Mcleod lifts Jamaica’s gloom

Story on page 3

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Monymusk factory facing uncertain future

KARL SAMUDA said his industry, agriculture, commerce, and fisheries ministry is yet to get an undertaking from Chinese firm COMPLANT, the parent company of the Pan Caribbean Sugar Company, if they will be willing to offset the cost of operating Monymusk Sugar Factory for the 2017-2018 crop year.

"The last time we were engaging vigorously now," the minister told The Gleaner during his recent tour of the Appleton Estate in St Elizabeth.

"We have tried exhaustively to have a meeting with them, to let them understand that while we are prepared to assist to manage their facility for them, they must pay back the cost or a portion thereof, because the Government of Jamaica is not in a position to underwrite the cost of maintaining an asset that is truly belonging to the Pan Caribbean group."

The Government was forced to take over the operation of the Clarendon-based factory after the Chinese company decided to shutter operations for this crop year and concentrate on their 60-tonne facility at Frome in Westmoreland.

Jury-removing proposal to be withdrawn

A PROPOSAL brought to Parliament that would make gun murder cases tried only by judges is to be withdrawn when legislators meet in September, amid resistance from defence lawyers and accusations of lack of consultation by the Opposition.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck told The Gleaner that he will be withdrawing the amendment proposed for Section 6 of the Gun Court Act when the House of Representatives resumes sittings in September following its summer break.

Cabinet caps phone bills at J$40,000 monthly

THE HEAD of the country’s most powerful private-sector organisation has suggested that the J$40,000 monthly cap placed on the phone bills of government ministers and their juniors, while reasonable, will be useless without robust checks and balances.

Denise Chung, executive director of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), said she was surprised that Finance Minister Audley Shaw was able to rack up J$8.8 million in telephone charges three years after former junior foreign minister Arnaldo Brown incurred over J$1 million in charges on his government-issued mobile phone.

The Andrew Holness administration announced that Cabinet had approved an interim policy for the use of government-issued mobile phones, which, among other things, caps the monthly charge for Category A state employees at J$840,000.

The ministry says the money is in addition to their monthly subventions.

Six schools found in breach of no-auxiliary fee policy to get additional funds

THE MINISTRY of Education says it’s providing an additional J$626.9 million to six schools named last week as breaching the education ministry’s no-auxiliary fee policy.

It says Holy Childhood High will get J$32.3 million, Immaculate Conception High, J$34.9 million, Meadowbrook High, J$26.1 million, and Mona High, J$29.9 million.

Meanwhile St Andrew High will receive J$38.9 million, The Queen’s School, J$26.9 million, and St Thomas Technical J$8.4 million.

The ministry says the money is in addition to their monthly subventions.

It says the funding covers areas such as tuition, furniture supplies, ICT Support, Apprenticeship Programmes, Teacher Advanced Programmes Support, staffing, and PATH Feeding Programme in some of the schools.

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Hurdler lifts Jamaican spirits with World Champs gold

ATHLETICS

London, England:

Omar McLeod celebrates after winning the 110m hurdles in 13.04 at the IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London, England yesterday.

He has been hoping that it will energise the Jamaican contingent after what has been a tough start to the World Championships, with Bolt's 100m bronze being the only other medal won by the Jamaicans so far.

"We just the two major sprint events that Jamaica normally dominate in, and I was like, it's up to us now – we have the 400m, the hurdles, other events, it's up to us to make the difference," said McLeod.

Russian Sergey Shubenkov, competing as a neutral athlete, backed up his gold from two years ago with a silver medal performance in a Usain Bolt's 110m hurdles in 13.14, with Hungarian Balazs Baji taking the bronze in 13.26.

"I am overcome with emotion. It was a hard race and probably one of the hardest line-ups in history, and I am really happy to bring the spark back to the Jamaican camp. It was really down and I think it was up to me to set that momentum again, especially after what happened to Usain and Elaine, and I especially wanted to dedicate this to Usain Bolt's retirement," McLeod said.

McLeod said he will compete in the 60m hurdles indoors and is likely to compete in the 110m hurdles at the Commonwealth Games but will be using the absence of a major global championship in 2018 to now focus on the 100m and 200m events.

"Probably the 100m and 200m. I will do the sprint hurdles indoors and focus on the 400m sprint outdoors, and the 200m is my favourite event. The sky is the limit," said the gold medallist.

‘I wanted to bring the spark back’

Hurdler lifts Jamaican spirits with World Champs gold

Omar McLeod

LONDON, England: A MENTS AFTER adding the London 110m hurdles title to the Olympic crown he won in Rio last year, Omar McLeod not only dedicated his win to Bolt, he also noted that he is already thinking about next season's challenges - the 100m and 200m.

McLeod, flag draped across his torso, underlined that he was determined to lift the gloomy mood in the Jamaican camp, following Usain Bolt's third-place finish in the final individual race of his career and Elaine Thompson's surprising fifth-place finish – both in the 100m event.

"The mood was very daunting; everybody's face was down and I felt it. I took it upon myself to really change that. I wanted to bring the spark back. I don't think there is still hope," McLeod stated, talking almost as fast as his running.

McLeod's 13.04-second win at the World Championships in London secured his second straight gold medal and confirmed his dominance of the sprint hurdles.

"I am seeing my young people, and the spark back to the Jamaican camp is huge," McLeod said.

He is also hoping that it will energise the Jamaican contingent "up to now" that we have the 400m, the hurdles, other events, it's up to us to make the difference," said McLeod.

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Bunny Wailer, Stephen Francis among 17 to receive national orders

NEVILLE O’REILLY ‘Bunny Wailer’ Livingstone will receive the nation’s third highest national honour, membership in the Order of Merit, for outstanding contribution in the field of popular music at the National Honours and Awards ceremony set for October.

Over 100 persons will be recognised for outstanding service to Jamaica in various areas.

MVP head coach Stephen Francis leads a list of five that are down to join the Order of Jamaica (OJ), for his outstanding service to track and field.

Membership in the Order of Jamaica is also to be conferred on businessman Phillip Gore for his contribution to entrepreneur, entrepreneurship and philosophy.

Montego Bay businessman Tony Hart, CD, joins Francis, Gore, McDonald and Ambassador Clifton Stone in joining the OJ.

Other to receive Commander Class honours include cricketer Christopher Gayle for outstanding service to Jamaica and West Indies cricket for the past 20 years, while government senator Don Wibby and Lyttleton ‘Tanny’ Shirley will receive the award for sterling contribution to the public and private sector.

Baby boy for Fraser-Pryce

JAMAICAN SPRINTER Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has announced the birth of her son Zion Pryce.

Fraser-Pryce, the multiple Olympic and World Championships gold medal winner made the disclosure on her Instagram page on Tuesday, August 7.

“I praise you too.”

The celebrations were undertak- en at a cost of $180 million and included the staging of the Independence Village in Kingston and St. James featuring concerts, exhibitions, and other activities.

Ricardo Mallyn/Multi Media Photo Editor
Jamaican academian explores African-Jamaican aesthetic in literature

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Lisa Tomlinson’s new book, The African-Jamaican Aesthetic: Cultural Retention and Transformation Across Borders, adds to the body of research examining the ways in which African-Jamaican Diaspora writers create their works by tapping into the cultural aesthetics of their African and the Caribbean roots to interpret their place in their new homes and local cultures abroad.

Tomlinson, a researcher and scholar, who teaches at the University of the West Indies, Mona in Kingston, Jamaica explores the writings of Jamaican pioneers, authors Claude McKay and Una Marson, to highlight their ability to draw from the indigenous knowledge around them to counter the euro-centric focus in literature in the early 1900s.

She also examines the works of dub poets: Lillian Allen, Año Cooper and Adrih Zhina. Mandiola in Canada, and Linton Kwesi Johnson, Jean Binta Breeze and Benjamin Zephaniah in the UK. Also featured are the writings of novelists, Makeda Silvera of Jamaica, the Caribbean or Africa and she felt at odds.

Drawing from her experience as a young child going to school in Canada in the late 1970s and 1980s, Tomlinson notes that it was through the oral traditions that she learned about her Jamaican heritage and culture.

In school, there was very little reference to Jamaica, the Caribbean or Africa and she felt alienated until her Grade 6 teacher introduced Caribbean folk songs in the classroom.

This delighted her and she was able to translate the Jamaican Creole words to her classmates.

The reggae played in her home also fuelled her interest, and in her teenage years she “came to understand that the various forms of oral art that were at the root of my home were so empowering and meaningful because they offered me a means to centre myself in an environment with which I often felt at odds.”

Tomlinson begins her research with an examination of work songs, proverbs and storytelling which she views as the “early and instrumental markers of indigenous African-Jamaican aesthetics.”

She charts the importance of these folk cultural art forms in the genesis of a national literature of the island.

“Jamaica’s rich legacy of oral cultures offers counter-narratives to dominant discourses of the region by re-imagining the social realities of African-Jamaican communities, retelling African diasporic histories and restoring social agency,” she writes.

Tomlinson examines the African-Jamaican aesthetic, pan-Africanism and decolonization in early Jamaican literature — mainly in the works of McKay and Marson — and crosses over to the diaspora where she focuses on the reggae aesthetics, dub, and the literary diaspora.

She also explores gender, race and class in the chapter, “Gendering Dub Culture Across Diaspora: Jamaican Female Dub Poets in Canada and England,” and focuses on the writings of novelists in the chapter, “Home Away from Home: The African-Jamaican Aesthetic in Diaspora Novels.”

Having lived in Toronto where she had access to the dub poets, Allen, Cooper, and Mandiola, Tomlinson conducts a close examination of their works to highlight the feminist aesthetics therein.

She notes that following in the tradition of Una Marson and Louise Bennett, these three dub poets “all employ an African-Jamaican aesthetic to articulate the social conditions of black women in Africa and the diaspora and to call for opposition to patriarchal systems of oppression and black male dominance in the private sphere.”

To provide a comparative analysis, Tomlinson includes the works of Breeze, and does a similar examination in the novels of Silvera and Riley.

What Tomlinson’s new book does it to critically examine the ways in which African-Jamaican writers in the diaspora source their creativity from their homeland, Jamaica, and from their African ancestry, while creating works that mediate their understanding of themselves and their situations in their new home countries, new environments.

The book is published by Brill/Rodopi based in Leiden and Boston.
US Embassy in Jamaica announces core focus areas for bilateral relations

The United States Embassy in Jamaica has released its new list of priorities for its bilateral relations with Jamaica. The focus areas are meant to support any government efforts working on protecting human rights and the rights of LGBTI individuals and combating gender-based violence and trafficking.

The embassy, in a press release said “most of the individual priorities are not new, but the entire list has been reviewed, to ensure a proper focus on the issues of greatest importance to Jamaica and the United States.

The release identified four core focus areas that will be pursued, with specific goals, which are:

1) Safeguard the United States and US citizens including working with the Government to interrupt and dismantle transnational threat networks.

2) Increase Trade and boost U.S.-Jamaica economic ties.

3) Address Caribbean Health Challenges, including emerging regional health epidemics; and

4) Support Jamaica on global issues and development of US-Jamaican partnership on a global scale.

These goals, according to the press release, will range from pressing issues like police services, to protecting US residents and tourists in Jamaica, to interrupt transnational criminal organizations, including investigating crimes, conducting asset seizure, providing maritime security, and prosecuting criminals.

Significantly, the US Government will focus on facilitating extraction of transnational criminals to the US, over alleged lotto scammers have been under the radar and several of them have been extradited and currently facing charges in US courts.

Under the security corporation, the US will also work to improve Jamaican port and shipping container security programmes and also, help Jamaica bolster its anti-corruption, and anti-gang programmes, through work.

The plans for the study were released on July 19 at the Metro Toronto YMCA in Toronto. In the six-year undertaking, 1504 individuals spent more than two hours in in-depth interviews sharing their experience and insights.

The study found that direct experience with racism is a common experience among BIEP participants. Two-thirds say they frequently or occasionally experience racism and discrimination because they are Black.

Regarding relations with police services, it found that experience with police services stand out as much more negative than those with other public institutions.

“Negatives experiences with the police services are common. For instance, participants are more likely to be stopped in public than to be helped by the police, and younger Black males are particularly likely to experience police harassment."

The study also found that the majority of today’s generation of young Black adults is Canadian born.

Unlike their mostly immigrant parents and grandparents, they are also more diverse in terms of their identities and the racial composition of their friendship networks.

“Young Black Canadian-born adults are more likely to identify racism as an obstacle they face more likely to say they experience some forms of unfair treatment because they are Black; and more likely to be adversely affected by these experiences. It appears, therefore, that young Black adults are more impatient with the failure of Canadian society to deliver on the country’s promise of equality.”

Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora at York University says informational data that tell of the particular ways in which blacks experience institutions or organizations in which they learn, work, play, and seek justice is important.

“The data provide important insights, not merely into individual racism and discrimination but also the policies, programmes and practices within institutions that need to be addressed if we are to achieve the democratic, equitable and just society we seek in Canada.”

He on the issues need to be approached through the anti-Black racism lens so effectively advocated for by concerned community members, including Black Lives Matter and the Tabono Institute.

“I’m concerned that what might be taken from the report is simply the individual stories, often what media reports think their readers need to know.” James said alluding to the story published in the Toronto Star that morning about a young black man allegedly beaten up by an off-duty police officer and his brother in Whitchita, Ontario.

“What we need evidently is how institutions are going to respond to these findings. How would governments and government agencies respond and what structures and processes will be put in place to change the social, economic, educational and justice situation of blacks in our Toronto communities.”

James said the the Anti-Racism Directorate is being looked at for leadership in that regard and he acknowledged that “the anti-Black racism initiatives initiated there might take us some ways towards responding to some of the findings of the report.”

“We wait for other responses to the report.”

He informed the Jean Augustine Chair at York University will establish a working group to further analyze the data and will report on things that were newly explored in this brief report - like the influence of gender, class, sexuality and citizenship on the experiences of the young people.

Working Group

“We will have a working group that will delve into some of the important questions that you might have, or members of the group might have, or any other community person might have, in order to be able to get at some of the changes that we would like in the society.”

And this working group will work hard to disseminate additional reports and bulletins, hopefully, that will go a long way to be responsive to your interest.”

They will invite researchers and others affiliated to agencies and institutions who have questions or would like to answer their questions through the data to get in touch with the working group that will provide the necessary answers.

James said they strive in their work for community ownership going forward with the study.

“The BIEP research was initiated and led by Environics Institute in partnership with the United Way of Toronto and York Region, the YMCA of Greater Toronto, the Diversity Institute of Ryerson University, and the Jean Augustine Chair at York University in an effort to provide a current profile of Black Canadians,” notes James.
Hundreds attend Independence church service in Washington DC

DERRICK SCOTT  
Gleaner Writer

WASHINGTON DC

HUNDREDS OF Jamaicans packed the Howard University Dumbarton Chapel in Washington DC on Sunday, August 6, for the annual service of Thanksgiving in celebration of Jamaica’s 55 years of Independence. Members of the diplomatic corp, representatives of various international organizations, and heads of Jamaican organizations as well as members of the Jamaican community in the Washington metropolitan area, attended the church service.

The centerpiece of the Jamaican Embassy’s commemorative activities, the service saw Jamaican representatives in attendance from various states including New York, Connecticut, New Jersey Philadelphia, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Ambassador Audrey Marks delivered the independence message from Prime Minister Andrew Holness who lauded members of the Jamaican Diaspora for their contribution towards the development of Jamaica as well as raising Jamaica’s profile in their adopted home, the United States of America.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the celebration of Jamaica’s 55th year of independence “provided an opportunity for us to reflect as a nation, on our progressive journey over the years, and the important contributions of our people both at home and in the Diaspora, to the development of our island home.”

Ambassador Marks, in her welcome, encouraged the gathering to redouble their commitment to their personal development as well as to their homeland, and to collectively ensure that Jamaica continue on a path towards sustainable growth, development and prosperity.

The Ambassador noted that even as the country celebrates 55 years of independence, there were still hurdles to overcome. But these can be addressed by steadfastly working towards building on the positive legacy of Jamaicans both at home and abroad.

In delivering the sermon, the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Homestead New Jersey, the Rev. Dr. DeForest Soaries Jr., said “if Jamaica is going to get the help it needs, then it will have to start with itself and its people. Jamaica has a rich history and culture with a hospitable people. And if we are to move forward both socially and economically, we as a people will have to do it for ourselves and not rely on outside help.”

Dr. Soaries said the Jamaican brand was very strong, amidst the performance of our athletes, academics and our artistes. He said ”if we harness these attributes, we can become a world power.”

JAMAICANS CAME out in their numbers on Sunday to enjoy the Grand Gala celebration at the National Stadium. The Jamaica 55 Independence affair was a colourful blend of entertainment and excitement. Here are scenes from the pageantry that creatively displayed the country’s diverse culture.

Prime Minister Holness sings popular tunes rendered by Dr. James ‘Jimmy Cliff’ Chambers, humble honouree at the Jamaica 55 Grand Gala last Sunday.

A cultural performance at Grand Gala 2017.

Daring stunts from the police.

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Prime Minister Holness sings popular tunes rendered by Dr. James ‘Jimmy Cliff’ Chambers, humble honouree at the Jamaica 55 Grand Gala last Sunday.

A cultural performance at Grand Gala 2017.
Civil groups call for review of transfer of senior cop named in Tivoli enquiry

THE REASSIGNMENT of 22 senior officers of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) took effect last week, but Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ), the country’s most vocal human-rights lobby group, as well as the public defender, is demanding that the Government stop Donovan Graham’s transfer to western Kingston, in his role in the 2010 West Kingston operation.

“It should be put on hold, especially given the scope of the concerns and especially in light of the fact that he inevitably will be in charge of a special zone,” said John Clarke, JFJ’s legal officer.

McBride’s predecessor Arlen Harrison Henry, who last month said she was alarmed at the news, said her office’s concerns remain.

“We are saying that in light of the findings and the recommendations of the [West Kingston Commission of Enquiry], he ought never to have been in charge of the Manchester area, and this transfer ought to stop,” Assistant Commissioner of Police Graham was the head of Police Area Three, which comprised Clarendon, Manchester and Trelawny.

With the transfer, he is taking up duties as head of Area One, covering St James, Hanover, St James and Trelawny – parishes that have contributed heavily to a 20 per cent increase in murders so far this year, compared with the similar period last year.

But Graham’s leadership is facing questions, given the recommendations a year ago by the tribunal that he and other high-ranking army and police officers be barred from leading or participating in future internal security operations.

“The danger is this: Many soldiers, were killed in the 2010 Tivoli operation. Public outrage was triggered last Thursday following the leak of a police letter to the FLA questioning how alleged criminals or people with questionable character ended up with gun licences.

Additionally, senior FLA members are being probed on allegations of selling licences.

Many Jamaicans are aware of cases where persons’ complaints, real or perceived, are not being addressed by the bigger heads in the JCF.”

EdNote: [Transfers] like these generally give support to a public perception that it doesn’t make sense to complain against police excess or senior officers, because nothing will be done.

Sixty-nine people, including a soldier, were killed in the 2010 operation to arrest the now-convicted gangster Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke.
Here’s another forum for you to share your views with Jamaica and the rest of the world.

Send Bissessar your 150-word comments on any topic to:
The Gleaner Company Ltd., P.O. Box 40, 7 North Street, Kingston; fax to 1-876-922-6223 or email overseas@gleanerjm.com.

THE WEEKLY GLEANER

EDITORIAL & LETTERS

LETTERS

Give zones of special ops a chance

THE EDITOR, Sir,

I WELCOME The Gleaner’s attempt to bring new and interesting columns to its pages. However, as an avid reader of the paper, I have grown accustomed to well-researched articles reflecting opinions which are based in fact. I read with interest Ms Henry’s article on the zones of special operations and I wonder whether Ms Henry actually researched her article.

Ms Henry asserted that citizens will not be able to identify security personnel in the declared zone. I recall an interview on the legislation from national security adviser General Anderson who said that the law made identification mandatory and that the joint force had worked out special mechanisms to identify all personnel in the zone. I checked the law myself and this is the case.

Then Ms Henry asserts that the law and strategy are top-down. On the contrary this is the first crime-fighting law which ensures that every member of the joint force is adequately trained and equipped to identify security personnel in the zone. The effect of such community intervention will, in fact, “build trust” and promote “far reaching benefits”

As I continue to assess the comments made by Ms Henry in her article, it seems more and more to me as though she failed to fully grasp and appreciate the overwhelmingly positive impact that the zones of special operations, together with its social intervention component, will have on not just in small communities, but parishes and, by extent, the entire country. The zones of special operations is a crime-fighting strategy that will be a major game changer for Jamaica, and I am certain it will yield results. Now, if public sentiment is anything to go by, given the outrage of many Jamaicans concerning the level of crime in their country, they too should fully approve of the Government’s initiative.

I put it to Ms Henry that this article is at best premature, and I would suggest a strong recommendation to her that she do her homework and research before reviewing any topic.

KRYSSTAL BROMFIELD

Ed

TUESDAY – COUNCILOR AND CIVIC CIVIL LIBERTIES

The editorial finds the situation at the Firearms Licensing Authority to be curious and curioser. The authority is the focus of attention after reports said of a dubious character having been given a firearm licence and further reports that the police had expressed concern about the matter.

The chairman of the authority Dennis Wright claims that he called in the police to investigate and they began their work in May. Wright has since turned over to the police 100 files concerning gun licences issued from before the general election of 2016.

The editorial noted that national security minister Robert Montague (arising from a case involving the fatal shooting of a school boy) had ordered in November an investigation after a suspect at the time refused to hand over his gun to them on request and the file pertaining to the gun could not be found by authority personnel.

The editorial said the security minister had ordered another probe of the PA and it would be useful to know what was the result of the first one.

WEDNESDAY – IN A STATE OF CORRUPTION

The editorial points to a recent survey for The Gleaner which showed backing for 10% occurrence in public institutions with politicians faring worst.

This perception of a deep, endemic corruption not only breeds the corruption culture in the Johnson pol, but drives a worsening of attitudes as the 2014 Latin America public opinion survey captured with regard to Jamaica - that poses a threat to democracy.

Mr Holness came to office vowing to fight corruption. Having credibility anti-corruption institutions, however, is only part of the solution. Fighting corruption and winning back trust demands more: a realistic crusade led by the prime minister.

THE BAIN RULING, EVANGELICALS AND REV ROPER

The editorial referred to the historic land mark ruling last week by the Supreme Court which ruled that the University of the West Indies did not breach the terms of Professor Brendan Bain’s contract by firing him because he had provided testimony on behalf of a group of Belizeans that opposed efforts to have the country’s law against bestiality declared unconstitutional.

THE OPINIONS ON THIS PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANER.

EDITORIAL

Monday summary – July 31 – Aug 4

The editorial noted that Bain, who had brought the action against the university over wrongful dismissal was adjudged by the court to have had his constitutional right of freedom of expression breached by the university but he was awarded no compensation as the declaration was adequate. The editorial said it was the first time that a case has been pleaded - and the court has ruled - in which someone sought to assert a fundamental constitutional right against its infringement by a juristic person, or a body that is a not a natural person, but which is recognised in law as having rights and obligations.

FRIDAY – POLICE MUST PUBLISH TIVOLI REVIEW FINDINGS

The editorial renewed its call on police Commissioner of Police George Quallo to publish the review report they did into police actions in the 2010 operations in Tivoli Gardens by the security forces to arrest suspected, according to the Commissioner, who has recommended that the police do an internal review.

The commission had said further that any officer commented on adversely should be considered for any internal operational duties.

The police had informed the Commissioner is having the report shared with various oversight bodies but also the police insisted it must be made public.

THE STARTER, October 1, 2017. The people who inhabit that part of the Caribbean that was colonised by Britain from the 17th to the 19th century, now called CARICOM, celebrated the 197th anniversary of the ending of that work called Emancipation.

The struggle to end African enslavement in the Caribbean was a protracted and often bloody one. For Britain was exposed to ending a system that had brought so much wealth to its citizens and developed its nation, and brutally suppressed all liberation wars by anti-slavery activists on the ground.

WRITING ON THE WALL

By 1832, however, the writing was on the wall. The revolutionary actions of the enslaved, especially in the Emancipation War in Jamaica led by Samuel Sharpe, sent a signal to the colonisers that if Emancipation would not come from above, it would come from below. The resolve was combined with the force of human solidarity on both sides of the Atlantic and political-parliamentary actions in the metropole, leading to the signing of the Emancipation Act in 1834, to be effected in 1834, but actualised after a system called Apprenticeship, intended to end in 1840, was brought down by the anti-Apprenticeship lobby in 1838.

By this time, of course. Britain had compensated the planters with £20m in cash and £27m via the extension of the free labour system between 1834 and 1838. The people of the Caribbean have achieved much since 1838, but there is still unfinished business to fully realise the promise of Emancipation the emancipation of mental slavery that traps too many of our people in a colonial time warp, reparatory justice from those who wronged our ancestors, and the reorganisation of our post-independence societies to ensure development and a more secure future for all.

VERNON SHEPHERD Member, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

ANGELA, YOU’VE WON THE PRIZE! YOU MUST TREAT THE CONSTITUENTS THE SAME WAY I TREATED THEM!

‘WHY, MAMA SEN, AH DI WEH SEH!’
Have a great week

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

Contributed

(Amassador of Jamaica to the United States Audrey Marks (left) with Joan Pinnock, Governor General Award Honoree 2017, NE USA at the opening ceremony of Jamaica 55 Diaspora 2017 conference, July 23, 2017 at The Pegasus hotel, Kingston, Jamaica.

Photo by Ashley Allen/HCPAT20

(From left) Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness; Garey Mathurin; Consul General of Guyana Ram AE; Consul General of Barbados Colin Mayers; Lauderhill Commissioner Margaret Bates; Owner of Jamaica Tallawahs Kris Prasaud; Tommy Allen; Consul General of Jamaica Franz Hall; Rowan Powell and Lauderhill Mayor Richard Kaplan at a welcome reception at Central Broward Stadium, Fort Lauderdale on Tuesday, August 1.

Photo by Aubrey Campbell

(From left) Calibe Thompson, Carib TV producer; Angela Brown; Winsome Anglin Miller, former JNAF president; Marie Gill, president, Jamaica - USA Chamber of Commerce/Florida; Howard Berger, Commissioner, City of Lauderhill; Alecia Jones-Kerr, assistant to Commissioner Berger; and Christina Wallace at The Jamaica Nurses Association of South Florida annual Tea Party at Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church Hall, Pembroke Pines, Fort Lauderdale, on June 24.
Diaspora bond to be launched early next year – David Panton

Chairman of the Economic Growth Council’s (EGC) Diaspora Task Force, Dr. David Panton, says a Jamaican Diaspora Bond will be launched later this year, or earlier next year, in which members of the Jamaican diaspora in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada can participate.

Panton made the disclosure during an update on the progress of initiatives being undertaken by the EGC at the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference which ended in Kingston.

“We have started that process and we feel fairly confident that we will be able to have a bond which we can launch, if not later this year, then certainly in early next year,” he said.

Addressing the Diaspora Growth Forum session, which was organised by the Jamaica National Group, Panton said that bonds are being used by other countries such as Israel, and has proved to be a successful method of engaging the diaspora in investing in their homeland.

“They (the Jewish Diaspora) did this because of their commitment to the state of Israel, and they wanted to make a tremendous impact on the state of Israel. Therefore, I believe that approach of setting up an instruction such as the Israel bond. The Jamaican bond agency, as it were, could make a significant impact on our country,” he said.

Panton pointed out that the Jamaican diaspora was investing in Jamaica through remittances of some US$2 billion a year.

“Jamaicans are not poor; they are earning back a lot of money to Jamaica. They clearly have the capital; however, the question is how do we incentivise the members of the Jamaican diaspora to effectively participate and engage in Jamaica,” he asked.

Jamaicans in the Diaspora Have Investable Wealth – Hayden-Carter

Recently, managing director of JN Bank Maureen Hayden-Carter urged the Government to establish more concrete avenues for Jamaicans in the diaspora to contribute to the development of the nation.

In reference to 2013 data published by InfDev for the World Bank, she noted that a quarter of Jamaicans in the diaspora have investable wealth, or annual earnings of US$100,000 or more. More than 70 per cent are interested in investing in start-ups and small and medium-size enterprises, and 63 per cent are also interested in diaspora bonds.

“Jamaica is not only an island of some 2.7 million people, we are much bigger and expansive than that,” she had indicated.

Hayden-Carter was speaking against the background of JN Bank’s launch of its JN Diaspora Certificate of Deposit up to five years.

That instrument, launched in March, is tenured from one to five years and starts at US$1,000, CDNs1,000, or US$2,000. Interest at the top end of the longest terms on these investments ranges from 1.5 per cent in pounds, 1.1 per cent in Canadian dollars, to 1.9 per cent in US dollars.

Two per cent of the interest income earned by individual investors through the JN Diaspora Certificate of Deposit will be matched by JN Bank and contributed to social enterprises engaged in the JN Foundation’s Social Enterprise Boost Initiative.
J'can court bars Mexican firm from using 3M trademark

MCPHERSE THOMPSON
Assistant Editor — Business

A JAMAICAN court has granted an injunction to 3M Company limited to bar a Mexican firm from using its trademark.

The Court of Appeal decision sets aside the judgment of Supreme Court Justice Brian Sykes, who had held that the Mexican firm, M3M, which is incorporated in Mexico, can use the ‘3M & Device’ mark.

However, President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Dennis Morrison, who wrote the judgment, disagreed, saying that they are ‘aurally identical and visually and conceptually highly similar’.

According to the written judgment, delivered recently, 3M is registered in Jamaica in respect of various types of agricultural equipment, food processing and sanitary equipment and various types of vehicles, while M3M manufactures machinery and spare parts for the sugar industry.

The registered mark of 3M is marked by the number ‘3’ and the letter ‘M’. The mark, the subject of the application by 3M to register, is marked by a number ‘3’ and the letter ‘M’, respectively.

The Mexican company, one of the largest publicly traded companies in the New York Stock Exchange, prevented a Mexican outfit from using its trademark.

The Court of Appeal decision sets aside the judgment of Supreme Court Justice Brian Sykes, who had rendered an application by 3M to bar M3M from using its trademark.

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The establishment of the appeal was by Justice Sykes, who disposed of the judgment to the 3M mark.

The claim was supported by 3M, which is incorporated in Mexico, for using 3M trademark.

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Additionally, based on the well-known reputation of 3M’s mark, there was potential dilution and tarnishing of the reputation of the mark, said 3M.

The Mexican firm, M3M, countered that it has been involved in 2000-2005.

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LEVEN YEARS after Jamaica’s renowned folklorist and cultural icon, Louise Bennett Coverley (Miss Lou), passed away on July 26, 2006, her impact on lives in her adopted home, Toronto, remains very palpable.

Having lived in Canada for almost 20 years, Miss Lou, whose husband, Eric ‘Chalk Talk’ Coverley, died in 2002, was a source of encouragement for many Jamaican and Caribbean artists in the Greater Toronto Area.

Storyteller, Letna Allen-Rowe (Ms Letna), who organised a tribute to Miss Lou last year entitled “Memba Ms Lou,” says the cultural ambassador was her mentor for as long as she could remember.

Bennett Coverley taught her in a special language class at the Jamaica School of Drama in the early ‘80s.

“She implored us young thespians at the time not to forget where you coming from or you will not know where you going. She advised us to keep the life of the Jamaican dialect alive, because it is our own unique language, and we must be proud of it. ‘Don’t be intimidated by other powers, and use your patois proudly because it will define you, and one day the world will come to love and appreciate it. So teach it to your children, and your children’s children.’”

Allen-Rowe said Miss Lou paved the way to continue her legacy, “to have appreciation of my culture and its form, not to ‘tun up me nose at it’ but to embrace it with dignity and grace.”

“If Ms Lou was not an integral part of my life, culturally I would be dead. I would have nothing to hold on to. In times of trials and despair, I just grab a Ms Lou proverb and it just put a smile pon mi face and joy eena mi heart. Tenk you Ms Lou. Tenk Yu.”

Grace Lyons, founder and musical director of the Heritage Singers, has included a tribute to Miss Lou’s in the company’s 40th anniversary celebration, “Reflections: A Walk Down Memory Lane,” which will be held at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, and will include Joan Andrea Hutchinson on October 21 this year.

She says the tribute relates to a cameo performance in the company’s first home-grown pantomime in Toronto, “Zuzuwah,” written by the artistic director, the late Maud Fuller.

In this production, Miss Lou was a village prophet and the grandmother of “Channa” visits her to receive information.

“It was well staged and hilarious,” says Lyons noting that they will also present a favourite poem written by Miss Lou.

“Miss Lou’s influence over the years has catapulted Heritage Singers to perform worldwide, representing Canada at international festivals in countries such as Taiwan, Holland, Mexico, Germany, and Venezuela.”

Lyons said the veteran folklorist brought to them that sense of pride in our culture, to use these songs as a tool to bridge cultural gaps, enhance ethnic, historic and social traditions relevant but not limited to Jamaica, the rest of the Caribbean, and the African community.”

She said Miss Lou performed with the Heritage Singers on numerous occasions including a visit from Queen Elizabeth II to Toronto where they sang the folk song, Long time Gal.

Sandra Whiting, a storyteller and motivational speaker, grew up hearing Miss Lou on television. “I remember reading her poems. The first one I think I remember was about ‘small up yuhself, dis dry foot ooman a come.’ And I remember just feeling, yes, this person is speaking my language. We weren’t allowed to speak it at home or at school actually. I was considered just not done and I just never seem to listen to those things’.”

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cameo performance in the company’s first home-grown pantomime in Toronto, “Zuzuwah,” written by the artistic director, the late Maud Fuller.

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Whiting, who used to help the lighting designer on pantomimes in Kingston, met Miss Lou and Ranny Williams.

“Great respect”

“She was just an amazing - talented woman,” says Whiting.

Kevin Ormsby, artistic director of KasheDance, credits his work in the creative industries in Canada to the influence of Miss Lou.

“I had the privilege of performing with Lorna Goodison and others at the Harbourfront Centre's Miss Lou's Room and realised then as I do now the impact she has had on Jamaica and in fact the world.”

Ormsby says he works in many capacities through the arts as a cultural instigator and he credits a lot of his passion and love for the arts to the fundamental premise she held dear — that everyone in Jamaica should be proud of their cultural history.

“For me it's many years, places and spaces, from 'Ring Ding' but I remember sitting at her feet and feeling a sense of pride that is ever-present in my Jamaican heritage as it is in my contemporary Canadian reality. The 'Jamaica Labrish' that everyone reads in my home is because I recited many as a student of the Drama Department at Calabar High School.

He said Miss Lou was so ingrained in his being that even upon his arrival in Canada, she lived across the road from him in Malvern, Scarborough.

"I have and will always share a connection to the icon. Her mark has galvanised many with whom I work in Toronto."

On July 15, veteran Trinidadian storyteller, Paul Keena-Douglass aka Mr Tim Tim, included a tribute to Miss Lou in his shows in Toronto.
Rebranded Palmyra to open for business by year end

X Fund profit plunges

Courtney Campbell, president of the Victoria Mutual Group (VMBS) says fee increases, which took effect on Emancipation Day, August 1, are negligible and still positions the financial house as a low-cost leader in the local market.

Campbell said that of the more than 70 services offered by local banks, VMBS continued to be the lowest cost provider.

"We still have the lowest fees in the market and we charge nothing for 17 services, including ABM and point-of-sale transactions," he said, when asked about the slate of new charges that took effect this week.

However, mortgage application processing and third-party in-branch transfer fees, which were previously waived, are being reinstated. VMBS, whose core business is mortgage loans, said the mortgage application processing fee is a taxable 0.5 per cent of the loan amount, while the competition’s “charges up to 3.5 per cent”, and that its third-party in-branch transfer fees are still below the rates charged by other major industry players.

Some of the increased charges include special delivery instructions, up from $1,300 to $1,400; local returned cheques, from $2,300 to $2,450; stop-payment orders, from $850 to $950; outgoing local transfers to third party accounts, from $275 to $300.

The new schedule also features some fee reductions. Incoming transfers from third-party accounts have fallen from $175 to $100, and where fees are cited in US dollars, some amounts have been reduced and others maintained at current levels.

FEE ATM TRANSACTIONS

Standing orders are free at VMBS, as are banking services conducted via its ABMs and online platform.

VMBS told The Gleaner that the fee adjustments relate primarily to services that involve cash-handling charges that are passed on to VMBS by its commercial bankers, as well as other services that are proving more expensive to administer due to increases in the cost of doing business.

Campbell said the mortgage bank will continue to offer ATM services free at its own machines.

The new fee schedule, he said, is part of “a wider review of charges, which banking institutions engage in at least one per year.

“The last time we did the analysis of the entire market, based on published data on the BOJ website, of the 40 services listed that we offer, we were the lowest or zero in 31 of them,” Campbell said.

“We still have the lowest fees generally in the market and, in fact, we charge nothing for almost 20 services, including ABM,” he added.

The VMBS communications unit also pointed to other reductions, citing a “40 per cent reduction on lost/stolen/ damaged ABM cards to $400, 43 per cent reduction on incoming RTGS to third-party accounts at other banks to $100, and 100 per cent reduction on pound sterling foreign currency cash lodgements to £0.00.”

New fee structure for VMBS
**ISLANDWIDE**

**Biodiesel blend to significantly cut oil imports**

PETROLEUM CORPORATION of Jamaica (PCJ) has developed a B5 biodiesel blend of fuel which could save hundreds of millions in energy costs per year, while reducing the country’s reliance on imported fossil fuels.

The Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ), the agency of Government dedicated to pursuing the development of Jamaica’s energy resources, has developed the blend for use in the transport sector.

The oil, derived from castor seed, is processed to produce a high-quality fuel for use in diesel-engine vehicles and according to Winston Watson general manager of PCJ, the blend has the potential to replace 97,000 barrels of imported oil which would impact significantly on the import bill.

The PCJ has been conducting small-scale vehicular trials of the B5 formula since January this year. Some 7,000 kilometres of road miles have been logged so far.

**GOVT moving to introduce new wage negotiations framework**

THE GOVERNMENT is looking to implement the new framework for public sector salary negotiations during the 2017/18 contract period to provide more structured and clearer guidelines.

State Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Fayval Williams, said among the provisions is a proposal to extend the contract period from two to three years, which will be discussed with the unions to arrive at a consensus, JIS release said.

“The move, she said, is aimed at facilitating “prudent forecasting” of the wage bill and timely payments which, she noted “should ideally be at the beginning of the financial year.”

**ST JAMES**

**Convention Centre to be renovated**

IN ORDER to boost its profitability, the Montego Bay Convention Centre at Rose Hall is to be renovated to the tune of J$800 million in time to host the United Nations World Tourism Global Conference November 29-30.

This was disclosed by Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett who said the centre was rebounding after suffering millions of dollars losses over time.

**CLARENDON**

Residents anxious for Dykes Hill main road to be fixed

RESIDENTS OF Dykes Hill main road are worried after murmurs that the road would be fixed as the Ministry of Transport has yet to commences work.

“Every single day I get a potential result when the rains caused a culvert beneath the road to crumble almost breaking it in two. A spokesman for the National Works Agency said the road was being addressed but given the nature of the damage it needed special attention in rectifying the situation. This should be forthcoming in short order.”

**KINGSTON & ST ANDREW**

**Five children graduate from Family Court drug treatment programme**

THE KINGSTON and St Andrew Family Court witnessed the graduation on Friday July 28 of five boys from its pilot Children Drug Treatment Programme which seeks to provide an alternative to incarceration for youngsters who abuse drugs.

The court began the initiative in 2014. “At this time, we have more than 30 children continuing even after the five have taken their walk, and every single day I get a potential participant.” Paula Blake-Powell, Resident Magistrate at the court told those who attended the ceremony at the Institute of Jamaica, East Street, Kingston.

“It involves tears, screaming, shouting, begging and pleading; but they are here, they have made it,” said the judge, who referred to the five boys as her children.

**ACROSS JAMAICA**

**Pedestrians walk close to a section of damaged road in Dykes Hill, Clarendon.**

**Immigration Officers complete border protection training course**

NINETY-EIGHT immigration officers have recently completed a border protection training course organised by the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) in collaboration with the British High Commission and the United States Embassy.

Areas covered include human trafficking, counterterrorism, fraudulent document detection, and impostor detection.

The objective is to assist frontline officers to hone their skills, making them more advanced in detecting human trafficking and fraud, and preventing potential terrorist acts.

Earlier in the year, 64 immigration officers graduated from phase one of the training session.

**Mello FM acquiring two radio stations**

Two radio stations Energy FM and Riddim 96 FM, under new ownership will begin test transmissions in late August. Alfred Robinson, owner of Mello FM operator Cornwall Broadcasting Company Limited, is investing upwards of J$45 million to acquire the stations.

Energy FM is the new name for Hot 102 FM, which transmitted from Balmoral Avenue in Kingston, Riddim 96 FM is the former Linkz 96 FM, which transmitted from Montego Bay. Linkz was acquired from Roger Allen of Yard Broadcasting Company Limited in February, Robinson said.

The two stations will be rebroadcast at studios owned by Mello on Barnett Street in Montego Bay and Cargill Avenue in Kingston.

Cornwall Broadcasting will be managing the former Hot 102 FM under contract with Western Broadcasting Services Limited, which is owned by Ken Williams.

**Local Angels of Love Foundation donates monitor to Children Hospital**

ANGELS OF Love Foundation, a local entity which specialises in giving support to needy children especially in the areas of health and education recently donated a multi-purpose monitor to the Bustamante Children’s Hospital.

The monitor can zero in on several body functions occurring at the same time.

Resident say the monitor will enable doctors to monitor the health of children who have to undergo surgery, and is doing so much better since the new equipment was acquired.

**STAFF STORY**

Dr Sharon McLean Salmon (left), pediatric oncologist at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC), demonstrates the use of the attachments for the multi-parameter patient monitor that was donated to the Bustamante Hospital for Children by Angels of Love last Friday. Looking on Anthony Wood (second left), CEO, BHC, Britney Qualle (second right), Chapter Coordinator of Angels of Love and Dr. Michelle-Ann Richards Dawson (right), Senior Medical Officer, BHC. The machine is valued at over $500,000.

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**Student Brandon Lofters is ranked by PCI executives (from left), Group General Manager Winston Watson, Project Engineer for Biofuels, Niconor Reece; and manager for renewable energy and energy efficiency, Dr Peter Rudderock, at the biofuels display at the PCJ Jamaica Alternative Energy Expo, held June 16-17 at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston.**

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Miss St Elizabeth is Festival Queen 2017

Marcia Rowe
Gleaner Writer

Miss St Elizabeth, Dainalyn Swaby, was crowned the winner of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) Miss Jamaica Festival Queen Competition 2017. But it was no surprise.

Before the announcement, she was declared winner of three sectional prizes: Most Poised, Most Culturally Aware, and Best Performance.

Second and third, respectively, were Miss St Ann, Naresha Jackson, and Miss St Mary, Ava-Gail Lindsay. Jackson was also awarded Most Active in Community.

Most Popular on Social Media went to Miss Westmoreland, Daniela Woodbine, and Miss Hanover, Ashley Anderson, was adjudged Most Congenial. But it was Miss St Catherine, Josselle Fisher, who made the top five.

Miss St James – Olovia Shaw, Miss St Thomas – Anastacia Goulbourne, Miss Kingston and St Andrew – Daina Dyer, Miss Clarendon – Vivianne Miller, Miss Trelawny – Kimberly Wright and Miss Portland – Velicia Robinson, were the other participants.

The popular Miss Festival Queen Coronation Show was held on Tuesday, August 1 at the National Arena, Independence Village. Along with great entertainment from the contestants and guests performers, the stage was spectacularly lit and the set was practical and effective.

The show started with a strong celebratory vibe, reinforced by a colourfully costumed dance, choreographed by Ryan McLean and Paul Newman. The dance was performed by dancers from Tivoli and Portmore, as well as the contestants.

The 13 contestants, each already a parish queen vying for the national crown, competed in The Performance and The Evening Wear Parade sections. Those who made the top five had an additional interview.

While the questions for the interview focused on cultural awareness, the pieces performed by the contestants explored and exposed social issues such as domestic violence, litter, gender bias, among others. Some were well written, creatively executed and quite humourous.

The gowns worn by the competitors were designed by Jamaicans and depicted the colours for Independence 2017, black, red, green and gold. Each contestant wore her gown with elegance and grace. The section ended with an impressive rendition of the song “Wings Beneath My Wings” by J-Summa, who serenaded the queens.

Guest performers, St Andrew Technical High School Dance Troupe and Alaine, added much entertainment value. Alaine held the audience engaged with a fantastic set, while the young dancers and their choreographers did justice to Bob Marley’s Exodus.

MCs for the event were Katrina D’Auguilar and Adrian Atkinson.
Do qualify?

Dear Ms Powell,

I am an administrative assistant in Jamaica and I am interested in applying to be a permanent resident of Canada. I was told that admin assistant is not on the list of professions who would be accepted. Is this true? Have a degree but just haven’t had any better opportunities. Plus, I enjoy working at this company, and the salary is good. My husband is a graphic designer and has his own little business. How can we qualify to go to Canada?

- CE

Theexpress entry system does not have a strict occupation list. However, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) uses the Canadian National Occupational Classification (NOC) system to classify jobs/occupations based on the work an applicant does, as well as the job duties. Every applicant will need to have a job letter that outlines the number of hours worked per week, salary, date of employment and job duties. Individuals employed in traditional NOC categories will need to provide proof of education and work experience as evidence that they are qualified for the position.

Skill level A are usually management jobs such as senior government managers, restaurant managers, human resources managers, advertising and public relations managers, mining managers, financial managers and administrative managers. These individuals will be required to provide proof of education and work experience as evidence that they are qualified for the position.

Skill level B are usually professional jobs that require a degree from a recognized university. These are lawyers, doctors, registered nurses, dentists, architects, pharmacists, engineers, financial auditors and accountants.

Skill level C are technical jobs and skilled trades that usually call for a college diploma or training as an apprentice. This would include supervisors, insurance adjusters, claims adjusters, legal assistants, practical nurses, parole boards, broadcast technicians, customs inspectors, nursing and other workers, skilled trades such as chefs, plumbers, electricians, hairstylists and administration of estates.

Skill level D and E are intermediate jobs that usually require a high-school and/or job-specific training.

This include housekeepers, home support workers, caregivers, butchers, drivers, food and beverage servers, labour jobs such as fruit pickers, cleaning staff and oilfield workers. Individuals under this category would only qualify if they have a job offer or provincial nomination from Canada. The Provincial Nominee Programme is a good pathway to permanent residence for individuals with work experience and training under skill type C.

The express entry system is point-based. This means that individuals will need to maximise their points under the language category. Your and your spouse will be required to sit the HLTES general training examination. A minimum score of 8.5 in each category will yield the maximum points for language. You will also need to show that you have the required settlement funds. For example, for a married couple, a bank statement showing a minimum of approximately CDN$15,900 will be required. If you have two children, you will be required to show approximately CDN$23,000.

You will also be required to pass the medical and criminal checks. Once you are able to satisfy these requirements, you should be granted a permanent resident status within six months.

Dear CE,

In its responsibility to find those who come to Canada in its effort to enforce the immigration laws set forth by our legislators, said, “Of those arrested during this operation, nine were released during this operation, ERO personnel conducted enforcement actions in a total of 12 communities.

ICE said of those arrested during the enforcement action, which ended Saturday, 82 had criminal histories, including prior convictions for sex crimes, drug offences and fraud.

Fifteen have pending criminal charges, including assault, arson and sexual exploitation of minors. Ninety-seven individuals have final orders of removal. Others taken into custody during the operation included an unidentified Jamaican national arrested in the Queens section of New York with a prior conviction of forcible touching, robbery in the first degree and in manner to injure a child less than 15 years of age.

ICE said the operation “targeted criminal aliens who pose a public safety threat and individuals who have violated our nation’s immigration laws, including those who re-entered the country after being deported and immigration fugitives ordered removed by federal immigration judges.”

Thomas Decker, field office director for ERO New York, said “Our nation has a proud history of immigration, but we are also a nation governed by laws specifically designed to protect its citizens and residents.

“ERO deportation officers are committed to enforcing the immigration laws set forth by our legislators,” he said. “Of those arrested during this operation, nine were released from New York custody with an active detainer, which poses an increased risk to the officers and the community.”

Regardless of politics, ICE will be diligent in its responsibility to find those who came to the United States to prey upon our communities and ultimately return them to their home countries,” he added.

ICE said 11 of the individuals arrested during the enforcement action will be presented for US federal prosecution for re-entry after deportation, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Those not being criminally prosecuted will be processed for removal from the country. ICE said, adding that individuals who have outstanding orders of removal, or who returned to the United States illegally after being deported, are subject to immediate removal from the country.

ICE said while Queens and Manhattan accounted for the largest number of arrests during the operation, ERO personnel conducted enforcement actions in a total of 12 communities.
Lisa Hanna wins Celebrity Challenge Trophy

Great performances mark Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival

QUEENS, NY: The 7th annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival was welcomed over 16,000 guests on Sunday, July 23. Patrons from all around New York, the tri-state area and beyond came out to Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, NY to enjoy a full day of the 'jerk experience' from a variety of vendors, a delicious culinary pavilion, cultural and mainstage performances, a fun Kids Zone area and an array of give-aways from a variety of sponsors. Adding to the good vibes of the day, the rain held up despite a predicted storm, making the weather as pleasant as the crowd.

The day kicked off with various activities at the Culinary Pavilion. Hosted by Celebrity Chef Iris Spice of the critically acclaimed television series, 'Taste the Islands with Chef Iris' and Food Network's 'Cut-throat Kitchen' and New York's BB King's and Highland Ballroom's Executive Chef Wenford Patrick Rimpson, the Cook-Off tent was on fire. The very impressive line-up of talented Chefs participated in friendly banter among themselves and the engaged spectators.

Chef Andre Fowles of Miss Lily's, a two-time Food Network Chopped champion kicked things off with a cooking demo of chicken tostatias, which was later devoured by the attentive audience.

Lisa Hanna, Jamaican minister of culture 2012-2016 and Miss World 1993, competed against New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in a quick-fire challenge with mystery ingredients that included pork chops, breadfruit, granola bars and spinach. While de Blasio named his dish 'Rice Oxtail Explosion', Hanna proudly won the challenge with her dish 'Goodie' and later shared on the main stage that she "did not come from Jamaica to be beaten". She did her parish of St Ann proud.

JERK LIVER HITS THE SPOT

Chef Shensee Benjamin won the Celebrity Chef Throw Down against Chef Troy Levy of B.B King's and The Food Network hit show Cooks vs. Food. Shensee has worked with renowned Master Chef Jean Georges at the popular restaurante AB Kitchen, Maloney & Porcelli and contemporary restaurant Falai in NYC. Thanks to his jerk liver on a bed of toasted cassava chips, he can now add Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival to his list of accolades.

Doug Call, a friendly vendor competition allowed local businesses to flaunt their dishes. Mr C's Jerk Spot took the prize, Damion Catering came in second place and T&G Flavors took third place.

While many patrons were captivated in the Culinary Pavilion, others roamed the Food Court and feasted on local businesses to flaunt their unique dishes. Mr C's Jerk to name a few, as patrons patiently waited to be served.

Others were engrossed by the performances at the Cultural Fusion Sound stage. Hosted by Jamaican Polidotari Dr Sue, patrons experienced unique performances by YFM artist Yenca, Queens-based performing arts dance company Kinetic Afrique, Comedian and Storyteller Blakka Ellis, from Bello and Blakka fame, Braata Folk Singers, artists The Lion Palm Twins and more.

Thousands camped out over at the mainstage, where K'gae, King Yellowman's daughter opened with a versatile performance displaying great stage presence. Hood Celebrity followed her with an energetic and engaging set. The crowd couldn't get enough of current reggae sensation Droop Lion, who wowed guests with his seasoned vocals, making him a hit with media in attendance.

ENTERTAINING EVENT

Host Ragahmashi showcased an unexpected yet family friendly taste of his brand, while sooo wonder woman, Alison Hinde delivered a set of all her classic hits such as Reel It O All, giving the park life by having everyone dancing. Coming off the heels of a successful year with his breakout single Bruk Off Tab Back which was remixed with M&B Inshaker Chris Brown, Xonshine followed Alison with a clean performance that the audience, particularly the ladies loved.

Reggae legend Barrington Levy rocked the stage performing crowd favourites and surprised everyone by introducing Spraggie Benz for a cameo appearance. Closing the show, Morgan Heritage epitomised a royal reggae family with a stellar performance. In between, mainstage sets were performances by Blakka Ellis, Platinum and Mr C's Dance Hall Dancer, and the crowd loved every minute of it.

Other features of the festival included the Kids Zone with rides and games that the young ones enjoyed, a friendly banter among themselves and the engaged spectators.

This was one of the best years of the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival in New York. People of all ethnicities came out for the full experience and truly enjoyed themselves," said Eddy Edwards, CEO of Jerk Festival, LLC. "We thank everyone who came together to make this happen for the 7th year in a row and we look forward to an even bigger event next year." Edwards concluded.

The 7th Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival is presented by Jamaican Jerk Festival NY, LLC. in association with VP Records. Sponsors are Grace Foods, Jamaican Tourist Board, Tower Isle Patties and VP Records.

Lisa Hanna won the challenge with her dish ‘Goodie’ and later shared on the main stage that she “did not come from Jamaica to be beaten”.

coconut water, frozen lemonade and Grace Tropical Rhythms. Long lines were witnessed at Boston Jerk, Yeve's Restaurant, Mr C's Jerk to name a few, as patrons patiently waited to get served.

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Other features of the festival included the Kids Zone with rides and games that the young ones enjoyed, and a VP Records Reggae & Soca Gold Booth which offered Reggae Gold branded personalisation gifts at the Boscov camera stand. Other sponsors such as VMHS, Pizzeria Uno, Fandango and Hertz offered trips and gift baskets to lucky winners.

"This was one of the best years of the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival in New York. People of all ethnicities came out for the full experience and truly enjoyed themselves," said Eddy Edwards, CEO of Jerk Festival, LLC. "We thank everyone who came together to make this happen for the 7th year in a row and we look forward to an even bigger event next year." Edwards concluded.

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EVENTS CANADA
The consul general of Jamaica, Lloyd Wilks, invites you to an exhibition by artist, Cherry Stewart Josephs, Aug. 9-11 at the Consulate General of Jamaica, 303 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto. Call 416-598-2064

Jane Finch Concerned Citizens Organization will hold a Sesquicentennial Cultural Festival for the Latin, African, West Indian and Caribbean Community on Saturday, Aug. 12, an all-day event starting at 11am at the Toronto Plaza Hotel, 1677 Wilson Ave., Toronto.

Garvey Full 100: A Celebration of 100 Years of the UNIA in the USA/130th Earthstrong (Birthday) of the Hon. Marcus Garvey on Thursday, Aug. 17, 6-8:30 p.m. at A Different Booklist, 779 Bathurst St., Toronto. tabonoinstitute@gmail.com. Call 416-825-7900

Rastafest presents the Canadian Reggae Music Conference on Thursday, Aug. 17, 1-4pm at Toronto Plaza Hotel, 1677 Wilson Ave., and on Friday, Aug. 18, 9am-5pm, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Speakers include Lloyd Stanbury and Kabaka Pyramid. www.rastafest.com

NEW YORK
Merl Grove HS PSA NY 6th Annual “Bring Your Own Basket Family Fun Day Picnic”, August 12th, Cunningham Park - Picnic Yellow #1, Queens, NY 2 P to twilight. For further information contact: 917-670-2480 or 347-508-1924.

You are invited to The Jamaica Independence Gala, Saturday, August 26th at 6:30 pm, Atlanta Alumni Association Chapter Day, Saturday, August 26th, Atlanta Belvedere SDA Church. 3587 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032. Starting 10AM. Divine Service, AVS, Social and Fish Fry. www.facebook.com/NCUAAA

FLORIDA
The Jamaican American Association of Central Florida (JAACF), presents its annual Jamaica Independence Celebration & Gala, on Saturday, August 12, 2017, at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 5905 Kirkman Road, Orlando. Start time: 7:00 pm - 1:00 am. Keynote speaker, Orley Burey, JD. Entertainment: DJ Gary Chung. Semi-formal attire. Info: 407.403.4757

Chic Entertainment presents Gospel Explosion 2017, on Saturday, August 26, at the Orlando Metro West Church of the Nazarene, 5705 N. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando. Showtime - 7:30 pm. Guests: Carlene Davis, Tommy Cowan, Hero Brown. Stacy Wilson, Sister GG, Sister Arlene. Info: 407.522.9990.

ATLANTA
The Atlanta Jamaica Association, Inc. invites you to the Annual Independence Ball & Scholarship Awards, August 12th from 6 pm - 1:30 am, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta. For further information call 404-436-1427.

Northern Caribbean University, Atlanta Alumni Association Chapter Day, Saturday, August 26th, 2017, Atlanta Belvedere SDA Church. 3587 Covington Highway, Decatur, GA 30032. Starting 10AM. Divine Service, AVS, Social and Fish Fry. www.facebook.com/NCUAAA

PHILADELPHIA
Keystone First & Better Living Center’s 12th Chester Community Fair and Book Bag Giveaway, Sunday, August 13th, 2 - 6 pm, 501 Yarnall Street, Chester. For further information call 610-497-1082.

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
**Dr Vary Jones-Leslie**

A profound loss

Doctor killed outside airport in Cayman laid to rest

ROMARIO SCOTT

Gleaner Writer

SCORES OF mourners turned out on Thursday, August 3 to pay their final respects to Dr Vary Jones-Leslie, the obstetrician and gynaecologist who met her demise in The Cayman Islands last month, sending shockwaves throughout the medical community in Jamaica and the region.

Hushed moans echoed throughout the packed the University Chapel on the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies in St Andrew as family, friends, and patients described the woman they fondly called Pam as a tower of strength.

Her heart-broken, long-time friend and colleague Dr Celia Christie, in delivering a tribute on behalf of the medical class of 1979, broke down in tears, as she recalled how Jones-Leslie practiced medicine with a Christian love and honor.

But her regret. "We are going to have our class of '79 reunion soon and I cannot believe Vary won't be there," said Christie under heavy breath and a cracking voice.

**Remembering Vecas Gray Sr**

FAMILY AND friends gathered in numbers to pay tribute to Vecas Gray Sr at a memorial service held at St. John United Methodist Church of Elmont in New York, recently.

Born on April 5, 1954 in Gregory Park, St. Catherine, Jamaica to parents Mavis Davis and Basil Gray, Vecas attended Gregory All Age School and KingstonTechnical High School. He worked as a welder to help support his newly widowed mother and siblings. He went on to study electronic engineering at The College of Arts Science & Technology (now UTech). He worked at Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation before migrating to the United States. He attended Technical Career Institute, The Cooper Union and NY Institute of Technology.

Vecas’ long-time friend, the Rev. Dr. Fred Mitchell in delivering his sermon spoke of how Vecas dedicated his life to service. He reminisced on their childhood days - giving nicknames to each other. He challenged the audience to emulate Vecas’ passion for life and service and not to let time slip by as tomorrow is not promised.

Dr. Roy Streete, Chairman of The Organization for International Development (OID), spoke of the contributions Vecas made to the Organization since joining in 1994. He accompanied the group on many missions to Jamaica where he brought on board his scientific skills in the science fairs that he conducted with the children throughout the island. Dr. Streete said although Vecas did not make the biblical three score and ten, a man’s life is not measured by the number of years but by the number of lives he touched. His humor and laughter will resonate with all who came in contact with him.

There were many other glowing tributes from relatives and friends. Vecas passed away recently in Poughkeepsie, NY on July 1st. He is survived by his wife Odette, children Karlene, Vocas Jr., Karina, Jason and Jordan, grandchildren, sister Hermilyn Crowe, brothers Boyne and Andrew, other relatives and friends.

Funeral service will be held in Clermont, Florida and Interment in Leesburg, Florida.
Diaspora team tours social projects

DELEGATES ATTENDING the recently concluded Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference were impressed by the work of three social enterprises being nurtured by the Social Enterprise Boost Initiative (SEBI), a project of the Jamaica National (JN) Foundation and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Jamaican delegates who reside primarily in the United Kingdom, United States and Canada were taken on a social tour of the Deaf Can! Coffee, 360 Recycle Manufacturing and Alpha Wear JA in Kingston.

The delegates toured the Deaf Can! Coffee facility at the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf located at 4 Cassia Park where they were treated to coffee, milk shake, fruit smoothies and pastries, all products of the Deaf Can! enterprise.

Meanwhile, 360 Recycle Manufacturing Limited gave them a glimpse into how they converted waste to wealth by using discarded plastic bottles, styrofoam, newspaper, and cardboard to create pieces of art, flower pots, playground equipment, garden sets and construction materials such as building blocks.

Alpha Wear JA, located on South Camp Road displayed their social enterprise offering of screen printing and high quality embroidery services on textile and ceramics to the delight of the delegates.

“It is very inspiring,” said Renea Douglas, vice president of the Jamaican Canadian Association. “Having lived outside of Jamaica for many years, it is good to see them (social enterprises) doing something to create opportunities for themselves.”

Douglas was particularly impressed with the production of 360 Recycle Manufacturing and Deaf Can!

“It is an experience to witness this social enterprise using recycled materials and creating useful products as well as employment,” she said of the 35 persons employed by 360 Recycle Manufacturing from nearby communities on Rousseau Road.

“For Deaf Can!, we see the inquisitiveness whereby these young people are given an opportunity to improve themselves,” she added.

For retired banker and teacher, Sonia Ferguson, the tour of the facilities was insightful. “I am not a risk taker but to see people creating employment and utilizing resources that are here, I think there is hope for Jamaica,” she observed.

Ferguson also gave glowing tributes to 360 Recycle Manufacturing: “I have a passion for recycling and to see that this company turned it into a business, is amazing. I’m glad somebody is recycling and utilizing the garbage and making a business out of it,” she said.

Saffrey Brown, General Manager of JN Foundation said the tour was organized in order to showcase to the Jamaican Diaspora that positive things are happening in Jamaica.

“These social enterprises are bringing opportunities for employment, bringing opportunities for entrepreneurship and bringing opportunities for social innovators to define who they are and what they are capable of. Social enterprise is an avenue that is inclusive and allows them to do that,” she said.

Brown encouraged the delegates to support these social enterprises and said they could contribute to the development of these enterprises by taking up the opportunities offered by the JN Bank Diaspora Certificate of Deposit.

She explained that a percentage of the interest earned from the CD will be matched.

J’can businesswoman gets boost at Montreal Startupfest

WHEN OWNER of Mi Natural, Shanen Morgan, decided to participate in a local initiative called Made in Manchester, an event of 20 Twenty Strategies, she had no idea her brand would have an international appeal.

A civil engineering undergraduate from the University of Technology, Morgan has a passion for natural living and, as such, makes natural beauty products that use authentic oils as the main ingredients and produced by local farmers.

As such, makes natural beauty products that use authentic oils as the main ingredients and produced by local farmers.

Mi Natural is currently focusing on hair potion - a hair oil that lengthens, thickens, and strengthens the hair, is currently the only Jamaican brand represented in Montreal, Canada, that is benefiting from this year’s StartUpExperience CA.

The Montreal StartUpfest is Canada’s largest start-up event, with their new international initiative being StartUpExperience CA.

This initiative brought 100 international entrepreneurs to work in Montreal, one of Canada’s busiest start-up cities, for three months this summer (May-July 2017), to create and grow new relationships between start-up communities on a global scale.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

According to Morgan’s mentor, Annette Salmon, six female start-ups participated in the Made in Manchester event, but Morgan grabbed the opportunity for Canada.

“Even though her branding and product were not finalised, I assisted her in putting on the final touches to her concept logo just in time for the event and have been mentoring her since. I received communication about the Start-up Fest in Montreal, Canada, which I shared with a group of start-ups who attended the event. Shanen applied and the rest is history,” Salmon said.

According to Morgan, this year’s theme is ‘LUCK’ – recognising that you are at the right place at the right time and speaks to her happiness for seizing the opportunity.

During this time, Morgan was able to meet the founder of StartUpPost, Phil Telio and many other multimillionaire entrepreneurs who gave talks about their success stories such as Harley Finkelstein, founder of Shopify and Sam Pasipalak, founder of Maluwa.

“Ron Bresky, past marketing manager from L’Oreal, also mentored me and gave great insight on enhancing hair potion – all of which I’ll be infusing into my product upon returning to Jamaica in August,” Morgan said.

She added that this adventure has allowed her to widen her horizon as her product is now being sold in five stores in Canada and the list of prospects are growing.
Ja votes to lift Russia’s drug ban

RESIDENT OF the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA) Dr Warren Blake has defended the body’s decision to support an appeal of the drug ban against Russia at last Thursday’s IAAF Congress in London while some 188 countries voted to the contrary.

Jamaica was joined by 20 other countries in voting for the ban to be lifted.

But the vote result for Russia fell well short of the two-thirds majority it required to be re-admitted.

This comes eight months after the IAAF abstained from a vote on a number of reform issues which included several anti-doping elements geared at lifting athletes from a series of major corruption and credibility scandals, which deeply involved evidence of State-sponsored doping by Russian athletes.

Despite the fact that Russia’s athletics bosses failed to meet six established criteria targets, Blake believes that the Russian authority has shown significant improvements in their anti-doping efforts and that their athletes deserve a chance to represent their country in international competition.

**CLEARED TO COMPETE**

Several Russian athletes have cleared to compete as neutrals by the IAAF.

You look at the number of Russian athletes that are competing, albeit they are not competing under Russia, and there is a significant body of opinion that the athletes should be able to compete for their country,” Blake said following the vote.

“Do you tell me why they could not let back Russia in and let their athletes be subjected to the same strictures in order to compete, that they would have to certify them clean before they can compete?” he asked.

“They (Russia) have gone a significant way down the road on all the criteria targets. They have gone a significant way in meeting all the criteria targets,” Blake said.

The JAAA president also stated that he is not expecting any backlash because of the decision, but believes the IAAF’s open voting system might have affected the results.

“We don’t expect any backlash, we are a federation where everyone can express their views and vote how their conscience tells them to,” Blake said.

“This open voting, a lot of persons could not vote with their conscience because of open voting,” said Blake. “Congresse has never voted on the issue of whether or not ballots should be open votes or not. That was one of the issues that was before Congress today and it was taken off the ballot paper to be determined at a future date.”

The Russian ban has been in place since November 2015 following a report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency which found evidence of state-supported doping.

Among the other countries who voted to lift the ban were Bangladesh, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Jordan, Lebanon, Macau, Mongolia, Monambique, Nauru, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Romania, North Korea, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

**EMBARRASSING**

That is how Jamaica’s senior women team captain Simone Asque has described the loss to Trinidad and Tobago in the 2017 Caribbean Zone Volleyball Association (CAZOVA) championship.

They advanced to round-three competition in the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) World Championship qualifiers in October despite finishing runners-up after being beaten 3-0 by Trinidad and Tobago.

“That was embarrassing. It was not the best,” a visibly disappointed Asque told The Gleaner.

“We did not perform. We were not playing together; we were not performing. We were not prepared mentally and physically for performing this task (winning the championships). I am extremely disappointed with how we performed. The only positive is that we’ve qualified for the next round of the World Championships,” she emphasised.

The volleyball captain said that they would move on and focus on the next round.

“It is better to know what we have done wrong and address it than go through and not really see how we have our problem. I would rather take this loss, even though it stings,” Asque reasoned.

The crucial FIVB Round Three elimination will be hosted by three countries, with each a four-team tournament. The first will be staged in Canada, from September 26-30. Trinidad and Tobago will host the second, October 4-9, while the third will be held in the Dominican Republic. October 11-16.

Six teams will advance to the 2018 World Championships.

Asque said that the team would be working towards improving for the next task.

“Going forward, we need to look at our training, whether it is getting additional support for the programme, finding different ways to address some of the skills. We have some work to do. It is not something that we have to be stressed about, how we performed in the final,” she concluded.

**Sprinter Riker Hylton cleared of charges**

DR EMIR Crowne, the legal representative of 400 metres sprinter Riker Hylton, has praised the Independent Anti-Doping Panel (IADP) for its decision to clear the athlete of anti-doping violation charges brought about by the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO).

The decision was announced in a five-minute meeting at the Sports Development Foundation headquarters at Phoenix Avenue in St Andrew on Thursday, August 3, following a two-day bearing of testimonies from witnesses of both Hylton and JADCO on May 30 and 31.

Hylton was alleged to have been in breach of Article 2.3 of JADCO’s laws, saying that he “failed or evaded to submit” a sample requested by a Testing and Investigation. This states that the athlete must be the first person notified that he or she has been selected for sample collection. The athlete must then be ready and available to provide a sample in a maximum of 12 hours.

Crowne said that the 46-page document presenting the IADP’s reasons for its decision was very revealing.

“We are quite thankful for the panel’s reasoning,” he said. “The panel went into considerable depth in analysing everything that was put before them and we would like to thank the panel for their thoroughness. It was a good decision that canvases all of the possible avenues that could’ve been explored.”

Crowne said the panel also considered the lack of written documentation by JADCO regarding notifying Hylton.

“At the end of the day, the panel was not comfortably satisfied that Mr Hylton was, in fact, notified,” he said. “There seemed to be a paucity or an absence of, at least, written documentation, with respect to Hylton, that the panel emphasised.

“In the absence of that documentation, in the absence of the doping control form and with Ms Jonique Day’s corroborating testimony, the panel was not comfortably satisfied that Mr Hylton was, in fact, properly notified. Again, we are grateful for the ruling.”

**EXTREMELY RELIEVED**

Crowne described Hylton as being extremely relieved by the decision, as he found the entire hearing process exhausting.

“As you can imagine, these proceedings wear quite heavily on the athlete. He’s relieved to have this matter put to rest, especially as the eyes of the world will once again be on Jamaica and Jamaican athletics in the crucial IAAF World Championships,” Crowne said.

The IADP also ruled that JADCO did not breach Article 5.3.7 of the International Standard for Testing and Investigation. This states that the athlete must be the first person notified that he or she has been selected for sample collection. The panel said that this was because Hylton’s coach, Bert Cameron, was not the first person notified.

Hylton’s ruling follows that of his Cameroon-born athlete Blaine Roque. Roque was also cleared after facing a similar charge of failing to provide a sample.

“Roque has made a big contribution to Jamaica’s world-record breaking team in the 4x400 metres,” Crowne said.

**Spurs:**

Roque recalled his time as an athlete at the University of the West Indies and the University of Illinois and his experience of facing several charges.

“Roque is a man of great character. He is a man who has been through so much and has achieved so much,” Crowne said.

Roque was also cleared after facing a similar charge of failing to provide a sample.
Bolt wows London despite defeat

André Lowé
Sports Editor

LONDON, England: The moment just wasn't there for Usain Bolt. Just when he had the Olympic gold medal comfortably in his sights, he faltered in the 200m final on Saturday, yielding the gold to Justin Gatlin.

The fact that he is the only man in the world to have won both the 100m and 200m Gold medals at the Olympics is one that he has always taken immense pride in. The fact that he was not able to defend his title, the Olympic one, was a source of immense disappointment.

Gatlin was the gold medalist, coming in 0.01 seconds faster than Usain, who claimed silver. The American sprinter completed the 200m in 19.69 seconds, while the Jamaican's time was 19.70.

Usain said after the race, “It wasn't the perfect race, but I did my best and that's what matters. I think I was in good shape to win it, but my start and the first 30m is always important, especially when I'm not in the best shape, so far me, it's one of those things. I did my best,” said Bolt.

What next?

The question that must now be asked is, what sort, not just for Bolt, but for the sport, will happen now that Usain is out of it?

Bolt himself was far less critical of the American. “He deserved it. He worked hard, he came out here and he was ready, so he did well. He has done it for a long time. I look at him as another competitor and today, he was the better man.”

Gatlin, for his part, spent much of his time under the lights underlining his admiration of a man that he credited as an inspiration. “It’s not about doing it to Usain, Usain is the man. A win or loss here, this guy has taken the sport to a new level. You have to imagine him not being in the sport, where would it be? The excitement that he brings, he is a character, he is lovable even while competing against you, you want to wish him the best,” said Gatlin, who was winning his second World title 12 years after his first.

Still, even in defeat, Bolt, as expected, was the centre of attention as fans said goodbye to their hero. How will track and field cope without the man that has, for the last decade, acted as the buffer between all that is right and all that is wrong in the sport?

Bolt’s performances and personality and, perhaps most important, the credibility that he provides in a sport that has struggled to get its fans to believe what they see, have made him not just a superstar athlete, but the superstar athlete that guarantees relevance.

The fact that he is the only sprinter who has gone 9.79 or less is testament to the man that he is. Just ask Jamaican sprinters who have struggled to get going in the opening season.

Jamaica’s Yohan Blake was fourth in 9.99 seconds. “It wasn’t the perfect race, but I did my best and that’s what matters. I think I was in good shape to win it, but my start and the first 30m is always important, especially when I’m not in the best shape, so far me, it’s one of those things. I did my best,” said Bolt.

He has done his time under the lights, he came out here and did his job, he gave his best and he got his reward. Usain Bolt is Usain Bolt and he will always be Usain Bolt if he did-...
SUNSHINE GIRLS PULL OUT OF CARIB CHAMPS

Interim coach of the Jamaica senior netball team, Sasher-Gaye Henry, said that the Sunshine Girls’ withdrawal from this year’s Caribbean Netball Championship is a major blow to their preparation for international assignments.

McLeod looks to break world record, try other events

ANDRE LOWE
Sports Editor

LONDON, England:

HAVING CONQUERED the sprint hurdling world, freshly minted Olympic champion Omar McLeod will be turning his attention elsewhere.

The 23-year-old is also looking to broaden his range at the international level and is planning a raid on the shorter sprints in the coming season.

McLeod, the reigning Olympic champion, showed his power and poise to top the podium in 13.04 seconds, beating Russia’s Sergey Shubenkov, 13.14, who is one of several athletes competing as neutral and Hungary’s Balazs Baji, 13.28 to the finish line. McLeod’s teammate Hansle Parchment was eighth in 13.37.

Please see GIFT, 23

Omar McLeod takes gold in the 110m hurdles in 13.04 seconds at the 2017 World Championships in London.

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