JAMAICA- BORN STYLIST GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY

Foreign ministry expands department

WILTON DYER
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA’S FOREIGN ministry has expanded its agency dealing with Jamaicans overseas in a move which the foreign affairs minister says is aimed at ‘deepening its engagement with its Diaspora.

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INSIDE

NEWS

Diaspora mourns Trevor Alexander, IPMI Secretary

Amaicans in the USA/NE and elsewhere in the Diaspora are mourning the sudden passing of Trevor Alexander, Sr, an influential director with the Intercessory Prayer Ministry International (IPMI), based in Brooklyn.

Portia to end political career June 29

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National business agency on drive to grow local companies

- Partners with First Angels network
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IMMIGRATION

Why was my visa cancelled? ...

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New National Standards Curriculum - Gov’t

Education Minister Senator Ruel Reid says the new National Standards Curriculum (NSC) will improve the performance of boys in the education system as it seeks to overhaul teaching methods in schools.

Trial on for businessman, Patrick Powell

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PNP launches youth employment commission

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Memorial sermon for Dr Alston Meade HC

AUBREY CAMPBELL
Gleaner Writer

A CROSSED section of Jamaicans joined family, friends and former associates of Dr Alston Meade in Toronto on Tuesday, June 13 to pay their final respects to Dr Alston Meade at a memorial service at the Swanson Funeral Home in Detroit, Michigan.

A respected community activist who served as Honorary Consul (HC), for the Jamaican community in Philadelphia for eleven years - 2002-2013, Dr Meade passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 7, 2017, at the age of 86. He recently relocated to Pennsylvania. Dr Meade worked for 28 years at DuPont Company in Wilmington, DE, where his primary responsibility was research and development of insecticides and other agricultural chemicals. After retiring in 1992, he accepted assignments as Consultant and Adjunct Professor, with the company.

He was appointed by Philadelphia Mayor, John Street to serve on the newly created Commission of African and Caribbean Affairs, where he was Co-Chair on the Legal Committee which focused on immigration issues. During this time, he was also one of the founders of the Jamaican Trade Council of Greater Philadelphia, a Diaspora initiative.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

In addition to being elected for two terms to the Board of Education, West Chester School District, he held leadership positions in numerous professional, social and civic organisations, including Black DuPont Employees Association, Southern Chester County NAACP, International Society for African Scientist, National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organisations (NAJASO), National Coalition on Caribbean Affairs and Joint Commission on Special Education.

A Diaspora leader in the United States, Audrey Marks led tributes to Dr Meade. She said: “The condolences on behalf of the government and people of Jamaica, whom she said Dr Meade had represented with distinction in his role as Honorary Consul to Pennsylvania. He spearheaded numerous trade missions to Jamaica and played an important role in lifting the relationship between the island and Philadelphia to new levels through the Jamaican Trade Council of Greater Philadelphia. He also represented his country on several state and local boards in Philadelphia.

His wisdom and humility was a constant throughout his stewardship and especially during the annual Penn Relays Carnival.

HUMBLE MAN

“Dr Meade was a very humble man and would serve all who needed assistance, not just Jamaicans but the entire African and Caribbean communities,” offered Barbara Wilson, Director of the annual Caribbean Festival & Cultural Committee and Board Member of the Marcus Garvey Memorial Foundation, Philadelphia. “He will be missed for his community activism and staunch advocacy for better educational opportunities for Caribbean students in Philadelphia and Jamaica, his homeland,” opined Dr Harold Mignott, former Jamaican Diaspora Advisory Board Member, USA/NE.

“He exemplified manner of service brought respect and recognition to the Jamaican community in Philadelphia. His model of service was a precursor to the Diaspora movement of today and a model of what Diaspora leaders should aspire to be, in terms of service and leadership.” Dr Mignott said.

Dr Meade was a stalwart of both the Philadelphia and Jamaican communities, both of which he served with distinction, backgrounded by his active involvement in the Civil Rights movement in the US.

There are plans for a memorial service in Philadelphia. Dr Meade is survived by his wife Vernette Byron Meade; sister, Gloria M. Phillips; children, Alston Jr, Allison M. Wellon, Julie M. Williams, Brandon D. Meade and Frederick A. Meade; grandchildren, Alaisha D. Wellon, Gloria M. Phillips, nieces, Sherry A. Cunningham and Annette Campbell.

Dr Alston Meade

Under-Secretary, Ambassador Marks said Dr Meade had displayed a life-time passion for social activism. She recalled his role in National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organisations (NAJASO)’s founding and his tenure as its president. The veteran Jamaican and Caribbean community leader was also instrumental in the establishment of the National Coalition on Caribbean Affairs (NCOCA). The Diaspora had lost an outstanding son, she said.

For Dr Vera Tobbert, who chaired the Immigration Committee at the Mayor’s Commission on African & Caribbean Affairs: “Dr Meade was an asset to the community and I will always remember his kind and wise words,” she said of his passing.

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MINISTER OF Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith in bringing Diaspora greetings on Diaspora Day, June 16, told Jamaicans, "the day is a reminder to Jamaicans 'a yaad' and 'abroad' of not only our uniqueness as a people, but of the maxim of united we stand, divided we fall."

"On this Day that recognises the achievements of Jamaicans in the Diaspora and your much-appreciated contribution to the socio-economic development of Jamaica, I say thank you."

"Thank you, on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and on behalf of the many schools, hospitals, health centres and communities you assist, for your tremendous work and commitment. We truly value the sacrifices that you make to contribute to your families' and communities' welfare in Jamaica.

You are indeed key partners in charting the way forward for sustained and inclusive economic growth and job creation. So today, we celebrate you, your achievements, your commitment and our partnership." The Minister ended by saying that she was looking forward to seeing and engaging with you at this year’s Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference, which returns to Kingston at the Jamaica Conference Centre — from July 23-26.

Earl Jarrett (second left), chairman of the preparatory committee for the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference, speaks with Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade; Gary Hendrickson (right), chairman of Continental Baking Company; and Dr Damien King, executive director of the Caribbean Policy Research Institute, at the Jamaica Diaspora Breakfast Launch of CAPRI’s study on the Value of the Diaspora at Jamaica National (Financial Services), Belmont Road in New Kingston, last Friday.

US remittance tax plan needs adjustment— Earl Jarrett

EARL JARRETT, chief executive officer of The Jamaica National Group, has called on members of the Jamaican Diaspora in the United States of America (USA) to increase their lobbying efforts to change a detrimental new remittance tax proposal.

In April, The Border Wall Funding Act (2017) was introduced in the US Congress, which proposes to impose a two per cent tax on remittance transfers from the USA to certain foreign countries to 'improve border security'.

"There is no reason for Jamaica to be drawn into paying such a tax, given the implications it will have for us," Jarrett declared. "Therefore, as a community, we need to lend our voices to the lobby efforts to ensure that the bill assumes a greater sense of practical reality in its final stage."

Jarrett was addressing members of the Jamaican community in Florida, during the JN Money Service USA Inc. event in Plantation, Florida, on May 27. The remittance company a subsidiary of The Jamaica National Group, was celebrating 20 years of service in that state.

Horace Hines, acting general manager of JN Money Services, explained that the proposed tax on remittances would have unintend-
FOR THE first time, the government of Jamaica is to receive access to empirical data on the contribution of the Diaspora to the country’s development. This was revealed during a Breakfast Conversation, where a new study being undertaken by the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CaPRI) at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, was announced.

In giving an overview of the study, CaPRI Executive Director Dr Damien King indicated that, in the interest of economic growth, Diaspora engagement is very critical going forward.

King noted that two significant areas will be addressed, including accurately estimating what is the current value of economic activity and looking at the potential growth and areas that can be expanded.

“We are seeking to look at accounts in financial institutions, we are going to engage the Companies Office (of Jamaica) which we have started to do already, to get a sense of businesses located in Jamaica, that are owned by Jamaicans living abroad. We have started talking to the (Jamaica) Stock Exchange to see if we can get a value of shares that’s going to give us a sense of the current situation.”

He noted also that while data exists on exports in Jamaica, there is still need to drill down on specific items in order to get a sense of export value coming from the Diaspora.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith commended CaPRI and the Jamaica Diaspora Institute (JDI) for the “joint undertaking of a study that ‘represents a game-changer in how we trade with the Diaspora’.”

The minister, who has responsibility for the Diaspora, said the study will help to fill the gaps as it relates to the involvement of the Diaspora in national development.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

She further stressed the importance for the government to develop policies with elements that will benefit all Jamaicans making up the Diaspora as they are representatives of various levels of social and economic diversity.

Smith expressed gratitude for the Diaspora on behalf of the government, noting what she described as significant contributions made to various sectors including health and education, whether through donations, time, skills or expertise.

“Diaspora donations to the health sector for the period January to May 2017 have amounted to three million and 12,000, and these will help support our efforts to create a healthy and stable population while increasing, of course, the productivity of our workforce,” she said.

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**DIASPORA DAY**

Trevor Alexander, Sr., a prominent Jamaican residing in the USA, died last Sunday, July 16, aged 89.

In an obituary published on July 17, the Jamaica Observer said Mrs. Alexander was noted for her “involvement in spiritual activities in the National Baptist Church, where she maintained a deep faith in God.”

Mrs. Alexander was also described as a “key player in the church’s efforts to provide educational opportunities for children in Jamaica.”

In addition to serving as the Board Secretary, Trevor also served as IPMI’s Treasurer for over 6 years, and in both cases, he discharged his duties with distinction. He will be remembered here at IPMI for his unwavering commitment to Christ and faithfulness to his call as an intercessor.

Applications are invited to fill the position of OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR for our Office in Queens, New York.

• Job responsibilities include a working knowledge of ACCPAC accounting software, general Accounting and Office Management.

• Work experience and educational qualifications, and other relevant information should be addressed to...

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Remittance tax is double taxation on poor — World Bank economists

JODI-ANN GILPIN AND BRING KINGER

Gleaner Writers

Remittance tax is double taxation on poor — World Bank economists

In March, World Bank economists Dilip Ratha, Supriyo De and Annette Hughes, stated that a tax on remittances would amount to double taxation on the poor, and Policy Researchbartships. They also noted that the poor would be taxed when they earn their income, and incur further taxation, when they remit that income overseas.

They also pointed out that, if a tax is implemented, areas such as investment and philanthropy at the small and micro level would be severely affected, because remittance channels are used for small value transfers.

Hines declared that his company would be monitoring the situation, while preparing to lend support to lobbying efforts, to ensure that Jamaican interests are protected.

Remittance figures from the Bank of Jamaica indicate the for the 2015 calendar year, Jamaican in the Diaspora remitted more than US$2.229 billion in remittances, with Jamaicans in the USA accounting for more than 60 per cent of the funds received in the country. Annually And, overall, remittances represent 16.6 per cent of the national GDP.

The World Bank also stated that remittances impact development and welfare. It is an important source of foreign exchange, while providing balance of payment support. Recipients of remittances use the funds to pay utility bills, purchase food, secure medication, facilitate the education of children and pay rent.

Others save, invest, or operate small businesses.
Caribbean American legislator denounces Trump's new policy on Cuba "mishapen"

NEW YORK, CMC

A CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN legislator has described as "mishapen" United States President Donald J. Trump's new policy on Cuba.

"The president's decision to reverse some key elements of the Obama administration's policies on opening up relations with Cuba is not only misguided but resets the relationship with Cuba back to a relationship with resistance," said New York State Assemblyman-elect Edmond "Ed" Bartlett.

Bartlett said that Cuba has "done better by being able to manage, grow and build the eco-system of tourism the way we have been able to manage, grow and build the eco-system of tourism for the Caribbean," he added.

Bartlett added that Cuba has "a dream, and holds firm to it," and he said that Cuba has "a big dream, and holds firm to the principles of self-motivation, dedication and unswerving drive for success, and I applaud him for it ."

At the launch on the streets of Miami, reaction was mixed. "At best, this is a partial victory for those who hoped to reverse the Obama policy of engagement, said Pedro Rodriguez, a Cuban-born, exiled journalist who heads the Miami Herald on Thursday. "But across the Manuel Arturo Theater, where Trump made the announcement, many Cubans said the new policy could end up stifling the small private businesses the president emphatically says he wants to support."

"We are encouraged that the Trump administration wants to help Cuba's private sector," said Robert Linares, a 47-year-old Cuban-American who has lived in Miami since 2009. "And we're delighted that in turn will hurt private businesses that engage in tourism."

"Trump's changes are aimed at shifting flows of travel from Cuba, and that will mean more and better travel for Cubans," he said.

Travel and money sent by Cuban-Americans will be unaffected, but Americans will be unable to spend more money on travel, food, and restaurants tied to the military.

"The prohibition on doing business with Cuba's military conglomerate GAESA controls about 40 percent of hotel rooms in Cuba, the largest fleet of Chinese-made tourism buses, most restaurants, and even the gas stations, and even the ServiCenote where tourists might get a bottle of water."

"Theenson of one of his predecesor's signaturelegacies, Trump on Friday issued new regulations to reverse the Obama administration's policies on opening up relations with Cuba. The new rules to Cuba. The new rules to Cuba.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Bartlett stated.

"The two expected deliverables of the session will be the Montego Bay Outcome Declaration and the publication of the second UNWTO Affiliate Members Global Report on Public-Private Partnerships. This year's World Tourism Day will present a report to the UN General Assembly in 2018 with regards to the activities of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

Bartlett informed that Jamaica added some $300,000 or refurbished hotel rooms in the last 18 months and another 1,000 are currently being constructed. In January, his ministry signed a MoU with Edna Manley College for the Performing Arts to establish the Jamaica National School of Performing Arts. A number of artisanal villages are to be established around the island starting in Paimouth and Ocho Rios. Bartlett was speaking at a press conference at the Jamaican Consulate in New York recently as during the "Caribbean Week" cruise was organized by the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

Tourism in the Caribbean has been identified as a once in a lifetime opportunity," Bartlett stated.

"So, she decided to go back and get her GED and pursue a career in the trade, reported.

"In the Manuel Arturo Theater in Miami, Trump told supporters that he was "canceling completely that bad deal," he continued. "So, she decided to go back and get her GED and pursue a career in the trade, reported.

"As a retired US diplomat, Trump may have been aware of the United States' friendship with Cuba during the Reagan administration, where he said the president emphasized says he wants to support."

"We are encouraged that the Trump administration wants to help Cuba's private sector," said Robert Linares, a 47-year-old Cuban-American who has lived in Miami since 2009. "And we're delighted that in turn will hurt private businesses that engage in tourism."

"Trump's changes are aimed at shifting flows of travel from Cuba, and that will mean more and better travel for Cubans," he said.

Travel and money sent by Cuban-Americans will be unaffected, but Americans will be unable to spend more money on travel, food, and restaurants tied to the military. The prohibition on doing business with Cuba's military conglomerate GAESA controls about 40 percent of hotel rooms in Cuba, the largest fleet of Chinese-made tourism buses, most restaurants, and even the ServiCenote where tourists might get a bottle of water. Theenson of one of his predecesor's signaturelegacies, Trump on Friday issued new regulations to reverse the Obama administration's policies on opening up relations with Cuba. The new rules to Cuba. The new rules to Cuba.
Portia to end political career June 29

Omar Davies to demit office as well

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orm
er Prime Minister
Portia Simpson Miller and
Dr Omar Davies, a senior
figure in past People’s National Party (PNP) administrations, will
at the end of the month step down from representative roles to
designate the country’s top political job

Simpson Miller and Davies will
officially demit office on June 29,
when their letters of resignation will
be handed to the speaker of the
House.

“In accordance with our laws,
such resignations, once handed to
the speaker, become immediately
effective, hence today’s letters of
intent and not resignations,”
Phillip Paulwell, the leader of
opposition business in the Lower
House, stated in a release to the
media.

Simpson Miller, who entered
representational politics in 1974 as
a PNP councillor, was elected
member of parliament (MP) for the
South West St Andrew Constitu-
cy in 1976. She succeeded PJ
Patterson as party leader in 2006.
Later that year, she was elected
prime minister, becoming
Jamaica’s first female leader of
government, an office she held
until September 2007 when the
PNP lost out to the Bruce Golding-
led Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).
Simpson Miller was again hand-
ed the country’s top political job
when the PNP defeated the JLP in
the 2011 general election and she
was returned as prime minister
for a second time, serving from
Davies, the South St Andrew
MP took over the constituency
from Arthur Jones in 1993. He
also held positions as a
minister of transport, works and
housing, and was a former minister
of finance.

“Today, we are wit-
nessing the begin-
ning of a historical
changeing of the
guard, when two
sitting members of
adjacent constituencies shall
simultane-
ously take their bow on June 29,
2017, and so we wish them good
health and strength in their
retirement years,” Paulwell said.

“At a future date, the Parliament
will pay tribute to both members
for their service to the people,
the Parliament, and Jamaica.”

Gov’t urged to press CARICOM on free movement of workers

Jerome Reynolds
Gleaner Writer
NATIONAL SECURITY Minister,
Robert Montague, has told
Parliament that the Government
will be pursuing amendments to
the anti-gang legislation as it
increases tools available to the
police to crack down on criminal
networks.

The Government wants to make
it a criminal offence to be a mem-
ber of a gang or to associate with
gang members.
National Security Minister,
Robert Montague, has told
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the anti-gang legislation as it
increases tools available to the
police to crack down on criminal
networks.

Montague explained that the
amended law would give the
police the power to go to court
and get an order designating a
criminal organisation as a
gang. Following such designation,
the police can also apply for control
orders for members of the gang.
It would also be an offence for
someone to be a member or be affil-
iated with a criminal organisation
that has been designated as a
gang.

The national security minister
noted that gangs are one of the
main factors driving up murders
across the country.
The police have stated that there
are more than 200 gangs
operating in Jamaica.

Montague said the passage of the amendments to the anti-gang
legislation will work in tandem
with the law dealing with zones
of special operations.

Justice Ministry Deputy Chuck
last week indicated that the goal
is to enact the law by the end of
the month.

Under the proposed law, the
prime minister will have the
power to declare any geographi-
cally defined area within a single
continuous boundary a zone of
special operations for up to
two months.
It can be further extended to
190 days.

The legislation would authorise
the security forces to search
places, vehicles or persons within
specific areas without a warrant,
among other things.

Gov’t pursuing changes to anti-gang legislation

Minister of National Security, Robert
Montague.

A PRIME Minister
Portia Simpson Miller and
Dr Omar Davies, a senior
figure in past People’s National Party (PNP) administrations, will
at the end of the month step down from representative roles to
designate the country’s top political job.

The categories have now grown
to 10, but Lisa Grant, the director
of permits in the ministry, said
that most CARICOM states have
not made the changes to their laws
to accommodate the additional five
categories, which comprise teach-
ers, nurses, artisans, domestic
workers, and holders of diplomas
or associate degrees.

“You find that our nationals, if
they have moved, for example, with
a skills certificate as a domestic
worker to, say, a member state
in the region as an extension of stay,”
she said.

“Even when our (Jamaica) laws
were not yet amended, in the spirit
of CARICOM, we, administratively,
allowed the additional five cate-
gories. Unfortunately, we are still
challenged by the fact that other
member states don’t quite see
things the way we see it.”

Grant said that the ministry has
raised the issue with the Kamina
Johnson Smith-led Foreign
Ministry, which has responsibility
for the CSME.

Johan Johnson
Staff Reporter
WEEKS AWAY from the annual
meeting of CARICOM heads, one
Jamaican legislator has made it
clear that the Government here
must insist that its regional coun-
terparts amend their laws to facili-
tate free movement of workers or
threaten them with protectionist
policies.

Last week, officials from the
Ministry of Labour and Social
Security complained to
Parliament’s Public Administration
and Appropriations Committee that
while Jamaica has taken steps to
make it easier for CARICOM
nationals with skills certificates to
work in Jamaica, other countries
are refusing to do so.

Artists, musicians, university
graduates, media workers, medical
and sports persons were the first
groups of persons allowed to use
their regional skills certificate and
work freely to work in another
13 nations that are members of the
CARICOM Single Market and
Economy (CSME).

STATES SLOW TO MAKE CHANGES

The categories have now
grown to 10, but Lisa Grant, the director
department's floor plans! No Qualifying Mortgages Available for Re-sale Homes!

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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

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**LETTERS**

‘Informant’ sends wrong message  
**THE EDITOR, Sir:**  
All I turned to Gleaner Online on June 15, 2017, I was alarmed at one of your headlines ‘Informers wanted’. Even though I consider myself a fairly intelligent person I found it difficult to reconcile the two words. To me it means to inform. I then read the headline was the words, ‘Informers at death’, three ominous words that I have heard quite often in Jamaica and the rest of the world. I can also recall many reports of persons killed because they were considered to be informers. Consequently, I wonder about the wisdom of using such words to make a plea as important as the one that was delivered.

There is no disputing the negative connotation the word ‘informers’ attracts in Jamaica, especially in the areas most plagued by violence and corruption. Therefore, while we should not concede everything to negativity wouldn’t it be better to use a different adjective to express the desire for information from the public?

I call to memory my lectures in media communication, particularly about the power of words and the subsequent necessity to weigh them carefully when communicating to the public. Additionally, it is an undeniable fact that cultural relativism should always be considered in discourses of this nature.

Therefore, while the heading was without doubt a great attention-grabber was it an effective one, bearing in mind the content of the story?

PATRICIA CLARKE  
Claremont PO, St Ann

JLP dumb to reject prison funds  
**THE EDITOR, Sir:**  
THE JAMAICA Labour Party (JLP) Government’s rejection of British financial assistance to build a high-tech prison has now come to haunt the Holness administration.

I was incensed at seeing 21 years at the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre, so I speak with knowledge of why there is urgent need for a new facility. Tower Street is not accommodating of modern technology and an enlightened 21st century culture. Not even the fire truck could come within 50 metres of the prison centre that caught fire at Tower Street last week. The structure in flames and collapsed at any time. If that happens, how many prisoners will perish?

This could open up the Government to many lawsuits, costing it more than the bill for a new prison. The JLP was wrong to reject the British government’s offer to foot 40 per cent of the costs. What a dumb decision! These persons are vandals and cannot plan. They are slaves to politics.  

M.H.  
Rx-convict

Proud of boys’ strides in GSAT  
**THE EDITOR, Sir:**  
CONGRATULATIONS TO all the students who sat this year’s GSAT, and cannot plan. They are slaves to politics.

EVEN LESS than the broader movement itself, the observation of Diaspora Day in Jamaica is not an event that has captured the popular imagination. The authorities haven’t as yet found a way or tried hard enough, to give it any sexual appeal.

It is not surprising, therefore, that last Friday’s annual marking of the day was a little-nodded, low-key affair. It passed without great fanfare. That, though, is not to say nothing important happened on the day. For something did.

Ahead of next month’s biennial Diaspora Conference in Kingston, the agency that promoting and helps to facilitate engagement between Jamaica and its citizens abroad, and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI), announced a study aimed at delivering for the first time empirical data on the value of the Jamaican diaspora and the potential for, according to CAPRI’s executive director, Damien King, bringing together the diaspora economy, and that on the island, for the benefit of both of them”.

This gathering information makes sense is Jamaica is of better in its declared policy of leveraging the wealth and capacities of Jamaicans overseas and countries, including Israel, India, Mexico and China, especially in the earlier days of taking it.

While it is known that Jamaicans abroad send home around US$2.2 billion annually and that most Jamaicans, wherever they live, remain deeply committed to their home country, much of what informs the economic policy towards the diaspora is based on conjecture, perception, anecdotal information, and partial data. We do not have a value of their philanthropy, investments, imports, tourism, or use of other services from the island’s economy, or the potential thereof.

The bottom line: this study will fill a real gap. It, however, creates only the economic relationship between the Jamaican and its external arm, not the deeper political dimensions of the accord.

The latter are among the matters we expect to be on the agenda of next month’s Diaspora Conference, which will take place as Jamaica prepares to mark its 55th anniversary of Independence. The time and occasion give renewed relevance to the position previously advocated by a newspaper that received acceptance by Prime Minister Andrew Holness, when he was in Opposition, but on which he has been relatively silent in Government.

Conceptually, we are part of a Greater Jamaica, a seamless whole between the island and the Jamaican diaspora, wherever it resides. It is a notion beyond the economic and sometimes intellectual engagement of Jamaicans abroad, but also their deep political participation.

**LETTERS**

**EDITORIAL**

Let the Diaspora vote  
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M.H.  
Rx-convict

Proud of boys’ strides in GSAT  
**THE EDITOR, Sir:**  
CONGRATULATIONS TO all the students who sat this year’s GSAT, and those who passed for schools of their choice. To those who didn’t secure a place in a preferred school, I encourage you that this is not the end, but a new beginning.

I know the prime minister; the education ministry and all Jamaicans must feel pleased to see how the nation’s boys performed well. I believe this was a result of the improved work at the early-childhood level, whose benefits have trickled through to the primary schools. Let us all face reality that this was a result of the improved work at the early-childhood level, whose benefits have trickled through to the primary schools.

Another significant move was for the police force to stop the wave of killings in places like Hanover and Clarendon where the areas named have been experiencing alarmingly high murder rate since the start of the year. The commissioner’s feeble attempt must now be seen by everyone as a confirmation that the force is woefully bankrupt when it comes to sophisticated crime-fighting ideas are concerned.

**UNDESIRABLE OUTCOMES**

It truly pains my heart to see person after person in the police force rushing to apply for a job, for which they know they do not possess the requisite creative and innovative competencies that will result in directed outcomes.

The police must stop using the lack of vehicles and other equipment as scapegoats for their failure to solve crime. To begin with, the police must deal with the serious issue of their extremely poor work ethic. Address the constabulary’s inferior productivity.

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**ELECTION CAMPAIGN...**

Under a JLP govt, we’ll reduce crime so you’ll be able to sleep with your doors open!  
**NOW**...  
GULPS Didn’t know this would’ve been so testing...
Have a great week!

Contributed

Jamaica’s Consul General Franz Hall (third left) with the winners of the Grace Jamaica gift basket, Mr and Mrs Julian Smothers (left) at the cultural event on June 10, hosted at the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) to celebrate Caribbean-American Heritage Month and Jamaica’s 55th anniversary of Independence. With them is Marie Vickles (right), associate director of education, School, Outreach and Studio programs (PAMM).

From left: Sandy Hue, Emil Fynn and Archie ‘DJ Archie’ Archambeau, at the 9th Annual DJ Archie’s Toronto Reunion, at Queen Victoria Pub, Scarborough, Toronto, on June 17.

From left: Diana Burke, past president of P.A.C.E. Canada, presents a book to Ruel Reid, minister of Education as book’s author, Itah Sadu, looks on. The occasion was the organisation’s ‘Strawberry Social’ held in Toronto.

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
National business agency on drive to grow local companies
Partners with First Angels network

STEVEN JACKSON
Senior Business Reporter

THE STATE-RUN Jamaica Business Development Centre (JBDC) wants to start churning out 38,100 million companies through its recently launched accelerator programme.

It marks a shift in the agency’s focus from assisting start-up companies in its incubator programme to one which positions them to grow, and comes with a new effort to help them source financing.

In its initial cohort, currently under way, 16 small and medium-size companies are undergoing six months of training with opportunities for market access, financing and mentorship.

The programme, which seeks to turn around fledgling businesses pursued remains largely for entrepreneurial attitudes so they do not think of growing 10 per cent, but rather 10 times over,” she said.

JBDC and First Angels Jamaica investor grouping signed a memorandum of understanding to further the accelerator’s objective. It will see 16 entrepreneurs getting access to pitch their business to these high net worth individuals for funding or access to credentialed distribution channels or hotel markets.

“These companies have the potential to earn over J$100 million in revenues. They are high growth companies,” said Althea West-Myers.

The mentors in the programme include Oliver Townsend of Knutsford Express and Michelle Chong of Honey Bun. Both are founders of fast-growing companies listed on the junior market of the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE). The participants also receive training from academics and business organisations.

JBDC liaises with the another state-run operation, the Jamaica Venture Capital Programme of the Development Bank of Jamaica, on its initiative. It formally launched the accelerator programme in March after starting last November.

West-Myers explained that the accelerator forms part of JBDC’s mandate to support the growth and training of micro and small businesses.

The JBDC initiative comes with how others offering similar services are thinking. Earlier this month, the Branson Centre of Entrepreneurship launched its own accelerator programme with access to a team of equity investors led by Proven Investments, with the support of PanJam Investment, GraceKennedy, NCB Capital Markets, Norbrook Capital, along with two or three private individuals.

“We are not duplicating other accelerator programmes. The space is large enough for everyone. We are doing our mandate,” West-Myers said.

Ideally, JBDC wants to sign up 20 participants every six months for its programme. Businesses apply online and are filtered by the corporation.

The programme will cost JBDC roughly J$5 million every six months, said West-Myers, but participants pay nothing.

The JBDC will evaluate participants up to two years after the programme to measures sales, employment growth and other metrics.

Critically, JBDC offers incubator start-up services along with its business monitoring programme, which seeks to turn around fledgling businesses. The company argues that its monitoring programme has been effective in achieving significant scaling of enterprises since its formal inception just over two years ago, but that it needed to expand to offer services to addresses at other tiers of development.

International studies such as the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor have ranked Jamaica as the fourth most entrepreneurial nation in the world. However the quality of businesses pursued remains largely for sustenance rather than wealth creation. That’s something, JBDC wants to change.

“Big things are going to happen,” West-Myers said.

OPPOSITION CRITICISES GOV’T DECISION TO GRANT US RUSSAL WAIVER

DESPITE DRASTIC improvements in conditions for profit making such as declining oil prices, Jamaica has granted a full bauxite levy waiver to Windalco, a decision one opposition parliamentarian has labelled “scandalous”.

But the Government is maintaining that it was either that concession or a flirtation with the risk of plant closure and job losses.

The disclosure was made last week in the House of Representatives in answers to questions from academics and business organisations.

The participants pay nothing.

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PHILIP PAULWEIL: SHOCKED

Paulweil expressed shock after reading the concession agreement that the Government signed last July with UC Rusal, the Russian company that operates Windalco, which comprises two plants in Ewarton and Kirkvine.

In 2013, in the face of rising oil costs and falling prices for metal, the then Portia Simpson Miller administration entered into an agreement with UC Rusal that saw a waiver of the bauxite levy for 2013-2014. The agreement would cease, however, if the price of oil fell below US$84.40 for three consecutive months and if there were improvements in the London Metal Exchange Price (LME) for aluminium.

An extension deal was signed in 2014 but with improved conditions. There was only a waiver of 50 per cent off the levy. The so-called Further Bauxite Levy Concession Agreement expired in March 2016. In July, it was extended to March 2018, but this time amended to give a full bauxite waiver even though the price of oil fell dramatically and the London Metal Exchange Price improved.

In 2013 when the deal was first struck, oil was costing over US$89 per barrel. In July last year, it was less than US$40.

“The question that arises and I believe the question that Philip Paulweil is seeking to get is on what basis did the minister and the Government make the judgement that full relief should be given to the levy at a time when the profit conditions for operations were at the best they have been for many, many years?” asked Dr Peter Phillips, opposition leader regarding the Government granting a full bauxite levy waiver to UC Rusal, operators of Windalco.

“It’s very simple,” mining minister Mike Henry replied during the Exchange in Parliament. “They (UC Rusal) wouldn’t buy our deal unless this agreement was entered into. And we have not got from them the expansion process that relates to both plants (Ewarton and Kirkvine).

“They were faced pressure from the Opposition, his colleague Cabinet ministers Karl Samuda and Edmund Bartlett came to his assistance, insisting that Jamaica had no option but to take the deal to save jobs.

Althea West-Myers
PROMISES OF automated teller machines, ATMs, to Jamaica’s banks will be rolling out additional anti-fraud software to further increase the defence against fraudsters who have also stepped up their game in installing deep-insert skimmers at the banking outlets.

The Jamaican Banks Association (JBA) indicates that fraudsters are changing tactics and returning to enticing sales personnel, cashiers and other point-of-sale users to skim the cards of unsuspecting customers. Speaker for the JBA anti-fraud committee, Lloyd Parchment, told Gleaner Business that fraud at ATMs is generally on the decline but there was definitely an upwelling about a month or two ago before the banks took measures to curtail the practice.

Collectively, we are satisfied that the individual members are moving in the right direction except that some are further along than others,” he said.

Parchment agrees that fraudsters are getting more sophisticated and that we play one loophole so they can find another”, forcing them to attack the problem, proactively.

“We in Jamaica in the banking sector try to monitor what is happening out there in the ATMs, especially Europe and America where we know that whatever is happening out there inevitably gets here,” he said.

In late 2016, Jamaican bankers became aware of itinerant Chinese fraudsters who brought technology with them. Those devices were acquired by local fraudsters, who used them to defraud ABM customers.

PREVIOUS BREACH

The banks retrofitted their machines, but then a set of Romanian fraudsters turned up with a different device which circumvented what the institutions had done to fix the previous breach.

“So now that we are facing the breach that the Romanians created, who knows what next?” said Parchment, who noted, however, that the banks were on the alert.

In a statement last week, the JBA said its “banks are grips with the harsh reality of fraud on a regular basis and are forced to act fast in finding solutions,” he said.

Parchment agrees that fraudsters are getting more sophisticated, so as we plug one loophole they have already spent hundreds of millions of dollars on training and semi- nars, anti-fraud investigators, monitoring and analysing tools, and rolling out additional anti-fraud software and services.

However, “recently, the fraudsters have stepped up their game and have attempted – and at times succeeded – in installing deep-insert skimmers, which, to the trained and untrained eye, are difficult to do without being noticed,” he said.

As a result, members of the JBA, which control more than 90 per cent of the country’s ATM network locally, have installed various anti-fraud devices such as card protection solutions and card protection projects, which are either completed or nearing completion for most banks.

“Our initiatives have reap the great rewards as attempts by fraudsters to install unauthorised hardware in the vestibules – keypad overlays, card readers, door skimmers, pin-hole cameras, etc, are being detected,” the JBA said.

The current worry is skimming devices that use such as skimming the card’s magnetic strip. "Additionally, some collusion merchants are allowing fraudsters to utilily a compromised card’s magnetic strip to buy and sell inordinate sums of money,” said the JBA.

Spanish investors bullish on Jamaica

PAUL CLARKE
Gleaner Writer

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In a statement last week, the JBA said its “banks are grips with the harsh reality of fraud on a regular basis and are forced to act fast in finding solutions,” he said.

Parchment agrees that fraudsters are getting more sophisticated, so as we plug one loophole they have already spent hundreds of millions of dollars on training and semi- nars, anti-fraud investigators, monitoring and analysing tools, and rolling out additional anti-fraud software and services.

However, “recently, the fraudsters have stepped up their game and have attempted – and at times succeeded – in installing deep-insert skimmers, which, to the trained and untrained eye, are difficult to do without being noticed,” he said.

As a result, members of the JBA, which control more than 90 per cent of the country’s ATM network locally, have installed various anti-fraud devices such as card protection solutions and card protection projects, which are either completed or nearing completion for most banks.

“Our initiatives have reap the great rewards as attempts by fraudsters to install unauthorised hardware in the vestibules – keypad overlays, card readers, door skimmers, pin-hole cameras, etc, are being detected,” the JBA said.

The current worry is skimming devices that use such as skimming the card’s magnetic strip. "Additionally, some collusion merchants are allowing fraudsters to utilily a compromised card’s magnetic strip to buy and sell inordinate sums of money,” said the JBA.

Spanish investors bullish on Jamaica

Paul Clarke
Gleaner Writer

"Collectively, we are satisfied that the individual members are moving in the right direction except that some are further along than others,” he said.

Parchment agrees that fraudsters are getting more sophisticated and that we play one loophole so they can find another”, forcing them to attack the problem, proactively.

“We in Jamaica in the banking sector try to monitor what is happening out there in the ATMs, especially Europe and America where we know that whatever is happening out there inevitably gets here,” he said.

In late 2016, Jamaican bankers became aware of itinerant Chinese fraudsters who brought technology with them. Those devices were acquired by local fraudsters, who used them to defraud ABM customers.

PREVIOUS BREACH

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Documentary to celebrate Miss Lou to be released next year

BY NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

JAMAICA'S CULTURAL ambassador, Louise Bennett Coverley, will be celebrated in a new documentary made here in Canada, and also in the naming of a park in her home-town of Gordon Town, St Andrew.

Recently several artists and Jamaican Canadians gathered in Mississauga, Ontario for the taping of a teaser for the documentary, Miss Lou Say So! that is expected to be released in 2018. The teaser should be ready by July.

This documentary is the brain-child of Fabian Coverley and Pamela Appelt, co-executors of Louise Bennett Coverley Estate.

“We, Coverley Holdings Inc (CHI) & International Agencies Management Inc (IAM) (Is Anancy Mek It) have been charged with the mission to maintain the legacy and memories of Eric & Louise Bennett Coverley alive,” says Coverley.

“One of the ways to accomplish this mandate which is an achievable, doable, meaningful task, to preserve, our culture, heritage, and folklore, we have joined forces with individuals, that are as passionate an subject, as we are to undertake a video documentary in a professional, successful presentation, that will be educational, entertaining and beneficial to our culture and heritage.”

REACQUAINTED WITH CULTURE

The past gives a reflection of the future. You have to know where you have been to lay the foundation for the future, says the creators of the project. CHIAMI, Anansi Moving Images Inc, Act from the Heart and GNM Genesis are in the process of developing the full length video/documentary.

The production team includes: Clayton Coverley; Ian Paripaharson of Anansi Moving Images Inc, Susanne Coy of Act from the Heart; Nadine Miller of GNM Genesis, and Dayan Robinson.

With the advancement in technology, social media, and generations, we are obliged to advance the knowledge and techniques available to us to educate the young; mature and elderly; together, says the team.

Preliminary short interviews were shot during the week of June 4 to 10 for the Miss Lou Say So! trailer.

“Something of this undertaking is not done alone, but with some passionate people involved. As you know and have realised, Miss Lou is bigger than any one individual,” says Fabian.

He said they are guided by Pamela Appelt who has been “talinawah” to him and his family from inception.

The teaser, which will be used to promote the full length video/documentary, will be no more than 120 – 180 seconds long.

The documentary is expected to be 60 – 90 minutes long.

The teaser involved persons singing a line from one of Miss Lou’s legendary songs, Long Time Gal Mi Neva See You.

From left: Grace Lyons, founder and musical director of the Heritage Singers; Pamela Appelt, co-executor of the Louise Bennett Coverley Estate, Fabian Coverley, co-executor of the Louise Bennett Coverley Estate; and storyteller, Letna ‘Miss Letna’ Allen-Rose.

The creators also announced that the documentary will involve in-depth interviews on culture, heritage, impact and Miss Lou, should be released in the summer of 2018.

The creators will also be travelling to Gordon Town, Jamaica; Port Lauderdale and West Palm, Florida; and New York City to shoot footage.

The plan is to have Usain Bolt, Ziggy Marley, Grace Jones, Sharry Lee Ralph and Mutabaruka voice-overs animated retellings of Miss Lou’s Anansi stories.

It will also involve internationally renowned artists singing snippets of Miss Lou’s folk songs, interviews of people who know her and studied her work, and performances.

Meanwhile, as a legacy project to celebrate Jamaica’s 55th anniversary of Independence, the government of Jamaica has endorsed an initiative from the Jamaica 55 Canada steering committee which is chaired by Appelt.

Speaking at the 30th anniversary of P.A.C.E. Canada’s Strawberry Social in Toronto on June 4, Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange, Jamaica’s minister of culture, gender, entertainment and sport, announced that in partnership with the committee there would be a park named in honour of Miss Lou.

She said York University will be hosting a lecture series for Jamaica 55 and she hopes the Jamaica’s education minister, Senator Ruel Reid, will be one of the presenters.

For Jamaica 50, the legacy projects here were the publication, Jamaicans in Canada: When Aces Meet Codfish and the Lifelong Leadership Institute where from Grade 8 students are assisted till university.

Stephen Hill with Antonette Gordon-Hessing, customer care manager of Mercedes-Benz in Rockville Centre.

Stephen Hill receives Trailblazer Award

THE CARIBBEAN International Network (CIN), CEO, Stephen Hill, received the Trailblazer Award at this year’s Business Innovators and Game-Changers (B I G) Awards Gala. The event was held at the Mirelle’s Restaurant in Westbury, New York.

Hill was awarded for his accomplishments in business and his service in the Caribbean community through CIN for the past 25 years.

Hill, in his acceptance speech paid tribute to the late Horace Burrell, former President of the Jamaica Football Federation, whom he stated will go down in history for his great role in taking the Reggae Boyz to the 1998 World Cup in France.

He further commented on the contribution and strength of the Diaspora especially to the economic wellbeing of Jamaica as each year they send over US$2 billion in remittances, return to Jamaica in large numbers making up 12 per cent in visitor arrivals.

Hill encouraged the Jamaican Diaspora to participate in the political process by having three representatives nominated in the senate: two from the government and one from the opposition.

He said it can lead to a better government if we start lobbying seriously to achieve this objective.
Sefton Jackson follows his dreams

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

SEFTON JACKSON has never strayed from wanting to be an actor. From his early days growing up in Jamaica, Jackson would imitate his uncle’s elaborate way of shaving his beard and quickly his gift for performing became known to his family. He does not come from a line of actors, but says of his grandfather who is a pastor, “he’s a wonderful performer, his voice, the way he can draw you in” and of his mother, “my mom is the most dramatic person I have ever met in my life.” His pre-school teacher in Jamaica also recognizing Jackson’s gift for performing, nurtured that gift by always including him in classroom skits.

Jackson came to Canada when he was nine years old. While in grade eight he watched the performance of Oliver put on by East Northumberland Secondary School in Brighton, Ontario and knew then that acting was going to be his profession.

His High School drama teacher had to create a drama course just for him because he was so keen, then he went on to pursue a degree in Theatre Performance at Humber College.

Jackson has been in a slew of productions since graduating and can be seen in his next production, world premiere, Morro & Jasp in Stupefaction, running June 14-24, 2017 at Streetcar Crowsnest in the Guloien Theatre, 345 Carlaw Avenue in Toronto.

Ticket cost ranges from CAD$25-$40, contact crowsnesttheatre.com.

Morro & Jasp in Stupefaction “bewildered by the state of the world ... are in search of meaning as they interpret a series of bizarre encounters with mysterious strangers as signs from the divine. They attempt to craft the rules of a new belief system, but have conflicting ideas of what or who they are worshipping. This turns clown against clown and forces the sisters to ask: What does it all mean?” And for the first time Morro and Jasp will share the stage with other cast members: Anand Rajaram, Elliot Loran and Sefton Jackson.

Jackson plays the role of the Technician. “We are not clowns. Morro and Jasp –– they are clowns – but, we are not. But we don't – the Technician, the Usher and the Delivery Guy – we don’t address that because to us, they’re people. They just are and we are and everything just is.” explains Jackson, not wanting to give too much away.

SIMILAR

The Technician is similar to Morro with the same kind of active and mischievous spirit, the Usher is more like Jasp, where everything has to be organised and rules followed and the Delivery Guy is a balance between the four of them. “Together we figure something out about ourselves, about life, about the great unknown beyond,” explains Jackson, “We wouldn’t exist without Morro and Jasp.” Intrigued yet?

Morro & Jasp in Stupefaction is sounding reminiscent of Samuel Beckett’s, Waiting for Godot, tragicomedy that premiered in Paris, France in 1953. While characters Vladimir and Estragon wait for the arrival of Godot they engage in conversations and encounter three other characters.

Jackson’s longest running acting gig is his bartending job at Lone Star restaurant. He has this job so he can make ends meet (pay the bills). His ultimate dream is to have the means to build the company, Kadozuke Kollektif that he and seven others founded after graduating from college. This would allow Jackson to sustain himself and his wife, Tash, who are celebrating their one year anniversary.

“Morro and Jasp – they are clowns – but, we are not. But we don’t – the Technician, the Usher and the Delivery Guy – we don’t address that because to us, they’re people. They just are and we are and everything just is.”

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

Sefton Jackson
DEVELOPER EDWIN Azan is moving ahead with a new commercial complex which will rest on the old cholera grounds at the intersection of Waterloo Road and West Kings House Road in Kingston.

Hugo Matthews of Virtuoso Architects said that ground will be broken on the project in July and that construction will last around 12 months. “It’s a retail outlet,” he said, adding that space will be there for offices as well.

The proposed development is for a two-storey commercial building to house a restaurant, bistro dining, pharmacy supermarket, as well as office space.

Matthews said he could give no additional information at this time and that the investor behind the new complex wished to remain private. However, The Gleaner was otherwise informed that the developer is Richard Edward Azan, one of a group responsible for the transformation of Montego Bay to its south.

Eddie Azan, Fredrik and Damien Moe, and Mark Kerr-Jarrett are said to have pioneered the development of Fairview, expanding the city’s commerce towards Rogue.

The Waterloo-West Kings House site in Kingston was earlier the focus of controversy as the privately owned land is where victims of an 1860 cholera outbreak were buried.

However, approvals were eventually delivered by the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation, the National Environment and Planning Agency, and the Ministry of Health. As reported by state news agency JIS in December 2016, the health ministry’s chief medical officer, Dr Winston De La Haye, said extensive research on medical grounds had established that there is no reason for concern.

JP moving house to Kingston waterfront

NEVILLE GRAHAM
Business Reporter

JAMAICA PRODUCERS Group (JP) is pulling out of New Kingston, where its corporate headquarters has resided for more than three decades, and will be setting up operations near the wharf on the Kingston waterfront.

The move, planned for October 1, follows the sale of its current headquarters, Producers House at 6 Oxford Road, nearly two years ago. The conglomerate had continued to operate from that base, under lease, although some areas of the company had been shifted to its complex at Retirement Road in the capital. “I wanted all of our people to be in or around the locations where we operate,” said Jamaica Producers CEO Jeffrey Hall on Friday, June 16 noting that the logistics and food conglomerate is investing where it sees the best potential for growth. Hall said JP and its port subsidiary, Kingston Wharves Limited, together operate some 80 acres of land in the city of Kingston.

CLEAR TREND

“Where we’re putting in our money is in the waterfront and midtown,” Hall said. “We see ourselves joining a number of good companies who’ve decided to participate in the development of the waterfront. For us, the logic is good and the trend is clear,” he added.

The new owner of the New Kingston building, JN Group, is expected to set up offices at Producers House, but the company said it could not comment on its plans before Monday.

JP has signed an agreement with Jamaica Producers in August last year, under which SAJPL would build JP a new headquarters at its Newport West complex.

Jamaica Producers owns 20 per cent of SAJPL; Kingston Wharves owns 10 per cent of SAJPL; and Jamaica Producers owns 42 per cent of Kingston Wharves. In its last annual report, JP booked 30 per cent of SAJPL’s earnings.

As for the company’s Retirement Road operations, Hall said Jamaica Producers is about to invest $311 million on the build out of office space and refrigeration. It follows $188.2 million of expenditure on a plant for the company’s rum cake business, Tortuga International, which relocated from Montego Bay to the Retirement complex.

Work has begun at the old cholera cemetery located on West Kings House Road in St Andrew.
Kingston
Ja hosts regional environmental conference

KINGSTON WILL be the venue for the June 28-30 Caribbean meeting of Sustainable Development Goals which is being hosted by the Jamaican Government in collaboration with the United Nations and the University of the West Indies. Delegates will target advancing regional action in the areas such as: resources mobilisation, civil society participation, and capacity building with the long term objective of achieving the UN-backed objective of sustainable goals including the elimination of poverty, hunger, improving health and education and combating climate change.

Islandwide
National system to monitor progress of court cases

THE JUSTICE sector has implemented a Court Information System (CIBS) in parish courts islandwide in order to speed up the processing of court cases. The system allows for the tracking of matters as they move through the court system from initiation to disposition, which will result in faster determination of when a case falls into backlog. According to a JIS release, Statistics and Data Capture Consultant, Dr. Denardo Dennis, said CIBS provides a mechanism which captures data at each stage of a case.

“The system would, for example, capture date of initiation, next date of hearing, reasons for adjournment, number of times the matter is mentioned, if a matter goes to trial and the dates that are set for trial,” he explained.

New trucks for Jamaica Fire Brigade

The Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) is to receive two new fire trucks, valued at US$1.15 million, from the Government of Japan.

Prime Minister (Dr. Keith) Rowley on the removal of Luis Almagro as Secretary General of the OAS.

New Islandwide Schools to get J$1 billion in budgetary support

A bulletien issued by the Ministry states that all schools at the infant and primary levels will receive J$2,500 per student, up from an average of J$860. All-age and junior high schools will get J$19,000 per student, up from J$1,100. Schools will also continue to receive a maintenance grant of J$850,000 and a junior high school grant of J$172,000 per school.

Cuba
Cuba rejects new US policy, saying pressure won't work

HAVANA (AP): Cuba’s foreign minister has rejected President Donald Trump’s new policy toward the island, saying “we will never negotiate under pressure or under threat” and refusing to return U.S. fugitives who have received asylum in Cuba.

In a hard-edged response to the policy, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said from Vienna Monday that Trump’s restrictions on transactions with the Cuban military would not achieve their objective of weakening the government. He said they would instead create unity behind the communist leadership.

He described fugitives such as Joanne Chesimard, a former militant convicted of the murder of a New Jersey state trooper, as political refugees who had received asylum from the Cuban government and would not be returned because the U.S. has no “legal or moral basis” to demand their return.

People eating ice cream in front of the Capitolio in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, June 17, 2017. United States President Donald Trump declared he was restoring some travel and economic restrictions on Cuba that were lifted as part of the Obama administration’s historic easing.

AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa

CARICOM urges to ‘stand firm’ on position with Venezuela

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, (CMC):

The leader of a small opposition party here has called on all member states within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to “stand firm” at the meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) that was held in Washington.

In a statement, leader of the Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) David Abdulah said that “we are politically and strategically isolating Venezuela from the United States, to pass a Resolution condemning Venezuela”.

He noted that since then there has been “almost unprecedented pressure being applied by the United States on Caribbean countries to abandon their principled position of ‘non-interference in the internal affairs of a state’ and respect for the ‘sovereignty’ of all nation states, be they large or small.”

“These principles are the internationally recognised and accepted norms of international relations, but are often violated by large, powerful states in their own self-interest. In this regard, the position taken by Prime Minister (Dr. Keith) Rowley on the removal of Luis Almagro as Secretary General of the OAS was absolutely the correct one.”

Abdulah, who leads the small opposition party, said in the past week, a senior official from the US State Department Francisco Palmieri, who is Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemispheric Affairs, visited the twin island republic in an open effort to try to get the “Trinidad and Tobago government to change its position on Venezuela.”

Against this background, Abdulah said Monday’s meeting will be extremely crucial.

“CARICOM governments must not be bullied, coerced or bought by offers of aid etc., to alter their principled position. The MSJ calls on all CARICOM governments to firstly, stand united in the OAS forum, and secondly, to insist that the OAS adopt a position that seeks to have dialogue between the Government and Opposition in Venezuela towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict within the context of the Venezuelan Constitution, respect for its institutions, and the ‘respect for the non-interference’ in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.”

Last month St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves cautioned CARICOM to refrain from allowing a small group of powerful nations to “try to drive a wedge in the power” of the 15 member regional group on the OAS issue.

Gonsalves, in a three page letter to CARICOM leaders warned that “the wedge is being driven through CARICOM over a plan for ‘regime change’ in Venezuela and the group of powerful nations in the Organisation of American States (OAS) has an ‘agenda of naked self-interest’.”
1.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2017, the number of available rooms increased by 4.5 per cent increase when compared to the same period last year.

Some 10 million cruise passengers set foot on Caribbean shores, representing a 4.5 per cent increase in the first three months. Arrivals by cruise trips also registered significant increase in the first quarter of this year, regional destinations received 8.7 million visitors, that is, 150-thousand more tourists than in the same period last year.

Of the remaining sub-regions, the French Caribbean was the only other to record an increase in international arrivals. Tours for the region last year, regional destinations received 8.7 million visitors, that is, 150-thousand more tourists than in the same period last year, amounting to 2.9 per cent and the United States by 1.3 per cent.

Arrivals by cruise trips also registered significant increases in the first three months. Some 10 million cruise passengers set foot on Caribbean shores, representing a 4.5 per cent increase when compared to the same period last year.

However, after an uncharacteristically weak performance in 2016, the Canadian market rebounded in 2017 to post the highest growth rate of 4.8 per cent in the first quarter. Europe was up 2.9 per cent and the United States by 1.3 per cent.

The C'bean Travel Expo held in the Wyndham New Yorker Hotel in NYC
Study permit refused

Deidre S. Powell

Canada

Dear Mrs. Walker-Huntington,

I went to apply for a visa for my daughter and I and was told I had one. I gave the consular officer the passport and was asked about my job. The officer didn’t understand and she stamped something in my book and said “oh my.” I was then given a pink paper and told I would be contacted in seven days. Everything I was told was wrong. I immediately went to the U.S. Embassy to collect the passports at DHL. When I received the passports my visa was cancelled without prejudice. I am a Jamaican as to why my visa was cancelled because I have never overstayed at any time in the United States. I just need some info on this please.

N.C.

A non-immigrant United States visa belongs to the United States and it can be cancelled at any time, for any reason. When you apply for a non-immigrant visa, the consular officer makes a subjective decision during the interview based on your application and any questions you may have answered or documents you provided to either grant or deny the visa on the spot. Sometimes when the visa is granted during the interview and your passport is taken, the Embassy will conduct administrative checks. The checks can include verification of information provided on the application, during the interview and the supporting documents you provided. At times during those checks information that was provided to the Embassy cannot be verified or is shown to be the opposite. At that point, the embassy can ask for clarification or deny the visa. In some extreme cases, if the information provided is fraudulent and a crime has been committed, the Jamaican police can be contacted to pursue criminal charges against the applicant.

Did you overstay? You indicated that you never over-stayed your visa and that says to me that you believe that is the only reason your visa could be cancelled. Many persons after travelling to the United States receive a duration of stay stamp in their passports that says stay is authorized for six months. However, it does not mean that you should stay right up until that stay expires. Whenever you stay beyond a few weeks, you can generate questions about the purpose of your stay. Persons stay one, two, three, four or five months and proclaim that they have not overstayed their visas, therefore, they should be fine. The reality is that sometimes after one extended stay, the visa is cancelled on a subsequent trip, or in your case in applying for a visa for their child, the visa is revoked. Other persons will tell you that they “do it” all the time, i.e., come to the United States and spend extended periods and keep travelling. At any point during a subsequent trip or at the renewal of their visa, they can be denied entry.

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington, Esq is a Jamaican-American attorney who practices immigration law in the United States and family, criminal & personal Injury Law in Florida. She is a mediator, arbitrator and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida. info@walkerhuntington.com.

Why was my visa cancelled?

Dahlia Walker-Huntington

United States

I applied to the Canadian embassy here in Jamaica for a study permit and it was refused. I have a daughter living there and I could work with her part-time. I presented to the Embassy. Everything I was told was wrong. I immediately went to the U.S. Embassy to collect the passports at DHL. When I received the passports my visa was cancelled without prejudice. I am a Jamaican as to why my visa was cancelled because I have never overstayed at any time in the United States.

A.H.

In the case of an individual applying for a study permit, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) examines the information that you provide to evaluate your eligibility. They examine factors such as whether or not you have the resources to cover the expenses of studying in Canada, if you will return to your home country after the completion of your studies. It is important to note that there are certain factors that are not considered in your application process. These include information that was provided to the Embassy or other factors, to decide whether or not to grant you a study permit.

When you apply for a non-immigrant visa, the consular officer makes a subjective decision during the interview based on your application and any questions you may have answered or documents you provided. If you are not able to provide supporting evidence that there are no doubts that you qualify for a study permit. Based on the information that you provided, it would appear that you do not have a reason to believe that you are unable to return to Jamaica as indicated that your daughter is living in Canada and has a business there. If your genuine reason is to study and not just to work with your daughter, you have to present strong evidence of your ties to Jamaica.

Some of the questions you should be prepared to answer in your submission letter will be outlined below: Do you have other children in Jamaica? You should include copies of their birth certificate. Other proof of ties to Jamaica could include evidence of a stable relationship such as a spouse or common-law partner. If you are married, you should include your marriage certificate. Other proof of ties to Jamaica could include evidence of a stable relationship such as a spouse or common-law partner. If you are married, you should include your marriage certificate. Other proof of ties to Jamaica could include evidence of a stable relationship such as a spouse or common-law partner. If you are married, you should include your marriage certificate. Other proof of ties to Jamaica.

How will your studies improve your employability opportunities in Jamaica? Are you currently working in Jamaica? If you are doing a leave of absence to pursue this study, will this result in a promotion? Are you pursuing studies to open your own business in Jamaica later on? Do you have a business plan for that business? If the course is being offered in Jamaica, why are you travelling to the United States? Do you have sufficient resources to cover the tuition fee and living expenses for the duration of the course? If your fees will be paid by someone else, you will need to submit a letter from that person along with that person’s bank statement and any other proof that you and the person can afford the tuition and living expenses.

Do you have a criminal record? A non-immigrant United States visa belongs to the United States and it can be cancelled at any time, for any reason. When you apply for a non-immigrant visa, the consular officer makes a subjective decision during the interview based on your application and any questions you may have answered or documents you provided to either grant or deny the visa on the spot. Sometimes when the visa is granted during the interview and your passport is taken, the Embassy will conduct administrative checks. The checks can include verification of information provided on the application, during the interview and the supporting documents you provided. At times during those checks information that was provided to the Embassy cannot be verified or is shown to be the opposite. At that point, the embassy can ask for clarification or deny the visa. In some extreme cases, if the information provided is fraudulent and a crime has been committed, the Jamaican police can be contacted to pursue criminal charges against the applicant.

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OECS countries discuss Citizenship by Investment Programme

CASTRIES, St Lucia, CMC

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet says a shared intelligence system will streamline the due diligence process in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) as representatives of the sub-region met here to discuss the controversial Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP). If an applicant applies in St Lucia and is rejected, mechanisms must be in place to ensure that this person does not surface elsewhere in the region as a citizen through another CIP. Prime Minister Chastanet said.

Under the CIP, foreign investors are provided with citizenship of the island if they make a substantial investment towards the socio-economic development of the country.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis and St Lucia are the sub-regional countries involved in the CIP that has come under heavy scrutiny in recent months. A statement issued following the meeting noted that the maintenance of international credibility and integrity for the region’s Citizenship by Investment Programmes was outlined as a priority.

The meeting also reviewed and proposed amendments to a Policy & Procedures Manual prepared by the Trinidad-based CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMACS). The statement indicated that feedback from elsewhere in the region as a citizen through another CIP. Prime Minister Chastanet said.

When the weak and vulnerable are able to successfully engage on playing fields like these, every effort is made by the strong and powerful to change the rules of the game.

“Only chance of winning is to make the integrity of these programmes unanswerable,” he added.
RESIDENTS of communities like Bucknor, Western Park, Pleasant Valley, Palmer’s Cross and other areas recently enjoyed the free services of a medical team from the United States at the Kids Campus Outreach Foundation on Manchester Avenue in Clarendon.

The outreach – a joint effort between the foundation and its hosts, pastor Ann Marie Richards and Pamela Stephenson of Jamaica Awareness Association of California – saw more than 150 patients, including children, being attended to.

The team comprised medical doctors, dentists, paediatricians, surgeons and a nutritionist.

Stephenson said it was the first time the mission had been to Clarendon, as they mainly focused on St Mary and Portland.

“Our interest was aroused after listening to a heartfelt appeal from Richards as she spoke about what she was doing. That’s when we made the decision that we would be involved,” shared Stephenson.

Stephenson, who has been involved with the Jamaica Awareness Association of California for the past 18 years, said her motivation to keep going is derived from the utter satisfaction she gets from the results of going into the deep rural communities of the island.

She also had nothing but praise for the dedicated members of her team who are from various states in America, and with the dental team coming from the Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Richards, who is fondly referred to in the area as ‘mother of over 32’, has seen her foundation positively impact many lives in the parish.

“It was a real opportunity to partner with persons who have the same vision. They have the passion for trying to help Jamaicans that need it [the services],” she said.

The patients who benefited from the services were gathered with the help of the Clarendon Parish Development Committee, who went into the various areas to mobilise those who needed the help.

Seeing the great need, Richards said it hurts that she cannot afford to give ‘round the clock’ medical services to the sick, free of cost.

“My dream is to create a space that is not just a one-day help. I am looking to team up with people who have the same passion,” she said, adding that the hope is to have a team available at least 12 times for the year. “We can change lives,” she said.
GraceKennedy to host ‘Birthright’ interns

GraceKennedy (USA) or GraceKennedy Limited will host four university students from the diaspora for a month-long professional and cultural internship that is designed to immerse them in the Jamaican culture. Tianna Thomas of Brock University in Canada, Menelik Graham from Princeton University in the US, Matthew Robinson of Georgetown University, US, and Cleveland Douglas of the UK-based Imperial College will be hosted by GraceKennedy in Jamaica from July 5 to August 7.

GraceKennedy partners with public and private-sector entities to give the interns a taste of Jamaica and, for the first time, Caribbean Airlines will be on board as a sponsor. “A big part of the success is the support we receive from our partners. We are excited to announce that Caribbean Airlines has agreed to come on board this year as the official airline partner. This will ensure that our Birthright interns start their cultural immersion from the minute they board the flight,” said Caroline Mahfood, executive director of the GraceKennedy Foundation. “GraceKennedy is committed to anchoring the roots of Jamaican heritage.

“With the support of our partners, we believe these young people will come to realize an appreciation for their heritage and their contribution to the world,” Mahfood added. The GraceKennedy Jamaica Birthright Programme is a cultural and professional internship designed to connect second- and third-generation Jamaican university students living in the USA, Canada, and the UK with their Jamaican heritage.

“Caribbean Airlines is in the business of connecting people, and we are pleased to partner with GraceKennedy on this internship program, which will promote positive business acumen, as well as foster a sense of homecoming for the university students,” stated Dionne Liguore, Caribbean Airlines’ head of corporate communications.

Yowronto music fest for Toronto, July 1-2

FRESHKUT PRODUCTIONS Inc presents Yowronto, an international musical extravaganza, in time for Canada’s 150th year anniversary. This two-day musical event takes place at the Woodbine Mall on Saturday July 1 and Sunday July 2.

The fest opens both days from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm at Woodbine Mall, and invites Canadians of all backgrounds to share in the food, fun, rhythm and good vibes that ‘the best of the heterogeneous Caribbean and Black Identity has to offer’, organizers say:

“We have joined the groups of people who are trying to positively project Caribbean culture onto people of every class, color and race,” says Karl Haughton, Director of FreshKut Productions Inc. Yowronto features Reggae, R&B and Gospel musical legends like Alison Hinds, Baby Cham, Romain Virgo, Lieutenant Bitchie, Eric Donaldson, Professor Nuts and Tessanne Chin and up and coming stars like the JUNO award winning Korexion.

The festival will also feature other artists including Michie Mee, Jay Harmony, Carles Morgan, Rashed, Kim Davis, Annette Evans, Captain Love and Jimmy Reid. Vendors will showcase cultural arts & crafts along with a tasty variety of Caribbean foods and delicacies to savour, while patrons of different ages will also be treated.

A family village/children zone with arts & crafts available for children. For adults, it features a beer garden and a VIP Lounge provided by Belleeny’s Martini Resto-Lounge. The festival is sponsored by Flow Top Up, C&W Liberty Global.

www.jamaica-gleaner.com

EVENTS

GrACEKENE

FREDKU

TICKETS

GRACEKEN

G

Tianna Thomas

Matthew Robinson

Menelik Graham

Cleveland Douglas

Contributed Photos

Canada

june 6:12:30 p.m. at The Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. A reception follows at the Council Chambers-Members Lounge.

This will be followed by the Independence Church Service at Revivaltime Tabernacle. 4340 Dufferin St, Toronto. RSVP at info@jctoronto.org 416-598-2064

NEW YORK

You are invited to Ardenne/Excelsior Whine on White Summer Splash Boat Ride, June 24th, 6:30 PM - 11 PM, Paddle Wheel Queen (Shea Stadium - Citiﬁeld Marina).

STATISS AA NK Uniform Party, June 24th, 8 pm - 9 am, 27 E. Merrick Road, Valley Stream. For further information, contact: Peter 917-643-0997, Maio 718-781-9101

Denham Town HS AA 4th Annual Dinner Dance, July 1st, from 8 pm - 2:30 am, Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, 157-11 Rockaway Blvd., Jamaica. For further information contact: 917-912-3973, 646-739-3597

Charlemont High School PFA All High School Past Students BBQ, July 7th, 10 am - 6 pm, Central Park Multi-Purpose Center, 9115 NW 2nd Street, Plantation, FL 33324.

Dinthill Technical HSAA, Mico OSA, Camperdown PFA, Charlemont HS PFA “Motion On The Ocean” Boat Ride, July 8th, Harbor Lights - Port Drive and 23rd Street, NYC. For further information call Dinthill: 516-263-8863, Mico - 917-275-5659, Camperdown - 646-244-8465, Charlemont - 404-915-8357

Save the date: Jah Jerry, Inc. Annual Scholarship Fundraiser on Friday, July 28, 2017, 8:00 pm - 12:00 am, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Bronx. For further information call (212) 470-5855.

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718-657-0788 (US) or 416-784-3002 (Can)

The Consulate General of Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaican Canadian Association presents Jamaica’s 55th anniversary of Independence Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 6, 12:30 p.m. at The Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. A reception follows at the Council Chambers-Members Lounge.

This will be followed by the Independence Church Service at Revivaltime Tabernacle. 4340 Dufferin St, Toronto. RSVP at info@jctoronto.org 416-598-2064

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A wonderful, tearful send off for Arthur ‘Bunny’ Robinson

Marcia Rowe
Gleaner Writer

Family, friends and well-wishers turned out recently to say farewell to the remarkable Arthur Ashbourn Robinson, more affectionately called ‘Bunny’.

Holding back tears, in some instances, they delivered tributes in poems, anecdotes and songs for a loved one who died just before his 82nd birthday on May 9, 2017.

The well-organised thanksgiving service for the consummate Jamaica Association of Vintage Artists and Affiliates (JAVAA) member was held at the North Street Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church on Sunday, June 11. It was a sea of red and black. Bunny’s favourite colours – his team, Boys’ Town Football Club and family members wore a combination of the two colours as a mark of respect.

The tightly ran programme was preceded by a short musical prelude and a poem from (JAVAA) members. The poem, The Singing Peanut Man, written and read by Bobby Dawes, was a fitting introduction. Like the poem, the tributes highlighted the admirable character traits of Bunny – spoke warmly of his skill to sell and deliver peanuts and his singing career.

Boys Town’s Michael Deslandes, fighting tears, spoke of Bunny’s musical career. He said Robinson joined Scully Simms to form the duo Bunny and Scully. And in 1953, their musical career began with the single, ‘Till The End of Time’. Deslandes described him as a community man, a teacher and a father, one who was witty in his own right. He explained that many from far and near sought Bunny for lessons on how to roast and package peanuts.

Sparrow Martin’s musical rendition of God Will Take Care of fatherhood was magnified.

After six years of working on a ship, Bunny returned home to take care of his children when his then wife migrated to the United States of America.

Member of Parliament Dr Omar Davies said it was a bittersweet occasion for him, and that Bunny was a remarkable man who lived a life where he interacted with a variety of people, while Senator Mark Golding described him as Jamaica’s ‘number one peanut an’.

Two representatives of Independence Park Limited, operators of the National Stadium where Bunny sold his peanuts, spoke fondly of a man they called ‘Mr Bunny’. Tributes also came from other close relatives. Bongo Herman and Ken Boothe performed songs while the officiating minister, Pastor Brian Bhow, was true to his promise of delivering a 10-minute sermon.

Arthur Ashbourn Robinson is survived by wife and 19 children, including stepchildren. Internment was at Meadowcrest Memorial Gardens.

Howard McGowan (centre) remembers his stepfather Bunny Robinson.

Michael Deslandes pays tribute to his friend Bunny Robinson.

You seemed to have had little effect on an obviously gifted-stricken son, Yordin Robinson. After completing his primary purpose, to read the first lessons of one verse, he seized the opportunity to speak about his father, ‘the rock’ that always cared for his family. It was, however, in the eulogy, read by stepson Marlon Ferguson, that the depth of Bunny’s commitment to

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

MARCIA ROWE
Gleaner Writer

Michael Deslandes pays tribute to his friend Bunny Robinson.

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Richards-Ross hopes new books will inspire

RAYMOND GRAHAM
Gleaner Writer

SEVERAL OF the country’s top local sports administrators, including sports minister Olivia ‘Babes’ Grange, were among a fair-sized crowd at the Spanish Court Hotel ballroom last week, where many-time Olympian Sanya Richards-Ross had the launching of her two books, Run With Me and Chasing Grace.

The stage was set very early for a grand function with young David Richards, a student of Vaz Prep, and nephew of Sanya, reading an excerpt from Run With Me, which was well received by the crowd.

A past student of Westwood High, McKenzie gave her testimony during the launch of a USAID-funded University of Technology (UTech)-Ft Wi Jamaica Project and Ab Yard Communication Anti-human trafficking training programme, in association with Airline Ambassadors International.

McKenzie went to a college in the US on a full athletics scholarship, but said she was overworked by her coach and subsequently suffered a bad hamstring injury.

“I remember running 400m in practice and I pulled my hamstring,” she said during the launch at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St Andrew.

“When I went back to him and said, I pulled my hamstring, he would say, ‘Go to the trainers’. I went to the trainers and they put me in an ice bath and all their fancy stuff. Then I would go back to him. There was this race, everyone was passing me because I had an injured hamstring. The other coach-es said, ‘Pull her out of the race’. My coach cared about the points. At the end of the meet, he said, ‘I don’t know if I am going to renew your scholarship next semester’. I said, ‘Coach, thanks for your scholarship, but I will not be running for you anymore’,” she outlined.

She left, and from there, everything spun upside down...

Shamere McKenzie, advocate against human trafficking

JASON CROSS
Gleaner Writer

Shamere McKenzie, advocate against human trafficking, and Deputy Superintendent Carl Berry, head of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit.

Olympic Gold medalist Sanya Richards-Ross, author of “Chasing Grace” highlights a few key moments in her biography for Cool Brand Manager, Lyshon Davis and the Hon. Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports during the book launch, who got several of the former sprinter’s outfits, including the running vest that she wore when she won the 400m gold at the London Olympics in 2012. Grow also received Richards-Ross’ books, which will be displayed in the National Sports Museum, which Grange had previously said is currently being constructed.

EMOTIONAL PRAISE

Both Fennell and Grange spoke highly of Richards-Ross and lauded her for her new venture, but it was an emotional Richards-Ross who spoke at the end, paying homage to all who had helped her in achieving her goals. “I feel honored today seeing the people coming out to support me in the launching of my books, and I would like to thank Minister Grange and Mr Fennell for making this happen, and a big thank you to my brother, Dwayne, as he was very instrumental in me launching this in Jamaica,” she said.

“Minister Grange, you have always been supportive, as despite me running in a different colour, I always see you at the Penn Relays and other meets, and you have always supported me,” she continued.

She was very emotional when she spoke about her time at Vaz Prep. “Vaz is a high-quality school with a competitive curriculum that also afforded me national-calibre coaches. They set the team up for success by instilling mechanisms at a young age and allowed us to practise well. When I moved on, it became so easy for me. To former principal, Beverly Ulett, she was like a second mother, as her home was always welcome for me, and even now, it has not changed,” she said. She also had kind words about her family. Also to my mom, Sharon, dad, Archie, and sister Shari, they have always supported me over the years. When I first stepped on the track to represent Vaz, I heard our parents, family, classmates and friends cheering for me,” she said.

Richards-Ross said she is hoping her books will inspire others. “My journey carried me beyond the track. Through my books, I hope my stories will help you see your own experience through God’s lens as life captured on a perfect photo finish,” she concluded. Run With Me was published to target younger readers, while Chasing Grace was focused at a more grown up audience.
Alumni associations call for oversight of local sports body

André Lowe
Sports Editor

The past students’ associations of some of the island’s most successful schools have written to the Ministry of Education outlining a number of concerns around the transparency, governance and accountability of the Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA).

In addition to calling for the Ministry’s intervention and for ISSA to share its financial records, the letter is demanding that ISSA provide greater financial support to schools, underlining that it is their investment and funding in the students that make the organisation’s competitions possible and attractive for sponsorship.

On Wednesday, June 14, the old boys’ bodies of Wolmer’s Boys’ School, whose principal, Dr Walton Small, happens to be the current ISSA president; St George’s College, Jamaica College, Kingston College, and several others submitted the document to the Minister of Education, Ronald Thorne.

Citing several questions about ISSA’s operations and pointing to a number of recommendations they believe will guarantee transparency and protect the interest of student athletes and other stakeholders.

Among the grouses mentioned is a claim among the group that ISSA is not paying enough for some of its most successful athletes.

According to Thompson in the event at 200 metres champion, but finished second in her event, Jones said at the National Stadium on Sunday, and when you consider, for example, Shadae, I think this is her second year out of high school and to win the NCAA is amazing.

Dodd, a senior at Kent State University, exceeded the discus standard of 19.5 metres form, she can at least think if she can maintain that 19 metres form, she can at least make the top eight at the World Championships.

Speaking about Dodd, the President of ISSA, Dr Walton Small. However, it is past students and respective alumni associations like ours that largely fund these crucial needs. It would appear that ISSA has taken a decision to reside from contributing in these areas, the letter continues.

The letter also points to the creation of the joint venture, Greenfield Media Productions, which is responsible for managing media rights for ISSA’s events, demanding that the full structure of the body be made public to identify and avoid potential conflicts of interest.

"Transparency and good governance is a major area of concern as our old boys’ associations have always been significant stakeholders in the development of our schools and our efforts have borne fruit in many ways, the document outlines.

The group maintained that its commitment and investment, along with that of the respective schools, in the student athletes that compete in and make ISSA’s competitions successful make them a key stakeholder in its affairs.

"Yet ISSA refuses to even engage in dialogue or open its records for public scrutiny."

The alliance has put several questions on the table, including whether ISSA prepares financial statements and whether those statements are audited. The letter also asked if ISSA is being monitored by the ministry or any other government agency, something it believes should happen since the schools that participate in its events are backed by the government agency, something it also asked if ISSA is being monitored by the ministry or any other government agency.

The groups is also calling for a diversification of the ISSA board to include other stakeholder groups, mandatory financial and personal disclosure requirements for executive members as well as term limits for all executive members.

The letter was copied to Reid, Minister of Sport Olivia ‘Babby’ Grange; Floyd Green, the minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports Dr Janice Lindsay, and Chief Education Officer Dr Grace McLean.

It is not clear if the ministers have seen the letter.

ISSA was expected to hold elections on Friday, June 16.
President of the Inter-secondary School Sports Association (ISSA) Dr Walton Small has responded to concerns raised by the old boys' association of five prominent high schools in a letter addressed to the ISSA executive, saying the organisation’s operations were brought into question.

'The past student bodies for Wolmer’s Boys’ School, King’s College, Jamaica College, St George’s College and Kingston College have established the need for greater subvention for schools in the near future, and this is tied to the ISSA executive and Greenfield, stating that while there is position-based ISSA involvement, there is no greater subvention for schools in the near future, Small noted that the Greenfield

He noted the new financial arrangements for this year will also now include monetary grants for football events also receiving in grants.

In 2017, adding that every school that competes in its Champs also receives a $10 million to schools which participated at Champs.

Small added that all winning schools in every ISSA competition this year will also now receive monetary reward.

The issues of the funds and what ISSA does with the funds... ISSA’s books are also audited by... the Ministry of Finance.

ISSA offers more support to student athletes, present at the ISSA executive and says it’s up to the principals to be paid. In addition, we have overheads of various... the Ministry of Finance.

Small also stated that ISSA has always prepared audited financial reports through his tenure, noting that this is, and must be, presented to principals at the organisation’s annual general meeting, while pointing out that records are maintained through principals, to whom, he maintains, the ISSA executive is accountable.

On the matter of the need for greater support to student athletes, Small noted that ISSA paid out over $400 million to approximately... Small added that all winning schools in every ISSA competition this year will also now receive monetary reward.

The concerns of the old boys have, they have access to all of this information through their principals... Small added that all winning schools in every ISSA competition this year will also now receive monetary reward.

Speaking to a couple of other suggestions made by executive’s critics, Small also believes it is unnecessary for non-principal stakeholders to be added to the ISSA executive and says it’s up to the principals to decide if term limits should be introduced.

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Small responded to concerns raised by the old boys' alliance, saying the arrangement between the ISSA executive and Greenfield, stating that while there is position-based ISSA involvement, there is no personal financial gain for its executive members, who sit on the Greenfield board.

The competitions officer must be on that board, the president and three other members. This is tied to the ISSA executive and says it’s up to the principals to decide if term limits should be introduced.

Small shared that ISSA has always prepared audited financial reports through his tenure, noting that this is, and must be, presented to principals at the organisation’s annual general meeting, while pointing out that records are maintained through principals, to whom, he maintains, the ISSA executive is accountable.

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Speaking to a couple of other suggestions made by executive’s critics, Small also believes it is unnecessary for non-principal stakeholders to be added to the ISSA executive and says it’s up to the principals to decide if term limits should be introduced.

There is a lot of hard work to be done, however, and after a few days of rest, it will be back to the gym to correct the mistakes that I saw tonight.”

Holmes, who no doubt learned from what he had seen transpire in some of the other fights in the competition, started very quickly. He told The Gleaner afterwards that he knew that he could not fall behind, so he set out to win the first round. He got himself into his fighter’s head, which he threw in two and three, and followed these up with short, jolting body shots and uppercuts.

This round was a prelude to what was to follow, and it was attack and counter-attack for the remainder of the fight. Except for the fifth round, which was Cotroni’s best, Holmes was the better man on the night. Judges Ransford Burton 48-47 for Holmes.

Holmes’ trainer, Carl Grant, agreed and said “although Frog won, I was pleased. A win is a win, however, and I am happy that we are now into round two of the competition.”

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REGGAE BOYZ PLAY MARTINIQUE IN CARIB CUP

Jamaica’s 20-man senior football team looking to atone for last week’s 3-1 international friendly loss to Peru on South American soil, will meet French Guiana in the tournament’s semi final at the Stade Pierre in Fort-De-France in Martinique on Thursday.

MORE MEDALS FOR FIELD EVENTS

Local coach predicts ‘throwers and jumpers will save Ja’s tally’

DANIA BOGLE
Senior Gleaner Reporter

A S THE world’s fastest sprinter, Usain Bolt, prepares to hang up his spikes after the 2017 IAAF World Championships in London, at least one coach is predicting that throwers and jumpers will save Jamaica’s medal tally at future Olympics and World Championships.


Please see MEDALS, 23