

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

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Year 63 NO. 12 BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 14th AUGUST, 2020

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 31/07/20

DELTA \$11.03 / SOL \$10.03

FROM YOUTH PARLIAMENT

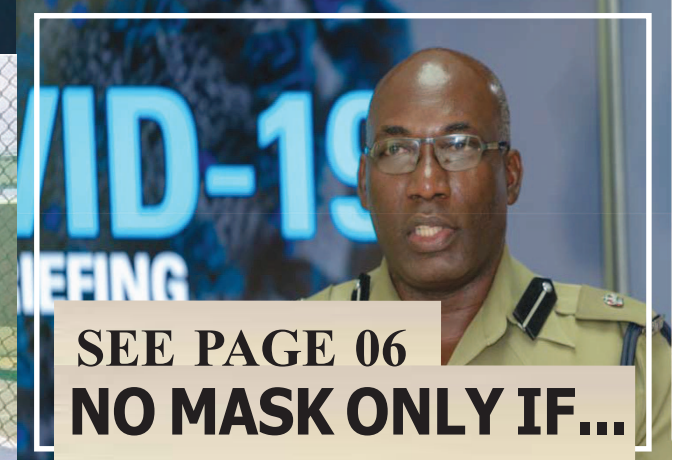
DAYS...

STORY ON PAGE 03



PLAYING IT SAFE

SEE PAGE 04



SEE PAGE 06

NO MASK ONLY IF...



TRAVEL TALK

STORY ON PAGE 04

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN - ESTABLISHED MAY 1957

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Editorial

The Devastating Effects Of Corruption

Earlier in the week news was received to the effect that a judge of The High Court in Port-of-Spain had found a lawyer guilty of misappropriating (one may also read 'messing around with') a client's funds, which were to have been held in trust by said lawyer, and had imposed a sentence of time to be spent in jail.

Quite understandably people here in St. Kitts and Nevis immediately began to wonder aloud if such considerations do not apply to our country.

Then there were 'rumourings' concerning removal of persons from boards and authorities, apparently, in some cases, because they refused to classify as bad debts, huge sums of money which had clearly been syphoned off a statutory trust fund, and illegally disbursed to certain gullible elements for seriously illegal purposes, particularly around the time of the elections.

It does appear as though those brave souls were saying to the powers that be 'sorry, we will not be inveigled into white-washing any wrong doings, especially those which involve criminal acts and public monies'.

To those persons we say: "Bravo! Good for you. It is indeed encouraging to know that some of our people, irrespective of their political persuasions and affiliations, still have 'back-bone' and will stand up to evil doers, no matter how demonic and menacing they may be."

It is our further understanding that, immediately following the removals, new persons were empaneled, with one notable exception in each case, namely a sibling who, amongst other things, appears to be the direct link to certain factions of our society.

Perhaps it is felt that those new entities are political sycophants and toadies, who will do as they are told, with no questions asked. We shall just have to wait and see just how all of that turns out.

The 'powers that be' may yet face, and have to deal with, the fact that some people can prove to be quite unpredictable, and, when faced with certain choices, will often surprise those who regard and treat them as if they are serfs, and, even worse, creatures devoid of common sense.

Another interesting development appears to be an insistence, from some quarters, that this time around cannot and will not be just like the first term, and more than one family will have to benefit from the corruption.

We have taken the trouble, time and again, to point out to you, the people of St. Kitts and Nevis, that our nation is fully in the grip of a most evil entity. From the time that SCHEME UNITY got their hands on the levers of political power, this country has been sinking ever deeper into corruption.

One gets the feeling that there is no level too low for these people.

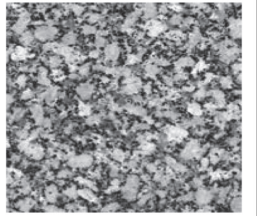
However, as the country sinks deeper into the mire, and as the



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people suffer more and more, those who mislead them become richer and richer, and, despite all of the talk to the contrary, they have carved out their 'havens' elsewhere, banked their corrupt monies in overseas banks, and are constantly ready to 'lift anchor' and settle in countries where they think that they cannot be reached.

But time is always longer than twine, and the arm of the law is long and patient.

The most depressing aspect of all of this is the fact that a people can be so gullible that they allow such atrocities to be perpetrated upon them, and for such lengthy periods of time.

In last week's edition, we featured a piece by Dr. Daniel Mandell, Professor of History at Truman State University, Missouri, USA, in which he brought out the nature and difficulties inherent in the historic struggle for economic equality in The USA, and we related them to our own struggles here in St Kitts and Nevis.

Some of the major findings of his research summarised the long, drawn-out nature of the struggle, and of the methods, techniques and strategies employed by those who are well-off to ensure that those who have not, are always unsuccessful in achieving any evening of the playing field.

This week, at page 10, we are featuring a piece by Dr. Nic Cheesman, Professor of Democracy and International Development at The University of Birmingham, England, UK, in which he has analysed the major difficulties, and causes of the failures, in attempts over the years to restore African nation states to democracy and other forms of normalcy, especially in the face of rampant corruption.

Attempts to bring about those recoveries by changing regimes and leaders all too often prove unsuccessful. As he found out changes of leaders and governments do not always generate more democratic and responsive governments.

One very notable example quoted by Professor Cheesman was the case of

Zimbabwe, whose people had been praying and working for recovery from the horrors of Robert Mugabe rule. However, quite recent occurrences appear to have dashed those hopes, or, at the very least, to have set them back substantially.

During the last few weeks Zimbabweans witnessed a sustained attack on democracy, in the form of a brutal government crackdown on freedom of speech. Many journalists were arrested on what later turned out to have been flimsy charges. Even worse was the realisation that 'the rule of law had been manipulated to keep them in jail'.

To many Zimbabweans it now seems clear that the Mnangagwa government 'is no more committed to human rights and civil liberties than its predecessor was'. It is also the case that corruption still runs rampant.

For us as a people there are many, many lessons to be learnt about our nations politics and the struggle for economic upliftment, and, with the whole country now corrupted, we have to accept the fact that the road to recovery is going to be a long, hard one.

We need to be careful, very careful indeed, when certain persons come before trying to convince us that they love us, care for us, and to serve us. ALWAYS view them with skepticism, and question their motives, for when they get through with us we always end up being far worse off than we were before.

Before February 2015, we of this newspaper, constantly warned the people of St. Kitts and Nevis that we needed to be "rescued from Operation Rescue". Many ignored our warnings, and just look at where we are now!

The Good Book itself warns us that corruption is a seriously destructive entity. Let us ALWAYS remember that lesson, and let us brace ourselves for the long, hard struggle to once again free ourselves from the devastating effects of corruption.

New Opposition Parliamentarian Talks Youth Parliament Impact On SKN Society

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Friday 14th August 2020) - Newly-elected Parliamentary Representative for Constituency One Dr. Geoffrey Hanley (opposition member) who co-founded the St. Kitts-Nevis National Youth Parliament Association (SKNYPA)



is applauding the impact of such an organization on the Federation, pointing to the new Opposition Senator Dr. Joyelle Clarke who is a past member of that non-governmental, non-partisan youth organization.

On Thursday 13th August 2020, this media house interviewed both individuals minutes ahead of their first time attendance in their official capacities for the sitting of the National Assembly at Government Headquarters on Church Street.

Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas, Parliamentary Representative for Constituency Six walked with colleagues of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) that day.

Dr. Hanley, in commenting on his first day heading to parliament, said: "It is a very heartwarming feeling. I'm very overwhelmed knowing that today is the actual day when you'll be officially sworn into Parliament where you'll be able to make meaningful contributions and represent the people of East Basseterre, and I'm even happier when yesterday we were able to identify Dr. Joyelle Clarke on International Youth Day to serve as our senator." •

He then went on to share: "I was one of the cofounders of St. Kitts-Nevis National Youth Parliament Association and she was a member of that group so it is even a greater feeling knowing that a cause that I would have been fighting for since 1998, we are now seeing many of those seeds turn into flowers into a beautiful garden because the entire Parliament now is surrounded by persons who would have passed through my hands or even the hands of the SKNYPA group so I'm extremely proud of planting that seed in seeing the country now benefiting from all of our young professionals taking part in democracy." •

As for Dr. Clarke, she stated: "This is an exceptional moment for me and I'm truly excited to join what I think is the largest number of women and young people to ever sit in the parliament of St. Kitts and Nevis and so I welcome and embrace this opportunity to serve." •

Asked her take on the symbolism of being publicly identified on the occasion of International Youth Day (observed on 12th August annually), she replied: "It means a lot because what it says is that even the SKNLP recognizes that this is the moment to listen to the voices of the youth; not just listen and do nothing but to listen and take what they're saying really really serious and so if I'm part of this process I'm happy." •

According to official SKNYPA information (found on its official social media page facebook.com/sknyassociation), it is non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan youth organisation in St. Kitts geared towards being the voice for youth of the federation of St. Kitts & Nevis.

As understood, it was launched on September 13th 2001 under the motto "Equality and Justice in Nation Building." •

"The impetus to form an association was born in 1999, after Mr. Geoffrey Hanley, an officer in the Department of Youth Affairs, had earlier that year attended a regional Youth Parliament Sitting in the Bahamas. Upon his return, he held meetings with his ministerial heads and came up with the idea for the formulation of a local youth parliament that would continually debate issues of youth interest in the National Assembly chambers and then participate in regional and international forums with more experience and skill," the write-up states.

It is also highlighted that he collaborated with Mr. Desmond Ward, the then Parliamentary Coordinator, who endorsed the idea and lent his expertise and experiences in Parliamentary protocol, debate, speech writing and legislative drafting to the success of this venture.

Spokesman Snap: New Opposition Senator Dr. Joyelle Clarke (left) and newly- elected Opposition Parliamentary Representative for Constituency One (East Basseterre) Dr. Geoffrey Hanley on their way to Government Headquarter for the sitting of National Assembly Parliament on Thursday 13th August 2020.

JOHN 5 - JESUS SAID...

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true.

Case Number : SKBHPB2020/0034 EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

A. D. 2020

Filed Date: 31/07/2020 09:47

CLAIM NO: SKBHPB2020/0034

(PROBATE)

Fees Paid: 52.00

*In the Estate of MARY ALBERTHA SADDLER
also known as MARY CROSSLEY late of
Suncrest Housing Development in the Island of
St. Christopher.*

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PROBATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **VERNON S. VEIRA** of Half Moon Road, Frigate Bay, in the Island of St. Christopher for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 12th day of January, 2019 without revoking a will bearing the 18th day of June, 1990 wherein the applicant is named Sole Executor.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Probate to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2020

Filed by

S.A.M. Legal Services

Attorney-at-Law for the Estate of Mary Albertha Saddler also known as Mary Crossley, deceased.

Annual Summer Tennis Camp Aces Hygiene Practices, Clean Fun

By: Spokesman

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Friday 14th August 2020) - President St.Kitts-Nevis Tennis Association and Camp Director of the 2020 summer Tennis Camp Watkins Chiverton says officials and athletes have been following hygiene COVID-19 guidelines to ensure safe interactions during the yearly outdoorsy sports event- Monday 10th to Friday 14th August (9am to 12:30pm) - at Warner Park.

“That’s very important. In fact that station over there at the entrance is the Sanitization Station so as soon as they come in, they have to sanitize and we use the temperature gun so that they get their temperature checked. We have the hand soaps and then we have a running register where the parents actually sign in the children and sign out so at least in terms of contact tracing and knowledge of who were here and also what time they left and so on so we have that in place and in addition to that between the interchanges, we’re encouraging them to wash their hands and before their get the meals and so on and as you can see we have them all spread out,” he said during a courtside interview as he took a break from a session with athletes.

Asked about the cooperation of the athletes in following the good hygiene practices, he commented: “They are getting it. They show up with their face masks and they’re doing their best to get their hands clean and keeping their distance, and so we’re ensuring that the camp is run without any violation of the existing regulations.”•

He informed that the camp has seen over forty (40) players from a wide cross section of St.Kitts with an almost balanced gender ratio. As gathered, the tennis players range from ages 7 to 17 including athletes from the Junior National League who always consistently participate in the camp.

As it relates to the game of tennis, Chiverton

highlighted: “We do a holistic programme so firstly we start off with fitness because in tennis it’s important that you have the right fitness and at the same time it is one of the development goals because we want to development the whole individual...utilise your energy so that is first and then we move on to skills development. Infact, we have three main categories where we have the early beginners who are playing with red balls and then we have the intermediates who are playing with the orange balls and then we have the more advanced players who are utilizing the green balls so their skill levels are developing based on these categories based on their own knowledge of the game

and their ability and the beautiful thing about it is that we welcome new players. Even those who have not touched a racket before with the first five minutes they’re having proper technique...as well as being taught the back hand fundamental strokes in the game.”•

Commenting on the status of tennis in St.Kitts-Nevis, he had this to say: “Our player development profile is such that we have players here who have participated in international events and those who are being shaped to partake in the next set of events that are coming up and even we’re aiming to get at least two players on to the Olympics. So we’re really moving fast and it’s pretty beautiful because we’ve pretty much only started back in 2017 but within 2018- 2019 to today, we have seen accelerated growth and with the parental support and athletes themselves are very much interested in honing their skills and getting better every

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP.10.19
A.D. 2020

Application No. SKBCV2020/

In the Matter of an Application by **John Irving Nerness and Mary Ernestine Nerness** for the issuance of a replacement Certificate of Title in lieu of a lost Certificate of Title dated 21st September 2009 in their favour for Timeshare Interest No. 6307S42 registered in Timeshare Interest Register Book 2009 Folio 907 of St. Christopher Circuit

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR TIMESHARE INTEREST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **John Irving Nerness and Mary Ernestine Nerness** residing at 1374 Lick Skillet Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811, United States of America, the Registered Proprietors as Joint Tenants of Timeshare Interest No. 6307S42 of Condominium No.17 of St. Kitts Beach Club Condominium, Frigate Bay, St. Christopher have applied to the Registrar of Titles for the issuance of a replacement Certificate of Title for the said Timeshare Interest No. 6307S42 of Condominium No.17 of St. Kitts Beach Club Condominium, Frigate Bay, St. Christopher in lieu of Certificate of Title dated 21st September 2009 registered in their favour in Condominium Book 2009 Folio 907 of the Register of Titles for St. Christopher on the basis that the said Certificate of Title has been irretrievably lost.

Any person who may be in possession of the Certificate of Title or may have any information which may lead to its recovery, please contact:

Michella Adrien, Attorney-at-Law
Chambers,
Michella Adrien Law Offices
South Independence Square Street
Basseterre, St Kitts

[2nd Publication]

day with every stroke; really advancing through their development pathway.”•

Chiverton added: “So just now some of these players that you’re seeing now, we can predict that within the next four, five years, they are going to be competing not just in the regional here. When we first launched our junior programme in March, by May some of our athletes were able to participate in Antigua and reach as far as the semifinals and quarter finals so the kids are really grasping the game; they’re hungry to play Infact you can’t get them off the court after we’re finished. We have to beg them or chase them off the court so the development agenda that we’re seeing is really accelerating to a pace where we can say that the parents are really proud and we ourselves are achieving our goals.”•

Some of the athletes, with the approval and supervision of Chiverton- talked about their experience at the camp.

Vlad Bolfa- “My experience at the camp has been good so far and probably will be good for the following two days. We’ve played matches and I can’t wait for Friday because Friday is the championship. I’ve been playing tennis for about 4 to 5 years.”•

Sanjana ‘Sana’ Booraj - “I had fun on the first day of camp. It was really, really fun. On the second day of camp,



A demonstration of the temperature gun
(Spokesman Snap)



Tennis action! (Spokesman Snap)

(cont’d on next page)

2020 Last Quarter Opening Of Borders Being Looked At

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Friday 14th August 2020) – After being closed since 25th March 2020 due to measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic, the government is hoping to open the borders in St. Kitts-Nevis months later in October.

Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris indicated at his monthly press conference on Tuesday 11th August that his administration is hoping to open the borders in the last quarter of 2020 should things go as predicted.

“Based on discussions with stakeholders in the tourism sector it is expected that should things go as predicted we shall be ready to open our borders by October 2020. An expansive training programme is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Civil Aviation. It aims to train 5,000 persons in the industry at no cost to participants.”

Dr. Harris continued: “I am advised that this type of training carries a cost of \$100.00 per participant. Given the need to ensure all will benefit and can be certified by the Tourism Authority, the training is being offered free of charge. The good news is that our major hotels are committed to St. Kitts and Nevis, and airlines are showing high interest in bringing their passengers to our shores.”

Additionally, he shared details as it relates to the hotel industry in St. Kitts-Nevis, making mention of six resorts.

“Marriott is still committed to St. Kitts and Nevis. A new General Manager has arrived on island recently and will guide the operations at this time. KOI has advised that it has been in touch with Hilton and will reopen in the last quarter of 2020. Park Hyatt is

expected to open fully in October 2020, providing work to its 180 employees. However, I am pleased to learn that its Fisherman’s Village Restaurant is already open for business. The Royal St. Kitts Hotel is functioning, albeit in a reduced capacity. Tomorrow, I will meet with the management of Four Seasons and will report on this at a later date.”

Notably, that meeting did take place on Wednesday 12th August which included the attendance of new Minister of Labour Wendy Phipps and Labour Commissioner Shernel James.

Front Page Spokesman Snap: Prime Minister Harris greets officials and pilots of Sun Country Airlines (737-700) at the Kayanjet Lounge following an inaugural flight service from Minneapolis to St Kitts at the RLB International Airport in December 2018

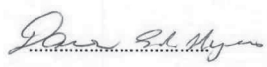


FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ISLAND OF NEVIS
A.D. 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LILLIAN COZIER of Fountain Village, St. James Parish, in the Island of Nevis, through her Solicitors, *Cozier and Associates*, has applied to the Registrar of Deeds for a Self-Conveyance in her favour as Administratrix of the Estate of **GERALDINE AUGUSTA HANLEY** in respect of an area of land situate at Liburd Hill in the Parish of St. James in the Island of Nevis bounded and measuring as follows:-

‘On or towards the North by lands of Florine Jeffers and James Neale, 164.67 feet and 73.31 feet and by an Access Road, 85.74 feet; On or towards the East by lands of Gwenneth Jones, Livingston Neale and Samuel Jones 179.27 feet and 43.30 feet; On or towards the South by an Access Road 181.79 and 169.21 feet and On or towards the North by lands of Flora Smithen 95.61 feet and by an Estate Road 123.25 feet and containing by admeasurement 1.47 acres all as the same is delineated and described in a plan dated the 29th day of August 2014 made by James Buchanan, Licensed Land Surveyor.’

Dated the 24th day of July, 2020.


Registrar of Deeds



Annual Summer Tennis...

(cont'd from last page)

I had to do the warm ups because I went early and when I went home I just slept because I was really tired but today I'm tired but I had a lot of fun. I've been playing tennis since I was in grade 3 and now I'm going in grade 6 in September. When I was in grade 4, I had to go for a competition for the interschool and I came in third place overall in my category.”

Renecia Michael- I enjoyed tennis when I first started it and I did a tennis competition and came first in it and now tennis is easy and fun. I started playing tennis at age 5 and now I'm 10.”

Front Banner Spokesman Snap: President St. Kitts-Nevis Tennis Association and Camp Director of the 2020 Summer Tennis Camp interacts with athletes (including Vlad Bolfa seen at right end) at the Sanitization Station on Wednesday 12th August 2020.



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Individuals Fitting No-Mask Exceptions Get Response In New Regulations

By: Precious Mills

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Friday 14th August 2020) - Complaints by individuals with underlying health conditions and others fitting the exception category for not being required to wear a face mask have been responded to in new COVID-19 regulations here in St. Kitts-Nevis.

Inspector Cromwell Henry, in a presentation at the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing on Saturday 8th August 2020, revealed that the regulation provides some exceptions to the wearing of masks.

"We heard persons were complaining that they cannot wear

the masks for various reasons so those were taken into consideration and so the new regulations have created some exceptions for those person who have underlying conditions and the exception in regulation 15 (2) says: A person shall not be required to wear a mask if he or she is under the age of three years old, he or she suffers with a disability, cognitive impairment, dementia, asthma, chronic obstructive lung disease or other similar



Inspector Cromwell Henry (SKNIS Photo)

health conditions, if he or she is within a private space including a private vehicle."•

Meanwhile Inspector Henry is encouraging all other individuals

not in the exception grouping to wear their face masks in public places and avoid penalties which could see a \$500 ticket, court fine up to \$5000 or imprisonment according to new regulations put in place, and has also listed the groups of individuals who are not required to wear face masks.

"Of course these penalties can be avoided. It is not our intention to see anyone having to pay any of these fines if you just simply wear your mask and you don't have to pay any fine," he advised.

He noted that the new relation "has created a lot of public discourse but as I've mentioned before, everything that is done in these regulations are to protect public health and so we recognize that in order to encourage persons to wear their masks, we have to create some deterrence; find a way to make persons want to wear their masks."

Inspector Henry informed that the regulations provide for "fixed penalty notices or what we call tickets to be issued to persons who refuse to wear their mask."•

He said under regulation 22 (2) "A police officer may issue a fixed penalty notice to any person who contravenes the provisions of section 15 in relation to wearing a face mask in public places... Now what this is doing is creating some consequence for persons who refuse to wear their masks in these public places."•

He then explained that: "The fixed penalty that would be applied in these cases, it would be \$500. Now, we've been mentioning a \$5000 fine and that fine still remains in the



ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK GROUP OF COMPANIES HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

VACANCY

Branch Manager (Nevis Branch)

The Position:

The Branch Manager will be responsible for effectively managing the day-to-day activities of the Branch including administration, operations, lending, product sales, customer service, security and safety in accordance with the Bank's objectives. He/She will be expected to increase the customer portfolio by providing a superior level of customer relations and promoting the sales and service culture (through coaching, guidance and staff motivation) while operating in a risk aware environment.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead, inspire and motivate the team of employees at the Branch to live the brand standards in their every interaction while creating an environment of mutual respect, co-operation and empowerment.
- Conduct performance evaluations and ensure that the evaluations for the Branch are completed accurately and constructively.
- Identify training needs and opportunities for Branch employees and prepare recommendations.
- Conduct regular staff meetings to ensure that goals and objectives for the Branch are clearly communicated to Branch employees and provide guidance and leadership to enable staff to meet these goals and objectives.
- Assist with the recruitment and selection process and the onboarding of new employees.
- Improve the Branch's market share (deposits, loans, assets) and customer loyalty by maintaining and developing positive relationships with existing and prospective customers through service excellence and dynamism.
- Prepare and monitor the Branch's annual budget.
- Oversee the lending process, review loan applications and approve facilities within the delegated lending authority.
- Ensure that all reports and returns required of the Branch are correctly, completely, and punctually prepared, and appropriately submitted.
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

Qualifications and Experience:

- A Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Business Management, Banking and Finance or related field.
- Certification in Banking and Finance or related field.
- Minimum of 7 years experience in Retail Banking inclusive of lending.
- Minimum of 5 years managerial experience.

Skills and Abilities:

- Excellent numeracy and analytical skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Proven track record of success.
- Good business acumen and detail oriented.
- Working knowledge of risk and risk management.
- Excellent time management and organizational skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines.
- Excellent team building, leadership and interpersonal skills.



Applications should be submitted, with a Cover Letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae, to HR@sknanb.com or by mail addressed to: Chief Human Resources Officer, PO Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts no later than **18 August 2020**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

(cont'd on next page)

Individuals Fitting No- Mask Exceptions...

(cont'd from last page)

regulation but that is if you refuse to pay the \$500 ticket and you have to go before the court, the magistrate now has the power to increase that \$500 fine to up to \$5000 and imprisonment up to six months and so you have to pay the fix penalty of \$500 dollars and there is a period of 10 days to pay that fine and if you refuse to pay that fine, you're taken before the court where the magistrate has the power to increase that penalty." •

Inspector gave the full definition of public places.

"There has been some confusion in the past about what is a public place. Now this regulation has sought to clear that confusion and so it has defined public places with respect to wearing masks. Now we know the wearing of masks continues to be an important aspect of the spread of the disease and so everything is being done to encourage our people to wear the mask." •

He continued: "Public place is defined as an indoor or outdoor area, whether privately owned, to which the public has access by right or by invitation, expressed or implied whether by payment of money or not and it includes shipping centers, supermarkets pharmacies, banks, utility departments, bars, drinking places and restaurants, hotels, schools and all other educational institutions, hospitals, whether privately or publicly operated, churches or other religious establishments, public transportation, community centers, government offices, public markets and other places or buildings of all types accessible to the public."

"So the definition is very broad and it almost appears that as soon as you leave your house, you're in a public place," • Inspector Henry added.

JOHN 5

5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk."



ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK GROUP OF COMPANIES HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

VACANCY *Chief Internal Auditor*

Skills and Abilities:

- Good presentation and oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent team building and interpersonal skills.
- Good analytical skills with the ability to analyze financial statements.
- Excellent time management and organizational skills.
- Strong leadership skills.
- Detail and documentation oriented.
- Strong negotiation and relationship building skills.
- Excellent problem solving skills with the ability to escalate problems in a timely manner.
- Self-starter with the ability to plan and prioritize workload for self and others.
- Keen interest in honing/acquiring the skills required to support personal and professional growth.



The Position:

The Chief Internal Auditor will provide independent assurance to the Board of Directors on the effectiveness of operational controls in place. He/she will establish and maintain relationships with key stakeholders throughout the company and will be responsible for effectively communicating at all stages of the internal audit process, ensuring that all expectations are met. The Chief Internal Auditor will be responsible for setting the company's internal audit strategy, developing leading practices and maintaining audit programs and advisory services across the company.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Establish policies and procedures to guide the Internal Audit activity.
- Plan, direct, coordinate, verify and control the functions and activities of the Internal Audit Unit.
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, rules and guidelines.
- Evaluate internal control systems, procedures, practices, governance processes and make recommendations.
- Ensure that assets of the Company are safeguarded, and that information is timely and reliable.
- Review the effectiveness of risk management policies.
- Monitor the accuracy and completeness of all financial transactions, operations, functions, records and statements.
- Report significant risk exposures, control issues and corporate governance issues to the Board of Directors and Senior Management.
- Report on a regular basis to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors and provide information on matters requested.
- Provide guidance and counsel to Branches, Units, Divisions, and Departments regarding internal control matters.
- Provide adequate supervision and mentoring for staff of the Internal Audit Unit.
- Conduct investigations and produce reports on incidents of suspicious activities and violations of company policies and procedures.
- Coordinate and liaise with the Company's External Auditors to enhance the efficiency of the audit process.
- Maintain a Quality Assurance process to assess actual performance against internal and external standards.

Qualifications and Experience:

Required:

- Bachelor of Arts Degree with an emphasis in auditing and accounting.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in auditing.
- Minimum of 7 years experience in a Senior Management role.

Ideal:

- Masters Degree in a relevant financial or managerial discipline.
- Professional designation or certification (ACCA, CIA, CPA, CA and/or CGA).

Applications should be submitted, with a Cover Letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae, to HR@sknanb.com or by mail addressed to: Chief Human Resources Officer, PO Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts no later than **18 August 2020**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK GROUP OF COMPANIES
HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT

VACANCY
Chief Credit Risk Officer

Skills and Abilities:

Sound knowledge of corporate accounting policies, ability to analyze financial statements and experience with credit risk management automated tools.

.....
 Excellent negotiation, analytical and communication skills to interact with high level decision makers.

.....
 Strong interpersonal skills.

.....
 Strong organizational, leadership, supervisory and managerial skills to lead the adjudication process and team.

.....
 Ability to work under high continuous work pressures, long work hours and out of work hours.

.....
 A high level of computational accuracy and the ability to comply with deadlines.

.....
 Must have an eye for detail with a high level of accuracy.

The Position:

The Chief Credit Risk Officer will be responsible for leading the adjudication of facilities process and lead the preparation of facilities to be presented to the Board of Directors. Accountable for credit risks in accordance with global credit and other related policies and interfacing with the business units to review deals. Also responsible for ensuring the credit risk manual is kept updated and credit risk employees are fully trained.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assess the credit and financial strength of the institution's trading partners to determine acceptable levels of credit exposure (and support internal rating process).
- Analyze and evaluate existing and proposed counterparty risk exposure (including complex derivative transactions) and report to the Management.
- Prepare research papers on industry-wide trends and developments.
- Provide credit analysis papers and presentations. Perform periodic reviews of existing counterparties.
- Work with management and risk committee to set appropriate limits. Develop risk mitigating plans, programs, policies and procedures to neutralize and minimize effect of threats and reduce inevitable credit risks and losses.
- Coordinate with the Legal Unit when addressing risks of litigation and loss of license, congressional franchise, regulatory clearances, etc.
- Recommend internal controls and avoidance procedures, as necessary.
- Make executive decisions on the maximum tolerances of each risk that the business can absorb without incurring serious losses, whether financial, reputational or human resource related.
- Conduct and document credit reviews on select Financial Institutions and set/manage associated limits.
- Analyze FI Risk in business transactions.
- Maintain Credit Files: develop and maintain counterparty credit files in accordance with the Credit Risk Policy.
- Limit/policy exception and violation processing – support processing, investigation, escalation and documentation of credit policy/limit exceptions and violations.
- Proactively work with business units to ensure resolution.
- Assist production of Treasury Risk Management presentations and credit related portfolio reviews.
- Develop Key Performance Indicators and associated reports for assigned counterparties.
- Support simplification and enhancement of existing credit risk processes.
- Support activities related to periodic limit and investment strategy updates.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Masters Degree in Accounting, Business Management or Finance
- CPA/CFA or related field.
- A minimum of 10 years of fundamental credit risk analysis experience, managing credit risk and debt collection, loan supervision with personal, commercial & corporate lending with experience in the following industries – Hotel, Manufacturing, Retail, Tourism, Farming & Sovereign.



Applications should be submitted, with a Cover Letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae, to HR@sknanb.com or by mail addressed to: Chief Human Resources Officer, PO Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts no later than **18 August 2020**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. to announce second quarter 2020 earnings results on August 14, 2020 and hold an earnings conference call on August 17, 2020

Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. (TSX: SFC) will release its 2020 second quarter results after the market closes on Friday, August 14, 2020.

Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. will host a conference call for analysts and investors to review its earnings results on Monday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m. EDT in Toronto (11:00 a.m. AST in Barbados and Trinidad, 10:00 a.m. EST in Jamaica).

To listen to the call via live audio webcast, visit the Company's website at www.sagicor.com, under the tab 'Investor Relations'. The conference call (#18899665) is also available by dialing 1-416-764-8688 or 1-888-390-0546 (North American toll free) or 08006522435 (United Kingdom) or 1-866-290-2216 (Barbados) or 1-800-207-8221 (Trinidad). A replay will also be available until September 17, 2020 by dialing 1-416-764-8677 or 1-888-390-0541 (North American toll free), passcode 899665#.

JOHN 5

22 The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, 23 so that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. 24 Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

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CELEBRATING



IICA Survey: Covid-19 is affecting family farmers and will impact the food supply



Family farmers in the Americas have been hard hit by the pandemic, as they face limited access to protective gear and difficulties in selling their products. They therefore foresee a reduction in the production of some basic products.

San Jose, August 10 2020 (IICA). “Most family farmers in Latin America and Caribbean, who play a key role in ensuring food security, are operating with limited protective gear and sanitary protocols at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and facing limitations while trying to sell their products. This, coupled with the reduced purchasing power of consumers, is affecting production and will have an impact on the supply of basic goods from the sector.

These were the conclusions of a survey by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which was administered to 118 family farming specialists from 29 countries between May and June.

The survey identified three main difficulties facing farmers during the pandemic:

1) The lack of protective gear and sanitary and biosecurity protocols that would allow farmers to work in safe conditions.

2) Transportation and distribution challenges caused by restrictions on travel and movement that have constrained the

commercial transportation of products, or by the decline in available drivers and transport operators, given the restrictions imposed as preventive measures or the fear of the risks associated with transmitting and contracting the virus. Moreover, not all countries have established adequate regulations regarding sanitary and biosecurity protocols to protect transport operators.

3) Limited access to credit for production and reproduction of the family unit, given that, in establishing financial measures and facilities to compensate for the contraction of economic activities, the government has not identified Family Farming as a priority.

Mario León, an Agricultural Engineer and Manager of the Territorial Development and Family Farming Program in IICA’s Directorate of Technical Cooperation, was the survey coordinator. He explained that, “The survey is an extremely accurate snapshot of the family farming sector during this particularly challenging time. Moreover, it also offers public policy options to address the pandemic, focusing on a sector that is key to agricultural employment, the food supply, food and nutritional security and the mitigation of rural flight. In other words, these are policies for a strategic sector that should be a priority”.

The study also revealed a growing concern within the family farming sector about the possibilities of selling food in

Right to Know. Right Now!

local markets, given the reduced influx of consumers, due to fears of contracting the virus.

In discussing the supply of family farming products, a considerable number of the respondents confirmed that the negative repercussions of the pandemic were already being felt. Furthermore, it was a widely held opinion that the products that would most likely be affected were grains, cereals and vegetables, followed by fruit, roots and tubers and meat.

Most of them predicted that over the next six months, production will increase or remain the same for specific products such as corn, beans, Andean cereals, sorghum, Musaceae, potato and cassava, whereas there will be a decline in the production of crops such as tomatoes, onions, cabbage and aquaculture products.

“As we look beyond the pandemic, we must establish agriculture as a sector that will be key to economic reactivation”, stressed the Director General of IICA, Manuel Otero. “Thus, it will be imperative that we enhance the performance of family farming and the short circuit trade of food products. This will call on us to ensure that these farmers implement good safety and hygiene practices and will also require us to introduce policies that give greater priority to associative enterprises and cooperatives”.

Other proposals for public policies to address the Covid-19 pandemic referred to the need to strengthen horizontal cooperation and regional ties and to establish permanent structural government policies that address the needs of rural and agricultural sectors, particularly family farming “the sector that produces most of the food in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA also indicated the need for countries to devise short-, medium- and long-term policies. Specifically, to tackle the current emergency, the recommendation is that countries formulate contingency and preventive plans that should be defined based on inter-institutional and intersectoral cooperation and coordination mechanisms, which also incorporate civil society organizations.

About IICA

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture in the Inter-American system, with a mission to encourage, promote and support its 34 Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.

THE CONVERSATION (Academic rigour, journalistic flair) - Edition: UK - Politics & Society -
11 August 2020

State Of Democracy In Africa - Changing Leaders Doesn't Change Politics

By Dr Nick Cheeseman, University of
Birmingham



Image credit: Shutterstock.

For the last few years the African political landscape has been dominated by high profile changes of leaders and governments. In Angola (2017), Ethiopia (2018), South Africa (2018), Sudan (2019) and Zimbabwe (2018), leadership change promised to bring about not only a new man at the top, but also a new political and economic direction.

But do changes of leaders and governments generate more democratic and responsive governments?

The Bertelsmann Transformation Index Africa Report 2020 (BTI), A Changing of the Guards or A Change of Systems?, suggests that we should be cautious about the prospects for rapid political improvements. Reviewing developments in 44 countries from 2017 to the start of 2019, the report finds that leadership change results in an initial wave of optimism. But ongoing political challenges and constraints mean that it is often a case of “the more things change the more they stay the same”.

Political change occurs gradually in the vast majority of African countries.

More continuity than change

From 2015 to 2019, the general pattern has been for the continent’s more authoritarian states - such as Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea and Rwanda - to make little progress towards democracy. In some cases countries became incrementally more repressive. At the same time, many of the continent’s more democratic states - including Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius, Senegal and South Africa - have remained ‘consolidating’ or ‘defective’ democracies. Very few of these dropped out of these categories to become ‘authoritarian’ regimes.

A number of countries have seen more significant changes. But in most cases this did not fundamentally change the character of the political system. For example, Cameroon, Chad, Kenya and Tanzania moved further away from lasting political and economic transformation. Meanwhile Angola, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe initially made progress towards it, but these gains were limited - and only lasted for a short period in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.

As this brief summary suggests, at a continental level the trajectories of different states have by and large cancelled each other out. Positive trends in some

cases were wiped out by negative trends in others. Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole has thus seen no significant changes to the overall level of democracy, economic management and governance. For example, the index shows that between 2018 and 2020, the overall level of democracy declined by just 0.09, a small shift on a 1-10 scale. This suggests continuity not change.

Leadership changes often disappoint

In almost all cases, positive trends were recorded in countries where leadership change generated hope for political renewal and economic reform. This includes Angola, after President Jose Eduardo dos Santos stepped down in 2017, and Ethiopia, following the rise to power of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. It also includes Zimbabwe, where the transfer of power from Robert Mugabe to Emmerson Mnangagwa was accompanied by promises that the Zanu-PF government would show greater respect for democratic norms and values in future. Sierra Leone also recorded a significant improvement in performance following the victory of opposition candidate Julius Maada Bio in the presidential election of 2018. Nigeria has continued to make modest but significant gains in economic management since Muhammadu Buhari replaced Goodluck Jonathan as president in 2015.

The significance of leadership change in all of these processes is an important reminder of the extent to which power has been personalised. But it is important to note that events since the end of the period under review in 2019 have cast doubt on the significance of these transitions. Most notably, continued, and in some cases increasing, human rights abuses in countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe suggest that we have seen ‘a changing of the guards’ but not a change of political systems.

Nowhere is this more true than Zimbabwe, where the last few weeks have witnessed a brutal government crackdown. Not only have journalists been arrested on flimsy charges, but the rule of law has been manipulated to keep them in jail. Following this sustained attack on democracy, it is now clear that the Mnangagwa government is no more committed to human rights and civil liberties than its predecessor was.

There is no one “Africa”

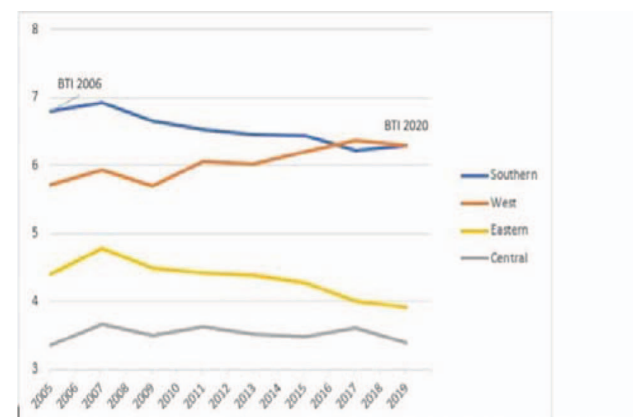
So what does the future hold? I often get asked what direction Africa is heading in. My answer is always the same: where democracy is concerned, there is no one “Africa”. The Bertelsmann Transformation Index report shows how true this is.

In addition to the well-known differences between leading lights like Botswana and entrenched laggards like Rwanda, there is also a profound regional variation that is less well recognised and understood.

From relatively similar starting points in the early 1990s, there has been a sharp divergence between West and Southern Africa - which have remained comparatively more open and democratic - and Central and Eastern Africa, which remained more closed and authoritarian.

There is also some evidence that the average quality of democracy continued to decline in Eastern and Central Africa in the past few years. Because it continues to increase in West Africa, we have seen greater divergence between the two sets of regions.

These variations reflect the historical process



*To preserve the consistency of time-series, the following countries are not considered in this chart as they were added to the BTI country sample later than 2006: Equatorial Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Gabon (Central), Djibouti, South Sudan (Eastern), Eswatini, Lesotho (Southern), Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania (West).

Figure 1. Average Democracy scores for African regions, BTI 2006-2020*

through which governments came to power, the kinds of states over which they govern, and the disposition and influence of regional organisations. In particular, East Africa features a number of countries ruled by former rebel armies (Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda). Here political control is underpinned by coercion and a longstanding suspicion of opposition. This is also a challenge in some Central African states. Here the added complication of long-running conflicts and political instability (Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo) has undermined government performance in many ways.

A number of former military leaders have also governed West African states, including Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. But the proportion has been lower and some countries, such as Senegal, have a long tradition of plural politics and civilian leadership. In a similar vein, Southern Africa features a number of liberation movements. But in a number of cases these developed out of broad-based movements that valued political participation and civil liberties. Partly as a result, former military or rebel leaders have had a less damaging impact on the prospects for democracy in Southern and West Africa.

It is important not to exaggerate these regional differences. There is great variation within them as well as between them. But, this caveat notwithstanding, we should not expect to see any convergence around a common African democratic experience in the next few years.

If anything, the gap between the continent’s most democratic and authoritarian regions is likely to become even wider.

About the author: Dr. Nic Cheeseman was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) (Politics) by The University of Oxford. From 2008 to 2017 he served at Oxford as Associate Professor of Africa Politics, and Director of the African Studies Centre. From 2017 to the present he has been Professor of Democracy and International Development at The University of Birmingham. His research addresses a range of questions, such as whether populism is an effective strategy of political mobilization in Africa, how paying tax changes citizens’ attitudes towards democracy and corruption, and the conditions under which ruling parties lose power. Professor Cheeseman spends much of his time explaining the implications of his work to policy makers, including The Cabinet Office, The Foreign Office, and the Department for International Development of The UK government, The Instituto Rio Branco of the Brazilian government, the Lagos State Government, the Pan African Parliament, and The World Bank, and regularly provides analysis to the US governments. He is an advisor to the African

(cont’d on next page)



Reuters - World News - Asia -
Thursday 13 August 2020

Taiwan To Raise Defence Spending As China Details Combat Drills

By Yimou Lee and Ben Blanchard

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan unveiled a T\$42.1 billion (US\$1.4 billion) increase for next year's planned defence spending on Thursday, as China announced details of its latest combat drills near the democratic island.



A CM-11 Brave Tiger tank firing during the live fire Han Kuang military exercise, which simulates China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) invading the island, in Pingtung, Taiwan on 30 May 2019. Photo credit: Tyrone Siu (Reuters file).

China has stepped up its military activity near Taiwan, which it regards as a breakaway province.

On Monday, Taiwan said Chinese fighters briefly crossed the sensitive median line of the Taiwan Strait, the same day US health chief Alex Azar met President Tsai Ing-wen in Taipei. China had

denounced Azar's trip.

Tsai's Cabinet is proposing T\$453.4 billion in military spending for the year starting in January, versus T\$411.3 billion budgeted for this year, up 10.2% according to Reuters calculations.

"The steady increase in the defence budget will facilitate the implementation of various military-building and war-preparation tasks ... and ensure national security and regional peace and stability," Taiwan's Defence Ministry said.

About three hours after the budget announcement, China's People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command said its forces had in recent days carried out combat drills in the Taiwan Strait and to the north and south of the island, implying they were aimed at Azar's trip.

"Recently, a certain large country has continued to make negative moves on Taiwan-related issues, sending serious wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' forces, and seriously threatening the peace

and stability of the Taiwan Strait," it said.

"The theatre command's organising of patrols and exercises are necessary actions taken in response to the current security situation across the Taiwan Strait and to safeguard national sovereignty," the statement added.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the situation was normal and people should not worry.

President Tsai has made modernising Taiwan's armed forces and increasing defence spending a priority.

The budget must be approved by lawmakers, though Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party has a large majority in the legislature, making it unlikely to be blocked.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, and has denounced the United States for arms sales to the island. Washington is bound by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself.

Taiwan is in discussions with the United States to acquire sea mines to deter amphibious landings, as well as cruise missiles for coastal defence, Taiwan's de facto ambassador to United States said on Wednesday.

Last year, The US State Department approved arms sales worth US\$10 billion for Taiwan.

Taiwan's military is well-armed, but dwarfed by that of China.

"Taiwan authorities are spending their taxpayers' money on defence, but no matter how much they spend on defence, Taiwan is still a small place. Confronting the mainland is like an ant trying to shake a tree," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing.

(Reporting by Yimou Lee and Ben Blanchard; additional reporting by Cate Cadell and Yew Lun Tian in Beijing; editing by Himani Sarkar, Gerry Doyle and Alex Richardson.)

HEALTH & SCIENCE

ScienceDaily® (Your source for the latest research news) - Science News From Research Organizations

Inexpensive Accessible Device Provides Visual Proof That Masks Block Droplets

Study demonstrates a simple way to test facial covering materials for effectiveness.



Person putting on face mask. Image credit: Tanakorn (stock.adobe.com).

Duke physician Eric Westman was one of the first champions of masking as a means to curtail the spread of coronavirus, working with a local non-profit to provide free masks to at-risk and underserved populations in the greater Durham community.

But he needed to know whether the virus-blocking claims mask suppliers made were true, to assure he wasn't providing ineffective masks that spread viruses along with false security. So he turned to colleagues in the Duke Department of Physics: Could someone test various masks for him?

Martin Fischer, PhD, a chemist and physicist, stepped up. As director of the Advanced Light Imaging and Spectroscopy facility, he normally focuses on exploring new optical contrast mechanisms for molecular imaging, but for this task, he MacGyvered a relatively inexpensive apparatus from common lab materials that can easily be purchased online. The setup consisted of a box, a laser, a lens, and a cell phone camera.

In a proof-of-concept study appearing online August 7 in the journal Science Advances, Fischer, Westman and colleagues report that the simple, low-cost technique provided visual proof that face masks are effective in reducing droplet emissions during normal wear.

"We confirmed that when people speak, small droplets get expelled, so disease can be spread by talking, without coughing or sneezing," Fischer said. "We could also see that some face coverings performed much better than others in blocking expelled particles."

Notably, the researchers report, the best face coverings were N95 masks without valves - the hospital-grade coverings that are used by front-line health care workers. Surgical or polypropylene

State Of Democracy In Africa -

(cont'd from last page)

Progress Panel, and a member of the advisory board of the UNICEF Chair on Communication Research (Africa). Professor Cheeseman is the founding editor of the Oxford Encyclopaedia of African Politics, the Oxford Dictionary of African Politics, and the co-editor of the Handbook of Kenyan Politics (forthcoming). He currently spends much of his time writing about contemporary events in Africa in a bi-weekly column for Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper. Professor Cheeseman is an advisor to, and writer for, Kofi Annan's African Progress Panel. He also writes a regular column for Kenya's Sunday Nation newspaper and is the founder of www.democracyinafrica.org. He joined The Conversation on 22 July 2015.

Disclosure statement: Dr Nic Cheeseman was paid for his work writing this report for The Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) Africa Report 2020.

Partners: The University of Birmingham provides funding as a founding partner The Conversation UK, which also receives funding from strategic partners such as Kingston Smith, a top 20 UK audit and accountancy firm, media partners like The Press Association (PA), the national news agency for the UK and Ireland, general funders such as HEFCW, The Royal Society, ISRF, The Ogden Trust, and more than sixty other universities.

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MedicalXPress - Obstetrics & Gynaecology - 13 August 2020

Sharp Jump In Stillbirths During COVID Lockdown

By Candy Gibson, University of South Australia

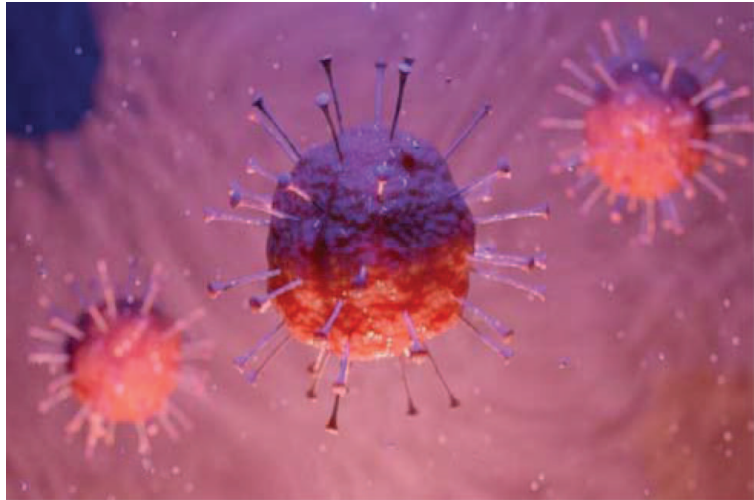


Image credit: CC0 Public Domain.

A four-fold increase in stillbirths in a large UK maternity hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic might also be replicated in Australia due to guidelines which have discouraged face-to-face antenatal visits in recent months.

That's the view of University of South Australia (UniSA) Associate Professor Jane Warland, an international researcher and qualified midwife, whose own daughter Emma was stillborn in 1993.

Red Nose Day (Friday 14 August) is an opportunity to support families who have been impacted by the death of a baby or child.

Warland says the alarming evidence from St George's University Hospital, London, showing a spike in stillbirths this year, was not due to women or babies being infected with COVID-19.

"Rather, it is the indirect consequences of expectant mothers being told to stay away from hospitals for fear of contracting the virus or overloading the system. Many high-risk pregnancies were missed, resulting in four times as many stillbirths than usual," Warland says.

She says that professional health organizations around the world quickly changed the guidelines for pregnant women when the pandemic hit, which may have led to unintended consequences.

"The normal recommendation is that women should see their caregiver at least seven times during their pregnancy. This ensures that any red flags - such as high blood pressure, reduced fetal movements and growth restriction - are all picked up during an examination. Instead, expectant mothers have been directed to 10-minute tele health appointments via phone and Zoom. How can you check someone's blood pressure or do a physical examination over the phone?"

Stillbirths are more common in first-time mothers, who are more vulnerable and less aware of potential abnormalities, which is why face-to-face care is particularly critical during their pregnancy, Warland says.

Home visits by midwives and caregivers could be a viable option to tele health appointments until the pandemic is brought under control, she adds.

There is also sound evidence that women who sleep on their backs are more at risk of a stillbirth, most likely due to restrictions in the amount of blood reaching the placenta in that position.

A new program, including advice recommending that pregnant

women sleep on their side from 28 weeks, was due to be rolled out earlier this year but then COVID hit, putting a temporary halt to its implementation.

Almost 3000 women responded to a recent survey commissioned by the Australian College of Midwives, asking women about their experiences of maternity care during COVID-19.

"The feedback has been telling," Warland says. "Women - first time mums particularly - are voicing their concerns about not being seen, forgotten, ignored and scared that their baby might be at risk without regular health checks. These comments mean that women are not receiving the kind of care they are entitled to in a country which prides itself on a first-class health system."

In Australia, six babies are stillborn every day, equivalent to about 2200 each year - a rate that has seen little improvement in the past 20 years. This contrasts with New Zealand, Scotland, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands, where stillbirth rates are 30 percent lower than they were 20 years ago.

"We need to understand that women are pregnant for a relatively short period of time," Warland says. "In normal circumstances they are highly vulnerable, but this pandemic has escalated that vulnerability and stress to new levels. We need to urgently look at the COVID antenatal care guidelines and find ways to support them that doesn't put their life, or their unborn baby, at risk."

More information: Asma Khalil et al. Change in the Incidence of Stillbirth and Preterm Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic, JAMA (2020). DOI: 10.1001/jama.2020.12746

Journal information: Journal of the American Medical Association

Provided by: University of South Australia

Inexpensive Accessible Device Provides Visual Proof That Masks Block Droplets

(cont'd from page 11)

masks also performed well.

But hand-made cotton face coverings provided good coverage, eliminating a substantial amount of the spray from normal speech.

On the other hand, bandanas and neck fleeces such as balaclavas didn't block the droplets much at all.

"This was just a demonstration - more work is required to investigate variations in masks, speakers, and how people wear them - but it demonstrates that this sort of test could easily be conducted by businesses and others that are providing masks to their employees or patrons," Fischer said.

"Wearing a mask is a simple and easy way to reduce the spread of COVID-19," Westman said. "About half of infections are from people who don't show symptoms, and often don't know they're infected. They can unknowingly spread the virus when the cough, sneeze and just talk.

"If everyone wore a mask, we could stop up to 99% of these droplets before they reach someone else," Westman said. "In the absence of a vaccine or antiviral medicine, it's the one proven way to protect others as well as yourself."

Westman and Fischer said it's important that businesses supplying masks to the public and employees have good information about the products they're providing to assure the best protection possible.

"We wanted to develop a simple, low-cost method that we could share with others in the community to encourage the testing of materials, masks prototypes and fittings," Fischer said. "The parts for the test apparatus are accessible and easy to assemble, and we've shown that they can provide helpful information about the effectiveness of masking."

Westman said he put the information immediately to use: "We were trying to make a decision on what type of face covering to purchase in volume, and little information was available on these new materials that were being used."

The masks that he was about to purchase for the "Cover Durham" initiative?

"They were no good," Westman said. "The notion that 'anything is better than nothing' didn't hold true."

Story Source: Materials provided by Duke University Medical Center (11 August 2020).

Note: Content may be edited for style and length.

Journal Reference: Emma P Fischer, Martin C Fischer, David Grass, Isaac Henrion, Warren S Warren, Eric Westman. Low-cost measurement of facemask efficacy for filtering expelled droplets during speech. Science Advances, August 7, 2020; DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abd3083

<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200811152916.htm>.

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No Active COVID-19 Cases In SKN

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St.Kitts (Friday 14th August 2020)- Chief Medical Officer Dr. Hazel Laws has revealed that there are no active cases in the Federation as far as local authorities know.

"We are all aware that we've only had 17 positive cases to date and the good news is that they have all recovered so at present there are no active cases within the Federation so we continue to



test suspected cases and their contacts and we continue to nationals who would have returned from hotspots and so to date we've tested over 1300 so far," she said during a presentation at the

National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing on Wednesday 12th August 2020.

The number of positive cases has seen 13 in St.Kitts and 4 in Nevis.

As informed by Dr. Laws, 53 persons are currently quarantined in a government facility as it relates to returning nationals with 24 from St.Kitts and 29 from Nevis.

According to Dr. Laws: "So far since we've been accepting nationals since the closure of our borders that's between April the 24th to present, the total number of nationals who have returned to the Federation so far stands at 163."

The local CMO pointed to a report by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) dated August 10 that the total number of confirmed cases in the region stands at over 129,000 whilst noting "but then the good news is that we continue to fare quite well in the Caribbean. The total number of recoveries is almost 63,000 and the death toll continues to be relatively low...just about 2,000. However the Caribbean Public Health Agency situation report continues to state that the risk of further cases occurring within the Caribbean region remains very high as we continue to accept our nationals from overseas from hotspots."•

COVID-19 SAFETY AND HEALTH



International
Labour
Organization

SYMPTOMS

- The most common symptoms are fever, tiredness, and dry cough.
- Others are aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and/or diarrhea.
- Symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually.
- It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear.

TRANSMISSION

- Droplets from nose or mouth when infected people cough and exhale.
- Standing within one meter of an infected person.
- Touching contaminated surfaces or objects and then touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Ageing and underlying diseases (e.g. diabetes, heart disease) increase risk.

WORKPLACE PREVENTION MEASURES

- Undertake risk assessments and implement controls.
- Explore alternative work methods.
- Share information and establish communication plans.
- Wash hands frequently and adopt good hygiene practices.
- Avoid sharing objects that could transmit the virus.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Beware of wide-spreading droplets (breath in and cough out).
- Keep workplaces and objects clean and disinfected.
- Protect clients and end users.
- Workers should stay at home if sick.
- Seek advice from the Department of Labour and health authorities.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS!

Barcelona v Bayern Munich

BBC SPORTS

How to follow: Listen to full match commentary on BBC Radio 5 live; text commentary on the BBC Sport website

Barcelona midfielder Arturo Vidal says his former side Bayern Munich are facing “the best team in the world” in Friday’s quarter-final and not “any old team in the Bundesliga”.

Bayern are fancied to beat Barca when the only two previous winners left in the Champions League meet in Lisbon.

“I understand the pessimism but we are the best team in the world,” Vidal said.

“The problem is that we don’t always show it.”

Champions League quarter-finals: All you need to know

Both Bayern and Barca are five-time winners of the European Cup, and this week 48% of BBC Sport readers picked Bayern to win the tournament for the first time since 2013.

Barca have failed to inspire this season, losing La Liga to Real Madrid and leaving manager Quique Setien - appointed in January - already under pressure,

Meanwhile, Bayern were superb after lockdown to sweep to a eighth-straight championship in Germany.

“Bayern will be confident but they must know that tomorrow they’re not playing any old team in the Bundesliga, they’re playing against Barca,” Vidal said.

“We have Leo [Messi], we have the best players and we want to prove ourselves.”

The winners will play Manchester City or Lyon in the semi-final.

Bayern’s main goal threat will come from Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, who has 13 goals in seven Champions League games this term and is four behind Cristiano Ronaldo’s record haul in one season.

“Lewandowski is extraordinary, very dangerous, an insatiable goalscorer,” Vidal said.

“It’s going to be very difficult to stop him but it’s impossible to compare him with Messi, who is from another planet.

“But you could say that Lewandowski is the best striker in the world alongside Luis Suarez.”

‘It’s not Bayern v Messi’

Messi can join Cristiano Ronaldo on five Champions League wins should he add the trophy this year - but Bayern are a serious obstacle.

Their coach Hansi Flick - who was in charge on an interim basis - signed a long-term deal during the lockdown and could make it a treble in his first season in the job with victory in Lisbon

“We have a lot of respect for them because Barcelona have been for decades among

the best teams in Europe,” Flick said.

“Messi has been the best player for several years now. An exceptional player.

“But it’s not just Bayern against Messi. It is Bayern against Barcelona. Messi is a world class player and we have obviously thought about how to play him.

“We need to do it as a team. It is important to play smart against him. To see the spaces and put him under pressure in the one-on-ones and win those.”

A goal every 47 minutes - the stats

Barcelona and Bayern Munich have both reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the 18th time (in 24 and 23 appearances respectively), more than any other team.

Barcelona are in the quarter-finals for the 13th consecutive year - that is every season since 2007-08, a record in the history of the competition.

Barcelona have lost more Champions League games against Bayern than any other club, losing five of their eight matches against them (W2 D1).

Barcelona have lost just two of their last 31 Champions League matches (W19 D10) and are unbeaten in this season’s competition (W5 D3); they are one of only three teams still yet to taste defeat this season, along with opponents Bayern Munich and Manchester City.

Bayern striker Lewandowski has scored 13 goals in just seven Champions League appearances this season, averaging a goal every 47 minutes - in the history of the European Cup/Champions League, this is the best minutes per goal ratio in a single campaign of players to play at least 500 minutes that season.

Stuart Broad: England bowler fined for ‘inappropriate language’ during first Pakistan Test

Last updated on 11 August 2020 11 August 2020.
From BBC SPORTS the section Cricket



Chris Broad (left) and Stuart Broad (right)

Stuart Broad’s dad Chris Broad (left) was match referee at Emirates Old Trafford

England bowler Stuart Broad has been fined 15% of his match fee for using “inappropriate language” during the first Test against

Pakistan.

The incident occurred during Pakistan’s second innings on Saturday, after Broad dismissed leg-spinner Yasir Shah.

Broad has also been given one demerit point which takes his total to three in a 24-month period.

If a player receives four or more demerit points within a 24-month period they will receive a suspension.

Broad admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by his dad Chris Broad, of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees.

England won the first Test at Emirates Old Trafford by three wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

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LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District “A”
To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Shermel Davoren now residing in Haynes Smith Village (next to Arthur Martin) in the town Basseterre, do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on 02nd day of October, 2020 to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Beer Liquor Licence in respect of my premises in Haynes Smith Village in Basseterre.

Dated this
10th day of August, 2020.

Signed: Shermel Davoren

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District “A”
To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Carla Gumbs-Pierre now residing in 3c Pine Garden, Shadwell Village in the town Basseterre, do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on 02nd day of October, 2020 to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Retail Liquor Licence in respect of my premises in 3C Pine Garden, Shadwell Village in Basseterre.

Dated this
10th day of August, 2020.

Signed: C. Gumbs-Pierre

ISSUED BY SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Valerie Dolphin of Lodge Village, St. Kitts, being Beneficiary, having made sworn deposition that Policy No. S05501475 issued by Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc on the life of Everton Dolphin (Deceased) has been lost and having made application to the Directors to grant a duplicate of the same, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the duplicate policy asked for will be issued.

Dated: 28th July, 2020.

By Order

Althea C. Hazzard
Corporate Secretary


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MEETINGS, BOARDS AND SCANDALS.

By: FAIR SHARE FOR ALL

When a political party loses, yet over twenty young and youngish persons want to represent that party in parliament as a senator, that is good. And especially when the persons who were vying to become Labour's senator were all competent, qualified, quality people, that is very good.

Even those on the other side got involved and were openly declaring their preferences. And that is interesting.

The truth is that Labour has always had the better candidates in every election. Sadly, the electorate has not always agreed. And that is democracy.

But congratulations are in order for our new senator. Competent and qualified at all levels. And I wish Dr. Joyelle Clarke, the very best and I know she will not disappoint.

Unlike Mark who seems to be disappointed with his friend Timothy.

I don't know why Mark thinks that Timothy has to inform him of his official visits to Nevis. This is not the first time that Timothy has gone to Nevis without Mark's knowledge. And knowing Timothy, it will not be the last.

Yet I do not believe for a second that Mark did not know of the meeting. He was not informed officially. But somebody pinch Mark and tell him. But once he wasn't given official notice, he could say that he was unaware. So he kept quiet and let the meeting happen without him or the NIA, so that he could say they knew nothing about any meeting, neither were they invited.

As I had not heard anything

further from Mark about the their portion of money owed to them per the agreement made when they were forming Team Unity, I was beginning to believe that Timothy had sent over something. But now with this new incident, it is possible that Mark's people could still 'dead from hungry'.

Mark could throw all the shade in the world about whose names were called in scandals. Nobody taking on that. It seems like scandals make the candidates more attractive and more electable. Including himself.

But he did say that it was odd that such a meeting took place under such circumstances and that he knew Timothy had an explanation. So like Mark, I will wait. With bated breath, I might add.

And I won't get caught up in the noise. Neither should Labour supporters. Because at the end of the day, it's just a family squabble that has nothing to do with us.

Another family squabble is the composition of the boards. Some people have their preferences and feel that they have ranks and could make certain demands. Some get their wishes granted while others find out the 'hard' way that nobody rate them.

So again I plead with my comrades. Sure, we must laugh when an embarrassing voice note is leaked. We must laugh when Tim and Mark have their exchanges. But we must not get caught up and distracted.

We have to focus on the work ahead of us. We have seen the enemy at work and we know the monster that we are fighting. We have to do what we have to do to defeat the enemy. The race is not for the swift. We have to endure to the end.



By Vigilante

* Mark a man tell Humpty Dumpty dat de next time he come on he turf and ain't inform him gon be de last time he do it. And he tell him dat is a word to de wise.

* But Humpty Dumpty tell him to go siddung. He done tell him dat he don't have to tell him nutten. And if he want de money he better less he noise otherwise he will let de people dem dead from hungry.

* Humpty Dumpty tell him dat if he don't send up de money, not even de drain cleaner dem gon get pay. So he better tek back all what he say because is he who got de O.

* Dey say dat when de man ketch heself after he get he letter dat dey throw him off de cardboard, he send tell Hammy monkey dat if he ain't want everyting to bruk up, he will put him back which part he meet him.

* De educator send tell dem de same ting. She tell dem just like how dey have to look after Madea and de holy man, just so dey have to look after her. Is a load a secret she holding and it ain't de holy man alone could leak letter.

* De hard man send a message to de Marriott tief and tell him dat last laugh is de best laugh and dat no police looking for him.

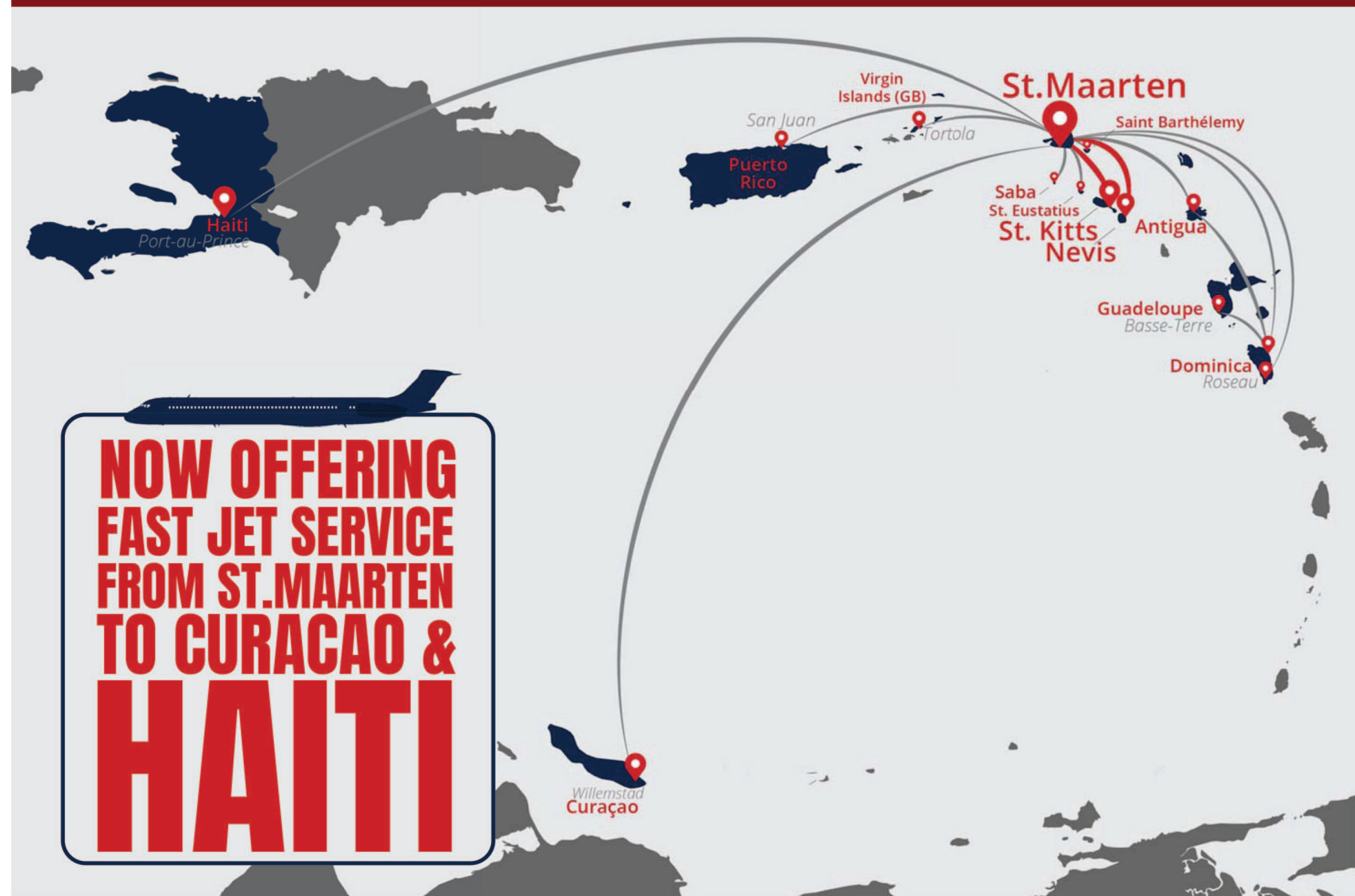
* Dey say dat all in a suddenly everybody tek notice dat de man wid de baby mout never telling no lie on de Marriott tief. And all in a suddenly everybody a talk bout a time when he treat dem de same way like how he treat de hard man.

* De Marriott tief tell de frilly mout deputy dat all a dem must learn dey place and dey role. He say dat de hard man wuk is on de radio and de tung hall dem. Certain cardboard is for certain people and he and de hard man must know dat.

* Uncle V waiting on de big, big wuk what Uncle T have dat Humpty Dumpty promise him. But Uncle T say dat he ain't care how much sick foot dey say he got and how he carn stand up for long. He let dem to know dat he is like concrete. None a dem gon could move him.

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