PHILLIPS ADDRESSES FIRST CONFERENCE AS PNP PRESIDENT

JAMAICA FIRST
Promotes sweeping changes

STORY ON PAGE 3

WORLD’S OLDEST PERSON DIES – P6
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Phillips seeks sweeping changes

I N HIS first address as president of the People’s National Party (PNP), Dr Peter Phillips, on Sunday September 17, outlined a raft of goals for the party going forward. Chief among them was a push for a fixed election date, use of more local expertise on national projects and a plan to get squatters on a path to legal land ownership.

He said, if his party is voted to power, it would change the present law to fix the date, within a specific time, for general elections to fill vacancies in Parliament.

According to Phillips, if this is done, “no prime minister will be able to play games with the calling of by-elections.”

Addressing the party faithful during the PNP’s 70th anniversary celebrations at the National Arena, Phillips suggested that Prime Minister Andrew Holness has reneged on a commitment to name a date for by-elections in St Andrew.

“The window for these assurances has already passed and no date has been announced,” he said.

Phillips said the Opposition has made it clear to the Government that the people of the three constituencies – St Mary South East, St Andrew South and St Andrew South West - are without a member of parliament until the election.

Former MP for St Mary South East, Dr Winston Green died, while Portia Simpson Miller, who represe nted St Andrew South West, has retired. Dr Omar Davies also retired as MP for St Andrew South.

Describing PNP’s Dr Shane Alexis, who will run on the party’s ticket in St Mary South East, as a “youn g lion,” Phillips said the medical practitioner has devoted himself to the service of people and the wider country.

Phillips said at the end of conference that the party will hit the road to ensure that Alexis gets the opportunity to complete the job started by the late MP Green.

Dr Norman Dunn, of the Jamaica Labour Party, will challenge Alexis when a by-election is called for the constituency.

Phillips called for a review of the policies in the construction sector, noting that a new PNP administration would reserve preferential treatment for Jamaican enterprises in the sector.

NO SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS

“While making it clear that the PNP welcomes foreign investments, Phillips said his party would encourage foreign investors to partner with local firms. “We don’t want to be second class in our own land.”

Phillips highlighted that should be “Jamaica first” when it comes to using expertise to redevelop downtown Kingston.

Phillips said over the past decade, Jamaican participation in the construction industry has been shrinking.

“This is a moment of our time at the wicket, but the evidence is even clearer now. It cannot be that the Jamaican construction industry, our architects, our engineers, our contractors who design and built the National Stadium, the Jamaica Conference Centre, the Bank of Jamaica building, the Bank of Jamaica building, Scott’s Centre – are now being told that in order to redevelop down-town Kingston and construct the new of the National building, we have to get foreign expertise to design and build. That is not going forward. That is moving backward,” said Phillips.

The issue of land settlement, Phillips said a future PNP government would amend the NHT Act to give the trust powers similar to the minister of housing and the Urban Development Corporation to cut through the red tape and fast-track approvals for schemes.

He insisted that NHT contributors, especially those in the low-income category, must be entitled to a benefit from the Trust.

There are also plans to empower the NHT to block transfers specifically for public-sector workers such as police, teachers, health personnel, and the indigenous, who have contributed to the Trust.

Phillips recommended the release of state-owned lands to the NHT for subdivision and sale at affordable prices.

He bemoaned conditions under which Jamaicans across the country have had to be living on gullies, river banks and hillside.

The PNP president said the reality for many Jamaicans is that they have to walk the edge of a gutter bank, rain or shine, to get home.

“It is a shame, a blot, a scar on the landscape of our country.”

Arguing that there was need for urgent action, Phillips said he has established the Land Ownership and Management Commission to develop strategies and effective proposals to fix the problem.

The commission has made proposals for fast-tracking the land titling process by crafting modern law to make it easier and less costly to get proprietary documentation.

It also recommends an approach whereby GIS satellite-based technologies are used to reduce the time and cost of surveys, valuations and other activities involved in the titling process.

Dr Peter Phillips (centre), president of the People’s National Party (PNP), is flanked by former party presidents P.J. Patterson and Portia Simpson Miller.

McCauley for CIN Lecture series, Nov 15

DIANA MCCaulay, Jamaican environmental activist, will deliver the 13th Annual CIN Lecture on November 15 at the Roho Vương Center for Research in Black Culture, New York.

McCauley’s presentation to the diaspora, titled “The State of the Rock: How do we protect the Jamaican environment?” will explore the current state of Jamaica’s natural environment and climate – forests, rivers, coral reefs and the main threats to these natural assets, including climate change and poor environmental management.

She will also outline ways in which the diaspora can help to protect our valuable natural environment.

The CIN Lecture Series is a community forum for hearing visionary Caribbean leaders who reflect on regional affairs and provide hope and inspiration. For almost 30 years, the lecture has attracted capacity audiences to participate in this unique exchange between Caribbean thought leaders and members of the Caribbean community.

McCauley is a founding member and currently the chief executive officer of the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), one of Jamaica’s leading environmental non-profit agencies. Over the past 26 years, she has led a wide range of efforts to educate Jamaicans on the importance of the natural environment, as well as organising campaigns to protect the island’s special places and filing groundbreaking legal action to build environmental jurisprudence.

She has received several awards for her environmental efforts, including a Bronze Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica, a Ripple Award from the Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals and the Order of Distinction (Officer Class) from the Government of Jamaica on Heroes Day 2016.

nobel peace prize

McCauley contributed to the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. She has written several critically acclaimed novels and is in the process of seeking publication for her first non-fiction work on her environmental journey, titled Loving Jamaica.

For the past 12 years, the CIN Lectures have been presented by former prime ministers of Jamaica – P.J. Patterson, Edward Seaga and Bruce Golding; successful persons in the business community – Robert Wehby of GraceKennedy; and Grill; Douglas Orane and Don Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery, respectively; and Grill; Douglas Orane and Don

Diana McCaulay

cultural and political icons such as Robert Hill, Rex Nettleford, Ronnie Thwaites, Greg Christie, Peter Phillips and Trevor缪roe. This year’s lecture will be streamed live and rebroadcast on CIN TV, reaching the over two million Caribbean-Americans in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

For further information on the upcoming CIN Lecture series, contact CIN at (876) 908-0443, (947) 448-4345 or email mail@cinjvajamaica.com.

Seeking family members of Keith Porter

THE MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade-Concur Affairs Department is seeking the public’s assistance in locating the family of Keith Raistan Porter (date of birth 4th May 1948) who hospitalized in New York. He was born in Claremond, Jamaica, was never married and has five (5) children. Four of the five are: Nicole Porter, Shaun Porter, Peter Porter. Port hear has two uncles in Jamaica with the names Astonra and Leslie Porter. A family address is in the Kingston 3 area. He has been in the United States for four years. The Ministry is asking Porter’s family to contact its office at 29 Dominica Ave, Kingston 5 (New Kingston) or telephone number 876-426-4220 extension 3352.
The psychological impact of Irma

The hurricane has a broad scope explaining that in the face of the losses that resulted from Hurricane Irma, persons have new stresses related to meeting their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.

Fright and Flight

And once you have human beings in survival mode trying to meet their basic needs, they will start to have responses which are similar to your fight and flight response.

Dr Samuel notes that during the first two weeks after a catastrophic event people may feel irritable, have acute stress responses, manifested in difficulty sleeping, a lot of anxiety-panic episodes, and having general anxiety symptoms.

She warns if this continues past the first two weeks, there can be situations where persons get into a post-traumatic stress response, adding that the response would vary, depending on the individual's level of resilience and coping skills.

In other persons come here primarily to work or come to any island primarily to work and they don't have that extended family support, they are going to be more at risk for experiencing these responses.

Dr Samuel notes, a worrying reality for the BVIs, where 60 per cent of the population are expatriates.

Mental health professionals encourage people who have experiences such a high level of loss seek help to deal with the trauma of their experiences.

Being in the hurricane itself and having personally experienced it, it was a traumatic event because for most people who were in the hurricane, at some point, you felt as if you could have died.

Dr Samuel says, adding adding that it is important that persons get counselling and have places and spaces in which they can talk about their experiences.

And that is why it is so important that in handling the whole recovery response, we ensure that people are reassured and that there is evidence of order, that these needs - basic needs - will be met as we go through the rest of the recovery.

Glum to Alive

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, virtually everyone who spoke about how they experienced the storm at some point said, “Thank God, I am alive.”

Gregory Smith, a Trinidad-born pastor who has been shepherding the congregation at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Virgin Gorda for the past eight years, said that islanders are still in shock after experiencing the hurricane.

As島民 are saying this is unreal, this is not happening. They are still in shock as to what exactly happened,” he said, adding that in

Managing Emotions

“They should also get help in managing the emotions they may be feeling because people are going to be feeling overwhelmed.

Therefore, persons should be allowed to talk about what they are feeling, cry if they need to cry.”

Dr Samuel notes that in the Caribbean, people are sometimes reluctant to go for counselling, but points out that receiving counselling might not be a priority for storm victims who are trying to survive and meet their basic needs.

So we need to make sure that we set up in our response ways that people have access to or counselling is made available to persons.”

She adds, adding that counselling can be provided in disaster shelters and work places and for students when they return to school.

But she says that mental well-being is also linked to physical well-being, and that persons should ensure that they get adequate rest and eat properly and regularly, even as she noted that stress could reduce one’s appetite.

“Eating is important, resting is important.”

Dr Samuel said, urging storm victims to ensure that they have a group that you can be in contact with so that you can talk things over.

However, even persons who suffered no physical injury or whose properties suffered negligible damage in the storm have felt overwhelmed by their experiences.

They included a woman who tells CMC that while the only impact on her house was some flooding, she was feeling stressed out by her experience during the hurricane.

But I was able to have a counselling session with a [doctor], along with two other persons and it really helped me in terms of looking at it differently, basically accepting what happened. I could try to at least spin on it going forward. So, after leaving the meeting, I felt more relaxed,” the woman, who asked not to be named because of her job does not allow her to speak to the media.

Please see IRMA, 5
JAMAICAN woman sentenced to prison in connection with lottery fraud scheme

A JAMAICAN citizen charged in connection with the operation of a lottery fraud scheme was sentenced to two years in prison by the federal court in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Department of Justice said.

Shashana Stacyann Smith, 34, was sentenced to serve 24 months in prison by US District Court Judge Robert J. Conrad Jr. Smith was also ordered to pay US$167,532.95 in restitution.

Smith pleaded guilty on March 31, to one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud in the Western District of North Carolina. As part of her guilty plea, Smith acknowledged that from in or about early 2015 through at least in or about August 2016, she was a member of a lottery fraud conspiracy that targeted victims in the United States.

“Today’s sentencing demonstrates the Justice Department’s commitment to combating foreign-based lottery fraud schemes targeted at individuals in the United States,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad A. Readler of the Justice Department’s Civil Division’s Fraud and Financial Crimes Section.

Smith’s case was handled by Assistant US Attorney Kelli H. Costello of the US Attorney’s Office for the Western District of North Carolina.

This prosecution is part of the Department of Justice’s effort to work with local law enforcement to combat fraudulent lottery schemes in Jamaica, the press release said.

Assistant Attorney General Readler and US Attorney Rose commended the investigative efforts of the US Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Protection Division, the press release said.

“Today’s sentencing is a win for all Americans who are weary of these phone call scammers,” said Daniel Brubaker of the US Postal Inspection Service’s Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Division.

“Engaging in a fraud scheme takes advantage of innocent people and can carry serious consequences, including time in prison,” said US Attorney J.T. Westmoreland Rose of the Western District of North Carolina.

“Particularly insidious are those who target victims in the sanctity of their home and those who have no understanding of the consequences of providing information to these fraudsters. We consider today’s sentencing a win for all Americans who are weary of these phone call scammers.”
Former UK diplomat Herbert Walker passes

A FORMER distinguished diplomat, civil servant and lawyer, Ambassador Herbert Samuel Walker has died. The 93-year-old passed peacefully on September 28 at his home in St Andrew.

Paying tribute to Walker, who was former Prime Minister PJ Patterson’s first permanent secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Tourism, Patterson said Walker’s passing “signifies how near we are to the end of that era where public servants of extraordinary talents first engaged in building the institutional foundations of our nation and then proceeded to assert our sovereignty in the international arena.”

“The departure of Ambassador Walker reminds us of the urgent need to replenish the cadre of those with extraordinary talent who are essential to the well-being of every Jamaican citizen at home and abroad.”

Patterson urged the country “to give grateful thanks to a life of noble service.” Walker also served as permanent secretary to the late Robert Lightbourne, Minister of Trade and Industry.

He was born in St. Mary on February 29, 1924. In 1942, he was awarded the Jamaica Centenary Scholarship which took him to McGill University, Canada, graduating in 1946 with a BA, first-class honours, economics and political science.

Two years later he earned LL.B from Victoria University and was called to the Bar at Gray’s Inn, London in 1950. His next seven years was spent working with the Secretariat in Goyana, returning to work as Permanent Secretary with the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Foreign Trade and Tourism, and Finance.

In 1972 he was posted with the rank of Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies in Geneva, as Jamaica’s Permanent Representative, a position he held until 1977 when he returned home as Governor of the central bank.

The foreign service called again and from 1981 to 1988, he further enhanced his diplomatic expertise as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom before his final posting in 1989 as the country’s Ambassador to the United Nations. He brought the curtain down on a stellar career in 1993 when he retired from public service.

Retired Ambassadors Ellen Bogle and Maxine Roberts, speaking with The Gleaner, both described him as “a stickler for getting work done properly. He did not tolerate ‘slipped work,’” they recalled.

And in his tribute Patterson said, “he oozed that self-confidence which made failure out of the question. Patterned mentioned Walker’s ‘sterling value’ as Jamaica’s Permanent Representative to the UN, which was recognised by the entire diplomatic community.”

“When he spoke, his colleague Ambassadors were forced to listen, learn and be persuaded.”

Patterson praised him for his contribution as Chairman of the Group of 77 at the Second UNIDO General Conference in Peru and in promoting the justification for a New International Economic Order.

At the UNCTAD Conference in Kenya, Walker was the leading diplomatic spokesman for the developing countries as a strong protagonist for the Common Fund.

“He was a fine scholar and articulate spokesman in promoting the interests of the Third World in every forum.”

“We must cherish his memory and build on this rich legacy of excellence he has bequeathed,” said Patterson.

Walker leaves wife Eva and daughters Barbara and Susan.

A service of thanksgiving will be held for him on Tuesday October 17 at St Margaret’s Church 167 Old Hope Road.

World’s oldest person dies

ADRIAN FRATER AND LEON JACKSON
Gleaner Reporters

JOHNNY SCHMITT
Boca Raton

VIOLET MOSS BROWN, who had the enviable distinction of being the world’s oldest person for just over five months, is dead.

Moss Brown, who was born on March 16, 1900, became the world’s oldest person on April 16, 2017 when the Italian super-centenarian, Emma Morano, who was the previous world’s oldest person, died, paving the way for the Trelawny woman to enter the Guinness Book of World Records for her longevity, which she credited to eating good food and serving God.

Moss Brown died at a medical facility in Montego Bay, St James, on Friday, September 15, six days after she was controversially removed from her Duanevale home, in Trelawny, where she resided with her grandchildren and other family members.

“She died at the Fairfield Medical Centre, in Montego Bay, at approximately 2:30 p.m.,” said her son, Barry Russell, who is based in London, England. “Moss was taken because Moss Brown was not being properly cared for by her grandchildren.”

The 93-year-old passed as Jamaica’s ‘oldest person’ for just over five months, but before that, she had been the ‘oldest living person’ for 116 days, according to Guinness World Records.

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In a Gleaner exclusive, it was reported that Moss Brown was taken from her home by a relative, identified as her son, Barry Russell, who is based in London, England.

Russell’s action infuriated other members of the family, as well as members of the wider community, who felt it was a bad mistake to move her from around the family and friends to whom she was accustomed.

“We are concerned because we don’t believe she is happy,” Duanevale-based Justice of the Peace, Joy Leah, told The Gleaner on Friday. “Aunt Y (the same Moss Brown was affectionately called) is accustomed to having regular visits from the pastor and members of her Baptist Church. She is now with strangers who she knows nothing about.”

Moss Brown’s son, Harland Fairweather, who died earlier this year at age 97, also shared a coveted spot with his mother in the Guinness Book of World Records as he was the world’s oldest person with a living parent.

Since becoming the world’s oldest person, Moss Brown became quite a celebrity in Duanevale as she had visits from Governor General Sir Patrick Allen, Prime Minister Andrew Holness, opposition leader Dr Peter Phillips, and president of Jamaica Baptist Union, Dr Devon Dick.

It was a joyous occasion for Kemar Peart (left) and his daughter, Sheneine, when they saw each other at the Norman Manley International Airport.

TTHHEE  NNAA  WWEEEEKKLLYY  GGLLEEAANNEERR

Jamaicans celebrate as loved ones return from hurricane-ravaged St Maarten

JODI-ANN GILPIN
Gleaner Reporter

THE ARRIVAL area at the Norman Manley International Airport was transformed into a sea of jubilation on Saturday, September 16 as Jamaicans who were stranded in the Hurricane Irma-ravaged St Maarten finally returned home.

Some 90 percent of the houses in St Maarten were damaged by the flood rains and strong winds associated with Irma, and with the communications infrastructure also damaged, there were fears about the fate of some Jamaicans there.

But those fears were put to rest Saturday as a Caribbean Airlines flight carrying the Jamaicans landed.

Sandra Taylor was among those who rejoiced and cried uncontrollably at the airport as she laid eyes on her son.

Taylor told The Gleaner that her joy was not only because her son survived the hurricane but also because illness had prevented her from seeing him for three years.

“I was sick and doctors diagnosed me with a disease that I can’t even remember what it is now, but mi gain close to 600 pounds, so I came back to Jamaica and from that time I have not seen my son,” said Taylor with tears running down her face.

“It was a joyous occasion for Kemar Peart (left), my son, 600 pounds, so I came back to Jamaica and from that time I have not seen my son,” said Taylor.

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“I was sick and doctors diagnosed me with a disease that I can’t even remember what it is now, but mi gain close to 600 pounds, so I came back to Jamaica and from that time I have not seen my son,” said Taylor with tears running down her face.

“I made the decision to move my mother because her greedy grandchildren were not taking good care of her.”

Russell’s action infuriated other members of the family, as well as members of the wider community, who felt it was a bad mistake to move her from around the family and friends to whom she was accustomed.

“We are concerned because we don’t believe she is happy,” Duanevale-based Justice of the Peace, Joy Leah, told The Gleaner on Friday. “Aunt Y (the same Moss Brown was affectionately called) is accustomed to having regular visits from the pastor and members of her Baptist Church. She is now with strangers who she knows nothing about.”

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It was a joyous occasion for Kemar Peart (left) and his daughter, Sheneine, when they saw each other at the Norman Manley International Airport.
Abdullah el-Faisal for court October 27

Jason Cross
Gleaner Writer

Muslim Sheikh Abdullah el-Faisal, who is wanted in the United States on terrorism-related charges, was denied bail when he appeared before the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court last week.

Parish Court Judge Broderick Smith, in denying el-Faisal bail, said that he was associated with a group that could properly be described as radical. He said el-Faisal could be a flight risk and there was no guarantee he would not engage in the alleged offence while on bail.

El-Faisal’s attorney, KD Knight, told reporters that he planned to appeal the denial, before the matter is heard again in court on October 27.

APPELLATE PROCESS

“One step at a time! The next step is the appellate step. There are well-defined ways in which we approach the issue of extradition. The law books are replete with authorities as to how it is done. This is the first of this kind of request under the anti-terrorism legislation.”

He denies the charges and contends that some of the charges have arisen because of lack of understanding as to how his faith operates, and denied any radical tendencies. “He has publicly made statements which disavow radicalism,” Knight said.

Answering a question from The Gleaner, Knight stated that he has not received the official documents that indicate evidence of Faisal’s involvement in recruiting personnel to join terrorist group ISIS.

“By official documents I am taking it to be referring to the evidence. We haven’t been served yet.”

The diplomatic note is (however) an official document. That certainly has arrived. It is on that basis that the arrest was made.

El-Faisal, who was arrested on Friday, August 25 by Jamaican police, is being accused of trying to convince a United States undercover policeman to join the Islamic State (IS) terror group.

Health ministry’s outstanding bill hurts dependents

Arthur Hall
Associate Editor

SCORES OF Jamaicans who depend on the National Health Fund (NHF) for benefits could be at risk as the agency faces a cash crisis that has developed because it cannot collect billions of dollars from beneficiaries, including the Ministry of Health.

At the end of the last fiscal year, the NHF was owed $4.5 billion, with the health ministry accounting for 94 per cent of that amount.

To compound the problem facing the NHF, $2.9 billion of what it was owed by the health ministry was overdue in excess of 90 days, despite the NHF writing off $2 billion that it was owed by the health ministry.

That is one of the major findings of a performance audit of the NHF conducted by the Auditor General’s Department and tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, September 12.

Suppliers withheld orders

In the report, Auditor General Pamela Monroe Ellis noted that some suppliers withheld orders from the NHF because, with it awaiting payment from the health ministry, it failed to make timely payments of its bills 95.8 per cent of the time.

“The NHF’s ability to settle obligations with suppliers was... constrained by a build-up in outstanding collections from its sale of pharmaceuticals and sundries to public health-care facilities,” said the report.

Monroe Ellis noted that there were 56 instances in the 2015-2016 fiscal year when the NHF ran out of pharmaceuticals and sundries because suppliers refused to deliver as they had not been paid for previous deliveries.

“The NHF sought to reduce the level of receivables from the health ministry through regular dialogue and implementation of a performance-tracking indicator in the financial year 2015-16, but those efforts were largely ineffective,” said the auditor general in the report.

“The NHF must move with alacrity to secure a permanent solution to the problem of receivables outstanding from the MOH,” added Monroe Ellis in her recommendations.

Jamaicans in hurricane-ravaged islands to get help

Edmond Campbell
Senior Staff Reporter

Jamaicans in the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and St Martin who have been severely impacted by the effects of Hurricane Irma and want to return home will be getting assistance from the Andrew Holness administration.

Last week, minister of Local Government Desmond McKenzie told his parliamentarians that the Government would be making arrangements to assist Jamaicans who are desirous of returning home.

Based on what has taken place so far it is difficult to find almost everybody.” McKenzie said, noting that a proper assessment would have to be done before the assistance can be offered.

In a statement to the Lower House, McKenzie said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade had been working with office of the High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad, and the Honorary Consul in Turks and Caicos, as well as community leaders in the affected countries, to ascertain the size of the Jamaican community who are impacted and their immediate needs.

At the same time, Jamaica is moving to provide assistance to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency by activating the Sub-regional Coordinating Centre to support, with rapid damage assessments, procure relief items for islands impacted by Irma, and organise transport and relief efforts to affected states.

ODPEM DEPLOYED

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) has deployed specialist teams to deal with rapid needs assessment for the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas. The teams comprise members of the Jamaica Defence Force, the National Environment and Planning Agency, the National Works Agency, and ODPEM.

With the launch of the Jamaica Irma Relief Fund, McKenzie called on Jamaicans to make donations in support of persons impacted across the region.

Donations can be made at the National Commercial Bank—ACCOUNT 212387304.
Summary – September 11-15

MONDAY

That PNP commission on education

The newspaper describes as particularly noteworthy, Opposition Leader Dr Peter Phillips’ appointing a commission on education, not only for the subject, but in its timing and Dr Phillips’ choice of personnels.

The editorial said Jamaica will this year spend around US$90 billion on education, which is nearly 16 per cent of the Government’s total expenditure and the complaint of many, that the Government doesn’t get value for money. Also, the quarrel over the financing of schools between the education minister and administrators of some schools.

TUESDAY

Listen to Mr Ahmad, but be careful

If we interpret Mr Ahmad correctly, in an interview with this newspaper, what Britain’s disengagement from Europe will mean is freedom to more robustly engage a country like Jamaica without the constraints which he appears to believe, membership of the European Union imposes on London.

Today, football is the world’s most popular game. The top three clubs value well in excess of US$2 billion. FIFA is the organisation that is in charge. FIFAs monetary influence is felt everywhere in the world. Its 200 members are located through grants and bonuses stemming from profits linked to the World Cup. FIFA is a multibillion-dollar corporation.

Whirlwind welcomed the most recent World Cup, it was estimated that the economic impact could range from US$8 billion to US$14 billion. The tournament might have added nearly US$8 billion to that country’s GDP between 2010 and 2014, generating 3.63 million jobs – annually – during that period and raising an additional US$8 billion in tax revenues.

I say all that to say this: We are talking about a big, sophisticated business that is far more than some men kicking balls. Football skill alone is not going to get us where we are able to go in this sport. The head of this organisation will, from time to time, be required to navigate a variety of economic, strategic, cultural, racial, and ideological currents. He will need, to make presentations to grant-making bodies and the organisation will, from time to time, need to participate in the resolution of political and ethical issues.

Women our best bet for ZOSO

The editorial argued that Audley Shaw, the finance minister, believes that the interest rates Jamaican banks charge their customer are excessive and wants them lowered and has placed the obligation solely on bankers. The editorial cited instances of government policy which impact more negatively on banks operations as compared to other financial institutions.

The editorial concluded that it was important for Mr Shaw to say when banks will operate on the same taxation plane as other companies, rather than being subject to a discriminatory taxation regime.

THURSDAY

Banks not the villains

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FRIDAY

Reconvene Vale Royal Talks, with a twist

The editorial repeated its call for Prime Minister Andrew Holness to reconvene the Vale Royal Talks, which had been initiated by Prime Minister P.J. Patterson a decade and a half ago, with the aim of seeking political consensus on matters that the society believed should be above the cut and thrust of partisanship.

POINTING OUT that former Prime Minister Bruce Golding had also done so, the editorial said the talks in the past had helped to ease tensions in the society as well as provided a forum in which the political parties reached agreement on matters that threatened to be divisive.

The editorial said this time the private sector should also be at the table.

THE OPINIONS ON THIS PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANER.
Dockyard, floating docks for Ja

German ship repairer sets up venture

PETR Harren, owner of Harren & Partner Group and joint venture partner of German Ship Repair Jamaica Limited (GSRJ), says Jamaica lacks the skills set needed for the dockyard, forcing them to invest in training, according to company Chairman Peter Harren.

As for the amount of capital that is chasing, Harren said GSRJ has sent heavy machinery and equipment from Germany for engine repair and overhauling, as well as for welding, drilling, etc., said Harren.

“Two years ago, the central bank’s staff complement was 502, comprising 474 permanent employees and 78 on fixed-term contracts. The rate of staff turnover for the 12-month period was 7.8 percent, up from 6.4 percent in 2014.

“BoJ said it fulfilled all conditions outlined in its environmental permit issued by the National Environmental Planning Agency (NEPA).”

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Central Bank, Ministry of Finance hit by brain drain

THE MINISTRY of Finance and Planning is currently advertising for at least five economists to fill vacancies needed to keep the country’s fiscal and macroeconomic programmes humming.

In this regard, it is now advertising for talent with the Bank of Jamaica (BoJ), which has been losing staff and has moved aggressively in the last year to fill its own vacancies.

“We are just trying to replace people we have lost,” a BoJ source told The Gleaner on condition of anonymity. “The research department alone has 60 people, of which 40 are economists,” the person said.

The central bank hired 79 new staff during 2016, as indicated in its latest annual report released much earlier this year.

The Ministry of Finance said any questions about its staff recruitment should be made under the Access to Information Act, when asked whether the advertised posts were to replace workers who had left or to build new capacity. It would have up to a month to respond under the law.

Professor of International Business and Professor of International Business and Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Denail Williams said there is no shortage of economists in Jamaica at this time. He said the challenge facing the two public entities is that their compensation packages don’t match the more attractive private sector.

The qualified economists graduating from UWI end up working in the financial sector, said Prof Williams, whom The Gleaner reached out for comment, but he also noted the same holds true for Jamaica to continue to see a number of economists leave the country.

The ministry has vacancies for a macroeconomist, senior macroeconomist, senior fiscal economist, and fiscal economist.

The advertised duties for the macroeconomist include analytical and research work in the area of macroeconomic, and advising in constructing, testing, assessing and applying suitable models and other quantitative tools.

The senior fiscal economist is needed for the Economic Management Division of the ministry to do fiscal research, and developing and evaluating fiscal policy aimed at achieving Government’s objectives. The role will also contribute to the drafting of major sections of the Fiscal Policy Paper and manage the attendant communication and consultation programmes.

Both the ministry and BoJ have been affected by workers departing for better opportunities. It has forced the central bank to revise its retention policies to counteract the exodus.

BoJ indicated in its report.

Two years ago, the central bank’s staff complement was 502, comprising 474 permanent employees and 78 on fixed-term contracts. The rate of staff turnover for the 12-month period was 7.8 percent, up from 6.4 percent in 2014.

Faced with retention challenges, the BoJ said it fulfilled all conditions outlined in its environmental permit issued by the National Environmental Planning Agency (NEPA). The BoJ said the dredging will facilitate the deepening of the navigable access to allow the Port of Kingston to accommodate larger new Panamax container vessels, which will now be able to pass through the region following the expansion of the Panama Canal.

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KPTL, the relatively new concessionaire for the Port of Kingston, started the dredging in January this year under the terms of its concessionary agreement with the Port Authority of Jamaica.
The programme, to be executed by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), will provide partial credit guarantees for approved financial institutions to on-lend. The estimated $200 million local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) between the Jamaican government and the IDB, said.

Milton Reynolds, managing director of the DBJ, spoke to The Gleaner about how this programme will fundamentally transform its ability to serve this segment of its clientele. 

"It means that we are looking at another US$4 million per year, over the next five years, in credit guarantees. When we revamp the programme and move the guarantee from the current 50%, we are looking to get to 90 per cent, over time. Can you imagine the impact that will have on the SME sector and their ability to get financing?"

"Truthfully, collateral is such a significant drawback for a lot of SMEs. They go into the banks and most of them don't have the real estate that the bank wants and, therefore, they don't get the loan. This programme provides that security, improves the chances of them getting it. So to me, this is a game-changer, and it really is another gap that we identified in the SMEs financing ecosystem."

On this note, the IDB executive said, "There is a trade-off between how much guarantee the fund provides and the kind of risk that financial institutions are willing to take, and you have to manage that carefully, and I think the intent is to go to find the space between 50 and 90%," she said.

JAMAICA’S ECONOMIC reform programme, over the last four years, has impressed the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a top executive disclosed last week.

"We are in awe, somewhat, of what Jamaica has accomplished since 2013 in the fund programme in creating the preconditions to any kind of macro-stability, the fund programme was not easy but it’s been supported by both parties and has achieved so much in fiscal consolidation and really setting the groundwork for everything that comes forward," Julie Katzman, executive vice-president of the IDB, said.

Katzman was speaking ahead of the signing a US$20-million (J$2.56 billion) credit enhancement programme for the micro, small and medium enterprises between the Government of Jamaica and the IDB. The signing took place at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, 30 National Heroes Circle, Kingston 4.
Have a great week!

The 8th Annual Women Empowerment Brunch, themed “Living Your Dreams,” with women elegantly dressed in broad hats and long dresses, share lens at hostess Sonia Bedford’s home in Brampton, Ontario, August 13. They were asked to bring non-perishable food and toiletry items to be donated to the Salvation Army women’s shelter in Brampton.

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Brown and Clear seeks to go beyond preconceived notions

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

“NOBODY ASKS for Vodka, nobody asks for Gin, nobody asks for Bourbon. They just ask for Brown and Clear in this particular community,” says Kevin Jerome Everson.

Everson, referring to his latest film, Brown and Clear, said he is allowing the audience to just feel and to be.

The eight-minute short film made its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), ‘Wavelength’ running September 7 to 17, 2017.

“When you start editing something, you tell the viewer what to think. If you play things out in real time, the viewer becomes attached to what is happening,” says Everson.

Everson explains that his films are about time, about how long it takes things to happen. Everson liked the feel of this particular establishment and describes the gestures as poetic.

The film is described as “a collection of sfumato-tinged bottles shot with tight framing and shallow focus provides a mesmeric portrait of a man and a community in Northeast, Ohio.”

You will find the story in the familiar gestures and the repetition of Ohio’s working class, Black American community and the filmmaker’s home state.

“So when people who are from these areas see this gesture, they’ll go, oh man, look at that. It will recall something from the past and present. Not everyone can get it,” says Everson.

Everson has made over 130 films, including nine feature films that have been exhibited internationally and says of Brown and Clear, “this is probably the simplest thing he has ever done, yet one quickly recalls something from the past and present. Not everyone can get it.”

Everson downplays his talents and in an interview with The Gleaner, saying that this film, Brown and Clear was the simplest he has ever done, yet one quickly finds out that within the simplicities are complexities.

“I think that when things are unedited sometimes, when things are in real time, I think humanity kind of comes out more,” says Everson.

Everson also made feature film Tonsler Park, which captures Election Day in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is also a painter, a photographer and he makes sculptures. Everson is the recipient of numerous awards and teaches Art at the University of Virginia.

Photos by Sandy Williams III

Kevin Jerome Everson, director of the TIFF Wavelengths short ‘Brown and Clear’.
JAMAICA-BORN, Vancouver-based dancer and choreographer, Mikhail Morris, has embarked on a new venture – he’s teaching a new course on Jamaican dancehall at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. The university is hoping that the course will attract members from the black community to its arts programmes.

Morris, 28, is teaching “FPA 120: Introduction to Dance Forms: Contemporary and Popular: Dancehall History and Fundamentals” during the fall semester, September - December 2017, at the Vancouver campus.

Raised in Kingston, Morris is a graduate of Edna Manley School of the Visual and Performing Arts and co-director of Ketch Di Vybz, a company he co-founded with Judy Madarasz in 2015.

The course is a combination of theory and dance. Morris created the curriculum to teach the socio-historical factors that inspired the creation of reggae and dancehall music and culture.

“Through an overview of this history, students attain a better understanding of Jamaican culture and living experiences expressed through the actual music and dance. It is in this way that when the students begin to learn and practice the dancehall dance steps and listen to the music that they can contextualise the lyrics, vybz, and concepts for the steps,” notes the course description.

Morris says this is the first time that a curriculum is created whereby dancehall is the subject taught and graded in a top university in North America.

However, Henry Daniel, professor of dance and performance studies at SFU’s School for the Contemporary Arts, says this is a new development in the university’s programme but it is by no means a new thing to schools such as theirs across North America.

Using dancehall vocabulary as a foundation, Morris said he grew up around dancehall culture and has seen how people fought to celebrate it.

A dancer for 17 years, Morris said he wants to create opportunities for others to tell their story through their culture, history, technique and style.

He has performed with several Toronto-based dance companies, including Ballet Creole, COBA, KishaDance, Newton Moreas, and Nafro.

Simon Fraser University was established in 1965 and has campuses in British Columbia’s largest municipalities – Surrey, Vancouver and Burnaby.

SFU says it has become Canada’s leading comprehensive university with deep roots in partner communities throughout the province and around the world.

are able to offer in the same semester studio courses in Jamaican Dancehall, Hip Hop, and Bhangra on our three Vancouver/BC Lower Mainland campuses. These three cultural forms reflect the growing interest that our students have in alternate dance techniques – alternate in the sense that they differ from the regular mainstream contemporary/modern dance techniques that are usually offered.

He said SFU has been teaching Hip Hop and Bhangra for quite a few years and the response has been extremely enthusiastic.

Professor Daniel said they asked Morris to teach there “because he has been offering this movement form to dancers in the Vancouver area to great acclaim and I estimate that the same will occur in his classes for the students in our university.”

“Finally, I asked Mikhail to apply to teach this course in our programme because I believe we could attract members from the black community to our arts programmes, a community that I believe could offer a great deal to the cultural life of Vancouver as a whole,” he said.

Madarasz, a graduate of SFU and co-director of Ketch Di Vybz is the course assistant.

“I’m really proud of him and what this means for dancehall and Jamaica, as well as his career. I am grateful to have witnessed and supported his amazing journey and work ethic.”

She said this is pushing her “knowledge and skills as a dancer and teacher to higher levels.”

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J’can in We Have Met Before quartet

**KIMBERLEY SMALL**
Gleaner Writer

_The Next_ art exhibition to be presented at the National Gallery of Jamaica, Kingston, in partnership with the British Council, is named We Have Met Before. Its purpose is to revisit the subject of Trans-Atlantic slavery and its afterlives, as seen through the eyes of four contemporary artists. Scheduled for September 22-November 4, 2017, the artists from across the globe were selected to bring a distinctive perspective on the subject. The result was an innovative and provocative display of work that created a fresh and different landscape with different media, and at different points in time.

*We Have Met Before* features Scottish artist Graham Fagen, Guyanese-born British artist Ingrid Pollard, and the youngest of the lot, Leasho Johnson from Jamaica.

**VISUAL MIX**

Johnson presents a visual mix of history and contemporary popular culture, with strong references to dancehall.

“The challenge is that as an artist, you can’t share it with your own local people,” Johnson said. “You cannot eliminate dancehall out of it.”

Johnson decided to place his work on public walls. His graffiti art, which appeared around Kingston last year, seemed to be the marketing Johnson needed for his National Gallery debut.

“Everyone knows what dancehall comes about,” Johnson explained. “It was a way of expressing ourselves. We were supposed to produce fruits, vegetables and sugar cane. In a way, we’ve come to regard dancehall as a way to express that. It’s a way that we haven’t spoken about it,” Johnson said.

“I view Jamaica as a commodity. It was a tropical destination for a particular thing. It wasn’t about it in a way that we haven’t spoken about it,” Johnson said.

“Dancehall is a hybridisation. I always considered it to be something that was a result of, because you can’t just take the people without them taking parts of themselves. Dancehall is like a reinvention of something that existed before. It embodies our Africanism, our whole culture in that way – and has become something else, because we’ve become something else. I’m just trying to add on top of that and speak about it in a way that we haven’t spoken about it,” Johnson said.

“I have to understand that every Jamaican experiences Jamaican life and you cannot eliminate dancehall out of it,” he told _The Gleaner_.

“We Have Met Before intends to invite viewers into a conversation about slavery and its legacy, where various perspectives can be expressed. Dancehall is a hybridisation. I always considered it to be something that was a result of, because you can’t just take the people without them taking parts of themselves. Dancehall is like a reinvention of something that existed before. It embodies our Africanism, our whole culture in that way – and has become something else, because we’ve become something else. I’m just trying to add on top of that and speak about it in a way that we haven’t spoken about it,” Johnson said.

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**Contributed**

Leasho Johnson

**Screenwriters meet at Jake’s**

*The Jamaica Film and Television Association (JAPTA) and JAMPRO’s Film Commission continue to develop and support educational initiatives for film-makers in an ongoing effort to encourage more involvement from local aspirants. From the development of the PROPELLA short film initiative, supported by The CHASE Fund, and the British Council’s offer to host an internationally led script-development workshop, the organisations have collaborated once more to promote the Calabash Literary Festival, in partnership with ScreenCraft Media, Screenwriter’s Residency Programme. Fifteen Hollywood writer aspirants spent September 13-18 at Jake’s in Treasure Beach, St Elizabeth, under the tutelage of Hollywood industry professionals. The programme attracted the interest of approximately 400 international applicants, as well as the mentorship of a number of established, accomplished Hollywood screenwriters and literary agents.

Those included screenwriters Geoffrey Fletcher (Oscar-winning writer of *Precious*), TV screenwriter and showrunner Zack Snyder (*Prison Break*), and Eric Fineman, vice-president of production at Sony Pictures (*Spider-Man: Homecoming*) as well as literary manager Hannah Oser from Kaplan/Perone Management.

**Contributed**

Gabrielle Blackwood, president of the Jamaica Film and Television Association (JAPTA), told _The Gleaner_: “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.” JAPTA president, Gabrielle Blackwood told _The Gleaner_. ScreenCraft Media is one of Hollywood’s leading screenwriter-talent discovery platforms, specialising in educational events and screenwriting competitions. Many ScreenCraft contest winners have signed with Hollywood’s top agencies and management companies, including 3Arts Entertainment, Paradigm Talent Agency, and United Talent Agency.

“There were excellent mentors,” Blackwood said. “Screenwriters got to work one on one with mentors, who read all their scripts and offered feedback. There were peer reviews. Beyond that, the environment of Jake’s and going out with everyone was another great feature.” Blackwood continued.

**FRIENDSHIPS FORGED**

Igbe told _The Gleaner_: “It was a lot going on, I think my biggest takeaway was everything I learnt from the mentors involved. The books recommended to read, the urge to continue to write and grow, the honest feedback, friendships forged, and the small adventures in between.”

*JAPTA, in partnership with JAMPRO, hosted an investor’s roundtable at the end of the immersive week-long programme to facilitate knowledge exchange with local financiers and boutique investors and the residency programme’s mentors. Along with Fineman and Oser, other mentors who participated in the roundtable are Peter Craig (*The Hunger Games: Mockingjay*), Aaron Covington (*Creed*) and Steven de Souza (*Die Hard*). Last March, with assistance from the British Council, JAMPRO and JAPTA partnered to facilitate 15 local film-makers in a script-development workshop. That workshop was designed to facilitate the relationship among screenwriters, producers and script editors and show how to navigate the fragile relationships between producers and writers. There, the filmmakers benefited from the guidance and expertise of screen consultant Ludo Szwolski.*

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**Screenwriters meet at Jake’s**

*Residency programme brings aspirants, mentors together*
Commonwealth small states highlight challenges, call for support

GENEVA, (CMC) — SEVERAL SMALL island states within the 52-member Commonwealth have called for a more inclusive approach to human rights in the UN Human Rights Council (HRH) that reflected their concerns, development interests and priorities.

“We demand right about justice and inclusion,” said Guyana’s Ambassador, J.R. Deep Ford, who co-hosted the event, which was organized by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) with support from Singapore and the Federation International des legues des droits de L’Homme (FIDH).

Ford and other diplomats from the Bahamas and Singapore as well as Karen MacKenne, head of the human rights unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat, spoke at a side event here at the 36th session of the Human Rights Council (HRH).

The CHRI event was titled, “Small States at the HRC: Building Capacity, Strengthening Presence and Developing Outreach.”

Singapore’s Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva, Nitya Menon, spoke of the difficulties of small states in handling complex issues relating to UN processes because of a shortage of staff or economic resources and the need to simplify and demystify these.

“We need collective combined inputs,” she added, saying that if small states were unrepresented at major programmes, the UN system and major donor countries were missing important voices.

MacKenne shared the Commonwealth’s efforts to build capacity among small states and showcased some success stories like the Bahamas which is contesting for a seat at the next HRC but admitted that much more was needed to be done, because of a funding crunch.

During the discussions, diplomats and civil society representatives urged better coordination among larger countries, small states and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to foster better understanding of their needs and their complex societies.

CHRI Director, Sanja Lazarekda, who moderated the session, said there was need for better accountability processes as well as ‘bridging democratic deficits’.

The HRC was formed on founding principles of impartiality, non-selectivity and international cooperation by the General Assembly in 2006.

However, existing practice of clean slates, where regional groups propose only one candidate for each available seat, have undermined the diversity and the quality of the HRC’s membership.

While in the first decade of the HRC, 19 Commonwealth countries have served at the HRC, with only four have been Small States.

But since the institution of the Special Procedures was established, only six Commonwealth Small States Jamaica, Maldives, Mauritius and Namibia had on or more of their nations appointed as special rapporteurs.

The greenhouse project is part of the JBI’s Bauxite Community Development Programme (BCDP), aimed at promoting agricultural activity on reclaimed bauxite lands.

KINGSTON

Denham Town Primary wins poster competition

DENHAM TOWN Primary School, Kingston won most of the prizes in the 2017 Youth Gambling Prevention All-Island Poster Competition, taking seven of the ten prizes on offer.

The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission (BGLC), and Supreme Ventures, the commission’s only official poster competition, which is organised by BGLC Life Management Services, as part of activities aimed at preventing gambling among youth, and in particular school-age adolescents, by creating awareness about the dangers that underage gambling pose.

In order to gamble legally in Jamaica, persons must be 18-years and over.

ST ANDREW

Underaged students pass exam

MICO PRATTSING Primary & Junior High school in St. Andrew has achieved some success with grade nine students when for for the first time some of them sat the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate subject Electronic Document Preparation

In this Sunday, September 10, 2017 photo released by Granma, men play dominoes in the middle of a flooded street as others pull broken furniture from calf-high water in the aftermath Hurricane Irma, in Havana, Cuba. Eddy Dennis, a grey-haired 51-year-old parking attendant pulling furniture, said the scene was one of neighborly cooperation and mutual effort in the face of the unity,” Dennis said. “Those who got tired would sit down and play dominoes. We had spent the whole night on our feet and it was a way to destress in the face of disaster.”

Horace Chang

“Ownership means we introduce a programme to upgrade the infrastructure, provide services, and we expect those occupying properties to pay the titles,” he said.

STANN, MANCHESTER,
CLARENDON, ST. ELIZABETH

160 Greenhouses set up on reclaimed bauxite lands

SOME 160 greenhouses which have been established on mined-out bauxite lands in St. Ann, Manchester, Clarendon, and St. Elizabeth, are earning approximately J$3million annually, according to executive director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute Farrar Lyew-Jean.

He was speaking at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the JBI and Timeless Herbal Care for the growing of medicinal plants on mined-out bauxite lands, at the Ministry of Transport and Mining in Kingston on September 6.

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WIHCON spending J$2b on ‘Loft-Y’ living quarters

AVIA COLLINDER
Business Reporter

Saying its new real estate venture is designed to take home buyers “beyond the usual apartment experience,” West Indies Home Contractors Limited, WIHCON, has broken ground for a new project called the Lofts.

The developer says it aims to create “an oasis in the middle of the city” on 2.65 acres of land at Arthur Wint Drive in Kingston. WIHCON is building 128 apartments on two blocks that will rise six storeys high.

The Lofts will comprise 84 studios and 44 two-bedroom units, with starting prices of J$11.6 million and J$18.55 million, respectively, and ranging in sizes.

WIHCON sales and marketing manager Janelle Brown says the company is investing around $2 billion in the development.

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Irma pushes Florida’s poor closer to the edge of ruin

IMMOKALEE, Florida (AP) — Larry and Linda Dimas didn’t have much to begin with, and Hurricane Irma left them with even less.

The storm peeled open the roof of the old mobile home where they live with their 18-year-old twins, and it destroyed another one they rented to migrant workers in Immokalee, one of Florida’s poorest communities. Now they are day laborers or migrants who have returned – he said he sold all his belongings in his boat is still floating.

But in one bit of good news, they have returned – he said he sold all his belongings in his boat is still floating.

“Now how do you recover from this, losing all of your stuff?” David and Andrea Jewell survive on disability checks and live on a sailboat they bought for $1,000 on eBay years ago. David, 51, can’t imagine now living on land, both consider the ocean – like the dolphins they watch – their only real neighbours.

After the storm, the Jewells stayed on cots in the gym at a community centre in Jacksonville. They tried to figure out if they could get a new boat if theirs was destroyed. Maybe, they decided, they could just cut back on food and find another cheap one with their next disability checks.

“There aren’t any answers,” he said. “So I guess I’ll have to roll with it.”

But in one bit of good news, they later learned from a friend that their boat is still floating.

For some poor people, there’s at least a little upside to the devastation.

Guatemalan immigrant Aura Gaspar totalled up storm-related expenses of about $600 while using a twig-fired grill to stew chicken on her front stoop in Immokalee. She has three school-age children to feed and a 2-week-old baby.

But Gaspar said husband Juan Francisco got a job cleaning up storm debris in the Port Myers and Naples area. He needed to get busy, she said through a translator.

Their storm preparations cost nearly twice as much as his weekly pay of $835.

“With the hurricane, we would protect it, we said,” Gaspar said.

Beside his ruined Immokalee mobile home, Dumas is trying to get back on his feet, but it’s tough. Dumas earns a meagre living cooking hamburgers and chicken in a food truck parked by his home, and some customers already have returned – he said he sold all 40 of the hamburgers that were still safe to cook.

Dumas needs to replace the income from his rental trailer, already condemned after being split open by the wind. Dimas had used that money to help feed his two teenagers and pay for the rescue inhalers he needs for his asthma. Losing it will only make it harder for Dumas to do what he says he is one of his favourite things - providing free or cut-rate food to those who have even less.

Coping with Irma’s aftermath is only making life tougher for people with little who live in places including unincorporated Immokalee, said Dimas.

“A lot of people work. They work hard. They don’t ask for anything. They just go to work, come home and something like this happens, it’s . . .” Dimas said. Of don’t know what to say.

He stopped talking and turned away to keep from crying.

Woodchy Darius, right, sits outside the small cinderblock apartment he lives in, in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, in Immokalee, Florida.

Florida, whose population is composed mainly of migrants and blue-collar workers. The Census Bureau estimates that 5.7 percent of the population is in poverty in Florida – nearly 16 percent of the state’s 20.6 million people. For them, the amusement parks of Orlando or President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach might as well be on Mars.

Many work by the hour in restaurants, gas stations, hotels, stores and other businesses forced to close for days after Irma, depriving them of pay cheques. Others are day labourers or migrants who earn money by the pound picking produce that’s sold in stores nationwide. Still others are retirees on fixed incomes or disability checks whose budgets already were tight before Irma.

Fleeing Irma wasn’t an option. For those who lacked transportation to get to a shelter, couldn’t afford gas to drive north and couldn’t rent a hotel room. The likely costs associated with cleaning up or finding a new place to live pushed them closer to the edge than ever.

After Irma, Gwen Bush scrambled to find a place just to sleep after flood waters rose around her home.

A security worker for Amway Center in Orlando, Bush hadn’t worked in the days leading up to Irma because concerts and other events had been cancelled as the storm approached. It’s not certain when the arena will be open for business, and she was down to her final $10 before the storm.

“I’ve been through some hurricanes and some storms living here but I can say on my life this is the worst I’ve ever seen,” said Bush, 50, a lifelong resident of Orlando.

“How do you recover from this, losing all of your stuff?”

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington

is a Jamaican-American attorney who practises immigration, family, criminal, international and personal injury law in Florida. She is a mediator, arbitrator and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida.

Contact Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington at info@walkerhuntington.com

Application confusion

Dahlia Walker-Huntington

UNITED STATES

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington, MY PATTERNS were muddled for me as an unmarried child in 2005. The petition was approved but it was not filed. When I submitted the application for the immigrant visa, it was refused because I got married. My stepmother submitted my petition in 2012 as a married child and I’m waiting on the immigrant visa. My concern is, my marriage is not working out and I plan to file for a divorce. Will my divorce affect the processing of my immigrant visa? Should I inform the authorities that I am going to file for a divorce? What would happen if the immigrant visa is ready before the divorce is finalised?

B. R.

The only way in which your petition would be denied due to your marriage is if your father was a green-card holder/permanent resident during the pendency of your petition, or if you became a US citizen. A green-card holder cannot file a petition for a married son or daughter, only a US citizen can file a petition for a married offspring.

If your green-card holder parent files for you as single, becomes a US citizen and then you marry, the petition would be downgraded to the F3 category of married son or daughter. That would not result in the petition being denied, but delayed. If your marriage has failed, you would need to be legally divorced and then notify the last US government agency that was in contact with you. If that was the National Visa Center (NVC), this means your petition has been approved and you are waiting on your priority date to become current, i.e., for a visa to become available. Visas are available for unmarried adult daughters of US citizens (F1 category) with priority dates of May 2006. Married daughters are in the F3 category and visas are current for those with priority date of July 2006.

It is a five-year difference in the waiting time for married and unmarried daughters. When you are divorced, send a certified copy of your divorce absolute to the NVC and request a change of category. In the unlikely event that the visa is available before your divorce is finalised, advise the NVC and the US Embassy that you are separated and that your husband will not be travelling with you to the States.

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington

is a Jamaican-American attorney who practises immigration law in the United States.

P s e p t e m b e r 2 1 - 2 7 , 2 0 1 7  

www.jamaica-gleaner.com

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Jayne Millar
The Gleaner Company Limited

Dewayne Haynes used his platform as a former ward of the state and a recipient of the Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO) scholarship, to encourage this year’s six beneficiaries to be resilient in their efforts to become productive members of society. COJO annually presents scholarships to wards of the state in tertiary institutions in Jamaica.

Haynes, who is now senior student assistant in the marketing office at the University of the West Indies and a Resident Advisor on Irvin Hall, emphasised that despite one’s circumstances, nothing will be handed to anyone, which means you have to work for it. "It was in your shoes at one point. The world for the most part does not care that we are faced with adverse struggles, challenges or obstacles on life’s journey. Society owes you absolutely nothing. Your character, integrity, intellect, mannerism, your ability to be effective and efficient in all you do, as well as your tenacity to overcome the insurmountable, is what others will use to write their memoirs. Character references in their minds about you, he said."

INVESTING IN FUTURE

"In life, never seek after respect and recognition, what must be earned. The time, effort, resources and love that investors deposit in you is an investment. The returns on investment that investors are expecting to reap, isn’t in you paying them back with any money or any favours, the specific returns on investment which investors are seeking is to see you graduate and to see you becoming productive members of society," he said.

Anna Mae Bullock, this year’s recipient of the special Tony McPherson Award, said her vow in addition to her other colleagues, is to make her investors proud.

Your interest in assisting those who have to work for it. The world for the most part does not care that we are faced with adverse struggles, challenges or obstacles on life’s journey. Society owes you absolutely nothing. Your character, integrity, intellect, mannerism, your ability to be effective and efficient in all you do, as well as your tenacity to overcome the insurmountable, is what others will use to write their memoirs. Character references in their minds about you, he said."

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APPLICATIONS ARE now open for the 2018 GraceKennedy Jamaican Birthright Programme. The exciting immersion programme allows university students of Jamaican parentage from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to spend one month in Jamaica learning about the land of their parents’ birth with all expenses paid.

Successful applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 years, second- or third-generation Jamaican pursuing either an undergraduate or postgraduate degree and have a grade ‘B’ average or higher. Additionally, they must have not lived in the country for more than six months, and are really eager to learn more about their Jamaican heritage.

The Birthright Programme exposes students to a diversified experience through cultural immersion activities and paid internship at a GraceKennedy operation in Jamaica.

“The 2017 programme was a huge success, with the interns having a remarkable and fulfilling experience,” said executive director of the GraceKennedy Foundation, Caroline Mahfood, who directs the programme.

“With the help of our partners, such as Caribbean Airlines, Island Car Rentals and the Jamaica Tourist Board, the interns received the opportunity of a lifetime to experience the business’ undertakings as well as Jamaica’s dynamic cultural traditions, from our food to music, sports and more. They really got the chance to make a personal connection with the country from the minute they boarded the flight,” Mahfood said.

The 2017 Jamaican Birthright interns were Menelik Graham, a sophomore at Princeton University (USA), Matthew Robinson, a senior at Georgetown University (USA), Tianna Thomas, a senior at Brock University (Canada) and Cleveland Douglas, a junior at Imperial College in the UK.

Application forms are available at www.gracekennedy.com/birthright. For further information, interested persons can either send queries via email to gkfoundation@gkco.com or call 1-876-932-3541.

EVENTS

CONFERENCE ROOMS

The Word On The Street, Canada’s largest outdoor book and magazine festival, will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24, 11am-6pm at the Harbourfront Centre, Toronto.B. Denham Jolly will discuss his memoir, “In the Black: My Life”, at 1:30pm and 4pm at the Toronto Book Awards Tent. A free event.

A Jamaica 55 panel discussion organized by Professor Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora, will be held on Oct. 6, 9:30-11:30a.m., at York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto. Panelists: Juliet Holness, MP for St Andrew East Rural, Jamaica; Avis Glaze, education consultant; and Professor Daniel Coleman, English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Moderator: Professor Andrea Davis, Chair of Humanities, York University.

Operation Black Vote Canada presents GENERATION NEXT Black Youth Political Summit, for youth 16-24 years on Saturday, October 28, 1:00-4:00pm at Toronto City Hall, Community Room 1, 100 Queen St W, Toronto. Sponsored by Councillor Michael Thompson, Ward 37

NEW YORK

CHSPSA New York Link up 2017 Funday Sunday September 24, 2017 at 10 a.m., Brookville Park, Queens, NY; $15 pp (pre-sale/website), $20 park/event day; includes food and drinks; Contact: http://new.charlemonthhighschoolfoundation.org/, or email: chsp-safoundation@gmail.com, or call: 347-770-6761

Steve Higgins and Friends in concert on September 24, 2017 at 6:00 PM, at the York College Performing Arts Center, located at 94-55 Guy R. Brewer Blvd Jamaica, NY 11435. For further information you may visit www.yorkpac.com or call 718-262-2840.

AFUWI Golf and Tennis Tournament Open, Hampshire Country Club, 1025 Cove Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 on September 28, 2017. Register by Sept 18, 2017; Contact: 212-759-8335, admin@afuwi.org; www.afuwi.org

UJAA Annual General Meeting and Elections, Jamaica Consult, 6:30 - 9 p.m. on September 20, 2017.

Westwood OGA Great Gatsby “Flourish Edition” Bayridge Manor, Brooklyn, NY; 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. on October 7, 2017. For further information visit www.thewoga.org/gatsby

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Crying Salt Spring mothers appeal to PM to declare the area a ZOSO

ARTHUR HALL
Associate Editor

Tired of burying their sons, a group of mothers in Salt Spring, St James, have joined together to say enough is enough, and they are calling on Prime Minister Andrew Holness to help them by declaring the community the island’s second zone of special operations (ZOSOs).

Recently, a Salt Spring Safety Plan was created during the community discussion. Some of us expressed the view that Salt Spring should be the first ZOSO. We are now asking you to declare Salt Spring to be the next ZOSO,” said the group dubbed St James Mothers Against Crime & Violence, in an open letter to Holness.

“Prime Minister, the crime problem in Salt Spring is unbearable. We need help now before we lose another child,” the group said.

Salt Spring, in North West St James, is represented by the Jamaica Labour Party’s Dr Horace Chang, and is part of the Montego Hills police area, which also includes the troubled community of Bottom Pen.

Since the start of this month, there has been several other violent incidents in the Salt Spring community, leaving the mothers in tears.

“We want to bring to your attention what happened just last weekend (Saturday, September 9). One of our sons, Wayne ‘Mizzy’ Hilton, was killed en route to the ‘Drums Fi Life’ workshop organised by the Fi Wi Jamaica Peace Management Initiative and Sam Sharpe Teachers College,” wrote the group.

“Mizzy was 28 years old and left behind a two-year old son. Another of our sons, Winston Jones, was shot down because of this decision. We want to bring to your attention what happened just last weekend (Saturday, September 9). One of our sons, Wayne ‘Mizzy’ Hilton, was killed en route to the ‘Drums Fi Life’ workshop organised by the Fi Wi Jamaica Peace Management Initiative and Sam Sharpe Teachers College,” wrote the group.

“All of our sons are going back to school or working, going back to school or working, going back to school or working,” said the group.

“Prime Minister, we desperately need help,” declared the mothers.

“Desperate plea

They charged that the need for ZOSO is desperate as the community needs more than members of the police force patrolling their streets.

“Please note that although we know that there are some good police officers who risk their lives to protect us, and we are thankful, given our past experiences, many residents of Salt Spring, like many other Jamaicans, do not trust the police.

“We, therefore, ask you to send more soldiers than police in the Salt Spring special operations. Also, please bring plenty drones to watch the movements of the criminals as they try to leave, and plenty metal detectors,” added the mothers.

“They argued that in addition to reducing crime, they need Salt Spring to be declared a special zone to give them a chance to achieve normalcy.

“The most important part of the ZOSO that we want in Salt Spring is the opportunity to find jobs, run our business and to improve our level of education, especially for our youths.

“Most of the youths have been traumatised because they have seen too much murders and vicious crimes for too long. Some have developed mental problems and many are not interested in working, going back to school or doing anything to help themselves. Prime minister, our children need your help,” said the mothers.

“The group said its members decided to come together and speak out because, as mothers, they know that the real solutions to the crime problem begin in the homes and they have an important part to play.

“We are also aware that there are mothers who are not doing the right thing and some are supporting rather than discouraging their children, especially their sons, in criminal activities.

“Some of them are even selling their daughters and sons. Many of them are single mothers who have been raped or abused and have no help... they can’t manage. We also need help for ourselves and to help each other. We want to help other mothers to do better.” said the St James Mothers Against Crime & Violence.
Ja Independence gala in NY honours leaders

NEW YORK:
JAMAICA'S 55TH anniversary of Independence gala was hosted by the Jamaica Independence Foundation, Inc. and Jamaica Tourist Board at the Hilton Hotel in New York.

The evening's proceedings commenced with presentation of the flags by the Jamaica Defence Force and United States Marines with National anthems sung by Kerry Stubbs.

Guests were welcomed by the Consul General and Honorary Chair; Trudy Deans with invocation by Bishop De Cecil G. Riley.

Special guest speaker and honouree prime minister Andrew Holness received the Distinguished Leadership Award, former Prime Minister Edward Seaga received the Nation Builder Award, and Patrick Ewing (represented by his son) received the Son of the Soil Legacy Award.

Jamaican artistes Romario Virgo and the Unit Band, Likkle Big Band, and Road International provided entertainment.

Part proceeds from the event will support the Jamaica 55 Legacy Project/Woman Incorporated and The Garvey School.

Ja’s foreign ministry marks 55th anniversary

The ministry’s history and that of Jamaica in the international stage, the minister said.

As the years progressed and with the changing of the international agenda, the ministry had also taken interest in deliberation on a number of welfare development issues impacting global welfare.

“All these and more have been part, not only of the rhetoric but also the agenda of development and relations. Even as we have benefited from the action of others, we too have stood in defense of the principles which have guided our foreign policy from the start and those of the United Nations and have served to bolster the rules governing conduct on the international stage,” the minister said.

The ministry paid tribute to the staff of the ministry which starting out as the Department of External Affairs in the office of Premier Norman Manley, to a small Department of External Affairs in the office of Premier Norman Manley, to a small

Ja’s foreign ministry marks 55th anniversary

and well-conceived initiatives and approaches which have been taken to the development, implementation and management of Jamaica’s foreign policies and relations.

Patrons at the Jamaica 55 Independence Ball held in New York recently.

KINGSTON:
THE MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs and Foreign commemorated its 55th anniversary with a two-week exhibition on Monday, September 4.

The exhibition which captures aspects of the ministry’s role and work over the years was highlighted by the release of two commemorative publications.


The foreign minister praised former ministry employee Ambassador Cordel Evans for researching and collating the information for the first publication.

A number of institutions received copies of the publications at the opening. These were: The Office of the Cabinet, Houses of Parliament, Ministry of Culture Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Institute of Jamaica, National Library of Jamaica, the National Archives, The Jamaica Information Service, and Jamaica National (JN) Group.

According to minister Johnson Smith, the publications were prepared “to capture for posterity, valuable and pertinent historical information about the foreign ministry.”

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

Contributed photos.

Jamaica Defence Force and US Marines with PM Holness.

Kitt Redme, First Secretary at the US Embassy (foreground right), and Johan Graux, Consul at the Embassy of Belgium (background left), view the Bilateral Affairs Department section of the exhibition.

There will, therefore, always be invaluable sources of Information for all students and analysts of foreign policy as well as the general public.”

"These, and more have been part, not only of the rhetoric but also the agenda of development and relations. Even as we have benefited from the action of others, we too have stood in defense of the principles which have guided our foreign policy from the start and those of the United Nations and have served to bolster the rules governing conduct on the international stage,” the minister said.

She also referred to the fact that Jamaica was the first country to impose sanctions against South Africa in the anti-apartheid struggle and later the years of activism and the quest for freedom and justice and improved conditions of labour, which gave rise to the level of consciousness that fuelled the proposal in 1962 by then foreign minister Hugh Shearer for an International Year of Human rights, which was adopted in 1968.

As the years progressed and with the changing of the international agenda, the ministry had also taken interest in deliberation on a number of welfare development issues impacting global welfare.

“All these and more have been part, not only of the rhetoric but also the agenda of development and relations. Even as we have benefited from the action of others, we too have stood in defense of the principles which have guided our foreign policy from the start and those of the United Nations and have served to bolster the rules governing conduct on the international stage,” the minister said.

Minister paid tribute to the staff throughout the years at headquarters and missions for their contribution “making us justifiably proud as a nation, that punch far above our weight and size.”
CAS to hear Carter appeal in November

LASUNNE, Switzerland (AP): The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) says sprinter Nesta Carter will challenge his disqualification by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on November 15 with a verdict expected in weeks later. Carter lost positive last year for the banned stimulant methylhexanamine in reanalysis of a urine sample from the 2008 Beijing Games. He and Usain Bolt were teammates on the 4x100m relay team, which won in a world record of 37.10 seconds.

Carter ran the opening leg, and Bolt took the baton third in a team that also included Michael Frater and Asafa Powell.

The IOC's disqualification of Carter and the relay team came in January, sparking Bolt's perfect Olympic record of three gold medals—in the 100, 200 and 4x100—at three consecutive games from 2008-2016.

Carter also teamed with Bolt on three straight world champi-
onship relay-winning teams, from 2011 through 2015. They were also teammates when Jamaica set another 4x100m record in 2012 at the Olympics, running 36.44 seconds.

Bolt said earlier this year that he was 'not sure' about giving up the medal, though, as he was waiting to see if Nesta is going to appeal.'

Carter's legal team could ask Bolt to appear as a witness at the hearing, which is likely to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland — the home city of CAS and the IOC.

Dozens of athletes tested positive for banned drugs in an IOC-ordered reanalysis program using new and more accurate tests on samples stored since the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2012 London Olympics.

Most of more than 110 cases involved steroids and athletes from the former Soviet republics. Carter's case was the only one involving Jamaica.

“We have become increasingly dissatisfied with the assurances that he has been giving the board concerning his monitoring of the sample-collection process. Two decisions, especially with Riker Hytton and Kaliese Spencer, in which the IADP made adverse comments about the way JADCO managed in breach of particular rules [was one],” said Williams.

Both cases against Spencer and Hytton were later dismissed by the IADP.

“We expressed concern about his role to monitor the activities of JADCO and stated that we expect- ed a tightening up of procedures. We have lost confidence that we had him in management that aspect of his duties, and so we took that decision to terminate him,” said Williams.

“We have become increasingly dissatisfied with the assurances that he has been giving the board concerning his monitoring of the sample-collection process. Two decisions, especially with Riker Hytton and Kaliese Spencer, in which the IADP made adverse comments about the way JADCO managed in breach of particular rules [was one],” said Williams.

Williams said he expected a smooth transition and that Brown would continue to give evidence in any matters that were still open.

“I've said to him that he should fulfill his obligations as executive director until that period. So if he is a witness, he is to continue to be a witness and that all doping matters [should] proceed without any hiccup,” said Williams.

Williams said that he expects that the role of executive director will be filled in what he describes as 'short order' at the end of Brown's tenure.

“I’m not a cheat!’

Livermore claims ignorance in anti-doping hearing

Dania Bogle Senior Gleaner Writer

IGNORANCE SEEMED to be the primary defence of Jamaican sprinter Jason Livermore during his hearing into a positive drug test before the Independent Anti-doping Disciplinary Panel at the Jamaica Conference Centre last week.

Livermore, who was represented by his manager, Lorenzo Sandford, told the disciplinary panel of Chairman Kent Gannon, Dr. Maryvonne Villabre, and Heron Dale, who presided over the case, that he had tested positive for a banned substance in December, "it was like the world had stopped in front of me.”

Livermore, who tested positive for metabolites of Clomiphene and Mesterolone, said that he started treatment on November 29, 2016. He added that when he was approached for testing by Jamaican Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) representatives on December 16, 2016, and again on December 22, 2016, he told them that he was taking medication and also declared in writing what he was taking.

Clomiphene is listed as a fertility treatment for women, while Mesterolone is described as anabolic steroid, which is often used by bodybuilders to increase libido (desire for sex). Clomiphene, which also goes by the name Clomid, is the same drug for which netballer Simone Forbes tested positive before the 2011 World Netball Championships.

Livermore, who trains at the Michael Clarke-coached Akan Track Club, said that he had waived his right to have his ‘B’ sample tested because “I know exactly what JADCO had found and I know where it was coming from.”

Livermore then described testimonies which outlined his apparent unfamiliarity with the rules governing the taking of substances.

NEVER HEARD OF EXEMPTION

He said that he had never heard of a therapeutic-use exemption (TUE), which athletes who are taking certain substances would require to not be deemed in violation of anti-doping rules if they test positive for a prohibited sub-

stance. He said that he had never viewed JADCO’s website to make himself familiar with the responsibilities of an athlete as it relates to substances found within his or her system. He had never tried to educate himself on JADCO’s rules, and he added that January 2017 was the first time in his five years as a professional athlete that he knew of the prohibited list regarding certain medications. While he admitted receiving pamphlets from JADCO, Livermore added that he had only read the ones that included the list of prohibited substances.

“I wouldn’t have gone the extra mile because I was in the hands of a medical doctor,” Livermore said.

The athlete’s coach, Michael Clarke, gave character evidence on his behalf. However, Clarke expressed his shock at Livermore’s positive test as he said that he had always instructed athletes some as young as 12, on the need to be aware of whatever they were putting into their bodies.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday, September 18, at 10 a.m., when Livermore’s doctor, Xavier Dow, who did not show up for the hearing, is expected to give evidence.

Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) Chairman Alexander Williams said he was forced to fire the body’s executive director, Carey Brown, after the latter refused to resign following a directive from the board last week.

Brown, who is said to have tested positive for a banned substance in December, “it was like the world had stopped in front of me.”

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stance. He said that he had never viewed JADCO’s website to make himself familiar with the responsibilities of an athlete as it relates to substances found within his or her system. He had never tried to educate himself on JADCO’s rules, and he added that January 2017 was the first time in his five years as a professional athlete that he knew of the prohibited list regarding certain medications. While he admitted receiving pamphlets from JADCO, Livermore added that he had only read the ones that included the list of prohibited substances.

“I wouldn’t have gone the extra mile because I was in the hands of a medical doctor,” Livermore said.

The athlete’s coach, Michael Clarke, gave character evidence on his behalf. However, Clarke expressed his shock at Livermore’s positive test as he said that he had always instructed athletes some as young as 12, on the need to be aware of whatever they were putting into their bodies.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday, September 18, at 10 a.m., when Livermore’s doctor, Xavier Dow, who did not show up for the hearing, is expected to give evidence.
Gayle is back in West Indies squad

RETURNING HARD-hitting West Indies opener Chris Gayle says it feels good to be back in the team prior to the West Indies playing England at Old Trafford in the first of their five-match one-day international series, which began on Tuesday September 19.

West Indies skipper Jason Holder has welcomed back Gayle’s return as “a huge boost. The calibre of player Chris is, you can expect really good things from him.”

“I’m really looking forward to having him back. He seems up for the challenge, he seems upbeat and really happy to be back. I’m looking forward to good things from Chris.”

West Indies have the added incentive to do well. They will need to win the upcoming series either 5-0 or 4-0 with a tie or a no-result if they are to gain direct entry into the 2019 World Cup in England.

A failure to do so would mean West Indies, the 1975 and 1979 World Cup winners, cannot overtake Sri Lanka, currently eighth in the ODI rankings.

Gayle, who last represented the regional side in this format of the game at the ICC World Cup in New Zealand two and a half years ago, makes a return following a recent amnesty by Cricket West Indies, which no longer requires players to play in the regional domestic 50-over tournament, the Super50, to be eligible for selection.

The big-hitting Jamaican is one of two players that have benefited from the amnesty, with fellow countryman and Marlon Samuels being the other.

“It’s good to be back,” Gayle, who along with Samuels and the in-form Shai Hope and Evin Lewis, is man Marlon Samuels being the other.

“I already know what to expect at the international level, so once I am ready mentally. I know anything is possible.”

The 37-year-old, who recently ended the Caribbean Premier League Twenty20 as the third highest run-scorer, also expressed hope that his body will be able to withstand the rigours of the 50-over game.

“I WILL MANAGE IT

“I would like to see where I am at with the 50-overs game, how the body will cope,” he said. “But I am sure that I will manage it.”

Gayle, who has the most centuries for the West Indies in one-day internationals, and the second highest runscorer in the regional side in the format, also went on to express hope his recall can help him achieve one of his career-ending goals.

“The target is Cricket World Cup in England in 2019,” he said. “However, as you know, that decision will not be entirely up to me.”

“I intend to work with the cricket board to monitor things in terms of workload and so on and then when, what and how, I hope this can help him.”

Gayle, who is the most capped West Indian in one-day cricket, has scored 999 runs against England in 26 matches at an average of 43.43.

Chris Gayle bats during the NatWest T20 International match between England and the West Indies at Emirates Durham ICG on Saturday September 16, in Chester-le-Street, England.

Gayle currently boasts a one-day international average of 37.33 from 269 appearances, including 22 hundreds and 42 fifties.

VERDICT

Continued from 24

Livermore won gold in the 4x100m relay and a bronze medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Proceedings against Livermore began on Monday September 11.

In Monday Livermore’s medical doctor, Rex Xavier Dow, said the athlete was being treated for a condition which is of a “very sensitive nature.”

While admitting that it was aware that Livermore is a professional athlete, Dow said he is not a sport medicine specialist. He said he knew of banned substances, and also said that doctors “use a lot of banned substances in treatment of everyday conditions.”

Dow said he would still have prescribed the same medication for Livermore, given the nature of his ailment.

“At the level it was, there was no other treatment. It would have given no performance enhancement. I didn’t do anything differently because I’m treating the condition,” Dow said.

NO KNOWLEDGE OF EXEMPTION

Last week, Livermore admitted that he was cluedless as to the existence of a therapeutic-use exemption (TUE) form which athletes who are taking certain substances would require a form for use to avoid any violation of anti-doping rules if they test positive for a prohibited substance.

Dow also said that he had never heard of the TUE.

“I wished I knew about it before but I would have reminded him (Livermore) about it,” Dow told The Gleaner.

The Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) was again represented at the commission by Judith Clarke and its executive director, Carey Brown, who was fired last week by the commission’s board.

In response to Livermore’s statements that he had no clue about certain anti-doping matters, Brown presented late evidence that his body had sent several notices via e-mail in October 2016 alerting Livermore to a JADCO anti-doping workshop for senior athletes in November.

Lowe looks to push promotion for Norway’s IK Star

ON THE rise Reggae Boys defender Damion Lowe made his debut last week with his new European Club IK Start in their opening game of their first division, playing first placed team Bodo/Glimt, and I grew into my full potential, which Lowe is down with the aim of playing his part in lifting the club to the top tier Eliteserien.

The 24-year-old, who has been attracting attention this year following impressive performances with the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the United States Soccer league and later with his Jamaica national team, the Reggae Boys which lost in the finals of the Gold Cup to hosts USA 1-2 on July 26.

Lowe was part of the defensive unit which kept opposing forwards at bay as Jamaica reached the finals.

Now playing in Europe since mid-August Lowe shared his thoughts on the matter with The Gleaner.

“I am not surprised at all,” Lowe told The Gleaner. “I’ve always had my eyes on playing in Europe. I’ve worked extremely hard and it attracted interest and I gladly took the offer.”

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Livermore, however, said that his e-mail account had been hacked and he had not received those emails.

Livermore’s manager, Lorenzo Sandford, who represented him, told The Gleaner that he believed the athlete’s case had been adequately presented.

“We have brought forward all the evidence there is to bring forward on the case,” Sandford said.

Other speakers who are Jim Bagahaw, vice-president of the Calgary Flames, Canada, Carol Simpson, Head Cabinet Bureau, WIPO; Rashid Hall, Sponsorship Coordinator, Creative Artists Agency (CAA) (UEFA 2020, Switzerland)

Karl Samuda, minister of industry, commerce, agriculture and fisheries; and Carlene Edwards, Sales, Promotions and Events Manager of Jamaica National Bank.

Jamaica hosts regional conference on intellectual property in sport

THE MINISTRY of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) on Tuesday September 19, began a two-day regional conference in Kingston on the Strategic Use of Intellectual Property in Sport.

The four main themes will be: the competitive nature of the Sports Industry, Intellectual Property Rights in the Sporting Arena, Athletes Support Franchise, and Athletes Focus.

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LIVERMORE TO KNOW VERDICT ON OCTOBER 30

NATIONAL SPINNER Jason Livermore who is charged with violating Article 2.1 of the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission laws, which deals with the presence of a prohibited substance in an athlete’s sample, is to hear the verdict of the panel on October 30.

At Monday September 11 session at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston, Livermore and his team told the panel of Chairman Kent Gammon, Dr. Marjorie Vassell, and Heron Dale that he was not seeking an unfair advantage when he tested positive for metabolites of clomiphene and mesterolone.

Please see VERDICT, 23

Defending Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA) urban schoolgirl netball champions Excelsior High and rural counterparts Denbigh High will start the defence of their titles when both competitions get underway this week.