

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

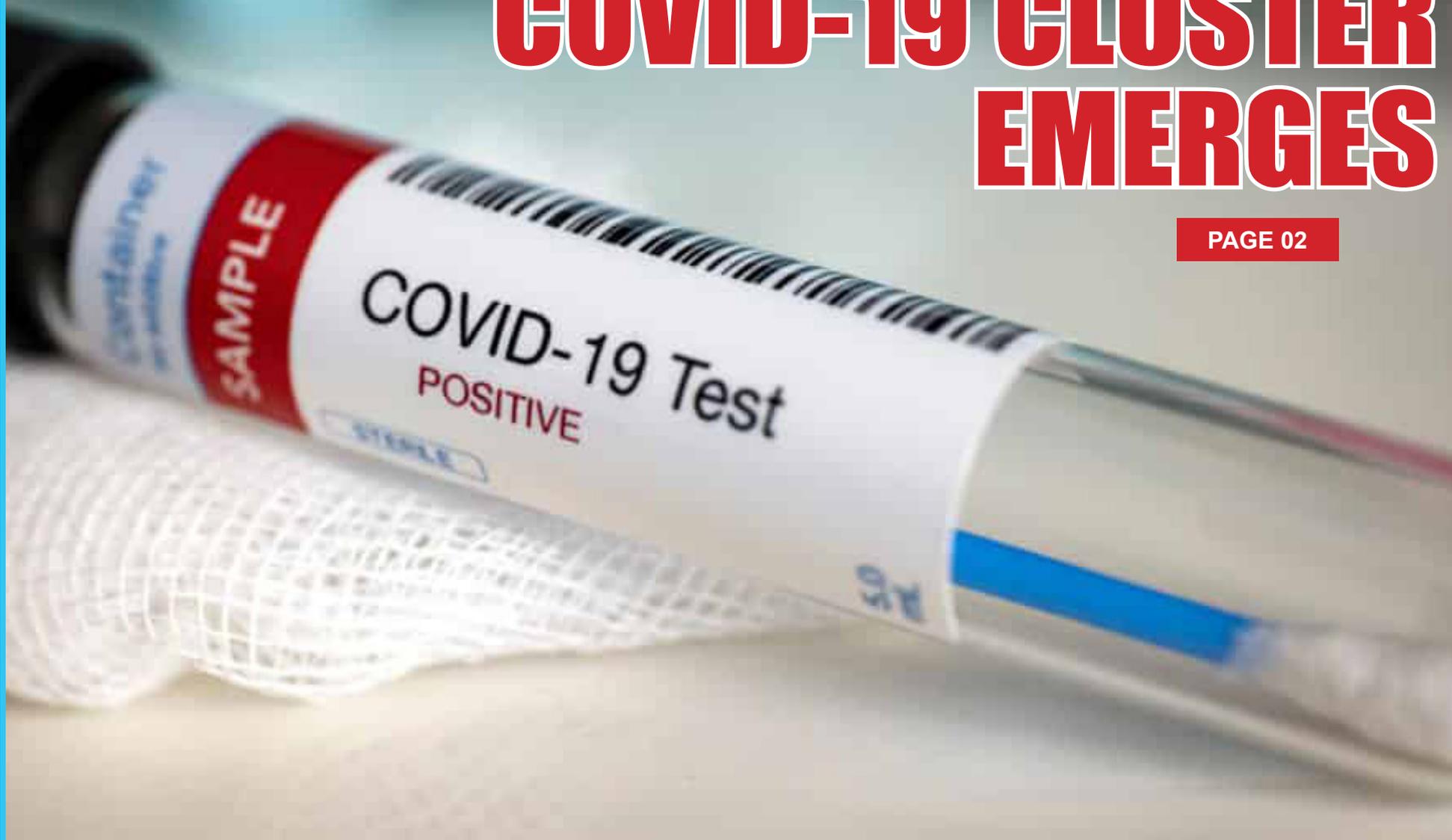


Monday, August 23, 2021

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AND MUCH MORE...



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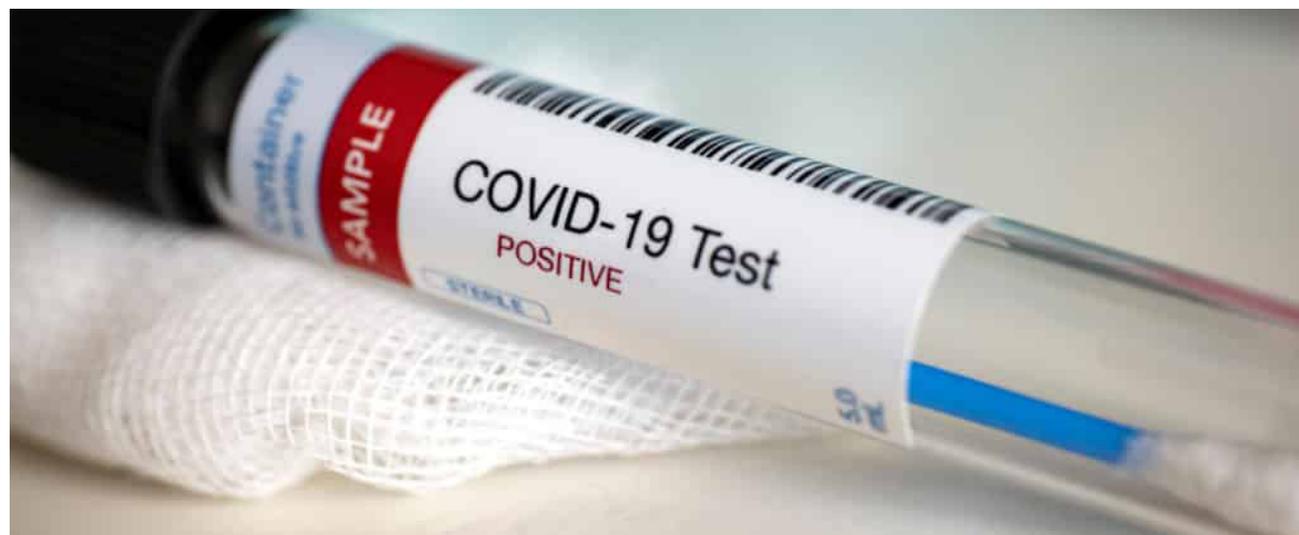
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Aggressive Contact Tracing Underway As COVID-19 Cluster Emerges



The Ministry of Health is undertaking aggressive and extensive contact tracing within communities linked to what's emerging as a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases.

Several positive cases have emerged in recent days, some of which are among locals with no recent travel history, a situation that has raised concern among health officials.

The number of active cases of COVID-19 in Grenada rose to as high as 19 during the past week. The active cases are individuals ranging from 12 to 50 years of age.

Health officials are concerned that a number of recent activities could be classified as "super spreader events" based on the epidemiological situation that is emerging with the increase in positive cases.

Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Shawn Charles, has revealed that contact tracing efforts are ongoing in South St. George, Gouyave, and St. George North West. The Ministry of Health is particularly concerned about the cases in St. George North West, the location from which the cluster is emerging, following a party on August 12.

Cluster transmission refers to infections that are largely concentrated in a limited area, while community spread refers to infections on a wider scale with the source of origin likely to be known.

Health Minister, Hon. Nickolas Steele, expressed concern that Grenada is dealing with a potential spread of the Delta variant, which has proven to be more infectious and deadly than other variants of the virus.

He said this new variant is unforgiving and could hit families, the health sector and the economy hard.

Minister Steele reiterated that the onus is on everyone to determine how quickly Grenada recovers from COVID-19.

He said, "It is not left only to the Ministry of Health. It is not a task for us alone, it is a task for the nation to accomplish. If individuals continue to be defiant and have gatherings right now while the Government is trying to get control of the situation, if those present at the events don't come forward, don't follow protocols, then we will lose control of the situation. This Delta variant is not forgiving. It does not give us a second chance; we've only got one chance to control this and we may have lost this chance already."

Samples will be sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) to confirm the variant of the current active cases.



THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

IF YOU, OR A FAMILY MEMBER SUSPECT THAT YOU MAY HAVE CONTRACTED COVID-19 AND ARE DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY SELF-ISOLATE AT HOME.

THIS MEANS THAT YOU MUST ALSO AVOID ALL CONTACT WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

DO NOT VISIT HOSPITALS OR HEALTH CENTRES AS THIS CREATES THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER SPREAD OF THE VIRUS AND IT PUTS ADDITIONAL PERSONS AT RISK, WHEN YOU COME INTO CONTACT WITH THEM.

YOUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO CALL THE **COVID-19 HOTLINE AT 458 4787 OR 538 4787,** OR CONTACT YOUR NEAREST HEALTH CENTRE OR MEDICAL STATION.

ONCE YOUR INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED, HEALTH OFFICIALS WILL COME TO YOU.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



Ministry of Health Receives Confirmation of Delta Variant in Grenada

The Ministry of Health confirmed on Thursday, August 12, that three of the COVID-19 cases recorded in Grenada in recent weeks are the Delta variant.

The samples were collected on July 26, from arriving passengers from the United States and sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for testing.

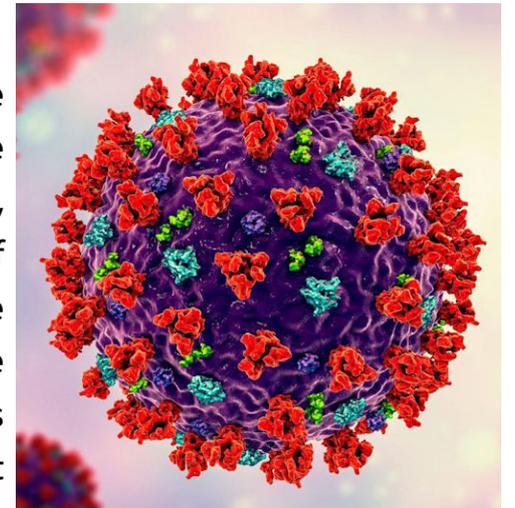
The cases include a 48-year-old male returning national and two non-nationals, a 33-year-old female and a 34-year-old male. Only one of the three, was vaccinated.

Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Shawn Charles, confirmed receipt of the test results from CARPHA on August 12.

No secondary infections connected to these three cases have been identified to date and Dr. Charles said compliance with the COVID-19 protocols is a critical factor in the fight against the spread of the virus.

The Acting Chief Medical Officer said, "What matters in large part is human behaviour. Is the population inclined to adhere to the protocols, wearing face masks, avoiding crowded settings and sanitizing regularly? Another key consideration is the attitude to vaccination. Are people utilising the option to protect themselves against this deadly

disease? At the end of the day, we can provide advice as health professionals, but it is really the level of compliance and vaccine uptake that will determine our continued success in the fight against COVID-19."



Dr. Charles further stated, "It is the Delta variant that decimated India earlier this year, with thousands succumbing to its deadly attack. We know, for a fact, that this variant is far more contagious and deadly. Therefore, armed with this knowledge, the population ought to be keen to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones. Having not experienced any serious outbreak of COVID-19 here, if the Delta strain enters the population, the impact can be quite concerning."

Prior to the August 12 confirmation of the three Delta cases, Grenada had recorded three cases of the Alpha variant, which was predominant in the United Kingdom.



Ministry of Health Begins Roll-out of Pfizer Vaccine

Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Shawn Charles, said the deployment of the Pfizer vaccine will be very strategic, beginning with the inoculation of frontline workers and children between the ages of 12 and 17 and followed, thereafter, with open vaccination for the public.

The Pfizer vaccine was officially introduced into the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19 on Thursday, Aug. 19, one day after the Grenada Government received 29,250 doses of the vaccine from the U.S. Government, through an arrangement with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

Dr. Charles explained to the GIS that the proper handling of the vaccines is critical, in that, once removed from the ultra-cold storage facility at the St. George's University Campus, the vaccines must reach the intended destination within a specific period and be utilised.

Dr. Charles also highlighted that Grenada has a 30-day window to use the present shipment of vaccines because of the limited shelf life, strict storage and proper handling conditions that are necessary for cold-chain vaccines, such as Pfizer.

Meanwhile, Manager of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Nurse Audrey Lyons, told the GIS that those seeking to be vaccinated against COVID-19 can continue to do so by visiting the established vaccination centres, including the Grenada National Stadium, health centers and St. Augustine Medical Services.

Persons can also choose to visit the health centres in their districts to get vaccinated, but must first make an appointment and, once given a date, must visit the centre on the date and time to receive their shot and prevent wastage.

According to the EPI Manager, a person who visits a vaccination center would be given the option to choose their preferred vaccine as long as both are in supply.

The two options currently available in Grenada, AstraZeneca and Pfizer, are both World Health Organisation (WHO) approved vaccines.

Nurse Lyons reminded the population of the importance of getting vaccinated at this time in our COVID-19 response, especially as cases in Grenada are on the rise, and given the deadly and transmissible threat of the Delta strain of the virus.





MEDICAL STATION CONTACT INFORMATION

District Health Centers

- Melville St. St. Geo...: +1 (473) 444-3371
- Grand Bras St. And...: +1 (473) 442-7623
- Gouyave St. John's...: +1 (473) 444-8414
- Belle Vue St. Dav...: +1 (473) 4446892
- Sauteurs St. Pat...: +1 (473) 442-9317
- Hillsborough C'cou...: +1 (473) 443-7280

Hospital

- General Hospital: +1 (473) 440-2051
- Princess Alice: +1 (473) 442-7251
- Princess Royal: +1 (473) 443-7400
- Mt. Gay Hospital: +1 (473) 440-3272 | +1 (473) 440-3154

Clinics

- St. David's: +1 (473) 444-6249
- St. Andrew's: +1 (473) 442-7623 | +1 (473) 442-7443
- St. Patrick's: +1 (473) 442-9337
- St. John's: +1 (473) 444-8414 | +1 (473) 444-8764
- St. George's: +1 (473) 440-3272 | +1 (473) 440-3154
- Carriacou: +1 (473) 443-6415

St Andrew's

- Birchgrove: +1 (473) 442-7518
- Tivoli: +1 (473) 442-8185
- Mt. Carmel: +1 (473) 442-7447
- Paraclete: +1 (473) 442-7441
- Crochu: +1 (473) 442-6248
- Paradise: +1 (473) 442-7530

St David's

- Perdmontemps: +1 (473) 440-7998
- Vincennes: +1 (473) 444-6225
- Westerhall: +1 (473) 443-2418

St George's

- Good Hope: +1 (473) 440-4993
- Grand Anse: +1 (473) 444-4250
- La Borie: +1 (473) 440-3228
- Snug Corner: +1 (473) 440-2286
- New Hampshire: +1 (473) 440-2020
- Mome Jaloux: +1 (473) 440-2397
- Happy Hill: +1 (473) 440-2287
- Mt. Moritz: +1 (473) 440-2280
- Woburn: +1 (473) 444-5206
- Calliste: +1 (473) 444-4444

St John's/ Mark's

- Grand Roy: +1 (473) 444-8234
- Florida: +1 (473) 444-7913
- Victoria: +1 (473) 444-8427

St. Patrick's

- Mt. Rich: +1 (473) 442-9871
- Hermitage: +1 (473) 442-9437
- Union: +1 (473) 442-9327

Carriacou and Petite Martinique

- L'Esterre: +1 (473) 443-6415
- Mt. Pleasant: +1 (473) 443-6416
- Windward: +1 (473) 443-6415
- Petite Martinique: +1 (473) 443-9198

Prime Minister Congratulates Kirani James on Olympic Feat



**Prime Minister,
Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell**

Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, has extended congratulations to Kirani James, Grenada's bronze medalist in the 400-metre final at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

James clocked 44.19 seconds in the event to secure his third Olympic medal in as many games. The 28-year-old athlete now has a complete set, gold from London in 2012, silver from Rio 2016 and now bronze from Tokyo 2020, making him the most decorated Olympian in the 400 metres.

The Prime Minister, like many Grenadians, was glued to his television on Aug. 5, watching excitedly as James competed in the much-anticipated event.

Dr. Mitchell said, "The fact that he was able to medal is highly significant, because he accomplished this after being diagnosed with Graves disease. Coming back to competition after being away for a significant amount of time and being able to secure third place is an accomplishment beyond gold. He demonstrated true tenacity and as a nation, we are extremely proud of him."

The Prime Minister described Grenada's Olympic star as a class act.

He said, "In addition to being able to medal in the event, the class that he demonstrated after the race, is so telling



Kirani James

of his true character. He went up to Steven Gardiner, the winner, took the Bahamian flag and wrapped it around him. That is a clear demonstration of the quality of Kirani as an individual. That is what impressed me the most. Like all other Grenadians, I look forward to welcoming him home and celebrating him the way he deserves to be."

Dr. Mitchell mentioned receiving calls from many persons around the region who are all high in praise of Kirani.

He said, "They all spoke, not just about the fact that he medaled but also about the class of the individual."

The Prime Minister spoke specifically of his counterpart in Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Keith Rowley, who has extended an invitation for Kirani to visit Trinidad, when next he comes to Grenada, and be hosted at his residence.

Prime Minister High in Praise of Grenada's Decathlon Finalist, Lindon Victor



Lindon Victor

Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, is high in praise of Lindon Victor, who finished seventh in the decathlon at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

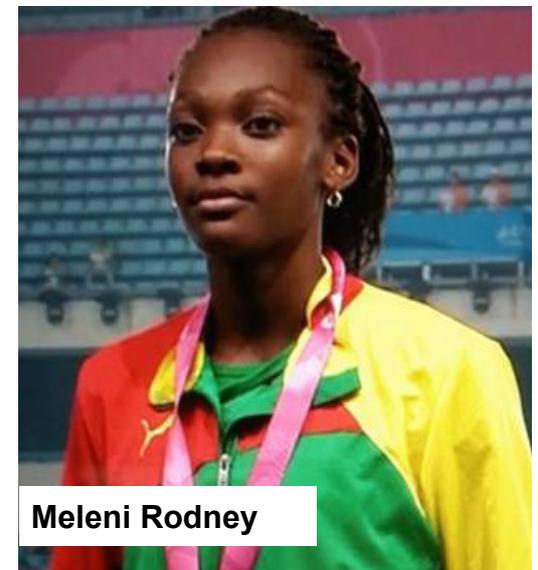
The decathlon comprises of 10 events - 100 metres, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400 metres, 110 metre hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and 1,500 metres, completed over a two-day period.

Victor completed the decathlon with 8,414 points, a clear improvement over the 7,998 points he amassed at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Victor recorded a personal best of 71.56 metres in the javelin throw.

Dr. Mitchell said, "That was a tremendous performance by Lindon Victor. It takes a special human being to compete in all those events in such a short period, with little rest in between. I think he deserves tremendous recognition. As far as I am concerned, he is another winner."

The Prime Minister went on to congratulate all of Grenada's athletes who competed in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics – Anderson Peters who competed in the javelin event, swimmers Delron Felix and Kimberly Ince and 400 metre runner, Meleni Rodney.

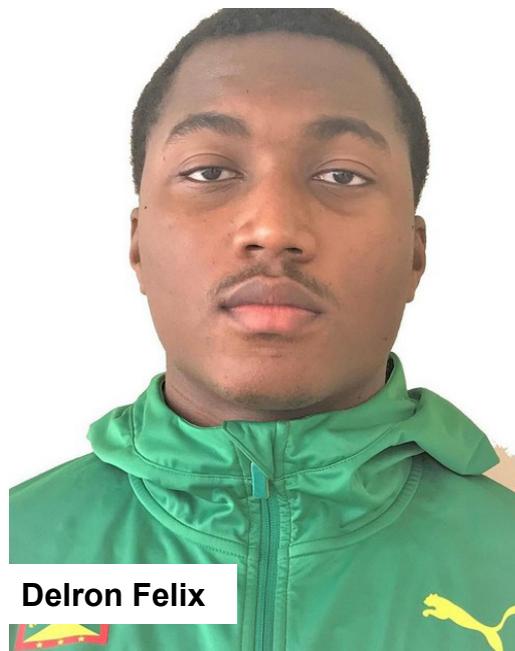
Dr. Mitchell said, "Today is a good day for Grenada. We should be proud of all of our athletes and what they have done for our country. The image of Grenada has been lifted by the performance of our athletes and we have to give them credit for this."



Meleni Rodney



Anderson Peters



Delron Felix



Kimberley Ince

Team Grenada off to Tokyo Paralympic Games



Grenada will create history when the country's athletes compete in the 2020 International Paralympic Games opening in Tokyo, Japan, from August 24 to September 5, 2021.

The Paralympic Games, which are staged immediately after the Summer Olympics, in the same city and using the same venues, will feature more than 5,000 athletes and officials from more than 150 nations in two weeks of competition.

Grenada will be represented by two athletes, Ishona Stacy-Ann Charles in the women's javelin, and Nyè Cruickshank in swimming. The Team Manager/Chief of Mission is Kwame Hypolite, who is the Vice President of the Grenada Paralympics Committee.

Javelin thrower, Ishona Charles, is Grenada's first para-athlete to compete internationally, participating in the 2018 Desert Challenge Games in Arizona where she won the gold medal in the javelin event. She subsequently participated in the 2019 World Para-Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar and, earlier this year, returned to the Desert Challenge Games in Arizona, where she won a silver medal.

Nye Cruickshank made her international debut in the World Para-Swimming World Series in Lewisville, Texas in April 2021. The 19-year-old is the first local swimmer to compete in an international para-swimming



championship.

The Paralympic Games is the premier event for physically challenged athletes from around the world.

In a press release, the Grenada Paralympics Committee said it is delighted to have Grenadian para-athletes representing the Grenada at the highest level of international competition and hopes that it will inspire the nation's physically challenged, in particular the young boys and girls, to get involved in all sports.

The committee urges Grenadians to take time and look at the performances of the world para-athletes and challenge parents and the nation to become champions in the promotion of sports for all.

The Paralympics Committee also said it is grateful to the International Paralympic Committee, host nation Japan, the Grenada Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sports for supporting the team's participation.

The Grenada Paralympics Committee was formed in 2015 on the initiative of the Grenada Olympic Committee and became affiliated with the International Paralympic Committee in 2017.



Ministry of
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Launch of National Skills Development Institute

The Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Religious Affairs and Information launched the National Skills Development Institute, located in Mt. Rich, St. Patrick, on Aug. 19.

The institute is expected to provide an avenue for lifelong learning to the people of St. Patrick and other Grenadians interested in skill training. The building housing the institute comprises three stories, with the middle floor dedicated to woodwork skills. The building was purchased, renovated and furnished with skill training tools and equipment by the Government of Grenada, to encourage skill development in St. Patrick.

Speaking at the launch of the National Skills Development Institute, Hon. Emmalin Pierre, Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Religious Affairs and Information, said this institute should be a landmark for change and development.

She said, "It's not just about how much furniture you can produce. It's not just about how many people you can engage here, but how this is going to change this community and neighbouring communities forever."

The institute emerged as a constituency project initiated by Hon. Anthony Boatswain several years ago, on the request of the Prime Minister. Hon. Pierre



National Skills Development Institute Ribbon Cutting
Hon. Pamela Moses, Hon. Emmalin Pierre, Hon. Anthony Boatswain

recognized the importance of his vision for St. Patrick and the wider community and also the input of Minister Pamela Moses, who continued work on the project, during her tenure at the Ministry of Education.

Speaking to Hon. Boatswain, the Education Minister said, "I salute you for that vision and not just the vision, the passion that went with it, selling it to the Cabinet, defending it and having even Prime Minister agree that this is something we must do for the people of Grenada and particularly the people of St. Patrick."

She gave the commitment of the Ministry's

support of the institute with regard to the purchase of products once quality standards are maintained.

She said, "Like my colleagues from St. Patrick, I too have confidence in you that you will be able to deliver, just like this Government, and, because of that conviction, I am making this commitment this morning that our first priority will be to have locally produced furniture."

Continued on page 12



National Skills Development Institute workshop



Furniture made at the institute

Launch of National Skills Development Institute

Continued from page 11

Representative for St. Patrick's West and brainchild of the institute, Hon. Anthony Boatswain, is happy to see the full realization of his project and hopes that it will address the high unemployment rate in St. Patrick.

Boatswain said, "I give my full support and endorsement to this very important National Skills Institute which will also be involved to a great level in the actual production and sales of furniture and the repair of school furniture as well. The people of Mr. Rich and St. Patrick as a whole should be extremely proud to have such a prestigious facility located in their parish. I wish the Ministry of Education and the Minister well. I wish the Government of Grenada all the best for the future success of this institute in the transformation of our socio-economic landscape."

Hon. Boatswain recognized role played by the T.A. Marryshow Community College, former head of the TAMCC continuing education department, David Fleming, and others in the initial efforts to set up the institute. He also noted that the feasibility study which was initially done indicated that the benefit of that skill development centre was expected to outweigh the cost.

Director of the Institute, Alford Tannis, has great expectations for the facility, seeing it as a great vehicle for self-sufficiency and human capital development. He said they currently



Hon. Emmalin Pierre tours facility and views furniture

have many requests for furniture and already fulfilled an order for several desks from the Ministry of Finance.

"I applaud the Government for making that investment and that's a significant investment for the future of the country," Tannis said. "It has a lot of potential and we need the support, so that it succeeds."

Tannis looks forward to utilizing all the space available in the building and mentioned the possibility of doing craft in the basement area. He noted that there can potentially be a fruitful collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism to produce forward-thinking craft items that would be made from scratch in Grenada rather

than simply branded with the word Grenada.

Parliamentary Representative for St. Patrick's East, Hon. Pamela Moses is pleased with the opening of the National Skills Development Institute and what it means for the parish.

She said, "The constituency that I represent, we're very happy and relieved. Today, all of St. Patrick is very, very happy."



Furniture made at the institute



Furniture made at the institute



School desks made at the facility

Grenadian Special Education Teachers Attend Teaching for Neurodiversity Training

More than 85 Grenadian teachers participated in the training opportunity, Teaching for Neurodiversity: Building Inclusive Teaching and Learning Classrooms, offered by Lesley University Institute for English Language Programmes Beyond Borders, from August 2 to August 6, 2021.

The participants at the workshop included the focal point person at mainstream schools for special needs education, special education teachers, itinerant teachers (teachers who work with special needs students in mainstream schools) and Ministry of Education field officers.

This online workshop was made available through Her Excellency Yolande Smith at the Washington Mission, in collaboration with the Authentic Caribbean Foundation in the USA and the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Religious Affairs, and Information, Grenada.

At the opening ceremony for the training, held via ZOOM, on August 2, Norman Gilbert, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Religious Affairs, and Information thanked the ambassador, the team at Lesley and the Authentic Caribbean Foundation for reaching out to provide this opportunity for our teachers. "I am sure that this will be an exciting journey and that the application of the core principles will bring benefit to our education system here in Grenada."

At the end of the training, the educators received a certificate from Lesley University. This training will be the beginning of a continued collaboration between the



Norman Gilbert, Permanent Secretary
with responsibility for Human Resource Development

Authentic Caribbean Foundation, the Washington Mission, and the Ministry of Education, Grenada in providing support to students with special needs in Grenada.

Gilbert highlighted Grenada's efforts towards inclusive education by placing most special needs students within mainstream schools and ensuring that these students have an equal opportunity to sit both the CPEA and CSEC exams. He views the recent training as a key capacity-building opportunity.

"This interactive and practical workshop aims to prepare reflective and skilled educators who are equipped with an evidence-based, problem-solving approach to analysing and solving real and multifaceted inclusion issues. As some of you may be aware, the Ministry has placed the teaching of special education high on its agenda," the Permanent Secretary said. "This is evident by the selection of focal points at every school to provide support to students with intellectual challenges, sensory challenges, and so on. This training would allow for teachers, in all schools, to better

understand the needs of students, so that they can provide the appropriate accommodations or teaching and learning interventions which will positively impact the students."

The intended outcome of the training includes improving awareness and understanding of inclusive supports and practices for neurodiverse individuals diagnosed with ADHD, autism and dyslexia and techniques; exploring practical and effective strategies and approaches to inclusive teaching and learning, healthcare and community-building and developing a strategic plan of action for improved inclusive practice for individuals diagnosed with Dyslexia, ADHD, and Autism.

Gilbert said the Special Education Policy, which is expected to transform the education landscape for special needs students in Grenada, is presently before the Cabinet for approval. He explained that it will focus on inclusive practices in education, the code of practice in referring students to special needs, the inclusion of ICT in building teaching and learning outcomes and the need for curriculum redesign to cater for special needs students more effectively.

The Permanent Secretary said, "Clearly this intervention by Lesley University and Authentic Caribbean Foundation could not have come at a better time."



ACT FACTS:

Inadequate supervision of children can lead to CPA intervention.



It's in the Act!

*Child (Protection and Adoption) Act,
Section 25, subsection 1 a (ii) and (iii).*

For more information, consult the Child Protection and Adoption Act (2010), or contact the Child Protection Authority.



435-0293



@ProtectChildrenGrenada



@childprotectiongrenada



@CPA_Grenada



533-6990



ACT FACTS:

At times, removal may be necessary to protect a child from abuse and/or neglect.



It's in the Act!

*Child (Protection and Adoption) Act,
Section 38.*

For more information, consult the Child Protection and Adoption Act (2010), or contact the Child Protection Authority.



435-0293



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@childprotectiongrenada



@CPA_Grenada



533-6990

Statement by Chairman of the OECS Authority on Incident Involving Vincentian Prime Minister

On behalf of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), I wish to express our deep dismay with the incident which occurred outside of the House of Assembly of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Thursday, August 5, 2021, resulting in injury to Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

What we witnessed was heartbreaking and not representative of our true nature as Caribbean people, for this is not how we settle differences, political and otherwise.

Within the OECS, we strongly uphold the tenets of democracy and the right of citizens to protest and to have their voices heard, but to do so peacefully and in accordance with the law.

The OECS Authority unequivocally condemns the use of violence of any kind and any expressions of protest, such as the burning of police barriers in the street, as was witnessed in St. Vincent on Thursday.

Further, the OECS Authority calls on the opposition forces to unambiguously disassociate themselves from such anarchistic acts and to encourage supporters to keep their protest within the ambits of the law.

It is even more disturbing that the injury to the Vincentian Prime Minister occurred outside of the House



Prime Minister
Dr. Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell

Prime Minister
Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

of Assembly, the seat of Vincentian democracy and the location where all political differences are to be freely debated, discussed and resolved.

We extend our prayers to Prime Minister Gonsalves and wish him a speedy recovery from the injuries sustained, and we call on all Vincentians to opt for rational debate over animosity and extreme behaviour. This is a line, which once crossed, it may become difficult to return.

Given the demonstrated resilience of the Vincentian Government and people, having experienced a series of crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the volcanic eruption, we are confident that St. Vincent can rise to the higher challenge of national unity.



**STAY SAFE.
STAY HOME.
SAVE LIVES.**

Ministry of Agriculture Supports Launch of Backyard Gardeners Network



Increasing food security through backyard gardening, promoting sustainable agriculture, and encouraging healthier eating habits, are the aims of the Backyard Gardeners' Network Initiative.

The newly launched initiative is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

"The Ministry of Agriculture is pleased to collaborate with IICA for this initiative, as we recognise this as one way to encourage food and nutrition security for all," the Senior Agricultural Officer, Lauren St. Louis, said.

The agronomist also explained that this initiative "will give foods a shorter carbon footprint, while at the same time encouraging healthier eating habits."

The official launch of this new network of 30 persons included a practical training session on the important elements in the backyard garden, during which participants were able to share information and techniques.

"This Backyard Gardeners' Initiative was developed as part of a regional project by IICA. We hope this would increase food production in the backyard, by supporting members through training and demonstrations," IICA's National Specialist, Derek Charles, said.

Presentations during the first hands-on training were done by Dr. Guido Marcelle, and 4-H Officer, Melissa Tyson. Participant, Gentia Alexander, a market vendor, expressed elation to be a part of the network.

"This will help me to grow my seasonings that I can sell," she said.

Annette Isaac, another member, said, "For us, single parents, it would help us to save a dollar. We can also start selling our products to earn a dollar to take care of our families."

The launch of the network was done with a demonstration in St. Andrew, on the plot of Pamela Courtney, a successful backyard gardener. She implored members of the network to use the platform as a means of knowledge sharing.

Sharing her experience with backyard gardening, Courtney explained, "Knowing where my food was coming from and the career that I had, propelled me into backyard gardening. This has reduced the number of times I have had to go to the market because everything we eat comes from the backyard."

As part of the network launch, members received a backyard gardeners' starter pack, with small tools that can be used in the garden and will receive a certificate of participation.

All members are part of a WhatsApp group that will facilitate queries and information sharing.

Fishers Urged to Register With the Fisheries Division Prior to Setting Up Mari Culture Farms



The Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Co-operatives reminds fishers involved in sea moss cultivation and other types of mariculture that they must first be registered with the Fisheries Division prior to setting up their sea moss farm(s) or any other mariculture plot(s) along the coast of Grenada.

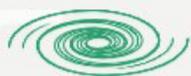
The registration process will enable the Fisheries Division to maintain the national database of fishers and fishery products and provide improved services to effectively manage and protect Grenada's coastline, which is essential to marine life. Our coastline is used for many activities such as beach seine fishing, passage and mooring of boats, tourism, nature conservation and swimming, among others. However, there is limited space. Grenada has approximately 121 square kilometers of coastline.

Therefore, it is imperative that all mariculture fishers register to allow the Fisheries Division to efficiently implement site selection and spatial planning. Critical factors that ensure there is equitable access to our coastline by all fishers, seafarers, and the public. Sea moss farmers and other mariculturists should note that failure to seek approval from the Fisheries Division prior to setting up their sea moss farm(s) or Mariculture plot(s), could result in the removal of the farm(s) or plot(s) by the authorities.

Registration forms can be obtained at the Fisheries Division office located at Melville Street or at any of the state-owned fish markets between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Disasters and food

Information GFNC



It is important to stock up on nutritious foods before a natural disaster strikes. Take a look at the list below.



Low sodium ready-to-eat canned meats, peas and beans, fruits and vegetables.



Instant tea bags.



Dried fruits and foods like corn, breadfruit, mango raisins and nuts can be nutritious and satisfying.

Prepackaged beverages. Those in foil packets and foil-lined boxes are suitable because they are tightly sealed and will keep for a long time.

Government Supports Carriacou and Petite Martinique Farmers Through Food Security Initiative



The Agricultural Division in the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, under its Food Security Programme, has provided assistance to 59 farmers in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Items such as fencing wires, water tanks, BRC wires and feeders are among the supplies distributed to farmers during a handover ceremony at the Limlair Livestock Station.

Minister of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Hon. Kindra Maturine-Stewart, in her remarks, encouraged farmers to make the best use of the items provided to aid in their farming.

She explained that the initiative is part of Government's

commitment towards the agricultural sector, which remains a top priority for the current administration.

Senior Agricultural Officer in the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Benson Patrice, noted that the programme was initiated in 2004 following the devastating impact on the agricultural sector by Hurricane Ivan.

He said Government considers it necessary to continue the programme for the benefit of farmers.

Patrice added that the Government intends to improve the effectiveness of the programme by putting serious measures in place to ensure the objectives are met.



Meet the Farmers at Douglas Farms Ltd.

Thirty-three year old L'Amour Douglas and his wife Jayleen see the adoption of new technologies as a way of maximising production on their farm and increasing their markets, as well as providing food that is always fresh, for their customers.

"My mom was the one who started farming. Upon completing my education, I joined her to continue our family business," Douglas said.

He is the son of well-known farmer, Daul Douglas, of Douglas Farms Limited, St. Andrew. Douglas Farms Ltd. supplies a wide variety of local produce. Using well-tested agronomic practices like drip irrigation, plastic mulch and crop treatment at an early stage, they cultivate corn, bodi beans, pumpkin, watermelons and sweet potatoes.

While the farming day can become busy managing 6.5 acres, L'Amour and Jayleen Douglas have developed an equilibrium.

"We get to the farm as early as we can. If it is a harvesting day, I will start harvesting, while he would start the pumps. Once we are finished harvesting and we complete the basic stuff on the farm like adding manure or weeding, we deliver produce. I would do the books and he will come back to the farm to work," Jayleen Douglas said. She is a mother of one.

Douglas identified his two major challenges. He said, "Once the rain falls, we cannot do anything at the back, because of waterlogging and praedial larceny. We have been losing about 100 lbs. of soursop a week because of thieves."

The couple plans to include technological advancements such as the use of fertigators to modernise the operation of the farm and improve their sales and marketing. Jayleen, who has worked in both the public and private sectors before joining her husband as a farmer, is responsible for marketing at Douglas Farms.

She said, "We sell to Real Value, Marketing Board, Foodland, local vendors and little supermarkets that we are familiar with and have built a relationship with."

She notes that this is coupled with good business management practices such as record-keeping. "It is all about keeping record. Once a sale is made or we make a payment, we keep all those records. We also ensure that



L'Amour Douglas
and his wife Jayleen

our monies are banked properly, and we treat farming as a business," she added.

Both Jayleen and L'Amour are supportive of the ideology of youth in agriculture.

"It is what brings food on the table and keeps food on the table. Yes, it is profitable, but you have to be passionate about it to make your business successful," he said.

Things to note about Douglas Farms Limited:

- It was started by Daul Douglas, the mother of L'Amour Douglas.
- L'Amour and Jayleen manage 6.5 acres of land.
- Drip irrigation, use of plastic mulch and early treatment of pests and diseases are best practices.
- They strongly advocate for record-keeping and treating farming as a business.

Persons interested in purchasing from them are urged to call (473) 415-4202.



BOTANY & GROWTH OF THE SOURSOP

Information taken from the Manual for Soursop Propagation and Production in Grenada

Prepared by:

Lauren St. Louis
National Consultant
Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)
(TCP/GRN/3601)



The Flower

The flowers, which are borne singly, emerge anywhere on the trunk, branches or twigs. They are short-stalked, plump, and triangular-conical. They consist of three fleshy, slightly spreading, outer petals yellow-green, with three lighter yellow, close-set inner petals.



The soursop tree is low-branching and bushy but slender because of its upturned limbs, and reaches a height of 25-30 feet (7.5-9 m).

The leaves, normally evergreen, are alternate, smooth, glossy, dark green on the upper surface, lighter beneath; oblong, pointed at both ends, 2.5-8 inches (6.25-20 cm) long and 1-2.5 inches (2.5-6.25 cm) wide.



The Fruit

The fruits are generally oval to heart-shaped, sometimes irregular, lopsided or curved, due to improper pollination or damage by insects. Fruit size ranges from 4-12 inches (10-30 cm) long and up to 6 inches (15 cm) in width, and may weigh between 10 and 15 lbs (4.5-6.8 kg).

The fruit is compound and covered with a reticulated, leathery-appearing but tender, inedible, bitter skin covered in "spines".



The tips of the spines break off easily when the fruit is fully ripe.

In the immature fruit, the skin is dark green becoming slightly yellowish-green when mature. The inner surface of the fruit is cream-colored and granular and separates easily from the mass of snow-white, fibrous, juicy segments, surrounded by a central, soft-pithy core.

The smell of the pulp resembles pineapple, but its musky, acid to sweet flavour is unique. Most of the closely-packed segments are seedless. In each fertile segment there is a single oval, smooth, hard, black seed, each generally 1/2 inch long. A large fruit may contain from a few dozen to 200 or more seeds.





INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
2021



MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS
& FORESTRY.

BENEFITS OF MANGOES



MANGO IS A LOW-CALORIE FRUIT THAT IS HIGH IN FIBRE, AND IS A GREAT SOURCE OF VITAMINS A AND C. IT ALSO CONTAINS FOLATE, B6, IRON AND A LITTLE CALCIUM, ZINC AND VITAMIN E.

COCOA PURCHASING DAYS IN AUGUST

Tuesday

AUGUST 24TH:

CARLTON & MT. HORNE

Wednesday

AUGUST 25TH :

BELLE VUE - 8:00 a.m. - Noon

CARRIERE 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.





**Question:
How do you feel
about the role that
you play in
society?**

“ *Food security starts with us; I am very happy to be a farmer. The role I play is very valuable to me, keeping the food chain going, building the society, and contributing to the community. We are important in keeping the country going as well. We know that food is a big part of life.*”

RAWLSON LEWIS

FARMER FROM ST.PATRICK

Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry



The Farmer's Perspective

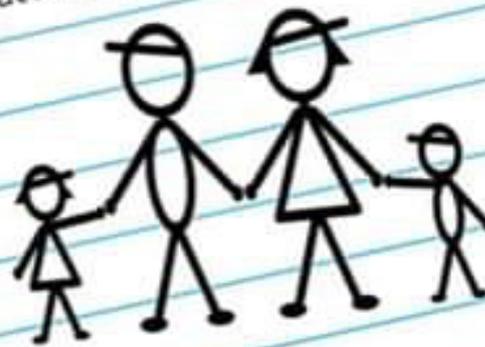
Natural or man-made disasters can strike at any time.

What plans do you have in place to safeguard the children in your life?

THINGS TO DO

BEFORE a disaster:

- ✓ prepare an emergency kit (include water, non-perishable food, masks, hand sanitizer, battery operated radio, batteries, flashlight, first aid items, can opener, garbage bags, etc.)
- ✓ Have a safeguarding plan.
- ✓ Review the plan with your children.



DURING a disaster:

- ✓ Be informed and stay informed
- ✓ Stay tuned to safety instructions and updates from authorities, as different emergencies may require different actions.

AFTER a disaster :

- ✓ Get the support you need to help you and your family on the road to recovery.

Disasters can leave children exposed to various forms of abuse. Let's do all in our power to protect them.



Grenada's Prime Minister Extends Condolences on Passing of Former Antiguan Prime Minister, Sir Lester Bird

Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, has expressed condolences on the passing of Sir Lester Bird, former Prime Minister and national hero of Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Mitchell, who is the current Chairman of the OECS Authority, said the Caribbean has lost one of its illustrious sons.

The late Sir Lester Bird was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. In 1994, he led the Antigua Labour Party to victory in the general elections and became Prime Minister. He also served two terms as Chairman of the OECS.

Reflecting on his interaction with the former Prime Minister, Dr. Mitchell described Sir Lester as a ready and willing source of advice and inspiration, particularly when he was first elected as Prime Minister.

Dr. Mitchell said, "Sir Lester made a valuable contribution to regional discourse on numerous issues. For me personally, he was a welcome and readily accessible source of advice when I first became Prime Minister of Grenada. In the ensuing years, we shared a very close relationship, he was very approachable and I will be forever grateful for the many conversations we had and



Sir Lester Bird, former Prime Minister and national hero of Antigua and Barbuda

the advice he selflessly imparted.

As he takes his departure from this life, I can only extend deepest condolences to his family and to the

Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. Our sister nation has lost a hero and the Caribbean has lost one of our most renowned leaders. May his soul rest in eternal peace."



Grenada Government Extends Sympathy to People of Haiti Following Major Earthquake



The Government and people of Grenada extend heartfelt sympathy to our brothers and sisters in Haiti, who are facing yet another crisis, following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake which rocked the western part of the country on Saturday, August 14, 2021.

Close to 2,000 people have been confirmed dead and it is feared that the numbers could rise significantly. Hundreds more have been injured, causing area hospitals to be overwhelmed, and many are trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings.

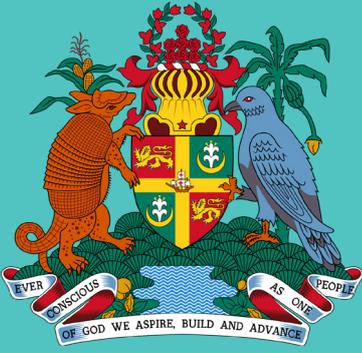
Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell has indicated Grenada's willingness to support any regional initiatives geared towards providing assistance to the people of Haiti.

He said, "The images are absolutely heartbreaking and, at this time, we hold the people of Haiti in our thoughts and our prayers. As fellow Caribbean nationals, when your brother or sister is in distress, you also feel a sense of anguish, but we are poised and ready to help in

whatever way we can. The strength of the Caribbean is in the unity of its people and we will come together, as we often have, to help in times of need. In the meantime, we continue to pray for the safety of our Haitian sisters and brothers, for the successful rescue of those who remain trapped and for comfort for those who have lost loved ones."

The Prime Minister also noted while the world continues to grapple with the impact of the global pandemic, Haiti's challenges are compounded, having faced a history of political upheaval, the recent assassination of the late President Jovenel Moise and a series of natural disasters.





GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Monday, August 23, 2021

Vol. 2, Issue 15

Prime Minister Advises Fishermen To Work Collaboratively To Realise Greater Benefits

Prime Minister, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell is encouraging fishermen to work collaboratively to bring about greater benefits for themselves and the industry.

Addressing a group of fishermen affiliated to the Southern Fishermen Inc., during a recent meeting, Dr. Mitchell expressed the view that better organised fishermen, together with a better-functioning Division of Fisheries will bring significant changes in the operational efficiency of the industry.

The fishermen voiced a number of concerns including repairs to the Grand Mal Jetty, more affordable financing for boats, the cost of fuel and export capacity and pricing.

Dr. Mitchell assured the fishermen that Government has already set aside \$200,000 towards the repair of the Grand Mal Jetty, which is being done as a collaborative venture with the association and Spice Isle Fish House.

The delay of the repair work is outside the control of Government. The contractor identified was unable to undertake the project and as such, a new one must be selected. With regard to financing, Dr. Mitchell mentioned the more attractive loan conditions being offered through the Grenada

Development Bank as part of Government's second COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Support package.

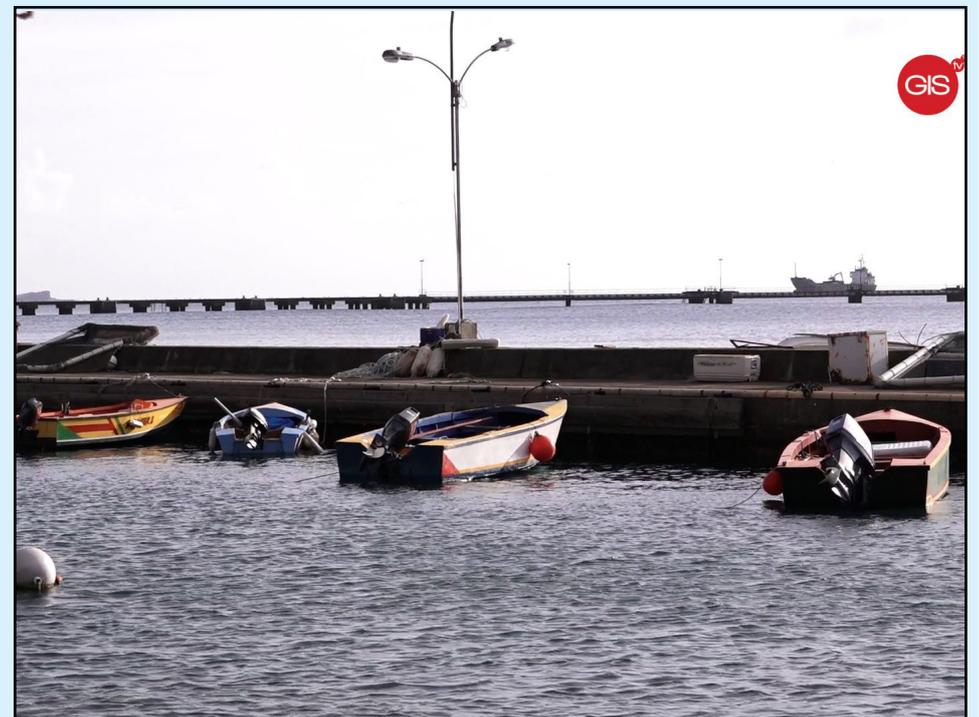
Eligible persons can obtain larger loans, with a lower interest rate and an extended grace period. Here again, Dr. Mitchell cited the need for greater collaboration among fishermen, who as a group can lobby Government to ensure that the loan conditions are suitable for their needs.

Addressing the concern about the cost of fuel and the impact on viability for fishermen with small boats, Dr. Mitchell said the suggestion for placement of the pump at the Grand Mal Jetty can be examined. However, he noted that any such venture must be properly managed, as there has been historic misuse of resources in the fishing industry.

The problem with export capacity was resolved just hours prior to the recent meeting, with Amerijet agreeing to increase airlift capacity from 40,000 to 80,000 pounds from October.

This will hopefully reduce the number of fishermen who are compelled to travel to neighbouring islands to sell their catch.

The price per pound offered by exporters is also a contributing factor to this developing practice and here again, the suggestion



was that the fishermen organise themselves and engage the exporters to negotiate for better pricing.

The fishing industry is gaining recognition as a viable economic sector. The Southern Fishermen Association alone, exported \$7.2 million worth of fish during its 2018/2019 financial year. At the height of the pandemic in 2020, this figure declined to \$3.6 million while local sales increased and already for 2021, the association has exported \$4.5 million worth of fish. Overall on a national level, the fishing industry generates tens of millions in revenue annually.

The Prime Minister assured fishermen that Government will do whatever it can to help the industry succeed. He said, "An investment in fishing is not wasted; when fishermen

succeed, the country will succeed. Our job is to facilitate as much of the development as possible because the earnings of fishermen will positively impact the country, but there must be leadership among the fishermen as Government cannot solve all of the issues by itself. Some of the most successful people in some countries are fishermen but the right systems and strict accountability must be in place. We can work together to find solutions and chart the way forward for the local fisheries sector."

The Prime Minister, who is also the Parliamentary Representative for St. George North West, has also committed to undertake some work at the constituency level to help improve safety and security for fishermen in Beausejour.