Election Day

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer told an energetic audience of thousands of supporters at a United Progressive Party Rally that Election Day in Antigua and Barbuda will be June 12.

“I have consulted with the Almighty God to give me the vision and to tell me what to do. I believe that we have made the case for the UPP to be returned to office. The case has been made overwhelmingly. Therefore the day when the people of Antigua and Barbuda will rise to the occasion and do what is right is June 12. June 12 is Election Day when the people of Antigua and Barbuda will say UPP now more than ever,” said Prime Minister Spencer.

During the Rally which heard from some of the UPP candidates including the Hon. Jacqui Quinn, the Hon. Dr. Errol Cort and the Hon. Chester Hughes, Prime Minister Spencer noted that the United Progressive Party stands on its record and deserves a third term to continue building a new society and create a charter for the future development of Antigua and Barbuda.

“The elections are very critical. It is very important to the continued development of Antigua and Barbuda. We cannot return to the past. I want to say to you that it is necessary for us to recognize and appreciate that although victory is in sight we cannot drop our guard. I want to tell you that it is not over until it is over,” he said.

He also told his supporters that there is work to be done in order for the governing United Progressive Party to concretize the victory. “We have to galvanize the people and defeat them. You have to do it for yourself, for your community and country,” he pointed out.

“The most important consideration is that you want to stay the course and keep Antigua free and democratic and keep out those who are not about people’s development but their own enrichment,” the country’s leader stated.

The country’s leader also announced that the date of the issuance of the Writ for Elections is scheduled for May 16 and Nomination Day on May 21.

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See Antigua and Barbuda
At The Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014
23rd July 2014 to 3rd August 2014
The Faith That Drives Me

As a young boy I enjoyed music and singing. In fact I always wanted to be a part of the Junior Choir of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church. The requirements to become a member were very stringent – you had to read a passage of scripture without halting, sing a hymn or song of your choice in key and without making any mistakes; all this in front of the Choir and the Choir Master and be at least 10 years old.

For me this was easy, although I was aware of many of my friends who “failed” on at least one occasion. I was so desirous of serving Jesus, that it was never my intention to stop there. I also wanted to become a pastor or minister. Of course there were many good role models: Bishop Maynard, Bishop Guby and a certain Rev Winston J Messiah who appeared on Radio Barbados every Sunday around 12:00 noon. These persons preached the word of God without fear or favour. They were both liked and disliked because of their convictions.

Sometimes I was made fun of for this focus on my faith. It didn’t bother me. Coupled with this was a love of music, but coming from a poor family, that chance never properly materialised. As you can determine, I never became a minister even though I almost became a lay preacher for my church, conducting services and otherwise being very active in the church.

My career took me in a very different direction but my Christian faith remained extraordinarily strong. Wherever I sojourned, either for vacation or training, I attached myself to a Christian congregation and became actively involved. Little did I know that while my faith increased and my yearning to understand the word of the Lord also increasing, I will be tested on more than one occasion?

I distinctly remember being in a vehicle which ran off the road as a young teenager and it miraculously did not overturn. Years later another group of boys were not so fortunate and several of them died in a sad Mother’s day accident at the same spot. There was another occasion when my faith was in full recall. As a first-time Chief Executive for Cable and Wireless, I was sent to Montserrat in July 1995. Shortly after my arrival, the volcano on the island began to erupt. There began one of the most frightening experiences in my life. With the ground constantly shaking under your feet, the sky blackened by volcanic ash and life in general under severe threat. My constant companion was my Saviour. I have been asked many times how did I manage there. The Hymn (Mission Praise [MP] 22) has words which are quite fitting: “All the way my Saviour leads me; what have I to ask beside. Can I doubt his tender mercies who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, hereby faith in Him to dwell! For I know what-e’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.”

I have also had a few issues with my health which have caused me to lean on my faith and there are many hymns which I enjoy singing on occasions. The first was as a small boy, when I stepped on a rusty nail. The wound appeared to be healing on the outside but was festering on the inside. One night I nearly died and had to be rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation. I had the first stage of tetanus poisoning. Fortunately the operation was a success. Another time my appendix nearly ruptured in me and this also resulted in another quick operation which postponed a training course I was to take at that time. Finally I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had to undergo an operation. Miraculously I never needed chemotherapy or radiation and to this day I have only suffered minor side effects of the operation.

Cont’d on next page . . . . .
I have always been a warm-hearted person sharing in the cares and problems of my friends, offering assistance to many others with whom I have come in contact. The hymn which I have cherished is MP 60 Verse 3: “We share of mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows, the sympathising tear”.

I tell myself many times never to forget where I came from. I never should take myself too seriously or think too highly of myself. Like St Paul wrote “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”. The hymn MP 201 Verse 1 keeps me humble as I often ask God to guide me: “Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand: Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore”.

The Lord has come to my aid on many occasions; when I almost ran out of money when I was studying in the States or when I have been wronged. I recall MP 204 Verse 2 “He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in His sight”.

I firmly believe that God prepares me for each of my roles in life. That is why I give so much of my talents in return to him. I have been able on many occasions to use skills which I gathered previously to the benefit of a current situation. I constantly give the Almighty thanks and praise. More so now than before, for I have come to realise that His hand is upon me and my family. He will never give me a challenge for which He has not already prepared me to deal with.

I have many other hymns which I love to sing; I only mention them here. They are MP 224 especially Verse 1; MP 296 Verse 1; MP 473 Verses 1 to 3; MP 784 Verse 1; but I will end with this special hymn (MP 34 Verse 4) as I believe that every time we sing the praises of the Lord in Church or anywhere for that matter, we must offer of our best only. In fact whatever we do for Him should be of the best. The Hymn says: “In Thy house, great God, we offer of Thine own to Thee; and for Thine acceptance proffer, all unworthily, hearts and minds and hands and voices, in our choicest psalmody”.

May my efforts at sharing this special message, prompt each of you to reflect on your own lives and the blessings which have come from the Lord!

His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG
High Commissioner to the Court of St James’s
Ambassadors and High Commissioners from over 70 countries (and diplomats from over 100 countries) attended DIPLOMAT magazine’s 2014 annual Awards Ceremony in the glorious surroundings of the Ballroom at The Langham London hotel on Monday 14 April. DIPLOMAT presented 10 awards to some of the most influential diplomats based in the UK. The 250-plus guests were treated to a champagne reception and canapés prepared by the hotel chefs.

In its sixth year, the awards ceremony recognises the outstanding work and achievements of London’s diplomatic community, who are trying to better their nations’ wellbeing. DIPLOMAT magazine identified 10 categories that recognise different levels of diplomacy, and winners were nominated by their peers. The evening welcomed the massed ranks of London’s diplomatic corps, at what has become a key date in the capital’s diplomatic calendar.

Veteran broadcaster Martin Lewis was the Master of Ceremonies, who performed with immense slickness and wit. The Ambassador of Kuwait, His Excellency Mr Khaled Al-Duwaisan won the ‘Diplomat of the Year for Asia’ award. As Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, he’s known for attending up to seven receptions on one evening. This Ambassador has won a place in the hearts of the political establishment in London, as well as his colleagues. He expressed a wish to retire some years ago, but the ‘Emir’ of Kuwait has understandably wanted him to remain.

The popular award of the evening went to the High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, Dr Carl Roberts, for ‘Diplomat of the Year for the Americas,’ who praised his wife and the staff behind him at the mission, for ‘behind every successful High Commissioner is a good team.’

Other heads of mission who were honoured on the evening included the Ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Finland and El Salvador and the High Commissioners of Singapore and Cameroon. Winner of the ‘2014 Contribution to Women in Diplomacy’ was Mrs Younis from the Egyptian Embassy. She dedicated her award ‘to all the brave women in Egypt who stood up in a revolution to be part of the rebirth of a democratic Egypt.’ Fittingly, The Lord Mayor of Westminster and the youngest women ever to be elected into this office, Councillor Sarah Richardson, presented the award. ‘Young Diplomat of the Year’ went to ‘someone to watch for great things in the future’, Susana Arana Garduno from the Mexican Embassy and ‘Contribution to the Press Corps,’ to the Diplomatic Press Attache President, Maria Monteiro from the Portuguese Embassy.

The evening was sponsored by The Langham London, International Diplomatic Supplies, Volvo, International Hospitals Group, Apsley’s Tailors and Henry & James. For the fifth year running, Cleave and Co produced the unique awards for the winners. With over 160 diplomatic missions, a posting in London remains one of the highlights of any diplomat’s career. Host of the event, DIPLOMAT’s Editor, Venetia de Bloq van Kuffeler, said: ‘The scale of global challenges facing us all today – economic, social, environmental, and security – weigh upon us all. In short, Diplomacy is more important than ever. And so it is important that we appreciate the great conductors of diplomacy this evening.’

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Investiture Ceremony at Buckingham Palace

At a recently held Investiture Ceremony held at Buckingham Palace, Lt Col Edward Croft was invested with the insignia and made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG). The insignia was presented by the HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. At that Investiture, over 90 persons received Honours and Awards.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward H. Croft has served the country in the areas of youth development, Law Enforcement, Defence and Security, and Disaster Preparedness and Response. Lt. Col Croft has served and continues to serve the country at the regional and hemispheric levels.

He is Antigua and Barbuda’s Commissioner to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and is also the National Point of Contact to the OAS Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

He served in the capacity of Chairman of the Caricom Standing Committee of Heads of Intelligence and Financial Intelligence Units for the period 2008 – 2012 and remains an active participant on issues of security at the regional level. He also serves as one of Antigua and Barbuda’s main representatives on the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and has represented the Regional Security System (RSS) on various occasions.

He is the recipient of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and has also been presented with several military awards.

According to the Official British Monarchy website this order was instituted in 1818 by the Prince Regent (later George IV), and is awarded to men and women of high office, or who render extraordinary or important service.

Col Croft currently serves as Antigua and Barbuda’s Director of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy and has been in this capacity for the past 7 years.

24th April 2014

Antiguan Graduates from the University of London

On 5th of March, 2014 March, Mrs. Cleo Clothilda James Hampson Graduated from University of London with a Master of Science Degree in International Primary Health Care (MSc in IPHC), and was singled out for a prize for Academic Excellence. The title of her Dissertation was, “Health Needs Assessment for Family Caregivers of Persons Experiencing Mental Health Problems in Antigua and Barbuda”.

She was born in the Village of Urlings and presently resides in New Winthorpes Village, Antigua.

Mrs. Hampson is the mother of two and the wife of Anthony L. Hampson, who is the Principal of Parham Primary School and the Director of Le Chateau d’Or Music Academy.

She is a Nurse of 36 years, and presently holds the post of Deputy Superintendent of Public Health Nursing in Antigua and Barbuda. Her aspiration is to use her knowledge to strengthen the health care system in Antigua and Barbuda.

Mrs. Hampson wishes to thank first of all God for giving her the strength and determination to complete the course successfully. Gratitude is also extended to her family and friends who believed in her and gave her much support and encouragement.

His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG, High Commissioner for Antigua sent a congratulatory letter to Mrs Hampson for having achieved her Master of Science Degree in International Primary Health Care which His Excellency said, will be a tremendous contribution to Antigua and Barbuda’s health care system.

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The Life and Times of Oxford University Antiguan Scholar - James Arthur Harley

A pioneer, anthropologist, theologian and local politician, with a street named in his honour are the accolades that belong to Antiguan born James Arthur Harley.

Harley is one of the many scholars profiled in a new book Black Oxford: The Untold Stories of Oxford University’s Black Scholars, by Pamela Roberts, an award winning cultural heritage professional. Pamela’s new book uncovers the stories of prominent and lesser-known historical and contemporary Black scholars at Oxford from the matriculation of Christian Fredrick Cole, grandson of a slave in 1873, who became the first African to practice in an English court. It is divided into the following categories:

- Oxford Pioneers
- Female Rhode Scholars
- Prime ministers and Presidents
- Legal Eagles
- Educationalist
- Creativity and literature
- Notable graduates

Through its use of images, in particular rare archival images of various scholars, documentation and newspaper articles, the book provides the reader with vivid snapshots of the scholars coupled with their profiles.

Pamela explains how she accidently came across the name of Harley. Following a visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford to research another scholar, I was given a sepia photograph by the museum’s curator of photographs and manuscripts and asked if I knew the Black man in the photograph. ‘No’ I replied, the curator explained that he was the first Black student to take the Diploma of Anthropology at the museum in 1909 and all that he knew was that he came from Antigua.

So began my quest to find out who Harley was. With initial help from the High Commission’s information officer I was given a number of leads. After additional research I hit success and tracked down a local historian who had in his possession, under his bed to be exact, the contents of Harley’s life in a battered old suitcase.

Harley was born on 15 May 1873. His academic career was truly remarkable; attending Howard Law School in Washington, DC in 1902, then Yale in 1903 before going to Harvard to read for a bachelor’s degree with honours in Semitic languages in 1906. At Harvard he received the first class Boylston elocution prize of $60 and two essay prizes valued at $50 and $25. The Antigua Standard newspaper of September 1907 reported the scholastic achievements of Harley, stating that he won The Pierre Jay Prize for the best essay on Japanese Shintoism with an award of $100. He then won the Matthews Scholarship of $300 per year for three years, so left America for Oxford.

Matriculating at Jesus College to research for a BLitt, he obtained a third class honours degree in theology in 1909. Harley became a curate ordained on 29 September 1909 by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, he was sent to St. Botolph’s parish church, Shepshed, Leicestershire. He also had curacies in Chisel, near Canterbury and St. Leonard’s parish church in Deal.

He was married in Oxford, on 1 July 1910, to Miss Josephine Maritcha Lawson, the daughter of Jesse Lawson, an African-American Howard University-educated lawyer; her mother was Rosetta C. Lawson, an advocate of temperance and low-income housing. Her parents founded the Frelinghuysen University in Washington, DC in 1917, to provide education, religious training and social services for Black working-class adults.

Harley started a second phase of his remarkable career by entering local politics as an independent councillor. He was elected a member of Leicestershire County Council, where he remained for thirteen years. Harley also started his own weekly newspaper, The Charnwood Bulletin, which at first was free, but later cost 1d. Harley died on 12 May 1943 of a seizure; he is buried at the churchyard of St. James the Greater in the hamlet of Oaks, Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. On a final note the suitcase also contained some very tantalising evidence on Harley’s lineage, but that’s another story and maybe another book!

A fuller account of Harley’s life and fellow Antigua born historical scholar, Lushington Wendall Bruce James, composer and concert pianist, can be found in Pamela Roberts’ new book.

Black Oxford: The Untold Stories of Oxford University’s Black Scholars

Price £7.99
Published by Signal Books
Available from Amazon
For further information info @blackoxford.co.uk
www.blackoxford.com

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Antigua and Barbuda students at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus celebrate after being awarded several scholarships.

Four Antiguan students have been awarded scholarships for their exceptional academic performance at UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados.

The recipients were Blair Rose, Priscilla Whyte, Trevor Smith, and Latrishka Thomas.

Rose and Whyte, final year accounting and finance students, received the CIBC FirstCaribbean Scholarship valued at US $2,500.

Smith, also a final year accounting and finance student, received the Richard Cheltenham QC Scholarship worth BDS $3,500.

Smith currently holds the treasurer position in the Antigua and Barbuda Student Association and is also a student assistant at the school library, working up to 18 hours per week.

Thomas was a worker in the past guild elections.

Speaking of her award, Rose said: “I felt gratified ... you're actually getting a physical award, even though you do feel good in getting good grades. But to get an actual reward solidifies the good feeling you get after working hard, and it also gives encouragement to continue working hard.”

The awardees are encouraging all incoming and current students to visit the university website and apply for as many scholarships as eligible.

Isata Kanneh-Mason, granddaughter of Arnold and Enid Mason, well-known nationals of Antigua and Barbuda made an appearance on BBC 4 on Friday 8th May 2014 as one of the last five performers in the piano category of the BBC Young Musician of the Year. Isata is also one of two recipients of The Walter Todd’s Bursary (Founder of the BBC Young Musician) to the performers who show great promise.

Young Kanneh-Mason was invited to the BBC 4 finals on 18th May in Edinburgh where she received on stage a Certificate.

Congratulations to Isata and to the parents and grandparents of Isata—

His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG, High Commissioner, Mrs Pauline Roberts and the staff at the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission wish Isata continued success in her musical journey.
Antiguan and Barbudan students will get an opportunity to pursue degree studies in the Russian Federation with the granting of four scholarships by the government for studies commencing in September 2014.

Prime Minister the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer today announced that he has received communication from Ambassador Vladimir Polenov of the Russian Embassy in Jamaica following discussions during a recent visit to Antigua and Barbuda on the subject of strengthening the relations between both countries including the granting of scholarships to qualified Antiguans and Barbudans.

“Ambassador Polenov during our discussions indicated that his government is very supportive of the UPP Administration’s drive to provide university level education to our citizens and for the fifth year running, his government has granted scholarships to Antigua and Barbuda,” said Prime Minister Spencer.

The scholarships in the Russian Federation are available for study in Architecture, Nursing Care, Engineering and Technology Construction, Political Science and Visual and Applied Arts. Speaking on behalf of students pursuing studies in the Russian Federation, Political Science major, Kemal Nicholson said that the experience of studying in the Russian Federation, while being a challenge at times has proven to be exciting for students.

“It has not been easy adjusting to the change in weather, culture and learning the Russian Language, which is key to our success here, but we all are committed to succeeding and making our country and families proud. Many of our parents would not have been able to afford university level education for us, therefore this opportunity granted to us is appreciated and invaluable,” Nicholson said.

Application forms for the Russian scholarship programme are available at the Office of the Prime Minister and will remain available until 11th April, 2014.

18th March 2014

Notable cases

Currently involved in the Hillsborough football stadium disaster 2014.

Represented family of Mark Duggan in 2013 and 2014. Mark’s death sparked the 2011 riots.

Dr Leslie Thomas was appointed as Queen’s Counsel in April 2014.

His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, Mrs Pauline Roberts and the staff at the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission wish to congratulate Leslie for his appointment as Queen’s Counsel. May he continue to achieve his goals as he fights for the civil rights and liberties for individuals. May he also ‘raise the flag’ for Antigua and Barbuda. (and Dominica).

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Leslie’s late grandfather Samuel Mano Lewis (known to his family as Pa Fred of Brown’s Avenue, Ottos, St Johns was a fisherman. His late grandmother Rebecca Victoria Lewis (nee Joseph) and known to her family as Dada. Pa Fred and Dada had 10 children including his mother.

Leslie’s parents are Godfrey Thomas from Marigot, Dominica and Sheila Thomas (nee Lewis). They met each other in the early sixties both having arrived in the UK as part of the post Windrush era as Caribbean people striving to make a better life for themselves. His father worked for British Telecom as an technician and his mother as a nurse. They had three children. Leslie has an older sister and a younger brother.

Legal Background

Specialist Inquests and Human Rights Practitioner, specialising in Police and Prisoner Law and actions involving the State with particular emphasis on individual civil liberties and human rights. Instructed as Counsel to inquests by coroners, regularly instructed in police and prison inquests.

Azelle Rodney in 2013 On behalf of the family of Azelle Rodney in the public Inquiry into the police shooting of Mr Rodney in 2005. The report of the chairman Sir Christopher Holland will be published in July 2013. The case was widely reported in the BBC and The Guardian.

Sean Rigg in 2012 On behalf of the family of Sean Rigg, who died in 2008 in custody in Brixton Police station following restraint.
Two new radio stations on the horizon

Two new radio broadcast licences have been issued to two entities in Antigua and Barbuda.

Smash Radio and the Caribbean Super Station will be two new radio stations that Antiguans and Barbudans can listen to on the FM dial. Smash Radio is owned by Smash Broadcasting Ltd, a company started by a group of young Antiguans – Kayode O’marde, Jermaine Rhudd and Nigel Scotland. Caribbean Super Station, formerly Gem Radio, is owned by the Caribbean Communications Company Ltd. The licences were presented in a brief press conference hosted by Minister of Telecommunications, Dr Edmond Mansoor, at the GATE facility on Friday 11th April 2014.

Both Rhudd of Smash Broadcasting Ltd and Wayne Leblanc of Caribbean Communications Company Ltd received the licences on behalf of their respective companies.

My Commonwealth Day by Mr Antonio Joseph, Flagbearer

The theme for this year’s commonwealth day was ‘Team Commonwealth’ and this was a phrase that most certainly described the day. The day started at 9am where I was able to meet nationals from Singapore, Tonga, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Malaysia and some countries where many of us would have great difficulty locating on a map.

Throughout the day while we practised and shared jokes I developed the name ‘Mr Antigua and Barbuda’ as it became apparent that it would be easier to simply call each other by the country we were representing instead of learning 52 new names.

Lunchtime was a learning opportunity to find out about different cultures as we walked over to ‘Methodist Central Hall’ we all wondered whether our national dishes would be on offer, be it rice and peas, fungee and saltfish, pancakes and syrup or Singapore style noodles. Much to our detriment none of these were on offer. The Caribbean representatives had a good laugh when we were given green bananas and someone said ‘ah wah mek, nah pot fu boil this dey’.

The day was a typical cold and windy British day but that did not stop us from getting changed into our national dress majority of which was designed for warmer climates. While the British and Canadian flagbearers were adorned in national dress fit for the cold weather, we the Caribbean representatives certainly felt the cold especially the New Zealand flagbearer who was dressed in a traditional Maori dress which consisted of a grass skirt and some make up.

Many of us were filled with nerves and excitement but our troubles were put to ease as many of us decided to take ‘selfies’ (photos) before the start of the service. As we entered the Abbey and presented our flags to the arriving dignitaries we realised how lucky we were to represent our countries at such a prestigious event.

The service included speeches from Lord Sebastian Coe, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, poetry from South African poet Phillippa Yaa De Villiers and a spectacular performance from Laura Mvula, to top it all off the keynote address was given by Malala Yousafzai which was very inspirational. After the service we assembled outside to present our flags to Her Majesty The Queen and Royal Family, the awaiting press and sea of tourists.

This was my opportunity to be photographed with my High Commissioner His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, CMG and Mrs Roberts. I could see my fellow flagbearers doing the same.

Taking part in this service made me realise although we may all talk differently, have different customs, come from different backgrounds but on that day we all worked together as team commonwealth.

The Thanksgiving Service was attended by His Excellency The High Commissioner, Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG, and Mrs Pauline Roberts.

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His Excellency Dr Carl B W Roberts, CMG, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda attends Commonwealth Day
Dr The Honourable Mr Baldwin Spencer recently visited the UK accompanied by Antigua and Barbuda’s Honorary Consul to Morocco Mr Khouly.

The Prime Minister addressed nationals on a variety of issues on the development and continued economic growth of Antigua and Barbuda at an open forum on the ground floor conference room of the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission.

Topics covered were education (new academy in Five Islands, new library, school meals programme in primary schools), healthcare (Mount St John hospital, a new cancer centre, improving facilities at health clinics to longer opening hours, dental care clinics, agriculture (back garden scheme, seafood fest, mango fest, allocating more lands to grow more Antigua Black pineapple), Citizenship by Investment (CIP), crime and security and Elections 2014.

The meeting was attended by approximately eighty nationals and friends of Antigua and Barbuda. His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, CMG, Mrs Roberts and staff of the High Commission and Tourism Authority were also present.

25th March 2014

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The Queen’s Baton three-day passage through Antigua and Barbuda has been hailed a booming success.

National Olympic Committee (NOC) President Paul “Chet” Greene said the event brought together all the divides as it transcended both the political and sporting boundaries both in Antigua and in the sister isle of Barbuda.

“It was carried on foot; it was carried on quads; it was carried in race cars; it was carried in Barbuda on donkeys and horses, so it was unique,” he said.

“All country in the Commonwealth seeks to do things in their own way. So it’s capturing one’s culture and one’s way of life, and so to have had the young people who are involved in motor sports take part was very interesting.

“To have those who were on the quads take part was very interesting and our athletes, past and present, was also an interesting feature.”

Greene said that the focus on preparation would continue while he thanked those who participated over the weekend.

“The ongoing preparation of our athletes both at home and overseas, because as you know some of athletes are based overseas and at home, so the preparations continue and we are looking forward to the games and the build-up to the games in Glasgow,” he said.

The baton arrived from Dominica after spending two days in that country. It moved through the streets of Antigua for two days and a day in Barbuda before making its way to Montserrat. At the Opening Ceremony of Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games in Celtic Park on July 23, the Queen will read out the message she placed inside the baton after its marathon 190,000km trip around the world and officially declare the Games open.

March 2014

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LOCAL TWINNING ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

The Waltham Forest, Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica Twinning Association has marked 15 years since their Twinning Charter was signed within the grand setting of Waltham Forest Town Hall's Council Chamber.

The occasion was made particularly special because the Founder Mr Franklyn Georges, the original Chair Mrs Undeen George and the former Waltham Forest Town Twinning liaison officer Mr Ken Kilbey, who were present at the time of the signing, were able to join with The Mayor Cllr Nadeem Ali in the anniversary celebrations. Also present on both occasions were the representatives of the High Commissions of Antigua Mrs Althea Vanderpoole Banahene and of Dominica Mrs Janet Charles. It was only fitting that the event, on Saturday 26th April 2014, should also take place in the Council Chamber.

Guests were welcomed by the tropical sounds of Harry Hughes and his junior steel band to start the evening’s programme which was infused with the cultural flavours of the linked areas. It included entertainment from poet and storyteller Baden Prince Jnr, saxophonist Colin Evans, poet, singer and storyteller Jane Grell and the DONA Quadrille dancers. Mr Georges’ granddaughter Kemet Tenkamenin was able to take time out from her university studies to explain how her grandfather and her participation in the youth exchange project influenced her to find out more about her culture and heritage. Young film maker Richard Etienne showed an extract from his forthcoming documentary entitled The ID Project.

Referring to his civic experience as Waltham Forest’s first African-Caribbean Mayor in 1990, Mr Georges reiterated his wish for the African-Caribbean community to have greater civic engagement and involvement in community affairs. He is looking forward to the continued positive working relations of the twinned areas, with the council being central to that focus.

The Mayor expressed his pleasure about the event and, as its patron, wished the Twinning Association continued success with its activities.

He stressed the benefits to Waltham Forest and thanked Mr Georges for his vision for setting up the twinned arrangements.

The Chair of the Twinning Association Mr Everton George gave the vote of thanks and, with the compliments of the respective High Commissions, presented The Mayor with two beautiful publications about Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica.

The Twinning Association was set up to promote friendship, information exchange and mutual understanding of cultural, recreational and commercial activities of the linked areas.

It encourages exchange visits by individuals and groups, particularly by children and young people and the development of personal contacts.

It is keen to work with local schools to form links and partnerships with schools in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica. The ‘Links and Partnerships’ project will be kick-started in July and there are several elements to the project which is aimed at developing greater intergenerational and cultural links within the linked communities.

The annual general meeting is scheduled for 29th May and a sponsored walk on 12th July. For further details and to reserve a place contact: Public Relations Officer on 7732 332 814 or merv.caesarj@googlemail.com.

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Homeland Woos UK Based Athlete

Antigua and Barbuda may have the services of England-born long jumper Amy Harris during the 2014 Commonwealth Games slated for Glasgow, Scotland in July.

Harris’ grandfather, Etel Nathaniel Willock, who died in 2010, lived in Bolans.

Greene added: “(Daniel) ‘Bakka’ Bailey, is exuding confidence as he prepares to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the 2014 Commonwealth Games slated for Glasgow, Scotland in July.

The athlete, who was plagued by a hamstring injury following the Adidas Classic last year, posted his best 200-meter time for the year when he competed in the UWI Classic.

“The country asked me to represent (it) and I am going to go forth and do so. I am preparing for the Commonwealth Games and that’s the main competition for this year to get ready for. Differently, I’ll be competing in a few races in Europe and basically my aim for Commonwealth is the medal but first I have to make the finals and then get the medal,” Bailey said.

Asked why he decided to attend this year’s Games after he opted out in 2012, Bailey said that a change in the dates for the bi-annual competition was a major factor.

“The last Commonwealth Games they had was in October so it was a whole different ball game but this is the time now when everybody is competing, which is July and this is where everybody is peaking and running good because it is in the middle of the season but the last Commonwealth Game was at the end of the season, when everybody was finished, fatigued and tired,” he said.

14th April 2014

‘Bakka’ ready to represent

Mentally, everything is good. Physically, everything is good. I did my first 200 about two weeks ago and I ran a season best of 20.70 behind of Yohan Blake, who ran 20.04 and that was a good start for me,” he said. “So I am just building from that and this Saturday 19th April, I will be running a 200 again so, hopefully, I am going to better that time at the UTECH Classic in Jamaica.”

The aim, according to the Jamaica-based sprinter, is to first get to the finals of both the 100- and 200-meter races before going for a medal.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games will put elite athletes against each other over 11 days of competition from July 23 to August 3.

As a matter of a fact, we’re having this time around, the great one himself (Usain Bolt) who is also planning to go to the games.”

Harris won the long jump gold medal at the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo, Victoria, with a jump of 6.19 metres (20.3ft) and silver at the 2005 European Athletics Junior Championships in Kaunas, Lithuania, with a personal best jump of 6.35m (20.8ft).

Greene said the NOC is always on a hunt for overseas-based athletes willing to represent Antigua and Barbuda.

“Since London two years ago (2012), we did put a notice on our Facebook page and on our website inviting athletes of Antiguan parentage anywhere in the world they might find themselves and who might be interested in representing Antigua,” he said.

“We have had some responses and as a matter of a fact, just last week, there were two athletes carrying the name Davis hailing from All Saints and one took part in a New York event and placed ninth overall.

“The mother wrote to me and I gave her Calvin Greenaway’s details because he is the person who is technical in the NOC. So we can see whether the child is ready for national representation or not.”

The 2014 Commonwealth Games will put elite athletes against each other over 11 days of competition from July 23 to August 3.

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Cabinet Honours Canon Bernard “Brother B” Hodge with Official Funeral

Cabinet at its weekly session on Tuesday 22nd April decided that the Rev. Canon Bernard “Brother B” Hodge will be accorded an Official Funeral.

Canon Bernard Hodge passed away on April 19 at the age of 75 following a brief period of illness.

In a letter of condolence to the Rt. Rev. L. Errol Brooks, Bishop of the North East Caribbean and Aruba, Prime Minister and Chairman of Cabinet the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer outlined that the diocese and the Anglican Communion have lost a champion of the church and a servant of the people.

“He has made a tremendous mark on Antiguans and Barbudans as well as on the lives of the people whom he led in the Anglican Communion. The outpouring of love for him, by Anglicans and non-Anglicans at this time is an indication of how his life and work have impacted the people whose lives he touched. His work in the church, education, Christian broadcasting and the legislature has gained him a legacy that will long be remembered.”

“Not only has Canon Bernard Hodge proven to be an exemplary shepherd of the people, but from all accounts he was an excellent husband and father. Throughout his tenure as Chaplain of the Legislature, Canon Hodge epitomized true humility and selflessness and was always willing to carry out his mission. The Legislature has truly lost a great spiritual father.”

My thoughts and prayers, and those of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, are with the wife of Canon Hodge, Mrs. Beatrice Hodge and their children Collette Hodge-Marsh and Colin Hodge.

The Cabinet also expressed its sym-pathies to the wife of Canon Hodge, Mrs. Beatrice Hodge and their children Collette Hodge-Marsh and Colin Hodge.

The Cabinet appointed Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Gender Affairs, the Hon. Dr. Jacqui Quinn Leandro as Chair of the Official Funeral Planning Committee. The Committee, along with the Hodge family met to commence planning of the Official Funeral. (Ends)

PM Spencer Pays Tribute to the Life and Work of ANR Robinson

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer has paid tribute to the life and work of former Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, ANR Robinson who passed away on Wednesday following a period of illness.

The full text of Prime Minister Spencer’s tribute follows:

“As Prime Minister and President of Trinidad and Tobago, ANR Robinson was a leader who made a major contribution to his country during some of its most difficult times.

An exemplary Caribbean statesman who made his mark on the international stage, especially with his proposal for the now highly-respected International Criminal Court, Mr. Robinson was a brave and visionary leader who showed many of the best qualities our region has to offer the world.

He served with distinction at every level of politics in his country and in the West Indies Federation, and his legacy will remain strong amongst those of us who fight for justice and democracy in the Caribbean and worldwide.

My thoughts and prayers, and those of the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS, are with his family and the people of Trinidad and Tobago on this very sad occasion.”

9th April 2014

Useful Telephone Numbers in Antigua and Barbuda

Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths—001 268 462 3725
Land Registry—001 268 462 3745 or 562 3943 or 562 3894
Mount St. Johns announces new Ophthalmology Service

Norma Holder (President of Rotary Antigua Club Sundown), Dr. Ian Walwyn (MSJMC Ophthalmologist and Rotarian), Dr. Alvin Edwards (MSJMC Medical Director/Ophthalmologist) and Dr Matthew Traynor (Ophthalmologist/Representative from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints).

The Mount St. John’s Medical Centre (MSJMC) is now offering a new YAG Laser service at the hospital’s Ophthalmology Clinic. This new piece of equipment, worth over eighty thousand dollars was donated through a partnership of the Rotary Antigua Club Sundown and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"Many patients per year require YAG Laser treatment. Until now, these patients were referred to facilities outside of Antigua for treatment.

This procedure is an outpatient, ambulatory procedure which can be delivered on the same day as the ophthalmology consultation”, said Dr. Alvin Edwards, Medical Director and Ophthalmologist at MSJMC.

“What we’re seeking is more local services for more local people. The new service line will mean significant savings and reduced waiting times for patients.”

The Ophthalmic Division provides secondary and tertiary care to residents of Antigua & Barbuda and beyond. The Division provides an extensive range of services and facilities for both adults and children. These include the emergency eye care, acute referrals, ophthalmic imaging, laser (new) and optometry.

11th April 2014

Mount St. Johns announces new Ophthalmology Service

CHAPA BAUPANEL Model Homes opened

The UPP Administration is pleased to announce the official unveiling of the first homes produced by its joint venture with Baupanel SL. This project is bringing new homes and new stable jobs to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Baupanel manufactures innovative, comfortable and affordable prefabricated homes. As part of a collaboration between the company and the UPP Government, Baupanel is building a new factory in Crabbs that will serve as its production headquarters for the Caribbean and South American regions.

The new factory will provide 5,000 homes for domestic sale, which will be sited in Bolans, Five Islands, Lightfoot and Lyons as part new communities that will include stores, public spaces and public transport. Homes will be available in a number of sizes and designs, ranging from apartments to detached houses, and they are designed to be hurricane and earthquake-resistant.

This initiative is part of the UPP Government’s ongoing efforts to provide land and quality homes for residents of Antigua and Barbuda at affordable prices.

Other indications of this real commitment to increasing land and home ownership include our land distribution programme, which has already distributed over 200 parcels of land over the last year and has identified over 450 more that are awaiting distribution to the public.

Commenting, UPP Spokesperson, Malaka Parker, said:

"We are immensely proud that this vision is becoming a reality.

"We have ensured that finance options will be available for prospective homeowners."

"The construction of the Baupanel factory also forms one component of the UPP’s strategy for job creation and economic diversification. The benefit to the local economy of the new factory is estimated at $200 million, and when complete the factory will employ well over 1000 Antiguans and Barbudans."

14th April 2014
New ‘Vision Centre’ opens

Antiguans in the south of the island can now benefit from a newly opened Vision Centre at the Johnson’s Point Clinic.

The centre is part of a programme called Vision 2020, whose aim is to provide quality, personalised and optimal eye care to low-income people in the rural and urban communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

The initiative is a joint effort between the Ministry of Health and the Caribbean Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CCB-Eye Care Caribbean). To date, three such centres have been opened at Gray’s Farm, Clare Hall and now the Johnson’s Point Clinic.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony yesterday, Statistician in the Ministry of Health Ena Henry, outlined the rationale for the programme.

“That’s what this vision centre is all about, providing services to those persons who cannot afford to pay their way; because our responsibility is to make the service available, accessible and affordable, so it’s here and it’s here to stay,” Joseph said.

Also speaking at the event was CEO of the Caribbean Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired Arvel Grant and Parliamentary Representative for the area Hilson Baptiste.

In his remarks, Grant commented on the need for having these centres in each community.

“My hope is that the entire population of Antigua and Barbuda will see the redeeming value of having vision centres within easy reach of everyone, including the very elderly so that every person in this country can go over to their community vision centre, have a basic eye examination … To me, that is a big win for any country. It is a big win for Antigua.”

14th March 2014

Maritime school to be set up

A Maritime School of Excellence is to be set up in Antigua and Barbuda within the next few months. Following the recently concluded Regional Security System (RSS) Ministers of Council Meeting in Barbados, Minister of National Security Dr Errol Cort said the government is receiving support from regional counterparts.

“This school of excellence, under the aegis of the Antigua & Barbuda Defence Force will also have another critical partner in addition to RSS. That partner will be the American University of Antigua and its affiliates Aicasa (American International College of Arts and Sciences),” Dr Cort revealed.

The intention, Dr Cort said, is to advance the maritime capabilities of the nation. The school is to be a credited institute issuing diplomas, degree and certificates, upon completion of the courses of study.

Dr Cort said Antigua will be known regionally for its cadre of Defence Force personnel with specialisation in maritime matters.

“We are hoping that we will host visiting members of other forces within the Eastern Caribbean,” the security minister added.

“Our maritime school will also be supported by the US Southern Command and I believe that support was indicated coming out of the recent CANSEC (Caribbean Nations Security Conference) meeting in the Dominican Republic.

The facility is to be set up at Camp Blizzard.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda will host this year’s military Trade Winds Exercise in June. Antigua was chosen following the completion of recent re-negotiations and signing of the forces agreement between the country and the United States of America.

17th March 2014
A National Library at last

After four decades since the public library was damaged by an earthquake, construction of the new national public library of Antigua and Barbuda has been completed. The work which was started in the 1990's has been completed under the United Progressive Party administration signalling another campaign promise fulfilled by the “People First” Government. The 20,000 square foot multi-level complex building located on Hails Prominard Road is a replacement for the nation's first library which was damaged by an earthquake in 1974. The country has operated a 'temporary' library on Market Street since.

Minister of Education Dr. Hon. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro is the fifth Education Minister to preside over the library construction project. On Wednesday, moments before the ribbons were cut to open the doors of the building, the minister noted she was cognizant of the challenges her predecessors in the ministry faced, but that she was determined that the project would be completed under her watch.

"The pride I feel as Minister of Education in this United Progressive Party administration is tinged with a bit of sadness and embarrassment, that for forty years Antiguans and Barbudans have been deprived the right of the use of a proper national public library," Quinn-Leandro said. The Education Minister noted as such, "whenever we lament the weakness in literacy over the last four decades we should look back at how culpable we are as a nation in not providing the appreciation for books, for intellectual stimulation, which is a symbol in a national public library."

"Any Antiguan and Barbudan forty years or younger would not have known or had the benefit of a properly, well run, well resourced national public library. And I say without equivocation this is a burning shame, a disgrace and a national travesty. However today is a historic day," Quinn-Leandro said.

The library will become fully operationalized after finishing touches like custom made shelving and special furniture has been installed at the facility. Prime Minister Dr. Hon. Baldwin Spencer said in the new societies which are emerging worldwide leaders are convinced that a favourable environment for education and growth is the key to producing the most effective and relevant world leaders of tomorrow.

"There is no doubt that the drive to have this library open was revived and accelerated by the United Progressive Party administration since we came into office in 2004. However we are conscious that there were many before us, while gaining little support from the government of the day, thirty years before our coming into office, who stood firm and tall in working towards this goal." Prime Minister Spencer said.

Since taking up office in 2004 the mission of the UPP administration has been one to build an educated society through its education and information technology policies and programmes.

The UPP’s expenditure on the portfolio of education has exceeded $600 million dollars the rationale being that throughout the world it is indisputably recognized that the path to sustainable development is through the acquisition and application of knowledge.

"It is a key component of our drive to develop a pluralistic participatory and inclusive knowledge based society. Libraries are key institution in the context of achieving this goal. At the core of libraries are their missions to provide information, literacy education and culture. This structure which we dedicate and which forms part of our mandate to the people to provide the greatest good to the greatest number of people will be the watering hole for individuals which hunger for free and equitable access to information be it in written, electronic and in audio visual form. An avenue for knowledge collection of the past and present." The Prime Minister said.

The national public library will offer several rooms, including a children's library and reading room, adult reading rooms, a modern conference room, a research and reference library, newspaper and periodicals section, staff and lobby areas, a cafeteria and a gift shop.

"Many would say that the United Progressive Party was feverishly anxious to open a new public library. Our burning desire was rooted in our belief that as a government we have a nation to build and a country to mould." The Prime Minister said.
Over the last two decades, Antigua Sailing Week has become one of the biggest events in the international sailing calendar, and it is one of the most fantastic times to visit Antigua and take advantage of an island-wide party. From small beginnings, the regatta has developed into a world-class event and now includes an Ocean Series for boats that prefer ocean racing.

Antigua Sailing Week began in 1967 with only 10 boats, and at times has had over 200 entries. You don’t have to be a sailor however, to enjoy the festivities of Antigua Sailing Week. The races are followed by many non-competing yachts that tag along to see the action, and there are fantastic look-out points around the island from which to spectate.

Most of the racing is off the south coast of Antigua with some of the fleet going up the west coast to Jolly Harbour on Thursday. The Event Village is located in Nelson’s Dockyard, English Harbour and is the central point at which all the crews gather after the day’s racing is finished to exchange stories and enjoy happy hour from 3 to 6 pm. There is a combination of background and live music every day and evening in the Event Village and some nights there are parties in various other locations.

Mid-Sailing Week, there is no racing but don’t miss the famous Antigua Sailing Week Lay Day events held at Antigua Yacht Club in Falmouth Harbour!

Antigua Sailing Week is a non-profit organisation that is sponsored and operated by the Antigua Hotels and Tourist Association. Planning for the event is a year-long task for the team involved and starts again every year as soon as Sailing Week finishes at the beginning of May.

"The majority of my hits are very well received in the Caribbean," smiled Shaggy before going on stage.

“I have played in Antigua about three times already but we have a few new songs that we haven’t played before and the capacity crowd is ready for them. There are a lot of sailors too and that adds a really good vibe. Everybody likes the water and I was out there today on a boat. I wasn’t racing, just chilling out and relaxing. One thing that I like about Antigua is the beaches and the crystal clear ocean. It reminds me of Jamaica a lot, but Antigua has more of an island vibe and it hasn’t developed into a massive city. Here you get the sense that you are on an island where everybody knows each other and people are warm and friendly.”

2nd May 2014

Shaggy Woos Audience at Shirley Heights during Antigua sailing week

Thousands of fans flocked to Shirley Heights on Tuesday 29th April 2014 for the big concert of Antigua Sailing Week, presented by English Harbour 5 Year Old Rum. Antigua soca star, Tian Winter got the party started with a strong Caribbean vibe before international star, Shaggy wooed the dancing crowd with an energetic show of monster hits including, Mr. Boombastic and It wasn’t me!

The atmosphere was charged and happy as Shaggy whipped the audience into a frenzy with plenty of interaction with the assemblage.

"The majority of my hits are very well received in the Caribbean," smiled Shaggy before going on stage.

“I have played in Antigua about three times already but we have a few new songs that we haven’t played before and the capacity crowd is ready for them. There are a lot of sailors too and that adds a really good vibe. Everybody likes the water and I was out there today on a boat. I wasn’t racing, just chilling out and relaxing. One thing that I like about Antigua is the beaches and the crystal clear ocean. It reminds me of Jamaica a lot, but Antigua has more of an island vibe and it hasn’t developed into a massive city. Here you get the sense that you are on an island where everybody knows each other and people are warm and friendly.”

2nd May 2014

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Tourism officials welcome UK travel tax changes

Air tax changes: Air Passenger Duty paid by a family of four in economy class

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Air tax changes: Air Passenger Duty paid by a family of four in economy class.

Tourism officials in Antigua and Barbuda are lauding reform to the United Kingdom’s controversial Air Passenger Duty (APD), which was announced on Wednesday 19th March.

“It is wonderful news for all Caribbean destinations,” said Minister of Tourism John Maginley.

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, during his budget presentation, announced that from April 1, 2015, the APD will be simplified into a two-band system.

Effective April 1, Band A will cover short-haul flights of less than 2,000 miles from London and Band B all long-haul flights of more than 2,000 miles.

Maginley, during his time as Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) in 2009 and 2010, led a delegation to the UK to lobby for changes in the tax. CTO Secretary General Hugh Riley thanked Maginley for his role in the lobby against APD.

“We really would like them to remove it altogether but the compromise was to get Band C out, so its very good news for us,” said Maginley.

“At least now it’s non discriminatory. It’s a heavy tax but it was discriminating against Caribbean territories compared to US territories,” he added.

Under the new system travel to all long-haul destinations will be charged at the same rate putting all of them on an equal footing.

“From next year, all long-haul flights will carry the same lower Band B tax rate that you now pay to fly to the United States,” Osborne said.

At present it is cheaper to fly to the US than the Caribbean, despite similar distances, a situation Osborne called “crazy and unjust.”

Starting next year, the tax on long-haul flights for those that were in Band C will be reduced by £14 per person, while those in Band D will be cut by £26. The move will save a family of four flying economy £56 when visiting the Caribbean. Those flying in premium economy, business class or first class will save twice as much. Private jets will now also pay the tax, said the chancellor.

20th March 2014

Antigua and Barbuda top Tourism list

Antigua and Barbuda has been voted one of only two Eastern Caribbean Islands ranked among the region’s top 10 destinations by Trip Advisor’s Traveller’s Choice Destination Award 2014.

The announcement, which comes from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), forms part of the organisation’s Top Ten Destinations in the Caribbean online rating.

Making the list also are the Cayman Islands, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands.

The accolade is considered as quite a feat for the small, twin-island state.

Responding to the news, Minister of Tourism John Maginley said, “Despite our size, Antigua and Barbuda continues to punch above our weight in delivering service excellence to our visitors. Congratulations are in order for the thousands of workers in our industry and all the tourism stakeholders who work tirelessly each day to deliver an exceptional experience to the visitors to our shores.”

Meanwhile, CEO of ABTA Colin C James said, “Antigua and Barbuda, as a destination, should feel proud of its formidable achievements over the past year and now being acknowledged with another Trip Advisor Traveller’s Choice Destination Award.

The designation is based on a selection process by actual visitors to the islands.

“This latest endorsement, which is as a direct result of the first-class experience that we offer our visitors, is something that all Antiguans and Barbudans can be proud of,” James said.

In 2013, Antigua and Barbuda also received Trip Advisor’s Traveller’s Choice Destination Award as well as being the host to the finale episodes of ABC TV’s Primetime reality show, ‘The Bachelorette’ and the UK’s popular music television programme The X-Factor, which showcased the destination to millions of viewers worldwide, a release read.

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Decompression Unit
(Bends Chamber)
for Antigua and Barbuda and the Eastern Caribbean

Support a Fundraising Event

A Decompression Chamber (Bends Chamber) is a sealable diving chamber with hatches large enough for people to enter and exit. It releases a supply of compressed breathing gas to raise the internal air pressure. The hyperbaric chamber provides a supply of oxygen for the users and can be used for a number of clinical conditions and side effects relating to scuba and deep sea diving accidents, which is a major concern for Antigua and Barbuda and the Region as a popular tourist destination.

There have been other efforts to raise funds by Ms Geraldine Philip, a national of Antigua who first brought the project to the attention of The High Commissioner.

Another such group is Antiguan born Councillor Sydney Knight formerly Mayor of Luton and his Team. Councillor Knight and his Team have donated of £10,000 towards to the cost of the Decompression Unit.

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