

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

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

Year 68 NO. 29

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 2024

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 15/08/24

DELTA \$14.13/ SOL \$13.78



CONSUMER WATCH

STORY ON PAGE 03



TEEN QUEEN

STORY ON PAGE 05



THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Editorial

Spend Wisely This Christmas: A Resolution for the New Year

The Christmas season is here, and with it comes a festive whirlwind of bright lights, holiday cheer and of course, the irresistible allure of shopping. Stores are buzzing with promotions, and many of us have extra cash in hand thanks to workplace bonuses, increases of other incentives. But amid all the glitz and glamour, it is vital to pause and reflect on how we spend during this joyous season.

There is a well-known saying that "January is going to be rough" or that "January feels like it has six or eight weeks." These phrases have become as much a part of our December vocabulary as Christmas carols. But the truth is, this does not have to be the case. The financial strain that often accompanies the start of the New Year is not inevitable-it is the result of poor planning and overspending during the holiday season.

The joy that comes with buying gifts for loved ones is quite understandable. There is no denying the priceless feeling of seeing their smiles and sharing the holiday spirit. However, it is important to remember that those gifts come with a price tag. Therefore, without proper budgeting, the happiness of December can quickly turn into the stress of January.

Instead of succumbing to the pressure of 'happy

spendings', take a mindful approach to your finances this Christmas. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the season:

1. **Create a Budget:** Before you start shopping, determine how much you can afford to spend. Stick to that budget, even if you are tempted by last-minute deals.
2. **Prioritize Needs Over Wants:** Focus on what is truly necessary rather than getting caught up in every holiday trend or promotion.
3. **Plan Ahead for January:** Allocate some of your extra income or monetary gifts toward bills and savings to avoid a financial squeeze when the New Year begins.

Making wise spending decisions now can set the tone for a more financially stable year ahead. Let us all make it a resolution to not just budget in January but to start as early as December.

This Christmas, let us enjoy the season without letting our wallets take a bigger hit than necessary. By being mindful of our finances, we can enter 2025 with less stress and greater confidence.

Happy holidays to all, and remember: Spend wisely today for a brighter tomorrow!



EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

APPLICATION NO. SKBHCV 2021/0052

BETWEEN:

THE BANK NEVIS LIMITED
(successor to the banking business
of Royal Bank of Canada in St Kitts and Nevis)

Applicant

and

[1] CATHERINE AGATHA WILSON
[2] RUBELETTE C. D. WILSON

Respondents

NOTICE OF FILING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Applicant, THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED (successor to the banking business of Royal Bank of Canada in St Kitts and Nevis), on December 17, 2024 filed an Order dated November 28, 2024 ("The Document").

The said Order can be accessed by a formal search conducted at the Registry of the High Court of Justice, Sir Lee L. Moore Judicial and Legal Services Complex, East Independence Square, Basseterre, St Kitts with respect to the captioned High Court matter, opening hours being Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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Government to Monitor VAT Holiday to Prevent Price Gouging ...Consumers Urged To Do likewise

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Tuesday 17th December 2024)

- Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Terrance Drew has pledged that the government will closely monitor businesses during the upcoming six-month VAT relief holiday in 2025 to ensure consumers are not subjected to unfair pricing practices.

PM Drew, who announced such a relief measure during his Budget Presentation in Parliament on Monday 16th December 2024, has also called on consumers to assist in monitoring prices to ensure the benefits of the tax reduction are felt across the board.

He appealed directly to businesses, urging them to pass the savings on to consumers.

“I want to appeal to the businesses that we are not going to accept you carrying up no price unnecessarily because of this holiday. I’m asking businesses to pass this on to consumers.”

He also encouraged consumers to be proactive and vigilant, adding, “What the consumers could do, put your prices online. Let people see what is happening with the prices. We have to monitor as well because this can benefit businesses as well, benefit consumers, benefit all of us, but all of us must be fair in this.”

The Finance Minister Dr. Drew highlighted the importance of this relief initiative, stating: “I am pleased to announce a significant measure to provide immediate relief for the first six months of 2025. We will reduce the value-added tax from 17% to 13%, Madam Speaker. This VAT relief holiday will ensure more in your pocket, empowering families to better manage their expenses while maintaining their quality of life.”

He explained that the relief is aimed at helping citizens through the toughest months of the year. He reflected on traditional struggles experienced early in the year, saying, “we are bringing a VAT relief holiday because after December, you have January, you have February, you have March, and my grandmother used to tell me January was the hardest month. If we are looking out for our people, Madam Speaker, we have to put something in place to help them over a longer period of time as inflation continues to come down and as jobs are being created. During that time, we want to give our people relief.”

To ensure that consumers fully benefit from the tax reduction, the government will closely monitor businesses to prevent price gouging.

Dr. Drew highlighted the role of the Consumer Protection Act in this process: “To safeguard these savings, our recently passed Consumer Protection Act and other relevant laws will allow for strict monitoring of businesses to prevent price gouging or unfair practices. This government remains purposeful and unyielding in our commitment to fairness, affordability, and protecting the interests of all citizens.”

He expressed the government’s reasoning for implementing a broad-based policy:

“Madam Speaker, there are policies which exclude other people. We don’t have unlimited resources, but all of our people



Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Dr. Terrance Drew seen speaking during his Budget Presentation in Parliament on Monday 16th December 2024 (SKNIS image)

are feeling the crunch. And what can we do to at least alleviate the pressures across the board, Madam Speaker? Reducing the VAT from 17% to 13% would result in benefits to all of our people because all of our people consume.”

Dr. Drew appealed directly to businesses, urging them to pass the savings on to consumers. “Madam Speaker, I want to appeal to the businesses that we are not going to accept you carrying up no price unnecessarily because of this holiday. I’m asking businesses to pass this on to consumers.”

He also encouraged consumers to be proactive and vigilant, adding, “What the consumers could do, put your prices online. Let people see what is happening with the prices. We have to monitor as

well because this can benefit businesses as well, benefit consumers, benefit all of us, but all of us must be fair in this.”

While calling for fairness, PM Drew acknowledged the integrity of the business community.

“And I must admit, the vast majority of businesses are honest people, so I don’t want it to be said that they’re not. I’m just encouraging all of us to be fair and make sure that the benefits are passed on to the people. It would be very sad that these benefits are not passed on to the people, and so we’re going to be vigilant.”

In a candid moment, the Finance Minister shared his personal plans to ensure monitoring, noting that he likes to eat rice with sardine.

“I myself will start to go shop... because I need to see the prices on general things drop. This can cause a drop in the cost of doing business which you can pass on to other things, Madam Speaker. And I’m saying, let us work together to make sure that our people can benefit as well.”

He concluded by reaffirming the government’s commitment to continuous monitoring and support for citizens. “We know that inflation is at the point where the prices are being stabilized. And this we will monitor, and we will continue to evaluate and see what can be done for our people, Madam Speaker.”

Front Banner Image-Used for illustration purposes only, shows a man looking at store receipt stock (Creator: Serhii Hryshchyshen | Credit: Getty Images)

*A Blessed Christmas to all
From Management and Staff of
The Labour Spokesman Newspaper*



Nevis Students Shine in 2024 CXC and CAPE Exams: Minister of Education Applauds Excellence

NIA CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (December 13, 2024) - Senator the Honourable Troy Liburd, Minister of Education in the Nevis Island Administration (NIA), has lauded the exceptional academic achievements of Nevisian students who sat the May-June 2024 Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) and CAPE examinations.

During his contribution to the NIA's 2024 Budget Debate on December 4, Minister Liburd highlighted the outstanding performances of students across Nevis secondary schools and Sixth Form College.

He congratulated several high achievers, noting their remarkable results:

Charlestown Secondary School (CSS):

* **Rucha Shamar:** Passed 9 subjects with 9 Grade 1s, earning the title of valedictorian.

* **Tyedre Woodley:** Passed 10 subjects with 7 Grade 1s, named salutatorian.

Gingerland Secondary School (GSS):

* **Rajuan Fyfield:** Passed 10 subjects with 7 Grade 1s, earning the title of valedictorian.

* **Shamar Ottley:** Passed 9 subjects with 6 Grade 1s, named salutatorian.

Nevis Sixth Form College:

* **Ayush Patel:** Completed 10 CAPE Units with 9 Grade 1s and a GPA of 3.85.

* **Hrishikesh Srinivassan:** Completed 10 CAPE Units with 9 Grade 1s and a GPA of 3.85.

Minister Liburd remarked, "These are exceptional, exceptional performances by any measure. I want to commend all our students for their hard work and dedication."

Both Charlestown Secondary School and Gingerland Secondary School achieved noteworthy success across the scope of subject areas for CXC.

At GSS, a 100 percent pass rate was recorded in 11 subject areas, including Agricultural Science, Biology, Industrial

Technical Building, Technical Drawing, and Information Technology. At CSS, a 100 percent pass rate was recorded in 13 subject areas, including Caribbean History, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Information Technology, and Visual Arts.

Minister Liburd further emphasized the collective achievements, informing that at GSS, 24 students attained six or more subject passes, at CSS, 47 students earned six or more subject passes, and at the Sixth Form College, 46 out of 50 students attained six or more CAPE units.

The Honourable Senator attributed these successes to the dedicated efforts of teachers, the adoption of innovative teaching methodologies, and the hard work of students.

He extended heartfelt thanks to the teachers across Nevis for their tireless commitment to student success. "Our teachers have embraced new methods to facilitate learning, and their efforts have borne fruit," he noted.

The Hon. Liburd also highlighted the Ministry's transformative education policies, including the shift away from traditional streaming practices, which previously limited students' opportunities to sit CXC examinations.

"Nowadays, what we are doing is giving those students opportunities to write subjects, and we are seeing the rewards because more students are returning passes," Minister Liburd stated.

The Ministry of Education in the Nevis Island Administration remains committed to fostering a culture of excellence in education and providing opportunities for all students to thrive.



Senator the Honourable Troy Liburd, Minister of Education in the Nevis Island Administration



CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited Notice of Material Change

Notice issued pursuant to
Section 60 (3)(a) of the Securities Act of Barbados
Section 64 (1)(b) of the Securities Act of Trinidad and Tobago
Section 98 (3) of the Eastern Caribbean Securities Market Securities Act 2001



December 18, 2024 Barbados - CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited ("CIBC Caribbean") is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Monique French, CFA, as Chief Risk Officer, effective May 1, 2025, subject to regulatory approval. Monique will report to CIBC Caribbean's CEO, Mr. Mark St. Hill and will join CIBC Caribbean's executive committee.

Monique has over 20 years' experience in the finance and banking sector. She is currently CIBC Caribbean's Chief Credit Officer with enterprise-wide responsibility for implementing credit policies, models and risk appetite for investment and credit portfolios along with ensuring effective credit structuring, monitoring and regulatory compliance. She is a member of the bank's credit committee.

Monique graduated from the University of the West Indies with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. She also holds a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Finance from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Monique is a Chartered Financial Analyst and the vice president of the CFA Society of Jamaica.

Our current Chief Risk Officer, Mr. Patrick McKenna will retire effective April 30, 2025. Patrick and Monique will work together on transition activities until Patrick's retirement. The board wishes to thank Patrick for his invaluable contribution and service to the bank as CRO.

Brian Clarke, KC
General Counsel & Group Corporate Secretary

About CIBC Caribbean:

CIBC Caribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate Investment Banking, Personal and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments through its leading digital banking network and locations across the region. CIBC Caribbean is one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the Caribbean, with US \$13 billion assets and market capitalization of US \$1.7 billion.

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CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited ANNOUNCES

Availability of its 2024 Annual Report

CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited (the "Company") announces that its 2024 Annual Report is available for viewing or download on the Company's website cibcfib.com.

REQUESTS FOR PRINTED COPIES

Shareholders who wish to receive a printed copy of the annual report or additional information, should contact the Company at agm@cibcfib.com

Brian Clarke, KC
General Counsel
& Group Corporate Secretary



To view the 2024 annual report,
scan this code

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Miss VHS In Shines Bright at Talented Teen Pageant

By: Spokesman
Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Wednesday, 18th December 2024)-16-year-old Soriah Williams-Powell, representing Verchilids High School (VHS), captured the crown at the Republic Bank Miss Teen St. Kitts & Nevis Pageant held on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at Carnival Village.

Her stellar performance earned her an overall total of 692 points, outshining her five competitors.

Williams-Powell won two of the four judged categories and also captured three of four awards namely Miss Amity, Miss Photogenic and Miss Social Media.

The 1st Runner-Up position went to 16-year-old Lajunique Boone of the Immaculate Conception Catholic School (ICCS), who amassed 684 points, while the 2nd Runner-Up was 16-year-old Dea™Sheyniah Charles of Cayon High School (CHS), with 666 points.

The other three contestants were: 16-year-old Miss Washington Archibald High School (WAHS) Jonesh Rogers, 13-year-old Eushadika Frances- Miss Basseterre High School (BHS) and 14-year-old Miss Kyla Gerald Miss Saddlers Secondary School (SSS).

The pageant, held under the theme “Embracing Beauty Inside and Out,” celebrated the contestants’ creativity, intelligence, and poise. All participants were awarded participation trophies as a token of appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

Crowning Moments

Miss VHS, Soriah Williams-Powell, consistently dazzled the audience with her outstanding performances. Her Best Costume entry, inspired by the Power of the Sun and Soft Glow of the Moon, depicted a celestial ‘Goddess of Light’ appearance in a shimmering gold and silver ensemble that transitioned from day to night. She earned 116 points in this segment.

In the Formal Teenage

Evening Wear category, she secured 158 points with a floor-length ballroom gown in two shades of purple, featuring a darker shade atop the sparkly bodice, accentuating her elegance and grace.

Williams-Powell also clinched the Miss Amity Award, voted by her fellow contestants as the friendliest participant, and the Miss Photogenic title, chosen by an official photographer approved by the National Carnival Committee.

She further won the Social Media Award for receiving the most likes on her designated photo across various platforms.

Additionally, in the Personality and Achievement segment, via tie-breaker policy, she earned 107 points granting Williams-Powell the win in this category. Her portrayal of a determined individual striving to reshape and redefine beauty resonated with the audience. Wearing a construction site hat, she proclaimed: “I am determined

to reshape and redefine all constructs of beauty...Be you, be beautiful, be dazzled!” she said as part of her speech.

Other Highlights

Miss CHS De’Sheyniah Charles excelled in the Onstage Interview and Performing Talent segments. She scored 130 points in the interview segment, impressively responding to a question posed by interviewer and media personality Chaira Flanders about the leadership qualities essential for opening her own architectural firm.

“The leadership qualities that I think are necessary to obtain this goal would be the ability to inspire others to not only think responsibly but creatively while encouraging innovations and collaborations from my team. I thank you,” she said with eloquence.

Her Performing Talent piece, which earned her 204 points, addressed a critical societal issue: the harassment of young girls by men who should protect and respect them. Through a dramatic

(cont’d on page 10)



THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON OUR BOARD?

APPLY TODAY!

In preparation for the Company’s 36th Annual General Meeting (date to be announced), applications are being accepted from qualified shareholders for election to the Bank’s Board of Directors. Applicants must own a minimum of 500 ordinary shares in the Company.

Service on the Board of Directors requires commitment and dedication to the organisation. Applicants should have a strategically focused business background and possess strong leadership skills.

Professional experience in areas including Banking, Finance, Executive Management, Marketing, Risk and Compliance, Information Technology, Strategic Oversight and Governance, together with previous exposure to corporate governance training would be an asset.

Please submit written application by **Friday 27th December 2024** to:

Mrs. Cindy Herbert
General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Office of the Corporate Secretary
Bank of Nevis Building
Main Street, Charlestown, Nevis

**Applications must be supported by a nomination signed by a shareholder. This can include the applicant provided he/she is a shareholder. Nominations can take the form of a letter.*

For more information, see the Director’s Qualification Checklist or contact Mrs. Cindy Herbert, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, at Tel: 869.469.5564 Ext 330 or 869.467.0630; Email: cherbert@thebankofnevis.com

DIRECTORS’ QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST

Persons interested in serving on the Board of Directors of The Bank of Nevis Limited (the Bank) should be guided by the following requirements:

- ✓ The owner of at least 500 shares in the Bank
- ✓ A person of good character and reputation
- ✓ Committed and dedicated with strong leadership attributes
- ✓ Satisfies all the Fit and Proper requirements, as detailed in relevant sections of the Banking Act, 2015 as amended, to include but not limited to:
 - Competent, Diligent and exercises sound judgment
 - Academic or professional qualifications or effective experience in banking, finance, business or administration or any other relevant discipline
 - Up-to-date with all their financial obligations and not the subject of any demand for repayment of an outstanding debt
 - Has never committed an offence involving fraud or other dishonesty or violence
 - Has never declared bankruptcy locally or abroad
- ✓ Flexible with their time and in a position to commit to an estimated total of twenty-five (25) hours per month to attend Board and Sub-Committee Meetings, inclusive of reading and preparation time.
- ✓ Previous corporate governance training would be an asset.

Deadline:
Friday 27th December 2024

Local Retailers Buying More Local Produce, Thanks To The Efforts of The Ministry Of Agriculture

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, December 18, 2024 (SKNIS) - Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Honourable Samal Duggins, said the numerous interventions and assistance provided by the ministry to the farming community, from land preparation to the final stage of consumption, has resulted in a significant increase in agricultural production to the point where retailers in St. Kitts and Nevis are now purchasing greater quantities of local produce“putting more money in the hands of local farmers.

“We have gone to every single supermarket in this country and they are now buying more local produce,” said Minister Duggins. “RAMS is buying more local produce, Valu Mart is buying more local produce, Best Buy is buying more local produce, even some of the Chinese supermarkets we have here are buying more local produce.”

While the farmers are now producing more, the Ministry of Agriculture took several strategic steps to prevent or limit post-production losses through training and improving storage capacity. In this regard, the ministry procured and installed two new walk-in chillers at the Tabernacle Outreach Center.

Recognising that St. Kitts and Nevis is now producing an abundance of food, Minister Duggins said he has held fruitful discussions with relevant authorities in neighbouring islands to facilitate the export of excess locally grown produce.

“The minister of agriculture for Saint Martin was here on a mission and said that they are ready to trade with St. Kitts and Nevis. The commissioner from Sint



Honourable Samal Duggins - SKNIS photo

Eustatius [Statia] was here on a mission and said it herself that they are ready to trade with St. Kitts and Nevis. The Premier of the BVI was here, who happens to be the minister of agriculture in the BVI, also said it himself that he’s ready to trade with St. Kitts and Nevis,” the honourable minister stated. “The commissioner of agriculture in the USVI has said that he’s ready to trade with St. Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla is ready to trade with St. Kitts and Nevis and other countries around the region are ready to trade with St. Kitts and Nevis.”

A total of \$19.4 million is proposed for the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Fisheries to facilitate Recurrent Expenditure, representing a 4.8 percent increase when compared to 2024. In addition, Capital Expenditure totalling \$14.9 million is proposed for 2025, representing a 58.7 percent increase when compared to the resources allocated in 2024.

Minister Duggins said these Budgetary allocations will allow the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources to continue its support of the farming community, enabling them to produce even more and thereby moving St. Kitts and Nevis closer to food security which is a strategic pillar of the government’s Sustainable Island State Agenda.

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ISLAND OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP 10.19
A.D. 2024

Application No.

In the Matter of Section 144 of the Title By Registration Act Cap 10.19,

And in the matter of an application by Hendrickson’s Legal Chambers, Attorneys-at-Law on behalf of LIONEL BERRIDGE AND VENETTA BERRIDGE for the replacement of a lost Certificate of Title to land contained in Book E3 Folio 346 of the Register of Titles for the Island of St. Christopher

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

It is hereby notified that an Application has been made to the Registrar in Chambers for an Order for the issue of a new Certificate of Title in lieu of a lost Certificate of Title to land being **ALL THAT** lot of land hereditaments and premises – described as Lot No. 166 (H L 1 South) and situate in the Parish of St. Peter in the Island of Saint Christopher containing by admeasurement 13,993.74 square feet and bounded and measuring as follows:- On the North-East by Frigate Bay Estate 45.42 feet; On the East by Lot No. 169 134.95 feet; On the South-East by a development road 26.97 feet and 20.44 feet, On the South-West by Lot No. 165 120.00 feet and on the North-West by an estate road 130 feet all as the same is delineated and set forth on the plan thereof by C. R. Esdaille dated the 5th day of February 2001.

Any person who may be in possession of the said Certificate of Title or any information which may lead to its recovery is kindly requested to contact Hendrickson’s Legal Chambers, New Road, St. Peter, St. Kitts.

Dated the 28th day of November 2024.

HENDRICKSON’S LEGAL CHAMBERS
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP 10.19

A.D. 2024

Claim No. SKBLRD2025/

In the Matter of Section 144 of the Title by Registration Act Cap 10.19 of the Laws of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis

and

In the Matter of a Certificate of Title issued on the 7th day of **May, 2015** in the name of **MENG-WEI HE** recorded in Condominium Register Book **38** Folio **30** of the Register of Titles for the St. Christopher Circuit.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **MENG-WEI HE** of Room 3921 No. 34 No. 1 Street Economic and Technical Development Zone Tianjin, P. R. China, has applied to the Registrar of Titles for the issue of a replacement Certificate of Title in lieu of the one recorded in **Condominium Register Book 38 Folio 30** of the Register of Titles of St. Christopher, the property contained in the said title being **ALL THAT** Condominium Interest No. 7201 of Heritage Plantation Condominium Ltd: St. Kitts and Nevis described in the Certificate of Title registered in Book M3 Folio 135A of the Register of Titles for the Island of Saint Christopher and contained in the Declaration and Description of Heritage Plantation Condominium Ltd: St. Kitts and Nevis registered as No. 38 in the Condominium Corporation Index on the 30th day of May, 2014 and as amended thereafter, subject to the said Declaration and Description and to the provisions of the Condominium Act Cap. 10.03 on the basis that the said Certificate of Title has been irrecoverably lost.

Any person who may be in possession of the said Certificate of Title or any information which may lead to its recovery is kindly requested to contact Johnson & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law, Unit 9 The Sands, Bay Road & George Street, Basseterre St. Kitts.

Dated the 6th day of December, 2024.

SHABAZZ M. JOHNSON
JOHNSON AND ASSOCIATES
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicants

Mental Health And Wellness Of The Nation’s Youth To Remain A Priority In 2025

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, December 17, 2024 (SKNIS) - Throughout the upcoming year 2025, the Department of Youth Empowerment will look to expand its mental health awareness campaign among the nation’s youth, building on the momentum of Youth Month 2024, that was observed under the theme “Mental Health Matters for Youth Development and Sustainability.”

During her contribution to the 2025 Budget Debate on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, Minister of State for Youth Empowerment, Senator the Honourable Isalean



Hon. Isalean Phillip

Phillip, reflected on the month-long celebration and its broad-based focus on prioritising one’s mental health. She noted that the issue of mental health is one that young people themselves are now very interested in.

“It’s an area that they bring up in conversations, and I think that we should be concerned because they are concerned about it,” Minister of State Phillip said.

The minister of state raised the alarm at the number of young people in St. Kitts and Nevis who are traumatised, angry and depressed about their life circumstances. Others are anxious about their future, their independence and their own ability to generate money.

In addition, Senator Phillip said today’s youth are growing up in an increasingly unstable and confusing world filled with international conflicts, instability, rising prices, and violence and crime.

“Our young people are not isolated, they know what’s happening and they are also experiencing their own bouts of depression, their own bouts of anxiety, their own fears, they are also angry ... but despite all the challenges they face we do have some very positive young people who are being role models, who are taking on leadership roles and who are doing great things,” said Minister of State Phillip, while underscoring her ministry’s commitment to fostering these positive attributes.

The minister of state presented some staggering statistics from the Department of Probation and Child Protection Services up to the third quarter of 2024, that showed a total of one hundred and seventy-seven (177) cases of issues surrounding child protection. These issues include neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual assault, inappropriate touching, sexual harassment, unlawful carnal knowledge, and suicide ideation, among others.

In light of this troubling trend, Minister Phillip called for an all-of-society approach to addressing these issues and protecting the nation’s youth.

“We have traumatised children become angry adolescents, angry adolescents becoming delinquent juveniles and delinquent juveniles becoming adult criminals and I see it because I work in the ministries where the pipeline is very clear, and so there really is a need for us as a government and as a people to come together in partnership to address the issue of violence and crime and the social problems that we are seeing bubbling up ... because it really does take a village [to raise a child],” the minister said.

Honourable Senator Phillip assured that her ministry will continue to do its part to actively and positively engage the nation’s youth in meaningful activities throughout the upcoming year.

Case Number :SKBHPB2024/0158

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

Submitted Date:17/12/2024 12:09

Filed Date:17/12/2024 12:09

Fees Paid:12.00

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

A. D. 2024

(PROBATE)

SKBHPB2024/

In the Estate of **DEONJA ZACK FINLEY** late of Lower Monkey Hill, St. Peters, Saint Christopher, deceased, intestate.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Jacqueline Finley of Arawak Street, Bird Rock, Saint Christopher and Dave Matthew of Lower Monkey Hill, St. Peters, Saint Christopher for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicants who are the Intended Administrators of the Estate of Deonja Zack Finley and two of the beneficiaries of the Estate of the above-named deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 23rd day of September, 2023.

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

Dated this 19th day of November, 2024.

Britany Osborne

Law Offices of Sylvester Anthony

Solicitors for the Estate of **Deonja Zack Finley**

Filed by The Law Offices of Sylvester Anthony, Chambers, Unit C16 The Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, Saint Kitts. Telephone (869) 466-5834; Facsimile (869) 466-6851. E-mail lawoffices@sylvesteranthony.com.

The Court Office is at the Sir Lee L. Moore Judicial and Legal Services Complex, East Independence Square Street, Basseterre, Saint Kitts. Tel: (869) 467 -1335, The office is open between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

Case Number :SKBHPB2024/0127

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

Submitted Date:18/12/2024 12:30

Filed Date:18/12/2024 12:31

Fees Paid:52.00

A. D. 2024

(PROBATE)

SKBHPB2024/

In the matter of the Application of **HEZEKIAH NATTA** for the issue of a Grant of Probate in the Estate of **VIOLET CHAPMAN** formerly of No. 2 Cunningham Heights Housing Development, in the Island of Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) but resided at #31 Tan Tan Terrace, Christianstead, St. Croix U.S.V.I deceased

And

In the Matter of Rule 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **HEZEKIAH NATTA** of 4404 McCaan Quay, Chesapeake, VA 23321 for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 7th day of December, 2022 without revoking a Will bearing the date 20th March, 2022 wherein the applicant is named sole Executor.

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

Dated this 27th day of November, 2024.

Filed by C. Marissa Hobson-Newman of **HOBSON-NEWMAN & AMRITT**, Attorneys-at Law whose address for service is: Unit A5-1, Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts

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Taiwan launches energy storage testing center

Publication Date: December 17, 2024 | [twitter share icon](#)A- A+



The Ministry of Economic Affairs’ Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) launched the National Center for Energy Storage System Technology Dec. 16 at Tongluo Science Park in the northern county of Miaoli, highlighting the government’s commitment to renewable energy development. Hsieh Han-chang (center), deputy director-general of the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection, presides over the launch of the National Center for Energy Storage System Technology Dec. 16 at Tongluo Science Park in Miaoli County. (Courtesy of BSMI)

The Ministry of Economic Affairs’ Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) launched the National Center for Energy Storage System Technology Dec. 16 at Tongluo Science Park in the northern county of Miaoli, highlighting the government’s commitment to renewable energy development.

According to the bureau, the new center is the largest and most comprehensive energy security test site in the country. With its establishment, domestic energy storage products like batteries for electric buses can undergo rigorous evaluation locally, significantly reducing cost and time for manufacturers.

The facility is also expected to increase the competitive edge of Taiwan’s energy products in the international market and thus cement the country’s key position in the global green

energy supply chain, the BSMI said.

The government’s policy goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 is driving energy transition and renewable energy advancement in Taiwan, the bureau said, adding that the center will play a critical role given that storage systems are vital to a successful transition.

To ensure safety and quality control, the bureau has begun formulating national standards and technical regulations while forging management mechanisms to stabilize domestic renewable energy.

Following the opening ceremony, a forum discussing storage system design and security and international safety standards was held, with representatives of international testing agencies taking part, the BSMI said. (POC-E)

December 18, 2024

USAID and the National Alliance for Black Business (NABB) to Explore Economic Partnerships and Workforce Development in Barbados

From December 18-20, 2024, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Alliance for Black Business (NABB) will lead a trade scoping mission to Barbados as part of preparations for its U.S. - Caribbean Trade Mission 2025. This groundbreaking initiative aims to strengthen trade relations by connecting Black American businesses with Caribbean enterprises, fostering innovation, expanding markets, and driving sustainable economic growth across key sectors.

This announcement follows the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USAID and NABB on August 23, 2024, during the National Business League’s 124th National Black Business Conference co-hosted by NABB. The MOU marked a significant milestone in advancing equitable trade and shared prosperity across the Caribbean and beyond.

The high-level delegation, including USAID officials and representatives of leading Black American businesses, philanthropic organizations, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, will engage with Barbados’ government officials, business leaders from Barbados and the region, trade agencies, and educational institutions to explore opportunities for collaboration in renewable energy, agriculture, technology, and finance.

“Together with USAID, we are building bridges for sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity across the U.S. and the Caribbean. This mission will create opportunities that empower entrepreneurs and transform economic relationships across the diaspora,” said Dr. Ken L. Harris, Co-founder of NABB and President/CEO of the National Business League.

The Barbados leg of this scoping mission will validate priority sectors, foster strategic partnerships, and establish connections that align U.S. and Caribbean interests. These efforts will lay the groundwork for the Spring 2025 Trade Mission, advancing inclusive economic development and building partnerships between the United States and the Caribbean .

“Barbados is central to the Eastern Caribbean’s trade ecosystem,” said USAID Eastern and Southern Caribbean Regional Representative Mervyn Farroe. “By combining business partnerships with investments in education and workforce development, we are creating a foundation for shared prosperity and resilience across the region.”

Case Number :SKBHPB2024/0153

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

A.D. 2024

Submitted Date:11/12/2024 13:38

Filed Date:11/12/2024 13:38

Fees Paid:52.00

SKBHPB2024/

In the matter of the Application of **TREVORN HENDRICKSON** for the issue of a Grant of Letters of Administration in the Estate of **MUTRICE HERBERT** late of 124 Cabbage Tree Housing Development, Cayon, St. Kitts, deceased

And

In the Matter of Rule 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **TREVORN HERBERT** formerly of 124 Cabbage Tree Housing Development, Cayon, St. Kitts, but currently residing at Ashburn Virginia, 204146, United States of America, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 18th day of July, 2022.

Any person having objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2024.

Filed by C. Marissa Hobson-Newman of **HOBSON-NEWMAN & AMRITT**, Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is: Unit A5-1, Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Presents Credentials to the OECS Director General

OECS Press Release

December 17, 2024



His Excellency Cornelis Hersbach, Ambassador Designate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, formally presented his credentials to Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), during a formal accreditation ceremony at the OECS Commission Headquarters in Saint Lucia.

The occasion marked the official establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the OECS. Ambassador Hersbach was joined by Mr. Rory McNamara, the Kingdom's Honorary Consul.

In his address, Ambassador Hersbach emphasised the shared priorities between the Netherlands and the OECS, particularly in tackling global challenges such as climate change and ocean governance. Drawing on the historical and cultural ties between the two regions, he pointed to the sea's enduring role in their past and its urgent importance in today's environmental landscape.

"The relationship between the Eastern Caribbean nations and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is founded on shared interests and a common vision for the future. The Netherlands views the OECS Member States as essential partners in confronting climate change," stated Ambassador Hersbach.

He continued, "Unpredictable weather events and rising sea levels, due to the impact of climate change require a commitment to action from all nations, big or small landlocked coastal or island nations. The devastating impact of more severe weather events on our countries is a Testament to this. This is precisely why the Kingdom of the Netherlands sees the Member States of the OECS as partners to tackle the impact of climate change together. we see the need for more strategic engagement between the small island developing states or better, large ocean states. of which we have three in the kingdom of the Netherlands, right here in the Caribbean, and partners like the Netherlands. We are, you could say, the Caribbean neighbor of the OECS."

He also reiterated his country's support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), referencing their recent USD \$100,000 contribution to the UNDESA Trust Fund to facilitate SIDS' participation in the upcoming 4th International Conference.

Miss VHS In Shines Bright at Talented Teen Pageant

(cont'd from last page)

performance titled "Dutty Man, Leave De People Pickney Dem Alone!" She delivered a powerful call to action, advocating for respect and dignity for young girls. The piece combined spoken word, acting, and impactful dialogue, leaving the audience in awe.

Miss ICCS, Lajunique Boone, received the Chairperson's Award for her exemplary conduct, punctuality, and professionalism throughout the carnival-related events leading up to the pageant.

The pageant also featured entertainment including Dejour, Ideli Napi and the J'nesis Band, adding to the excitement of pageant night.

The show was hosted by Siobhan Phips and Jay Black

Congratulations to Miss VHS, Soriah Williams-Powell!

Front Page Image: Queen of the Republic Bank Miss Teen St. Kitts & Nevis 16-year-old Soriah Williams-Powell of the Verchilds High School (VHS), pose for a photo featuring (left) 1st Runner-Up position went to 16-year-old Lajunique Boone of the Immaculate Conception Catholic School (ICCS) and 2nd Runner-Up was 16-year-old De'Sheyniah Charles of Cayon High School (CHS) as well as Carnival Chairperson Shannon Hawley (second from left) and Minister of Culture and Creative Economy Samal Duggins following the pageant held on Tuesday 17th December 2024 at Carnival Village. (Official Carnival photo)



In response, Dr. Didacus Jules welcomed Ambassador Hersbach, and expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's dedication to the OECS Member States.

"This formal presentation of credentials signifies the Netherlands' intent to deepen cooperation with our region. The OECS is eager to strengthen partnerships in areas critical to our citizens' well-being, such as climate resilience, sustainable development, trade, and security," Dr. Jules remarked.

Dr. Jules also underscored the OECS commitment to this partnership stating,

"The OECS is committed to advancing collective progress for the people of our region. We believe that through strengthened partnerships we can work together to address global challenges, while also promoting mutual prosperity. And of course, with that comes the recognition of the Netherlands as a Caribbean neighbor."

He also acknowledged the Netherlands' meaningful contributions toward advancing the global climate agenda.

The event concluded with introductions to senior OECS Commission members, further highlighting a mutual commitment to closer ties and collaborative development efforts. The OECS Commission anticipates a fruitful partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands as they address shared challenges and strive to foster regional growth and prosperity.

Malawi seeks billions of dollars from US firm over ruby sales

Charles Gitonga & Andre Lombard
BBC Focus on Africa



Getty Images A man shows a roughly polished ruby stone (archive photo)Getty Images The rubies were reportedly exported over a period of 10 years

Malawi's government is demanding the astonishing sum of \$309bn (£245bn) in unpaid taxes and royalties from a US-based gemstone company for rubies exported from the southern African state over the last 10 years, its attorney-general has told the BBC.

Columbia Gem House, a family-owned business which says that it upholds fair trade practices, dismissed the claim as "baseless and defamatory".

The government is also demanding \$4bn from French gas giant TotalEnergies in unpaid revenue from an oil storage deal, and \$9.5m from Turkish tobacco firm Star Agritech, said Attorney General Thabo Chakaka Nyirenda.

TotalEnergies declined to comment while Star Agritech denied owing any money.

The amount being claimed from the three multinationals is nearly 300 times Malawi's national debt of around \$1.2bn, and 22 times its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$14bn.

Malawi was forced to take a \$174m bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last year after running into financial trouble.

Speaking to the BBC Focus on Africa podcast, Nyirenda said that Columbia Gem House had been under-reporting the value of rubies it had exported from Malawi.

He added that "some of the evidence that we'll be using comes from Columbia Gem House itself, such as declarations they have made in the US, and what they have reported on their website, which they have now deleted".

"The amount is not just [for] one year, it goes over 10 years back. It also includes the interest," Nyirenda said.

Columbia Gem House said that the government's sums do not add up.

The \$309bn claim "implies Malawi has somehow produced and exported trillions of dollars' worth of coloured gemstones", the firm said in a statement.

"They haven't done this by any stretch of the imagination," it added.

Columbia Gem House said it does not operate in Malawi, but buys its gemstones from Nyala Mines, a Malawian-owned company in which the government has a 10% stake.

However, Nyirenda told the BBC that as a minority shareholder, the government was not involved in the day-to-day management of the company, and "the name of Nyala Mines had been changed to disguise its ownership".

An attempt by the US embassy in Malawi to settle the dispute fell through when the attorney general failed to attend an online meeting, which he put down to "technical challenges".

Mining contributes only 1% to Malawi's GDP, although the government has announced plans to scale this up in the next few years.

Malawian economist Wisdom Mgomezulu said the government may be making the claims now because of its financial difficulties.

"They're looking at all potential sources of income, but if you look at the claim versus the size of the economy, it's just way too much," he told the BBC.

The dispute with TotalEnergies is rooted in a deal Malawi entered with it in 2001, according to Nyirenda.

The French multinational was to provide fuel to Malawi and was to get tax incentives in return, he said.

The profits from the arrangement were to have been shared equally but TotalEnergies "only paid for two years and stopped paying in 2006", Nyirenda alleged.

The government has since taken the company to court in Malawi, and Nyirenda said the government wants it to pay \$4bn to settle the matter.



AFP A tobacco farmer loads freshly harvested green tobacco leaves into an ox-driven cart at Nambuma in Dowa District, central Malawi, 8 April 2022AFP Malawi is a major producer of tobacco

As for the dispute with Star Agritech International, the government accuses it of buying three million tonnes of tobacco worth \$15m from Malawi through three subsidiaries - registered in Mauritius, Hong Kong, and South Africa - in 2013, but failing to pay for it.

Malawi Leaf Company, the state-owned enterprise that sold the tobacco, took legal action in Hong Kong and won the case, Nyirenda said.

"Over \$9.5m was proven in a Hong Kong court," he said, adding that Malawi wanted Star Agritech International to pay the amount.

He further alleged that the Hong Kong subsidiary of Star Agritech International was established "for the sole purpose of obtaining the tobacco from Malawi".

In response, Star Agritech International told the BBC that it purchased tobacco worth \$5m - not \$15m as Malawi claims.

"This is completely wrong and is representative of the type of problems businesses face in dealing in Africa," said the company's boss, Iqbal Lambat.

Mr Lambat further claimed that the tobacco shipped was substandard.

"This transaction experienced difficulties as the tobaccos were not one uniform grade but a combination of leftover scrappy tobaccos," he said.

Malawi is not the only African country that is going after money they say multinational companies owe them.

Last week Mali's military junta issued an international arrest warrant for Canadian mining firm Barrick Gold's chief executive officer, alleging the company owes the West African state \$500m.

Barrick has responded by threatening to suspend operations in Mali, adding that "local operating conditions have deteriorated significantly with employees imprisoned without cause and gold shipments blocked".

And in November the junta released the head and two employees of an Australian mining company, Resolute Mining, after a \$160m tax dispute was settled.

The firm paid half the money upfront, with a promise to pay the other half in the coming months.

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Dozens of children killed in crush at Nigerian Christmas funfair

Chris Ewokor in Abuja & Mansur Abubakar in Kano
BBC News



Reuters A sreengrab showing three people sitting down sadly outside a hospital. One woman has her head in her hands, another is looking down - Reuters

Parents of missing children have been urged to look in local hospitals

Thirty-five children have been killed in a crush at a Christmas funfair in the south-west Nigerian city of Ibadan, with six others hospitalised, the police say.

The organisers had promised to give cash handouts and also food but so many people turned up that there was a crush as they

struggled to gain entry.

Residents said that over 5,000 children had gathered at the venue and the crush occurred when the main organisers arrived to start the event.

The sequence of events leading to the crush has not been disclosed.

The police say they have arrested eight people who were behind the event, including the main organiser, Naomi Silekunola, a well-known figure in the city.

President Bola Tinubu has extended his heartfelt condolences to the parents who have lost their children, and ordered a thorough investigation.

The Oyo state government said victims had been taken to hospitals across Ibadan for treatment after the crush at the Islamic High School in the city's Bashorun district.

Authorities have urged parents who are concerned about the whereabouts of their children to check at the city's hospitals.

Medics in one hospital told the BBC that six children had been admitted but only two survived - four had died.

At another hospital, a doctor who declined to be named said he had counted three dead bodies.

Some affected parents told journalists that they had accompanied their children to converge at the venue of the "End of the Year Christmas funfair" as early as 05:00 on Wednesday - five hours before the event was due to start.

They were hoping to get some money and food as the organisers had promised to give out 5,000 naira each (about £2.50; \$3) to 5,000 children as well as make free food available to attendees.

Nigeria is grappling with its worst economic crisis in a

generation, which explains why more than 10,000 people reportedly turned up for the event.

There have been several similar incidents this year.

In March, two female students were crushed to death at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, near the capital Abuja, when a rice distribution programme by the state governor caused a crowd surge. At least 23 people were injured.

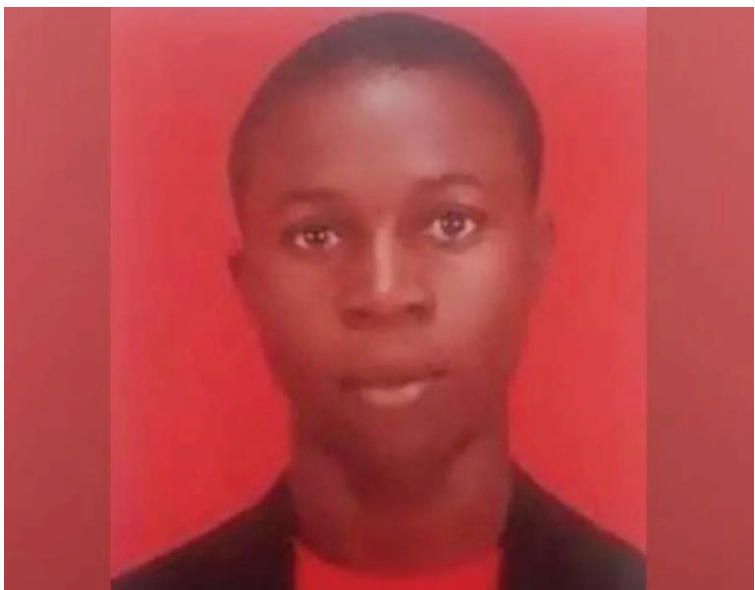
Three days later in the northern state of Bauchi, at least seven people died in another crush when a philanthropist and businessman was giving handouts of 5,000 naira.

Earlier in February, five people were reported killed in Lagos when the Nigerian Customs Service auctioned seized bags of rice.

A crowd surge for bags of rice being auctioned for about \$7:00 led to the trampling to death of five people with dozens more injured.

Nigerian man promised pardon after 10 years on death row for stealing hens

Mansur Abubakar
BBC News, Kano



Remi Tunde A low-resolution headshot of Segun Olowookere. He has short hair and is wearing a red t-shirt and dark jacket

A Nigerian man who has spent 10 years on death row for stealing some hens and eggs has been promised a pardon by the governor of the south-western Osun state.

Segun Olowookere was 17 years old in 2010 when he was arrested along with his accomplice, Morakinyo Sunday.

They were said to have attacked the home of a police officer and another person with an old-fashioned wooden gun and a sword but only got away with the poultry.

In 2014, Justice Jide Falola of the Osun State High Court sentenced the two to death by hanging after finding them guilty of forcefully breaking into the police officer's house and stealing his belongings.

There was an outcry across Nigeria at the time as many felt the sentence was too harsh.

The duo were subsequently moved to the notorious Kirikiri maximum security prison in Lagos state where they've been in the death row wing.

In a statement on Tuesday, governor Ademola Adeleke

directed that Olowookere should be pardoned as it was important to protect the sanctity of life.

"I have directed the Commissioner for Justice to initiate processes to grant prerogative of mercy to the young man.

"Osun is a land of justice and equity. We must ensure fairness and protection of the sanctity of lives," the governor posted on X.

The fate of Morakinyo

Sunday, who was sentenced alongside Olowookere, is unclear as his name wasn't mentioned in the statement.

For years, Olowookere's parents, human rights groups and other Nigerians have fought for his release.

His parents were recently on a podcast where they cried and begged for their only child to be pardoned.

He is expected to be freed early in 2025.

Nigeria has not carried out an execution since 2012 but there are currently more than 3,400 people on death row.



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Amazon hit by ‘strike’ during holiday season scramble

Natalie Sherman
BBC News



Getty Images Amazon delivery drivers walk the picket line outside Amazon delivery station as they went on strike in Skokie, Illinois on December 19 2024.

One of America’s most powerful labour unions is staging a protest against Amazon, aiming to put pressure on the tech giant as it rushes out packages in the final run-up to Christmas.

The Teamsters union said Amazon delivery drivers at seven facilities had walked off the job on Thursday, after the company refused to negotiate with the union about a labour contract.

Teamsters members were demonstrating at “hundreds” of other Amazon locations, according to the union, which described it as the “largest strike” in US history involving the firm.

The company, which employs roughly 800,000 people in the US, said its services would not be disrupted.

“What you see here are almost entirely outsiders” not Amazon employees or partners - and the suggestion otherwise is just another lie from the Teamsters,” Amazon said in a statement.

It was not clear how many people were participating in Thursday’s action.

The Teamsters union said it represents “nearly 10,000” Amazon workers, after signing up thousands of people at about 10 locations across the country, many of them in the last few months.

The organisation has demanded recognition from Amazon, accusing the company of illegally ignoring its duty to negotiate collectively over pay and working conditions.

“They’ve pushed workers to the limit and now they’re paying the price. This strike is on them,” said the union’s general president, Sean O’Brien.

“If your package is delayed during the holidays, you can blame Amazon’s insatiable greed.”

The Teamsters is a storied US union,

with more than one million members overall. It is known for winning robust contracts for members at firms such as delivery giant UPS.

Most of the Teamsters’ Amazon campaigns have involved drivers technically employed by third-party delivery firms that work with the tech giant.

Amazon denies that it is on the hook as an employer in those cases, a question that is currently the subject of legal dispute. Labour officials have preliminarily sided with the union on the issue in at least one instance.

Amazon employees at a major warehouse in Staten Island in New York have also agreed to affiliate with the Teamsters.

Their warehouse holds the distinction as the only Amazon location in the US where a union victory has been formally ratified by labour officials.

But it has seen little progress when it comes to contract negotiations since the 2022 vote. It was not among the locations listed to go on strike on Thursday.

Amazon, one of the largest employers in the US, has long faced criticism of its working conditions and been the target of activists hoping to make inroads among its workers.

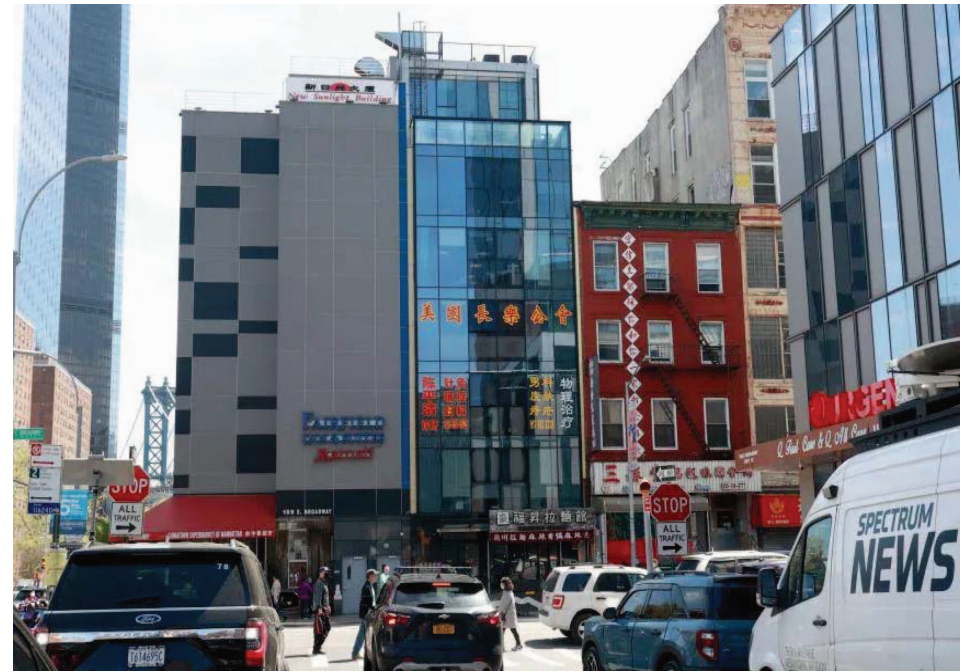
Its fierce opposition to unionisation efforts has also been called into question.

But it is not the only business facing pressure over its refusal to come to the table about a contract years after the start of unionisation efforts.

At Starbucks, where the first coffee shop voted to unionise in 2021, workers also recently authorised a labour strike, accusing the company of dragging its feet on negotiations.

Man admits running secret Chinese ‘police station’ in NYC

Kelly Ng - BBC News



Getty Images Building at 107 East Broadway in Manhattan’s Chinatown
Prosecutors say the outpost at Manhattan’s Chinatown was used to help Beijing identify pro-democracy activists in the US

An American citizen has pleaded guilty to helping run what has been described as the first known secret police station in the US on behalf of the Chinese government.

Prosecutors say Chen Jinping and his co-defendant Lu Jianwang opened and operated the station in Manhattan’s Chinatown neighbourhood in early 2022 on behalf of China’s Ministry of Public Security (MPS).

At least 100 such stations have been reported worldwide across 53 countries, with rights groups accusing China of using the outposts to threaten and monitor Chinese nationals abroad.

But China has denied that they are police stations, saying they are “service stations” providing administrative services to nationals overseas.

The outpost, which occupied an entire floor above a ramen stall, did provide basic services like renewing Chinese citizens’ driver licenses, but it also helped Beijing identify pro-democracy activists living in the US, say federal authorities.

Matthew Olsen, an assistant attorney general in the US Department of Justice, called the attempt to operate the undeclared overseas police station “a clear affront to American sovereignty and danger to our community that will not be tolerated”.

The station was closed in the autumn of 2022 after the Federal Bureau of Investigation launched an investigation.

But Chen and Lu destroyed text messages they exchanged with an MPS official when they learned of the probe, prosecutors said.

The men, who are both American citizens, were arrested in April last year.

On Wednesday, Chen, 60, pleaded guilty to conspiring to act as an agent for China, and faces up to five years in prison when he is sentenced next year.

Chen’s acknowledgement of guilt is a “stark reminder of insidious efforts taken by the [Chinese] government to threaten, harass, and intimidate those who speak against their Communist Party,” Robert Wells, an executive assistant director of the FBI’s National Security Branch said in a statement.

Lu, 59, has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial. Prosecutors have accused him of harassing a purported Chinese fugitive to return to China and for helping to locate a pro-democracy activist in California on behalf of the Communist Party.

At the time of Chen’s arrest, authorities said it marked the first time the US has brought criminal charges in relation to such police outposts.

Mr Olsen said US authorities would “continue to pursue anyone who attempts to aid China’s efforts to extend their repressive reach into the United States”.

In September, Linda Sun, a former aide in the New York governor’s office, was charged with using her position to serve Chinese government interests. She was said to have received benefits, including travel, in return.

Last year, 34 officers from the MPS were also charged with using fake social media accounts to harass Chinese dissidents in the US and spread official Chinese government propaganda.

Nevis Sees Significant Growth in Meat Production and Demand at Government Abattoir

NIA CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (December 19, 2024) - The Nevis Island Administration (NIA) has reported a significant increase in meat production and demand for locally processed products at the government abattoir, a testament to the continued success of the Ministry and Department of Agriculture's initiatives



The Honourable Eric Evelyn, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture in the Nevis Island Administration



Equipment used in the processing of beef patties from local meat at the Nevis Abattoir

to bolster livestock production on the island.

During the NIA's 2024 Budget Debate on December 5, the Honourable Eric Evelyn, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, highlighted the strides made in meat production and the growing demand for local products. He noted the Ministry's proactive efforts to address challenges and support farmers, ensuring the sector's growth and sustainability.

"We have seen a significant increase in meat production at the government abattoir, and this is a clear indication that our investment in the agricultural sector is paying off," he remarked.

Minister Evelyn emphasized the upward trend in several key areas of

production, sharing detailed comparisons of meat production and slaughtering at the abattoir between 2023 and 2024.

Beef production faced a slight decline of 24.3 percent moving from 22,799 pounds to 17,248 pounds. This was attributed to reduced availability of animals.

Pork production increased significantly by 21.9 percent, from 44,284 pounds to 58,000 pounds, driven by the rising demand for local hams and other processed products.

Chicken production soared by 30.52 percent, from 13,981 pounds to 18,242 pounds, nearly tripling last year's growth of 12.2 percent, due to increased production.

Mutton saw a substantial 22.9 percent rise from 39,953 pounds to 49,083 pounds, reversing last year's 1.2 percent decline, thanks to improved farmer support and animal availability.

Overall, total slaughtering at the abattoir increased by 17.5 percent from 122,407 pounds to 143,801 pounds.

"We want to see this continued upward movement in slaughtering and production," the Minister stated. "Locally processed products are always in high demand and continue to receive rave reviews from hoteliers, restaurateurs, and members of the public."

In addition, the Honourable Evelyn proudly reported that farmers received a 10.6 percent increase in payouts from the abattoir, totaling more than a half million dollars in revenue.

"Farmers payout increased by 1 percent from 2022 to 2023, going from \$479,066.69 to \$483,453.14, then 10.6 percent in 2024.

"So it went from \$483,453.14 in 2023 to over a half million [dollars] in 2024. Over \$500,000 dollars payout to our farmers. A total of \$534,589.81 paid to livestock farmers on Nevis."

The Ministry and Department of Agriculture continue to prioritize livestock production, implementing measures to support farmers and meet the constant demand for meat and meat



Some of the products made from local meat available at the Nevis Abattoir

(cont'd on next page)

Nevis Sees Significant Growth in Meat Production and Demand at Government Abattoir

(cont'd from last page)

products.

- These include:**
- completion of the Small Ruminant Breeding Unit at Maddens, with plans to stock 20 imported goats and sheep, including improved breeds such as Anglo Nubian and Katahdin/ St. Croix Sheep.
 - fencing of paddocks at Maddens to enhance animal management.
 - veterinary services to address health issues within the animal population.

Significant growth was also realized at the NIA’s Agro-processing Unit in 2024, with cassava composite bread increasing by 29.9 percent, lollies by 11.4 percent, drinks in 500ml bottles by 17.7 percent, and drinks in 5-litre bottles growing by an impressive 72 percent.

Payouts for raw products also increased by 9.7 percent, from \$52,148.58 to \$57,210.01, further benefiting local farmers.

“We are never able to provide enough beef, pork, or chicken because the demand for local products is so high,” Minister Evelyn noted. “We will continue to lead, innovate, and provide the necessary support to ensure that Nevis remains a leader in high-quality meat production and agro-processing.”

This year’s achievements underscore the Ministry’s commitment to agriculture as a vital sector of Nevis’ economy,

fostering growth, sustainability, and prosperity for the island’s farmers and food sovereignty for the wider community.

VACANCY

A number of vacancies exist for
MALE SECURITY OFFICERS
at Alpha and Omega Security Solutions
Persons interested are asked to apply in person
at our office on Central Market Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts
P.O. Box 1961
or please contact:
762-0191 / 446-3236
For an interview appointment

VACANCY

A number of vacancies exist for
MALE SECURITY OFFICERS
at Alpha and Omega Security Solutions
Persons interested are asked to apply in person
at our office on Central Market Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts
P.O. Box 1961
or please contact:
762-0191 / 446-3236
For an interview appointment

La Plazito Bar

Pitcarn Street, Newtown, Basseterre, St. Kitts

Is seeking
3 BARTENDERS
FOR MORE DETAILS
Call: 667-7728



Declaration of Lost Policy

I, Linsey Ricardo Williams, of New Pond Site, St. Kitts. Hereby declare that Pan American Life Policy 9703484 issued on the 1 January 2023 on my life has been lost. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the policy should contact the offices of Quinlan Walwyn & Associates, #23 Cayon Street (West), P.O. Box 208, Basseterre, St. Kitts or at telephone number (869) 465-2681

Pryce Enterprise Ltd.

113 Buckley’s Extension, Basseterre, St. Kitts

Is looking for
One Sales Clerk /
Customer Service Representative
Call: 665-1832

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
The company of De War Security Ltd. is hereby seeking qualified Security Guard. Interested applicant can
Call: 661-6307
or apply in writing to: The General Manager
De War Security Ltd.
Ogee’s Village, St. Peter’s Parish, St. Kitts.
Closing date and time of all applications will be on Tuesday 31st December 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Advance Building Maintenance Systems

Ponds industrial Site, Basseterre

Seeking applicants to fill the position of
Commercial Cleaner
For further information
Please contact:
869-466-4531

Blanc du Nil

Located at Port Zante, Basseterre, St. Kitts

Has vacancy for
One Sales Manager

- ♦ Must be Friendly, honest and trustworthy
- ♦ Minimum of 2 years experience

Call: 1-869-765-5209

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDIANANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District “A”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Cui yi Feng now residing in Wellington Road the town of Basseterre, do hereby give you notice that is our intention to apply on 06th day of January, 2025, to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Wholesale Liquor Licence in respect of our premises in Hong Yun Supermarket in New Town in Basseterre.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2024.

Signed: [Redacted]

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDIANANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District “B”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Tahirah Leader now residing in Crab Hill in the town of Sandy Point do hereby give you notice that is our intention to apply on 06th day of January, 2025, to the District Magistrate at Sandy Point for a Retail Liquor Licence in respect of my premises in All Day Everyday in Sandy Point in St. Kitts.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2024.

Signed: Tahirah Leader

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDIANANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District “A”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Fayola Bryson now residing in Bourkes Road the town of Basseterre, do hereby give you notice that is our intention to apply on 06th day of January, 2025, to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Liquor Licence in respect of our premises in Stewarts Carwash in Needsmust Estate in Basseterre.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2024.

Signed: F. Bryson

En Ping Supermarket

Main Street, Old Road, St. Kitts

Needs
One Manager & One Warehouse Manager
For information
Call: 661-0978

Panda Grocery

Main Street, Sandy Point, St. Kitts

requires
1 CHEF & 1 FLOOR MANAGER
CALL: 668-8008

Sammy named West Indies head coach across all formats



Image source,Getty Images
Daren Sammy has been in charge of West Indies’ white-ball teams since May 2023

Sam Drury
BBC Sport journalist

West Indies have appointed T20 World Cup-winning captain Daren Sammy as head coach across all formats.

Sammy, who led the Windies to victory in the 2012 and 2016 T20 World Cups, has been in charge of the white-ball sides since May 2023.

From April 2025, he will also take over Test duties, replacing Andre Coley.

Under Sammy’s leadership, West Indies have risen from ninth to fifth in the T20 rankings with 20 wins from 35 matches, including home series wins against England, India and South Africa.

The one-day international side has also won four of their seven bilateral series under the 40-year-old former Windies all-rounder.

“Daren Sammy has demonstrated exceptional leadership during his tenure with the white-ball teams,” said Cricket West Indies president Dr Kishore Shallow.

“His vision, dedication, and ability to inspire players make him the ideal candidate to lead across all formats. This appointment marks a bold and exciting step forward as we strive to elevate West Indies cricket to new heights.”

Sammy’s first Test series in charge will be against Australia in June.

Coley, who was at the helm as West Indies claimed a famous win against Australia in Brisbane, will stay on for the two-Test tour of Pakistan in January.

The Jamaican will hope to improve his record of two wins, two draws and seven defeats since taking over in May 2023 before he makes way for Sammy.



Gamblers behind half of abusive posts to tennis stars



Victoria Azarenka grimaces during a match - Image source,Getty Images
Victoria Azarenka, a two-time major champion, has spoken about the effects of being abused on social media

Published BBC Spaort

Angry gamblers are behind 48% of the 12,000 social media posts that have been deemed abusive towards tennis players this year, according to an artificial intelligence-led detection system.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF), Women’s Tennis Association (WTA), the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) joined forces at the end of last year to launch a programme that monitors posts on X, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

Between January and October this year, the ‘Threat Matrix’ service monitored 2.47m posts.

About 12,000 posts and comments broke social media platform community guidelines.

These were referred to social media platforms for removal of the abuse and, in serious cases, the entire account.

Abuse from 15 accounts breached criminal thresholds and was passed to national law enforcement for action.

Former world number one Victoria Azarenka, a long-standing member of the WTA Players’ Council, said she was pleased the system is helping “create a healthier online environment”.

“It was essential for the WTA and these partner organisations to take meaningful steps toward filtering, blocking, and reporting hateful and

harmful comments,” said the 35-year-old Belarusian.

“No-one should have to endure the hate that so many of us have faced through these platforms.”

Former world number four Caroline Garcia has been among several players who have spoken out about the level of abuse they face.

In August, the French player pleaded for online trolls to remember players “are human”.

Garcia suggested that tournaments partnering with betting companies added to the problems faced by players.

“We are extremely pleased to have helped close down a considerable number of prolific abusive accounts and identified clear drivers for abuse, including a large number of angry gamblers,” said Jonathan Hirshler, chief executive of the Signify Group which runs Threat Matrix.

British number one Katie Boulter, five-time major champion Iga Swiatek and US Open finalist Jessica Pegula were among a number of players who supported Garcia’s message.

Pegula described “constant death threats” and “family threats” as being “normal now”.

The system, which works in 39 languages, protects 7,739 players competing in ITF World Tennis Tour tournaments and 563 players competing in WTA tournaments.

All players competing in the Wimbledon and US Open main draws and qualifying rounds, plus chair umpires, were also covered by Threat Matrix.

Save Water
TAKE SHORTER
SHOWERS