Moves are afoot to put in place a new management team at the state-owned Gravel Concrete & Emulsion Production Corporation (GCEPC) better known as Gravel & Concrete.

Well-placed sources told THE NEW TODAY that the new Board of Directors, headed by former Congress government minister Sylvester Quarless has taken the position that there is not any serious management structure in place to move the statutory body forward in keeping with the new administration’s transformational agenda.

According to one source close to the new board, a decision was taken to replace the Manager, Wilfred Hercules, a retiree from the Grenada public service, who has been off the job for more than six months and getting paid while not performing.

He said that Gravel & Concrete will definitely be without a manager by this weekend and the Board will soon be advertising to find a suitable person to fill the vacant post.

This contrast sharply with Hercules’ version of events when he was contacted Thursday for comment on reports that he was no longer being retained to manage the corporation.

Hercules was seen on the job Monday and within hours left the compound.

Quarless was also seen on the Mt Rush compound of Gravel & Concrete when Hercules showed up for work for the first time in several months.

Hercules said he had taken the decision to bow out in order for the corporation to get a much younger person to take on the tasks that lie ahead in moving the corporation forward into the future.

However, the source dropped strong hints that the manager was pushed out and had not voluntarily decided to quit the job.

He said, “How can you keep a man employed getting nothing, doing nothing for all this period of time? Not only that – he can’t even do the blasted work? How do you keep these kinds of people employed?”

The newly appointed Board of Directors has also taken the decision to put in place an Operations Committee to take charge in terms of making decisions on what to do to resolve a number of problems affecting Gravel & Concrete.

He said that things at the corporation “are in such a bad way – it’s just ridiculous how the men have this place.”

“I don’t know who was running this country,” he quipped.

The insider at Gravel & Concrete also said that Gravel & Concrete would definitely be without a manager by this weekend and the Board will soon be advertising to find a suitable person to fill the vacant post.

(Continue on page 17)
Address by Prime Minister, Hon. Dickon Mitchell on September 24, 2022 at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

Mr. President, I am extremely honoured to speak at this important global gathering. It is a great privilege to be here, on behalf of the Grenadian people and people of Grenada. 

Exactly three (3) months ago, today, the people of Grenada exercised their democratic right and voted for transformation. In free and fair elections, and through a solid mandate at the polls, the Grenadian people placed their confidence in me to lead our country over the next five years. Mr. President, today I bring my transformational agenda to the United Nations, because although we are an island state, our world does not exist in isolation. Successful and sustainable transformation in Grenada is inevitably tethered to the sustainable forward movement of the global community.

Mr. President. This noble institution is nearing its eighty (80) year anniversary, a significant milestone that is worthy of distinct recognition. As my own country also draws near to a noteworthy milestone, that of fifty (50) years as an independent state, it is an appropriate time to renew our commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to International Law. It is also a fitting time to review the achievements of past decades and propose solutions to the challenges that have stained progress.

Mr. President, the COVID-19 pandemic brought our world to a standstill, without prejudice for the size and economic might of nations. For a time, this disease was the great equalizer and forced us all to re-examine our priorities and our approach to living together. Grenada notes, with relief, news from the World Health Organisation (WHO) that we might finally be entering the tail end phase of the pandemic. While we welcome the return to some semblance of “normal”, it is my sincere hope that the lessons learnt from the pandemic will remain, and we will not return to business as usual.

Mr. President, the monumental challenges posed by the pandemic were unprecedented and seemingly insurmountable, and this worldwide disaster, however, our global community rallied and demonstrated what is possible when we resolve to work together as a common goal. The pandemic taught us all the value of international cooperation, the timely exchange of information, and the sharing of resources critical to avoiding and mitigating similar global occurrences.

Mr. President, it is imperative that the matter of climate change be elevated to this level of urgency amongst our nations. The devastating effects of global warming can no longer be felt all over the world with higher temperatures worsening many types of disasters, including storms, heat waves, floods, and droughts.

Our planet is undoubtedly in crisis, but as the ancient Chinese proverb reminds us: “crying is opportunity riding a dangerous wind.” This window of opportunity is quickly closing, however, and we no longer have the luxury to kick these issues down the road. We are now faced with the reality that tomorrow, is today.

Mr. President, we have tinkered long enough and must now accept that the solutions to the problems we face may not be found in this grand hall, or in the highest echelons of global climate discussions, but rather with the people – especially our young people, who stand to lose the most from the inaction of our current leaders.

Mr. President, approximately sixty (60) percent of the world’s population is under thirty-five years old. In my own country, fifty (50) percent of the current population is between eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) years old. Young people are therefore critical to the success of sustainable development policies and must play a central role in the implementation of the targets set by the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President, I call on all young people to take action. It is not yet too late to do what is necessary to safeguard our planet for future generations, but the time for action is now.

We cannot continue to give service to climate change when climate change is showing us every day what is capable of. The reality is, the leaders of today, will not be around to feel the consequences of their decisions. It is therefore up to our youth, to lead the change for the future we wish.

To all young people: I challenge you today, to choose to be agents of change over victims of climate change. I know that as young people, we have a tendency to want to see an immediate result, but I hope we will understand that this is a long battle. To lead our country over the next fifty years, we will need to pass on the lessons and learnings that we have and inspire the future leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. President, this is a unique opportunity. It is a unique opportunity to welcome innovative ideas, and tackle the challenges that we have struggled with for generations.

Our goal, as responsible global citizens, should be to leave the planet as we found it, or better, than we found it. This plea is not without urgency, Mr. President.

As the leader of a small Caribbean island developing state (SIDS), I am all too familiar with the devastating effects of climate change, and the stark reality that we may not have a country to pass on to future generations – in the face of increasingly strengthened hurricanes and sea level rise.

The small island states of the Caribbean are already experiencing significant adverse effects of climate change, with devastating effects on our economies and our communities. Each year it will not be possible to build back to the damage wrought by our powerful storms. Our communities wait, with bated breath and a silent prayer, in the hope that this year it will not be “our turn.”

In 2004, it was Grenada’s turn, with Hurricane Ivan. In a matter of eight (8) mere hours, we lost 34 souls and the category three (3) storm destroyed over 80 percent of our housing stock and decimated our economic and fiscal base with damages surpassing 200 percent of our Gross Domestic Product.

Ten (10) months later, in 2005, it was Grenada’s turn again, with Hurricane Emily. In recent years, we have watched in horror as our brothers and sisters across the Caribbean island states, experienced their “turn.”

Most notably Hurricane Irma in 2017, which left the island of Barbuda nearly uninhabitable and wrought significant havoc over ten other Caribbean island states, including the Virgin Islands, which lost approximately eighty-five (85) percent of its housing stock. Only two weeks later, Hurricane Maria threatened, cruelly exacerbate the wounds freshly inflicted by Hurricane Irma.

Mr. President, the global community would remember the destruction visited on Dominica by said Hurricane Maria, which left 31 people dead, 37 missing, and an estimated USD 930.9 million in damage. Mr. President, I can continue this vein, highlighting the devastating consequences that Caribbean islands suffer due to the warming climate, including the harmful effects on...
Legal Affairs Minister confirms missing computer at the Supreme Court Registry

Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Senator Claudette Joseph, has confirmed the disappearance of a computer at the Supreme Court Registry, which has resulted in the early release of convicted British murderer, Robert Alexander-Clack, who was serving a 67-year prison sentence in connection with the death of his Grenadian wife.

The Court of Appeal, at a sitting last week, ordered the release of Clack after it became clear that the matter could not proceed due to the unavailability of court transcripts.

"From all indications, the computer on which the recording would have been typed cannot be found at this time, and that will contain the critical parts of the proceedings...", Sen. Joseph told reporters during Tuesday’s post-Cabinet press briefing in St. George’s.

The confirmation of the missing computer came exactly one week after the convicted murderer’s release from custody last Tuesday, after serving only 12 prison years of the sentence handed down to him by a High Court judge in February 2016, for Non-Capital Murder in connection with the June 2014 death of his then 27-year-old wife, Nixiann Downes-Clack of Duquense, St. Mark.

The nation went into shock as the body was recovered inside a suitcase that was buried in a shallow grave in the village of Mt. Moritz in St. George North-West.

The gruesome killing reportedly occurred on the family’s fourth anniversary after the deceased wife found out that her husband was having an affair with the teenage babysitter, who was a key witness for the state.

Attorney Anselm Clouden, who had filed documents housed at the vault at the Supreme Court Registry will be relocated to a more suitable and conducive location to a fair trial and a hearing...and, the state cannot be derelict, and negligent, and reckless such as they are..." Attorney Clouden told reporters in an interview on Monday.

Sen. Joseph publicly empathised with the family of the deceased mother on Tuesday in light of the challenges within the legal system that has led to the killer’s early release from prison, which is triggering widespread debate in the country.

She said that the next course of action lies with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) which will determine whether “there are sufficient grounds on which this matter may be appealed to the Privy Council” in England, which is Grenada’s final Court of Appeal.

Minister Joseph revealed that there may be other cases affected by the unavailability of transcripts that were stored on the missing computer but it is still clear whether a criminal investigation was launched.

She gave assurances that the newly installed government has already begun taking steps to "secure the very fragile information, and documents housed at the vault at the Supreme Court Registry" and they will be "relocated to a more suitable and conducive location."

"We (the Ministry of Legal Affairs) have been mandated to secure better equipment, and we will be looking for the best available on the market, and also to train staff who can be equipped to produce and certify the transcript in the shortest possible time," she said.

Sen. Joseph told reporters that special attention will be given to the Court Reporting Unit of the Supreme Court Registry, which will be relocated, along with the Mediation Centre to the ground floor or the Clico building on Young Street which currently houses four (4) Supreme Courts on the upper floors - the St. George’s High Court No. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Since assuming office three months ago, Sen. Joseph said the government has also taken steps to "buck up security, (and) strengthen the human resource capacity of the legal system, with plans to reopen the Law Library, will also be relocated, as well as to secure and improve the judicial system.

“We have hired some new staff, and we are in the process of filling some vacancies that still exist in the judicial system, and as part of the broader government policy, we are putting systems in place to ensure that those unestablished, temporary, and longstanding contract workers in the legal system are regularised,” she remarked.
The hottest topic on the lips of Grenadians at the moment is the manner in which convicted murderer, Alexander Clack from Britain was able to walk out of court after “confessing” to the murder of his 27-year-old Grenadian wife, Nsixar Downes-Clack.

THE NEW TODAY notes that the public is not the much wiser about what really took place due to the many different versions of the events that unfolded to the point where the Court of Appeal released the man on some issue surrounding the unavailability of the transcript of the high court proceedings. The only person who can truly come out and explain what really transpired is the Registrar of the Supreme Court, granted that the current holder of the office might not be the one who was sitting in the chair when the prevailing incident occurred. All four attorneys – Anselm Clauden, the legal representative of Mr. Clack, former President of the Grenada Bar Association (GBA), Ruggles Ferguson, as well as Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Christopher Nelson, QC, and Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Claudette Joseph, have given different versions of the issue at hand. It is definitely not clear to the public whether the computer with that critical portion of the summation of the presiding judge in the matter was stolen or whether it was just badly recording. The one positive thing to come out of the entire episode is the decision taken by the new Dicken Mitchell-led National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration to allocate some serious financial resources in addressing many of the shortcomings within the Judiciary.

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Why a functioning museum is important for Grenada

From hundreds of years ago man realised that history was worth preserving in museums. The first recorded museum in the world, the Ashmolean Museum, in Oxford, UK, was built in 1678-1683 to house the “cabinet of curiosities” that an Oxford alumnus, Elias Ashmole, gave to the University of Oxford in 1677. Since then, countless such institutions have been established all over the world, some with narrow or broad themes.

“Grenada (interest in) the Library and Information Services in 2022 means?”

In Grenada (interest in) the Library and Information Services in 2022 means? Simply, it means providing more readily accessible information on culture and heritage to citizens of the tri-island state. This is important as our cultural traditions fade away with the passing of knowledge held by the hands of Grenadians. Aspects of Grenada’s heritage and culture are deeply tied to our identity including Jab Jab, nutmeg and mace – our premier spices, and our folk traditions. So where is most of our cultural and heritage information? It is contained in books, documents, and in the memories of Grenadians. Just reflect on the Grenada Revolution and the amount of information on the revolution that is contained in books, and in the memories of those who were involved in the revolution.

As the years go by, the memories dwindle and the information in the books go unread. What does transformation within culture look like to provide more readily available information about Grenada’s history, heritage and culture? The hands of Grenadians including those on the sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique?

Putting Culture in the hands of Grenadians

What does putting culture in the hands of Grenadians in the year 2022 mean? Simply, it means providing more readily accessible information on culture and heritage to citizens of the tri-island state. This is important as our cultural traditions fade away with the passing of knowledge held by the hands of Grenadians. Aspects of Grenada’s heritage and culture are deeply tied to our identity including Jab Jab, nutmeg and mace – our premier spices, and our folk traditions. So where is most of our cultural and heritage information? It is contained in books, documents, and in the memories of Grenadians. Just reflect on the Grenada Revolution and the amount of information on the revolution that is contained in books, and in the memories of those who were involved in the revolution.

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There is certainly the need for digital transformation. Digital technologies create a two-way transformative path for culture – sharing of cultural and heritage information to increase awareness and collecting information on Grenada’s history, heritage and culture from those who possess such knowledge. Digital technology in the form of mobile app technology allows for information to be contained within mobile applications accessible on any WIFI enabled device, whether it is a mobile phone or a tablet. This allows for easy and convenient access to citizens.

The pandemic has increased the frequency of use of mobile phones which makes it one of the best ways to deliver information with millions of citizens of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Certainly, it has the potential to deliver cultural knowledge to the over 100,000 Grenadians on the island and the over 300,000 Grenadians in the Diaspora.

Digital technology in the form of a website with cultural and heritage content aimed at educating the public, diaspora and those interested in Grenada. Content that shares valuable information about aspects of both tangible and intangible heritage and culture of the tri-island state. Many times, the public is simply looking for education to educate themselves on what they know or have heard about aspects of our culture and heritage. Some aspects of culture and heritage are well-known such as carnival, but there are many other aspects that are not widely known and growing public awareness is important. The worldwide web on the internet has created the opportunity to increase access and ease of sharing and distributing information, and culture and heritage is by no means an exception.

Websites can be accessed on any WIFI enabled device including mobile phones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers. Websites blogs or web portals are excellent opportunities to share information using cloud technology that preserves this information in a sustainable way. Therefore, it can help us progress forward with cultural and heritage education in Grenada.

One of Marcus Garvey’s most famous quotes states: “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots”. Today, this remains true and is why putting culture and heritage in the hands of Grenadians is of vital importance.

Christiell Simeon
Business owner – Island Learning Grenada

The Grenadian Cry

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GRENADA AND THE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (PROBATE)

IN THE ESTATE OF LYLE BUSHHELL otherwise LYLE CLEVELAND BUSHHELL DECEASED.

(Pursuant to Rule 30(2) of the Supreme Court (Non-Contestable Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules, 2021)

ADVERTISEMENT (RESEALING)

In the Estate of Lyle Bushhell late of 11 Victoria Street Bello Eau Road, Belmont, Port of Spain in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

NOTICE is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the rehearing of the Probate of the Estate of Lyle Bushhell late of 11 Victoria Street Bello Eau Road, Belmont, Port of Spain in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago granted by the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago Estates Administration Office on the 20th day of April 2022.

File by
Ferron C. Lowe
Chibney Chambers
Attorneys-at-Law

Address for Service:
Chibney Chambers
Chibney House
No. 7 H.A. Blaise Street
St. George’s

LETTERS

THE NEW TODAY Fri., Sept 30, 2022 Page 05

Site for the sleep that nourishes wisdom.
The outstanding payments to CJ’s

Clerk of Parliament Andrew Augustine has confirmed receiving telephone calls from a private company that looked after all of Grenada’s fifteen offices belonging to elected Members of the House under the former Keith Mitchell-led administration seeking thousands of dollars in alleged outstanding payments in keeping with the contract.

Speaking to THE NEW TODAY, Augustine said that he had to inform CJ’s, owned by an associate of the defeated Grenadian leader that he had nothing to do with these Parliamentary offices as they were under control of the Office of the Prime Minister and not the Parliament. He spoke of receiving “numerous inquiries” from CJ’s about payments due to them, as well as from Parliamentarians associated with the outgoing New National Party (NNP) government concerning payment for their staff.

According to the Clerk of Parliament, he referred these people to the Administrator of the Programme within the Office of the Prime Minister as it was under that department the Service Provider was contracted. “I received calls about the concerns about payment – queries – which I addressed in the same way telling them that I am not responsible for that – I can’t speak to that,” he said.

“As Clerk of Parliament I am only responsible for the offices going forward after the tenure or the contract of The Provider (CJ’s) is completed. I cannot be liable for anything that has transpired before that,” he added.

The incoming Dickon Mitchell-led National Democratic Congress (NDC) government has since terminated the contract of CJ’s and put Parliament back in charge of the offices of all 15 elected Members of Parliament. Augustine denied that he had received any telephone call from persons associated with the private Service Provider threatening him with legal action.

“No, I didn’t receive any telephone calls on that,” he said, adding that he referred them to the Accounting Officer in the Office of the Prime Minister who will “set out the issues relating to that (outstanding payment) as that had nothing to do with me.”

He stated that owner of the business Cynthia Charles, who once served the Secretary to the ousted Prime Minister had never communicated with him directly on the issue of payment but it was someone else from her office.

“She (Charles) was out of the country at the time when these discussions were taking place. So, I never had any communications directly with Mrs. Charles,” he told THE NEW TODAY. According to Augustine, he ascertained that what CJ’s really wanted was for payment to be resolved concerning the completion of the contract.

He said he understood that CJ’s had submitted a “bill of a substantial amount” to the new government which was seeking clarification on the signed contract under the NNP regime.

“When I came in as Clerk, it (the service to look after the Parliamentary offices) was already under the Office of the Prime Minister,” he remarked. Augustine described the Office of the Prime Minister during the reign of Keith Mitchell as the facilitator of the contractual arrangements with CJ’s but the contract ended with effect from July when it has been brought back under the Houses of Parliament.

“The Clerk of Parliament has essentially taken over as Administrator for the Constituency offices for new and continuing Parliamentarians,” he said.

The Clerk was also asked to comment on reports that the new Parliamentarians have been complaining of experiencing problems in getting their offices up and running.

“The existing Parliamentarians – the criteria for getting their offices up and running would have to be first and foremost to have their tenancy agreement finalised, have their staff complete and have all their equipment and everything that is necessary in place,” he said.

Augustine pointed out that if the Office of Parliament was in charge of everything as existed before, there would have been a much smoother transition.

“Understandable, we are almost starting from scratch,” he quipped.

The Clerk highlighted a number of criteria that has to be met in terms of making these offices fully functional including an inspection of the building to make sure it is accessible to the public, as well as an examination of the tenancy agreement and these things take some time to complete the negotiations.

In addition, he said that some MP’s have not identified a place for their offices and not all of them have all the necessary equipment in place as yet.

He also said that some of the new Parliamentarians have opted to use the same building like their predecessors while others are on the hunt for new locations and there would have to be the transfer of furniture and other assets.

Augustine is confident that all 15 offices of the Parliamentarians should be up and running by the end of September.
WHY THE DISPLAY BY GRENADA’S NEW ADMINISTRATION ABOUT NIS PENSIONS?

What message and emotions are meant to be conveyed by the new National Democratic Administration about its new directions for the National Insurance Scheme (NIS)?

The new NDC Administration, as its 2020-2023 Strategic Action of the 2020-2023 NDP to "Extend maternity leave policy to women by 6 months to be consistent with international guidelines", mentioned NIS achievements, but it also differentiated NIS from the National Insurance Fund.

The new Administration has been emphasizing the importance of the NIS in meeting pension-payments, new and existing retirees, and the need to address the remaining deficit.

The new Administration has also been stressing the need to address the issue of the NIS being "anxiety and alert" about its future, and the need to address the "national push of this NDC Administration", as stated in the 2013 Administration's 2008-2013 Administration's Thirteenth Report to Parliament in 2013.

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A former minister in the defeated New National Party (NNP) government is believed to be doing a lucrative business with the state-owned Grenada Electricity Company (GRENLEC) in the sale of extra electricity generated from a solar farm in the St George area.

According to a well-placed source, the ex-government minister is apparently generating a lot of electricity that GRENLEC was forced to come into the area to make changes to its poles in order to accommodate the surplus power coming from the farm onto its grid.

He said the former government official was producing so much power that the electricity company was forced to change about seven of its poles.

"The power they were generating coming from the solar panels back on the Grid was too much for the short poles and it was going to feed back," he told THE NEW TODAY.

"They had to change it (the poles) because the electricity that was generated with the Solar Farm that he has up there and selling back to the Grid is sending a lot of electricity to the high tension (wires) - so they had to bring the power higher," he said.

The source disclosed that anyone visits the area now what they will see is that all the previous short poles were replaced with very tall poles by GRENLEC to accommodate the ex-government minister and his business.

"So the poles … near to me are very tall poles, not your ordinary poles," he remarked.

The source pointed out that he sensed something was happening when he noticed the ex-government minister and the GRENLEC workers going from pole to pole in the area to do an inspection.

"…They (were) going from pole to pole and they (were) pointing out certain things for him. Within about 3 weeks to a month we saw the poles changing. We saw when all the solar panels go up there too," he said.

The source stated that the ex-former government minister would have had to spend a tidy sum of money to establish the elaborate solar farm that is located on his property.

GRENLEC fell back into the hands of the Keith Mitchell-led government nearly two years following a ruling from an international arbitration tribunal hearing that forced it to find over EC$200 million to repurchase the controlling shares from a U.S company, 'WRB Enterprises.'

Ex-Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell was very much opposed to the decision taken by the 1990-95 National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration of late Prime Minister Sir Nicholas Brathwaite to privatise the loss-making utility company, which was notable for frequent load-shedding due to ageing equipment.

The U.S Company triggered the buy-back clause in the agreement shortly after Prime Minister Keith Mitchell won the 2018 general election and both sides were forced to go into arbitration.

New Congress Prime Minister Diccon Mitchell has dropped hints that GRENLEC which is known to be experiencing financial losses might have to look for a new strategic partner to stay afloat.
The Oscar Bartholomew Manslaughter trial starts after 10-year delay


Almost eleven years after being beaten into a fatal coma at the hands of police officers at the St. David’s Police Station, the Oscar Bartholomew Manslaughter trial finally got underway Monday before Madam Justice Victoria Ruggles Ferguson, at the St. George’s No. 2 High Court, with the empanelling of a nine-member Jury, and at least 25 witnesses listed on the indictment against four police officers.

Suspended police officers; Edward Gibson, Shaun Ganness, Rody Felix and Wendell Sylvester, who had previously posted ECS$100,000.00 bail in November 2017, were committed to stand trial for Manslaughter, which is the crime of killing a human being without malice aforethought, or otherwise in circumstances not amounting to murder, in a verdict handed down by a Coroner’s Jury.

Almost five (5) years later, the accused lawmen, represented by Attorneys Dr. Francis Alexis QC, Anselm Clouder, Arley Gill, and Ruggles Ferguson, made their first appearance before Justice Charles-Clarke, who presided over a lengthy jury selection process that lasted well over two (2) hours.

Ganness, Felix, Sylvester, and Gibson were initially charged along with Police Constable Kenton Hazzard, who was, however, freed from criminal prosecution by the Coroner’s Jury in November 2017, and is now a witness supporting the Prosecution’s case, along with several retired and current police officers, and civilians.

Bartholomew, a 39-year-old Grenadian-born Canadian citizen, who migrated 20 years ago to reside in Toronto, where he practiced carpentry by trade, and had only been back in the country for four (4) days when he was taken into custody and mauled by police officers at the St. David’s Police Station, during a 2011 Christmas visit.

The incident leading up to his unfortunate death had sent shock waves of outrage, and grief throughout the country.

The fatal beating of Bartholomew reportedly happened after he was hugging a female police officer, whom he mistook for an old friend, when he stopped at the police station in Petit Esperance, St. David’s, about one mile away from his hometown of La Tante, because his French Canadian wife needed to use the restroom.

According to the autopsy report, Bartholomew died as a result of a burst blood vessel in his brain.

Crown Counsel, Crisan Greenidge, is leading the Crown’s case against the four officers in the almost 11 year old matter, with assistance from Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Christopher Nelson QC.

Attorney Clouden has indicated his intention to “make certain submissions to the Court, in terms of the 4-year delay in bringing this matter to trial,” on behalf of his client, Rody Felix.

In an interview following Monday’s proceedings, Clouden contended that although the defendants are on bail “one has to go on record to show that in fact there has been an inordinate delay that has been highly prejudicial to my client and the accused persons because it has created tremendous anxiety throughout the process.”

DPP Nelson, who acknowledged that “the passage of time always affects a case (as) cases depend on witnesses’ recollection and memory,” however, he told reporters that “the nature of this case is such that those who witnessed the critical events will not easily forget.”

“Of course, there is the opportunity to refresh one’s memory from one’s statements given in 2011, 2012,” the DPP stated, noting that while “there are some difficulties...we have trials that last at least a month.”

Bartholomew’s disheartened mother was found hanging from a tree close to her home in January 2016, four (4) years after losing her son to police brutality.
Farmers advised against crowded farms as government commences Spice Replanting Programme

Farmers are being encouraged to observe agronomical best practices, especially the use of correct planting distances to ensure the sustainability of the Spice Replanting Programme, as the Dickon Mitchell Government intensifies its efforts to increase the production of spices in the country.

With plans to have 100,000 spices under production around the island in the next 12 months, several spices were planted during the symbolic launch of the government’s Spice Replanting Programme at the St. David’s Roman Catholic School’s garden in Bellevue, St. David last week Tuesday.

Agronomist in the Ministry of Agriculture Allison Haynes has cautioned against overcrowded lands, stating that the school garden is expected to serve as “a model plot, not only for the students but also for the farmers.”

“So, here, when we lined this plot in preparation for the Nutmeg, Sapote, and Tonka Bean, Haynes, who explained that this is important because if you traverse around the island, you will notice that our fields are very crowded.”

This, she said, is because “people have small plots of land, and we tend to want to put everything in,” however, she emphasized that each tree crop has a specifically required space that they need to grow efficiently.

In an interview with THE NEW TODAY, Haynes pointed to the common practice by farmers, who although they may use the correct 25 feet spacing for a nutmeg tree, “somewhere along the line, between the 25 feet put in maybe a sour soup, cinnamon and, in no time, the entire field is crowded.”

“I understand that farmers want to maximise the use of their land, and plant as much as they can because land space in Grenada is very limited but it is important for sustainability. So, we always have to bear in mind, if we want the project to be sustainable as students and farmers it is important that we use the correct planting distance. First you measure your land and determine how many plants could fit on the land,” she advised.

In addition, Haynes said that “if you plant in a crowded manner then all of the trees would grow very tall because they are competing for light and will be very difficult to harvest.”

The female agronomist expressed concern that in these circumstances “farmers tend to follow other practices that are not good, for example the clove might be difficult to reach so they might cut off the branch to harvest the clove and destroy the tree in the process.”

According to Sen. Thomas, the project will not concentrate only on the traditional, and locally known spices, it will also allow for the introduction of new spices to Grenada as it is the government’s responsibility to ensure that the “file of Spice” is retained and maintained.

Last Tuesday’s ceremony saw Sen. Thomas symbolically planting a clove tree in the presence of the School Principal, teachers, students, and residents, who converged at the garden of the St. David’s Roman Catholic School to witness the transformation of spice tree planting event.

School Principal Nicole Baptiste, said this initiative is encouraging for the future agriculture worker.

“As we witness our Minister for Agriculture demonstrate, and lead the way in replanting our spices, we hope this initiative will invoke a drive in our young boys and girls to plant, nurture and continue to produce all of our different spices in Grenada,” she said.

Ministry officials also ventured to the not too distant Mt. Tranquil farm in St. David, where a series of spices were also planted.
New Grenada Government moves to address outstanding external debts

The 3-month-old Congress Government of Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, has taken steps to address outstanding external debts, which has made it difficult to access concessional financing over the years, and landed the country on the “selective default” list in the international financial system, according to Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development Minister, Joseph Andall.

The senior government addressed the island’s outstanding debt during Tuesday’s post-Cabinet media briefing in St. George’s, days after participating in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, where the outstanding debts were among topics discussed during sideline bilateral engagements.

Minister Andall spoke of having a one-on-one discussion with the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Amery Browne, towards resolving an outstanding EC$80m debt that was contracted by the Grenada Government in 2005 following the passage of Hurricane Ivan and in years that followed.

He told reporters that the process of settling the debt has begun but preferred not to delve into the details at this time as this “may be a politically sensitive issue.”

The Foreign Affairs Minister also alluded to discussions held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community in Algeria, Ramtane Lamamra to address another longstanding debt issue, dating back to the 1970s.

“Prime Minister Mitchell and I met with the Foreign Affairs Minister of Algeria to address a longstanding debt issue going back to the 1970s, and while the matter has not yet been resolved, initial steps were taken to put in place a mechanism for settling that outstanding debt,” he said.

The senior government minister told reporters that he was not in a position to provide the specifics on this particular debt.

Speculation is rife that the debt was contracted by the 1979-83 left-leaning People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG) of late, Marxist leader, Maurice Bishop. However, Minister Andall said it was his understanding that “it is a relatively small sum” which over the years grew due to interest that “would have accumulated, making it bigger than it was originally.”

“…We are confident that we would have that matter resolved in short order,” added Minister Andall, who also spoke of there being an outstanding debt owing to the North African country of Libya.

The Foreign Minister also reported on progress made towards paying off an EC$372.1 million debt accumulated under the PetroCaribe agreement with the South American country of Venezuela, which ended in 2019.

“Initial discussions have taken place regarding a mechanism for amortising that debt,” he told reporters.

PetroCaribe is an oil alliance involving 18 Caribbean countries that was established in June 29, 2005, in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, and allowed beneficiary nations to buy oil at market value for five (5) to 50% upfront, with a grace period of one (1) to two (2) years, with the remainder being paid through a 17 to 25-year financing agreement with 1%. If oil prices are above US$40 per barrel.

Supplies under PetroCaribe were suspended to most Caribbean countries as a result of plummeting Venezuelan crude output, US political pressure on Caracas, and recipient countries, and at the time, falling world oil, and gas prices that had made it more beneficial to purchase oil elsewhere.

Minister Andall told reporters that Venezuela has indicated that “soon they will
Hudson Austin cremated!!!

Four days after his death, the former military strongman in Grenada, General Hudson Austin, was put into the furnace at 12 noon in keeping with his wishes. According to a family member, they now have to collect the ashes from the funeral home, as a church service is planned for him next Thursday at the Bethel Methodist Church along the St Paul's main road.

“I know that arrangements have been made to have it at Bethel – he didn’t want no service – he said it must be straight cremation,” he said.

“There is no announcement – nothing. The children will have the service with the ashes - they will bring the ashes to the church, have the service and bury it where he tell them to bury it. I don’t know where it is,” he added.

The family member also went on to say, “You know he (General Austin) was a kind of man – when that man say that he means do (exactly so). Ever since HA used to say he doesn’t want any big set of thing and all them kind of thing (on his death) – he used to say burn him or throw him in the sea – you know that was the kind of man he was.”

According to the family member, General Austin was not in favour of the church service, the family members decided to do one. “He believed when you dead you’re done – nothing to help you. When a man asks for certain wishes – whether you like it or not – it always best to follow it,” he quipped.

“If they could have cremated the same day he wanted that. It is because of things like getting the death certificate and birth paper to register and then get permission from the Magistrate (that delayed cremation),” he said.

General Austin was a Methodist Lay Preacher before taking on the role of Commander of the now disbanded People’s Revolutionary Army (PRA) after the left-leaning New Jewel Movement (NJM) used force to topple then Prime Minister Eric Gairy on March 13, 1979 in the first coup d’etat in the English-speaking Caribbean. It was the ex-Army Commander who informed Grenadians on the night of October 19, 1983 that Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed on Fort Rupert, now back to its original name Fort George, at the height of a bitter power struggle involving radicals and moderates within the then ruling New Jewel Movement (NJM).

Austin, along with former Deputy Prime Minister Bertrand Coard, the suspected mastermind of the coup against Bishop, as well as several former government and military officials were convicted for the execution of Bishop. Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman. Education Minister Jacqueline Creft and Housing Minister Norris Bain in an army operation that was ordered by Lieutenant-Colonel Ewart Bain in an army operation that was ordered by Lieutenant-Colonel Edwin “Headache” Layne.

The General has often mentioned he was not involved in any plan to execute Prime Minister Bishop and told THE NEW TODAY in a November 2021 interview that during the over 30 years spent in prison he realized that he was “fed a lot of false reports” by the top brass of the PRA.

“A few years now I realise that I used to get a lot of false reports including the executions on the fort,” he said.

General Austin stated then that he was not told the truth about the manner in which Prime Minister Bishop was killed on the fort amidst the bitter power struggle with Coard over the issue of joint leadership of the NJM.

Bishop had reneged on a majority decision taken by the Central Committee (CC) of the NJM for the hardline Marxist-Leninist Coard to return to the major decision-making body in the party as his equal.

The General said he was on sick leave on the day of Bishop’s death but was told by the army top brass “a lot of false reports” about the Prime Minister’s murder and his second in command of the army told him that he would discuss the matter with him after they leave prison.

Layne has never made any public statement on the manner in which Prime Minister Bishop was killed. The Bishop killers were rounded up by U.S and Caribbean troops who entered Grenada on October 25, 1983 to help restore law and order and to pave the way for the return of democratic rule of law in Grenada.
Grenada PM Gets Warm Welcome In Brooklyn

By Anna C

The new Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell — who has no relation to the former leader Dr. Keith Mitchell — was warmly welcomed by citizens over the weekend during his first official visit to Brooklyn since his shocking election victory on June 23, which resulted in the deposition of the incumbent Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell.

A Dinner and Ball hosted by the New York Chapter of the current National Democratic Congress on Saturday night at Glen Terrace on Avenue N in Brooklyn featured Mitchell as the honoree (NDC).

Then, on Sunday, he delivered the keynote address at a Town Hall meeting that was also hosted by the NDC affiliate and held at the Claire Tow Theater in Brooklyn.

Over 500 Grenada residents and visitors applauded the youthful prime leader throughout his address on Sunday and gave him standing ovations at the opening and finish of it.

Mitchell, whose entourage included Sen. David Andrew, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture, and Joseph Andall, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Export Development, reminded citizens that his administration is committed to modernizing Grenada, especially in the area of education.

Mitchell stated, “It sounds simple, you can eat better; it’s healthier.”

“As opposed to the chicken we import from Brazil, we can get fish from Carriacou and Petite Martinique (Grenada’s sister isles),” Andrew said.

“Every threat or challenge, there’s an opportunity,” he noted. “You don’t need me to inspire you. You have Kirani James, you have Peters (Olympians). As long as you’re prepared to work, you can run your mouth until they Kingdom come.”

Inspiring the people of Grenada, according to Andrew, was one of the NDC’s accomplishments.

“Today, we have a real opportunity to build on that dream,” he remarked. “One of the things is an increase in the morale of the staff (in the Ministry of Education). Since the 24th of June, 2022, there has been a desire to come to work. People dress to come to work.”

Despite the difficulties, according to Andrew, all schools in Grenada have reopened amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We want to put on record all involved – teachers, principals and the community,” he stated. “We cannot afford the adversarial atmosphere like before. I promised to the principals – we promised to treat them with dignity and respect.”

Sports will resume in Grenadan schools according to the Minister of Education, Sports, and Culture in October.

He said that the government also intended to make all elementary and secondary schools tuition-free and that the nation’s pre-schools will get monthly subsidies for the first time.

The administration, according to Andrew, also intends to revolutionize information and communications technology (ICT).

“It’s good to know there are several Grenadians should we need experience in ICT, early childhood education,” he noted. “We’re very thrilled at the opportunity to set up a better and brighter Grenada.”

In order to advance Grenada, Andall emphasized the NDC’s theme of “Working with Grenadians at home and abroad to move Grenada forward,” and invited citizens to contribute ideas to the administration.

“Curing, fish, agricultural produce, again, we’re asking you to come with your expertise and your money, and let us move Grenada forward,” he added. “We had Air Grenada many years ago. Please don’t ask me who made it disappear.”

“I’m not going there (laughter from the audience, hinting about the previous administration). “We’re going to cultivate relations with the Mother Continent (Africa),” Andall continued. “As the motto goes, ‘let the people’s voices be heard.’”

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

with

The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA)
- the regulatory and safety oversight authority of Civil Aviation activities in the OECS and Associate Member States.

The ECCAA is inviting applications from suitably qualified professionals to fill the positions of:

- Flight Operations Inspector – Rotorcraft
- Receptionist

For more information on the employment opportunities and details for submission of applications, please visit the following websites www.eccaa.aero or www.oecs.int.

The deadline date for receipt of applications is 30th September 2022.

GRENADA PORTS AUTHORITY

NOTICE

The public is hereby reminded that the Ports in Grenada and Carriacou are restricted areas and it is therefore illegal to enter the premises i.e. passing within 150 feet of the berths, docks etc. without the expressed permission from Management.

It should also be noted that the taking of photographs, the making of videos and the use of drones are prohibited in and around Port areas.

Submitted by:
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Ian Evans
PORT MANAGER
21st September, 2022
Sen. St Clair addresses the issue of praedial larceny

By the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) could be a very effective way to tackle praedial larceny that is affecting farmers in the agriculture sector. This was disclosed to the NEW TODAY by the Senator for Agriculture, Roderick St Clair.

In an exclusive interview, Sen. St Clair said the police should be doing this just like they stop vehicles on a daily basis and ask drivers to show them their driving licenses and insurance certificates to be used on the road.

He questioned the seriousness of the police in handling the issue of praedial larceny which has been a scourge on the agricultural sector over the years.

According to Sen. St Clair, the lawmen also need to go to those places where the vendors are buying their produce to sell to the public. “…If the vendors know that the police are checking, the Praedial Larceny (Task Force) is checking they would get scared to buy stuff because they know that I shouldn’t be. Even the thief coming with it will be scared to come,” he said.

He recalled the issue of praedial larceny by the then Cabinet of Ministers under the government of defeated New National Party (NNP) regime had indicated prior to its defeat in the June 23 general election that it had a plan to deal with the problem. He recalled the announcement that an action plan was approved by the then Cabinet of Ministers under the government of defeated Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and had assigned at least ECS$100, 000.00 in the budget for this purpose.

He suggested that the police (are) doing nothing wrong with that,” he remarked. “Do we have a design issue?” he questions.

In the June 23 general election the authorities were constantly fighting to tackle praedial larceny, especially as the former New National Party (NNP) regime had indicated prior to its defeat in the June 23 general election that it had a plan to deal with the problem. He recalled the announcement that an action plan was approved by the then Cabinet of Ministers under the government of defeated Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and had assigned at least ECS$100, 000.00 in the budget for this purpose.

According to Sen. St Clair, the farmers around the island are still waiting for something to be done to tackle praedial larceny, especially as the former New National Party (NNP) regime had indicated prior to its defeat in the June 23 general election that it had a plan to deal with the problem. He recalled the announcement that an action plan was approved by the then Cabinet of Ministers under the government of defeated Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and had assigned at least ECS$100, 000.00 in the budget for this purpose.

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He also noted that current Commissioner of Police, Edvin Martin, had addressed farmers at a meeting in Grenville, St Andrew on the issue “some months ago but the farmers are saying it is still wanting.”

The Senator for farmers and fisherfolks charged that the authorities keep pushing the issue of farm security is right now we will be constantly fighting to watch it up.” He said.

He recalled the announcement that an action plan was approved by the then Cabinet of Ministers under the government of defeated Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and had assigned at least ECS$100, 000.00 in the budget for this purpose.

He said this could be a good thing but should be implemented alongside other measures in the fight against the theft of farmer’s produce.

“I think we could have a combination - it could happen. So yes, that could be used as an approach and there is nothing wrong with that,” he remarked. “Do we have a design issue?” he questions.

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A Closer Look at the Transition Three Months after the Elections

By Special Correspondent

Three months have passed since the government was voted into office on a promise to pursue a transformational agenda. A transition team was given the task to help set up the administration of governance and manage the transition from the old to the new government.

The transition process is an opportunity for the new government to capitalise on the momentum of the elections and lay a solid foundation for success. How well the process is carried out will determine if the new government is able to successfully deliver on its agenda.

As the ninety days period of the transition comes to an end this is an opportunity to analyse the process in the context of the July 8 article entitled, Mr. PM Please get the Transition Process Right. The article suggested as a first step that the new government come up with a bold vision and convert campaign promises into strategic goals.

The Prime Minister has not done a national address or undertaken a national Town Hall to report to the people on the transition and outline his government’s vision and transformative agenda since the elections. Now that the ninety days period for the transition has come to an end it is expected he will do so since it gives him an opportunity to set the stage for his new government.

Design of the senior management team and administration of governance were identified as second key steps. There are concerns with efforts to design a capable senior management team and administrative structure consistent with the challenges that lie ahead and current capabilities in the public service. Further work is needed in that area as well as to identify competent mid-level officials and build sufficient capacity to carry out the difficult tasks of governance going forward.

The Cabinet office is an area where further thinking could be brought to bear on ways to transform how policy decisions are made at that level. Strengthening the Cabinet office to ensure it is better able to carry out its core functions to coordinate development and implementation of government’s policies and facilitate collective decision-making whether within Cabinet or in its committees would help the government to effectively carry out its mandate.

If the new government is able to transform the way how policies are formulated this will enable it to

- Identify effective policy interventions to address current problems like inflation and high unemployment as well as future ones that will eventually emerge.
- The debate on the cap on freight charge to address inflation exposed a glaring weakness in how policies are formulated and highlighted a need for greater research and analysis of issues that would identify effective policy prescriptions to address problems going forward.
- A Council of Economic Advisers would undertake the deep analysis and thinking required to provide objective advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers on formulation of economic policy. This will be transformative because it provides for more divergent views and perspectives that could enhance policy discussions.
- Public policy formulation is a complex exercise which requires sound research for it to be successful. The young leader must take a page from the People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG) playbook and seek to mobilise the best minds available to help in formulating policy. There are many competent persons such as Laurel Bah, Brian Francis and Michael Julien who could be members on the council. The new government should consider setting up such a council if it wants to improve the policy formulation process.

Another institutional strengthening initiative that should be given consideration is to improve policy formulation. It is the creation of a unit of Budget and Policy management within the Cabinet Office and the ability to evaluate and quantify the economic cost to the economy, these include expected impact on government revenues and spending to determine the effectiveness of proposed policy options that are being considered by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The time for “blind” policy formulation is long gone and the new government must undertake a timely reset of these two important areas as it seeks to reform and reposition itself in this information age.

FILE PIC: Photo of a massive crowd at the NDC Victory rally held in La Sagesse on the night of July 23, 2022

THE NEW TODAY
Fri., Sept 30, 2022

COMMENTARY

A Council of Economic Advisers should be set up to address the weaknesses in how policies are formulated. The debate on the cap on freight charge to address inflation exposed a glaring weakness in how policies are formulated and highlighted a need for greater research and analysis of issues that would identify effective policy prescriptions to address problems going forward.

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Public policy formulation is a complex exercise which requires sound research for it to be successful. The young leader must take a page from the People’s Revolutionary Government (PRG) playbook and seek to mobilise the best minds available to help in formulating policy. There are many competent persons such as Laurel Bah, Brian Francis and Michael Julien who could be members on the council. The new government should consider setting up such a council if it wants to improve the policy formulation process.

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The time for “blind” policy formulation is long gone and the new government must undertake a timely reset of these two important areas as it seeks to reform and reposition itself in this information age.

The young Prime Minister must anticipate the strong economic headwinds that lie ahead which will made delivering on his transformational agenda all the more difficult. He must therefore seek to surround himself not only with loyalists but also brilliant minds with divergent views that would allow for identification of the best policy options to address the litany of challenges his government will face.

One of the risks identified in the July 8 article is the tendency of those around the seat of power to hoard positions on boards and committees to themselves. The young leader must learn from the mistakes of previous governments to identify the pitfalls that lie ahead as his government seeks to put together and implement the transformational agenda.

He must consider the results of the recent elections where the defeated regime was able to hold on to three of the four posts and lost marginally in St. Patrick’s. This suggests, though the election, the NNP’s base is solid and if the transition process is not able to set up the new government for success it could be a one-term government notwithstanding the current leadership issue in the NNP camp.

As was said before, how well the transition process is carried out will determine whether the government is able to deliver on its election promises. It is from this context and an understanding of the turbulent times that lies ahead these series of articles have been somewhat critical and clamoured for the Transition Team to get it right; not an attack on government as the malicious few are purporting it to be.

To dismantle the system of corruption left behind by the defeated government requires deliberate action by those who understand how the system works.

At the top of the system are some foreign ambassadors at large and certain CBI agents who are “apex providers” at the top of the food chain that fed the gravy train of the regime. They are not attempting to hide their loot, but are plain sighted here locally.

It would be very interesting to see who among these few are purporting it to be.

(Continue on pg 20)
New UN climate chief takes the fight personally

UNITED NATIONS — For the United Nations' new climate chief, the fight is personal.

As a former engineer who says he knows "how to make things work and get things done," it wasn't just what Simon Stiell did before he became a top U.N. official, it was where.

Stiell was the environment and climate resilience minister on the small island nation of Grenada until he started his job as the executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change a few weeks ago. It's now his job to make sure the world cuts about half emissions of heat-trapping gases — which are helping trigger unprecedented frequent weather disasters — in just eight years, or as he puts it, two World Cups or two Olympics away.

"Living half my life in a climate-vulnerable nation gives me a deep appreciation," Stiell, 53, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I've lived through two hurricanes (Ivan in 2004 and Emily in 2005). I've seen my country flattened through hurricanes. I've seen sea level rise around my ankles. ... And I've also been in government finding solutions and responsible as the lead policymaker in how we build a more resilient nation with the limited resources that we have." And Grenada, which had losses that doubled its annual gross domestic product, is far from alone. In Pakistan, for example, a third of the country is under water.

"Billions of dollars in damages, lives lost, millions displaced. How do they recover from that?" Stiell asked from the 10th floor of the U.N. headquarters, overlooking the East. "Rich polluting countries will have to pay to help poorer countries to move forward, to help vulnerable victims, like his, and my country." Polluters paying for what their emissions have done is just as important as cutting what comes out of smokestacks and tailpipes, Stiell said. High-emitting countries reimbursing poorer, vulnerable nations — called "loss and damage" in the world of climate negotiations — is now so important it is one of four pillars of the fight against climate change.

The others are cutting emissions, adapting to a warmer and wilder world, and rich nations financially aiding poor nations to develop green energy and adapt.

"Loss and damage has to be addressed," Stiell said. "It's a very difficult conversation, but it's a conversation that has to be had. Possibility of a few years from now the acceptance and refusal to discuss this is a point now where these are agenda items in the negotiations. So that is a step forward." Rich nations pledged several years ago to spend $100 billion a year in aid to poor nations to help them adapt to climate change and develop cleaner energy systems, though not as compensation for damage. Even those pledges, however, especially from the United States, have not been fulfilled. Stiell hopes they are getting close.

"Coming from a country hit hard by climate change gives him "a deep understanding," and Stiell says his new job means "I also have to factor in the positions of some of those richer nations" and bring everyone together.

"Poorer countries see an ally. "It's a huge job, and it's good to see someone from a climate vulnerable nation taking the helm. As someone from Grenada, he doesn't need reminding what is at stake," said Mohamed Adow of the environment group Ocean.

For too long the perspectives of the global north have held sway here. "For too long the perspective of the global north have held sway here," said Mohamed Adow of the environment group Ocean.

"It's bringing the can forward right at our feet. We're close to running out of time." Because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the energy crisis it triggered, "countries have stepped backwards on their commitments to phase out fossil fuels," Stiell said. "But coal, Stiell said. "But it's very important it is a temporary regression, and those countries are going to accelerate as the crisis diminishes." And Grenada, which had losses that doubled its annual gross domestic product, is far from alone. In Pakistan, for example, a third of the country is under water.

The United States, the second biggest carbon polluter, took "a major step forward" and is sending a signal to the rest of the world with the Inflation Reduction Act that President Joe Biden signed this summer.

"Is it as far as they need to go? Is it as fast as it needs to go? No. But this requires collective effort," Stiell said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres regularly ratchets up the rhetoric. This week, he has called on nations to institute a windfall profits tax on fossil fuel companies that could then be used to help compensate climate-change victims, and people facing high energy and food prices.

Stiell said Guterres' role is that of a "truth-teller" in carrot-and-stick negotiations with countries, while his new job is that of an "arbiter bringing parties together." "It's hard. It's frustrating," Stiell said. "But ultimately the critical focus is achieving that goal of limiting global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. And that needs to look at incremental progress. And incremental progress isn't going to provide us with the transformative shifts that we need," Stiell said.

"Taking that 2030 goal and "working backwards will actually increase the pressure," Stiell said. "So it is not to say let us kick the can down the road. It's the complete opposite. It's bringing the can forward right at our feet. We're close to running out of time."
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Fruitful bilateral relations held at just concluded UNGA in New York**

Small island Developing States like Grenada are being urged to take advantage of trade and investment opportunities as the Government of India seeks to strengthen its ties within the Caribbean. "We were urged to take full advantage of the opportunities presented to India, that traveling delegations must include business people because at the end of the day, that is the ultimate goal of diplomacy, promoting the economic and political interest of our countries," Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development, Joseph Andall, said as he updated members of the media on progress made during Tuesday’s post-Cabinet media briefing in St. George’s.

According to the Foreign Affairs Minister, he had "a fruitful meeting with representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is located on the Arabian Peninsula in Western Asia, resulting in assurance of grant funding for various projects going forward." The contacts will continue, and we feel very confident that we are going to be able to benefit from that arrangement," he said.

Minister Andall also spoke of agreements struck during a meeting with Abdulla Shav, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of the Maldives, which is an archipelagic state in Southern Asia situated in the Indian Ocean.

"We have agreed to share experiences in the field of tourism and to explore the possibility of having exchanges so that we can learn from each other’s experiences," along with a "visa waiver agreement for visits not exceeding 90 days," he said. "So, soon the work will begin to put that into practical action, and Grenada has also agreed to give favourable consideration to supporting each other’s candidates at international forums," he added.

Initial steps were also taken toward establishing diplomatic relations with the east African country of Kenya. Minister Andall said: "As we have said before part of our diplomatic thrust would be to stick to our sisters and brothers in Africa, and other parts of the globe, not only to strengthen ties with existing partners but also to reach out to other’s candidates at international forums," along with a "visa waiver agreement for visits not exceeding 90 days," he added.

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President Putin’s actions are jeopardising economic peace and growth: The world should say “no more”

by Sir Ronald Sanders

Every bullet, every bomb, every shell that hits a target in Ukraine, hits our pockets and our economies in Africa. Those were the words of the President of Ghana, Akufo-Addo, at the UN in September. The Ghanaian President was referring to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which aggravated an already difficult worldwide economic situation, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While he spoke as an African, Akufo-Addo could have been speaking for every developing region of the world, including the Caribbean. Several African countries now have inflation rates, surging three to four times higher than they were just two years ago. The situation is no different in the Caribbean region.

Akufo-Addo said: “Those were our economies in hits our pockets and bomb, every shell that is dropped. We feel the consequences of the global situation, caused by the war in Ukraine, which aggravated the already difficult worldwide economic situation, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

In July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said “global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 percent in 2021 to 3.1 percent in 2022 and 2023. This is 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points lower for 2022 and 2023 than projected in January.”

The IMF emphasised that the economic costs of the Russian war will hit the South and North but are expected to spread far and wide, from commodity markets, trade, and - to a lesser extent - financial interlinkages. Fuel and food price rises are already having a global impact, with vulnerable populations in low-income countries most affected.

Therefore, the troubling economic and financial situation should completely dispel the illusion, held by some in the developing world that the war has nothing to do with us. In fact, the entire world has a vested interest in encouraging its immediate end.

The leaders of the two most important developing countries, Xi Jinping of China and Narendra Modi of India recently visited their counterpart in Moscow. They have urged President Putin to call a cease-fire immediately. China is the second-largest superpower in the world, and India is a fast-rising player.

As in all unpopular wars, there is certainly - Russian military forces have been losing ground to the more committed Ukrainian forces. The latter are men and women determined to defend their homeland with their lives. Despite the superior Russian military firepower, especially missiles launched from areas bordering Ukraine, the Ukrainians, armed with improved weaponry - gifted by sympathetic nations - and fortified by a patriotic resolve, have pushed back Russian troops out of Ukrainian territory that they had earlier seized.

This has caused President Putin to announce conscription of reservists and other civilians. But his plan has met resistance. More than 800 Russians were arrested in anti-war demonstrations in 37 cities, including Moscow and St. Petersburg, according to the independent Russian human rights group, the GAGA-Info. The number of men fleeing the country has increased as widespread protests by Russian citizens.

The protesters have been assaulted with military force and hundreds have been detained. Journalists in Moscow, with the international national news agency, Associated Press, reported that they witnessed at least a dozen arrests in the first 15 minutes of a night-time protest in the capital, with police in heavy body armour tackling demonstrators and - and this one way they chanted, “No to War.”

Fighting a war, which relies on relentless concentration of fire, is uniquely bringing the success that Putin’s people was imminent. Instead, the Ukrainians have captured vast swathes of Russian-occupied territory. In addition to sinking confidence in any achievement, resulting from the war, the Russian economy is also suffering.

Despite this, and in a departure from reality, Putin is planning to hold referenda in the mid- of a war, and with the population living under the guns of occupying forces, would hardly be credible to any nation in the global community. However, the decision will be held clearly shows Putin’s intention to annex the areas to Russia. Consequently, the war will escalate further, as the Ukrainians intensify their resistance.

The referenda are scheduled to start on September 23 and to continue for 5 days, after which Russia will have no doubt announce that the people of the areas have voted in favour, and they have opted to join Russia. In his quest to re-establish the Russian Union, Putin is doing so by seizing the territory of a country that has erupted in protests. Should Russia lose this contest, it is a grave violation of the international law order, which Russia was party to establish, and which has been applied by the UN Security Council since 1945.

But, in the way of Powell, sanctions, rules and laws are discarded, it does not suit the ambitions of their governments.

Every government, at the United Nations General Assembly this month, at the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States next month, and in every international meeting, should make it very clear to President Putin that the war against Ukraine is not only against Ukraine but becoming a war against global economic peace and growth, which are vital conditions for economic progress in developing countries.

Developing countries, especially small states, depend on adherence to international law; they also need global peace that facilitates travel for tourism, aid money being spent on development and not sanctions, and competitive commerce that reduces food for food and other goods. President Putin has jeopardised all that.

(Sir Ronald Sanders is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organisation of African States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College for the University of Toronto)

New Grenada Government moves to address outstanding external debts

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In delivering the Throne speech, during the opening of the Eleventh Session of the National Assembly in September, Prime Minister Mitchell revealed that the government was doing so by seizing the territory of a country that has erupted in protests. Should Russia lose this contest, it is a grave violation of the international law order, which Russia was party to establish, and which has been applied by the UN Security Council since 1945.

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Grenada PM wants global climate change response to be escalated

The newly elected Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell has urged the international community to escalate climate change to the same level of urgency as the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his maiden address to the United Nations General Assembly Debate on Saturday, Mitchell said that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught the international community the value of cooperation, timely exchange of information and sharing of resources.

"Therefore, it is imperative that the matter of climate change be escalated to the same level of urgency," he said. "The world must now accept that the solutions to these problems cannot be found be found in this grand Hall but rather in young people, who stand to lose the most from the inaction of the world’s current leaders."

He called on young people to be agents of change rather than victims of climate change. The Grenadian leader said the small island States of the Caribbean are already experiencing significant effects of climate change.

"We watch and wait, with bated breath and a silent prayer, in the hope that this year it will not be ‘our turn’," he said, reiterating his call for the scaling up of climate finance for adaptation and the removal of challenges that developing states face to access climate financing.

The prime minister also called for increased technology development and capacity-building, especially for young people. Nationally, he noted that the pandemic exposed structural weaknesses and resource deficiencies in his country’s health-care system.

In addition, the ensuing closure of borders and stagnation of tourism exacerbated already high levels of unemployment and poverty.

In this regard, Mitchell said his administration plans to mitigate such circumstances in the future by diversifying its economy and developing information and communications technologies.

Stating that the war in Ukraine has resulted in hardships on nations unconnected with the conflict, the Grenadian leader joined the call for the Russian Federation to end its war efforts in Ukraine and for the parties to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

In addition, he renewed his call for the Caribbean to remain a zone of peace and for Cuba to be removed from the United States’ List of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Further, he said it was regrettable that more has not been done for Haiti to help it achieve political stability, peace and economic progress.

Reiterating support for the International Court of Justice’s efforts regarding the border dispute between Guyana and Venezuela, Mitchell reaffirmed Grenada’s support for the territorial integrity of Guyana, and called for an end to the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against Venezuela.

He also stressed that, for small island states to eliminate poverty and attain sustainable levels of development, the vulnerability criteria must be comprehensively reviewed “as a matter of urgency.”

In this nexus, Mitchell called for a new multidimensional vulnerability index for Small Island Developing States, which, he said, “will indicate the threat to our economic development and security.”
A Closer Look at the Transition Three Months after the Elections

* From pg 15

In the wake of Grenada’s recent elections, the political landscape has undergone a significant transformation. The outgoing NDC government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, was swept from power following years of allegations of corruption and mismanagement. The transition has raised numerous questions about the new administration’s ability to rectify past wrongs and implement lasting change.

The new government, led by Prime Minister宋珊知, has promised to address issues such as transparency, accountability, and the eradication of corruption. A crucial aspect of this transition involves the investigation of past administration’s contracts and the determination of any misappropriated funds.

In this article, we examine the process of investigating past contracts and the potential for significant financial recovery for the citizens of Grenada. We explore the methods and challenges involved in this endeavor and discuss the importance of transparency in the future governance of the country.

**GRENADA:**

Claim No. GDABHP2022/0328

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GRENADA AND THE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATE STATES

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (PROBATE)

IN THE ESTATE OF THERESA NELMA LIPA JAPAL, DECEDED

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

**TAKE NOTICE:** that an application for a Grant of Letters of Administration has been filed by Shabada Japal of Hope in the parish of Saint Andrew in the State of Grenada, a lawful daughter of the deceased, and one of the persons entitled to her estate, the deceased having died intestate on the 19th day of June, 2022 at Hope in the parish of Saint Andrew in the State aforesaid.

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

**DATED:**

26th September, 2022

Law Office of Ettave John
Attorneys-at-Law for the Application

The Court Office is at Church Street in the parish of St. George. Tel: 473-440-3030/870, Fax: 473-440-6695. The Office is open at 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays except on Public Holidays.

Law Office of Ettave John, Chambers, Cherry Hill, St. George, Attorneys-at-Law Tel/ Fax. No. 473-440-8273, E-mail: ettavejohn@gmail.com

The museum at the helm of ministries should answer these two questions. First is corruption so pervasive in the public service that certain elements operate with impunity. If the government doesn’t show evidence of intent in practice to reform the public sector, transform how policies are formulated and decided, create new administrative structures and deploy persons with capabilities in areas where they can be most effective, implementation of the transformational agenda will be seriously hampered.

The new government must show real evidence of intent to transform the way this country is governed by taking another page from the PFG and make bold moves by reemploying experienced persons in positions where they can best understand, identify and promote dynamic and comprehensive mid-level profes- sions to senior positions and be more accountable to the people through Town Hall and other opportunities for mass engagements.

Similarly, they need to establish new administrative structures such as was done under the first NDP government with creation of the Department of Public Sector Management (DPMS) and the re-organisation of the Ministry of Finance because the change the people voted for must be realised.

If not done, the government will not be able to navigate the turbulent times that lie ahead and the promise of this generation will dissipate into thin air. The Transition Team still has some time to get it right to set the new go- vernment on course before it runs out.
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Cuban Innovator Uses Sunlight to Create a Model Sustainable Space

By Luis Brizuela

HAVANA - After making a model for a solar heater, installing solar panels and creating a device to dehydrate food with the help of the sun, Félix Morffi is turning his home into a space for the production and promotion of renewable energies in Cuba.

With two tanks, glass, aluminum sheets, as well as cinderblocks, sand and cement, the 84-year-old retiree created, in 2006, a solar heater that meets his household needs, which he proudly displays.

“You build it today and tomorrow you have hot water; anyone can do it, and it is free,” said the retired mid-level technician.

A magnetically treated water by means of a system that purifies it and makes it fit for consumption, without additional energy costs. Also on the roof of the house, a cluster of 16 photovoltaic panels imported in 2019 provide five kilowatts of power (kWp) and support the work of his small automotive repair shop where he works on vehicles for state-owned companies and private individuals.

This is an independent enterprise carried out by Morffi on part of his land in Regla, one of the 15 municipalities that make up Havana. In addition to covering his family’s household needs, he provides his surplus electricity to the national grid, the National Electric Power System (SEN).

As part of a contract with the Unión Eléctrica de Cuba under the Ministry of Energy and Mines, for the surplus energy “we receive an average of more than 2,000 pesos a month (about 63 dollars at the official rate), more or less the amount we pay for our consumption during the same period,” Morffi told IPS in an interview at his home.

But he said that the rate of 12.5 cents per kilowatt of energy delivered to the SEN perhaps should be increased if the government wants more people to produce solar energy.

Since 2014, Cuba has had a Policy for the Development of Renewable Energy Sources and their Efficient Use, and in 2019, Decree Law 345 established regulations to increase the share of renewables in electricity generation and steadily decrease the proportion represented by fossil fuels.

Other regulations have been added, such as the one that exempts foreign companies that carry out sustainable electricity generation projects from paying taxes on profits for eight years.

Other decisions seek to encourage self-sufficiency through decentralized generation with the sale of surplus energy to the SEN, as well as tariff exemptions to import photovoltaic systems, their parts and components for non-commercial purposes.

Great solar potential

According to studies, Cuba receives an average solar radiation of more than five kilowatt per square meter per day, considered to be a high level. There is enormous potential in this archipelago of more than 110,800 square kilometers which has an annual average of 330 sunny days.

By the end of 2021, some 500 million dollars were invested in expanding the share in the energy mix of solar, wind, biomass and hydroelectric sources, according to data from the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

The solar energy program appears to be the most advanced and with the best opportunities for growth.

The solar parks operating in the country contribute 238 megawatts, more than 75 percent of the renewable energy produced locally.

In addition, more than 160,000 of the nation’s 3.9 million homes, mostly in remote mountainous areas, receive electricity from solar modules, statistics show.

But clean sources account for barely five percent of the island’s electricity generation, an outlook that the authorities want to radically transform, setting an ambitious goal of 47 percent by 2030.

It is a matter of national security to substantially modify the energy mix in Cuba, which is highly dependent on fossil fuel imports and hit by cyclical energy shortages.

The island is in the grip of an energy crisis with blackouts of up to 12 hours or more in some areas, due to the deterioration of the network of 20 thermoelectric generation blocks with an average operating life of 30 years and in need of frequent repairs.

Added to this is the rise in the international prices of diesel and fuel oil, as well as the shortage of parts to keep the engines and generators powered by these fuels operational in Cuba’s 168 municipalities.

Putting on the brakes

Government authorities point to the U.S. embargo as a factor holding back the growth of renewable energies, blaming for discouraging potential investors and hindering the purchase of modern components and technologies.

On the other hand, inflation, the partial dollarization of the economy and the acute shortage of basic necessities, including food, are most families without many options for turning to the autonomous production of clean energy, even if they recognize its positive environmental impact.

One of the authorized state-owned companies is 1.0 kWp solar panel systems for the equivalent of 1,900 dollars in a country where the average monthly salary is estimated at 160 dollars, although it is possible to apply for a bank loan.

People who spoke to IPS also mentioned the difficulties in storing up solar energy for use all night, during blackouts or on cloudy or rainy days, considering the very high price of batteries.

Morffi said more training is needed among personnel involved in several processes, and he cited delays of more than a year between the signing of the contract with Unión Eléctrica and the beginning of payment for surplus energy contributed to the SEN, as well as “inconsistency with respect to the assembly” of the equipment.

Although there is a national policy on renewable energy sources, “there is still a lot of ignorance and very little desire to do things, and do them well,” he said.

Award-winner’s” raising is needed,” he argued.

Combining renewable energies

Morffi believes that despite the economic conditions, with a little ingenuity people can take advantage of the natural elements, because “the sun shines for everyone; the air is free and costs nothing, but your wealth is in your brain.”

He shows a dryer that uses the heat of the sun for drying spices and tubers, which he assembled mostly with recycled products such as pieces of wood, nylon, acrylic and aluminum sheets.

Other equipment will require a significant investment, such as the purchase of a small wind turbine of 0.5 kWp each that he plans to import and a new batch of 4.0 kWp photovoltaic solar panels, for which he will have to apply for a bank loan.

At the back of his house, a small solar panel keeps the water flowing from a well for his barnyard fowl and an artificial pond about holding a variety of ornamental fish as well as tilapia for the family to eat.

The construction of a bio gas digester, about four cubic meters in size, is also at an advanced stage on his land, aimed at using methane gas from the decomposition of animal manure, for cooking.

According to Morffi, who manages these activities with the support of several family members, his home is on its way to becoming an experimental site for the use of renewable energies.

A specialized classroom may be built there, so that students can learn and become aware of the subject in situ.

So far in the design stage, and in discussions with potential supporters, this local development project could even install “solar heaters in places in the community such as the doctor’s office, a day center and a cafeteria for the elderly,” said Morffi.

He said the idea should receive support from international donors, the government of the municipality of Regla, and Cubasolar, a non-governmental association dedicated to the promotion of renewable sources and respect for the environment, of which Morffi has been a member since 2004.

We are willing to advise anyone who wants to install solar panels, heaters or dryers, every-thing related to renewable energies. We have knowledge and expe-rience and have some-thing to contribute,” he said.
Address by Prime Minister, Hon. Dickon Mitchell on September 24, 2022 at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

"From page 2 of the United Nations General Assembly proceedings"

As we seek to bolster resilience in our island home, I reiterate the 1.5-degree Celsius temperatures remain below 2 degrees Celsius and encourage the submittal of additional proposals that seek to address thelimits of adaptation and the need for further investments in renewable energy sources.

In this regard, Grenada is steadfast in its commitment to mitigating the impacts of climate change and has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint. We are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and believe that global cooperation is essential to address the challenges we face.

Additionally, my Government calls for increased technology development and capacity building, especially for young people. Mr. President, we are encouraged, and indeed proud, that a son of the soil has joined the ranks of the United Nations and is committed to promoting diversity and sustainability.

The appointment of Simon Stul as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat sends a clear message on the importance of island voices in the fight against climate change. We optimistically assert that the mandates of the climate convention and its protocols, as well as the High-Level Panel of the United Nations, are an integral part of our commitment to sustainability.

Mr. President, the Government of Grenada is firm in its determination to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The adverse impacts of production, employment, and poverty are growing, and at the same time, we are grappling with fiscal management in many countries.

The Government of Grenada is firm in its determination to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We continue to call for the Multi-Vulnerable Index (MVI), which would eliminate the threat to our economic development and security, and encourage the submission of additional proposals to the United Nations. The call for the Caribbean to embrace the Sustainable Development Goals is underscored by our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.

*From page 2*
INVESTIGATION INTO FAITH ORGANISATION REVEALS GROSS MISALLOCATION OF FUNDS

“An exorbitant sum has been paid by the government so far, and we are not able as yet to determine the services that were provided to the people of Grenada for those sums of monies.”

Those were the words of Attorney General, and Minister for Legal Affairs and Labour, Claudette Joseph as she provided an update on the ongoing investigation into the controversial FAITH Organisation for People’s Development Corporation Inc., a non-profit organisation, that was contracted by the former Keith Mitchell-led New National Party government to manage the sanitisation of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Joseph told reporters that there is an ongoing investigation into FAITH and gave assurance that “I guarantee you we will not leave any stones unturned, especially as it appears in this case that there was a gross misallocation of the people’s money.”

According to the female government minister, the newly installed National Democratic Congress (NDC) administration of Prime Minister Dignon Mitchell took the decision to end the contractual agreement with FAITH, which she contends has not been delivering value for money.

“We have recently communicated with the directors of that company, giving our initial position, and formally ending any contractual agreement that existed between FAITH, and the Government of Grenada because based on all that we have seen so far we do not believe that government was getting value for money in relation to the alleged services provided by that company,” she said.

A sister of former Education Minister Emmalin Pierre is known to have been contracted to the company while other Government subventions to the company while other entities, they are the ones responsible for paying their staff...and they know that.”

And, from what we have seen so far, they (FAITH) are more than able to do so, considering the millions that got from our Ministry of Education, and therefore the FAITH is fully responsible for paying their staff...and they know that.”

And, that applies to the other entities that were part of the apparatus set up by the Government of Grenada did not hire them, and therefore the Government of Grenada does not owe them,” the senior government minister declared.

“And, that applies to the other entities that were part of the apparatus set up by the previous administration to use government funds, the people’s money, for other purposes including basically helping to run a campaign. So, those of you who are owed by these entities, they are the ones to pay you, not the Government of Grenada,” she said.

Minister Joseph pointed out that the “primary focus” of the new government is to “settle in the different portfolios with focus on delivering on the promises that we made to the people of Grenada.”

The investigation into FAITH comes on the heels of calls made in various quarters for a probe into the company, after documents surfaced showing that the former NNP regime had provided over EC$1.1 million in Government subventions to the company while other organisations received only $0.00 annually.

The 2022 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure show that more than EC$329 million was assigned for Contracts, Outsourcing, and Other Services for the Ministry of Education under the Schools Administration and Management Unit for 2020, but it was reduced to less than EC$1 million in 2022.

Operations Manager at the Integrity Commission, Elizabeth Henry-Greenidge: the Commission started a preliminary investigation into what we see of significance. The media, and as we normally do, we would do preliminary research into what is happening. According to our protocols, and practices, we look into information that requires it, not just complaints that people bring to us but we do peruse all of your media publications, and anything that we see of significance first flag it and we begin to look into it. So, we have started our own preliminary look into the matter following media reports.