

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

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

Year 64 NO. 29

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 2021

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DOUGLAS: '2022 VAT WORRYING'

STORY ON
PAGE 03

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WHO GETS EXTRA?

USUAL-LIKE J'OUVERT

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PAGE 02

STORY ON
PAGE 04



Sugar Mas 50 Press Conference
Fun, Vibes, Energy, Sugar Mas 50

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Editorial

What Is Your Impression Of The 2022 Budget?

Wednesday 15 December 2021 was set as the date for parliament to convene and process the government's budget for the fiscal year 2022.

Selected persons went about touting what a special and great budget session it was going to be. Everyone, near and far, would get to see that UNITY was still united.

Some spread the word verbally while others did so via social media. ZIZ Radio and TV were also brazenly utilised.

Some people say that the budget presentation was for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis another charade, and that from the earliest stages, it became clear that, amongst other changes, 'unity' had indeed fled the schemers.

Other have noted the customary bombast, and the repetitions of 'my government', to realise that there is a split in the government, and it is a huge one.

It is said that the budget presenter Prime Minister Harris likes to quote from the Good Book, always claiming that he is so good that two of the books are named after him when clearly he does not understand how that works.

Some say there was an apparent and brazen attempt to 'buy off' the people when it was announced that a 'double salary' was to be paid for Christmas. When the leader of the opposition sought certain clarifications he was subjected to abuse and attempted ridicule. Those attempts fell flat.

For some critics, it appears that members on the government side clearly thought that they could have made something of the announcement and individually tried to take credit for the 'double

Public Gets Specifics About Gov't Double Salary

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Wednesday 15th December 2021)- An announcement by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Timothy Harris on Tuesday 14th December 2021 about a double salary has gotten specifics relating to which categories of government workers will receive this extra month's salary as well as the payment timeline.

The next day (15th December), following an exchange in Parliament between Dr. Harris and Parliamentary Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas details came about after questions raised by Dr. Douglas about pensioners, public servants among others saw PM Harris replying "for the avoidance of doubt."

That day, official details coming from the Office of the Prime Minister indicated: "The extra month's salary, or double salary, for all civil servants and Government Auxiliary Employees (GAE) of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Nevis Island Administration (NIA), including Pensioners and STEP workers, will be paid on Tuesday, December 21, 2021."

In his budget address response, Dr. Douglas stated that workers are demanding an increase in salary and wages.

"We demand an increase in salary and wages. We welcome the double salary yes but the people are demanding an increase in salary and wages. That is what they were hoping they would have heard yesterday. More people, Mr. Speaker, would always benefit from more. Of course the double salary for civil servants in December this year it is welcomed but I listened to the Prime Minister presentation very carefully and I read the address over and over again to see if I missed anything because he made no mention Mr. Speaker of government employees that do not occupy civil service posts. Throughout the presentation, it is replete, continuously referring to civil servants Mr. Speaker."

Dr. Douglas pointed to what was said during the budget address and the written document paragraph 82 which consistently makes reference to "our civil servants."

Dr. Harris interjected saying: "Mr. Speaker, for the avoidance of doubt and it has been clear in every statement that the government makes, civil servants are really part of the cadre of employees on the government payroll. Pensioners, first they are civil servants and then they go on the pensionable roll. The standard had been everywhere that every category of employment of the government are treated equally when it comes to the payment of double salary... All of the releases would have said so... it will be civil servants active, it will be STEP workers, it will be GAE workers, it will be

(cont'd on page 6)

salary'.

Tourist ships have been docking in the harbour, yet there are no tourists to talk about. If there is any doubt about that just ask the taxi drivers and tour operators.

What most persons hoped to hear from the government during the session was their concern, if any, about the steep increases in the price of goods at the supermarkets, groceries, ordinary shops, and the hucksters in the market places.

It is the case that the prices at which most essential items are now sold have increased markedly over the past two years, and, realistically, it cannot be blamed on the COVID-

19 pandemic. Those increases have been inflicted on the people, on an ongoing basis, since February 2015. The pandemic has only accelerated the rate at which the increases have been levied.

Most countries have taken positive steps to protect their people, especially those which describe themselves as being 'capitalist'. In those regards what can be said has been done for the people of St. Kitts-Nevis?

In a future edition, the 2022 budget shall be further analysed in some detail.

Dear readers, what is your impression of the budget presentation?



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Parliamentary Opposition Leader Says Gov't 2022 Tax Increase Is Worrisome For Consumers

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Thursday 16th December 2021)- ‘Can our consumers bear anymore high prices?’

That was a question posed by Parliamentary Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas has on Wednesday 15th December 2021, in his official response to the 2022 budget presentation by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Timothy Harris made the day before.

Dr. Douglas argued the view of the opposition side that the increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) “is particularly worrisome...because of its potential impact on inflation and the price of goods generally here in St.Kitts and Nevis.”

“The government is predicting that the economy will grow some 11.28 per cent so that the estimated growth in tax collection. Imagine that, the estimated growth in estimated tax collections is more than 50 per cent higher than the projected growth in the economy, the overall economy itself. Why is this so Mr. Speaker?,” he expressed.

Pointing to areas under ‘Tax Revenue’ from the government’s 2022 budget report, Dr. Douglas outlined: “the major taxes that are fueling this massive increase in tax revenues estimated for 2022 are income tax. Look it there under ‘Tax Revenue’...We ain’t care about tax-free budget and so - that’s tax free- but what about tax increases?”

He also highlighted: “1.7 million for house tax which is 17.32 per cent. \$ 8.7 million, Mr. Speaker for income tax or 10. 7 per cent increase, house tax of 1.7 million or 17.32 per cent increase. Value Added Tax, in particular. The VAT Mr. Speaker on local goods and services would have increased by 9. 5 million dollars or 22. 58 per cent Mr. Speaker, and I go on to import duty by \$13.5 million or a whopping 26.25 per cent increase and Value Added Tax on imported goods Mr. Speaker by 5.9 million or 10.68 per cent increase.”

He went on to say: “Mr. Speaker, I make reference to these because the mammoth increase in Value Added Tax is particularly worrisome... because of its potential impact on inflation and the price of goods generally here in St.Kitts and Nevis. Can our consumers bear anymore high prices?”

Dr. Douglas continued: “For example, even now Mr. Speaker, the US is facing considerable inflation pressures that are already affecting us and that could get worse if the supply chain issues that we here of and we speak of everyday keep pushing prices upwards if they are not brought under control. That is what worries me, Mr. Speaker; the potential for price increases as a result of the inflationary prospect when you are collecting so much more taxes when after all, especially on VAT and imported duties. If you’re collecting more in these area well then they going pass it on to the consumers; the prices must increase everybody knows that.”

“This is warning to us Mr. Speaker because you see at the end of November, I want to remind us that consumers’ prices in the USA have risen by 6.8 per cent for that year, and this is the highest level of increase since 1982. Mr. Speaker, it is a fact. This is a warning to all of us. We must therefore, Mr. Speaker, exert great care before implementing policies that could put extra pressure on prices and thereby raise the domestic rate of inflation to levels beyond international rates in 2022,” he noted.

Dr. Douglas recalled sentiments by the President of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce [Giselle Matthews] during a media interview before the budget presentation as he noted that “one of the things she spoke about was the price of goods in the stores.”

He then added: “We cannot afford for prices to increase, and if the government continues to collect so much more taxes, import duty, Value Added Tax then it means that there’s going to be pressure with regard to inflationary situation not improving but in fact becoming worsen and thus affecting the prices of goods Mr. Speaker.”

The former Finance Minister stated that it is against that backdrop that he wished to express concern about the “dramatic increase in revenue collections proposed for Value Added Tax or the VAT.”

“I am especially worried because the proposed increase in collection of Value Added Tax on



NOTICE - BANKING HOURS DURING THE 2021 HOLIDAY SEASON

To Our Valued Clients

The St. Kitts-Nevis Bankers’ and Financial Services Association wishes to advise the public that the banking hours during the 2021 Holiday Season are as follows:

TDC Financial Services Company Ltd, St. Kitts Nevis-Anguilla National Bank Ltd, The Bank of Nevis Ltd and Republic Bank (EC) Ltd:

Thursday, 23rd December 2021 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Friday, 24th December 2021 8:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, 30th December 2021 8:00a.m - 4:00p.m.

Friday, 31st December 2021 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank:

Thursday, 23rd December 2021 8:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Friday, 24th December 2021 8:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, 30th December 2021 8:00a.m - 1:00p.m.

Friday, 31st December 2021 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

The Association reminds the public that ATM’s, online and mobile banking services will remain available 24/7 to service your banking needs.

We also take this opportunity to express Season’s Greetings to all nationals and residents of St. Kitts & Nevis and encourage everyone to remain safe and to adhere to all health protocols during the festive holiday season.

Happy Holidays.

local goods and services of 22.58 per cent is nearly twice the projected rate of economic growth which only 11.28 per cent. This could only be achieved by an increase in the rate proposed in respect to Value Added Tax on domestic goods and services,” the Opposition Leader further pointed out.

Front Page Photo: Parliamentary Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas in making his budget response presentation on Wednesday 15th December 2021 (Credit: SKNIS)



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Carnival Chairperson Says Bubble J'ouvert Will Be Like Tradition

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Tuesday 14th December 2021)-Chairperson of the St.Kitts-Nevis National Carnival Committee Shannon Hawley has indicated that the Bubble J'ouvert-slanted for Monday 27th December 2021-will be hosted as close to tradition as possible.

This time around for Sugar Mas, due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic and required fully-vaccinated status of participants, the traditional street style jamming activity will be held within an enclosed area-FLOW Grounds from 4am to 11am.

"Bubble J'ouvert... we're trying to make it as traditional as possible so what we will do is we will have each band entering the venue one at a time on a tractor trailer; the traditional trailers that they would use, and they would actually circle the venue with individuals behind them similar to what you would see [in a] typical J'ouvert experience," she said in responding to a question at a Sugar Mas press conference held on Monday 13th December 2021, at ZIZ TV studio.

Notably, members of the public have been criticizing the carnival committee's arrangement for patrons to buy tickets to attend the Bubble J'ouvert which is traditionally free

In responding to a question about the style of dancing at the Bubble J'ouvert surrounding restrictions in place, Hawley highlighted: "The traditional J'ouvert experience is one of dancing, and we're going to have a very big venue.

The venue is large enough with a very small live audience who are fully vaccinated so I don't think the Carnival Committee intention is to stop anyone from dancing and having fun. I think that it is end of year; we've made it thus far. We want everyone to be as safe as possible, at the same time we want everybody to enjoy themselves."

According to Hawley: "People are really excited about this Bubble J'ouvert."

As understood, one of the tractor trailers will be stationary and will be used by the DJs to perform as well as the Soca artistes.

The Carnival Chairperson indicated that her committee is working with the police and the Task Force and asked all J'ouvert participants "to be on your best behaviour" whilst adding "it is a big enough venue for you to enjoy yourself without being cramped."

Participants are being asked to electronically upload their vaccination card instead of walking with the physical paper.

"It's a very easy process to upload your card electronically... it's much easier for you and us as well; you don't want to get it wet," Hawley advised.

In addressing a rumour about that some band members of the Bubble J'ouvert line-up are not fully vaccinated, she disclosed: "Every single individual who will be entering Carnival events must be vaccinated. If you see that we have a band listed, that band must provide us with a list of their members and their

vaccination ID. If they're not vaccinated, they either replace that member or the band does not perform. It's as simple as that."

"We have been following the protocols set by the COVID-19 Task Force and as the National Carnival Committee, we are really ensuring that we stick to it," Hawley added.

Slated to perform at the Bubble J'ouvert are: Grand Masters Band, Small Axe Band, Kollison Band, DJ Tero, Sweet Sister Sensia, Hell Fire Sound, Ronnie Rascal, Upset Squad, JTS Entertainment as well as the Power and Groovy Soca monarchs.

Front Page Photo: Chairperson of the St.Kitts-Nevis National Carnival Committee Shannon Hawley speaking a Sugar Mas 50 press conference on Monday 13th December 2021 (Screenshot via Facebook/St.Kitts&NevisNationalCarnival)

Sanitize /
Wear Your Mask
Wash Your Hands



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

VACANCY NOTICE *Systems Analyst*

Skills and Abilities:

- Proficient communication skills with the ability to communicate business and technical risk to all levels of audiences.
- Strong critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to maintain a high degree of professionalism with a high commitment to quality.
- Strong interpersonal and team player skills.
- Excellent time management and organizational skills.
- A high degree of confidentiality, dependability and initiative.
- Ability to perform within a fast paced, high pressure and dynamic environment with a high level of accuracy.
- Customer Service Oriented.

The Position:

The Systems Analyst will be responsible for maintaining and supporting IT and information systems to meet the business needs of the SKNANB Group. He/she will perform generalist duties and will be required to perform functions across the spectrum of MIS roles periodically, therefore offering opportunities for cross training and development in several disciplines within the technology field.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Deploy, maintain, and troubleshoot core business applications, including application servers, associated hardware, endpoints, and databases.
- Provide documentation of all processes and training as needed.
- Develop and implement maintenance procedures, monitor systems health, gather system statistics, and troubleshoot reported errors and alarms.
- Develop, analyze, prioritize, and organize requirement specifications, data mapping, diagrams, and flowcharts for developers and testers to follow.
- Other duties will be assigned as needed to support the cross-training and development of the successful candidate. These duties will fall within the scope of the following areas:
 - Information Security
 - Network Support
 - Software Systems Support
 - Hardware Systems Support
 - ATM Support

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related field.
- Experience in the financial industry would be an asset.

Applications should be submitted, with a Cover Letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae, via e-mail to HR@sknanb.com or by mail addressed to: Chief Human Resources Officer, P.O. Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts no later than **Friday 24th December 2021**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



COVID-19 SAFETY AND HEALTH



International
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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.

Public Gets Specifics About Gov't Double Salary

(cont'd from page 02)

pensioners because they're part of the payroll of the government..."

In response, Dr. Douglas expressed: "We are now having what appears to be



Photo: Photo sourced from shutterstock.com-used for illustration purposes only- shows Eastern Caribbean dollars in a wallet.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A.D. 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that INEZ SMITHEN of Palmetto Point in the Parish of Trinity in the Island of Saint Christopher through her Attorney-at-Law CHESLEY ONEAL HAMILTON has applied to the Registrar of Deeds for a Vesting Deed in her favour in respect to an area of land situate at Palmetto Point in the Parish of Trinity in the Island of Saint Christopher bounded and measuring as follows that is to say: - On or towards the North-East by a Public Road 8.61, feet, On or towards the South-East by the Estate of Ernest Smithen 67.90 feet, On or towards the South-West by a 5 feet concrete walkway 29.63 feet, On or toward the North-West by Albertine Davis 48.48 feet, On or towards the North-West by a 10 feet access, On or towards the North-West by 12.09 feet, and On or towards the North-West 12.65 feet and containing by admeasurement 1,515 square feet.

Dated the 10th day of DECEMBER 2021



a clarification but the reason why one had to make sure that it is clear is because if you wanted it to be clear, you would have write it; you will utter it. It's nearly two hours yesterday we spent listening. You know how many pensioners went home and went to their beds last night almost in despair?"

He also claimed that he had received calls from individuals asking if they were being included in the double salary.

The former Prime Minister of the St.Kitts-Nevis Labour administration stated: "Whenever I paid a double salary it was clearly stated public servants and pensioners...always!"

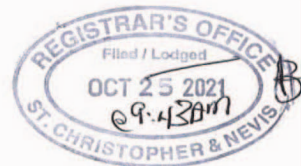
PM Harris, during his 2022 budget presentation in Parliament conducted at the St.Kitts Marriott Hotel in Frigate Bay, thanked "the civil servants who worked very hard in spite of the difficulties encountered over the last twenty- one months and many of them were on the front line and many of them were also on the backlines."

He added: "In this regard my government has determined that all civil servants on the islands of St.Kitts and Nevis, will before Christmas 2021, receive a double salary payment."



SAVE WATER

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

APPLICATION NO. SKBHCV 2017/0098

BETWEEN:

TDC FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMPANY LIMITED

Applicant

and

HAROON ST. CLAIR SHARRY

Respondent

NOTICE OF SALE
BY PUBLIC AUCTION

The Property described below will be offered for sale by the Registrar of the High Court, St Kitts Circuit by PUBLIC AUCTION at the High Court of Justice, Sir Lee L. Moore Judicial and Legal Services Complex, Independence Square East, Basseterre, St Kitts

on Thursday the 3rd day of February 2022, at
2:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 52 situate at Park View Housing Development Extension, in the Parish of Christ Church in the Island of Saint Christopher bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say: - On or towards the North-West by Lot No. 53, 90.00 feet; On or towards the North-East by Lot No. 8, 55.00 feet; On or towards the South-East by Lot No. 51, 90.00 feet; and On or towards the South-West by a Development Road, 55.00 feet; and containing by admeasurement 4,950 square feet; all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated January 14, 2011 registered in Book K3 Folio 28 7 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit.

SURVEY PLAN OF PROPERTY:



UPSET PRICE: The upset price for the above land shall be EC\$37,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION: The successful bidder: (1) must publicly declare on whose behalf he or she is bidding; (2) must pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth (25%) of his or her winning bid; and (3) must pay the balance within one month from the day of the public auction. The purchaser(s) shall be entitled, by law, to possession of the property after payment of the deposit. The purchaser(s) must pay Stamp Duty (statutorily 6% of the purchase price) and any Property Taxes due to transfer of the property. It is recommended that the purchaser(s) instruct legal counsel to conclude the transfer process. Contact the Applicant/Mortgagee's Attorneys-at-Law, Kelsick, Wilkin and Ferdinand (869-465-2440 or law@kwfonline.com) or the High Court Registry (467-1335 and 467-1337 or registryskn@gov.kn) for more details.

Dated the 3rd day of December 2021



Sagicor shows customers appreciation

Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis: Each year the Sagicor team takes a day in November, to show appreciation for their customers, old and new. November is widely recognised in the service sector as Customer Appreciation Month and organisations universally take time to thank and reward their customers for continued support and choosing to do business with them.

This year the team opted to surprise



EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

APPLICATION NO. SKBHCV 2005/0149

BETWEEN:

FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL
BANK (BARBADOS) LIMITED

and

SHELLEY ROSS-CHADERTON

Applicant

Respondent

NOTICE OF SALE
BY PUBLIC AUCTION

The two contiguous properties described below will be offered for sale by the Registrar of the High Court, St Christopher Circuit by PUBLIC AUCTION at the High Court of Justice, Sir Lee L. Moore Judicial & Legal Services Complex, East Independence Square, Basseterre, St Kitts,

on Thursday the 3rd day of February, 2022,
at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES: Firstly, the remaining portion of ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land situate at **West Farm**, in the Island of Saint Christopher bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North-West by an Access Road, 201.53 feet; On or towards the North-East by the Island Main Road, 88.63 feet; On or towards the South-East by lands of Charmaine Ross, 199.08 feet; and On or towards the South-West by lands of Shelley Ross (now known as Shelley Ross-Chaderton), 130.40 feet; all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated November 24, 1994 registered in Book T2 Folio 529 of the Register of Titles of the St Christopher Circuit; AND secondly, ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land situate at West Farm in the Parish of Trinity in the island of St. Christopher and bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say, On or towards the North-East by the Island Main Road, 76.63 feet; On or towards the South-East by lands of Yuri Turu, 122.99 feet; On or towards the South-West by other lands belonging to Shelley Ross-Chaderton, 102.44 feet; and On or towards the North-West by an Access Road, 124.50 feet; all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated December 16, 1999 registered in Book Y2 Folio 551 of the Register of Titles of the St Christopher Circuit, both containing by admeasurement **21,780 square feet**.

SURVEY PLAN & PHOTOGRAPH OF PROPERTIES:



UPSET PRICE: The upset price for the above lands and any buildings thereon shall be **EC\$1,200,000**.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The successful bidder: (1) must publicly declare on whose behalf he or she is bidding; (2) must pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth (25%) of his or her winning bid; and (3) must pay the balance within one month from the day of the public auction. The purchaser(s) shall be entitled, by law, to possession of the property after payment of the deposit. The purchaser(s) must pay Stamp Duty (statutorily 6% of the purchase price) and any Property Taxes due to transfer of the property. It is recommended that the purchaser(s) instruct legal counsel to conclude the transfer process. Contact the Applicant/Mortgagee's Attorneys-at-Law, Kelsick, Wilkin and Ferdinand (869-465-2440 or law@kwfonline.com) or the High Court Registry (467-1335 and 467-1337 or registrykn@gov.kn) for more details.

Dated the 2nd day of December, 2021

REGISTRAR (AG)
OF THE HIGH COURT



customers who visited the office with a snack plate and a Sagicor bag of goodies.

Denrick Connor, Sales Manager for the Sagicor team said, "Our society continues to face great challenges resulting from the pandemic and this year our Customer Appreciation Day was very significant for us. Our customers mean the world to us, and these

tokens of appreciation to those who visited the office that day are just small representations of the gratitude we feel to all our customers. Thank you for your continued commitment to Sagicor and to your financial planning goals."

In these photos Sagicor team members are seen presenting gift bags and snack boxes to customers.

Sanitize / Wear Your Mask

Case Number :SKBHPB2021/0087

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:10/11/2021 12:23

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
(PROBATE)
A. D. 2021
Filed Date:10/11/2021 12:23
Fees Paid:52.00

In the Estate of INEZ EDINBOROUGH late of
Main Street, St. Pauls in the Parish of St. Pauls in the
Island of St. Christopher deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PROBATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. DENZIL LLEWELLYN DOUGLAS** of Main Street, St. Pauls in the Parish of St. Pauls in the Island of Saint Christopher for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 28th day of October, 1999 without revoking a will bearing the date of 6th day of January, 1994 wherein the applicant is named sole executor.

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

Dated this 30 day of July, 2021

Filed by:

Hesketh W. Benjamin
Attorney-at-Law
Chambers
West Independence Square Street
Basseterre
St. Kitts

December 13, 2021

Tim and the Space Cadets Bring New York City to Nevis

The weekend of December 11 and 12 Grammy award winning musician Tim Kubart and his band, Tim and the Space Cadets, joined the celebration at the Artisan Village Night Market. New York City based Tim and his band had Nevis on its feet singing and dancing well into the night. The U.S. Embassy is hosting the award-winning musical group in St. Kitts and Nevis as part of its

arts envoy program from December 6-14. The Ministry of Tourism Nevis and Nevis Historical and Conservation Society welcomed Tim and the band to Nevis for two special performances.

At the Night Market, Kubart said, "When I started making music 18 years ago for children and families, I never thought it would bring me to Nevis. What an incredible opportunity to meet musicians here and share music together." Ms. Nyoka Bailey, Product

Development Officer in the Ministry of Tourism, welcomed the arrival of Tim and the Space Cadets. "We're so happy to have Tim join the Night Market this year. This is only the second time we're holding the event, and it's a treat to have these artists from the United States. I hope in 2022 we're able to have even more collaboration between the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry," she said.

On Sunday, Tim and the Space Cadets performed at the Museum of Nevis History, the birthplace of U.S. founding father, Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton, who grew up in Nevis and later moved to New York City, had his story popularized by the Broadway musical and remains revered by Americans today. U.S. Public Affairs Officer Larry Socha explained, "It's pretty special that Tim and the group - most of them from Hamilton's future home of New York City - get to perform in the place where it all started for Hamilton. Nevis' history shaped our own American story, and we'll never forget that." Premier of Nevis and Minister of Foreign Affairs for St. Kitts and Nevis the Honorable Mark Brantley joined the audience of all ages.

Tim and the Space Cadets continue their tour tonight, December 13, at the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College for a discussion with entrepreneurs about making what you love your business. The program, moderated by Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative Fellowship alumnus, Janeel Boon, begins at 6:30pm. A separate public online program, "Arts and Entrepreneurship: Making it in the Music Biz" begins December 14 at 12:00 noon, moderated by top Caribbean DJ Sweet Sister Sensia. Join the program on the U.S. Embassy's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/USEmbassyBarbados.



National Caribbean Insurance Company Limited

having made sworn deposition that policy number **59717 on the life of Pandora Leonora Coverley has been lost**, and having made application to the directors to grant a special policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the special policy asked for will be issued.

Dated: 17/12/2021

By Order,

Cedric Jeffers
General Manager

Eyecare Express is seeking an enthusiastic, experienced, self motivated **OPTOMETRIST** to join our dynamic team.

Requirements

- Qualified trained optometrist
- Minimum of 5 years experience
- Registered licensed doctor for the United States (preferably)
- Excellent customer service and organization skills
- Advanced time management skills
- Ability to diagnose and treat eye-relation disorders and conditions

Interested candidates may e-mail their resume to caribevisionone@gmail.com or call us at

465-2020

for more information

2021 Taiwan Expo in St. Kitts and Nevis

Pinneys Park's Visitor Centre

19 Dec 2021, 16:30-18:15 (opening ceremony)

20 Dec 2021, 09:00-16:00 

21 Dec 2021, 09:00-16:00 

22 Dec 2021, 09:00-12:00

Sectors in exhibition

48 Taiwanese suppliers of solar products, hardware and tools, safety products, food and beverage, kitchenware, ICT products and medical equipment.

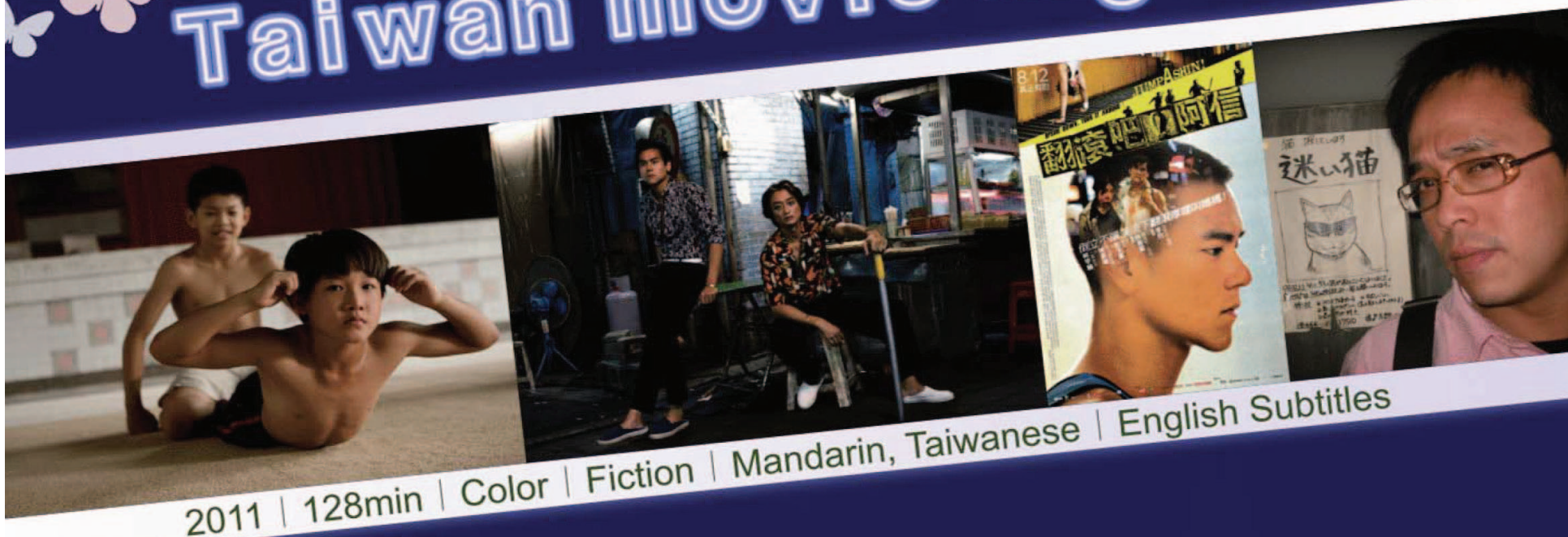


Free health screening including BMI, waist, blood sugar, blood pressure and proteinuria offered on site by Taiwan Technical Mission's "Capacity Building Project for the Prevention and Control of Metabolic Chronic Diseases"



Taiwan External Trade Development Council

Taiwan movie night



2011 | 128min | Color | Fiction | Mandarin, Taiwanese | English Subtitles

**Upside down, turn it around !
A Taiwanese boy pursues his dream of gymnastics.**

Jump Ashin!

19 Dec 2021, 18:20
Pinneys Park Amphitheatre



Scan me for synopsis

2011 Taipei Film Awards, Best Supporting Actor, Audience Choice Award, Press Award
2011 Busan International Film Festival
2011 Golden Horse Awards, Best Original Film Song
2012 Asian Film Awards, Best Supporting Actor



Taiwan External Trade Development Council



TAIWAN FILM & AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE
國家電影及視聽文化中心



臺灣電影工具箱
TAIWAN CINEMA TOOLKIT

Taiwan movie night



An idyllic drama illuminating issues faced by Taiwan's Indigenous communities and calling for people to rethink the value of Mother Earth.

Panay

20 Dec 2021, 18:00
Pinneys Park Amphitheatre



Scan me for synopsis

2015 Golden Horse Awards - Best Original Film Song
2015 Taipei Film Awards - Audience Choice Award
2015 CMS International Children's Film Festival
- Best Children's Feature Film Award



Taiwan External Trade Development Council



TAIWAN FILM & AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE
國家電影及視聽文化中心



臺灣電影工具箱
TAIWAN CINEMA TOOLKIT

Taiwan movie night



A poetic documentary on Formosan bears and Taiwan's natural splendour.

Black Bear Forest

21 Dec 2021, 18:00
Pinneys Park Amphitheatre



Scan me for synopsis

2018 Singapore Chinese Film Festival
2018 Taiwan International Documentary Festival
2017 Dutch International Science Film Festival



Taiwan External Trade Development Council



TAIWAN FILM & AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE
國家電影及音視文化中心



臺灣電影工具箱
TAIWAN CINEMA TOOLKIT

Ministry of Finance issues statement regarding payment of bonus salary to public servants in Nevis

NIA CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (December 14, 2021) — The following is a press release from the Ministry of Finance in the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) regarding payment of a bonus salary to all public servants, including employees of statutory bodies and pensioners on Nevis.

During the Budget presentation held earlier today at the National Assembly Chambers in Basseterre, Prime Minister the Hon. Dr Timothy Harris announced that the Federal Cabinet having met on Monday 13th December 2021, approved the payment of an extra month's salary to be paid during the month of December 2021 to all public servants, including employees of the various statutory bodies and pensioners.

The NIA Cabinet, having considered the decision made at the Federal Cabinet level has also approved the payment of an extra month's salary to all public servants, including employees of the various statutory bodies and pensioners on Nevis.

Please note that the salary date for the month of December 2021 is set for Wednesday 15th December and it is customary for the amounts payable for salaries to be submitted to the bank at least 48 hours before the salary due date, so as to allow the

(cont'd on next page)



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

VACANCY NOTICE *Network and Infrastructure Engineer/Administrator*

The Position:

The Network and Infrastructure Engineer/Administrator will be responsible for designing, deploying, and maintaining the Group's IT infrastructure while utilizing the latest technology. He/she will apply comprehensive and advanced knowledge to establish and standardize procedures for the design, evaluation, development and deployment of the network system software and hardware technology. He/she must also be able to identify and resolve progressively complex issues and assignments via provision of operational support.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provides support in designing, implementing, and maintaining networking systems and services necessary for the delivery of information and data across a high-performance networking infrastructure environment.
- Deployment and maintenance of network software and hardware systems, troubleshooting state of the art network hardware providing assistance to users of the network and participates in performance monitoring and tuning activities.
- Installing and maintaining firewalls, switches, and routers, as well as establishing and maintaining company-wide network access policies.
- Working with third-party service providers to ensure that the infrastructure operates efficiently.
- Performing analysis and collecting data to establish the potential for improvements within the infrastructure.
- Developing and maintain documentation for the company's infrastructure.
- Designs, deploys and maintains the Group's IT infrastructure using Wide Area Network, Local Area Network, Physical and Virtual Servers, Client PCs, Telephony, SAN.
- Performs systems studies which includes feasibility, conceptual design, cost/benefit analysis, and implementation planning to support the growth and expansion of IU-managed networks, leads the improvement of infrastructure performance and reliability.
- Leads infrastructure implementation and upgrade plans and schedules; provides detailed explanations for purchasing, installing, and housing new and upgraded systems and components, and follows through to ensure that systems are successfully implemented.
- Providing support to end users.
- Supporting the Group's business continuity and disaster recovery planning.
- Special assignments that include providing operational support for other IT related issues and projects.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related field.
- Relevant networking certification would be an asset (Network+, CCNA)
- A minimum of 5 years of Network Administration experience in dealing with Wide Area Networks, Local Area Networks, VPNs, switching, router and firewall technologies.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in dealing with server administration, telephony, and other hardware.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a supervisory and/or managerial role.
- Experience with Juniper, Fortinet and Cisco technologies would be an asset.
- Experience in the financial industry would be an asset.

Applications should be submitted, with a Cover Letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae, via e-mail to HR@sknab.com or by mail addressed to: Chief Human Resources Officer, P.O. Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts no later than **Friday 24th December 2021**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Skills and Abilities:

- Proficient communication skills with the ability to present to all levels of audiences.

- Strong technical abilities combined with good business acumen.

- The ability to acquire knowledge in area of specialty.

- Ability to maintain a high degree of professionalism with a high commitment to quality.

- Strong interpersonal skills.

- Excellent time management, priority setting, and organizational skills.

- A high degree of confidentiality, dependability and initiative.

- Ability to perform within a fast paced, high pressure and dynamic environment with a high level of accuracy.

- Customer Service Oriented.

- Ability to influence internal and/or external constituents.



Ministry of Finance issues statement regarding payment of bonus salary to public servants in Nevis

(cont'd from last page)

banking system sufficient time to credit the salary payments to the accounts of all employees.

Given the timing, it will not be possible to put the necessary mechanisms in place at the Treasury Department and at the various commercial banks to execute this payment of the bonus salary by Wednesday 15th December, 2021.

The Ministry of Finance and the Treasury Department have already commenced preparations and are in discussions with the various commercial banks, so that the necessary mechanisms can be put in place to have this bonus salary credited to the accounts of the recipients as soon as possible.

We crave the understanding of all of our workers as we seek to have the payment effected in the shortest possible time.



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

VACANCY NOTICE *Information Security Manager*

Skills and Abilities:

• Proficient communication skills with the ability to present to all levels of audiences.

• Strong technical abilities combined with good business acumen.

• Good understanding of IT networking and access management concepts.

• Ability to maintain a high degree of professionalism with a high commitment to quality.

• Strong interpersonal skills, supervisory and managerial skills to lead and encourage a team.

• Excellent time management and organizational skills.

• A high degree of confidentiality, dependability and initiative.

• Ability to perform within a fast paced, high pressure and dynamic environment with a high level of accuracy.

• Customer Service Oriented.

• Ability to influence internal and/or external constituents.

The Position:

The Information Security Manager will be responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring strategic, comprehensive enterprise cybersecurity and IT Risk Management Program. He/she will provide the vision and leadership necessary to manage the risk to the SKNANB Group of Companies and will ensure business alignment, effective governance, system and product availability, integrity, and confidentiality.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manage the cybersecurity and IT Risk Management Program, inclusive of performing risk assessments and providing periodic reports.
- Develop, maintain, and report violations for the information security policies.
- Manage the Information Security Awareness Program for the SKNANB Group of Companies.
- Perform as the Technical Lead for the PCI and the Swift CSCF Compliance Projects.
- Manage the Disaster Recovery and Incident Response Plans for the SKNANB Group of Companies.
- Conduct periodic vulnerability assessments of the infrastructure of the Group of Companies.
- Develop and maintain procedures that document change requests for major IT systems of the Group of Companies, including but not limited to:
 - Mission Critical Software (CoreDirector, 4Sight, Alchemy, Euronet, Email, Mobile Banking, Online Banking, Synergy).
 - Network Infrastructure (Switches, Firewalls and Wireless Access Points).
- Research emerging cyber-security threats, monitor the infrastructure for signs of cyber-attacks and provide periodic reports.
- Supervise the Information Security Team and Manage hardware and software upgrade projects.
- Track IT projects and coordinate outside projects with third party suppliers ensuring the contracts are completed as agreed.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related field.
- Relevant cyber-security certification would be an asset (Security+, CISSP etc.)
- Broad knowledge of a wide range of Information Technology Systems and a deep understanding of the inherent security risks associated with these technologies.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a supervisory and/or managerial role.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience managing cyber-security and dealing with server administration, telephony and other hardware.
- Experience with Juniper, Fortinet and Cisco technologies would be an asset.
- Experience in the financial industry would be an asset.

Applications should be submitted, with a Cover Letter and detailed Curriculum Vitae, via e-mail to HR@sknanb.com or by mail addressed to: Chief Human Resources Officer, P.O. Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts no later than **Friday 24th December 2021**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Sanitize /
Wear Your
Mask
Wash Your
Hands

MedicalXPress - Pediatrics - 15 December 2021

Extensive Use Of Smartphones By Parents Might Damage Toddlers’ Development And Have Far-Reaching Consequences



Smartphone overuse? Photo credit: CC0 Public Domain.

A new study from Tel Aviv University found that interaction between mothers and their toddlers is reduced by a factor of four when the mothers use their smartphones, which might damage the toddler’s development and have even greater and far-reaching consequences.

The results of the new study, which was led by Dr. Katy Borodkin of The Department of Communication Disorders at The Stanley Steyer School of Health Professions, Sackler Faculty of Medicine of Tel Aviv University, were published in the journal Child Development.

The experiment involved dozens of mothers of toddlers (aged two to three years). The mothers were ostensibly invited to participate in a study examining the link between the mother’s and the child’s interests, and so they were asked to perform three tasks: Browse a designated Facebook page and like videos and articles that interest them; read printed magazines and mark articles that interest them; and finally, play with the child while the smartphone and magazines were outside the room (uninterrupted free play).

“Our goal was to simulate situations in real life where the mother has to take care of her child, while at the same time devoting some of her attention to her smartphone,” Dr Katy Borodkin explains. “The mothers were unaware of the purpose of the experiment, so they behaved naturally by splitting their interest between the toddlers and the smartphone and magazines. We videotaped all the interactions between the mothers and the toddlers and later scanned the recordings frame by frame in an attempt to quantify the mother-child interaction.”

Researchers from Tel Aviv University have defined three components of mother-child interaction.

The maternal linguistic input was examined first, which is the linguistic content that the mother conveys to the child. According to previous research, this is an important predictor of a child’s language development. It has been found in the past that reduced linguistic input leads to reduced vocabulary in a child, even as an adult.

Next, conversational turns were examined, ie how interactive the discourse was. This is a predictor of language and social development, as the child learns that he or she has something to contribute to the inter-action as well as the basic social norms of social interactions.

Finally, maternal responsiveness was examined, ie to what extent the mother responds to child bids. This is a measure of the immediacy of the response and its contingency on the child bid’s content. For example, when the child says “look, a truck”, there is no comparison between a response such as “yes, that’s great” and a response such as “correct, this is a red truck, like the one we saw yesterday”. This measure is the basis for almost every aspect of child development: linguistic, social, emotional, and

cognitive.

“We found that the three components of mother-child interaction were reduced by a factor of two to four relative to uninterrupted free play, both when the mother was reading printed magazines and browsing on her smartphone,” Dr Borodkin says. “In other words, the mothers talked up to four times less with their children while they were on their smartphone. Moreover, they exchanged fewer conversational turns with the toddler, provided less immediate and content-tailored responses, and more often ignored explicit child bids. Even when they were able to respond while browsing Facebook, the quality of the response was reduced - the mothers kept their responsiveness to a bare minimum to avoid a complete breakdown in communication with the toddler.”

Equally interesting is the fact that no difference was found between browsing a smartphone and reading magazines. “We did not find that one media distracted more than the other. However, it is clear that we use smartphones much more than any other media, so they pose a significant developmental threat. It should be noted that we currently have no research evidence suggesting an actual effect on child developmental related to the parental use of smartphones, as this is a relatively new phenomenon. However, our findings indicate an adverse impact on the foundation of child development. The consequences of inadequate mother-child interaction can be far-reaching.”

To conclude, Dr Borodkin adds that “in our current research we focused on the mothers, but we believe that our findings characterize communication interferences between fathers and their toddlers as well, since the smartphone4 usage patterns are similar between men and women, thus allowing us to estimate with high probability

that the research findings are applicable to fathers and to mothers”.

Explore further: When mother and child interact, physiology and behavior coordinate

More information: Yael Lederer et al: The effects of maternal smartphone use on mother’s child inter-action, Child Development (2021). DOI: 10.1111/cdev.13715

Journal information: Child Development

Provided by: Tel-Aviv University

Sports Release

Young Referees Do Field Exercises As Part of Training

Participants in the SKNFA Youth Referees Course took to the field last week Saturday to do field exercises. Referee Instructors took the participants through several fitness drills and practical sessions in the technical aspect of officiating. Head of the St. Kitts and Nevis Football Association Referees Department Malcom Ramsey, gave a synopsis of what was done in the course so far, which officially opened on Wednesday. “Quite a few of them are new so we took our time with the topics,” Ramsey said. “The usual topics for refereeing courses are challenges, penalty area incidents, tactical fouls, offside and we also have handball situations. So, we went through these topics with them and we also did a (written) test,” he disclosed.

In assessing this cohort of trainees, Mr. Ramsey said they will gain more confidence in the practical applications when they have more opportunities to officiate. ‘Especially for the younger ones, football refereeing is very difficult’ the concept is very difficult to grasps so its going to take a period of time. I would say though that they have learnt enough to start officiating in the youth leagues and in the slower women games and be competent enough,” he said. He said they would need to officiate a lot of games to develop the level of competence required on a more advanced level.

Several editions of the Youth Referees Course have been done so far. Several notable referees and match officials have come through this course, including those who have officiated at the elite level. These include Shandor Wilkinson, Lenroy Parris and Jaden Rouse who have been on international appointments. “They all came through the youth course system. From about 2016 we have been having these youth development courses. All the officials who are not FIFA, who have had international exposure, would have gone through these courses. It helps with the preparation for international matches, international appointments and to adopt to top level games in St. Kitts and Nevis,” Ramsey said. The Youth Referees Course ended on Monday with a closing ceremony at Football House.



Participants in the Youth Referees Course go through fitness drills at the Warner Park on Saturday as part of their training.

AP

Associated Press - AP Top News - Health -
Tuesday 14 December 2021

Omicron Is Spreading So Fast It Threatens Britain's Hospitals

- By Danica Kirka

Long lines have formed for booster shots across England as the UK government urged all adults to protect themselves against the omicron variant.



People queue to go for coronavirus booster jabs at St Thomas' Hospital in London on Tuesday 14 December 2021. Photo credit: Matt Dunham (AP).

LONDON (AP) - The omicron variant is spreading so rapidly it has the potential to overwhelm Britain's hospitals, highlighting the need to strengthen coronavirus restrictions and speed up the delivery of booster vaccine shots, the country's health minister said Tuesday. Omicron is so transmissible that even if it proves to be less severe than other variants, there is still likely to be a surge in hospital admissions if it goes unchecked, UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers.

His comments came as the government rushed to accelerate the national vaccination programme, with a goal of offering a booster dose to every adult by the end of December. As of Monday in England, people were urged to work from home if possible, with long lines forming at vaccination centers for people to get booster shots to protect themselves against the coronavirus omicron variant.

Lawmakers also voted Tuesday to approve tougher rules on mask-wearing in most indoor public places, and mandatory COVID passes for nightclubs to slow the variant until more vaccinations can be delivered. "This is a new national mission," Javid said. "A race between the virus and the vaccine to get as many people protected as possible."

In another effort to speed up the booster programme, UK health officials temporarily suspended the 15-minute observation period normally required for anyone receiving a Pfizer or Moderna shot. Doctors had complained that the waiting period - designed to spot allergic reactions before patients left clinics - usually wasn't necessary and resulted in healthy patients taking up valuable space at crowded vaccination centers.

Long lines formed outside vaccination centers across England for a second consecutive day on Tuesday, as The National Health Service raced to meet the government's target of delivering up to 1 million shots a day, more than double the recent average. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said logistical issues in expanding the vaccination programme would diminish over the next week. "It does take a few days just to make sure we get to a steady state," he told the BBC. "We'll keep straining every sinew to make sure we can reach that target." Vaccinations centers throughout The UK put 562,800 shots in arms on Monday, including 513,722 boosters. Monday was the second-highest day for COVID-19 booster bookings in England, with more than 650,000 appointments scheduled, the NHS said.

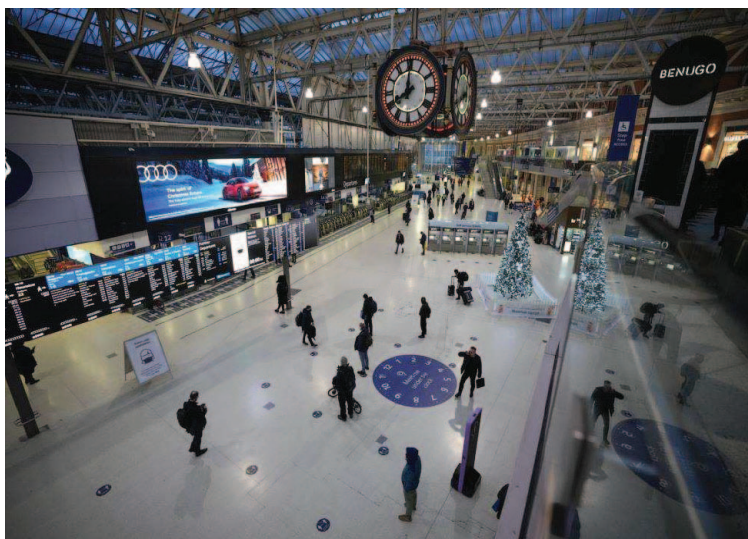
In an address to the nation on Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson encouraged everyone eligible to get a booster shot to "reinforce our wall of vaccine protection" against an anticipated



Hundreds of people queue at a vaccination centre in Bristol, England on Tuesday 14 December 2021. Photo credit: Ben Birchall (PA via AP).

"tidal wave of omicron." Everyone 18 and up will be offered a third dose by 31 December - a month earlier than the previous target, Johnson said. Johnson late Monday called for thousands of volunteers to staff new vaccination centers in shopping areas, stadia and racecourses. The push mirrored last year's vaccination drive, with primary care doctors, hospitals, the military and average citizens mobilized to deliver inoculations. "We need tens of thousands of people to help out - everyone from trained vaccinators to stewards," Johnson said. "Many thousands have already given their time - but we need you to come forward again, to work alongside our brilliant GPs, doctors, nurses and pharmacists, to deliver jabs and save lives."

UK authorities have said the number of omicron infections is doubling every two to three days and the variant is likely to become the dominant form of COVID-19 throughout the country in days. Javid said the rapid spread of omicron in Britain meant it no longer made sense to try to stop the importation of cases from abroad. As a result, the government lifted a ban on visitors from 11 African countries and a requirement that UK residents returning from those countries quarantine in a hotel at their own expense. Javid said all the countries on the "red list" would be removed at 0400 GMT on Wednesday.



People passing through during the morning rush-hour at Waterloo railway station in London on Tuesday 14 December 2021. Photo credit: Matt Dunham (AP).

UK health authorities reported 59,610 confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, the highest number since 9 January. However widespread vaccinations means that the large number of infections is translating into fewer hospitalizations and deaths. Britain recorded 150 more coronavirus-related deaths on Tuesday, compared with 1,035 on 9 January (2021).

Scientists in South Africa, where the omicron outbreak is more advanced, say the variant may cause less severe disease than the delta variant, although they caution that it's too soon to be certain.

Health authorities around the world are watching Britain closely

to see what an omicron surge looks like in a country with an older, more highly vaccinated population than South Africa.

Throughout the pandemic the British government's primary goal has been to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients. This is particularly important during the winter, when UK hospitals are often stretched by a surge in flu cases and other illnesses related to cold weather.

Professor Chris Whitty, England's chief medical officer, told government ministers it was too soon to know the severity of illness that omicron will produce but that "we can expect a significant increase in hospitalizations," according to a summary of his comments released by the government. Over the past week, an average of 811 people a day were hospitalized with COVID-19. There are currently about 7,400 coronavirus patients in UK hospitals, down from a peak of more than 39,000 in mid-January. Only 10 of those have tested positive for the omicron variant.

"The lag between infections and hospitalizations is around two weeks," Javid said. "With infections rising so quickly, we're likely to see a substantial rise in hospitalizations before any measures start to have an impact. So there really is no time to lose."

Follow AP's pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

Right to Know. Right Now!

THE CONVERSATION (Academic rigour,
journalistic flair) - Edition: Global
Perspectives - 14 December 2021

Inflation - Why It Is The Biggest Test Yet For Central Bank Independence

By Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, PhD,
FRSE, University of Glasgow



US President Joseph Biden (l) and Federal Reserve Chairman Jay Powell, who is signalling hard decisions ahead. Photo credit: EPA.

Central banks are being tested by the recent resurgence in inflation, with The US recently reporting an annual rate of inflation of 6.8%, the highest in nearly 40 years. The question they are all asking is whether this inflation is temporary (“transitory”) or persistent.

If it is only transitory, it would be counterproductive to deal with it aggressively. If central banks tighten monetary policy unnecessarily by sharply raising short-term interest rates or quickly unwinding those government asset purchases (known as quantitative easing or QE) which supported many economies during the COVID economic shock, it will needlessly push back the recovery.

Central bankers’ public statements all hint at the difficult decisions ahead. The chair of the US Federal Reserve, Jay Powell, signalled recently that the strong US economy combined with rising inflation meant the Fed would “taper” its QE asset purchases more quickly (they are currently due to end by June 2022).

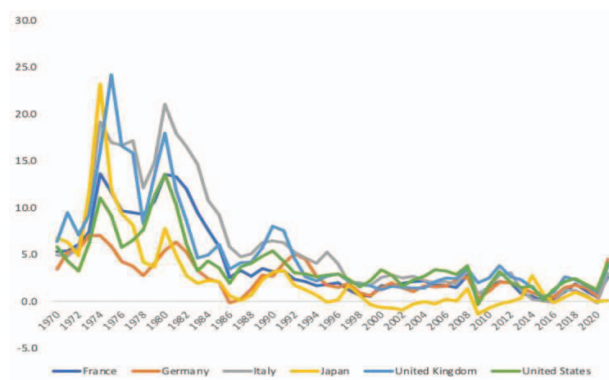
The Bank of England is due to end its asset purchases this month, and Huw Pill, the chief economist, has indicated that “the conditions now existed for him to vote for higher interest rates”. The European Central Bank’s chief, Christine Lagarde, has struck a more dovish note, saying it is unlikely the ECB will increase interest rates in 2022, despite inflation well above its 2% target, as it considers it transitory. It is unclear whether the ECB will extend its QE programme beyond March 2022.

So how significant is the current inflationary shock, and what are its causes?

Inflation causes

As you can see below, the recent surge in prices is not large compared with those of the 1970s and early 1980s, which were caused by large increases in oil prices.

However, if one compares the current inflation increase to the 2000s, it is one of the biggest shocks



Consumer price inflation in some economies, 1970-2021. Graph courtesy The OECD.

since the Bank of England became independent and the ECB was set up.

Today’s inflation is due primarily to the disruption the pandemic has caused to key global supply chains. In sectors like electronic goods and vehicle production, bottlenecks and shortages of key inputs such as semiconductors emerged as consumer demand recovered more rapidly after the first pandemic wave than suppliers could keep up with.

Similarly, shortages of shipping containers and freight capacity have increased costs.



Consumer price inflation in UK, US and eurozone, 2000-21. Graph courtesy The OECD.

The rapid economic recovery in 2021 has also put pressure on energy prices, especially spot gas prices in Europe.

Meanwhile, there have been labour shortages to contend with: The UK and US are among those nations that seem to be seeing labour-force participation falling due to people retiring. The UK and certain northern European economies have also not been seeing enough of the short-term migrants that they need for sectors like hospitality and goods transportation. When there are fewer workers available, employers have to pay higher wages to fill posts.

Inflation expectations

How should monetary policy respond? For central banks, the key question relates to inflation expectations. If consumers and businesses believe that inflation will continue at similarly high levels, as they did in the 1970s, they will try to incorporate it into wage claims and in setting future prices. Inflation will then become more persistent.

What is the evidence for these “second-round effects” on wages and price-setting? There is some evidence from consumer surveys and bond prices that inflation expectations in the US, eurozone and UK have increased marginally in the latter half of 2021, but they still seem contained.

One difference with the 1970s and 1980s is that labour markets are more flexible, in the sense that trade unions have less wage-bargaining power in the private sector, and there is greater international competition as a result of globalisation. Rather than setting off a wage-price spiral, rising prices might therefore be absorbed by wages falling in real terms (meaning they would increase below the rate of inflation).

That depends on the COVID supply disruptions being temporary, as ultimately, with tightening labour markets across most countries, employers would

eventually have to pay wages that keep pace with inflation. Unfortunately, the omicron variant is a sign that as COVID becomes endemic, economic recovery might be punctuated by occasional disruptions and further supply shocks, potentially increasing the pressure on employers to pay higher wages.

Central banks and independence

The key to gauging whether inflation remains transitory will be future labour market and expectations data. Suppose that by early to mid-2022, inflation appears to be dissipating, central banks might only need to increase rates gradually to anchor expectations.

But if the data points to inflation remaining stubbornly higher than central banks’ inflation targets (say 4%-5%) for a longer time-horizon, it would be evidence that a wage-price spiral has set in. Central banks would then have no alternative but to substantially increase short-term interest rates and reduce QE - potentially reducing economic activity until wage and price increases (are) moderated. As we know from the 1970s and early 1980s, this can cause painful recessions, leading to unemployment.



Inflation and unemployment caused severe unrest in the 1970s. Photo credit: Everett Collection Historical (Alamy Image ID: CWC77M).

At any rate, QE needs to be ended carefully. It has created extra demand for government bonds and increased the supply of money available to invest in other assets such as stocks, so tapering has the potential to cause volatility in these markets. This is likely to be compounded by investors selling stocks in the belief that tighter monetary conditions will mean less economic growth.

The QE purchases have also greatly enlarged central banks’ balance sheets. For example, the Fed balance sheet has increased from around US\$4 trillion (£3 trillion) to US\$8.7 trillion since the start of the pandemic. Besides tapering, this is going to have to be unwound. It can either be done very slowly as QE-debt matures, or - if central banks feel they need to tighten monetary policy more aggressively - by selling these bonds on to the market.

This might mean selling at a loss, in which case governments would have to rebuild central banks’ balance sheets. By making central banks dependent on governments in this way, it might compromise their independence.

There is also a more immediate challenge to central-bank independence, which was granted several decades ago to stop monetary policy being subject to political interference and to reassure the markets that inflation would be kept under control. Yet just because a central bank sets rates independently of government, it may not be immune from external pressures during a major economic crisis. Central bankers could succumb to political and media pressure either to move too fast on tackling inflation, or too slowly to preserve the economic recovery.

Some central banks, like The Bank of England, look (cont’d on next page)

Reuters - International Edition - Aerospace & Defence -
Monday 13 December 2021

Taiwan Says It Is Confident Chinese invasion Would Be Very Hard

- By Ben Blanchard

TAIPEI, 13 December (Reuters) - A full Chinese invasion of Taiwan with troops landed and ports and airports seized would be very difficult to achieve due to problems China would have in landing and supplying troops, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said in its latest threat assessment.

Tensions between Taipei and Beijing, which claims the democratically-ruled island as its own territory, have risen in the past two years as China steps up military activities near Taiwan to pressure it to accept Chinese rule.

In a report to lawmakers, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said China's transport capacity was at present limited, it would not be able to land all its forces in one go, and would have to rely on "non-standard" roll-on, roll-off ships that would need to use port facilities and transport aircraft that would need airports.

"However, the nation's military strongly defends ports and airports, and they will not be easy to occupy in a short time. Landing operations will



9 April 2021: Chinese and Taiwanese national flags displayed along with military airplanes. Illustration by Dado Ruvic (Reuters).

face extremely high risks," the ministry said in its report, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters.

China's logistics face challenges too, as any landing forces would need to be resupplied with weapons, food and medicines across the Taiwan Strait that separates the two, it added.

"The nation's military has the advantage of the Taiwan Strait being a natural moat and can use joint intercept operations, cutting off the Communist military's supplies, severely reducing the combat effectiveness and endurance of the landing forces."

China would also need to keep some of its forces in reserve to prevent any foreign forces joining in to help Taiwan and to keep close watch on other fractious areas of China's border, like with India and in the South China Sea, the ministry said.

"US and Japanese military bases are close to Taiwan, and any Chinese Communist attack would necessarily be closely monitored, plus it would need to reserve forces to prevent foreign military intervention," it added.

"It is difficult to concentrate all its efforts on fighting with Taiwan."

Experts say though that China has other means at its disposal to bring Taiwan to its knees short of a full out invasion, including a blockade or targeted missile attacks.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen is overseeing a military modernisation programme to make the island harder to attack,

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LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District "A"

To the Superintendent of Police.

WE, Imani Phipps & Jaleel Grant now residing in the **Bird Rock Commercial Development, Bird Rock** in the town of **Basseterre** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **31st day of December, 2021**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Retail Liquor Licence** in respect of my premises in **Last Lap** in **Bird Rock Development** in **Basseterre, St. Kitts**.

Dated this **02nd day of December, 2021**.

Signed: **I. Phipps**

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District "A"

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Jaenel Ponteen now residing in the **Douglas Street, New Town** in the town of **Basseterre** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **31st day of December, 2021**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Retail Liquor Licence** in respect of my premises in **Douglas Street, New Town** in **Basseterre, St. Kitts**.

Dated this **06th day of December, 2021**.

Signed: **Jaenel Ponteen**

Inflation - Why It Is The Biggest...

(cont'd from last page)

set to hold fire on interest rates until early 2022 - despite the comments from Huw Pill - given the uncertainties surrounding the omicron variant. The ECB is similarly holding steady. So all eyes will be on the Fed on Wednesday 15 to see if it is going to taper QE faster than previously announced. For the time being I would argue that it would be better to wait. The next few weeks will give us more data on both inflation expectations, but also on how COVID might continue to affect our economies.

About the author: Dr Sir Anton Muscatelli, PhD is Principal and Vice Chancellor of The University

of Glasgow. He was educated at The High School of Glasgow and The University of Glasgow, where he graduated Master of Arts (MA) (Honours) in Political Economy (1984) and took a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics (1989). From 1984 to 1992 he was a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer at The University of Glasgow, and Daniel Jack Professor of Political Economy from 1992 until 2007. He was Dean of The Faculty of Social Sciences from 2000 to 2004, and Vice-Principal (Strategy, Budgeting and Advancement) from 2004 until 2007. After two years as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Heriot Watt University he returned to The University of Glasgow to take up his present post in 2009. Professor Muscatelli has been a consultant to The World Bank and The European Commission, and was a member of the Panel of Economic

Advisers of the Secretary of State for Scotland from 1998 to 2000. Since 2007 he has been an adviser to the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee on monetary policy, and in 2008 he was appointed to chair an independent expert group for The Calman Commission on Devolution, set up by the Scottish Parliament and led by the Chancellor of The University of Glasgow, Sir Kenneth Calman. He chaired the Research and Commercialisation Committee of Universities Scotland in 2007-08, and from 2008 to 2010 was Convener of Universities Scotland and Vice-President of Universities UK. He was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2001, and of the CESifo Economics Research Institute in Munich in 1999. In 2009 he was appointed Knight Commander (Commendatore) of the Republic of Italy for services to Economics and Higher Education, and in 2012 he was awarded an honorary doctorate (LLD) by McGill University, Montreal, Canada. In April 2012 he was appointed to the Board of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) which provides funding and oversight of all of Scotland's Colleges and Universities. From 2014 he has been Honorary President of the David Hume Institute, succeeding Lord Steel. He has held visiting appointments in many universities, including in 2014, Guest Professor of Nankai University, Tianjin, China. Professor Muscatelli joined The Conversation on 2 June 2015.

Disclosure statement: Professor Anton Muscatelli 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 academic appointments and those stated herein.

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DOUBLE, CRUISE SHIPS AND DISCONNECTIONS

By: **FAIR SHARE FOR ALL**

I am trying to figure out this government. The very day after they announced a double salary for civil servants, government auxiliary and STEP workers, they sent out a schedule of disconnection with dates as if it was a maintenance schedule.

I have never seen such wickedness and uncaringness in a government that pledged to put people first.

For nearly two years not a cruise ship, the mainstay of our economy, dropped anchor in our port. The ships have just begun to return so we are just beginning to catch ourselves.

For nearly two years the bills piled up. The thousand dollars for three months barely put food in the table. No bill could be paid from that.

Skelec and the Water department showed little mercy. Whereas some places like Courts allowed debtors to renegotiate their payments and pay what they could afford, the government entities demanded half of the arrears, a monthly amount to pay off the arrears and the regular complete payment of the monthly bills.

Obviously that is a tall order for anybody. Worse for all those who work in tourist dependent businesses. Even if six cruise ships visited us for the entire month of December, people were so swallowed up by their indebtedness for the past twenty months that they would not be reasonably expected to be able to settle all arrears by the middle of December - the start of the scheduled disconnections.

As a country dependent on tourism, when things are good, we have heard tourism minister after tourism minister boast about how many people are directly and indirectly impacted by the tourist dollar. It's almost the entire federation. Obviously when the ships were not coming, almost the same entire federation was impacted by the

lack of the tourist dollar.

Because these ministers no longer have to wonder how a bill will be paid, they have forgotten that there is a real struggle going on out in the real world for many persons who are trying to earn an honest dollar.

Even though it's a lot of money, not everybody wants to be in the peace programme. Most people were paying their bills before COVID-19 and even if they were not, the government should not be disconnecting or threatening to disconnect anybody's electricity just before Christmas.

Because these ministers no longer have to wonder how a bill will get paid, they have forgotten the tremendous pressure and stress that people face on a daily basis.

I was told and do believe that the government will be taking out all arrears from all who are getting the double next week. If that us so, it's a sure way to get arrears settled, but it suggests to me that the government can't really afford to pay any double.

I hear it's all sorts of creative gymnastics that Timothy had to contrive to find money to pay the double. Frankly I don't give a damn where and how he found the money. I have so many uses for this double. It done spend and I haven't seen it as yet.

So I'll have a drink out of the double while I try to understand what the Shawn Richards-led Public Works is doing with the KFC road expansion project at Bird Rock. I'll try to enjoy my one drink while I wait to see how much of the million dollar parking lot on the other side of SKELEC will be broken up and repaved.

But on second thought I might not even get one drink out of the double because if the government is taking out their arrears, for how much I owe them, I will probably end up still owing them.



By **Vigilante**

* De bad wud ambassador say dat dey ain't worse dan him. He say dat dey cover up he picture but he want see dem cover up he picture on de blender and book dem dat he give out.

* Dey say dat is government money dat dey use to buy de ting dem and print all dem picture to put on de ting dem.

* De bad wud ambassador say dat he rent up to date so he not moving. But dey done have some more picture to cover him up if he try play brown stout like Donald Trump.

* After dey done boast say dat de pier ain't spoil, dey still have to borrow million a money to try fix it. Dey say dat all a de unity works minister alike. Is everyting dey do dey have to bruk up and fix over. But de street say is how dey mekking dey million a money.

* Dey say dat is all de way up to de port dey gon carry de new road. But dey ain't want do all one time for people to buse.

* Is another ten million dey done budget to finish de road by de FCK. And dey have to bruk up de whole a de bad wud ambassador sidewalk and pay for de new grease trap dat have to reach to de sea.

Dey telling one a de businessman dem dat he gon have to move to de side. But he say dat he not moving. He get permission on paper. So das what mek dey ain't put no light dere.

* Dey say dat de lady had to tek it mek run way before it start to show. And das what mek dey did bawling. So de demon tell him dat if he did do like him and never put on no ring, he'd a been three for three and getting all kinda ting widout de long water.

SCOOPS



FAIR SHARE FOR ALL

Joint statement by PCB and CWI

Thursday, 16 December 2021 - The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) have issued a joint statement after five more positive cases were reported in the West Indies camp following Wednesday's PCR testing, raising the total number of positive cases to nine since their arrival in Karachi on December 9.

On Thursday morning and as part of the PCB COVID-19 Protocols, Rapid Antigen tests were conducted on the remaining 15 West Indies players and six player support personnel. All 21 members of the West Indies touring party have returned negative

test results. As such, Thursday's T20 International (T20I) proceeded as planned.

However, taking into consideration both the teams' welfare as well as limited resources in the West Indies side for the ODIs, it has been agreed that the series, which forms part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League, will be postponed and rescheduled for early June 2022.

This will provide the West

Indies with an equal opportunity to field their best available players for the World Cup qualification matches.

The West Indies team members, who returned negative results following Wednesday's PCR and today's Rapid Antigen tests, will depart from Pakistan after tonight's match. Those who have tested positive will complete their isolation in Karachi before their travel arrangements are finalised to allow them to rejoin their families in time for Christmas celebrations.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan team members, all of whom have returned PCR negative after Wednesday's tests, will also be leaving the Managed Event Environment after tonight's third T20I.

CWI would like to thank the PCB for its excellent series arrangements and appreciates its support in rescheduling the ODI series in June 2022.

SKNFA Youth Referees Course Ends On High Note

The Youth Referees Course organized by the St. Kitts and Nevis Football Association (SKNFA) Referee Department, officially closed on Monday night with a closing ceremony at Football House. General Secretary of the SKNFA Techell Mclean, congratulated the participants for successfully completing the course. "This course offered these young men and women an opportunity - an opportunity to be a referee in our local leagues, but on a much larger scale, to be called by FIFA or Concacaf for an appointment in the international arena," she said. "This course, taught our participants the skill, which if molded, can take our young men and women anywhere in world to represent our country as ambassadors. Most importantly, this course taught you discipline," she continued.

Some of the participants were presented with refereeing uniforms, as they are expected in the future to be given the opportunity to officiate games at the junior level. All the participants received certificates for successfully completing the course and five of them received special awards. These special awards were in the category of Most Improved which went to Byron Phillip, Most Punctual to Raynic Bartlette, Most Attentive: Chevaun Walwyn, Best Behaved: Mekhalah Dillon Sirjue and a two-way tie for the most outstanding participants, Jaden Rouse and Gidal Williams. The participants who received certificates are: Chevaun

SKNFA Presents Concacaf Coaching Certificates to Local Coaches

On Friday December 10, the St. Kitts and Nevis Football Association (SKNFA) held a brief ceremony to present certificates to coaches who were successful in completing their Concacaf Coaching courses over the years. The certificates presented were Concacaf B, C and D Licenses Certificates. The Concacaf B coaching course was done in 2020, the Concacaf C in 2019 and the Concacaf D since 2014.

This is important to the coaches as for them to get job opportunities abroad, they would need to present certification that they would have attained a certain level of coaching training. Our coaches will now be able to present their



Football Coach Earl Jones receives his certificate from SKNFA General Secretary Techell Mclean during the brief presentation ceremony at Football House recently.

actual certificates if they're seeking coaching job opportunities or further their coaching education. The new SKNFA executive promised that they would ensure they received their certificates, as this falls within the Association's scope of raising the standard of football in the Federation.

Walwyn, Lenroy Parris, Tyra Wilkinson, Ulinda Warner,

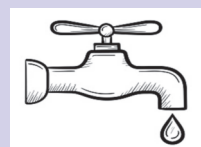
Jaden Rouse, Yohan Henderson, Kenwin Collins, Eversley Davis, Gidal Williams, Kendell Fahie, Tahirah Willock, Raheem Rogers, Judene Tyson, Byron Phillip, Arianna Byron, Makeyla Audain, Raynic Bartlette, Aldrette Nisbett, Mekhalah Dillon Sirjue, Sahier Burton, A'Shaun Wilkinson and Mandel George.

The participants surprised Mr. Malcom Ramsey, Referee Instructor and Head of the SKNFA Referee Department with a gift for sacrificing his time to training the young referees. He in turned presented the gift to general secretary Ms. Mclean for her support of the course. "I would like to present this gift to the general secretary who was very supportive of this course...everything that we've asked for we were able to get. We only had two hiccups and life is about hiccups. Madam secretary we really appreciate (your support)," he said, adding that he will be approaching her for more support with an upcoming women's course soon. The referee instructors present at the closing ceremony also received certificates. These are: Kenny Martin, Delroy Jeffers, Kendrea Tully and Lloyd Rouse.



Youth Referees Course participants pose with their certificates along with referee instructors and the SKNFA General Secretary Techell Mclean at Football House following Monday's closing ceremony.

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