CONCERNS HAVE been raised by some members of the Diaspora after Jamaica's ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, posted a photo on her personal Facebook page of her meeting with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani on March 13.

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J’cans in NY blast Amb over Giuliani meeting

LESTER HINDS
Gleaner Writer

New York, NY:

CONCERNS HAVE been raised by some members of the Diaspora after Jamaica’s ambassador to the United States, Audrey Marks, posted a photograph of her personal Facebook page of her meeting with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The Embassy of Jamaica, though, has not sent out any official communication on the meeting.

The strongest objection to the meeting has come from former New York City Councilwoman, Jamaican-born Una Clarke.

Clarke said she was outraged and disappointed by the meeting between Marks and the former Mayor.

Clarke said that while she did not know the nature of the discussions between Ambassador Marks and Giuliani the mere fact that the meeting took place was a disservice to Jamaicans in the Diaspora given his history with the community.

Clarke contended that because of the policies pursued by the Giuliani administration when he was mayor, many young Jamaican men in New York were slapped with criminal records, which led to their deportation.

“Mr Giuliani has no respect for people of color and I would hate for him to have any dealings with Jamaica,” she said.

She said if Jamaica is looking to develop strategies to stem crime and violence in Jamaica there is a lot of expertise among Jamaicans in the Diaspora that can be drawn on.

Clarke also suggested that Jamaica should look to partner with institutions such as John Jay College of Criminal Justice to train Jamaican law enforcement officers.

Giuliani runs a security company that specialises in terrorism and crime.

Patrick Cullum, president of Jamaica Labour Party’s youth wing, G2K’s New York Chapter, said he had no information about the meeting and therefore could not comment on it.

“I do not want to comment because I have no information about the meeting,” he said.

Attorney Jeff Barnes said he did not see a need for a meeting between Marks and Giuliani.

“I don’t think this benefits Jamaica,” Barnes said.

A spokesman for the Jamaica Ex Police Officers Association in the Bronx said that no one has reached out to the association to tap its members’ expertise in trying to deal with the crime problem in Jamaica.

The Weekly Gleaner was informed by the Embassy of Jamaica to send questions in writing in relation to the meeting. The newspaper has not received any response up to press time.

However, The Weekly Gleaner was referred to a statement that Marks posted on her Facebook page.

The statement said, in part, that the public role of the ambassador is to seek opportunities to engage with the US Administration and its citizens to lobby, negotiate and build beneficial relationships on behalf of Jamaica and its citizens.

The statement further noted that the ambassador does not have the luxury of viewing interactions through personal lenses.

Efforts were also made to reach out to Minister of National Security, Robert Montague, for further information and clarifications, and whether his ministry had any information on the said meeting; there was no response from the minister up to press time.

Many people in the Jamaican Diaspora are sceptical of Giuliani, and some even accuse him of discrimination against people of color.

J’can man in murder-suicide tragedy in Maryland

NEW YORK:

A JAMAICAN man living in Maryland, USA, killed his two daughters, and critically wounded his wife before turning the gun on himself in an apparent murder/suicide.

Dead are 37-year-old Carlton Goodwin, his 4-year-old daughter Laia Goodwin and her sister, 17-year-old Lashelle Goodwin.

Carlton's 36-year-old wife is battling for life in a Baltimore Hospital where she was airlifted.

According to police reports, shortly after 8:00 PM last Thursday (March 23) the police went to the home in Waldorf, Maryland, after neighbours reported hearing gunshots coming from the townhouse in Westdale Court where the family resided.

On arrival they found the wife outside with multi gunshot wounds. A search of the house located the body of the 4-year-old in an upstairs bedroom. She had died from gunshot wounds. The 17-year-old was found with multi gunshot wounds in an upstairs bathroom.

She was airlifted to hospital where she died early Friday morning.

The body of Carlton Goodwin was found in the living room with what appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

A gun was found near the body.

Police theory is that Carlton shot his wife before killing his daughters and then turning the gun on himself.

The police still do not have a motive for the killings but believe that it stemmed from a domestic dispute.

The PNP’s Gary Nicholson (left) being greeted by the JLP councillor candidate Ann Marie Lewis during the Portmore by-election at the Ascot Primary School yesterday.

PYN wins Greater Portmore by-election

ACCOUNTANT GARY Nicholson has won the crucial Greater Portmore North by-election for the People’s National Party (PNP) to maintain control of the St Catherine Municipal Corporation.

Nicholson polled 2,125 votes to the 995 by his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) contender Ann Lewis.

A win for the JLP would have broken the 20-20 deadlock in the St Catherine Municipal Corporation and see it taking control of the Corporation.

The PNP had won the contest 21-20 in the local government election.

But with the death of the Greater Portmore North Councillor Michael Edwards, the seat count was left tied.

Preliminary analysis showed that voter turnout was just over 22.39 per cent.

The strongest objection to the meeting has come from former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani when he was mayor, many young Jamaican men in New York were slapped with criminal records, which led to their deportation.

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Migrant workers concerned about being sidelined in the 2017 Federal Budget

**Toronto**

MIGRANT WORKERS and advocates are concerned that the 2017 Federal Budget failed to deliver promised details on reforms to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

“The Liberals are continuing to delay while migrant workers continue to face exploitation,” says Sharmeen Khan, coordinator of the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, in a press release.

The Liberals delayed their response to a Parliamentary Committee review of the TFWP in January by promising that details would be announced in the Budget. But the Budget offers only a handful of paragraphs that ignore migrant workers’ critical demands for open work permits, permanent residency and robust rights enforcement. Instead, the Budget re-announces policy positions that were originally announced in December or in the Liberals’ 2015 election platform.

“The Budget acknowledges that migrant workers need protection for their rights to decent work and that migrant workers need access to permanent residency. But the Budget doesn’t actually deliver any policy response to address these long-standing demands or dedicate resources to meaningful proactive rights enforcement,” says Khan.

“Migrant workers raised many important concerns in the TFWP review and the Liberals need to address them in a real way that delivers real change.”

Under the new budget, workers in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and the Caregiver and Temporary Foreign Worker Programs will continue to have their work permits tied to one employer. Furthermore, the exemption to ‘caps’ in low-wage seasonal industries means further exploitation and precarity for migrant workers in sectors such as fisheries where an unlimited number of migrant workers are only hired for 6 months on a non-renewable permit.

The release said that the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development (HUMA) recommended in its 2016 review of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program that the government develop open work permits and pathways to permanent residency for temporary foreign workers.

**JTB executive Marcia Bullock dies**

**DAVE RODNEY**

Gleaner Writer

Miami, FL

The JAMAICA Tourist Board earlier this week lost a longtime Miami employee, Marcia Bullock Jobson, regional director of groups and conventions, who died on March 19 after a brief illness.

Bullock had served the tourism promotions agency for 41 years where she utilised her knowledge of the travel industry and her passion for Jamaica to create and significantly expand the groups and conventions department.

Bullock was the recipient of numerous travel awards. Her most recent was the RCMA (Religious Conference Management Association) award for outstanding performance from a US-based professional, non-profit multi-faith organisation that plans meetings, conferences and conventions worldwide.

“Marcia was my life, my heart, my soul and my soul mate,” her husband Oliver ‘Bobby’ Jobson said. “Marcia taught me what it is to love and her departure is an emotionally impacting shock”, he continued.

Tributes continue to pour in from travel industry partners from around the world.

Among her many accomplishments was the promotion of Jamaican writers to new markets, an effort that eventually led to the founding of the Calabash Book Festival in Treasure Beach, St. Elizabeth.

Donnie Dawson, deputy director of tourism for the Americas, described Bullock Jobson as a Renaissance woman who was devotedly passionate about all aspects of Jamaica’s culture. “She was a trendsetter and an inspiration to those around her. She opened the groups and conventions department that she ran for over thirty years and nobody knew that market segment like she did. Her passing is a tremendous loss, but her exemplary legacy will live on”, he told The Weekly Gleaner.

Marcia is survived by her husband, sister Jennifer Evans Tomlinson, niece Vanessa Tomlinson, several aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, colleagues and friends. A memorial service for Bullock Jobson will be announced shortly.

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**THE WEEKLY GLEANER**

**BUDGET Continued from 4**

Yet despite these clear recommendations, the Liberal government has refused to overhaul this deeply unjust and exploitative condition on Canada’s most marginalised workforce. While the government claims to continue investigating ways to developing pathways to permanent residency, no details or resources were given in the budget regarding how this work would be done.

“The vulnerability and violence we experience is a result of tied work permits,” says Gabriel Akahuda, a member of Justice for Migrant Workers. “I should be able to complain about my employer, or if needed leave and find other work without the fear of deportation. Without open work permits and permanent status, we are forced to stay in abusive working conditions.”

The Canadian government had an opportunity to rectify decades of abuse and mistreatment by ensuring that migrant workers have the same labour rights afforded to other workers. However, the failure of the government to protect this workforce reveals the government’s priority to maintain an exploitative and racist policy that provides a cheap, exploitative and racist policy for employers and disproportionately exploits workers of colour and women.

If the government is committed to building a better future for temporary foreign workers, they must meet with migrant workers to develop direct paths to permanent residence, eliminate work permits tied to one employer and develop stronger enforcement to protect migrant workers from abuse. So far, migrant workers and advocates have been waiting for over a year with no real commitment from the current Liberal government to better the lives and working conditions for migrant workers.

**NEIL ARMSTRONG**

Freelance Editor

**Toronto, ON**

The Standing Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Senators continued delays where corporatization of local government now falls under the Penn Relays management ambit, it makes for a tougher time for the New York based not for profit. The range of activities planned include: the annual breakfast in New York which is now in its fifth year as well a brunch held in Chicago. Three church services across the boroughs and one in Philadelphia and for the first time a (proposed) “Bickle Week” in New York. The tentative dates are, April 18-25.

Participating restaurants will donate proceeds from sales to the organisation. Additionally there is Caribbean Cuisine Week, April 25-28 in Philadelphia, organized by Young Caribbean Professional Network (YCPN) to also assist in fundraising efforts.

"As things change, we have to constantly innovate when it comes to fundraising," said Irwine Clare, CEO. “What we have seen in recent years is a willingness of individuals to host private events to assist us. We are a resilient organisation. We continue to diversify our efforts and solidarity our mission as our athletes and ambassadors remain our priority.”

Team Jamaica Bickle had also indicated that he believed he was the victim of racism since the allegations about his affair were revealed in the summer of 2015. But his new lawyer, Bill Trudell, told the Toronto Star in an interview on March 23 that, “It’s not my approach, nor is it my opinion, that there is any racial bias or issue here in relation to the matter, or how the Senate has been dealing with it.”

He said Meredith was under a doctor’s care for stress related to the explosive scandal, and that the senator made the race comment while he was under tremendous public pressure.

What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

**Team Jamaica Bickle to continue support despite lack of funding**

**New York**

TEAM JAMAICA BICKLE (TJB) will enter the 2017 season, hampered by the lack of funding but armed with the same level of enthusiasm that inspired the organisation some 23 years ago.

The landscape has changed tremendously as more schools and more students compete at the Penn Relays. As a result the demand for services provided by the organisation is greater.

Team Jamaica Bickle hosts athletes from Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Guyana. Services provided cover, three hot meals daily, ground transportation, chiropactic and medical services as well as assistance with hotel accommodation.

The challenge of fundraising is not new but against the backdrop of operational changes at the Penn Relays management ambit it

**Don Meredith**

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What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
A new study has found that participants in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP) of Canada can earn up to five times more than they could in their own countries.

According to the Report on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme, conducted by the International Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the programme’s over 25,000 seasonal workers in Canada obtain a number of benefits through their participation, including greater opportunities to purchase homes and vehicles in their home countries, educate their children, access better healthcare, increase their savings and purchase land and livestock.

Workplace services centre, apprenticeship training, and agricultural skills. The authors of the report on the SAWP programme, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, say that the research study on SAWP shows the potential of the agri-food sector to become a source of economic growth.

The SAWP programme provides opportunities for Canadian businesses to increase their competitiveness and generate new jobs.

In addition to the benefits of remittances for SAWP workers and their families, the study underlines the importance of technology and knowledge transfer.

According to the report, the support from home country local agencies and the extension services could assist in the transfer of knowledge, skills, and best practices, which would benefit the development of the agrifood industry and the participating countries.

A framework to identify knowledge gaps regarding the transfer of skills and funding for Canadian farm businesses to participating countries.

According to the report, support from home country local agencies and the extension services could assist in the transfer of knowledge, skills, and best practices, which would benefit the development of the agrifood industry and the participating countries.
Opposition People’s National Party members walk out of Gordon House in Kingston, in protest of what they call a Draconian tax package presented by the Government.

THERE WAS high drama in Gordon House on Wednesday, March 22 before members on the Government side alone passed the 2017-2018 Appropriations Bill or the Budget. The parliamentary opposition threatened a sudden upsurge, which was followed by an angry walkout as they protested against the “draconian” measures.

Audrey Shaw, the Opposition’s parliamentary leader, moved towards the doors of the chamber in protest against the “draconian” measures.

The security forces get new search powers

The Zones of Special Operations, Special Security and Community Development Measures Act, 2017, which was tabled in Parliament, highlighted the circumstances that would give rise to a declaration of a zone of special operations. Among the circumstances listed in the bill are reasonable grounds to believe that “due to rampant criminality, gang warfare, escalating violence and murder, and the threat to the rule of law and public order, it is necessary so to do.”

A joint force, comprising members of the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force, will have powers under the law to establish a cordon for a period of 24 hours around or within the zone. The joint force can impose a curfew for up to 72 hours in the zone, during which time persons within that zone will be required to remain in their premises unless otherwise authorised in writing by a member of the joint force.

As Shaw drew closer to ending his contribution, People’s National Party Member of Parliament for Westmoreland Eastern Luther Buchanan rose and, seemingly, created a stir in which his colleagues started to stream out of the chamber.

The wrongs of the past must be acknowledged and apologies offered to the victims of state-inflicted violence as recommended by constituted review bodies. On behalf of the Jamaican State and in my capacity as Prime Minister, I will make the apologies in Parliament to the victims of the Tivoli incursion, and I also believe it is my duty to apologise to the victims of the Coral Gardens incident,” he said.

In 2015, the public defender recommended an apology in the Coral Gardens incident, in which several civilians and a policeman were killed and numerous Rastafarians were detained, arrested, beaten and forcibly trimmed by agents of the State.

During the 2010 security operations to capture the fugitive, Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke, more than 70 civilians were killed, while others were detained and properties damaged and destroyed.

A commission of inquiry into that operation concluded that there were instances of financial compensation for persons victimised by the State and that the Government issue a formal apology for the use of excessive force by the security forces.

The Opposition People’s National Party members are expected to put forward amendments, despite the wide-spread cries and appeals from Jamaicans for the tax measures to be rescinded.

“We had the option of voting against the (Budget), but the fact is that the circumstances of a successful no-vote in the Parliament at this time would have left this country at a catastrophic and far-reaching implications for the country as a whole and its credibility in international financial markets and the social and political stability of the country,” Phillips contended.

It is a bad Budget. It damages the livelihood of the people, and it ought not to pass without us making our voices heard,” he insisted.

Phillips said that hoteliers, transport operators, tax drivers, elements in the private sector, and pensioners have spoken about the grievous effect that the Budget would have on each group.

Disclosing plans going forward, Phillips said that the Opposition would have consultations with Jamaicans in the next few weeks “to see what actions they want to take in conjunction with us.”

The Opposition spokesman also argued that the imposition of the higher rate on property taxes at the same time that the Government has tabled legislation to allow for the speedier seizure of properties because of non-payment of the tax carries with it grave implications for small businesses, farmers, and others who are facing double-and triple-percentage increases in the rates.
**LETTERS**

**Fairness finally For KC**

**THE EDITOR, Sir:** I read with great interest your editorial ‘Let Rodgers run’, published in The Gleaner on Monday, March 20, 2017. I wish to congratulate you on a balanced and well-written piece with respect to Kingston College in a long time.

Your opinion of the “squadable led by Calabar High School over the eligibility of Aryamanya Rodgers for this year’s Boys and Girls’ Athletics Championship” is soundly reasoned. There has been this long-standing perception that your newspaper does not treat Kingston College fairly and with respect when it comes to your reportage.

I must say that your paper has freed itself of blame in this instance, and members of the Fortes fraternity – the principal included – have expressed great pleasure.

Without going into the many perceived indiscretions of the past, I personally have noticed that whenever certain schools are successful in the Championship, they are more often than not featured on the front page of The Sunday Gleaner and on the Sports page.

I am confident that you will continue this practice this year when KC is declared the victor of Champs 2017. Like you, Mr Editor, I am hoping that these unfortunate disagreements involving Calabar, its principal, and ISSA’s executive, along with the noise, do not distract young Rodgers from his usual stellar performance.

**ANTHONY O’GILVIE**

Kingston College Old Boy

**Tambourine critics empower rapists**

**THE EDITOR, Sir:** The media are allowing the rich and powerful to get away with rape.

We’ve seen at least four columnists nitpick which parts of the Tambourine Army they like and don’t like. In all of this, they’ve all failed to realise that the movement is not about their egos or opinions. While people waste newspaper and radio space discussing whose egos got bruised, let’s focus on the work that needs to get done to ensure victims and survivors can get justice and healing.

Instead of discussing whose egos got bruised, let’s focus on the work that needs to get done to ensure victims and survivors can get justice and healing.

**THE WEEKLY GLEANER**

**Lord Gifford’s discordant tambourine**

**ANTHONY GIFFORD,** the British peer who has made Jamaica his home, is a lawyer of sharp intellect whose heightened social conscience has made him an indefatigable campaigner for justice and human rights around the world.

It is hardly surprising that he would be a supporter of the recently emerged group, Tambourine Army, and their radical advocacy against the sexual abuse of women and children. That is his right.

But in his zeal to embrace not only the ideals, but seemingly the tactics of this group, or at least those of one of its founders, Latoya Nugent, Lord Gifford is engaged in an abandonment of logic that would blunt the principal weapon he has wielded in his human-rights battles: the principles of law.

In recent months, Ms Nugent has waged a campaign on social media of naming and shaming alleged sexual predators and statutory rapists, some of whom, apparently, have had no formal complaints made against them and are under no investigation by law-enforcement agencies. She was arrested under Jamaica’s cyber-crimes law, which makes it an offence to distribute, by computer, information “that is obscene, constitutes a threat, or is menacing in nature; and (b) with the intention to harass any person or cause harm, or the apprehension of harm, to any person or property”.

Lord Gifford, in his article in this newspaper, is right about the original intent of the clause: to protect persons, primarily women, from Internet trolling, including some who engage in so-called revenge porn. But law, like circumstance, is dynamic and, as Lord Gifford would probably agree, ought to be gender-neutral.

**MEN ARE VICTIMS TOO**

Men, too, can be, and are, trolled in cyberspace. Beyond being defamed – for which there can be some remedy in civil action – women, men can also be subjected to menace and harassment, leading to criminal harm. Put another way, we are all potential victims of vigilantism and cyber-lynching; whose scope is not as easily containable as in the natural world. Indeed, having been so trolled, a perceived misbehaver, even if she or he proves innocent, may well have been set up for assault.

Lord Gifford makes an observation that is vital to the existence of a liberal democracy – that it rests on the rule of law, in which crimes are investigated and their perpetrators punished. “The presumption of innocence,” he wrote, “means that we should not label people guilty until they have been so found after a fair trial.”

But then he appears willing to weaken that fundamental principle because of the long time it takes for cases to be heard, and the effect this has on victims and accused, against his “full support” for Tambourine Army. The lasting perception: a seeming endorsement of cyber-lynching, once victims can sue for defamation.

We make two further points: An overburdened and under-resourced justice system is not an argument for having people, Trump-style, tried and convicted and placed on the rack via Twitter, or other social media. It is a case for fixing the justice system.

There may well be an argument that the trolling law could be manipulated as a back-door route to the reintroduction of criminal libel. That’s worthy of debate, but protection from trolling can’t only be determined by how chromosomes happen to be paired.

**THE OPINIONS ON THIS PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANER.**
Minister of Justice, Delroy Chuck with members of the board of directors of the Baltimore based Jamaica Association of Maryland (JAM) at a reception held at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington D.C.

Wife of the former Mayor of Washington D.C. Michelle Fenty (left) and former president of the Jamaica Women of Washington (JWoW), Dr. Jackie Watson at a reception held at the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington D.C.

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Mission to discover commercial quantities of oil in Jamaica intensifies

Jason Cross
Gleaner Writer

A HUNT to find commercial quantities of oil and gas off Jamaica’s shores is the latest mission of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ), which has Science Energy and Technology Minister Andrew Wheatley quite optimistic. Wheatley, who was taken on a tour on Thursday, March 23 of the Harrier Explorer, a seismic vessel, in the Kingston Harbour: hinted that if 3D surveys conducted by Tullow Jamaica Ltd in the next few days produced the slightest result that oil in great quantities exists around Jamaica, great economic strides would come along.

Tullow Jamaica is currently working alongside the PCJ to see the extent to which oil may exist along Jamaica’s coast, particularly in areas between Blower’s Rock at Pedro Bank and the offshore seas of Claremont.

“It is very exciting for Jamaica, and the prospects are quite encouraging. I think that having got to this stage, it speaks volumes as to what the future will hold. We don’t want to be presumptuous and say that we are 100 per cent sure that we have appreciable amounts of gas and oil out there, but the data has been encouraging, and it has brought us to this stage,” Wheatley told journalists.

QUANTITY OF OIL

Eric Bauer, new venture operations and external affairs manager at Tullow, said that soil sampling sur-
veys took place last year, which gave them a strong indication that oil exists, but the quantity is the uncertain element.

“So far, we have seen a successful 3D operation in the eastern part of our block, and that has brought us to a more encouraging area, which is right at the Pedro Bank. There is a very slight sheen from a natural seeping, and that tells us that there is a potential for a source kitchen. The source kitchen would be used to generate the oil that would fill a reservoir, and that’s what we are looking for,” Bauer said.

The survey will last roughly one week.

his current role, he manages the sales and distribution strategy for residential consumers, with direct accountability for 86 FLOW retail outlets and over 21,000 recharge points-of-sale islandwide.

“Garry has established a strong foundation for our business, positioning us as the leading converged telecommunications provider in the country. I look forward to building on this legacy by continuing the process of consolidating our operations, following our merger and subsequent acquisition,” said Price in a company release on his appointment.

Price led the process of consolidating the retail footprint of FLOW and LIME in the wake of the merged CWC and Columbus business, an acquisition that preceded Liberty’s purchase of the newly expanded group.

Price is described as a sales distribution strategist, whose fingerprints are on programmes to increase market penetration and innovation in Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent, and Barbados.

He has a record of community service as director of Start-up Jamaica Limited, Dream Entertainment Limited and Chow Entertainment Limited and is also former commercial director of ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2017 Inc.

Sinclair first made his name in Jamaica as part of the team that worked with pioneering investment bank Debring Bunting & Godding; which was sold and now operates as Scotia Investments.

As an investor in his own right, Sinclair banded with other veterans to establish a fund that he co-founded, Proven. He also owns a small stake in the first REIT to list on the Jamaica Stock Exchange, Kingston Properties Limited, of which he is chairman.

His investments in both outfits are held in Plafon Limited.

As managing director, Price is expected to join C&W’s board and Sinclair will continue to sit on the board, said he would retain his directorship.

Mission to discover commercial quantities of oil in Jamaica intensifies

Stephen Price is new managing director, FLOW Jamaica

Caribbean

Sinclair heads to Miami

Steve Jackson
Business Reporter

A TWO-MONTH leadership transition has been set in motion at Cable & Wireless Jamaica, which trades as FLOW.

Stephen Price has been promoted to managing director of the telecoms, effective June 1, replacing Garfield Sinclair, a former investment banker who has been one of the longest-serving bosses at the Jamaican telecoms.

Earlier this year, amid speculation as to whether FLOW’s new owner and ultimate parent, Liberty Global, would retain Sinclair as country head, it was announced that he would be promoted to president of the Caribbean operations of Cable & Wireless Communications, which is FLOW’s immediate parent company.

It was also announced at the time that Sinclair would remain as head of the Jamaican operations, which meant he would remain ensconced in Kingston, and appeared to signal that Liberty meant to keep him around.

Now, Sinclair is bound for Miami where he will live and work in his continuing capacity as CWC’s president of the Caribbean, having oversight of Jamaica and other markets.

In the past, such regional postings have sometimes led to former country bosses eventually separating from the telecoms, and are often considered a transitory move.

However, Sinclair told The Gleaner that, unlike his predecessors, he will remain with CWC “for the foreseeable future.”

As managing director for Jamaica, Sinclair reported over time to more than four different bosses based in Miami and three CWC CEOs based in London. The changes are based on the highly competitive nature of the industry.

Now, Sinclair will become one of those bosses. He says he plans to replicate the Jamaican operation’s success across the region, and as such, his promotion should not be viewed as a strategy for his quiet exit from CWC.

Since 2010, Sinclair, an accountant and former investment banker, ran the local telecoms operations, increasing market share and leading the telecoms to post its first profit in a decade. Prior to Sinclair’s appointment over the decade, no one kept the job longer than three years, arguably due to lacklustre results.

Price, who is rising from the position of vice-president of retail sales and distribution at FLOW, will rise to be the leader of more than 800 employees across the telecoms’ consumer operations, which trades under the FLOW brand, and the business line, which operates as C&W Business.

He will also own responsibility for the financial performance, customer experience and reputation of the business.

GREAT IDEAS

“CWC is at a defining time in its history and Jamaica is a key part of that story. I am very excited about Stephen’s appointment, as he has some experience and I believe will continue to grow our Jamaica business and take it to the next level,” said Sinclair.

“Stephen and I will immediately embark on a programme to ensure a smooth leadership transition, which will culminate in him fully taking over the reins in June.”

Price comes to the role with years of experience in the telecommunications industry, progressing through areas of the highly spanning commercial, customer care, operations and marketing, and having spent over a decade with the Cable & Wireless team. In

File

In this January 2012, Gleaner photo, Garfield Sinclair (left) consults with Stephen Price during a product launch in Kingston. Price will succeed Sinclair as managing director of Flow Jamaica on June 1, 2017.

Teddy Bloor

Rudolph Brown

Dr Andrew Wheatley (right), minister of science, technology, energy and mining, and Russell Hadeed, chairman of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, boarding the Heron Explorer, a seismic vessel dur- ing a tour of the oil and gas exploration ship at Port of Kingston Wharves on Thursday, March 23.
Distributors quarantine corned beef pending probe

OMM OF Jamaica’s main corned beef distributors said they will remove all corned beef from the shelves in quarantine pending the findings of an investigation the Government has launched into the origin of the product packaged and imported from Brazil.

The Government has banned the importation of corned beef from the South American country after it ordered the product off grocery shelves after reports that beef not fit for human consumption was being used by Brazilian meat processors.

The scandal has embarrassed Brazil as countries cut off imports. In Jamaica, Andrea Coy, the chief executive officer of GraceKennedy Foods - Domestics, said the Government indicated it needed two weeks to conclude investigations.

“The shock. We are going to quarantine the inventory, meaning it’s blocked for sale, and await the findings of these investigations,” Coy told Gleaner Business. “We are actively going to be supporting the Government in conducting the investigation.”

‘SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH’ IMPACT

As to the impact of the withdrawal on the company’s income, Coy said corned beef is an important product for GK Food’s portfolio, “so it’s significant enough.”

But she also commented that the conglomerate’s focus now was not its own bottom line, but ensuring consumer safety.

“We developed a good relationship with our customers who trust us. So all our business right now — all the discussions internally thus far has been around making sure that we are communicating with our customers, making sure that they feel comfortable, and working alongside the local authorities to investigate in the shortest time as possible,” Coy said.

Jamaica imports all beef consumed locally, with Brazil accounting for more than 95 per cent of supplies.

Musson Jamaica and Lascos Distributors, the two main corned beef sources from Brazil, also said they are cooperating with the Government’s directives.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Musson Group, Paul B. Scott, said the current inventory will not be sold.

Scott said the company imports “quite a lot” of corned beef from Brazil, but that withdrawal of the product from the shelves should not affect its operations.

Lascos Distributors’ marketing manager, Kedra Dunbar, said the company will keep the current inventory in quarantine until the investigation is complete, but said the likely financial impact was uncertain.

“I couldn’t say at this point in time because we don’t know what the investigation will reveal,” she told Gleaner Business.

None of the companies said how much corned beef they import annually, nor were Bureau of Standards Jamaica or the Statistical Institute of Jamaica able to provide data on the overall quantities imported. The point person for the Veterinary Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Osvaldo Wiston, to whom Gleaner Business was referred, was unavailable for comment.

Coy says as of now, there are no suspected batches, as is now widely speculated. The Jamaican authorities “just want to verify that the contaminated meat has not been used in the production of corned beef supplied to Jamaica,” she explained.

“I think that part of what the local authorities will attempt to do is just to see what is the quality of the products being used in the production of corned beef to satisfy themselves, and we will be doing likewise,” she said.

GraceKennedy audits its products against the certification agreed with suppliers. “We do random testing here of products that come in to ensure that the products conform to specs. Our tests did not reveal what the speculation is out there. The British Retail Consortium would ensure they go in and audit the supplier and, by virtue of issuing a cert, we rely on that to assure us that the product meeting quality control,” Coy explained.

The British Retail Consortium standard is used by leading manufacturers around the world and sets strict requirements as it relates to manufacturing, food safety and quality control systems, GraceKennedy said in an issued statement.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING SUMMARY

The 10-DAY MOVING AVERAGE RATE: The 10-day moving average is an adjustment of daily closing rates provided applicable for CUSTOMUM and G-C-T purposes on March 28, 2017.

The spot transactions of Authorized Foreign Exchange Dealers and Caribbs are reported above.
SEAN HAMILTON is not your average artist. He is a farmer, taxi driver and a man of the soil. Hamilton is creating art in harmony with nature and its elements.

"Basically, they call me the artist," he said in an interview with The Gleaner's Multimedia Photo Editor Ricardo Makyn, who made an impromptu stop at Planter's Hill, St Catherine, intrigued by the abstract figurines that dotted Hamilton's yard.

"I sit around and think ...," Hamilton said, perched on his throne-like wood-carved chair, under an awning made from twigs and bush. "I have pure artwork in the front ... I create."

Hamilton's romance with art was love at first sight. It all began when he was at the Old Harbour High School, the first day he went to art class when he was in Grade 9.

"There was a piece in the corner of the class made purely from plastic bottles, and I fell in love with it," Hamilton said, adding that this was the only class from which he was never absent. "I never give any trouble at the class," he said.

ARTISTIC AWAKENING

But the struggles of life took over, the 36-year-old said. He was hustling to make a living, but somewhere his inner artist refused to be dormant.

"I always have an artistic eye, I always do things creatively. Even when I plant the flowers, I did it in a creative way," Hamilton said.

That spark of inspiration did come to him one day, he said, and he went into seclusion to think about his next creation. "You have to leave all of those drinking, driving, and friendship, come back and sit down and create a couple of pieces," he said.

Nature is Hamilton's inspiration, and media is derived from nature – coconut trees, primarily. "It is a beautiful tree, and it is the main tree on the island," he said. "The material is authentic."

African art and ancient art is what he calls his creations, which he says are for viewing pleasure, and not for sale. "I don't charge people. I educate them," Hamilton said. "It is something for the people to stop and admire."

"I don't try to rush and fill up the place with the pieces ... all of the pieces that I do are inspiration pieces," he said. "Like the bird, it took me six months to create ... teeny tiny teeny tiny, not try to rush, if you can't get through, just wait ... leave it and come back and you know what I mean ..."

For Hamilton, a simple village person, art is something that comes from within and something that he has not imagined his life without. Creating a legacy, according to him, gives him more gratification than earning hard cash.

"Artist don't run no money, run no comment, or run no crowd," he said. "That's why they are dead broke. Maybe people will recognise when I am dead ... like Picasso and da Vinci, the best artists ever born. They were broke ... and that is how the men live their lives, you know."

Hamilton said that he wants his art to stand the test of time and last a lifetime just like Bob Marley's music.

"That's how my art is ... my pieces will be around for many millions of years," he said.

Hamilton 'the artist', who is on terra firma, and for whom terabytes and 140 characters of online expression might sound like science fiction, said, "I tell them the only thing that they can do is to take a picture with their BlackBerry, frame it up, and hang it in their house."

– Watch the interview with Sean Hamilton at https://bit.do/SowingSeedsOfCreativity
JAMAICA’S PARTICIPATION in this year’s staging of the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA), may be in jeopardy following the rejection of United States of America visa applications for the majority of the participants.

The competition, which is held annually in Los Angeles, California, sees participants enter in categories of dancing, vocals, acting, instrumental and modelling.

Team Scout for the World Championships of Performing Arts, Jamaica, Bonomya Mattis, said she is confused by the denial of 13 of 15 applicants, who have visited the embassy so far.

“A total of 15 participants went to the embassy on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and only two were granted visas. The rest were denied without explanation and (on yesterday) on three applications, the consulate told them they too were too young. One is an entertainment coordinator at Iberostar, she’s 22, one is a student, she is 19, and one is a full-time model, she’s 22. And that is very baffling because the age of the participants that we bring every year is 18 to 24,” Mattis said.

“Previously some participants’ applications were rejected because they said we did not have all the paperwork. So we ensured that we got all the papers together, especially the invitation letter from WCOPA,” she added.

Despite, having more applicants with dates in April, Mattis is concerned that they, too, will be denied.

Although, we have five more contestants with visa interview dates in April, we are fearful that they will be denied also. We can’t compete with only two participants,” Mattis said.

“I am the coordinator at Iberostar, Odessa Walker, was one of the applicants denied by the US Embassy, lamented, “I paid $30,000 for my visa application and US$1,700 to register in the competition. We were asked a few questions like: ‘where we from’, ‘Where we going?’ and at the end of the interview, she said I apologise, but you’re too young.”

Walker, who journeyed from Paimouth, Trelawny, in hopes of being a model at the competition, said she just wanted to represent and do my best for the country,” she said.

When contacted, Joshua Polacheck, Counsellor for Public Affairs at the United States Embassy in Kingston, said, “The embassy does not comment on individual applications and if they want, they can reapply for their visas.”

However, Mattis is concerned and said, “We don’t want to reapply for the visas and the applicants are rejected again, because we feel that we are targeted.”

Jamaica’s contingent to last year’s staging of the World Championships of Performing Arts.

### Warrior King promotes new album in US, Europe

**Mel Cooke**

Senior Gleaner Reporter

THE ROOTZ Warrior, is not only the name of Warrior King’s latest album, but also his Nickname. This gives the title added meaning. Warrior King telling *The Gleaner* that it is the first time he has been executive producer on one of his albums – he has always shared that financial role with James Lord.

“I am hands-on with the project every step of the way. It took us three to four years to put together,” he said. He took charge of producing two songs, Ain’t Giving Up and Rasta Safari.

**‘Protect It’**

The former is gaining traction and led to a Martineku performance recently. In addition, Warrior King says he has been getting numerous requests for dub plates of the song by sound system operators and at shows, promoters are asking that he include it in his set.

After this first shot at taking charge of his business, Warrior King said, “it won’t be my last.”

Getting clear what was one reason why the album was so long in the making, Warrior King pointing out that Ain’t Giving Up is on the rhythm, Jamaica.

**Vibrations: Ragga Boy Rhythm Watching You**

The beat for Dennus Brown song, *Cars Me Girl*. Apart from Moonlight Bright, it is all live music.

He will be going to the USA in early April, to push The Rootz Warrior, doing shows in New York, Tennessee, New York, Rhode Island and Colorado, among others. Then in June, he is off to Europe to do a number of festivals.

**Symphony orchestra, mass choir for Groovin’ 2017**

**DAVE RODNEY**

Gleaner Writer

IN THE early ‘60s, long before there was reggae, a haunting, captivating and blissfully buoyant beat called rocksteady captured the imagination of music lovers on the island of Jamaica. This beat was the off spring of ska, and it first emerged from the belly of the inner city of Kingston.

It spread like wildfire, quickly dominating dance floors, garden parties, sessions, radio play and jukeboxes islandwide, and it was later exported to diaspora hubs in the UK, the United States and in Canada. The dominant instruments in this hypnotic new wave were the bass and the drums. A chorus of ‘rude boys’ emerged, who chanted their message of protest against harsh policing and the justice system, and the end product was a body of some of Jamaica’s most alluring and unforgettable anthems ever – the rocksteady collection.

**CELEBRATING THE ROCKSTEADY ERA**

This year, Groovin’ In The Park, New York City’s premier reggae and R&B summer concert, will celebrate the magic of the rocksteady era, but with a twist. A number of iconic proponents of the genre – hit machine Freddie McGregor, chart-topper Ken Boothe and music magician Leroy Sibbles, with Lloyd Parks and We The People Band, will grace the stage of Groovin’. In The Park. But this powerful galaxy of Jamaican stars will be supported by a jaw-dropping philharmonic orchestra called GITPRO.

GITPRO will permeate Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, with the sweet sounds of violins, violas, cellos and a harp. The musicians who form GITPRO are all professionals from the New York area. Reggae industry insiders are describing the celestial sounds for Groovin’ as ‘this is not only the gazebo concert in and around New York City’.

We are tremendously excited about the new energies that this groundbreaking orchestra and choir will bring to an already superb event, and we have no doubt that this initiative will raise the bar for reggae concerts in and around New York City,” Chris Roberts, founder and executive director of Groovin’. In The Park said.

Groovin’ In The Park takes place on Sunday, June 25 and the gates open at 12 p.m.
What are the costs involved in land transactions in Jamaica?

AND IN this context refers to raw land or land with building. In either instance, the cost of transacting remains the same. However, the most pertinent difference would be the value of each as the costs are in most cases calculated on the basis of the value or purchase price of the land. This discussion is also applicable to both commercial and residential properties.

COST OF THE LAND

The initial cost is the spend to acquire the land. If the property is advertised for sale, the interested purchaser must first determine whether they have sold for. And what comparable properties have sold for. Whether cash or mortgage, there are certain government fees that have to be paid apart from just the property purchase price. The government imposes stamp duty of 4% which is shared equally between the seller and the purchaser so the purchaser's cost is 2% for stamp duty. There is also a title registration fee of half of 1% which is shared between the purchaser and the seller. This means the purchaser pays one quarter of 1% or 0.25%. Therefore, the total purchase cost would be 2.25% and these charges are not a shared expense. Other fees could affect the time spent on the transaction. An attorney may therefore charge a higher range of fees because of the extra work involved.

MORTGAGE TRANSACTION

Apart from the costs mentioned above, there will be additional expenses if a mortgage is needed. The purchaser should speak directly to a mortgage company or to a mortgage broker who will be able to assist in identifying the mortgage institution whose requirements may best fit the purchaser’s credit profile. Once this assessment is made, the mortgage broker will be able to identify the costs involved. The mortgage company has its own application and other processing fees. There is also the fee for having the collateral assigned to the lender and this also includes government fees to stamp the mortgage security of 0.625%. This is a separate stamping fee from the 2% that was discussed earlier that is incurred for the land transfer. If National Housing Trust (“NHT”) is the mortgage provider, then there are certain costs implicit in that purchase transaction and these should be determined beforehand. With mortgage companies, it is important that the purchaser identify more than one institutions and compare the varying costs.

COSTS AFTER PURCHASE

After purchasing the land, other costs should also be considered, such as those related to improvement and renovation. These can be undertaken at the purchaser’s discretion and in their own time. The adage “buy more property than you can afford” is generally good advice as overtime the cost of home ownership becomes more manageable, assuming wages rise and mortgage rates do not increase substantially. Notwithstanding, a purchaser must first take steps to determine very early in the process the transaction costs outside of the purchase price of the land. The general rule of thumb is that the transaction costs associated with the purchase is in the range of 10% - 12%.

Contributed Photos

Sashakay Fairclough, barrister and journalist.

Robert Taylor, attorney-at-law at Taylor Law in Kingston, Jamaica.

What are the costs involved in land transactions in Jamaica?
organised by the Guadeloupe Regional col-
held early next month.
the fifth Caribbean Writers Congress to be

Walcott was buried in his homeland on
what stories would you like to read? what issues would you
across the caribbean
PC Locke media reports here said the fatal attack was
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Belize
Honduran national charged with killing police officer

Mitchell said that the international com-
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Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell told a
new measures to revitalise the agri-
cultural sector including the commercialisa-
tion of government owned estates before
target government lands for young farmers
to make use of the small business initiative to
create employment and diversification of the fishing sector.

BCB 2,560,000.00
$2.5 million from the University of the
West Indies' Smoker Group's assis-
tant sponsorship chairman, Abigail Allen.

ACROSS JAMAICA

Manchester
Young teacher engages students in Spanish

ST. MARY
Annotto Bay Hospital receive $J2.5 m gift
from medical students

BILINGUAL SPANISH teacher and author Sherica Green on a mission to have Jamaicans, particularly students, take up the Spanish lan-
guage, staged a sensitisation forum at the recent launch of her
book Mi Companero at Northern Caribbean University, which has a number of schools from the parish and
adjacent areas participating.

What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@jamaianm.com

Ina Hunter
Rehab programme for wards
YOUNG GIRLS in the care of the
state at the South Camp Road
Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre in Kingston, are receiving holistic attention aimed at facilitat-
ing their reintegration into the

Ina Hunter

ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN

ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN

The Grenada government has announced new plans for the revitalisation of the agri-
cultural sector including the commercialisa-
tion of government owned estates before
year end and the liberalisation of the com-
munity boards.
Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell told a
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Prime Minister Mitchell said that the international com-
munity need to be implemented as
quickly as possible.
"The process has been slow, much slower
than we want it to be. I wish I could have
done it overnight. But you have to bring
stakeholders and their partners on board
and in the process we have missed some
timelines as far as that initiative is con-
cerned," he said.
"But we are on the road to this, so a num-
er of our estates before the end of this year
will be commercialised with certain guide-
lines for development and for production
about employment in the agricultural sec-
tor as a whole."
Last week, the Washington-based
International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported
that while the main drivers of growth in the
caribbean had been construction and tourism, agriculture experienced weather-
related contraction.
Mitchell said that the international com-
munity is in support of Grenada's effort to
merge its commodity board.
"The liberalisation of the commodity
board. Absolutely crucial. I would say better
later than never to give our friends on the
commodity boards to understand that pres-
ent system of monopoly that we operate in a
liberalised world community does not work,
and that, in fact, after all the consultation
there has been, I think the time has come
to move forward," Prime Minister Mitchell said.
"We have the support of the regional and
international community and financial insti-
tution to help us meet that objective. So
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end of this year by being able to get the
commodity boards out of cocoa and nutmeg in particular," he added.

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end of this year by being able to get the
commodity boards out of cocoa and nutmeg in particular," he added.

Belize
Honduran national charged with killing police officer

A HONDURAN national has been remanded in custody after he appeared in court charged with the murder of a police officer, one of eight people murdered here.

Marcial Toledo was arraigned on March 27 for the murder of Police Constable Marvin Locke, who was stabbed to death at the Racoon Street Police Station.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Chater Williams said that Toledo had visited the police station and following a 'little talk inside' they eventually walked outside and upon getting outside the individual took out a knife and stabbed him.

Locke was stabbed multiple times to the chest and abdomen and ACP Williams said the police officer that was transported to the hospital where he succumbed while under-
going treatment.

He said Toledo has been charged with murdering PC Locke.

Media reports here said the fatal attack was a crime of passion, suggesting that a woman may have been the centre of the希尔 oder. Police were also kept busy last weekend with murder that occurred in the Belize, Cayo and Stann Creek Districts.

At least 13 people were killed during a 48 hour period with five occurring in Belize City. Among those killed was Randy Green, who was recently freed of a 2011 murder charge by the Guatemala farmer, Roberto De Leon, who was robbed and beaten to death after delivering oranges at the factory in Penonama.
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Florida legislators take on hard-line immigration policies

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP): THE ELECTION of President Donald Trump is giving new impetus to Florida state lawmakers in pushing measures seen as tough on immigration but that have gone nowhere in the Legislature in recent years.

Legislators are moving ahead with bills - some of which could face constitutional challenges - that call for harsher sentences for people living in the U.S. illegally, penalties for local governments with “sanctuary” policies, and a halt to the voluntary participation in the federal refugee resettlement program.

Even as Trump promises to ramp up enforcement of immigration policies, state lawmakers are pushing for more. Rep. Dane Eagle sees his bill on sentencing as a backup plan in case federal authorities fail in their mission to deport people who commit crimes while in the country illegally.

“The bill keeps them locked up longer so they are not committing crimes,” Eagle said. “We have the federal government doing a job they are supposed to do.”

Foreign nationals make up about 4 percent of Florida’s population, and the Corrections Department has not broken down the number of those who are documented and those who are not.

Mark Schlakman, a Florida State University law professor, said Eagle’s bill would most likely be challenged in court because it would turn a person’s immigration status into a criminal enhancement.

“In the worst case scenario,” Schlakman said, “it is a civil penalty.

Rep. Jared Moskowitz, a Democrat from Coral Springs who opposed the bill, said the legislation is not based on a need in the law, but rather prompted “an emotive response.”

The perception that immigrants and refugees without legal permission to live in the U.S. pose a threat has also inspired policy that could affect other groups of people.

If the Legislature decides to pull out of the federal refugee resettlement program, for example, Cubans and Haitians who have been granted special immigration status and victims of human trafficking would lose refugee benefits they receive under the program.

But the most hotly debated is over a measure that penalizes state and local government officials who have adopted policies or practices that block them from fully cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

Violations would include not holding detainers who are wanted by federal immigration authorities past their release date, for example.

State Rep. Daisy Baez, a Democrat who immigrated to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic as a child, said during a House committee debate that the ban on “sanctuary” policies was a misguided effort based on “paranoia and persecution.”

“I achieved the American Dream, I suppose, and if you think this story is unique and beautiful and one of achievement, I have to tell you it’s not. It’s every immigrant’s story,” she said holding back tears. “I have never felt as unwanted and as vilified as I do now.”

In recent years, similar hard-line immigration policies have stumped the Legislature.

Gov. Rick Scott came into office in 2011 promising to adopt Arizona-style immigration laws such as requiring authorities to check the immigration status of anyone suspected of being in the country illegally. The effort was defeated after thousands of Floridians flooded the State Capitol in protest.

Three years later, Scott signed anti-immigrant laws that granted an immigrant living in the U.S. without legal permission the right to practice law in Florida and extended in-state tuition rates to children of such immigrants.

Many residents are seeking to reverse the latter this year.

Francese Menez, director of policy from the Florida Immigration Coalition, said there’s a nexus between the spike in “anti-immigrant bills” and Trump’s candidacy in the 2016 primary.

“With immigration unfortunately it’s always about the political climate and what is advantageous to whoever is running, and the Legislature flips-flops on the issue,” Menez said. “Is that what our Legislature wants to do again this session? Spend our time and our resources debating and approving bills that separate families and threaten our economy?”

A Florida International University’s Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy report estimates that immigrants who live in the U.S. without legal permission contribute $84 billion to the state’s economy in local and state taxes to Florida’s metropolitan areas.

Republican lawmakers have dismissed critics who say some of the immigration measures open up municipalities to litigation for going against federal court rulings or even the U.S. Constitution.

Tampa Republican Rep. James Grant urged lawmakers to pass bills that separate families and threaten our economy”.

AP Photo

New York launches legal aid programme for immigrants

ALBANY, New York (AP): NEW YORK state is launching a new program to ensure immigrants have access to legal help.

The initiative, called the Liberty Defense Project, is a public-private partnership between the state, legal advocacy groups, private law firms and financial sponsors, such as the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Ford Foundation.

The project will provide immigrants access to pro bono legal representation and assistance regardless of their legal status. Some 230 private law firms, advocacy organizations, and legal groups will participate in the program.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said Friday that the initiative is the first of its kind in the nation.

The state says New York is home to more than 4.4 million immigrants.

AP Photo
Dubai excites, homecoming disappoints

Teacher peeved by local response after she misses out on US$1m prize

RYON JONES
Staff Reporter

SHE MIGHT not have won the US$1 million offer by the Varkey Foundation, but Tracy-Ann Hall returned from Dubai feeling every inch a winner. The way I look at it there were 10 of us in the competition and one had to win. And if I had won I would have wanted everybody else’s support,” Hall told The Gleaner after missing out on the 2017 Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Award, which was won by Maggie MacDonnell who lives and works in Salluit, an Inuit village deep in the Canadian Arctic so remote it is accessible only by air.

“If somebody else won and we all gave her our support. She deserved the prize just like any other contestant would have,” added Hall, one of the 10 finalists out of 20,000 nominations and applications from 179 countries.

BIG PLANS

The 42-year-old said the experience served to motivate her even more, as she has big plans for the automotive class which she teaches at the St Catherine-based Jonathan Grant High School.

“It is a tremendous accomplishment and I think now that it has been highlighted more persons will be nominated and be selected also, because many Jamaican teachers go beyond the call of duty,” said Hall.

“There is one thing I intend to do, which is to Skype with some of the other contestants and their class, so that our students can understand other cultures and know that there is more to the world than just Jamaica,” Hall said.

Despite being very pleased with her achievement, Hall is a bit disappointed with the recognition she has received in Jamaica in light of the reports she has been getting from the other finalists.

“The other teachers sent me pictures of their welcome-back parade and all of that, but I didn’t see any of that when I got back home,” said Hall.

“They are asking me to send them pictures of my welcome home and I have to tell them there was none”.

“It was quite the opposite when she had landed in Dubai, as Jamaicans there gave her a celebrity welcome.

“There is a group of Jamaican teachers who live in Dubai. I never met any of them before, but five of them came and met me at the airport and then 20 of them took me to a dinner, and some Jamaican pilots joined as well, so it was like one big happy family.

“I also got to ride a camel, which was like my dream, and I didn’t know if it would ever come true, and it did, so that was awesome.”

According to Hall, the publicity the competition has received locally since she was shortlisted could see more Jamaican teachers being nominated going forward.

“I think most Jamaicans weren’t aware of the competition, and I think now that it has been highlighted more persons will be nominated and be selected also, because many Jamaican teachers go beyond the call of duty,” said Hall.

“The competition highlights teachers who have not just stayed in the classroom to teach but go out and let their students know there is more to learn than just in the classroom,” added the teacher who has been shaping the lives of youngsters for the past 17 years.

Late last week, the president of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association, Howard Isaac, told our news team that an appropriate celebration for Hall will be planned.

Jamaica’s Tracy-Ann Hall (fourth right) with the other finalists at the 2017 Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Awards in Dubai recently.

Tracy-Ann Hall inside her workshop at Jonathan Grant High School.
Canada Events

A Different Booklist co-sponsors a public lecture: "50 years 'Beyond Vietnam': Dr. King's Revolutionary Dream against our Neoliberal/Neofascist Nightmare" by Robin D. G. Kelley & Fred Moten on Saturday, April 1, 5pm at Bloor United Church, 300 Bloor Street West, Toronto. Opening with Lee Maracle, author, instructor and traditional teacher, and Faith Nolan, celebrated social justice activist and musician. Call 416-538-0889

The African Canadian Mental Health strategic planning session will be held on Saturday, April 1, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Room SHE 549, 5th Floor, Sally Horsefall Eaton Building, 99 Gerrard St. East, Ryerson University, Contact tabonoinstitute@gmail.com for more information.

Professors Robin D.G. Kelley & Fred Moten in Conversation, moderated by Rinaldo Walcott, Director, WGSI, and Afua Cooper, James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University on Monday, April 3, 6pm, Great Hall, Hart House, University of Toronto. Tickets are free but required through eventbrite.

For anyone thinking about running in the upcoming 2018 elections and don’t know where to start, the JCA’s Political Advocacy Committee presents "So You Think You Can Run" on Saturday, April 15, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the JCA, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto. Panelists: Matthew Green, City of Hamilton councillor; Rob Davis, founder of Campaign Solutions Inc.; and Tiffany Gooch, political strategist, Enterprise & EnSight Canada. Moderator: Idil Burale, former candidate, Toronto City Council. RSVP by April 8 to Danielle Dowdy at dowdy.danielle@gmail.com

New York

Edwin Allen HS Alumni Assn Mid-Atlantic Chapter 2017 Spring Dinner Dance Gala, April 8th, 7:30P - 2A; Contact: Briscoe 516-729-2549, Collin 301-466-4137, Joe 917-607-8808

JCOBA NY Awards Gala and Film Screening, April 8th. For more information: www.thegriffys.org

StATHS AA NE Annual Spring Fundraising Fete, April 8th; 9P - 3A; Royal Chateau. Rosedale, NY ; Contact: Peter 917-449-0357 .

Westwood OGA Tea Party, Fashion Show & Silent Auction, April 8th; Team Jamaica Bickle will be hosting their 4th Annual fundraising Breakfast, April 22, 2017; 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – 222nd Street and Barnes. For further information contact Karen Robinson: 646-498-9816.

The Organization for International Development (OID) invites you to their Annual Fundraising Luncheon, Sunday, April 23rd at 12 noon, GreenTree Country Club, New Rochelle. For further information, contact Dr. Roy Streefe (718-652-3978) or Carol Biersay (718-325-5606).

Team Jamaica Bickle will be hosting its 4th Annual fundraising Breakfast, April 22, 2017; 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – 222nd Street and Barnes. For further information contact Karen Robinson: 646-498-9816.

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UJAA Penn Relays Bus Ride Fundraiser - Saturday, April 29th - 2 buses: BUS “A” – Bklyn/Queens/LI Border: Green Acres Shopping Ctr.; BUS “B” – Bronx: Bay Plaza/Co-Op City. Event ticket optional. For further information contact Wilbert Davis: 917-697-3097; Donovan Wilson: 917-972-5502; Sharon Wynter: 646-388-2479; or Marlene Clarke: 646-388-1869; Jah Jerry, Inc. invites you to the 5th Anniversary Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Friday, April 21, 2017 at elegant Country Kitchen Restaurant from 8:00PM-12:00AM. For further information call (212) 470-5655.
Shipping Company in Jamaica seeks Freight Forwarder, Shipper and Customs Broker for mutually beneficial partnership. Contact Orandy Shipping and Logistics Ltd, and Orandy Moving & Storage Co. Ltd., at 1(876)933-6683, 1(876)765-1034.

For Sale:† 2 ½ acres of Hardware Store in the centre development. Great township. Ideal for interests situated on 1 ½ acres of prime real estate in the centre of the parish of Saint Catherine. Pen now called Wilmore, once a part of the Late numbered NINETY SIX on the plan of part of Angels Pen now called Wilmore, once a part of the parish of Saint Catherine. Being the Lot numbered NINETY SIX on the plan of part of Angels Pen now called Wilmore, once a part of the parish of Saint Catherine. 1876-860-1295

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“People used to come to me to bury their family and then I would say to them, ‘But why you spending all a dat money fi somebody who already dead?” You can have a very nice service and I am telling you, my mother’s service was fabulous,” she said. Citing her family’s experience of having to finance two burials in relatively quick succession, the credit union CEO charged members to give serious consideration to investing in the plan, which provides coverage for up to six persons, for the price of one very affordable premium. She advised that it was OK to start small and move up the graduated scale, as their earnings allowed.

Businessman on fraud charges in relation to forging of Portia’s signature

BUSBUSINESSMAN PETER Sangster is to appear in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court on Friday for charges in relation to the forging of the signature of former Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller.

Sangster, the managing director of Jamus Communications Limited, was last Friday charged with using money by false pretences, uttering forged documents and forgery.

He was charged by detectives from the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Terrorism Agency (MOCA). It is alleged that between January 2011 and August 2013, Sangster solicited over US$100,000 from the chairman of the company, promising to provide a waiver for funds owed by the company to the Universal Service Fund (USF). It is further reported that on August 2013, Sangster presented the promised waiver allegedly signed by the then Prime Minister.
The thirst of hundreds of Jamaican-Canadians and friends of Jamaica living in the Greater Toronto Area for information about investment opportunities in the island seems to have been adequately quenched at the first Jamaica National Group Expo hosted by the Canada Representative Office.

From before the 10:00 a.m. start time on March 25 many gathered at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton, Ontario to make sure that they would be first in line to access services of the JN Group, Registrar General’s Department, Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency, or to find out about property ownership and other inquiries at the booths of exhibitors.

The flow of people was steady throughout the expo that was scheduled to end at 7:00 p.m. Jerrold Johnson, chief representative officer at the JN Canada Representative Office said the focus had always been on JNBS, which was the savings and loans, but when the group was reorganized, the JN Group was birth. There are now two holding companies - one for financial assets, and out of that are the subsidiaries, which includes JN Bank.

“We wanted people to not just focus on the bank because now we represent all the products and services of the JN Group and not only the bank. We want people to know that yes, the bank is the biggest, and what is the biggest draw but we want people to engage in all that JN can offer,” Johnson said a virtual JN office will be established in downtown Brampton in April.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Linda Jeffrey, welcomed the expo to the city, noting that in a few years Brampton will have a new university - Ryerson - and is a city attractive for investments.

Leon Mitchell, chief marketing and sales officer for JN Group, said the purpose of the event was twofold: “We want to make sure that we remain relevant to people overseas, family, friends, relatives of Jamaica so we felt the only way to really show that is to put on a little expo, show all of our products and services, and also take an opportunity to introduce the bank.”

He said the bank is not a replacement for the building society but it enables JN to do other products and services. “Therefore we’re now going to be able to support all of the needs and wants as it relates to banking and financial services from our members, and family, friends overseas.”

Asked if JN will maintain a presence in Brampton, given its large Jamaican community, Mitchell said, “What we’re going to do next is going to be big and we’re going to make sure that we support the people in our community of Brampton in the right manner. Don’t forget the key to this is to listen to what they want. It’s not about what we want but it’s making sure that we understand, interpret, and offer our family and friends in Canada the best service for them.”

Janice Miller, Jamaica’s high commissioner to Canada, was impressed with the level of enthusiasm shown by Jamaicans. She said the expo was only a sample of what Jamaica has to offer and underscored the importance of the upcoming Jamaica Diaspora Conference in Kingston.
Spencer, Hylton accused of anti-doping offence

- Athletes deny wrong doing

André Lowe
Sports Editor

SPORTS MEDICINE expert Dr Winston Dawes is calling on Jamaican athletes and sports associations to take charge of their anti-doping efforts, this after it was confirmed that World Championships medalists Kaliese Henry and Hylton Hylton, respectively, were found guilty of anti-doping rules violation.

Both athletes have been referred to the Independent Anti-doping Disciplinary Panel for a hearing, with Spencer, a well-known name on the international circuit, said to have already secured legal representation.

Hylton, who was a member of Jamaica’s bronze medal-winning 4x400m relay team at the 2009 World Championships.

Meanwhile, Dawes, a well-respected figure in the field, believes that athletes need to take greater care in their efforts to ensure that they adhere to the anti-doping efforts and is urging sport associations to offer greater education and support for their representatives.

OBLIGATIONS

“Athletes and their associations should take charge,” Dawes told yesterday. “What has to happen, they are going to have to have each athlete who has potential of being selected, go through a seminar, and probably test them at the end of it to ensure they understand the seriousness of anti-doping.”

“Those of Gardener and Davis.”

It is incomprehensible that you have senior athletes – who have been to international games – can be caught out like this. The athletes need to be taught about the requirements and obligations. The associations ultimately have to take the lead in this education process. It cannot be left only to JADCO,” he added.

The Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA) yesterday confirmed it had been informed of the violation but noted that no further comment would be forthcoming on the matter.

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Hylton, who was a member of Jamaica’s Bronn medal-winning 4x400m relay team at the 2011 World Championships in Daegu, South Korea, said that on the day in question, he was watching a training session at the Stadium East field involving his Cameroon Blazers teammates.

He noted that he was unable to take part in training because of an ankle injury but that he was never approached by the JADCO officials or advised that a sample was needed.

This is a whole misunderstanding, and things have gotten out of hand wrongly, it isn’t right,” Hylton told The Gleaner. “I heard that I refused to do a drug test which is totally incorrect."

I am the man, says Tappa Whitmore wants to stay in charge of Boyz

Robert Bailey
Gleaner Writer

THEODORE ‘TAPPI’ WHITMORE believes he is the man to lead Jamaica’s Reggae Boyz into the 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign, after sending a veiled message to Jamaica Football Federation president, Captain Horace Clarke.

Undergoing his third stint in charge of the national team, the previous two ending with him having to take a back seat to overseas coaches, Whitmore told The Gleaner he deserves the job of leading the Boyz to Qatar 2022.

“Why not, I have learnt a lot since then, and so, I don’t see why shouldn’t be given the job to lead the team,” said Whitmore, who arrives back against Japan at the 1998 World Cup, operating as a skiff mid-fielder, who went on to play for Hull City, Scottish team Livingston and Tranmere Rovers in the United Kingdom.

INTERIM MANAGER

Whitmore was first brought into the Reggae Boyz coaching set-up as an interim manager, after the firing of former head coach Radoslav Mihaljevic in November 2007.

However, he was relegated to assistant coach on Rene Simoes’ second coming, which lasted only nine months, cutting short Jamaica’s love affair with the Brazilian, who had trained the team to France 1998.

The former Seba player was again appointed interim manager, until former Jamaica-born England winger John Barnes became available in November 2009.

The game of musical chairs continued for Whitmore in 2010, when new head coach after Barnes left the job to take up a coaching position overseas.

After spending more than three years in the post, Whitmore was fired in 2013 after the Reggae Boyz failed to qualify for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Out on the sideline while the JFF tinkered with new head coach Werner Schäfer, Whitmore was, yet again, reappointed to the job of interim manager.

Speaking to The Gleaner about the prospects of Jamaica reaching another World Cup final, Whitmore expressed confidence in JFF’s rebuilding process, which has seen the Reggae Boyz qualify for the Gold Cup.

“We have started the rebuilding process. What we keep missing is the long term,” said Whitmore.

“Why yes, we want to do well in the CPU (Caribbean Football Union) tournament but, in the end, we have to think about long term, and that is where we are at the moment,” he added.
Romaine Austin shares a moment with his teammates after receiving gold in the 500m speed skate race in the Special Olympic Winter Games in Graz, Austria, Thursday, March 23.

Super Special!

Ja produces best-ever performance at Special Olympics

JAMAICA'S ATHLETES returned to the island on Sunday, March 26 from the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, with three gold, one silver and a bronze medal their best ever performance at these games.

From a field of 105 countries competing in the one-week games which ended on the weekend, Romaine Austin bagged two gold in the 500m metres and 333m speed skating races, David Oddman won gold and silver in 333m and 222m respectively also in the speed skating races, the team picked up the bronze medal in the floor hockey by beating Costa Rica 2-1 coming from a goal down.

Particularly noteworthy, the Jamaican skaters had their first training session on ice only two months ago which was a one-week stint in Miami Florida, prior to this their training was done on concrete and asphalt. They also had to overcome cold 'unJamaican' weather.

The Special Olympics caters to persons with intellectual disabilities. The Summer Special Olympics will be held in Dubai 2019. These games and the Winter ones are held every four years.

Executive director, Special Olympics Lorna Bell expressed her joy at Jamaica's performance which she said was the 'best ever' at these games.

"I am extremely proud of our athletes. Their outstanding performances at these games are an example of what can happen when we give them a chance... our athletes were determined to make Jamaica proud and they did exactly that," she commented to The Gleaner.

CHAMPS

Continued from 24

Adding space to to the customary hotly contested Champs is cash awards for the top two teams across the sexes to pick up J$1 million each.

KC is expected to push aside the controversy surrounding Ugandan middle-distance athlete Arayamanya Rodgers, who was cleared by IBSA to compete despite registration issues, and lift the Mortimer Geddes trophy for the first time since 2009. The boys from North Street have suff ered their joint second-longest losing streak since they first won the title back in 1997 but are now heavily tipped to score a commanding victory and claim their 32nd overall title.

After coming close in 2015, there should be no stopping the Neil Harrison-coached team this time around after a dominant and all-round showing in the build-up to the championships.

Despite their impressive depth, the bulk of the damage will come from their powerful Class Three unit led by sprinters Terrique Stennett, Adrian Kerr and Jovaine Johnson along with jumper Scott McLeod and mid-distance athletes, twin brothers Giovanni and Gianlu Henry.

Despite not being that strong in the sprints in Class Two, KC still has the edge over their main rivals as Arayamanya Rodgers, Pinnock and Shauquelle Lowe in the horizontal jumps along with Pinnock and Davion Williams in the hurdles along with Rodgers in the winter games and Rodgers and Grevileems will give them enough points to stay ahead.

ADVANTAGE KC

Defending champions Calabar were given the slight edge based on their Class One, coming into the championships and the suggestion was they would win their sixth straight title but with news emerging over the past 24 hours that one of their top men, Dejour Russell will most likely miss the event due to a hamstring injury, it is again advantage to KC.

The likes of Jhevaughn Matherson in the 200m and 200m, Dashawn Morris and Tyrone Bryan in the 400m along with co-captain Carey McLeod and Shae-Ann Coke, the ‘Purples’ are again in good shape going into the championships.

For Calabar, the outstanding Christopher Taylor, who is expected to take the 800m-1500m double, while in Class One a fit-again Patrice Moody, with Kashinka Cameron in the sprints and thrower Fiona Richards are set to feature prominently.

FINAL PREDICTIONS

Girls Top 5

1. Kingston College 203
2. Hydel 183
3. Holmwood Technical 163
4. St Jago 121
5. Vere Technical 115

Boys Top 5

1. Kingston College 380
2. Calabar 315
3. Jamaica College 160
4. St Jago 150
5. Wolmer's 122

It is in Class Three where most of their points. Outstanding sprinter, Kevona Davis, who should easily defend her 100m and 200m titles is the main act here.

Both records could go here as her season best of 11.43 seconds is better than the record run of 11.50 seconds done by former Wolmer's star Shanae Hynes in 2012. With a best of 23.32 seconds in the 200m done by winning the event at the G.C. Foster Classics, she could also threaten the long-standing record of 23.11 seconds, set by former Holmwood Technical athlete, Anniesha McLaughlin in 2001.

Others expected to do well in Class Three include Rushawn Dwyer in the 800m and 1500m, Lisandra Brown in the 80m hurdles, Katrina Brown in the discus and Ackelia Smith in the long jump.

Cenore Donald will lead the show in Class Two as she is expected to take the 800m-1500m double, while in Class One a fit-again Patrice Moody, with Kashinka Cameron in the sprints and thrower Fiona Richards are set to feature prominently.

Ashley to challenge for world title

LEROY BROWN

Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA'S ALICIA Ashley, the former female World Boxing Council (WBC) Super Bantamweight champion, has been given approval to challenge the current title holder, Kenyan Patuma Zarika, for the title, within 90 days. This news was relayed to The Gleaner last week, by Ashley's promoter Luigi Olcese, who also revealed that he had won the bid to promote the fight, and is now seeking a venue for the event. Ashley lost her title to Zarika by split decision in Michigan, USA, in October last year.

"I won the purse bid and I now know when it is going to happen," she said, an elated Olcese. "I will be entering into negotiations with Zarika and her management team in a few days, and hopefully, we can agree on the date and the venue and conditions for the fight quickly," said Olcese. He also made it clear when asked by The Gleaner that Ashley was definitively high on the list of possible venues for the fight. Ashley has always said that she wants to fight in Jamaica, and this would be a good time and opportunity for it to happen," he said.

He also revealed that he will be approaching potential sponsors and the television stations in Jamaica very soon, in an effort to work out a deal that will make it happen here. "I am planning a very attractive card, with at least one other female bout, and it could be in either Kingston or Montego Bay," he confirmed.

Ashley endorsed the idea of Jamaica being the venue emphatically, when contacted by The Gleaner: "I am sure that you know how badly I want to fight in Jamaica. That, for me, would be a dream come true. I lost to Zarika by split decision, and I am glad that I now will have the opportunity to regain my title. What better place than Jamaica for me to regain my title?" she said. When continued, "It would be such a pleasure to have my Jamaican family, friends and fans cheering me on."
AFTER MONTHS of intense preparations, the most anticipated high school track and field event, the ISSA/GraceKennedy Boys and Girls’ Athletics Championships was scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 28 at the National Stadium in Kingston with defending girls’ champions Edwin Allen and Kingston College (KC) starting as favourites to come out on top.