



## Covid-19 Cases NORTH AMERICA

	Total	Deaths	Active
North America	2,460,187	144,597	1,260,557
USA	2,143,177	117,538	1,171,533
Mexico	142,690	16,872	20,843
Canada	98,410	8,107	30,949
Dominican Republic	22,572	577	8,911
Panama	20,059	429	5,871
Guatemala	9,491	367	7,320
Honduras	8,455	310	7,251
Haiti	4,165	70	4,071
El Salvador	3,720	72	1,811
Cuba	2,238	84	231
Costa Rica	1,662	12	907
Nicaragua	1,464	55	456
Jamaica	615	10	185
Martinique	202	14	90
Cayman Islands	187	1	71
Guadeloupe	171	14	0
Bermuda	142	9	6
Trinidad and Tobago	117	8	0
Bahamas	103	11	24
Aruba	101	3	0
Barbados	96	7	6
Sint Maarten	77	15	1
Saint Martin	42	3	3
St. Vincent Grenadines	27		2
Antigua and Barbuda	26	3	3
Grenada	23		1
Curaçao	22	1	6
Belize	20	2	2
Saint Lucia	19		1
Dominica	18		2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15		0
Greenland	13		0
Turks and Caicos	12	1	0
Montserrat	11	1	0
British Virgin Islands	8	1	0
Caribbean Netherlands	7		0
St. Barth	6		0
Anguilla	3		0
Saint Pierre Miquelon	1		0
Saint Pierre Miquelon	1		0

Source: [Worldometers.info](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/)

# H1N1/Swine Flu deaths confirmed in Grenada



## LINDA STRAKER

- Several people who died from pneumonia in last quarter of 2019 were victims of Swine Flu
- Prior to confirmation, there were no known deaths or cases of Swine Flu in Grenada
- Epidemiological samples from Grenada sent to the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in the USA, have confirmed that several people who died from pneumonia in the last quarter of 2019 were victims of H1N1, otherwise known as Swine Flu.

"Covid-19 may have been around, I am not denying that, but the fact of the matter is, during that time because we were concerned about the deaths, we collaborated with the Pan American Health Organi-

sation (PAHO) and took samples from these patients and sent them to the Centres for Disease Control in the United States for testing. The results came back and showed that these patients had H1N1, not Covid-19," said Dr Francis Martin, Acting Chief Medical Officer.

Dr Martin said just over 10 samples were sent for testing, most of which were from males. "Our investigation revealed there were over 15 pneumonia-related deaths during the period." He admitted that prior to the confirmation, there were no known deaths or cases of Swine Flu in Grenada. The disease has been circulating in the region for some time with several deaths in neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2019, a few Caribbean countries other than Trinidad and Tobago reported deaths due to H1N1. It was declared a pandemic for 19

months covering the period January 2009 to August 2010.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu are like those of other influenzas and may include fever, cough (typically a dry cough), headache, muscle or joint pain, sore throat, chills, fatigue and runny nose. Vomiting, diarrhoea along with neurological problems have also been reported in some cases.

In the last quarter of 2019 into the first quarter of 2020, many people in Grenada were affected by a common cold which resulted in several with respiratory problems admitted for care at medical facilities including the General Hospital. At the time some felt that it may have been Covid-19. However, Grenada's first laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 patient was in mid-March 2020, a female visitor from the United Kingdom.



# Increased allowances for buses from this week



**GIS:** Government acknowledges bus operators' positive response to the call for a conducive environment so that the suspension to dialogue can be removed. As such, government intends to resume its engagement with bus operators under a structured approach. Further, government has given consideration to the following areas of operational

changes and support to bus operators.

From Tuesday, 16 June 2020 the following operational changes will take effect:

Increased maximum carrying capacity from 12 to 14 occupants at any one time on mini buses. Coasters are allowed 3 persons per row and 1 person in line with the driver. The retention of a conductor will not be

mandatory on certain conditions being satisfied. Bus operators may use a conductor or an alternative method which is to be approved by a joint team of the RGPF and the Ministry of Health. The RGPF will provide further information on this process.

To protect the health and safety of everyone bus operators are required to ensure

hand sanitisation of every passenger entering their buses. While the government recognises that sanitisation is the responsibility of the bus operators, the Division of Transport will continue bearing the cost which could reach \$50,000 per month for a 4-month period, June to September 2020.

Additionally, consideration is being given to some form of relief on bus terminal fees for the period July to September. Already bus operators have had fees waived for the month of June. Government will review all measures of support in August.

Government reminds that there is no change to the bus fare. Further, bus operators engaging in 'price gouging' should refrain from doing so as this is against the law.

There will be enhanced monitoring of buses within bus terminals and en route, to ensure compliance with all requirements of operations.

Non-compliance with established regulations and/ or protocols will result in fines in cases of ticketed offences and/or ineligibility to operate unless violation is remedied.

Additional details on the above operational requirements will be communicated to the bus operators and general public.

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- + Accident Assist
- + Driver Medical
- + Courtesy Car

**Antillean**  
group



# Almost 300 cruise ship workers to be repatriated by 30 June



BY LINDA STRAKER

- Since 10 May, over 100 Grenadian cruise ship workers have returned home
- This week, a Norwegian cruise ship is scheduled to drop off 110 workers

By the end of June 2020, almost 300 cruise ship workers sailing with various cruise lines will be repatriated to Grenada through the Cruise Lines Repatriation Initiative which is a joint collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Tourism, the Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA), and the Emergency Advisory Council arm under the Ministry of National Security.

The repatriation began on 10 May and to date just over 100 Grenadians returned home, but this week, that number will be pushed to over 200 when a cruise line under the Norwegian Cruise Line brand drops off 110 workers.

Nikoyan Roberts, Manager of Nautical Development at the GTA, said that government has given a commitment to repatriate all cruise workers despite the cost involved during the quarantine period. Explaining that the cost of quarantine is financially significant to the state, Roberts confirmed that a few ships have paid the government negotiated fee for the mandatory quarantine period. "The shared cost of the accommo-

dation expenses that the cruise lines were asked to pay is US\$100 per day for the 14 days quarantine period," she said in an interview following the arrival on 12 June, of 5 Grenadians who were onboard a Disney ship. "This is a negotiated figure, discounted down with the government and hotel facilities where the members stay." Roberts pointed out that the total average cost of EC\$9,500 includes medical, security, accommodation, meals, testing upon arrival and during the 14 days, as well as masks that are provided for each person who is in the facilities. "It's a considerable cost for the government," she said, admitting that some cruise lines have paid while others did not.

Recently it was disclosed that government has already spent more than EC\$1 million to quarantine cruise ship workers, and the arrival of the largest group on Sunday is expected to push the figure to beyond EC\$2 million. Under the new health protocol which was developed as a part of the 'new normal' procedures for all persons arriving in the country, there is a mandatory 14-day quarantine at a government facility.

Grenada is targeting 30 June to open its borders for international commercial passenger traffic, but in the meantime, a number of repatriated charter flights are set to return with Grenadians who are stuck abroad because of measures taken to reduce the spread of Covid-19.



## 148 Brits on repatriation flights, 20 Grenadians return

BY LINDA STRAKER

- 148 British nationals left on 3-4 June 2020
- Grenada's UK High Commission Office organised for 20 nationals to return
- Most Caribbean islands recorded British nationals as their first imported Covid-19 cases

During 2 days in early June, a number of British visitors who were stuck on the island since March because of government's decision to lock down the airport to commercial passenger traffic as part of measures to control the spread of Covid-19, returned to the UK.

"The UK Government worked with regional and local authorities to arrange special flights with LIAT and British Airways to fly them from

Grenada to Barbados and onwards to London," Ria Murray said, in a video posted on the Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) Facebook page. 148 British nationals left the island between 3-4 June 2020. "While in Grenada, they were called and visited by tourism officials to ensure their safety and wellbeing," Murray disclosed. They were also provided with a special care package during Easter.

Hundreds of British Nationals who are stuck overseas are being repatriated because governments all over the world have closed airports as part of early containment measures. Most of these closures were announced within hours of the shutdowns which left little or no time for last minute flights.

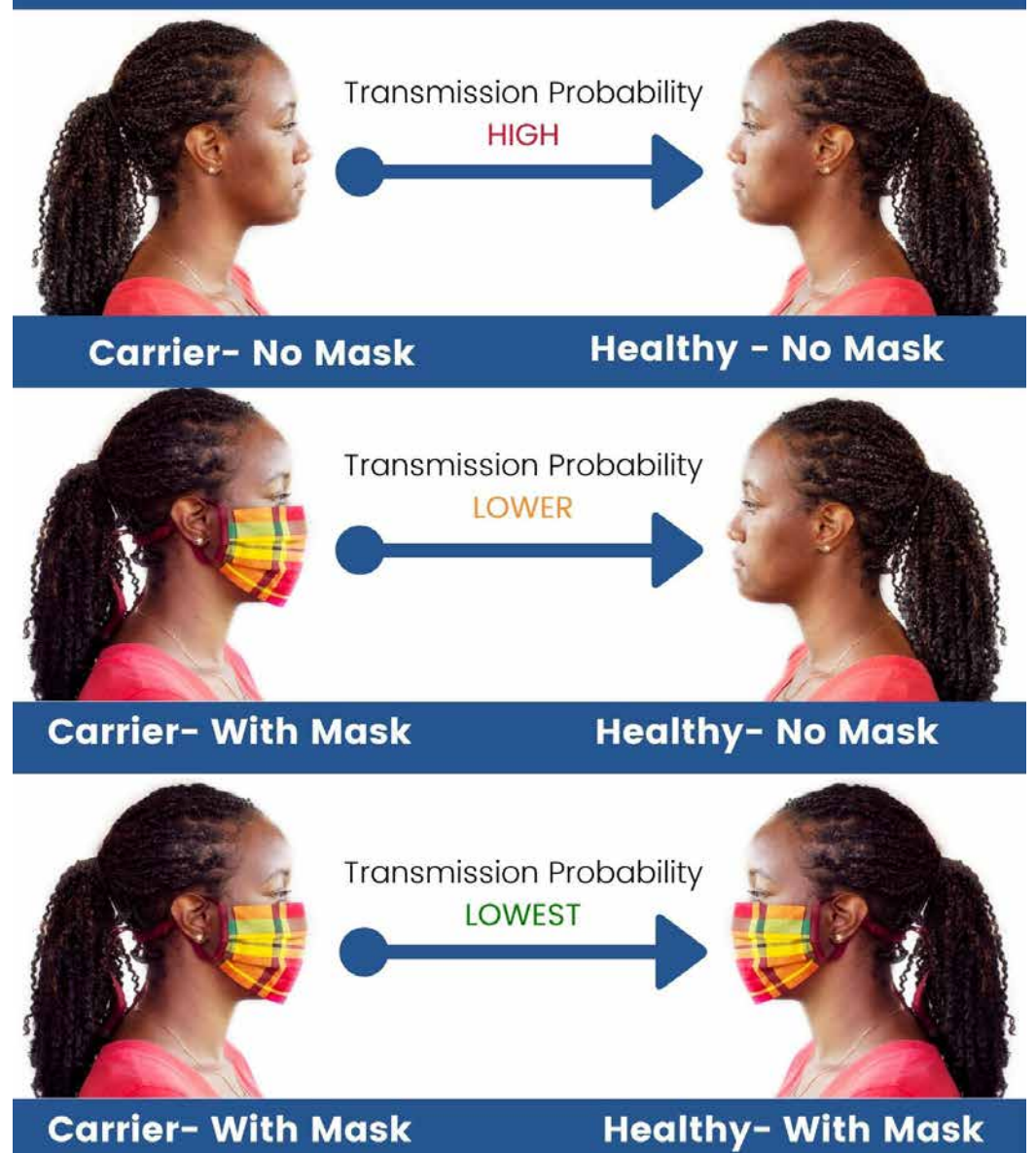
Initially, the UK Government adopted "the herd immunity" approach to the Covid-19 vi-

rus, but has since changed that approach. Grenada, like most islands in the Caribbean record British nationals as their first imported Covid-19 cases.

Grenada's first case announced on 22 March was a 50-year-old female British national. The Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA) was shut down to commercial passenger traffic on 25 March 2020.

While the UK Government made the arrangement to repatriate its nationals from Grenada, the island's High Commission Office in the UK was able to have 20 nationals returned via one of the BA aircraft which landed in Barbados.

Upon arrival in Barbados, the Grenadians were transported to MBIA by a LIAT aircraft.





## Non-emotional discussion overdue on cannabis decriminalisation

### EDITORIAL

LINDA STRAKER

- Commission mandated in 2014 to interrogate regulating cannabis/marijuana in Caricom countries
- To date, Jamaica, Antigua, and St Vincent have legislated for medical, personal and religious usage
- For years, Caribbean citizens have promoted marijuana for its medicinal properties

Recently, it became national news that the Drug Squad in the Royal Grenada Police Force seized cannabis mainly from St Vincent and the Grenadines with a street value of millions. The immediate cry was “free the herb” from many who over the years have advocated for the decriminalisation of cannabis.

Responding to increasing calls from the public, NGOs and other stakeholders in the region, and amidst the changing global environment, the Caricom Conference of Heads of Government at its 25th Inter-Sessional Meeting in St Vincent and the Grenadines, in March 2014, mandated the establishment of a Commission to interrogate the issue of possible reform to the legal regimes regulating cannabis/marijuana in Caricom countries.

The heads at the time were deeply concerned that thousands of young persons throughout the region had suffered incarceration for marijuana use and consumption, and many, after their first experience with the law, resolved to continue with crime as a way of life. Inconsistent applications of the law had led to deep resentment and non-cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

They were also mindful that for years, Caribbean citizens have promoted the value of marijuana for its medicinal properties. Increasingly, these claims appeared to be confirmed by emerging scientific evidence. There was also a concern that without action, the region could be left behind because of fast-paced global trends toward law reform in terms of cannabis/marijuana. Already, several states in the United States had decriminalised the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

The report from that Caricom Commission on Marijuana was presented in 2018. To date, Jamaica, Antigua, and St Vincent have legislated for medical, personal and religious usage. The time is long overdue for Grenada to have a non-emotional discussion on the decriminalisation of cannabis.

Recently, it was drawn to our attention that young men who are heading to Canada for seasonal agricultural work are not just going to plant and harvest apples and strawberries, but are going to marijuana farms where they will learn the science of growing cannabis.

These men will be returning at the end of their contract with knowledge about the cannabis industry, which we as a country need to harness for the long term. The discussion on decriminalising cannabis is not just about changing the laws, but should look at the overall implementation it will have on us as a society.

Can marijuana export increase our export earnings through a proper structure? What type of general education should be embarked on when a decision is made? How is our healthcare system prepared to deal with the sudden abuse of cannabis intake?

These are some of the non-emotional discussions that need to take place urgently because like it or not, it's only a matter of time before cannabis classification is reduced. There was a time when alcohol was prohibited but now it is not; however, there are regulations which guide its sale and consumption. The same applies to tobacco products.

# Commentary

## Could Grenada's democracy be saved?

BY J K ROBERTS



There is no desire for preaching gloom and doom for Grenada, as the world continues without the second advent of Jesus Christ; and neither is there any expectation for the abandonment of genuine and worthwhile intentions and efforts toward enhancing the governance, democracy and prosperity of the nation.

The burning appeal, however, is for serious introspections and retrospections, in relation to the pathway for arriving at the sorry state of affairs in Grenada at present, as well as for setting the correct perspective, framework and remedy for the way forward. The position declared herein was spurred by the ‘goodwill guidance’ provided to the newly appointed Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Tobias Clement (University Lecturer), via an article, “A Democracy To Save”. The article written by Norris Mitchell (Chartered Architect and Urban Planner), stems from the utterances and actions of Clement who alludes to the government of prime minister Keith Mitchell as a dictatorship, the mingling of structured constitutional provisions with partisan political influences, the need for challenging the status quo and leadership of the Keith Mitchell led New National Party (NNP), new ways to conduct the nation's business and a democracy to save.

Clement has been associated with the NNP since around its inception in 1984 when as a youth, and he was elected to Parliament on 2 consecutive occasions (19 February 2013 and 13 March 2018). In November 2019, the elected Constituency Representative resigned from the party but remained in the parliament and so became qualified for the vacant office of the Leader of the Opposition; he was eventually sworn in on 14 April 2020. Although Clement should be fully aware of every political manoeuvrings and governance misdeeds of the NNP, Norris Mitchell outlines, with making reference to pertinent historical struggles for the sovereignty of the

regional people, some of the gross failures of the NNP's administration. The experienced Mitchell may have deduced from Clement's sentiments that particularly, a rescue mission for restoring Grenada's fractured democracy is ‘super necessary and long overdue’, but cautioned that the task ahead is enormous and challenging and that it is imperative to remain focused for success. It is also imperative that a comprehensive analysis and a holistic approach be taken regarding the pertinent background and practical factors of the task.

Firstly, what does the watchword “a democracy to save” mean? Is Grenada's democracy about to be lost, or is it already lost, hence much determination is needed to rescue it? Secondly; considering the tremendous necessity for sound leadership and meaningful collaboration, could Tobias Clement (or any other individual or institution) gain the respect and resolve and reaction of the people who share his ‘SOS’ concerns and visions for Grenada? Thirdly; how such noble task and uncompromising necessity be achieved? The point must be made furthermore that democracy cannot be saved without much sacrifice, vigilance and agitation, as well as without a show of integrity. Fourthly; does democracy exist in a vacuum, or does it monitor and regulate itself? The significant role of every section of the people and every stakeholder on Grenada's sovereign democracy must thus be raised.

Political Leader of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Franka Alexis Bernadine, in complimenting Clement on his appointment, indicates that the appointment is a boost to democracy and anticipates that he would complement the drive toward the preservation of democracy in Grenada. However; as the main opposition party, the NDC seems to be weary and weakened in the quest for good governance (accountability, transparency and integrity, as well as respect

for the rule of law and democratic institutions) and even may have wasted or is wasting its opportunities for seizing the rein of government. The previously internet-circulated article “The Powerful Relevance Of NDC In Opposition” underscores some key areas for being politically visible and viable, with a view to advance the consciousness and confidence of the voting public, despite not having a presence in Parliament.

Being at the helm of government for the longest time with questionable governance practices, is Mitchell's NNP the most politically shrewd party to win general elections, and/or is the voting public very dumb, docile and gullible to the NNP's electioneering tactics (<https://www.nowgrenada.com/2020/03/promises-a-continuous-political-mamaguy/>)? What are the indicators and/or the benchmarks that a democracy is at risk? Was Grenada's democracy adopted and founded without any checks and balances, or that its provisions were designed and presented so that the people would be prey to the system and not even having any form of rewarding recourse? The absence of constitutional reforms is not a hindrance to the practicing of ‘adequate’ democracy. Someone or something must be held liable for the negative and downward trends in the nation; unless it is accepted that whatsoever, democracy is a mockery with conspiracies, deceptions and manipulations.

How did it all happen, or allowed to be happening? Blatant abuse of the constitution; rampant malfeasance; artificial economic statistics; mounting public debt; depletion of national assets and patrimony; unattended infrastructure and ecological resources; tough cost of living and worsening austerity measures; multiplicity of unsolved judicial investigations; disintegration of trade unionism; social injustice and insecurity; collapsed judiciary; and more uncomfortable and unfavourable scenarios. How could

this be when there are independent constitutional agencies; independent statutory bodies; a variety of non-governmental organisations; advisory and watchdog committees; “good citizens” including the churches, university graduates and politically enthused individuals; and of course, sustainable development projects and regional and international democratic fora?

It is of interest to realise that, for example, in March 2013 a Committee of Social Partners (CSP) comprising of representatives from the Private Sector, Conference of Churches, Council of Evangelical Churches, Trades Union Council, Civil Society Organisations and the Government of Grenada was formed to ensure a more inclusive approach to governance and it had the responsibility to oversee an extensive Social Compact. The CSP appears to serve as a symbol of people’s participation and as giving counsel, consent and credibility to the government. In frightening astonishment however, the ordinary Grenadians are gradually detecting that the nation is being engulfed with mysterious ‘executive policies and business deals’ which points to neo-colonisation, featuring projects such as the Citizenship By Investment, the National Sustainable Development Plan and the Grenada Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan purported to transform and privatise the seashore and marine territory, including the climate smart cities. Are those ‘good citizens and national stakeholders’ alert and well at exercising professionalism and patriotism, or proving to be puppets?

Like Honourable Clement, many prominent entities have vigorously defended and facilitated the policy-directions of the NNP-government during the many years, and by extension helping to sprout, foster and entrench dictatorship; but fortunately/unfortunately, they are now making incisive pronouncements on alleged maladministration, corruption and dysfunction of the government. How can those entities explain their contributions to unsound investments and unscrupulous legislations; or, is it that their apparent compromise, complacency and/or cowardice were toward fortifying fortune and fame at the great expense of a flourishing democracy and particularly the interest of the average Grenadian? Note also, people who once scorned the ills of government now give acclaims; so moral authority, genuine intent and character profile must be for question.

The aggressors and destroyers of people’s empowerment are fully aware that the most applicable mainstay and protector of Grenada’s democracy into the future is the youthful population. In that case; the powers-that-be refuses to educate and expose the youth to the historical struggles and enviable values of democracy, but instead, it tends to confuse and distort the minds of the youth and to provide and cause the extravagance of the youth with a proliferation of vulgar entertainment and propaganda via both the mainstream and social media. The youth is being deliberately distracted from the important civil issues of governance, particularly the crumbling of fundamental rights and freedoms and the mortgaging and losing of the nation to foreign powers.

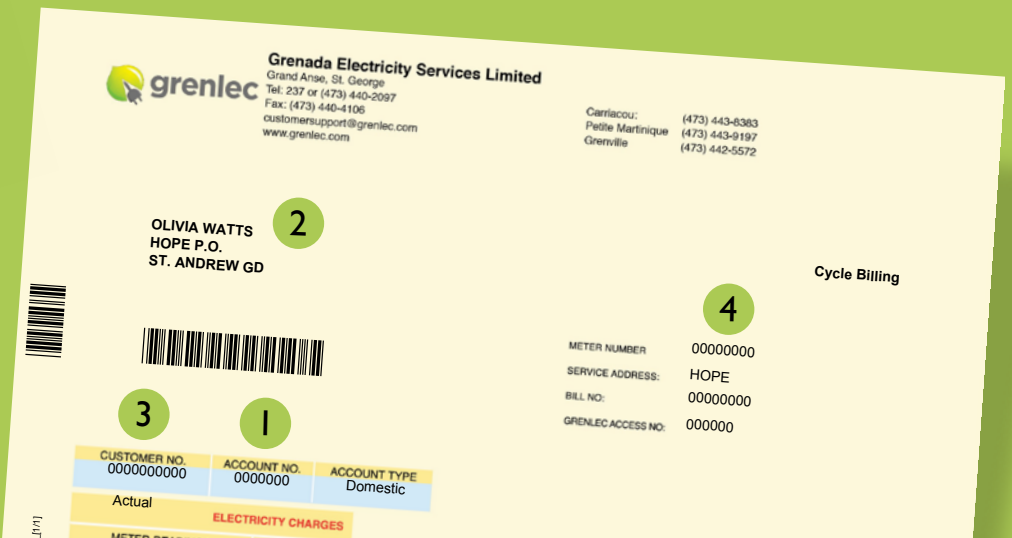
Could Grenada’s democracy of its constitutional independence be really saved, or does Grenada still have a democracy to save, when the political philosophy on Project Grenada toward a one-party state seems to be taking root? Moreover; there is the notion that based on the racing levels of mismanagement, corruption, impoverishment and lawlessness, Grenada is a failed state or its democracy is fractured. Who is up to the task?

## HOW TO EASILY PAY YOUR GRENLEC BILLS ONLINE



*Avoid the lines...  
contact your bank  
to set up your  
online banking*

- Login to your online banking web portal
- Navigate to the payments section
- Insert all relevant details



### Grenada Co-operative Bank

Nickname

Merchant Name

GRENLEC

Billing Account Number

1

Customer Name

Name of Bank Account Holder

Customer Name on the invoice

2

Customer Name on Grenlec bill

### CIBC FirstCaribbean

Billing Company

Grenada Electricity Services

Nickname (Optional)

Account Number

1

Customer Name

2

Customer Number

3

Meter Number

4

### Republic Bank formerly Scotiabank

Selected Payee

GRENADAELECTRICITY

Account Number

1

Access Code

2

This is your unique 5 to 8 digit number that you created when setting up your online banking account. Reset if you have forgotten or contact your bank for support.

### Republic Bank

Name

GRENADA ELECTRICITY SERVICES LTD.

Nickname

Name on the Bill

2

Billers Category

Electricity

Address

Dusty Highway

State

St. George

Account/Consumer Number

1

Confirm Account/Consumer Number

1

Account/Consumer Number refers to the account number or consumer code related to a utility/other service that you subscribe to.

User ID

Transaction Password

User ID and Transaction Password refer to your user information that you created when setting up your RepublicOnline account.

It is especially important to provide the correct account information to avoid delays in processing your bill payments

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## Yes, the Cabinet does have the power

LINDA STRAKER

- **Emergency Powers Act clearly is guiding legal framework for the entire Cabinet of Ministers**
- **Emergency Powers Act was approved in 1987**
- **Grenada still under limited State of Emergency**

Within most pieces of legislation approved by the Houses of Parliament in Grenada and all Commonwealth states, is a clause which mandates for the minister under whose portfolio the law will fall to make regulations. "The Minister shall or may make Regulations for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this Act" is usually the final clause.

It appears that many "advocates for change" are not aware of this clause in law and have thus found themselves accusing the cabinet of making laws with the weekly repealing of the Covid-19 regulations which is mandatory under the Emergency Powers Act.

As of mid-March, Grenada began functioning under a limited State of Emergency because of the global health pandemic Covid-19. Many states around the world took similar measures so Grenada was not the only one, nor the first one.

Because the island continues to be in this limited state of emergency, the Emergency Powers Act clearly is the guiding legal framework for cabinet and for those of you who are questioning the weekly pronouncement by the cabinet, you need to take some time and acquaint yourself with that piece of legislation.

That legislation does not provide for just one minister to be responsible for the regulation, but the entire Cabinet of Ministers. Therefore, some of the utterings in public via radio call-in programmes, truly show up the lack of knowledge of national legislations by some who think that the weekly repealing of the emergency powers regulation should be approved by weekly sittings of both Houses of Parliament.

The Emergency Powers Act which was approved in 1987 when the late Herbert Blaize was Prime Minister and Dr Francis Alexis was Attorney General, will show you that you are wrong, and your attempt to correct a wrong makes you very wrong.

Section 4 of the legislation is sub-titled 'Emergency Power of Cabinet', and as a public service here are the powers of the Cabinet in that piece of legislation.

(1) The Cabinet may during the period of emergency in the State-  
 a. make regulations for the purpose of controlling and regulating-  
 all means of communications and transport;  
 all fuel, buildings, plants and materials necessary to the working of the same;

all food and liquor supplies, and necessities;  
 all electric, water and other power stations.

b. Make regulations-  
 to prohibit or restrict the possession or use by any person or body of persons of any specified article;

to impose on any person any restrictions in respect of his employment or business, in respect of his place of residence and in respect of his association or communication with other persons;

to prohibit any person from being out of doors between such hours as may be specified except under the authority of a written permit granted by such authority or person as may be specified;

to require any person to notify his movements in such manner at such times and to such authority or person as may be specified;

to prohibit any person from travelling except in accordance with permission given to him by such authority or person as may be specified;

to require any person to quit any place or area or not to visit any place or area;

to provide for the detention of persons and deportation and exclusion of persons from the State;

to authorise the search of persons or the entering and search of any premises and the seizure of anything, and its detention for so long as may be necessary for the purpose of any examinations, investigations, trials or inquiries;

to authorise on behalf of Her Majesty;

(i) the taking of possession or control or the managing or carrying on, as the case may be, of any property or undertaking;

(ii) the acquisition of any property other than land;

c. make regulations authorising such other measures as Cabinet may deem reasonably justifiable for dealing with the situation that exists in the State during that period of emergency; Provided that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorise the making of any regulations imposing any form of compulsory military service or industrial conscription, or providing for the trial of persons by military court: Provided also that no such regulations shall alter any existing procedure in criminal cases, or confer any right as to punish by fine or imprisonment without trial.

(2) The regulation so made shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

It is well understood in law that MAY and SHALL has different meanings. Shall is a command and therefore whatever follows "shall" is mandatory while on the other hand "may" is discretionary. What comes after "may" is at the discretion of the person making the decision.

And so now I urge you to go re-read sub-section 2, which for ease of access, is the penultimate paragraph above.

# Commentary

## Education, the thorn in the side of poverty

BY TRICIA SIMON, LLB, BCOM, DIP.

I am a product of being raised by my grandmother who continually stated, "education lifts you out of poverty". With that mantra drummed into my head on a daily basis, I developed an insatiable appetite for learning. My peers and I valued education, and competition was the name of the game.

In October 2017 my son completed his second college diploma and in June 2018 he telephoned and stated that he needed money to purchase groceries. Typically, I would send him the money; instead, I said, "get a job or go on welfare, take the money, it is free." I then asked him when he was starting university and his response was, "well I should start university because I cannot live a comfortable life on minimum wage." I totally agreed. By this time all the universities in the Greater Toronto Area were full, so he had to pack his bags and travel 14 hours away. The lesson he learnt was simple, "education lifts you out of poverty".

As West Indian parents we typically look towards teachers as the ones to educate our children where they would attend school for 3 terms, 5 days a week for several hours per day. Covid-19 has turned this model on its proverbial head and parents are left to scramble and become teachers. We live in a digital age where technology is a great equaliser due to the accessibility of knowledge. But I am reminded of the book, Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert T Kiyosaki where in summary, the children of the wealthy continue to prosper based on the lessons taught by their parents. We are schooled in using our talents as described in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 and during this time we need to ensure our children reach their maximum potential.

I am in Grenada on Covid-19 lockdown and I look at the children in the neighbourhood. Some parents have set up a regime where their children follow the same format as a regular school day with the learning and discipline that entails. On the other hand, I see others who play for the majority of the day with little learning. The fallout from Covid would be a cohort of students left far behind their peers. The reality is that as a society we could be faced with a high unemployment rate, low productivity, increased crime and all the ills of an uneducated populous



if we fail our children.

Recently, my father was amazed that he was having meetings on Zoom. An article in the New York Times, Research Shows Students Falling Months Behind During Virus Disruptions, highlighted the issue of the disruption on education. Here in Grenada, this can be avoided if a comprehensive plan is put in place where the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders such as internet providers, computer suppliers, teachers, parents, etc., come together. First, a study should be conducted to determine which students require internet access and a computer or tablet. This programme would be similar to the programme where schoolbooks are provided to low income students. Second, students should remotely attend full day school from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm which can be either recorded or live streamed. The students who require assistance would obtain additional help through the tutoring programme set up by the Ministry of Education. Teachers are our "eyes and ears" into the homes and they would be able to ensure that no child is left behind and abused.

I commend the Ministry of Education, teachers and parents for the excellent work they have done to ensure our children continue to learn. But as a society we cannot pay lip service to educating our children and much more is required. This is where Grenadians who reside in the diaspora and even here in Grenada need to provide assistance such as computers for needy children. We as Grenadians and people of Grenadian

descent cannot always look to the government to solve issues; rather we need to come together and help each other for the collective good. My father says, "one-one cocoa fill basket" so we each need to do our part to help our children.

Tim Berners-Lee in The Guardian highlighted the importance of internet access for continued success in the article, Covid-19 makes it clearer than ever: access to the internet should be a universal right. Today, the internet is the great equaliser to lift our children out of poverty through an education. Corporations such as internet providers also have a social responsibility to provide assistance to ensure each child on the tri-island state has internet access because it speaks of being a good corporate citizen.

With the continued fight for racial equality due to the death of George Floyd we also need to demand equality in education for our children. That education begins at the home with our parents using social media as a tool to educate their children so that as one nation we can really live up to the words of our national anthem, "...Heads, hearts and hands in unity to reach our destiny....May we with faith and courage aspire, build, advance as one people, one family..."

Tricia Simon is an Attorney-at-Law called to the bar in the State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and the Province of Ontario, Canada. She practices in several areas of law with expertise in the area of Family Law particularly domestic violence and child abuse.

# Removed, yet connected

MELISSE OGILVIE  
SOCIAL WORKER



**A**long with the threat of the coronavirus pandemic, our brothers and sisters in the United States have had to deal with another life-threatening issue, Racism.

Although we in Grenada are geographically removed from this situation, we have been indirectly affected by this scourge.

Institutional racism, racial violence and harassment understandably have adverse psychological impacts. Victims often present with symptoms of racial trauma or race-based stress. The symptoms are fear, anxiety, depression, helplessness and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We need to understand that the trauma created by racism not only impacts the mental wellbeing of the victims, but also those who are in some way connected, like you and me.

We may not have understood why we felt so affected by these unfortunate events given that we are thousands of miles away. Even though, you might not have experienced racism directly, you might have friends and family who have been victims. Whichever way we look at it, we are connected to the events because we identify with the victims on the basis of race... or simply because we identify with issues of injustice as human beings. This connection puts us at risk of vicarious trauma or vicarious racism. Vicarious trauma, in this context, refers to the in-

direct experience of the racial discrimination as a result of hearing about or seeing another person's experience.

The horrifying images and frequent commentary in the media may also produce an emotional response in us, such as feelings of numbness, emptiness and helplessness; or being totally lost for words. You may also find yourself becoming hyper-aroused or extremely careful. This is the danger of vicarious trauma; it impacts you when you hear other people's stories.

Feelings of anxiety, confusion, helplessness and threat are expected when you think that this could happen to you or someone close to you. For instance, one friend shared that watching the video of George Floyd's "murder" reminded her of her brother's many traumatic encounters with the police in New York. The video evoked feelings of anxiety and fear for her brother's life and safety. Those of us who have relatives in the United States may identify with having similar emotions.

In light of the protests over the last couple weeks, and the repeated highlighted incidents of racial injustice in the USA, many of us may experience an altered view of the United States like never before, therefore, we may travel there with trepidation, and be hypervigilant when we do. We may become acutely aware and more careful in what we do and where we go. Unfortunately, feelings of safety and free-

dom when we travel may be replaced by fear and anxiety.

If you have had a personal experience with any form of racism, the events may be a trigger for you. I remember speaking with my Nigerian friend right after the video footage of Ahmaud Arbery's "murder" was released. At that time, she was experiencing sleeplessness and anxiety, as the video caused her to relive her own experiences of racism as a young person living in Austria, and again as a student in the United States.

We will continue to grieve and stand in solidarity with People of Colour in the United States, as we all have been impacted by these horrific events.

What can we do to heal from the impact of vicarious or racial trauma?

We can care for ourselves by seeking help to alleviate fears and anxiety.

We can protect our minds by monitoring and limiting our exposure to the horrific images on television and social media.

We can seek social support.

We can get involved in discussions and activities that promote racial socialisation. Put simply, we can join the movement.

Let us fight the injustices and support our brothers and sisters in their quest to radically change their experience and let us continue to work here at home to foster tolerance and love in every area of our lives.

## Caribbean Congress of Labour supports the fight for justice in the US

The Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) extends its solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters fighting for Justice and fighting against racism in the United States of America (USA). We also extend our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the USA.

We extend our solidarity with the family and friends of the late Bro. George Floyd, who was killed in full view of the public and whose last moments were recorded and gave life yet again to the phrase "I Can't Breathe!" It was only 6 years ago that those were also the last words uttered by Eric Garner, another victim of police brutality. What do these men and countless others have in common? They were unarmed black men.

One only has to compare the treatment meted out to white armed protesters who gathered last May to see the disparity. A protest against extending stay at home orders was organised by the group calling themselves Michigan United for Liberty. The fact that one unarmed black man can be considered more of a threat than an entire mob of armed white men speaks to issues which run deeper than the intent of the specific officers who committed those atrocities.

The Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) expresses its unrestrained support for the Mass Protests and Demonstrations in the fight against racism. As Caribbean people, we draw on our own struggles and acknowledge all the dilemmas that come with Resistance Movements, but we understand their inevitability when injustice pervades a nation.

We are deeply concerned with the ever-increasing brutality meted out to our black brothers and sisters. We in the Caribbean are appalled to see the use of the Military, National Guard and Police in the USA against the demonstrators. We are very concerned with the attempt by the President Trump led administration to ruthlessly curtail the fight for genuine democracy.

It has been observed that persons have tried to oversimplify the situation to actions of a rogue officer. We in the CCL do not hold that view. The CCL holds the view that systematic racism informs the manner with which the black and minority communities are treated. This is the core of the dilemma facing these communities. The deliberate refusal of the state institutions to invest in the black and minority communities are testaments to a system that is designed to marginalise the non-white communities.

The Caribbean has provided untold wealth to the USA through the continued hard work of our people who have migrated there. The Caribbean has always identified with the struggles of the marginalised peoples in the USA. The region has produced great leaders such as Marcus Garvey, Kwame Ture and Malcolm X to name a few, along with many others who have had key roles in the civil rights movement in the struggle for equality and justice.

We in the Caribbean Congress of Labour are also extremely concerned for the safety of our Caribbean diaspora peoples who are also affected.

The Caribbean Congress of Labour demands an end to racism in the USA and the world. We call on the authorities to engage in dialogue with those on the front line. Systemic racism must be addressed at the level of the state and there must be a demonstration toward resolution by those in authority. It is self-evident that a further push from the state to suppress will only lead the conversation further away from the fundamental issues to be addressed.

The CCL demands justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner and countless others unjustly killed at the hands of the police and other white nationalists because of the Black skin colour.

The Caribbean Congress of Labour calls upon all our people of Caribbean diaspora living in the United States of America to lift your collective voices, join the protest and fight for genuine equality for our Black people and all other oppressed people because, to paraphrase Niemöller, when they came for Floyd and you did not speak out, when they come for you there will be no one left to speak out for you!



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# Unsolved Homicide Task Force solving cold cases



BY LINDA STRAKER

- Task force headed by experienced Criminal Investigating Department (CID) officers
- Grenada recorded 3 unsolved murders since the start of 2020
- First breakthrough 2 weeks ago; pending second cold case arrest

The recently established task force for investigating unsolved homicide cases in Grenada appears to be making headway in the cases that are under its mandate.

Grenada recorded 3 unsolved murders since the start of 2020. The announcement of the task force made after the 3rd homicide where a young man was found dead during the early days of lockdown in a community in St George North East.

"The Acting Commissioner of Police and the entire executive of the police force, consider very highly the need for Grenada to remain safe and secure and the need for us to ensure that all perpetrators of crime be

brought to Justice," Superintendent Vannie Curwen told the media when he announced the setting up of the task force in early May.

The task force which is headed by experienced Criminal Investigating Department officers announced its first breakthrough 2 weeks ago when one person was arrested and charged for the murder of Shaniel Blackman. The accused, Ricardo Edgar, was arrested almost 2 years following the homicide which occurred in Belmont, St George.

Though police are tight-lipped on a pending second arrest of a cold case, it is understood that a homicide and arson which occurred in the parish of St Mark in 2012 is high on the agenda. People in the community, as well as family members and friends have confirmed that 2 men have been detained and questioned for the 2012 incident in the village of Nonpariel, where Emilio Nelson, a 72-year-old pensioner who returned to Grenada after years of living and working in the United Kingdom, died.

The men were charged late in the evening on Saturday, 13 June 2020, and will appear in court on Monday.

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## Routine

BY EVELYN MERRONE,  
LIFE COACH AT OMGOALS!  
AND RAELENE LAZARUS,  
DIRECTOR OF WAVES INC.

Yawwwwwwn... just the word sounds like work and more than that it sounds boring too! Monotonous... the same thing every day.

Surely there has to be more to life than that! People need a little excitement in their life, surely? Something different, unexpected, something to be enthusiastic about. Guess what, routine gives you that. Whaaaaat?! We hear you say.

Seriously, take a second and imagine what your day would be like if there was no routine — no rules, nothing expected of you, no set hours to be anywhere.

In fact, some of us are having those days right now...sounded good at first but now it's just messy and confused, right?

So, what if you took the approach to get fully involved in designing your day. Don't just go with the flow... create your flow. There are some major pluses to this:

### You choose what to include in your day

Some people choose to do this the night before, others, the start of the day. Whichever works best for you. Don't let the entire day slip by while you decide where to begin, and don't get stuck into everyone else's stuff by request or by accident.

### Your priorities remain priorities

It won't always go swimmingly well. Unplanned for items will pop up, you might run a little late for something, something else may have to be put off for the next day or the next week. Mainly however, when you know what's

expected of you, you get it done.

### You can balance the bustle with breathing

Annie Dilliard said, "The way we spend our days is the way we spend our lives". Some people struggle with sticking to a schedule, others suffer from the whims of spontaneity. There's no reason you can't have both! Check that the routine suits you, that it represents your values through the things you spend time on. If it doesn't, change it. In other words, set your day up to take you where you need to go, and then bask in your accomplishments.

### You can start small

A little notebook works beautifully. Start with listing the activities you already do on a daily basis. Consider how what you do might be rearranged to suit you even better. Once you have a handle on your usual daily tasks, it might be a good time to add "that thing" you've been meaning to get to for a while, to the day, the week or the month. A secret bonus of routines: once you've established one, the merest of tweaks can totally revitalise your day.

### Stay focused

To stay focused, try the 'pomodoro technique' developed by Francesco Cirillo in the late 1980s. The technique is a revolutionary time-management method which can help you power through distractions, hyper-focus and get things done in short bursts, while taking frequent breaks to come up for air and re-

lax. It is both simple to learn and life-changing to use.



### The Pomodoro Technique

**1. Choose a task that you'd like to get done**  
Something big, something small, something you've been putting off for a million years: it doesn't matter. What matters, is that it's something that deserves your full, undivided attention.

**2. Set the Pomodoro (or any other timer) for 25 minutes**  
Make a small oath to yourself: "I will spend 25 minutes on this task and I will not interrupt myself." You can do it! After all, it's just 25 minutes.

**3. Work on the task until the Pomodoro rings**  
Immerse yourself in the task for the next 25 minutes. If you suddenly realise you have

something else you need to do, write the task down on a sheet of paper.

**4. When the Pomodoro rings, put a checkmark on a paper**  
Congratulations! You've spent an entire, interruption-less Pomodoro on a task.

**5. Take a short break**  
Breathe, meditate, grab a cup of coffee, go for a short walk or do something else relaxing (i.e., not work-related). Your brain will thank you later.

**6. Every 4 pomodoros, take a longer break**  
Once you've completed 4 pomodoros, you can take a longer break. 20 minutes is good. Or 30. Your brain will use this time to assimilate new information and rest before the next round of Pomodoros.

As children, we were given a routine by adults to provide structure and discipline. As adults, it appears we will all simply be better off if we created a day which helps us to be more productive, in control and our best selves. What do you think about routines ... Yay or Nay?

If you found this article useful please share it. If you have particular areas you would like us to explore, we welcome your suggestions.

*Disclaimer: The preceding is intended to offer practical approaches and assistance for daily living in an effort to help where possible, those of us who need and seek it. We speak to the individual, and hope the nuggets offered are found transferable to family, business, community and country. The information is not intended as a replacement for obtaining professional advice.*

## Agriculture Ministry establishes praedial larceny hotline

BY LINDA STRAKER

Farmers lose thousands of dollars due to praedial larceny  
Praedial Larceny Hotline 300 launched

Praedial Larceny punishable by law to a fine and imprisonment for 24 months

As part of measures to combat the stealing of crops, the Ministry of Agriculture with the assistance of the telecommunications providers has launched a hotline where information can be provided so that the Praedial Larceny Unit can make a quick intervention on farms.

"The Ministry of Agriculture is reminding the general public that acts of Praedial Larceny are punishable by law and is asking persons who engage in this inconsiderate act, to desist from doing so," said a statement on the Facebook page of the Ministry of Agriculture.

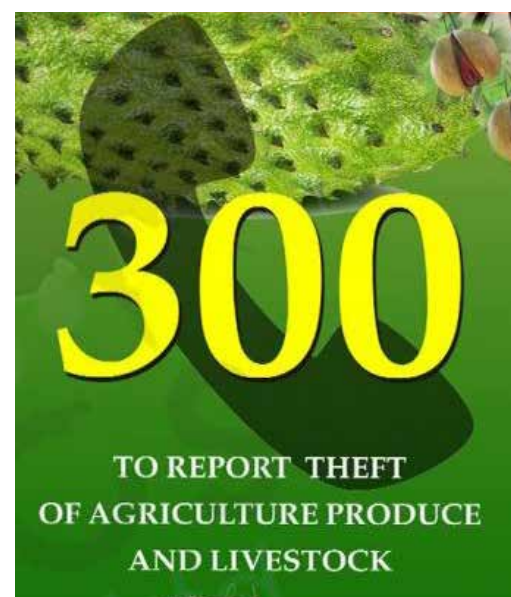
"Furthermore, the ministry is asking the public to play their part in the fight against the crime and report any occurrences by calling the Praedial Larceny Hotline at 300," said the notice.

Stealing of crops and animals

is a common cry of farmers and those who engage in animal husbandry. Though justice has put away many who have been found guilty of this criminal offence, farmers have continued to lose thousands of dollars due to praedial larceny.

Grenada's 2003 Praedial Larceny Act provides for any person who commits such an offence shall be liable, except where some other penalty has been provided by the act to a fine of no less than EC\$3,000 or no more than EC\$10,000 and imprisonment for 24 months.

For entering the land without permission the law states, "whoever enters, or is seen or is found on or within any estate, farm, garden, orchard, pleasure ground, nursery ground, hot house, greenhouse or conservatory, without the consent of the owner, occupier, or person in charge thereof and does not give a good account of himself or herself, or does not satisfy the Magistrate that he or she had a right to be thereon or therein, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on summary conviction be liable to a term of imprisonment of not less than 2 years and not exceeding 2 years."







Agriculture Minister, Yolande Bain-Horsford and Ambassador Dr Zhao Yongchen cuts the ribbon as a symbol of accepting the donation

## New varieties of fruits and vegetables to strengthen Grenada's food security structure

LINDA STRAKER

- **New fruits and vegetables to be introduced to farming community**
- **New varieties part of research at Chinese Agricultural Mission in St David**
- **Donation will positively affect strengthening Grenada's food security structure**

The Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Chinese Agricultural Mission will be introducing some new varieties of fruits and vegetables to the farming community.

"The ministry looks forward with great anticipation for the commencement for the trials of many new varieties of fruits and vegetables. We believe this will provide farmers with an opportunity to be exposed to new varieties and techniques for increasing their production," Agriculture Minister, Yolande Bain-Horsford, said while addressing a ceremony in which the Chinese Mission handed over agricultural machinery valued over EC\$1 million.

Though she did not publicly provide information about the new varieties that will be introduced to the island, it

is understood that most of the testing and trials of planting the new varieties will be conducted as part of research at the Chinese Agricultural Mission in St David.

Earlier last week, Bain-Horsford in a national address, announced that government has agreed to an agricultural stimulus package. The donation will positively affect the various agricultural initiatives aimed at strengthening Grenada's food security structure.

Agriculture Minister, Yolande Bain-Horsford and Ambassador Dr Zhao Yongchen cuts the ribbon as a sign of accepting the donation

Bain-Horsford expressed her high gratitude to the Chinese Government and people for the timely assistance to Grenada which is occurring during the global Covid-19 epidemic. "These much-needed machineries donated by the Chinese side will help the agriculture sector recover from the impact of Covid-19." She spoke highly of the agriculture experts from China and expressed commitment to deepen the bilateral cooperation in agriculture. "The stimulus package provides an excellent start to boost the production, marketing and distribution of agricul-

tural produce. I am also confident that the material and equipment received today will play a major role in the ministry's mitigation efforts at this time," she said.

On Friday, 5 June, Dr Zhao Yongchen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Grenada, handed over the batch of agricultural machinery to Bain-Horsford in the presence of representatives from both countries, at the China-Aid Agricultural Demonstration Centre in La Sagesse, St David.

The ambassador believes the machinery will help Grenada to resume agricultural production and improve farmers' livelihood. "China is willing to deepen the bilateral cooperation in various fields under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, boost the economic and social development of Grenada, and strengthen the friendship between China and Grenada," he said.

With the total value of EC\$1.2 million, the donation includes wheeled tractors, trucks, rotary tillers, along with other equipment and fertilisers. The donation is under the framework of China-Aid Agricultural Technical Co-operation Project Phase 7.

## Cabinet approves financial support for Grenada's cocoa farmers



**Office of the Prime Minister:** Cocoa farmers in Grenada will benefit from a \$1 million grant provided by the government.

At its meeting on Monday, the cabinet also approved a loan of \$1 million to the Grenada Cocoa Association, for the purpose of providing price support payments to farmers, similar to what was approved a few weeks ago for nutmeg farmers.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, said the grant and loan support will help to buffer the loss of revenue caused by the association's inability to export cocoa and chocolate.

Faced with an inventory build-up from the lack of export, the association is still required to buy cocoa from farmers, putting a further strain on its financial viability.

Dr Mitchell said, "Cabinet has specifically agreed that the funds should go primarily towards maintaining current price levels for farmers to ensure that they are not further disenfranchised by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a government, we are deeply concerned about the well-being of our farmers and we feel morally obligated to help safeguard their livelihood. The pandemic has significantly impacted the country's revenue but government remains committed to finding ways to bring relief to our people."

Both the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association and the Grenada Cocoa Association have been provided with specific terms and conditions for the grant and loan support.

Dr Mitchell said one specific requirement is that the associations should merge operations to create greater efficiencies in the overall management structure. He said, "Optimising efficiency and profitability is no longer optional; the time has come for a serious and demonstrated commitment to serving the best interest of farmers. Government has advocated this position for many years as it would significantly reduce the costs associated with managing the commodity boards. Less expenditure means more cash available for the benefit of farmers."

Government will await feedback from both the GCNA and the GCA on its proposals.



# Work from home

How to re-engineer a culture of trust in your company

**Clevon Noel**



In an age of economic uncertainty and change, corporate leaders are seeking ways to be more agile and innovative.

As more and more businesses are resuming operations virtually, employees have been asked to adopt a work from home culture, which is becoming the new normal as Covid-19 shows little signs of disappearing soon. In my previous articles, I presented some tips on how businesses can keep their customers engaged online and also shared some tools which can be used to aid the transition. While the suggestions mainly surrounded how to maintain effective communication in a remote work scenario, they do not take into account a bigger issue, which will affect traditional businesses as they attempt this transition. This issue, the so-called elephant in the room, is the issue of trust.

Trust is often cited by relationship experts as the key to a long-lasting and successful union. But trust is also an essential ingredient in your workplace relationships, impacting employee satisfaction, retention, and even productivity. Where a culture of trust exists among employees and supervisors, it is often easy to see autonomy, agency and initiative from employees. These key attributes are often drivers of innovation and productivity within a company. Beyond these benefits, trust forms an integral part of a healthy workplace.

A recent study asked persons to list their top 3 preferences

**The recent increase in the number of remote workers is an opportunity for organisations to listen to the needs of employees, provide flexible work schedules and support employee well-being. This will foster trust between employees and employers as well as build a culture that helps bridge any divide between different generations.**

– Ray Grainger, CEO, Mavenlink

for successful workplace culture. 53% said trust. Ultimately for employees, being trusted means being valued and a valued employee is more often than not, a reliable and productive person.

I want to touch a bit on actions businesses, both small and large, can take to build and manage a culture of trust in a remote work environment. As businesses begin the transition, it's very important to note that, while your activities may enjoy a seamless transition online, individual businesses will have to take deliberate action to re-evaluate their trust culture.

Traditionally, commonly so in the Caribbean, business operators tend to believe that if an employee is not stationed at the office, he/she is not working. One can argue that Covid-19 has discredited this notion as persons have been working from home over the past 2 months. The following are some tips businesses can take to re-engineer their culture as they transition to digital.

## Marry titles with responsibility

Employment is an arrangement where work is exchanged for payment but I've noticed that sometimes as entrepreneurs/business owners we tend to forget or ignore that "arrangements" are built on partnership. A partnership should suggest a belief in the other party to execute.

Businesses must become willing to hire individuals, giving them both the title and responsibility/freedom to make meaningful decisions without being second-guessed. While transitioning to digital, it can be potentially detrimental to continue with a culture where "I" have to make all the decisions. Businesses must empower employees to exercise the power of their roles.

## Delegate projects vs tasks

As employees get accustomed to the new normal, businesses have to realise that they have less visibility of, and opportunities to interact with staff members. This presents a challenge for how work is usually presented and distributed in an office environment.

To adapt to the shift, employers should design projects with clear objectives, deliverables and timelines to be assigned to employees. Having clear and focused expectations removes the tendency to micro-manage activities while giving staff members the confidence to develop their own processes and productivity flow. The central idea being, get the job done.

## Clear guidelines and policies

In addition to setting clear expectations and deliverables, it

is also equally necessary to establish and communicate the means through which we will promote accountability. Many businesses underestimate the importance of having and sharing documented policies with their employees. Doing so exposes staff to the rules so that they clearly understand the consequences if trust is broken or undermined.

Importantly too, as businesses transition to digital, it is critical that businesses take time to define data access boundaries for employees.

## For employees

The responsibility for building and fostering trust is never a one-way street.

Employees must shoulder their responsibility within this culture of trust. This means developing a habit of simple integrity. In the most practical terms, this requires employees to mean what they say and be truthful in words, actions and commitments. This consistency has a circular effect in that it engenders more trust from management and promotes the business as ethical and consistent in its dealings as well.

Tied directly to this idea of integrity (credibility) employees now more than ever, NEED to communicate. Working from home is not a reason to let your professional reputation falter. Clear, consistent communication to provide updates, clarify issues, outline difficulties can convey a willingness to be a part of the team and a commitment to maintaining a high standard of service. In addition to this, it sends a message that the employee respects the members of the team and the supervisors who rely on their work product to make critical business decisions.

Ultimately, we can understand that trust increases profitability and helps attract and keep talent. Inadvertently, a lack of trust lowers productivity and increases employee turnover. Effective management, therefore, must formulate and implement a strategy to develop a culture of trust.

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*Clevon Noel began his career with the Grenada Hotel & Tourism Association, gaining unparalleled experience in tourism, while also establishing himself as a respected creator, digital strategist, entrepreneur, speaker, blogger, tech enthusiast and advocate. Clevon remains committed to advancing the creation and use of digital technology to improve productivity, efficiency and ease, in the Caribbean. – clevonnoel.com*



Food hampers from the St Andrew Development Organisation (SADO)

# SADO food hamper distribution to families in St Andrew

Several single parent and elderly families throughout St Andrew were beneficiaries of food hampers from the St Andrew Development Organisation (SADO), an initiative geared towards assisting the recipients with the supply of food items during Covid-19 Pandemic.

"This period was very difficult for many families in our parish and the organisation was very happy to assist. We were really

motivated by the happiness and smiles we brought to families who received their hampers," said SADO's President, Royan Charles.

"The hampers included groceries, toiletries, fruits and vegetables. Most of the beneficiaries were nominated by community and SADO members. We also assisted the Ministry of Social Development and Grenada National Council for the Disabled

(GNCD) with hamper distribution to their clients throughout St Andrew. We have made a commitment to continue assisting the GNCD and the Ministry with its outreach efforts in St Andrew."

For more information please email sado-exec1@gmail.com or call 421 9339

*SADO, Towards Greater Participation for Community Development*



# Government increases accessibility of concessional loans to small hoteliers



**Office of the Prime Minister:** The Government of Grenada is taking further steps to help safeguard the survivability of small hotels in Grenada, as they face the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Having made an additional \$5 million available through the Small Hotel Loan Facility at the Grenada Development Bank as part of the economic stimulus package, government is now making the option more attractive and accessible to hoteliers.

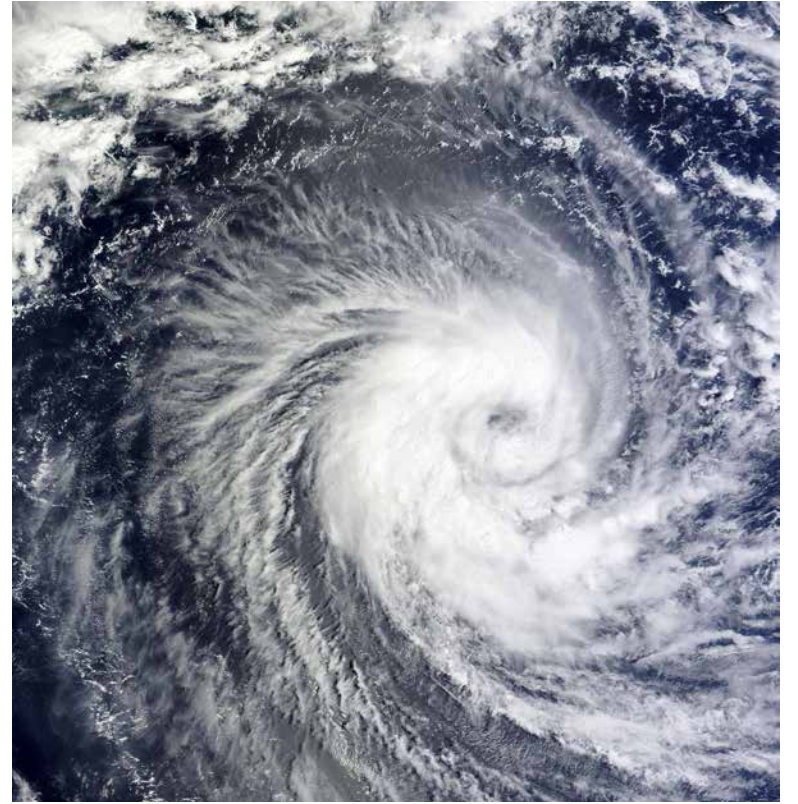
The cabinet agreed on Monday that the 10-year repayment terms will include a grace period of one year, with small hoteliers having the option to defer the interest and/or the principal payments. In addition, the loans will be administered at a reduced interest rate of 2% in the second year and 3% thereafter.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, said, "Through this concessional loan facility, government is expecting to help stimulate recovery in the sector as well as help to ensure the long-term survivability of small hotels. The tourism sector has been especially hard-hit by the pandemic, with many of the smaller properties being left cash-strapped. By streamlining the application process and making the loan facility more accessible, it is our hope that small hotels can better position themselves to continue being significant contributors to the local economy, as collectively, they provide scores of jobs to Grenadians."

The Small Hotel Loan Facility was first announced by the government as part of the 2019 budget, with an initial injection of \$2 million. It

was intended to help proprietors undertake upgrades/minor refurbishment, marketing and training of staff, with the aim of boosting overall quality in the sector. With the advent of Covid-19, government increased the available sum to \$7 million and expanded the potential uses to include payroll support and operational expenses as part of the Covid-19 ready strategy.

Dr Mitchell said, "It is anticipated that when the country's borders reopen, small hotels will see an up-tick in business. I encourage them to be ready to take advantage of this possibility by implementing the required protocols for the accommodation sector and ensuring that staff is properly trained. Restarting our economy is important but we must also be prepared to do it in a manner that safeguards public health and safety."



## Grenada Red Cross and NaDMA in preparedness activities



**Grenada Red Cross:** President of the Grenada Red Cross Society, Samantha Dickson, voluntarily designed and facilitated a 3-week, 6-hour virtual training and education series for the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA).

Some 80 participants received information on Covid-19 and self care, disaster management, shelter management and damage assessment and needs analysis. Emphasis was placed on the role of individuals and communities in emergency management especially with additional considerations for service in the face of

Covid-19.

Dickson said, "It's always an honour to serve and in this particular situation this gesture reaffirms the Red Cross auxiliary role to government to support services in order to keep people and communities safe by building resilience."

Participants received tokens such as CPR face shields, first aid packs and stress balls for active participation and will receive a certificate of participation.

Dickson added, "This is definitely a model for replication given the constraints of Covid-19. This was an easy, economical and innovative way to reach people throughout the island and from the comfort of their homes."

Participants made pledges to mobilise volunteers within their communities for shelter management and DANA activities. They were also encouraged to review or develop family disaster plans.



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