SHOULD C’BEGAN NATIONALS WORRY?

TRUMP PROVOKES WAVE OF UNCERTAINTY

NEW YORK: CARIBBEAN NATIONALS who qualify for American citizenship are being urged to move with speed to adjust their status in the wake of drastic immigration actions being pursued by President Donald Trump.

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J’CAN MAN TURNED BACK AT NEWARK, VISA CANCELLED ... P3
NEWS

Jamaica born appointed principal of Africentric school
Luther Brown has been appointed the principal of Africentric Alternative School (AAS) in Toronto, which has been welcomed by many in the African Canadian community.

Chuck says no hesitation in signing extradition orders
Justice Minister Delroy Chuck has declared that there will be no delays in the signing of extradition orders for Jamaicans wanted in the United States on lottery scam-related charges.

LIFESTYLE

Lena McCalla Njee
Giving a voice to special needs children and their families
When filming for a project looking at how autism affects children and their families wraps up in Jamaican in late April, it will be a deeply personal mission for New Jersey-based teacher Lena McCalla Njee.

BUSINESS

Lee Chin targets Israeli investments for Jamaica
Head of the Economic Growth Council (EGC) Michael Lee Chin says that he will be meeting with top Israeli businessmen in less than two months in an effort to woo substantial investments from that country to Jamaica.

ENTERTAINMENT

Toronto Black Film Festival begins February 15
The fifth edition of Toronto Black Film Festival will be organised from downtown Toronto, on Monday, January 23.

IMMIGRATION

Family concerns ...

Westmoreland, St Ann, KSAC record highest drug use
ST ANN, Westmoreland, Kingston and St Andrew currently have the highest number of drug users, according to the 2016 Drug Prevalence Survey that was conducted by the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA).

Mandatory six weeks for decisions in child custody cases
WITH A mere three gangsters convicted under the anti-gang legislation since it was passed more than two years ago, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck is dismissing claims that flaws in the law have reduced its effectiveness as a crime-fighting tool.

Appleton Reports Oil Spill In The Black River
J. Wray & Nephew Limited said an incident at the factory on the Appleton Estate in St. Elizabeth resulted in the spillage of 36 gallons of oil into the Black River on Tuesday, January 24.

Mandatory six weeks for decisions in child custody cases
WITH A mere three gangsters convicted under the anti-gang legislation since it was passed more than two years ago, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck is dismissing claims that flaws in the law have reduced its effectiveness as a crime-fighting tool.

According to Chuck, the low conviction rate under the anti-gang legislation is not the result of ineffective legislation, but rather the twin problem of fear on the part of witnesses and inadequate police investigation.

Nearly two dozen persons apply for commissioner's job
MORE THAN 20 persons are seeking to become Jamaica’s next police commissioner.

Spill In The Black River

Local Boyz will get their chance — Whitmore
Coach of Jamaica national men’s senior team Theodore ‘Tappa’ Whitmore says local based players will be given sufficient opportunities in upcoming friendly internationals against the USA and Honduras next month.

Past mayors of Montego Bay and stakeholders have mixed reactions to fountain relocation
PAST MAYORS OF Montego Bay and key stakeholders have expressed mixed reactions to the proposal to relocate the iconic water fountain situated in the middle of the historic Sam Sharpe Square in the city.

The relocation of the monument was one of several proposals put forward by the National Works Agency (NWA) at a recent meeting, as part of a short-term countermeasure to the traffic congestion being experienced in the city.

A bird’s-eye view of historic Sam Sharpe Square in Montego Bay, St James.

Appleton Estate in St Elizabeth

A bird’s-eye view of historic Sam Sharpe Square in Montego Bay.

Westmoreland, St Ann, KSAC record highest drug use

Acting Police Commissioner Novelette Grant (left),
Immigration clampdown worries Caribbean immigrants

DEON BROWN
Gleaner Writer

New York

CARIBBEAN NATIONALS who qualify for American citizenship are being urged to move with speed to adjust their status in the wake of drastic immigration actions being pursued by President Donald Trump.

The President’s executive order on January 27 banning citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the US has roiled the nation and provoked discust and fear among immigrants in general, even those not specifically mentioned on his list.

On the buses, train, at street corners and in stores, the conversation—non-stop is about the wave of uncertainty that has swept the country since the new President took office.

“It’s the Muslims, today. Who tomorrow?” We never know with this hurricane called Trump puffing and blowing all over the place,” said a Jamaican who gave his name only as Jerry, at a Jamaican restaurant in Queens on the weekend.

He was among several persons discussing the issue as they ordered breakfast at the eatery.

“Cowardly use the use of him tail ‘til him lose it,” the woman sitting next to him, Deon, said, appreciating (former President) Obama. Di idiot dem put in Trump and a si him bring. Pure rungup,” President of the Caribbean Immigrant Services Irwine Clare said Trump’s actions will impact immigrant communities of colour, even those not formally mentioned.

“The executive order has emboldened custom border agents to immigrants of colour, even those not formally mentioned. “The executive order has emboldened custom border agents to immigrants of colour, even those not formally mentioned,” Clare said. “People could now be forced to demonstrate their domicile residen.

“Those who live in the Caribbean with their green cards may have to re-consider their thinking and realise that in order to keep their green cards they may need to live in the US, not just come up for visits. Just follow the mindset of the President and realise it is a new world order,” he added.

Clare is advising permanent residents who qualify to naturalise as US citizens. “It’s similar encouraging DACA (Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals) recipients to adjust their status by whatever means available to them,”

While Trump has not moved to reverse the executive order extend ed by President Obama allowing undocumented youth who came to the US as children to receive work permits and other benefits, Clare notes there are no meaningful immigration laws coming down the pipeline to protect them.

DACA recipients and Caribbean nationals have joined their voices in the street engagements, calling for a more humanitarian approach to immigration reforms. They were among the hundreds at marches across New York City over the weekend.

Immigration attorney, Winston Tucker, says for now DACA is not Trump’s priority and those who have the benefit should continue to renew their employment authorisation and those who have not and should go ahead and do so.

Along with seeking citizenship for themselves, Tucker is urging Caribbean nationals who have been delaying the process of petitioning for relatives to do so now, as it is not clear what changes the new administration will make.

He pointed out that the Republicans had previously proposed allowing petitions for only married husbands, wives and children under 21, excluding the mother/father/siblings/adult children categories.

“Left to some legislators, I don’t see why Trump administration wouldn’t support that,” Tucker observed. “We need to be mindful of how extreme the Trump administration can be.”

A protester looks toward a circling helicopter as he demonstrates against President Donald Trump’s visit in Philadelphia. Trump traveled to Philadelphia to speak to House and Senate GOP lawmakers at their annual policy retreat.

MoBay resident held at Newark, visa cancelled

GLENROY SEWELL was on his way to New York to spend time with his girlfriend, celebrate her birthday and Valentine’s Day. But he wasn’t prepared for the encounter that awaited him at Newark Airport.

Sewell, 35, a chef who lives in Montego Bay, was on United Airlines flight 1628 from Montego Bay to Newark on January 25, when he said that he was travelling on a ten year US visitor’s visa and had plans to spend three weeks with his fiancée, Leslie Crosby in Newark.

He was kept in confinement at the airport, and summarily placed on the first flight back to Montego Bay the following morning.

Sewell told The Gleaner that his nightmare began when he applied to visit the US as a tourist and as he pulled up to the arrival gate at Terminal C at Newark.

He said that after he deplaned and joined the immigration line, he started to sweat profusely.

By this time, his girlfriend was at the arrival area terminal, waiting on Sewell, and all the other passengers on the flight from Montego Bay had left.

She said that her cellular phone rang, and the caller identified himself as immigration official. She was reportedly told she was expecting a visitor from Jamaica.

“Yes,” she responded. “I am waiting for Glenroy Sewell from Montego Bay.” She was further asked how long she had known him, when was the last time she saw him, his address and if he was going to stay with her.

She answered all the questions and the caller said thanks and hung up.

She continued to wait, and was informed that two people from the Montego Bay flight had been kept back for “processing.”

She says that she was told by an airline porter to go home and wait for a call.

She did this, and the call came in at 9.45 p.m. nearly five hours after the flight landed.

It was Sewell, who informed that he was denied entry into the United States, his visa was cancelled and he was scheduled to fly back to Montego Bay on the first flight in the morning.

The couple say they have been left stunned, puzzled, frightened and disappointed. Sewell claims he had very little to eat or drink in nearly twenty four hours he was at the airport.

Sewell said that despite repeated requests, he was never told why he was being sent home. He was reportedly told to go back home and secure a waiver to return to the US, or wait five years to re-apply for a visa.

Sewell’s girlfriend has since retained the services of an immigration attorney in New York to look into the matter.

Contacted for an overall assessment on the matter, US-based lawyer Donald Vernon said it was difficult legally to identify the specific reason for the expedited removal which occurred at the airport.

“Clearly, the Executive Order signed by the President Trump excluding citizens and green card holders from 7 majority Muslim Countries did not include Jamaica. I can only surmise that Customs and Border Protection, after investiga tion, may have found that Glenroy made a material misrepresentation to gain an immigration benefit. However, given the climate created by the Trump administration we may never know the real reason or if the expedited removal was in compliance with US Law.”

Sewell had visited the US once in 2015.
LENNA MCCALLA NJEE

Giving a voice to special needs children and their families

GLENDRA ANDERSON
News Coordinator
Overseas Publications

KINGSTON:

When filming for a project looking at how autism affects children and their families, Maya’s parents, based teacher Lena McCalla Njee, not only is she signed on as “an expert,” given her specialized training in the area, but the crew will be filming in her “backyard” — Jamaica, one leg of a three-country tour which includes the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

She is part of a team including UK television and radio presenter Monica Price, and public relation specialist Barry Tomes.

The film looks at how families are affected by having autistic children, the difference in how the children are treated and cared for in the three countries.

The documentary and six 30-minute shows will be filmed to deliver to the major television networks in the UK for broadcast.

The program will also be pulling on a topic Njee knows all too well having experienced it firsthand.

Jamaica-born, she grew up in Bois Content, a community on the outskirts of Old Harbour, Saint Catherine, and was trained as a primary school teacher at Sam Sharpe Teachers College. She then migrated to the United States where she did a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and graduate studies in Special Education.

She says it is a curiosity which has come full circle.

“I became interested in Special Education — specifically Autism, out of a personal experience. A dear friend of mine had twin boys who at first seemed to be maturing normally, hitting all their developmental milestones until the age of about 18 months. Both boys stopped smiling, stopped playing, stopped making eye contact plus they were exhibiting other odd behaviors which were just puzzling to everyone.

Everyone was discriminated against; they were made fun of. My parents were made to believe that something was wrong with their children.

I have been interested in Special Education ever since then and I decided to get the specialized training so I could help.”

In the end, both parents divorced.

In the end, the boys were diagnosed as having Autism.

The impact on the family was overwhelming and devastating.

In the end, both parents divorced.

The experience fired up her desire to learn and do more.

I started learning about the signs of Autism in children and how to deal with some of the behaviors that those children exhibit. Over the years, I have come to understand that children with autism can learn if they are more understood. My mantra is that all children can learn and children with Autism can learn; they just learn differently," Njee said.

Her own experience as a child struggling with a learning disorder was added motivation.

“I see myself in these children. I am inspired by them. I remember how frustrating it was for me when I was a child. I would always write my name backwards. A doctor explained to my mother that (that) was the how I saw the letters. If there was a treatment for dyslexia when I was growing up, my parents could not afford it. I eventually learned to write my name with the help of dedicated teachers and my parents who helped me with hand over hand daily practice.”

Today, she works as a special education teacher in the Irvington School District, and has taught at Chad Elementary in Newark as well as Mount Carmel Guild School for Children with Disabilities.

CONDUIT

“In addition to educating these children, I serve as a conduit between them, their families, and school administration. I create individualized learning programmes for the children that I teach, and make recommendations for parents and children to get access to additional appropriate resources.”

It is this aspect of her job that has her pushing for more.

“For many years, I have observed the impact that a diagnosis of Autism has had on families. Some families grow stronger while many fall apart.”

Njee says discrimination and general ignorance of various aspects of the condition are among the challenges common to countries worldwide.

Some challenges come from a deeper, more emotional space, involving an acceptance that there is indeed a problem with the child, knowing where to turn to access appropriate diagnosis and treatment, and dealing with the daily demands of the child’s needs.

Most parents are unable to afford treatment.

“Ameica has Federal laws in place to protect and educate children with disabilities, however many parents have to advocate and fight for appropriate services. The attitudes and stigma towards children with Autism and other disabilities is not specific to any one culture. Njee says “More people are becoming aware of Autism in the UK and in Jamaica but major changes need to be implemented along with awareness. Part of the Government legislation should be to educate all children. As a society, each one needs to make an effort to accept and treat children with disabilities with respect and dignity.”

She was pulled in because of her advocacy on the matter.

“A couple of years ago, I met Monica Price, a UK based television producer. She had researched my work and she invited me as a guest on her show (CUPPA TV) to talk about my work. One of the responses I got was that (that) was the how I saw the lives of the children of Jamaica.”

The response was so great that I became committed to do this documentary. I had been hired to produce and air it,” she said.

Njee and the team are hoping that the success will be at different levels.

“My expectations from this documentary are to bring global awareness to autism in Jamaica, to possibly bring funding to the families and children of Jamaica; to advocate for parents and children in Jamaica who don’t have a voice, and to drive home the importance of education for all children. Above all, I want this documentary to spur a conversation among the scientific community to find the cause and the cure for autism.”
Condolences pour in for Quebec’s Muslim community

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Gleaner Writer

The BLACK Faculty and Staff Caucus at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia has issued a statement that the community is ‘deeply shocked’ by the shooting.

“On behalf of all Canadians, we offer our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost loved ones and to all Muslims in the city of Quebec. This is a senseless act of violence that has no place in our communities, cities and country. Canadian law enforcement agencies will protect the rights of all Canadians, and will make every effort to apprehend the perpetrators of this act and all acts of intolerance,” said the caucus.

A witness was present at the incident and called police immediately. Two men were seen entering the mosque wearing ski masks and opening fire on those inside. Reports are that two men have been arrested in connection with the shooting.

The Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus issued a statement on Monday January 30, after hearing of the fatal shooting at the mosque located in the Ste-Foy neighbourhood of the city of Quebec.

“We condemn this terrorist attack on Muslims in a centre of worship and refuge,” said the caucus.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has also issued a statement on Monday January 30, after hearing of the fatal shooting at the mosque located in the Ste-Foy neighbourhood of the city of Quebec.

“We stand in solidarity with the Muslim communities in Quebec City and across Canada. We unequivocally condemn the politics and policies of Islamophobia, racism, xenophobia and nationalism that have contributed to the perpetration of this terrible and tragic crime, and call on the Dalhousie community, in particular, and all Canadians, in general, to unite, oppose and resist those forces that seek to destroy the rights and social gains achieved through many generations of hard fought struggle,” the caucus said.

The Gleaner via AP

A police officer looks for evidence under a car in the area of a Quebec City mosque. A shooting at a Quebec City mosque Sunday night left multiple dead and injured. One suspect was arrested at the scene and another nearby.

The Administrator-General’s Department

The Administrator-General for Jamaica, administrator of the estates below would like to establish contact with the following persons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESTATES</th>
<th>PERSONS TO BE LOCATED</th>
<th>LAST KNOWN ADDRESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alvin Augustus Henry late of 54 Sunset Avenue, Kingston 8, St. Andrew</td>
<td>Linnette Henry</td>
<td>30 Roehampton Circle, Kingston 8, St. Andrew or Miami, Florida, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucille Mitchell late of Goshen, St. Elizabeth Howard Mitchell Nickole Mitchell</td>
<td></td>
<td>West Palm Beach, Florida, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilfred Irving, late of 6 Love Lane, Kingston Janet Irving</td>
<td></td>
<td>2304 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn 11226, N.Y., U.S.A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winston Irving</td>
<td></td>
<td>1061 New York Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11203, U.S.A or 915 Royal Road Venice, Florida, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Lemonyou late of Ulster Spring, Trelawny Mable Stobbs or her Beneficiaries / Legal Representatives</td>
<td></td>
<td>45 Silverstone Drive, Apt. No 205 Etobicoke, Ontario M9V 4B1, Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any of these persons or anyone who knows of their whereabouts is being asked to contact the Administrator-General’s Department within six (6) weeks of the date hereof at:

12 Ocean Boulevard, Kingston, Jamaica
Telephone: 922-1830-3 or 922-0700-5 or 618-1542
Fax: 922-4201
E-Mail: admingen@agd.gov.jm
Jamaican appointed principal of Africentric school

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Toronto, ON: LUTHER BROWN has been appointed the principal of Africentric Alternative School (AAS) in Toronto, which has been welcomed by many in the African Canadian community.

Brown, who was born in Jamaica and came to Canada in the late-1980s, has been with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) for more than 25 years. He has been a principal for around 15 years and just before taking on his new role on February 1, he was the principal of O’Connor Public School in east end of the city for six years.

Curtis Ennis, TDSB superintendent of the Africentric Alternative School, says the selection committee felt that Brown was the person who brought the most to the table in terms of leading this school.

“He was a very strong candidate. All of his references were just outstanding. I have certainly, like you, come across and heard from many community members how ecstatic they are that he was the candidate chosen,” says Ennis.

He noted that Brown has a strong sense of community and lots of grassroots organisations know him and know of his work. “They know him as someone who is a strong listener and who is a strong supporter of our young people. They know that Luther, and I know, that he has led his school very admirably both at O’Connor Public School where he was last principal and his school has done very well in comparison to other schools in TDSB even though it was a school that had significant needs and challenges,” says Ennis who is also the superintendent of O’Connor.

Yolisa Dalamba, a parent who actively participated in the realisation of the AAS, says she is thrilled that major changes have finally come.

“It is our hope Mr Brown will work with us to restore academic excellence, healing and cultural pride in our school that makes up for all the turbulence, especially our students, have endured since the school doors opened.”

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

“We have very high expectations of Mr Brown to work in partnership with parents and other stakeholders to uphold and realise Africentricity in our philosophy, pedagogy, and political and cultural practice, infused with the pan-African and anti-colonial legacies of resistance left by our ancestors. Some of those include anti-oppressive organisation, decolonisation, resisting white supremacist values and breaking down systemic barriers.”

With Brown having done such a good job at O’Connor, Ennis said, “It’s devastating for the O’Connor community but we’ll work through that piece. But it’s exciting for the Africentric community and we had a great need there. The school had been without a principal for the first half of the school year and so we’re just ecstatic that he is the chosen candidate.”

Brown was the person who brought the most to the table in terms of leading this school. He has been a principal for around 15 years and just before taking on his new role on February 1, he was the principal of O’Connor Public School in east end of the city for six years.

He says it is important to realise Africentricity in our philosophy, pedagogy, and political and cultural practice, infused with the pan-African and anti-colonial legacies of resistance left by our ancestors. Some of those include anti-oppressive organisation, decolonisation, resisting white supremacist values and breaking down systemic barriers.

Canadian govt’t to implement strategy to tackle racism

The Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD) will be coming up with a strategic plan for combating racism in Ontario in early 2017. Michael Coteau, minister responsible for the Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD), says this will include how data is collected, what their educational campaign will look like, and how to apply government policy and decision-making.

He says there’s “a whole army of people out there who want to fight racism.”

The ARD was established in February last year by the government in response to anti-Black racism issues raised by Black Lives Matter Toronto.

The minister says there was not one person who spoke at the meetings that was critical of what the government is trying to do.

“That was one of the first kind of learning points. The second thing was that people are enthusiastic to help but people are uncomfortable talking about race in general.’

Coteau says it’s an uncomfortable conversation but now more than ever these types of conversation are important.

“At least as much as we’re seeing happening across the province and the country, what we’re seeing happening across the States, there’s a shift that’s taking place and I think Ontario needs to really position itself as a place that doesn’t tolerate any form of discrimination or racism.”

He says it is important to recognise the work that’s taking place in jurisdictions, learn from what they’ve done and share that with other communities.

“You have to penetrate deep into municipalities to the daily lives of people in order to say, wait a minute, racism is occurring, it’s real and it’s unacceptable. And I think a lot of what we will bring forward will speak to some of those challenges.”

Regarding the concern raised by the labour movement about the small budget, vis-a-vis the mandate of the ARD at the meetings, Coteau says his answer was “we don’t have a plan in place, we don’t know exactly what the makeup of the organisation will look like.”

He says he has a budget of $5M to support twenty-two full time positions and he had a year to put a plan in place.

Coteau says the recent merger of the ARD and the new Anti-Racism Division in Cabinet means the government is looking for ways to build a more inclusive Ontario public service.

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Kathleen Wynne and Michael Coteau, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and also new Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism who will oversee the Anti-Racism Directorate which was announced at the Ontario Legislature on February 16, 2016.

Inclusion, Diversity and Anti-Racism Division in Cabinet means the government is looking for ways to build a more inclusive Ontario public service.

– NA
GraceKennedy boss meets with Western Union compliance unit

Steven Jackson
Senior Business Reporter

GraceKennedy CEO Don Wehby flew overseas to meet with the head of compliance at Western Union this week, in the wake of a big fine imposed on the global money-transfer company by American regulators.

In an agreement with the US Department of Justice (DOJ), Western Union agreed last week to pay US$586 million to compensate victims when it was found that transactions of not adequately protecting from fraud. But while complaints about the Jamaican operation were quantified at US$5.2 million, Wehby told Gleaner Business that GraceKennedy would not be responsible for payment of any associated fine. It will all be borne by Western Union.

The Jamaican conglomerate operates the Western Union franchise in Jamaica and other select Caribbean countries.

“Fine things have nothing to do with Jamaica,” Wehby said in a phone interview on Tuesday. “I am going to meet with the head of Western Union compliance now. They have made significant changes to their systems and government since 2012.”

The meeting, he indicated, would assess the implications for Western Union’s franchise operations in the wake of the fine.

The DOJ fine flows from an estimated US$680 million of fraud complaints. The US$60 million of complaints related to Jamaica is a discrete estimate covering the “top four fraud payout agents” since 2007 — all four being Western Union outlets — according to statements from the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in documents filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Wehby said the information in the document should be taken for what it is — that is, the FTC’s take on events.

Jamaica’s remittance companies were forced to tighten their operations as the lotto scam unfolded, to avoid being part of the illicit proceeds.

“Complaints have significantly improved from 2012 and GK put in additional measures in place,” said Wehby.

He now says less than one per cent of Jamaican transactions end up in complaints.

“We took the initiative to close Montego Bay and we said there would be no compromise on our network and we changed the IT system… in any business like that, you are going to have complaints. But from GK’s perspective, there are controls which are super tight,” said the GK group CEO.

The FTC also acknowledged that Jamaica conducted a reform of Western Union procedures in 2012 to combat these actions, according to the document posted by the SEC.

During that review, Western Union identified and suspended 13 agent locations in Montego Bay that had been processing millions of dollars of fraudulent and potentially fraudulent money transfers related to lottery/sweepstakes fraud, the report added.

THOUSANDS OF COMPLAINTS

“The suspensions only lasted a short time. However, before the agents were reactivated. After being reactivated, 10 of those agents have continued to pay out tens to hundreds of reported fraud complaints each year since 2013, and in that span have been the subject of 2,055 complaints totalling US$717,319,” the document states.

Last year, the US Embassy in Kingston estimated that the lotto scam has bilked Americans of around US$500 million to US$1 billion over time. The US$60.2 million of Western Union complaints spanning nearly a decade is a fraction of that estimate.

Wehby, while not disputing the integrity of the estimates by the US Embassy, said they needed to be reconciled with the FTC assessment, even as he acknowledged that “anecdotally” scammers are using other means outside of the remittance system.

“The figures could be significant—but based on what the US authorities just released. Maybe you can ask them to reconcile that. It would make for a great discussion,” he said.

The US$586-million fine to be paid by Colorado-based Western Union relates more than 5,500,000 complaints about scam-related money transfers between 2004 and 2015.

As part of the agreement reached with the FTC and DOJ, Western Union agreed to put in place and maintain an anti-fraud programme and properly train its staff to identify potential fraud.

Western Union said in a release that over the past five years, it has increased compliance funding by more than 200 per cent, and now spends approximately US$420 million per year on compliance.

Lot 316 SANDPIPER PLACE, BOGUE VILLAGE, PART OF BOGUE ESTATE, MONTEGO BAY, ST JAMES VOLUME1357 FOLIO 591

Property consist of single story residential dwelling containing two bedrooms, one bath room, combined livening and dining, kitchen and verandah.

Lot size of approximately 5,324.75 square feet

LOT 88 KILMARNOK WAY, "THE ALMONDS" PART OF MOORELANDS ESTATE (BLOCK B2), MANDEVILLE MANCHESTER

Property is a vacant lot of approximately 1,972,332 square Meters (21,230.24square feet) and is part of the subdivision of Moorelands Estate (Block 2) Mandeville, Manchester.

LOT 642, 41ST CENTRAL WAY, SILVERSTONE PORTMORE, ST. CATHERINE VOLUME 1301 FOLIO 925

Property consist of Two-story residence containing three bedrooms, two bathrooms living/dining room, laundry area, front porch, front and back balcony (Fully grilled).

Lot area of approximately 1,199.96 square feet and building area of approximately 1,643.5 square feet.

LOT 7, BURKE SUBDIVISION, LAND PART OF KNOCPPATRICK, MANCHESTER VOLUME 1439 FOLIO 607

Property consist of split level residence containing six bedrooms (inclusive of Basement), four bath rooms, living and dining rooms, laundry room, single car garage with electronic shutters.

Lot area approximately 12,625.85 square feet and building area of approximately 2,898 square feet.

LAND PART OF FARM DISTRICT (SOUTH OF MANDEVILLE & SOUTH EAST OF OLD ENGLAND) MANCHESTER VOLUME 1464 FOLIO 727

Property consists of split level residential dwelling, comprising Master Bedroom complete with walk-in closet and ensuite bath room with h Jacuzzi and other sanitary amenities.

Three bedrooms with closets, two bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen with granite counter tops, Linen Closet, Front, Side & Rear Porches, Single Car Garage with electronic shutters.

Land Area approximately 1,092.74 square meters (11,762 .04 square feet), building area approximately 338.06 square meters (3,635 square feet).

LAND PART OF FRIENDSHIP MOUNTAIN, GRAY’S MOUNTAIN (IN THE VICINITY OF SPRING GARDEN) MONTEGO BAY, ST. JAMES VOLUME 1340 FOLIO 199 OF THE REGISTER BOOK OF TITLES

Property consists of residential subdivisions comprising a gross land area of approximately 19.0 hectares (46.91 acres).

LAND PART OF BELFIELD PEN, CLONMEL, ST. MARY (NEAR HIGATE & NORTH OF LEWIS STORE) VOLUME 1427 FOLIO 580 OF THE REGISTER BOOK OF TITLES

Property comprised of a split level commercial building disposed over a gross floor area of approximately 289.23 square meters (3,110.00 square feet), containing four shop units, two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Land area of approximately 1,086.05 hectares (2.68 acres).

MAKE AN OFFER. ALL REASONABLE OFFERS WILL BE CONSIDERED
Carter must go to CAS

JAMAICA'S ATHLETICS establishment is obliged not merely to support, but aggressively champion, an appeal by Nesta Carter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against his conviction by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a doping violation at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. There are myriad reasons why this should be so.

First, Jamaicans are heavily invested in this matter for Carter's case calls into question the credibility of the island's athletics and athletes. That is deserving of a fulsome and robust defence to the highest level. National sentiment, including the Usain Bolt factor, is wrapped up in this.

The performances of Jamaica's track and field athletes are beyond the size of its population, or its obvious capacity to invest in supporting infrastructure. Indeed, Bolt isn't merely the world record holder in the 100 and 200 metres, and until last week, owner of nine Olympic gold medals. For the better part of a decade, he has been the pristine face of a sport tarnished by doping scandals.

Nesta Carter has been among his supporting acts. Carter has won more individual medals at global games than any other athlete in the Usain Bolt factor, is wrapped up in this.

The opinions on this page, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gleaner.
Have a great week

Maurice Tomlinson, senior policy analyst at the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, third left, with some members of the Jamaican Canadian Association on January 26 where he showed the documentary, “The Abominable Crime,” about homophobia in Jamaica.

Shaw University, Carolina Small Business Development opened the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center on January 19. Seen here at a ribbon cutting ceremony from left: Lenwood V. Long, Sr., President/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund Dr. Tashni-Dubroy, President of Shaw University Awamary Khan, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial & Operating Officer and other officers.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

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CLICK!

CLICK!
Lee Chin targets Israeli investments for Jamaica

Edmond Campbell
Senior Staff Reporter

HEAD OF the Economic Growth Council (EGC) Michael Lee-Chin said that he will be meeting with top Israeli businessmen in the next two months in an effort to woo substantial investments from that country to Jamaica.

Lee Chin, who accompanied Prime Minister Andrew Holness to Israel two weeks ago on what he described as a trade mission, said he had dialogue with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to set up a meeting with the principals of the leading companies in the Middle East country.

“I said, “Prime Minister, can you help us do that, organize the 50 top companies in Israel and I’ll come back in the next two months and speak to them and tell them why they should come and invest in Jamaica?”” Lee Chin told The Gleaner.

LIVERN BARRETT
Gleaner Writer

THE SUPREME Court has tossed aside an attempt by Symbiote Investments Limited, the company seeking to become the third player in the local telecommunications market under the Caricel brand, to block an investigation being conducted by Jamaican regulators that could result in the revocation of two licences granted by the Andrew Holness administration last year.

On Tuesday, January 24, Justice Leighton Pusey refused an application for judicial review by lawyers for Symbiote Investments after the entity was served with notices by the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) and the state-run Spectrum Management Authority (SMA) last December that it was the subject of an investigation and required answers to a number of questions.

The 26-page ruling by Pusey provided some details on an issue that has been shrouded in secrecy since news first broke that the Holness administration was attempting to revoke the licence granted to Symbiote to provide telecoms services in Jamaica.

In May last year, Symbiote was granted a domestic mobile carrier and service provider licence to provide local, fixed and international services.

Following a meeting with Cabinet to discuss concerns raised by the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), the entity was also granted a spectrum licence last September by Energy Minister Dr Andrew Wheatley.

NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

But court documents show that last month the OUR and the SMA wrote to Symbiote indicating that because of national security concerns, the entity would be the subject of an investigation under the Telecommunications Act and that it could lead to the revocation of the licences.

As a result, lawyers for Symbiote went to court seeking, among other things, orders declaring the actions of the OUR and the SMA exceeded their authority under the Telecoms Act, an order of certiorari to quash their decision to issue the notices of investigations and a prohibition order blocking both agencies from taking action against the entity arising from the probe.

Claim Has Nothing But A Harmless Error, Says Justice Pusey

In seeking to convince Justice Leighton Pusey to allow Symbiote Investments (Operators of Caricel) to challenge the notices of investigation before the Judicial Review Court, Douglas Leys, the entity’s lead attorney, noted several allegations raised by the Office of Utilities Regulation and Spectrum Management Authority in the notices, but argued that the documents should set out the specific breaches of the terms and conditions of the licence it was granted.

“The Supreme Court has ruled against Caricel on its application for leave to seek judicial review of two letters issued by both agencies.

In addition, he argued that Symbiote should have been required, in the notice, to justify the subject of the breach or take remedial action within a specific timesframe. But in refusing the application for leave to go to the Judicial Review Court, the High Court judge said he did not believe Symbiote had a ‘realistic prospect’ of succeeding with its claim.

Among the reasons for his decision, Pusey said, was that the notices at the centre of their claim “do not contain anything but a harmless error.” He noted also that the entity has ample time during the probe to be heard and provide evidence.

“Notwithstanding Lawrence, company secretary for Symbiote Investments Limited, operators of Caricel, said in a statement, “we are comforted by the legal basis on which the court found that the matter should not go forward for judicial review. Lawrence went on, “We were especially comforted by his finding that the alleged threat to national security was not apparent, or in existence at this time, and he felt that on the evidence the agencies could only proceed to look at issues pertaining to the company’s operations and licence.

“He clarified for our benefit that our apprehension that there was a predetermination that the company had breached its licence was unfounded. He found that the process, properly understood from the letters, was one in which the agencies would investigate whether or not there was a breach and he reminded us that the law guarantees us a right to be heard even in that process.”

LIVERN BARRETT
Gleaner Writer

GLEANER Writer

The EGC chairman discussed with senior technocrats and the leadership of tertiary institutions the education and training sectors in achieving the national goal of five per cent gross domestic product growth in four years.

“The ambition is to sell Jamaica to the most eminent Israeli companies so that they can invest in Jamaica. That was my mission,” said Lee-Chin, who told the gathering that he was shocked at questions being raised in the press about the trip to Israel.

“I am thinking that if we need growth, we need to go everywhere in the world that can give us growth, and if Israel can give us growth, I don’t care, I am going there.”

NCB shareholders approve restructuring plan

STEVEN JACKSON
Senior Business Reporter

SHAREHOLDERS OF National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited (NCB) approved on Friday to create a holding company for the bank and its stake in Guardian Holdings Limited, an insurance conglomerate based in Trinidad and Tobago.

“The next relevant step in the process is the sanction of the Supreme Court of Jamaica, to be sought. This is to be done in a hearing in open court on February 22nd, 2017,” said company secretary Dave Garcia at the bank’s annual general meeting (AGM).

NCB chairman Michael Lee-Chin said auditors PWC verified that 180 persons voted in favor of the new scheme of arrangement, representing holders of 1.35 billion shares, while four voted against, representing some 4.6 million shares.

“I declare the motion carried,” said Lee-Chin, whose stake in NCB is held through several vehicles, the primary one being ARC Barbados with 1.24 billion shares or 50.29 per cent ownership.

FIRST-QUARTER RESULTS

Ahead of the meeting, NCB released its first-quarter results for December 2016, in which revenue totalled J$10.2 billion and earnings J$1.45 per share, up from J$0.96 per share in the 2015 period.

“IT is our best quarter ever,” said NCB deputy managing director Dennis Cohen said at the AGM.

The treasury segment made the most for the group at J$1.5 billion, followed by its wealth arm at J$1.3 billion. “Our focus will be on our new strategic plan by 2020,” said Cohen. “We expect another successful year providing value to shareholders.”

The bank will pay dividend of 60 cents per share, totalling J$1.48 billion, on February 24.

NCB completed the J$28-billion acquisition of 29.99 per cent of Guardian in 2016. Its GHL’s shares are held in NCB Financial Group (NCBFG), a new company formed a month prior to the acquisition of the GHL shares.

If approved by the courts, NCBFG will become the holding company for NCB and its businesses. The court approval of the new scheme of arrangement will result in the current shareholders of NCB becoming owners of the holding company. The existing shares of NCB will be cancelled and shareholders will receive new shares in NCBFG.

The restructuring also aims to facilitate the future expansion of the entity throughout the Caribbean region, said Group Managing Director Patrick Hyton at the AGM.

The scheme will become effective by April 2017, provided it is sanctioned by the Supreme Court.

NCBFG will become the holding company, with National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited and Guardian Success Limited (Trinidad & Tobago) as its two immediate fully controlled subsidiaries. Summer Success will only hold the 29.9 per cent shareholder in GHL.

Under ‘Trumponomics’, Jamaica told to expect less deportees, more deportations

SHOULD THE United States government follow through on its mass deportation of undocumented immigrants, Jamaica will feel the effects immediately on its remittance flows from that market, according to immigration lawyer Dahlia Walker-Huntington.

The Jamaican Government should therefore “look into this fact sooner rather than later, because that’s going to be the first impact,” of US President Donald Trump’s immigration policies, she said at a forum hosted in Kingston to assess the repercussions for Jamaica’s foreign earnings.

Another presenter, in his take on trade, said Trump’s trade policies could be advantageous for Jamaica if the US scales down border taxes for Mexico and China.

It would make “our products more competitive,” said CEO of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Edison observations.

Walker-Huntington said there is no concrete data on the number of deportees from Jamaica to the US, but based on the Migration Policy Institute’s estimates of the number of Caribbean people, “I calculate that there are about 67,000 to 70,000 Jamaicans who are undocumented,” she told the forum hosted by Victoria Mutual Wealth Management Limited.

Walker-Huntington said the undocumented tend to be the most recent arrivals and are more likely to send remittances home. “If we start having those people being deported, the trickle-down effect or the impact is going to be felt immediately because there are so many people in Jamaica who depend solely on somebody sending them remittances every month,” the immigration lawyer said.

She believes that the impact of Trump’s stated plans and policies will have “the impact of young people who went to the US as children and grew up in America. They will have the benefit of President Barack Obama’s programme as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.”

There are many Jamaicans in this category who parents took them to America on visas or gave them green cards to begin education in America, and after graduating from high school, upon realising they them realise they weren’t even Americans. As a result, Obama deferred any of their deportations,” she said.

**STRICT ENFORCEMENT**

The second major impact will be on those who entered the US on bogus documents such as those who went on legitimate visas and overstayed their time. The third group, said Walker-Huntington, are green card holders who have committed some of whom are very minor, for which they serve no time in jail, but viewed by immigration as significant.

“Noting you can enforce them to be stopped up,” she said, noting that Attorney General-designate Jefferson Sessions indicated in his confirmation hearing that he will strictly enforce immigration laws.

“Jamaica needs to be prepared for an increase in the number of deportees,” Walker-Huntington said, adding that it needs to develop a deportation and reintegration plan.

Earlier, Walker-Huntington said that although she was asked to address Trump’s stated or implied direction on immigration and its policies’ impact on Jamaica, “that's a very difficult task because Trump has had different stances on immigration for the last 70 years. We have to keep promising to come up with a plan.”

In his latest position on January 18, he said that in two to three months, he will have a plan, she said.

She also cited a newspaper report, which suggested that if Trump is going to build a border wall with Mexico, it could result in the diversion of illegal drug flows from Mexico and South and Central America to the Caribbean.
Show highlights the resilience and courage of Black community

NEIL ARMSTRONG

Toronto, ON:

MUSICOLOGIST TIKI

Mercury-Clarke says her solo performance, "Toronto Black Then", a musical storytelling presentation, was "growing up in Toronto, Black-in-the-day," would be her last performance.

She's been singing, playing the piano and storytelling in this about Black history, which showcases instances of her life in Toronto in the late 1950s and 1960s, and putting them in historical context.

"So they'll be trying to paint a sense of not only what personally I experienced, but also the community as well, and the community's response to the times," says Mercury-Clarke.

She says it's an area that she thinks hasn't had enough of a voice and the Canadian-born Black community in the city was almost invisible and not listened to because their numbers were so small.

"And then when the immigration laws were finally changed and allowed in more folks who look like us, we were again overrepresented with sheer numbers because within a very short time, within a generation we went from an even smaller minority position. So a lot of the experiences of the community at that time just got sort of lost in the shuffle."

The jazz artist, singer-pianist, storyteller and composer and cultural historian says she recognizes that mainstream media has never been open and truthful about white supremacy in Canada and how it impacts on minority groups.

"What kind of thing filtered into the mindset of our own people, where things that they experienced that they should actually celebrate because it's a story of overcoming adversity in the face of a lot of hostility they have kept it very quiet," she says.

This year is Canada's 150th anniversary and Mercury-Clarke says, "Sometimes the ancestors work things out that way" for things to happen.

"She has done bits and pieces in a number of her nightclub shows and did a teaser in November at the 'Where Black Streets Meet' exhibition at Marikah Gallery.

She has designed it so she can plug in various events and experiences of her eventful life at different times depending on what the audience is.

Inspired by her grandmother who was a church minister and scholar, Mercury-Clarke says she "inoculated me or vaccinated me against a lot of attempts to have me accept an ideology of black inferiority and its corollary, white supremacy."

"When other kids were getting stories about Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty and all these other things, I was actually getting stories about Queen Njinga, Hatshepsut and very aware that there was a time when we ruled the world and ruled ourselves."

And it really changes how you react to attempts to try to take away what you've been taught at a very early age and that becomes part of your mindset. You look at the world in a very different way than when you haven't had anything and other people are actually filling your mind.

She remembers, in Grade 1, going to a new school in the suburb of Sheppard and Bathurst area at Christmas time.

In the public schools, students had to colour nativity scenes and things of that nature but in her family her grandfather was a minister of the British Methodist Episcopal church and a Marcus Garveyite.

He taught them that at the time of the bible the people depicted in the bible were people of colour. "And not only people of colour, they were very dark people of colour and in fact, that whole area of what is now called Palestine and Israel was an extension of the ancient Egyptian empire which is a black empire."

BLACK FAMILY

In her house, Jesus, Mary and Joseph were all black people so when she was asked at school to colour in a stencil of the nativity scene, she made the people black because it never occurred to her that they could be anything else.

"And the teacher lost her mind. She just lost her mind and I didn't understand what was happening. She was saying things like 'you make them dirty, you make them filthy, how could you do that?' And I'm thinking in my child's mind, okay, I must have been sloppy when I was colouring them, I went outside the lines and I smudged it somehow."

The teacher yanked the picture out of her hand, ripped it to shreds and brought another black stencil to tell her to do it right. She carefully did so and did it black again.

Mercury-Clarke also shared a story about the book, The Story of Little Black Sambo, saying the teacher in the classroom and she was made to sit on a stool at the front of the class with the teacher making references to her appearance and what the book described.

She says she didn't want people to think that it's an entirely inaccurate representation, she also look at the church and its influence but also its active in very much a close-up way. I want to pay tribute to our African spirit."

Her show will take place on February 24, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Miss Lou's Room at the Harbourfront Centre. It is presented by A Different Booklist in collaboration with the Harbourfront Centre as part of the 2017 KUUMBA Black History Month celebration.


tiki mercury-clarke

ACE Dance Academy dancers in performance.

UK dance company ACE debuts in Canada

(TORONTO, ON) FOR ITS 2017 Showcase Presentation, Toronto's dance company ACE will present a new work, "URGE," which is a musical presentation that is both epic and intimate. The work is choreographed by Vivine Scarlett and was established to address the need for additional spaces in Toronto for performing arts. ACE's artistic directors are Ian Parmel and Gail Parmel and the company is based in the UK's Birmingham.

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James and the Giant Peach returns to Toronto

(Toronto, ON) — ROALD DAHIS’s beloved children’s classic, James and the Giant Peach, is being brought to life by the Young People’s Theatre (YPT) on the Mainstage of the Isabel Bader Theatre in Toronto this winter. The musical is directed by Nina Lee Aquino and features a cast of eight performers, including Jade, a young Bermudian actor, and Sofia, who is of Jamaican-Indian heritage.

The creative team includes costume designer Joanna Yu; light-designer Teresa Pryzbylski; choreographer Nicola Pantin; set designer Markus, Matthew Nethersole, and Amaka Umeh; and sound designer Derek Bruce. The musical is produced by Rea Rangaka, with musical direction by Jason Jestadt. The show features a cast of eight performers, including Jade, a young Bermudian actor, and Sofia, who is of Jamaican-Indian heritage.

The musical explores James and the Giant Peach, a story of adventure and friendship. James discovers that loving his giant peach on YPT’s roof is much more rewarding than family. The musical is directed by Nina Lee Aquino and features a cast of eight performers, including Jade, a young Bermudian actor, and Sofia, who is of Jamaican-Indian heritage.

Al Ramsoy, Toronto Dominion Bank's National Manager, LGBT Business Development, with Marva Wisdom of Canada’s Black History Projects, at the media launch of the Toronto Black Film Festival.

The Toronto Black Film Festival will be the first time that a Canadian film has been featured in the festival. The festival features a cast of eight performers, including Jade, a young Bermudian actor, and Sofia, who is of Jamaican-Indian heritage.

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Property tax crackdown

Gov’t to fast-track selling land of delinquent owners

Edmond Campbell
Gleaner Writer

LANDOWNERS WHOSE prop-
erty taxes are in arrears for at
least four years could have
their land sold by the Government to
recover the outstanding amounts.
Finance and the Public
Service Minister Audley Shaw
tabled the Tax Collection
(Amendment) Act, 2017, in
Parliament on Tuesday, January
24, which provides for orders of
sale and forfeiture in respect of
land on which four years of
property taxes are owing.

The proposed legislation gives
the commissioner general the
authority to apply to the
Supreme Court for an order of
sale under the Property Tax Act.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Where an order for sale of
land is made under the pro-
posed law, the sale shall be con-
ducted by public auction in a
time and manner prescribed by
the court.

The legislation states that any
person may bid for the land.
The Tax Collection (Amendment)
Act, 2017, also gives the
minister of finance and the
crown solicitor the discre-
tion to provide remission in
the payment of property taxes
for pensioners, the destitute
and disabled persons.

In order to give effect to the
proposed amendments, other
pieces of companion legislation
will have to receive passage from
the House of Representatives.
The companion measures are an
Act to Amend the Property Tax
Act and an Act to Amend the
Land Valuation Act.

Audley Shaw

UWI eyes 60% occupancy under room-rental partnership

Tameka Gordon
Business Reporter

THE UNIVERSITY of the West
Indies (UWI) is hoping to get at
least 60 per cent of its 5,000
room stock rented during the
summer months under a new
partnership that is meant to
provide remission in
the payment of property taxes
for pensioners, the destitute
and disabled persons.

The Summer Rental
Accommodation Programme
proposes amendments, other
segments.

Pro-vice chancellor and princi-
pal of UWI Mona, Professor
Archibald McDonald, told
Gleaner Business that 138
Student Living Jamaica.

On Monday, the real estate
company said at its annual gen-
eral meeting that it plans to
pitch the space to event plan-
ers, churches, sporting associa-
tions, among other segments.

McDonald said the rental
programme is targeting at
least 60 per cent take-up of the
near 5,000 rooms spread
across the campus.

138 Student Living has pro-
sed a rental fee of US$20-
US$65 per night, but this is
subject to approval by the
Campus Financial and General
Purposes Committee, McDonald
said.

LOWER RATES

The rate for UWI’s students
will be “significantly lower”, he
added, but said the exact charge
is still to be decided.

Summer occupants will have
the “use of UWI’s campus and all
it includes,” according to
138 Student Living chairman
John Lee.

“We think this will place
Kingston on the map offering
affordable accommodation, as it
will now have housing infra-
structure to attract large-scale
events like no other city on the
Caribbean,” he said.

Over the past two years of its
student housing partnership
with UWI Mona, 138 Student
Living has delivered 1008
rooms, with roughly 600 more
to be developed under its con-
cession agreement. subsidiary,
138 SL Restoration, is also
renovating one of the existing
traditional student residences,
Irvine Hall.

Irvine Hall has been demol-
ished with students now
housed at another recently
completed 480-room facility
built by 138 Student Living.
Delivery of the new structure
is on target for the next aca-
demic year, McDonald said.


**ACROSS THE REGION**

**NEW YORK (CMC):** CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. Clarke has warned that US President Donald Trump’s executive order barring entry to the US for the predominately Muslim nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen may extend to the Caribbean.

“I am concerned that he could expand that if we don’t organize and push back now,” Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told an emergency meeting of the Muslim community in her Brooklyn district on Sunday night.

“[We] have to make sure we come together,” added the representative for the predominantly Caribbean 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

On Saturday, Clarke denounced Trump’s executive order, signed the day before, which halts most refugee admissions to the US for at least four months, except for people who are religious minorities in their nation of origin, effectively preventing many refugees from the Syrian Civil War – the majority of whom are Muslim – from entering the US.

“[We] have to make sure we come together,” added the representative for the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

On Saturday, Clarke denounced Trump’s executive order, signed the day before, which halts most refugee admissions to the US for at least four months, except for people who are religious minorities in their nation of origin, effectively preventing many refugees from the Syrian Civil War – the majority of whom are Muslim – from entering the US.

“In the best of our traditions, the US has welcomed people from around the world who have wanted to come here to pursue the American dream. Such people include many of the families I am honoured to represent in Brooklyn, where my parents settled in 1965 from the nation of Jamaica to continue their education.”

Clarke said her father, Leslie Clarke, became an engineer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and her mother, Una Clarke, became an elementary school education administrator and was ultimately elected to the New York City Council.

The tract-blaizing Una Clarke was the first Caribbean-born, woman to be elected to the City Council.

“The race has attracted participants from as far as New Jersey in the United States to a record number of local participants is expected.”

**ACROSS JAMAICA**

**Kingston**

**NYS graduates clearing backlog of reports at the children agencies**

SEVENTEEN TERTIARY graduates attached to the National Youth Service (NYS) from Wednesday January 25, have begun to clear the backlog of reports at the Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR)and the Child Development Agency (CDA).

The graduates, are participants in the NYS Youth Experience Programme (GWEP).

**Clarendon**

**Water for Pennants**

WORK IS underway on the construction of a J$10 million water shop in Pennants, Clarendon that is expected to provide easier access to potable water for more than 1,000 residents in and around Homestead. This expected to be finished in March 2017.

A pilot project, the water shop will provide residents with three months free water before a costing chipping in.

“The shop will also have an administrative office in addition to its pumping facility.”

**Manchester**

**Road race funds to go to Mandeville Regional Hospital**

FUNDS FROM the 34th staging of the High Mountain Coffee Road Race in Williamsfield on the weekend will benefit the Dialysis unit at the Mandeville Regional Hospital.

The race has attracted participants from as far as New Jersey in the United States and a record number of local participants is expected.

**Hanover**

**Primary school receives gift of new $2million laboratory**

STUDENTS OF Church Hill Primary and Infant School were renovated recently by the housing construction firm Infinite Concrete Limited.

The school has a population of over 1,000 students.

Principal of the Catherine Hall Primary and Infant School, Dudley Jennings, and Infinite Concrete’s Denise Campbell cut the ribbon officially opening the newly refurbished bathrooms at the school. Sharing in the occasion are students of the institution.

**Islandwide**

**Birth certificate service outreach for seven parishes**

A TOTAL OF 4,200 residents of 18 communities spanning seven parishes will receive assistance to obtain birth certificates under the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), which is being implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) through a US$40 million loan from the World Bank.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Registry General’s Department (RGD) on Monday, January 23 at JSIF’s corporate offices in Kingston.

The provision of the birth certificates will better enable the residents to access basic social services.

Managing Director of JSIF, Omar Sweeney, said the initiative, which is now in its second phase, includes a survey component to ascertain other needs of the community members.

**Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com**

Chairs of Hanover Charities Kathin Casserly makes a point as students test out the computers at the new laboratory at the Church Hill Primary School.

**Trump’s immigration ban may extend to the Caribbean**

Clarke said her father, Leslie Clarke, became an engineer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and her mother, Una Clarke, became an elementary school education administrator and was ultimately elected to the New York City Council.

The tract-blaazing Una Clarke was the first Caribbean-born, woman to be elected to the City Council.

“There are unfortunately periods in our history when the United States has departed from that proud tradition, as when Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps during the Second World War and when strict limits were placed on immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe in 1924 based on irrational fears about Catholic and Jewish influence on American culture,” the Congresswoman said.

CANNOT ALLOW XENOPHOBIA

“We cannot as a nation allow xenophobia to undermine our principles or racism to deter us in our policies,” she added, stating that there are more than three million Muslim Americans living in the US.

The graduates are participants in the NYS Youth Experience Programme (GWEP).

“The strong pitch and business idea.

The company links manufacturers to clients in China through an infrastructure which was dramatically improved by the construction of a J$10 million water shop in Pennants, Clarendon.

A pilot project, the water shop will provide residents with three months free water before a costing chipping in.

“The shop will also have an administrative office in addition to its pumping facility.”

**Water for Pennants**

**Road race funds to go to Mandeville Regional Hospital**

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I want to voluntarily return

**Dahlia Walker-Huntington**

**UNITED STATES**

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington,

I recently read that a person may be eligible for help to ‘voluntarily return’. How can someone access this help?

Dear L.A.

Persons can get help if they are making their own plans to return to their home country.

Such persons should contact the Voluntary Returns Service to find out what help is available to them and how long it will take to arrange their return if eligible.

Persons may also be able to get help with the cost of the flight. However, they should not make a flight reservation until they have contacted the team. The details for contacting the team are as follows:

**Voluntary Returns Service**

Telephone: 0300 004 0202

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**INFORMATION NEEDED**

When contacting the Voluntary Returns Service, persons will need to give their Home Office reference, if known, full name; date of birth; nationality; telephone number; current address; details of the travel document held, for example, a passport or emergency travel document, and whether it is valid; and if such persons have any dependents who are under 18 years old.

It should be noted that if a person’s passport or travel document is being held by the Home Office, it will be returned to him/her at the airport upon leaving the United States.

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It should be noted that if a person’s passport or travel document is being held by the United Kingdom, it will be returned to him/her at the airport upon leaving the United Kingdom.

**Persons need to apply by downloading and filing in the assisted return application form. Then, send it to the Home Office. The address can be found on the form.**

Please be aware that persons who are eligible to return to their home country at the Home Office reference, if known; full name; date of birth; nationality; telephone number; current address; details of the travel document held, for example, a passport or emergency travel document, and whether it is valid; and if such persons have any dependents who are under 18 years old. It should be noted that if a person’s passport or travel document is being held by the Home Office, it will be returned to him/her at the airport upon leaving the United Kingdom.
Willie Jolley is excited to inspire and motivate the employees of Sagicor Group.

**KIMBERLY GOODALL  
Lifestyle Writer**

**WILLIE JOLLEY** has the natural ability to inspire. His warm smile, influential voice and genuine persona welcomes you to his world of turning setbacks into comebacks. Knowing it all too well, the humorous motivational speaker, author and entertainer is all about motivating others to live their best lives and use their disappointments as a chance for future growth.

Growing up in Washington, DC, Jolley struggled with his desire for music and ministry, contemplating which career he should pursue. Later, he followed his dream and became an award-winning jazz singer who found great pleasure in performing in a nightclub. Little did he know, his unbelievable talent was going to be replaced by a karaoke machine.

After many struggles, Jolley took a job with the Washington public school system as a drug prevention coordinator, which required him to give speeches to children about staying away from drugs. In doing this, Jolley found his true desire and realised that he was born to inspire and effect change.

"I desire to inspire people. I want people to live their best lives, I want them to do all they were born to do, all that God made them to be and to succeed at the highest level. I believe you should live full and die empty. Live life so marvelously that even the undertaker is sad to see us go," Jolley expressed.

**UNIMAGINABLE SUCCESS**

Jolley went on to share that like the good Samaritan spoken of in the Bible, who was not a minister in the "regular sense" but ministered, he sees himself as same. "I see myself as somebody who is not ordained or a pastor but ministers to people and encourages them that whatever they are going through that they can get through it. A setback is a set up for a comeback and that they can turn their setbacks into comebacks and ‘greenbacks’," he continued.

When asked how he manages disappointments, Jolley was proud to share that on his tough days and in moments of disappointments, he takes a nap and wakes up the next morning, ready to be back in the fight. He then shows his phone screen that has a picture of Muhammad Ali. This he says reminds him to get back in the fight everyday.

In addition to his talent to speak and motivate, Jolley holds a doctorate of Ministry Degree in Faith Driven Achievement from the California Graduate School of Theology, a master’s degree in theology from Wesley Theological seminary and a bachelor’s in psychology and sociology from The American University. He is also known for his several international best-selling books including It Only Takes A Minute To Change Your Life. A Setback Is A Setup For A Comeback Turn Setbacks Into Greenbacks. An Attitude of Excellence and his latest book Make Love, Make Money. Make It Last: 10 Steps For Shaping A Great Marriage that he wrote with his wife, Dee.

"Life is a fight for territory. When you stop fighting for what you want, what you don’t want automatically takes over. So, if you’re going to live your dreams you got to know that life is a fight for territory."
Kuumba, Toronto’s longest-running celebration of Black History Month, will be held on Feb. 3-4 & 10-11 at the Harbourfront Centre, Toronto. Historica Canada and TD Bank Group in celebration of Black History Month present “Black Canadian Trailblazers–Then and Now,” an evening to celebrate the contributions that Black Canadians in various fields have made to Canada. This will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. at The Royal Conservatory of Music, 273 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

The Jamaican Canadian Association, under the distinguished patronage of the Jamaica’s Consul General at Toronto, Lloyd Wilks, presents “Boonoonoonos Brunch” a Black History Month celebration on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2-6pm at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. Call 416-746-5772 jcaontario.org

The Women’s Committee of the Jamaican Canadian Association presents its annual International Women’s Day Celebration on Sunday, March 12, 2:00-5:00pm at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. jcawomenscommittee@gmail.com Call 416-746-5772

The American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) 20th Annual Awards Gala, The Pierre Hotel, Thursday, February 23, 2016. Cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner Party at 7 pm. For further information contact AFUWI at 212-759-9345 or www.afuwi.org. Proceeds to benefit scholarships for students at UWI.

Save the Date: KCOBA, St. Hugh’s AA, and St. Hilda’s AA 7th Annual Winter Affair; March 11th, Adria Hotel, Bayside, NY; 9P-2A; Contacts: KCOBA - Clive: 917-971-3945, St. Hugh’s - Althea: 917-459-2076, St. Hilda’s - Lorna: 16-640-7978

Save the Date: Meadowbrook H.S. Alumni Assoc. NY Chapter 22nd Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner, March 25th, from 8pm - 2 am. Tickets - www.eventbrite.com

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to normadelle.rose@gleanerna.net (USA) or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
Beautiful two bedroom, two bathroom apartment. Master bedroom ensuite bath with a jacuzzi tub. The unit is located in a luxury complex in the walkable district of Downtown Kingston. Recently renovated kitchen with stove and refrigerator, beautiful tile floors and a balcony off the living room and master bedroom. Private parking garage and 24 hour security. In ground pool area can be reserved for occupants and the pool is also available for 24 hour security. In ground pool is also available for use by occupants and the pool area can be reserved by parties etc.

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Call us nearest Gleaner Office today!
Introducing Taste of Jamaica authentic tour
An all-inclusive, eco-friendly culinary experience

CARL GILCHRIST
Gleaner Writer

ASCHELLS AND Elizabeth Broderick have developed and launched a tour aimed at highlighting some of St Ann’s natural offerings and are pleased with the response, so far, from tour operators and guests.

Described as an all-inclusive eco-friendly culinary experience, The Taste of Jamaica Authentic Tour offers eco sightseeing, beach cooking, real Jamaican food, and music. And you can add dance lessons for the fun of it.

The tour begins in Ocho Rios and ends on a beachside property in Falmouth. In between, the tour takes you on a journey through Port Royal, where craft vendors display their wares — you see the wide variety of Jamaican food that gave the country its name — and informative about island food.

And there’s more. After Clairmont, the rustic country setting, green hills and valley, houses perched on hillside, farmers in their field, Jamaicans playing dominoes at seaside shops, all go together to make the experience uniquely Jamaican.

All throughout the tour, the knowledgeable driver will keep you informed and educate you about things Jamaican. After Clairmont, you make a stop at a coffee plantation in Higgfin Town then pass by Liberty Hill Great House in Lime Hall and Marcus Garvey’s former home in St Ann’s Bay before moving on to a beachside property for the other side of the experience.

Here, you sample a wide range of in-season Jamaican fruits, try your hand at jerking chicken, then have it and taste Jamaica’s national dish, ackee and saltfish.

Be entertained by recorded reggae music and an African themed dance group that is more than happy to teach you dance moves to match every Jamaican beat from ska to rocksteady to reggae and dancehall.

And there’s more. Broderick said the grand finale at the beachfront will see guests being served a typical Jamaican lunch that includes ground provisions for those who enjoy johnny cake, and ackee, along with azuki and salt fish and jerked chicken.

“We also have a live entertainment section where the guests learn to do the Jamaican dancehall dances,” she said.

Barbadian Born Doug E Fresh among Honorees at UWI Fundraising Gala
New York, NY, DOUG E FRESH, Barbadian born American rapper, record producer and beat boxer, known as ‘The Human Beatboxer,’ is among the 2017 honourees at this year’s Annual Legacy Awards Gala of the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI), a registered US charity. The Gala, which is held annually, is a signature event. Now in its 20th year, proceeds from the Gala provide an average of 50 scholarships annually for students across The UWI’s four campuses.

The awards honour notable individuals from the US and from the Caribbean, all of whom represent high levels of achievement within their respective fields.

Doug E Fresh will receive the Robert ‘Bob’ Nesta Marley Award, given to an individual/group for their contribution to society and to the advancement of arts and culture, traditional or modern race, colour, creed and geographies; to unite people worldwide in a spirit that embodies the essence of the music and lyrics of Bob Marley. Previous recipients of the award have included Machel Montano, Jimmy Cliff, Danny Glover, Judith Jamison, Spike Lee, and Jessye Norman.

British born singer, song-writer, record producer and actress, Estelle who is best known for her eclectic mix of musical genres will receive the ‘AFTWI Caribbean Luminary Award’. Estelle’s mix of dancehall and Grenadan descent and has released several critically acclaimed records and received a Grammy Award, among other accolades. This award is given to individuals of Caribbean heritage who, through their efforts and contributions to community have been able to shine a global spotlight on issues germane to the Caribbean.

The Inaugural Shirley Chisholm Award will be presented to an individual who, through their lifetime of work in social justice, fighting for education, economic opportunities and civic work reflect the essence of esteemed Caribbeanwoman Shirley Chisholm. Born in Brooklyn, to a Guyanese father and a Barbadian mother, Chisholm is best known for becoming the first black congresswoman representing New York State in the US House of Representatives for seven terms. She went on to run for the 1972 Democratic nomination for the presidency. The Gala continues to attract the support and attention of a diverse rage of American and Caribbean entities as well as distinguished and influential persons who have graciously served on the Honorary Committee. This year’s awards will be held under the auspices of Honorary Patron, Dr the Hon Harry Belafonte, Barbadian born singer, songwriter and actor. DOUG E FRESH, Branson born singer, songwriter and actor, Estelle who is best known for her eclectic mix of musical genres, will receive the ‘AFTWI Caribbean Luminary Award’. Estelle’s mix of dancehall and Grenadan descent and has released several critically acclaimed records and received a Grammy Award, among other accolades. This award is given to individuals of Caribbean heritage who, through their efforts and contributions to community have been able to shine a global spotlight on issues germane to the Caribbean.

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Local Boyz will get their chance – Whitmore

Marc Stamp
Gleaner Writer

COACH OF Jamaica national men’s senior team Theodore ‘Tappa’ Whitmore says local based players will be given sufficient opportunities in upcoming friendly internationals against the USA and Honduras next month.

Whitmore has been preparing a squad of locals for games against the Americans on February 3 at the Finley Stadium in Chattanooga, Tennessee, starting at 7:30 p.m. (local time) and Honduras on February 16, which will also be played in the USA.

Following the training camp, a 20-man team will be scheduled departure on February 1.

However, with a number of professional players from Major League Soccer expected to be added to the programme, something similar to when we qualified for the 1998 World Cup final in France. We have some young players here, and the aim is to expose them to what international football is about,” the coach informed.

The training squad includes two schoolboy players in Jourdaine Fletcher from Cornwall College and Fabian Grant of Kingston College.

“What we don’t want to do is put these schoolboys under pressure to perform; we just want to nurture them and try as much as possible to integrate them into the senior programme.

There is no doubt that they have the quality, but at the end of the day we have to look out for their welfare. They are in school so we have worked out a plan for Fletcher as he is from the west, so we had to sort out the best way for him to continue education, while in the programme,” Whitmore also added.

Meanwhile, Fletcher who was the top goal scorer for daCosta Cup champions Cornwall College is confident that he can be included in the team.

“It is a great feeling being among senior players. I will just try to keep the focus. I know that it is a faster pace but I’m used to that as I played three years for Palliland in the Western League and now at Montego Bay United in the Red Stripe Premier League,” Fletcher said.

Reggae Boyz FIFA Ranking – Last 5 results:

Jamaica 1 - 0 Buriname
Guyana 2 - 4 Jamaica
Jamaica 0 - 2 Haiti
Panama 2 - 0 Jamaica
Uruguay 3 - 0 Jamaica

Dr Paul Wright

Concerns around heart-screening snub

Shayne Fairman
Gleaner Writer

LOCAL SPORTS medicine specialist Dr Paul Wright is expressing concern that not enough student athletes have conducted heart-screening exercises.

Approximately 100 student athletes have been screened by the Heart Foundation of Jamaica since last October.

For athletes who compete in Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA) competitions, the cost for a complete Heart Foundation of Jamaica medical is $82,500 and includes blood test, heart test, physical examination, and vision test.

“We have screened about 100 athletes so far, and so it is not enough. There is a flurry when someone dies, and then it stops,” Wright told The Gleaner.

He also strongly condemned arguments that screening student athletes costs too much, noting parents should place a priority on the procedure.

“It’s falling down with the parents, they saw a footballer drop dead on television, but they are not paying enough attention to screening until somebody dies,” Wright lamented.

DOMINIC JAMES

Last year, St George’s College football captain Dominic James collapsed and died during a Manning Cup game. Spot Valley’s Saymar Ramsey collapsed and died after representing his school in a basketball game last year, while Cavahn McKenzie, a St Jago High distance runner also collapsed and passed away while competing at the NACAC Cross Country Championships in Trinidad and Tobago in 2014.

Meanwhile, ISSA Competitions Director George Forbes, who noted that the organisation was expecting to meet with principals to reinforce the importance of screening, also underlined that they are working on more forceful measures.

“All schools have been asked to do their medicals, before the start of the season,” Forbes outlined.

On the matter of financing, Forbes made it clear that ISSA cannot help individual schools fund the screening exercise. Instead, they try to put on seminars and conferences to educate the athletes and coaches.

“We (ISSA) don’t deal with poor schools or rich schools; schools are schools. It is instructed to all schools to do medicals,” he assured.

While ISSA has no current mechanism to force schools to do screening, Forbes assured that they are working on a document for them to sign.

“There is a form that is being developed for that, we have told the schools that this is the way to go, and they have to take the medicals important,” he continued.

Less than a month into the current season, the competitions officer is crediting some meeting directors for not having athletes ‘overwork’ by doing more than one event.

“I can’t speak for all track meets but all we are trying to do is to educate and sensitize so that everybody understand medical is most important, we lost two athletes last year and we can’t afford to lose any this year,” added Forbes.

Shayne Fairman
Meanwhile officials in local sporting circles which are still abuzz with the stunning development are leaning to the view that the Carter should appeal the verdict.

Bolt in reacting to the verdict described the IOC’s finding as “part of life” saying he holds no ill-will towards Carter. He also assured that he would be willing to contribute to the cost if the decision is taken to appeal the International Olympic Committee’s ruling to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

While pointing out the the decision was up to his management, Bolt said: “There are a lot of variables, so we will discuss that and see where we go from there, but if it’s necessary I will help.”

Bolt told The Gleaner: “The last medal, which reduces his gold medal tally to eight does not affect his legacy.

An appeal to CAS could cost Carter up to $13 million.

Bolt who plans to retire after the World Games this year said he would not allow the disqualification to undermine his focus.

News of Carter’s adverse finding which rocked the sporting world, was announced on Wednesday January 25 by the International Olympic Committee which had held a tribunal last November into the matter.

The other members of the relay team were: Asafa Powell, Michael Frater, Dwight Thomas and Nesta Carter who had retroactively tested positive for the prohibited substance methenolone-aminine after retests of frozen blood and urine samples from the 2008 Olympics.

The decision also means that Bolt has been disqualified from first to athlete to do the triple treble three gold medals in three consecutive Olympics: the 100 the 200 and 4 by 100metres relays in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

HEARTBREAKING

When traces of the banned stimulant methylhexanamine were found in Carter’s “A” sample in June last year Bolt admitted he feared the worst.

“It’s heartbreaking because over the years you’ve worked hard and done everything you can and hard work and hard a champion – but it’s just one of those things,” he said. “Things happen in life, so when it’s confirmed or whatever, if I need to give back my gold medal I’ll have to give it back, it’s not a problem for me.”

Carter, the sixth fastest 100m runner of all time, helped Jamaica set a then-world-record time of 37.10sec in Beijing, as Bolt won the gold medal.

The decision was made up of Bolt, Carter, Asafa Powell and Michael Frater, who will now lose their medals.

Another member of the relay team was Andre Russell who won the silver medal in Beijing.

Carter, the sixth fastest 100m runner of all time, helped Jamaica set a then-world-record time of 37.10sec in Beijing, as Bolt won the gold medal.

The decision was made up of Bolt, Carter, Asafa Powell and Michael Frater, who will now lose their medals.

Russell told The Gleaner: “I just can’t believe it. It’s too bad. It’s disappointing and I think it’s unfair that something like this happens to athletes who train hard and do not show up in his original test. He is currently in discussions with his legal team about whether to appeal to the court of arbitration for sport. He has approximately 21 days to do so.
Triple treble feat disqualified

THREE of the five athletes including Usain Bolt Jamaica’s sprinting legend has adhered to the International Olympic Committee and returned their gold medals won in the 4×100 metres relay in Beijing 2008 as a result of Nesta Carter being found guilty of a doping violation.

Carter has been found guilty of taking a banned substance the stimulant methylhexanamine. President of the Jamaica Olympic Association Michael Fennell confirmed to The Weekly Gleaner earlier this week that Bolt and two of the five athletes who participated in the relay heats and final returned their medals on Friday January 27.

He was anticipating no problem with the other two athletes doing likewise ascribing to logistics the fact they had not yet done so.

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