



# The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

Official Newsletter - Issue 133 -- May 2009

## Kelso Cochrane's murder led the way for Race Relations Act in Britain



Exactly 50 years after the violent murder of local resident Kelso Cochrane the Notting Hill community commemorated the anniversary by installing and unveiling a Blue Plaque at the spot where he died in North Kensington to honour his memory.

The Kelso Cochrane Blue Plaque event took place on Sunday 17th May at 3pm, 50 years to the day Kelso Cochrane was murdered. It was part of a week end of activities organised by the 1958-9 Remembered Steering Group who have been running a year long programme of events to remember the 1958 Notting Hill race riots and to celebrate the community relations achievements since then.

The Notting Hill riots were recently highlighted in the popular British soap series *EastEnders*, in an historic episode in March 2009, which for the first time featured an all-black cast.

Kelso Cochrane moved to London from Antigua in 1954. He settled in Notting Hill and worked as a carpenter. He planned to study law and was saving money earned from his work to pay for his tuition fees. One evening after fracturing his thumb in an accident at work, he went along to the A&E department of Paddington General Hospital for treatment.

It was while walking home from there that he was set upon by a group of white racists. One of the men stabbed

Kelso through the heart with a stiletto knife; three other men came to his aid prompting his attackers to flee. Those three men took Kelso to hospital, where he died soon afterwards. His funeral was attended by more than 1,200 people.

Oswald Mosley's British Union Movement was active in Notting Hill and North Kensington at the time. A Union Movement member, Peter Dawson, later claimed in an interview with the *Sunday People* that it had been a group member who was responsible for the murder. Indeed not long afterwards Mosley held a public meeting on the spot where Kelso Cochrane had been murdered. No one was ever convicted.

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## A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR CARL ROBERTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER



formed by a party other than the ALP, would be a one-term phenomenon. For the sake of democracy, we are happy to see this “myth” shattered.

Following the elections many residents in the country began seeking answers as to what seemed to have gone wrong. There were many accusations and many seemed so disappointed with the outcome that there was a concern that voter disillusionment could set in. I will limit my messages to a review and analysis of three (3) issues of concern. These are:-

1. Electoral Boundaries' Adjustments
2. Suspected padding of the voters list
3. Re-issuing of lost/stolen/defaced voter IDs

### The 2009 Elections in Antigua and Barbuda (Part 2)

In my last message I presented the first part of this series of articles on another very interesting elections in Antigua and Barbuda. The elections took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

On this occasion the United Progressive Party (UPP) led by Prime Minister, the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer won nine (9) seats, the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) led by the Hon. Lester B. Bird won seven (7) and the Hon. Trevor Walker of the Barbuda Peoples Movement (BPM) won the seat in the sister island of Barbuda.

The UPP, in successfully winning the polls, broke the “myth” that prevailed in the country that any opposition government, i.e. any government

**Electoral Boundaries' Adjustments**  
The question is always being asked: *“Was the adjustment of the electoral boundaries left until too late?”* Concerns about certain boundaries first surfaced around the time of the 2004 elections. In spite of these growing concerns registration of voters nonetheless continued unchecked for several years. As the statement issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) states

“[a]s a result, as time progressed it became increasingly clear that persons had for a protracted period been registered in constituencies other than the one in which they resided, mainly due to the fact that these boundaries consisted of imaginary lines ....”

It was not until 2007 that some action was taken by the ABEC in the absence of a duly appointed

Boundaries' Commission. It is to be noted that a Boundaries' Commission was only constituted around the middle of 2007 at the insistence of the ABEC. We commend them on their proactive action. The newly appointed Boundaries' Commission,, in spite of several set backs, was able to complete its work by June 2008 and its report was forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives as required by the Constitution. It took Parliament about two and a half months to adopt the Boundaries' Commission Report and to Gazette it as Statutory Instrument No. 50 of 2008. Why so long? What were the issues which came into play? Is there a process or procedure which needs reviewing?

The report was the first look at any boundaries and any issues emanating there from in **twenty-four** (24) years (that is since 1984). In this period the number of voters in three constituencies of concern (All Saints East and St. Luke, St. George and St. Mary's North) had increased by 44%, 88% and 68% respectively. It therefore begs the questions:

- What should trigger the setting up of a Boundaries' Commission?
- How often should this be done?
- How long before the date of General Elections should the process of accepting, gazetting and implementing boundary changes be completed?

I believe that the report of the Commonwealth Observer Team effectively addresses this matter. It states that

“The legislative enactment of boundary changes should be reviewed in order to prevent boundary changes conflicting with the transfer of names on the list of electors from one

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## Presentation by High Commissioner Dr Carl Roberts at the Unveiling of the Kelso Cochrane “Blue Plaque” Memorial

Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor The Hon. Joanna Gardner, Mr Jak Beula, Chair of the Nubian Jak Community Trust, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed an honour for me to be here with you today to join in remembering Kelso Cochrane, a fellow countryman who was murdered around 50 years ago. We are here to honour his memory with the unveiling of a “Blue Plaque”.

The Cochrane family is prominent in Antigua and Barbuda and no doubt remembers this event with much sadness. The death of any close relative, friend or neighbour can at times be traumatic enough much less death under such circumstances in which Kelso Cochrane died. We simply have to ask Kelso’s brother Stanley, who still grieves on account of two sad facts:

- He never got the chance to come to his brother’s funeral in 1959,
- And the lack of justice meted out to this family member.



town of Soweto, was reminded by our tour guide of the deaths of Hector Peterson in 1976 and Steve Biko in 1977. Each of these events added impetus to the struggle for change in

Kelso Cochrane was no political activist. He was a humble carpenter, with a strong ambition to better himself like many of the citizens of my country, who migrated to the UK in the 1950s and 1960s. Kelso wanted to become a lawyer, *nothing more*. His death at the hands of a number of white youths, brought both whites and blacks of the community together in strong opposition to racism and the threatened growth of fascism. But the memory of this sad day gradually faded from our minds over the ensuing years.

That is being corrected this year. The sacrifice which this citizen of Antigua and Barbuda made in 1959 will be remembered through this plaque which we unveil today. Let all who read it remember that God is in the midst of everything. He moves in his mysterious ways his wonders to perform. We hope that one day those with information about this horrible deed, in an effort for truth and reconciliation, will come forward and assist in the healing of the community. Let us look for the good in every bad situation, for since Kelso’s death there has been some positive changes. Some barriers have been broken down but we must recognise that much more is still there to be done. Let us therefore seek our Lord’s blessing as we continue our initiatives to heal this nation.



(left to right) Mrs Pauline Roberts, HE Dr Carl Roberts - High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, Councillor Pat Mason and Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor The Honourable Joanna Gardner

Though his murderers have never been brought to justice, Kelso Benjamin Cochrane did not die in vain.

Several weeks ago I visited South Africa for the first time and, while touring the

that country and some will say that these individuals were intimately involved in the struggle for freedom and dignity of blacks in South Africa. Their deaths significantly changed the course of that struggle and its eventual outcome.

## OECS Heads of Government Meeting in Tortola

OECS Heads of Government wrapped up their 49th Meeting in Tortola, British Virgin Islands on May 22, calling it a watershed in the historical evolution of the organization.

Heads noted the enhanced international profile of the Organisation which has resulted from the repositioning of the OECS to be outward looking in pursuit of its strategic interests around the world. In recent times new relationships have been formed or are in the process of being formed at the regional level with Brazil, Venezuela, Austria, Turkey, Finland, Spain, Mexico, Cuba, France, the US Virgin Islands, the European Union, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago.

During the just ended 49th Meeting, the Heads of Government engaged the Governor of the US Virgin Islands, John P de Jongh Jr in discussions on closer functional cooperation. The Heads mandated the OECS Secretariat to work along with the USVI Administration to complete a Memorandum of Understanding in the shortest possible time to facilitate the closer ties. Areas of cooperation are expected to include tourism, education and training, security, emergency management, health, sports, arts and culture, trade, agriculture, and preservation of historical sites and documents.

The Heads also engaged the Ambassador of Spain to the OECS Jesus Silva on building closer ties with that European nation. The OECS and Spain signed a Declaration of Intent in April 2009 to pursue cooperation in several areas, including, training in diplomacy, oceans governance, legislative drafting,

the OECS Economic Union, environmental management and economic development. Spain has been assisting with the training of foreign service officers in the Foreign Ministries of Member States and has offered scholarships at the Masters level for training at the prestigious Diplomatic School in Spain.

The Meeting also welcomed a Memorandum of Understanding between the OECS and the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) which makes provision for OECS nationals to study at UPR with the same status at Puerto Rican students. This means significantly reduced fees for tuition, accommodation, medical and other requirements.

The Heads engaged in wide-ranging discussions with the Prime Minister of Barbados David Thompson on matters of mutual interest including the regional financial crisis, the Regional Security System (RSS), intra-regional travel, and financial sector development. The two sides agreed that this interaction at the highest level should be a regular feature of the relationship between Barbados and the OECS.

In responding to the growing challenges facing the region from the international economic meltdown, OECS Heads agreed to support a recommendation from their Tourism Ministers to set up a regional marketing fund for the critical tourism sector, to be funded by a levy on each airline ticket purchased for travel into the OECS. This marketing drive will be implemented as part of a wider Caribbean initiative to be administered jointly by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association.

OECS Heads of Government indicated



**Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda  
Honourable Baldwin Spencer**

they remain committed to the ongoing process of deepening the regional integration movement, and decided that the inauguration of the OECS Economic Union will take place on June 18th 2010, the date which marks the commencement of the 30th anniversary year of the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre which gave birth to the OECS.

St Kitts and Nevis announced at the Meeting it will join fellow OECS Member States in launching its Economic Union public education campaign on June 23rd. The campaign has already been launched in Montserrat, Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, and Grenada, and other Member States are expected to hold launches in the coming months. The public awareness campaign is giving OECS nationals an opportunity to comment on and make inputs into a draft OECS Economic Union Treaty. The amended draft Treaty will go before national parliaments in Member States for ratification.

Prime Minister Spencer attended the meeting and was accompanied by Ambassador Anthony Liverpool and Foreign Service Officer Ms. Sandra Joseph. (Source: [Caribbeanetnews.com](http://Caribbeanetnews.com))

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA FLAGGED CARGO VESSEL HIJACKED BY PIRATES OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

At approximately 09:09 a.m. AST, 5th May, the Maritime Administration of Antigua and Barbuda was advised that the Antigua and Barbuda flagged

cargo vessel the m/v Victoria had been hijacked by eight pirates in the Gulf of Aden whilst proceeding toward the Port of Jeddah in the Red Sea. The vessel was registered with the European Union anti-piracy operation 'ATALANTA' and was navigating in the recommended East-West corridor at the time of the hijacking.

The vessel is 7767 gross tones, 145.63 meters in length and has a crew of ten (following the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate). It is believed that the vessel is being

directed toward the Port of Eyl in Somalia.

The Maritime Administration of Antigua and Barbuda has been in close contact with the vessel's Management Company which is located in Germany in an effort to monitor the situation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Antigua and the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have been fully informed.

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constituency to another in the few months leading up to a possible election.” (page: 23)

This may require changes to the manner or procedure that Parliament uses to handle Boundaries’ Reviews. This level of urgency and timely focus was envisaged in Section 63 (1) of our Constitution.

As a young nation we would do well to heed these words of wisdom. Instead of seeking to find some one to blame, we should instead be asking how to prevent this happening in the future. More importantly we should be asking what actions we must take to show that we have taken on board the lessons of March 12, 2009.

### Suspected Padding of the voters list

Persons who are qualified to register to vote in a constituency at any elections in Antigua and Barbuda must meet certain criteria. These are:- Each person must be

1. A citizen of Antigua and Barbuda; or
2. A Commonwealth citizen (other than a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda) who

- has resided in Antigua and Barbuda for a period of at least three years immediately before the qualifying date; and
3. Eighteen (18) years of age or over, and
4. A resident in that constituency for a period of at least one (1) month immediately preceding that qualifying date.

The following stipulations are also important for this discussion.

- a. A person is not qualified to be registered as an elector for more than one constituency.
- b. Where a person who is registered as an elector for a constituency has ceased to reside in that constituency he/she shall not on that account cease to be qualified to be registered as an elector until he/she has become qualified to be registered as an elector for another constituency.

Section 10 of the Representation of the Peoples (Amendment) Act 2001 not only states who can be considered qualified to register as an elector in Antigua and Barbuda, it also provides some additional guidance, especially in determining residency [See Section 16 (4) to 16 (7)].

The Act envisages close working relationship between the ABEC, who has responsibility for the registration process and the scrutineers, appointed by each political party or independent member in the House of Representatives, who have the duty to **examine every aspect of the voter registration process to ensure accuracy and compliance to the Representation of the Peoples Act in force.**

What then has triggered the accusations of electoral voter list padding? Did these accusations stem from the sheer size of any increase in any constituency? Was there evidence of persons who were not qualified but still appeared on the voters list? When did these allegations surface and how were they handled or should have been handled?

The percentage change in the voters list for each General Election since 1989 is shown in Table 1 below. The largest changes for 2009 took place in St. Peters (41%), St. John’s Rural West (31%), St. John’s City South (29%), Barbuda (28%) and St. John’s City West (26%). The average change across all constituencies for 2009 was 20% and for the 17 constituencies over the five years under review range from 17% to 25%.

Constituency	1989		1994		1999		2004		2009		Ave % Change
		% change									
All Saints & St. Luke	2855	19.1%	3350	17.3%	3917	16.9%	3074	-21.5%	3457	12.5%	17%
All Saints West	2153	21.0%	2560	18.9%	3108	21.4%	3450	11.0%	3874	12.3%	17%
Barbuda	731	16.2%	865	18.3%	1002	15.8%	846	-15.6%	1084	28.1%	19%
St. George	2720	16.4%	3180	16.9%	3977	25.1%	3668	-7.8%	4414	20.3%	17%
St. John’s City East	1625	33.0%	2047	26.0%	2483	21.3%	1691	-31.9%	1855	9.7%	24%
St. John’s City South	1708	6.4%	1901	11.3%	2103	10.6%	1432	-31.9%	1849	29.1%	18%
St. John’s City West	2828	16.4%	3355	18.6%	3952	17.8%	2409	-39.0%	3035	26.0%	24%
St. John’s Rural East	2656	26.7%	3336	25.6%	4214	26.3%	4104	-2.6%	4823	17.5%	20%
St. John’s Rural North	1582	28.1%	2122	34.1%	3019	42.3%	3023	0.1%	3577	18.3%	25%
St. John’s Rural South	2981	32.7%	3326	11.6%	3974	19.5%	3039	-23.5%	3523	15.9%	21%
St. John’s Rural West	3714	13.3%	4244	14.3%	4883	15.1%	3803	-22.1%	4996	31.4%	19%
St. Mary’s North	3020	12.1%	3840	27.2%	4680	21.9%	3885	-17.0%	4536	16.8%	19%
St. Mary’s south	2108	8.2%	2437	15.6%	2607	7.0%	1782	-31.6%	2176	22.1%	17%
St. Paul	2042	14.5%	2344	14.8%	3004	28.2%	2556	-14.9%	3049	19.3%	18%
St Peter	1077	5.8%	1404	30.4%	1679	19.6%	2181	29.9%	3082	41.3%	25%
St. Philip North	1678	12.8%	1867	11.3%	2115	13.3%	1500	-29.1%	1693	12.9%	16%
St. Philip South	1400	10.7%	1571	12.2%	1669	6.2%	1013	-39.3%	1160	14.5%	17%
Average Change		17.3%		19.1%		19.3%		21.7%		20.5%	

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## Antigua and Barbuda Financial Services

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission (FSRC) of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to continue to uphold and implement internationally recognized standards of compliance thereby strengthening the jurisdiction's position as a strong and viable international financial services centre.

According to Director of Gaming with the FSRC, Kaye McDonald, the reports issued by the various regional and international organizations demonstrate the FSRC's acumen in providing strong leadership and commitment to the effective regulation and supervision of Antigua and Barbuda's financial services sector.

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission is a statutory body created under the International Business Corporations Act and its amendments, to administer and regulate International Business Companies (IBCs) and Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs). IBCs include International Banks and Trust, International Insurance, Interactive Gaming and Interactive Wagering Companies whereas, NBFIs include Money Service Businesses and Domestic Insurance Companies (as of January 2009) in Antigua and Barbuda. In the execution of its functions, the IBC Act empowers the FSRC to take any action necessary to ensure the integrity, soundness, solvency and full transparency of the international financial services sector.

The FSRC in executing its regulatory and supervisory mandate conducts risk focused onsite and offsite examinations of all financial institutions licensed with the FSRC. Annual examinations ensure compliance with the governing legislations, regulations and guidelines which include Investment and Lending, Accounting and Other Records and Internal Controls, Operational Risk, Customer Due

Diligence, Interest Rate Management Guidelines and Mismatch Liquidity Guidelines. In addition, the examination ensures adherence to the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 1996 and Guidelines, Proceeds of Crime Act, 1993 and The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. Financial institutions have interim financial reporting requirements which are submitted on a quarterly and/or bi-annual basis. The FSRC does not carry out audits of the financial performances of licensed institutions as each institution must employ external auditors and produce annual audited accounts.

In keeping with international standards and best practices, Antigua and Barbuda has ratified the Vienna, Palermo and Terrorist Financing conventions and there is enacted legislation that implements substantial portions of the Conventions. The jurisdiction recognizes the need for law enforcement and international authorities to cooperate and coordinate with each other. Accordingly, the FSRC and the Office of National Drug and Control and Money Laundering Policy (ONDPCP) participate in annual reporting exercises with the Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Section of the Department of State's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INSCR) and the preliminary Implementation Report (PIA) under the United Nations Special Resolution 1373.

Mutual legal assistance in anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism is provided for under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act (MACMA). This assistance involves countries that are members of the Commonwealth and other countries which have signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda has MLATs with the United States, CARICOM, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Canada. Antigua and Barbuda also has Tax Agreements in place with the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

The Jurisdiction of Antigua and Barbuda, is an active member of regional and international bodies which ensures that members comply with international standards and best practices. The FSRC along with other government bodies in the state of Antigua and Barbuda are assessed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). These assessments, in part, involve the submission of periodical and annual updates regarding supervisory and regulatory oversight, legislative amendments and the jurisdiction's compliance with the FATF's Forty and 9 Special Recommendations. Members benefit from the recommendations received in a full report that details the jurisdiction's overall compliance with accepted best practices as well as areas for enhancement. The official reports are made available on the respective organizations websites.

The IMF/World Bank in its 2004 assessment of the jurisdiction commended the FSRC for its positive developments in implementing a strong legal framework as it relates to international banking. The assessment reviewed the procedures for international banking as well as the examination procedures and prudential policies which were found to be in conformity with the Basel Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision. The FSRC was also commended for reinforcing its supervisory approach in general and its involvement in matters of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) in particular. In 2007, the World Bank report on "Doing Business 2007" which assessed the regulations that impact business activity in a country ranked Antigua and Barbuda 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 175 developing and developed nations.

CFATF in its 2008 Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) highlighted the FSRC's oversight abilities by stating that its supervisory regime is in accordance with the Basel Core Principles. The report also commended the FSRC for its risk based approach to supervision

which combines off-site surveillance and on-site examination.

On March 18, 2008, Antigua was commended by the United States in the International Narcotics Strategy Report, for being the world leader in

dealing with AML issues in the internet gaming industry. The United States Department further reported that Antigua's AML regime has been copied by other highly regulated internet gaming jurisdictions such as the Isle of Man.

In November 2008, the jurisdiction was included in the 'white-list' by the United Kingdom's Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

## The Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations Marking the 445th anniversary of the Bard's birth

Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner, H.E. Dr Carl Roberts and Mrs Roberts attended The Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations, a unique event that has been taking place in Stratford for over a century. This year was a truly dazzling experience as 2009 saw the start of a three-year plan to develop the celebrations into a high profile, annual extravaganza ready for the World Shakespeare Festival in 2012.

The customary Town Procession, symbolising Shakespeare's journey from cradle to grave was re-routed and featured a host of exciting new displays and entertainment. There was a colourful collision of the traditional and contemporary, where brass bands marched alongside belly dancers, Morris



**The Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon Councillor Mrs Joyce Taylor flanked by His Excellency and Mrs Roberts**



Dancers, skate-boarders and costumed Shakespearian actors mingled with circus performers! Stratford's streets overflow with pageantry, music and theatre.

A programme of special celebratory activities - great days out at Shakespeare's historic houses, poetry, literary and music festivals and amazing theatre.

The event was co-hosted by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council.

**(left) His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts and Mrs Roberts with their assistants for the event - Ms Caroline Weiner and Ms Becky Casement**

## Education Minister and Chinese Diplomat discuss assistance for improving education

Improving education locally through the assistance of the People's Republic of China formed the basis of discussions held recently between the Chinese Ambassador and the Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, Dr Jacqui Quinn Leandro.

On 13th May, Dr. Jacqui Quinn Leandro met Ambassador Chen Ligang and shared her government's vision for advancing education in the country, specifically tertiary education, through the University of Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Leandro, in updating the Ambassador, said government was anticipating that within the next five years the university will become operational, offering at least first degrees. This she said will give students who cannot afford to study at overseas institutions, the opportunity

to attain an undergraduate degree once the resources are made available.

The Minister told the Chinese Ambassador that it is friendly governments like the People's Republic of China that her country relies on for assistance, and requested of Ambassador Ligang, his country's help in providing the necessary infrastructure for making the university a reality.

In response to Dr. Leandro's request, the Ambassador said he was grateful to come to the assistance of the Antiguan government who is on a quest to provide tertiary education at an affordable cost to citizens. He highlighted his country's support for Antigua and Barbuda in the past, which resulted in the construction of bridges, the multi-purpose centre, and notably the Sir Vivian Richards cricket ground, among other areas.

Ambassador Ligang informed the Minister that he will examine ways in which his country can lend its support, adding, if assistance is granted, the first area that may be addressed is part of the university's infrastructure.



**Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs Dr Jacqui Quinn Leandro and Chinese Ambassador Chen Ligang**

Another area, in which Dr. Leandro is seeking the Chinese assistance, is in the construction of new school plants. The Minister is seeking to have at least one school constructed, with funding provided by the government of the People's Republic of China.

Ambassador Chen has promised to forward the requests to his government for consideration, before priority areas are determined.

The meeting was the first Dr. Jacqui Quinn Leandro has held with the Chinese diplomat since becoming Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs in March.

## Kiwanis International meet in Antigua and Barbuda to assess work of the Organisation

Kiwanians from Division 27 of the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District converge on Antigua and Barbuda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Council Meeting (DCM) 2009 which is being hosted by the Kiwanis Club of St. John's, Antigua.

Delegates from Barbados, Martinique, St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Kitts and host country Antigua met over the period May 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Jolly

Beach Resort to discuss the work of Kiwanis within the Division.

There are two Kiwanis Clubs in Antigua – The Kiwanis Club of St. John's Antigua and the Kiwanis Club of Wadadli. Kiwanians all over the world engage in community projects aimed at changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

"Kiwanians are volunteers changing the world through service to children and communities. Kiwanis members

help shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged, and care for the sick. They develop youth as leaders, build playgrounds, raise funds for paediatric research, and much more. No problem is too big or too small. Why? Because working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone.

When you give a child a chance to learn, experience, dream, and succeed, great things happen!" (Source: [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org))

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**His Excellency Dr. Carl Roberts, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda commiserates with the family of Kelso Cochrane at the Unveiling of the Plaque on Sunday 17th May 2009**

Another legacy of Kelso's murder was Britain's first Caribbean Carnival organized by activist Claudia Jones, which ultimately led to Europe's largest street festival, London's Notting Hill Carnival.

The plaque was unveiled at 3pm on Sunday 17th May at the Grove Inn Restaurant & Bar at the junction of Golborne Road and Southam Street, W10, by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor The Hon Joanna Gardner, and His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda.

Other speakers included Manpreet Dillon - Managing Director of Kensington Housing Trust, Colin Prescod - HISTORYtalk, Alex Pascal - Broadcaster, North Kensington MP, Karen Buck, Jak Beula - Nubian Jak Community Trust, and Golborne Councillor Emma Dent Coad.

Kelso Cochrane's death led to the British Government setting up an investigation into race relations, chaired by Amy Ashwood Garvey.

the Empire Windrush arrived; the first race relations legislation was passed.

The results were improved community relations, and better understanding between the diverse communities living in the North Kensington area. On 8 November 1965, 16 years after

The Race Relations Board was established in 1966 and published its first annual report in April 1967 calling for the Act to be extended to cover discrimination in housing, employment and financial facilities such as mortgages and car insurance.

Also attending were 80 year old Velma Davis, and 83 year old Lucky Gordon, both residents of North Kensington since the mid 1950s,

The plaque unveiling was part of a weekend programme of Kelso Cochrane events, from 15th to 17th May. (Source:WWW.24dash.com)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The Antigua and Barbuda Tourist Office has relocated. The new address and contact details for the team are as follows:**

**Antigua and Barbuda Tourist Office  
Suite UG.07  
25 Floral Street  
Covent Garden  
London  
WC2E 9DS**

**Contact details:  
Telephone: 020 7031 8160  
Fax: 020 7031 8170  
E-mail: [tourisminfo@aandbtourism.com](mailto:tourisminfo@aandbtourism.com)**

*52nd Antigua Carnival Celebration  
July 23rd to August 4th, 2009*

## Statement by Senator the Hon. Dr. L. Errol Cort Minister of National Security and Labour

On Friday, 1st May 2009, an application was made to the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Thomas Bennett from the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) requesting permission to add a list of names to the approved list of speakers who were authorized to speak at the Antigua Trades & Labour Union's Labour Day celebrations.

On Saturday, 2nd May 2009, Acting Commissioner Bennett invited representatives from the Antigua Labour Party and the Antigua Trades & Labour Union to a meeting to discuss the ALP's request to add further speakers to the AT&LU's list of speakers for the Labour Day function.

The AT&LU did not agree to amend its list of speakers by including additional names as proposed by the ALP, and, as a consequence, the ALP's proposed list of speakers was not approved by the police.

Further, on the said Saturday, 2nd May, Acting Commissioner Bennett gave written notification to the ALP through its Political Leader, its Chairman and General Secretary that the Party's request to have its list of speakers address the planned AT&LU rally was denied.

In addition thereto, the police issued a press statement reaffirming its position that permission to speak at the said rally had not been granted to speakers representing the Antigua Labour Party.

An Operations Plan was activated by the police to provide for the safety and protection of all persons participating

in the Labour Day celebrations. This plan involved taking certain preventative action should the need arise to ensure, inter alia, the maintenance of law and order and the enforcement of the relevant provisions of the Public Order Act.

It would appear that certain members of the Antigua Labour Party were bent on contravening the Public Order Act by speaking at the AT&LU's rally without the requisite permission and in blatant defiance of the Acting Commissioner's verbal and written instructions.

This is a country of laws and it is the duty and responsibility of the Police to ensure that these laws are enforced at all times, without fear or favour. Any failure to so act could lead to a total breakdown of law and order and a degeneration of the country into a state of anarchy. This cannot and will not be allowed to happen. No one is above the law and everyone must and will be governed by the law of the land.

In the circumstance, I have been advised by Acting Commissioner Bennett that charges have been laid against seven (7) individuals who are alleged to have contravened the Public Order Act at the AT&LU's planned rally on Labour Day. One of the seven individuals charged is the Leader of the Antigua Labour Party, Lester Bird.

Further, preliminary investigations suggest that the police who were on duty at the said rally and who were acting under the directions of an



**Senator the Honourable Dr. L. Errol Cort  
Minister of National Security and Labour**

Assistant Commissioner of Police, failed to take appropriate action in accordance with agreed plans and procedures. In addition, preliminary investigations also suggest that the said Assistant Commissioner of Police disobeyed lawful instructions that had been given to him by his superiors.

In the premise, the said Assistant Commissioner of Police has been relieved of his duties with immediate effect, pending further investigations.

I end by reiterating that the laws of this country will be enforced without fear or favour and, if there is any law enforcement officer who is unable or unwilling to enforce the law, then I request that you tender your resignation forthwith. There is no room in our society for such inaction.

*23rd - 29th September .*  
*6th Annual Dejam DJ Festival*

## Antigua and Barbuda signs visa waiver for Schengen States

His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 affixed his signature to the agreement of the short-stay visa waiver between the European Community (EC) and Antigua and Barbuda.

Other countries signing the waiver were The Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mauritius, Barbados and Seychelles.

The signing ceremony took place in Brussels with the participation, from the EC side, Vice-President Jacques Barrot (from the Commission) and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Helena Bambasová (from the Czech Presidency.)

Vice-President Jacques Barrot, Commissioner, who is responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, declared: *"Today the first ever visa waiver agreements concluded by the European Community are signed. As from today the nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mauritius, Barbados and Seychelles and the citizens of the EU can travel without a short-stay visa to each others' territories. I hope the visa-free travel will contribute to the improvement of people to people contacts between the citizens of both parties."*

High Commissioner Roberts said, *"this is excellent development for Antigua and Barbuda, especially since tourism is our main industry and further, our nationals will no longer have the task of applying for a visa to visit Europe."*



His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda signs EU Waiver Agreement

*About 800,000 European citizens travel to our countries per year and it is hoped that with this waiver more Antiguans and Barbudans would take this opportunity to travel and experience the European countries and its culture".*

The agreements provide for visa-free travel between these territories, for stays not exceeding three months, for the citizens of the European Union and for the citizens of the six countries, who hold valid passports (diplomatic, service and ordinary). The agreements cover all categories of travellers, except for persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity. Each Member State and also the six countries remain free to impose the visa requirement (for paid activity) in accordance with applicable Community or national law.

In order to make citizens benefit from the visa-free travel as soon as possible, the agreements are provisionally applied from the date of signature, 28 May 2009.

The visa-free regime provided by the Agreement applies to travels to the territory of Antigua and Barbuda and

to the European territories of the EU Member States, **except for the United Kingdom and Ireland.**

### The EU Member States covered by the visa waiver:

**The EU Schengen Member States:** Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Greece, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Malta;

**The Schengen visa waiver does not include the overseas territories of France and The Netherlands,** that is, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Mayotte, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Clipperton Island and the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (French Territories).

The overseas territories of the Netherlands - Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles (consisting of Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Saint Eustatius and Saint Martin).

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It is difficult to substantiate the accusations of voter list padding from the above table. Of more interest are the percentage changes in 2004 especially for St. Peter, All Saints West and St. John's Rural North. These three constituencies showed increases when all other constituencies experienced declines, significant in some cases. It should also be noted that prior to 2004 all three seats remained in the hands of the ALP for several years. Both All Saints West and St. John's Rural North changed hands in the 2004 General Elections unlike St. Peter.

The ABEC has stated that a total of 9,825 first-time voters were added to the voters list for 2009. The actions on the part of all stakeholders should be commended as an analysis of the additions show that the predominant grouping of those registered first-time voters, was within the age range 18 to 25 years. It certainly could be deduced that all candidates made a genuine effort to encourage qualified residents of the State to take part in the 2009 General Elections.

The allegations of padding co-existed with the claim that some non-nationals were incorrectly facilitated in obtaining voter registration. This proved very contentious and was grounded on an old practice whereby non-nationals were allowed to pay up arrears, and get a receipt which was then used to claim continuous residency in keeping with the law. Even though this illegal

practice was discontinued by the ABEC some time ago, since the number of non-nationals who might have been enabled to register is unknown, the subject raised in head prior to and post the 2009 General Elections. The point is already made above that a review of all these, and a detailed study of the recommendations from the observer teams, should prevent this accusation surfacing in the future.

### Re-issuing of lost/stolen/defective Voter IDs

The other major area of concern was the processing and re-issuing of lost, stolen and defective Voter IDs. The Chairman's statement on the matter (see "A Statement by the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission") provides a very detailed explanation of this issue. The ABEC should be commended in not wishing to disenfranchise any qualified voter from exercising his right to vote and determine the government of his country.

The problem perhaps came from too few resources, a failure to adequately educate the general public early on the close-off date for issuing voter IDs and a deadline for collecting replacement IDs. The main aim should be to prevent members of the public using the ABEC as a "depository or safety deposit box for persons' ID Cards".

The recommendations of the CET Report on this matter state quite clearly *"Further consideration should be given to the manner in which members of the ABEC are selected, in order to heighten public confidence in the body, [and s]trengthen service delivery capacity, particularly in the areas of public relations and education. The voters register should be printed a few days prior to Election Day"*.

We have always known that mechanical and even electrical equipment can and do break down. Not allowing a contingency gap in any plan or checklist of things to be done for a general election can be a recipe for disaster. We now have five years to address all that went wrong. Let's put the issues on the table, establish an all-party group, including civil society teams to examine each issue and develop concrete action plans to rectify each one. I trust that we have learnt the lessons, that the Commonwealth Secretariat and other friendly partners will offer assistance to improve our electoral systems and that we will readily show willingness to change. May God continue to help us to make Antigua and Barbuda a better place to live and work together as one.

**H.E Dr Carl Roberts**  
High Commissioner  
London 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

## Discussions to commence shortly on a Strategic Plan for the Office of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs

The Office of the Minister of State (OMS) with responsibility for Sports, Local Government, Boy's Training School and Special Projects including the National School Meals Programme will release its Draft

Strategic Plan, entitled 'Continuing the Promise' on Monday June 29, 2009 to kick start national consultations on the plan with key stakeholders.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, Hon Winston Williams who is leading the charge under the theme 'Going the Distance; Fulfilling our Purpose' has announced that one of the first activities which will be implemented is the establishment of the National Executive Council on Sports (NECS) whose first order of business would be to review and ratify

the National Sports Policy due to be released in September 2009.

The Minister further stated that the strategic plan will also propose a new framework for other special projects such as the National Sports Awards. The annual award ceremony, usually scheduled for February has been postponed due to financial constraints this year, but is expected to return in 2010.

Consultations within the Office of the Minister of State on the Draft Strategic Plan will continue until the scheduled release date in June 2009.