



THE INFORMER

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT OF ST. EUSTATIUS

Volume I, Issue 4

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DOLLARIZATION IN 2011 For Bonaire, Saba, Statia,

On November 19th, 2008 representatives of the BES islands and the Netherlands agreed that within the framework of the new constitutional relations the US dollar will become the official currency and legal tender of the BES islands. In accordance with this agreement, the Minister of Finance and the State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations recently submitted a bill to Parliament for a "Wet geldstelsel BES" (BES Monetary System Act). This bill has not yet been attended to. The Act is expected to enter into force on January 1st, 2011. The "Wet geldstelsel BES" stipulates that the dollar will be the official currency on the BES islands from the moment the Act enters into force. At 0:00 hours the banks on the BES islands will convert all bank accounts automatically into dollar accounts. Citizens and companies don't have to take action themselves. The exchange rate that will be used for this conversion is the official rate that has been in force since 1971 (\$1=Naf. 1,79). Existing agreements, decisions of government bodies and other legal instruments will also be converted automatically: amounts in guilders will, as a matter of law, be considered to be amounts in dollars. For this conversion the same exchange rate will apply as for the conversion of bank accounts. With regard to agreements, the conversion by law is not obligatory. The parties in-

involved can choose to maintain the guilder amounts in an agreement and not replace them by dollar amounts. They have to agree on this explicitly, though. If they don't, the amounts mentioned in the agreement will be converted by law. In the first month after the introduction of the dollar the Netherlands Antilles guilder coins and bills will continue to be legal tender as well. Giro payments, however, will take place in dollars from the very moment the law comes into force. In order to limit the period in which the two currencies will be in circulation jointly, effort will be made to reach an agreement with the business communities on the islands that customers will receive change in dollars as much as possible, also when they pay in guilder. After this dual period the dollar will be the sole legal tender on the BES islands. Citizens of the BES islands can no longer use the Netherlands Antilles guilders which may still be in their possession as a means of payment, but will be able to convert them into dollars in a number of offices that will be pointed out specifically. This conversion will also take place at the exchange rate of \$1=Naf1,79. For companies, (not for profit) institutions and organisations the arrival of the new currency will lead to adaptations of administrative and payments systems.

The preparations for and the execution of the adaptations take a considerable amount of time, as follows from the experience with the introduction of the euro in the Netherlands. An agreement has been reached with the banks that they will take care of the communication of client oriented information. It's important that the parties involved start their preparations for the introduction of the dollar as soon as possible.

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MALES NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PROSTATE TESTING

STATIA MALES ENCOURAGED TO DO PSA TESTING

Monthly Health updates with
Dr. Sharda Baboe-Kalpoe.



Dr. Sharda Baboe-Kalpoe is encouraging men on Statia to become more perceptive to the dangers of prostate cancer. Males need to start doing a PSA test (prostate specific antigen) around 45 years and up, to get an indication if they may have prostate issues. Often times men are reluctant to do this PSA test because they heard of other experience that the test is uncomfortable. However, this is how the testing starts. Too often men allow their macho egos to get in the way of them performing the PSA Testing. We need to first ask ourselves a number of questions and get an understanding of the answers.

What is a Prostate Gland?

The prostate gland is an organ, located at the base or outlet (neck)

of the urinary bladder. (the gland surrounds the first part of the urethra. The urethra is the passage through which urine drains from the bladder to exit from the penis. One function of the prostate gland is to help control urination by pressing directly against the part of the urethra that it surrounds.

What happens when a male detects that he has a large prostate gland?

It is general knowledge that younger men have a prostate gland the size of a walnut. However, the aging factor plays a role with the result that the gland usually grows larger. This enlargement with aging is called benign prostatic hypertrophy, for short we say (BPH). Although this condition is not associated with prostate cancer, both BPH and prostate cancer can cause similar problems in older men. For example, an enlarged prostate

gland can squeeze or interfere on the outlet of the of the bladder or the urethra leading to difficulty with urination. The resulting symptoms commonly includes slowing of the urinary stream and urinating more frequently.

What is a PSA test

The PSA test is a simple, reproducible, and accurate blood test. It is used to detect a protein (the prostate specific antigen) that is released from the prostate gland into the blood. Most importantly, the level of the PSA is usually higher in people with prostate cancer than in people without the cancer. The

PSA, therefore, is valuable as a screening test for prostate cancer. We as doctors, usually recommend doing a PSA annually in men age 50 and over. Furthermore, for men who have high risks for prostate cancer as discussed above, most doctors recommend starting the PSA screening at an even younger age (for example, at age 40).

What Causes Prostate Cancer?

Prostate cancer is caused by

changes in the DNA of a prostate cancer cell. DNA makes up our genes, which control how cells behave. DNA is inherited from our parents. A small percentage (about 5% to 10%) of prostate cancers is linked to these inherited changes. Prostate cancer may also be linked to higher levels of certain hormones. High levels of male hormones (androgens) may play a part in prostate cancer risk in some

men. While we do not yet know exactly what causes prostate cancer, we do know that certain risk factors are linked to the disease. A risk factor is anything that increases a person's chance of getting a disease.

What are the risk factors for Prostate cancer?

Age is the strongest risk factor for prostate cancer. The chance of getting prostate cancer goes up quickly after a

man reaches age 50. and **Family history is the other factor.** Prostate cancer seems to run in some families. Men with close family members (father or brother) who have had prostate cancer are more likely to get it themselves, especially if their relatives were young when they got the disease.

What are the symptoms of prostate

In the early stages, prostate cancer often causes no symptoms for many

years. As a matter of fact, these cancers frequently are first detected by an abnormality on a blood test (the PSA,) or as a hard nodule (lump) in the prostate gland. Usually, the doctor first feels the nodule during a routine digital (done with the finger) rectal examination. The prostate gland is located immediately in front of the rectum. As the cancer enlarges and presses on the urethra, the flow of urine diminishes and urination becomes more

difficult. Patients may also experience burning with urination or [blood in the urine](#). As the tumor continues to grow, it can completely block the flow of urine, resulting in a painfully obstructed and enlarged urinary bladder.

BURNING HEALTH QUESTIONS

You don't need to waste another second wondering and worrying. Dr Baboe will take you right to the bottom line Email your questions to: statiapublichealth@hotmail.com

TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSITION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY WITH SUPPORT OF FOREIGN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Article by Ms. Audrey Sandries

In late 2007 the former Minister of Justice, Minister David Dick after consultations with the respective Executive Councils took the decision to revise the execution of the Foreign policy of the Netherlands Antilles. Although in 2006 the policy was revised and the security measures and the checks and balances had been tightened and updated. In practice the operational (management) procedures were bureau-

cratic causing delays and backlog in processing of the permits for admittance and the execution of expulsion procedures. A revision meant that the process of admittance and expulsion needed to be completely **transformed** on the operational level. For this an automated system was designed called the Foreign Management System. This system will completely computerize the process of requesting, granting and denying working- and residence permit and will also make a functional separation between the police task (control) form the administrative task (issuing). This project was financed under Safety Plan Netherlands Antilles. With this initiative all the departments that were involved in the process of admittance and expulsion of persons were brought together in a workgroup consisting of cabinet of the Lt. governor represented by Audrey Sandries (project coordinator), immigration represented by Germaine Zimmerman, labor represented by Carla Duinker and Maxine Span-

ner, civil registry represented by Elfrieda Maduro and Winston Fleming assistant to State secretary of Justice. The representation was based on the following the Cabinet of the Lt. Governor seeing that the Lt. governor as local chief of police is responsible for the execution of the immigration law, the Immigration for the advising and issuing of residence permits, labor for the advising and issuing of working permits and civil registry for the registration and identification. The main task of the workgroup was to make up a report to the executive council with a strategy and the procedures for the implementation of the new working policy that would be followed in order to implement and make the Foreign Management System as effective as possible on St. Eustatius. The strategy that was chosen was based on the principle that the 'client is king'.

(Continue on page 4)

BE A PART OF THE STATIA QUOTA CLUB OLD YEARS CELEBRATION

Funding goes back into the community

The St. Eustatius Quota Club is a none profit organization that is hosting its first fundraising event on December 31st to contribute towards the schoolbag project and the dyslectic programme on Statia. The fundraising event comprises of a five course dinner and dance for Nafl. 75,00(seventy five Antillean guilders). Individuals who may not wish to participate in the dinner may pur-

chase a ticket for the dance for Nafl. 15,00 (fifteen Antilean guilders). If a ticket was not purchased prior to the dance the entrance fee at the door will be Nafl. 25,00 (Twenty five guilders). The Quota caters to the deaf impaired, battered women and persons living in poverty. Recently the Quota club financed the School bag project for pupils at the primary level. Quota has contributed towards school fee for for-

eign children who's parents could not afford it. Quota Statia was proud to also contribute towards the operation of young Christopher. Moving forward the club hopes to work together with Spice to do the Dyslectic programme for youngsters at the various elementary schools. **The quota Club is encouraging you to be a part of the Old years celebration**

ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The St. Eustatius Lions Club caters for many years to the senior citizens in the form of a Christmas Luncheon. This year (2009) a large amount of seniors participated in the event. The seniors enjoyed the string band music by the Killy Killy band to which they sang and danced. The entertainment and luncheon was experienced as a success. The event was held at

the Ernest van Putten Youth Center also known as the Lions Den. The St. Eustatius Lions enjoy making a difference in the lives of our senior citizens. **(See photos on page 11)**

The G.I.S. & Protocol Wishes to thank the community out there in radio land for their Support over 2009. Have a Blessed 2010!

CAROLING CHOIRS THROUGH THE ISLAND

The Roman Catholic Choir for years uphold a tradition of caroling through the island. They try to visit as many homes as possible to bring the Christmas cheer into the homes. **(See photos on page 13)**

The Adventist church family choir which comprises largely of the Berkel family started in 2008 caroling as it was done traditionally, awaken you with lovely Christmas tune.

NEW YEARS MESSAGE FROM MR. JULIAN WOODLEY

As the year runs to a close it is always good to reflect and to look back, not only at our achievements and accomplishments, but also at our disappointments and even failures. Doing this is not merely to dwell on the past but much more to use these past experiences as a tool to improve the way we are doing business with the goal to improve life for all of us.

We have quite a turbulent year behind us. The year 2009 has been a year during which many decisions had to be taken with respect to the new constitutional structure that is in the make for the island. It is also very understandable that this entire process has created lots of confusion and uncertainty. The road to becoming a public entity of Holland is for many a challenging adventure to say the least. It undoubtedly gives reason for very relevant concerns and questions. Where are we going? What will be our rights? Will we obtain a status of social security and safety that is better than is presently the case? What will a new tax system mean for businesses and the man and woman in the street? What will remain of our autonomy?

These are questions for which the answers are not always straight forward or even available. The process the Antillean islands are going through at present is quite unique. Therefore there is not a pre-set scenario available. Along the way during the process decisions have to be

made on matters and challenges that are presenting themselves. What I strongly believe in is that all parties, our local representatives as well as the Dutch government, in this process of constitutional change to the best of their abilities are making those decisions that should be best for our island and our population.

The main objective that I have as the Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs, is that Statia will become a better place for our people to live. Being a public entity of Holland should mean an acceptable standard of living for all of us. In particular the financial and social position of the most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, needs to improve. The healthcare system and educational system need to rise to a standard that is equal to what is available in the European part of Holland. Basic necessities such as pure drinking water and a proper sewage system need to become available for everyone.

The economical development of Statia needs to be a first priority. Business and investment opportunities need to be created and stimulated. Improved infrastructure such as roads, harbor an airport, communications and supply of electricity should all lead to this goal. In return economic development should create job and career opportunities particularly for our youth.

Monthly updates with the Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Julian Woodley



I do realize that even after we have reached our new status of public entity there will still be a long way ahead and that many challenges still need to be overcome. However with the support of everyone in our community and with the help of the Almighty we will be able to overcome these challenges and we will achieve this better place to live which we all so desire.

I hereby take this opportunity to wish you the people of Statia a happy, prosperous and most of all a healthy 2010.

Mr. Julian Woodley

Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs

TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSITION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY WITH SUPPORT OF FOREIGN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (Continued from page 3)

This meant that the workgroup had to come with procedures that were client friendly. Research had shown that for a person to get a residence -and work permit in St. Eustatius the applicant had to go back and forth to several government departments and other agencies at least 16 times. So the workgroup decided to adapt a system whereby the amount of

times the client had to come and go was reduced to two times. We adapted the slogan One Stop Shop referring to the fact that the client only had to stop at one window within the government.

To make the implantation of this high tech system possible Smithcoms in collaboration with EUTEL N.V. had to provide inte-

grated internet connection which means a high speed internet connection to carry the network. For this project special computers and scanners were placed in all the above mentioned departments and now every department is able to monitor each application that is in process.

(Continue on page 7)

Physicians and Obstetrician of Saba and Statia Trained in the field of echography

Article by: Mariette Raadsen

Translation by Malvern Dijkshoorn-Lopes

Fontys Paramedical College in the Netherlands started with the trainings for physicians and obstetricians on Saba and St. Eustatius. The trainings is directed towards echography. The echo test is for pregnant women and for research with the echography on the upper abdomen of patients

The teachers Mariëtte Raadsen and Wilmy Verschoor of the Fontys Paramedical College in the Netherlands, traveled to St.

Eustatius to teach a varied number of physicians and obstetrician of St. Eustatius and Saba in the area of echography.

On both islands is a great need for echo examinations. Presently the patients are completely dependent on St. Maarten. Especially for pregnant women, taking into account that three times during the pregnancy an echo test is done, can be considered a large burden. Patients who need to do an echography of the upper abdomen cannot be attended immediately and is referred to St. Maarten. A few weeks ago the intensive course commenced. The



pregnant women of St. Eustatius made themselves available as pilot model. As a result hereof they got the opportunity to see their unborn baby. The term of the pregnancy is then determined. Other aspects which are also looked at are the development of the child, like the growth and if there are any abnormalities present. One can determine within 20 weeks of the pregnancy the sex. It is very important to know the position of the child at the end of one's pregnancy.

In the coming weeks the obstetrician, Ms. Diana Cumberbatch and the physician Dr. S. Baboe-Kalpoé will call in the pregnant women on the island to do an echo test.

The physicians Dr. G. Odongo, Dr. Koot and Dr. F. Baboe applied in the first semester to the upper

abdomen of the pregnancy. Various patients with stomachache visited the clinic. The physicians looked at the kidneys, liver, pancreas, spleen and gall bladder. The large abdominal vessel (Buikvaten) are also looked at in the examination.

Patients suffering with gall bladder and kidney stone were also examined. It is pleasant for the patient attending a consult at the physician to get an echo test so that the doctors can immediately determine the cause for stomachache. The entire training is meant to bring the echo testing closer to the pregnant women and patients of the two islands.



From left to right: Dr. Koot; Mariëtte Raadsen; Dr. Odongo; Wilmy Verschoor; Dr. F. Baboe; Dr. Sharda Boaboe-Kalpoé; Midwife Diana Cumberbatch

TAX INFORMATION

Information Center of Taxes Sint Eustatius.

Assistance in payment of your tax arrears

Over the last period of months many citizens of Statia have received assessments regarding to back/ outstanding taxes. (Income tax, Turnover tax, Wage tax and Profit tax.)

In cases where it is not possible for you to pay the taxes within the stipulated period of time, we urge you to get in contact with us at the information center.

We will then make an appointment where we will consider, along with you, what is the best way to pay the outstanding taxes.

We can help you if you contact us.

INSPECTORATE OF TAXES WIND-
WARD ISLANDS
INFORMATION CENTER
ST.EUSTATIUS

H.M.Queen Beatrixstreet (former
GEBE office)
Oranjestad
St.Eustatius
Tel:3183325/26
Fax:3183327

email-address:
informationcenter@taxes-windward.com



The Island Government of St. Eustatius, through the Planning Bureau is inviting the entire community to a Town Hall Meeting about the Development Plan for St. Eustatius.

Date: February 2010

Time: at 7.30 pm

Location: Lions Den

The consultant bureau RBOI will present the Draft Strategic Development Plan. The group hopes to come to a conclusion of the options presented on December 1'09 when they presented the preliminary findings.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA CELEBRATED ON STATIA

Written by Mrs. Arlene Cuvalay

The Santa Claus Christmas Extravaganza Committee began in 2004 . Initiated by the Management of A.R.C Agency N.V (Arlene & Raymond Cuvalay) who wanted to make Christmas extra special for each child in Statia. The thought that some children were not getting a present for Christmas, inspired the company to start the **Santa Claus Extravaganza** “ which was designed primarily to ensure *‘Each and Every Child Received a Christmas Gift’*. An invitation was sent out to every child in Statia and Santa Claus Extravaganza was born. In its Endeavour to make the ‘Santa Party’ fun, memorable, more entertaining, more enjoyable-, the management of A.R.C Agency N.V

contacted Mr. Carlyle Tearr with his popular car show to be part of the festive occasion. That show along with a variety fashion show and ‘the arrival of Santa Claus’ was among the main attraction in that first ‘ Santa Extravaganza’, which proved highly successful to the delight and cheers of the large crowd of children and adults. Since its Inception in 2004, the ‘Santa Claus Extravaganza Party has been funded Solely by donations from the many businesses on the Island (as well as from St. Maarten) who always gave generously towards the children gifts in the form of toys, sweets, balloons and related. The (donations) of monies are directed towards the supplier of the toys or sweets outlet as it is a ‘resolute’ policy of the group **not**

to accept any monetary donations, vouchers or checks.

In the second year the group expanded to include three(3) members namely: Larissa Rouse, Nudie Gibbs & Millicent Romney-Lijfrock who are all dedicated in realizing the ‘Goals of the Committee’ That is ‘a Christmas Gift for Every Child in Statia. Each year the group strives to improve and top off the previous years performance and from the growth, interest, reaction and input from the community at large, it certainly gives credence that they indeed have achieve this, as indicated by the dramatic growth of the crowd each year from a few hundred persons in the first year to now almost three thousands **(Continue on page 7)**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA CELEBRATED ON STATIA
Continued from page 6

including visitors from the neighbouring islands. Over each ensuing year the Committee presents a different form of entertainment from 'the Nevis Masqueraders' to the Disney Characters from St. Thomas featuring 'Fiona, Donkey, Tiger, Pooh and Friends and this year 2009. The Nickelodeon costume characters with 'Dora the Explorer, Blue the Dog, and Bob the Builder which was a 'Hit' with over the two thousand five hundred persons present to witness the beautiful presentation. Just as unique is the different arrival entrances of Santa to the A.R.C Complex (where the event has been held since its inception). In 2004 Santa arrived on a

red and white Santa truck. In 2005 Santa arrived by 'Donkey'. In 2006 Santa arrived by 'helicopter' (which is still talked about). In 2007 Santa arrived by Walk-on. Today (as a Major Highlight) in 2008 Santa arrived by 'Fire Truck from Nustar Terminal. In 2009 Santa arrived by 'Harley Davison;' Motor Cycle. All in All, the 'Santa Party' has evolved in a wonderful Christmas experience with a crowd which began from about five hundred in 2004 to now almost three thousand in 2009 and it is by far, one of the biggest, one of the most enjoyable and certainly one of the most looked forward attraction of

the year in Statia for both children as well as adults'. The Santa Extravaganza committee gratefully thanks all the sponsors who allows them this opportunity to bring so much joy to the children of Statia and endeavors to continue in bringing more joy, more memories, more Fun and especially in 'making a difference' for every child in Statia'. (See photos of the Santa Extravaganza on page 10)

**The Island Government extends
A Happy New Years to the
entire community of
St. Eustatius**

Correction Dollarization

In the November newsletter of 2009 an erroneous error was made regarding the US dollar. Starting **January 2011 the US dollar will become the official means of payment on St. Eustatius** and not 2010. We apologize for this error.

Celebrating Christmas on Statia

Christmas is celebrated in different ways on Statia. We all celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. Everyone goes to their respective church. Families decorate their premises with beautiful Christmas lights and the winners are known at the annual Gebe New years Party. Monetary prizes are given to the winners. Santa places gifts under the tree for the children. We celebrate Christmas

with our friends and love ones. Some families visit each other and eat and drink tasty prepared Christmas-dishes. We highlight our local drinks, like Sorrel and Blijden at this time of year. Christmas is experienced on Statia as a time of sharing, giving, as was the case of the Three Wise Men that gave gifts of gold, Frankencents and Mur. (See Photos of Christmas dinner on page 12)

TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSITION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY WITH SUPPORT OF FOREIGN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM **(Continued from page 4)**

From December 9th to December 22 Mrs Clarsina Rivers- Berkel went to Bonaire for stage and training in the FMS while all other workers of the respective departments including Act. Lt. Governor G. Berkel, were trained locally by representatives of the Act FMS company from Curacao. As of January 11, 2010 applicants will go to the civil registry with their documents for intake and pass back for the results at this same office to pick up their permit if it is granted or the denial if it is

turned down. Once a permit is granted the client is able to make use of the opportunity to register right away at the civil registry office. This system and the procedures on the work floor will work very well once the client presents with all the right documents. After all this automated system will not accept incomplete forms and lack of documents. For the first couple of months clients will be requested to make an appointment first at the civil registry office for the intake of their applications. In connection with the

constitutional **transitions** after October 2010 the foreign policy will be the task and responsibility of Holland and the departments connected by the FMS will go over or **transit** into the new admittance organization which will become the Immigration and Naturalization Services. As of July 2009 with the appointment of the Quarter master for the new admittance organization the second part of the transition has started and will be in effect October 2010.



Christmas Parade



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Special thanks to Mr. R. de Waal for the photos

Christmas Parade

Special Thanks to Marcela Gibbs, Dennis Amadjan, Vashti Hooker and all the Helpers



Special thanks to Mr. R. de Waal for the photos

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA CELEBRATION



Special thanks to Mr. Siem Dijkshoorn for the photos

Annual Senior Citizen Lunch



Special thanks to Mr. Siem Dijkshoorn for the photos

Celebrating Christmas on Statia





Special thanks to Mr. Siem Dijkshoorn for the photos

The Informer, is the St. Eustatius Government Information Bulletin

It is a monthly publication of the Island Territory of St. Eustatius. The objective is to inform residents of St. Eustatius about the developments that are taking place within Government and social matters on the island.

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Layout by D. Simmons

Queries should be directed to the Office of the Lt. Governor, Mr. Hyden Gittens, under which he has the responsibility of Bureau Kabinet, St. Eustatius.

Tel: 318 -2552 Fax: 318-2324



NEVER LOSE A CHANCE
AT SAYING A KIND WORD!

SHEDDING LIGHT

Join us weekly on Wednesday morning, at 9 Am sharp, on the Government radio programme *Shedding Light*, for a day of self discovery, sharing information, reviewing developments in our community, questioning our elected officials about important issues. If you have ideas, suggestions contact the host, Malvern on 318 - 2745 or email malvern.gis@statiagovernment.com

Please put your suggestions or opinions in the GIS idea box at our office at Princess.

Honour where Honour is due

We encourage Statians and residents alike to submit names of persons in the community that do exceptional or outstanding services in the community. If you want to nominate someone for a Royal Decoration it is advisable to contact the Decoration Committee for relevant island territory or the cabinet of the Lieutenant Governor. They will inform you whether the services rendered by the nominee are exceptional or outstanding enough to warrant a Royal Decoration. They will explain you exactly what you need to do, once you have collected the necessary information. Tel.nr.: 318-2552 Fax.318 2324

Weekly Press Conferences

The Government information Service is hosting weekly press conferences at the V.A. Lopes legislative Hall. These sessions will be held every Tuesday from 9.30- 10.00 am .We encourage all the media to participate in these session.

GOODNESS IS THE ONLY
INVESTMENT THAT NEVER
FAILS!!!

We apologize that we were not able to host our weekly press conferences for the last few weeks due to the absence of our local representatives. **Thanks for patience.**