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## Response to Finance Minister's Statement



**Introduction:**

Having read in the Caymanian Times Newspaper of Monday, June 1, 2020, "Turbulent Times Ahead But Cayman Keeps Hope Alive". The detailed economic challenges facing the Cayman Islands as presented by Minister of Finance, Roy McTaggart, gave me a sense of urgency and trepidation. I am at a loss to see how such a dire report can lead to any hope or optimism. The third paragraph is graphic in its pessimism:

Unemployment is proposed to rise between 11% to as high as 20%, putting up to 10,000 people out of work, about a third of them Caymanians.

The economy is forecast to contract by up to 12%.

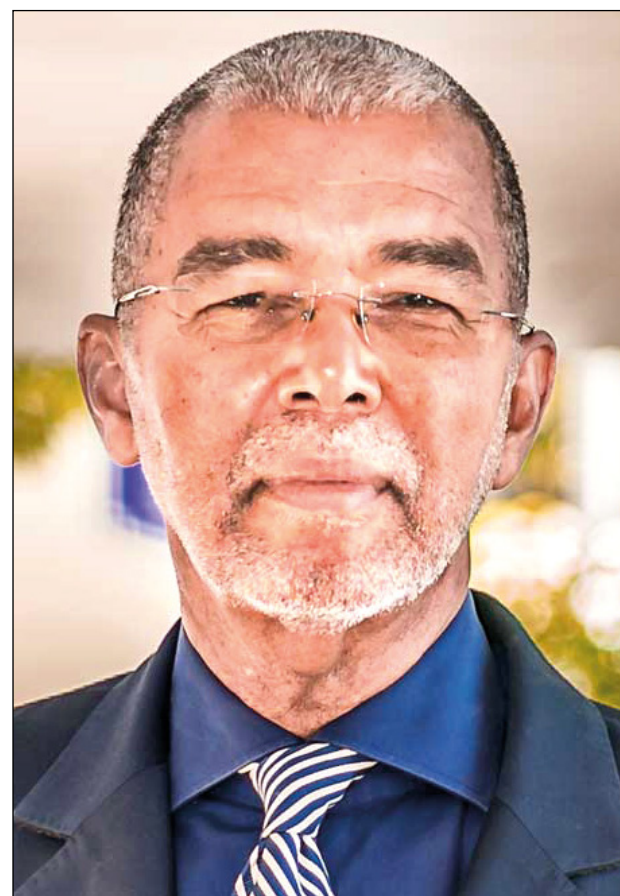
This is not good news coming from a society which pre-COVID 19 was touted as an economic success - "a model built on

world beating standards". To those who were so naïve as to not realize that we were "measuring our progress on a faulty report card" this must come as a huge surprise. We have reached a tipping point and my perennial and still unanswered question "for whom are we developing" is as relevant now as when it was first posed in September 1978.

**Economic Empowerment of Caymanians:**

In this response to the Minister's article, I propose to take stock of the major issues in the Caymanian political economy as seen through local participation, benefit and agency, the three pre-requisites for the fair distribution of growth. What the Minister of Finance article is saying, is that economic inequality which is already a problem in Caymanian society, will be further exacerbated by the economic downturn.

... Continued story on page 3



▶ J. A. (Roy) Bodden

## Beachfront bliss with Cayman Villas



None of us will be travelling overseas anytime soon, yet the time when we traditionally plan for summer vacations is upon us. With Cayman's rigorous lockdown placing most of us at home for a good part of the last few months, a staycation sounds like a very promising prospect for a much-needed change of scenery.

Cayman Villas offers gorgeous villas and condominiums all across the Cayman Islands and they are currently offering a 30 per cent discount on all properties, with further discounts possible at some properties, subject to negotiation. Two beachfront private villas, both in Little Cayman and Grand Cayman, are particularly worthy of a website view-

... Continued story on page 6

## Jamaica reopens next week

Jamaica is reopening its borders for travellers from June 15. Jamaica reopened its borders for the repatriation of nationals on June 1.

The reopening will make Jamaica the largest Caribbean destination to reopen its borders so far. "I congratulate Jamaica on the reopening of our borders on June 15 to all international travellers," said Adam Stewart, deputy chairman of Sandals Resorts International.

Jamaica's newly developed COVID-19-focused health and safety protocols are over 100 pages. "From transportation, restaurants, villa operators,



▶ Jamaica's Eclipse at Half Moon is ready for guests

... Continued story on page 8

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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Passport & Corporate Services Office Opening for Collections

The Passport and Corporate Services office will open 2 days a week, Wednesday and Thursdays starting 10 June from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

The opening will facilitate persons needing collecting passports that have returned from HMPO but will not be accepting new applications at this time.

The Passport & Corporate Services Office will contact persons whose passport has returned and is ready for collection.

Persons should show up for collection on their last name letter days and should wear a face covering or mask and adhere to the social distancing measures.



While this opening is for collection, the office will continue to offer services for medical emergencies as necessary.

Contact [passport&corporate@gov.ky](mailto:passport&corporate@gov.ky) or 943-7678 with questions or queries.

## NGOs, Private Agencies Asked to Register Their Efforts with Red Cross

The Cayman Islands Government is urging non-governmental organisations (NGOs), churches, service and civic clubs to further support the vulnerable by registering with the national disaster response mechanism to harmonise current humanitarian relief arrangements.

Officials from the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) say that by signing up to the NGO COVID-19 initiative, charities will help to strengthen the impact of services they provide, and avoid duplicating efforts during the pandemic and hurricane season.

Under the provisions of the CI National Hazard Management Plan, the Cayman Islands Red Cross (CIRC) is the Chair of the Voluntary Agency Responders (VARS) Emergency Support Team. This support team forms part of the NEOC and is activated to coordinate humanitarian aid efforts during disasters says Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) Director Danielle Coleman.

To facilitate this process churches, civic clubs and charities are being asked to fill out the online registration form at <https://forms.gle/nQ8vAtik-jE7Ztf176>. Once this is completed, the organisation will appear in the initiative's knowledge bank.


As well as documenting which NGOs are providing services, the knowledge bank will identify what type/s and levels of support each provides. The sign up process will help the NEOC identify any gaps in getting support and assistance to those most in need.

NGO COVID-19 is a significant part of what is intended to be a nationwide need-based deployment- referrals-and-oversight network.

Talking about the timing of the launch, Ms Coleman says: "We're seeing incredible examples around Cayman of generosity, compassion and a desire to help those who are less fortunate with food distribution, offers of accommodation and financial assistance. Caymankind at its finest."

"However, in order to ensure these efforts are coordinated, we are asking all agencies from service and civic clubs to soup kitchens to register with CIRC, in their capacity under the NEOC as team leaders with the Voluntary Agency Responders Emergency Support Team. We know that such collaboration will go a long way to ensure that our humanitarian response is strategic and effective."

The NGO COVID-19 registration form can also be found on CIRC's and HCMCI's Facebook pages.



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### Tuesday, 9 June

- 12:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 1:30 AM Different Shades- Reagan's Honey Farm
- 1:35 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
- 2:00 AM Spotlight-National Trust Mission House
- 2:10 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 2:40 AM First Baptist Church Service
- 3:55 AM DIFFERENT SHADES - SCRATCH GOURMET DESSERTS
- 4:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 5:30 AM Music Videos
- 6:00 AM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 6:45 AM Hi Tide
- 7:15 AM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 7:50 AM Music Videos- Sean Hennings
- 8:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 9:30 AM Child Month-Teen Panel
- 10:10 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 10:30 AM Child Month-Talent Expo
- 11:20 AM I Cannot Thee Forget
- 11:45 AM Covid-19 Interview with Danielle Coleman
- 12:00 PM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 1:30 PM Different Shades- Reagan's Honey Farm
- 1:35 PM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
- 2:00 PM Spotlight-National Trust Mission House
- 2:10 PM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 2:40 PM First Baptist Church Service
- 3:55 PM DIFFERENT SHADES - SCRATCH GOURMET DESSERTS
- 4:00 PM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 5:30 PM John Gray High School School Leaving Ceremony
- 7:30 PM I Cannot Thee Forget
- 8:00 PM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 9:30 PM Church Service
- 10:00 PM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 10:45 PM Hi Tide Music
- 11:15 PM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 11:50 PM Music Videos- Sean Hennings

### Wednesday, 10 June

- 12:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 1:30 AM Different Shades- Reagan's Honey Farm
- 1:35 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
- 2:00 AM Spotlight-National Trust Mission House
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- 9:30 PM Church Service
- 10:00 PM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 10:45 PM Hi Tide
- 11:15 PM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 11:50 PM Music Videos- Sean Hennings


### Thursday, 11 June

- 12:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 1:30 AM Different Shades- Reagan's Honey Farm
- 1:35 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
- 2:00 AM Spotlight-National Trust Mission House
- 2:10 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 2:40 AM First Baptist Church Service
- 3:55 AM DIFFERENT SHADES - SCRATCH GOURMET DESSERTS
- 4:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 5:40 AM Married to the sea Nat Gallery
- 6:50 AM Wreck of Ten Sails
- 7:30 AM Bible Time
- 8:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 9:30 AM Child Month-Teen Panel
- 10:10 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
- 10:30 AM Child Month-Talent Expo
- 11:20 AM I Cannot Thee Forget
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- 8:00 PM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 9:30 PM Church Service
- 10:00 PM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 10:45 PM Hi Tide
- 11:15 PM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 11:50 PM Music Videos- Sean Hennings

### Friday, 12 June

- 12:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 1:30 AM Different Shades- Reagan's Honey Farm
- 1:35 AM Her Story is Our History for Cinegy
- 2:00 AM Spotlight-National Trust Mission House
- 2:10 AM Down to Earth with the Premier
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- 6:00 AM Cayman Arts Festival- A Retrospective
- 6:45 AM Hi Tide
- 7:15 AM Church Service
- 7:40 AM I Cannot Thee Forget
- 8:00 AM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
- 9:30 AM Friday Focus
- 10:30 AM Married to the sea Nat Gallery
- 11:40 AM Covid-19 Interview with Danielle Coleman
- 11:55 AM National Trust Mission House
- 12:00 PM Latest Coronavirus Press Conference update Re-air
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- 7:55 PM DIFFERENT SHADES - REAGAN'S HONEY FARM
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CIGTV GUIDE FOR WEEK OF JUNE 9-12



## Caymanian Times

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 or [info@caymaniantimes.ky](mailto:info@caymaniantimes.ky)  
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# Response to Finance Minister's Statement

... Continued story from page 1

Economists and social scientists are concerned with inequality in three ways. The first question asked by these pundits is: What determines inequality among individuals within a single nation? Are there certain regularities which make inequality behave in a particular way as societies develop? Does inequality increase as the economy expands? Writing in 1835, the French social scientist and politician Alexis de Tocqueville made this observation:

"If one looks closely at what has happened to the world since the beginning of society, it is easy to see that equality is prevalent only at the historical poles of civilization. Savages are equal because they are equally weak and ignorant. Very civilized men can all become equal because they all have at their disposal similar means of attaining comfort and happiness. Between the two extremes is found in equality of condition, wealth, knowledge - the power of the few, the poverty, ignorance and weakness of all the rest" (Memoir on Pauperism 1835).

Two special themes give centrality to inequality in the Caymanian context: labour competition from outside sources and the volatility of shocks and crises in areas like tourism and international finance.

In a rather oblique reference to the above two factors, the Minister of Finance paints a rather unflattering picture:

"Mr. McTaggart summarized that "as a result of the projected decline, the Caymanian unemployment rate is projected to jump to 19.7% (or 2,981 persons) and a total of 9,582 jobs or (12.3%) would be displaced".

As with his previous statement, this last reference should also shock us into the realization that the Cayman Islands are indeed in for "a new normal". As a matter of fact, I would go so far as to say, that the society is engulfed in a whirling vortex over which it has no control. That this is so, has its basis in what is termed here "the commodification of labour". Labour is the one product that rank and file Caymanians had - but due to competition from economic migrants from countries such as Jamaica, India, the Philippines, the Latin American countries, the United Kingdom and literally the rest of the world. The Caymanian worker is literally engaged in a "dog eat dog" world of stiff and unrelenting competition.

In recent decades, there has been 'a seismic shift' in the structure of the Caymanian economy with construction taking its place alongside tourism and international finance as "the third pillar of the Caymanian economy". With tourism and banking already monopolized by work permit holders and with Caymanians unable to compete with cheap immigrant labourers, it is doubtful as to the benefits which accrue to Caymanians in construction. In spite of their pristine asseverations about giving preference to Caymanian labour, the stories circulated in the media and on radio talk shows speak of a systemic discrimination of Caymanians in all areas of employment. And when one considers that the "sale" of work permits is more obviously beneficial to the government coffers than the actual employment of the locals - then one is forced to give some credence to the tales of discrimination and put down of locals.

By the Minister's own recognition, unemployment rates will skyrocket. The current pandemic raises the question of how much more critical the situation will become. In a society in which the lines between the "haves and have nots" are becoming more obvious by the month, one wonders what will happen now that we have reached the tipping point. The number of displaced foreign cheap labourers who have had to be repatriated to their original jurisdictions, should serve to inform us that we have entered in to an untenable and unsustainable situation.

Absent a robust government response, desperate Caymanian workers abound and in the coming months, companies already leveraging the crisis to hold on to cheap labour, may well find that it is a buyer's market, further pressuring the labour force into Caymanian redundancies.

And as if this were not alarming enough, the proposals contained under the rubric "Hope on the Horizon" is a but little more than "a pipe dream" with the exception of the first proposal. Four emerging trends are of particular concern in promoting a new economic empowerment at this time:

(i) The hospitality industry (both cruise and stay over tourism) has taken

a hit at this time as a result of COVID-19 and is dead.

(ii) There is emerging a growing market for more locally produced crops and beef

(iii) Vulnerability of the traditional imports and supplies which are subject to volatility in international trends

(iv) Vulnerability to climate change and geo-political factors which may determine export policy and the availability of certain products in the Caymanian market.

## Credit on Standby:

The Minister of Finance has intimated that there is available in the short term "a CI\$500 million standby line of credit which the government would be able to draw down if needed". I caution against exercising this option without due care and attention. What the Minister has not calculated is the overall weakened position this draw down would place on the jurisdiction. This is especially so when one adds to this the outstanding service note the jurisdiction is already carrying, including that on the Boeing 737 Maxi aircraft which, even were there tourists to ferry - is unable to do so.

There is an urgent need to come to grips with the current debt situation as well as to set in place infrastructure to economically empower the Caymanian middle and lower classes, especially single mothers. This I posit cannot be done by reliance (as proposed) on a construction industry whose umbilical cord is too closely tied to international finance and capital over which there is little to no local control.

## What Can Be Done:

The political directorate although fast becoming 'lame duck' should use this crisis as an inflection point on which to generate some semblance of an internally driven economy. Such a future, it is posited here lies with empowering the working class through micro-finance industry and cottage capitalism. There are a number of international sources which can be tapped into for funding, technical support and advice. Two which immediately come to mind are the Grameen Bank and Accion International.

## Additionally, government can provide

(i) access to arable land and capital for development with the proviso that recipients subscribe to an agreed business plan

(ii) government should build infrastructure to address the low levels of literacy, education and skill among the working class and to improve public education generally

(iii) Develop special programmes in female empowerment, especially for female headed households

(iv) Create a proper Development Bank where loans are made on the basis of proper and convincing business plans and on the merits of the applications, rather than to sycophants of the political establishment

(v) Implement a proper support system for borrowers similar that established by the Grameen Bank which has a 98% loan repayment record.

Challenging times call for creative leadership and one thing appears certain as a result of this current pandemic - we are entering a "new normal" and nothing will be the same as it was before the pandemic. If the Cayman Islands are to come out of this crisis with some hope of a stable society then there must be a paradigm shift - a shift which brings hope to those who drive the economy by enabling the wheels of industry and entrepreneurship to continue turning - and a shift which gives encouragement and upliftment to the working class by allowing them a stake in the post COVID-19 economy.

## The Commodification of Labour and its Consequences:

The Finance Minister has been rather delicate in his expression of the crises facing Caymanian society but anyone reading the opening section of his article should be jolted into the stark reality that is our future. In an earlier section reference was made to "the commodification of labour", According to Arjun Appadurai, an anthropologist specializing in globalization a commodity is "anything intended for exchange" or, "any object of economic value". Taken at its face value, then commodification is the transformation of goods, services, ideas and people into objects of trade, including labour. The celebrated Barbadian author, George Lamming has informed us that "it is labour in all its facets which has been the most democratizing force in West Indian societies". Lamming, was of course referring to the many trade

unions, political parties and political leaders born of labour agitation after the Second World War.

I realized the importance of labour in a developing Caymanian society. That is why I took such great pains in formulating a modern and comprehensive Labour Law in 2004. This law was remarkable in its prescience, fair to the employer and employee and made great provision for the protection of workers both Caymanian and expatriate. So modern and comprehensive was this legislation, that the then Complaints Commissioner, Nicola William, prior to her departure in a statement recorded on the front page of the Compass remarked that "it was a pity that the Law was not allowed to come into effect".

What the Minister of Finance gingerly expressed in his opening section fails to inform his readers that the shrinkage in the economy is going to bring unrest between Caymanians and expatriates (work permit holders) in the labour force. In a sense, stiff competition already exists but the situation brought on by the worldwide pandemic will so aggravate the situation that civil unrest will be the norm by 2022.

A society accustomed to such a high standard among certain sectors cannot easily take depreciation where there are already complaints about inequality, discrimination and unfair hiring practices. The wound is bound to burst into an open sore. The Minister of Finance for obvious reasons stops short of admitting that there will be restiveness. He writes in the cagey language of the es-



► Roy Bodden

tablishment, but I write in the sobering tones of a cultural historian, seasoned in the campaign for fairness and equality in Caymanian society as one who calls "a spade, a spade".

History teaches us with an unmistakable emphasis that the authorities, especially our colonial overlords are also aware of the possibility of disruption and upheaval. Could it be that the drive by Governor, Martyn Roper to establish a Cayman Regiment under the pretext of assistance in time of hurricanes be an anticipation of events as I have suggested? And so, my readers, I leave you with a conundrum; or is it a simple paradox? If George Lamming's prescient statement on the importance of labour in Caribbean societies democratic development is true... might not the coming crisis present an opportunity for Caymanians to attain greater self-determination? Or, will we choose to remain a complaining people mired in neo-colonialism and left to wonder as to what happened to our once promising economic future? 🌐

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# Reopening Borders Sooner than Later

As nations around the world begin to implement their COVID-19 suppression 'exit strategy', the Cayman Islands is also gearing up and may be opening up its borders sooner than initially anticipated.

On Tuesday, Cayman Islands Premier, the Honourable Alden McLaughlin revealed that due to low infection rate of the virus, the Islands could be re-opening their borders later this year, as opposed to doing so in 2021, as previously planned.

The news comes as the British Territory's closest neighbor to the South aims to open its borders by 15th June.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness has made it clear that his country needs to restart its economy as a matter of urgency.

However, the Cayman Islands' Premier said he is staying on the virus elimination track and would not follow other destinations in the region who were planning to open in the coming weeks.

"We will be watching some of the 'experiments' taking place in other Caribbean Countries to help with our decision making in the coming weeks," noted Mr. McLaughlin.

He added that the Government was currently looking at what re-opening borders would look like in practice and pointed out that they were not quite there yet in terms of deciding on procedures with regard to testing, social distancing and other concerns.

"We are going to see the end of this virus in relatively short order but we are not there yet," he declared, adding that it would be a mistake to alter our course at this point.

Currently there are 151 cases of COVID-19 in the Cayman Islands, with 75 persons having recovered and only one death.

So far, most of the cases on the Islands have been asymptomatic. However, the recent occurrence of a child testing positive and exhibiting symptoms was described as "sobering" by the Islands' Chief Medical Officer, Dr. John Lee.

Recently, Caymanians, Cayman Islands residents and work-permit holders were allowed to return to the Cayman Islands.

All arriving passengers are required to isolate in a government facility for 14 days on arrival.

There are currently 59 persons in the Government provided isolation



► Premier, the Honourable Alden McLaughlin

facility, whilst over 200 persons are self-isolating, according to Government officials.

Travel to the Sister Islands is currently restricted to essential personnel, despite Little Cayman having received the all clear recently and Cayman Brac being on a significantly less

rigid suppression regime than Grand Cayman.

Curfew restrictions in Grand Cayman have also been eased somewhat and some sectors of the economy are now beginning to reopen.

Flights to and from Jamaica to Grand Cayman are currently being planned. 🌐

## NO PROSECUTION AGAINST MINISTER'S WIFE ON CURFEW VIOLATION ALLEGATIONS



The RCIPS has confirmed that there is to be no prosecution against Mrs. Tiffany Seymour following a reported breach of soft curfew regulations in April.

The wife of Hon. Minister of Health Dwayne Seymour was alleged to have posted a video recording of herself in a training session with a personal trainer.

It was reported to the RCIPS on a complaint that the training session with a person outside the household was a breach of the curfew regulations at the time.

Today's announcement that the matter will not be pursued further, did not provide any additional details. 🌐

## CUC provides an update on modifications to the CORE programme

Caribbean Utilities Company, Ltd. ("CUC") is advising customers that the Ministry of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure (CPI) recently issued a policy directive for the re-allocation of 700 kilowatts ("kW") of the 1-megawatt ("MW") Consumer Owned Renewable Energy ("CORE") capacity, which had previously been allocated to the Cayman Islands Government.

To access the 700-kilowatt tranche, the Ministry stipulated the following:

- 500kW for residential consumers
- 100kW for affordable homes e.g. 2000 square feet or less
- 100kW for homes built under the NHDT programme.

Solar companies were advised by the Ministry that they must be prepared to provide solar to affordable homes and homes built under the National Housing Development Trust ("NHDT") programme at an affordable cost.

The Ministry provided the allocation in early May and within a week, residential applications received exceeded the 500kW allocation. Applications received are currently being reviewed. Of the 100kW allocated to affordable homes, space remains available and interested individuals are invited to visit the renewable segment of the CUC website at [www.cuc-cayman.com](http://www.cuc-cayman.com).

Minister of Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, Honourable Joey Hew

stated that the reallocation of 700KW back to the CORE programme for residential use is part of Government's stimulus package. "The Government is confident that this will have an immediate and direct effect across the industry, in particular to our residents, the small businesses in this sector and energy sustainability. We anticipate that this will provide local jobs in around eight to ten companies while helping to reduce our carbon footprint. We will continue work to foster the development of a sustainable energy industry in our Islands as set out in our National Energy Policy," Minister Hew said.

CUC's Vice President, Customer Services and Technology, Mr. Sacha Tibbetts says, "We are very supportive of the decision taken by the Ministry of CPI. Not only does this revive the CORE programme at a time when the economy is slowing down and in need of such a stimulus, but also I am especially pleased that a specific portion has been allocated to affordable housing and to the National Housing Development. This allocation of CORE will provide a CO2 reduction of approximately 635 tonnes per year."

The CORE programme which was revised and approved by the regulator in 2012 has been very popular with both residential and commercial customers. The programme has allowed customers to connect small scale solar systems or



wind turbines to CUC'S distribution system and to reduce their monthly energy bills by generating their own electricity while remaining connected to the CUC grid. It should be noted that the programme is subsidised by the non-CORE customers as the rate paid to CORE customers for their electricity production is higher than the cost CUC would normally incur and charge to customers for the same energy.

To date the total number of connected customers is 482 CORE with a total of approximately 6 Megawatts installed

providing a total CO2 reduction of approximately 5,432 tonnes per year.

CUC is currently going through the implementation phase of its Integrated Resource Plan which provides a general roadmap for Grand Cayman's energy generation plans for the next 30 years, subject to regulatory approval. The implementation phase of the plan will be an exciting period for CUC and electricity consumers, with a rapid increase in renewables connected to the grid which will provide cleaner energy at competitive and more stable costs. 🌐

### Cayman Islands COVID-19 Dashboard

4

Today's confirmed cases

93

Recovered\*

164

Total confirmed cases

13,947

Tested

1

Death

6,703,686

Worldwide confirmed cases | Source: Johns Hopkins, 05/06/20, 2:30pm

AS AT: 5 JUNE 2020, 3PM

\*A person who initially tested positive and who has subsequently tested negative for the COVID-19 virus in two tests done at least 24 hours apart: 14 days after their positive test, or after their symptoms have gone away, whichever is longer.

### COVID-19 in the Cayman Islands

74 active cases as of 5 June 2020

Total confirmed cases as of 31/05/2020

44%

Females

56%

Males

Total confirmed cases as of 02/06/2020

Age+

9-85

Age range of cases

As of 05/06/2020

69

Asymptomatic

2

Symptomatic

As of 05/06/2020

0

Hospitalised

71

Non-hospitalised

As of 04/06/2020

331

People in isolation\*

\*The total number of people isolated in government facilities and in their homes.

# RESILIENCE CAYMAN LAUNCHES YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Resilience Cayman has launched a Youth Internship Program connecting Caymanian students seeking work experience with businesses in need of support as the local economy reopens.

Resilience Cayman organizer Ms. Jan Gupta said the new program was aligned with Resilience Cayman's mission to build social and economic resilience in the Cayman Islands, even in the midst of crisis: "As our economy begins to reopen, we believe this program will offer meaningful work experiences for local students and help them afford their education, while also supporting businesses after the COVID-19 shutdown," she said.

Resilience Cayman is a community initiative supported by the Chamber of Commerce formed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The initiative is focused on a broad range of assistance programs with its aim to create food security, strengthen the local economy and support the self-empowerment of Cayman society.

Mr. Ray Hydes, a volunteer advisor for Resilience Cayman said, "We recognize that many companies who normally take on summer interns might not be

in a position to do so this year and saw the chance to connect those students with new opportunities. Many small and medium sized businesses would like to sponsor interns but don't have the resources to manage the intern recruitment and administration. Resilience solves that for business owners by taking on those responsibilities."

Students will be placed with local businesses or with Resilience Cayman for full-time or part-time work. Within Resilience, interns will work in teams to support its four community initiatives: Food Support, Financial Coaching, Wellness Program, and Farm Direct.

The program is open to all Caymanian students over the age of 18, from any full-time or part-time educational program, who may be facing financial hardship in continuing their education. The application deadline is June 15, 2020. Spaces are limited. All student interns will receive an educational grant of \$600 upon completing the program.

In addition, through a partnership with the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI), any current ICCI students taking part in the programme will



► Ms. Jan Gupta

be able to earn course credits for their participation. Dr. Byron Coon, President of ICCI said the program would offer valuable work experience for students while giving back to the community.

"ICCI is a student-centered institution that is committed to teaching, mentoring, and forming partnerships based on corporate social responsibility. Participation in the Resilience Cayman Youth Internship Program will allow ICCI students the opportunity to help rebuild a strong and prosperous Cayman, while

employers help mentor, develop, and foster employment skills outside of the classroom." Dr. Coon said.

The Youth Internship Program will run from July 1 to September 15 2020 and those interested in taking part are asked to complete the application form available on [www.resilience.ky](http://www.resilience.ky) under the Youth Internship Program.

Interested ICCI students should reach out to their advisor to learn more.

Local businesses interested in participating in the Youth Internship Program should register at [www.resilience.ky](http://www.resilience.ky) under the Youth Internship Program.

## About the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce

The Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce represents more than 650 businesses and associations across all industry sectors in the Cayman Islands. Its members employ over 18,000 persons or about 45-percent of the country's labour force. The Chamber supports, promotes and protects the interests of its members and the public's welfare and serves as a catalyst for positive change, connecting community, business and government. 🌐

# ESO Annual Economic Performance Surveys Underway

The business surveys consisting of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the Balance of Payments (BOP) surveys started on 25 May 2020 and end on 17 July 2020.

The surveys are conducted by the Economics and Statistics Office (ESO) and seek to collect information necessary to measure the economic performance of the Cayman Islands as a whole and all the individual sectors. The surveys cover all entities that produce goods and services in the Cayman Islands.

The previous SNA survey conducted in 2019 showed that Cayman's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - a measure of the total value of goods and services produced locally - amounted to CI\$4.35 billion in 2018 after adjusting for price increases. This represents an economic growth of 4.1%.



The last BOP survey estimated that the Islands received a total of \$3.28 billion from the export of goods and services (mainly tourism, business and financial services) to non-residents, against a total payment of \$2.04 billion.

The surveys this year aim to collect comparative information for 2019, to assist the government and the private sector in their policy-making and plan-

ning, as well as providing the global financial community with updated economic data on the country.

Approximately 4,600 forms have been emailed or mailed to local businesses, government entities and non-profit organisations. The SNA survey is designed in accordance with the internationally accepted standards issued by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The

BOP survey is based on guidelines prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

All SNA and BOP survey returns are confidential as mandated by the Statistics Law and are exempt from the Freedom of Information (FOI) Law. The returns will be used exclusively for ESO's statistical purpose. ESO officials emphasise that the survey results will be published in aggregate form only, with individual information remaining confidential.

All survey respondents are required to return a completed form by the survey deadline 17 July 2020. ESO staff is available to assist in completing the forms. Survey forms and other information can be found on the website [www.eso.ky](http://www.eso.ky) or may be requested by contacting 525-8565 (SNA) or 325-6652 (BOP). 🌐

# DV Intervention Training Provides Insights to Frontline Staff

On average, a domestic violence survivor sustains 33 assaults before seeking help. This and other statistics were part of the latest Domestic Violence Intervention Training Programme (DVITP) held on 25-29 May 2020.

The Family Resource Centre's (FRC) five-day interactive workshop was delivered remotely on the Zoom meetings platform. Twenty-three attendees took part including six Public Safety Communication Centre (911) personnel. Other participants included staff from Hope Academy, Kindness Awareness and Compassion Foundation, Cayman Islands First Baptist Church, Delta Air Lines, Purple Dragon School of Martial Arts, Phoenix Legal, Cayman Islands Red Cross, Health Services Authority's Medical Department and Specialist Services,

Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS), YMCA and the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre.

The training took the form of agency presentations, group discussions and videos. FRC facilitators were supported by representatives from RCIPS, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Needs Assessment Unit, Department of Community Rehabilitation, Department of Children and Family Services and the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre.

Topics covered encompassed the legal definition of domestic violence, tackling commonly held misconceptions about domestic violence, the different types of such abuse and the effects on survivors and their families. The workshop also discussed offenders and educated participants that domestic violence is about power and control, not anger.

As well as using Zoom for the first time to deliver the training, FRC used Google Shared Drives to disseminate its downloadable resource materials.

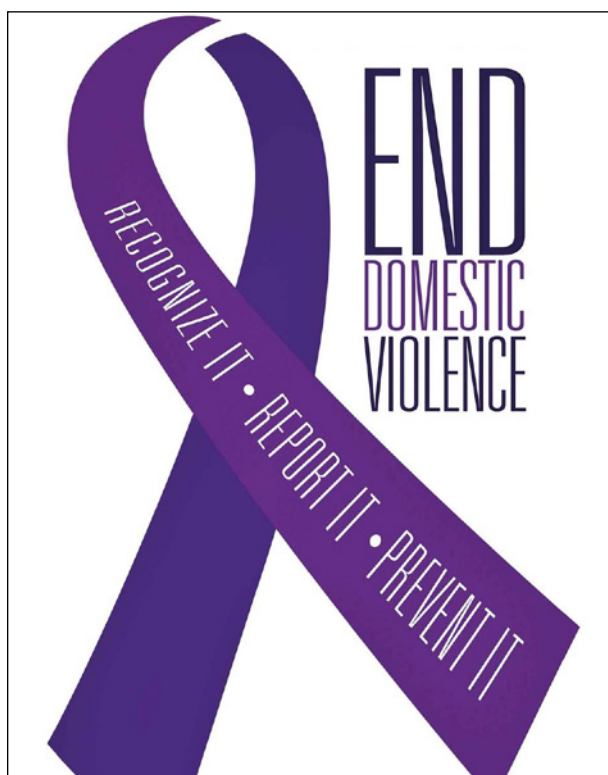
"We've been facilitating DVITP three times a year for the past decade," said FRC's Programme Coordinator Charmaine Miller.

"This is the first time it's been delivered virtually, and we are extremely pleased with participants' uptake and engagement over the course of the on-line training. Moving forward, we plan to continue offering at least one online training a year. This will allow for more participants in Grand Cayman to easily access our training, as well

as those in Cayman Brac and in Little Cayman."

"The DVITP educates front-line professionals (e.g. police officers, educators and human services professionals). It also gives participants a comprehensive overview of how several agencies provide complementary services to support survivors and perpetrators."

DVITP Trainer Mehr Lamba said: "With COVID-19 having required the shelter in place restrictions, there is increasing concern about those who live in abusive homes, such as children. It's worth noting that many agencies, like FRC which work in this field, have made adjustments to their services to meet the needs of their clients during this difficult time." 🌐



# Call for Artists Virtual Exhibition

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands (NGCI) is launching an online exhibition to spotlight the creativity of artists and members of the public who have turned to making art as a means of expression during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This exhibition seeks to provide a platform for this creativity and in doing so inspire the community as we continue to collectively grapple with the short and long-term effects of the pandemic.

As the community has come together to support one another, to give generously to those in need and make collective sacrifices to overcome this pandemic, we have had a glimpse of the true #CaymanKind character of these Islands and of the generosity and determination of the Caymanian spirit. We have also witnessed the remarkable creativity of our arts community. From family living rooms to children's bedrooms, garages to back yards, Cayman's artists have been finding innovative ways to adapt their workspaces to these new conditions and to channel their feelings through the medium of the visual arts.

By bringing these artworks together for the public, the exhibition offers both a portrait of an extraordinary moment in our history, as captured through the eyes of artists, and a chance to celebrate the life-affirming power of art and creativity in the darkest of moments.

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands' (NGCI) new online exhibition series will showcase the work of local artists via NGCI's website: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.ky/whats-on/exhibitions/>. The inaugural exhibition will explore "creativity in lockdown" and has a wide degree of latitude that will allow for diverse and varied expression across a full range of creative media. Selected artwork will feature in a three-month long online exhibition via the National Gallery's website, which will be supported by a programme of Artist Talks, virtual panel discussions and Zoom events.

This exhibition is open to all residents in the Cayman Islands. Please submit one high-resolution photograph of an artwork that has been created over the past two months during the current lockdown period. A maximum of one work per artist will be considered. All submissions should be accompanied by a brief artist's statement about the prospective work.

All images and text must be provided in electronic format only and directed to the attention of the curator at [assistantcurator@nationalgallery.org.ky](mailto:assistantcurator@nationalgallery.org.ky) by Monday June 11th. Submissions must be accompanied by:



► Studio workspace image

1. A high-resolution image of the proposed work sized 1MB or above
2. Artwork information (Your name, artwork title, date, medium and a description of 100 words or less)
3. Link to your website if applicable

**The exhibition will run from June 15th until August 2020.**

The NGCI Education Department has been busy developing cross curricular lesson plans and art activities three times weekly throughout lockdown. We are currently seeking teachers and artists who are interested in helping develop these resources for families and schools, and to host virtual art classes, over the coming months, for an hourly honorarium. For more information about how to apply to become an instructor, please email: [education@nationalgallery.org.ky](mailto:education@nationalgallery.org.ky).

Our new Artist Talks series, which profiles local artists at home, will continue running until July with posts twice weekly. For information about how to participate in the new NGCI Artist Talks series please email: [collections@nationalgallery.org.ky](mailto:collections@nationalgallery.org.ky) or to view the series visit: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.ky/blog/>.

The National Gallery is working with stakeholders to explore the development of an Artist Relief Fund for artists who have lost their primary source of income. We will be sharing more details about the grant and how to apply in early June. To receive information via email

please contact: [administration@nationalgallery.org.ky](mailto:administration@nationalgallery.org.ky).

Extensive work has been carried out by the NGCI Team over the past two months to digitise the NGCI archive of exhibitions and education resources, in addition to uploading the National Gallery Art Collection onto our website with artists bios for over 100 local artists. Visit <https://www.nationalgallery.org.ky/see/> or see daily collection highlights via [@natgalcayman #ngcicollection](https://www.nationalgallery.org.ky/see/virtual-tours/).

If you missed our current *Island of Women* exhibition before lockdown, take a virtual tour of this show and support the 26 featured local artists: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.ky/see/virtual-tours/>

Finally, **thank you to everyone** who recently completed our *NGCI COVID19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creatives*. We are currently converting the data into a report that will be published via the NGCI website. Your feedback will directly impact our COVID relief programming (Business of Art) and also be shared with policy makers and funding organisations. If you'd like to receive a copy of this report via email please email [administration@nationalgallery.org.ky](mailto:administration@nationalgallery.org.ky).

## About the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

Established in 1996, the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands (NGCI) is

the country's leading visual arts museum and education centre, charged with promoting and encouraging the appreciation and practice of the visual arts in the Cayman Islands. This mission is achieved through exhibitions, education/outreach programmes, school tours, community festivals, and ongoing research projects. Holding up to six exhibitions annually at our central exhibition space, and satellite venues around Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands, the curatorial team strives to create a balance between exhibitions of quality Caymanian artwork with art from further afield. This is achieved by working with a broad cross-section of artists and ranging from site-specific work to more traditional gallery-based projects.

NGCI is at the forefront of visual arts education in the Cayman Islands hosting 25+ education and outreach programmes monthly, across all three islands. These programmes aim to capture every age group in our community from the youngest pre-schoolers to senior citizens, in addition to marginalized members of our community. They combine arts education with enriching creative experiences which foster creativity, help build self-esteem, and provide effective and invaluable explorations of culture, cultural heritage, national identity and community values. 🌐

## STAYCATION SPECIAL

# Beachfront bliss with Cayman Villas

... Continued story from page 1

ing at [www.caymanvillas.com](http://www.caymanvillas.com) and are currently available for staycations.

### Hideout at Henry's in Cayman Kai

Rent Henry's Hideout at Cayman Kai begins at US\$400 per night with a minimum stay of three nights. Located within easy walking distance of Rum Point

and all the amenities this location enjoys, Henry's Hideout offers the perfect location in which to properly "get away from it all" while enjoying the calming sea view that this property offers its guests.

The villa can sleep up to six guests, with three bedrooms (three beds) and two and a half bathrooms. It's a spacious, bright property providing a laid-back vacation that will certainly help to

dispel some of the stress of the past few months. Amenities include wifi, the use of two single kayaks and a grill/BBQ.

### Vacations blossom on Little Cayman

Once flights return back to normal to our Sister Islands, we think there will be something of an exodus to these quiet, tranquil islands. Who on Grand Cayman is not looking forward to spending some time there in a hammock, drinking a cocktail with a good book in hand? If you rent a property at Blossom Village Cottage on Little Cayman, you are assured of some serious R&R. Blossom Village Cottage can sleep up to six guests with three bedrooms (four beds) and three bathrooms. Rent begins at US\$225 a night and there is a minimum stay of three nights. Amenities include wifi and a grill/BBQ.

Blossom Village Cottage is actually a collection of three charming cottages in

a unique configuration, with one main cottage and two separate, detached bedroom cottages. You can rent just the main cottage for a romantic getaway for two or add one or both of the bedroom cottages, located on the same beachfront property, to create the perfect vacation for a family, with kitchen, den, and dining area, and the total privacy of detached bedrooms to retreat to at the end of the day. People who rent the main cottage can be assured that the bedroom cottages are never rented out separately to other guests.

The Cottage is within easy walking distance of the airport, the general store, and the Hungry Iguana Restaurant and is packed full of Little Cayman charm, creating a beachfront vacation to remember.

If readers are interested in booking the properties please contact Cayman Villas at [reservations@caymanvillas.com](mailto:reservations@caymanvillas.com) 🌐

Caymanian Times

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# Gas Prices



Location	Gas Station	Regular	Premium	Diesel
East End	Eastern Star Rubis (Woody's)	3.94	—	3.90
NorthSide	Jack's Esso (Jack's II)	4.25	4.64	4.08
Bodden Town	Lorna's Rubis	3.91	4.34	3.93
Bodden Town	Mostyns Esso	3.99 ↓	4.34	3.76 ↓
Savannah	Savannah Rubis	3.99	4.29	4.00
Red Bay	Barcam	4.12	4.50	4.10
Red Bay	On The Run ( Brown's Red Bay)	3.92 ↓	4.28	3.80 ↓
George Town	Peanuts	3.99	4.34	4.35
George Town	Jose's Escape	3.99	4.34	3.95
George Town	Esso Tigermart Shedden Rd. (H&B 11)	3.92	4.32	3.99
George Town	Eastern Avenue Rubis	3.99	4.29	4.05
George Town	Walkers Rd. Rubis	3.99	4.31	4.03
George Town	On The Run (Mike's Walkers Rd.)	3.92	4.32	3.95 ↓
George Town	On The Run ( Brown's Industrial Park)	3.92	4.27	3.76 ↓
George Town	On The Run (Mike's 7 Mile)	3.87	4.37	3.60
West Bay Rd.	H & B Esso (H&B 1 Seven Mile)	3.92	4.32	3.99
West Bay Rd.	7 Mile Rubis (AA 7 Mile)	3.99	4.29	3.63
West Bay	Hell Esso	3.97	4.37	3.70 ↓
West Bay	Esso 4 Way Stop (Four Winds)	3.92	4.32	3.81
George Town	Scotts Landing	—	4.39	4.18

<b>Lowest Prices</b>	Grand Cayman	<b>3.87</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Highest Prices</b>	Grand Cayman	<b>4.25</b>	<b>4.64</b>	<b>4.35</b>

Cayman Brac	West End	—	3.99	4.45
Cayman Brac	Tib Mart	—	3.99	—
Little Cayman	Village Square	—	4.92 ↓	6.05
George Town	Refuel	3.77	3.93	3.49

## 2nd Canadian Repatriation Flight Scheduled

Residents who are waiting for the next Canadian Repatriation Flight had their prayers answered. The next flight is scheduled for July 13th, 2020. The flight is pet-friendly, and able to transport Canadians and Permanent Residents.

Also, Caymanians wanting to return to Cayman are encouraged to catch this flight. For reservations, contact Nicole Poirer at nikolepoirer@yahoo.com



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for more information

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

# Jamaica reopens next week

... Continued story from page 1

tour providers and of course all sizes of hotels and resorts, it's a world-class document that will guide safety for all in the hospitality sector," Stewart said.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said while not all major air carriers have announced their plans, Southwest Air-

lines just said it would be relaunching some routes to Montego Bay, Jamaica's tourism hub, beginning July 1.

And Delta Air Lines has officially revealed plans to relaunch daily flights from Atlanta to Montego Bay this month. The move means resorts can now begin to reopen, like the iconic Half Moon.

"We are continuing our liaison with the Government of Jamaica to ensure we are painstakingly diligent in the phased opening of our property," said Guy Stuart, Chairman of Half Moon.

Just before the pandemic, Half Moon had debuted its highly-anticipated new Eclipse at Half Moon resort. Bartlett recently suggested Jamaica could receive

another two million visitors through the end of the year.

More importantly, it's a boost for the hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans who are employed in the sector.

That would be "somewhere around 50 percent of last year, if we can have a summer start, between June and August," he said.

## Antigua airport back in use

Antigua and Barbuda has reopened its international airport amid stringent health protocols to prevent any reoccurrence of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

"With the reopening of the Antigua and Barbuda economy, international travel is crucial. But the safety of our valuable employees and members of the travelling public is foremost. The measures we have put in place are intended to keep everyone safe as they transit our facilities," said Euletta Francis, the chief executive officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority.

The health protocols that cover the diverse range of operations at the VC Bird International Airport are in full effect to coincide with the opening of the island's borders.

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority is restricting traffic through the terminal to travellers and airport



► Antigua airport is one of the first in the Caribbean to reopen

staff and they are subject to the agreed protocols, which include all passengers being required to wear masks during the arrival and departure process.

All arriving passengers are asked to complete a health declaration form following which Port Health authorities will administer health and screening checks and all airport staff who must interface with the travelling public must wear personal protection equipment.

## St Lucia introduces strict protocols

St Lucia will soon reopen its economy have had only 18 cases of coronavirus cases, with no deaths. All 18 cases have recovered in the population of 180,000.

Strict protocols have been put in place to protect both visitors and the local population.

Visitors will have to have a certified negative COVID-19 certificate to travel, and masks will be compulsory while on the plane and in the airports and hotels.

All hotel guests will have their temperatures taken at mealtimes, while staff will have theirs tested at the beginning and end of every shift.

Buffet areas will have sneeze guards and cutlery and glassware will be covered.

Social distancing and regular hand washing will also be in operation, and there is currently a curfew in the country from 9pm to 5am.

Authorised taxis are only to be used if they have been booked by the hotel with personal protection equipment, sanitation and social distancing and cashless transaction protocols in place.



► St Lucia will test diners

Only hotels who have a COVID-19 certificate of operations will be allowed to open this month and will have a nurse's station and quarantine facilities on site.

There will be limited contact check-in and check in out at reception and limited guest activities and attractions.

Hotel pools will be disinfected at the higher end of the recommended disinfection spectrum and sunbeds must be placed to ensure a minimum of six feet distance.

## Bahamas prepares extensive measures

The Bahamas is planning to reopen for tourism on July 1, the country's Ministry of Tourism and Aviation announced.

The country is reopening under comprehensive health and safety protocols. The program covers everything from entry and departure via airports and seaports to "extensive" health and safety protocols aimed at mitigating risks "for all visitors and residents alike."

"Our top priority has and will always be our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors" said Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation Director General Joy Jibrilu. "We must remember that we are living in a new normal in the wake of COVID-19 and a lot is going to change across



► Bahamas relies heavily on American tourists

the tourism sector. We are putting an even greater emphasis on making sure The Bahamas is safe and clean for everyone and look forward to once again providing travellers with the tropical experience our islands are known for."

The reopening will come in several phases.

## Dominica records two new cases

Dominican authorities have placed two cruise ship workers in quarantine after they tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit in a radio broadcast said that the two workers were among 37 nationals who had returned there last month.

"Health authorities have acted swiftly to isolate two Dominica cruise ship workers who tested positive after returning here on board a repatriation vessel on May 27," Skerrit said.



► Dominicans who tested positive are being quarantined in Portsmouth

The 37 Dominicans who had disembarked the ship in Portsmouth, north of here, were placed in mandatory quarantine for 14 days.

## Trinidad has problem with illegal trade

A Trinidadian businessman believes that Trinidad and Tobago has an unwelcome trading reputation for handling knockoff items and trafficking illegal goods.

Managing Director of Bastion Market Intelligence Ltd in Port-of Spain, Roger Montero, believes that if the problems of illicit trade are addressed, then this country can get an improved ranking in the next Global Illicit Trade Environment Index. Montero noted that illicit trade is two-fold. He said the most tangible includes the trafficking of narcotics, humans, weapons, cigarettes, alcohol, counterfeit cash and wildlife.

The intangible part, he said, is being carried out virtually as cyber-attacks, where criminal elements hack into your computer or mobile systems and

hold victims to ransom. This involves the use of malware, spyware and password hacking.

"It is becoming more and more pervasive," Montero said. The index, produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit and Commissioned by the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade was last published in 2018, and ranked T&T as 75th out of 84 countries.

"Distributors are concerned with making money and are not helping to increase awareness on illicitly traded goods – and that's what they need to do. You will find products from Trinidad in other markets which were smuggled in as contraband, and even shipped back to Trinidad for resale," he added.



► Trinidad has a problem with counterfeit goods

## Grenada gets \$350m investor

Grenada will soon get a \$350 million injection for its tourism industry from the billionaire Egyptian businessman Naguib Onsi Sawiris.

Joyau des Caraibes (JDC), the company which recently completed the 5-star Silver Sands Resort, has announced its intention to invest heavily in the hospitality sector.

Spice Land said that the sale of its surplus development land at the Mount Cinnamon Resort to JDC is to build another first-class hotel and other related facilities.

The release said that British businessman Peter de Savary, having created the successful Mount Cinnamon Resort Hotel which is highly rated internationally and provides exceptional exposure for Grenada overseas, will continue his involvement with the resort which employs about 100 people. De Savary will now focus on a project in St Mark in creating a 5-star eco spa resort at Tufton Hall plantation in the mountains above Victoria.

De Savary has in the past 13 years, brought investment into the country worth millions of dollars and maintained his commitment to Grenada throughout



► Grenada's beautiful Silver Sands hotel will attract rich clients

the recession. "He has both economically and philanthropically been sensitive in his contributions to the country. He will continue to enjoy Grenada and play a positive role towards the ongoing success of the country's future," the release assured.

Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell announced the project without providing details. He said: "We are also buoyed by the fact that in the midst of this crisis, investor confidence remains high. The recent acquisition of Port Louis and Mount Cinnamon, with plans to add up to 500 new hotel rooms, in an investment worth more than US\$350 million, speaks volumes for the recovery potential of our economy."



## GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS

## Trudeau admits Canada has race issues

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to do more to end anti-black racism in Canada after days of massive street protests in US and Canadian cities against police brutality.

Trudeau admitted racism is not a uniquely American problem and more must be done in Canada to address systemic inequalities that have long plagued black and Indigenous communities.

"We need to be better in Canada. Even though we've made strides forward in the fight against racism and discrimination, racism still exists in Canada," he said. "To young black Canadians, I hear you when you say you are anxious and angry."

He said his government has funded black community groups, supported anti-racism programming and bolstered the collection of racial data at Statistics Canada to fight against discrimination, but he promised to do more.

Protests have erupted in major North American cities in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.

Floyd, 46, died last Monday after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on his neck for nearly nine minutes. His death was caught on video and swiftly went viral around the world.

All four responding officers were fired. The officer who pinned Floyd to



► Canada has its own racial issues

the ground, Derek Chauvin, has been charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh called the video of George Floyd's death "chilling" and "painful" and called on Canadians to channel the anger they feel over his death into action against injustice here in Canada.

Singh said Canadian police need more "de-escalation" training so routine police stops don't turn deadly for racialized Canadians.

Singh started his political career in provincial politics and led a fight against the police policy of random street stops of minorities, known as 'carding'.

"We need to tackle the injustice in the criminal justice system — the over-policing of black bodies and black lives," he said. 🌐

## Venezuelans must pay for excessive gas use

Venezuelans awoke to new gasoline prices on Monday — and the realisation that for the first time in decades they will have to pay close to market rates to fill up their tanks frequently when they were used to receiving it for virtually free.

The revolutionary socialist government unveiled its pricing regime over the weekend, risking the ire of people who are already suffering terrible hardships, and who for years have taken free gas for granted in one of the most oil-rich nations on earth.

In the past, fuel price rises have triggered outrage and protests, most notably during the infamous "Caracazo" riots of 1989 in which hundreds died. The new system comes as Venezuela suffers acute gas shortages.

Although it sits on some of the largest oil reserves in the world, its refineries are dilapidated due to chronic mismanagement. It is struggling to import chemicals because of US sanctions and has lost its capacity to turn its domestic heavy crude into gasoline.

The last of five oil tankers carrying petrol from Iran reached Venezuela last weekend. Those supplies will help the country for a few weeks, and on Monday Tehran said it was "ready to send more ships" if Caracas asks.

The US has urged other countries not to co-operate with the trade. Un-



► Venezuelan gas stations cannot cope with demand

der the price regime, Venezuelan motorists will still get some gas almost for free. They will be allowed 120 litres a month — enough to fill an average car twice — for 5,000 bolivares (\$0.02) a litre, meaning it will cost \$1.20 to fill a car.

Motorcyclists will be allowed 60 litres a month. However, anyone who wants more will have to buy it from one of 200 designated petrol stations and pay 50 US cents per litre, only slightly cheaper than in the US and many countries in Latin America. They will be able to pay in dollars, an indication of how the US currency has permeated most aspects of Venezuelan life. Furthermore, to get their heavily subsidised initial quota, people will need a valid "Fatherland Card", a voluntary carnet introduced by President Nicolás Maduro in 2017. Many government opponents refuse to register for the card, saying the Maduro regime uses it to exercise totalitarian control. 🌐

## Honduras gets bigger loan from IMF

Honduras is going to get a huge financial package from the International Monetary Fund.

It has increased overall financing access for Honduras to about \$531 million, immediately releasing \$233 million, more than five times the amount initially approved.

Increasing the access under the Stand-By Arrangement and the Arrangement under the Standby Credit Facility will help cover financing needs to help the impoverished nation respond to the impact of the novel coronavirus.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and external spill overs are expected to hit Honduras hard, and the augmentation of access will support the authorities' response to mitigate the impact," the fund said in a statement.



► Hondurans are in desperate need of help

It added that these changes "will help Honduras meet urgent balance of payments needs stemming from the pandemic, including increased health care and social spending". Honduras has confirmed 5,202 cases of the virus and 212 related deaths. 🌐

## Black UK protesters accuse police

Organisers of anti-racism protests in the UK have accused the police of unfairly targeting black people during the lockdown and called for further demonstrations this week.

Protests took place in London, Cardiff, Manchester and Nottingham on Saturday and Sunday against the killing last week of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minnesota, which has led to widespread unrest across the US.

As well as showing solidarity with demonstrators in the US, Britons have expressed anger and frustration at the increased use of stop and search during the lockdown in areas with large black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) populations.

BAME people in England were 54 per cent more likely to be fined under coronavirus rules than white people.

British demonstrations were called spontaneously by young black people who are not affiliated with any organisations. They said they wanted to shine



► Black protesters in the UK feel victimised by the police

a spotlight on the impact of institutional racism in the UK.

During the protests, the rallying cry that "the UK is not innocent" was accompanied by Black Lives Matter banners.

A police source said a single incident such as video circulating on social media of alleged police heavy-handedness could be the spark for trouble and described the atmosphere as tinder dry: "I worry about the effect over here of what's going on in the US. One incident, and it could kick off." 🌐

## Cuba finally lifts ban on overseas funds

The Cuban government does not allow citizens who emigrate to vote or invest on the island, but it will now let them open accounts on the island's banks in US dollars.

The measure is an attempt to attract much needed foreign currency into the country when the coronavirus pandemic has shut down tourism and plunged the economy into a new low. And a little-known exception included in the US embargo tied to lawful travel to Cuba might allow it, although the answer is not straightforward.

A government resolution published in the island's Official Gazette last week allows "natural persons" to open dollar accounts at various banks.

The resolution repeals a similar one published in October last year that only referred to "natural persons residing in the country." The expands the possibility of opening accounts in foreign currency to non-residents.

The resolution does not clarify whether non-Cuban citizens who do not live on the island would also have that same opportunity, but neither does it exclude them.



► Cubans will soon benefit from overseas remittances

The accounts are linked to cards that can be used at dollar stores since October, but so far, they only sell home appliances. This might change soon since the new resolution also leaves open the possibility for other government stores to sell in dollars.

The dollar accounts can also be used to import home appliances, auto parts and hardware from abroad through state companies.

The accounts can receive money in various foreign currencies, but the government imposes a 10 percent tax if US dollars are deposited in cash.

The new regulation caters to Cuban emigres who want to help their families on the island. 🌐

## Philippines returns to work en mass

Filipinos in their millions returned to work in the Philippines capital Manila on Monday, after one of the world's strictest and longest coronavirus lockdowns was eased to help resuscitate an economy battered by the closure.

Public transport such as trains and shuttle buses could operate in Manila but on a limited scale, forcing commuters to wait in long queues for hours, and leaving hundreds of workers stranded.

"I have to go back to work," said Steven John Cabusao, who walked several kilometres on his first day of work after being confined to his home for 11 weeks.

Cabusao, 24, who works as a maintenance planner at an aviation firm, said his need to earn a living outweighed his fear of the coronavirus. "The fear of contracting the virus will always be there."

With the third highest number of coronavirus cases and second highest official death toll in Southeast Asia, the Philippines also allowed the reopening of more businesses, and people can



► Manila's roads were heaving again this week

now leave home without government permits.

Manila's measures were among the world's toughest, on par with those of the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus outbreak first emerged, and stricter than curbs at the peak of the contagion in Italy and in Spain, bringing the economy to a sudden halt.

In easing the measures, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte sought to walk the fine line between protecting the country's 107 million people from COVID-19 while reviving the economy facing its biggest contraction in decades.

The Philippines has recorded a total 18,086 infections recorded, of which 957 led to deaths. 🌐

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Some ledger entries
- 7 Sonar sound
- 11 Broad street
- 12 Inking
- 13 Kid's bike parts
- 15 Electrician, at times
- 16 Vast expanses
- 18 Sandwich type
- 21 Don't budge
- 22 Paging device
- 24 Feedbag bit
- 25 Failure
- 26 Old auto
- 27 Chattered
- 29 Embellish richly
- 30 Check mate?
- 31 Suffers
- 32 Sensational
- 34 100 Hill positions
- 40 Steel ingredient
- 41 Like some wallpaper
- 42 Window piece
- 43 Gate tender

DOWN

- 1 Apply ointment
- 2 Longoria of TV
- 3 Dramatist Jonson
- 4 Sort of
- 5 North African capital
- 6 Blacken
- 7 Marie Curie's husband
- 8 Writer Tarbell
- 9 Tennis need
- 10 Neon or helium
- 14 Stitched
- 16 Flag features
- 17 Bother
- 19 Spring month
- 20 Facial treatments
- 21 Soak up
- 22 Unopened rose
- 23 Fishing pole
- 25 First performance
- 28 Louisiana school
- 29 Defeater of the Midianites
- 31 Usher's spot
- 33 Game callers
- 34 Tentative taste
- 35 History segment
- 36 Persona — grata
- 37 Museum focus
- 38 Black
- 39 Crafty

BEACH	MARIE
EAGLE	UPEND
DROOL	FENCE
CLEF	TAN
DJOKOVIC	
YORE	ENLIST
EVADE	SIDLE
RELIVE	CLUE
NOTAKERS	
WAG	KALE
ALIBI	IDAHO
DIGIN	COLOR
STING	ENTER

Yesterday's answer

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3		8			
	1	6		2		5	4	
	7						8	
7								9
	8						6	
6								5
	4						2	
	3	2		8		4	1	
			2		9			

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/10

Answer to previous puzzle

2	8	4	3	1	7	9	5	6
3	6	9	5	8	4	1	2	7
5	1	7	9	6	2	8	3	4
8	4	3	1	2	5	6	7	9
1	2	5	6	7	9	4	8	3
7	9	6	8	4	3	5	1	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	6	1
4	5	1	2	3	6	7	9	8
6	3	8	7	9	1	2	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

Word Search

- Austin
- Garda
- Michigan
- Baikal
- Geneva
- Ontario
- Balaton
- Great Bear
- Placid
- Chad
- Huron
- Superior
- Como
- Lugano
- Tahoe
- Erie
- Maggiore
- Titicaca
- Eyre
- Maracaibo
- Volta

G	E	O	N	T	A	R	I	O	N	T	I	L	G	G
V	O	N	W	M	M	E	Y	A	R	E	P	Y	T	G
C	H	A	I	N	A	T	R	V	Y	L	I	I	N	R
N	A	G	A	O	R	G	L	R	A	O	T	R	O	E
G	T	U	L	R	A	U	G	C	F	I	V	R	E	A
L	M	L	F	U	C	W	I	C	C	O	G	L	T	
D	A	H	C	H	A	D	C	A	O	I	A	D	O	B
N	D	A	E	D	I	A	C	R	R	R	U	T	M	E
O	T	H	A	N	B	A	V	E	D	A	E	A	I	A
T	L	C	T	I	O	N	P	A	C	E	V	H	C	R
A	T	Y	V	T	B	U	L	V	Y	E	N	N	H	O
L	D	S	S	S	S	C	E	Y	N	D	C	H	I	L
A	O	H	C	U	F	Y	O	E	E	C	V	B	G	H
B	A	W	C	A	R	F	G	M	B	A	I	K	A	L
S	P	R	O	E	G	V	F	V	O	L	T	A	N	H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.

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TIMES

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

SOOO... WHAT'S WITH THE BOOK, CURTIS?

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PLEASE TELL ME CURTIS ISN'T MY REAL BROTHER.

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee

THAT LUKE CAGE IS QUITE A GUY!

SO ARE YOU, TIGER.

BUT - WOULD YOU MIND DROPPING ME OFF AT STREET LEVEL -

-SO I CAN HAIL A CAB?

SORRY, HONEY! I FORGOT THAT WEB-SWINGING MAKES YOU AIRSICK.

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

WHY WOULD I EVER VISIT ROY IN PRISON? HE DOESN'T DESERVE THAT CHANCE. HE DOESN'T DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTROL THE CONVERSATION.

MARCIULIANO + MANLEY 3-12

HE DOESN'T DESERVE ANYTHING!

BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FOR HIM. IT WOULD BE FOR YOU.

AND I'M THINKING OF ME! THERE IS NO "US" WHEN IT COMES TO ROY. THERE IS JUST ME. AND I HAVE TO PROTECT MYSELF.

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