Saying that it is aware that a big gun find in Miami has allegedly been linked to a person, who until recently, was employed by one of its St James local government councillors, Michael Troupe, the opposition People's National Party (PNP) has called for an urgent investigation of the matter and for any criminal undertaking to be prosecuted.

Please see PROBE, 3

EX-EMPLOYEE OF PARTY’S COUNCILLOR LINKED TO FIND
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Miami Consulate closed for holidays

As of Monday, December 18, the Consulate General of Jamaica, Miami, will temporarily suspend the collection of passport applications at its location in downtown Miami. Regular passport processing services will not be available on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

During that period, persons traveling in emergency situations should contact the Consulate General at telephone 305-374-6431 or via email at contactus@jamaicaembmiami.org.
Black Canadians summit seeks to remove racial barriers

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

TORONTO, ON

The National Black Canadians Summit, a three-day bilingual gathering to mark the International Decade for People of African Descent, was held in Toronto from December 4 to 6. Organized by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, the Federation of Black Canadians and the Toronto Public Library, it featured over 80 speakers from across the country, 16 strategic planning sessions, and several cultural performances.

Over two days participants worked on drafting a six-year, community-driven plan of action to remove racial barriers and enhance well-being, prosperity and inclusion for Black Canadians.

Peter Flegel, director of programming and development at the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, noted that the decade was launched by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 with the expectation that member states would join in and support the decade and the program of activity that would follow suit.

"Canada is in the process of doing so and we’re proud to be part of a really critical movement of civil society that’s pushing the nation forward to embrace the fundamental principles at the heart of the decade, which are recognition, justice and development," Flegel said.

He said the impetus for the summit came from black youth that the Foundation has worked for and with since 2014.

"Two things came up recurrently wherever we were, Vancouver, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa. The first thing was the idea of opening up the spaces of public cultural institutions to the black community," Flegel said.

He said the second was for a national strategic action plan that the member states would join in and support.

The information was presented to hundreds of people in 41 community meetings organised by the community and "we asked them to tell us which of the 40 years worth of recommendations needed to be acted upon."

"We asked them to put back in front of an open community plenary session to help community understand what can be done to help the African Canadian community to advance and to eliminate anti-black racism."

There were also greetings from Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and from federal NDP Leader, Jagmeet Singh - the first person of colour to lead a national party in Canada. Singh acknowledged a Jamaican, the late Rosemary Brown, who led the way by running for leadership of the federal NDP in 1975, and trailblazers like Jean Augustine.

"I'm speechless to see how bold we are, how courageous we are. Whatever we do we will do it," Singh said.

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Black children pushed out of education system

FRANCINE BUCHNER
Gleaner Writer

TORONTO, ON: Black children are being targeted in the provincial government’s Toronto District School Board (TDSB) education system, it is being reported. This is a trend that is being seen, as early as Junior Kindergarten, in primary school to Grade 12, high school graduation.

Children of colour at TDSB, it is being reported, are being pushed out of the education system with a formula that starts with various suspensions and ends with expulsion. The report, published in the "Deciding Making Process and Expelled Students’ Transition Experience in the TDSB’s Caring School Model and Their Graduation Outcomes" found that “self-identified students accounted for almost half (48 per cent) of the 213 expulsions from 2011 to 2016. Those who target academically had the lowest percentage of school expulsions were Aboriginal (1 per cent), Latin American (1 per cent) and East Asian (2 per cent).”

The report also found that the majority of expulsions were happening in high schools (94 per cent). Male students accounted for 69 per cent of expulsions, 81 per cent of students born in Canada and 61 per cent account for students from a single-parent family.

In response to this crisis like situation, The Plug Program was launched last month, in October, with funding of $100,000 provided by Legal Aid Ontario (LAO).

The Plug Program was launched last month, in October, with funding of $100,000 provided by Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). The Plug Program was designed to support African-Canadian students facing academic and conflict with the lack of legal representation is available to them. “It’s not a ton of money, but it’s enough to get started,” said Knia Singh of Ma’at Legal Services whose services will be utilized by TAIBU. “She brought Silvia, me, into the school and three days later, my son was back in school and three days later, my son was back at school,” said Singh. “The teacher’s are assuming that the kid had no choice. They’re not talking to lawyers directly and this funding has allowed him to hire frontline workers, such as Silvia Argentina Arauz. He has found that Black students are being expelled for minor issues and many situations can be handled with a simple conversation. “It wasn’t always a problem that a lawyer had to come into or that it was unsolvable. It’s a lot about communication,” said Singh. “This was a simple conversation, interview with the student to find out what place, interwoven on half of the student’s case.”

Sindi De La Cruz is a Black woman from Colombia, in 2009, at her seven-year-old son was arrested from the female washroom. De La Cruz who was new to the country and could not speak English was attended by her son’s two-week suspension and signed the papers.

Her son is now 14 years old and has a record of multiple suspensions following him into his final year of high school. De La Cruz who was at The Plug Program launch, spoke via Arauz who translated from Spanish into English said her son who started the grade nine in September was expelled. This is only three months into the school year. “She had gone to the school, she has sat there waiting to be seen various times and each time they would say, ‘we’ll get you tomorrow, we’ll get to you tomorrow,’ ” said De La Cruz.

She has said she had contacted agencies for help but she knew she could not do it alone, having tried and they could not help her. She contacted Ma’at Legal Services via TAIBU. “She brought Silvia, me, into the school and three days later, my son was back at school,” said Singh. “Our students are not being heard. Students are coming into the class and an adult will say, ‘stop’. There is racial profiling in schools. There is no way to sugar coat it,” said Singh.

Hope Singh’s son is Black, and on the basketball team at his Catholic high school. Within a week of starting grade 12, his final year of high school he was suspended. He just wanted to go to the washroom. “It turned into something much bigger and he was suspended,” said his mother also in attendance at The Plug Program launch.

“The teacher’s are assuming that the kid is going to fight and get violent and based on their language and attitude. It’s like oh, you’re suspended I don’t want to deal with it. It’s a way of making their job easier,” said Singh. “His case is still in progress. At least this time it has happened at the start of the school year and his mother is hoping he will have time to catch up on his studies. ‘I don’t know if he will be able to graduate,’ she said about his son, getting emotional. The last time he was suspended two days before March break and that was to last only five days. Five days turned to six weeks. They too, pushed papers in front of him to sign. ‘Those Plug Program drawing had this picture painted of me as this angry black woman when all I was trying to do was fight for my son and what he has a right to. He has a right to an education,” said Singh.

Two more Jamaicans plead guilty in J$5.7m lottery scam

BISMARK, ND (AP): TWO MORE suspects have pleaded guilty in a Jamaican lottery scam that authorities say bilked at least 90 Americans out of more than J$3.5 million. O’Neil Brown and Dahlia Hunter earlier reached plea deals with prosecutors.

The case is being prosecuted in federal court in North Dakota. Prosecutors believe it to be the first Jamaican-based lottery scam prosecuted in the U.S. The investigation dating to 2011 resulted in charges against 27 people, including a Jamaican, a US citizen and two others remain fugitives.

The scam began to unravel when he returned to Jamaica after getting a college degree in the US, and that he wanted to help his girlfriend, Kimberly Willocks, who authorities say was the grandmother of more than J$5.7 million.

Hunter earlier reached plea deals with prosecutors. The deal is similar to those against 27 people, including a Jamaican, a US citizen and two others remain fugitives. The deal is similar to those.

“Two OUT of 18 suspects have pleaded guilty. They are helping him through financial problems. The suspects are accused of calling victims about bogus lottery winnings, persuading them to send advance fees to receive the purported winnings, then keeping the money without paying out to the victims.”

The scam began to unravel when a woman in North Dakota lost her life savings of more than J$300,000 in 2011. A federal investigation resulted in charges against 27 people, including a current block of 15 suspects who are still being prosecuted in North Dakota.

“Two of the 15 are still fugitives in Jamaica.” Seven others have pleaded guilty, including Willocks’ girlfriend, Kimberly Willocks. Hunter, who did so late last month. Hunter and another suspect are set to plead guilty next week, leaving just four suspects still scheduled for trial in January.

Rudolph Brown/Photographer

The New York County District Attorney’s office for the State of New York unsealed an indictment in August charging Faisal with helping support IS global terrorist. The action blocks any property he has with US jurisdiction and prevents Americans from engaging in any transactions with him. Faisal has recruited for and provided IS with two or three IS and his actions have influenced terrorists who engaged in bomb plots and other horrific attacks on innocent civilians,” said John Smith, director of the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. “This designation will help deter Faisal’s global following and prevent US civilians,” said John Smith, director of the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control.

The Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Faisal for engaging in acts of terrorism, including providing material support to IS and IS and other horrific attacks on innocent civilians,” said John Smith, director of the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control.

The US Treasury Department targets Jamaica-based cleric accused of helping IS recruits

WASHINGTON (AP): THE Treasury Department took action Tuesday December 5 against a Jamaica-based Islamic cleric accused of helping Islamic State recruits travel to areas controlled by the militant group.

Terrorists officials designated Abdullah Ibrahim Faisal as a global terrorist. The action blocks any property he has with US jurisdiction and prevents Americans from engaging in any transactions with him.

Faisal has recruited for and provided IS with two or three IS and his actions have influenced terrorists who engaged in bomb plots and other horrific attacks on innocent civilians,” said John Smith, director of the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. “This designation will help deter Faisal’s global following and prevent US civilians,“ said John Smith, director of the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control.

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US Treasury Department targets Jamaica-based cleric accused of helping IS recruits
Scores attend memorial for RJRGLEANER chairman

NADINE WILSON-HARRIS

HE DIDN’T follow through with his desire to design cars, but J.A. Lester Spaulding’s relatives, friends and associates all agree that he did a fantastic job engineering a media empire which helped to transform Jamaica and the Caribbean.

During a thanksgiving service to celebrate his life at the Webster Memorial United Church on Saturday, December 9, many paid homage to the man who had many passions.

Most notable was his love for fast cars, marlin fishing and the media industry, to which he dedicated 53 years of his life.

Spaulding’s eulogy in media began in 1965, took off in 1979 when he was appointed managing director of Radio Jamaica Limited, and ended at his seashore on November 17, with him as the chairman of Jamaica’s largest media conglomerate, the RJRGLEANER Communications Group.

Along the way were numerous acquisitions and negotiations, the birthing of several facets of his vision and the quiet and humble acceptance of multiple awards, including the Order of Distinction (Commander Class).

Deputy Chairman of the RJRGLEANER Communications Group Oliver Clarke, in his tribute to the media icon, said Spaulding was an excellent partner in the fight for what is right for media in Jamaica.

SHARED VISION

As friends and partners, the two shared a vision for a strong, viable and independent broadcasting sector in Jamaica.

“We have always shared common goals and principles about freedom of the media, access to information, holding those with authority accountable, having better libel laws, providing decent jobs for media workers and keeping Jamaica’s democracy strong,” said Clarke.

The media legend was eulogised as always being a little ahead of his time, just as radio was beginning.

“Spaulding was one who was astute management and strategic vision, matched only by his humility,” said Brown Bell.

More than anything else, Rector of St Andrew Parish Church, the Reverend Canon Major Birranco Kitson, will remember Spaulding’s humility.

“I found him to be unpretentious, not egotistic or arrogant. He was one who was authentic under his own skin and comfortable to be himself wherever he was,” said Kitson.

Lester Spaulding’s widow Lindamarie carries the urn from the church followed by students of the Caribbean Maritime University, following the thanksgiving for his life at the Webster Memorial United Church.

General Secretary of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Norbert Stephens reminded the congregation that despite his seeming invincibility and his superhuman feats, Spaulding, like all of us, could not escape the moment when death intercepts life.

“Whenever we have a moment like this, it confronts our humanity. Most of us are painfully aware that a moment separates life from death, and many of us struggle with the unpredictability of life and are forced to contend with our lack of control for the most part in determining or even knowing the moment when death will intercept our life,” said Stephens.

“The truth is, our brother lived a full life, yet his passing comes at a time when so many others are losing theirs in the senseless violence of our times,” added Stephens.

Spaulding is survived by his mother Myrtle Spaulding, widow Lindamarie, children Darren, Gavin, Stephanie, Tyra, and stepdaughter Alessandra Anna, other family members and friends.

In her tribute to her late husband, Lindamarie documented his life from being the son of a fire chief to his role at the helm of Radio Jamaica.

“Wed to RJR and has dream of Jamaica-to-be, to love him was to love his cause, and to know one’s role on the team. This child of the independence generation, ever hopeful, ever committed, woke in the dawn and closed his eyes at night in strategy ... ” said Lindamarie.

Darren Spaulding places the urn at the front of the church during the service of thanksgiving for the life of his father J.A. Lester Spaulding.

JAMPRO’S Unclaimed Members

The Trustees of the Jamaica Promotions Corporation Pension Plan would like to make contact with the following persons who were former participants of the plan(s):

Anandaram, Krishnasuajny
Bailey, Hilary
Bennett, Carmen
Borraloi, Heather
Brissett, Pamela
Chen, Pamela
Christie, Carlene
Clarke, Charmain
Clarke, Maureen
Clarke, Michael
Drummond, Donovan
English, Diedre
Fowles, Cheryl
James, Beverley
James, Errol
King, Richard
Lindsay, Iris
Livingston, Leon
Montague, Monica
Morris, Dean
Mullings, Jean
Redwood, Patricia
Scott, Carol
Scott, Cecille
Scott, Joan
Sealy, Michael
Smith, Ayo
Stanley, Paulette
Steele, Dian
Streadwick, Marjorie
Thomas, Suzanne
Vassell, Nadine
Walker, Sharon
Williams, Beverley

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

Jamaican Journalist Ian Boyne recuperates

DEPUTY CHIEF Executive Officer of the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) Ian Boyne is now out of the Intensive Care Unit of the University Hospital of the West Indies. He says that he was moved by the expressions of love that he received.

Boyne, who is recuperating in the Tony Thwaites Wing of the hospital, fell ill on December 2. “I am deeply touched by the outpouring of love from all sectors of the society.” Boyne said as he was updated on the concern expressed by many Jamaicans at home and abroad on social media and through calls to the JIS and radio stations. He was told that churches everywhere were in prayer for his recovery.

“I am grateful to God. I am a miracle,” he added as he reflected on the frightening experience. He stated that he had been seeing his doctors regularly and paying attention to his diet and exercise routine and encouraged everyone to do the same.

“I am deeply moved to know that I am loved and appreciated by my colleagues, especially at JIS and in the media. Tell them I shall be back and doing more prouder, doing more profound and sharing more articles in the near future with God’s help,” the veteran journalist said.

JAMPRO TRADE & INVESTMENT JAMAICA

NOTICE TO PENSIONERS

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Drummond, Donovan
English, Diedre
Fowles, Cheryl
James, Beverley
James, Errol
King, Richard
Lindsay, Iris
Livingston, Leon
Montague, Monica
Morris, Dean
Mullings, Jean
Redwood, Patricia
Scott, Carol
Scott, Cecille
Scott, Joan
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Stanley, Paulette
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www.jamaica-gleaner.com
Jamaica to lead powerful ACP group for six months

Jamaica's presidency of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will be expanded to the ACP Group's submission, by August 2018, to its negotiating position with the EU.

Johnson Smith accepted Jamaica's role for the six months, citing the expiring of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement with the European Union as an area that the country will lead in terms of bringing on stream negotiations for a successor arrangement, she said.

"Jamaica is honored by this role, which comes at a time when the 79-member ACP Group of Countries is contemplating its position ahead of the expiry of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement with the European Union, and ahead of the beginning of negotiations for a successor arrangement," she said.

The 106th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers currently meeting in Brussels took decisions in relation to its preparations for the post-Cotonou engagement, development cooperation and the implementation of current Economic Partnership Agreement programmes, among other matters.

Meanwhile, a training workshop on trade statistics and indicator systems is to be convened from December 12 to December 14 at the Altamont Court Hotel in Kingston.

It signals a collaborative effort between the foreign affairs and foreign trade ministry and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, known as UN ECLAC.

"The objective of the workshop is to strengthen technical and analytical skills of government officials and other relevant stakeholders in the assessment of international trade policy and trade dynamics. A description of the study developed by UN ECLAC will also be made at the training programme," the ministry stated.
Markle brings fresh drama to royals

THE EDITOR, Sir:

LIKE THE evolution of television, the British royal family has, finally, become colourised, albeit to a small degree, with the recent engagement (and pending nuptials) of Meghan Markle to Prince Harry. This is a long overdue and very good thing, from racial, social and diplomatic historical standpoints.

For me, Harry and Meghan’s engagement is my favourite news story of 2017. In fact, to marry Meghan – a woman of colour and an American – Prince Harry has become the leading Outfit of British royal tradition, and, in this regard, he should be highly commended. Remarkably, though not surprisingly, Meghan’s stunning beauty, intelligence and charm have already begun to capture the hearts of the British people. Like the late Princess Diana, I have a strong feeling that Meghan, after tying the royal knot with Harry, will, in due course, become one of the most popular and beloved members of the British royal family.

PATRICK O OMORE

pagalex@hotmail.com

NIDS critics aren’t noisy naysayers

THE EDITOR, Sir:

THE EXPONENTS of the National Identification System (NIDS) have distinguished themselves by their quiet but articulate appeals to the people of Jamaica to support the idea of a national ID. In so doing, they have refuted the concerns that have been raised about the intrusiveness of the NIDS system picture, fingerprint, signature, iris scan topped off with an encyclopaedia of our personal information. The intrusive nature of this system is what has somewhat reduced the confidence that I have in the justice system. Is it that larger companies will always be right even when they are found to be wrong? J$273 million is a drop in the bucket for a multimillion-dollar company like Pfizer.

Let’s backtrack a bit. This issue runs back over a decade when, in January 2002, Pfizer produced patent letters in the local media which were interpreted as threats to the local generics industry. The settlement given to each is where our opinions differ.

And yet left to suffer under over a decade’s worth of legal fees is ASCORB, as per ‘FrankenNIDS’, stored with the birth certificate. An application for a NIDs ID can be done at 16, and the cost is $10 per application. The birth certificate is required to apply for this. The cost to roll out NIDS using a similar framework will be trival.

We, too, back a simpler approach:

Instead, we argue for a simpler approach:

It’s not that the NIDS people who object are guilty of not supporting a national ID. This is not true. Most do support NIDS and are fully on board with the need for it. However, our objections are based on the following points:

High-cost, $8 billion: Jamaica is unable to maintain basic services here. Educational and national security are massively underfunded. In an island of nearly three million people, the desire to implement NIDS, with all these biometric trappings, is an extravagance we cannot afford.

The intrusive nature of this system picture, fingerprint, signature, iris scan topped off with an encyclopaedia of our personal information.

Forced participation: It is unacceptable to demand participation under threat of prosecution.

The massive impact to the public in transitioning systems from tax registration number (TRN) to NIDS.

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

Paul Duncan

Unreasonable award in LASCO case

THE EDITOR, Sir:

FOR THOSE of us who have been painstakingly following the Pfizer vs LASCO and Medigene debate, last week’s ruling most certainly came as a shock. For most of the past, the presiding judge demonstrated a wealth of knowledge about the pharmacology of the case, it seemed the judge was set to deliver a “fair” ruling in favour of the local distributors. While her judgment was in fact in favour of the local companies, the settlement given to each is where our opinions differ.

Let’s backtrack a bit. This issue runs back over a decade when, in January 2002, Pfizer produced patent letters in the local media which were interpreted as threats to the local generics industry. The settlement given to each is where our opinions differ.

The award handed down by the Supreme Court last week is much too small, and, therefore, unreasonable. The judge investigated the production of patent letters put forward by Lasco and determined that these were based on the calculation of US$490 million provided by LASCO’s experts to J$273 million.

I was not happy with the settlement, and, sooner or later, we would see the large number of savings that LASCO would have made, as per the patent had in fact expired before.

The larger truth of Mr Peter Phillips that there be wider recognition of how the large and middle-sized generics companies in Jamaica have made much more profit in that time.

The editorial which also spoke of the usefulness of the three-year-old anti- gang legislation in the anti-crime fight.

PM should take apology further

THE EDITORIAL agreed with a suggestion made by business executive Richard Byles and endorsed by Opposition Leader Dr Peter Phillips that there be established a standing EPOC-style arrangement for Jamaica’s social and economic affairs.

EPOC is a private sector-based oversight body for the implementation of IMF programme. Phillips had recommended that the body be entrenched in legislation with independent reporting status including the right to send findings to Parliament.

The editorial said that the body should also conduct analysis of the economy and provide scorecards of likely outcomes.

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The larger truth of Mr Peter Phillips that there be wider recognition of how the large and middle-sized generics companies in Jamaica have made much more profit in that time.
Andrew Mahfood (left), chairman of Food For The Poor (FFP) Jamaica, and Chief Executive Officer of Wisynco Group Ltd, with Eric ‘Busha’ Clarke (second left), chairman of the Management Committee at the Savanna-la-Mar General Hospital; and Dr Alfred Dawes (second right), chief medical officer at the Savanna-la-Mar General Hospital, accept a donation of US$5,000 to FFP towards the purchase of a C-Arm for the Savanna-la-Mar Hospital from Monica Ladd of American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ). The occasion was Friends of Food For The Poor Jamaica’s 2018 Calendar Launch and Auction held at the Terra Nova Hotel on Thursday, November 30, 2017. Food For The Poor held the 2018 Calendar Launch in partnership with Young At Art, an art education programme founded and run by Fiona Godfrey. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Savanna-la-Mar Hospital.

The Brij Team presents a cheque for CDN$10,340 at the 17th anniversary gala of The Caribbean Children Foundation (TCCF) on October 28 at Elite Banquet Hall in Toronto. From left are Arnold Gokul, Andrew Hylton, Dex Ramnaraign, Jay Brijpaul and Amit Khani.

Usain Bolt and his lady love, Kasi Bennett, make their way into the unveiling of his statue at the National Stadium on Sunday, December 3.

Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett (left) and project coordinator for the Jamaica Community Tourism Innovation Challenge, Erica Myers (right), with Ryerson University students (from second left) Nathalie Brown, Jessica Owusu-Bonsu, Kelly-Ann Wright and Whitney Peprah-Addo. Ryerson was announced as the first winners of the Jamaica Community Tourism Innovation Challenge during the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Government of Jamaica, World Bank Group, Inter-American Development Bank Global Conference on Jobs and Inclusive Growth: Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism, on November 29, 2017.

The Reverend Sam Vassel (left), receiving the award for Community Leadership from Rev Paul Peart, President, Good Neighbors Community Outreach Agency and senior Pastor, New Testament Temple Church of God.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
THE COURT of Appeal, agreeing there was the real possibility of bias, has ordered a retrial in a lawsuit first brought against former Eagle financial network executive Dr Paul Chen-Young more than 19 years ago to recover millions of dollars in liabili-
ties to the institutions.
The appeal related to a May 2006 judgment by Supreme Court Justice Roy Anderson, mostly in favour of Eagle Investments Limited, and Crown Eagle Life Insurance Company – entities that were taken over in a last-minute first bailout for the financial rescue programme of the 1990s – and against Dr Chen-Young and other respondents who were sued in November 1997.
Justice Seymour Panton, who wrote the decision for the three-member Court of Appeal panel handed down on December 1, agreed with Dr Chen-Young’s lawyer that the case should not have been heard by Justice Anderson, on the basis that he had a personal relation-
ship with lawyers on the other side of the case.

The suit was filed by Eagle Merchant Bank boss be retried

Dr Paul Chen-Young, as he appeared on the cover of his 2004 book about his career, includ-
ing the financial sector crisis in which the Jamaican government took over his companies.

Registrator of the Supreme Court to have Justice Anderson assigned to the case, due to his experience in rel-
tions of matters of that nature. That con-
sultation included attorney Conrad George who was then representing Chen-Young.

When Justice Anderson accepted that there was no discussion between the lawyers and Justice Anderson about the case during the period at the law firm, he con-
cluded that the fair-minded observer would still feel that there is a real possibility of bias.

"In the Jamaica that I know, the fair-minded and informed observer may well form on the circum-
stances: the case having started at the very case after counsel having consulted with the Registrar, and other counsel from the same law firm, also being involved in the trial," he said.

While Justice Panton accepted that there was no discussion between the lawyers and Justice Anderson about the case during the period at the law firm, he con-
cluded that the fair-minded observer would still feel that there is a real possibility of bias.

"In the circumstances, notwithstanding that I have gone through the details of the learned judge’s rulings, and have agreed with most of his findings, I feel con-
strained to allow the appeal on this latter basis," he said.

He said that while Chen-Young and the other appellants did not seek a retrial, and instead asked for Justice Anderson’s orders to be set aside, the Court of Appeal

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NCB to acquire 50% of Bermudan bank

STEVEN JACKSON
Business Reporter

THE BOOK value of NCB Financial Group's stake in Clarien Bank, Bermuda, would equate to US$43.6 million ($66.74 billion), but the entities avoided any financial disclosures in announcing the deal last week.

Clarien Bank holds US$107 million in total equity as at June 2017; its financials indicate NCB Financial Group announced that it will acquire 50.1 per cent of Clarien Group Limited (CGL), which owns Clarien Bank Limited (CBL), subject to ministerial approval.

Funds managed by Portland Private Equity will hold 17.92 per cent and Edmund Gibbons Limited (EGL) will retain a 31.98 per cent shareholding, a release on the deal stated.

Clarien stated that it received financial advice from Macquarie Capital.

Both NCB and Portland Equity are part of the Michael Lee-Chin-controlled Portland group of companies, which started as a wealth-management business in Canada before expanding into a multinational financial conglomerate. In April 2016, Portland entered into a deal with Clarien to invest US$10 million in the bank for an undisclosed stake. The Gleaner sought clarity from Portland group director Robert Almeida on whether the 17.9 per cent reflected the group's initial investment.

“Portland Private Equity is pleased with the performance of its investment in Clarien Group Limited, which is performing in line with our investment thesis,” responded Almeida to the Gleaner queries on specific financial information.

The transaction has received the approval of the Bank of Jamaica and a letter of no objection from the Bermuda Monetary Authority. Completion of the transaction is subject to the approval of the minister of finance under the provisions of the Companies Act 1981 in Bermuda.

Our investment in Clarien reflects not only our confidence in the quality and value of the bank's expertise, experience, and services, but also those of Bermuda itself. In addition to its unquestioned natural beauty, the island has a natural affinity for business. As home to many of the world’s leading financial companies, Bermuda is respected as a stable, sophisticated legal and regulatory jurisdiction well equipped to meet the needs of international high-networth and institutional clients and one that is committed to meeting global standards of compliance, regulation, and transparency,” stated NCB President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Hylton in a release.

“The Gleaner awaits a response from NCB on the financial terms of the deal and how the bank will treat the entity going forward. Bermuda is one of the world’s premier financial jurisdictions and our alliance with Clarien is consistent with the strategic investments and joint ventures NCB Group identifies as key to growing our regional interests and driving continued growth and shareholder value,” Hylton added. “We are committed to contributing to the growth of Bermuda’s reputation to attract more business to the island and thereby, create conditions that will benefit the economy as a whole.”

Clarien’s strength lies with its asset base at $1.1 billion as at December 2016, much of which is liquid, including US$192 million in cash and equivalents and US$161 million in investment securities. While its loans and advances at US$815 million as at June 2017 account for the bulk of its remaining assets, one concern relates to its impaired loans (over 90 days) which totals US$67.6 million or roughly nine 9.0 per cent of its loan portfolio. The size of the bad debts could constrain its ability to rapidly grow loans.

Another area relates to Clarien’s annual return on equity, which remains relatively low at roughly 1.0 per cent for its 2016 financial year. Specifically, the bank posted US$1.2 million in net profit for its year ending December 2016 or double the US$522,000 earned a year earlier. Despite the jump in profit, its return on total equity at $106.8 million remained low.

“Our partnership with NCB and Portland reinforces Clarien’s position as one of the largest privately held financial institutions in Bermuda. It will enable us to offer a wider range of attractive products to our customers and facilitate the growth that will ultimately provide job security and career opportunities for Bermudians,” stated James Gibbons, director of Edmund Gibbons Limited (EGL), and the Bank, said the partnership with NCB strengthens commercial ties. “The Clarien brand will be unchanged and we remain committed to Bermuda, our employees, and our clients. NCB shares our client-focused philosophy and a dedication to providing high-quality services and a superior customer experience,” he added.

Alongside the NCB acquisition, the board appointed Chorvelle Johnson as its new chief executive officer, effective January 29, 2018. Johnson has served in the financial services sector, holding senior management positions over the past 20 years, including First Global and most recently at Proven Wealth and Proven Fund Managers.

Christopher Zacca, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sagicor Group Jamaica was quoted in a release saying that Johnson “is a dynamic, results-oriented leader and is a trailblazer in the financial services industry with an impressive track record of success at the leadership level”. As CEO of Sagicor Bank, she will also be appointed to sit on the board as a non-independent director.
**AMITABH SHARMA**  
Contributor

“BOOKS ARE a means to an end,” says Marcello Simonetti, Chilean journalist, writer, and screenwriter, and a vigorous proponent of the written word. His journey to the literacy world kicked off literary and figuratively after his childhood dream of becoming a footballer didn’t materialise.

“I applied to a professional club,” he recalled. “When I reached, there were over 500 kids there.” His romance fizzled in five minutes.

Simonetti forayed into media and became a sports journalist. “One of the high points in my career was to cover the FIFA World Cup in France,” he said, after which, he added, covering local football in Chile did not seem all that enticing.

He has an impressive track record to back him: a writer for Chile-based La Tercera newspaper; author of four novels; two short stories collections, and three children books.

Fast-forward to 2017, enriched by experiences of the readers can be seen as life experiences.”

Through books, he said, we can build better societies make the world a better place to live, as we seek to find some strands of unity in the myriad of diversity

The advent of technology and the dependency on devices, he said, should not be taken as a deterrent to reading there is no better companion than a good book, paired with a cup of coffee, or a glass of wine, is bliss unlimited.

“People read books for two reasons,” he says. “There are those who want to forget what is happening in the world, and then there are those who want to belong somewhere.”

Tito is a recommended reading in schools across Chile, Simonetti informed, and he has proposed to Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to include Tito as a recommended text in schools in Jamaica.

Simonetti also met, school teachers, education officials, fellow writers and other literary interests and his local publishers Ian Randle Publishers.

Simonetti said he is excited by the prospects of his visit and is looking forward to sharing Tito, which, he said, is that the coming of age story with its universal themes of boyhood innocence, adolescent lure and the magic of first love will strike a familiar chord among young readers in Jamaica.

In the classrooms, he says, children should be encouraged to read books, as their means to live the past in the present. “Change will take place regardless,” Simonetti said. “There will always be good teachers who will help students build their lives.”

**THE DIVERSITY OF THE LANGUAGES, BOTH VERBAL and critically that of actions, facilitated this interview, thank you Embassy of Chile, and Elena Girvan, secretary to Ambassador Eduardo Bonilla for interpreting.”**

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**Chilean author seeks to encourage reading and popularising books**

Chilean journalist and author Marcello Simonetti with brothers of Missionaries of the Poor.
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Proven Group lays out new upscale residential project

PIERRE SHIRLEY, the general manager of Proven Reit, a subsidiary of the Proven Group, says the company’s newest project is GLAR, an upscale residential development consisting of 11 luxury two- and three-storey villas and six two-bedroom apartments at 25-27 Millsborough Avenue, St Andrew.

“We started clearing the land a few weeks ago, and we’re gearing up to commence construction any day now. This is a joint venture with Matalon Homes,” Shirley said last week.

“Five of the apartments have already been sold, leaving one available for US$125,000, and four of the villas have already been sold. The two-storey villas start at US$950,000 while the two-storey villas start at US$895,000,” he said.

Another development with the same target market is 21 Sullivan, a 24-studio apartment development at 21 Sullivan Avenue, St Andrew, that was recently completed. The development will consist of six luxury two- and three-storey villas and six two-bedroom apartments.

Shirley said that construction for this development is expected to commence during the first half of 2018.

“We haven’t priced or started selling as yet, but we have received quite a bit of interest for both the villas and the apartments,” the general manager said.

With several projects under its belt, and with an expanded portfolio of properties, total asset value as at September 30, 2017 for the company was US$17.7 million, compared to US$8.13 million for the similar period in 2016, an increase of US$10.57 million, or 179 per cent.

The company is also investing in properties for the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, which Shirley believes is a strong growth area.

Included is the former Empire Supermarket in Portmore Pines, St Catherine, which has been retrofitted by lessee IBEX International. “The asking price was in the region of J$350 million. However, we were able to negotiate a more favourable price that we are not prepared to disclose at this time,” Shirley said.

“We see the BPO sector as a strong industry, and we are comfortable with it as part of our portfolio mix. We have a 7.5-acre commercial development in Mandeville that we intend to include another 50,000-plus square feet of space for BPO, for which we are currently seeking a suitable partner/provider,” he explained.

PORTFOLIO

“Our portfolio currently includes commercial rental properties, such as the property in Portmore Pines leased to IBEX and an office/warehouse building in Newport West (in Kingston) which is leased to the Pacey Group of companies, and land for future residential and commercial developments. We are not involved in property management,” Shirley said.

Completed projects include The Sullivan, a 24-studio apartment development at 21 Sullivan Avenue, St Andrew, that was completed May 2017 and it is completely sold out with the exception of one that is currently available for sale for J$13 million. Other projects in the pipeline are Bloomfield Estates, Greenvale Road, Mandeville, Manchester, 7.5-acre parcel slated for a commercial development to include a BPO office of approximately 50,000 square feet, a 100-120 room business hotel, and approximately 100,000 additional square feet for mixed use to include offices, retail stores, and restaurants. Construction is expected to commence in 2018.

“We have deals in the pipeline that will bring our total asset value to approximately US$25 million by the end of the financial year,” Shirley said. “This includes two more land acquisitions in very favourable locations in upper St Andrew that will attract residential, commercial and/or mixed-use developments.”

The general manager said, “We have quite a bit of attractive opportunities that we are actively exploring/pursuing and will continue to explore as and when they are presented to us.”

The real estate company is now a 100 per cent subsidiary of Proven Investments Limited, an international business company domiciled in St Lucia.

During the year ended March 2017, the group acquired an additional 15 per cent interest in Real Properties Limited, formerly Proven REIT, for US$1.50 million, increasing its ownership from 85 per cent to 100 per cent. Proven Reit now falls under Real Properties as a management company. Proven Reit Limited manages the real estate assets of Real Properties Limited.
Minister of Culture, Gender Affairs, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange (left) and acting senior director, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Sharon Coburn Robinson (centre), congratulate Minister of Culture, Gender Affairs, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange (left) and acting senior director, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Sharon Coburn Robinson (centre), congratulate
Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Ruel Reid (second left), with (from left) deputy chairman and chief executive officer of Sandals Resorts International, Adam Stewart; chief executive officer of the CHASE Fund, William ‘Billy’ Heaven; principal of the West End Infant School in Negril, Sherida Malcolm; and executive director of the Sandals Foundation, Heidi Clarke, following the unveiling of the school plaque to mark the official opening of the school on December 6. With them are students of the institution.

ACROSS JAMAICA

Minister of Culture, Gender Affairs, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange (left) and acting senior director, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Sharon Coburn Robinson (centre), congratulate Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Ruel Reid (second left), with (from left) deputy chairman and chief executive officer of Sandals Resorts International, Adam Stewart; chief executive officer of the CHASE Fund, William ‘Billy’ Heaven; principal of the West End Infant School in Negril, Sherida Malcolm; and executive director of the Sandals Foundation, Heidi Clarke, following the unveiling of the school plaque to mark the official opening of the school on December 6. With them are students of the institution.

ISLANDWIDE

Grange launches action plan to eliminate gender-based violence

AFTER MORE than 10 years in the making, the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence (NSAP-GBV) was launched Wednesday December 6 to provide a more integrated, multiparadigmtactical, and structured approach to address violence against women and girls.

The NSAP-GBV was approved on July 10 this year and will focus on prevention, protection, investigation, prosecution, enforcement of victims’ rights, and the co-ordination of the NSAP and data-management systems.

Jamaica is currently observing 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence which started on November 25. This period is expected to result in the galvanization of actions to combat all forms of GBV, which includes human trafficking, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence.

ST JAMES

Global fugitive investigators’ police conference held in Montego Bay

MORE THAN 120 fugitive investigators from across the world participated in the 7th Operational Global Symposium on Fugitives, which was held from December 5 to 8 in Montego Bay.

The conference was staged by the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), in collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JICL).

The conference’s focus was on establishing a strong global network of fugitive investigators.

ST MARY

Dilapidated bridge has residents in fear

RESIDENTS OF Baxter’s Mountain in Port George, St Mary, are in fear of their lives because the only bridge that provides access in and out of their community is dilapidated and dangerous. Their appeals to the authorities have yielded no remedy.

The National Works Agency (NWA) which is aware of the problem has put up closed signs but the bridge remains as a risk to life.

Loran Hansford, a justice of the peace, who has lived in the area for the past three decades, told the Gleaner, despite years of petitioning and calls for the construction of a new overpass, the problem remains.

MANCHESTER

Small business owners participate in Agro-Business-Expo

OVER 60 small business owners were recently engaged by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with JUMPSTART, at an Agro-Business Expo, geared towards business development and accessing export markets.

Some of the areas covered at the workshop include: tax compliance, making connections work, as well as export and business advice.

President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Garfield Green, told The Gleaner, “We are pushing for more economic growth in the parish and the adjoining central parishes through trade and investments and the SMEs here.”

ST CATHERINE

Negril ganja festival to educate, entertain

THIRTY Promoters of the Rastafari RootsFest, at the Long Bay Beach Park in Negril, December 15-17 are stepping up the promotion of the three-day into night ganja festival by inviting more prominent names from the local and international scene.

Member of the board of directors of the Cannabis Licensing Authority and co-chair of the Rastafari Nyabinghi Administrative Council, Verold Vassell, better known as Ras Ilya V, told The Gleaner, “The festival is not only speaking to ganja, but acts as a platform that we use to address the issues of injustice, gender discrimination, and the rights of indigenous people.”

WESTMORELAND

New infant school for Negril

NGRIL’S NEW state-of-the-art infant school was officially opened in Westmoreland on Wednesday, December 6. The facility is the result of a public-private partnership among the Sandals Foundation, the CHANCE Fund and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. There are 60 students enrolled so far at the school which has the capacity to accommodate 160 students. Built at a cost of just over J$111 million, the school has eight classrooms.

CLARENDON

J’can student wins top Caribbean child research awards


A sixth former, Julal’s research was on An Investigative Study into the Impact of Gang-related Sexual Grooming on the Academic Performance of Teenage Girls in the Community of Highgate Gardens. She also won the award, best female researcher; and the sectional prize, Best Oral Presentation, which received a perfect score from the judging panel.

The Caribbean Child Research Conference is a regional interdisciplinary conference covering a range of child-related themes.

MoBay’s municipal police to be strengthened for Christmas

WITH THE advent of the Christmas season, the St James Municipal Corporation will be training a special batch of municipal police personnel to ensure that the recently enacted no-vending zones in the city are not breached.

According to Montego Bay’s mayor, Homer Davis, when the no-vending zones were first created earlier this year, there was a 100 per cent compliance rate. However, indiscipline that plagued the area began to resurface and calls for the construction of a new overpass, the problem remains.

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The Administrator-General’s Department

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

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<td>Shaun Bennett, Shaunara Bennett</td>
<td>All of 276 Seaview Gardens, Phase 2, Kingston 11</td>
<td>Loretta Nairne-Anglin late of Bronx, New York, USA</td>
<td>Joyce Nairne</td>
<td>Saint Petersburg, Florida 33732-5024, USA</td>
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<td>Sophia Christie a/c Sophia Thomas</td>
<td>Apartment 1601, South 2681 North Flamingo Road Plantation, Florida 33323, United States of America</td>
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<td>Mansha Neil</td>
<td>1 Nassau Path, Thamesmead London SE 288 An</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Dean Jr.</td>
<td>4 Sandhurst Crescent, Kingston 6</td>
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<td>Stacy Ann Neil</td>
<td>12 Stratford Drive, Greenmead, Spanish Town, St. Catherine</td>
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<td>Any relatives of Lindley Duncan</td>
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<td>Hilda Lawrence Beecher late of Catalaya, Saint James</td>
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<td>Hugh McIntosh Barrett late of 205 East 43 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11203 in the U.S.A., formerly of 152 Ganga Road, Bridgetown, Saint Catherine, Jamaica, W.I.</td>
<td>Franklyn Barrett</td>
<td>Lot 2 Temple Hall, Lawrence Town, Saint Andrew, Jamaica</td>
<td>Sandra Nelson</td>
<td>Both of 614 St. Elizabeth Road, Green Acres, Saint Catherine</td>
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<td>Norma Reid</td>
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<td>Patrice Nelson</td>
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<td>Donna Medbook Simpson late of Windsor Heights, Spanish Town, Saint Andrew</td>
<td>Kirk Simpson</td>
<td>13 Crescent Road, St. Andrew</td>
<td>Linewlyn Nembhard late of Merrywood District, Ipswich Post Office, St. Elizabeth</td>
<td>Nickola Nembhard, Paul Nembhard, Elijah Nembhard, Yoanne Nembhard</td>
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<td>Aston Miller late of 276 Seaview Gardens, Phase 2, Kingston 11 In The Parish Of Saint Andrew</td>
<td>Wayne Miller, Neil Miller, Ian Miller, Aston Miller (Jnr)</td>
<td>All of 276 Seaview Gardens, Phase 2, Kingston 11 In The Parish Of Saint Andrew</td>
<td>William Norman late of 1 Maisie Avenue, Franklin Town Kingston 16</td>
<td>Elvennda Norman, Olivia Norman</td>
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Any of these persons or anyone who knows of their whereabouts is being asked to contact the Administrator-General’s Department within six (6) weeks of the date hereof at: 12 Ocean Boulevard, Kingston, Jamaica

Telephone: 922-1830-3 or 922-0700-5 or 618-1542 • Fax: 922-4201 • E-Mail: admingen@agd.gov.jm
**US officials say Trump has cast wider net for deportations**

**WASHINGTON (AP):** A top immigration official says people living in the country illegally have good reason to be worried about getting deported under President Donald Trump.

Thomas Homan, deputy director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, spoke Tuesday in Washington as the federal government announced that Border Patrol arrests plunged to a 45-year low last fiscal year while arrests by deportation officers soared.

Homan says the Trump administration has cast a wider net when picking up people for deportation.

Administration officials say the decline in Border Patrol arrests to the lowest level since 1971 doesn't undercut justification for Trump's proposed border wall with Mexico.

The federal government has provided the most complete statistical snapshot of immigration enforcement under President Donald Trump.

Border Patrol arrests plunged to a 45-year low while arrests by deportation officers soared.

**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

Dear Mrs Walker-Huntington,

I am being held for to go and live in the United States but I have a criminal record. I was charged with assault causing actual harm and possession of an offensive weapon. Would I be able to get my green card? Thanks in advance.

- A.B.

Dear A.B.,

Having a criminal charge and or conviction does not disqualify everyone from obtaining United States legal status or citizenship. It depends on the charge or charges, the sentence received and served and what the relationship is between you and the US person filing the petition.

Almost every criminal conviction makes a person inadmissible to the United States, but some are able to overcome the inadmissibility if there is a qualifying waiver. Likewise, a waiver would be available if you have the right relative to meet the requirements to file the waiver. If all of that is in place, your qualifying relative would have to show the US Government that they are experiencing extreme hardship in the United States that would go away if you, the intending immigrant, were allowed to migrate to the United States. You did not indicate who is actually filing for your immigrant petition.

Original convictions that are considered aggravated felonies under US immigration laws have no immigrant waivers. In your situation, you would need to consult with a US immigration attorney who has record and analyze it against the US immigration laws to advise you of your position.

- Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington

In this November 17, 2016 file photo, Andrea Aguilera sits at the Erie Neighborhood House in Chicago. Aguilera was illegally brought across the Mexican border at age 4 and now is a junior at Dominican University in suburban Chicago.

**34 House Republicans press GOP leader on immigration**

**WASHINGTON (AP):** A group of 34 House Republicans have asked Speaker Paul Ryan to act this month on legislation dealing with the 800,000 young immigrants brought to the United States as children and living here illegally.

Ryan has said he does not see a need to act before March, the deadline President Donald Trump gave Congress to find a permanent solution after he suspended the temporary protections against deportation granted by the Obama administration.

The GOP lawmakers, in a letter to Ryan, pressed for quick action.

"We must pass legislation that protects DACA recipients from deportation and gives them the opportunity to apply for a more secured status in our country as soon as possible," the lawmakers wrote.

"Reaching across the aisle to protect DACA recipients before the holidays is the right thing to do."

Democrats repeatedly have pressed for a legislative solution, arguing these immigrants are facing an uncertain future. Now, this similar show of support from Republicans, including some from competitive House districts, complicates some of the end-of-the-year negotiations to keep the government open.

Some of the 34 signatures had already made the same request when they held a news conference last month. The group includes several of the nearly 80 members of the Republican Main Street Caucus.

**SEEKING PERMANENT SOLUTION**

Its chairman, Rep Rodney Davis, R-Ill., said in a news release, the letter shows many Republicans are serious about finding a permanent solution.

But Davis warned that “we want to work with leadership to craft a solution that will pass, not play political games or hold government funding hostage like some of our Democrat counterparts.”

Several House Democrats have said they won’t support a critical spending bill this month needed to keep the government open unless the issue is resolved.

The House Republicans sent their letter while activists held several events, and plan more this week, to push for a DACA vote before the Christmas break later this month.
Paul Harris is Ottawa’s first Black justice of the peace

EWART WALTERS
Contributor

P A U L  H A R R I S was sashed and sworn in before more than 200 family and friends in Courtroom 37, Ottawa, Canada, on Monday, November 20.

Also in attendance were members of the judiciary, including Justice Hugh Fraser and members of the Justice of the Peace Advisory Committee, as well as Police Chief Charles Bordeleau, Jamaica’s High Commissioner Janice Miller, and city and court officials.

In his address, His Worship Harris admired the significance of the occasion, and moved on smoothly.

Some would say, my appearance here today is long in coming; for one reason or another, while others would simply say welcome aboard. The important thing is that I am here now, and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Born in Nottingham, England, to Jamaican parents, Harris came to Canada at the age of three. He acknowledged “the great sacrifice my parents made in leaving their homeland of Jamaica to continue their education and work in their chosen professions,” and thanked them for their sacrifices that led him to be “in this courthouse ... at this time.

NEW MILESTONES

Recounting his many life experiences he said he had two new milestones.

First, the phone call I received from the attorney general, where he said, ‘Paul, I would like to be the first to address you as Your Worship,’ and second, the first day I sat on the Bench alone in Courtroom Number 5 downstairs. I entered the courtroom with my mentor, H.W. Serge Legault. I mounted the steps to the dais while H.W. Legault sat in the body of the court with what seemed like hundreds of people waiting for me to bow and sit down. My hands were shaking and I spilled some water on my papers ...

‘... The first day I sat on the Bench alone in Courtroom Number 5 downstairs. I entered the courtroom with my mentor, H.W. Serge Legault. I mounted the steps to the dais while H.W. Legault sat in the body of the court with what seemed like hundreds of people waiting for me to bow and sit down. My hands were shaking and I spilled some water on my papers ...'

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EVENTS LISTINGS

EVENTS

CANADA

Summer Mentorship Program gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over four weeks in July. Applications open now. Uoft.me/smp

NEW YORK

Meadowbrook HS AA Annual Raffle Drawing/Holiday Party; Five Points Banquet Hall, 3308 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY on December 9, 2017.

MOSA Annual Dinner Dance, Macedonai Community Center, Mt. Vernon, NY; 9 p.m. – 2 AM; on December 9, 2017. Contact: Esther 718-614-9349, Ruth 914-275-6659

OFANA Annual Fundraising Dinner and Dance, Stamford Marriott Hotel & Spa, Tresser Blvd., Stamford, CT 9 PM – 2 AM; on December 9, 2017. Contact: Jennifer - 914-310-4370, Sharon 917-406-0602

Dinthill Technical HS AA NY, St. Elizabeth Technical HS NY, Merl Grove HS PSA NY Annual Pre-Christmas Party, Adria Hotel and Conference Center, Bayside, NY, 8 p.m. – 2 a.m. on December 9, 2017. Contact: Dinthill - 516-263-8863, SETHS 917-863-5183, MGHS 347-849-9002

Rusea’s Old Students Association NY 240th Anniversary of Rusea’s High School Holiday Luncheon, Royal Chateau Hall, Rosendale, NY 1 p.m.-5 p.m. on December 10, 2017; Semi-formal. Contact: George 404-683-0366, Milton 347-374-2591

UJAA 1st Annual New Year’s Eve Ball; Royal Chateau, Rosendale, NY on December 31, 2017 (Discount available for UJAA members); Includes dinner and drinks; Contact: Sharon Wilson – 347-849-9002 or swilson@ujaausa.org

Chester Christmas Concert and Toy Giveaways on Saturday December 23, 2017 at 5:00PM at Macedonia Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 1917 W. 6th street, Chester, PA. 19013. Sponsored by The Better Living Center www.betterlivingcdc.org or 610-497-1082

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Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to keisha.lapalmer@gleanerna.net (USA)
or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
**Former Maroon leader Noel Prehay remembered**

CULTURE MINISTER Olivia Grange has noted with sadness the passing of former Scotts Hall Maroon, Colonel, Noel Prehay.

Minister Grange said that one of the things for which Colonel Prehay will be remembered was his call for the British government to pay compensation for centuries old debt to the Maroons.

“We recall Colonel Prehay declaring that all Maroons should come together to make representations to the British Government to honour debt, which included the commitments made by Britain in the treaty that ended its war with the Maroons in 1739,” Grange said Colonel Prehay, who was Colonel for 33 years and the longest serving leader of Windward Maroons, had steadily maintained the tradition of the solid leadership for which his predecessors and compatriots had come to be known.

Grange expressed condolences to Colonel Prehay’s widow, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and to Colonel Pink the current Colonel and people of Scotts Hall.

---

**‘We have lost a hero’**

Corporal Melvin Smith given 21-gun salute

GEORGE HENRY
Gleaner Writer

HUNDREDS of people from all walks of life turned up at the Northern Caribbean University’s (NCU’s) gymnatorium on Sunday, December 3, to pay their respects to slain law enforcement officer Corporal Melvin Smith.

Smith, who was murdered by gunshots in the town of Mandeville on October 27, was sent home in fine style, with glowing tributes from as early 6:30 a.m., mourners starting filed, to take a last glimpse at the remains of the well-loved and highly respected policeman who touched many lives.

Verna Manning, president of the Manchester Neighbourhood Watch, told mourners that Smith was never too busy to respond to calls made to him by members of her group. She described him as a hard-working policeman who cared for people.

“Corporal Smith always wore an infectious smile. He was never too busy to respond to a call. Corporal Smith was in a class of his own. He was a popular cop who was adored by many,” said Manning.

**COMMITTED OFFICER**

Garfield Green, president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, while paying his tribute, said that the parish of Manchester and, by extension, Jamaica, had lost a committed policeman.

“Corporal Smith lived a life that earned him the love and respect he had. We have lost a hero. This officer contributed a lot to many lives, and he has left a remarkable impression on many lives,” said Green.

Commissioner of Police George Quallo said that Corporal Smith

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**LEGAL NOICES**

NOTICE OF DISPENSING IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE OF JAMAICA
CLAIM NO. 2016 HCV 02063

IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT parcel of land part of ANGEL'S PEN IN THE PARISH OF SAINT CATHERINE being numbered 312 registered at Volume 1318 Folio 863 AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Property (Rights of Spouses) Act 2004 BETWEEN DONNA STEPHENS-EDWARDS CLAIMANT AND DWIGHT EDMUNDS DEFENDANT

TO: DWIGHT EDWARDS 913 Egrets Landing Way, Groveland, Florida 34736, United States of America

NOTICE OF APPLICATION for Court Orders for a Notice of Application of a Partial Dispensation

TAKING NOTICE that a Notice of Application for Court Orders for a Notice of Application for a Partial Dispensation has been filed with the Registrar of the Honourable Court in the Parish of Saint Andrew.

The application is to be heard in person or by your Attorney-at-Law at the Supreme Court, King Street, St. Catherine, on the 30th day of DATED the 30th day of October 2017.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

NOTICE OF FORMING IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE OF JAMAICA
CLAIM NO. 2016 HCV 02063

IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT parcel of land part of ANGEL'S PEN IN THE PARISH OF SAINT CATHERINE being numbered 312 registered at Volume 1318 Folio 863 AND

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QUEENS, NY:

It was a night of glamour and giving, as the Jamaican diaspora and friends came out in their numbers on Saturday, December 2, to support the Children of Jamaica Outreach’s (COJO) 23rd Annual Gala at the Hilton New York JFK Hotel. Since its establishment in 1994, chairman and founder of the organisation, Gary Williams, has dedicated his time and resources to helping to improve the health, education, and general well-being of disadvantaged children in state care in Jamaica.

COJO works closely with the Child Development Agency (CDA) – now the Child Protection and Family Services Agency – to identify exceptional students who need financial assistance to further their educational pursuits.

“We have many kids that are in school and have done very well, but don’t have the resources or means to go on to tertiary institutions. So we work along with the CDA and they select the top six or whatever number of scholarships we’re going to give out, and then we invite them (students) to The Jamaica Pegasus hotel for a luncheon, and we hand over a cheque to them, but the cheques are made payable to the university. We pay for one or two years of their tuition for their selected field,” Williams said.

“One of the students [we sponsored] a few years ago, Drayne Haynes, recently graduated with honours from the University of the West Indies and is going on to do his master’s.”

Ryan Mack, CEO of GK Foods International Business; Denise Donaldson, an employee of the Jamaica Consulate, and Courtenay Rattray, ambassador and permanent representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, presented with the COJO and Community Development scholarship gala and Awards at the Hilton Hotel, New York on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Awardees (from left): Ryan Mack, CEO of GK Foods International Business, GraceKennedy Limited; Dr Fitzclaud Grant, internal medicine specialist in Elmont, NY, and Kaye Chong, sales specialist in Elmont, NY; Gary Williams, COJO chairman and founder, holding the award for Kaye Chong, who was unable to attend; and Dennis Sherwood, COJO board member.

From left: Dr Fitzclaud Grant, internal medicine specialist in Elmont, NY, and recipient of the Contribution to COJO and Community Development Award; and wife Marcia.

Awardees (from left): Ryan Mack, CEO of GK Foods International Business, GraceKennedy Limited; Dr Fitzclaud Grant, internal medicine specialist in Elmont, NY; Gary Williams, COJO chairman and founder, holding the award for Kaye Chong, who was unable to attend; and Dennis Sherwood, COJO board member.

... Recognises supporters for assistance in reaching goal

GIVING BACK

CHIILDRREN OF Jamaica Outreach (COJO) relies on individual and collective support, whether through tax deductible donations or time volunteered. This year, the non-profit raised organisation more than US$200,000 in scholarships, which was presented to six students in Jamaica. To show their appreciation, the organisation highlighted individuals for their unwavering support in assisting COJO to meet its goals. They are Dennis Sherwood, COJO board member; Dr Fitzclaud Grant, internal medicine specialist in Elmont, New York; and Kaye Chong, sales executive, Caribbean Airlines, who were presented with the COJO and Community Development Award.

In speaking with The Gleaner after receiving his award, Sherwood shared what it meant to be recognised: “I’m really honoured that Gary and the rest of the board decided to select me this year. I wasn’t able to visit Jamaica this year ... but I’ll be there next year, because it’s such a joy to see some of the kids. I’ll never forget a couple years ago, a little boy, when we gave him whatever we brought, he kept pulling on my shirt tail and said, ‘Is this for me, is this for me?’ I know, you feel it so much, there’s just nothing that compares to it. You go to homes like Maxfield [Park Children’s Home] or Granville [Child Care Facility] and it brings tears to your eyes,” he said.

The Corporate Service Award was presented to GraceKennedy (GK), and was accepted by Ryan Mack, CEO of GK Foods International Business. Mack shared that it was an honour to receive the award and that COJO and GraceKennedy had quite a bit in common with regard to community service.

... GIVING BACK

“GK places a big emphasis on giving back to the community. In fact, in Jamaica it is something we actually spend quite a bit of money on through our different go-to foundations. Outside of Jamaica, we participate through our various subsidiaries in different countries. Here, GK USA is the entity that support social entities such as charities [like COJO],” said Gary Williams, COJO chairman and founder.

Garry Williams (left), Children of Jamaica Outreach chairman and founder, presents the Corporate Service Award to Ryan Mack, CEO of GK Foods International Business, GraceKennedy Limited. Mack was receiving on behalf of GraceKennedy.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
Athletes express security fears with local drug-testing procedure

Jamaica Olympic Association undergoing transformation to meet challenges

LIVINGSTON SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

JAMAICA FOOTBALL Federation (JFF) president, Michael Ricketts, has described the historic FIFA Executive Football Summit (FIFA EFS) to be held in Montego Bay on January 18 next year as his first “major achievement” and hopes the event can help forge relationships with member associations that will boost his administration in the future.

The summit which will be chaired by the FIFA president Gianni Infantino, is aimed at enhancing relationship between FIFA and member associations at a top executive level and to provide a democratic platform for information exchange, and Ricketts his hoping they can build stronger ties with some of the more influential members.

“It is the first time in Jamaica and the Caribbean this will be happening, and the second time in CONCACAF. If we are hoping this is the start of positive things for this administration. I am looking to forward to it with great excitement and we (JFF) and everyone else will be on their ‘A’ game to ensure everything goes well,” he insisted.

HISTORIC CONVENTION

At the end of the historic convention Ricketts hopes the relationships they create will have a positive impact on the development of the sport locally. “I am hoping that we can build some kind of relationship with some of the member states. Countries will be represented from all over, so we hope we can build some type of relationship with those countries that will foster some kind of bond … something that will enhance my position as president and that of the JFF,” he said.

“This is my first major achievement. There will be in excess of 60 member countries … and I am absolutely delighted,” he added.

“We had a visit from a FIFA representative last weekend. She is impressed and satisfied that accommodation will be at its optimum. It is now up to us to make them comfortable and ensure their stay is one they will enjoy and one that is productive,” he stated.

RACHID PARCHMENT
Gleaner Reporter

JAMAICA AND West Indies cricketer Andre Russell has said that the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) is compromising his safety with how it handles visits for sample collection. The 28-year-old, currently finishing up a one-year ban for three whereabouts violations, said two collection agents visited his house recently for samples, but were not in any uniform identifying them as working for JADCO.

Russell is not the only athlete who has mentioned this, as a popular track and field athlete who asked not to be named, said that the same thing happened a number of times he was approached for samples.

During his anti-doping hearing for failing to give testing samples earlier this year, 400 metre sprinter Riker Hyton also complained that the agents who approached him were not in JADCO-branded clothing.

Russell said the thought that the two men could have been robbers posing as JADCO personnel crossed his mind while letting them into his house, and he called for the agency to do more with regards to notifying athletes of their scheduled visits beforehand.

“I am talking about safety for athletes because these guys didn’t dress official. They’re wearing jeans pants and T-shirts without any JADCO markings. If they can give us guidelines to follow (about doping procedures), why can’t they follow some as well?” he said.

“EMAIL US”

Russell suggests that athletes should be notified ahead of scheduled visits by email.

“I am not saying you notify athletes overnight so they can know ahead and clean out their system,” he explained.

“But, if you’re gonna test an athlete and his testing time is 6-7 p.m., for instance, you could actually send an email at 6 o’clock in the morning to that athlete with their name and a picture of the person.

“Now when you hear that JADCO is here to test you, you go and check your email and look at the faces and say, ‘Yes, those are the guys I should let into my house’.

“A lot of people here are thinking way ahead of other organisations. You have guys out there dressing like police and they are not. Anyone can dress like a JADCO official and go into an athlete’s house, hold them up with guns and rob them and gone. Nobody will know a man is getting robbed right next door to him.”

JADCO chairman Alexander Williams admitted to not being aware of athletes having these concerns.

“I don’t know if that’s the case, if it is an ongoing problem with the doping officials,” Williams told The Gleaner.

“Those matters are really administrative matters that are to be handled by the executive director (Garry Brown). Whilst we oversee, I don’t recall us having any particular problem with notification, or athletes expressing problems with notification when they are coming to take samples.

“That is something that I will have to raise with the executive director.”

CHRISTOPHER SAMUDA, newly elected chairman of the Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA), said his new executive is transforming the association to ensure it is compliant with ‘universal standards of corporate governance’ and responsive to the evolving needs of its constituent members.

“Central to this transformation is the corporate matrix of the organisation and we felt imperative that a chief executive officer (CEO) should be installed to lead this transformation,” Samuda advised of the JOA’s vision and decision to employ Ryan Foster in the newly created CEO portfolio.

He noted: “The chief executive officer would bring in a cadre of professionals who would have portfolio responsibility for the critical areas of development of not only the JOA, but of course, the sporting fraternity at a whole.”

SUPPORT

The JOA’s move has been widely supported in the sporting fraternity, with Sports Minister Olivia Grange, JISAA President Dr Walton Small, and Karlene Bissnot, president, Jamaica Independent Schools Association (JISA), among those offering congratulations.

Samuda said “It is with great pleasure that I welcome the appointment of Mr Ryan Foster as the chief executive officer of the Jamaica Olympic Association. He is a well respected, business-savvy, and an effective corporate leader with a high degree of veracity and a proven track record for being a team with their name and a picture of the person.”

Now when you hear that JADCO is here to test you, you go and check your email and look at the faces and say, ‘Yes, those are the guys I should let into my house’.

“A lot of people here are thinking way ahead of other organisations. You have guys out there dressing like police and they are not. Anyone can dress like a JADCO official and go into an athlete’s house, hold them up with guns and rob them and gone. Nobody will know a man is getting robbed right next door to him.”

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“That is something that I will have to raise with the executive director.”

What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
Gayle slams 19th T20 ton in Riders' BPL win

DHAKA, Bangladesh (CMC) — Despite UNIFICATION form recently, opener Chris Gayle radared back with a half-century a belligerent intake of 126 not out on Friday December 8 – his 19th Twenty20 hundred, as he fired Rangpur Riders to a comprehensive eight-wicket victory over Khulna Titans and one step closer to the final of the Bangladesh Premier League final. The hundred was the highest ever score in the BPL, the first of the season and Gayle’s fourth in the competition overall.

Playing in the first eliminator of the 16th over, the 38-year-old left-hander smashed an astonishing unbeaten 126 off a mere 51 deliveries as Riders, chasing 168 at the ShereBangla National Stadium, romped to their target in the 16th over.

With the victory, Riders dumped Titans, comprising West Indies T20 captain Kieron Pollard, out of the competition.

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unbroken, third-wicket stand with Mohammed Mithun, who ended on 30 from 36 deliveries.

Gayle belted 20 runs off the fifth over of the innings bowled by Archer as he raced to his half-century off 23 balls, bringing up the landmark in style by clearing the ropes at long-off with seamener Abu Jayed.

Gayle also ripped into Brathwaite, taking 17 from the

World Champion

breaststroke swimmer Alia Atkinson is anticipating a very intense period of preparation for the upcoming Commonwealth Games.

With the event set for April 2018, Atkinson expects the first three months of the year will be packed with high-level training.

Speaking earlier this week, she revealed a tide of lingering disappointment with her performances at the 2014 Games.

“The year 2014 would basically be a year of trying to stuff as many things into three months, because, usually, we’re prepped for August and July to do our best,” said the three-time Olympian.

Atkinson, who will be conducting a swimming clinic in Kingston this week, explained that the championships are usually held in the summer months.

“That’s a big push, especially with the Christmas season and everybody being all over the place,” she remarked.

“So January, February and March are going to be pretty intense going in, so I anticipate it.

NO ‘WHAT IF’ SITUATION

At the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Atkinson won a bronze medal in the 50m breaststroke and a bronze in the 100m breaststroke.

Asked if those disappointments irked her, she was candid.

“You know, it does, but I’m not going to sit there and feel that way. I will always have the intent to go into a race to win 100 per cent,” she asserted.

“But I won’t put all my hopes as I did in 2014, because when it doesn’t happen, it’s devastating. So I will get into the race ready to win it. But if I come second or third or I just do my best, I’m going to have to hold out for that.

“The winner of all her 50m breaststroke races during the 2017 FINA World Cup, the 29-year-old Atkinson is clear about what she needs to do to get ready for next year’s Games. ‘I will have to set all things out ahead of time, various training camps and all of that. I figure. ‘I have to set that out before this year ends, so when January comes, there’s no “what if” situation.”

Atkinson is hoping to infuse her breaststroke and Dwain having situated herself in a fair of early season dips into the 100m freestyle and 100m butterfly.

Prior to the start of this year’s World Cup, she set personal bests in 35 and 59.94 seconds respectively in both events.

“When I swam that 100 free and swam that 100 fly and did those great times, there is a certain feeling that the body never knew before, that elation and joy,” she wistfully recounted.

“I’m trying to see if I can get that into my breaststroke,” she said.

Dynamo’s unbeaten 19th century.

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Local club teams up with Nottingham Forest

MARC STAMP

Gleaner Writer

RED STRIPE Premier League outfit Humble Lion are seeking to forge ties with Championship club Nottingham Forest.

Chairman of Humble Lion FC, Mike Henry, met with officials of the English club on December 1 while on a visit to the United Kingdom. Both clubs explored the possibility of co-operation during the period 2019-2020.

Nottingham Forest will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its formation.

“There are plans during the celebrations, from 2018 to 2020, for the active inclusion of the Jamaican Diaspora in Nottingham Forest’s football activities. I am indeed excited as we look forward to a fruitful and meaningful marriage between both clubs,” Henry announced during a media briefing at the Spanish Court Hotel.

“Humble Lion, forest, won back-to-back European Cups in 1978-79 and 1979-80. They also won the English First Division title in 1977-78, the second Division three times, the FA Cup once, Football League Cup (four times), and the Charity Shield (once).

The English city boasts one of the largest Jamaican Diaspora communities in Britain. The period of the celebration will coincide with the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Wildrush, the first of our boats that carried hundreds of Jamaicans to the United Kingdom in order to help with the rebuilding of sections of the United Kingdom that were destroyed during World War II.

OPPORTUNITIES

Henry spoke of the many opportunities that could blossom from the relationship.

“There are innumerable opportunities between our club in all areas of football that offer themselves for a long-term co-operation ...” Henry
COLEY JOINS IRANIAN TEAM ESTEGHLAL FC

Jamaica College's football coach Miguel Coley has confirmed he will be joining Iranian team Esteghlal FC as the assistant coach. He will be reuniting with former Jamaican national coach Winfried Schafer with whom he worked also as an assistant between February 2014 and September 2016.

JAMAICA PAIR 7TH ON DEBUT AT BOBSLED WORLD CUP

Second placed US bobsled athletes Lauren Gibbs and Elana Meyers Taylo, Germany’s winner Lisa Marie Buckwitz and Stephanie Schneider as well as Germany’s third placed Mariama Jamanka and Annika Drazek celebrate on the podium after the women’s two person bobsled World Cup race in Winterberg, Germany, Saturday, December 9.