



# The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

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## Prime Minister Spencer Completes Successful Tenure as Chair of UN Developing Countries Group

Prime Minister the Honourable Winston Baldwin Spencer has completed his one-year tenure as chairman of the most influential group of developing countries within the United Nations, the 130 member Group of 77 (G77) and China, and handed over the post to his successor during the Group's annual hand over ceremony on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

In his farewell speech to the Group, delivered in his absence by Ambassador Dr. John W. Ashe, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United Nations, Prime Minister Spencer recalled that:

"A year ago, Antigua and Barbuda had the honour and the privilege of taking over the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 for 2008. We accepted this enormous responsibility with pride and conviction, aware of the challenges and obstacles that developing countries face in their struggle to advance social and economic progress and justice for their populations in a manner consistent with sustainable development. We were buoyed and embolden by your many pledges of support, cooperation and solidarity."

The Prime Minister applauded the members of the group for their solidarity in the face of adversity and noted that the Group of 77 and China developed and maintained coordinated positions which advanced substantially the interests of developing countries in all the various processes.

Speaker after speaker praised the leadership of the Prime Minister and his UN delegation and lauded their accomplishments during what is widely regarded as one of most successful tenure in the forty-five year history of the group.



The New Mount St John's Medical Centre

See pages 6,16

Continues on Page 3

### In This Issue

1. *Antigua and Barbuda wins Bronze Award on page 4*
2. *Prime Minister's feature address at the opening of Mount St John's Medical Centre on pages 6, 16*
3. *Government recoups US\$12 million on pages 10 and 11*
4. *Election Day - March 12, 2009. Read Prime Minister announcement on pages 12 and 13*
5. *H.C. Dr Carl Roberts addresses Antigua and Barbuda National Association (London) on pages 18, 19 and 20*

## A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR CARL ROBERTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER



### Reform of International Institutions

The world today is a very different place to five years ago. Nonetheless many of the International Institutions have structures and policies whose framework relate to a timeframe beyond that period. Four institutions should come under the spotlight during any review. These are the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In the short time allowed, I would not be able to deal in depth with each institution individually. Let me, however, make several observations which can and should be used to determine the effectiveness and fit for purpose of each of these bodies.

The world has become a tightly linked eco-system. Each component of this network being affected and at the same time influencing its surrounding

linked parts. The interdependence of the respective components is clearly demonstrated in the speed by which the current financial crisis spread within each region and across the world.

The campaign for change is not to discard the fact that some organisations have adjusted over the years. In fact at the UN, there has been over twenty (20) attempts at reforming the workings of various aspects of the UN operations over the last sixteen years. In the 1992-94 period, the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Global Governance reflected a concern “that the major institutions (and especially the UN) must be strengthened”.

When we talk of reform, what really are our intentions? Are we requesting an examination of the management of that institution? There is clear evidence that much concern exist about the cost, staffing, selection of key personnel and other resource factors. Why then, we ask, should the Head of the IMF or WB be restricted to the citizen of a select group of member territories? Are we being guided by the oft invisibly inscribed tenet that he who pays the lion share can demand the greater pound of flesh?

The attack in Iraq in defiance of the Security Council raises many question of the mandate of the UN as a safeguard of the fundamental rights of the sovereignty of nations, and the institution to which any member state can make its appeal if aggrieved. There that member can be assured of a fair hearing and a speedy resolution of its grievance with its neighbour. In some of these institutions, the debate focuses on who should be in the inner circle and who should be on the

periphery. Any reform should result in the creation of new rules of engagement developed in an atmosphere of open and inclusive dialogue.

The critical test of any modern international institution should include the following:

- How it improves the quality of life of the people of the world
- How it guarantees security, health and education for all
- How it reduces poverty and increase self-esteem among all classes of people
- How it is funded and governed
- How to keep fundamental human rights at the heart of its raison d'être
- How it ensures the protection of the environment and finally
- How relevant and current is that institution. (By this I mean how fairly does it reflect the make-up of today's world).

Let me finish by making just a few brief remarks on the four selected institutions.

1. The IMF and WB were formed to bring stability to a world in the 1940s that is very different to the interlinked globalised world of today. Though the objectives and ideals were, and still may be, deemed laudable, the level of discontent about many of the IMF and WB's projects has reached a resounding wail. For every instance where there is a case of success, critics point to at

*Continue on page 8*

**Continued from page 1**

Among the accomplishments cited were (a) the launching of the first ever "Development Platform for the South"; (b) further enhancement of the Group's flagship "Programme of South-South Cooperation," which was first agreed in Havana, Cuba in 2000; (c) finalization of the Agreement on the Establishment of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance; (d) strengthening of the relationships among various institutions supporting the countries of the South including the coordination between the Non-aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China through the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) for the formulation and promotion of common strategies on relevant issues in particular the reform of the UN system; and (e) forging of a strong partnership involving in particular the Group of 77 and China, the Group of 24 and the South Centre especially in respect of international financial and economic issues; and also with the other Chapters of the G77, with research institutions of the South and with Southern NGOs.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised the chairmanship of Antigua and Barbuda and noted that "...Antigua and Barbuda [had]... steadfastly guided the Group through a challenging year of multiple crises – from food security to energy to global finance."

He thanked Ambassador Ashe, whom he said "has earned profound respect for his exemplary service to the Group. It has been a pleasure to work with him." President of the UN General Assembly Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann of Nicaragua said that "under Antigua and Barbuda's Chairmanship, the Group of 77 has worked hard, with calm and wisdom during critical junctures, to develop unified positions on a number of complex global challenges and aspects of United Nations reform."

UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis praised the 'vigorous chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for 2008' demonstrated by Antigua and Barbuda. But it was perhaps the representative of Grenada, speaking on behalf of the CARICOM UN Caucus, who summed it up best when he observed that:

"We are immensely proud of the effective and proficient leadership that [Antigua and Barbuda] demonstrated throughout the many difficult circumstances of the past year. The unprecedented decline in the world financial sector, dire food shortages, the ongoing challenge of climate change and countless natural disasters, were among the plethora of turbulent issues and concerns which arose that Antigua and Barbuda were able to address, and articulate with a lucid and ardent voice on behalf of the member states of the Groups of 77 and China."

The Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing states in the United Nations and provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South cooperation for development. It was established in 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries that were signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Although the members of the G-77 have increased to 130 countries, the original name was retained because of its historic significance.

The chairmanship of the Group of 77 is rotated on an annual basis between the three (3) developing country regions, namely Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, that make up the Group. In 2009, the delegation of the Republic of Sudan from the African region will serve as chair of the group.

Antigua and Barbuda will continue to participate in the overall management structure throughout 2009 due to the fact that it will serve in the Group's 'troika' as the outgoing chair.



**CCL SAYS  
'THANK YOU'**

Marlborough House, Pall Mall was the venue for the reception sponsored by the Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) to say a hearty 'Thank You' to the Commonwealth High Commissioners' wives, Committee members, Organizers and helpers.

2008 Commonwealth Fair was deemed a success by all who participated. Exotic foods of the Commonwealth were well displayed and consumed after the speeches.

Preparations have begun for the 2009 Commonwealth Fair.

*Pictured left to right at the reception - Chalene Roberts, Mrs Pauline Roberts, wife of Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner; Curlis Bart, Antigua and Barbuda High Commission and Mrs Sharon Farquharson, wife of the High Commissioner for The Bahamas*

## Antigua and Barbuda wins Bronze Award

Antigua and Barbuda has won the Virgin Atlantic Bronze Award, for Best Destination Partnership in 2008.

The Award which was presented to the destination during World Travel Market in November was recently handed over to Minister of Tourism Harold Lovell.

"We are delighted to have received this award from our UK Partners", said Carol Hay Director of Tourism for the UK.

"It shows that Virgin has recognized the efforts we have taken towards ensuring that our partnership is a mutually beneficial one."

During 2009, Antigua and Barbuda plans to establish a number of new initiatives with Virgin Atlantic and



*Pictured left to right - Cherrie Osborne, Marketing and Administration Manager, Tourist Office, UK - Mrs Sharon Peters, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism - Honourable Harold Lovell, Minister of Tourism and Carol Hay, Marketing Director - UK and Europe*

Virgin Holidays.

One such initiative which is currently being run features Antigua and

Barbuda and Virgin working along with Tesco Supermarket (UK) on an in-store promotion to encourage travel to the destination.

## New Tourism Programme to offer Training

Stakeholders within the tourism sector are poised to benefit from a new programme geared towards sharpening their skills as the government seeks to tackle the global economic crisis currently affecting the industry.

The programme is expected to target owners, managers and other employees.

According to Minister of Tourism Harold Lovell, the initiative's main objective is to capitalize and strengthen the sustainability of small and micro tourism enterprises which will improve the tourism sector and provide an excellent opportunity to retain a recognized international certificate.

The programme is being executed in conjunction with the Organization of American States (OAS), which has expressed its intention to provide financial support.

Minister Lovell said the first training session, scheduled to take place in the first week of February, will provide training in hotel business operations and management. The training series continues with a second programme scheduled for February 16-20. This will target food and beverage (F&B) supervisors, prospective supervisors and line staff in the F&B department.

Participants who register to sit the examination will be certified in the Hospitality Department Training (CHDT) designation, which will be awarded by the American Hotel & Learning Education Institute.

The first two days of the five-day session will focus on restaurant service skills, and is therefore recommended for F&B line staff also.

Within the third and fourth day they will specifically target F&B supervisors and prospective supervisors and those who would have received approval to sit the Certified Hospitality Department Training (CHDT) examination.

Participants who register to sit the examination will have the opportunity to earn the Certified Hospitality Department Training (CHDT) designation awarded by the American Hotel & Learning Education Institute.

According to Cynthia Simon, manager for tourism education, training and awareness in the Ministry of Tourism, "the ministry considers ongoing investment in skills training and education a pragmatic action to ensure that employer and employee continue to give the best possible experience to our visiting guests and that we prepare ourselves for the economic recovery phase and beyond."

Source: [WWW.caribarena.com](http://WWW.caribarena.com)

# Sailing Week • 27th April to 2nd May 2009

**Statement**  
**Dr. the Hon. L. Errol Cort**  
**Minister of Finance and the Economy**  
**Antigua and Barbuda**  
**12<sup>th</sup> February, 2009**

**Finance Minister Clarifies Government's Position  
on Fuel Prices in Antigua and Barbuda**

The international price of oil has declined steadily over the past 7 months moving from a high of US\$147.00 per barrel in July 2008 to just under US\$40.00 per barrel at present. Although prices have generally been trending downwards there have been some fluctuations in the price of oil in recent weeks. The recent fluctuations notwithstanding, the general downward trend in prices has indeed been a welcomed development. In direct response to this, the Government has made several adjustments to the retail price of gasoline and diesel over the past several months. At present, the retail price for a gallon of gasoline is \$9.95 and diesel is 10.95.

Over the past two weeks it has been suggested by the Antigua Labour Party in the media and elsewhere that the recent declines in the price of gasoline is not sufficient to reflect the downward trend internationally. Further, it was suggested that the price of gasoline is lower in other OECS countries, namely Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis, and therefore this Government is placing undue hardship on the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. It is against this backdrop that I would like to briefly look at price adjustments in Antigua and Barbuda as compared to other OECS countries from December 2006 to present.

In December 2006, the price for a barrel of oil on the international market was approximately US\$61.00. In the same month, the retail price of gasoline in Antigua and Barbuda decreased by \$0.50 to \$11.49 and the price of diesel fell by \$0.45 to \$9.99. These prices remained unchanged until April 2008 when the price of gasoline was increased to \$12.95 and

diesel rose to \$11.95. At this point the average price for a barrel of oil rose by almost 80.0 percent to US\$109.00. In the other OECS countries the average price for a gallon of gasoline and diesel was \$13.68 and \$13.57 respectively. In particular, the price of gasoline and diesel in Dominica was \$13.71 and \$14.14 respectively. In St Kitts and Nevis, where there are three different entities that retail petroleum products, the price of gasoline averaged \$13.95 and ranged from \$13.70 at Delta Service Stations to \$14.12 at Shell Service Stations, while diesel was retailed for \$14.41.

The next price change in Antigua and Barbuda took effect in the month of May 2008. During the month of May 2008 the average price for a barrel of crude oil increased to US\$122.75 and the retail price of gasoline and diesel in Antigua and Barbuda was increased to \$13.95 per gallon. At this price level the Government was subsidising the price of gasoline and diesel by about \$3.8 million per month. In the other OECS countries the average retail price of gasoline and diesel was \$14.29 and \$13.98 respectively. In Dominica, the price of gasoline was \$14.61 and the price of Diesel was \$14.78. In St Kitts and Nevis the average price of gasoline was \$15.71 and the price of diesel was \$12.75

Over the next two months (June and July) the international price of oil continued to grow at a rapid pace reaching record levels on a daily basis and peaking at US\$147.00 in July 2008. OECS countries continued to import fuel at these high prices until August 2008. During this period the retail price of gasoline and diesel remained fixed at \$13.95 in Antigua and Barbuda while a number of the other OECS countries continued to

increase prices - on a weekly basis in some cases. In Antigua and Barbuda, the Government continued to subsidise the retail prices of both commodities by more than \$4.5 million per month. During the month of July for example the average retail price of gasoline and diesel in the other OECS countries was \$15.24 and \$14.89 respectively. In Dominica, the price of gasoline was \$15.69 and the price of diesel was \$15.97. In St Kitts and Nevis, the average price of gasoline was \$17.17, with prices ranging from \$16.18 at Texaco Service Stations to \$18.59 at Delta Service Stations, while the price of diesel was \$14.55

In October 2008, with the international price of oil declining but not yet reflected in the imported prices of petrol as a result of the time lag associated with the refining process, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda began to reduce the retail price of gasoline and diesel. In October 2008, the retail price of gasoline and diesel was reduced to \$13.65. The price of both 20 commodities remained significantly above \$13.65 in a number of OECS countries. In Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis in particular, gasoline was retailed for more than \$14.00 per gallon, and at Delta Service Stations in St Kitts the price of gasoline was \$16.81.

In a number of OECS countries the price of gasoline and diesel has declined significantly between October 2008 and January 2009. At present the average price for gasoline and diesel in OECS countries is \$9.81 and 10.82 respectively. In Dominica, the retail price of gasoline is \$9.09 and the price of Diesel is \$10.04. In St Kitts and Nevis, the average price of gasoline is \$9.19 with prices ranging

## Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer Feature Address Opening of Mount St. John's Medical Centre 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009

### Salutations.

Today is a proud and historic day for the Antiguan and Barbudan people. The completion and commissioning of the **Mount St. John's Medical Centre** is a goal that has been long deferred. Following, today's activity, the **Mount St. John's Medical Centre** medical staff will begin to welcome patients who will be transferred from Holberton Hospital.

This will be a quantum leap in the quality of health services in Antigua and Barbuda.

The transfer of patients from Holberton to Mount **St. John's Medical Centre** will commence this week from Saturday, the 21st February.

This Centre, Ladies and Gentlemen, has been planned, constructed and outfitted for sustainable service excellence for generations to come.

Today is very special as we gather here to witness and to celebrate the result of a successful **collaborative effort** between **Complant**, the Chinese contractors; the **Government of Antigua and Barbuda**, through the Ministries of Health, Finance and Public Works; the **Medical Benefits Scheme** a Statutory Corporation through which the finances of **the people** have been channelled in support of this project; and the **American Hospital Management Company**, our hospital consultants who have been working with and under the guidance of our local **Board of Directors**; as well as all of the professional and technical stakeholders at Holberton Hospital.

The completion of the Mount St. John's Medical Centre is in delivery of what I see as the Government's obligation to improve the quality of healthcare, and access to such health care as fundamentals for social and economic development in Antigua and Barbuda. This purpose-built facility, as you are aware, replaces a cluster of old



*Her Excellency the Governor-General Dame Louise Lake-Tack GCMG, DST.J, flanked on the right by Honourable Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and on the left by the Honourable John Maginley, Minister of Health as they prepare for the cutting of the ribbon to open the Mount St John's Medical Centre*

buildings which simply grew in an unplanned way and long ago became inadequate to the needs of the society. The potential value of the on-site helicopter service for Barbuda, and other islands of the region, will not be lost on you.

For most of us here this morning this will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience – the opening of a healthcare facility of this standard and dimension.

It is accepted that a hospital incorporates within its functional and structural arrangements:

- An office building
- An eating establishment
- A medical care agency and
- A major educational and social service institution.

Most of all, the hospital is an instrument of community health and a vital part of the total public health and medical care spectrum.

This encompasses prevention, diagnosis, **rehabilitation**, education and research; and all of this must revolve around the patient who must always come first.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are acutely aware of the fiercely competing demands between what we want in terms of healthcare – for example, state of the art care – and the cost of delivering that care.

Indeed it is a universal truism that the demand for services will always outstrip our capacity to supply those services.

As a result, we will always be challenged to develop strategies and to find innovative ways in which we can meet the burgeoning demands. In this regard we need to utilise all the services available to us to help to meet this demand.

For instance, Mount St. John's Medical Centre proposes to develop a

*Continue on page 16*

## Antigua and Barbuda participates in major Gaming Expo

This year, the Caribbean jurisdiction of Antigua and Barbuda made its first appearance at one of the gaming industry's events **International Gaming Expo** at Earls Court, in London from January 27-29. The Financial Services Regulatory Commission, Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority, LIME Antigua and ACT were at the Antigua and Barbuda stand inviting delegates to discover why some of the industry's premier brands have made this island paradise their home base. The delegation was led by Trevor Mathurin - Deputy CEO of the Financial Services Regulatory Commission who works closely with the Banking and Insurance departments along with Kaye McDonald on all matters relating to gaming.

"We are extremely proud to have a presence at ICEi in London this year," said Director of Gaming Ms Kaye McDonald. "We have invested in building a highly reputable jurisdiction and will be leveraging our competitive advantage as one of the few UK white listed jurisdictions. The industry is

aware of our unwavering commitment to ensuring they have access to global markets."

Investment Promotion Director of ABIA Fitzmaurice Christian remarked that "our focus will be on gaming companies and supporting services such as hosting and payment processing. In the current challenging economic climate, Antigua offers gaming operators and support service companies a unique opportunity to grow their business by locating some or all of their operations in our highly reputable business friendly jurisdiction. Additionally, we need to diversify our economy by bringing a range of industries to provide much needed employment for our people. These industries are less seasonal in nature and so cushion the shocks from tourism".

LIME and ACT are playing a prominent role at the IGE by providing information on the capability of the country's modern telecommunications infra structure. The current infrastructure provides a high level of redundancy with its two cable systems. Dedicated broadband internet services are available that support up to GigE.

Aside from its economic and political climate, modern telecommunication infrastructure Antigua and Barbuda offers more experience than almost any other in the world:



**Ms Kaye McDonald and Mr Trevor Mathurin talking with Investors**

- Extensive expertise in call centre services, financial services and e-Services provide an out-of-the-box solution.

Antigua and Barbuda was one of the first countries to licence, regulate and build an international remote gaming industry – with tax incentives offering the most attractive business opportunities of all the jurisdictions for operators around the globe.



**Space rented by the Antiguan and Barbudan delegation for display of products, interviews and discussions during the International Gaming Expo held in London**



**His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts took time out of his busy schedule to attend the Exhibition - pictured above with Erica Lake, Investment Promotion Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority**

*Continued from page 2*

least one case where these institutions have caused tremendous dislocation and social disorder. Here are just a few areas where there could be reform:-

- a. The institutions need to be less intrusive
  - b. There should be a widening of the criteria used to measure success
  - c. There should be more recognition of the social impact of policy implementation and assistance offered.
2. The UN needs to restore its credibility. Once again this institution has done much good work, but it is constantly being challenged to put down criticism of its effectiveness in addressing some of the world's current crises. Its officers are sometimes accused of corruption and other humanitarian abuses all of which take away from its acceptance. Here then are a few suggested areas of reform :
- a. Widen the representation on the Security Council especially the permanent members (currently 5) and the non-permanent members (currently 10).
  - b. Limit the application of veto power by the permanent members to very specific cases.
  - c. Improve the performance and effectiveness of its many subsidiaries
  - d. Reduce waste and corruption

3. The WTO is the only international institution dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. It attempts to ensure the smooth flow of trade between trading partners, to reduce protectionism and safeguard the rights of all parties to the transaction. Here too are a few areas where reform is needed:-

- a. Reduce all attempts to use size to circumvent natural justice and decisions of the dispute settlement tribunals.
- b. Avoid at all cost attempt to form exclusive mini-groups.

Let me end by leaving you with this quotation:

'History has shown that the greatest dangers to international stability often arise from those nations whose real power is inadequately reflected in the relevant sets of international arrangements and symbols of status therein. Such nations can challenge the legitimacy of the system with actions as well as rhetoric. Much of the current call for a new international economic order flows directly from such concerns, and a major need in the current phase of institution-building is to bring developing countries into effective participation in the international system. First, serious and sustained attention must be paid to their substantive concerns. In terms of broad objectives, this requires the international economic system to attach priority to issues of income and wealth distribution as well as the more traditional goals of efficiency and growth. A second essential step is to provide major developing countries with a role in the international decision-making process which corresponds to their sharply increased importance to the system. A third step is to go still further and bring selected "newcomers" into the inner circles of international decision-making.'

**Quoted from: The Trilateral Commission (© 1976)**

## PRESS STATEMENT BY Dr. the Hon. L Errol Cort – Minister of Finance and the Economy

Over the past several days, the resilience of the domestic banking sector as well as the strength of the regulatory framework that governs the financial system of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) area was put to the test. Following swiftly on the heels of an announcement that the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had filed a civil complaint against R. Allen Stanford and the Stanford International Bank, individuals who held deposits with the Bank of Antigua sought to withdraw their funds from this institution.

This move by depositors caused significant liquidity problems for the Bank that, if not addressed immediately, could have resulted in serious consequences for the domestic banking sector and for the ECCU financial system as a whole. The situation clearly demanded prompt and decisive action in order to reassure citizens and residents who were customers of the Bank of Antigua that their deposits and other financial interests in respect of the Bank remained secure.

The first step towards developing and implementing a plan of action was a meeting between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and representatives of all banks operating in Antigua and Barbuda.

In addition, the Monetary Council of the ECCB convened a special meeting to address the matter, consider a number of options and to agree on a plan of action that would further assure depositors that their financial interests in the institution were protected and that the regulatory

*Continue on page 11*



## Antiguan graduates with Ph.D in Education and Theology

Whilst the eyes of the world were focussed on Washington as Barack Obama was inaugurated as America's 44<sup>th</sup> President, there was another ceremony taking place in another capital city. Antiguan, Calvin Samuel, joined luminaries and Nobel Laureates such as former Archbishop Desmond Tutu in becoming a graduate of King's College London, England's fourth oldest university and one of the top 25 in the world.

Having already achieved BA and MBA degrees Dr Samuel graduated on inauguration day with a Ph.D in Theology and Education in a ceremony held at the Royal Festival Hall on the south bank of the river Thames.

Dr Samuel, son of the late Charlesworth Samuel, Antigua's former Minister of Agriculture, was joined by family members in celebrating his success, pictured here with his wife Ramona and children Tiana (10) and Fletcher (8).

However, their celebrations were inevitably tinged with regret that Charlesworth, a lifelong advocate for education, had not lived to see this day.

It was in 1993 that Dr Samuel left Antigua and a career in banking to undertake ministerial training at the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester, expecting to return to Antigua after four years to take up a ministerial appointment in the Wesleyan Holiness Church.

However, upon completing his undergraduate study in 1997 he was offered a scholarship at Manchester Business School to pursue an MBA degree, which he completed in 2000. During this period he was also employed, for two years at Manchester University and then for a year at London Business School, as a Research Manager. Upon completion of MBA studies he was appointed the minister for Mitcham & St Helier Methodist churches in South London and was ordained the following year, 2001.



Dr Calvin Samuel and family at King's College, London where he attained his Ph.D

Later that same year he began PhD studies, submitting his thesis in January 2008, only 10 days prior to the death of his father.

Since 2005 Dr Samuel has been New Testament Tutor at Spurgeon's College and Chaplain to Farringtons School, a Methodist independent school in South London.

### Continued from page 5

from \$8.33 at Texaco Service Stations to \$12.24 at Delta service Station. The current price of diesel in St Kitts and Nevis is \$14.10.

With respect to Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) the price of this product remained unchanged in Antigua and Barbuda over the past five years and throughout the oil crisis. At \$20.95 and \$108.00 for the 20lb and 100lb cylinders respectively, Antigua and Barbuda has the lowest prices in the OECS for this commodity. At present, the average price for the 20lb and 100lb cylinders of LPG in the other

OECS countries is \$35.86 and \$172.57 respectively.

In the month of July when the international price for oil peaked at US\$147.00 the average price for a 20lb cylinder of LPG in the other OECS countries was \$40.27 with prices ranging from \$30.00 in St Kitts and Nevis to \$59.00 in Anguilla. In Dominica, the price for the 20lb cylinder was \$44.10. During the same month the average price for the 100lb cylinder in the other OECS countries was \$192.89, with prices ranging from \$175.00 in St Kitts and Nevis to \$220.00 in Anguilla. The price for the 100lb cylinder was \$215.50 in Dominica.

Price changes for gasoline and diesel in Antigua and Barbuda is partly correlated to the timing of purchase and shipment. Thus, price difference may exist between OECS countries because of differences in timing with respect to when stock becomes exhausted and new shipments are received. The Government will continue to monitor international prices and adjust the retail price of gasoline and diesel accordingly to ensure that the residents of Antigua and Barbuda continue to benefit from the price reduction on the international market. In addition, we will continue to heavily subsidise the price of LPG as a part of the Government overall social programme.

## Government recoups US\$12 million

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda today announced that it has recoup US\$12 million dollars through an agreement reached with one of the defendants in a case filed in respect of IHI matter for special damages in the sum of US\$14,414,904 plus interest as well as general damages and exemplary damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and misfeasance in public office.

The substantive defendants in the claim are: Lester Bryant Bird - Former Prime Minister, Asot Michael MP, Bellwood Services S.A. a Panamanian company, Patrick A. Michael Co. Ltd. an Antigua and Barbuda company, Bruce Rappaport, IHI Debt Settlement Company Ltd., a Hong Kong company, and Debt Settlement Administrators LLC of Florida.

On the 10th February 2009 Attorney General Justin Simon QC announced that based on information provided by an investigation carried out by Robert Lindquist, Mr. Rappaport, through his lawyers, agreed to settle the claim against himself and his company by paying the government the sum of US\$12,000,000 in respect of the government's civil claim.

The Attorney General also announced that he will be handing over the Lindquist Report into the IHI Matter to the police for them to take the necessary steps to file criminal charges against the individuals named in the report.

We present in full the statement as issued by the Hon. Attorney General:

“Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press. Citizens and Residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

Shortly after this Administration took office, I informed you by way of a Press Statement that the government had commissioned a financial forensic investigation and had secured the

services of Mr. Robert Lindquist who had himself led like-investigations in Trinidad and Tobago where over Seven Million US Dollars of illegal payments to public officials had been recovered, and that he was instrumental in the arrests and prosecutions of persons involved in the Piarco International Airport scandal in Trinidad.

It has been long in coming, but I can now advise you, the patient citizens and residents, that I now have in hand Mr. Lindquist's complete and comprehensive report on the IHI Debt Repayment Scheme. The Report traces the payment by government from December 1996 of the monthly sum of US\$403,334 out of the consumption tax revenue paid by West Indies Oil Company to the various persons in receipt of these monies, with details of the companies through which the monies were sent, to what bank accounts, in which countries and how these monies were finally disbursed. These monthly sums were paid out of government funds pursuant to an irrevocable letter of instructions right up until February 2006, when I obtained an Injunction from the High Court in Antigua and Barbuda stopping the continuance of the payments, and freezing the bank account here in Antigua of an associated Florida company called Debt Settlement Administrators LLC.

It was a gigantic conspiracy engineered and effected by persons in high places to rob this country of millions of dollars right up to the year 2021, a burden that would be carried by your children and your children's children. Consider this. These monthly payments were, by an Agreement dated September 11 1997, to be made over a period of 25 years beginning December 31 1996 (retrospectively nine (9) months before the Agreement was signed) and would have amounted to an aggregate payment of US\$121,000,200. Out of that monthly

sum of US\$403,334 coming out of the Government Treasury, only US\$199,740.25 would be legitimately paid to IHI Japan amounting to an aggregate sum of US\$59,922,075 over the 25 years. In simple arithmetical terms, US\$61,078,125 in excess of the total sum due IHI Japan would have been misappropriated out of the Treasury and gone 'ahgwasa' over that 25 year period.

You will recall that in March 2006 I had advised by way of Press Statement that as Attorney General I had, on behalf of the Government, filed in the High Court of Antigua and Barbuda a civil claim in respect of the IHI matter for special damages in the sum of US\$14,414,904 plus interest as well as general damages and exemplary damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and misfeasance in public office. The substantive Defendants in the claim are: Lester Bryant Bird, Asot Michael MP, Bellwood Services S.A. a Panamanian company, Patrick A. Michael Co. Ltd. an Antigua and Barbuda company, Bruce Rappaport, IHI Debt Settlement Company Ltd. a Hong Kong company, and Debt Settlement Administrators LLC of Florida.

This morning I have caused to be served on all the defendants, through their respective local Counsel, a Notice of Discontinuance which will be



Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Justin Simon QC

filed in the High Court in respect of two of the defendants: Bruce Rappaport and his Hong Kong company IHI Debt Settlement Company Ltd. The effect of this notice is to inform the court and seek the court's permission to discontinue the civil claim against these two defendants only; the claim will continue to proceed against the other six substantial defendants and we expect that process to move speedily towards a hearing date from here on.

The reason for discontinuing the civil action against Bruce Rappaport and his company IHI Debt Settlement Company Ltd. is simply this: after months of hard negotiations based on the information provided by Mr. Lindquist in his report, Mr. Rappaport, through his lawyers, has agreed to settle the claim against himself and his company by paying to the government the sum of US\$12,000,000 in respect of our civil claim. I am pleased to advise that the government is in receipt of the payment. I will be advising our Counsel in Miami to take similar steps in respect of the pending Miami case whose status, as you know from my recent Statement to Parliament, is due for review in late May 2009.

You will no doubt recognize the importance and significance of this recent development as this Administration seeks to recover through a number of civil actions the various monies and parcels of land which we allege were fraudulently appropriated by certain members of the former administration for their own personal gain and enrichment and to the detriment and financial pain of the people of this country.

*Continued from page 8*

framework within the ECCU was more than capable of meeting the challenge that was precipitated by the civil suit against the sole shareholder of the Bank.

These steps have ultimately led to this moment where the efforts of all parties have culminated in the creation of this new entity - the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Investment Company Limited (ECAIC). The ECAIC will take control of the operations of the Bank so that despite the ongoing issues in respect of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the

institution will continue to function normally and engage with its customers in a manner to which they are accustomed.

As indicated by Governor Venner, the ECAIC is an amalgamation of indigenous banks within the ECCU together with participation from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. This means that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd, the East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited, the National Commercial Bank (SVG) Limited, the National Bank of Dominica Ltd and the St Kitts Nevis Anguilla National Bank Limited are the new shareholders of the ECAIC.

The formation of this new corporation was the outcome of long and in-depth consultations among the stakeholders over the weekend and is indeed testament to the ingenuity and creativity of our people. The delegation representing Antigua and Barbuda during these consultations secured a forty percent interest in the new entity – fifteen percent of which is allocated to the ACB and the remaining twenty-five percent allocated to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Given the urgency with which action was required, we were not in a position initially to afford members of the Antigua and Barbuda public the opportunity to acquire a share in this new entity. However, this Government is determined to give the public a chance to own a stake in this company and will therefore divest a portion of its twenty-five percent shareholding to the public of Antigua and Barbuda.

What we as a Government, the ECCB and the various indigenous banks have been able to achieve over the past few days is an incredible feat. In essence, we were able to successfully avert a disaster and save the deposits and interests of the customers of the Bank. There are over \$400 million in deposits at the Bank of Antigua with nearly eighty percent representing the deposits of the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is very grateful to the Governor of the ECCB for providing the necessary liquidity to the Bank to allow it to continue functioning and meeting the demands of its customers. Further, we are grateful for the instrumental role played by the ECCB in identifying these strong indigenous banks in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) region that will inject the necessary capital to allow for the continued viability of this institution.

Before closing, it must be stated that this joint effort on the part of the Government, the ECCB and the indigenous banks across the region is a remarkable reflection of OECS unity and is a practical demonstration of the integration movement.

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to thank our brothers and sisters of the OECS region for their invaluable contribution towards securing the stability of our financial space. This new entity sets the stage for the creation of a strong, indigenous, OECS bank which is rooted in several indigenous national banks across the region that, on their own, are financially sound and resilient.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, under the leadership of Prime Minister the Honourable Baldwin Spencer, wishes to thank the EXXB, and, in particular, its Governor, Sir K. Dwight Venner, for its unwavering assistance and for supporting our efforts to assure the general public and, in particular, the customers of the Bank of Antigua Limited, that their deposits with the institution remain secure.

The Government also wishes to thank the Prime Minister and Minister of finance of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves and the other members of the Monetary Council for their support.

Further, I wish to thank the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, headed by the Financial Secretary – Mr. Whitfield Harris Jr. – who participated in the consultations that facilitated the formulation of this new institution. The delegation also comprised the Deputy Solicitor-General, Mrs Karen Defreitas Rait; Treasury Consultant, Dr. Cleopatra Gittens; and Macroeconomic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy, Mr Kevin Silston. Also forming an integral part of the delegation were the Chairman, Directors of the Board and Management of the Antigua Commercial Bank and representatives from KPMG Eastern Caribbean, including the Managing Director.

Finally, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda wishes to reiterate its unwavering commitment to preserving the stability of the domestic banking sector, maintaining confidence in the ECCU financial system, protecting the interests of all who operate legitimately within our financial space, and, above all, safeguarding the deposits of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**  
**National Broadcast**  
**Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda**  
**Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer**  
**February 17, 2009**

Fellow Citizens and Residents:

The General Election in Antigua and Barbuda is taking place in a global environment of unprecedented financial turbulence; and universal uncertainty.

As we pursue our varying paths to political office in this election season, it is possible for some to forget that Antigua and Barbuda is connected to, and interdependent with, nations of the world, and the region, where the global financial meltdown is hitting hardest.

An early turnaround in these circumstances appears remote.

The California state government in the USA, with a bigger budget and a bigger economy than most of the nations of the world, is facing bankruptcy.

20,000 government workers in California are on the job loss list.

The failure of Trinidad and Tobago's far-flung CLICO-CL Financial conglomerate is a piercing wake-up call for our country; as it is for other countries of the Caribbean.

Breaking developments in the United States involving the Stanford Group have profound serious implications for Antigua and Barbuda.

By no stretch of political partisanship should this be seen as a matter for political exploitation.

This is not a looming crisis.

The fallout threatens catastrophic and immediate consequences.

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank is in touch with the Bank of Antigua and the government and is currently putting in place a contingency plan. Therefore there is no need for panic. If ever there was a reason, and a time

for the Antiguan and Barbudan people to pull together in solidarity, that time is now.

Regrettably, immediately following the news, today, of the US Securities and Exchange Commission's move against Mr. Allen Stanford and his associates, the ALP candidates on the party's Hate Radio Station plunged recklessly and foolishly into attempts to make the Stanford matter a partisan political cause.

It is imperative that all political aspirants and activists recognise that continuing excesses at this time can cause untold damage to our country's threatened economic prospects.

This is quite apart from the wrongs that may be inflicted on victims of political malice such as vandalism, slander, violence and arson.

This current scenario is particularly troubling because arson in a pre-election period is not new to this country.

A few months before the 1999 General Election, Antigua was struck by a series of fires.

The premises of Tim Hector's Outlet newspaper were torched after the paper reported that the then government had secretly imported a shipment of grenades, launchers, ammunition, pistols, tear-gas guns, gas masks and other riot equipment.

Just days after that, a fire broke out at the Ministry of Finance. Around the same time, arsonists set fire to a stage erected for a UPP rally. Two months before the 1999 elections, fire destroyed the prison in St. John's. We can take no comfort in any of this. Precisely because of the disposition to arson that has marked previous elections, the calls from the Antigua Christian Council and the Police High Command for a violence free election are quite timely, and quite important.



**Honourable Baldwin Spencer**  
**Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda**

It is regrettable that in a statement broadcast on Sunday, the leader of the Opposition party categorically rejected the Christian Council's call for all election candidates to sign a pledge embodying a code of conduct for the elections.

The UPP candidates have no hesitation in committing to the Christian Council's Code of Conduct.

I consider it critical that all public figures, and all others who have our country at heart, should readily endorse any initiative that can reduce tensions and disruptions in the election campaign.

In this context, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has been fortunate in arranging a visit to Antigua this week by the venerable American civil rights activist, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery.

Reverend Lowery will take part in a National Interfaith Service at the Precision Centre on Sunday, February

22, at 4:00 p.m. I invite all to be in the congregation at Sunday's National Interfaith service.

Coming the month after the memorable benediction he delivered at President Barack Obama's Inauguration, Dr. Lowery's visit can propel spiritual upliftment in our country; and foster harmony in our society in this divisive election period. Ladies and Gentlemen:

Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans and Residents:

It is fitting to recall that the creation of a new register of voters, and the introduction of voter identification cards, came only after the Commonwealth Secretariat's call for electoral reform after the 1999 General Election.

To pre-empt the use of fear and acts of political malice in the election, and to

assist in ensuring that our General Election will faithfully reflect the will of the Antiguan and Barbudan people, I long ago invited election observer teams from CARICOM, from the Commonwealth Secretariat, and from the Organisation of American States to be early on the ground for the run up to the elections. Related to this, the Deputy Secretary General of the OAS has already visited Antigua. I am confident that despite existing tensions, the General Election will proceed peacefully.

I am confident that the Royal Antigua Police Force will protect and serve us better than adequately.

I appeal to all in the society to participate fully and peacefully in the electoral process.

Whatever happens on Election Day, we will all have to live, pray and work

together to overcome the daunting challenges facing our beloved country. The future of our country and the future of generations yet unborn are in our hands.

We have no option but to put aside political differences and to cast aside political extremists.

This is the framework in which we must elect our next government.

In this regard, I have advised Her Excellency, the Governor General, to issue the Writ for a General Election to be held in Antigua and Barbuda on **Thursday March 12th 2009.**

**Nomination Day will be February 25, 2009.**

May God guide us.

May God defend Antigua and Barbuda in the face of all adversities.

## **Eighth Meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All Oslo, Norway**

The High-Level Group meeting is an annual event that brings together top-level representatives from government, development agencies, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector. Its role is to reinforce political will in order to accelerate progress towards Education for All, strengthen partnerships, identify priorities and mobilize more resources.

Against the backdrop of the financial crisis, participants in this year's Eighth High-Level Group meeting (Oslo, Norway, 16 to 18 December) will put forth concrete recommendations that focus on four broad themes: the role of education in meeting global challenges; equity and governance; teachers and financing education.

This High-Level Group meeting is hosted by UNESCO and the Government of Norway, and is the first time that the meeting takes place in a donor country, sending a powerful signal to the international community

on the urgent need for more sustained and effective support to basic education.

According to the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2009 that will inform the meeting, persistent inequalities based on income and gender must urgently be addressed in order to achieve EFA. Improved governance, higher national spending and increased international support to basic education are keys to reaching the most disadvantaged.

### **OSLO DECLARATION**

#### **"ACTING TOGETHER"**

1. We, Ministers, leading officials of multilateral and bilateral agencies, senior representatives of civil society and private sector organisations, gathered at the invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO and of the Minister of Environment and International Development of Norway, in Oslo from 16 to 17 December, for the Eighth Education for All (EFA) High-Level Group Meeting. We are deeply grateful for the warm hospitality offered by the Norwegian government.

2. This Eighth High-Level Group meeting takes place in the context of a global economic slowdown spurred

by a financial crisis unprecedented since the 1930s. It will be imperative to protect and insulate the world's poorest children, youth and adults from the worst effects of the crisis, as they carry the least responsibility for these events. The crisis should not serve as justification for any reduction in national spending and international aid to education. Instead, steadfast support for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the EFA and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is more vital than it was before the crisis.

#### **Reaffirming the centrality of education for development**

3. In this context, we reaffirm that education is a fundamental human right, to be respected at all times. It is one of the most effective tools for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth and recovery, reducing poverty, hunger and child labour, improving health, incomes and livelihoods, for promoting peace, democracy and environmental awareness. Education empowers individuals with the knowledge, values and skills they need to make choices and shape their future. Universal access to quality basic education and better learning outcomes are the drivers to achieve the internationally

*Continue on page 14*

**Continued from page 13**

agreed development goals, including the MDGs. As reaffirmed at the September 2008 UN High-Level Event on the MDGs, sustained investment in education and health is essential for reaching the MDGs.

4. We therefore agree to better plan and coordinate global advocacy efforts for all six EFA goals. We task the EFA convening agencies and interested EFA partners to further develop a joint EFA advocacy plan of action and present its first results to the next meeting. We shall, for that purpose, welcome and work with all existing initiatives, including the broad alliance of the "Class of 2015".

5. Educational strategies need to be integrated within broader anti-poverty and national development policy frameworks. The fact that child malnutrition and ill health remain a major obstacle to educational access and achievement for the poor highlights the intricate connections among education, health and social conditions. It underscores the need for stronger inter-sectoral policy coordination.

6. We accordingly request the EFA convening agencies, to engage with relevant UN agencies such as the WHO and the WFP as well as interested EFA partners in order to better coordinate education, health and nutrition initiatives in integrated programmes, targeting young children in poor communities in countries far from EFA. We commit to support such initiatives that should be country driven and backed by development partners.

**Making equity a priority in education: why governance matters**

7. Since the World Education Forum in 2000, many countries, including some of the poorest, have taken bold and courageous actions, often supported by the development partners, to improve access to education. However, on present trends, 29 million children will still have no access to primary schooling in 2015. We subscribe to the conclusion of the International Conference on Education

held in November 2008 in Geneva that inclusive quality education is fundamental to achieving human, social and economic development. Policies must therefore focus on reducing disparities based on gender, wealth, rural/urban and other differences. To achieve greater equity, national governments and their partners must expand early childhood care and basic education; ensure affordable learning opportunities at post-primary levels and address adult literacy needs.

8. Gender disparities are still deeply entrenched in many countries and affect both boys and girls. They are often magnified by poverty and other forms of social disadvantage. Girls and women are disproportionately affected by malnutrition, health hazards and by gender-based violence including sexual harassment. Girls are especially disadvantaged in countries experiencing conditions of fragility and during emergencies. Special measures are required to reach them and to promote an enabling learning environment.

9. Improving learning outcomes for all students is an imperative. To this end interested national governments must be supported to develop indicators and contextualized instruments and standards of quality for assessment and monitoring and invest in quality inputs and processes.

10. Governance reforms in favour of decentralization and the introduction of greater choice and competition in educational provision must carry appropriate safeguards against possible inequitable effects on the poor and excluded.

11. Capacity concerns are acute in countries experiencing conditions of fragility. In such circumstances the development of individual, organizational and institutional capacities is of utmost importance for strengthening weak government structures and state legitimacy. Development partners should use more flexible, timely and innovative mechanisms such as the proposed EFA-Fast Track Initiative (FTI) "Education Transition Fund" to respond

to high-risk situations, in line with country-led approaches.

12. We call upon EFA partners to support national commitments to educational equity, both with regards to access, attendance and to learning processes and outcomes. This should include the development of well-defined and gender-sensitive targets to measure equity, as well as indicators and monitoring tools to this end. Joint knowledge and data sharing on equity in education should be supported by the EFA partners, led by the convening agencies, to help ensure capacity building and improved policy development, planning and implementation.

**Increasing financing and targeting the most in need**

13. In a majority of countries, progress towards EFA since 2000 has benefited from a commendable effort to increase both national public funding and aid to basic education. However the recent stagnation in aid commitments and the cut in the share of national income devoted to education in some countries are causes for serious concern. The global economic slowdown could aggravate this trend. If development partners were simply to fulfil their previous pledges, it would lead to a sharp increase in financing for developing countries, which would in turn mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis.

14. National governments and development partners must increase financing of policies and programmes that promote the inclusion of all children and improve learning outcomes for all. To this end, fee-free primary schooling should be implemented as a basic right. In line with the Accra Agenda for Action's call for aid effectiveness, national governments and development partners should allocate educational funding where it is most needed and ensure that it is more efficiently and effectively used. Development aid should be targeted at countries furthest from the EFA goals and in particular to those experiencing conditions of fragility or receiving limited external support. Furthermore, funds should reach the most

*Continue on page 15*

## Government Receives CARICOM Guidelines on Early Childhood Development Services

On the 11th February 2009 the Ministry of Education received from CARICOM the regional guidelines for developing policy, regulation and standards in early childhood development services.

The guidelines in booklet form, is the first of its kind created by the CARICOM Secretariat, and seek to align and standardize early childhood development services throughout the community.

During a brief presentation ceremony CARICOM's representative Patricia

McPherson said the guidelines were developed in Antigua in 2006, and is an attempt to bring harmonization in the early childhood sector in the region.

With the free movement of people being promoted, the guidelines are critical so as to prevent a compromise in education she noted, adding that the guidelines, which will be used to shape the national policy in individual countries, are not an imposition, but were compiled to help build capacity. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Eden Weston accepted the booklets on behalf of the government.

In his remarks, he said the guidelines come at an opportune time when early childhood is being mainstreamed, and minimum standards as they relate to early childhood education are being implemented.

Chief Education Officer Jacintha Pringle told representatives of the

World Bank, UNESCO, and UNICEF present at the handing over ceremony that compiling the guidelines was a major undertaking, but noted that with this latest addition to the process of advancing early childhood development, "quality" all the way will be the watch word.

The publication is supported by UNICEF and UNESCO, and includes management and administrative requirements for early childhood, developing the policy framework, and elements of the policy framework among other topics.

CARICOM's Director of Human Development Myrna Bernard says future guidelines to be developed by the CARICOM Secretariat will address key areas of implementation of national standards, governance and investment in the development of ECD services.

### *Continued from page 14*

disadvantaged groups within these countries. We accordingly take note of the December 2008 Statement from the High-Level Event on Financing Education in Conflict Affected Areas held in Doha, Qatar, calling for priority to be placed on providing and protecting education in these circumstances. To target those in greatest need, existing financing mechanisms and other innovative approaches should be tapped drawing on civil society and the private sector.

15. We urgently call on national governments to allocate adequate domestic resources (4-6% of GNP / 15-20% of public expenditure) to education, on development partners to increase official development assistance in accordance with the Doha declaration and on all EFA partners to prioritise investment in basic education within a balanced approach to the whole sector. We further urge the development partners to deliver on past commitments and ensure the timely flow of adequate resources through various bilateral and multilateral aid channels including FTI Trust Funds, through which they assist the most EFA challenged countries. In countries making

progress towards EFA we call on governments and the development partners to better target those still excluded from education.

### **Recruiting, training, deploying and retaining teachers**

16. Without adequate numbers of professionally qualified teachers, including female teachers, who are deployed in the right places, well-remunerated and motivated, adequately supported, and proficient in local languages, we cannot offer the world's children quality education.

17. Globally 18 million new primary teachers will be needed in the next 7 years just to achieve universal primary education. National governments must strike a balance between the short-term need to get teachers into classrooms and the longer term goal of building up a high-quality professional teaching force.

Addressing the teacher gap requires country driven long-term strategies and firm commitments. Policies must encompass attention to professional development opportunities, adequate employment and teaching conditions and greater participation of teachers in decision-making via social dialogue.

18. We urge national governments, with appropriate technical support to map out their short and medium-term needs for recruitment, deployment, training and retention of teachers. We call upon development partners to support national efforts in this area, working with governments, regional bodies, civil society and teacher organizations, to identify and meet the needs specified, and provide predictable support to cover the associated costs.

19. *We endorse the creation of an international Task Force on 'Teachers for EFA'; a voluntary global alliance of EFA partners working together to address the 'teacher gap'. We invite the Task Force to further develop the proposals contained in its Action Plan, based on the principles of national ownership, and to report to the next High-Level Group meeting. To that end, it shall explore the possibilities for South-South and North-South-South cooperation in relation to teachers, including the E-9 Bali declaration. Moreover, the Task Force shall focus particularly on those countries furthest away from reaching the EFA goals and those with the largest teacher gaps. We agree to set up a secretariat, supported by willing partners, to assist the Task Force.*

*Continued from page 6*

referral system between primary health care and specialist care to encourage appropriate and timely care and to reduce unnecessary queuing for specialist care at the hospital.

Again, by establishing a common electronic health record system, this would greatly enhance medical records storage, health care quality and continuity of care across multi-disciplinary healthcare providers.

This would also assist continuous monitoring of epidemiological changes in disease patterns and healthcare outcomes.

Further, this would allow for better planning for future healthcare resources and facilities.

In essence, we contend that where there is a single hospital in a small community such as ours, that hospital must work cooperatively with other health institutions through forward and backward linkages, to bring the best in knowledge and care to the people.

And we hope to do this by bringing all hands on board; the doctors, the administrators, the nurses, and the ancillary staff; even as we solicit the goodwill of the population in this quest. Ladies and gentlemen, the **Mount St. John's Medical Centre** will be guided by certain **core values of dedication, integrity, excellence, health and vitality, wisdom and success.**

Our caregivers are deeply conscious that these values can only be achieved by unwavering devotion to the needs of our population, by nurturing trust and respect, by enhancing teamwork and communication, by ensuring equal opportunity and by transparency and professionalism.

**The core functions** will be the delivery of quality secondary and tertiary services optimally configured to provide equitable access to efficient, high quality and cost effective care in an affordable and efficient manner, and to provide a training platform for all of its health professionals.

It will not be lost on you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that upon the

commissioning of the hospital a number of benefits, real and potential will flow. A number of these readily come to mind.

The brain drain from Antigua, especially of some of our well trained and qualified nurses is likely to subside.

The reason usually given for such migration is the issue of pay. However, research suggests that **working conditions** is a more important factor than pay; and in many cases, is an even more critical reason for leaving. We are therefore of the view that the very excellent conditions I anticipate at MSJMC may well dampen the desire to leave Antigua for less welcoming climes.

It is reasonable to assume that we will, over time, see an improvement in the level of service with the acquisition of more diagnostic equipment and the assistance of IT applications in everyday caring procedures.

A number of highly trained Antiguan professionals living and practising abroad, as well as other accomplished Caribbean nationals, have expressed interest joining Mt. St. John's

Indeed MSJMC has already been able to recruit a number of nationals who have demonstrated excellence in their practices in hospitals in the USA and in the UK.

These additions to the existing professional teams, together with modern diagnostic and treatment tools and modalities, will reduce the need for Antiguan and Barbudans to seek medical treatment abroad.

With the introduction of effective and efficient forward and backward linkages between the levels of patient care, primary, secondary, and tertiary, it is anticipated that the overall resources (much of which are housed at the hospital level) will be better managed and utilised.

In this way, the new MSJMC will be used to its fullest as it seeks to support community units, nationwide.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that we have come this far at this time, as I have

said before, is due to a fine collaborative effort by all stakeholders. But pulling all of this together, providing timely advice where needed, and keeping track of commitments and deadlines and critical paths to completion, have been members of the MSJMC Board of Directors under the Chairmanship of Mr. Cottrille George. Accordingly I would like to thank Mr. George and all the members of the Board for their leadership, hard work and dedication.

I would also like to thank the Staff of the American Hospital Management Company (AHMC) and their local administrative staff who have maintained their professionalism and commitment to service during these changing times.

Of equal importance, I would like to express my appreciation to the Doctors, Administrators, Nurses, Allied Professionals and other staff at Holberton who have demonstrated their goodwill in fostering a harmonious atmosphere even in the face of understandable apprehension that inevitably accompanies change. It would be an injustice if the contribution of Minister of Health John Maginley in bringing this project to fruition was not placed on public record.

This Minister deserves much credit for the successful completion of Mt. St. John's Medical Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In concluding, I challenge the Board and the professional staff of Mt. St. John's Medical Centre to add to their obligations a responsibility for public education programmes promoting healthy lifestyles and vigilance in protecting their health.

With this, and with the efficacy of care that this institution will deliver, local demand will be contained, and aimed at reducing the need local demand, and Mt. St. John Medical Centre can then become the hospital of the Eastern Caribbean countries.

I pray God's blessings on all who work and are given care here.

May God Bless our nation.



## Draft organizational structure for Ministry of Education examined at retreat

A two-day management retreat was convened on 19<sup>th</sup> January at the Hospitality and Training Institute to review the draft organizational structure of the Ministry of Education.

Facilitated by management consultant Dr. Aubrey Armstrong, the retreat brought together senior educators and planners who discussed the proposed structure, which was drafted to position the Ministry to deal with the rapidly changing global environment.

Among the objectives of the retreat was to:

- Re-examine the changing environment in which the Ministry operates
- Review and finalize the agreed organization structure, and ensure key participants
- Understand their respective roles and
- Agree on the finalized structure.

Dr. Armstrong said a proper structure is crucial if the Ministry of Education is

to meet the demands of things taking place in the environment, adding that there are new areas being emphasized within the document, one being information technology.

“We are discussing how information and communication technology could be used to enhance education in the region. Also, we’re looking at how students can make maximum use of the new tool, and so we’ll be expanding the structure with respect to the information and communication technology and knowledge management elements.”

Another critical element Dr. Aubrey Armstrong pointed out was support and guidance to students, outlining that “we have to remove the class basis of the educational system, and make sure it is not about where we are from, but rather where we are going.”

“Students who are being stressed at home need to be given support, so the counselling and mentoring aspects of the support system must be examined carefully.”

The next phase of the organizational structure is its implementation, which Education Minister Bertrand Joseph said should be ready sometime in 2010.

“I believe we will see a recommendation this year. What will happen is it will have to go to Cabinet for ratification once we have made a

decision on it. I expect it will go to Cabinet during the course of this year so it can be incorporated into the budgetary proposals for 2010. I suspect we will have a full implementation by 2010” he added.

Minister Joseph pointed out that the review of the organizational structure is just part of the basic education project dealing with educational services. He revealed that the new organizational structure will be a manifestation of what is happening at the local, regional and global levels, especially in the transformation of the information age.

A new unit will be created within the Ministry of Education, the knowledge management unit. The unit will incorporate technology into the planning structure of the Ministry. Education Management Information System (EMIS) and the Education Media Unit (EMU) will also be included.

Research along with testing and measurements will also be strengthened to boost the new management structure.

“One of the key elements in the delivery of educational services is the overall management structure, ensuring there is a cadre of workers within the Ministry of Education who are properly trained and strategically placed” the Minister said.

## **CARJBANA** MAY 28TH TO JUNE 1ST **BARBUDA**

### Young man arrested and charged in Australian murder

On 30 January, 2009, a 21 year resident of Potters, Sylvester Lindsey (Born 18th September 1987) was arrested and charged for the murder of Drew Joseph Gollan of Australia

which occurred in English Harbour on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009. The individual has been brought before the Court on for the homicide. A pistol has been seized which is believed was involved in the offence.

Three other persons were detained in relation to the murder. Investigation is continuing and we will further advise if more charges are to be laid.

The success of the investigation was due to a team effort between the Police and Public. The Homicide and Intelligence Units of the Royal Police

Force of Antigua and Barbuda with the assistance of Crime Stoppers, the media and the general public pulled together to help solve the case.

Numerous tips were received from members of the public to assist the police. It demonstrates that the level of cooperation between the police and public is increasing.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, thanked all who assisted in solving this crime.

# Presentation to the Antigua and Barbuda National Association (London)

8<sup>th</sup> February 2009

H. E Dr Carl B Roberts  
High Commissioner

A very good evening to one and all on this special day of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Greetings from my wife and family and from the general citizens of our beloved homeland. I have been asked to address you this evening on several areas of concern by members of this association and I trust you will also allow me to raise some concerns that I have.

Let me, in addressing a few of your concerns in the time allowed to me; provide some information about the situation in Antigua and Barbuda which some of you, but not all, might have been made aware of through your various channels.

The 2009 New Year brought into focus the dire state of the world's economy with devastating news bites being aired almost on a daily basis. Economies around the world are in a tail spin. Many of you will have been following the loss of jobs in the UK, the failure of several of the country's long standing business and financial institutions. The names of these failed or failing institutions, which were once viewed as solid pillars of this economy, will numb our minds and bring shudders to our bodies. This phenomenon is not limited to the UK. Similar events are happening in the USA, Japan, and many other developed countries around the world.

The situation in Antigua and Barbuda is not as dire as might have been expected, but that is no consolation. It could just be an issue of timing. The Government has however begun a programme of strategic and tailored activities to prevent the worst effects from impacting our economy. Some hotels have been forced to reduce costs either by introducing reduced hours working for staff or even laying off staff. Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Harold Lovell is reported as saying that the

United Progressive Party and the Ministry of Social Transformation, under the Hon. Hilson Baptiste would be putting a number of initiatives in place to ensure that food is kept on the tables of the unemployed.

Among these initiatives would be a programme where individuals who had lost their jobs within the tourism industry would receive a stipend among other provisions. Although the funds were not allocated in the 2009 budget for the Unemployment Benefit Programme, Minister of Finance Dr Errol Cort says that the \$81 million loan that was acquired to buffer the budget could be used to carry out such programmes.

The government must be complimented for its efforts to maintain the social transformation and development programmes it had in the pipe line. Chief amongst these is the continued programme of enhancing the healthcare service being provided to the citizens of the country. At the opening and dedication of the latest Health Centre at Five Island, the Prime Minister had this to say: "...My Government is committed to providing the best possible healthcare to the citizens of this country. Not only are we ensuring that we have an adequate community healthcare delivery system, but we have moved to complete the Mount St. John Medical Centre to provide healthcare of an international standard to our citizens."

The PM went on to say that "...in just under four years, [we] have taken the Mount St. John Medical Centre from an empty shell that the Antigua Labour Party Government had left and converted it into a modern facility with 185 beds that will provide full inpatient, diagnostic and physician services..." The Medical Centre is expected to be opened shortly.

The spotlight of development has not only been focused on Antigua. In Barbuda much work continues to be done. Earlier in the New Year, the Central Government of Antigua and Barbuda and Japan signed off on a historic agreement to construct a new Fisheries Complex on Barbuda to the



*His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts seated with members of the Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda National Association - London as he addresses members*

tune of US \$5 million. The project is being funded under the Japanese Grant Aid Scheme, which provides a recipient country with non-reimbursable funds to procure the facilities, equipment and services for economic and social development. MP Trevor Walker said it all with this statement; "...Barbudans are looking forward to the project, as it will benefit them all greatly; at present, they do not have any proper facility on the sister isle for fishermen to carry out their daily work..." The Barbuda road programme should have re-started and significant work has also been done on the water and electricity services.

Two years ago, the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority was established through legislation. They have been very active in supporting the concept of "One-stop" assistance. Investors from the UK and elsewhere are invited to review the website which provided details of the incentives and other benefits offered by Government to those willing to do business in our homeland. The High Commission in the UK continues to promote Antigua and Barbuda as a promising investment destination and has held discussions with several potential partners who have taken up this offer. Unfortunately a Trade and Investment Seminar which was planned for 2008 had to be postponed and is due to be held later this year.

Unfortunately many social problems accompany a downturn in an economy and governments take actions which have far reaching consequences not only locally but across the waters of the oceans. Here I refer to the repatriation of several Caribbean Nationals who, having learnt a reputation for criminal

activities, carry these acquired skills to our shores. The upsurge in violent crimes, and murder at home, is a very serious matter and a issue of great concern. The impact of the recent murders last year and this year, has been somewhat limited by the action of a re-invigorated and re-equipped Antigua and Barbuda Police Force. Having cleared off long outstanding debt to many institutions, the force is now able to call upon and benefit from the assistance of such partners as Interpol. Within a short period suspects have been caught and are now going through the legal system for each of the crimes committed this year. The new radio system and other resources are paying off.

Let me now turn my attention to the UK and the activities of the High Commission. Over the last twelve months a number of our nationals have been denied entry into this country. We ran an article in the May/June issue of our Newsletter (#127) which provided details of the new immigration guideline of the UK Government. This was thought necessary since quite recently several of our nationals have been turned back at the borders and denied entry into the United Kingdom.

The new Points Based System (PBS) is the most radical rework of the British immigration system in a long time, actually for 45 years. To quote from information provided to the High Commission, this revision "revises around 80 previous entry routes to the United Kingdom into a five-tier structure. It is also stated that "for all those using the system, the PBS is fairer and simpler to use than the routes it replaces".

The five tiers are as follows:

- Tier 1 – highly skilled workers, for example scientists and entrepreneurs;
- Tier 2 – skilled workers with a job offer, for example teachers and nurses;
- Tier 3 – low skilled workers filling specific temporary labour shortages, for example construction workers for a particular project;
- Tier 4 – students;

- Tier 5 – youth mobility and temporary workers, for example musicians coming to play in a concert.

Tiers 1, 2 and 5 are now open and have been since 2008. Tier 3 is currently suspended and tier 4 is being implemented in a phased manner. [T1 – 29/02/08, T2 – 27/11/08, T5 – 27/11/08]. There is ongoing consultation with education institutions on T4 and we are awaiting further policy information on this.

Under this new arrangement citizens of Antigua and Barbuda who desire to visit the UK are classified into one of several categories. This does not apply to those of you who have applied for and being granted citizenship in this country when it was offered some time ago. The categories are:-

1. General visitor
2. Child visitor
3. Business and special visitor
4. Private Medical treatment
5. Studying in the UK
6. Working in the UK
7. Transiting the UK

As Antigua and Barbuda is a non-visa country, our citizens can visit the UK for a period of up to six months. They however must provide clear indication of several details relevant to their stay in the country. Apart from the information required to complete the landing card, each visitor must clearly show that he/she will return to their homeland, that there is enough money to cover their stay in the country and a clear unambiguous address where they will be staying.

To come to the United Kingdom as a general visitor you must be able to show that you:

- only want to visit the United Kingdom for up to six months;
- plan to leave the United Kingdom at the end of your visit;
- have enough money to support and accommodate yourself without working, help from public funds or you will be

supported and accommodated by relatives or friends;

- do not intend to charge members of the public for services provided or goods received;
- do not intend to study; and
- can meet the cost of the return or onward journey.
- do not intend to carry out business, sport or entertainer visitor activities;
- do not intend to marry or form a civil partnership or give notice of marriage or civil partnership;
- do not intend to receive private medical treatment during your visit , and
- are not in-transit to a country outside the Common Travel Area.

If you want to do business during your visit you also have to show that you:

- normally live and work abroad and you have no plans to base yourself in the United Kingdom; and
- do not plan to work, produce goods or provide services in the United Kingdom.

Let me now touch on something which may affect those of you who have been resident here for sometime without taking up the citizenship offer. You may be considered a resident. A resident is anyone who has been given permission to stay in the United Kingdom without time limit. A returning resident is one who left the United Kingdom and wants to come back to live here again. This could be accommodated under the following conditions:-

- If you were settled in the United Kingdom when you last left, you have not been away for more than two years, and are returning to live here permanently, you may return as a resident unless you were given public funds to pay the costs of leaving the United Kingdom.
- If you have been away for more than two years, you may still qualify to return to live in the

Continue on page 20

United Kingdom if, for example, you have strong family ties here or have lived here most of your life.

If you have been away for more than two years, you must apply for permission to return, known as entry clearance. You should do this at the British diplomatic post in the country where you live now. The entry clearance will be in the form of a visa or entry clearance certificate. For

information about visas, see the visa services website.

I have given you much information on a wide set of issues. I have no doubt that the most prominent issue on your minds is the upcoming elections in Antigua and Barbuda. That is also the case for me. I can advise you of one crystal clear fact, that is the date of the next election has not been released by the Prime Minister as of this time of speaking. He intends to do so shortly and as soon as he does, we will all be guided by the subsequent events. I trust that the period of

campaigning leading up to the election will be free from violence and that the election process will be free and fair.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have spoken for long enough. I want to leave some time for questions so that where possible answers can be provided. I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone here present, God's Blessing and safety in their homes. I wish the best for our beloved nation as it rides out this crisis and pray for continued good fortune on all its citizens and residences.

## Archaeologists unearth remains of the 'Great House' at Betty's Hope

The 'great house' at Antigua's first and largest sugar plantation, Betty's Hope, continues to be unearthed, as archaeologists from the United States of America, over the past month, have been excavating some of the building's derelict foundations.

The project's director, Dr Georgia Fox from the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Chico, along with 16 students, have been excavating the building's foundation, which, according to Dr Reginald Murphy, head of Antigua's Archaeological and Historical Society, are at least 60 feet long and 30 feet wide.

Governor Christopher Keynell, whose widow inherited the estate upon his death in 1663, founded Betty's Hope Plantation in 1651. His widow, however, was forced to flee Antigua during the French occupation in 1666.

When the British reoccupied Antigua, Parliament annulled all land claims of those who had fled or been disloyal to the Crown prior to the French occupation and in 1674 Betty's Hope was granted to the Codrington family, then residing in Barbados.

The estate remained under the ownership of the Codrington family until 1944, when the family sold Betty's Hope to Antigua Sugar Estates Ltd. While no one is sure as to what actually happened to the 'great house', there is talk that a fire destroyed it. Dr Murphy also said, there is talk that the house was

bulldozed during the Second World War in order to use materials for other things, such as the rectory in New Winthropes, which is made from Betty's Hope stone. Dr Murphy said the building's foundation was first discovered last year, "We went to see what was left of it because we were always led to believe that it was bulldozed. Last year we found that the cobbled-stone courtyard was more or less still there, and we went further in the bush and found a part with a section of the wall. We realized there was something there," Dr Murphy said. "This year they are expanding inwards into the house to see what's left of the actual house." According to the archaeologists, it seems like the whole ground floor is still there.

So far an array of artefacts have also been found at the site, including musket balls, pieces of ceramic, buttons made from bone and shell, a thimble, hardware, broken glass and bottles, animal bone, and children's toys. "We found the interior floor of a room, but we don't know what the rooms' function was, because it's underneath the dirt and we won't be able to start excavating it until next year," Dr Fox said. Speaking of one of their most exciting finds, he said, "It's all floor tiles, red clay tiles."

The archaeological team, which has been there since June 21, wraps up this week and will resume excavations next year. Dr Fox pointed out there are a number of reasons for excavating the site, the first being they know so little about it. Secondly, the plantation which operated continuously for almost 300 years, pre-and post-emancipation, has a large paper trail, "so that makes it a good case study." She added: "It was also the seat of government for two years for the British and (we're) looking at the



A team excavating the great house at Betty's Hope. The pipe protruding from the ground to your right is one of the original pipes remaining from the house

plantation from the point of view of how it operated on all different technological and economic levels, the daily lives of the people that lived here, the plantation owners and everybody in between. "The bottom line, most archaeologists are anthropologists and what we are interested in is human dynamics and the heart of it all, what were people doing in their daily lives, and also to contribute to helping understand the history," Dr Fox said.

The project director said in the future they would really like to build "a much more fully developed museum. There is much potential here, and you know in the Caribbean tourism play a very big role in the economy. Cultural tourism is definitely very popular now," Dr Fox said.

Betty's Hope is considered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site.

(Source: Museum of Antigua and Barbuda - Newsletter # 103)