

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN



St. Kitts and Nevis

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

Year 64 NO. 05

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 02ND JULY, 2021

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 05/05/21

DELTA \$13.65 / SOL \$12.55

STORY ON
PAGE 03

"AYES' HAVE IT BUT...



WEEKEND WEATHER?

STORY ON
PAGE 07

An image (sourced from nhc.noaa.gov on Thursday 1st July 2021



HEALTHIER FOOD PACKAGES

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Lightning Strikes



SEE PAGE 04

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Editorial

These Testing Times

The people of St Kitts and Nevis have been subjected to a rather rude awakening.

Most of those who, over the years, swallowed the 'Kool aid' served up by SCHEME UNITY, became aware of the terrible mistake which they had made. Many refused to come to grips with reality, and even continued to support them up to the time of the June 2020 General Elections.

But reality has a way of setting in, for some persons sooner, and for others later. So it is that even those persons who have been reluctant to 'hear, see, and understand', have been compelled to see through the webs of lies which robbed them of their good senses, and deeply regret that they allowed themselves to be led astray.

The onslaught of COVID-19 and its attendant dangers has brought into sharp focus the grave mistakes made by our people in trusting the SCHEME UNITY lot and turning the country over to them.

At a time when our country is most desperately in need of sound management, administration and leadership, at the governmental level those attributes are absent, quite literally 'missing in action'.

The professionals who are attempting to discharge their respective functions continue to experience innumerable frustrations, and our people have become more confused. So much so that many indulge in disobedient and defiant behaviours, contrary to their normal discipline.

For example, in the lines at the supermarkets, grocery

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stores and pharmacies, many shoppers refuse to maintain social distancing, thereby endangering themselves and others.

In a more general sense many others refuse to comply with government ordered precautions. That is largely due to the fact that there is a deep distrust of the government and what it stands for. That appears to be especially true in the case of vaccinations.

If those in government really cared for our people, they would recognise that they are not trusted and quietly step down from office. Of course, given that they are who they are, we can bet our last dollars that we will NEVER see such magnanimous and responsible actions by the SCHEME UNITY lot.

There is also the general feeling that we, the people, are not being given the true facts about certain aspects of the situation with regard to COVID-19.

For example, what is the true situation at the main operating theatre at The JNF General Hospital? What has been happening to the remains of those who died because of the disease? Are we being supplied with the true numbers where it comes to those who are infected and have spread the virus to others?

Needless to say, glib instructions to

'fast and pray' only serve to make a bad situation even worse, raising the already high levels of distrust that are rampant throughout the land.

Attempted comparisons with Australia are not only ludicrous, they are grievously insulting and disrespectful of our people's intelligence.

We of this newspaper urge our people to be responsible where the COVID-19 pandemic is concerned. Please observe the protocols prescribed by the professionals, and do be extremely careful in each and every regard.

We also urge all of our people to participate in the national day of prayer tomorrow, Saturday, 3rd July. More than ever we need the help and mercies of our Almighty Father.

These are truly testing times for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. We need sound leadership. Real leadership. Genuine and caring leadership.

SCHEME UNITY are utterly incapable of providing our country and our people with that which is required.

The best thing which they can help is to resign and go away.

Rather unfortunately, their personal interests will NOT allow them to do anything of the sort.



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Opposition Calls Out PM Harris On Political Pandemic Attack During Emergency Parliament

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 1st June 2021)- While the government side of Parliament on Monday 28th June 2021 saw the ‘ayes’ having it for a six-month extension of the State of Emergency (SOE), such came about in the aftermath of a lengthy debate during which the opposition side rejected comments by mover of the resolution Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Dr. Timothy Harris “attacking” the St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) amid the COVID-19 pandemic management.

Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas, at the emergency sitting of that day’s session said it was a “vicious attack”.

“It is very unfortunate that this is how we are starting this debate. With the Prime Minister making a presentation attacking the Labour Party. So it’s the Labour Party that is responsible for all that has gone wrong here in the management of this pandemic? Because that is what he says! He said we have politicized the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are not managing the pandemic. He is responsible for the management of the pandemic here in St.Kitts and Nevis. We here in this parliament can lend our support, we are not leading it, and he has failed in the leadership of this pandemic here in our country going on for almost 18 months.”

Dr. Douglas, a medical physician, pointed out that it was important to respond immediately in that particular way so as to publicly indicate that the SKNLP is not going to “accept any blame.”

“The St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Party has been out there from the very beginning... They [the government] politicised the management, only selecting those whom they want to select. Others have come forward [saying] we want to be helpful as stakeholders [and the government responding] ‘No we don’t need you!’ and now he’s saying (PM Harris), we are politicising the management of the pandemic of all things which is crazy and ridiculous. The time for the game of blaming is over. People are dying, people are dying, and all he could do is blame someone else for the three deaths that we’ve had here in this country over this,” he remarked.

PM Harris, during his presentation responded to by Dr. Douglas, claimed the SKNLP “saw a game to be played for political advantage” regarding the pandemic.

The National Security Minister politically claimed that 98% of doctors in the country are vaccinated except for those who sit in the SKNLP.

“I said most doctors, 98% of them. Really, the only doctors in the country who do not support community immunization programme sit in the Labour Party...They (SKNLP) have made no serious effort to encourage people to be vaccinated...”

According to Dr. Douglas: “The Prime Minister in his usual style, who does not accept blame for anything launched a vicious attack a moment ago on the St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Party of which am the leader at this time. Here we are in the parliament of this country where we’re hearing in one breath that there should be a common purpose ; a togetherness in fighting this particular pandemic but here is the Prime Minister - the member for Number Seven almost within 10 minutes of his presentation is launching an attack on the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party.”

“He has said a number of things a moment ago that we have no serious support coming from this side; that the only doctors in the country who have not supported that vaccine are on the opposite side and support the St.Kitts-Nevis Labour Party,” he added.

According to Dr. Douglas: “I didn’t intend to start like this. I intended to come here, reason why we need the State Of Emergency, why it couldn’t be called before now, reasoning on what is a reasonable duration period for this State Of Emergency but here am I basically responding to the unfortunate statement of the Prime Minister who is the Minister of National Security; the Minister responsible for NEMA [National Emergency Management Agency], the Minister responsible for NEOC [National Emergency Operations Centre],HEOC [Health Emergency Operation Centre] for COVID-19...”

The three Opposition members, Dr. Douglas along with Parliamentary Representative for Constituency One (East Basseterre) Dr. Geoffrey Hanley and Senator Dr. Joyelle Clarke walked out during the vote for the passing of the resolution.

A media statement partly indicated that: “In the end members on the opposition benches felt that they could not support a State of Emergency that was too little too late and for such a long period of time, which could mean lockdowns and restrictions and further human suffering until year end.”

Front Page Photos: Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Dr. Timothy Harris (right) and Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas during the emergency sitting of the National Assembly on Monday 28th June 2021 (Video screenshots)

State of Emergency In SKN Expires December 2021

By: Spokesman Newsroom

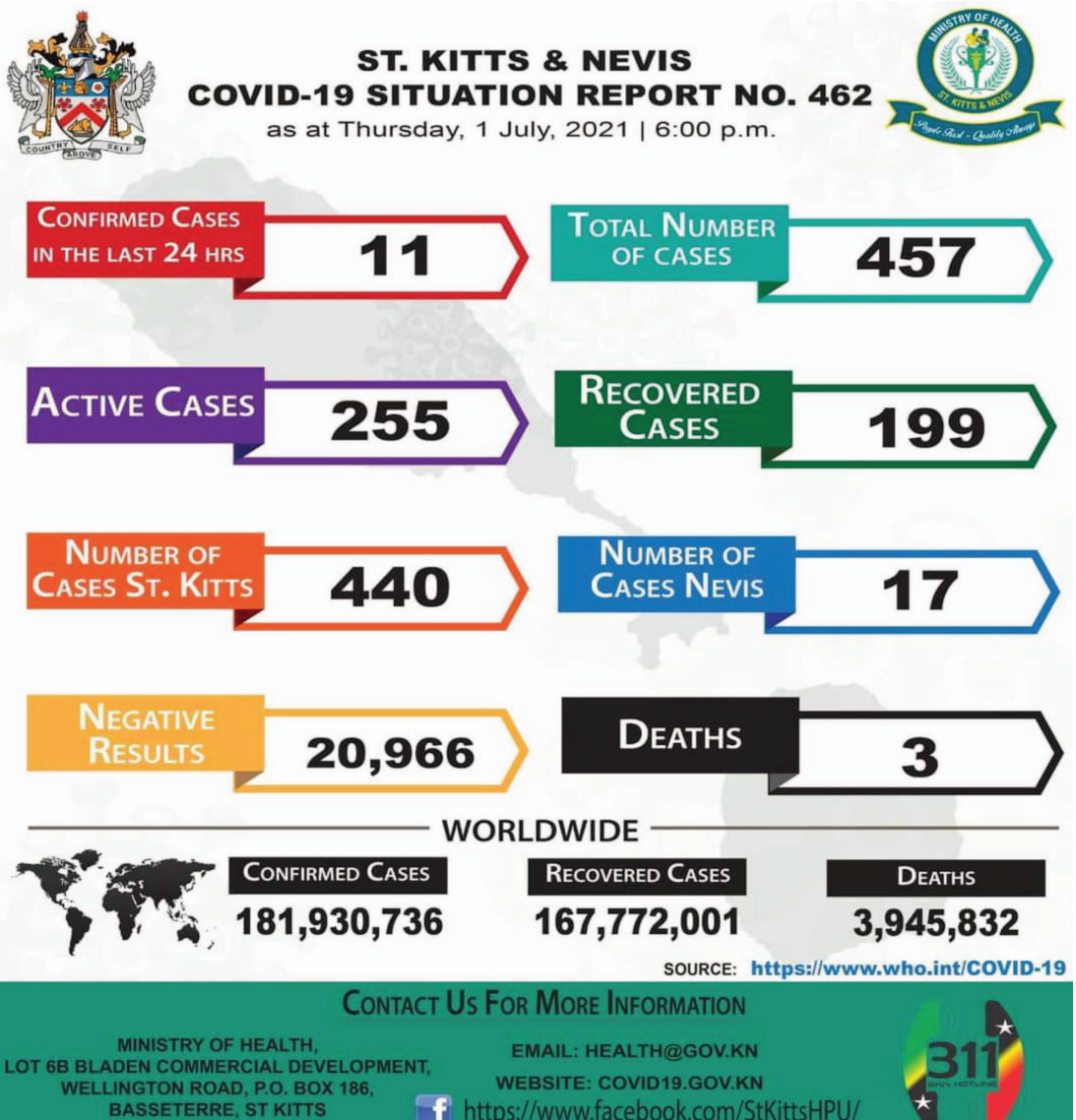
BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 1st June 2021)-Under section 19 Subsection 3 of the St. Christopher and Nevis Constitution Order, the State of Emergency (SOE) has been extended following the passing of the resolution on Monday 28th June 2021 at an emergency sitting of the National Assembly.

The extension is slated to take effect from Wednesday 7th July 2021 and will expire on Friday 31st December 2021.

Mover of the resolution, Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Dr. Timothy Harris said “A state of emergency is required to contain the community spread of COVID-19 in St.Kitts and Nevis and prevent the overwhelming of our health system, and obviously then, an extension to save lives.”

He pointed out that such an extension provides a sound legal anchor for the promulgation of curfews in St. Kitts and Nevis that prohibit the movement of persons that can help halt the spread of the disease.”

Photo: Graphic of the COVID-19 health situation for St.Kitts-Nevis as of 6PM on Thursday 1st July 2021 which highlights 11 new active cases recorded with 10 in St.Kitts and one in Nevis. As of that date, Nevis had two active while St.Kitts had 253 active (credit: Facebook/St.Kitts Health Promotion Unit)



Lightning Strike Damages Electricity Pole

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 1st July 2021)- Officials have confirmed that social media reports about a lightning strike damaging a wooden utility pole in St.Kitts on Wednesday 29th June is true.

Such confirmation has been provided by the St.Kitts Electricity Company Limited (SKELEC).

At the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Wednesday 30th June 2021, National Disaster Coordinator at NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) Abdias Samuel shared SKELEC's statement details from Corporate Communications Manager Patrice Harris on behalf of General Manager Clement J. Williams.

It was said that there were several outages caused by the lightning strike that morning as reported in Buckley's, Buckley' Park, Lim Kiln, Pine Gardens, Shadwell, West Farm, Frigate Bay, Bird Rock, Calypso Bay , Boyds following which the team were able to successfully restore all outages by midday.

"We wish to confirm that videos circulating on social media are true. The strike did cause a pole to split in two in the Lime Kiln area. Our teams were able to respond quickly and power was restored. There was no damage to life or property," Samuel read.

This media house notes that in a cellphone recording in the aftermath of the lightning incident, an eyewitness gives a description of the damage to the pole which included splinters scattered on the street.

Further SKELEC update said that there were also reports of low voltage in the Boyds and West Farm area and that the team responded and the issues were resolved.

Customers are advised that whenever there are instances of low voltages, in order to avoid damage to appliances, their main switch must be turned off. Customers who do not know where the main switch is located are advised to call a certified electrician.

In related details, Samuel informed that telecommunications company FLOW has reported modem damage for some customers which will be replaced in a timely manner once a fault report is received.

All customers who were impacted are encouraged by FLOW to report service issues by dialing 611 or sending a WhatsApp message to its virtual store via 669-3569. Additionally, limited opening store access was scheduled for Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd July from 9AM to 1PM for customer support and critical customer care only.

Furthermore, it is said that customers should unplug electrical and telephone lines from their modem and to set top boxes to protect them from lightning damage.

Meanwhile, the Water Department has reported that a source at Wingfield area (in Old Road) had to be disconnected for approximately two hours with further assessment being done in the area due to the heavy muddy waters which flowed from the mountain side that day.

"You see what the impact that tropical systems can have on the Federation whether directly or



Photo: A video screenshot of the damage electrical pole damaged after being struck by lightning in the Lime Kiln community on Wednesday 30th June 2021

indirectly, and in this regard, I want to ask you to continue to prepare, be resilient [and] use the opportunity on Thursday and Friday to go to the hardware stores to get supplies and materials to either restock or to make home repairs..." Samuel encouraged.

Culturama 47 still on, one event cut from calendar of activities

NIA CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (June 30, 2021) - - The Nevis Culturama Committee announced on June 29, 2021 that it has canceled the Miss Culture Swimwear and Mr. Kool Contest for the 2021 hosting of festival, due to the current statutory provisions relating to the restriction of movement in St. Kitts and Nevis.



Mr. Antonio "Abonaty" Liburd, Director of the Nevis Culturama



Secretariat said the decision to cut the show from the roster of proposed events was a difficult one, however it was taken in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and resulting restrictions imposed in St. Kitts and Nevis.

"Both events would have been held on Sunday, August 01 [2021], and so we are announcing the Miss Culture Swimwear and Mr. Kool Contest would be scrapped from the calendar of activities for Culturama 47," he said.

Mr. Liburd, who also chairs the Culturama Committee, said plans to host Culturama 47 are still a go.

"I wish to clarify that the calendar of activities would be revised and very shortly we will be putting out the revised schedule of activities, so Culturama itself is not canceled. The other activities that were planned as part of the Culturama 47 celebrations will continue as planned, however the dates for the events will be

revised and very shortly said calendar of activities would be made public," he said.

In April 2021 the Committee had revealed plans to host a semi-virtual festival from July 27 to August 03. The popular pageant was one of a few main events on the activities roster along with the Soca Monarch Competition, the Senior Kaiso Competition, and Emancipation Celebration.

No street activities are scheduled for the summer

festival however a virtual "Jam where you are Emancipation J'Ouvert" event forms part of the activities calendar.

So far some of the pre-activities such as Kaiso tents which were to be held in June, had to be shelved following the imposition of a daily curfew.

Photo caption: Mr. Antonio "Abonaty" Liburd, Director of the Nevis Culturama Secretariat

Photo caption: Nevis Culturama 47 banner



PM Harris Announces 24-Hour Lockdown, Other Restrictions Not Including Nevis

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Saturday 26th June 2021)- With a count of 313 active COVID-19 cases in the Federation, in an address to the nation on Friday 25th June 2021, Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris announced fresh restrictions for residents on St. Kitts which does not apply to Nevis.

On the day of such an announcement, St.Kitts had recorded three additional cases within the past 24 hours while Nevis had no active cases.

“There will be a special carve out for the island of Nevis which will basically remain the same as obtains presently but will be detailed in the SR&O,” PM Harris stated.

According to him: “On Monday, we will convene an emergency sitting of the Parliament. We believe that this is necessary in our fight against the COVID pandemic because of the current spread of the virus here in our country.”

He highlighted that under these new restrictive measures, the State of Emergency remains in place for both St. Kitts and Nevis and the existing curfew for both islands will continue but there will be for the island of St. Kitts the following:

* Complete 24-hour lockdown from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27th to 5:00 a.m. Thursday, July 01st. On Thursday and Friday, July 02nd, there will be limited movement for limited operation of essential businesses from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and a return to full 24- hour lockdown from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 02nd to

Thursday, July 08th. We will again have limited movement for essentials on Thursday, July 08th and Friday, July 09th from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on both days and return to 24-hour lockdown on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July.

* A Shelter in Place Order will be strictly enforced. This means that every person shall remain confined to their place of residence, inclusive of their yard space, to avoid contact outside their family, except: essential workers, who are required to report to work; workers required to work in hospitals and medical facilities, businesses licensed to provide security guard services, and such other businesses as may be specifically exempted; for essential travel for medical emergencies; and for essential travel to a vaccination site with vaccination card and one photo

ID for presentation to law enforcement on demand between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. from Monday, June 28th to Wednesday, June 30th.

* All places of business including doctors’ offices will be closed during the strict lockdown hours. On days of limited operation, only essential businesses will be allowed to operate and these businesses are limited to supermarkets, pharmacies and medical facilities, and those limited businesses authorized by the Commissioner of Police.

* A special dispensation is granted to allow students and their parents or guardians to travel to an examination center.

* A limited number of Government workers will be needed to ensure the continued functioning of the State. Permanent Secretaries, Directors and other Heads will determine who will be required to attend work.

* No mass gatherings, and no parties and other social events.

* The beaches in St. Kitts will be closed. We ask that you confine your exercise programme to your home and yard space.

* Liquor licenses are suspended. Absolutely No rum shops, bars nor nightspots will be allowed to operate.

* A special exception for farmers and fishers to tend their flock, and to go fishing to keep our food supply going during days of limited operation.

On Wednesday 30th June, the federation recorded 3 additional cases within the past 24 hours, resulting in 266 active cases, one of which is in Nevis.

Photo: Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris during his national address on Friday 25th June 2021 (Screenshot image)

Case Number :SKBHCV2021/0017

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

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

Submitted Date: 11/05/2021 08:17

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO. SKBHCV2021/0017

Filed Date: 11/05/2021 08:30

NATIONAL BANK TRUST COMPANY (ST KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA) LIMITED
and
JULIAN MORTON
NOTICE OF SALE

Fees Paid: 12.00
- 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 3 day of July 2021 at 2pm 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 situate thereon and known as Lot No. 7 at the area commonly called "CARIFESTA VILLAGE" situate at Douglas Estate Housing Development and bounded and measuring as follows: On or towards the North North East by Lot No. 12, 45.00 feet; On or towards the East South East by Lot No. 8, 79.98 feet; On or towards the South South West by a Public Road 45.00 feet; and On or towards the West North West by Lot No. 6, 79.94 feet and containing by admeasurement 3598 square feet, all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated the 17th day of October, 2003 and registered in Book C3 Folio 610 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of JULIAN MORTON of Douglas Estate in the Parish of St. Peter, in the Island of St. Christopher registered proprietor thereof.

UPSET PRICE

The Upset price for the above property shall be **EC\$210,690.00.**
Dated the 4 day of May 2021

Registrar of the Supreme Court

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**The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union
This Union Works For You.**

By:
Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 1st July 2021)- Discussions involving the Ministry of Social Services are currently taking place on the topic of providing healthier food options to recipients of food packages.

Permanent Secretary of that ministry, Janelle Lewis-Tafari, shared an insight during her presentation at the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Wednesday 30th June 2021.

According to her: "The Ministry of Social Services continues to coordinate efforts to provide relief to persons affected by the pandemic. As of June 29th, the number of persons who have benefitted to date include persons from 471 households. Of these households, 302 were in quarantine or isolation and 169 had heads who were either unemployed or who had reduced income."

Lewis-Tafari said the ministry has recently met with representatives from NEMA [National Emergency Management Agency], agriculture and people empowerment to discuss "how we can provide healthier food options to recipients of the food packages and at the same time support our local farmers."

She said the Ministry of Tourism has also discussed with her ministry how to include fruits from the Eco Park in the packages to persons.

The social services official said caring citizens and community groups continue to

Healthier Food Package Options A Topic In Social Services Outreach

support our efforts with the most recent contribution being a donation from the Rotary Club of St.Kitts who donated on Monday 28th June a substantial amount of food items.

She said the St.Christopher and Nevis Social Security Board has also committed to providing 1250 food vouchers valued at \$200 each to households who do not currently receive assistance from either the food voucher programme or the poverty alleviation programme.

It was also highlighted that the NEMA district committee have been mobilized to submit the names of households in their districts who can benefit from the vouchers.

Lewis-Tafari said persons from the Spanish speaking community are also welcomed, noting that there are members of staff who are fluent in Spanish.

To register for assistance, persons can call 662-7710, 662-6473, 662-5539 and 662-5993.

Front Page Photo: Fruits and vegetables vendor Tiki seen at her stall cutting watermelon slices in March 2020 (before any recorded cases in St.Kitts-Nevis) having done an interview with this media house about COVID-19 mindfulness and health tips.

Image used for illustration purposes only. (Spokesman Snap)



The Office of the Leader of the Opposition
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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Unit A6 Sands Complex
Basseterre
St. Kitts, W.I.

Saluting OECS at 40!

Today marks a historic milestone in the history of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States which has attained four decades after the formalization of a collective political entity among seven members of the Eastern Caribbean. In my capacity as Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition and former Prime Minister of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis I wish to join in extending congratulations to the Organization for attaining this significant milestone of regional cooperation. More importantly, this Treaty was signed here in Basseterre accentuating our focus on its significance.

Let us not lose sight of the strategic decision to position the present independent sovereign states as a united front creating a position of strength for negotiation in the global economy. Our joint representation arrangements in the international fora over the years have served our best interest in advancing our collective priorities as small island states. Our voices must be heard in global discourse on issues of relevance to our development agenda.

Indeed, our awareness of the increased challenges of globalization and its deleterious impact on small states required a coordinated mechanism for the implementation of common policies amenable to the members States. The Revised Treaty of Basseterre signed on 18 June 2010 also marks a deepening of the regional integration process with the establishment of the OECS Economic Union, creating a single financial and economic space for the free movement of goods, people and capital. OECS citizens are free to move and do business in a single space as we share common policies and procedures that were designed to spark growth in our economies.

Our areas of functional cooperation have expanded to date to include multiple sectors such as tourism, environment and agriculture that are at the core of our national development priorities.

Today we applaud this governance mechanism and the achievements of the institutional bodies that serve as the vehicles of regional integration. In an era when the development in Europe, as far as Brexit is concerned, and its implications are pointing to the weakening of a leading integration mechanism, our increased membership must serve as a positive signal for regional integration among Small States.

Let me use this occasion to commend the architects of the Integration process, and the past and present Directorates of the Commission for their tenacity and contribution to holding the Union together. I recall that it was under my Chairmanship in June 2010 that the signing of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre took place and would like to commend Dr Len Ishmael and the late Hon Sir K Dwight Venner for their guidance and firm commitment to the realization of this vision. I conclude by applauding Dr Didacus Jules, the present Director General and the staff for their dedication.

Congratulations and long live regional integration and the Union of Small States of the Eastern Caribbean.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Denzil L Douglas

June 18, 2021

Sanitize /

Wear Your
Mask

Wash
Your
Hands



Opposition Leader Douglas debunks the SKNLP is against vaccination

BASSETERRE, ST KITTS, June 28, 2021 - Leader of the Opposition the Rt. Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas has reiterated that the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) has never being against vaccination.

“To say that we are anti-vax it means that people do not understand what the term means. It means there is an absolute block against taking vaccines of all types,” said the former prime minister during last Friday’s edition of Voices, hosted

Devonne Cornelius of WINNFM.

Dr. Douglas used the opportunity to state his own personal position on taking the vaccine.

“I have been very consistent in saying that for my own personal reasons, I have not taken the AstraZeneca vaccine. I have consulted with my doctors and my family and that is the position I have arrived at, but I have never ever, neither has the party dissuaded anymore from taking the vaccine,” said Dr. Douglas.

He added: “If the people in St. Kitts and Nevis are anti-vaccine they have a right, that is their right. We (SKNLP) are not anti vaccine in this party, and we must also emphasize that we are pro-choice. Choice meaning that people must be educated and must be given all of the facts. They must be made aware of some of the challenges and must be told of the positive outcomes and then they must make that choice. I am personally of the view that if they are given the facts, they will make the right choice and if there is uncertainty they will consult with their doctors and then make that decision.”

Dr. Douglas pointed out that there are members in the leadership of the SKNLP who have taken the vaccine and who have not taken the vaccine.

COVID-19 Variant In SKN Widespread In South America

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 1st June 2021)-The type of COVID-19 variant circulating in St.Kitts and Nevis, called Lambda, is prevalent in South America countries, and is of interest to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The disclosure was made by the Chief Medical officer Dr. Hazel Laws during the health situation report at the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Saturday 26th June 2021.

“We’ve gotten a number of questions regarding the genomic sequencing process, and so we shared with you about 3-4 weeks ago that we sent off samples to the Caribbean Public Health

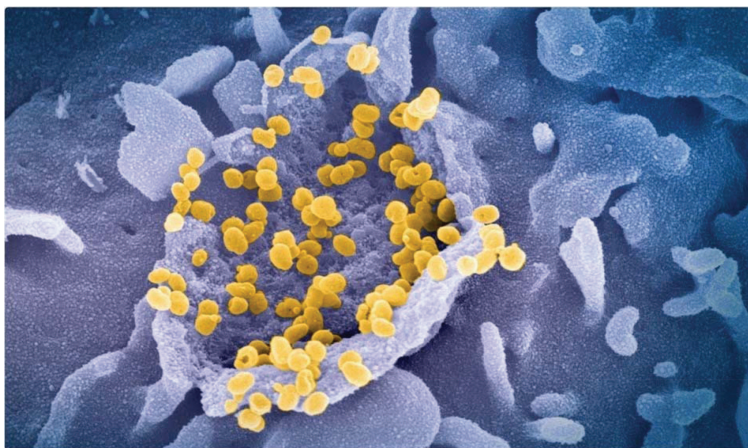


Image credit NIAID: Caption (sourced from newsmedical.net)-First identification of SARS-CoV-2 Lambda (c.37) variant in Southern Brazil

Agency for genomic sequencing. So the result just returned and I want to share with you the SARS -2 variant that is in circulation in the Federation at present.”

Dr. Laws indicated that reports say that the SARS-2 variant belongs to the lineage B.1.1.1 or C.37. The World Health Organization’s label for this variant is the Lambda variant.

She went on to say that it is “classified as a variant of interest” by the WHO.

Met Office: Passing System Could Possibly Affect SKN Weather

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 1st July 2021)-A system is currently being monitored by the St.Kitts and Nevis Met Services with an outlook that the weather in the Federation could be influenced by its passing sometime Friday 2nd July 2021.

Senior Meteorological Officer Elmo Burke in giving a weather update at the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) COVID-19 Daily Briefing held on Wednesday 30th June 2021, talked about that system as well as a tropical wave in St.Kitts-Nevis which influenced the weather conditions for most of that day.

“For us in St.Kitts and Nevis, we would have seen mostly cloudy conditions to overcast skies, some of which would have been accompanied with moderate heavy showers as well as some thunderstorm activity. From this morning into midday thereabout, we would have recorded about 40.4 millimeters of rainfall just from the passage of this system. This system is not finished with us as yet. We anticipate some more showers as the system moves in a westerly direction moving away from us here in St.Kitts and Nevis.”

He informed that “the other system that we are closely monitoring is now designated as potential tropical cyclone number five, and that is labelled B for reference purposes, and is moving in a westerly north westerly direction. Based on the early projections, it’s anticipated that the center is expected to pass over the Windward Islands sometime Friday into Saturday.”

Burke continued: “However, for us here in St.Kitts and Nevis, we do not want to discount the possibility that the weather might be influenced by the system as persons can recognise it’s a growing system and we anticipate it to continue to strengthen and as such as it continues to approach the island chain, we would provide additional updates for us here in St.Kitts and Nevis.”

He encouraged the general public to stay tuned to information to be provided.

UPDATE: A 5PM update from the met office on Thursday 1st July that the potential tropical cyclone developed into Tropical Storm Elsa.

TAPA TROPICAL CYCLONE INFORMATION STATEMENT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES 3:10 PM ECT THU JUL 01 2021

...TROPICAL STORM ELSA FORECAST TO STAY CLEAR OF THE AREA...

THIS IS FOR THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS.

THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES CONTINUES TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF TROPICAL STORM ELSA, WHICH WAS POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE FIVE. THE SYSTEM

(cont’d on page 13)

“The SARS-2 variant was first identified in Peru in August of last year, and to date it has been identified in over 29 countries. It is quite prevalent in the South American Countries including Argentina,” the CMO shared.

Local health officials say Lambda is more transmissible.

ILO: Tourism recovery is key to overcoming COVID-19 labour crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean

30 June, 2021 (Lima, Peru) - The International Labour Organization (ILO) announced today the need to design policies aimed at the recovery of tourism in Latin American and Caribbean countries, which will promote one of the most dynamic economic sectors essential for the generation of foreign exchange, income and jobs.

Tourism was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new regional technical note from the ILO. While the number of total employed persons contracted on average by 24.8 per cent in the second quarter of 2020, the loss of jobs in the hotel and restaurant sector in Latin America and the Caribbean totalled 44.7 per cent.

“The recovery of tourism depends directly on the advancement of vaccinations and the adoption of adequate safety and health measures at work. The reactivation of this sector may have an important multiplier effect on the economy and employment, which may be crucial to overcome the crisis generated by the pandemic,” said Vinicius Pinheiro, ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ILO Regional Director added that, “it is essential that the recovery policies for the sector contribute to improving the quality of jobs and stimulate the formalization of the labour market. Supporting micro and small businesses is also crucial for the benefits of tourism to favour local development.”

Titled “**Towards a sustainable recovery of employment in the tourism sector in Latin America and the Caribbean**”, the technical note is part of the Labour Overview series of the ILO Regional Office. It highlights that before the pandemic, in 2019, the tourism economy, which includes both tourism and all the sectors that depend on it, accounted for 26 per cent of total gross domestic product (GDP) in the Caribbean and 10 per cent in Latin America.

It also says that the reduction in employment did not affect all workers in a homogeneous way: the loss was greater for women, young workers, migrant workers and for those who were in informal positions.

In 2019, women were overrepresented in the hotel and restaurant subsectors, with 58 per cent of employment, while in total occupations they accounted for 42.5 per cent. Another overrepresented group in the sector is young workers, up to 24 years of age, who make up 20.9 per cent of employment in the sector and 13.5 per cent of total employment.

Before the pandemic, informal jobs in tourism outweighed informality in all other areas of employment: 63.3 per cent of workers in hotels and restaurants in the region worked in informal conditions, while that percentage was 51.8 per cent of total employment.

Tourism is characterized by a higher percentage of workers who worked short hours in 2019: underemployment affected 25.9 per cent of total workers and 31.2



CDB President says Bank needs to double financing to help the Region achieve Sustainable Development Goals

June 30, 2021, BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - New President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr. Gene Leon, says the Bank's current size may need to be revisited if it is to remain an effective partner for the Region in a changing and challenging global environment.

Dr. Leon made his remarks while delivering his inaugural address at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors, asserting:

“If the Bank is to function as an effective development partner in the drive towards the SDGs and beyond, it must remain relevant and fit-for-purpose, and be appropriately sized, skilled and structured.”

He pointed to the predicted financing gap which will impinge on Caribbean countries' efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as one of

the factors driving the need for such a rethink.

“Our preliminary estimates suggest that to reach our goal of halving poverty by 2030 would require more than a doubling of average CDB lending,” Dr. Leon said.

On the issue of the SDGs, he sounded the alarm that endeavours to meet the goals were “not advancing at the speed and scale required in the Bank's 19 Borrowing Member Countries”.

Since committing to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, only seven of the Bank's 19 Borrowing Member States (BMCs) had submitted voluntary national reviews, reporting on the pace of SDG implementation. Among those submitted,

(cont'd on next page)

per cent of those employed in hotels and restaurants. In addition, according to the technical note, it is a relatively low-paid sector: the income of tourism workers represented on average 75 per cent of the income of all persons employed.

The ILO analysis highlights the need to design policies to promote a recovery with productive employment, the creation of decent work and sustainable companies in the tourism sector, especially to face challenges associated with the high presence of informality, underemployment and low income.

Additionally, the sector's support policies must have a focus on protecting the environment and maximizing the benefits for the host communities and minimizing the negative impacts that tourism activities may involve, adds the analysis.

And, given the significant presence of women in the sector, the legal frameworks for the development of the activity should have a gender perspective and include mechanisms for the prevention of discrimination and the promotion of gender equality.

Other recommendations include need for digitization and expansion of capacities; productive transformation and creation of green jobs; and social dialogue and strengthening of coordination and voice of the tourism sector.

This week, the recovery of the tourism sector will be the subject of analysis during a virtual tripartite meeting of representatives from governments and employers' organizations and workers' organizations. The gathering will seek to exchange experiences and initiatives aimed at underpinning the recovery.

Tourism was the subject of special consideration in the ILO resolution for a global call to action for a human-centered recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, which was passed this month by delegates from around the world at the International Labour Conference.

The ILO call raises the need to “facilitate a rapid recovery that boosts the sustainability of the travel and tourism sector, bearing in mind its labour-intensive nature and its key role in countries highly dependent on tourism, including small island developing states”.

Key resource

Towards a sustainable recovery of employment in the tourism sector in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: ILO Newsroom, Lima

TASC OECS Virtual Caribbean Travel Expo

June 2021

The Caribbean Travel Expo Welcomes Visitors Back to Sun, Safety and Sustainable Travel Get Packed. Get Ready. Let's Board!

Organized by Caribbean people to promote Caribbean tourism, the inaugural Caribbean Virtual Travel Expo, a collaboration between Travel Advisors Selling the Caribbean (TASC) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), was launched on June 17th 2021. The one-day virtual event, hosted via v-Fairs, a state-of-the-art 3-D platform, was designed to send a strong message that the Caribbean has reopened safely for business. The theme of the event was *"From Survival to Sustainability: Charting the Future Course of Caribbean Tourism."* Representatives from hotels, attractions, airlines, cruise lines and tours provided expert advice, travel deals and free information sessions, to strengthen industry connections and showcase some of the best vacation options in the region.

Some 1425 delegates registered to participate in the 12-hour program which featured 23 sessions and 40 speakers on the Expo's virtual stage. Presentations

CDB President says Bank needs to double financing to help the Region achieve Sustainable Development Goals

(cont'd from last page)

most reviews cited inadequate funding and responses to natural hazards as continually thwarting efforts to achieve the SDGs while insufficient data and statistical capacity affected policy responses, the CDB President noted.

Proposing to create a data hub at CDB, Dr Leon said: "As a starting point, we need to measure better to target better. That includes building data architectures and databases to better inform our evidenced-based decision making; involves improving capacity in data analytics, leveraging developments in big data and digital technology; and requires better measurement of the impact of our vulnerabilities and articulating better the nexus among enabling resilience for increasing public value, promoting priority growth-oriented investment, and managing financing needs for debt sustainability."

The CDB President highlighted that such a data hub could include a distance-to-SDG tracker that updates not only implementation but associated measures of distances to benchmarks, quantum of financing needs, and estimates of concessionary terms that could facilitate more rapid reductions in these distance metrics. The data hub could also be extended to a resilience tracker that informs on various dimensions of resilience and the region's ability to recover shocks or sustain a growth momentum.

The Region's susceptibility to natural hazard events was also cited by the President as a determining factor in defining the optimal size of the Bank.

"...Natural hazard events increase the capital needs of a country and suggest the interest rate at which this capital is financed should be appropriately lower. This is counter to the standard market dynamics, where increased perception of risk would increase the rates of interest required of countries in the wake of a natural hazard event; and would push those rates to levels that lead to adverse debt dynamics, given lower output trajectories and higher interest rates," explained the Bank President.

geared exclusively towards travel advisors were held between 8am - 5pm and from 5pm - 8pm, the sessions were opened to consumers. The Expo featured four main areas - the Lobby, Exhibit Hall, Auditorium and Networking Lounge and audience engagement was facilitated through webinars, chat rooms, one-on-one chats, live polls and push notifications.

- Thanks to our sponsors, partners, speakers and travel advisors, the Expo was a major success and generated significant interest throughout the Caribbean community. It was designed to strengthen industry connections in innovative ways to give us a competitive edge in the marketplace. As the Caribbean reopens for business, this event allowed us to meet travel advisors where they are, by facilitating key learning and networking opportunities. This on-line platform provided a way to resume business, while we continue to "iron out" issues related to the recovery process," said Kelly Fontenelle, TASC Founder.

Highlights of the Caribbean Travel Expo

Auditorium

The Expo featured a diverse program line-up of educational and experiential presentations that included:

- Product and cultural presentations from Sponsors: Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Dreamy Weddings and Sandals and Beaches Resorts.

- Keynote Address: Delivered by Dr Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS about the Current Impact of Caribbean Tourism and Future Opportunities.

- Educational sessions: Professional topics such as LinkedIn, Pinterest, Storytelling, Email and SEO marketing to enhance skills building and strengthen sales and marketing strategies.

- Panel discussions: Insights from travel industry officials and destination leaders about the state of the industry and the future outlook, post-pandemic.

- Sustainable initiatives: Recognizing a greater desire for responsible and authentic travel, the Youth Forum featured 3 Caribbean youth-owned businesses, built on sustainability practices.

- Caribbean talent: A Tribute to St. Vincent and the Grenadines following the recent volcano eruption. It featured

performer Skinny Fabulous, five-time Soca Monarch winner of the country and Jamaican cultural performer Dr. Amina Blackwood- Meeks. Veteran Caribbean broadcaster, Julian Rogers, MBE hosted the Opening Ceremony.

- Mind of the Advisor Polls: Audience insights to gauge the perceptions and intentions of travel advisors.

- Prize Bank: Featuring over 15 Caribbean experiences.

Exhibit Hall

Caribbean suppliers engaged delegates in one-to-one consultations and accessed downloadable content such as brochures, presentations and videos. Representatives of these Caribbean brands discussed itinerary suggestions and special promotions and offers, providing travel advisors with the inspiration to sell more Caribbean travel experiences. The list of exhibitors were:

- Antigua and Barbuda Hotels Association

- The Bahamas

- Belize

- British Virgin Islands

- Cayman Islands

- Dominica

- Grenada

- Montserrat

- Saint Lucia

- Sandals and Beaches Resorts

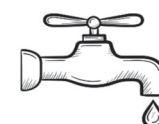
- Travel Advisors Selling the Caribbean

- United States Virgin Islands

Networking Lounge

In this common area, attendees could increase their knowledge by engaging in live chats with sponsors, exhibitors, speakers or their peers. They were opportunities to share opinions, provide information, ask questions, expand their network of contacts and generate business opportunities.

"Virtual events make it possible to continue to broaden learning opportunities and engagement in the travel industry at this critical time. Throughout the Expo, we prioritized education, networking and entrepreneurship, to support travel advisors and suppliers as they rebuild their business. Virtual events provide a cost effective, safe and measurable option for suppliers to spend their marketing dollars and we expect that more Caribbean destinations will leverage this promotional tool to enhance their sales," said Derede Whitlock, Senior Administrator at TASC.



SAVE WATER

THE CONVERSATION (Academic rigour, journalistic flair) - Edition: Africa - Politics - 29 June 2021

Historic Moment As Constitutional Court Finds Zuma Guilty And Sentences Him To Jail

By: Professor Richard Calland,
The University of Capetown

South Africa has many problems. But, as Jacob Zuma has found out, the strength of its rule of law and the independence of its judiciary should not be underestimated.



Former South African president Jacob Zuma as he stood in the dock at a separate trial in the Pietermaritzburg High Court in May. Photo credit: Phill Magakoe (AFP pool via Getty Images).

South Africa's Constitutional Court has found former president Jacob Zuma guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to 15 months imprisonment.

Clearly, this is a momentous, historic verdict, with profound legal and constitutional implications, and one that will have political reverberations.

It will strengthen the hand of reform-minded President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is struggling to rebuild state institutions hollowed out during Zuma's nine-year rule, which ended in early 2018. The judgment fiercely makes the case for accountability over impunity. It serves to remind all South Africans that no one is above the law.

The ground-breaking judgment was read out by Acting Chief Justice Sisi Khampepe, who began with these words:

"It is indeed the lofty and lonely work of the Judiciary, impervious to public commentary and political rhetoric, to uphold, protect and apply the Constitution and the law at any and all costs."

Never before has the Constitutional Court passed a custodial sentence, still less on a former democratically elected president.

This was one of several choices that the court had to make.

Weighty matters

The first question - whether there had been contempt of court - was straightforward to answer: Zuma had chosen not to contest the proceedings and had declined to offer any justification or denial of his decision to defy the order of the same court earlier this year. In that decision it held that he should appear before the Zondo Commission, the judicial inquiry into state capture and corruption in the country.

The commission's legal team had come up with a strategy that, for once, outwitted Zuma. For almost two decades, Zuma has benefited from the strength of South Africa's rule of law with his so-called "Stalingrad strategy" - taking every legal point and appealing every judgment against him.

Instead of going to a lower court, as would be customary in contempt of court proceedings, the Zondo Commission went

directly to the Constitutional Court. The court accepted jurisdiction on the basis that it was its order that he was defying and because of the exceptional and urgent circumstances.

The public had an interest in having Zuma give evidence at the commission and respond to the grave allegations of corruption that have been made against him from his nine years in office. He ascended to the high office in May 2009, and was ousted from power by Ramaphosa following the latter's election as president of the governing African National Congress in December 2017.

The consequence of the decision of the Constitutional Court to accept jurisdiction was that Zuma, having nowhere to appeal to, as it is the apex court, was bound to accept its ruling.

He must now present himself to his local police station within five days.

For the majority of seven justices, Khampepe found that, although the case had exceptional features - the fact that it involves a former president, with ongoing duties to respect and protect the constitution - he was not being treated exceptionally, as the minority judgment penned by two justices (Leona Theron and Chris Jafta) held.

The second, weightier decision for the court to take was whether to pass a coercive or punitive sentence. The former would, for example, have suspended the sentence provided that Zuma appear before the Zondo Commission; the latter would simply punish the contempt of court.

On this point, both the majority and minority judgments accepted that it would be futile and inappropriate to pass a coercive sentence because Zuma had made it clear that he would not appear in front of the commission.

This court is not "naive", Justice Khampepe wrote:

"I do not think this Court should be so naïve as to hope for his compliance with that order. Indeed, it defies logic to believe that a suspended sentence, which affords Mr Zuma the option to attend, would have any effect other than to prolong his defiance and to signal dangerously that impunity is to be enjoyed by those who defy court orders."

The court has, indeed,

become very wise to Zuma's tactics over the years.

The majority of the judges held that Zuma's public outbursts before and after the contempt proceedings had been brought, in which he attacked the honesty of the judges of the Constitutional Court and impugned the integrity of the rule of law, should be taken into account when determining the punishment.

For their part, the minority held that these considerations were extraneous to the core contempt matter. The minority judgment further argued that to send Zuma to prison without a criminal standard trial was to infringe his fair trial rights contained in section 35 of the constitution.

The majority rejected this argument on the basis that since he was not a criminal defendant - contempt proceedings are civil proceedings not criminal - there could be no breach of a right that is not held.

In passing sentence, the majority judgment referred extensively to the "alculated and insidious" attacks on the rule of law by Zuma. Again, the final paragraph of the substantive part of Khampepe's judgment was sweeping:

"Quantifying Mr Zuma's egregious conduct is an impossible task. So, I am compelled to ask the question: what will it take for the punishment imposed on Mr Zuma to vindicate this Court's authority and the rule of law? In other words, the focus must be on what kind of sentence will demonstrate that orders made by a court must be obeyed and, to Mr Zuma, that his contempt and contumacy is rebukeable in the strongest sense. With this in mind then, I order an unsuspended sentence of imprisonment of 15 months. I do so in the knowledge that this cannot properly capture the damage that Mr Zuma has done to the dignity and integrity of the judicial system of a democratic and constitutional nation. He owes this sentence in respect of violating not only this Court, nor even just the sanctity of the Judiciary, but to the nation he once promised to lead and to the Constitution he once vowed to uphold."

This was a passionate as well as eloquent defence of the constitution and the rule of law. Immediately afterwards, Mzwanele Manyi, the spokesman for the Zuma Foundation, described it as "emotional".

But, but for once, Zuma has run out of legal runway and must now face the consequences of his action.

A compelling narrative

South Africa has many problems, and inter-locking fiscal, economic and health crises. But underestimate the strength of its rule of law and the independence of its judiciary at your peril - as Zuma has now discovered.

There is something sad and tragic about his steady but inexorable fall from grace - a motif for the country, in one sense. And yet there is something so high-minded and noble about how the country's constitution has prevailed over his abuse of power - a far more compelling narrative.

About the author: Mr Richard Calland is Associate Professor in Public Law at The University of Cape Town. He is also a political commentator and an author. From 1983 to 1986 he attended The University of Durham and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. He then trained at Inns of Court School of Law from 1986 to 1987 and was admitted to practice as a Barrister-at-Law. From 1991 to 1993 he attended The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) of The University of London and was awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in World Politics. Having practiced at the London Bar for seven years, in 1994 he moved to South Africa and attended The University of Cape Town, graduating with a Master's Degree in Law and Politics. From 2007 to the present Professor Calland has taught at UCT, and from 2015 to the present has also been a Fellow of The University of Cambridge (Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)). He also teaches constitutional and human rights law, and some administrative law, specialising in the law and practice of the right to access to information and whistleblowing protection; in administrative justice; in public ethics; and in constitutional design. For over 25 years he has worked in the fields of democratic governance and sustainable development in South Africa and beyond. In recent years Professor Calland has

(cont'd on next page)

Taiwan News - Society - 28 June 2021

Irishman Dies On Taipei Street - Tests Positive For COVID

By Keoni Everington, Staff Writer

Four police officers enter quarantine after trying to treat COVID-positive Irishman who died on Taipei street.



Irishman collapsed on street. Photo courtesy Taipei City Police Department (screenshot).

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) - An Irishman who suddenly collapsed and died on a street in Taipei City on Saturday night (26 June 2021) has been diagnosed with COVID-19, while the five police officers who came in contact

Historic Moment As Constitutional Court Finds Zuma Guilty...

(cont'd from last page)

served as an expert consultant to The Carter Center, the foundation led by former US President Jimmy Carter, advising on various transparency projects in Bolivia, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru and Mali. He has also worked as a member of faculty on a range of customised leadership and strategy programmes for institutions such as The World Bank, PWC, The African Development Bank, Nedbank, Namdeb, Network Rail and Tata, advising on issues of politics, sustainability and governance, as well as providing regular political risk briefings to the investor clients of UBS and Citi Bank. Amongst his publications are 'Anatomy of South Africa: Who Holds the Power?' (Zebra Press, 2006); 'The Zuma Years: South Africa's Changing Face of Power' (Zebra Press, 2013); and 'Make or Break: How the next three years will shape South Africa's next three decades' (Penguin Random House, 2016). His political column, Contretemps, has appeared in The Mail & Guardian newspaper since 2001. Professor Calland joined The Conversation on 30 July 2015.

Disclosure statement: Professor Richard Calland is a founding partner of political risk consultancy, The Paternoster Group, and a member of the advisory council of the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution.

Partners: The University of Cape Town provides funding as a partner of The Conversation AFRICA, which is funded by The National Research Foundation, eight other universities, including The Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Rhodes University, Stellenbosch University and the Universities of Johannesburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pretoria, and South Africa. It is hosted by the Universities of The Witwatersrand and Western Cape, The African Population and Health Research Centre, and The Nigerian Academy of Science. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a Strategic Partner.

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with him have entered quarantine.

At about 8pm on Saturday a 58-year-old Irishman was seen walking along the sidewalk, wearing a black T-shirt and shorts, near the intersection of Kangding Road and Neijing Street in the Ximending area of Taipei's Wanhua District. He wandered off the sidewalk in an apparent effort to cross the street.

He then began to stagger and seemed to try to run back to the sidewalk, before suddenly collapsing and lying motionless on the street. Bystanders who witnessed the man fall called 119 and when officers arrived at the scene, they found that he was not breathing and had no pulse.

A police officer identified by the surname Lo called for an ambulance and followed paramedic instructions on implementing CPR as they waited for the arrival of the rescue vehicle, reported SET News. When paramedics arrived on the scene, they quickly rushed him to the National Taiwan University Hospital.



Man seen staggering in the middle of the road. Photo courtesy Taipei City Police Department.

Despite efforts by paramedics to resuscitate the man, he died before they were able to reach the hospital. Once at the hospital, a PCR test was administered on the deceased man and he was diagnosed with COVID-19 at 9 o'clock that night.

After receiving notice the man had been diagnosed with COVID-19 Ximending Police Station immediately sent the four officers who tended to the man into quarantine. The station and surrounding area were disinfected and the remaining 26 police officers from the station are now undergoing self-health monitoring.

According to the police station, the four officers received a first round of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in late May. Before returning to the station, the four had taken steps to disinfect themselves to prevent the spread of the virus.

The deceased man reportedly had a history of hypertension and obesity. He had been living in Taiwan for at least six years, resided with his girlfriend, and had not recently traveled abroad.

The cause of the man's death is not yet known and an investigation will be carried out to determine the exact cause of death.



Man collapsed in the middle of the road. Photo courtesy Taipei City Police Department.



MedicalXpress - Psychology & Psychiatry - Neuroscience - 1 July 2021

Researchers Use A Computer Model To Explain How Children Integrate Information During Word Learning

By Max Planck Society



Photo credit: Pixabay (CC0 Public Domain).

Children learn a huge number of words in the early preschool years. A two-year-old might be able to say just a handful of words, while a five-year-old is quite likely to know many thousands. How do children achieve this marvelous feat? The question has occupied psychologists for over a century: In countless carefully designed experiments, researchers titrate the information children use to learn new words. How children integrate different types of information has remained unclear.

“We know that children use a lot of different information sources in their social environment, including their own knowledge, to learn new words. But the picture that emerges from the existing research is that children have a bag of tricks that they can use”, says Manuel Bohn, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

For example, if you show a child an object they already know - say a cup - as well as an object they have never seen before, the child will usually think that a word they never heard before belongs with the new object. Why? Children use information in the form of their existing knowledge of words (the thing you drink out of is called a “cup”) to infer that the object that doesn’t have a name goes with the name that doesn’t have an object. Other information comes from the social context: children remember past interactions with a speaker to find out what they are likely to talk about next.

“But in the real world, children learn words in complex social settings in which more than just one type of information is available. They have to use their knowledge of words while interacting with a speaker. Word learning always requires integrating multiple, different information sources”, Bohn continues. An open question is how children combine different, sometimes even conflicting, sources of information.

Predictions by a computer program

In a new study, a team of researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, MIT, and Stanford University takes on this issue. In a first step, they conducted a series of experiments to measure children’s sensitivity to different information sources. Next, they formulated a computational cognitive model which details the way that this information is integrated.

“You can think of this model as a little computer program. We input children’s sensitivity to different information, which we measure in separate experiments, and then the program simulates what should happen if those information sources are combined in a rational way. The model spits out predictions for what should happen in hypothetical new situations in which these information sources are all

available”, explains Michael Henry Tessler, one of the lead-authors of the study.

In a final step, the researchers turned these hypothetical situations into real experiments. They collected data with two- to five-year-old children to test how well the predictions from the model line up with realworld data. Bohn sums up the results: “It is remarkable how well the rational model of information integration predicted children’s actual behavior in these new situations. It tells us we are on the right track in understanding from a mathematical perspective how children learn language.”

Language learning as a social inference problem

How does the model work? The algorithm that processes the different information sources and integrates them is inspired by decades of research in philosophy, developmental psychology, and linguistics. At its heart, the model looks at language learning as a social inference problem, in which the child tries to

find out what the speaker means - what their intention is. The different information sources are all systematically related to this underlying intention, which provides a natural way of integrating them.

Additionally, the model also specifies what changes as children get older. Over development, children become more sensitive to the individual information sources, and yet the social reasoning process that integrates the information sources remains the same.

“The virtue of computational modeling is that you can articulate a range of alternative hypotheses - alternative models - with different internal wiring to test if other theories would make equally good or better predictions.

In some of these alternatives, we assumed that children ignore some of the information sources. In others, we assumed that the way in which children integrate the different information sources changes with age. None of these alternative models provided a better explanation of children’s behavior than the rational integration model”, explains Tessler.

The study offers several exciting and thought-provoking results that inform our understanding of how children learn language. Beyond that, it opens up a new, interdisciplinary way of doing research. “Our goal was to put formal models in a direct dialogue with experimental data. These two approaches have been largely separated in child development research”, says Manuel Bohn.

The next steps in this research program will be to test the robustness of this theoretical model. To do so, the team is currently working on experiments that involve a new set of information sources to be integrated.

The study is published in Nature Human Behaviour.

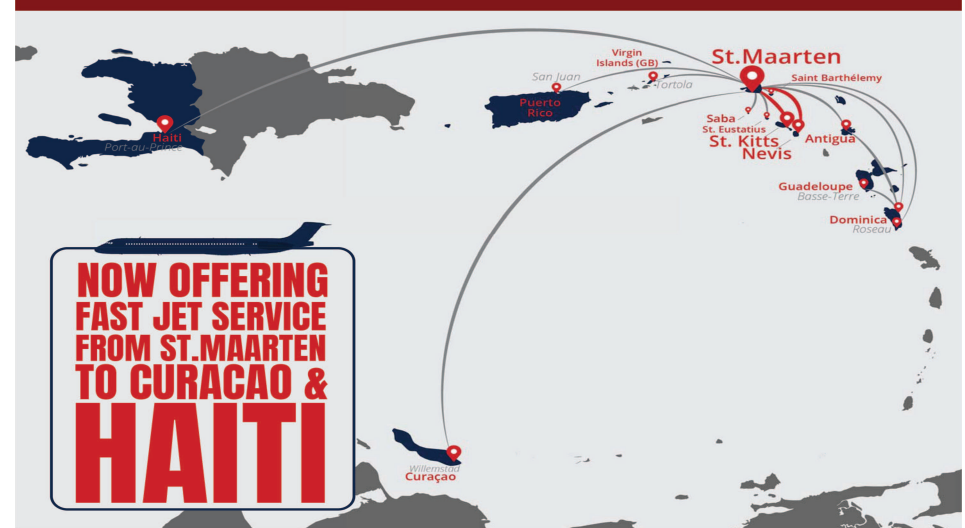
More information: How young children integrate information sources to infer the meaning of words, Nature Human Behaviour, DOI: 10.1038/s41562-021-01145-1, www.nature.com/articles/s41562-021-01145-1

Journal information: Nature Human Behaviour

Provided by: Max Planck Society

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Reuters - International Edition - Asia Pacific - China
- Thursday 1 July 2021

China's Xi Pledges 'Reunification' With Taiwan - Gets Stern Rebuke

By Yew Lun Tian and Yimou Lee



Chinese President Xi Jinping waves at the end of the event marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of The Communist Party of China, on Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 1 July 2021. He is standing next to Premier Li Keqiang and former president Hu Jintao. Photo credit: Carlos Garcia Rawlins (Reuters).

BEIJING/TAIPEI, 1 July (Reuters) - Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged on Thursday to complete "reunification" with self-ruled Taiwan and vowed to

"smash" any attempts at formal independence, drawing a stern rebuke from Taipei, which lambasted the Communist Party as a dictatorship.

China, which considers democratically-ruled Taiwan its own territory, has stepped up efforts under Xi to assert its sovereignty claims, including regular flights by fighter jets and bombers close to the island.

"Solving the Taiwan question and realising the complete reunification of the motherland are the unswerving historical tasks of the Chinese Communist Party and the common aspiration of all Chinese people," Xi said in a speech on the 100th birthday of the ruling Communist Party.

"All sons and daughters of China, including compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, must work together and move forward in solidarity, resolutely smashing any 'Taiwan independence' plots."

In response, Taiwan's China policy-making Mainland Affairs Council said while the Communist Party had achieved "certain economic development", it remained a dictatorship that trampled on people's freedoms, and should embrace democracy instead.

"Its historical decision-making errors and persistent harmful actions have caused serious threats to regional security," it added.

Taiwan's people have rejected the "one China principle", which states the island is part of China, and Beijing should abandon its military intimidation and talk with Taipei on an equal footing, the council said.

"Our government's determination to firmly defend the nation's sovereignty and Taiwan's democracy and freedom and to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait remains unchanged."

While China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, Xi called for a process of "peaceful reunification".

Still, he said that nobody should "underestimate the Chinese people's strong determination, firm will, and formidable ability to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity".

The defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to Mao Zedong's Communist Party.

Most Taiwanese have shown no interest in being ruled by China. Taiwan says only the island's people can decide their future, and has decried Chinese pressure.

China believes Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen is a separatist bent on declaring independence. She says Taiwan is already an independent country called the Republic of China, its formal name.

Reporting by Yew Lun Tian; Additional reporting by Yimou Lee in Taipei; Writing by Ben Blanchard; Editing by Shri Navaratnam and Clarence Fernandez.

STORM ELSA FORECAST...

(cont'd from page 06)

IS FORECAST TO BECOME A STRONG TROPICAL STORM IN 24 HOURS AND IMPACT PARTS OF THE CARIBBEAN.

THERE IS GROWING CONFIDENCE THAT THE CENTRE OF TROPICAL STORM ELSA WILL PASS A SAFE DISTANCE, OVER 200 MILES, AWAY FROM THE NORTHEAST CARIBBEAN AND SPARE THE AREA ANY SUSTAINED STORM-FORCE WINDS AND MOST OF THE OTHER ASSOCIATED STORM HAZARDS. THUS, THE GENERAL THREAT LEVELS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO WIND, REMAIN, AT THIS TIME, LITTLE TO NONE, FOR THE LEEWARD AND BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS. THEREFORE, NO IMMEDIATE PREPARATIONS ARE REQUIRED. NOTWITHSTANDING, HAVE YOUR HURRICANE DISASTER PLANS PREPARED AND MONITOR THIS SYSTEM CLOSELY.

AT 1800 UTC OR 2 PM ECT, TROPICAL STORM ELSA WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 10.6 NORTH, LONGITUDE 52.6 WEST OR ABOUT 694 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHEAST OF ST. KITTS AND NEVIS MOVING RAPIDLY WEST-NORTHWEST AT 28 MPH.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS ARE AROUND 45 MPH WITH HIGHER GUSTS. STRENGTHENING IS FORECAST DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS.

ON ITS FORECAST TRACK, ELSA WILL MOST LIKELY PASS THROUGH THE WINDWARD ISLANDS FRIDAY MORNING.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO ALERTS, WATCHES OR WARNINGS ARE IN EFFECT, AT THIS TIME, AND THIS IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE.

RESIDENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS DEVELOPING SYSTEM CLOSELY AND HAVE THEIR HURRICANE PLANS PREPARED, FOR THE REST OF THE HURRICANE SEASON.

AN UPDATE WILL BE GIVEN AROUND 11 AM TOMORROW OR SOONER, IF REQUIRED. STAY TUNED TO UPDATES COMING OUT OF THE MET OFFICE VIA ANTIGUAMET.COM AND FACEBOOK.COM/ABMETSERVICE

FORECASTER DALE DESTIN

COVID-19

SAFETY AND HEALTH



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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.

DAVID, GOLIATH AND SOCIAL MEDIA

By: FAIR SHARE FOR ALL

The government and its apologists are so unscrupulous that nothing they do neither shocks nor surprises me. So if, for example, one of them sings a calypso calling people antivaxxers and super spreaders when they themselves are not vaccinated, I am neither shocked nor am I surprised.

This unity construct was always about deception. Some of the inner circle who fled when they realized that they had been deceived by the leader and his family are so embarrassed and disappointed that they have gone into permanent political quarantine and political isolation. Others are trying to undo what they did but some of them, their spirits are so broken that we, who never left, almost want to feel sorry for them.

The deception knows no bounds. Look at how Lesroy Williams, in trying to defend his government, totally embarrassed himself and the government when he did not know that vaccines in use in the federation were being made in South Korea and not India. It's only when the CMO said it that poor Lesroy and most of the federation found out.

This State of Emergency and the 24 hour lockdown are other examples. We all thought that it was to curb the community spread of the virus and do contact tracing. Instead we learnt from the AG, supported by Timothy, that the lockdown was one of the strategies of this ruthless government to force people to get vaccinated. Once sufficient people have been vaccinated, they boasted, the lockdown and State of Emergency would end.

Can we imagine anything more devious and scheming than this? Contact tracing has been virtually suspended, it seems. Or could it be that they are lying about the numbers because from 28 and 25 new cases, they are finding none and three. Their attitude seems to be "who got it, done got it. We have to live with community spread. Let us focus on creating a way to use up this batch of soon to expire vaccines".

When a certain doctor can say during a NEOC briefing that not one vaccine will be wasted, we know that the government is going do the legal and the illegal to get

all the vaccines used up.

Certain big businesses can't open during the lockdown because they are not "essential". These were some of the same big businesses that threatened their employees into compliance. They can't feel pleased. All big businesses believe that the lockdowns should not affect them. They must be able to operate during the inevitable wave and the inevitable community spread. And even though the doctors have agreed that the vaccine is not a "condom" against the virus, all of them are colluding to find any means to get the herd immunized.

This obsession with the vaccine, even though they themselves have pointed out its shortcomings, is what is leading some people to think that there is more in the "vial besides the vaccine". Bragging rights alone can't explain the venom with which the vaccine is being pushed. And knowing some of the people and their involvement in numerous scandals, I will be neither shocked nor surprised.

We need to understand that we are dealing with some people whose ruthlessness has no limits. They believe that because they have economic and political power, everybody else is totally dependent on them for everything and they can do to us as they please.

We must not forget that Social media is a powerful tool. We need to use it against them. See how the police and government agreed that there was a "misunderstanding" as soon as the voice note went viral. See how JNF and the minister readmitted the baby as soon as the plea for a nebulizer threatened to go viral. Let's see how the "alleged" child molester and incester will respond to his accuser. Viral is numbers and numbers mean strength. Most of us have smart phones. All we have to do is to press "FORWARD".

If all of us Davids press FORWARD on our phone, we will take down all the Goliaths who are threatening us, bullying us and depriving us of every single right we lost under this wicked government since COVID-19 arrived in our beloved federation.



By Vigilante

* When Humpty Dumpty hear what de calypso man say bout de size a he vault, he say dat he not gon rest till he find out who put he news on de road.

* He say dat dey ought to glad he had money in he vault so dat he coulda pay de people dem dey redundant money. He say is just grudge de calypso man and all de name dem dat he call, grudge him.

* Humpty Dumpty say dat little do dey know dat all de money carn hold in de vault in he house. He have cash money in a vault in St. Martin and more in a vault in Tortola. He say dat in two more years, he gon have more money dan de car parts man.

* Dey say dat de security dem tiefing money from Humpty Dumpty straight. But like how he carn hold no candle a correction to none a dem, he carn do dem a ting except to transfer dem.

* Everybody know dat Humpty Dumpty don't want nutten to do wid no marijuana. But from de time dat he hear he could mek million a dollars from it, he bring een one a he people dem to show he family how to mek de money.

* Through he and he family dem in de two bank dem only studying de money, he had he special people dem wukking up de airport so dat de man coulda just come straight from he jet to de hotel. Das what mek nobody test him because Humpty Dumpty tell dem not to touch him. Only he one to touch de man.

* De frilly mout deputy got he own cement business. Dey say dat de bad wud ambassador one still dere. But Frilly got he own and das de one dat mekking all de money now.

* Through Humpty Dumpty give Frilly all what de bad wud ambassador had, where ain't had no sidewalk getting one. And where done had one, getting two. And das what mek dey trying to build one from country to tung.

* Dey say wuk what really cost \$40,000.00, Frilly company doing it for half a million. Dey say Frilly tell de oil man dat when he done, he vault gon be bigger dan Humpty Dumpty one.

SCOOPS

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FAIR SHARE FOR ALL

Tokyo 2020: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce to compete in sprint double

Last updated on 27 June 2021

From the section Athletics BBC SPORTS



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce will be competing in her fourth Olympic Games in Tokyo

Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce will compete in the Olympic 100m and 200m after storming the Jamaican trials.

The fastest woman alive ran a career-best time of 21.79 seconds in the 200m on Sunday - after clocking 10.71 seconds in the 100m on Friday.

Fraser-Pryce, 34, who ran 10.63 in the 100m three weeks ago, was ecstatic to come in under 22 seconds.

"I never ever doubted myself because everything has to do with time and being patient," she said.

"I'm just elated that I was finally able to break the 22 seconds."

Felix and Fraser-Pryce on motherhood, sexism and postponed Olympic Games

In the men's 200m, former Commonwealth champion Rasheed Dwyer came first ahead of Yohan Blake and Tyquendo Tracey.

Rio gold medallist Omar McLeod came last in the 110m hurdles after hitting the first hurdle, the loss meaning

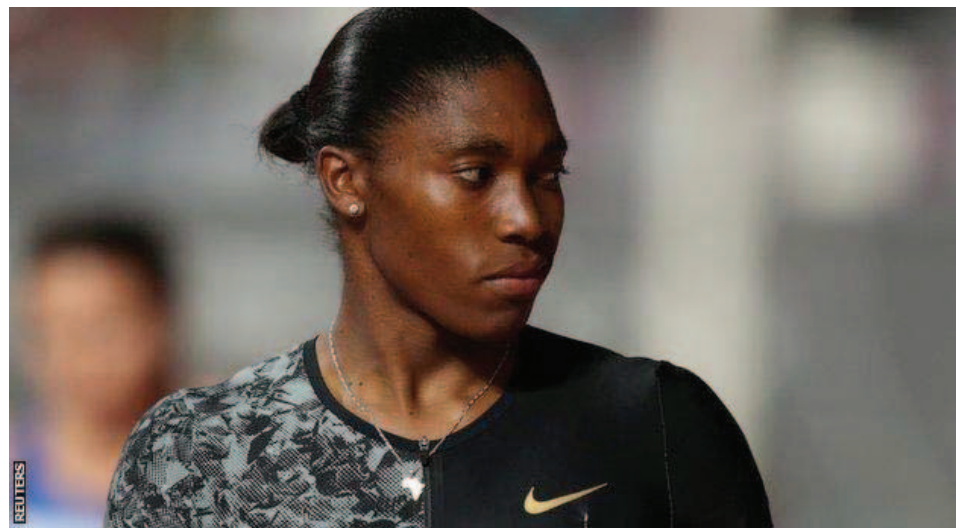
he misses out on an Olympic spot.

Ronald Levy won in 13.10 and Damion Thomas and Hansle Parchment came second and third respectively to all qualify for Tokyo.

Megan Tapper won the women's 100m hurdles in 12.68, while Stephenie-Ann McPherson booked a spot at her third straight Olympics as she clocked 49.60 in the 400m.

Candice McLeod and Roneisha McGregor recorded lifetime bests of 49.91 and 50.02 respectively in the 400m to see them through to Tokyo, while Sean Bailey, Christopher Taylor and Karayme Bartley qualified in the men's event.

Meanwhile in the field events, 2017 World Championship bronze medallist O'Dayne Richards won the shot put after throwing 20.47m.



Semenya is currently banned from competing in events between 400m and one mile

Caster Semenya to continue to fight 800m ban after failing to qualify for the Olympics

From the section Olympics BBC SPORTS

Caster Semenya failed in her latest attempt to achieve the Olympic qualifying time for the 5,000m.

The South African was fourth in running 15:50.12 in Belgium as she failed to make the 15:10.00 qualifying mark.

Semenya would not have been allowed to compete in Tokyo even if she had made the time as the deadline was 29 June.

After the race she vowed to keep fighting to be allowed to compete over 800m without having to take testosterone-reducing drugs.

"The ban doesn't make sense at all. But hey, that's none of my business. I'll leave it up to the right people to handle the situation, I'll keep fighting for my rights," the two-time Olympic 800m champion told Belgian television after Wednesday's race.

"Of course I hope the rule changes. I'm an 800m runner. There's no doubt about that.

"I keep hoping that I can run my preferred number. But right now my focus is on being healthy. To be an inspiration for young athletes. I will continue to fight for my rights."

Before the race there had been

speculation that she may have been granted an extension to try and achieve the 5,000m qualifying time but that was not the case.

"We did double check with World Athletics about the deadline and it was cast in stone," said Athletics South Africa spokesman Sifiso Cele.

"There would have been no special grace for Caster."

Semenya previously ran 15:52.28 in April, 15:32.15 in May and 15:57.12 earlier this month.

The 30-year-old won gold over 800m at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics and is a three-time world champion in the event.

However, she is not allowed to compete in events between 400m and one mile without taking testosterone-reducing drugs, following a rule introduced by World Athletics in 2019.

Semenya staunchly refuses to take testosterone-reducing drugs, arguing it could endanger her health and that the ruling denies her and other athletes with differences of sexual development (DSD) the right to rely on their natural athletic abilities.



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