

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

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

Year 67 NO. 43

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 29th MARCH, 2024

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Dated : 29/02/24

DELTA \$13.56/ SOL \$14.03

EDUCATING WORKERS

STORY ON PAGE 03



BYE BYE PLASTICS

STORY ON PAGE 09



GREASY GAMES

STORY ON PAGE 12

Blessed Easter To All

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN - ESTABLISHED MAY 1957

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Ag. Editor: Precious Mills

Masses House, Church Street

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

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

Email: info@sknunion.com

Website: www.thelabourspeaksman.com

Editorial

What Does Easter Mean To You?

Known globally as the oldest Christian holiday, Easter is a principal holy holiday season which seals the faith of believers of Jesus Christ.

While there continues to be in some people's mind debate about the name 'Easter', many Christians hold fast that through the recollection captured in Biblical scriptures, the events surrounding the divine significance of the resurrection in the aftermath of crucifixion is factual and is the bigger picture of this holiday period.

There are many people who frown upon the commercialization of Easter stemming from the symbolism of the 'Easter Bunny' and 'Easter Eggs' because such takes away from the education and righteous imagery about the Lord's Lenten season.

It goes with saying therefore that the importance of the true meaning of Easter requires some soul searching and Holy Scripture reading-specifically in the Books of Matthew, John and Luke- in delving deeper into the religious roots which pulls away from the superficial understanding of the type of tradition and rituals.

For this Easter season, on Good Friday many people look forward to eating salt fish or mackerel or any other type of fish with ground provisions and dumpling-coconut or otherwise. But the questions must be asked: Is there sufficient acknowledgement of the day here in St. Kitts and Nevis among our people in what is known to be a dominant Christian society? Do children (and even some adults) know the significance of flying their kites this time of year? and Do you know the reason behind eating fish?

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

SKBHPB2024/

In the Estate of **MARY CONSTANTIA GREAUX** formerly **BROWN** also known as **MARY C. GREAUX** and **MARY GREAUX** late of Fiennes Avenue in the Town of Basseterre in the Island of St. Christopher, deceased

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR GRANT

Notice is given that after the expiration of 14 days of the second publication of this Notice application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased of Fiennes Avenue in the Town of Basseterre in the Island of St. Christopher, having died intestate on the 17th day of September 1983.

Dated this 21st day of March 2024.

Bryant & Liburd
Bryant & Liburd
Attorneys-at-Law
for **MARJORIE ELAINE GREAUX**

In a nutshell for the benefit of those who may not know: kite flying is symbolism of 'Christ is Risen'. Fish is the favoured and differently viewed meat as many Christians, through tradition, abstain from meaty flesh with the view that Jesus Christ sacrificed his flesh for the deliverance of humanity.

Hence as Easter approaches, the special period must not be viewed or experienced as just another holiday to mark on one's calendar. Instead, Easter must be treated as a time of rediscovery, reflection and renewal.

Easter at its core celebrates and give observance to the resurrection of Jesus Christ; a pivotal occurrence through teachings symbolizing triumph over death with the promise of course of eternal life after leaving this earthly dwelling.

Cradled by such comforting promise, there are many people who sing with much enthusiasm while attending funeral services the lyrics "No grave can keep/hold my body down" of the popular Gospel tune 'Ain't No

Grave Can Hold My Body Down'.

Looking deeply into the significance of Easter, there is an undeniable theme of universal acceptance for people of all backgrounds and belief on topics of hope, renewal and redemption. Hope among humanity is a common bonding factor which provides a beacon of light in moments of challenges and dark periods of life in this world. And for some people, the resurrection is a constant beacon of light.

For this Easter, it is highly encouraged that there be a sense of discovery or even rediscovery of what this Holy Season means. Such an exercise of course will be a personal one to some people while others united through unwavering strength and conviction continue to assemble at their house of worship in collective reverence, closing out the Lenten season.

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Union Educates Skilled Workers During Readiness Session

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Wednesday 27th March 2024)-The St.Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union (SKNT&LU) on Wednesday 27th March 2024 conducted a session on 'The Importance and Benefits of Unionised Bodies Within The Skilled Industry' as part of the Work Readiness Workshop put on by the Advanced Vocational Education Centre (AVEC) at its campus located at Taylor's Range in Basseterre, St.Kitts.

The workshop was held under the theme '**Strengthening TVET, Charting Sustainable Changes and Anchoring Positive Transformation in Industries for the Next Generation.**'

SKNT&LU First Vice President Curtis Francis, the union's representative on the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council was a presenter.

Director at AVEC Eston Williams informed that the age range of the second year trainees are 16 and over, noting that some of them are 40. Notably, the over fifty (50) trainees would receive a diploma following their two-year hands-on training.

"As a technical vocational institution, part of our training is to sensitize the trainees on work experience and work preparedness. So, the trainees that we have here today are second year trainees. They should be completing their training program at the end of June," Williams stated.

He continued: "We would annually have what is called work preparedness, where the trainees will go out in the workforce and they would experience what it is to work out there using the skills that they would have gained within the institution itself, getting an opportunity to showcase their work, work habits, they would get the opportunity to build network, they would get the opportunity to even win over the employers out there for whom they would have been working for."

Williams commented further: "Additionally, they get the opportunity to be a part of the workforce and they are able to know what it is like to be a part of the workforce. So they are



SKNT&LU First Vice President Curtis Francis, the union's representative on the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council seen while making remarks on the topic of 'The Importance and Benefits of Unionised Bodies Within The Skilled Industry' (Spokesman Snap)



SKNT&LU First Vice President Curtis Francis, the union's representative on the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council interacts with trainees (Spokesman Snap)

able to earn an income and to prepare themselves fully for the work environment itself."

The collective program areas for the trainees are: Commercial Food Preparation, Electrical and Electronics, Data Operation, Office Administration, AC and refrigeration, General Cosmetology, General Construction, Welding and Fabrication and Automotive Repairs.

"However, those are the mainstream courses that we have but from time to time, we will run short courses that will be maximum three months and those courses are run based on the needs. So for this set, the training and the certification, the trainees would receive a diploma at the end of their two years training," the AVEC Director noted.

According to Williams: "Our intention is to have the Labour Department come in

throughout the year at any given time to sensitise the trainees about their benefits, and the use of unions and their rights as labourers."

Meanwhile, the union's representative Francis, during his presentation spoke about the importance of being unionised, encouraged the trainees to join the 1940-founded organization (formerly called the Workers League- established in 1932).

He also touched on the essence of togetherness of workers at a workplace in addressing working conditions and other related areas by approaching management through a Collective Bargaining Agreement with generally requires 50 per cent plus 1 of the workforce at any company.

Francis outlined that workers becoming unionised members individually is quite beneficial as it relates having representation in the workplace and overall in the labour market.

He also pointed out that information about workers' rights and protection are important for business owners to know and understand fully.

Francis highlighted the SKNTLU's six (6) reasons why a worker needs a union, namely:

1. STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY - It is easier to gain concessions from management by collective bargaining through a Union than by arguing for your rights as a single person.

2. REPRESENTATION AT WORK - The Union provides representation for a worker in any dispute with management, and

(cont'd on next page)



National Caribbean Insurance Company Limited

having made sworn deposition that policy number **63245 on the life of Russell Grant has been lost** and having made application to the directors to grant a special policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the special policy asked for will be issued.

Dated: 28/3/2024

By Order,

Diana Williams-Humphrey
General Manager

Union Educates Skilled Workers During Readiness Session

(cont'd from last page)



SKNT&LU First Vice President Curtis Francis, the union's representative on the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council (left) accepts a token of appreciation gift basket from Director at AVEC (Advanced Vocational Education Centre) Eston Williams following his presentation

the worker is less at a disadvantage.

3. PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION - The role of the Union is to protect the workers from exploitation by management, with respect to wages, working hours, illness and injury, discrimination and victimisation and in any other area.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY - The Union fights for a better working environment for the worker, e.g. improved sanitation, good ventilation, better catering facilities etc. The Union seeks to ensure that Occupational Health and Safety standards as laid down by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are met at factories and other workplaces.

5. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - The Union provides opportunities for individual development of workers: (a) Through involvement in the organisational structure of the Union itself. (b) Through the provision of lectures, seminars and

other educational courses for its members.

6. LEGAL SERVICES - The Union provides legal assistance to members involved in litigation related to work situations for either pro bono or at a much lower cost than would normally be obtained by the worker.

Other SKNT&LU representatives who attended the session were President Sydney Bridgewater, General Secretary Precious Mills and Field Officer Sean Kelly.

The three other topics covered by other presenters that day were: 'Teamwork: Having The Right Attitude For Success In The Workplace', 'Finance And Investment: Building Wealth And Taking Care Of Your Health' and 'What Leadership Is Necessary For The Future.'

Workers of St.Kitts and Nevis can become union members by payment of \$10.00 registration (Entrance Fee) and \$5.00 weekly subscription at an average of \$20-\$25 monthly.

Of note: The SKNT&LU functions as the Workers Representative on a number of national bodies and committees-namely- The National Tripartite Committee, Minimum Wage Advisory Committee, Social Security Board Solid Waste Management Board and the TVET Council.

Please Like and Follow the union's official Facebook page (St.Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union).

Front Page Image: (Left to Right) Representatives of The St.Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union (SKNT&LU) Field Officer Sean Kelly, President Sydney Bridgewater and General Secretary Precious Mills pose for a photo following a session conducted on 'The Importance and Benefits of Unionised Bodies Within The Skilled Industry' as part of the Work Readiness Workshop put on by the Advanced Vocational Education Centre (AVEC) on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at its campus located at Taylor's Range in Basseterre, St.Kitts (Spokesman Snap)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT
(PROBATE)
A.D. 2024

In the Estate of **DESMOND ARTHUR JOHNSON** late of Butlers' Village in the Island of Nevis, deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE than an Application has been filed by Jocelyne Iona Johnson of Swing High, Anguilla, AI-2640 for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 11th day of May, 2022.

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

Dated this 20th day of March 2024

Bervis C. Burke
Attorney-at-Law

Filed by: Bervis C. Burke, Blanchette-Burke Law Chambers, Solicitors, whose address for services is No. 56 WADES GARDEN, UNIT 4 Basseterre St. Kitts, for and on behalf of the Applicants whose address for service is the same. Telephone: 1-869-767-2012; Email: Blanchetteburke.law@gmail.com

SECOND PUBLICATION



ECSE Announces the 2024 Regional Schools Investment Competition

The Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE), its licensed member broker dealers and the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission (ECSRC) are pleased to announce the hosting of the 2024 Regional Schools Investment Competition (RSIC).

The Inaugural competition took place last year and saw 29 schools across the ECCU vie for the top spot. VFCSS Invest of Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School, Saint Lucia became the inaugural Regional Champion. This year, the competition takes place over the period October-November 2024. The competition will be preceded by Education Webinars to introduce the students to investment basics, financial securities, and to share information about the Eastern Caribbean Securities Markets. The webinars are also open to all students the schools can accommodate virtually. There will also be a separate competition briefing session held with the competitors prior to the commencement of the Competition.



The competition targets 3rd through 5th form students and 1st year tertiary level students and will take place in two phases. The first is an Intra-Country phase where each school will compete for the top spot in their respective country. The Intra-Country winners will then advance to the regional phase of competition to compete to become the Regional Champion. The competition, which takes place over a period of 6 weeks, provides the opportunity for students to experience securities market activity firsthand. Participants will have the opportunity to test their knowledge while gaining useful investing insights and skills.

A competition information page and link to the online registration is available on the ECSE website (www.ecseonline.com). The direct link to the information page where competition updates will also be posted is: <https://www.ecseonline.com/rsic-2024/>.

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Nevis Cultural Village undergoing renovation and upgrade ahead of Culturama 50



Mr. Antonio "Abonaty" Liburd, Executive Director, Culturama Secretariat

Mr. Antonio "Abonaty" Liburd, Executive Director, Culturama Secretariat in Nevis Island Administration (NIA), informed that private contractors began work on Sunday, March 24.

He disclosed that the wall that separated the Cultural Village from the Elquemedo T. Willett Park has been demolished to provide an extra 20 feet of space to construct an emergency exit and bathroom facilities.

"There are some upgrades and repairs that will be done at the Cultural Village and of course at our main venue the Cultural Complex for Culturama 50... We have demolished the existing bathrooms west of the performance stage area and we'll be relocating that bathroom facility to that extra space we are creating.

N I A CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (March 26, 2024)- Renovation work has commenced at the Nevis Cultural Village to improve the facility, which serves as one of the main venues for Culturama events.

"Additionally, we'll be putting some corporate boxes at the top of the existing concession stalls and we will be offering our corporate sponsors an opportunity to rent these boxes during the festival."

Mr. Liburd further informed that the size of the performance stage area will be increased to better accommodate international performers.

"At the back of the existing performance stage we will be taking out the dressing rooms and we'll be extending the performance stage all the way to the back wall. Those dressing rooms from backstage will be relocated to the Cultural Complex next to the Netball Complex. So we'll be constructing bathroom facilities



Nevis Cultural Village undergoing renovation and upgrade



Artist rendering of a renovated Nevis Cultural Village

and a waiting area for performers," he said.

The Public Works Department will soon commence work on the Nevis Cultural Complex which will include the resurfacing of damaged concrete seat walls.

It is anticipated the work to upgrade the two main facilities would be completed by the end of June 2024.

FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP 10.19

A. D. 2024

Claim No: SKBLRD2024/0011



In the Matter of section 144 of the Title by Registration Act, Cap. 10.19

And

In the Matter of an Application on behalf of **ANDREW PHILLIP GARNETTE** for replacement of a Lost Certificate of Title 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 of Titles in Chambers for an Order for the issue of a new Certificate of Title in lieu of lost Certificate dated the 25th day of May, 1994 and registered in Book T2 Folio 272 of the Register of Titles for the St. Christopher Circuit in favour of **SYLVIA GARNETTE** and **ANDREW PHILLIP GARNETTE** Joint Tenants of all that lot piece or parcel of land with building thereon being Lot No. 90 New Road Housing Development, in the Parish of St. George, in the Island of St. Christopher containing by admeasurement 3,600 square feet.

Any person or persons knowing the whereabouts or having any information concerning the said duplicate Certificate of Title which may lead to its recovery is requested to notify the Registrar of Titles at the Registrar's Office, Judicial and Legal Complex, East Independence Square Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts.

Dated the 7th day of March, 2024

M. Maynard
S.A.M LEGAL SERVICES

Case Number :SKBHPB2024/0037

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

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

Submitted Date:21/03/2024 15:20

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Filed Date:21/03/2024 15:20

Fees Paid:52.00

SKBHPB2023/00

In the Estate of Lesroy Henry, late of 67 Parrays Housing Development, St. Peter's St. Kitts, deceased

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by DESROY DEMMING of Ogees, St. Peter's, St. Kitts for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 20th day of July 2023 without revoking a will bearing the date the 5th day of January 2016 wherein the applicant is named sole executor.

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

Dated this 7th day of March 2024

Filed by Hendrickson's Legal Chambers Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is New Road, St. Peter's, St. Kitts.

SKELEC Celebrates World Engineers Month

Basseterre, St. Kitts (26th March 2024)- The St. Kitts Electricity Company Ltd. celebrated World Engineers Day with an insightful month of activities, demonstrating a deep appreciation for the invaluable contributions of engineers to St. Kitts and Nevis.

The activities commenced on March 4th, as SKELEC presented each of its engineers with a token of appreciation, acknowledging their exceptional efforts in driving progress and ensuring the reliability of electrical infrastructure. SKELEC, along with private engineers, embarked on a school tour on March 5th and March 7th. They visited four esteemed schools: St. Paul's Primary School, Basseterre High School, Tucker Clarke Primary School, and Clarence Fitzroy Byrant College, Division of Technical Vocational Education & Management Studies. SKELEC engaged with students, inspiring them to pursue careers in the dynamic field of engineering, and provided monetary donations to all schools to strengthen their STEM programs.

On March 6th, SKELEC facilitated a radio panel discussion, bringing together engineering experts to explore the theme of World Engineers' Day: "Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World." The panel consisted of Mr. Kevin Bennett, Generation Manager at SKELEC; Ms. Anelda Date, Electrical

Engineer at Global Engineering Consultancy Services; Dr. Cletus Bertin, Executive Director at CARILEC; and Lareine Gumbs, Engineer at the Public Works Department.

Additionally, on March 22nd 2024, engineers from across the company were tasked with an engineer's challenge where the engineers were assigned teams, issued a prompt, and the opportunity to compete against each other.

Mr. Clement Williams, General Manager of SKELEC, expressed his pride in the company's efforts to celebrate World Engineers Day and promote sustainable solutions, stating: "At SKELEC, we recognize the pivotal role that engineers play in shaping the future," Williams said. "Through our diverse range of activities, we aim to inspire and empower the next generation of engineers and innovators, driving positive change and creating a more sustainable world."



Case Number :SKBHPB2024/0040

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS
ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
(PROBATE)

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

Submitted Date:26/03/2024 17:13

Filed Date:27/03/2024 08:30

No. SKBHPB2024/

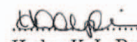
In the Estate of **NEVILLE PETER LIBURD**,
late of Main Road, Keys Village, in the Parish
of Saint Mary, in the Island of Saint
Christopher, deceased.

Fees Paid:52.00

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **FIORA JADE LIBURD** of 15 Idbury Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B44 8QE, England, Logistics Engineer, and **CORRIE O'NEIL LIBURD** of 31 Village Road, Witton, Birmingham, B6 6RG, England, Developer, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicants who are the daughter and the son of the late **NEVILLE PETER LIBURD**, the deceased having died intestate on September 28, 2021.

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

Dated the 26th day of March 2024


Hadya K. L. Dolphin, Associate
KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicants

Filed by: KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant, whose address for service is Fred Kelsick Building, Independence Square South, Basseterre, St. Kitts. Tel: +1.869.465.2645; Fax: +1.869.466.7808; Email: Law@kwfonline.com

Case Number :SKBHPB2024/0041

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
(PROBATE)

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

Submitted Date:26/03/2024 17:24

Filed Date:27/03/2024 08:30

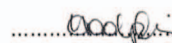
Fees Paid:52.00

In the Estate of **CAROL ANNE GOTTLIEB** late of
1647 Folly Creek Way, Charleston, Charleston County,
South Carolina, 29412, in the United States of America,
deceased

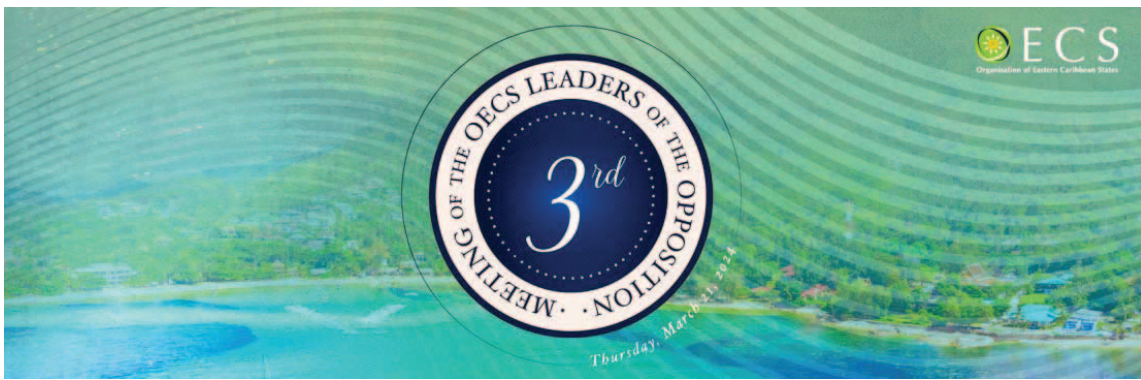
TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **THOMAS EDWARD BOAL** of 1647 Folly Creek Way, Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina, 29412, in the United States of America, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the husband of the late **CAROL ANNE GOTTLIEB**, the deceased having died intestate on December 5, 2022.

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

Dated the 26th day of March 2024.


Hadya K. L. Dolphin, Associate
KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Filed by: KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant, whose address for service is Fred Kelsick Building, Independence Square South, Basseterre, St. Kitts. Tel: +1.869.465.2645; Fax: +1.869.466.7808; Email: Law@kwfonline.com



OECS Convenes 3rd Meeting of the Leaders of the Opposition

OECS Media Release

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission aims to create a prosperous, inclusive, and equitable future for its citizens through economic integration, sustainable development, and regional cooperation. Recognising the value of perspectives of regional parliaments towards regional integration, the Third Meeting of the OECS Leaders of the Opposition was called on Thursday, March 21, 2024, and held virtually.

In his opening remarks, the Director General of the OECS, Dr. Didacus Jules said to the leaders of the opposition,

“Each of you represents an important and consequential voice in the diverse and vibrant community of nations within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.”

Leaders of the opposition were updated on the OECS Commission’s work under its five strategic priorities - accelerating regional integration, reinventing the economy, valuing the environment, building resilience, and advancing equity and inclusion. The Commission’s work is implemented within four main divisions - economic affairs and regional integration; operations; human and social; and environmental sustainability. Directors of the Commission presented the projects currently being executed in the 2021-2024 triennium and anticipated plans for the next one set to begin in July 2024.

Dr. Jules said in the meeting, “In the last triennium we have sought to deepen the process of consultation at all levels and across all sectors because ultimately regional integration cannot succeed if it does not engage, listen to and respond to what matters most to all sectors - from the citizen in the public street to families, to communities, from the business sector to the civic sector.”

He also noted that the convening was not just to update on the progress of regional integration, but also to “deepen a process of inclusion that is essential if we are to achieve genuine progress on our collective aspirations and in addressing our shared challenges”.

The meeting’s topics of discussion were guided by the presentations for each division. Leaders

of the opposition shared their feedback, noting that their inclusion opens room for discussions, sharing opposition stances and that of various demographics, and also for the opposition groups to share their support for OECS initiatives. The participants also took the opportunity to hone in on matters of urgency in the region such as increasing crime rates and access to nutritional food. Dr. Jules supported the request for more frequent meetings of the leaders of the opposition to share information and to address matters of urgency that affect regional integration efforts and not political motives.

The leaders of the opposition expressed their commitment to promoting the Commission’s regional integration work to their stakeholders and acknowledged the importance of the free movement of people, goods, and services for the region’s success. There was a strong focus on the impacts of free movement within the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union and the work accomplished so far. The OECS Commission highlighted the developments across OECS borders in environmental sustainability, education, border management, and crisis management during natural hazards. The leaders of the opposition also stated a clear willingness to support a solution for air and sea connectivity among the OECS member states, an agenda that the Commission has been diligently researching with other regional organisations.

In conclusion, leaders of the opposition committed to a follow-up meeting with the OECS Commission and additional modes of keeping updated so that they can continue to discuss regional integration efforts and the benefits to their countries, stakeholders, and communities.

Each of the following OECS member states were represented by their parliamentary opposition leaders at Thursday’s meeting:

Hon. Jamale Pringle - Antigua & Barbuda

Hon. Jesma Paul Victor - Commonwealth of Dominica

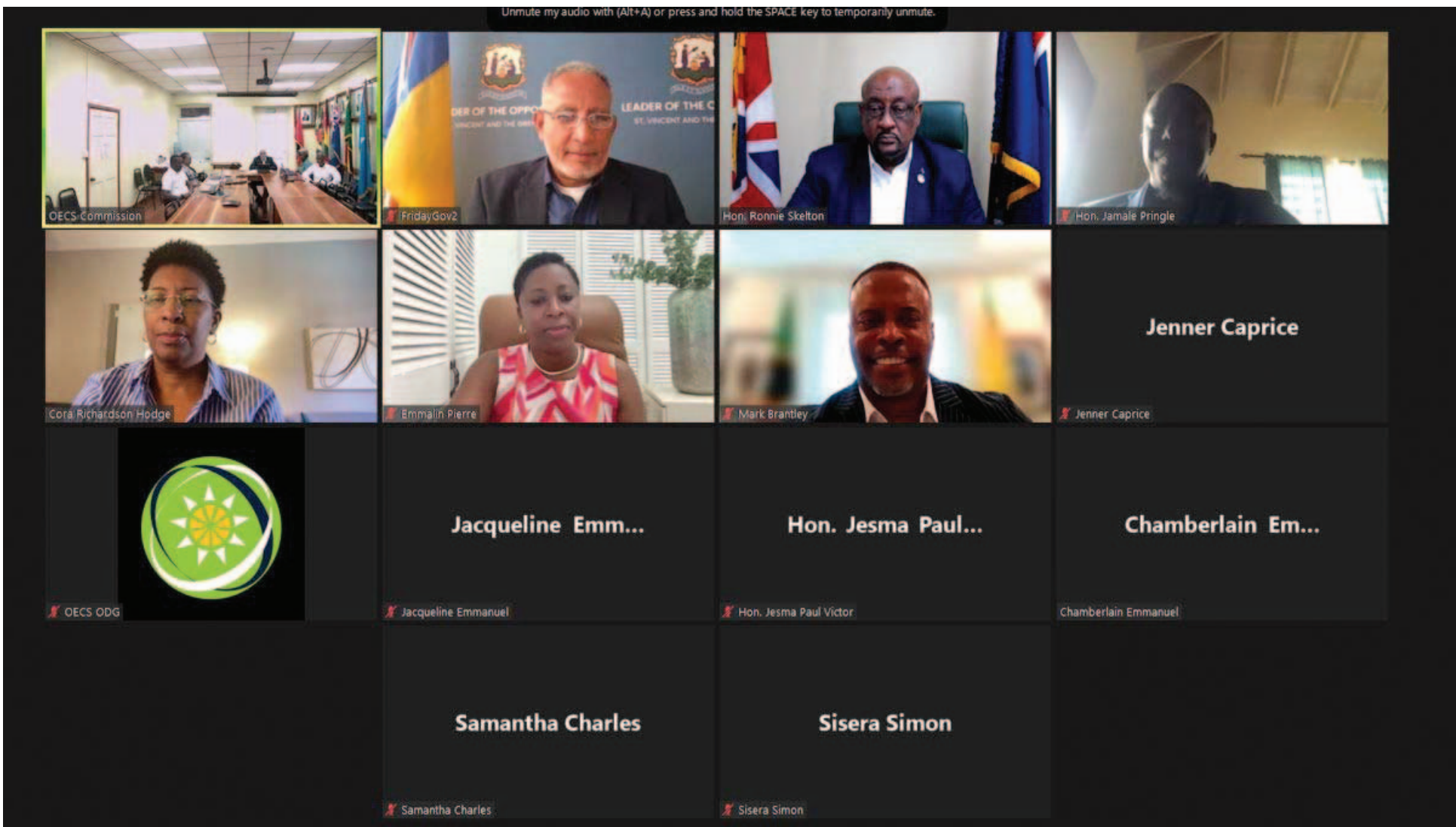
Hon. Emmaline Pierre representing Dr. The Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell - Grenada

Hon. Mark Brantley - St. Kitts & Nevis

Hon. Dr. Goodwin Friday - St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Hon. Cora Richardson-Hodge - Anguilla

Hon. Ronnie W. Skelton - British Virgin Islands



Environment Minister Applauds Changing Attitudes Towards Recycling, Waste Management

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Wednesday 27th March 2024) - The National Recycling Program joint effort "has already made strides in changing behaviors and attitudes towards recycling and waste management."



Photo: Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, Senator Dr. Joyelle Clarke (file image-SKNIS)

So said Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, Senator Dr. Joyelle Clarke in a statement made during the National Assembly held on Tuesday 26th March 2024, having informed that the Cabinet has approved the three-phased ban on single-use plastic items across the Federation as she encouraged the continuation of such behaviours and attitudes towards environmental protection.

"While I need not delve into the pervasive challenge of plastic pollution, I am compelled nonetheless to remind every Kittitian and Nevisian that we every small action collectively creates major movements in recycling, upcycling and limiting the use of plastics."

"The small changes today will lead to incremental improvements in human and environmental health. Our students collected thousands of pounds of plastic bottles last year. Our landfill is bursting at the seams with plastics. What was once thought a viable solution to paper-based products has now become the gravest problems for our oceans," Dr. Clarke stated.

According to Environment Minister: "Tuesday, 26 March 2024, marks a significant milestone for environmental protection for St. Kitts and Nevis. This action is a testament to our unwavering commitment to protect our natural environment and foster a sustainable future for all."

She highlighted that the announcement of this first phase of the ban has been the result of extensive consultations with stakeholders from the private sector to community groups and backed by solid research and evidence of the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution.

As shared by her, the Ministry will present the NCEMA- National Conservation and Environmental Management Bill very shortly.

"This bill will address the legislative needs for supporting the ban on single-use plastics. However, we are also anticipating the tabling of the Environmental Protection Restriction on Single-Use Plastics Bill, which when introduced would

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outline a comprehensive framework for banning specific plastic items."

Dr. Clarke said that the implementation of this ban is structured in three strategic phases, ensuring a smooth transition for our citizens and businesses towards more sustainable alternatives.

In addition, she informed that each phase includes a ban on importation on select items, followed by a three-month window leading to a distribution ban.

As shared by her: Phase one-Ban on the importation of single-use plastic t-shirt shopping bags. As of December 31st, 2024, imports of t-shirt shopping bags will be banned in the Federation. This is followed by a prohibition on the sale and distribution of t-shirt plastic bags on March 31st, 2025.

Phase 2 - Ban on the importation of foam food containers and plastic straws. Effective April 30th, 2025. The sale and distribution of plastic straws and foam containers will be prohibited starting July 31st, 2025.

Phase 3 - Banning the importation of plastic cups, plastic plates, and plastic utensils on August 31st, 2025. A ban on their sale and distribution. Effective November 30th, 2025.

In making reference to the government's partners in this process, she commented: "Our commitment is further demonstrated through the implementation of the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project executed with our bilateral partners and the Taiwan ICDF Program, which has led on our National Recycling Program. This joint effort has already made strides in changing behaviors and attitudes towards recycling and waste management."

Dr. Clarke indicated that "Our success over the next year as we move through each phase requires the collective effort of every citizen, every business, and every visitor to our islands."

"We look forward and we will support a plastic-free environment... We look to each ministry to collect and recycle and eliminate plastic bottles from your meetings and conferences. Simple collective steps towards a circular economy and a sustainable island state. We call upon you, every citizen, every petitioner and every new vision to employ and embrace alternatives to single use plastics, to think consciously about the products you use and dispose of and to support our local initiatives aimed at preserving our environment," she encouraged.

Front Page Photo: Field Officer of the St.Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union (SKNT&LU) Sean Kelly listens to information being shared ahead of a recycling exercise at the booth for the St.Kitts and Nevis Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project in partnership with the Taiwan ICDF Program at the Department of Agriculture Fair in May 2022 at the Newtown Play Field in Basseterre. (Spokesman Snap)

Hydroelectricity is a hidden source of methane emissions. These people want to solve that

By Anna Turns,

Features correspondent BBC News

Dams and reservoirs around the world are an underappreciated source of methane. Now start-ups want to capture that gas as a source of power.

It takes just one second for four Olympic-sized swimming pools-worth of water to charge through the turbines at the Tucurui- dam in northern Brazil. The rush of water here at one of the largest hydroelectric reservoirs in the Amazon region is deafening, but it's what makes the dam the fifth largest power plant in the world.

As the water churns through a series of 25 turbines and spillways of the dam, however, something else is happening - it's emitting greenhouse gases.

Often regarded as one of the oldest forms of renewable energy, hydroelectric dams and their reservoirs are responsible for the release of almost one billion tonnes of methane into the atmosphere as water approaches and then tumbles its way through the turbines that generate electricity. Methane is a greenhouse gas that's more than 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year lifespan, but it also breaks down faster in the atmosphere than CO₂.

These hidden emissions mean that hydroelectricity is perhaps not as clean as it first seems.

The reason is that it's not just water passing through the turbines - a lot of dissolved greenhouse gases flow through them too. Just as carbon dioxide dissolves in our fizzy water while under pressure, so too does methane gas dissolve in large bodies of water under certain conditions.

Now imagine you're holding a bottle of sparkling water. Before opening it, you don't see any bubbles inside because the carbon dioxide gas stays dissolved. As you open the lid, you hear a fizzing sound as the pressure is released and bubbles of carbon dioxide rise up. Shake that water first, and this effervescent "degassing" will most probably make your carbonated drink explode everywhere.

Something similar happens to the methane dissolved in the water from lakes when it is churned.

Out of the 51 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases emitted by people every year, three billion tonnes of those are from methane which escapes from water. When water is disturbed, methane comes out of the solution and turns into bubbles of gas. And one of the single biggest sources of this degassing methane is something of a surprise - hydroelectric dams like Tucurui-.

But there are now hopes it may be possible to catch this methane before it escapes into the atmosphere, and put it to use as a source of power.

The methane menace

Methane is responsible for about 30% of global warming since the Industrial Revolution, according to the International Energy Agency, the global authority for the energy sector. Curbing methane emissions has been identified as a crucial strategy for near-term action on climate change.

"After about 12 years, methane can oxidise and become carbon dioxide, so if you reduce methane emissions today, we could have an impact on global warming within our lifetime," says Louise Parlons Bentata, chief executive and co-founder of Blue Methane.

Around 150 countries have joined the Global Methane Pledge, which aims to reduce methane emissions from human activity by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030.

While reducing fossil fuel use is part of the solution (40% of methane emissions come from the energy sector (i.e. oil and gas), methane comes from many other sources too, including livestock: 32% comes from burping and farting ruminants like cows. (Read more on the hunt for the hidden sources of methane.)

Less well known still is the significant contribution of water bodies to these emissions. Methane is also produced in sediments of freshwater when carbon-rich organic matter is decomposed by microbes in the absence of oxygen - that includes naturally occurring tropical swamps, peat bogs and waterlogged soils. With all these natural sources, their status as a source or sink of greenhouse gases such as methane can be a tightrope depending on land-use practices and climate change.

Then there are the manmade water sources of methane, including wastewater treatment plants and rice cultivations. In all these sources, bacteria are responsible for breaking down organic matter and releasing methane.

And then, of course, there's dams and their reservoirs. of methane per year - a little less than two-thirds of the methane produced by rice production or wastewater treatment (35 million tonnes each). The methane comes from decomposing organic matter at the bottom of the water body. In

reservoirs as in sewage plants, when that water is churned up, it escapes.

Potential power source

Inside a 20-foot-long (6m) rust-red container at Cranfield University, water tumbles down through a series of pipes and containers under gravity. Here, Louise Parlons Bentata, chief executive and co-founder of Blue Methane, is developing tech that captures methane from bodies of water such as reservoirs and sewage treatment plants. Methane is the primary component of fossil natural gas, and it can be burned as an energy resource.

Parlons Bentata hopes her technology can capture bubbles of methane as they move up to the surface, funnelling it off to be collected for use as a non-fossil source of biogas.

Getty Images Bacteria naturally produce methane in the sediments of many wet areas, but as long as it stays dissolved in the water it doesn't act as a greenhouse gas (Credit: Getty Images)Getty Images

Bacteria naturally produce methane in the sediments of many wet areas, but as long as it stays dissolved in the water it doesn't act as a greenhouse gas (Credit: Getty Images)

Commercialisation of the Blue Methane technology is being put to the test at United Utilities, a water company in the north-west of the UK: "Wastewater companies are already using anaerobic digestion, they take solid waste and churn it around without oxygen to create methane biogas, and at the end the liquid still has quite a lot of dissolved methane in it," she says. "They already have biogas generators and use energy for power, so we're not changing anything dramatic."

This modular patent-pending tech could therefore be easy to install within existing infrastructure, enabling industries producing high organic load, such as sewage treatment plants, breweries and pulp manufacturers, to create more energy on-site while cutting emissions. And instead of water being actively pumped, Parlons Bentata and her co-founder Nestor Rueda-Vallejo's method lets gravity do the hard work.

"Low energy has been our primary design requirement," says Parlons Bentata. "We want to remove the most methane using the least amount of energy."

While UK water companies have committed to be operationally net zero by 2030, baseline methane emissions aren't yet being widely measured. Parlons Bentata would like to see more funding for open-access satellites that can measure methane more accurately, which, she hopes, could unleash more global investment in methane removal tech. That's essential because, despite being responsible for a third of global warming, methane only receives about 2% of climate financing.

Methane emissions from water bodies are especially understudied, says Carole Helfter, an environmental physicist at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology who studies methane emissions from open water. But that knowledge gap could be starting to close. "When you look at the scientific literature, information is trickling in and the picture is forming slowly but there's a lot of uncertainty around the magnitude of methane emissions from water sources," Helfter says.

The emerging picture suggests there might be more methane flowing out of the tap than previously thought. In February, a study released by Princeton University, US, reported that methane emissions from centralised wastewater treatment facilities are likely to be double the amount previously reported by the US Government's Environmental Protection Agency.

According to Helfter, who is currently measuring aquatic methane emissions at three UK sites, the most accurate data comes from measuring emissions directly using micro-meteorological techniques such as eddy covariance, which calculates how much methane escapes directly from the water into the atmosphere. Sampling isn't practical over vast areas though, so mathematical modelling is used to estimate emissions at regional and global scales. Cutting-edge methane satellite observations can help with this, but there are challenges: observations can be limited by how often a satellite passes over a certain region, and clouds get in the way, which is problematic especially over the UK and large parts of the tropics.

Plus, as Helfter explains, "just because there's methane in the

(cont'd on next page)

Hydroelectricity is a hidden source of methane emissions. These people want to solve that

(cont’d dfrom last page)

water, doesn’t mean it will escape into the atmosphere; it could stay dissolved”. But at hydroelectric dams, for example, the turbulence of the turbines - like shaking a bottle of fizzy water - triggers the release of methane gas bubbles.

Money, money, methane

“We shouldn’t just think of [dissolved methane] as a massive problem, but simply as a new resource,” says Parlons Bentata, who wants to create a value for this currently wasted gas.

It’s alarming. One of these lakes produces so much methane that the lake sometimes catches fire - Carole Helfter

As dams are one of the largest sources of methane from water, they could be a good place to start. The Blue Methane team is measuring methane in 20 hydropower reservoirs, from Brazil to Cameroon, to identify hotspots that could benefit most from methane-capture technology.

The opportunity to monetise methane capture could be big in countries like Brazil where hydropower is the major source of energy. Blue Methane is partnering with software platform Open Hydro that helps reservoirs like Tucurui- calculate their emissions and decarbonise freshwater systems. Their new framework, the Reservoir Methane Capture Mechanism, provides methane capture as a service to hydropower operators in Brazil. This means that hydropower operators can unlock investment and use methane capture to generate tangible financial incentives such as carbon credits without incurring risks associated with buying the new technology.

A lake full of energy

Huge volumes of methane are trapped at the bottom of a deep lake that borders Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lake Kivu is known as the “killer lake” due to the risk of explosive methane outbursts as a result of geological activity beneath the surface where tectonic plates join. Rare “lake overturns” occur when water becomes so saturated with dissolved gases, namely carbon dioxide and methane, that gases are uncontrollably released as plumes, threatening millions of people.

Five energy companies are extracting methane from Lake Kivu as an energy source. In 2016, a methane-gas fired thermal power plant called KivuWatt started generating 26MW of much-needed electricity from the lake’s methane.

“We’re not just fast-tracking cleaner energy; we’re unlocking the true value of our most precious resource,” says Maria Ubierna, founder of Open Hydro, a firm that also analyses greenhouse gas emissions relating to reservoirs. Ubierna believes this approach can accelerate the green energy transition.

Once captured from water, methane can be used as a biogas for electricity generation or upgraded to “green” natural gas, which can be used for heating, electricity generation or fuel for vehicles. Alternatively, methane can be converted into hydrogen or used in fuel cells to produce electricity. At present, the vast majority of the world’s hydrogen is sourced from methane.

Using methane from hydropower for energy - such as by burning it or converting it to hydrogen - still releases carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, but no more than would eventually be released anyway by the organic matter decomposing at the bottom of reservoirs.

While methane capture from Africa’s Lake Kivu (see factbox: A Lake Full of Energy) is an extreme example, Helfter sees huge potential for Blue Methane’s tech to be rolled out in developing countries. She recently found “exceptionally high methane concentrations” in open lakes in Bangalore, India, that receive raw, untreated sewage from millions of people every day.

While this is unusual, it should be a warning, she says. “It’s alarming. One of these lakes produces so much methane that the lake sometimes catches fire. But in places like this, if you can harvest these big amounts of methane, you can create power and reduce the fire risk too,” says Helfter.

As Helfter worries that the development of wastewater infrastructure in places such as India and Africa could be “completely outpaced by the rate of this urbanisation” so methane emissions could present a greater problem in the future if not dealt with properly.

Luis Rubiales: Prosecutors seek 2.5-year jail term over World Cup kiss

By Vicky Wong,
BBC News

Prosecutors are seeking a 2.5-year prison term for Luis Rubiales

Spanish prosecutors want the ex-head of the country’s football federation to be jailed for two-and-a-half years, after he kissed a female footballer against her will at Spain’s World Cup victory.

Luis Rubiales is facing charges of sexual assault and coercion after he grabbed Jenni Hermoso and kissed her on the mouth last August.

Ms Hermoso and her teammates said the kiss was unwanted and demeaning. Mr Rubiales was forced to resign, but has denied any wrongdoing.

According to a court document seen by Reuters, prosecutor Marta Duran­tez charged Mr Rubiales with one count of sexual assault and one of coercion for his alleged actions in the aftermath of the kiss. The charges carry prison terms of one year and 18 months respectively.

Ms Duran­tez also accused the former coach of the women’s national team, Jorge Vilda, the team’s current sporting director, Albert Luque, and the federation’s head of marketing, Ruben Rivera, of coercing Ms Hermoso into saying the kiss was consensual.

The indictment said they harassed her through “constant and repeated acts of pressure”, including through her friends and family.

All three denied wrongdoing when they appeared before the court. Each could face up to 18 months in jail if convicted.

Ms Duran­tez also wants the four men to pay damages totalling €100,000 (£85,677; \$108,000) to Ms Hermoso, and for Mr Rubiales to pay at least half of this amount.

She also requested a restraining order for Mr Rubiales, barring him from coming within 200 metres (656 feet) of Ms Hermoso and from communicating with her for the next seven-and-a-half years.

The scandal overshadowed a historic moment for Spain’s women’s team, which at the time was celebrating its first ever World Cup win.

During the trophy presentation ceremony, Mr Rubiales clasped Ms Hermoso’s head between his hands and planted a kiss on her lips.

He was also criticised for grabbing his crotch when celebrating the win, while standing next to Spain’s Queen Letizia and her daughter Princess Infanta Sofia.

The incident set off a wave of global anger at sexism at the highest levels of women’s sport and led to boycotts of the national team by Spain’s players as they called for changes to be made to women’s football in the country.

Reuters Spanish footballer Jenni Hermoso wearing a purple shirts and wearing her World Cup medalReuters

Spanish footballer Jenni Hermoso with her World Cup medal

Mr Rubiales was initially suspended by world football’s governing body, Fifa, before he eventually stood down as both head of Spain’s football federation and vice-president of the Union of European Football Associations (Uefa) in September.

In January, Fifa upheld a three-year ban from footballing activities for Mr Rubiales after he lodged an appeal.

Mr Vilda - the coach who led the women’s team to their World Cup victory and an ally of Mr Rubiales - was also sacked in September amid the fallout from the scandal, but was appointed head coach for Morocco’s women’s team in October.

Wash Your Hands

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Zack Says: Registration Of Swimmers A Must

By: Precious Mills

BASSETTERRE, St.Kitts (Wednesday 27th March 2024)-Coordinator of the upcoming 67th Basil Henderson Annual Easter Monday Aquatic Sports Meet Winston 'Zack' Nisbett says registration of all swimmers for this year's event is a must.

He shared such information while speaking with this reporter on Wednesday 27th March 2024 in the lead up to the annual outdoorsy event, slated to take place on Monday 1st April 2023 at the Ferry Terminal in Basseterre under the theme **'Building Community Spirit Through Sports'**.

"Registration of the names of all of the swimmers will be done this year so that there is proper order when it comes smooth flow of proper record keeping which is very important especially when it comes to transparency for the distribution of prizes. I have the book already, a big book to take all of them. I'm going to show the names so they know who is who....," he remarked.

Events are scheduled to start at 9:00 AM sharp. As usual, there will be swimming races, Ham Pole, Iron Pole, Boat Racing and a variety of other sporting and cultural activities.

Commenting on the significance of the event when it comes to keeping up the culture and togetherness as a community, Nisbett said "It's a good sporting endeavor. It creates that healthy exercising because to me it's like an exercise."

In encouraging persons to attend the event, Nisbett pointed to the boxing exhibition which is a well-anticipated feature which can facilitate challenging someone without using weapons.



For the 2023 edition of the Basil Henderson Annual Easter Monday Aquatic Sports Meet - Felix Jones (pictured left- grease covered) won two hams and a turkey in the horizontal greasy pole competition. He is seen here posing with prizes. (Spokesman Snap)

"Boxing is a fun thing because you want to challenge somebody to get away from the guns and the knives. That is what boxing is all about."

There are plans to have an actual boxing ring.



OECS Revamps Tourism Policy for a Sustainable Future

OECS Media Release

March 27, 2024 - Tourism serves as the mainstay of the economies of many islands within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Consequently, the OECS Commission has adopted a unified and collaborative approach to enhance and address the industry's challenges.

The OECS Tourism Policy Regional Task Force, comprising Regional Permanent Secretaries and Senior Technical Officers from the Ministries of Tourism across OECS Member States, convened for a two-day Regional Consultation in Antigua and Barbuda. This gathering aimed to establish new guiding principles and articulate a mission and vision for the development of a new OECS common Tourism Policy.

Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS, notes that the updated policy will seek to develop a fully comprehensive and pragmatic approach that supports

competitiveness, balanced growth, greater community participation, and increased benefits to local communities as mandated by the Revised Treaty of Basseterre, introducing new areas of opportunities specifically within the blue economy.

Colin James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, welcomed the participants with optimism about the initiative's potential. James highlighted the economic challenges of developing tourism and the benefits of a collective approach:

"Your collective expertise will be instrumental in enabling you to engage in meaningful discussions and articulate a fresh vision and mission for our vibrant tourism sector."

The Regional Task Force, which had its first meeting in August 2023, reviewed initial findings from national

stakeholder consultations held over the last four months. The goal is to leverage this momentum to create a Sustainable Tourism Policy, which, once adopted by the OECS Council of Ministers for Tourism, will direct the OECS Commission's tourism initiatives and assist governments in their tourism development over the next five years.

The meetings featured several working sessions where participants envisioned the future of a flourishing regional tourism industry and collaborated on crafting a renewed vision. Each Permanent Secretary and Technical Specialist made an elevator pitch to their colleagues, sharing insights and strategies.

This initiative is supported by the World Bank through its Unleashing the Blue Economy Project. The project aims to conduct a thorough revision and update of the OECS Common Tourism Policy (2011), with a special focus on integrating the Blue Economy to enhance competitiveness and adapt the policy for the post-COVID-19 era. The revised OECS Common Tourism Policy is expected to include directives on sustainable tourism development, as well as climate-smart and resilience strategies to promote a thriving and more equitable tourism sector.

At the end of the consultation, the attendees emphasised the importance of the meeting, highlighting the opportunity for collaboration and idea-sharing with colleagues from across the region. They appreciated the chance to learn from one another and the outcomes of the consultation. They also expressed their gratitude for the cooperative engagement and the collective, regional approach.

European flying car technology sold to China

By Zoe Kleinman,
Technology editor

The tech behind a flying car, originally developed and successfully test-flown in Europe, has been bought by a Chinese firm.

Powered by a BMW engine and normal fuel, the AirCar flew for 35 minutes between two Slovakian airports in 2021, using runways for take-off and landing.

It took just over two minutes to transform from a car into an aircraft.

Now vehicles made based on its design will be used within a “specific geographical region” of China.

Hebei Jianxin Flying Car Technology Company, headquartered in Cangzhou, has purchased exclusive rights to manufacture and use AirCar aircraft inside an undisclosed area.

The firm has built its own airport and flight school after a previous acquisition from another Slovak aircraft manufacturer, said Anton Zajac, cofounder of KleinVision, the company which created AirCar.

Having led the way in the development of the EV revolution, China is now

actively developing flying transport solutions.

Last month a firm called Autoflight carried out a test flight of a passenger-carrying drone between the cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai. The journey, which takes three hours by car, was completed in 20 minutes, it said - although the aircraft contained no passengers.

And in 2023 the Chinese firm eHang was awarded a safety certificate by Chinese officials for its electric flying taxi. Here, the UK government has said flying taxis could become a regular feature of the skies by 2028.

Government wants flying taxis taking off in 2 years

But unlike these drone-like passenger aircrafts, AirCar does not take off and land vertically, and requires a runway.

KleinVision declined to say how much it had sold the technology for. AirCar was issued with a certificate of airworthiness by the Slovak Transport Authority in 2022 and featured in a video published by YouTuber Mr Beast earlier this year.

There are still considerable hurdles for this form of transport in terms of infrastructure, regulation and public acceptance of the technology.

“This brave new world of personal transport is acting as a great leveller,” said aviation consultant Steve Wright.

Global attempts to regulate the sector left “everyone scrambling to come up with a whole new set of questions that need to be asked”.

“In this respect the West’s history can sometimes slow things down, as there is a bit of a temptation to try and squeeze these new machines into the old categories,” Mr Wright added. “China could well see this as an opportunity to get ahead.”

Similar concerns once applied to electric cars - in which China which has become a global market leader.

The sale of the Slovakian AirCar could raise questions about whether China might be poised to do the same with flying cars.

Mr Wright said while prototypes like the AirCar were “great fun”, the reality was likely to end up being more mundane “with queues and baggage checks and whatnot”.

SKELEC Conducts Fire Drill At Transmission And Distribution Building

Basseterre, St. Kitts (Tuesday 26th March 2024)- The St. Kitts Electricity Company Limited has taken a proactive step towards enhancing safety protocols with the successful execution of its inaugural fire drill at the Transmission and Distribution Building. The drill, organized by the Fire Mitigation Task Force in collaboration with the Safety and Security Department, aimed to prepare staff for emergency situations and ensure that all safety protocols are being adhered to.

The drill brought together employees from various departments to simulate a controlled emergency scenario. Through planned procedures and simulations, participants underwent evacuation protocols and familiarized themselves with the proper utilization of fire safety equipment.

“Safety is a top priority at SKELEC. The drill served as a crucial training exercise, enabling our team to identify potential areas for improvement and refine our emergency response strategies. By collaborating with our Fire Mitigation Task Force and Safety and Security Department, we aim to cultivate a culture of preparedness and responsiveness to emergencies,” stated Mrs. Langley-Stevens Safety and Security Manager.

The drill showcased the company’s dedication to adhering to industry-standard safety practices and complying with regulatory requirements. It also provided an invaluable opportunity for employees to gain hands-on experience in handling emergencies, thereby bolstering their confidence and readiness.

SKELEC extends its appreciation to all participants and stakeholders involved in making the fire drill a success. The company remains committed to fostering a safe working environment and will continue to conduct regular training exercises to uphold the highest safety standards.

Japan nappy maker shifts from babies to adults

By Mariko Oi,
Business reporter - BBC News

Births are at an all-time low in Japan, while its elderly population is growing

A Japanese nappy maker has announced that it will stop producing diapers for babies in the country and, instead, focus on the market for adults.

Oji Holdings is the latest firm to make such a shift in a rapidly ageing Japan, where birth rates are at a record low.

Sales of adult nappies outpaced those for infants in the country for more than a decade.

The number of babies born in Japan in 2023 - 758,631 - was down by 5.1% from the previous year.

It was also the lowest number of births on record in Japan since the 19th Century. In the 1970s, that figure stood at more than two million.

In a statement, Oji Holdings said its subsidiary, Oji Nepia, currently manufactures 400 million infant nappies annually. Production has been falling since 2001, when the company hit its peak - 700 million nappies.

Back in 2011, Japan’s biggest diaper maker, Unicharm, said its sales of adult diapers had surpassed those for babies.

Meanwhile, the adult diaper market has been growing and is estimated to be worth more than \$2bn (£1.6bn). Japan now has one of the world’s oldest populations, with almost 30% of them aged 65 or older. Last year, the proportion of those aged above 80 surpassed 10% for the first time.

Oji Holdings also said it would continue to make baby diapers in Malaysia and Indonesia where it expects demand to grow.

A shrinking population, the result of both ageing and plummeting birth rates, has become a crisis for Japan, one of the world’s largest economies. But the Japanese government’s efforts to address these challenges have met with little success so far.

Increased spending on child-related programmes and subsidies targeting young couples or parents don’t appear to be boosting birth rates. Expert say the reasons are complex, ranging from lower marriage rates and more women joining the workforce, to the increased costs of raising children.

“Japan is standing on the verge of whether we can continue to function as a society,” Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said last year, adding that it was a case of “now or never”.

But Japan is not alone. Fertility rates have also been dropping in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, the last of which has the lowest birth rate in the world.

China too saw its population fall for the second year in a row in 2023 and, like Japan, has introduced various incentives to boost birth rates. But an ageing population and the impact of a decades-long one child-policy, which ended in 2015, are creating demographic challenges in China too.



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**LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDINANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A**

**To the Magistrate,
District "A"**

To the Superintendent of Police.

We, Beko Lapsey & Norella Lapsey now residing in the village Temple Alley in the town of Basseterre do hereby give you notice that it is our intention to apply on 02nd day of April 2024, to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Retail Liquor Licence in respect of our premises in Temple Alley in Basseterre

Dated this
18th day of March, 2024.

Signed: Beko Lapsey

**LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDINANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A**

**To the Magistrate,
District "A"**

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Rosa Alicia Skelton now residing in Fort Thomas Road in the town of Basseterre do hereby give you notice that it is my intention to apply on 02nd day of April 2024, to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Retail Liquor Licence in respect of my premises in Fort Thomas Road in Irish Town in Basseterre.

Dated this
19th day of March, 2024.

Signed: Rosa Skelton

**LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDINANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A**

**To the Magistrate,
District "A"**

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Sheila Pemberton now residing in the village Stapleton in St. Peter's parish do hereby give you notice that it is my intention to apply on 1st day of July 2024, to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Retail Liquor Licence in respect of my premises in Sweet P Chill Spot in Stapleton village in St. Peter's parish.

Dated this
22nd day of March, 2024.

Signed: Sheila Pemberton

Cricket West Indies (CWI) unveils Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2022-2023

26 March 2024

ST. JOHN’S, Antigua- Cricket West Indies (CWI) has today unveiled its Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2022-2023, following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Antigua on Saturday 23 March 2024. - < CWI recorded revenues of US \$62.3 million and net income of US \$14.25 million for the year ending 30 September 2023.

Dr. Kishore Shallow, in the President’s Message, commended the collective strides made over the period, stating, “As we look back on the past year, I applaud the tremendous progress we have achieved together. The credit is yours, as through our unified efforts, we have made much progress. I am equally confident that our journey promises even greater rewards if we maintain this path.”

President Shallow also expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024, highlighting its potential economic impact of over US \$300 million for the Caribbean. He noted, “The excitement around hosting the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024 resonates with us at Cricket West Indies. This is a remarkable opportunity for the Caribbean. CWI stands ready and well-positioned to make the region and cricket world proud of a magnificent spectacle in June.”

Reflecting on the financial year in review, Chief Financial Officer, Kebra Nanton acknowledged the continued strengthening of CWI’s financial position, noting, “We are delighted to announce further significant improvements in our financial standing as we continue the transformational change in our organisation. Having successfully reversed the deficit of over US \$2 million, which was over US \$23 million in 2021, we now record a surplus of US \$12 million. Furthermore, our forecast for the end of 2024 anticipates our surplus exceeding US \$20 million. This achievement lays a solid foundation for our sustainability over the next four years.” Nanton further added, “By fortifying our financial position through increased retained earnings, we have bolstered our ability to navigate future challenges.” CWI’s financials underwent rigorous auditing by Grant Thornton, Antigua.

Novak Djokovic splits with coach Goran Ivanisevic

Published BBC News



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES
Goran Ivanisevic (right) coached Marin Cilic, Tomas Berdych and Milos Raonic before Novak Djokovic (left)

World number one Novak Djokovic has split with coach Goran Ivanisevic.

Former Wimbledon champion Ivanisevic became Djokovic’s main coach in March 2022, having worked with him alongside long-time mentor Marian Vajda since 2018.

Serb Djokovic has won a joint-record 24 Grand Slam singles titles but has made a disappointing start to 2024.

“Goran and I decided to stop working together a few days ago,” Djokovic said on Instagram.

“Our on-court chemistry had its ups and downs, but our friendship was always rock solid.”

Djokovic lost in the semi-finals of the Australian Open in January, suffered a third-round defeat by world number 123 Luka Nardi at Indian Wells this month, then withdrew from the ongoing Miami Open, citing a need to balance his “private and professional

schedule”.

“I remember clearly the moment I invited Goran to be part of my team. It was back in 2018, and Marian and I were looking to innovate and bring some serve magic to our duo,” Djokovic said.

“In fact, not only we brought serve, but also lots of laughter, fun, year end no1 rankings, record breaking achievements and 12 more Grand Slams (and a few finals) to the count since then. Did I mention a bit of drama too?”

Croat Ivanisevic was nominated for the ATP Coach of the Year in 2023, having helped Djokovic to three of the four Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic shares the record for Grand Slam singles titles with Margaret Court.

The French Open, which starts on 26 May, is the next Grand Slam in the calendar.

West Indies Women kickstart busy 2024 with away series to Pakistan

ST. JOHN’S, Antigua - Cricket West Indies (CWI) today confirmed that the West Indies Women’s team will play three (3) One-Day Internationals (ODI) and five (5) T20 Internationals (T20I) against Pakistan Women at the National Bank Stadium (NBS) in Karachi from 18 April to 3 May 2024.

The ODIs are scheduled for 18, 21, and 23 April and hold significance as they contribute to the ongoing ICC Women’s Championship (2022-25). These matches are crucial for the West Indies Women as they push for direct qualification for the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup that is due to take place in India in 2025. - West Indies Women are currently positioned at No. 9 with 8 points (top six qualify automatically).

The West Indies Women’s team last toured Pakistan in November 2021 resulting in victories in all three ODIs.

Following the ODI Series, a gripping five-match T20I series will unfold from 26 April to 3 May. This T20I series will not only offer thrilling cricket action for fans but will provide important competitive cricket for both teams to fine-tune their skills and strategies ahead of the upcoming ICC Women’s T20 World Cup, which is due to take place after the Women’s CPL in Bangladesh in September.

CWI’s Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe said: “The importance of this tour in our quest for automatic qualifications to 2025 Cricket World Cup cannot be understated. Our team would be well prepared with players just emerging from the regional tournaments and then heading into camp before the start of the series. We also look forward to the return of our captain from a successful WPL campaign.”

The West Indies Women will assemble in Dubai from 6 April for a one-week training camp as part of their preparations for the upcoming Pakistan tour.

West Indies Women Tour to Pakistan Schedule

- All matches to be played at National Bank Stadium (NBS), Karachi
- 6-14 April - Pre-Tour Preparation Training Camp, Dubai
 - 14 April - West Indies Women arrive in Karachi
 - 18 April - 1st ODI, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi (ICC Women’s Championship)
 - 21 April - 2nd ODI, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi (ICC Women’s Championship)
 - 23 April - 3rd ODI, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi (ICC Women’s Championship)
 - 26 April - 1st T20I, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi
 - 28 April - 2nd T20I, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi
 - 30 April - 3rd T20I, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi
 - 2 May - 4th T20I, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi
 - 3 May - 5th T20I, Pakistan v West Indies, NBS, Karachi

Victoria Ohuruogu: British sprinter cleared of anti-doping violation for prohibited association

Published BBC Sports



Two-time British champion Victoria Ohuruogu won Commonwealth Games 400m silver in Birmingham in 2022

By Laura Scott
BBC Sport

British sprinter Victoria Ohuruogu has been cleared of an anti-doping rule violation concerning alleged prohibited association with a banned athlete.

It had been alleged the 31-year-old was being coached by her boyfriend Antonio Infantino, who is serving a three-year doping ban.

But this was dismissed by a UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) panel.

British 400m champion Ohuruogu said the allegation had cost her “a great deal” and disrupted her Olympic preparations.

“I can confirm that an independent panel has emphatically dismissed the charge of prohibited association against me, finding that it was ‘not satisfied, let alone comfortably satisfied’ that I have broken any rules,” said Ohuruogu, who has had her UK Sport funding reinstated and will aim to qualify for Paris 2024.

“I take my anti-doping obligations extremely seriously and am pleased that the truth of the matter - which is exactly as I have always maintained - has now been confirmed.”

UKAD said in a statement the outcome of the hearing, held before the independent National Anti-Doping Panel (NADP), would not ordinarily be disclosed, but it had done so at Ohuruogu’s request.

Her long-term boyfriend Infantino, who formerly represented GB but competed for Italy at the Tokyo Olympics, is banned until December 2024 following his failed doping test.

Ohuruogu was investigated after being photographed training alongside Infantino by reporter for The Times, external. Anti-doping rules state athletes must not work in a professional or sport-related capacity with coaches or other athlete support personnel currently serving an anti-doping ban.

The Commonwealth Games silver medallist also helped the British team to 4x400m relay bronze at both the World and European Championships in 2022, but she was left out of GB’s quartet at the 2023 Worlds in Budapest last summer with the investigation ongoing.

Nicole Yeargin, Laviai Nielsen, Amber Anning and Ama Pipi made the relay podium, clinching bronze, while Ohuruogu missed out on the individual 400m final.

When British sprinter CJ Ujah was banned for 22 months following a positive test for two prohibited substances at the Tokyo Olympics, the entire British team was stripped of its men’s 4x100m silver medals.

Ohuruogu added: “I’m incredibly thankful for the support of those around me. The allegation, its publication, and the media intrusion has cost me a great deal over the past 16 months.

“It has affected my personal relationships, cost me the chance to run in what would have been career-defining events, and caused huge disruption to my preparation and training in an Olympic year.

“It has caused me to doubt whether I can sustain a private life or even be seen

IPL 2024 results: Sunrisers Hyderabad hit highest total in tournament’s history in win over Mumbai Indians

From the sectionCricket - BBC Sports



Abhishek Sharma’s 16-ball fifty was the fastest for Sunrisers in the IPL

Indian Premier League, Hyderabad:

Sunrisers Hyderabad 277-3 (20 overs): Klaasen 80* (34), Abhishek 63 (23), Head 62 (24)

Mumbai Indians 246-5: Verma 64 (34), David 42* (22),

Sunrisers Hyderabad won by 31 runs

Sunrisers Hyderabad smashed 277-3 - the highest total in Indian Premier League history - in a record-breaking 31-run victory against Mumbai Indians.

Opener Travis Head hit 62 from 24 balls, Abhishek Sharma a 23-ball 63 and Heinrich Klaasen 80 not out from 34.

They took Sunrisers beyond the previous IPL record, Royal Challengers Bangalore’s 263-5 in 2013.

Mumbai made a decent fist of the chase, making the match the highest-scoring T20 in history, but ended on 246-5.

Sunrisers’ total was also the fourth highest in any men’s T20 and the highest in a T20 franchise tournament.

The men’s T20 record is held by Nepal, who scored 314-3 against Mongolia last year. Afghanistan made 278-3 against Ireland in 2019 while the Czech Republic posted 278-4 against Hungary later that year.

The previous record in a franchise tournament was Melbourne Stars’ 273-2 against Hobart Hurricanes in the Australian Big Bash in 2022.

Australia international Head was dropped on five and raced to a 18-ball fifty as he put on 68 in 23 balls with Abhishek, after the loss of Mayank

Agarwal for 11.

Abhishek then reached his fifty two balls quicker - thrashing three fours and seven sixes - before being dismissed at the end of the 11th over with the Sunrisers 161-3.

The scoring slowed slightly as Klaasen joined Aiden Markram but the pair took 75 from the last five overs to end with an unbroken partnership of 116 from 55 balls.

Markram ended on 42 not out from 28 balls.

South African left-armer Kwen Maphaka, 17, conceded 66 in four wicketless overs on debut. There were 18 sixes and 19 fours in Sunrisers’ innings and a T20 record 38 sixes in the match.

Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan took Mumbai to 50-0 in three overs before Kishan holed out for 34 and Rohit 26.

Tilak Varma struck 64 from 34 balls and, with 113 runs needed from 48, a remarkable win was not out of the question at 165-3 after 12 overs.

But Varma was caught off Sunrisers captain Pat Cummins as the Australia skipper conceded only three runs from the 15th over to swing the game his side’s way.

with those closest to me without being accused of breaking the rules. None of that can be undone by the fact that I have now been fully exonerated.

“I’m now eager to put this firmly behind me, get my head down, and train hard for the outdoor season and - hopefully - the Olympics.

“The GB team is very strong, and I hope to be able to contribute to its continued success. I will not be making any further comment.”