful remembrance of the loss and how much it still impacts them. The first outing to a special place; the first Christmas, birthday, anniversary; the first time the bereaved has to call the deceased' name; the first time hearing a song that he enjoyed; the first time eating his favourite food – these all have the potential to bring a fresh wave of pain with which the individual has to deal. Supportive onlookers often pay special care to understanding the pain that the bereaved person experiences at "special" occasions, like birthdays or Christmases, but it is rarely recognized that the grieving individual experiences a series of "firsts" almost on a daily basis, and that even though they may appear to be minor, their impact on the bereaved is just as powerful.

Dealing with a loved one who is grieving is difficult to experience, and even more difficult to facilitate because of the natural instinct we have to move people away from pain and into happiness. However, if we remember that grieving is a natural process that is deeply personal and individual to people, and if we develop a level of comfort in letting that individual manifestation reveal itself, then we would be doing a great deal in helping grief move from extreme pain into a level of healing.

Submitted by Michele de la Coudray-Blake
Director – Counselling
Ministry of Social Development

AIRLINE SERVICES LTD.

Relocation Notice

The TDC Airline Services Limited and TDC Flamboyant Tours Limited hereby inform the general public that the **Administrative and Accounting Departments** will be relocated to a new office on Central Street, Basseterre, upstairs the TDC Downtown Plaza from **Tuesday 4th May 2010.**

The **Western Union and Reservations Departments** will remain at the current location on West Independence Square Street.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused and look forward to continue serving our Customers/Clients even better.

How Is Your Self Esteem?

(Cont'd)

Insight 4: The Power of Respect

Self esteem and self respect are intimately connected. One is an integral part of the other. One is not possible without the other. Unfortunately, learning how to respect ourselves is not usually part of our education curricula. This is why our relationships are so difficult, filled with conflict, often abuse, and certainly the frequent breakdown in communication. The root reason for all these symptoms of inner and outer disharmony is a lack of self respect. Even though the other person is throwing all their negative energy at us, if we can maintain our own self respect we will be able to remain stable, positive and unaffected. In fact, if our self respect is strong, we will not feel the need to return tit for tit but we will be able to return understanding and compassion instead.

So how do we restore, build and strengthen our self respect. One way is to practice giving respect to others - no matter what they are like, or what they do. To give respect to another human being is the foundation stone of that relationship. What we seldom realize is that in the process of respecting another, we are first of all respecting ourselves. We are the first to receive it on the way out. We tend to think the other person exists 'out there' quite separate from us. They do, but they also exist in our own minds. So when we give respect to others we are creating respect within ourselves for our self. In the giving of respect we build our own self respect in the process.

For Reflection: What do you think is the biggest inner barrier to developing the ability to give respect to others? What does showing respect look like?

Insight 5: Self Worth is True Worth

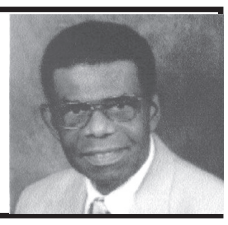
If you base your sense of self worth on your position, income and possessions, you will not have real self esteem. All of these things are transient, they come and go, sometimes at the most unexpected moments. This is why almost all of us have a self esteem issue. We are all taught by our society, which is now a global society, that worth is measured by rank, quantity of possessions and the amount of monetary income. However, such belief leads to inevitable sorrow and unhappiness. Witness the worker or manager on the end of the down-sizing of their organization/company and their inevitable redundancy or early retirement. Suddenly, after a lifetime of stability, their employment and income are totally lost and they are spiraling into despair, and in some cases even contemplating suicide. What is the reason for this? They have allowed their self esteem to be defined by their work, their capabilities at work, their salary level and other achievements through working at that place.

For Refection: If real wealth is not money nor possessions, what is real wealth?

Meditation Centre:
Taylors Village,
Tel. 466 2550 or 661 0933

VIEW POINT

BY
V. E. INNISS



The salt of the earth

I invite you to examine with me the words spoken by our Lord thousands of years ago. "Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour, where with shall it be salted? It is hence forth good for nothing, but to be cast our and to be trodden under the foot of men" (Matthew 5:13).

Our Lord's expression "Salt that has lost its flavour" is a chilling and frightening indictment. As we all know sodium chloride (salt) is a stable compound and does not lose its saltiness.

Most supply of salt in Palestine those days came from the Dead Sea where other minerals and sand were mixed with it inadvertently or otherwise. The salt could dissolve in time leaving a useless, tasteless compound that was good for nothing.

The paradox here is that the same element that was intended to penetrate and permeate with Christian values and transform our environment and society could lose its savour causing onlookers to stumble.

No wonder Paul warned young Timothy to be extra careful in his walk and talk if he was to be influential in a positive manner. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2Tim 2:4). The operative word is "entangleth" which means "to become embroiled", or worse yet, to have your conscience "searched" with a hot iron" thus losing your Christian conviction and influence for Christ. We should always remember that Christ left us, that we should follow His steps." (1 Peter 2:21).

If readers had found the time to read the text given earlier they would have noticed that I stopped short of mentioning a significant cocktail blend of "light and yeast" that is designed for the good of society. Note our Lord's words "ye are the light of the world" (v 14) more about that subject next week. Suffice it to say, as individuals, more so Christians, we are expected to be a positive and necessary force and influence in a democracy.

SALT – ITS HISTORY

Here is a bird's eye view. Salt is rightly included by Ben Sira among the things "basic to all the things in man's life". The Hebrews of the Southern Kingdom at least had access to inexhaustible stores of salt, both in the waters of the Dead Sea and elsewhere.

In addition to its daily use as a condiment in the preparation of food observer what Job said. "Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? (Job 6:6). These days medical practitioners advise us to be careful how we use it.

Salt also had an important place in the sacrificial ritual, and was employed by the Hebrews in an even greater variety of ways than it is among ourselves. In other tractates of the Mishnah we find frequent references to the use of salt for preserving fish, for pickling olives, vegetables etc.

In the developed priestly legislation, there can be little doubt that the presence of salt had a symbolic significance. From its use as a preservative reflected in our Lord's figure "You are the salt of the earth" (Matth 5:13) and as an antidote to decay, it is natural that salt had become a symbol of permanence and even of life as opposed to death and decay.

In marked contrast as a symbol of life stands its parallel occurrence as a symbol of barrenness, desolation and death. (Read Deuteronomy 29:23).

SALT – ITS INFLUENCE

It would be wise for all of us to carefully study this quotation by de Tocqueville. He wrote "Once religion is mixed with the bitter passions of the world, it cannot avoid losing its influence. The church cannot share the temporal power of the state without being the object of a portion of that animosity which the latter excites".

As Christians we are called upon to be Salt penetrating a rotten world. There is no doubt that we are living in a reeling, perishing, staggering, decaying and collapsing world. Edmund Burke once remarked "All that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing." It means that as Christians we have a moral obligation to be involved positively in world and community affairs.

Our platform ought to be in accordance with what is set out in Timothy's words "I exhort therefore that first of all supplications and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

The ability to ensure justice, peace and an open door for the gospel is what we should look for as we work together to build our beloved nation.

Finally, it is worth knowing that the doctrine of the Gospel is also a Salt because it is penetrating to the extent that it reaches the heart. Furthermore, it is cleansing, it is relishing and preserves from putrefaction.

Whether we take a macro or micro look at the manifestation of sin in our community or the world, we see for sure, that sin manifests itself in evil, in oppression, in injustice, in jealousy, in rivalry, in hate and poverty.

The basic Christian values are the extact opposite – healing, reconciling, encouraging, feeding the poor, visiting the sick and the prisoners. As salt we have the Message of Good News that indeed God has dealt with the forces of injustice and evil through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Youth Outreach
Dance Ministry /School of Dance

Notice

The Youth Outreach Dance Ministry /School of Dance cordially invites the general public to its

Pre-Mother's Day Dance Galore

on Sunday 2nd, May 2010 at the Old Girl's School, Victoria Road starting a 5:30 pm.

Special appearances by the Rising Son, Divine Praise Dancers, George Moody Stuart School Dancers, The Passion of Dance by Tawana Rawlins and much, much more.

Come and be blessed by our young and talented singers and dancers

Special fare for the first 1-0 mothers who arrived at this prestigious event.

Refreshments will be on sale

Support this worthy cause

GENERAL HOSPITAL CONNECTS WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 23, 2010 (SKNIS): The new Hospital Information System (HIS) was described at a technical milestone because it enables computerization of the hospital records and billing system, when it was launched last Thursday (April 22).

Director of Technology Wesley Wharton said that the introduction of the technology heralds new efficiencies and completely modernizes the way in which the Ministry of Health and the Joseph N. France (JNF) Hospital manages interactions with the many patients that utilize the health services.

"This is a remarkable achievement for St. Kitts and Nevis, as this capability is in comparison, not yet available even in some developed countries," Mr. Wharton enthused. "The Technology Department with the support of our Taiwan partners has been able to put together a system which manages the patients' records throughout the patients' visit to the hospital and makes for greater efficiency in patient care."

Mr. Wharton noted that this is just the beginning of such technology in patient care. He said that future accomplishments should be the inclusion of all local hospitals in the HIS.

The Director of Technology also mentioned that a pilot programme had been introduced to the nurses at JNF, which guided them in the use of hand held devices such as the iPhone and Blackberry in order to access websites with updated medical information including drug interaction, doses and technologies for remote patient monitoring.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Mr. Elvis Newton commended the JNF Staff for their diligent involvement in the development of the technology and acknowledged the Republic of China (Taiwan), The Cable and the Staff of the Department of Technology. He explained how the project began as a result of a World Bank funded HIV/AIDS project.

"Its intention then was to get an entire Health Information System to serve the entire health sector, but on the four different occasions, based on the consultancies that were done, the Ministry was advised that we needed US$800,000 to develop the system," Mr. Newton stated. The project did not countenance that cost, so we had to turn to the Republic of China (Taiwan), to ensure firstly, the development of the appropriate technology, then also we had to turn to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Ministry of Sustainable Development to secure the funding."

Resident Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) His Excellency Rong Chuan Wu said that the HIS is an excellent example of effective collaboration.

"The international ICT corporation is not easy, because it not only involves technology but it involves knowing the mentality and culture," His Excellency Wu noted. "For the last two years I have learnt that the process in not easy but finally we are going to harvest the results. So let me recommend and congratulate all the parties involved."

Minister responsible for Technology Honourable Glenn Phillip, said that he was pleased with the process.

"It is therefore essential that the medical staff properly utilize this wonderful tool to realize the resulting benefits to be derived when ICTs are applied to support existing process and also to ensure that our citizens obtain the improved service that they richly deserve," Minister Phillip said.

Minister responsible for Health Honourable Marcella Liburd said that it was important to use the opportunity to ensure efficient and effective service to the general public.

"Despite the financial and other challenges that we are going through, at this time, the government had great input in what we are witnessing today," Minister Liburd emphasized. "The government was responsible for the equipment, and I understand that it is state-of-the-art. We collaborated with the Republic of China (Taiwan), who were responsible for the technology and training in collaboration with the Department of Technology."

Minister Liburd said that Ambassador Wu had noted that St. Kitts was a leader in Technology and she stated that this would not have been possible with the assistance from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Venezuela offers higher level training for YES Programme students

Glenn Phillip: Minister of Youth Empowerment.

BASSETERRE ST. KITTS (April 27, 2010) — Federal Minister of Youth Empowerment, Glenn Phillip, while dispelling rumours that the Youth Empowerment through Skills (YES) Programme is to be disbanded, on Monday April 26 announced that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has offered further skills training opportunities for the programme's students in that country.

"That is a component of the YES programme which we have not utilised as yet," said Phillip. "We will be sending some of our students to Venezuela to further their skills training. Taking them to the South American country is going to be like an upper level portion of the Youth Empowerment through Skills (YES) Programme training."

He pointed out that the Venezuelans are willing to take in students who will be exposed to computer, hospitality and other types of training disciplines within the YES Programme. They will not be going to Venezuela to do anything different from what they are currently but will be an extension of what they are doing, he stressed, only at a higher level.

While he did not divulge the number of students who will go to Venezuela, Minister Phillip observed that evaluation will be done to determine those students best suited to take up the training. The YES Programme will shortly embark on certification of the students already in the programme because the government does not want to send persons who are not qualified.

As to when the students will go to the South American country, Minister Phillip said: "We are working with the Venezuelans. They are ready for our students and right now it is up to us whenever we are ready and that is why I feel so strongly that certification has to be done, and this will be in a few weeks' time."

Following the swearing in of the new St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party-led government after the January 25 Federal elections, the YES Programme was put under the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, and Minister Phillip has said that the programme is transitioning to a higher level by being reformed in some aspects now that it has been running for one year since its launch.

"First of all we are making sure that the persons who attend the YES Programme and who have qualified are certified to ensure that at the end of the day it is not like a walk in the park," he observed. "The students are basically going through classes, learning skills and thereafter they will get certificates that they will be able to use throughout the Federation."

Disbandment of the YES Programme is not on the agenda at this point in time, he said. He however pointed out that some of the courses that persons attended have matured and noted that with some little tweaking, especially considering the harsh economic times that are still facing the nation, the government is making sure that after they have graduated from the programme they are not left on their own.

"We make sure that they do not exceed one year within the programme, so that they do not use it as a job per se," clarified the Minister. "It is really a six-month skills training programme but we try and assist in those matters. We assess the situation if they cannot get a job and we try to get them back in the programme and train them for another six months in another discipline and by that time they should be able to matriculate to do their work."

The other component the government has put in place to ensure a holistic approach to youth empowerment in the country is that within the YES Programme, persons who are interested in entrepreneurship, the Saint Kitts and Nevis Development Bank will assist them with soft loans of at least $10,000 to start their own business, announced the Youth Empowerment Minister.

CDS
CITY DRUG STORE (2005) LIMITED

New Operating Hours

The City Drug Store (2005) Limited hereby informs the general public of its new operating hours effective May 01 2010:

Monday - Friday	8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Public Holidays	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused and look forward to providing you with the level of serve you have come to appreciate.

"CDS (2005) Limited, Your Total Health and Office Store"

Irish Town Primary show gratitude to teacher of the month

By Melissa Amsterdam

The students and Principal of the Irish Town Primary School, showed gratitude and appreciation to one of their beloved teachers Ms. Natasha Elliott, on Thursday April 22nd.

Ms. Elliott – a Grade 5 teacher – who is a shy but deserving candidate of the title, 'Teacher of the Month' was showered with love by her adoring students and the members of the Student Council.

She was awarded with a trip to Laws Book Store to cash in a $100 voucher to purchase school supplies for her class – a donation made by the school.

Principal of the School, Mr. Elvis Charles, explained that Ms. Elliott fitted the criteria to be chosen as Teacher of the Month.

She was described by Mr. Charles as going the "extra mile by facilitating after school classes, providing for the students needs and taking them to church".

Ms. Elliott who has been a teacher at the school for three years said that she was especially happy to be chosen and recognized for her efforts as a teacher.

"When I started teaching I taught Grade 4 and then I taught Grade 5. The students I am presently teaching in Grade 5 are the same students I taught in Grade 4. I have a special love for them," the teacher being awarded stated.

She said: "I love teaching and I try to go the extra mile to make them feel comfortable in and out the classroom all of this is to show them that even though I am their teacher they can still come and talk to me".

According to Ms. Elliott the student's response to her special treatment is amazing. "In doing what I did I have seen an improvement of attitude in the students, with the special treatment they have become more respectful," she noted.

Caption:

Last Thursday morning one teacher Grade five teacher of the Irish Town Primary School, Natasha Elliott (centre) was awarded teacher of the month. She is surrounded here by some appreciative students. Left of Elliott is president of the student council, 11-year old Samantha Richards of Grade 6.Back (L) is Proprietor of Laws RJ & Sons, Edris Laws and (R) supervisor of the store, Ken Martin.

(Photo by Precious Mills)

Why am I not getting the promotion which I deserve?

BY EARL CLARKE

Some of us join military and semi-military organisations with the intention of disciplining ourselves, earning a salary and of being promoted in the ranks at some time or other. Isn't this true, dear reader?

The un-ambitions stays in one rank all the time, content to receive their pay and just perform their duties in a kind of way which does not earn them the respect, the loyalty and the admiration of their officers and fellow personnel. But the ambitions ones sit their examinations when the times are due. They perform their duties in an admirable way and, by the way, they carry themselves (deportment) they catch the eyes of the officers in charge and they are catapulted into the high ranks of the organization.

In our upward mobility, we do not forget those who were our friends during the period that we were in the low ranks, for friendship like love is not like an electric switch which we switch off at our whims and fancies. Friendship is a God-given gift which ought to be treasured and preserved. There are some thoughts which believe that, on moving upward, one should dismantle all connections and connect and form new alliances in the rank one finds him or herself in. As I have said before, in this and previous articles that we should never, ever forget our roots, our foundations, where we came from.

In order to climb a ladder, we have to use the first rung to get to the second and the second to reach the third and so forth, until we reach the top of the ladder. Regardless of how athletic we are, we just cannot jump up to the top of the ladder like that, for, each rung of the ladder brings its own share of experience.

There are times when the ladder would sway when we are in the middle, making us unsure as to whether or not we should continue our upward climb. The faint hearted would ease back down the ladder, but the strong hearted would continue the climb because his main objective is to reach the top.

Our goal in life is, should and always be to reach the top, so that when we join an organization, we do not intend to remain a floor member all of the time. Being a floor member, or remaining a floor member all the time depends upon whether or not that organization to which we belong is democratic. If it is democratic, we have a fifty to fifty chance of elevate ourselves. We also have to bear in mind that not all organisations are formed and created to have certain persons attain the top position, so they create conditions as to who can join and who cannot join.

The fees to join are enormous or the conditions to join are racially prescribed or written in their constitution. These are not democratic organisations. They were formed to keep certain persons in their places, even though these persons, who are kept out, believe that they should be admitted because of their education and their social standing in the community.

These persons would try to invent all kinds of loopholes just to become a member of that organisation, even to the point of seeking assistance from government to pass laws outlawing the existence of such organisations. Do you know how many black professionals approached Mr. Bradshaw to outlaw the South African Tennis Club in Victoria Road?

Mr. Bradshaw often advised them, "go and form your own club! What do you want to join that club for?" Mr. Bradshaw, God bless his departed soul, was correct. People do not want to mix with you, but you killing up yourself to mix up with them. Go and form your own and keep them out. Mix with your own. Feel comfortable with your own. But some people just can't.

When a political party is formed and want to run for office, that political party has to be a democratic organization, for, were they to win an election, they would have to practise democracy, unless they have a hidden agenda. There are many kinds of political parties. There are those parties which support the underprivileged or down trodden masses who are exploited and oppressed. They fight for better conditions of the working class people, for right and privileges which are denied them. These parties are called left wing parties, socialists and sometimes communists.

Then there are those parties which hold a central position. They are neither left nor right. I personally do not know what position or what stance they held for they seem to be in neutral gear and, in politics. There is no neutrality. In the system under which we live, you are either for the poor and oppressed or you are for the oppressors.

Dear reader, this is only my opinion. There are two forces out there in my opinion.

There are the right wing parties out there which comprise of rich people who believe that they are divinely created to keep the masses of people as hewers of wood and drawers of water. They believe that it is their divine privilege to enjoy all that life has to offer and, when they are fully satisfied, they can show some mercy upon the masses by allowing the crumbs which are beneath them to gather up to trickle down to the poor and the oppressed peoples of the world. What kind of divine being would so ordained to be governed, when His Son who came in human form sided with the poor and oppressed peoples? What kind of God would favour such a system?

The right wing parties are comprised of the sons and daughters of those who upheaved us from our native Africa, and brought us here to amass huge profits from our toil and labour. They then went into our Mother Country and did the same thing, bringing raced segregation and economic degradation; they imprisoned those of us who dared to demand better conditions.

They murdered us and labelled us as terrorists for daring to free ourselves from their bondage. So, my dear readers, you have an outline of all the various or differing types of political parties which can be formed. Oh! I forgot to tell you that the parties which look after the interest of the working class are also known as 'a grass roots parties' while those of the right racist wingers are called Conservatives or Aristocratic parties.

In our homeland we have the Labour Party or the Grass Root Party which was formed to champion the cause of the ordinary downtrodden and oppressed masses of the day. Then you have the People's Action Movement, PAM, which is an offshoot of the Planters Democratic Party. You might be telling yourself that I have said this in a previous article. While I am repeating myself, the message which I want to convey is that any member, who joins any of these two parties, should be given the chance if he or she is ambitious enough, to be catapulted to the top through democratic elections at the annual party convention.

To do otherwise is to turn you party into an undemocratic organization in which the vast majority of members would be discriminated against and would only be there to make filling. They would really have no say at all in the running of the Party or to elect or select those who they want, wish, or hope to run the party. They are the lowly of lowliest - say less people.

In the People's Action Movement, it is clear for all to see that the Party in its present predicament is very undemocratic, is not grass roots and was never created for the likes of my good friend Mr. Shawn Richards who possesses no chance at all of ever becoming the party leader. Never at all, Shawn does not have any breeding, he is from working class and he is not rich. All these factors weigh against him, he emerged from a lineage of cane cutters, postmen, cane-weeders, and domestic servants. He is flesh of the flesh of his forbears who toiled on the sugar plantation and he is bone of the bones of his female forbears who were raped in the cane ranges of the sugar cane fields.

Educated as he is with his Masters Degree, he cannot be catapulted to the highest rung of the ladder of the party, because of his lineage. He is like unto a cockroach among fowls. He is playing a dangerous game. He is on the wrong side of history. He is a betrayal to the oppressed family who at one time hailed Mr. Bradshaw as their liberator. What has caused him to think or to even believe that he is better than his forebears?

A Leader of the party who has lost the elections twice and up to now, has not been asked to resign, so that the person who won his seat twice could become the leader? When I listen to the utterings of my good friend Shawn, on the political platform or in the Parliament, I often wonder why he always sounds so bitter.

Could it be that he is frustrated because he realizes that he cannot and will never be the Leader of his party? Has he come to the conclusion that PAM is not for the likes of him and was never intended to be so? Has he been hearing the voices of his forbears telling him that those who despised them could never embrace him as family because he is an extension of them? Are they calling him a traitor for opposing those who fought for their redemption and their dignity as human beings?

If Shawn was born on any of the estates or sugar plantations on which his leader lived, his leader would not so much as looked in his direction when he passed to and fro from school in his car. I keep repeating that PAM is a family club which allows some people membership, but such members are toothless and sayless.

Dr Denzil Douglas joined the Labour Party as a young Labour representative. He worked his way up until he is now leader. Lee Llewellyn Moore lost his seat to Consie Mitchum and tendered his resignation after losing his seat.

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Fife and Banjo workshop underway

By Melissa Amsterdam

A cultural revival has taken off with the launch of a Fife and Banjo workshop which started on Monday April 26th, at the International House Museum and Edgar Challenger Library located on Central Street, Basseterre.

The workshop which is being sponsored by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) was conceptualized by Mr. Winston 'Zack' Nisbett, who is referred to as the Doctor of Culture and the curator of the International House Museum and Edgar Challenger Library.

During the opening ceremony, Nisbett adamantly said that, "It is imperative that we preserve our cultural heritage".

He called on the venerable patriarchs of the community to inculcate the youths to embrace their cultural heritage. "This is the time we have to nurture and preserve what we have," he stated.

Mr. Alphonso Bridgewater, President of the National Olympic Association made a few remarks about the workshop.

"The Olympic Association feels attached to a programme of this nature because it focuses on youth," he remarked.

"Studies have shown that people who do well in school are also involved in music," Bridgewater said to the students of the St. Paul's Primary School who will be participating in the workshop. "Here is an opportunity for you to become even more rounded".

He said that he was very happy with the workshop which holds a high number of young men. Bridgewater also said that the workshop is "helping the Education Department and parents who are seeking extracurricular activities for their children".

He acknowledged the efforts of the coordinator, Winston Nisbett, for organizing the workshop. "This workshop provides a wholesome after school activity, with a chance to interact with instructors who are older and able to impart knowledge and broadening and deepening their sights and sounds with regards to the instruments".

Also attending the workshop's opening ceremony was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sport and former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Lloyd Lazar, who declared the cultural workshop open.

He applauded Mr. Bridgewater and the National Olympic Committee and Mr. Nisbett for taking the initiative to instill a sense of cultural awareness in the youths present.

"This workshop will develop you in other areas, it promotes working as a team and discipline," Lazar said to the children who will be taking part in the workshop.

"Make sure you work hard," he encouraged. "Let us work this make sure that this workshop is very successful".

I trust that it will be a successful workshop used to develop our young people and focus their attention on positive things and help us to move away from the negative aspects which sometimes seem to attract our young people," Lazar said.

The workshop will commence from at 5pm and end at 7pm everyday except for Sundays and Saturdays from 10am -3pm. The Nisbett said that the workshop is expected to run for four straight weeks.

Photo: Zack's String Band playing at the opening of the cultural workshop held on Monday April 26th.

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Accessibility: Creating a more inclusive Nation

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These issues affect how we live, from transportation, to libraries, to shopping and entertainment centers, (e.g. public transit, the narrow aisles in libraries and stores, lack of access to sidewalks and most public buildings, the lack of closed-captioning and adaptable seating in theaters/stadiums, etc). Persons with disabilities face a never ending list of barriers to full inclusion.

Join with us during the month of May and become more informed about disability issues. Let's commit to ensuring that no one continue to face barriers to accessing basic human rights and needs, let's commit to striving for a more inclusive living environment in general, for all in the federation... be this in a bus, grocery store, stadium, theater, office, playground, or lecture hall.

Cost of living will not increase with introduction of VAT, says PM Douglas

Lesroy W. Williams

Basseterre (April 26, 2010)—Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas has given the assurance to the public that the Value Added Tax (VAT) to be introduced sometime later this year will not increase the cost of living.

Speculation has been rife among citizens and residents of the Federation that hard times are coming with the introduction of the VAT, but Dr. Douglas, in addressing this issue at his monthly press conference on April 21, said that there is no need to be afraid of the implementation of the VAT, which has been introduced in several Caribbean countries.

"I want to re-emphasize that the cost of living will not increase after the introduction of VAT, simply because the cost of living to a large extent is impacted by the cost of goods as a result of the consumption tax and the duty," Dr. Douglas said.

Several Caribbean countries including Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana have implemented VAT, while Belize and Grenada have dispensed with it.

The Ministry of Finance has confirmed that the VAT will replace 12 taxes. These are the Consumption Tax, Hotel and Restaurant Tax, Cable TV Tax, Vehicle Rental Levy, Insurance Premium tax, Export Duty, Public Entertainment Tax, Lotteries Tax Act, Gaming Machine Tax, Telecommunication Levy (IDD Calls) and Parcel Tax.

The Ministry of Finance has also declared that a number of goods will be zero-rated so that these goods would be affordable to ordinary and low-income families. Goods such as milk, infant formula, diapers, rice, sugar, and certain medicines for chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases will not have a VAT.

Dr. Douglas said the implementation of the VAT is part of an eight point OECS Economic Stabilization Plan, which was agreed to by OECS Heads of States in September of 2009. This eight point plan includes the development of suitably financial adapted programs for each OECS country; fiscal reform; debt management; public sector investment; social safety net programmes; financial safety net programmes; amalgamation of local commercial banks; and rationalization and regulation of the sub-region's insurance sector.

The implementation of the VAT is part and parcel of tax reform taking place in the Caribbean.

The shocks in the global economy have always impacted Caribbean economies adversely simply because the economies in the Caribbean are small and susceptible to external shocks. Tax Reform in the Caribbean has been largely fuelled by an outside environment that continues to dodge traditional sources of tax revenue, according to economists.

"The Government intends through VAT and other means to increase its revenue by broadening the tax base. A lot of people presently are not paying tax. We believe with the reform in the tax system, we would be able to capture very many more people who should be paying tax.

"In that way of course, if all who are paying now plus those who are not paying, but will then eventually pay, that gives me simple mathematics to be more revenue collected," Dr. Douglas said.

"It has nothing to do whatsoever with the cost of living."

Dr. Douglas re-assured reporters at his press conference that the cost of living will not increase.

"We know for certain that on doing the analysis with regard to what the rate of VAT would be based on what it has been in the rest of the Caribbean compared to the Consumption Tax rate it would be less. Therefore if it's going to be less, the cost of living will not increase," he said.

The VAT White Paper was approved by Cabinet on April 19, 2010. Consultation with the public and many stakeholders on the VAT will begin with the launch of the White Paper on the VAT.

Delightful but Shameful!

Celebrations! What a celebration! The Indian sub-continent was alight on Sunday night! And not even the underpinning immorality of the Capitalist market could take away from the happiness that the world of sport had brought the million of the victims of the global recession.

The Chennai Super Kings defeated the Mumbai Indians by 22 runs to win the 2010 IPL. Yes, the Chennai Super Kings powered their way to the championship of the 2010 Indian Premier League (IPL) on Sunday April 25 by out-classing, outperforming and outplaying the rumbling Mumbai Indians.

But while the world of sport was celebrating and having a good time, the management of the Indian Premier League was embroiled in a scandal allegedly orchestrated by the IPL Chairman Lalit Modi.

This latest cricketing scandal reminds me of the famous song, "Shame & Scandal" originally performed by calypso singer Sir Lancelot. The reggae classic (version) was written for the movie "I Walked with a Zombie" in 1943. In 1965, British comedy actor Lance Percival reached No.37 in the UK charts with the original title. Jamaica's Kingston Hilton Hotel resident mento band The Hiltonaires also recorded it as Shame and Scandal in the mid sixties. A 1965 ska cover version was recorded in Jamaica by Peter Tosh and The Wailers on vocals, backed by the Skatalites and released on the Studio One label.

The story follows a young Trinidadian man in search of a wife. In each of the verses, the young man asks his father for permission to marry a different woman, only to be told he can't marry the girl as "The girl is your sister but your mamma don't know". However, the tables are turned during the last verse, where the young man's mother tells him that "Your daddy ain't your daddy, but your daddy don't know", clearing the path for him to marry any of the girls.

Yes, like the scandal brought in that Caribbean family by the wayward father, it is alleged that Lati Modi, the IPL Chairman brought a scandal into the most widely viewed, most expensive and perhaps most internationally glamorous cricketing event that could destroy it reputational capital.

Who is Lalit Modi and, what is he credited with? In February 2005, He was elected president of the Rajasthan Cricket Association, defeating Kishore Rungta, whose family had controlled cricket in the state for 30 years. In September 2007, when BCCI announced the franchise-based IPL and the Champions League Twenty20, these were seen as Modi's creations. In February 2008, eight franchises for the IPL are auctioned, fetching $723.59 million. The IPL held its first player auction, and MS Dhoni was the biggest buy, selling for $1.5 million. In December 2009, Modi is defeated in the Rajasthan Cricket Association election but retains his BCCI post as he is also on the board of the Punjab Cricket Association.

In March 2010, IPL sold rights for two new franchises. First auction is cancelled after BCCI objects to stiff financial clauses; second one a fortnight later sees Sahara and Rendezvous win for Pune and Kochi respectively. It's believed more important bidders lost out. We learn of the first simmering of disquiet. In April, Modi reveals the Kochi franchise shareholding pattern, and unleashes a chain of events unparalleled in the BCCI. On April 25, BCCI suspended Modi for "alleged acts of individual misdemeanours".

CricInfo reported that the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), President Shashank Manohar explained the charges against Lalit Modi, which compelled him to suspend the league's chairman. The allegations involved the bids for Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab, the broadcasting deal and the reported facilitation fee, rigging of bids for new franchises in 2010, the sale of internet rights, and Modi's behaviour. . Here is the excerpt from Manohar's press conference.

But let us go back to the celebratory things! The Chennai's campaign divided into two phases. They were the whipping boys in the first seven league games; and the winning boys in the next seven.

Why did the Chennai Super Kings come from behind and prevailed in the competitive tournament?

First, they executed their plans in the second phase exceptionally well. The succeeded because they implemented sound planning, an un-emotional approach to selecting an XI, willingness to experiment and most of all, making the best use of available resources. Beside Captain Dhoni, Suresh Raina and Muttiah Muralitharan, the success was scripted by the less-established players, who were more than just stage hands in the production.

Second, they made no secret of their inclination towards spin when they fielded three specialists in the semi-final and Finals. It's not often you see a spinner bowl a maiden in a Twenty20 final, and Ashwin did just that. The occasional carrom ball, clever variations in flight and tactic of stopping at the bowling crease to get the batsman thinking twice set him apart.

Third, it was a warrior-like performance of Captain Dhoni which led the way. Against Kings XI Punjab, Dhoni walked in with the asking rate hovering around 11. It was a case of perform-or-perish. The platform provided by Badrinath and Raina gave Dhoni the licence to unleash a savage assault in a match situation which was delicate till the final over. Two huge sixes of Irfan Pathan was followed by an emotional celebration by the normally ice-cool Dhoni. That knock propelled

Fourth, the Chennai Super Kings were among the happiest bunch. Compared to reports of disquiet in Punjab this year, Chennai seemed a world apart. Reports from inside the camp talked of how the varied bunch stick together and always maintain a positive energy. Makhaya Ntini never played a single game all season, but was among the chirpiest guys in the dugout. All these contributed to their victory over the partisan Mumbai crowd on Sunday, April 25.

With all the shame and scandal in the sporting families (the National Basketball Association, the National Football League, the European and the International Cricket Council), the biggest and best cricketing event in the world of sport must be sanitized to preserve what has become one of the thriving market in international entertain industry.

The good news is that the authorities in India has intervened and taken control of one of the most economically viable activity in the domestic economy.

Congratulations are in order to the Chennai Super Kings! And best wishes to the BCCI on it path to salvage its image, rid the championship of corruption, and ensure the longevity and profitability of the greatest cricketing event on planet earth!

And, on Labour Day, given the singularly importance of labour market reform, the drive for productivity, the search for a competitive work ethic, the desire for equality with respect to the returns form production, best wishes to the many who will celebrate and reflect on the struggles of the large "cloud of witnesses."

"Workers of the World Unite!"

SPORTS COMMENTARY
WITH
PETER ADRIEN

Peter Adrien is an author and sports analyst. His latest United Nation's sponsored book, Sport Tourism, a must-read for policy makers, tourism investors, hoteliers, academics and students is now available. Call Peter at 869-6689752; 869-4651603 or email info@goadriens.com for a copy.
Visit Peter's website WWW.goadriens.com.

Financial Fitness Walk-A-Thon Attracts Over 175 Participants

Participants in the "Financial Fitness Walk-A-Thon" on Saturday, 24 April 2010 provided positive feedback that the walk was well organised and fun while packing a powerful message on money management.

The Honourable Marcella Liburd, Minister of Heath, Social Services, Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, a participant in the Walk-A-Thon, also commended the organisers for putting together a well planned initiative. She however challenged that emphasis be placed on increasing the participation among males in future events, noting that it was critical that this group be actively engaged in the discussion of personal financial management.

Over 175 participants attended the walk in support of the theme "Get Financially Fit - Spend Wisely, Save Regularly".

Institutions and groups represented at the walk included: The Alumni

(cont'd on next page)

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SPOKESMAN SPORT

Cotton Ground outlasts Hitters

The 2010 LIME SKABA league has started the way the 2009 season ended for Ram's Hitters. The season has not come off to a very good start for the Hitters team in SKABA. The Hitters as they have followed their season ending 2 straight losses in the 2009 finals with a lack-luster opening night performance against the Antigua Warriors which saw them being down some 30 points when rain forced an abrupt end to the match.

The multi-time champions continued their rough stretch on Saturday when they were humbled by the always dangerous Joseph Parry Cotton Ground Rebels. Hitters played with the usual swagger and confidence that we have been accustomed to. However it was obvious that the absence of forward Shawn "Shabba" Forbes left a huge void in the Hitters offence and defence. At the end of the first half Cotton Ground held a very slim 23-22 lead over the Hitters.

Things remained the same for the 2nd half as 30 year veteran Trevor "Marty" Huggins once again led a consistent Hitters offence. The multi-time champions were however matched by the younger, bigger, more athletic Cotton Ground.

At the final whistle Hitters found themselves falling to the Rebels 80-79 in what can only be described as a huge upset. This was Hitters 3rd straight SKABA league loss dating back to the finals last season where they were swept by the Horsford's Ghetto Roots.

This is maybe the first time in the clubs History that they have lost 3 straight SKABA matches. This was the first time Cotton Ground has defeated the Hitters.

Cotton Ground Rebels' Jenerson "Buju" France led his team with 20 pts and 10 rebounds

Hitters' Trevor "Marty" Huggins led all scorers with 22 points while Jenerson "Buju" France and Royden Browne led Cotton Ground with 20 points each.

Hitters next scheduled game will be on Sunday versus former Champions St.Pauls Hard Wine Tuff Knots while Cotton Ground is expected to take on 2009 "A" Division Champions Ghaut Bucks on Saturday.

Ghetto Roots and Rootsie Off To Good Start

The Horsford's Ghetto Roots Basketball Club is off to a good start for the LIME SKABA 2010 season as both of their teams, the SKABA Champions Ghetto Roots and the "A" division contenders Rootsie, recorded opening game victories.

The Rootsie came up against the formidable Monkey Hill Rockers XI in a keenly contested encounter. Both teams traded baskets for most of the game and ended the first half at an even 39-39. Things remained the same for the 2nd half as Jason "Shaggy" Norford for Rootsie and Calvin "Butters" Wallace for Rockers led their teams in a very exciting uptempo game. At the end of regulation the game was tied forcing an overtime period.

The overtime period was all Rootsie as they outscored the Rockers to win the game 83-77.

Jason "Shaggy" Norford led Rootsie with 24 pts while Calvin Wallace had 27 Points for Rockers.

Defending SKABA Champions Ghetto Roots had similar fortunes as they easily disposed of the Shawn K. Richards Sandy Point Chappurtin.

The Chappurtin brother duo of Taslyn Belboda and Javal Hodge played exceptionally as they were able to match the Ghetto Roots dynamic backcourt of Rymal "Bally" Browne and Levi "By-By" Fyfeild. Belboda and Hodge gave the Ghetto Roots all they could handle however the Ghetto Roots simply had too much weapons and too much talent for the Chappurtin to be of any real threat. Despite losing SKABA MVP Browne early in the game and a lack-lustre night from the exciting Fyfeild, Ghetto Roots still managed to make relatively easy work of Chappurtin with a 97-92 victory.

Taslyn "Tazzy" Belboda led all scorers with 27 points and 5 assists for Chappurtin while Carlos "Mucho Caliente" Monzac led Ghetto Roots with 21 points and 9 rebounds.

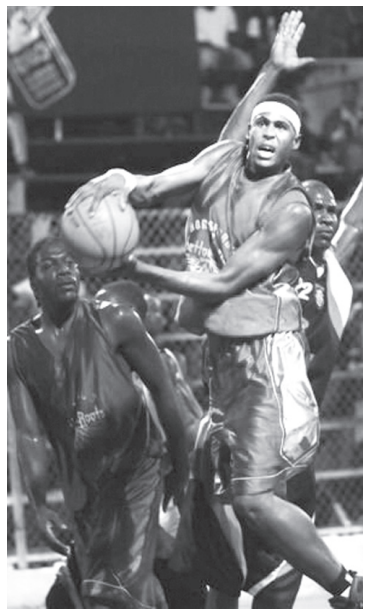


Photo by Saju N'Galla:
Carlos Monzac led Ghetto Roots to a victory with 21 points and 9 rebounds

Ghetto Roots next game will be on Sunday May 2nd versus Fig Tree while Chappurtin will take on Cayon on Saturday May 1st.

BOBO DREAD" APPEAL DENIED BY SKABA APPOINTED BOARD

Ghetto Roots disappointed but not surprised by decision

Basseterre, St.Kitts (April 23rd 2010):- The St.Kitts Amateur Basketball Association Appeals board upheld the decision by SKABA to ban the wearing of a religious head-wrap during games by Defending Champions Ghetto Roots Player Dale Rochester aka "Bobo Dread".

SKABA Appeals Board Chairman, Glen Quinlan

In the ruling which was handed down on Friday 23rd April the Appeals Committee declared that among other things the head-wrap would make the player more recognizable and easier to pass to than other players thus giving him an advantage. It also cited a recent matter in Switzerland where a similar case was brought.

'The substantive issue is whether Rule 4.4.2 is interpreted properly, both by the local SKABA Executive and their parent organization FIBA. We have already identified our concerns with the construction of Rule 4.4.2 and its sub clauses. Notwithstanding our concerns, the ruling earlier this year in a Swiss Court of Law on a matter with significant similarity, has significant import for us. The Court found that …"the ban on headgear can, in this [Rule 4.4.2] wording not be interpreted in any other way than to mean that thereby headscarves are also not permitted …"

In addition to the possible injury effect, there is also the matter of uniformity and the possibility that headgear

worn by one player may make that player more recognizable and easier to pass to than others and is therefore to be justified on the grounds of fairness.

"Our club remains steadfast in the view that Mr. Rochester has a fundamental and constitutional right to play," said Ghetto Roots Head Coach Dr. Garfeild Alexander. "I am very disappointed that the Appeals Committee decided against taking the matter to the general body for them to make a decision. After all they (the teams and players) are the ones who are directly affected by Mr. Rochester and his head-wear," Dr. Alexander continued.

The upholding of the ruling on the head wear has essentially ended the basketball career of the young Mr. Rochester as he is restricted from playing in any SKABA league games and by extension rural community leagues which are all sanctioned by SKABA with rules guided by FIBA.

This is truly an unfortunate decision said Ghetto Roots Assistant Coach, Dwayne Sturge. "Here we have a young man who is an upstanding law-abiding citizen of this country who is being denied the opportunity to play the sport that he loves and is good at because of his religious beliefs," Sturge stated.

"The decision came as no surprise to me as I have mentioned before the make-up of the committee was very concerning to me and the fact that SKABA selected the members with absolutely no input from Ghetto Roots strengthens my concern over the committee and their impartiality," said Coach Sturge.

The SKABA /Bobo Dread issue has been a hot topic throughout the length and breadth of St.Kitts-Nevis with a vast majority of persons supporting Mr. Rochester's right to wear his religious head-wear without discrimination. Sknvibes is currently conducting a poll where almost 90% of persons are of the strong view that Rochester should be allowed to play.

The Appeals Board was led by SKNOC Treasurer, Mr. Glen Quinlan along with Lester Ible and Arthur "Garfeild" Jeffers

According to Ghetto Roots Coach, Alexander, his team was expected to meet over the week-end to discuss the way forward for the team.

Financial Fitness Walk-A-Thon Attracts Over 175 Participants

(cont'd from last page)

of ECCB Bank Savings and Investments Course; The Cable; Electrofab (St Kitts) Ltd; Saturday Morning Blast; St Kitts Under 23 National Netball Team; St Kitts Netball Association; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Amethyst Exercise Group; Body Image Aerobics; TDC; LIME; Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; Eastern Caribbean Home Mortgage Bank; Eastern Caribbean Institute of Banking and Financial Services; Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange; First Caribbean International Bank; National Caribbean Insurance; Royal Bank of Canada; Bank of Nova Scotia and SNIC.

Attendees wore t-shirts reflecting the theme. Banners were on visual display and messages advocating prudent financial management were broadcast via a public announcement system.

The aim is to develop the Financial Fitness Walk-A-Thon as an annual event in all of the member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

inside SCOOP

By: Vigilante

* We have been informed by anonymous sources in the PAM camp that a petition, signed by several of the candidates in the 2010 General Elections, has now been handed to Baby Grant, demanding that he resign with immediate effect, as Party Leader.

* In the petition they reinforced the point that his tenure as Party Leader has expired, agreeing with Washie that he's now the greatest liability to the party and that the longer he hangs around the worse things will get for the Party.

* They have reportedly recommended the Hon. Shawn Richards as his successor

* But, sources tell us that Eugene is not at all happy with the recommendation. He insists that if Baby Grant is ousted, he's the right man for the job. This is no time to put back "lil boys" in charge. He's the most qualified and the party needs mature leaders like him to run it.

* Dey say the reckless gambler admitted to a number of his drinking buddies that he did display poor judgement in the US$1.7 scandal at the Marriott. And, he did make a fool of himself, but he blamed the bicycle tube lady for letting the cat out of the bag to his fellow candidates which he said forced him to foolishly go public with the story.

* He however boasted to his buddy pals that he got his head on this time and he giving de gang of upstarts in the party who doing everything to get rid of him, enough rope to hang themselves.

* He say they poor like a church mouse and allowing people like the Tek-Way-Key Minister, who brags he has more money than God, to use them and make a thorough fool of them. But neither "the keys" fellow, Washie nor M.O.P will be able to help when he ready for them.

* The warring and confusion in the party have gotten way out of control and a decision has been taken not to hold any Party Convention this year, unless things simmer down.

* We are also advised that a decision has been taken not to hold any Miss PAM Show this time around, because of the lack of cooperation from the various candidates, who are insisting that they are not doing anything unless de expired PAM leader respect the wishes of party supporters and step down.

* People want to know why they treated poor Mule so badly. After giving all those years and his life to the Party – living at PAM Headquarters and guarding the building, no mention was made of the Party Leader and the party in his death announcement, confirming that PAM has no use whatsoever for poor people, but to use them and then discard them.

* People also want to know if Baby Grant would be man enough to admit that he was dishonest when he registered "the couple" up de hill as voters of Constituency 4, knowing they were roommates of Mule as the death announcement revealed.

* And they want to know how he could cry foul when he knew the couple in question live at PAM Headquarters in Central Basseterre for many, many years now and have never ever lived in Old Road as he falsely claimed.

* The Tamarind Tree lawyer, Eugene, has been the lead counsel in all the objection cases of Baby Grant which concluded last Friday in Old Road.

* Dey say he say he better than Baby Grant and the missing in action lady lawyer put together and even the juicy senator who abandoned the sinking ship and deserted Baby Grant as he did with hopeless Glenroy and "Roy Angry".

Four detained in connection with Gas Station robbery

By Charles Miller Jr

Four persons are assisting the Police in their investigations into the armed robbery that took place on Friday, April 23rd at the Texaco Gas Station, next to the Shell Gas Station (West Side Service Station) located on the Island Main Road opposite the Joseph N. France General Hospital, West Basseterre.

The Police as well as the Anti – Gang Unit were alerted shortly after the incident took place at 10:30 am. On arrival, they immediately closed down the gas station and began their investigation. None of the gas station's attendants were injured, but it is said that the two men took off with an undisclosed sum of money.

When asked if any of the suspects were found with any weapons evidence from the robbery, Police declined to give details. The Police also declined to say whether the four young men in custody will be formally arrested and charged with the offence.

Police are also investigating a shootout that occurred on Saturday, April 24th that left 24 year – old Kirk "Scotty' Hobson of Stapleton Village seriously injured and hospitalized.

Firearms and ammunition discovered by Police

Basseterre, St. Kitts, (Tuesday 27th April 2010). On Monday 26th April 2010 at approximately 8:15 am police conducted an intelligence led operation in the Basseterre area and found one .38 revolver and four rounds of matching ammunition in an abandoned house. The illegal firearm and the ammunition we taken into police custody for analysis. Though no one has been made accountable for the illegal find, the police credits the success of this operation to the improved relationship with the public. ACP Liburd said,"...though we have a long way to go in re kindling the relationship with the public, this is clearly an indication that all is far from being lost. The public is trusting us more and more and we are not disappointing them". This is the 13th illegal firearm to be taken into custody for 2010.

Officers of the CID, Anti-Gang Unit and the SSU responded to reports of a shooting that took place between 12:30 and 1:15 am (Saturday) between West Bourne Ghaut and Durant Avenue, Central Basseterre. Hobson was injured while engaging in the shootout with two other assailants, a Police Press Release stated.

Upon arrival they discovered Hobson with a gunshot injury to his lower abdomen. A number of spent shells were recovered from the scene by the Police for analysis.

Hobson was rushed to the Joseph N. France General Hospital where he is detained and is said to be in stable condition. At press time on Monday afternoon, no one was in charge assisting the Police with their probe into this incident.

WANTED PERSONS

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, (Tuesday 27th April 2010). The Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police wish to inform the general public that the police have in their possession warrants in the first instance for the arrest of the following persons who committed the offence of Unlawful Carnal Knowledge on 11th April 2010 at Lower Monkey Hill.

Cecil Sylvester Charles of Lower Monkey Hill (D.O.B. 20-06-1987)

Dujaun Griffin of Salt Pond Alley

Photo not available

14 graduate from Union's training programme

(cont'd from page 1)

together and thinking about each other's welfare, collectively we can make a difference," he said.

"We are hoping that the occupational safety and health panel discussion we had, will be aired on the 28th of April, which is recognized as Occupational Safety Day".

"In the two days that we have been here, we have covered the topics of Collective Bargaining and Occupational Safety and Health. However, a multiplicity of other issues emerged and so we have made it a holistic education of issues encountered in the work place and that is one of the main objectives of workshops like these"

Meanwhile, the President of the St. Kitts – Nevis Labour and Trades Union, Mr. Clifford Thomas stated that "there was the concerted opinion that shop stewards should continue to discuss matters in this kind of forum and meet on a regular basis to share and discuss issues among themselves".

He encouraged the shop stewards to "get back into your work places and identify with your fellow workers and share what you learnt about these issues and kindle awareness and discussion so that we can all work together to improve the welfare and environment in which we all work".

The individuals who attended the workshop gave feedback which expressed their satisfaction at what was learnt and thanked the organizers for sponsoring the workshop.

"This is not the end but a new beginning, with new commitment as shop stewards," he reminded the attendees.

The workshop's schedule was very intensive with several discussions done.

There was a discussion on Collective Bargaining presented by Mr. Batumba Tak and Mr. Sydney Bridgewater, General Secretary and 1st Vice President of the Union respectively.

The topic, Role of Shop Stewards was presented by Ms. Eudora Nisbett; Occupational Safety and Health Awareness by Mr. Clifford Thomas, Chesil Hamilton, Joseph Jones, Joseph O'Flaherty and Jacqueline Francis.

The subject of Work Policy on HIV/AIDS was presented by Mrs. Cecilia Christopher.

Assistant General Secretary, Joseph O'Flaherty, took the opportunity to publically thank a number of business places and individuals who made the workshop possible by contributing generously to the cause.

These include, His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Cuthbert Sebastian; Sir Edmund Lawrence; Mrs. Jean Thomas ; Social Security; Frigate Bay Development Corporations; Carib Breweries and Harowe Servo Control (St. Kitts) Ltd.

MISS LABOUR PAGEANT 2010

Janaie Browne

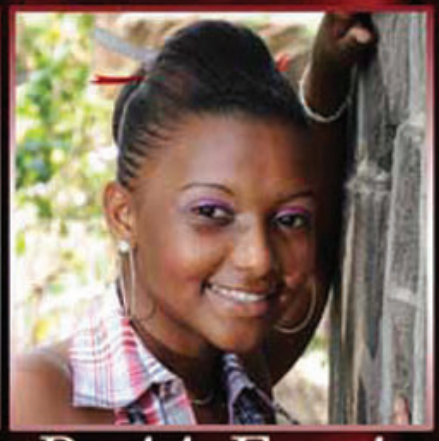
Kyanna Pinney

Amaanv Greene

Shanice Blake

Cont 1-4

Saleema Aleah Hendrickson



Patricia Francis

Tevrehn Bedford

Denise Harrigan

Cont 5-8

Saturday 1st May
@ Carnival Village
Show Starts @ 8:00 p.m.
House Band: The Royalties!
AFTER PARTY
Club Kactus

tickets $25.00
children u/12 $15.00
Tickets on sale at Masses House

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