

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN



St. Kitts and Nevis

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SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED... TITUS 2:8

Year 62 NO. 47 BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 01st MAY, 2020

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 25/02/20

DELTA \$13.37 / SOL \$11.51

COMMENTS ON FAKE STORIES

COVID-19 VACAY CONCERN

STORY ON PAGE 03



MOST PATIENTS UNDER 40

STORY ON PAGE 10

ZACK HAPPY FOR 'STAY HOME' BREAK



STORY ON PAGE 04



THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Ag. Editor: Precious Mills

Masses House, Church Street

P.O. Box 239 . Basseterre . St. Kitts . West Indies

Tel: (1 869) 465-2229 <> Fa: (1 869) 466-9866

Email: info@sknunion.com

Website: www.thelabourspokesman.com

Editorial

LABOUR WEEKEND 2020

Today, Friday 1st May, 2020, is celebrated as May Day by some countries, and in other instances, as Labour Day. In our case, as it is with many others, it is Monday 4th May, that will be celebrated as Labour Day, one to honour workers.

This year's Labour Day will be a very unusual one, for as we try to come to grips with the threats and problems of the coronavirus, and with due regard to the health and safety of others, we MUST adjust our social and community practices accordingly.

For very good reasons, therefore, we have to forego the annual Labour weekend events, the Labour Day march, and the picnics and other gatherings which we all look forward to with great anticipation.

Understandably the feelings of disappointment will be very strong, and that we all share in common. However, this is very much one of those instances wherein it is better to be safe than to be sorry.

Beyond any shadow of a doubt, there are those who will be gloating about this particular development, for they resent the show of the people's strength and solidarity which every Labour Day occasions, and each year they find themselves driven into deeper despair. They are unable to handle the fact that the people have no real love for them, and they in return hate us more and more with each passing event.

Our people have a certain pride, and no matter how humble our individual circumstances, we do not take kindly to being treated as though we are a nation of mendicants. That is a lesson which the SCHEME UNITY lot will learn the hard way.

Even though the restrictions of the weekend will severely limit our movements and in-person contacts, we can nevertheless communicate telephonically and otherwise. Let us therefore avail ourselves of each and every such opportunity to continue our preparations for the upcoming general elections.

In particular, let us continue in our efforts to encourage our 'prodigal' sons, daughters, and other comrades to return to the fold. Let us welcome them all with open and warm arms, and with the genuine love that is so characteristic of ourselves and our great movement.

It should be recalled that, in our 2016 Labour Day message, we brought to the attention of everyone the following behavioural aberration of some of our people:

"UNITIM's agents are constantly overheard stating that 'Workers and poor people had their government for twenty

years, and it is time now for rich people to have their government.' Amazingly, some of the very people they are opposed to, are agreeing with them and cursing Douglas, Labour and the NRP. What is to become of such individuals?"

Please, do not hold anything against them, or any others who were similarly seduced. As it is with all human beings, they can sometimes be tempted by agents of darkness, and fall prey to their evil designs. This is a case in which they were led astray by powerfully influential forces which played havoc with their human weaknesses. We are a very loving and forgiving people, and we have to forgive them completely.

As we traverse this very special weekend, it would behoove us to reflect on the struggles of our forebears, the great sacrifices which they made, and their determined efforts to make life better for us than it had been for them.

From a state of complete despair in virtually every aspect of life, they brought us to greatly improved conditions in housing, health, working standards and conditions, education, employment opportunities, business development, tourism and the hospitality industries, manufacturing, and numerous others.

Members of the incumbent regime perpetually seek to mislead our people, their intention being that we will eventually forget who we are, the struggles through which we and our forebears have passed, and, through a negative process, allow ourselves to once again become mentally and economically enslaved.

That we cannot afford to have happen to us, for our third condition will be even worse than

In Memory of OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT



Joseph O'Flaherty, Jr.

Who Departed This Life

on Monday, 6th May, 2019.

Your Life's Work and Service to the Labour Movement always remembered

our first.

On many occasions, we have pointed that some of those persons now holding the reins of office 'are fully committed to the relentless harassment and victimisation of members and supporters of The St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party and of The Nevis Reformation Party', pointing out that 'they seem to have a penchant for hurting our women folk in particular'.

Once again, we urge the people of St. Kitts and Nevis, all of our people, to remain strong, be of good courage, and do your utmost to avoid any and all such attempts to draw you into acts, which can only lead to trouble with the law.

Let us use this weekend to strengthen our resolve, to lend moral support to each other, and to gird ourselves against the horrors being meted out by the UNITIM concoction.

We MUST show them that, come what may, we are all going to carry on fighting against 'injustice, lawlessness, intimidation, corruption, nepotism, abuse of our women and our children, all forms of discrimination, racial, economic or otherwise', and that we will not grow weary in so doing.

This Labour Weekend can be one of the greatest that we could ever have, the health risks and threats notwithstanding. We can put it to very good use.

Let us resolve to make Labour Weekend 2020, one of the most useful ever, and strengthen our determination to return the people's government to the people.

Dr. Drew Condemns Latest “Fake Story” On Test Kits Donation

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Friday 1st May 2020) - Medical practitioner Dr. Terrance Drew is condemning a latest social media “fake story” on the recent antibody test kit sample donation to the Ministry of Health labelled another political attempt to undermine his ongoing interest in providing assistance on a national front in the fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in St.Kitts-Nevis.

This media house came across the item- done via a video presentation this week- which features the voice of a male with an American accent believed to be a computer-generated one.

Dr. Drew views the attempts of mud-slinging at his character as being based on party politics with him being the current Chairman of the opposition St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) and also the candidate for Constituency Eight in the upcoming general elections.

He has pointed to fresh development out of St.Vincent and the Grenadines whereby the government is looking into carrying out of antibody rapid testing using similar sample of the nineteen (19) antibody rapid test kits which were on 26th March 2020 presented to the Ministry of Health by him (Dr. Drew) for evaluation that got rejected by the St.Kitts-Nevis government.

Dr. Drew, a specialist in internal medicine, continues to echo calls for more robust testing to be carried out in the Federation.

For him, that type of universal testing, should be conducted “to test those who are even asymptomatic and those who are in quarantine and asymptomatic; those, too, should also be tested because that is the best case scenario. The more people you test, the better is. The more testing done will result in more information we will get in order to deal with this virus.”

Junior Minister of Health Senator Wendy Phipps had initially stated at the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Saturday 4th April 2020 said: “We would have received a small donation from Dr. Terrance Drew in the amount of 19 test kits. Unfortunately the Ministry of Health cannot act on that donation because these test kits are written in Mandarin Chinese. The box is also in Chinese. We have no way of verifying the efficacy of the test that can be done. So for the time being we have basically shelved the donation. We acknowledge it nevertheless.”

Her comments led to a widespread public debate as many critics questioned the type of reason given. On separate occasion, Phipps has publicly talked about the growing media attention in the international press concerning test kits from China being faulty.

Those recently donated sample test kits, Dr. Drew says, came from a company that is certified by CFDA (China Food and Drug Administration) and CE, which as understood stands for “Communauté Européenne” meaning French for “European Community” with the marking used for particular products sold within the European Economic Area and is found on products sold outside the Area too.

Via a live appearance on Facebook, Dr. Drew shared with the viewers, information about the test kits and also addressed the remarks made by Phipps.

As told, those tests kits were secured by him and SKNLP leader and former Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas who is also a medical doctor; both of them being the only ones in the current political field who are doctors, and according to Dr. Drew as a result of “such it is important that we join the fight.”

“I want the people in this country to know that this is not a political issue for us. We are actually part of the medical fraternity and we want to lend a hand in fighting this disease. As I have said

Workers Being Asked To Take Vacation Days During Lockdown A Concern For Labour Department

By: Spokesman Newsroom (5) reads: “The annual paid holiday shall be given and taken in one period or, where the employer and worker so agree, in two periods and not otherwise, and every such agreement shall be in writing signed by both employer and worker.”

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Tuesday 28th April 2020)- Deputy Labour Commissioner Dr. Deon Webb has raised a concern that workers in St.Kitts-Nevis are being asked to use their holidays during the period of total lockdown amidst restrictions regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) which goes against the Holidays With Pay Act.

“It has been brought to the attention of the Labour Commissioner’s Office that employees are being asked to use their annual paid holidays on the days when the Federation is on 24 hours lockdown,” he expressed in a statement issued on Tuesday 28th April 2020 whereby he quoted the relevant sections in addressing the topic.

Dr. Webb pointed out that the Holidays With Pay Act Cap 18.15 of the Laws of Saint Christopher & Nevis section 3

He also underlined Section 3 (8) of the said act which states: “Subject to the provisions of this Act, the employer shall decide upon the date on which the annual paid holiday shall commence in accordance with subsection (7) of this section and shall give to the worker not less than seven days notice of such date, provided that such notice may be waived by mutual consent in writing.”

The Labour Department official went on further to highlight, section 4 (2) reads: “Every worker who takes his or her annual paid holiday in one period shall be paid the holiday pay referred to in subsection (1) of this section not later than the day immediately preceding the commencement of such holiday.”

Additionally, he touched on section 4 (3) states that: “Every worker who takes his or her annual paid holiday in two periods shall, not later than the day immediately preceding the commencement of each of the two periods of holiday, be paid that portion of his or her holiday pay which is in the same proportion to his or her holiday pay for fourteen days as the number of days holiday about to be taken by him or her is in proportion to fourteen days.”

“In light of the foregoing, it is unlawful for any employer to apply annual paid holidays outside what is prescribed by the Holidays with Pay Act Cap 18.15 (take annual paid holidays in one period or in two periods),” Dr. Webb concluded.

Front page Photo: Deputy Labour Commissioner Dr. Deon Webb (credit: SKNIS)

in the beginning it has to be an approach of all hands on deck. It is a failure for the government not to call all persons together as was done in other countries to fight this virus. We have to do it together,” Dr. Drew said.

As captured in a recent Facebook commentary by him: “Under the NextGen SKN, all health and scientific initiatives will have to comply with the highest international standards and rule of law while protecting our people and benefiting from a modernized scientific sector. That is why with the issue of the test kits, I made sure that I followed the procedure and delivered the kits to the CMO’s [Chief Medical Officer] office for evaluation.”

Dr. Drew went on to say: “In the scientific world I would be applauded for this action but in our country some have sought to drag my name through the mud to score cheap political points. However, our people are educated and know

better thus this will not work.

He said the normal process is to submit new products to the CMO’s office for evaluation and then a decision is made noting “Therefore, I followed the established legal and scientific channels. I am a strict adherent to the protocols governing the Ministry of Health.”

Antibody test kits donation to the Ministry of Health from the St. Kitts-Nevis Biomedical Research Foundation by Dr. Redmond and Mr. Alexis Nisbett have been publicly applauded at a NEOC daily briefing by Senator Phipps, for which Dr. Drew holds that “it is clear that the action of the Minister of Health was politically motivated.”

Front Page Photos: Dr. Terrance Drew during a live Facebook appearance on Saturday 4th April 2020 shares details about the rapid antibody test kits sample he presented to the Ministry of Health to his viewers whereby he also addressed the (Video screenshot) Inset: Senator Wendy Phipps (SKNIS photo)



Well-Known Aquatic Sports Meet Planner Welcomes For 'Stay At Home' Breaks

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Friday 1st May 2020) – The 62nd annual Basil Henderson Easter Monday Aquatic Sports Meet was slated to take place on Monday 13th April 2020 at the Ferry Terminal in Basseterre at 9:00 AM. Just like other events, however, that outdoorsy one was put off due to curfew and safety restrictions surrounding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic reaching the shores of St.Kitts-Nevis.

Event coordinator Winston 'Zack' Nisbett, who is a well-known cultural preservationist, was recently interviewed over the phone; different to the usual face- to- face chit about the yearly affair.

Nisbett, the keeper of the Zack's Historical-Cultural Library and Museum, revealed that he is glad for the 'stay at home' breaks and, in a light-hearted moment, he told that he had just finished his lunch of dumpling and breadfruit with mackerel and a glass of local soursop juice.

Being more at home these days, he has been able to concentrate on better planning the next aquatic event and also focus on completing a book he is writing entitled 'A Bad Wind Never Blow' aimed at spotlighting the aquatic sports happenings over the years.

"The curfew period has been good and bad thing but more so good. I have gotten the chance to get some much needed work done including house work, educational, motivational compilation and also, the book on the aquatic sports years is almost there," he shared.

Commenting on what the aquatic team's level of readiness was like leading up to the event, he had this to say: "We were more than prepared. In fact, the week before the pandemic got here, we were ready with new sponsorship as well as contenders from Nevis. Everything was in order; just for us to collect prizes."

Nisbett added: "That is said and gone as we've cancelled

the event for this year since we don't know when this devil of a disease will ease up but we will meditate and prepare for the better longevity of the annual event in putting our bells in order."

In giving his take on the current pandemic he said: "I have never seen anything like this; it's catastrophic. At this time, however, this pandemic gives us a chance to pray, to go on our knees and thank the Father for having us alive when we look at other places around the world with over 60,000 deaths, we are grateful not to have any deaths here. I pray for the speedy recovery of those remaining in isolation and I am also appealing to everyone to be safe at this time."

He provided further insight about his book saying it will cover the "Basil Henderson era" and what the water front was like as part of the content.

Additionally, Nisbett praised the late Henderson as being "dynamic 4-Her in regard to community development and enhancement of positivity in the community, infrastructure and family conflict resolutions. This book will give me the chance to write and show the population of St.Kitts and Nevis that we are number one in terms of cultural and social affairs. We need to get back to basics in terms of manners, self-sufficiency and other values."

All businesses, individuals and others who have contributed over the years would be featured in his book, he also voiced.

According to him, this year's meet would have been better organised with the regular swim races, greasy pole ham and money fetch competitions along with new initiatives and a special exhibition boxing that would have made "everybody happy" in an atmosphere of family togetherness and socializing.

"...but all goes we'll be stronger for the next one and plan even earlier," he said.

The supporters list for the annual aquatic meet over the years include: Courts (St.Kitts-Nevis) Ltd. Builders Paradise, Diamond Security, TDC Automotive, Hobson Enterprise, Uncle T's (Terrence Dolphin), Indigo Yacht, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Ashbury's, Letisha (Letty) Ryan, Andrew Miller, Shashamane Bar, Sugar City FM, Family Snackette, St.Kitts-Nevis Brewery Ltd., Koscab, Scenic Railway, SKN Newline, Warner's One Stop, Demerara Distillers, Coury's Wholesale, Coury's Hardware, Sun Island Clothes Ltd., TDC Home & Building Depot, Dominos, Island Hopper, Harpers, Roslind Nicholls, ZIZ Radio/TV, RAMS, John Richards, Karen Liburd, Freedom FM, The Democrat, The Labour Spokesman, China Town, Sea View Inn, Coast Guard, Tropical Shipping, Stage Lighting (Loftus Bridgewater), ZanPach, Best For Less, Solomon Sahely, Fancy Loaf Bakery, FLOW, S.L Horsford & Company Ltd., St.Kitts Electricity Company (SKELEC), Red Cross and St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force.

Photo :FLASHBACK FRIDAY: Event coordinator Winston 'Zack' Nisbett at the 51st Annual Basil Henderson Easter Monday Aquatic Sports Meet hands over a prize to a winning participant (photo by De Arch)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT, CAP 10.19
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A. D. 2020

SKBHCV2016/0030

ST KITTS NEVIS ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK LIMITED

and

JEFFERSON LEWIS

NOTICE OF SALE

- Applicant

- Respondent

The Property described below will be offered for sale by The Registrar of the Supreme Court by public auction at Sir Lee Llewellyn Moore Judicial and Legal Services Complex, East Independence Square, Basseterre, St Kitts, on the 14 day of May 2020 at 2:00 o'clock in the forenoon.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

The Property will be available for inspection prior to the date of sale by appointment with the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

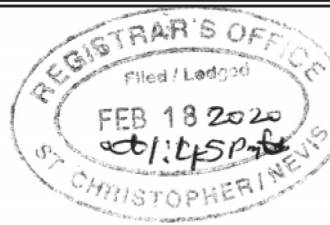
ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land with building thereon situate at Malone Avenue, Irish Town in the Town of Basseterre aforesaid containing by admeasurement 1,978 square feet and bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On the North by lands of Simeon Herbert, 41.10 feet; On the East of Malone Avenue, 46.45 feet; On the South by lands of E. Dore, 42.55 feet; and On the West by lands of Frank Bodkin and Simeon Herbert; 27.00 feet and 20.74 feet respectively, totaling 47.74 feet, all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated the 16th day of February, 1994 and registered in Book T2 Folio 89 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of JEFFERSON LEWIS formerly of Shadwell Housing Site, Basseterre, in the Island of Saint Christopher as registered proprietor thereof.

UPSET PRICE

The Upset price for the above property shall be **EC\$17,802.00**

Dated the 26 day of Feb 2020

[Signature]
Registrar of the Supreme Court



Welcome to the Bradshaw Childcare Centre
located in Dorset Village, Basseterre.



We accept infants
- newborns to three year old toddlers. -

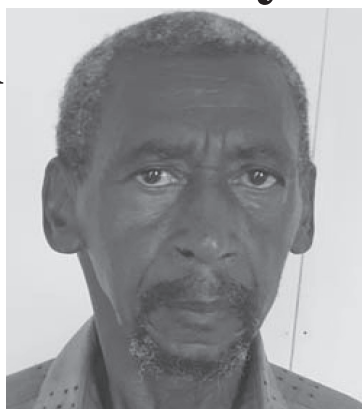
Our hours of operation are from 7 AM to 5 PM,
Monday through Friday/

To enroll, please contact Miss. Arleen Phipps at

760 - 7029.

Occupational Safety And Health

By: Joseph Jones



Workers (People), if the authorities direct residents to remain at home or shelter in place then STAY INSIDE (YOUR YARD). OK!

Now, during my research, I came across this piece of information which I should share with the reading public because to me it is impactful truth. It can be a matter of life and death considering how lives can be impacted.

So let me tell you what I have read recently, and I'll start here: For thousands of years no one really knew the answer to certain questions. Meanwhile, plague (any widespread and usually contagious disease with a high fatality rate) and epidemic (that too, a wide spread occurrence of a disease) have taken numerous lives over the years.

Now hear this: It is said that scientist learned the truth and they discovered that diseases were often caused by the germs (the beginning from which something may develop), microorganism (any organism of microscopic size such as a virus or bacteria) and finding out that one, it helped people prevent and treat many diseases which led to billions of people living longer and healthier lives.

Workers (People), let me move on and say and say three (3) things before I close:

(1) Fire explosions and the release of the toxic gases (poisonous fumes can cause deaths and injuries to us and the public

(2) The book of Leviticus containing the instructions given to the Israelites on how they were to avoid outbreaks of contagious diseases capable of being passed on by contact including the practice of quarantine (period of isolation) and also regarding sanitation, the law recorded at Deuteronomy 23 vs 12.13 ordered the

Israelites again to care for their waste in private place outside their encampment (camp). That means they had had to "cover their excrement" in the ground.

Hello! Listen to this, it is only in the last two years (200) that scientist doctors have seen need to set such standards. Also, let me include the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Occupational Safety and Health information center for educating me on this topic along again with Dr. Alan Le Serve, George Depeana, Sir Joseph Nathaniel France .

(3) After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb


Note well Set your eyes on the future by becoming a regular reader of the Labour Spokesman newspaper. Be sure to get your digital copy these days on www.thelabourspeokesman.com as measure are in place because of the COVID-19 situation. Also, don't waste time, you have got to join the St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Union because it takes a union to make a workplace a better place. I will shut up now until another time.

Thanking you!

**Join The
St. Kitts-
Nevis
Trades &
Labour Union**

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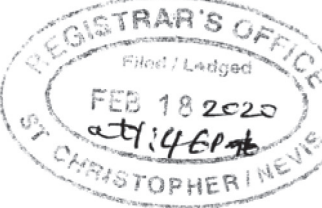
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THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT, CAP 10.19
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A. D. 2020



SKBHCV2016/0034

ST KITTS NEVIS ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK LIMITED
and
LEROY HUGGINS
NOTICE OF SALE

- Applicant
- Respondent

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The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

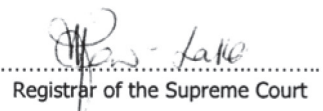
The Property will be available for inspection prior to the date of sale by appointment with the Registrar of the Supreme Court.


DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land situate at Verchilds Village, in the Parish of Saint Thomas, in the Island of Saint Christopher, bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North-East by the Island Main Road, 34.5 feet and 20.5 feet; On or towards the South-East by lands of Velma V. Gumbs, 139.48 feet; On or towards the South-West by the Caribbean Sea, 55.00 feet; and On or towards the North-West by a 5ft wide Drain and lands of the Wesleyan Holiness Church, 142.00 feet and containing by admeasurement 7,753.7 square feet, all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated the 22nd day of July, 2003 and registered in Book C3 Folio 382 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of LEROY HUGGINS of Verchilds Village, in the Island of Saint Christopher registered proprietor thereof.

UPSET PRICE

The Upset price for the above property shall be **EC\$647,340.58**
Dated the 6 day of Feb 2020


Registrar of the Supreme Court



Ministry Implements Dr Douglas' April 14 Suggestion That School Children Are Provided Meals During COVID-19 Closure

Basseterre, St Kitts, April 29, 2020 - Two weeks after the National Political Leader of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP), the Rt. Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, accused the Timothy Harris-led Team Unity Government of "irresponsibility" by not including the Schools Meals Feeding Programme in its rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic while schools are closed, the Ministry of Education announced such a programme will begin next week.

"This is why it was really irresponsible of the Harris administration not to have included a feeding programme as part of its rapid response plans," said Dr Douglas during his "Ask the Leader" weekly programme on April 14th.

"For instance, in many countries, the school meals programme remained operational even during these days of school closure, providing hot breakfast and hot lunches for our children. But what do we see here, we understand that the school feeding kitchen has been used, not to feed the children, but to



File Photo of Rt Hon Dr. Denzil L. Douglas with students

feed the selected few, in a few selected constituencies to exact, in my opinion, political gain," said Dr Douglas.

His comment on the use of the kitchen of the schools meals programme was as a result of evidence that food was cooked at the center and given to selected residents in St. Christopher 7, the constituency represented in the National Assembly by Prime Minister Dr. The Hon. Timothy Harris.

In his April 14 statement,

Dr. Douglas said the Next Gen SKN Party "is committed to doing our part to fill the void that has been created due to a lack of a compassionate programme for our working poor and the many unemployed."

In what was labelled "an urgent public announcement," the Ministry of Education said the school meals programme will commence on May 5, for "students who make the require the service.

Former prime minister Douglas has also been calling for the SKNLP to be part of a national stakeholders group to assist in the fight against COVID-19, but Prime Minister Harris has repeatedly rejected such a request.

Dr. Harris has also been accused of only reacting to ideas and suggested from the SKNLP or programmes implemented by neighboring islands in the fight against the coronavirus.

Dwyer Astaphan: PM Harris Politicising COVID-19; says Labour Weekend Lockdown "an act of excessive muscularity"

Basseterre, St. Kitts, April 29, 2020 - Operation Rescue's founder, Dwyer Astaphan, who helped fashioned the three-party PLP/CCM/PAM coalition government, has accused Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Timothy Harris of politicising the COVID-19 pandemic briefings and has labelled a total shutdown of the country on the upcoming Labour Day weekend (7 p.m. Friday, April 29 to 7 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, an "act of excessive muscularity."

"The speech he made at the COVID-19 Briefing last Friday was not a COVID-19 speech, it was a political speech. Respectfully, out of place and unnecessary, unstatesmanlike, not all prime ministerial - and sounded to me, Donald Trumpish. Unfortunately on that occasion and on more than one occasion, I have observed this prime minister, his willingness to criticise and even ridicule people who disagree with him," Astaphan said on his weekly talk show "The Operation Room" now aired on his Facebook page Tuesday night.

Astaphan has accused prime minister Harris "of talking politics and attacking personalities and going back to 2009 and what the deficit was during COVID-19 briefings, thus insulting the peoples' intelligence."

"He must speak only on those (COVID-19 issues and when he is in parliament, he must be a statesman, and adapt to the situation that he is in. He is having increasing problems of avoiding being offensive," said Astaphan.

He said prime minister Harris is not being helpful in getting businesses back on track and referred to Dr Harris' 1:30 p.m. broadcast announcement last week Friday, April 24, that the nation would be on total lockdown from 7 p.m. Friday 24 April to 7 a.m. on Monday April, 27.

Astaphan said businessmen have complained of the late notices of locking down which deprives them of making adequate arrangements for themselves and their employees, who also have to make their own arrangements.

"They say it is just clumsy, unprofessional and inconsiderate to the nation to be waiting to inform the country what was going to happen the next day and that such negligence on the part of the prime minister could not only upset the country's economy, but also cause psychological damage to the people," said Astaphan.

He labelled Dr Harris' shutting down the country over the long Labour Day weekend (7 p.m. April 29 to 7 a.m. on May 5, 2020) "an act of excessive muscularity, an act of spite and an act of possible sadism - inflicting pain, suffering, or humiliation on others."

"Some people when you put them in a position of power, they use that power to inflict pain on other people to validate themselves. 'I have the power. I have the big stick in my hand and I will punish you, if, when and how I want and for how long'."

The Labour Movement in St Kitts and Nevis would traditionally hold its annual Miss Labour Queen Pageant on the Saturday before staging the tradition Labour Day March on Labour Day which is

celebrated on the first Monday in May.

"I am not saying that the Labour Movement must be fee to have their traditional queen show and march, no not at all (as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic), but are you sending us a mixed and confusing message, Mr Prime Minister, when you relax the restrictions, then for no reason you put the country on a long weekend total lockdown. That is confusing people. That is frustrating people," said Astaphan, who concluded:

"If in coming to the conclusion to lockdown the country for the entire Labour Day weekend, then in my opinion, the idea of politics must have come into the consideration which would mean that the decision to lockdown, which should be based on a safe balance between public health and economics with a tilt in favour of public health, did indeed and wrongly so, factor in politics."

Astaphan said it is not hard to see that prime minister Harris is playing politics with the pandemic when in the recent sitting of parliament, a government minister wore a mask in his party colour and candidates for the three-party coalition are observed distributing care packages on lockdown days while opposition candidates are confined to their homes like other citizens and residents in compliance with the state of emergency regulations. The last general elections was held on February 16, 2015. Because the first sitting of the National Assembly was held on May 14, 2015, the Parliament automatically dissolves on May 14 2020, if not earlier and elections must be called within 90 days. It is the first time in the history of St Kitts and Nevis that first-term government has gone down to the wire.

1 - Dwyer Astaphan

2 - In this file photo Prime Minister the Rt Hon Dr Denzil Douglas is addressing a rally at the end of a past Labour Day March

SAGICOR ASSISTS VULNERABLE GROUPS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS.



In Tobago, groceries and hygiene items were donated to support the residents of the Peace of Mind Nursing Home in Signal Hill

Sagicor has extended its assistance to vulnerable groups, namely, elderly care homes, children’s homes, and the homeless in the Southern Caribbean communities.



In Trinidad, the caregivers at the Angel Care Home for the Elderly, Pleasantville, were all smiles as they received their packages.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

In Trinidad & Tobago, we collaborated with several NGOs, governmental and community based organisations to provide much needed support to thousands of citizens. During this time of crisis, Sagicor is committed to providing food, hygiene and other essentials to several homes and NGOs throughout the country. These will assist domestic violence victims, the socially displaced, the elderly and children. Supported organizations include the Couva Children’s Home & Crisis Nursery, Peace of Mind Home, Tobago, Hope Centre, the Living Water Community’s halfway house and the San Fernando Centre for the Socially Displaced. We have supported our health workers via the donation of PPE equipment including twenty thousand (20,000) N95 masks as well as appliances for a Covid-19 holding centre. Via our branch network we delivered Sagicor Care Kits to persons within our communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago. We also partnered with local broadcast media to deliver tutorials to assist our nation’s children with their continued education particularly those undertaking the SEA (Secondary Entrance Assessment) and CSEC (Caribbean Secondary Education

Certificate), along with tips on health and nutrition and the management of stress during these challenging times.

BARBADOS

In Barbados, we partnered with the Barbados Alliance to End Homelessness (BAEH), the Welfare Department and the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs to provide a supply of food over a 13 week period. We also donated hygiene and other items critical to improving the daily lives of the homeless, the disabled, the elderly and families in need, touching



In Barbados, Sagicor donated a supply of food over a 13 week period. Above, a section of some of the groceries bought to donate.

the lives of over 1200 families.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN & BELIZE

In the Eastern Caribbean and Belize, we collaborated with the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, Community Development Officers and various public entities to provide medical supplies including thermal scanners, Covid-19 test kits and care packages to orphanages and homes providing care to the elderly and disabled. We distributed vouchers to first responders to demonstrate our gratitude for their selfless actions.



In Antigua, the Sagicor team donated to the Centre of Persons with Disabilities. Above, Mr. Ronald Greenaway, Director of the National Vocational and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabilities thanks Ms. Marisia James, Branch Manager of Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc for the donation.



Care packages in Dominica ready to be shipped off to frontline workers there.

President & Chief Executive Officer of Sagicor Life Inc, Ravi Rambarran said “This is a battle between humanity and a virus which we will win through acting together and shared sacrifice. We will continue to execute our vision of improving the lives of the people in the communities in which we operate.”

Press Release

Toronto and Barbados, April 27, 2020

(USD, unless otherwise noted)

Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. Reports Fourth Quarter, Full Year 2019 Earnings Results and Announces Common Dividend to be paid in the Second Quarter of 2020

Highlights

- **Total revenues**, including premiums, grew 12% in the quarter to US \$472 million and 35% for the full year to US \$1.9 billion, driven by growth in life and annuity business in the Caribbean and the US
- **Net income from continuing operations attributed to shareholders** was US \$12 million in the quarter and US \$44 million for the full year driven by strong growth across all business segments, offset by US \$43 million of cash and non-cash costs relating to the transaction with Alignvest Acquisition II Corporation
- **Net income from continuing operations attributed to shareholders, excluding non-recurring transaction costs**, was US \$55 million in the quarter and US \$87 million for the full year
- **Earnings per share from continuing operations** of US \$0.54 for the full year
- **Strong financial position with total capital available** of US \$2.3 billion, an increase of 40% over year end 2018, and an **MCCSR** of 253%
- **Return on equity** of 6.8% at year end, 14% excluding non-recurring transaction costs
- **Book value of per share** of US\$7.81
- **Quarterly dividend** of US\$0.05625 per common share to be paid in the second quarter of 2020.

Dodridge Miller, Group President and Chief Executive Officer, said:

“We delivered strong results in the fourth quarter and full year driven by solid growth across all business segments. 2019 was a transformative year and the listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange marked yet another milestone in the long history of Sagicor. The additional equity raised from the business combination between Sagicor and Alignvest enhanced our already strong capital position. While it is still early to assess the global impact from COVID-19, we are well-positioned to move forward our organic and growth initiatives, adapting to varying situations just as we have done in the past with other circumstances that were beyond our control.”

Consolidated Highlights

(US\$ millions except as otherwise noted)	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	Change	2019	2018	Change
Total Revenue	472	421	12%	1,867	1,387	35%
Net income from continuing operations	25	40	(38%)	104	96	8%
Net income attributed to common shareholders	12	8	44%	44	37	21%
Net income attributed to common shareholders, excluding non-recurring transaction costs	55	8	586%	87	37	139%

(Note: values may not add due to rounding)

(US\$ millions except as otherwise noted)	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	Change	2019	2018	Change
Shareholders' Equity	1,154	601	92%	1,154	601	92%
Operating Return on Equity (%)	6.2%	5.4%	0.8 pts	6.8%	6.2%	0.6 pts
Operating Return on Equity (%), excluding non-recurring transaction costs	30.4%	-	-	14.0%	-	-
Book value per common share	\$7.81	\$8.50	-	\$7.81	\$8.50	-
MCCSR ratio	253%	234%	19 pts	253%	234%	19 pts
Debt to Capital ratio	22.8%	30.2%	7.4 pts	22.8%	30.2%	7.4 pts
Total Capital available	2,266	1,622	40%	2,266	1,622	40%

(1) This press release contains non-IFRS financial measures. Refer to “Non-IFRS Measures” below for further details.

Dividends

The Board of Directors of Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. (“Sagicor” or the “Company”) approved and declared a quarterly dividend of US \$0.05625 per common share payable in the second quarter. This quarterly dividend will be paid on May 29, 2020, to shareholders of record at the close of business on May 5, 2020. This is the second dividend being paid since becoming a publicly listed company on the Toronto Stock Exchange in December 2019. Sagicor will continue to review its dividend policy going forward in light of the economic situation stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall Sagicor Group Highlights

- **Total revenues including premiums** grew 12% in the quarter and 35% for the full year with strong growth across all three business segments. Net insurance premiums, which represents about two thirds of total revenue, grew 18% during the year, mainly driven by growth in the life and annuity businesses of

Sagicor Life Inc. and Sagicor USA.

- **Net Income from continuing operations attributed to shareholders** was US \$12 million in the quarter and US \$44 million for the full year, mainly impacted by the one-time transaction costs on an accounting basis. Excluding these expenses, net income from continuing operations attributed to shareholders would have been \$55 million in the quarter and US \$87 million for the full year, reflecting robust performance across each of Sagicor’s major operating segments. The full year figure exceeded previously disclosed guidance of US \$77 million by US \$10 million.

- **Total capital** of US \$2.3 billion, represented an increase of US \$644 million during the year, mainly from the completion of the business combination with Alignvest Acquisition II Corporation, which contributed over US \$450 million of new capital. The Company’s MCCSR ratio improved by 19 points to 253%. In addition, the Company’s debt to capital ratio improved by 7.4 points to 22.8% at year end.

Business Segment Performance

Sagicor considers its business within three main operating segments: Sagicor Life Inc. (includes southern Caribbean), Sagicor Jamaica (of which Sagicor Group owns 49% and which is consolidated by the Company), and Sagicor USA.

(US\$ millions, unless otherwise noted)	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	Change	2019	2018	Change
Total Revenues						
Sagicor Life Inc. (SLI)	162	112	45%	533	340	57%
Sagicor Jamaica	194	158	23%	735	586	25%
Sagicor USA	103	143	(28%)	562	421	33%
Corporate and Other (including adjustments)	12	8	48%	37	40	(8%)
Benefits and Expenses						
Sagicor Life Inc. (SLI)	(131)	(91)	(46%)	(465)	(290)	(60%)
Sagicor Jamaica	(140)	(118)	(19%)	(568)	(451)	(26%)
Sagicor USA	(82)	(133)	39%	(515)	(397)	(30%)
Corporate and Other	(24)	(34)	29%	(115)	(123)	7%
Net Income from continuing operations attributed to shareholders						
Sagicor Life Inc. (SLI)	29	6	435%	61	40	54%
Sagicor Jamaica	18	21	(13%)	61	56	10%
Sagicor USA	17	7	150%	35	18	93%
Corporate and Other (including adjustments)	(53)	(25)	(112%)	(114)	(77)	(48%)

Business Segment Highlights

Sagicor Life Inc.

- **Total revenue including premiums** grew 45% in the quarter driven by new customer acquisition diversification and cross selling of products to existing customers, with growth in premiums from the life and annuity business. Total revenue grew 57% for the full year benefiting from a meaningful single premium account and credit impairment gains relative to significant losses in 2018 due to the Government of Barbados debt restructuring.
- **Benefits and expenses** grew 46% in the quarter mainly due to higher life and annuity business and associated changes in actuarial assumptions. Benefits and expenses grew 60% for the full year also due to actuarial assumption changes impacting liabilities associated with the significant single premium business.
- **Net income attributed to shareholders**, after accounting for the income allocated to policyholders, increased significantly in the quarter and 54% for the full year to US \$60.9 million. In 2018, net income attributed to shareholders was impacted by provisions on the Government of Barbados debt.

Sagicor Jamaica

- **Total revenue including premiums** grew 23% in the quarter driven by growth in its life and annuity insurance business including additional premiums from its recently acquired property and casualty business, fee-based income and banking revenue. Total revenue also grew 25% for the full year benefiting from growth across all its business lines. Effective September 30, 2019, Sagicor Group Jamaica acquired 60% share capital of Advantage General Insurance Company domiciled in Jamaica for US \$31.2 million.

- **Benefits and expenses** increased 19% during the quarter due to business growth and lower interest rates. Benefits and expenses increased 26% for the full year, reflecting business growth and associated changes in actuarial assumptions.
- **Net income attributable to shareholders**, after consideration of Sagicor’s 49% ownership, decreased by 13% to US \$18 million in the quarter and increased 10% to US \$61.4 million for the full year.

Sagicor USA

- **Total revenue including premiums** decreased 28% in the quarter mainly impacted by falling crediting rates on its annuity products as the Federal Reserve lowered key lending rates. On a full year basis, total revenue increased by 33% primarily driven by new business growth, increased premiums and significant gains

(cont'd on next page)

Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. Reports Fourth Quarter, Full Year 2019 Earnings Results and Announces Common Dividend to be paid in the Second Quarter of 2020



(cont'd from last page)

in investment income.

- Benefits and expenses declined by 39% in the quarter due to lower annuity premium written and associated reserves to support the portfolio. Benefits and expenses increased 30% for the full year driven by overall business growth and associated change in actuarial liabilities.

- Net income attributable to shareholders, increased by 150% in the quarter mainly driven by higher investment income, changes in actuarial provisions and lower expenses. On a full year basis, net income attributable to shareholders increased by 93% for similar reasons.

Group Recent Developments

- On October 7th, 2019, Sagicor announced that Sagicor Life Inc. had entered into agreements to acquire the traditional insurance portfolios, including associated investment assets of US \$1.2 billion, of both Colonial Life Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited ("CLICO") and British American Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited ("BAT"). In addition, contracts with respect to CLICO's pension fund administration, management and investment services operations will be assumed. The completion of these transactions is still subject to certain conditions and regulatory approvals.

- On December 5th, 2019, Sagicor and Alignvest announced the completion of the business combination transaction resulting in the name change to Sagicor Financial Company Ltd., which now trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbols "SFC" and "SFC.WT". As a result, the Sagicor Group incurred non-recurring cash and non-cash transaction costs of US \$43 million. In connection with this transaction, the Sagicor Group also made an offer to purchase for cash any or all of its outstanding US \$320 million 8.875% Senior Notes due 2022. On January 27, 2020, US\$1,897,000 notes were tendered, purchased or cancelled.

- Sagicor's agreement with Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited to acquire Scotiabank Insurance Trinidad and Tobago and establish a 20-year distribution agreement for insurance products and solutions in Trinidad and Tobago expires June 30, 2020. Given current circumstances, there can be no assurance that the transaction will be completed.

Outlook for 2020

- The Company's performance for 2020 is uncertain given the evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic will materially impact the economies in all the jurisdictions where the Company operates. Sagicor is well-positioned from the substantial capital raised in 2019 which will help support the Company through this economic shock. The Company continues to actively monitor the development and will provide further updates as the impact on each of our markets become clearer.

- Sagicor is withdrawing its previously issued targets for 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and will not set out specific guidance for financial targets for the year until its effects can be assessed.

Management's Discussion and Analysis, Consolidated Financial Statements, and Annual Information Form

This press release, which was approved by the Company's Board of Directors and Audit Committee, should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited annual financial statements and accompanying management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A"). The audited annual financial statements and MD&A, as well as the Company's annual information form, are available on the Company's website at www.sagicor.com and will soon be filed on the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval ("SEDAR") at www.sedar.com.

Non-IFRS Measures

The Company reports certain non-IFRS measures that are used to evaluate the performance of its businesses and the performance of their respective segments. As non-IFRS measures generally do not have a standardized meaning, they may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. Securities regulators require such measures to be clearly defined and reconciled with their most comparable IFRS measure.

The Company references non-IFRS measures and insurance industry metrics in this document and elsewhere. Non-IFRS measures are not recognized measures under IFRS and do not have a standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS and are therefore unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. Rather, these are provided as additional information to complement those IFRS measures by providing further understanding of the results of the operations of the Company from management's perspective. Accordingly, these measures should not be considered in isolation, nor as a substitute for analysis of the Company's financial information reported under IFRS. Non-IFRS measures used to analyze the performance of the Company's businesses include but are not limited to: return on shareholders' equity, book value per share, MCCSR, debt to capital ratio, debt to equity ratio, dividend pay-out ratio, and coverage ratio. Please see the "Non-IFRS Financial Information" section of the Management's Discussion and Analysis for a reconciliation of these non-IFRS measures.

Cautionary Statements

Certain information contained in this news release may be forward-looking statements within the meaning of Canadian securities laws. Forward-looking statements are often, but not always identified by the use of words such as "expect", "anticipate", "believe", "foresee", "could", "estimate", "goal", "intend", "plan", "seek", "will", "may" and "should" and similar expressions or words suggesting future outcomes. This news release includes forward-looking information and statements pertaining to the filing, sending and delivery of certain documents, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the anticipated acquisition of CLICO and BAT, and the transaction with Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited. These forward-looking statements reflect material factors and expectations and assumptions of Sagicor. Sagicor's estimates, beliefs and assumptions are inherently subject to uncertainties and contingencies regarding future events and as such, are subject to change. Risks and uncertainties not presently known to Sagicor or that it presently believes are not material could cause actual results or events to differ materially from those expressed in its forward-looking statements. Additional information on these and other factors that could affect events and results are included in other documents and reports that will be filed by Sagicor with applicable securities regulatory authorities and may be accessed through the SEDAR website (www.sedar.com). Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect Sagicor's expectations only as of the date of this document. Sagicor disclaims any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as expressly required by law.

About Sagicor Financial Company Ltd.

Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. (TSX: SFC) is a leading financial services provider in the Caribbean, with almost 180 years of history, and has a growing presence as a provider of life insurance products in the United States. Sagicor offers a wide range of products and services, including life, health, and general insurance, banking, pensions, annuities, and real estate. Sagicor's registered office is located at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton, HM 11, Bermuda, with its principal office located at Cecil F De Caires Building, Wildey, St. Michael, Barbados. Additional information about Sagicor can be obtained by visiting www.sagicor.com.

As a result of the transaction with Alignvest Acquisition II Corporation, the financial history of the Company presented here, as well as in the Company's filings made after the closing of the transaction, is that of Sagicor Financial Corporation Limited, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.

Media

Ingrid Card
Vice President, Group Marketing, Communications & Brand Experience
246-230-5315
Ingrid_Card@sagicor.com

Investors

Samantha Cheung
Executive Vice President, Investor Relations
416-898-4324 or 1-800-342-0719
Samantha_Cheung@sagicor.com or investorrelations@sagicor.com

People Under 40 Account For More Than 50 Per Cent Of COVID-19 Cases

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts Friday 1st May 2020)-The Chief Medical Officer says 60% of the fifteen (15) confirmed positive COVID-19 patients are between the ages of 21 and 40 years with the bigger number being males.

The top health official disclosed mathematical details at the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Thursday 30th April 2020.

To date, within nine days, six (6) individuals have recovered from the novel coronavirus in St.Kitts-Nevis while (9) others remain in isolation who have reportedly spent on average, at least 27 days between diagnosis and recovery.

“The confirmed cases comprise of 53% males and 47 % females with 60% of the cases are between the ages of 21 and



40 years. The age of the patients range from 9 months to 66 years and the mean or average age is 32 years,” Dr. Laws said.

She continued: “In terms of clinical manifestations, 87% were symptomatic or manifesting symptoms and the remainder were symptom free.

The most common symptoms as I’ve said before are fever cough and sore throat. To date, six cases have recovered with an average duration of 27 days between diagnosis and recovery.”

She said so far the public health team has traced and tested, 193 contacts of cases and 3% or 5 contacts were positive.

“Testing of suspected cases of COVID-19 and contacts remain a priority for the Ministry of Health,” the CMO stated.

At the NEOC Daily Briefing held Tuesday 21st April, the first recovery was announced followed by one more recovery publicized on Friday 24th April. Then on Sunday 26th April- two more and an additional two on Wednesday 29th April.

Leading up to press deadline on Thursday 30th April, COVID-19 details for St.Kitts-Nevis were as follows:

- 293 persons tested with 15 confirmed positive, 271 confirmed negative with 7 results pending
- Zero deaths
- 56 quarantined in a government facility
- 54 quarantine at home
- 9 persons in isolation
- 688 have been released from quarantine

At 3:00 PM that day, the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded 3, 90,445 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 217,769 deaths.

Photo: Chief Medical Officer Dr. Hazel Laws

Safeday 2020: Protect workers both now and after lockdowns ease, says ILO

GENEVA (ILO News) – As the pressure mounts on countries to ease their lockdown restrictions, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has urged Governments to take action to prevent and control [COVID-19 in the workplace](#), with active involvement and dialogue with employers’ and workers’ organizations.

All employers need to carry out risk assessments and ensure their workplaces meet strict occupational safety and health criteria beforehand, to minimize the risk to workers of exposure to COVID-19, says the ILO.

Without such controls, countries face the very real risk of a resurgence of the virus. Putting in place the necessary measures will minimize the risk of a second wave of contagion contracted at the workplace.

“In the face of an infectious disease outbreak, how we protect our workers now clearly dictates how safe our communities are, and how resilient our businesses will be, as this pandemic evolves.”

Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

“The safety and health of our entire workforce is paramount today. In the face of an infectious disease outbreak, how we protect our workers now clearly dictates how safe our communities are, and how resilient our businesses will be, as this pandemic evolves,” said the Director-General of the ILO, Guy Ryder.

“It is only by implementing occupational safety and health measures that we can protect the lives of workers, their families and the larger communities, ensure work continuity and economic survival,” Ryder added.

In particular, risk control measures should be specifically adapted to the needs of workers at the frontline of the pandemic. These include health workers, nurses, doctors and emergency workers, as well as those in food retail and cleaning services.

The ILO also highlighted the needs of the most vulnerable workers and businesses, in particular those in the informal economy, migrant and domestic workers. Measures to protect these workers should include – among others – education and training on safe and healthy work practices, free provision of PPE as needed, access to public health services and livelihood alternatives.

“On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, I call on all countries to assure well-defined, decent and safe working conditions for all health workers.”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for strong national programmes to protect the health and safety of health workers, medical professionals, emergency responders, and the many other workers risking their lives on our behalf,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, I call on all countries to assure well-defined, decent and safe working conditions for all health workers.”

To ensure a safe return to work and to avoid further work disruptions, the ILO recommends:

- Mapping hazards and assessing risks of contagion in relation to all work operations, and continuing to assess them following a return to work.

- Adopting risk control measures adapted to each sector and the specifics of each workplace and workforce. These may include:

- o Reducing physical interactions between workers, contractors, customers and visitors and respecting physical distancing when any interactions occur.
- o Improving ventilation in the workplace.



- o Regularly cleaning surfaces, ensuring workplaces are clean and hygienic, and providing adequate facilities for handwashing and sanitization.

- Providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to workers where necessary and at no cost.

- Providing arrangements for isolating suspected cases and tracing every contact.

- Providing mental health support for staff.

- Providing training, education and informational material about health and safety at work, including proper hygiene practices and the use of any workplace controls (including PPE).

Source: ILO Newsroom

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!

**REGISTER
NOW TO VOTE
AGAINST
Corruption!!**

Hurry!! Hurry!! LAST CHANCE!!

Living In East Basseterre

-18 Years and Older?

YOU MUST VOTE



**X
LABOUR**

Geoffrey Hanley



THE CONVERSATION (Academic rigour, journalistic flair) - UK - COVID-19 - 29 April 2020

What Coronavirus Crisis Means For Blind And Partially Sighted People

By Dr. Michael Crossland, PhD, FAAO, UCL



Photo credit: Akemaster (Shutterstock).

If a well-meaning neighbour offered to do your lockdown shopping, would you be brave enough to ask for a bottle of sherry and a bag of cheese and onion crisps? Visually impaired campaigner Anna Tylor did just that, as she describes wryly on her blog.

Anna was struggling to get her usual supermarket delivery slot as blind and partially sighted people in the UK are not classified as “clinically extremely vulnerable” so are not automatically entitled to food parcels, priority supermarket deliveries or help with basic care needs.

Aside from diabetes, the commonest causes of visual impairment in Europe are age-related macular dis-ease, inherited retinal diseases, and glaucoma. These conditions affect only the eyes and do not cause greater susceptibility to COVID-19 or any other communicable disease. But consider the challenges faced by a visually impaired person going to a supermarket during lockdown.

New Challenges

Most people registered as sight impaired have some vision. With magnifiers or high powered glasses they can often read price labels and packet descriptions -

but only from a couple of centimetres. Many use smartphone apps to read printed text aloud, or barcode scanners to identify products. Braille readers need to touch packets to read labels.

These techniques maintain independence in normal times. Now, though, many visually impaired people are concerned by having to touch multiple items, moving them closer to their eyes, and spending longer in a potentially virus-laden environment.

Supermarkets usually

allow a staff member to accompany a visually impaired person around the shop. Now, though, this would mean spending more time in close contact with a potential asymptomatic carrier. Social distancing is even more difficult for people with reduced hearing as well as

Reading braille on packaging requires touching objects when shopping. Photo credit: ThamKC (Shutterstock).

bad eyesight. It is far harder to hear someone from two metres away than from 50 cm, and there are worrying reports of tactile interpreters for deafblind people not being available in healthcare settings.

Kelly Carver, a man in his 50s who has progressively lost vision due to retinitis pigmentosa, told me about social distancing with a white cane:

“I guess as a low vision person, I have the right of way and people need to heed the 6ft distance from me. Still, that’s not particularly comforting. I don’t want to foist that upon others.”

At home, people who can’t see well and live alone face challenges in reading use-by dates, checking cooking instructions on a food packet, or making sure they’re taking the right dose of medication.

Those with tech skills and good internet connections might use video-calling, artificial intelligence apps such as Seeing AI or crowdsourced assistance like BeMyEyes. Inclusive design means new technology has been widely adopted by people with visual impairment. However, people without these devices might rely on volunteers from sight loss charities, many of which are no longer offering home visits.

Sending the wrong signal

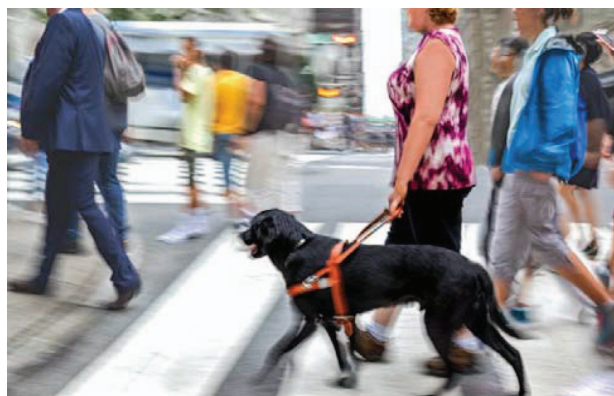
But some people with visual impairment don’t want to have special dispensations made for them. A fit and healthy 21-year old woman who happens to have poor vision may not want to be included on a list of the most vulnerable people in the country.

When only one in four blind or partially sighted people is in employment, and nearly 40% of visually impaired graduates are out of work, classifying people who don’t see well as being in need of more support might send the wrong signal to employers and wider society.

Anna Tylor is worried about the competing needs of people at high clinical risk from Covid-19 and those vulnerable from sight loss:

“I’m horrified that disabled people have been displaced by “vulnerable groups”, thus creating a two tier vulnerable system.”

Some help is available. If people with visual impairment can get through on the phone to their supermarket they can ask to be put onto a priority delivery list. Staff in shops will still help on request, usually separated by the length of a trolley.



Social distancing presents extra challenges for those with visual impairments. Photo credit: blurAZ (Shutterstock).

The London Taxicard scheme has been extended to pick up and deliver essential supplies. Neighbours, communities and mutual aid groups will help with essential shopping and safe social contact.

How can you best help someone with visual impairment during lockdown? #AskDontGrab, as blind Twitter users emphasise. Give people distance if you think they’re struggling to see you. Don’t shout at people who accidentally encroach on your space. Announce who you are, and tell people when you’re leaving so they don’t end up speaking into thin air.

About the author: Dr Michael Crossland, FAAO is a Senior Optometrist in the Low Vision Clinic at Moorfields Eye Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust, and an Honourary Senior Research Associate at University College London. In 2004 he was admitted by The University of London to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Ophthalmology. He has served on committees for the World Health Organisation, International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation, and the College of Optometrists. His major research interest is in assistive technology and new devices to make life easier for people with sight loss. Dr Crossland has worked with over 10,000 people with visual impairment, as patients, friends, and colleagues, and, although most of his career has been spent in London, he has also worked with visually impaired people in Romania, Ghana, and Minneapolis, USA. Though not visually impaired himself, he is passionate about sight loss and its impact on individuals and society. He is keen to communicate some of the issues surrounding blindness to a wider audience, and has written articles for public audiences, for sight loss charities, and for professional groups. He has been interviewed on BBC Radio 4’s ‘In Touch’ programme, and was a finalist in the 2019 Hektoen International Grand Prix Essay competition for his piece on why some people still think masturbation makes you go blind. He is currently working on a book about blindness for a general audience. Dr Crossland joined The Conversation on 25 March 2020.

Disclosure statement: Dr Michael Crossland does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond his vocational and academic appointment.

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American Airlines- SKB-MIA (Miami) Daily Flight AA 318:

Flight AA 318 (SKB – MIA) has been loaded in the American Airlines system showing a resumption of service on Saturday June 6th, 2020, operating on Saturdays only, with no service in May. However, it is important to note that American Airlines cannot resume service to the Federation if the borders are closed.

The reopening of the borders will be determined by the Government during the State of Emergency. American Airlines was simply following established airline procedures of loading flights in advance.

Medical X Press - Neuroscience - Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia - 29April 2020

Which Foods Do You Eat Together? How You Combine Them May Raise Dementia Risk



Photo credit: CC0 Public Domain.

It's no secret that a healthy diet may benefit the brain. However, it may not only be what foods you eat, but what foods you eat together that may be associated with your risk of dementia, according to a new study published in the 22 April 2020 online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

The study looked at "food networks" and found that people whose diets consisted mostly of highly processed meats, starchy foods like potatoes, and snacks like cookies and cakes, were more likely to have dementia years later than people who ate a wider variety of healthy foods.

"There is a complex inter-connectedness of foods in a person's diet, and it is important to understand how these different connections, or food networks, may affect the brain because diet could be a promising way to prevent dementia," said study author Cécilia Samieri, PhD, of The University of Bordeaux in France. "A number of studies have shown that eating a healthier diet, for example a diet rich in green leafy vegetables, berries, nuts, whole grains and fish, may lower a person's risk of dementia. Many of those studies focused on quantity and frequency of foods. Our study went one step further to look at food networks and found important differences in the ways in which food items were co-consumed in people who went on to develop dementia and those who did not."

The study involved 209 people with an average age of 78 who had dementia and 418 people, matched for age, sex and educational level, who did not have dementia.

Participants had completed a food questionnaire five years previously describing what types of food they ate over the year, and how frequently, from less than once a month to more than four times a day. They also had medical checkups every two to three years. Researchers used the data from the food questionnaire to compare what foods were often eaten together by the patients with and without dementia.

Researchers found while there were few differences in the amount of individual foods that people ate, overall food groups or networks differed substantially between people who had dementia and those who did not have dementia.

"Processed meats were a 'hub' in the food networks of people with dementia," said Dr Samieri. "People who developed dementia were more likely to combine highly processed meats such as sausages, cured meats and patés, with starchy foods like potatoes, alcohol, and snacks like cookies and cakes.

This may suggest that frequency with which processed meat is combined with other unhealthy foods, rather than average quantity, may be important for dementia risk. For example, people with dementia were more likely, when they ate processed meat, to accompany it with potatoes, and people without dementia were more likely to accompany meat with more diverse foods, including fruit and vegetables and seafood."

Overall, people who did not have dementia were more likely to have a lot of diversity in their diet, demonstrated by many small food networks that usually included healthier foods, such as fruit and vegetables, seafood, poultry or meats.

"We found that more diversity in diet, and greater inclusion of a variety of healthy foods, is related to less dementia," said Samieri. "In fact, we found differences in food networks that could be seen years before people with dementia were diagnosed. Our findings suggest that studying diet by looking at food networks may help untangle the complexity of diet and biology in health and disease."

One limitation of the study was that participants completed a food questionnaire that relied on their ability to accurately recall diet rather than having researchers monitor their diets. Another limitation was that diets were only recorded once, years before the onset of dementia, so any changes in diet over time were unknown.

Journal information:
Neurology

Provided by: American Academy of Neurology

Reuters - WORLD NEWS - Health-Taiwan - Tuesday 28 April 2020

Taiwan Pushes WHO Participation In Rare Ministerial Call With US

- By Ben Blanchard

TAIPEI (Reuters) - In a rare teleconference between health ministers, Taiwan has thanked the United States for its support in pushing for the island's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) amid the coronavirus pandemic and despite China's objections.

In turn the United States thanked Taiwan for sharing its medical best practices. Taiwan has limited the coronavirus outbreak to just 429 confirmed cases and six deaths.

Taiwan's lack of membership at the WHO, due to China's objections which considers the island merely one of its provinces, has infuriated Taipei, which says its exclusion has created a glaring gap in global fight against coronavirus.

In a teleconference late Monday, Taiwan Health Minister Chen Shih-chung thanked US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar "for the strong support extended by the United States for Taiwan's participation in The WHO", Taiwan's Health Ministry said in a statement.

"Minister Chen told Secretary Azar that he hopes The US will continue to support for Taiwan's full participation in the World Health Assembly as observer and WHO meetings, mechanisms, and activities," the statement added.

The World Health Assembly is The WHO's decision-making body.

Taiwan attended it as an observer from 2009-2016 when Taipei-Beijing relations warmed, but China blocked further participation after the election of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, who China views as a separatist, charges she rejects.

Taiwan's Health Ministry said that Azar reaffirmed "the continued and concrete support from The US of expanding Taiwan's participation in The WHO and global health arena".

The WHO and China both say Taiwan has been given the access to and information it needs from the body during the pandemic, but Taiwan says that has been limited.

Azar, in a tweet, said he had thanked Chen for Taiwan's "efforts to share their best practices and resources with The US." "Now, more than ever, global health partnership is crucial and I appreciate Taiwan's contributions."

Direct, public interactions between ministerial-level officials from Taiwan and the United States are unusual as the two do not have official diplomatic ties.

The United States, like most countries, only has formal relations with Beijing, though it is Taiwan's strongest backer on the international stage.

Earlier this month Taiwan and the United States discussed how to get "closer coordination" between the island and The WHO during the coronavirus outbreak, drawing a rebuke from China for "political manipulation" of the epidemic.

US President Donald Trump signed a new law last month requiring increased support for Taiwan's international role. China threatened unspecified retaliation in response.

Taiwan has been far more successful than many of its neighbours keeping the virus in check thanks to early and stringent steps to control its spread.

Reporting by Ben Blanchard. Editing by Michael Perry.

Latest Murder Victim Dies Of Gunshot Wound To Head...Suspect Charged

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Friday 1st May 2020)- A 22-year-old man who was recently shot at his home during a day of total lockdown due to COVID-19 died from a gunshot wound to his head, according to police.

Four (4) days after that shooting incident which

claimed the life of 22-year-old Clement 'Papa' Mills of Parson Ground was shot dead, a suspect has been charged with his murder.

Accused is 33-year-old Dania Phipps of Saddlers, charged on

(cont'd on page 15)



CCRIF to Provide up to US\$150,000 in Scholarships for Academic Year 2020/21 to Caribbean Nationals

Call for Applications Now Open!

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 — Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands – The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Financing Facility (CCRIF SPC) invites applications for scholarships for 2020/21 to support students pursuing Masters level degree programmes in areas such as disaster risk management (DRM), natural resources management, climate change, civil with environmental engineering, actuarial science, and meteorology, among others.

These scholarships are tenable at universities in the Caribbean, USA, UK and Canada and can be for either online or face-to-face programmes.

CCRIF will provide at least eight scholarships for postgraduate students. These are broken down as follows:

1 extra-regional scholarship of up to US\$40,000 for students accepted into a university in the United Kingdom, United States or Canada

6 Caribbean scholarships of US\$11,000 each for students accepted into the University of the West Indies; University of Technology, Jamaica; Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica; University of Guyana; or University of Suriname

Special scholarship/s totalling US\$11,000 for students enrolled in a new course developed by CCRIF and to be offered through UWI titled Fundamentals of Disaster Risk Financing (with emphasis on CCRIF Parametric Insurance Policies) for Advancing the Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), adapted from CCRIF's training programme, "Understanding Disaster Risk Financing, CCRIF Parametric Policies and the Relationship with Fiscal and Economic Policy", and which will be offered for the first time through UWI Open Campus starting in academic year 2020/21

The deadline for applications for the 2020 CCRIF Scholarship Programme is June 15, 2020.

Please visit the CCRIF website at: <http://www.ccrif.org/content/scholarship> to apply.

Additionally, at the undergraduate level CCRIF will continue to provide through the University of the West Indies (UWI) four undergraduate scholarships per year valued at US\$8,000 each (US\$4,000 per year for the second and final year) for students registered at one of the UWI campuses and pursuing select degrees related to DRM, civil engineering, geography, environmental management etc. For information on the CCRIF-UWI undergraduate scholarships, visit: <http://www.ccrif.org/content/programmes/ccrif-uw-scholarship>. Applications for these scholarships are administered directly by the UWI.

All citizens of CARICOM or CCRIF Caribbean member countries are eligible for these scholarships.

Since the launch of its scholarship programme CCRIF has awarded 77 scholarships to Caribbean nationals totalling US\$1.13 million to complete undergraduate or postgraduate programmes at the University of the West Indies and universities in the USA and the UK.

These scholarships are provided as part of CCRIF's Technical Assistance (TA) Programme which was launched in 2010. The TA programme provides scholarships and internships, small grants to NGOs and CBOs, and supports programmes implemented in partnership with regional organizations to enhance DRM and climate change adaptation.

CCRIF is committed to doing its part in building a cadre of persons who can effectively provide support for comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in the region.

While we all face uncertainties in the face of the current COVID-19 crisis, CCRIF anticipates that universities will be able to offer their programmes in August/September 2020 and the CCRIF team will work with scholarship candidates and the universities to enable these young Caribbean nationals to achieve their academic and professional goals.

Opinion Piece

Pandemic fosters new appreciation for those who feed the world



Tom Vilsack, CEO of the US Dairy Association and former Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed our daily lives and shifted global perspectives on what is important. Around the world,

people are applauding the amazing work and dedication of the health professionals on the front lines of this health care crisis. But as a society, we've also taken notice of the essential work quietly performed by the men and women who keep the world running on a daily basis: factory workers keeping the manufacturing line moving, grocery clerks stocking shelves, and the farmers and ranchers who work tirelessly to feed the world.

There has been no other time in recent memory where the critical role farmers and food manufacturers play has been as prominent. For the majority of Americans, we have lost our collective connection to agriculture and many of us take for granted the incredible effort it requires to grow our food or care for a herd of animals, produce a finished food product, move that product to market and all of the steps in between. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, our food and agriculture producers are working to overcome incredible supply chain stressors to ensure that we have access to the food we need.

I have had the immense privilege of working in agriculture and witnessing firsthand the remarkable resiliency of our farmers and the innovation displayed by food producers, especially in recent years.

At the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), we have never lost sight of the significance of the food and agricultural industry in meeting our nation's nutritional needs and driving the American

economy. The food and agricultural industry employs 43 million people or 28 percent of the entire American workforce, either directly or indirectly. The economic benefits generated by these industries powers 20 percent of the largest economy in the world.

To keep needed food products moving to markets around the world, USDEC has continually worked to cultivate partnerships with groups like the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Through these partnerships, we promote the adoption of policies that drive agriculture forward, encourage sustainable practices, improve animal health and welfare, and ensure that science-based regulations prevail over unjustified trade barriers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our partnership and deep coordination with IICA has strengthened our ability to respond nimbly to the new challenges presented by this crisis.

Dairy is a critical component of the global diet, fulfilling key nutritional needs. And dairy farmers and processors do more than feed the world; they also fuel sustainable economic development. The global dairy industry employs approximately 240 million people who care for more than 360 million dairy cows across more than 130 million dairy farms. In the United States alone, dairy creates three million jobs with an economic impact greater than \$650 billion, according to a study conducted by International Dairy Food Association.

Together, we will continue our work so we don't have to rely on the next global crisis to demonstrate the importance of our heroes in the food and agriculture supply chain who work day-in and day-out to move essential food supplies to people and markets who need it most.

**Note: The article by Tom Vilsack was prepared for the IICA Blog "Cultivating Tomorrow's Agriculture Today".*

ILO: As job losses escalate, nearly half of global workforce at risk of losing livelihoods

GENEVA (ILO News) – The continued sharp decline in working hours globally due to the COVID-19 outbreak means that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy – that is nearly half of the global workforce – stand in immediate danger of having their livelihoods destroyed, warns the International Labour Organization.

According to the ILO Monitor third edition: COVID-19 and the world of work, the drop in working hours in the current (second) quarter of 2020 is expected to be significantly worse than previously estimated.

Compared to pre-crisis levels (Q4 2019), a 10.5 per cent deterioration is now expected, equivalent to 305 million full-time jobs (assuming a 48-hour working week). The previous estimate was for a 6.7 per cent drop, equivalent to 195 million full-time workers. This is due to the prolongation and extension of lockdown measures.

Regionally, the situation has worsened for all major regional groups. Estimates suggest a 12.4 per cent loss

of working hours in Q2 for the Americas (compared to pre-crisis levels) and 11.8 per cent for Europe and Central Asia. The estimates for the rest of the regional groups follow closely and are all above 9.5 per cent.

Informal economy impact

As a result of the economic crisis created by the pandemic, almost 1.6 billion informal economy workers (representing the most vulnerable in the labour market), out of a worldwide total of two billion and a global workforce of 3.3 billion, have suffered massive damage to their capacity to earn a living. This is due to lockdown measures and/or because they work in the hardest-hit sectors.

The first month of the crisis is estimated to have resulted in a drop of 60 per cent in the income of informal workers globally. This translates into a drop of 81 per cent in Africa and the Americas, 21.6 per cent in Asia and the Pacific, and 70 per cent in Europe and Central Asia.

Without alternative income sources, these workers and their families will have no means to survive.

Enterprises at risk

The proportion of workers living in countries under recommended or required workplace closures has decreased from 81 to 68 per cent over the last two weeks. The decline from the previous estimate of 81 per cent in the second edition of the monitor (published April 7) is primarily a result of changes in China; elsewhere workplace closure measures have increased.

Worldwide, more than 436 million enterprises face high risks of serious disruption. These enterprises are operating in the hardest-hit economic sectors, including some 232 million in wholesale and retail, 111 million in

manufacturing, 51 million in accommodation and food services, and 42 million in real estate and other business activities.

Urgent policy measures needed

The ILO calls for urgent, targeted and flexible measures to support workers and businesses, particularly smaller enterprises, those in the informal economy and others who are vulnerable.

“For millions of workers, no income means no food, no security and no future. [...] As the pandemic and the jobs crisis evolve, the need to protect the most vulnerable becomes even more urgent.”

Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

Measures for economic reactivation should follow a job-rich approach, backed by stronger employment policies and institutions, better-resourced and comprehensive social protection systems. International co-ordination on stimulus packages and debt relief measures will also be critical to making recovery effective and sustainable. International labour standards, which already enjoy tripartite consensus, can provide a framework.

“As the pandemic and the jobs crisis evolve, the need to protect the most vulnerable becomes even more urgent,” said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. “For millions of workers, no income means no food, no security and no future. Millions of businesses around the world are barely breathing. They have no savings or access to credit. These are the real faces of the world of work. If we don’t help them now, they will simply perish.”

For interviews contact: newsroom@ilo.org.

Bus Drivers Can Put Out No-Mask Individuals

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Friday 1st May 2020)-Bus drivers in St.Kitts-Nevis have the right to put out passengers not wearing masks regarding safety measures in place to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.



Superintendent Cromwell Henry publicized the green light for such in speaking at the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Wednesday 29th April 2020 following a concern raised by a bus driver.

He informed that passengers found not wearing are will be liable for such and not the bus driver.

“Each person is liable for their actions ...and so the person who breaches the regulation is the person responsible. So the regulation requires that every person to wear a mask so if the police finds you without a mask, you are the one who will be liable



A glimpse inside a passenger bus on Thursday 30th April 2020 showing the bus driver and passengers wearing masks (Spokesman

not the bus driver. We only ask enforcing the regulation by that the bus driver assists in asking these passengers to put

on their masks before they come in but once they get in a remove the mask and they are caught by the police, they are responsible and not the driver.”

Superintendent Cromwell added: “The bus driver, he can stop the vehicle if he finds that persons are removing the masks once they begin to drive. He can stop the vehicle and ask them to alight or he can drive them to the nearest police station and ask the police to have the, removed from the vehicle. So again, you can put the passenger off the bus if they insists on not wearing the masks.”

Latest Murder ...Suspect Charged

(cont'd from page 13)

Sunday 26th April 2020.

Resident Pathologist Dr. Adrian Nunez performed an autopsy on Mills’ body on Saturday 25th April and concluded that death was as a result of severe brain injury due to a gunshot wound to the head.

According to a police report, on the day in question-Wednesday 22nd April 2020 sometime after 9:00PM- Mills

was at home when the assailant went to the house, started firing gunshots and fled the scene.

The wounded young man was transported via ambulance to the Joseph N France General Hospital but succumbed to his injuries.



Deceased: Clement 'Papa' Mills

Global Health Security

A Call for Taiwan's Inclusion



Dr. Chen Shih-chung Minister of Health and Welfare Republic of China (Taiwan)

The threat of emerging infectious diseases to global health and the economy, trade, and tourism has never abated. Pandemics can spread rapidly around the world because of the ease of international transportation. Among the most salient examples are the Spanish flu of 1918, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003, and the H1N1 influenza of 2009. Intermittently, serious regional epidemics, such as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) in 2012, Ebola in West Africa in 2014, and the Zika virus in Central and South America in 2016, have also reared their heads. Today, a novel form of pneumonia that first emerged in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019 and has since been classified as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has caused a global pandemic. As of April 8, 2020, World Health Organization data shows that 1.35 million people had been confirmed as having the disease, with 79,235 deaths in 211 countries/areas/territories. Taiwan has not been spared.

In the 17 years since it was hit hard by the SARS outbreak, Taiwan has been in a state of constant readiness to the threat of emerging infectious disease. As a result, when information concerning a novel pneumonia outbreak was first confirmed on December 31, 2019, Taiwan began implementing onboard quarantine of direct flights from Wuhan that same day. On January 2, 2020, Taiwan established a response team for the disease and activated the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) on January 20 as a level 3 government entity, upgrading it to level 2 and level 1 on January 23 and February 27, respectively. The CECC is able to effectively integrate resources from various ministries and invest itself fully in the containment of the epidemic. As of April 9, Taiwan had tested a total of 42,315 persons showing 380 confirmed cases, of which 54 have been indigenous, 326 imported and five deaths; 80 people had been released from hospital after testing negative. Despite its proximity to China, Taiwan ranked 123rd among 183 countries in terms of confirmed cases per million people. This has shown that Taiwan's aggressive efforts to control the epidemic are working.

Disease knows no borders. In response to the threat of the COVID-19 epidemic, Taiwan has implemented dynamic plans concerning border quarantine measures, including onboard quarantine, fever screening, health declarations, and a 14-day home quarantine for passengers arriving from nations it has listed under Level 3 Warning. Moreover, Taiwan has established an electronic system for entry quarantine, which allows passengers with a local mobile phone number to fill in health information via mobile phone. A health declaration pass will then be sent to them via a text message. This is connected to the community care support management system, which allows government agencies to provide care services and medical assistance. Individuals' travel history is now stored on the National Health Insurance (NHI) card to alert physicians to possible cases and prevent community transmission. For those undergoing home quarantine or isolation, the government is

working with telecom operators to allow GPS tracking of their locations. Quarantine offenders are subject to fines or mandatory placement according to relevant laws and regulations, so as to prevent transmission.

Taiwan has also increased laboratory testing capacity, expanded the scope of its surveillance and inspections based on trends of the COVID-19 epidemic, and retested people with higher risk who had already tested negative, including patients with symptoms of severe influenza, community cases with upper respiratory tract infections who were already being monitored, and cluster cases of upper respiratory tract infections, to identify suspected cases and perform treatment in isolation wards. Meanwhile, Taiwan has designated 50 regional hospitals and medical centers and 167 community hospitals and clinics to create a tiered system for testing. These hospitals and clinics are required to set up special wards or areas; in principle, COVID-19 patients are isolated and treated individually in these wards and areas to prevent nosocomial infections. Moreover, Taiwan has banned the export of surgical masks since January 24, requisitioned masks, and expanded domestic mask production to more effectively allocate masks. On February 6, Taiwan launched a name-based rationing system for mask purchases at NHI-contracted pharmacies and local public health agencies. It added an ordering system for masks on March 12. This allows people to order online and pick up masks at convenience stores. These measures have helped us achieve effective allocation of limited resources and meet healthcare, epidemic prevention, household, and industrial needs.

A crisis anywhere readily becomes a problem everywhere. Global health security requires the efforts of every person to ensure an optimal response to public health threats and challenges. Taiwan, though not a member of WHO, cannot stand alone and must be included in the fight against such threats and challenges. Taiwan has fulfilled its responsibilities as a global citizen and abided by the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR 2005) in notifying WHO of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Moreover, Taiwan has communicated with other countries such as Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United States, Canada, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands, as well as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, to share information on confirmed cases, travel and contact histories of patients, and border control measures. Taiwan has uploaded the genetic sequence of COVID-19 to the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID). Taiwan has worked with global partners to respond to the threat of COVID-19 to ensure that global health is not imperiled by a lack of communication and transparency.

If it is indeed WHO's mission to ensure the highest attainable standard of health for every human being, then WHO needs Taiwan just as Taiwan needs WHO. Yet Taiwan has long been excluded from WHO due to political considerations. This has been regrettable given all that Taiwan could share with the world thanks to its renowned public health experience, health system, NHI, and ability to perform rapid testing as well as research and manufacture vaccines and drugs against COVID-19. We can also share our methods for analyzing the virus. We hope that after this pandemic abates, WHO will truly understand that infectious diseases know no borders, and that no country should be excluded, lest it become a major gap in global health security. WHO should not neglect the contribution to global health security of any nation.

We urge WHO and related parties to acknowledge Taiwan's longstanding contributions to the international community in the areas of public health, disease prevention, and the human right to health, and to include Taiwan in WHO and its meetings, mechanisms, and activities. Taiwan will continue to work with the rest of the world to ensure that all enjoy the fundamental human right to health as stipulated in the WHO Constitution. Echoing the mantra of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, no one should be left behind.

Natta-Nelson: COVID-19 Cannot Be Blamed For Nepotism, Poor Governance And Corruption In Timothy Harris-Led Government

Basseterre, St Kitts, May 1, 2020 - Leon Natta-Nelson, a customs officer, who went to the high court to declare that he has a constitutional right as a civil servant to be a candidate in a general election, said Thursday night that the federation was already infected with various ills before the arrival of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In a spirited virtual presentation watched by thousands, Natta-Nelson said he was happy that to date five of the 15 persons infected with the Coronavirus had recovered and that was a reason for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis to prepare themselves to focus on additional recoveries.

Natta-Nelson, who will be challenging prime minister Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris for the St. Christopher 7 seat in the next general elections, said the coronavirus has compromised social space, increased financial difficulties with job losses and created health issues, but there are many other things that the people of St Kitts and Nevis need to recover from not caused by COVID-19.

"The people of St Kitts and Nevis were continuously suffering from bad governance by Timothy Harris and his colleagues. The selfishness they displayed in the last five years, the rampant nepotism and the corruption, COVID-19 cannot be blamed for that. The COVID-19 is not the cause of that. Blame Harris and his administration for what has happened in the last five years," said Natta-Nelson, who added that the Team Unity Government led by Harris and housing minister Eugene Hamilton must take the blame for presiding over the worst housing development ever

since 1995 with the construction of 28 houses in St. Christopher 7.

"COVID-19 is not responsible for nepotism with (Dr. Harris) as the Prime Minister, a Harris as CEO of Development Bank, two Harris' in the courts - one as a magistrate and the other as the registrar, another Harris in the Prison. That is not the cause of COVID-19," said Natta-Nelson.

He also said that COVID-19 cannot be blamed for the decision of Dr. Harris when he took office to stop the REACH programme which provided financial assistance to students from St Kitts and Nevis to attend the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College (CFBC), the Nevis Sixth Form and AVEC and the one-to-one laptop programme which provided each high school student and sixth grade primary school student with their own personal computer.

"We cannot blame COVID-19 for the stresses being felt by the taxi men and women for not earning enough money to sustain themselves. We cannot blame COVID-19 for the epidemic in agriculture with livestock farmers losing hundreds of cattle due to a lack of bayticol and we cannot blame COVID-19 for the doubling in the cost of the second cruise ship pier which is incomplete as it cannot accommodate any of the oasis-class ships it was built to berth," Natta-Nelson told viewers on Facebook.

He said COVID-19 cannot also be blamed for the misappropriation of US\$460,000 by government minister Lindsay Grant and ambassador Jonel Powell.

"We cannot blame COVID-

19 for the name of prime minister Harris appearing in a bribery case in a High Court in the United Kingdom in which evidence is presented that he begged a billionaire British tycoon for an expensive watch, a pair of shoes and campaign funds. We have to blame Harris for that," said Natta-Nelson, who pointed out that prime minister Harris has to be blamed for the poor treatment of nurses at hospitals and clinics, the victimisation of civil servants and the attempt to prevent Kittitians and Nevisians who are registered on the voters list from exercising the fundamental right to vote.

"The fact that we do not have a new Basseterre High School after five years and several schools, Labour Department and government offices infected with mold cannot be blamed on COVID-19. The people of St. Kitts and Nevis have been suffering long before COVID-19 because of the incompetence and selfishness of Dr Harris over the last five years," said Natta-Nelson.

"After COVID-19, there must be a new normal. Our students must return to schools and universities, the people must return to their jobs and the churches and the rastas must retain the right to assemble and good governance, accountability and transparency will be restored under a new NextGen SKN Labour Government," said Natta-Nelson.

Prime Minister Harris has also been accused of using the pandemic to put the elections on the back burner, delay general elections and stay in office beyond the constitutional deadline of August 14, 2020. Parliament elected on February 16, 2015, automatically dissolves on May 14, 2020.

COVID-19 Health Advice: Stay Positive

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Friday 1st May 2020)- Stay mentally positive is the advice being given by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Hazel Laws as a top tip in the fight against the coronavirus in helping to keep one's immune system strong.

"Stay positive. A positive attitude can improve your immune system and may help you live longer. See the cup as half full as opposed to half empty. Always remember the things you are thankful for and adopt an attitude of gratitude. Remember, each of us have our part to play in protecting our lives, ourselves and others from this disease"



Dr. Laws expressed such sentiments as part of her presentation at National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Wednesday 29th April 2020.

According to her: "While there is currently no cure for coronavirus, there are some steps that everyone can take to support their natural defenses against viruses like this one. The body's immune system is what helps to fight off these pathogens. There are a number of ways in which you can support your own immune system to make it as strong and effective as possible..."

Dr. Laws also urged individuals to reduce their stress levels.

"Stress can suppress the immune system and interfere with the infection fighting ability of your white blood cells, making you more prone and susceptible to contracting illnesses. This can be done by developing coping mechanisms such as keeping in contact with close friends and relatives who provide positive emotional support to reduce stress levels and avoid unnecessary worry about things you have no control over."

Other areas highlighted and reemphasized were eating more fruits and vegetables and leafy greens, getting more sleep and daily dosage of vitamin D, get more sleep and daily dosage of vitamin D, practice good hygiene, continue to practice social distancing measures, engage in effective hand washing practices and wear masks in public spaces.

Dr. Laws also encouraged individuals to consume at least three servings of fruits and vegetables daily noting that such contain high levels of antioxidants and nutrients which boost the production of cells which supports the immune system

On the subject of getting more sleep and daily dosage of vitamin D, the CMO remarked: "While we sleep, our body repairs and builds our immune system to fight off viruses. Aim to get at least six to eight hours of sleep daily. Sunshine increases vitamin D. Our body creates vitamin D from direct sunlight on our skin when we are outdoors. Studies show that vitamin D activates the cells that help to fight infections. Aim to get one to two hours of direct sunlight per day to get your fill of vitamin D. Exposure to sunlight is preferred at the beginning and at the end of each day to minimize the harmful effect of ultraviolet light on your skin."

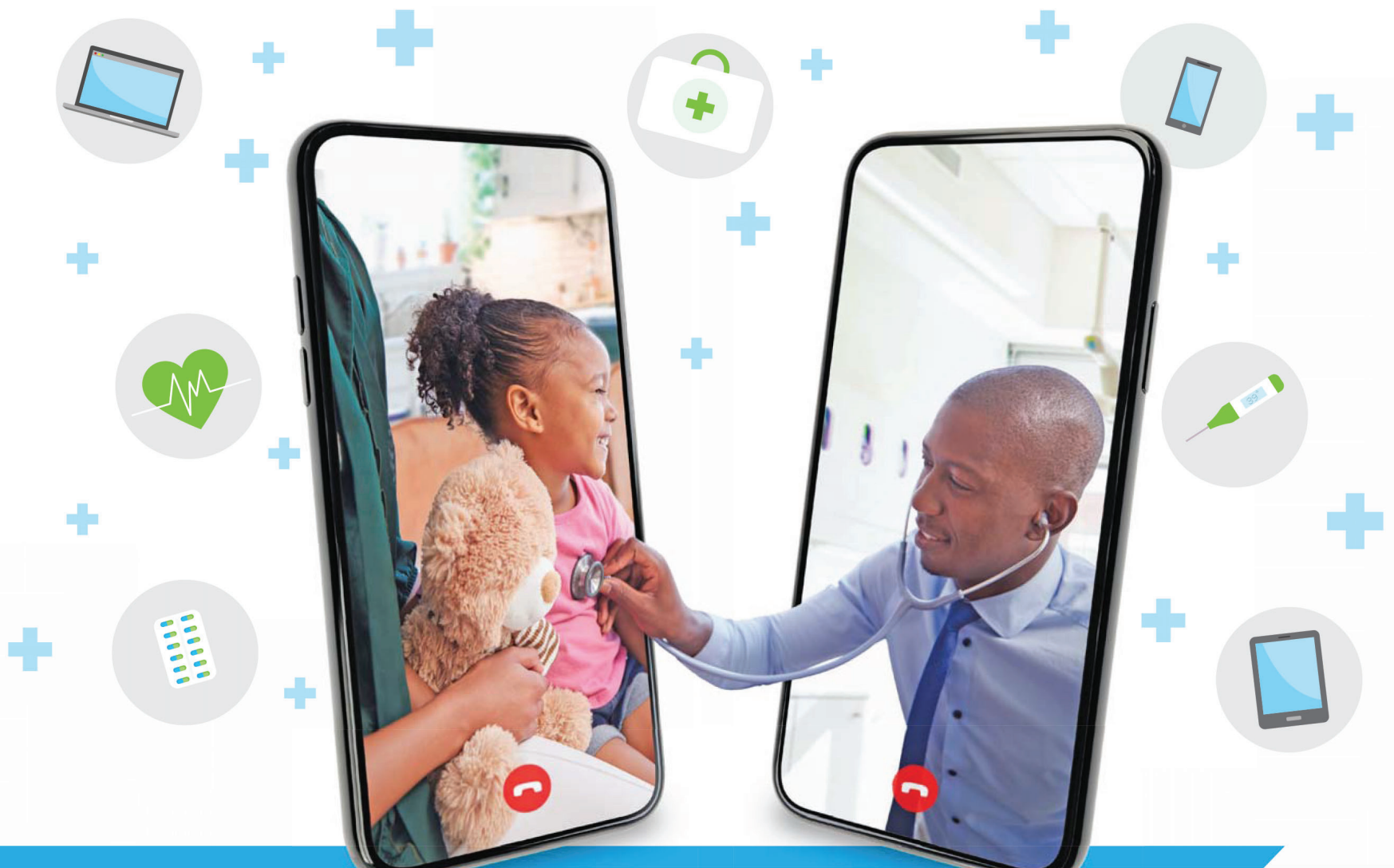
She went on to say that proper hygiene such as washing hand regularly using a disposable tissue when blowing nose or coughing into your flexed elbow will help to decrease the spread of viruses. Aim to wash your hands after touching contaminated surfaces.

"By adhering to these practices, we will see positive outcomes and win the fight against this invisible enemy," Dr. Laws told.

Photo: Chief Medical Officer Dr. Hazel Laws



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BOUNDARIES. VIRUSES AND FAMILAAYYY!!!

By: FAIR SHARE FOR ALL

For how Timothy Harris and the rest of Team Unity went on last elections, nobody, not even Timothy himself, would have believed that in April 2020 Team Unity would have been trying every trick in the proverbial book to hold on to power for as long as they can.

Things are so bad for Team Unity that the same man who said that they would win ten out of the eleven seats is now trying to find a way in the Constitution to allow them to stay past the constitutionally mandated August 14, 2020.

There was no Corona Virus in January or February 2020. There was none in the whole of 2019. There was nothing preventing Timothy Harris from calling the elections, especially when world renowned pollster assured him that he would win ten out of the eleven federal seats.

What better news would a government want to hear? Even if the pollster off by one or two or even four. But Team Unity preferred to ignore their poll and pollster and take on the results of the Labour poll instead.

What a calamity!!

And there isn't one Unity supporter, who I've seen, who doesn't want to postpone the elections as long as possible. The only conclusion to draw from this response is that Team Unity knows that they will lose the 2020 General Elections. 1989 or 2015 boundaries, the result will be the same.

That is another reason for the delay. Timothy Harris and the rest of Team Unity are trying to change the boundaries. And they are trying to change the boundaries because they know only gerrymandered boundaries can give them a chance.

Five years these people had to make the boundaries equitable. But they thought five years was a century. Before they realized what was happening, 16th February, 2020 had come and gone.

So now they are scrabbling. Scrabbling to get everything done in three months. Ninety days.

Because they don't have any Music Festival to launch their campaign. They don't have three Oasis type cruise ships docked at the second pier. As I write, workmen are trying to figure out how to fix the west cement and steel bus terminal.

Timothy Harris also has another problem. If he says we are Corona Virus free, then he won't be able to use the pandemic as the reason to try to postpone the elections. It looking like The Virus is the very last card that he has in his hand. He done gone to boast on BBC how we, the people, are adhering to all the best practices recommended by WHO and the like. Wendy stressing all the time that the Virus is no spreading locally- i.e. within a household.

So he can't come now to say that there is Community spread.

So he trying to get a voice out there to justify, rationalize and legitimize going past August 2020. So he turns to the pollster. The same one he didn't take on when he said they would win ten seats. Probably the same one who told him that Douglas would never be able to contest an election again.

So while they are trying to rewrite the Constitution, I encourage all of us to continue to welcome all to Labour. So many persons are now with us and are publicly supporting us. Let us continue to do what needs to be done to ensure that LABOUR is the winning party in the 2020 General Elections.



By Vigilante

- People in de know say dat de junior lady who like she whiskey and de big man in security who like he brandy had one big busing. Dey say she tell him how dunce he be. How he want to be mekking big speech and he ain't know de difference between simple words like affected and infected.

- So he went go complain her to Humpty Dumpty. But Humpty Dumpty ain't give him no satisfaction. Humpty Dumpty tell him dat he must never forget dat he get de wuk because he obedient. He ain't get it because he intelligent.

- Dey say de poor man fed up and frustrated because de lady not giving him a break at all. She tell him dat if he ain't see how Hammy Monkey only wuk during dis crisis is to tek photo shoot wid garbage bin. She warn him dat if he don't behave heself and stop complaining her, he gon find heself on de beat mekking sure dat people social distancing.

- Through he just build a big bamancoo house since he get de big wuk in security, he carn give de lady no chat nor tell Humpty Dumpty he done wid de wuk. So anytime he going go mek a big speech anywhere at all bout de Virus, de lady have to check it first.

- De lady run de PS too since she couldna get de word call de first time she try call it in public. And because de PS tell de junior lady dat she wouldn't even sweep up she yard in de clothes dem dat she, de junior lady does wear wuk, de junior lady ban her from chairing any more a de meeting dem.

- After Humpty Dumpty done mek de supermarket open up for him on a lock dung day and after he done bring out de school meal people dem to cook de food, only half a de food he send to give out. Dey say he freezer dem ram pack wid de other half a de food. Just like how he got a room a house ram pack wid all de tin a food dat de plane bring.

- Through he get way wid some lie and half truth wid de first England news man, Humpty Dumpty put on he bright blue tie dis time and thought dat he coulda get away again. But through he get ketch, he say dat de next interview gon be in a bright orange tie because when he put on yellow tie or blue tie, he does carn lie good.

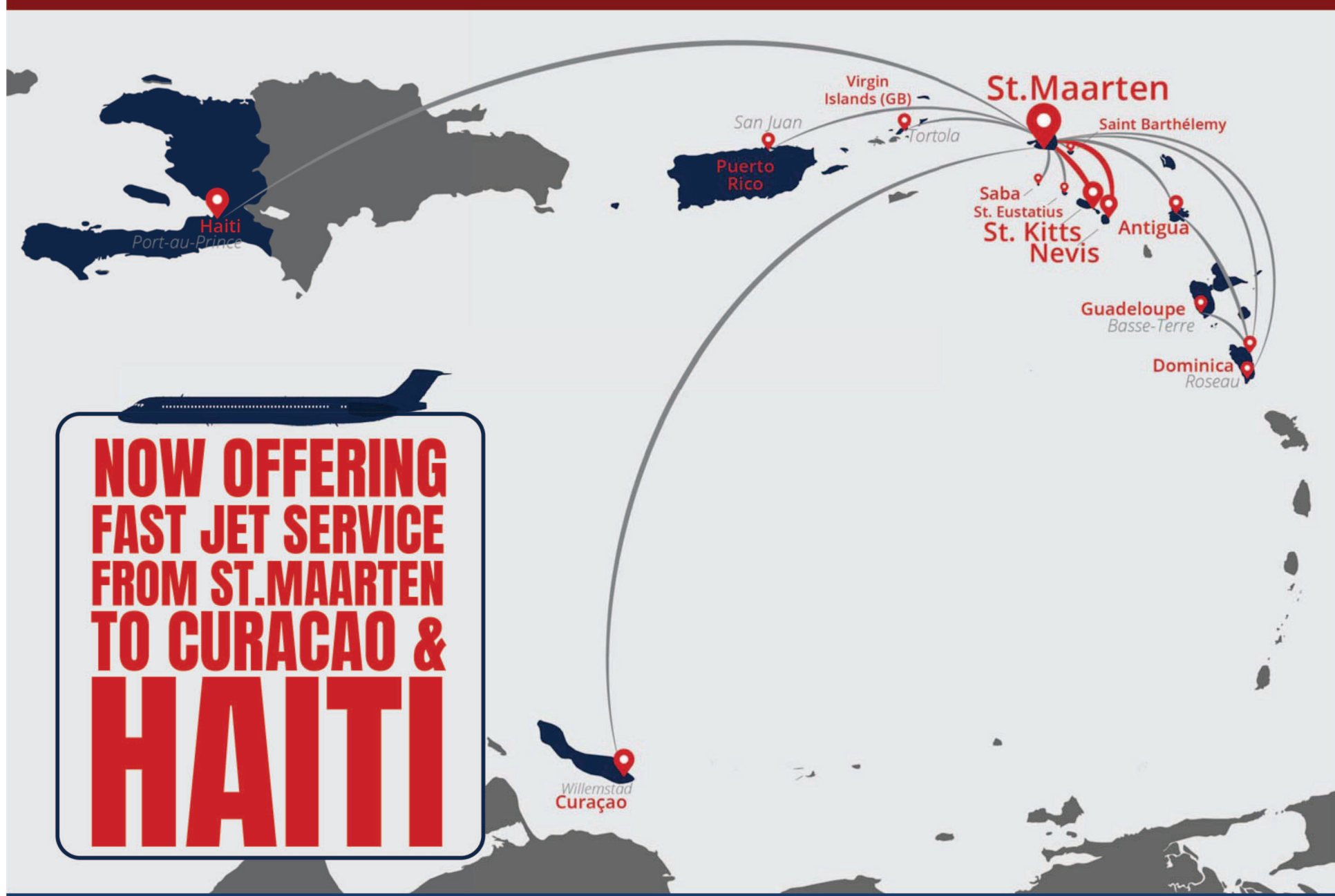
- Humpty Dumpty tell de Marriott man early o'clock in Cabinet dat he have to cancel de Music Festival so dey could cancel de Labour weekend. And de Marriott man agree to it quick, quick because PAM people busing dat every year Labour have Queen show in and outta government, Every year Labour have de march in and outta government. And PAM celebrate dey 55th anniversary and not a soul remember.

- Since de man say what he say bout Humpty Dumpty and Hammy monkey, Humpty Dumpty carn sleep when night come. Dey say he trying to find out who all de man talk to and what all he say because just like how Humpty Dumpty use to pay people to cut up people tyre and tek dung people billboard, money pass to do worse dan dat.

- All who never believe dat is all kinda ting dey pay people to do to de school and de school chirren to win de 2015 election believing it now. School chirren say das what mek de man who was de rusty chair walking up and dung de highway in hot sun kicking stone and talking to dem.

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