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# BARNACLE

**NEWS**

VOL. 34 NO. 03 - SEPTEMBER 2024 Tel: (473) 435-0981/5685 Email: barnacle@spiceisle.com Web: www.thebarnaclenews.com

## RESPONDING TO HURRICANE BERYL 20 YEARS AFTER IVAN WHAT DID WE LEARN?

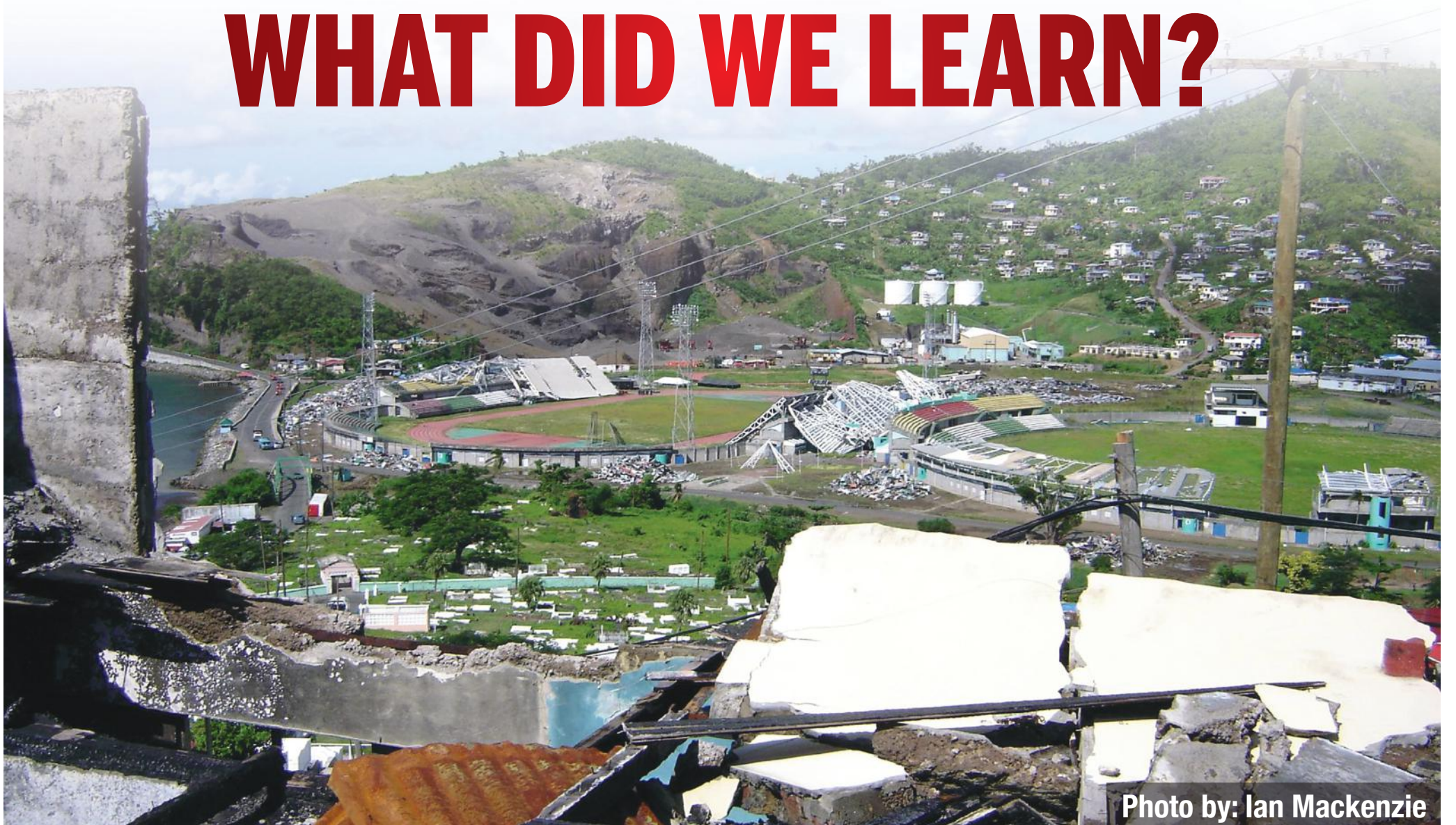
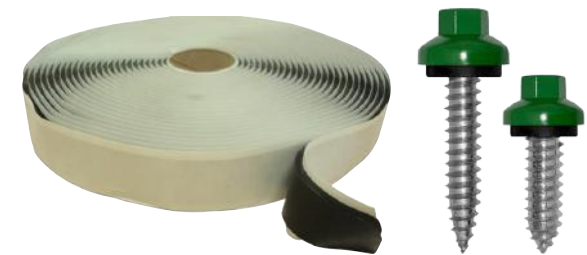


Photo by: Ian Mackenzie

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS BEGINS HERE!

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# INTERVIEW WITH DR. TERENCE WALTERS

## NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY “LESSONS FROM IVAN”

Its 20 years since the passage of Hurricane Ivan, which devastated Grenada in September 2004 and the Barnacle spoke with Dr. Terence Walters, Director of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) about the lessons from Ivan that help with Grenada's response to Hurricane Beryl which impacted northern Grenada and sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

**Barnacle:** In 2004, we lived through Hurricane Ivan. One year later we experienced Hurricane Emily. What were some of the lessons we learnt from those two experiences that informed and strengthened our response to Hurricane Beryl in 2024.

**Dr. Walters:** And the first thing is the level of communication with the population, the public relations and information being provided to the population. That area was one of the priorities requiring improvement, coming out of our review of the operations during the 2004 experience, and so in 2024 we were able to have a very robust PR program before, during and after the event so that the general population was aware of what was happening, knew how to prepare. They were

also able to see in real time the evidence of a plan that would be used to keep all stakeholders abreast of developments through all stages of the event.

One of the other lessons was the establishment of a presence by the Royal Greater Police Force at key installations or in key areas, like supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, hardware stores and so on. We had to ensure those entities are protected. So after the events of 2004 with Ivan, the police presence was not there, or there appeared to have been a breakdown because the place was really devastated and we did not prepare a response for that kind of situation. This time we recognized that it was necessary for the police to be out in full force to protect these installations. The government moved early to impose a curfew and a state of emergency before the event. Both were lifted when the national security personnel felt it was safe to do so. That is another of the lessons we were able to draw on after Ivan.

**Barnacle:** You have continually tried to provide information and education to the public about preparation and mitigation methods outside of the hurricane season. How do you describe the

response of the community, given the Hurricane Beryl experience?

**Dr. Walters:** There's always work to be done, and there's always room for improvement. Off course there's more that can be done, but what we realize is that people have a lot more information, on social media and the internet. So there is generally greater attention to the warnings and people are taking it more seriously. The evidence shows that when there is information available, they are able to act accordingly. It is always important that we provide information, especially early warnings and the like, that are both timely and relevant, giving the public time to act prudently.

So we have seen people making use of the designated shelters, although we would like to see them better prepared for that by ensuring they have their necessary supplies as well, but the message is getting there. So while there has not been any scientific data we can say from observation the people are generally taking the information from NADMA more seriously than previous years.

**Barnacle:** How did the presence of the Minister of National Security and Prime Minister in the

decision making process affect your operations?

**Dr. Walters:** As you would realise, disaster management is part of national security. When a hurricane impacts our country, people are disoriented, out of their comfort zone, and so there is a need to that re-assurance. Having confidence in your decision therefore becomes critical. Your communications must be sure footed and the security of the entire nation can also be affected. So, having the Minister of National Security there at the command center, strengthens the process by being able to make decisions that are timely and far reaching. It also gives the public a level of assurance to trust the process.

**Barnacle:** Given the significant impact on Carriacou, how were you able to deal with the issue of the water separation of the islands?

**Dr. Walters:** This has always been recognized as a challenge and so from CDEMA, you know, the government does not have any private vessels except for the small coast guard vessels. There is one smaller boat on Carriacou making the transportation of people and goods between the island's a major challenge. And the cost involved is

also sometimes prohibitive, so you have to set aside resources to cover the cost of transportation between the islands.

**Barnacle:** Is there a role for private boat owners to assist with the process, as was evident after Beryl?

**Dr. Walters:** Yes we did have some private boat owners who jumped in and assisted in the circumstances and their efforts were recognized and welcomed by both government and NADMA. It really was a public-private partnership of sorts and we do have to look at that model to help service the needs whenever we can after a disaster, especially where, as in the case of Beryl all three islands are affected. So, yes, it's a partnership going forward.

**Barnacle:** That kind of assistance was also forthcoming from our Caribbean neighbors, including from Trinidad?

**Dr. Walters:** One of the things we noted is that some of the goods that came in through private people, private vessels came to families who were in need after the hurricane, so we were thankful for that, but

CONTINUES ON PAGE 07

# HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

## CREATE A GRAB AND GO BAG!



[www.disaster-fighters.org/caribbean](http://www.disaster-fighters.org/caribbean)

#WeAreOneTeam



# TERMS TO KNOW

## TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK:

Discusses weather conditions throughout the tropical North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico with emphasis on disturbed or suspicious areas which have the potential to develop into a storm in the next day or two.

## TROPICAL WAVE:

An elongated area of low pressure which develops in the tropics and moves in an east to west direction, often characterized by disturbed weather.

## TROPICAL DISTURBANCE:

An area of showers and thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

## TROPICAL STORM:

A non-frontal low pressure system usually originating in the tropics and rotating which maximum sustained counter-clockwise winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots.)

## TROPICAL STORM WATCH:

An announcement for specific areas that a tropical storm or an incipient tropical storm condition poses a possible threat to those areas generally within 36 hours.

## TROPICAL STORM WARNING:

A warning that tropical-storm conditions including possible sustained winds within the range of 39 to 73 mph are expected in a specific area in 24 hours or less.

## HURRICANE WARNING:

Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a designated area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include sustained winds of at least 74 mph (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves. Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion after the warning is issued.

## HURRICANE EYE:

The relatively calm area near the center of the storm that can last, from several minutes to over an hour, depending on the hurricane's size and speed, which ends suddenly as the winds return from the opposite direction, possibly with even greater force.

## STORM SURGE:

A dome-like rise in ocean level associated with a hurricane. The difference between this abnormal rise in sea level and the level that would occur otherwise is called the storm surge. It is highest along and to the immediate right of where the eye of a hurricane strikes land.

## ADVISORY:

A formal message usually from Meteorological Office issued every six hours and giving warning information along with details on tropical cyclone location, intensity and movement. The advisory contains a resume of all watches and warning in effect with precautions that should be taken.

## INTERMEDIATE ADVISORIES:

Advisories issued at two or three hours intervals between regularly scheduled advisories,, whenever a storm nears an area.

## SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY:

An alert issued to small boats in coastal waters for winds of 23 to 38 mph (20-33 knots.) However, when a tropical storm or hurricane threatens a coastal area, small craft are advised to remain in port or not to venture into open seas.

## PROBABILITY OF TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE CONDITIONS:

Is the probability, in percent of the storm center passing within approximately 65 miles of a designated location within specified forecast period.

# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

<b>Police</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Headquarters, Fort George</b>	<b>440 3999</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>911 or 440 2112</b>
<b>Rapid Response</b>	<b>439 1231</b>
<b>Coast Guard</b>	<b>399 or 444 1931</b>
<b>Child Abuse Protection</b>	<b>677</b>
<b>Birchgrove</b>	<b>442 7542</b>
<b>Carriacou &amp; Petite Martinique</b>	<b>443 7482</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>440 2244</b>
<b>Gouyave</b>	<b>444 8224</b>
<b>Grand Roy</b>	<b>444 8225</b>
<b>Grenville</b>	<b>442 7224</b>
<b>Hermitage</b>	<b>442 9445</b>
<b>Sauteurs</b>	<b>442 9224</b>
<b>St. David</b>	<b>444 6224</b>
<b>St. Paul's</b>	<b>440 3224</b>
<b>Union</b>	<b>442 9225</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>442 8424</b>
<b>SSU Point Salines</b>	<b>444 4999</b>

<b>Hospitals</b>	
<b>General Hospital</b>	<b>440 2051</b>
<b>Princess Alice Hospital</b>	<b>442 7251</b>
<b>Princess Royal</b>	<b>443 7400</b>
<b>Animal Rescue</b>	<b>440 4874</b>

<b>Ambulance</b>	
<b>General Hospital</b>	<b>434</b>
<b>Princess Alice</b>	<b>724</b>
<b>Princess Royal</b>	<b>774</b>

<b>Electricity</b>	
<b>Grenada Electricity (Grenlec)</b>	<b>353</b>

<b>Water</b>	
<b>National Water &amp; Sewage Authority</b>	<b>292</b>

<b>NaDMA</b>	<b>440 0838</b>
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<b>Amalgamated Security Services (Grenada) Limited</b>	<b>435 2775</b>
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# INTERVIEW WITH DR. TERENCE WALTERS

**NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR  
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
“LESSONS FROM IVAN”**

## CONTINUES FROM PAGE 04

we have to be mindful of the porous nature of our coastline. We must still be careful that some people can use those opportunities to do illegal activities by

bringing illegal items into the country. So while we are happy and grateful for all of the resources that we have received, we have to be mindful that we need to be on the lookout for the actors that may want to sometimes

use the opportunity to do some illegal activities. So again, we're still happy, we continue to be vigilant..

**Barnacle:** How do you discover recovery in

**Karakoram at the moment?** It is going well. Electricity, water, communication are being restored, supermarkets and shops are open, people are starting to open their

stores and so on, and there's medical attention, so I believe that the recovery process is progressing very well.

## STATEMENT BY THE HON. DICKON MITCHELL, PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA AND CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE OF CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF CARICOM-AFRICA DAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

**CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana** - As Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), I am pleased to acknowledge CARICOM-Africa Day, an annual occasion which underscores our commitment to building stronger ties between the Caribbean Community and the African continent.

Three years ago, at the Inaugural CARICOM-Africa Summit, Heads of State and Government moved to observe CARICOM-Africa Day annually on 7 September, to concretise our joint dedication to ever-increasing cooperation and partnership. Since then, we have worked together to deepen this special relationship founded on our ancestral bonds and common aspirations.

Our joint efforts have focused on cooperation on health, climate change mitigation and adaptation, financing for development, and reparatory justice for the crimes of the transatlantic slave trade that impacted our Regions. We

recognise that with even greater collaboration, much more can be done to address the significant challenges that remain, including on the impact of climate change.

The economic partnership between CARICOM and Africa continues to grow, as demonstrated by the hosting of the Thirty-First Annual Afreximbank Meetings and the Third AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Nassau, The Bahamas in June 2024. This marked the first time that the Annual Afreximbank Meetings have been held in the Caribbean, underscoring the significant growth of economic opportunities fueled by this valued partnership. This collaboration has begun to provide crucial financing to the Community and play a pivotal role in enhancing trade and investment between CARICOM and Africa.

The Health Development Partnership for Africa and the Caribbean (HeDPAC) is demonstrating remarkable potential and is a highlight of CARICOM-Africa

cooperation. As we continue to navigate the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and seek to build on the critical lessons learned, strengthened cooperation between CARICOM and HeDPAC will be instrumental in bolstering our Region's health capacities. It will enhance primary health care and improve pharmaceutical equity through local production of medical products, thus contributing to improved health outcomes for the people of CARICOM and Africa.

CARICOM remains committed to continued engagement and strengthened relations with Africa, including at the Ministerial level, building on the foundation laid during the 2021 CARICOM-Africa Summit. Our partnership is set to become a beacon of South-South cooperation, benefiting both our societies amid an increasingly complex and challenging global environment.

Building on the notable progress made in recent years, let us continue to work



**THE HON. DICKON MITCHELL,  
PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA**

together towards a future of even greater interregional collaboration between CARICOM and Africa.

I extend warmest regards and best wishes for increased prosperity to the People and Governments of Africa, as we

partner to fortify the fraternal ties that bind our Regions.

**Hon. Dickon Mitchell,  
Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  
Prime Minister of Grenada**

**7 September 2024**

# ARIZA CREDIT UNION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THIRTEEN STUDENTS, BRINGING TOTAL RECIPIENTS TO OVER 50

**St. George's, Grenada** - Ariza Credit Union is proud to announce the award of scholarships to thirteen deserving students at various educational levels. This latest round of scholarships raises the total number of recipients to over 50.

The scholarships were awarded in three categories: the Blue Ribbon, Secondary School, and Joseph Bain scholarships. For the past 24 years, Ariza Credit Union has offered these scholarships to support students based on both merit and financial need.

Ariza Credit Union's CEO, Mervyn Lord, expressed his commitment to education: "We are dedicated to your future and understand that achieving your full potential is closely tied to your educational opportunities. Our goal is to provide support at various stages of your educational journey."

This year, Lamai Gittens received the Blue Ribbon Scholarship, which is granted to the highest scorer in the CPEA who holds an Ariza Education Savings Plan.

The Secondary School Scholarship, valued at

\$5,000 and distributed over five years, was awarded to:

- Narajee Bowen
- Huron Stewart-McLawrence
- Abigail Alexander

The Joseph Bain Scholarship, a one-time contribution of EC\$5,000 each, was given to:

- Awanee Need
- Kendon Jeremiah
- Tracy Francis
- Merissa Farray

Additionally, children of Ariza's staff members who were successful in the CPEA exams received a one-time payment of \$250.00. This year's recipients are:

- T'Kalah Jack
- Chelsea Rogers
- Nathaniel Sylvester
- Daryl Joseph
- Neikel Johnson

Moreover, two students will soon be announced as recipients of the **Brighter Future Scholarship**, which will support their education at TAMCC.

The Board of Directors and Management of Ariza Credit Union extend their congratulations to all scholarship recipients and wish them continued success in their academic endeavours.



CEO - MERVYN LORD ADDRESSES THE GATHERING



ARIZA OFFICIALS AND CROSS-SECTION OF RECIPIENTS



PRESIDENT ALANA TWUM - BARIMAH & BLUE RIBBON AWARDEE LAMAI



ARIZA OFFICIALS AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

## TRAFFIC NOTICE: INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMP – PALMISTE MAIN ROAD

The Traffic Department of the Royal Grenada Police Force hereby notifies motorists traversing the Western Main Road, that a speed hump has been installed on Palmiste Main Road in the vicinity of New Life Organization (NEWLO).

Motorists travelling through that area are

therefore advised to exercise caution and observe all traffic signs and regulations in that area, and generally on our roads, to ensure the safety of everyone.

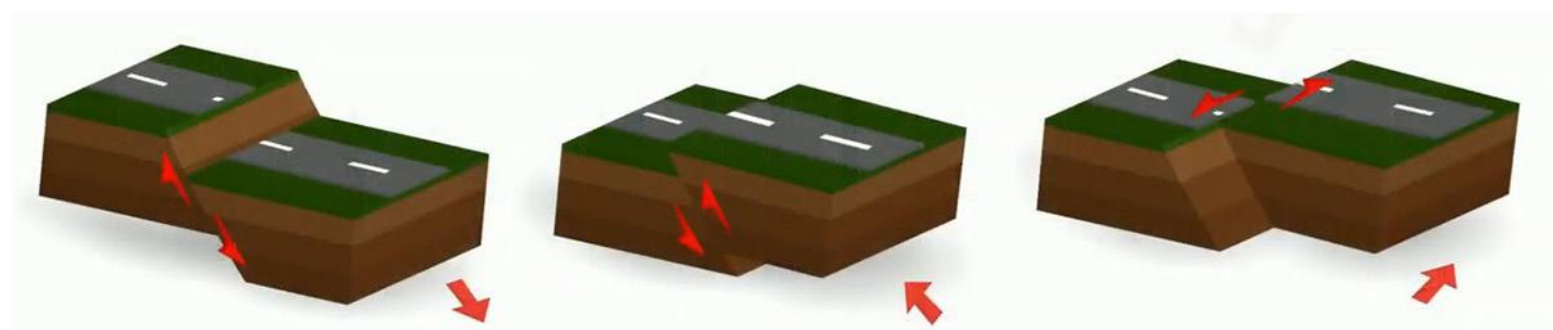
The RGPF apologises for any inconvenience which may be caused and anticipates the cooperation of everyone.



# “UNEARTH THE TREMORS: ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS INTO EARTHQUAKES”

## What to Do Before an Earthquake?

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake. Repairing deep plaster cracks in ceilings and foundations, anchoring overhead lighting fixtures to the ceiling, and following local seismic building standards, will help reduce the impact of earthquakes.



NORMAL FAULT

REVERSE FAULT

STRIKE-SLIP FAULT

## Six Ways to Plan Ahead

### 1. Check for Hazards in the Home

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit
- Brace overhead light fixtures
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves.

### 2. Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors

- Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Against an inside wall.
- Away from where glass could

- shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways.

### 3. Educate Yourself and Family Members

- Contact your local emergency management office or Red Cross chapter for more information on earthquakes.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.

### 4. Have Disaster Supplies on Hand

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Emergency food and water.
- Nonelectric can opener.
- Essential medicines.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Sturdy shoes.

### 5. Develop an Emergency Communication Plan

- In case family members are

- separated from one another during an earthquake (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.
- Ask an over-seas relative or friend to serve as the “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

## What to Do During an Earthquake

Stay as safe as possible during an earthquake. Be aware that some earthquakes are actually foreshocks and a larger earthquake might occur. Minimize your movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place and if you are indoors, stay there until the shaking has stopped and you are sure exiting is safe.

### If indoors:

- DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and

- anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
- Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, load bearing doorway.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.
- DO NOT use the elevators.

### If outdoors:

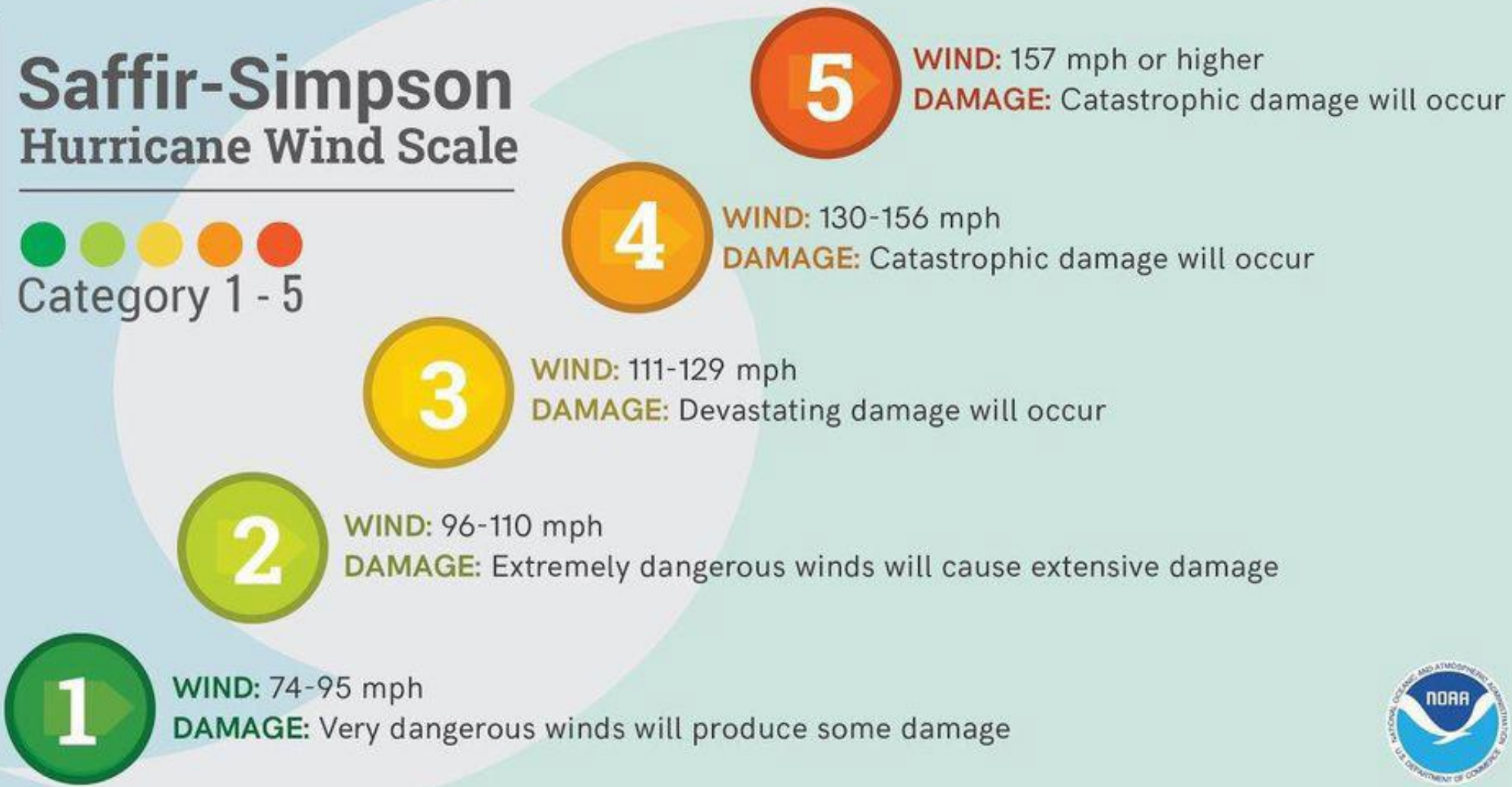
- Stay there.
- Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Ground

# KNOW YOUR HURRICANE RISK

## Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category 1 - 5



A better understanding of tropical cyclones and hurricane hazards will help to make a more informed decision on your risk and what actions to take.

The major hazards associated with hurricanes are:

- Storm Surge and Storm Tide
- Heavy Rainfall and Inland Flooding
- High Winds
- Rip Currents
- Tornadoes

### Storm Surge & Storm Tide

Storm surge and large waves produced

by hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property along the coast.

Storm Surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coast-line.

Storm Tide is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide.

The destructive power of storm surge and large battering waves can result in loss of life, buildings destroyed, beach and coastal erosion and road and bridge damage along the coast.

Storm surge can travel several miles inland. In low lying areas, salt water intrusion endangers public health and the environment.

### Heavy Rainfall & Inland Flooding

Storms and hurricanes often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. Flash Flooding, defined as a rapid rise in water levels, can occur quickly due to intense rainfall. When approaching water on a flooded roadway, always remember .....

**TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN.** Rainfall amounts are not directly related to the strength of tropical

cyclones but rather to the speed and size of the storm. Slower moving and larger storms produce more rainfall. In addition, mountainous terrain enhances rainfall from a storm.

### High Winds

Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught in them. For this reason, you should plan to have your preparations complete and be in your safe shelter before the onset of tropical storm-force winds, not hurricane-force winds.

Hurricane-force winds, 74 mph or

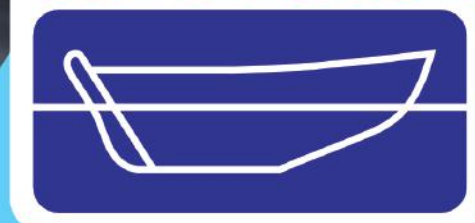
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# HURRICANE PREPARATION

**GET READY!**



**BUDGET MARINE**



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 Grenada@budgetmarine.com

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 Carriacou@budgetmarine.com

[www.budgetmarine.com](http://www.budgetmarine.com)

# “UNEARTH THE TREMORS: ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS INTO EARTHQUAKES”

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 09

movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

**If in a moving vehicle**

- Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.
- Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.

**If trapped under debris**

- Do not light a match.
- Do not move about or kick up dust.
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

**What to Do After an Earthquake**

- Expect aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures and can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television. Listen for the latest emergency information.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
- Stay away from damaged



areas. Stay away unless your assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or relief organizations. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

- Be aware of possible tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. These are also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called “tidal waves”). When local authorities issue a tsunami warning, assume that a series of dangerous waves is on the way. Stay away from the beach.
- Help injured or trapped persons. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance such as infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas

or fumes from other chemicals.

- Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage. Unnoticed damage could lead to a fire.
- Inspect utilities.
- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
- Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

**FAST FACTS ABOUT EARTHQUAKES**

- Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently, and without warning at any time of the year and at any time of the day or night.
- Smaller earthquakes often follow the main shock.
- An earthquake is caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the Earth’s surface. Ground shaking from earthquakes can collapse buildings and bridges disrupt gas, electric and phone service and sometimes trigger landslides, avalanches, flash floods, fires and huge destructive ocean waves tsunamis.
- Most earthquake related injuries result from collapsing walls, flying glass and falling objects.
- Several thousand shocks of varying sizes occur annually in the United States and 70 to 75 damaging earthquakes occur throughout the world each year. Where earthquakes have occurred in the past they will happen again.
- California experiences the most frequent damaging earthquakes however Alaska experiences the greatest number of large earthquakes -- most located in uninhabited areas.
- The Richter Scale, developed by Charles F. Richter in 1935, is a logarithmic measurement of the amount of energy released by an earthquake. Earthquakes with a magnitude of at least 4.5 are strong enough to be recorded by sensitive seismographs all over the world.
- It is estimated that a major earthquake in a highly populated area of the United States could cause as much as \$200 billion in losses.

# “UNSTOPPABLE FORCES: THE LOOMING THREAT OF TSUNAMIS AND HOW TO STAY SAFE”

**Tsunamis**, also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called “tidal waves”), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or

meteorite. Earthquake-induced movement of the ocean floor most often generates tsunamis. If a major earthquake or landslide occurs close to shore, the first wave in a series could reach the beach in a few minutes,

even before a warning is issued. Areas are at greater risk if they are less than 25 feet above sea level and within a mile of the shoreline. Drowning is the most common cause of death associated with a tsunami. Tsunami

waves and the receding water are very destructive to structures in the run-up zone. Other hazards include flooding, contamination of drinking water and fires from gas lines or ruptured tanks.

**Before A Tsunami**

The following are things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your property from the effects of a tsunami:

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Talk to everyone in your household about what to do if a tsunami occurs. Create and practice an evacuation plan for your family. Familiarity may save your life. Be able to follow your escape route at night and during inclement weather. Practicing your plan makes the appropriate response more of a reaction, requiring less thinking during an actual emergency.
- If the school evacuation plan requires you to pick your children up from school or from another location. Be aware telephone lines during a tsunami alert may be overloaded and routes to and from schools may be jammed.
- Knowing your community’s warning systems and disaster plans, including evacuation routes.
- If you are a tourist, familiarize yourself with local tsunami evacuation protocols. If you



are concerned that you will not be able to reach a safe place in time, ask your local emergency management office about vertical evacuation. Some strong (e.g., reinforced concrete) and tall buildings may be able to provide protection if no other options are available.

- If an earthquake occurs and you are in a coastal area, turn on your radio to learn if there is a tsunami warning.

**During A Tsunami**

Follow the evacuation order issued by

authorities and evacuate immediately. Take your animals with you.

- Move to high ground or inland and away from water immediately.
- Stay away from the beach. Never go down to the beach to watch a tsunami come in. If you can see the wave you are too close to escape it. CAUTION
- If there is noticeable recession in water away from the shore- line this is nature’s tsunami warning and it should be heeded. You should move away immediately.
- Save yourself - not your possessions.
- Remember to help your

neighbors who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people, and individuals with access or functional needs.

**After A Tsunami**

- Return home only after local officials tell you it is safe. A tsunami is a series of waves that may continue for hours. Do not assume that after one wave the danger is over. The next wave may be larger than the first one.
- Go to a designated public shelter if you have been told to evacuate

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# “UNSTOPPABLE FORCES: THE LOOMING THREAT OF TSUNAMIS AND HOW TO STAY SAFE”



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- or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home.
- Avoid disaster areas. Your presence might interfere with emergency response operations and put you at further risk from the residual effects of floods.
- Stay away from debris in the water; it may pose a safety hazard to people or pets.
- Check yourself for injuries and get first aid as needed before helping injured or trapped persons.
- If someone needs to be rescued, call professionals with the right equipment to help. Many people have been killed or injured trying to rescue others.
- Help people who require special assistance—infants,

- elderly people, those without transportation, people with access and functional needs and large families who may need additional help in an emergency situation.
- Continue using a local radio or television station for the latest updates.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it. Tsunami water can cause floors to crack or walls to collapse.
- Use caution when re-entering buildings or homes. Tsunami-driven floodwater may have damaged buildings where you least expect it. Carefully watch every step you take.
- To avoid injury, wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up.

### Tsunami Warning

A tsunami warning is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate widespread inundation is imminent or expected. Warnings alert the public that dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours after initial arrival. Warnings alert emergency management officials to take action for the entire tsunami hazard zone. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Warnings may be updated, adjusted geographically, downgraded, or canceled. To provide the earliest possible alert, initial warnings are normally based only on seismic information.

### Tsunami Advisory

A tsunami advisory is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water is imminent or expected. The threat may continue for several hours after initial arrival, but significant inundation is not expected for areas under an advisory. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include closing beaches, evacuating harbors and marinas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Advisories are normally updated to continue the advisory, expand/contract affected areas, upgrade to a warning, or cancel the advisory.

### Tsunami Watch

A tsunami watch is issued to alert emergency management officials and the public of an event which may later impact the watch area. The watch area may be upgraded to a warning or advisory - or canceled - based on updated information and analysis. Therefore, emergency management officials and the public should prepare to take action. Watches are normally issued based on seismic information without confirmation that a destructive tsunami is underway.

### Tsunami Information Statement

A tsunami information statement is issued to inform emergency management officials and the public that an earthquake has occurred, or that a tsunami warning, advisory or watch has been issued for another section of the ocean. In most cases, information statements are issued to indicate there is no threat of a destructive tsunami and to prevent unnecessary evacuations as the earthquake may have been felt in coastal areas. An information statement may, in appropriate situations, caution about the possibility of destructive local tsunamis. Information statements may be re-issued with additional information, though normally these messages are not updated. However, a watch, advisory or warning may be issued for the area, if necessary, after analysis and/or updated information becomes available.

# KNOW YOUR HURRICANE RISK

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more, can destroy buildings and mobile homes. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding and small items left outside become flying missiles during hurricanes.

Atlantic and Eastern Pacific hurricanes are classified into five categories according to the Saffir - Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, which estimates potential property damage according to the hurricane's sustained wind speed.

### Rip Currents

The strong winds of a tropical cyclone can cause dangerous waves that pose a significant hazard to mariners and coastal residents and visitors. When the waves break along the coast, they

can produce deadly rip currents even at large distances from the storm.

Rip currents are channeled currents of water flowing away from shore, usually extending past the line of breaking waves, which can pull even the strongest swimmers away from shore.

### Tornadoes

Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eye-wall. Tornadoes produced by tropical cyclones are sometimes relatively weak and short-lived, but they still pose a significant threat.

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	<b>Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:</b> Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	<b>Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:</b> Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3 (major)	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	<b>Devastating damage will occur:</b> Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 (major)	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur:</b> Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 (major)	157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur:</b> A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

### TROPICAL WAVE:

An elongated area of low pressure which develops in the tropics and moves in an east to west direction, often characterized by disturbed weather.

### TROPICAL DISTURBANCE:

An area of showers and thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

### TROPICAL STORM:

A non-frontal low pressure system usually originating in the tropics and rotating which maximum sustained counter-clockwise winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots.)

### TROPICAL STORM WATCH:

An announcement for specific areas that a tropical storm or an incipient tropical storm condition poses a possible threat to those areas generally within 36 hours.

### TROPICAL STORM WARNING:

A warning that tropical-storm conditions including possible sustained winds within the range of 39 to 73 mph are expected in a specific area in 24 hours or less.

### HURRICANE WARNING:

Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a designated area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include sustained winds of at least 74 mph (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves. Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion after the warning is issued.

### HURRICANE EYE:

The relatively calm area near the center of the storm that can last, from several minutes to over an hour, depending on the hurricane's size and speed, which ends suddenly as the winds return from the opposite direction, possibly with even greater force.

### STORM SURGE:

A dome-like rise in ocean level associated with a hurricane. The difference between this abnormal rise in sea level and the level that would occur otherwise is called the storm surge. It is highest along and to the immediate right of where the eye of a hurricane strikes land.



# FORGING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO FINANCE CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN



**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados** – The Regional Meeting - Financing Circular Economy Solutions for Waste Management, held under the EU-funded initiative Zero Waste in the Caribbean: New Ways, New Waves and co-financed by the German Cooperation in partnership with CARIFORUM, concluded on September 6. At least sixty waste-management experts, primarily from across the Caribbean, met in Barbados from 3-6 September to discuss financial instruments, regional challenges, and financing options from development partners and the private sector, aiming to transform waste pollution into circular economy opportunities.

This initiative marked a pivotal moment in addressing critical waste management issues and promoting a circular economy across the Caribbean region. It was

organized by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the European Union (EU), in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Ministry of Environment & National Beautification of Barbados (MENB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The event brought together stakeholders from across the Caribbean to forge stronger partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and regional and international financing partners.

The opening ceremony featured representatives from key organisations and country waste management and finance sector experts. Also present was **Hon. Adrian Forde, M.P., Minister**

**of Environment of Barbados**, delivering the keynote address. He welcomed participants, highlighting the region's urgent need for sustainable waste management solutions, "The Government of Barbados fully supports the Zero Waste in the Caribbean Initiative and to this end, I am pleased to be here to commend all the stakeholder partners for this very important project which is helping CARIFORUM member states in developing appropriate waste management strategies. [...] I encourage all stakeholders, Governments, financing institutions, and businesses, to explore and support circular economy initiatives. Together, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future for our region."

The meeting focused on technical sessions that addressed the Caribbean's waste

management challenges, and global and regional financing mechanisms. CARIFORUM countries presented their specific financing needs, with **Luca Trinchieri, Team Leader for the Green Deal Partnership with the Caribbean at the EU Delegation to Barbados**, reinforcing the EU's commitment to supporting the region. He remarked, "The European Union reaffirms its ongoing commitment to the Caribbean through dedicated funding, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing. Partnerships are crucial to achieving our shared goals of sustainable development and environmental protection. We encourage further collaboration between Caribbean nations, the EU, and international financial institutions to unlock the region's full potential in advancing circular economy solutions."

Similarly, **Vincent Sweeney, Head of the UNEP Caribbean Sub-Regional Office**, emphasized the broader context of financing, "Financing is not just about providing money; it is also about creating the right conditions for investment. This includes developing regulatory frameworks that incentivize sustainable practices, fostering public-private partnerships that bring together diverse expertise, and building the capacity of local institutions to

manage and deploy funds effectively."

Building on this point, **L. O'Reilly Lewis, CDB Director (Ag.) Projects Department** highlighted the unique challenges and opportunities facing the region, "As the tides of global environmental issues rise, so must our dedication to overcoming them. Our unique position as small, open, service-based economies, heavily reliant on imported fuel and susceptible to natural hazards, presents both challenges and opportunities. It is through robust collaboration that we have the power to turn these challenges into triumphs. The Bank has demonstrated its commitment to this cause with actionable initiatives and substantial financial backing."

Experts at the meeting presented global perspectives on circular economy financial instruments and their adaptation to the Caribbean context, examining the status of financial mechanisms in CARIFORUM countries. They provided recommendations for improving existing systems and introducing new financing options for the private sector. Among the key takeaways were the lessons learned from implementing financial instruments such as tipping fees, deposit return systems, and extended producer responsibility policies.

**Jean Eric Theinhardt, Chief of Operations at the IDB Country Office in Barbados**, underscored the importance of accurate data, "One challenge remains in the sector that I am sure is familiar to most: the lack of available and accurate data on waste in the region. This limits the ability to plan, make informed decisions, and assess the impact of public policies. Digital transformation is crucial for advancing the sector. To tackle this head-on, the IDB is supporting countries in evolving towards a data-driven and statistical approach in solid waste management."

Over 30 bilateral meetings facilitated new partnerships for the public and private sectors, focusing on innovative financial solutions for waste management projects and infrastructure development. The meeting also included site visits to recycling and landfill facilities in Barbados, showcasing best practices in the field, that could be adapted to other Caribbean countries.

The composition of the group in terms of number and key roles in the region underscores the vital role of financing partners to support public and private sector initiatives in advancing sustainable development and building environmental resilience across the Caribbean.

# PROTECTION AGAINST EMPLOYMENT SCAMS



The Grenada National Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT-Gnd) is advising the public to be aware of

employment scams targeting Grenadians. **Employment scams** are scams where cyber-criminals pretend to

be hiring companies or job agencies to steal your money or get your personal information.

CSIRT-Gnd is therefore advising the public to:

- 1. Research before you apply.** Ensure that you know exactly who is hiring before signing up. If a local company is acting as the recruiting agency, ensure that you know who they are recruiting

for and verify that they are legitimate.

- 2. Guard your personal information.** Do not share your personal information without first verifying who will be getting it. This includes ID cards, passport information, photographs, medical information, police record,

date of birth, financial information, and any other information which can be used to identify you. Remember, these can be used by criminals to commit identity fraud or identity theft.

Additionally, it is important to note that legitimate companies will not ask you for money upfront or ask

you to return money due to overpayment using money courier services such as Western Union and MoneyGram.

Anyone needing additional information, assistance or general online safety advice can reach out to the National Cyber Security Incident Response Team on WhatsApp and Telegram at (473) 423-2478; via email at [csirtgnd@gov.gd](mailto:csirtgnd@gov.gd); or on Facebook, Instagram and X at [csirtgnd](https://www.facebook.com/csirtgnd).

# CDB, OECS, WORLD BANK WORKING TO INCREASE PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARIBBEAN BUSINESSES

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados** – The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB, the Bank) in partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission (OECS) and the World Bank hosted a two-day event for regional businesses to take full advantage of procurement opportunities offered by their projects.

The initiative, called the CDB, OECS, WB Procurement Fair, took place in Saint Lucia on September 4-5. It brought together over 600 suppliers, contractors, and consultants to provide them with useful information and tools to submit successful bids for projects funded by these organisations.

**Mr. Doug Fraser, the Head of Procurement at CDB**, emphasised the importance of the collaboration, "The Bank recognises the crucial role that the private sector plays in providing goods, works and services to the projects we finance to help our clients to achieve their development outcomes... Without suppliers, contractors and consultants none of our projects would be possible. Our engagement here with the private and public sector provides solutions and innovations that are key to driving Caribbean economic development and reducing poverty."

Government procurement plays a

significant role in the Caribbean economy, accounting for a large part of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Improving procurement processes can help make better use of limited resources, stimulate private sector growth, and support the development of stronger, more inclusive economies.

Remarking on the value procurement can add to local economies, **Ms. Lilia Burunciuc, World Bank Director for the Caribbean** said, "In the OECS, the World Bank finances projects totaling US\$75M. Each project presents opportunities for local vendors, and we are pleased to build capacity - with the Caribbean Development Bank and the OECS Commission



as partners - among the private sector, such that they can increasingly take advantage of these opportunities."

The event not only provided valuable information to potential contractors but also

aimed to ensure that procurement for CDB's projects is done efficiently. By familiarising bidders with the requirements and processes of the financing agency, the event helped increase

their chances of success. In 2023 alone, CDB awarded over USD 170 million in contracts for various projects, offering significant opportunities for Caribbean suppliers.

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# PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICE NOTICE – SEPT, 18TH 2024

Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
In replying the above  
Number and date of this  
letter should be quoted.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE,  
FINANCIAL COMPLEX,  
THE CARENAGE,  
ST. GEORGE'S,  
GRENADA, W.I.

Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
In replying the above  
Number and date of this  
letter should be quoted.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE,  
FINANCIAL COMPLEX,  
THE CARENAGE,  
ST. GEORGE'S,  
GRENADA, W.I.

## Petroleum Products Price Notice

The General public is hereby informed that effective, Wednesday, September 18th, 2024, the retail prices of petroleum products (Gasoline, Diesel, Kerosene and Liquefied Petroleum Gas, (LPG), commonly known as, Cooking Gas) in the State of Grenada will be as follows:

GRENADA, CARRIACOU, AND PETITE MARTINIQUE			
Products	Old Price	New Price	Price Change
Gasoline	\$15.86	\$15.07	\$0.79 decrease
Diesel	\$15.49	\$14.40	\$1.09 decrease
Kerosene	\$11.66	\$10.25	\$1.41 decrease

GRENADA			
L.P.G (Cooking Gas)	Old Price	New Price	Price Change
20 lbs. Cylinder	\$40.00	\$40.00	No Change
100 lbs. Cylinder	\$243.25	\$232.90	\$11.60 decrease
Bulk	\$2.50	\$2.40	\$0.10 decrease

CARRIACOU AND PETITE MARTINIQUE			
L.P.G (Cooking Gas)	Old Price	New Price	Price Change
20 lbs. Cylinder	\$49.00	\$49.00	No Change
100 lbs. Cylinder	\$266.25	\$255.90	\$11.60 decrease
Bulk	\$2.50	\$2.40	\$0.10 decrease

### Notes:

- The Ministry of Finance continues to monitor petroleum product prices and will intervene as necessary if prices exceed \$17.00.
- Petroleum Product Prices of Gasoline, Diesel, and Kerosene within the Tri-Island State of Grenada are fully harmonized in line with statements made by the Minister of Finance in the 2023 Budget Speech.
- The new retail prices are computed based on the average of the actual cost, freight, and insurance rates for Gasoline, Diesel, and Kerosene however, for LPG, the mean Caribbean postings (Platts) for cost was used over the period August 14, 2024, to September 12, 2024.
- Petroleum products are price-controlled goods; therefore, no retailer shall vary the stated prices.

Consumers are strongly encouraged to immediately notify the Price Control/Consumer Affairs Unit in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Labour and Consumer Affairs of any instance of overpricing at telephone number: 435-1459.

Tel.: (473) 440-2731-(4)

Facsimile: (473) 440-4115

Tel.: (473) 440-2731-(4)

Facsimile: (473) 440-4115

# ACCESS AVAILABLE TO TWO PLAYING FIELDS IN CARRIACOU

**Hillsborough, Carriacou-** Access is being provided to two playing fields in Carriacou, with the understanding by the Grenada Government, and the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and Local Government, that recreational facilities are important to help people cope with trauma following any natural disaster.

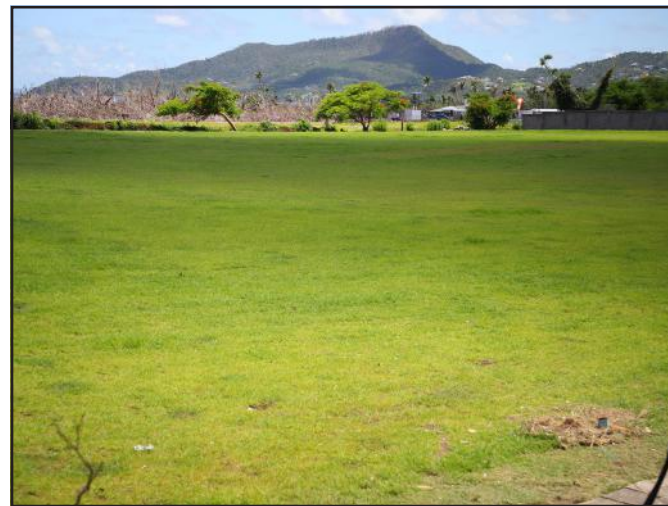
While the Lauriston Mini Stadium's pavilions sustained major roof damage during the

passage of Hurricane Beryl just over two (2) months ago, the field is available for recreational activities.

In addition, the turf wicket and main field at Dover Playing Field – on the northern side of the island – can be utilised for recreation.

The playing field's boundary is being used for dumping debris left by the hurricane.

More than 90% of the island's housing stock was destroyed by Beryl.



Lauriston Mini Stadium

With that, large areas were needed for the collection of debris, noted Minister for the Environment, Climate



Dover Playing Field

Resilience and the Environment, Hon. Kerryne James, at the launch of Project Pristine.

Government has hired the "MV Gondola" to transport hurricane-derived debris from the

island. Ultimately, the debris will be handled by the Grenada Solid Waste Management Authority.

# CDB, OECS, WORLD BANK WORKING TO INCREASE PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARIBBEAN BUSINESSES

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Commenting on the regional activity, OECS Director General Dr. Didacus Jules stated "The OECS is committed to fostering regional economic growth by enhancing procurement

opportunities for our businesses. Through strategic partnerships like this one with the CDB and the World Bank, we aim to empower Caribbean suppliers, contractors, and consultants with the knowledge and tools they need to compete

successfully in global markets. In the context of our Economic Union, we add value to Member States through pooled procurement of critical inputs to their prosperity and well-being at the most reasonable prices. By improving procurement processes,

we can drive economic inclusion, maximise the region's resources, and contribute to the sustainable development of our economies."

Other speakers at the event included Ms. Roselyn Opel, Head of Pooled Procurement

Services at the OECS Commission who highlighted that the Procurement Unit at the OECS Commission is committed to upholding transparency, probity, accountability, competition, fairness, efficiency and effectiveness in all

processes. Also in attendance was Mr. Luciano Gutierrez Wuerzius, Procurement Specialist at the World Bank, along with project leaders from different sectors such as energy, environment, youth, health, education, and infrastructure.



# UN TOURISM PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION AND INNOVATION AT BLED STRATEGIC FORUM

UN Tourism brought its expertise to the Bled Strategic Forum, highlighting the essential role of investments and innovation as drivers of a better future, while also engaging in an official visit to the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport to strengthen collaboration.

The Forum serves is recognized as the top international conference in Central and South-Eastern Europe, offering a platform to explore ideas on modern society and its future. Joining leading public and private sector policymakers and thinkers at the event, UN Tourism Executive Director Natalia Bayona



made clear how the sector can continue to adapt and so drive inclusive and sustainable development, both across the region and globally.

### Education and investments to drive change

As part of a special panel discussion on the power of data in tourism transformation, Ms Bayona highlighted

the importance of rethinking education and training as a key step towards transforming the sector. "By equipping the workforce with digital skills, we can address challenges such as seasonality and overcrowding, while fostering smart, sustainable destinations," she said.

At the same time, UN Tourism also made clear the need for more



and better-targeted investments into the sector, noting that this is already driving positive transformation and supporting the shift towards greater sustainability. Over the past five years alone, \$48 billion in venture capital has been invested in tourism technology. "Together, innovation and education have the power to transform the industry," Ms Bayona concluded.

### Strengthened collaboration with Slovenia

Within the framework of the Bled Strategic Forum UN Tourism commended Slovenia for its work promoting sustainable tourism as well as its remarkable record of attracting investments into the sector. The possibilities for further collaborations informed UN Tourism's meeting with the country's Minister of

the Economy, Tourism and Sport Matjaž Han, most notably shared plans to boost private investments.

During the visit to the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, the UN Tourism delegation also advanced ideas for closer collaboration in the field of tourism education. A meeting with the Dean and other key academic staff of the School of Economics and Business of the University of Ljubljana explored the possibility of shared initiatives through the UN Tourism Online Academy, as well as the chance to offer Slovenian students international experience, whether through research placements and internships or online courses.

# PAHO AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE INTERNATIONAL JOIN FORCES TO END STIGMA AROUND DEMENTIA

**Washington, DC, (PAHO)** – Today, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) launched the #TimeToActOnDementia campaign, a joint initiative to raise awareness about dementia and address the stigma that surrounds the condition in the region of the Americas.

Alzheimer's disease and related disorders affect an estimated 10.3 million people in the Americas and are among the leading causes of death in individuals aged 60 and older. Regrettably, persons living with these conditions are often subject to stigma and discrimination, and with the number of people living with dementia set to almost triple by 2050,

now is the time to promote a better understanding of this condition.

This joint campaign aims to raise awareness by opening discussions about dementia on television, social media, newspapers and radio, and to address current perceptions and attitudes about this condition.

"We must recognize dementia as a public health priority and invest accordingly in risk reduction, the continuum of health and social care, and dementia-friendly initiatives that promote participation, safety, and inclusion for people with dementia and their carers," PAHO Director, Dr Jarbas Barbosa said.

A recent Lancet publication

showed that up to 45% of all dementias could be delayed, slowed, or even prevented. "New treatments represent a beacon of hope, but we must also change perceptions about dementia", ADI CEO, Paola Barbarino said. "This is equally true for healthcare practitioners, and the public. Many still wrongly believe that dementia is a normal part of aging, denying people access to a timely diagnosis, treatment, care, and support. By raising awareness and tackling stigma, we can unlock much more effective, combined treatment and care solutions for those most in need," she added.

To address the global burden of dementia, the World Health Organization (WHO) developed the Global Action

Plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025, which was formally adopted by all Member States in 2017 at the 70th World Health Assembly. The Plan outlines seven areas of action to reduce the burden of dementia, including increasing support for those caring for people with dementia, and addressing the risk factors related to dementia, including physical inactivity, obesity, and unhealthy diets, among others.

The Time to Act on Dementia campaign begins on September 4 and will run throughout September and October, with Alzheimer's Day being celebrated on September 21st. PAHO and ADI encourage governments,

ministries of health, associations working on dementia, and civil society to participate in this campaign and share its messages. Dementia is not a part of normal aging, and there are ways to reduce the risk of developing dementia. Visit the campaign website and download the toolkit.

## World Alzheimer's Month

World Alzheimer's Month is an initiative ADI promotes every September to raise awareness about dementia and provide information and resources to people living with dementia and their careers. September 2024 marks the 13th anniversary of World Alzheimer's Month.



**St. George's Grenada,** — The Division of Culture, under the Ministry of Tourism and the Creative Economy is thrilled to announce the commencement of Phase 2 of the Grenada Festival of the Arts. A vibrant celebration of creativity and culture, running from September to December

2024. This exciting phase promises a diverse array of performances and events, spotlighting Music, Dance, Theatre, Choral Speaking, and Choir performances from both school and community groups. The Grenada Festival of the Arts is a biannual event dedicated to celebrating and

# GRENADA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS PHASE 2: A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, DANCE, AND THEATRE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2024

nurturing the artistic talent of Grenada's youth and community members. Through a variety of performances and workshops, the festival aims to elevate the cultural landscape of Grenada, and promote artistic excellence. Under the inspiring theme "Pacing One Another on the

Road to Excellence," Phase 2 aims to foster collaboration, innovation and excellence within the arts community. The festival will serve as a platform for local talent to showcase their skills, and for audiences to experience the rich cultural tapestry of Grenada.

This year's festival emphasizes the importance of collective growth and mutual support in pursuit of artistic excellence. Whether you are a school group eager to perform or a community choir ready to shine, the Grenada Festival of the Arts welcomes you to be part of this enriching

experience. Registration Details: Registration remains open until September 28, 2024. Interested persons can register through the festival's official channels. Visit "Grenadian Culture" on Facebook and Instagram for updates or contact us directly via WhatsApp or call 533-6715.

# CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PAYS TRIBUTE TO SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:** The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB, the Bank) pays tribute to Sir Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal, a titan of Caribbean and global diplomacy, whose remarkable contributions to regional and international development have left an indelible mark on our history.

Sir Shridath's life was characterised by an unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and the advancement of the Caribbean region. From his early days as Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sir Shridath demonstrated his exceptional ability to navigate complex diplomatic landscapes. His role in strengthening Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

during a period of heightened territorial disputes laid the foundation for his distinguished international career.

As the longest-serving Secretary-General of the Commonwealth from 1975 to 1990, Sir Shridath was a formidable advocate against institutional racism and was instrumental in the global effort to dismantle apartheid in South Africa. His diplomatic acumen earned him admiration from world leaders, including Nelson Mandela, who regarded him as a champion for human rights and justice.

Throughout his career, Sir Shridath remained deeply connected to the Caribbean. His tenure as Chairman of

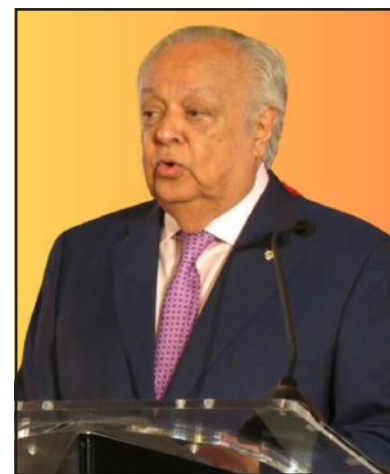
the West Indian Commission revitalised the regional integration process, ensuring that the Caribbean secured its rightful place in global negotiations. His leadership and vision were pivotal in protecting the interests of Caribbean nations on the world stage, particularly in external economic relations and environmental sustainability.

Sir Shridath's legacy extends beyond his diplomatic achievements. His role as a mediator and advisor in resolving constitutional crises and electoral disputes within the Caribbean underscored his profound commitment to peace and stability in the region. Even in his later years, Sir Shridath continued to serve with distinction,

notably representing Guyana before the International Court of Justice at the age of 92, showcasing his enduring dedication to his homeland.

The Caribbean Development Bank and the entire Caribbean community have lost a true statesman, a regionalist par excellence, and an internationalist whose contributions have shaped the course of history. Sir Shridath's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come, reminding us of the power of diplomacy, the importance of justice, and the enduring value of regional solidarity.

"On behalf of the Caribbean Development Bank," said CDB's Acting President,



**SIR SHRIDATH "SONNY" RAMPHAL**

Isaac Solomon, "I extend our deepest condolences to Sir Shridath's family, friends, and the countless individuals who were touched by his life's work. His passing marks the end of an era, but his influence will forever remain a guiding light for the Caribbean and beyond."

## By the Grenada Monarchist League

In an article published on 25. March in this newspaper, the Grenada Monarchist League presented our proposal for reforms to the appointment system of the Governor-General, which has previously been submitted to the government of Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell. With the approach of this year's State Opening of Parliament and Throne Speech, traditionally held in September or October, we find it necessary to reiterate our call for the government to announce the Privy Council (Establishment) Bill, as presented to the government, in the

upcoming legislative program of the Speech.

At present the Governor-General, the representative in Grenada of our head of state, His Majesty The King, is appointed by His Majesty on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Governor-General, as The King's representative, holds vital constitutional duties and responsibilities, such as appointing and dismissing the Prime Minister, proroguing and dissolving parliament, giving assent to legislation, and appointing the Supervisor of Elections. These powers are not just theatrical or ceremonial; the constitution provides for circumstances where the Governor-

General can and must act independently as the guardian of our constitutional order and moderator of the political system.

The present constitutional arrangements, wherein the Prime Minister advises the King on appointments of Governors-General, are thus not ideal. While the King has the power to reject and check prime ministerial advice, our process still grants the Prime Minister too much power and influence over the office of Governor-General; an office which is in fact meant to check the Prime Minister. This influence weakens our constitutional balance of power and should be rectified.

The Privy Council (Establishment) Bill, which the League has presented to the government and hopes is included in the Throne Speech, would rectify this current constitutional imbalance. The bill will establish a Grenadian Privy Council to advise the King on appointments. This council would consist of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, the Chair of the Public Service Commission, the most senior resident judge of the High Court, and 2 independents appointed by the Governor-General after consulting with the PM and Opposition

Leader. Advice to the King would be made by unanimity.

This bold new method of appointing the Governor-General would assure bipartisan support for all nominees, as well as support from the public service and judiciary. It would also give the sister isles a voice in the process. It would reduce the powers of the Prime Minister, an office long considered far too powerful and dominant in our political system, and instead create a forum where compromise and collaboration are a necessity, to select the ultimate day-to-day representative of the state.

The Office of Governor-General is far too

important to be politicised. Not only is the Governor-General the guardian of the constitution and the ultimate backstop against constitutional impropriety by governments, but the office is additionally the highest symbolic representation of the state. The Governor-General is supposed to unify the people, across political divides. A truly cross-partisan appointment procedure would ensure this.

The Grenada Monarchist League thus reiterates our call on the government, made in March, to include the Privy Council (Establishment) Bill in the Governor-General's upcoming Throne Speech.



## BUDGET ALERT 4.1(D): GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND THE ECONOMY

By Laurel Theresa Bain

Fiscal policy, which is the main instrument for economic management, is implemented through the execution of the annual national budget; and hence the importance of monitoring its implementation. To facilitate the monitoring of the National Budget, the Government publishes monthly data on the fiscal performance on the Ministry of Finance website [www.finance.gd/index.php/fiscal-reports](http://www.finance.gd/index.php/fiscal-reports); and the monthly fiscal summary reports for the months of January, February and March 2024 have been published. This analysis of government finances focuses on the performance during the first quarter of 2024 relative to the targeted performance. The fiscal performance during the first quarter is also compared with the corresponding period in 2023.

The fiscal surpluses for the first quarter of 2024 were higher

than targeted. This was influenced by higher domestic revenue while both current and capital expenditures were lower than targeted. Specifically, the Government recorded (i) a current account surplus of \$147.1M; (ii) a primary surplus, after grants, of \$115.6M; (iii) an overall surplus, before grants, of \$96.6M; and (iv) an overall surplus, after grants, of \$104.7M.

The current or operational revenue of \$363.8M in the first quarter of 2024 was \$41.9M more than the government projected to collect for that period. The higher than targeted revenues were derived from both tax and non-tax revenue. Tax revenue amounted to \$228.4M compared to the targeted amount of \$216.7M.

The higher than targeted tax revenue was influenced by the revenue intake from property tax and taxes on goods and services. Specifically, revenue from property tax of

\$15.4M was significantly higher than the \$6.9M the Government intended to collect, influenced by the revenue collected from the property transfer tax. Meanwhile revenue from taxes on goods and services of \$58.4M was higher than the \$52.6M that the Government targeted to collect. Taxes on income and profits of \$48.1M fell short of the targeted \$50.6M, while the Government collected \$116.5M, against the targeted \$116.6M, from taxes on international transactions.

Meanwhile, non-tax revenue of \$135.4M surpassed the \$105.2M that the Government targeted, influenced by the realisation of \$34.6M above the targeted amount from the Investment Migration Authority (IMA). In contrast to this higher than targeted domestic revenue performance, inflows from grants of \$8.1M were less than the targeted \$20.4M, and this is reflected in the lower than targeted

capital expenditure. Due to the higher domestic revenue, total revenue and grants of \$371.8M were higher than the \$342.2M Government targeted to realise for the period.

The comparison of revenue performance between 2024 and 2023 showed that the current revenue of \$363.8M collected in the first quarter of 2024 was \$84.6M or 32.3 per cent more than that collected in the first quarter of 2023. The comparatively higher revenue during the first quarter was influenced by the revenue intake from both tax and non-tax sources. Total tax revenue increased by \$32.1M (16.3 per cent) in the first quarter of 2024 compared with the same quarter in 2023.

Among the tax categories, revenue from taxes on income and profits of \$48.1M was less than the \$49.3M collected in 2023. All the other tax categories recorded higher revenue compared to 2023. Revenue from taxes on

property increased by \$5.1M (50 per cent), taxes on goods and services by \$20.0M (52 Per cent), and taxes on international transactions by \$8.2M (8.3per cent). A number of factors could have contributed to the increased tax revenue during the first quarter, including economic growth which is normally associated with increased revenue from the taxes on goods and services and on international transactions.

The growth in non-tax revenue of \$52.5M (63.3 Per cent) was attributed to higher inflows from the Investment Migration programme, which increased by \$60.9M and more than doubled the receipt of \$56.4M for the first quarter in 2023. Along with the higher revenue, the grants of \$8.1M in the first quarter of 2024 were higher than the \$4.7M recorded in the same period in 2023.

During the first quarter of 2024, total

expenditure of \$267.1M was less than the targeted amount of \$316.6M as both current and capital expenditures were less than targeted.

The current or operational expenditure of \$216.7M for the first quarter of 2024 was \$18M less than what the Government planned to spend for that quarter. This was due to lower than targeted expenditure for employees' compensation and goods and services, as transfers and subsidies were higher than planned. Outlays for compensation to employees of \$78.9M were \$14.3M less than the \$93.2M the Government planned to spend. Expenditure on goods and services of \$40.5M was lower than the planned \$58.3M, falling short of the target by \$17.8M. The projections for Government expenditure for compensation to employees and for goods and services

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# A BIG STEP FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO—ARE WE NEXT?

By Arley Salimbi Gill

“Christopher Columbus is a damn blasted liar.” These words were the first real history lesson I learned as a young student. And sadly, I did not learn that lesson in a classroom but through a classic Reggae hit penned by the great Rastafarian and Reggae artiste, Burning Spear.

Many years on, The Mighty Shadow released his classic, “Columbus Lied”, which reminded us of the falsehood undergirding our history here in the Grenada and across the Caribbean region. Decades later, seeds—planted by regional Reggae artistes and Calypsonians—are beginning to bear fruits.

For as long as I have known myself, I can remember that Burning Spear song—Christopher Columbus. At first, I was confused by the meaning of the song because in school—primary and secondary—we were taught that Christopher Columbus “discovered” Grenada and the “West Indies”.

Thanks to Burning Spear and other Reggae artistes and Calypsonians for

enlightening me—and countless others—to the real history of this region. This education and upliftment, through music, are an important element in our education for liberation.

I cannot speak of liberation and music and not mention the late, great Robert Nesta Marley and stalwarts of Calypso—across the region—artistes such as the Mighty Chalkdust, Mighty Gabby, King Short Shirt, Grenada's Black Wizard and others, who opened our hearts and minds to issues affecting our society. That is why I could relate to Buju Banton's criticism of the Afro-beat genre of music with regards to its message. Buju is right.

I now give thanks to Prime Minister Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago for driving a dagger through the heart of colonialism, oppression and gross misrepresentation of historical truths—the blatant revision of Caribbean history that erased the presence and prominence of Indigenous Peoples in this region.

The decision by Dr. Rowley's government to remove Columbus's

three ships—Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria—from Trinidad and Tobago's court of arms, and replace those ships with the Steelpan, is a significant step toward the eventual mental emancipation and liberation of our people.

The Steelpan is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago; invented by Trinidadians in Trinidad. Steelpan has a history of resistance and struggle for recognition, and now it is played all over the world. It is Trinidadian by DNA.

I must admit that the news from Trinidad about the move by Prime Minister Rowley took me by surprise. It melted my heart. There was no fuss, no noise in T&T; no lobbying was needed to do the right thing. Simply, big man, doing big man ‘ting’.

The 2020 murder of George Floyd in the United States raised consciousness across the Black world. Similarly, the global campaign for reparative justice—led by CARICOM's Reparations Commission and its indefatigable chairman, Professor Hilary Beckles—coupled with the growing

global movement calling for the removal of symbols and statues that represent colonialization, the transatlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism, resulted in many statues being taken down by force.

Others were removed as a result of public pressure, and Republicanism replaced Monarchism in Barbados—a nation perceived as one of the most conservative societies in the Caribbean. There is a reawakening—a rebirth in our region.

In Grenada—we continue to struggle—we continue to lobby—and we continue to clamour for the renaming of national monumental landscapes. This year, as we celebrate our golden jubilee of nationhood, some of us are truly disappointed that despite the chatter—nothing is being done to reclaim our history. The first step is removing historical symbols and relics that glorify slave owners, colonizers and oppressors. The Santa Maria—Columbus's “big” ship—is the heart of our coat of arms of Grenada. It is time for it to be removed!



ARLEY GILL

The Royal Grenada Police force remains Royal with its colonial emblem of a ship sailing accompanied by its Latin motto—the colonial badge that was used in Grenada from 1903 to 1967, the year of associated statehood. It continues to adorn the uniforms of our Royal officers in a country that was colonized and gained independence some 50 years ago.

The relics and symbols of the colonizers are all around us—in our schools, churches, streets; you name it—and it is there. Haunting us, laughing at us, daring us to change; controlling our subconscious that most of us are not even aware

of its presence.

The control is so great that we vote in support of these trappings in referendum, exercise caution when there is conversation of change, and then wonder what the King of Britain will say or do if we interfere. After all, we continue to reward our outstanding nationals with the King's awards and then we pay our way to attend his coronation, even though he refuses to apologize for the Atlantic slave trade and slavery and to pay reparations.

Prime Minister Rowley, thanks for showing us the way!

I can only hope that others follow.



## THE FIRST EVER CARIBBEAN GLAMPING SITE IN A RAINFOREST WILD BIRD SANCTUARY JUST OPENED IN ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES - Wild Lotus Caribbean has opened a new rainforest glamping site at a wild bird sanctuary in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. For the first time ever, birders and wellness seekers can go glamping in a tropical paradise and awaken to the dawn chorus of rare and beautiful birds.



WILD LOTUS CARIBBEAN'S NEW GLAMPING LOCATION OPENS IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES THIS DECEMBER (PHOTO 1 - GLAMPING SITE - CREDITS: JAVID COLLINS; PHOTO 2 - BIRDING- CREDITS: AKINI PETERS)

The precise location, kept secret to protect endangered species, is virtually untouched. It's as if Wild Lotus has teleported 10 luxury Lotus Belle glamping tents, replete with comfy double beds, Egyptian cotton sheets, and state of the art coffee percolators, and scattered them amongst ancient breadfruit trees, high up in the mountains.

The tents are perfectly positioned on the banks of the Grand Sable river, with a clear view of the Amazona Guildingii's canopy nesting sites, and the ocean on the eastern horizon.

"There are just 750 Amazona Guildingii on planet earth. This stunning bird

is only found here, in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The opportunity to spend 'me time' glamping in nature, in the habitat of an endangered species, is as precious as the bird itself. This is the Caribbean you are looking for", said Hon. Carlos James Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable

Development and Culture.

Wild Lotus forestry guides and wellness practitioners are on hand to enable travellers to have meaningful connections with nature, learn about how the island's ecology works, and show how nature lovers can contribute towards the protection

of rare and endangered species whose habitats are threatened by climate change.

"Working with farmers is central to our approach to regenerative tourism, and wellness therapies just feel better delivered in the rainforest and by the river", says Venetta Johnston, CEO of Wild

Lotus Caribbean. "We are thrilled to have curated a glamping site in a natural wild bird sanctuary to offer our customers a truly deep and visceral connection with nature."

Nature based wellness experiences include Vincentian Ital cuisine, yoga, riverside massages, forest bathing and of course, mindful birding. Whether you're a birdwatcher, wellness seeker or a hybrid of both, this first of its kind glamping experience is one to tick off your list.

### 2024-25 Season opening dates:

Wild Lotus Glamping St Vincent opens 1st December 2024 - 30th June 2025. Book direct at [www.wildlotusglamping.com](http://www.wildlotusglamping.com)



## GRENADA HIGH COMMISSION DEPOSITS OVER £400,000 INTO GRENADA DISASTER RELIEF ACCOUNT, HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL ROLE OF UK MISSION

The High Commission for Grenada in London has taken a pivotal step in supporting the recovery and rebuilding of Carriacou and Petite Martinique by depositing over £400,000 into Grenada's Disaster Relief Account. This significant

contribution underscores the essential work of the UK Mission in mobilising resources and galvanizing support for Grenada in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. The High Commission has played a leading

role in coordinating relief efforts, utilising its strong ties with the UK Diaspora and international partners. Her Excellency, Rachér Croney, expresses deep gratitude to the Grenadian diaspora in the United Kingdom and Europe,

Commonwealth nations, international organizations, the business community, private entities, and everyone who has generously offered their time, resources, and financial support in response to the devastation caused by

Hurricane Beryl. In early August, the Mission facilitated the transportation of crucial relief supplies from the United Kingdom to Grenada. This operation, in partnership with British Airways and IAG Cargo—a collaboration

between British Airways World Cargo and Iberia Cargo—demonstrates the strategic importance of the Mission in ensuring timely and effective aid delivery. High Commissioner Rachér Croney

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## FOOD SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND THE COMMITMENT TO MOVE FORWARD



MARIO LUBETKIN, FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The latest publication of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 (SOFI) report launched last July in the framework of the G20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro provides a detailed overview of

progress and setbacks in the fight against hunger. At the global level, although we have made some progress, significant inequalities persist: while Africa remains the most affected region, Latin America shows positive

signs of recovery, reflecting the impact of concerted efforts to improve food security. The road has not been easy. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, our region was one of the most affected by

hunger, reaching its highest point in 2021 at 6.9% of the affected population, while 40.6% faced moderate or severe food insecurity. For several years, we observed how progress made in the early 2000s rapidly receded.

However, the last two years have seen a decline in hunger levels, with a rate of 6.2% of the population, representing a decrease of 4.3 million people, mainly driven by South America.

Investments in social protection programs in several countries in the region have been instrumental in driving this recovery. Social systems have enabled quick response and more effective allocation of available financial resources to the most

vulnerable populations.

Despite the region's progress, the Caribbean and Central American subregions continue to experience challenges related to increasing hunger. We cannot afford to go backward. It is essential that we deepen our analysis of the visions and strategies that have shown positive results to continue this path.

Six months after the FAO Regional Conference in Georgetown, Guyana, we are committed to providing tangible responses to the priorities established for countries to transform agrifood systems and achieve Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, and Better

Life. At FAO, we have initiated a process of high-level reflection with governments to share experiences of public policies aimed at guaranteeing food and nutritional security.

Like the rest of the world, our region must be prepared to face growing risks such as climate change, conflicts, economic crises, and other challenges.

Latin America and the Caribbean has shown that, with the right policies, we can move forward and offer concrete and sustainable responses. Only with a firm commitment can we put an end to hunger and malnutrition, leaving no one behind.

## DEPARTURE OP-ED FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA H.E. LILIAN CHATTERJEE



H.E. LILIAN CHATTERJEE

### To Grenada...with love from Canada

As I end my diplomatic career as Canada's High Commissioner and return to Ottawa, I do so with enormous gratitude and pride for the privilege Prime Minister Justin Trudeau bestowed on me over the past seven years to represent Canada to Guyana, Suriname and CARICOM (2017-2020) and to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica,

Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (2021-2024). I am humbled by the affection and respect that you have for Canada and our long history with you. You taught me that Canada has been with you for hundreds of years and we — like you — gained our independence from Britain. In the beginning, we traded

with you — our cod for your rum — and later traded for other natural resources. In the early 1960s, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's government gave the West Indies Federation two multipurpose ships — the Federal Palm and the Federal Maple, which you used as a ferry to connect you with your neighbouring islands. During Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's tenure in the

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# THE MYTH OF CHRISTIAN NATIONS

By Lenrod Nzulu Baraka

A running joke in Western European history is that the Holy Roman Empire was not holy, Roman, or an empire. Something very similar could be said of many nations that boldly assert, notwithstanding much evidence to the contrary, that they are Christian nations. As the culture war rages on, conservative Christians are increasingly employing the Christian nation maxim to buttress their world view and to oppose new legislation that creates breaches in the wall of morality acceptable to conservative Christians.

When Christian voices in a small nation state like Barbados start making such grandiose pronouncement, these voices can be indulged then easily forgotten. Similar claims made by Christian voices in more powerful countries like the US, Italy, and Brazil cannot however be so

easily dismissed. Militant conservative Christians often resort to the myth of Christian nation status whenever the secular society embarks on a path that challenges the perceived moral monopoly established by conservative Christians. Notwithstanding the fact that conservative Christians have parted company with some of the more draconian moral imperatives found in the Bible, a case is usually presented by conservative Christians, warning of dire judgements on the secular society for following suit.

For example, the Old Testament is crystal clear about the fate of Sabbath breakers blasphemers, adulterers, fornicators, apostates, and the New Age crowd. The usually penalty for all these moral infractions was a speedy send off to the afterlife. Only the very hardline and hard headed among Christian conservatives

would argue that capital punishment should be imposed for these deviations from Biblical morality today.

Strangely enough, they are few voices advancing the argument that contemporary societies are becoming anti-Christian or anti-Bible because the state does not stone Sabbath breakers, adulterers, New Agers, or blasphemers. The more liberal attitudes of the contemporary age are generally viewed as a positive and as a sign of moral evolution in the modern era.

The seizure by conservative Christians of a few culture war issues to the exclusion of several other equally worthy moral crusades opens up the conservative Christian community to the charge of cherry-picking in the moral arena. If conservative Christians can adopt a liberal attitude that precludes the death



LENROD NZULU BARAKA

penalty for Sabbath breakers, adulterers, New Agers, and blasphemers, then it stands to reason that the same mental adjustments can be made that would lead to a cease fire in the culture war.

The claim of Christian nation status is laughable considering that most of the nations making the claim were anything but Christian historically. Barbados for example may have had many churches in its past but regrettably many of these churches were closed to people of African ancestry. The Anglican church in Barbados was also an enthusiastic participant in human trafficking commonly referred to as chattel slavery.

Conservative Christians in the US should hide their faces in shame due to the un-Christian history of the US. The American nation was conceived in the blood of the indigenous inhabitants of the land. For a macabre encore, the good Christians of America proceeded to brutalize and dehumanized the children of Africa who were kidnapped from their native lands and forced to work like beast of burden in the hell-holes of America.

Systemic racism, and poverty coupled with environmental degradation, militarism and the emergence of fascist brand of religious nationalism disqualifies America from even applying for the status of a Christian nation. No amount of historical revisionism can rehabilitate America sufficiently to qualify that nation as Christian. Conservative Christians would be more convincing arguing for an America affinity with the ancient and modern Jewish nation. Can anyone deny that both nations have a similar history of extreme religiosity, genocide, ethnic cleansing, and

land theft?

From a purely theological perspective it can be argued that no nation on the face of the earth follows to the letter the high moral prescription laid down by the Christ. Truth be told, all nations to some degree reflect the principles of the camp that is opposite to the Christ. Lying, stealing, and destroying are foundational to all nations in the world today. Both politicians and people are equally guilty of lying, stealing and destroying.

Apparently, we will have to wait until sometime in the future for a truly Christian nation to emerge on this planet. I suspect that it will take the appearance of a personality like the Christ of the New Testament to inaugurate such a Christian nation. Until such a time, conservative Christians could do themselves and the world a big favor by privatizing their bigotry and by learning how to live and let live like the rest of the human family.

Lenrod Nzulu Baraka is the founder of Afro-Caribbean Spiritual Teaching Center and the author of *Is God a Moral Monster?*

## DEPARTURE OP-ED FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA H.E. LILIAN CHATTERJEE

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1970s and 1980s, in partnership with you, we built schools, airports and even legislatures. While our relations with you are evolving, we are still here for you and with you. We have recently enhanced collaboration between our governments, demonstrated by the first Canada-

CARICOM Summit on Canadian soil in Ottawa in October 2023 and multiple prime ministerial and ministerial and citizen visits to and from our countries. What I have learned from you is resilience. In the face of adversity, you continue to rebound and to build back better. Why? Because you come together as

a community. I have seen this repeatedly — when you shared vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic and, most recently, when you provided relief, personnel and funds to those impacted by Hurricane Beryl because you know that, in spite of your differences, you are neighbours and share the same challenges.

Your Caribbean culture, warmth and hospitality is legendary. It is what draws our Canadian tourists, snowbirds, businesses, universities and colleges and professionals from every sector to your shores. But this is not a one-way street. Canada has been enriched by your diaspora who have contributed to Canada's cultural and economic

mosaic and are now part of our Canadian story. Our intertwined past, present and future collaboration is built on shared values, interests and geographic community that continue to connect us. On a personal note, I was fortunate to be embraced by so many of you who contributed to my knowledge and appreciation of Grenada.

A heartfelt thank you for welcoming me to your country. It has been the honour of my lifetime to have represented Canada.

So this is not farewell but à la prochaine! H.E. Lilian Chatterjee High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Ambassador to the OECS.

# BUDGET ALERT 4.1(D): GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND THE ECONOMY

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are generally more precise, and therefore expenditure in these categories could accelerate during the year. In contrast, expenditure on transfers and subsidies of \$64.4M Was higher than the targeted \$59M. Interest payment was in line with the targeted amount.

Reflecting the higher budgeted expenditure for 2024, the current or operational expenditure of \$216.7M in the first quarter of 2024 was \$45.7M more than the expenditure incurred in the first quarter of 2023. All categories of expenditure were higher than in 2023. Expenditure on compensation to employees rose by \$8.6M and goods and services by \$7.6M; while transfers and subsidies were higher by \$6.8M. Interest payment was marginally higher by \$0.7M.

On the capital account, capital expenditure of \$50.5M, during the first quarter of 2024, was less than the planned expenditure of \$82.0M and of the \$60.9M spent for the same period in 2023.

At the end of March, the Government spent 12 per cent of the budgeted capital expenditure of \$419.5M. The rate of capital spending was below the targeted 19.5 per cent that the Government planned

to spend during the first quarter. The implementation of the capital programmes will need to be accelerated to fully implement the planned capital programme for 2024. With the combined effects of the higher than targeted current revenue and less than planned expenditure, the fiscal surpluses for the first quarter were higher than targeted. The Government recorded a primary surplus of \$115.6M, compared with the targeted \$36.7M; and an overall surplus of \$104.7M, compared with the targeted \$25.6M. The assessment of the disposal of the surplus requires detailed data on the financing component of the fiscal accounts. However, principal debt repayment amounted to \$39.6M and, with the inclusion of loan disbursements, there will be a surplus on the fiscal accounts for the first quarter of 2024.

The following table is a summary of the Government's finances for the first quarter of 2024 as derived from the monthly Fiscal Reports:

Knowledge is power and experience is the greatest teacher.

**Disclaimer: This article is written in my personal capacity and not in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Fiscal Responsibility Oversight Committee.**

Table 1: Summary of the Government's Finances for the First Quarter of 2024

Central Government Finances in EC\$M			
Government Finances	Targeted 2024	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
Total Revenue and Grants	342.2	371.8	297.0
Total Grants	20.4	8.1	4.7
Capital Grants	20.4	8.1	4.7
Current Grants	0	0	0
Current Revenue	321.8	363.7	292.3
Total Expenditure	316.6	267.1	231.9
Current Expenditure	234.6	216.6	171.0
Capital Expenditure	82.0	50.5	60.9
Current Account Balance (Before Grants)	87.2	147.1	121.3
Current Account Balance (After Grants)	87.2	147.1	121.3
Primary Balance (After Grants)	36.7	115.6	75.3
Overall Balance (After Grants)	25.6	104.7	65.1

Source: Derived from the monthly fiscal report of the Ministry of Finance for January, February, and March 2024.

# PROMISES OF HELP FOR HURRICANE BERYL'S RELIEF & RECOVERY

By Lincoln DePradine

Hurricane Beryl, which inflicted casualties when it made landfall in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique on July 1, also impacted the nation's economy, including implications for meeting its obligations to repay the country's foreign debt.

"Clean up alone will run into tens of millions of dollars," Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell told reporters at a post-Hurricane Beryl news conference.

"The Minister of finance has already written to some of our multilateral partners to indicate that this catastrophic event has happened and to trigger our debt suspension clause with some of these agreements."

While extensive damage was reported in some parts Grenada – such as St. Patrick, St. Mark, St. David and St. Andrew – it's on Carriacou and Petite Martinique that the hurricane took its heaviest toll.

Beryl left about 98 percent of properties on Carriacou and Petite Martinique damaged or destroyed, and wreaked "complete devastation and destruction of

agriculture" on the two islands, said Mitchell, who also is minister responsible for disaster management.

"There's really nothing that can prepare you to see this level of destruction. It is almost Armageddon-like," Prime Minister Mitchell said. "Almost total damage and destruction of all buildings, whether they be public buildings, homes or other private facilities."

MP Tevin Andrew, who is the parliamentary representative for Carriacou and Petite Martinique, concurred that it was "total devastation".

"Our hospital is affected; the roof is gone," Andrews disclosed. "Most of the clinics' roofs are gone. Petite Martinique is in a mess."

It's not yet been decided whether Grenada, in the aftermath of the hurricane, will make a claim under an existing "Catastrophic Risk Insurance" policy.

"Grenada does have a Catastrophic Risk Insurance policy. We need to be able to determine whether we have reached the threshold to claim under this policy," said

Mitchell.

"The cabinet will also establish a task force to do a detailed assessment of the loss and damage that Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique have suffered in the areas of agriculture, fishing, housing, public buildings, private buildings and public infrastructure and the environment," he added.

"We need to make sure we record accurately the loss, the damage, and that we are able to qualify this, because it has significant implications for the economy of Grenada, for the government's fiscal situation, and for some of our contractual obligations, liabilities, as well as benefits."

Beryl swept through the Caribbean on its way to Mexico and Texas.

It made landfall as the earliest Category 4 storm in the Atlantic. Then, late in the day on July 1, its winds increased to Category 5 strength – at 157 miles-per-hour or higher – uprooting trees, tearing roofs from buildings, and forcing thousands to seek refuge in shelters.

One man died in River Road, St George's, when a tree fell on his house.

"His wife was there, his stepson was there but he, unfortunately, lost his life," said Town of St George MP Peter David, adding that "the biggest tragedy was the loss of life".

David expressed "deepest condolences" to the man's entire family, saying the devastation wrought by Hurricane Beryl "is a time for national unity".

"We must set aside our differences and fully support our government in its efforts to restore normalcy and rebuild our Tri-Island State," said David, a former Grenada foreign minister.

"Given our storied history of resilience, I am confident that we will rise again, buoyed by the never-ending mercies and grace of God."

Of other deaths blamed on Hurricane Beryl, two were on Carriacou; three each in both Venezuela and St Vincent and the Grenadines; and one in Jamaica.

Beryl's impact was felt by homeowners and boatowners, as well as farmers and the businessmen and women in Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent,

Grenada and Jamaica.

The hurricane travelled along Jamaica's southern coast on Wednesday, July 3, as a category 4 storm, bringing more than 12 hours of heavy rain.

Beryl reportedly destroyed almost all homes on St Vincent's Grenadine islands of Bequia, Mayreau and Union.

"Hurricane Beryl has left in its wake immense destruction," said Vincentian Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves.

In the words of the prime minister, "Union Island has been devastated", and the roof of its local airport "is gone; it's no more".

Beryl unleashed a massive mobilization drive, among Caribbean nationals in Europe and North America, as they collected items and began raising funds to aid in hurricane relief.

Tarlie Francis, Grenada's Washington-based ambassador to the United States and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, hosted a meeting via Zoom

on July 1, saying it was designed to "strategize and coordinate our efforts to provide relief and support to those affected by this devastating hurricane. Together, we can make a significant difference in aiding our homeland during this challenging time".

Gerry Hopkin, Grenada's consul general in Toronto, and Unison Joseph – president of Grenada Disaster Preparedness Toronto (GDPT) – co-hosted a virtual discussion on July 2 with Grenadian-Canadians including Canadian MP Michael Coteau; retired Canadian parliamentarian Dr Jean Augustine; and former Miss World, Jennifer Hosten.

All, including Coteau, whose father was born on Carriacou, pledged to assist in the relief efforts.

Coteau, who has visited Carriacou in the past, said because of the "devastation" of Beryl, some parts of the islands are "not recognizable anymore".

"You have a commitment from me, not only as a person

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# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



## SECURING VESSELS before a storm or hurricane:



Boat moorings, anchors, chains, cables, and ropes should be kept in good condition and rechecked well in advance of a storm or hurricane.



If possible, boats should be moored in a group (rafted). Bow lines must be secured, individually tied to trees (never to mangroves), piling, or other strong points on land, allowing sufficient slack for rising tides. The stem too should be similarly secured above ground with an anchor or other strong point on the seabed.



Moor and secure your boat well in advance of a tropical storm or hurricane; then, leave it and do not return to it until the storm has passed and the winds and seas have subsided.



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Remove fish pots and gear out of the water at the first warning. Remove boats from water if you can or take them to one of the approved marine shelters.



Boats assembled in groups must also be secured to adjacent boats with breast-lines and spring lines forward and aft. Fenders or cushions of car tires should be placed between boats to absorb movement, impact, and friction.



If possible, move boats close to the house. Fill the boat with water or sand to weigh it down. Use tie-downs to secure the entire unit to the ground. Strip off and remove all loose or movable accessories.



Make sure that your boat or its moorings, anchors, etc. do not block or otherwise obstruct the navigable channel or other access into mooring or anchorage. Leave room for arriving boats.



Moorings lines and cables should be of sufficient strength and long enough to absorb any surge or excessively high tides. They must be protected against chafing.

Do not tie-up parallel to the bank or shoreline.



Relatively large vessels may not fit into the listed marine shelters. Their operators should seek other places to safely secure their vessels which are comparable with respective size and type of vessel or put vessels to sea in due time to travel away from the storm or hurricane to avoid it altogether.

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# BUDGET ALERT 4.1(E): HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS 2021 - POPULATION AGE AND SEX

By Laurel Theresa Bain

The National Housing and Population Census (2021) was published with comprehensive information on the features of the population and social indicators such as education attainment, household dwellings, and their facilities. This publication is now added to the existing social indicators as published in the Grenada Survey of Living Conditions (World Bank 2021), and the labour-force surveys of June, September, and December 2023. The following highlights some of the main structural features of the population as published in the National Housing and Population Census of 2021; and compares these with the results of the Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report of 2011.

In 2021, the total population was 109,021 of which 50 per cent (54,542) were males and 50 per cent

(54,479) were females. This represented a slight increase in the population. The census of 2011 recorded a total population of 106,669, comprising 50.5 per cent (53,898) males and

49.5 per cent (52,771) females. The growth rate of the population was 2 per cent over the ten-year period, and the male to female ratio remained essentially unchanged at 50/50

per cent of males and females. Overall, the census shows a youthful population but there is evidence of a growing elderly population.

In 2011, the age group 15-29 was the largest for both males and females, males at 28 per cent (14,832) and females at 27 per cent (14,391). The population under the

age of forty-five was 68 per cent (73,398) in 2011, comprising 70 per cent (37,530) males and 68 per cent (35,868) females.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 35

**Table 1 Population and the Sex Composition: 2011 And 2021**

Sex	2011		2021	
	No. of Persons	Percent of Totals	No. of Persons	Percent of Totals
Male	53,898	50.5	54,542	50
Female	52,771	49.5	54,479	50
Excess of Males/Females	1,127		63	
Sex Ratio	102.1		100.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,669</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>109,021</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report 2011 <https://stats.gov.gd/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Census-Report-2011-Revised-Final.pdf>

2021 Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique National Housing and Population Census Results

# PROMISES OF HELP FOR HURRICANE BERYL'S RELIEF & RECOVERY

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 28

who has Grenadian ancestry, but also as a Member of Parliament in Canada, to work with everyone to look for ways to provide any support possible," said Coteau.

The hurricane's destruction shouldn't dampen spirits, but "should empower us and to know that we are going to come back from this; we always come back stronger," said GDPT's Joseph.

Hopkin said a collection of items will be undertaken, but an emphasis will be on cash donations, with the money to be used to purchase supplies that are available in Grenada.

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 24

emphasised the indispensable role of the UK Mission in Grenada's recovery, stating, "The dynamic response from our London-based international

Direct monetary assistance to families or a non-government organization is not being discouraged," said Hopkin.

However, Hopkin added that, "we want to coordinate things as much as possible through the agencies that are attending to the needs of the people. Whatever we agree on, we want to do it in a united way and that the needs of the folks on the ground that are suffering the most are met and we'll be guided by NaDMA".

A government-backed "Grenada Natural Disaster Relief Fund" has been established to receive financial contributions.

On Monday, July 8, it

was announced that Grenada-born Terrence Griffith – now a pastor in the United States, and director of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention – was making arrangements with the group to assist with refurbishing schools on Carriacou.

Griffith is also said to have pledged US\$25,000 from the National Baptist Convention to be applied for work on the Carriacou police station.

Among the items, described as "priority" needs in the hurricane relief effort, are non-perishable food, medicine, bottled water, hygiene products, baby and adult diapers, baby formula, batteries and battery packs,

# GRENADA HIGH COMMISSION DEPOSITS OVER £400,000 INTO GRENADA DISASTER RELIEF ACCOUNT, HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL ROLE OF UK MISSION

community has been extraordinary. Through the Mission's efforts, we have seen a surge in fundraising initiatives, relief drives, and financial contributions, all of which reflect the deep-rooted spirit of unity and resilience.

This disaster has highlighted the critical importance of our Diplomatic Missions in fostering community, engaging the diaspora, and strengthening global partnerships. The ongoing work of the UK Mission is crucial as

tarpaulins, cots and sleeping blankets. Overseas assistance has been combined with an outpouring of help to the hurricane-affected by individuals and organizations inside Grenada, including NGOs and the New National Party, the official opposition in parliament.

The Canadian government has "committed \$1 million to help with clean up efforts" in the Caribbean, according to MP Coteau.

"From what I understand, this is part of a series of discussions for resources to Grenada and other countries," said Coteau.

David Lammy, Britain's

newly appointed Foreign Secretary, announced that the UK is increasing support up to £500,000 to provide immediate relief for Caribbean countries most affected by the hurricane.

Among other promised donations to the Caribbean is \$4 million from the United Nations from its emergency response fund to help Jamaica, Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Banking giant CIBC has announced that it will be making an initial donation of \$100,000, through its CIBC operations in the Caribbean; and Scotiabank is contributing \$150,000 for hurricane relief and recovery efforts.

The High Commission continues to spearhead fundraising efforts in the United Kingdom, including the upcoming Pegasus Opera Showcase, which will feature a segment dedicated to Grenada. Participants will have

British Red Cross members are in the Caribbean helping with the distribution of food and doing other relief work.

And, the Red Cross of Canada has launched a "Hurricane Beryl Appeal", saying it's working to help, "as quickly as possible", those impacted by the hurricane.

"Money raised will enable the Red Cross to provide immediate relief, support recovery efforts, and resilience and preparedness activities for future events," the organization said.

Beryl, when it struck on July 1, "flattened" Carriacou in half an hour, Prime Minister Mitchell said.





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# SEVERE CORAL BLEACHING THREATENS CARIBBEAN REEFS: URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## St. George's, Grenada

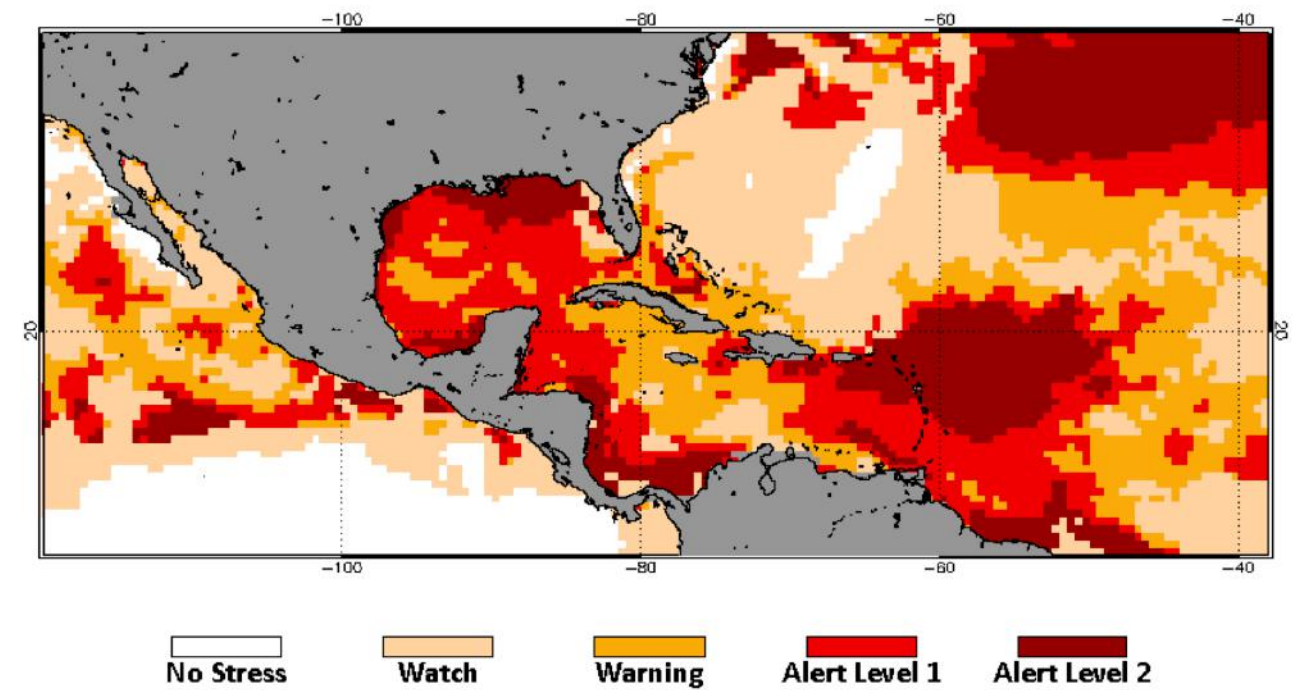
The Caribbean is confronting a grave and escalating crisis as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirms the fourth global coral bleaching event, imperiling the region's already fragile marine ecosystems. NOAA's projections reveal that vast areas of the Caribbean, including Grenada, are poised to endure severe heat stress, placing many regions under Alert Level 2, the highest threat level for coral bleaching. This dire outlook foreshadows significant damage to coral reefs, which are vital to the region's marine biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal economies.

Coral reefs are not just natural wonders; they are the linchpins of marine ecosystems, offering habitats to thousands of marine species, sustaining fisheries that underpin local food security, and acting as natural barriers that shield coastlines from erosion and storms. Furthermore, these reefs are integral to the region's tourism industry, a cornerstone of many Caribbean economies. However, the relentless rise in ocean temperatures

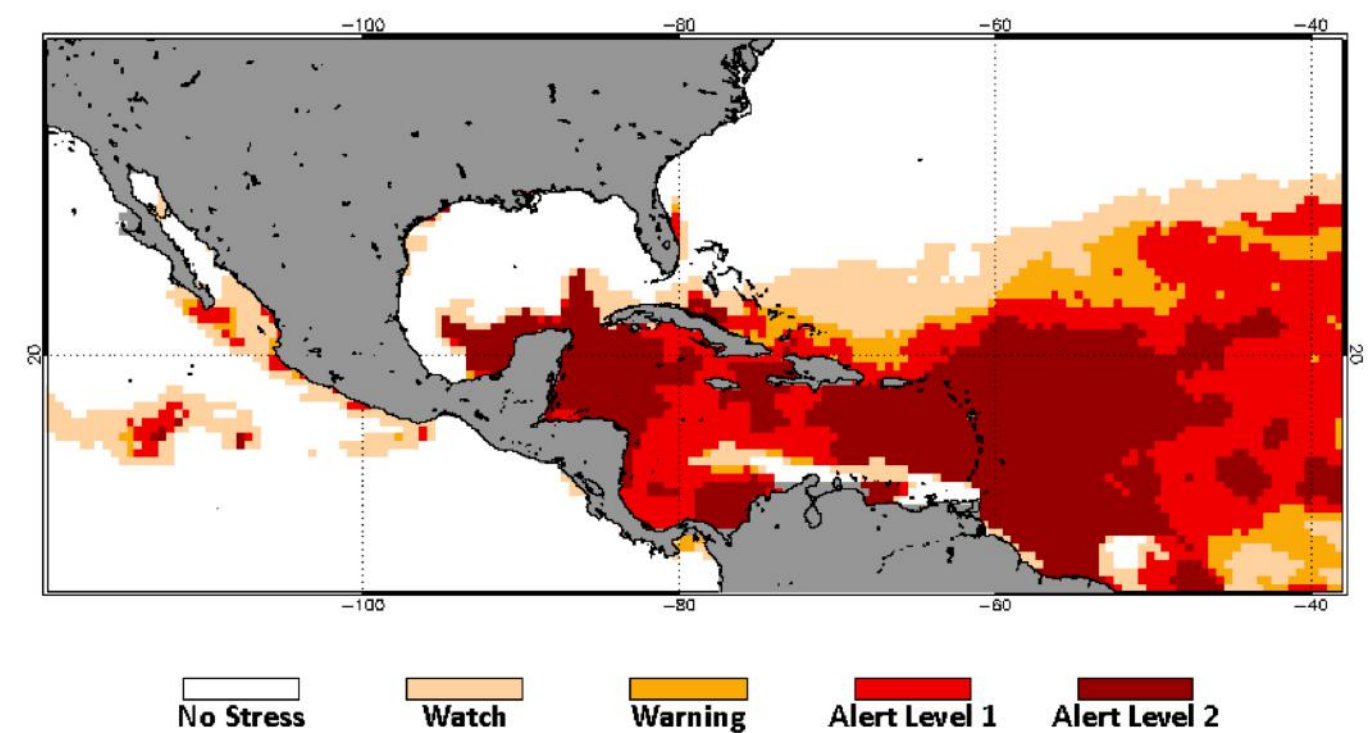
due to climate change has amplified thermal stress on corals, triggering widespread bleaching. If this stress persists, it could lead to mass coral die-offs, with devastating consequences for both marine life and human livelihoods. Ambassador Jerry Enoe, Grenada's Special Envoy for Oceans, underscored the economic significance of Caribbean reefs, stating, "Recent analyses emphasize that the 15,000 square kilometers of coral reefs across the Caribbean generate approximately US\$3.4 billion annually in economic benefits. Nearly 90% of this value is rooted in tourism, with fisheries contributing the remainder. These figures starkly illustrate the profound economic and social ramifications of coral reef health for our region."

NOAA's findings indicate that bleaching will extend into September and October 2024, with the southern and eastern Caribbean bearing the brunt of the impact. This stark projection underscores the urgent need for immediate conservation actions and the implementation of climate resilience strategies. Without decisive intervention,

2024 Aug 20 NOAA 90% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 1 (Aug 25 2024)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 112 Ensemble Members



2024 Aug 20 NOAA 90% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 7 (Oct 6 2024)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 49 Ensemble Members



# LET US FOCUS ON COMMUNITY!

By Arley Salimbi Gill

Recent homicides in Grenada have left Grenadians at home and in the Diaspora asking questions about public safety. They are asking: what is going on the island with our young people, the police, and this senseless gun violence? In just over a month, we have had multiple gun-related fatalities.

This gun violence must stop! And, it is my considered view that it will take a community effort to interrupt and cure this problem.

As a society we should be searching for answers. How did we get to this place? Did we unknowingly give up on our young people – even the young person whom we, as a community, consider a “bad boy?”

I am reminded of the South African Ubuntu principle and practice. Ubuntu means, “I am what I am because of what we all are”. When a member of a tribe violates tribal norms, the village comes together and reminds the individual of all the good they have done and all the good they can do in the future. The tribe does not condemn the individual, nor is the individual isolated from the rest of society.

Isolation and a lack of a sense of community contribute to fostering delinquent or deviant behaviour in the first place. Experts in the field of criminology have found that when a young person feels included in the community, there is a sense of accountability, whether it is to a parent or an elder, and they are less likely to engage in criminal activities. This means the stronger the social network that supports a young person, the more likely is the youth to engage

in positive activities.

We need to ask ourselves then, are we – the adults – failing to make our young people feel included in our society? We castigate them for everything: the clothes they wear, the music they listen to, and the language they use. Are we part of the problem?

When I was growing up, we had folks in the village whom we knew were always watching us. If we stepped out of line, somebody would report us to the matriarch or patriarch of the family. Rarely were the police involved in village matters.

If any young person was getting out of hand, there was always a trusted elder, who would be summoned to give the teenage boy or girl, a good “talking to” or scolding. Many of us grew up hearing: “You better behave yuh self, ah go tell yuh people about you”.

Today, individualism seems to have overtaken the community culture. Everyone is on their smart phones—they are on social media building a community that is virtual rather than real. In the meantime, our real-life community is falling apart.

Crime is a symptom of something deeper, and gun violence could be a signal that our young people are losing hope in us. When life—our life— and the life of others no longer has value, we must look at what is happening in our broader society to trigger that mindset.

It is easy to dismiss the few young people involved in the gun culture as “bad apples” or make comparisons: “other kids doh behaving so”; or, “kids long time ago were not shooting up each other”. As we cast our aspersions and make comparisons, let us also

remember, it was a different time, back then; we did not have social media. We did not have smart phones and we were not so self-indulged that we lost sight of what was happening right in front of us.

Our young people are a precious resource, and we need to find ways to protect them as much as we can from distractions; and, there are many distractions today—from social media to over-consumerism. Everyone is looking for the latest in everything.

We must become community-minded again.

This is the time for our sports clubs, cultural groups, NGOs and churchgoers to get out of the pews and get out into the villages and towns and connect with our young people—not only to become church members, but to do what the Good Book admonishes them to do: love their neighbours as they love themselves.

Our young people are our neighbours. We may disagree with their way of life but let us not throw out the baby with the bathwater. Condemn the sin, not the sinner. This problem of gun violence is a community problem—it is an “all of us” problem and it will take all of us to solve it.

Our young people need hope; hope in a future they can see from wherever they are—from the so-called “ghettos” to wherever young people, who are distracted or disaffected, find themselves.

They also need their basic needs met—they need food, clothing, shelter. They need good guidance and trusted support and encouragement. When those basic needs are not met by society—they will find alternative



ARLEY GILL

means to survive and may even become angry at the people who are supposed to be looking out for them. They look to gangs and gang leaders to fill the role we should be filling.

As Buju Banton reminds us: Circumstances made me what I am, I was born an innocent man.

If we are to stop the proliferation of gun violence here in Grenada, changing the social and economic circumstances for our most vulnerable young people is a good place to start.

Violence is a social and economic problem, and we need solutions that are smart, sensible and suited to our unique situation.

And before we get too caught up in the hysteria of the moment, I beg all of us—Grenadians at home and abroad, experts and wannabe crime experts alike—to be careful as we analyse the current situation: what we are dealing with here in Grenada is a slight spike in gun violence and homicides in the past few months— something we are not used to.

In the grand scheme of things, though, Grenada is still one of the safest places on earth! To keep it that way, we have to re-focus on our community and be our brother’s keeper!

Grenada, we got this!



St. George’s-

Government is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Seville M.C. Francis as the newest member of the Senate in the Parliament of Grenada, who was sworn in on Wednesday August 28 by Deputy to the Governor General and former Prime Minister Tillman Thomas.

Ms. Francis is an advocate for social change and community development, distinguished by her commitment to enhancing the lives of marginalised

## APPOINTMENT OF SEVILLE FRANCIS TO THE SENATE

populations in Grenada. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences, specialising in Psychology (Magna Cum Laude) from St. George’s University.

In her professional roles, Seville has collaborated with NGOs, community-based organizations, and government ministries to amplify marginalised voices and address their needs, promoting long-term sustainability and empowerment.

Seville has represented Grenada at the United Nations Best Diplomats Diplomatic Simulation

Conference in Malaysia, where her work contributed significantly to her team, earning multiple awards for discussions on the disarmament of nuclear weapons and providing solutions for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Additionally, she participated in an international programme in China, focused on poverty alleviation and social security, further broadening her understanding of global challenges and solutions.

Seville has been actively involved in several professional and non-

profit organisations, including serving as the Telecommunication Chairperson for NaDMA (St. Patrick’s West District), being a member of the Friends of the Mentally Ill Grenada, and has been officially pinned as a member of Caribbean Women in Leadership (CiWIL- Grenada chapter). She is also a past member of the St. Patrick Organisation for Development and other professional non-profit groups. Her advocacy initiatives and platforms span gender-based violence, violence against women and girls, suicide prevention, HIV



SEN. SEVILLE M.C. FRANCIS

& STI prevention, sexual abuse, mental health, and other critical issues. Sen. Francis will serve as Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

## BUDGET ALERT 4.1(E): HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS 2021 - POPULATION AGE AND SEX

Table 2 Population by Age

Age	2011			2011			2021			2021		
	Number	Male	Female	Percentage	Male	Female	Number	Male	Female	Percentage	Male	Female
0-14	12,539	12,049	24,588	23	23	23	12,126	11,659	23,785	22	21	22
15-29	14,832	14,391	29,223	28	27	27	11,496	11,163	22,659	21	21	21
30-44	10,159	9,428	19,587	19	18	18	11,138	11,908	23,046	21	22	21
45-59	9,544	8,837	18,381	18	17	17	9,166	8,614	17,780	17	16	16
60-69	3,366	3,415	6,781	6	6	6	6,012	5,754	11,766	11	11	11
70+	3,458	4,651	8,109	6	9	8	4,055	5,188	9,243	8	10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,898</b>	<b>52,771</b>	<b>106,669</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53,993</b>	<b>54,286</b>	<b>108,279</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report 2011 <https://stats.gov.gd/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Census-Report-2011-Revised-Final.pdf>

2021 Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique National Housing and Population Census Results

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 30

For 2021, the dominant age group was 0-14, comprising males 22 per cent (12,126). and females 21 per cent (11,659). The population under the age of forty-five was 64 per cent (69,490) in 2021, comprising 64 per cent (34,760) males and 64 per cent (34,730) females. The population remains a youthful population but there is an increasing elderly population.

Based on the results of the census, the was a

slight increase in the population over the decade 2011 to 2021. The proportion of males and females in the population remained virtually unchanged at 50/50 per cent. There is a youthful population, however, there is evidence of a growing elderly population. A Knowledge is power and experience is the greatest teacher.

**Disclaimer: This article is written in my personal capacity and not in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee.**

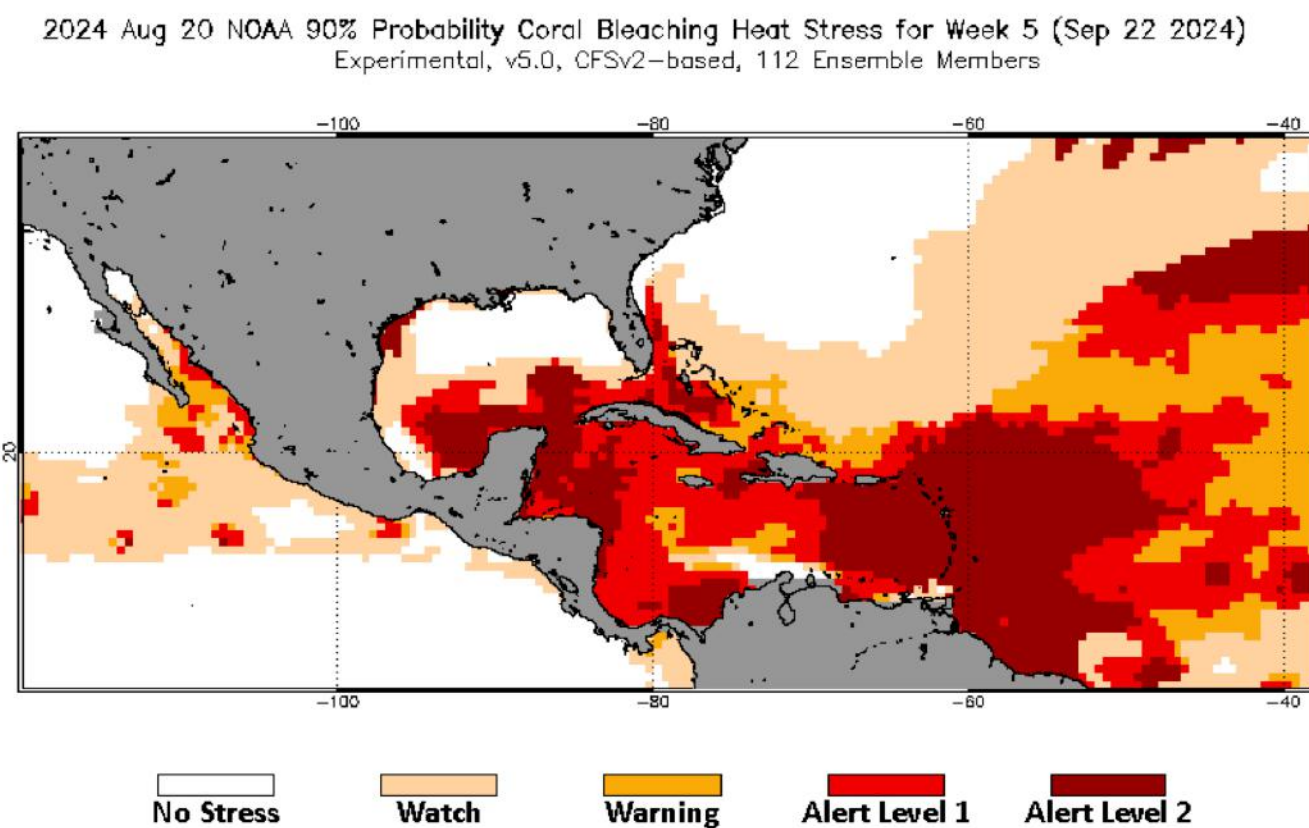
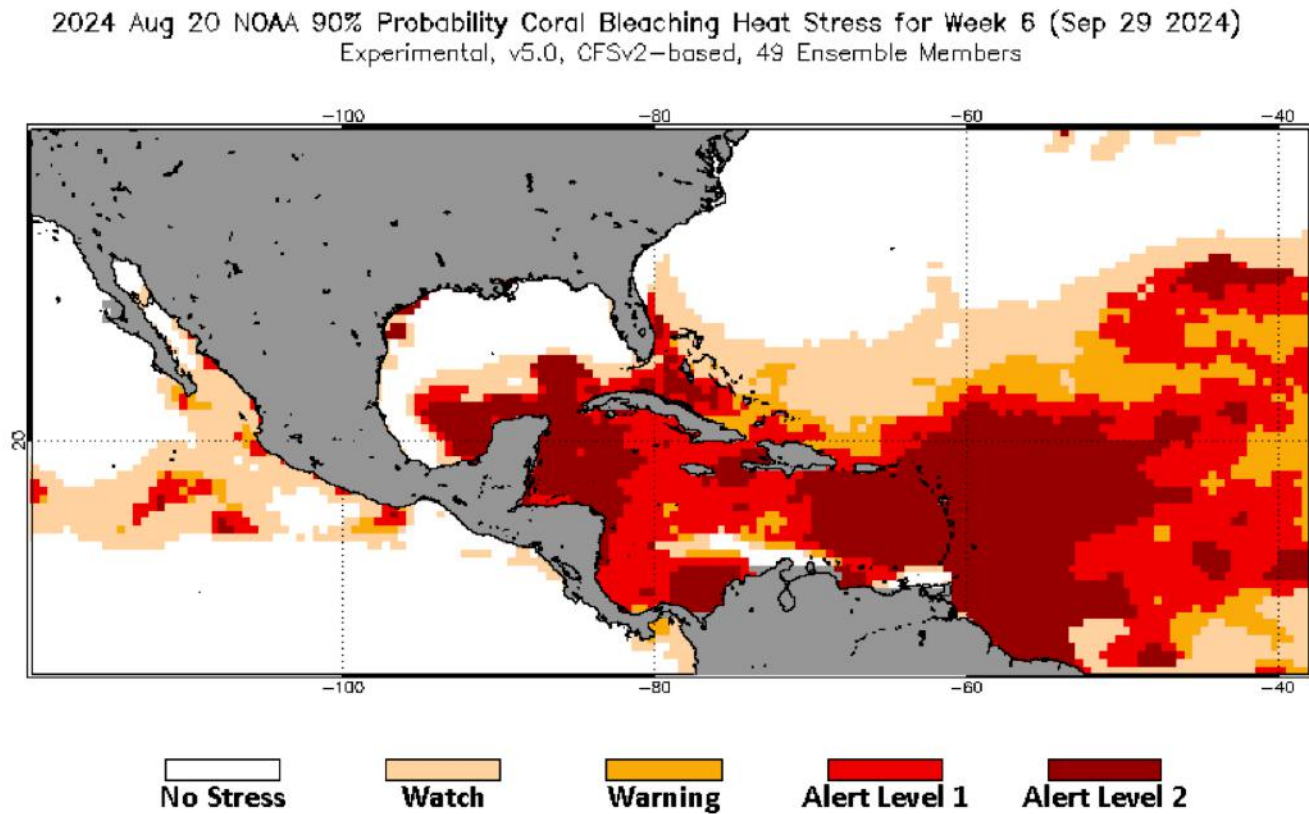
# SEVERE CORAL BLEACHING THREATENS CARIBBEAN REEFS: URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 33

the degradation of coral reefs could jeopardize food security, tourism, coastal protection, and the livelihoods of millions of people across the Caribbean. "As global temperatures rise inexorably, our coral reefs face unprecedented threats. The potential consequences are nothing short of catastrophic for both our environment and the economies that depend on these ecosystems," said the Honourable Minister Kerryne James - Minister for Climate Resilience, Environment and Renewable Energy. "The moment to act is now. We must intensify our conservation efforts, mitigate local stressors, and bolster our climate resilience initiatives to safeguard these critical ecosystems." Grenada is unwavering in its commitment to protecting its marine environment through collaboration with regional and international partners. Ongoing efforts include adaptive management strategies aimed at reducing pollution, overfishing, and habitat degradation while simultaneously expanding coral restoration and climate adaptation initiatives.

In a strategic move to bolster its climate resilience, Grenada undertook a comprehensive revision of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in 2023, extending its vision through to 2027. This revision builds on the achievements of the initial NAP, addressing the increasing urgency posed by the accelerating impacts of climate change, including the intensification of tropical storms and rising sea levels. The updated plan strategically focuses on key areas such as strengthening ecosystem resilience, ensuring food security, and advancing infrastructure development. These priorities are embedded within a broader commitment to sustainable development and the overarching goal of fortifying Grenada's climate resilience.

Recognizing the critical importance of these objectives, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the NAP Global Network have stepped forward to provide specialized support to Grenada. Through the Ministry of Climate Resilience, Environment, and Renewable Energy,



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## BUDGET ALERT 4.1(F): HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS 2021 - POPULATION BY EDUCATION

By Laurel Theresa Bain

This article is a continuation of the highlights of the National Housing and Population Census (2021) which contains comprehensive information on the features of the population and social indicators. The following highlights the educational attainment of the population as published in the National Housing and Population Census of 2021; and compares these with the results of the Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report of 2011. The analysis suggests that public policies should be well targeted to link the education attainment to the needs of the economy and to address disparities in education.

The educational attainment (senior secondary to tertiary) of the population improved and shifted over the decade, recording an increase in the attainment of

tertiary education, while there was a decline in Post Secondary Non-Tertiary (Diploma or Associate Degree). However, the greatest proportion of the population had the highest level of education attainment at secondary school.

The census of 2021 recorded an overall increase of 18 percentage points for the proportion of the population within the combined category of senior primary to tertiary, up from 57 per cent of the population (45,950) in 2011 to 75 per cent of the population (63,599) in 2021. In the 2021 census, the proportion of the population with upper secondary education was 23,850 (28.2 per cent) followed by tertiary non-university 10,030 (11.9 per cent) then senior primary 9,951 (11.8 per cent). The attainment of post secondary education stood in 4th position at 5,734 (6.8 per cent).

The main difference between the 2021 census and the 2011 census was the relative increase in the proportion of the population attaining tertiary education and the relative decline in the proportion of the population attaining post-secondary school education. In the 2011 census, most persons recorded the education level at upper secondary 20,818 (25.69 per

cent) followed by post-secondary 9,977 (12.31 per cent) and senior primary 7,844 (9.68 per cent) as their Highest Level of Education attained. There was an increase in the number of participants for the Bachelors from 2,399 (2.96 per cent) in 2011 to 3,960 (4.7 per cent) in 2021, Masters program participants went from 817 (1.01 per cent) to 1,631 (1.9 per cent) and

Doctorate participants increased from 206 (0.26 per cent) to 382 (0.5 per cent) in 2021. In general, secondary school is the highest level of education attained, suggesting the existence of more broad-based education. The upgrading of the education system to increase participants in post-secondary and tertiary education is

paramount for closing the gaps in the labour market. (See table 1)

Knowledge is power and experience is the greatest teacher.

*Disclaimer: This article is written in my personal capacity and not in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee.*

TABLE 1 HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE POPULATION IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY SEX AND PER CENTAGE

Highest Level of Education	2011			2021			2011			2021		
	Number	Male	Female	Per centage	Male	Female	Number	Male	Female	Per centage	Male	Female
Senior Primary (Grade 7 & 8 or Lower/Junior Secondary (Forms 1-3)	4,092	3,752	7,844	10.10	9.26	9.68	5,387	4,564	9,951	12.9	10.7	11.8
Upper Secondary (Forms 4 & 5)							11,750	12,100	23,850	28.1	28.4	28.2
Upper Secondary	9,513	11,305	20,818	23.5	27.90	25.7	455	450	905	1.1	1.1	1.1
Short Cycle Certification												
Post Secondary, Non-Tertiary (Diploma or Associate Degree)	4,245	5,732	9,977	10.5	14.15	12.3	2,545	3,189	5,734	6.1	7.5	6.8
Tertiary (Non-University) (Diploma or Associate Degree)							4,218	5,812	10,030	10.1	13.6	11.9
Tertiary Level -Bachelor Degree	981	1,418	2,399	2.42	3.50	2.96	1,513	2,447	3,960	3.6	5.7	4.7
Tertiary Level -Masters Degree	442	375	817	1.09	0.93	1.01	670	961	1,631	1.6	2.3	1.9
Doctorate Level	128	79	207	0.31	0.19	0.26	184	198	382	0.4	0.5	0.5
Other (Specify)	887	785	1,672	2.19	1.94	2.06	471	515	986	1.1	1.2	1.2
None	728	605	1,333	1.80	1.49	1.64	725	612	1,337	1.7	1.4	1.6
Not Stated	463	420	883	1.14	1.04	1.09	2,423	2,410	4,833	5.6	5.7	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,479</b>	<b>24,471</b>	<b>45,950</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>30,341</b>	<b>33,258</b>	<b>63,599</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>75</b>

Source: Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report 2011 <https://stats.gov.gd/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Census-Report-2011-Revised-Final.pdf>

2021 Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique National Housing and Population Census Results

# SEVERE CORAL BLEACHING THREATENS CARIBBEAN REEFS: URGENT ACTION NEEDED TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 36

three expert consultants have been integrated into the national framework to enhance the coordination and monitoring of vital

sectoral policies.

These include the implementation of Grenada's National Climate Change Policy and the newly revised National Adaptation Plan. Their work further aligns with international

environmental agreements, ensuring that Grenada remains at the forefront of global efforts to anticipate, prepare for, and effectively respond to climate-related threats.

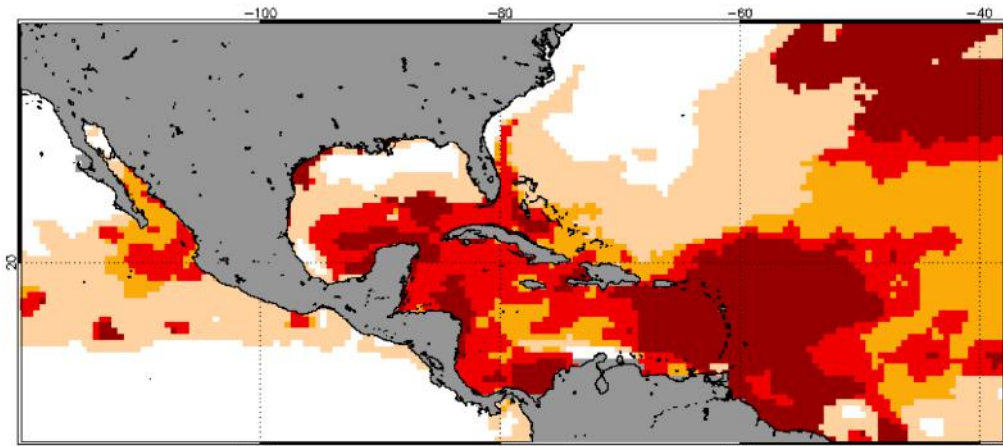
Minister James further emphasized, "These ecosystems are not merely environmental assets; they are the very bedrock of our economies. Their protection is not an option but an absolute

necessity for the future of our oceans and the well-being of the communities that depend on them."

The ongoing global coral bleaching event serves as a clarion call for action

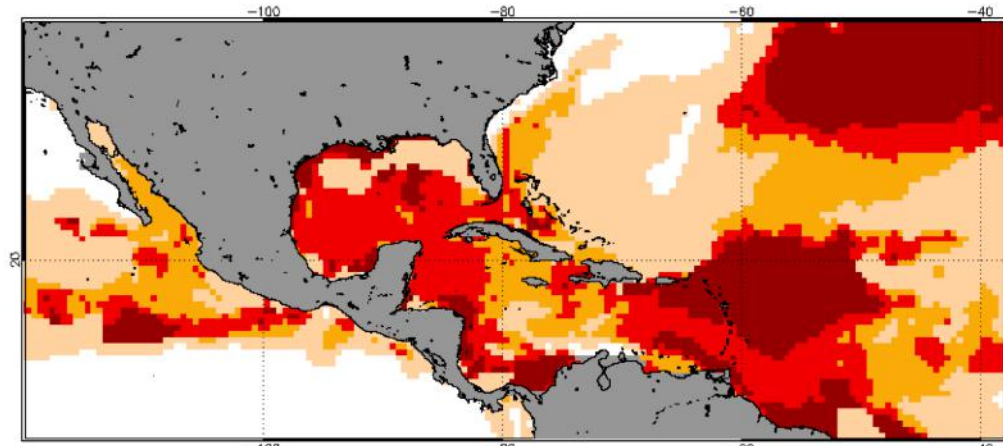
at the international level. It demands stronger climate policies and a resolute commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, coupled with immediate measures to alleviate local pressures on coral reefs.

2024 Aug 20 NOAA 90% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 4 (Sep 15 2024)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 112 Ensemble Members



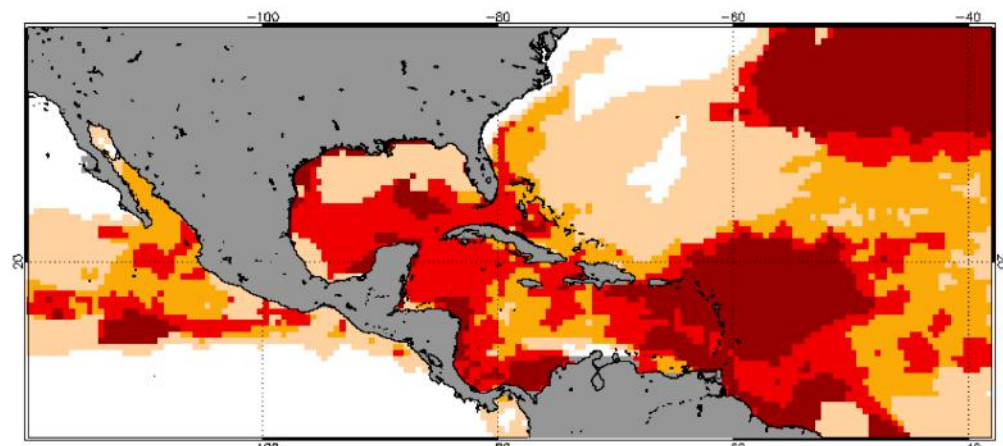
No Stress Watch Warning Alert Level 1 Alert Level 2

2024 Aug 20 NOAA 90% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 2 (Sep 1 2024)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 112 Ensemble Members



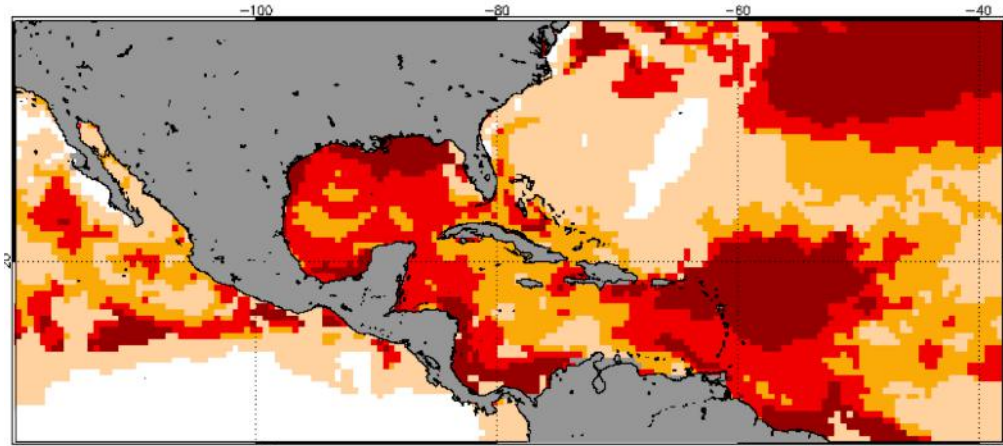
No Stress Watch Warning Alert Level 1 Alert Level 2

2024 Aug 20 NOAA 90% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 3 (Sep 8 2024)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 112 Ensemble Members



No Stress Watch Warning Alert Level 1 Alert Level 2

2024 Aug 20 NOAA 90% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 1 (Aug 25 2024)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 112 Ensemble Members



No Stress Watch Warning Alert Level 1 Alert Level 2

**Footnote:**

Coral bleaching refers to the phenomenon where coral polyps, the tiny animals that build coral reefs, expel the symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) living within their tissues. These algae provide corals with their vibrant colors and, more importantly, supply them with essential nutrients through photosynthesis. Bleaching occurs primarily due to elevated sea temperatures, which disrupt the symbiotic relationship between the corals and the algae. Without these algae, corals lose their color, turn white (hence "bleaching"), and become more susceptible to disease and mortality. Prolonged bleaching events can lead to the widespread death of coral reefs, with severe repercussions for marine biodiversity, coastal protection, and human livelihoods that depend on these ecosystems.



# STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

As of 31st March 2024

The conduct of fiscal policy in Grenada, as outlined in the national budget, is guided by the Fiscal Resilience Act No 11 of 2023, which replaced the repealed Fiscal Responsibility Act No. 29 of 2015 as amended. The purpose of the Fiscal Resilience Act, similar to the repealed Fiscal Responsibility Act, is outlined in Section 5, under the objects of the Act as follows:

- to ensure that fiscal and financial affairs of the public sector are conducted transparently and in a manner that bolsters fiscal resilience.
  - to ensure full and timely disclosure and wide publication of all documents and decisions involving public revenues and expenditures and their implications.
  - to ensure that public debt is reduced to, and then maintained at, a prudent and sustainable level by maintaining primary balances that are consistent with this object; and
  - to ensure prudent management of fiscal risks.
- To facilitate this, the

Fiscal Resilience Act establishes a rules-based framework to guide the operations of the Central Government and that of statutory bodies and state-owned enterprises. Under the Fiscal Resilience Act, the Government is required to maintain the wage bill at less than 13 per cent of GDP and generate a minimum primary surplus of 1.5 per cent of GDP. The debt to GDP ratio of 60 per cent is targeted to be achieved by 2035.

As part of its monitoring function, the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee (FROC) examined the fiscal reports of the Central Government for the first quarter of 2024. Based on the monthly Fiscal Summary Report for March 2024, the primary and overall surpluses of the Central Government were higher than what was targeted for the first quarter of 2024. The Government recorded a primary surplus of \$115.6M, compared with the targeted \$36.7M; and an overall surplus of \$104.7M, compared with the targeted \$25.6M. This performance was influenced by higher than targeted revenue and lower than targeted expenditure. The FROC examined the components of expenditure that were

less than targeted and noted that it included compensation to employees. The FROC, therefore, concluded that based on the data as of 31st March 2024, the Government is operating within the budgeted wage bill of 9.7 per cent of GDP and the primary surplus of 1.5 per cent of GDP, in the context of the projected economic growth of 3.6 per cent.

The FROC continues to monitor the operations of the Government for compliance with the Fiscal Resilience Act. The FROC noted that the categories of expenditure that were less than targeted during the first quarter of 2024 could accelerate during the year, and in particular, expenditure on compensation to employees, goods and services, and capital spending. The implementation of the public service regularisation programme and the usually higher capital spending after the first quarter could push expenditure upward, although remaining within the budgeted amounts. The FROC also noted the higher than targeted revenue performance and the significant contribution of the inflows from the Investment Migration Agency to the higher than targeted revenue. Importantly, in relation

to debt sustainability, the Government generated adequate domestic revenue to pay interest and principal on the Central Government debt. The Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee will continue to monitor the fiscal performance for compliance of the Government with the Fiscal Resilience Act for which the next report will be based on data as of 30th June 2024.

In relation to fiscal transparency, the FROC noted that the information provided to the public was dominated by developments in sector areas, and in particular, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, public utilities, social services and public administration, which ultimately impact on government finances. The matters impacting on the public finances, through the direct actions of the Ministry of Finance, were pronounced in the 2024 national budget. These included, among others, the regularisation of public officers, payment of the employer portion of the social security contribution for contract workers and for the Imanis, the higher legislated minimum wage, elimination of the required payment for the school feeding programme and

increased subvention to schools, granting of a constituency allowance to Parliamentarians and the increase in the salary of parliamentarians. Financial transactions related to the acquisition of assets were incorporated in the 2024 Budget Statement.

The publication of the monthly fiscal reports, which have been a regular source of information, was delayed during the quarter and the monthly fiscal reports for January, February and March were all published in May. The published reports had more comprehensive information on the Government operations, in particular, the disaggregation of the current revenue and current expenditure. In accordance with the principles of fiscal transparency, the Government is urged to maintain the timely publication of the monthly fiscal reports.

In this regard, the following recommendation of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee in the 2023 Annual Report is applicable: "The reports for which there are no legislated dates for publication could not be assessed for timeliness due to the lack of publicly available dates for

the release of the reports, and the inability to discern a consistent timeline for the publication of the reports. To assess the timeliness and predictability of the reports, and to facilitate greater utilisation of the reports by the public, a release calendar or announcement of the release of the reports is necessary". (FROC 2023 Annual Report pg.103)

The Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee is now operating with a simpler Act which removed the ambiguities and complexities that hindered effective implementation and monitoring. The Act also provides greater flexibility for the Government to manage the economy as manifested by the higher cap on the wage bill and the lower minimum primary surplus. The Government is encouraged to continue to generate primary surpluses that are above the legislated minimum primary surplus, and to keep the Act under constant review for precision and coverage as recommended in the FROC 2023 Annual Report.

**Laurel Bain**  
Chairwoman, Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee



The Grenada Development Bank (GDB) is preparing to expand its role in financing the island's development through a closer relationship with the Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).

This was disclosed during an exclusive interview with the new General Manager of the GDB, Royston Cumberbatch. We first asked Mr Cumberbatch whether a development bank, such as the GDB, is still relevant in the today's changing economic environment.

**Cumberbatch:** The answer is yes. If you look at it from a development financing point of view. It is still very relevant for developing countries like Grenada. We have commercial banks and they do not necessarily fund national development, they may fund individual development, but not national development. And they certainly may not fund that niche where development banks should be funding.

**Barnacle:** The role of the GDB has changed as government's change.

## A NEW LOOK FOR GRENADA DEVELOPMENT BANK

One of the issues that has been a concern is the high cost of borrowing money for on-lending. How is the development bank likely to get around that kind of issue?

**Cumberbatch:** The cost of the borrowing affects the cost of on-lending and the cost of operation as well, but one of the ways that we are looking to get around this is, 1) to become a deposit-taking bank. By taking deposits, we can increase liquidity. As a matter of fact, some of the ways that we're looking to take the deposits is to have programs. For example, something I initiated at our board meeting with went down pretty well, is the theme of saving to invest. If we encourage a person to have an account, if they want to have a home, we actually make a plan for them and you say if you start saving x amount of money a month, you can invest in the future, or you can buy a home, that kind of stuff.

So the short answer is that we have to look at ways in which we can take deposits. The second thing is the government and organizations that get benefits from the government, and

which might include, say, a person who gets concessions, et cetera, that they could find a way to give back at concessionary rates. So in the past, for example, the government wanted to stimulate mortgages for contract workers and the government gave the GDP like a 1% loan. You know, if the government wanted to stimulate the other sectors, like education, they have special student loans that are funded by the government, via the bank. I mean, as you can see recently, for example, we had an office of creative affairs where they want to stimulate activity in that sector and the government gave, EC \$2M last year and potentially EC \$2m this year just for that sector, and that's funded by the bank. And these are actually, when the government can actually go and borrow a concessionary rate, whereby a commercial bank would not be able to go and borrow, say, at 1%. The government would be able to go and borrow, say, EC \$100M at 1%, and distribute that to different ministries including the GDB for on-lending.

**Barnacle:** One of the areas of concern over the years in interacting with the GDB is this

issue of monies from the government passing through GDB to on-lend to farmers and other small business people. There has been a sentiment that these monies are not to be repaid, leaving significant levels of either non-performing loans or slow to meet their obligation to repay because it's seen as "we money". How does the GDB in this new dispensation, get around that?

**Cumberbatch:** So just giving someone a loan or some finance is not in itself development. We have a small business development fund at the moment, and traditionally half of all these small businesses fail in the first 2 years. That is a fact, for various reasons. So, with that back story, if you just give them money and you don't give them any support, any business support, any training, if the person doesn't understand that sales is not profit and profit is not cash. So in this dispensation we are looking to make sure that individuals who access loans understand management of money and understand the mechanics of business. We are looking establishing a business

hub or even business incubators where we can centralize things like bookkeeping or marketing, etc. so that the persons who are in business focus on doing business while there's a central team of people who focus on supporting them to be successful. That way, the chances of actually making profits, having cash flow and paying back the loans are much higher.

**Barnacle:** So are you competing with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), in its outreach to small businesses.

**Cumberbatch:** The GIDC and the GDB should never be competing. They should be one and the same. They are both government entities with the same end goal in mind, development. We are the Grenada Development Bank, they are the Grenada Investment Development Corporation. He words Grenada and development are common in both. Therefore, there should be no competing. We are exploring and looking to revamp synergies between the two. You may have even heard

the government speak about a merger because the GDB and the GIDC should be one and the same in terms of impact for the Grenadian people.

**Barnacle:** The GIDC plays a role in analyzing major developmental projects in Grenada, both local and foreign projects. Is there a role for the GDB in that process from a financing point of view?

**Cumberbatch:** Having worked at the GIDC, I would tell you that most of the GIDC activity is focused on local investment. I say most by volume of activity, not by size of investment. What I mean by that, if you look at the number of new projects in any one year, 80% of those projects are from local persons. 80% of the invested amount might be from a foreign investment. So we have very few foreign investors, but very large amounts in terms of the financials. So the GDB can work with the GIDC to even help fund some of the local businesses, the local initiatives that go through the GIDC, but they don't

CONTINUES ON PAGE 46



## BUDGET ALERT 4.2: THE POLITICAL CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GRENADA IN THE 1950'S

By Laurel Theresa Bain

The structure of Grenada's economy is influenced by its historical legacy, its evolution to a politically independent state, and the policies pursued by administrations. The economic developments in Grenada are outlined in the context of the political and constitutional changes over the years.

In the 1950s, Grenada was shifting away from the governance system of direct control by the British Government, based on the Crown Colony form of Government comprising a Governor and an Executive Council appointed by the British Government. Under this system of Government, the economy was void of domestic economic management and fiscal policy was virtually non-existent. Monetary policy was not necessary as the pound sterling circulated freely as the medium of exchange. The social conditions in Grenada were similar to that of the other British colonies and could be gauged from the findings of the 1945 Moyne Commission

report that denounced the deplorable conditions of the colonies.

Economic developments in the 1950s were influenced by the changing political system, the structure of the economy, the upgraded and broadened skills of the population, and the social conditions in the country.

Emerging from direct colonial rule, developments in the 1950s in Grenada and other such colonies were dominated by a series of political and constitutional changes. During that time, the existing crown colony structure of government was constantly modified to increase local participation in the governance arrangements. As such, the Executive Council, which was nominated by the British Government under crown colony government was transformed to a legislature, referred to as the legislative council, elected by a broader coverage of the population.

The constitutional and political changes were informed by the findings of the Moyne Commission Report and the Royal West

India Report. In 1951, the constitution was revised to increase the number of elected members in the legislature. Additionally, the income and property qualification for candidates at elections was abolished and a 15-pound sterling deposit was introduced. The deposit was not refunded if the candidate failed to get one-eighth of the votes in his/her constituency. In that year, universal suffrage was granted for all persons 21 years and over. However, the British Government allowed the Governor to retain his power which was rationalised as being in the interest of good government and public order. The Governor was therefore vested with the power to assent bills passed by the Legislature and could recommend to the Secretary of State that a particular bill or measure be vetoed.

At that same time, Eric Gairy entered the political arena initially as a trade unionist bargaining for higher wages for the sugar workers. The formal establishment of his Grenada Mental and Manual Trade Union in

July 1950 was followed by a series of strikes in the midst of demands for higher wages. The arrest of Gairy did not quell the crowd, and with pressures from the agricultural workers, Gairy was released on the condition that he restore order to the country.

The period is often referred to as "SKY RED", marked by the burning of estates and other property.

Campaigning for improved social and economic conditions and, with the support of the working class, Gairy and his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) won the 1951 general elections. Within the following five years, constitutional changes were marginal. In 1955, however, a committee system was introduced with the objective of preparing the Legislature for their role of decision making in the planned West Indian Federation. During that interim period, the Legislature was expected to become acquainted with the machinery and operation of the government. Thereafter,

Grenada participated in the short-lived West Indies Federation of 1958 to 1962.

In 1957, a new political party - The Grenada National Party (GNP), headed by H.A Blaize, was formed. While the Grenada United Labour Party won the support of the labour population and, in particular, the estate workers, the Grenada National Party was classified as a middle class-based party consisting mainly of the business community, the plantocracy and the middle-class intellectuals. The newly established Grenada National Party won the 1957 general elections. At the same time, Gairy was suspended from the Council and from taking part in general elections for five years (1957-1961), and it was alleged that this was for breaking up a meeting of his opponents in the 1957 election campaign.

By 1959, a Ministerial Form of Government was introduced in Grenada and a new provision of government was set up, consisting of an

administrator appointed by and representing the Queen. He presided over an executive council consisting of a chief minister, three other ministers, a minister without portfolio and the principal law officer. The Chief Minister was appointed by the Administrator and was expected to be an elected member who commanded the confidence of the other majority elected members. The Legislative Council consisted of one ex-officio officer, two nominated and ten elected officers. Leader of the Grenada National Party, H.A Blaize, became Grenada's first Chief Minister, but his term in office was terminated at the 1961 general elections.

The next article examines the economic and fiscal policies pursued during the 1950's.

Knowledge is power and Experience is the greatest teacher.

*Disclaimer: This article is written in my personal capacity and not in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee.*

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



## BE PROACTIVE | STAY SAFE

Fishers and fishing communities should take steps to prepare for any disaster!



### STAY INFORMED

Carefully follow official information from authoritative sources about severe weather systems and hurricanes.



### BE AWARE OF RISKS

Safeguard against hazards such as high winds and turbulent seas, storm surge and storm tide, rip currents, heavy rainfall and flooding, and tornadoes.



### MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Have an emergency kit with supplies, enough food, water, medicine and other essentials that will last for at least two weeks.

The CRFM cautions fishers against operating vessels under adverse weather conditions and urges all fishers to act early to secure boats and store fishing gear and basic supplies like ropes, lines, hooks, coolers, crimps and crimpers in the event of an approaching storm. This will help to ensure that fishers can protect their livelihoods and return to fishing more quickly after the storm passes and minimize lost and abandoned fishing gear that will continue to 'ghost fish.'

MONITOR AND LISTEN TO THE RADIO FOR REGULAR WEATHER REPORTS, WARNINGS, AND MARINE NOTICES.



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# ALWAYS BE PREPARE BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

### NOAA's National Weather Service

The best time to prepare is before hurricane season begins. Avoid having to rush through potentially life-saving preparations by waiting until it's too late. Get your disaster supplies while the shelves are still stocked, and get that insurance checkup early, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.

Develop an evacuation plan  
If you are at risk from hurricane impacts, you need an evacuation plan. Now is the time to begin planning where you would go and how you would get there. You do not need to travel hundreds of miles. Your destination could be a friend or relative who lives in a well built home outside flood prone areas. Plan several routes. Be sure to account for your pets.

### Assemble disaster supplies

Whether you're evacuating or sheltering-in-place, you're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm but for the potentially lengthy and unpleasant aftermath. Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your family a minimum of 3 days (store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). Electricity and water could be out for weeks. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio and flashlights. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones. And lastly, don't forget your pets!

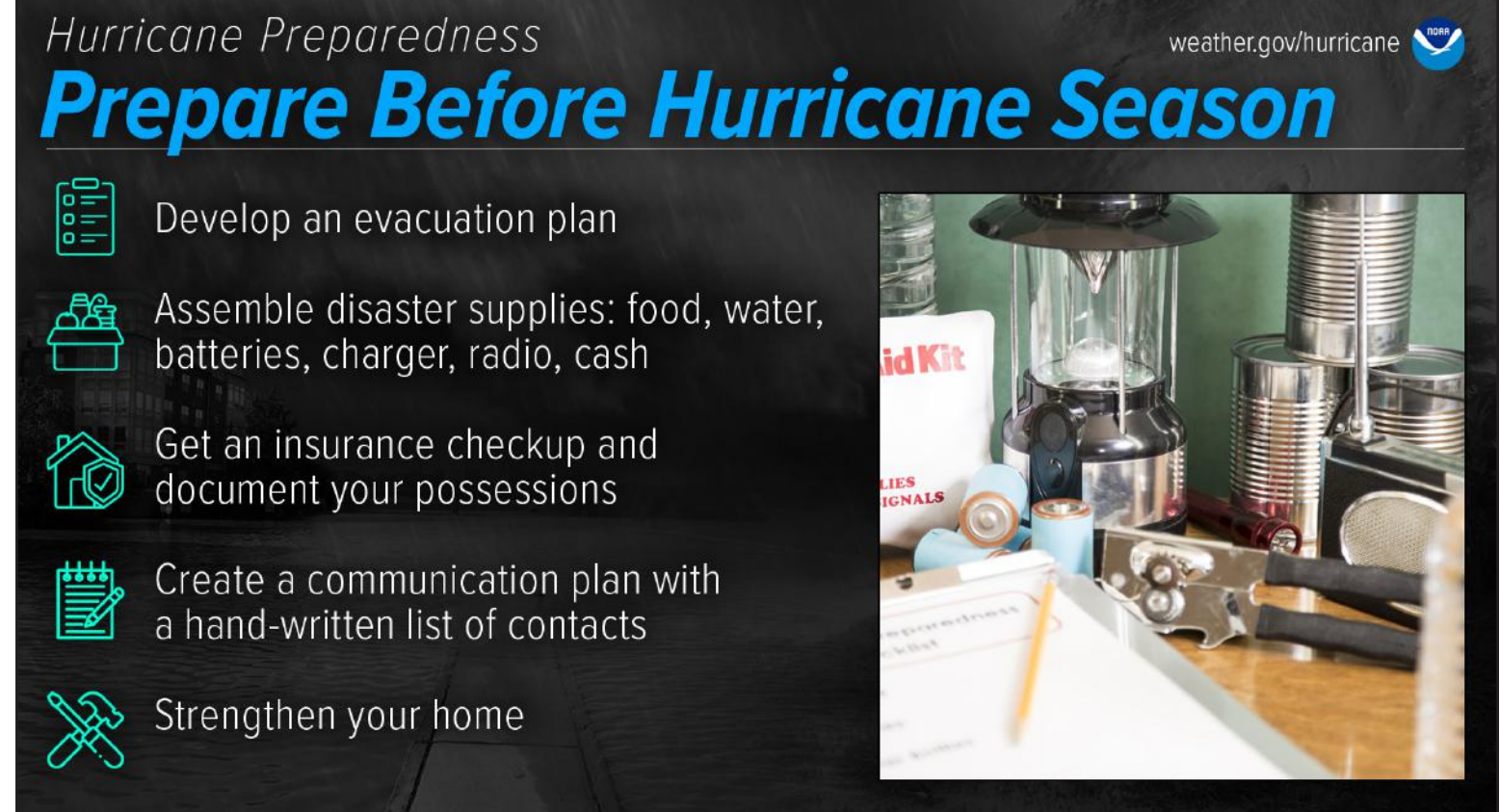


IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

### Get an insurance checkup & document your possessions

Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough insurance to repair or even replace your home and/or belongings. Remember, home and renters insurance doesn't cover flooding, so you'll need a separate policy for it. Flood insurance is available through your company, agent, or the National Flood Insurance Program at floodsmart.gov. Act now, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.

Take the time before hurricane season begins to document your possessions: photos, serial numbers, or anything else that you may need

to provide your insurance company when filing a claim.

### Create a communication plan

Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan, and share it with your family. Determine family meeting places, and make sure to include an out-of-town location in case of evacuation. Write down on paper a list of emergency contacts, and make sure to include utilities and other critical services — remember, the internet may not be accessible during or after a storm.

### Strengthen Your Home

Now is the time to improve your home's ability to withstand hurricane impacts. Trim trees. Install storm shutters, accordion shutters, and/or impact glass. Seal outside wall openings. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand hurricane-force winds. Many retrofits are not as costly or time consuming as you may think. If you're a renter, work with your landlord now to prepare for a storm.

And remember - now is the time to purchase the proper plywood, steel or aluminum panels to have on hand if you need to board up the windows and doors ahead of an approaching storm.

# REPUBLIC BANK CPL TO SUPPORT HURRICANE BERYL RELIEF EFFORTS

**St. George's, Grenada:** The lives of all residents in the northern parts of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and has left students needing considerable support to complete their education. The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will be making a US\$50,000 contribution to support tertiary level students who have had their last year of education significantly disrupted, following the horrendous impact of Hurricane Beryl in July 2024. The disaster has had a massive impact on

the lives of all residents in the northern parts of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and has left students needing considerable support to complete their education. The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will be making a US\$50,000 contribution to support tertiary level students who have had their last year of education significantly disrupted, following the horrendous impact of Hurricane Beryl in July 2024. The disaster has had a massive impact on

their studies at T.A. Marryshow Community College. In addition, the CPL will be making a commitment to bring a number of these students to the CPL in 2025 to work as interns at the event to further help with their professional development as they consider their future career options. The CPL's donation will support students with accommodation, meals, transportation and school supplies while they continue

Pete Russell, CPL's CEO, said: "Everyone at CPL has been touched by the impact that Beryl has had across the region, and we are pleased that we are able to play our part by supporting these students as they complete their studies and look to a bright future ahead. Supporting the youth of the Caribbean is hugely important to us and we

look forward to hearing of the progress of these students and welcoming them to the tournament next year where we are certain they will find working with the CPL team a hugely rewarding experience."

Prime Minister of Grenada, the Honourable Dickon Mitchell, said: "We are very grateful for the

support that Republic Bank CPL is giving to our young people as they look to rebuild their lives following the massive impact of Hurricane Beryl on Grenada. This support means that they can recover from the immediate impact of this disaster and focus solely on continuing their studies."

# RETURNING HOME

By Dr. Basil Springer

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11*

I have experienced "Returning Home" twice in my life.

I first left Barbados in 1960 at age 19 to pursue higher education in Jamaica, Wales and England, and then seamlessly landed my first job at UWI St. Augustine in Trinidad in 1968.

At UWI Jamaica, I had an amazing three-year Caribbean experience followed by a diverse, wide-ranging five-year

UK experience before heading back to the Caribbean to start my professional career in fun-loving Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1974, at age 33, I returned home after having been away for 14 years. This was my first homecoming.

Fast forward to 2013, when at the age of 72 and after a wonderful 39-year career in my homeland embracing both the work environment and an entrepreneurship wave, I went to Trinidad to pursue new personal ambitions.

Now in 2024, at age 83, after 11 enjoyable years I have decided to return home again

and persuaded my partner, Judy, to join me. This is my second homecoming.

My first return to Barbados was marked by the excitement of establishing my family, attending to children's education, achieving financial independence, pursuing physical fitness leading to longevity, embracing spiritual awareness and emotional balance, and strengthening and sharing business acumen. This time around is different. Life has changed, the island has changed, and I must consider how best to establish a playbook for the theme 'Retired, but not tired'.

It has taken a lot of



planning to get to this point, and I can see that this life decision is about our happiness, exercising in an idyllic environment, seeing children, grandchildren and extended family as much as possible, tidying up loose ends in business, sharing knowledge and experience with others, and continuing to practice Rotary "Service Above Self" to make the

world a better place.

The transition to date has been smooth. Wonderful farewell functions and categorizing personal belongings (donating, dumping or deciding to keep) to create an empty personal space in Trinidad contributed to a positive ending to my time in Trinidad. A warm welcome in Barbados, hitting

the ground running, savoring favorite culinary delights and, of course, dealing with the heat, have been a few of the highlights on the other side of the experience.

There is much to be said for executing plans diligently and seeing them come to fruition with a view towards experiencing the next stage of life.

# UNDERSTAND FORECAST INFORMATION

NOAA's National Weather Service

**Have trusted sources for storm information**

Rely on official forecasts and well-established media partners in the Weather Enterprise. Be cautious of sensational headlines and instead look for reliable sources to determine a storm's potential impacts. Use the official National Hurricane Center Forecast — their hurricane specialists access a variety of data (models, aircraft, satellite) to make the most accurate forecasts possible. Meteorologists at local NWS offices understand which locations in your area are most vulnerable to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Always check to make sure you have the latest forecast information. Make sure to have Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled on your phone to receive Warnings.

**Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch & Warning**

In general, a Watch means impacts are possible; a Warning means impacts are expected or happening. Different hazards and alerts require different responses:

- A **Hurricane Watch** means hurricane conditions are possible somewhere within the watch area, with tropical-storm-force winds beginning within the next 48 hours. Prepare by boarding up windows and moving loose items indoors, and make sure your emergency kit is ready. A Hurricane Warning means hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area, with tropical-storm-force winds beginning within 36 hours. Seek shelter in a sturdy structure or evacuate if ordered.

**Hurricane Preparedness**  
weather.gov/hurricane

**Understand Forecast Information**

- ✓ Rely on forecasts from the National Hurricane Center & your local NWS office
- ⚠ Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch and Warning
- 🏠 Focus on potential impacts, regardless of storm size or category
- 🌊 Know that deadly hazards occur well outside of the Forecast Cone

IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

- A **Tropical Storm Watch** means tropical storm conditions are possible within the next 48 hours, a Tropical Storm Warning means they are expected somewhere within the warning area. Remember, a tropical system does not have to reach hurricane strength to be deadly.
- A Storm Surge Watch means the possibility of life-threatening inundation generally within 48 hours, and a Storm Surge Warning means the danger of life-threatening inundation generally within 36 hours. In either case, please promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.
- A **Flash Flood Warning** means dangerous flash flooding is expected: move to higher ground, and never walk or drive through floodwater. A Flash Flood Emergency is issued

for exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage is happening or about to happen — do NOT attempt to travel unless you are under an evacuation order or your life is imminently at risk.

- A **Flood Watch** means flooding is possible: stay tuned to trusted news sources and be ready to seek higher ground. A Flood Warning means flooding is happening or about to happen: move to higher ground immediately.

**Focus on potential impacts regardless of storm size or category**

Do not focus on a specific storm category; all hurricanes and tropical storms can bring life-threatening storm surge, inland flooding, and damaging winds. The storm's scale only tells you about the strongest winds near the center of the storm

and does not tell you about potentially life-threatening flooding from storm surge or rain. Remain vigilant even if the winds have weakened and the storm becomes a lower category or tropical storm — rainfall and storm surge impacts often continue.

**Deadly hazards occur well outside of the cone**

Impacts can be felt far from the storm's center, even well inland and outside the Forecast Cone. Remember: the storm itself can stretch well beyond the Forecast Cone, and so can the impacts.

The National Hurricane Center Forecast Cone shows the probable forecast track of the center of the storm. This means that the storm's center will probably travel somewhere within the cone's boundaries. (Historically, the storm's center has remained within the forecasted cone roughly two-thirds of the time.) The cone does NOT represent the size of the storm in any way.



CONTINUES FROM  
PAGE 40

have the funding. In terms of attracting large projects, the GIDC does that mainly through an incentive package. By having an incentive program, and I'm one of the people looking at ways to attract incentives in, I mean, attract projects. So projects are attracted not entirely because of incentives, of course, we are one of the safest Caribbean islands, people are very friendly, and we have a lot of attributes that even other Caribbean islands don't have. We have a skilled labor force and we are very good at English language. So, persons come here to invest, and most times they come, to be quite honest, with their money. So, I don't think that is necessarily where the GDB should be pointing, but the GDP should be looking to fund more of local projects initiated by Grenadians, and that's Grenadians living in Grenada and Grenadians living in the diaspora.

**Barnacle:** You spoke of a skilled labour force as a benefit but if you speak to both the local investment community and the foreign

investment community, they will point to the issue of labor force as a challenge in the market. How does Grenada back its boast about a highly skilled labour force?

**Cumberbatch:** Great question. When we talk about skilled labor force, there are various types of skills. I think what is lacking is actually the vocational skills, including laying tiles or looking after yachts or whatever. I think there has to be a shift in the educational system, in terms of the kind of investors that are coming. Maybe there's already a paradigm shift in terms of investors that are coming in and the type of skills that they're looking for. Remember in the past, maybe it was mainly, tourism and agriculture. Now we are finding that there are other areas that people are looking for skills.

Of course, technology has advanced, the world has advanced. The way things are done, even construction has advanced. So maybe it's a way of Grenada actually creating that upskilling and re-tooling of this workforce. It doesn't mean that we don't have skills, I mean, not skills, but I think it's a matter of re-tooling and making sure that

person remains relevant.

**Barnacle:** So, with the paradigm shift you talked about, specifically when it comes to new types of technology and new businesses. We've had a yachting sector for many years, but yet a number of yachts are heading south to undertake repairs. Only in recent times we've seen some of that spin-off staying in Grenada. Is there room for more investment in these non-traditional and new sectors that our island's economy can benefit from?

**Cumberbatch:** The answer is yes. There is room. I mean, I've been at the GIDC for a couple of years. There is significant room, especially in the area of training, for example. Even in the area of providers, there is room for local persons to get involved, but as you said, in the absence of that, persons are forced to look outside. Therefore, some of it and things that the GDB can do. But some require government policy including educational priorities. Off course we have the TAMCC, we have NEWLO, do we need a new college. Maybe we need to go more into technical

studies. Grenada is developing and therefore there is always room for more businesses owned by locals to come on stream. It also has to be linked to a mindset because most Grenadians are averse to taking risks. And when we are talking about investing, you are talking about taking risks.

**Barnacle:** What are some areas of new thinking you bring to this organization that will change the GDB's outlook as it seeks to impact the national economy and the business community?

**Cumberbatch:** My background is in training and development. Having taught at the TAMCC for years, I understand that education actually empowers people. The thing that I am hoping to do is to ensure that every person who goes into business has at least a business skills certificate or understand the basic of business. I am looking to do that in collaboration with an institution like the GIDC. I have developed a profitable business blue print that allows me to implement and hire individuals to implement aspects of

my blue print to ensure more businesses are profitable and have cash flow which in turn will lead to better livelihoods and a reduction in unemployment. It is important that business people have the acumen to be successful, profitable and cash rich.

**Barnacle:** How important is good data in this environment.

**Cumberbatch:** Data is important but I always focus on information for decision making. I focus on financial intelligence rather than just data because data is unscrambled information. Data cannot be used in its original form to make good financial decisions. We are on the verge of implementing new systems to help us understand the performance of different sectors. Since being here one of the things I have initiated and which my board has found to be extremely useful, is a loan sector review of the last 5 years showing how sectors have performed, whether they grew or diminished. Those kinds of data and information are very important for the decision makers to understand and to influence the direction of the bank.

**Barnacle:** Is population size important to the success of the business community.

**Cumberbatch:** In this digital age, you do not need to have a face to face business or be in a certain location to reach customers.

We have call centers who come here to set up and use our people to speak to people in the United States or the UK. And they are growing and successful. I also think that it's important that businesses find their niche. That business has a clear value and business proposition. Instead of each person trying to do the same kind of business, it is important that businesses understand where they are positioned on the value chain. Some people need to understand that they cannot do it all. One must produce the raw material while another focuses on producing the finished product, while another focuses on packaging. If one person tries to do everything then at the end you have product that are low in value and customers prefer what's imported. So there are things that can be done to ensure our products are superior to what is found in other islands in the Caribbean.



## BUDGET ALERT 4.3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN GRENADA IN THE 1950'S

By Laurel Theresa Bain

With the focus on political and social reforms in the early 1950s, strategic policies for economic development were not at the forefront. The widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Janet in 1955 led to a shift in policies to recovery and reconstruction.

The economic structure, which was sugar-based mono-cultural, was evolving into a more pronounced diversified agricultural economy. The production of sugar was being shifted to a limited area around the main sugar factory. A group of farmers had developed, producing food crops and experimenting with new export crops such as cocoa, coffee, coconut and nutmeg; and by the mid 1950s, banana became an important commercial crop. Consequently, bananas, cocoa and nutmeg emerged as important export crops. At the same time, the small farmer type

operation became a core production unit in Grenada's agriculture. The economic structure was therefore dominated by the production and export of primary products and the importation of a wide range of goods and services.

A more structuralist economic theory during this period as the nationalist governments had to intervene to provide needed economic and social services. An indication of the economic conditions of the working class is based on the reports of the 1930s and 1940s. In particular, the Moyne Commission Report described the conditions as deplorable. With the labour force employed mainly in agriculture, wage development in that sector is a guide to what was the general welfare of the working population. Agricultural wages were said to be grossly inadequate as were housing, clothing and health care.

In the 1950s, the main objective of fiscal policy was to raise adequate revenue to finance government expenditures in the context of changing administrative arrangements and the need to improve the social and economic infrastructure. Fiscal policy focused on raising adequate revenue to finance government's expenditure. Therefore, the ease of tax administration, an indicator of the efficiency of the tax system, and the adequacy of revenue were the major focus of fiscal policy. The issues of equity of the tax system did not feature prominently.

Reflecting the nature of the economy, dominated by the production and export of primary agriculture products and the importation of a wide range of goods and services, import duties were the main source of revenue. With the expansion of the categories of economic agents to include landowners, traders

and professionals, the tax system was being gradually modified to broaden the base. Despite the gradual changes, indirect taxes, and in particular import duties, were the main source of revenue.

The system to facilitate ease of tax administration was influenced by the existing administrative capacity. Emerging from direct colonial rule, there was not a well-developed administrative system to facilitate economic and financial management. However, as it was an open and trade dependent economy, an administrative system for imports and exports was established and this determined the type of taxation. The port provided the most effective tax handle. Consequently, despite the growth in direct taxes, the Government depended on the collection of indirect taxes to finance its operations.

The primary focus of the government

was generating adequate domestic revenue to finance current expenditure and to contribute to financing the needed economic and social infrastructure. Domestic revenue was supplemented with external grants (grant-in-aid) from the British Government.

The monetary arrangement did not allow for active monetary policy. In the 1950s, the British West Indian dollar (BWID), introduced in 1949 by the British government in its British West Indian territories, was the currency used for payment for goods and services. However, the pound sterling circulated freely as a medium of exchange. As a member of the British Caribbean Currency Board (BCCB), which was established in 1958, Grenada participated in a common currency arrangement. The BCCB had the sole right to issue the common BWID, with the mandate to maintain adequate foreign currency to

ensure that, at any time, the dollar could be exchanged with the pound at \$4.80 per sterling. With this monetary arrangement, fiscal policy was the dominant instrument for managing the economy.

In this agriculture based and export-oriented economy; and the need to improve the economic and social infrastructure, fiscal policy focused on raising adequate revenue to finance government's current expenditure with a portion of the capital expenditures financed by external grants from the British Government. The ease of tax administration and the adequacy of revenue were the major focus of fiscal policy.

Knowledge is power and Experience is the greatest teacher.

**Disclaimer:** This article is written in my personal capacity and not in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee.





# STATEMENT FROM THE FISCAL RESILIENCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The members of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee (FROC) share in the anguish brought about by the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl; and has engaged the Government on matters that fall under the ambit of the Fiscal Resilience Act.

2024, this will require a revision of the 2024 national budget and the Medium-term Fiscal Framework. Thereafter, the Medium-term Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report will have to be prepared to accommodate priorities that emerged as a result of the hurricane.

the supplementary budget on the compliance with the fiscal rules and targets in this Act; (e) where an Order under section 9 has been made, prepare and lay before the House of Representatives a written assessment on the compliance with this

Act and the adequacy of the measures proposed to facilitate compliance with the public debt target and primary balance rule at the end of the suspension; and (f) advise on measures that ensure compliance in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

The Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee continues to monitor the fiscal outturn and the developments in the economy. In so doing, the FROC will review reports on the impact of Hurricane Beryl, the policy responses by the

Government and the reports as stipulated in the Fiscal Resilience Act and the Public Finance Management Act.

*Laurel Bain  
Chairwoman, Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee*

The FROC, as part of its monitoring function, targeted the issue of its 'Statement of Compliance' based on the fiscal outturn as of 30th June 2024. The statement will not be issued in light of the disruption caused by Hurricane Beryl. The FROC noted that, as of 30th April, the fiscal outturn was more favourable than targeted. Additionally, based on the IMF statement, the fiscal outturn for 2024 was projected to be better than budgeted as follows:

The FROC is guided by the Fiscal Resilience Act (2023). With reference to developments related to Hurricane Beryl, the Act makes provision for activating the Suspension Clause in the event of a natural disaster.

Additionally, the need for a Supplementary Appropriation Bill coincides with the time for the preparation of the Medium-term Fiscal Framework as stipulated in the Public Finance Management Act as amended. The fiscal impact of the supplementary budget will determine whether there is a need to activate the Suspension Clause.

In keeping with its legislated mandate in Section 12 of the Fiscal Resilience Act, the FROC will undertake the following:

(c) provide a written assessment to the Ministry of Finance on the draft of the medium-term fiscal framework prepared in accordance with section 12 of the Public Finance Management Act; (d) no later than two weeks after the approval of any supplementary budget, prepare and lay before the House of Representatives for consideration, a statement on the impact of

*The clearing of the large backlog of CBI applications from the recent surge is projected to result in a large 2024 budget surplus of 9.5 percent of GDP and further accumulation of government deposits.*

(Grenada Staff Concluding Statement of the 2024 Article IV Mission June 20, 2024).

The FROC therefore concludes that as of 30th June 2024, the fiscal outturn was projected to be more favourable than budgeted, and within the parameters of the Fiscal Resilience Act.

With the impact of Hurricane Beryl, the Government now has to manage a process of recovery, rebuilding, and reconstruction. For

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# SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMME BY THE PURC

## St. George's, Grenada-

The Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) is pleased to announce the end of a successful educational outreach campaign to summer schools across the island.



In July/August 2024, a team from the Communications Department of the PURC visited twenty-two (22) Summer Schools across Grenada. During the visits, a total of seven hundred and fifty-nine (759) children and eighty-five (85) facilitators were sensitised on the roles of the PURC, which include:

1. Informing the public on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation to reduce carbon emissions.
2. Creating renewable energy programs to increase the penetration of renewable energy into the national grid.
3. Acting as the independent regulator of the electricity sector.

The parish of St. George

had the largest number of children served – three hundred and fifty (350), followed by St. Andrew – two hundred and seventy-four (274). Due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl, visits to Carriacou and Petite Martinique were cancelled.

Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, Mr. Andrew Millet, remarked, "The PURC is committed to enhancing public awareness on renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency, hence we are proud to have reached so many young minds through our Summer School Outreach Program. This demonstrates the Commission's dedication and commitment to the cause, and we plan to extend our visit to our sister islands in 2025".

Presentations to the children highlighted

various types of renewable energy, using local and relatable examples where possible. The Team also focused on encouraging behavioural changes to conserve energy and tips on becoming more energy-efficient by identifying energy-saving products commonly found in households. This effort aims to reduce the island's overall carbon emissions. The children won prizes for participating in competitive sessions and at the end of the presentations, each child received PURC promotional items, including bags, bottles, folders, pens, pencils, and pamphlets encouraging them to become Renewable Energy Champions.

Facilitators welcomed the PURC's visit, which added valuable variety to their programs. Mrs. Sherin La Borde-



Julien of SJ's Tutoring in Marli, St. Patrick's expressed her gratitude: "I applaud the PURC's Communication Team for incorporating their Summer School Outreach into our summer program as it catered to added variety. The children were excited to learn about renewable energy, and the facilitators and I gained valuable insights about the PURC's mandate".

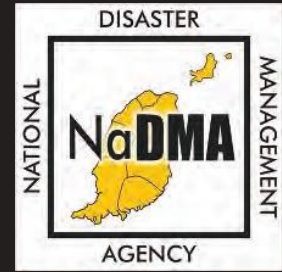
Kizzy Abraham, Program Officer from the Grenada Sustainable Development Trust Fund (GSDTF) joined the Communications Team on some of the school visits, educating children about the importance of conservation and their role as environmental stewards. Ms. Abraham stated, "Participating in this summer program for kids on renewable energy and conservation has

been an incredibly rewarding experience. Watching young minds light up with curiosity and passion for preserving our planet has reaffirmed the importance of educating future generations about renewable energy and sustainability".

The Commission looks forward to making 2025 Summer School Outreach even bigger with the inclusion of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Mrs. Allecia Mason, Consumer and Public Affairs Officer at the PURC concluded that "It was indeed an honour and a pleasure to engage with so many summer schools, helping to raise awareness of renewable energy among young and impressionable minds. Our goal was to inspire them to share this message with their parents, family,

and friends. We also encouraged the children to consider careers in the renewable energy sector, as it offers significant benefits not only to them but also to the world at large".

Presently, the Commission supervises two renewable energy initiatives to facilitate Grenada's transition towards sustainable energy usage and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels - diesel. The Self Generation Program (SG) empowers individuals to generate electricity for personal use, sell surplus energy to GRENLEC, or opt for a non-interconnected system to retain the energy they generate. Secondly, the Commission oversees the Small-Scale Independent Power Producers Program (SSIPP), which allows investors to sell all their generated energy to GRENLEC. Efforts are being made to implement a Large-Scale Independent Power Producers Program (LSIPP), where larger entities can generate and sell substantial amounts of energy to GRENLEC. All the programs will contribute significantly to the national grid and advancing our renewable energy goals.



# NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY LIST OF 2024 SHELTERS

**EMERGENCY SHELTERS:** Shelter people can go to before a pending system approaches, remain during and after the system has passed.

## ST. GEORGE'S

1. New Hampshire Community Center
2. New Hampshire Methodist Center
3. Constantine Methodist School
4. New Hampshire Faith Church
5. St. Mary Junior School
6. Boca Secondary School
7. Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic School (Beaulieu)
8. Nativity Catholic School (Vendome)
9. Beaulieu S.D.A Church
10. Ebenezer Church of God Learning Center
11. Anglican High School
12. Grenada Boy's Secondary School
13. St. Joseph's Convent (St. George's)
14. J.W. Fletcher Catholic Secondary School
15. Presentation Brothers College
16. St. George's Anglican Junior School (Ground Floor)
17. St. George's SDA Church & School
18. Calliste Government School
19. Grand Anse Maranathas S.D.A. Church (Mt. Toute)
20. Grand Anse Baptist Church
21. South St. George Government School (Springs)
22. Woburn Methodist School
23. Bethel Methodist Church Hall
24. Marian Prototype Shelter
25. St. Paul's Government School
26. Springs Open Bible Church
27. St. Joseph's R.C. School (Morne Jaloux)

28. Happy Hill Secondary School
29. Uganda Martyrs Catholic School (Happy Hill)
30. Mt. Moritz Community Center
31. Mt. Moritz S.D.A Church
32. Mt. Moritz Anglican School
33. Fontenoy Community Center
34. Grand Mal S.D.A Church

## ST. JOHN

1. Mt. Granby S.D.A Church
2. Concord S.D.A Church
3. New Life Organization (NEWLO)
4. St. Rose Modern Secondary School
5. St. Peter's Catholic School
6. St. John's Christian Secondary School
7. Maran Development Center
8. Gouyave Mini Stadium
9. Grand Roy Government School
10. Concord Government School

## ST. MARK

1. Fellowship New Testament Church
2. St. Mark's Secondary School
3. Union Community Complex

## ST. PATRICK

1. McDonald College
2. St. Patrick's Anglican School
3. Chantimelle Community Center
4. Hermitage Government School
5. Snell Hall S.D.A Church/ Pre-

- School
6. Rose Hill S.D.A Church
7. Rose Hill Development Center
8. Mt. Rose S.D.A Church
9. Mt. Rose Pre School
10. River Sallee S.D.A Church
11. Samaritan Presbyterian School
12. River Sallee Community Center

## ST. ANDREW

1. Mama Cannes Resource Center
2. Telescope Primary School
3. Soubise S.D.A Church
4. St. Andrew's Anglican Secondary School (SAASS)
5. Holy Cross R.C. School
6. Holy Innocent Anglican School
7. St. Andrew's R.C. School
8. St. Joseph's Convent (Grenville)
9. Birchgrove New Testament Church
10. Union Community Center
11. Ford Pre School
12. Grand Bra Community Center
13. Harford Village Community Center
14. Belair Government School
15. Pearls Community Center
16. Moyah S.D.A Church
17. Sacred Heart Catholic School (Tivoli)
18. St. Mary's R.C. School
19. Mirabeau Pentecostal Church
20. Mirabeau S.D.A Church
21. Paraclete Government School
22. Paradise S.D.A Church
23. Maranatha Church
24. La Poterie S.D.A Church

25. Morne Longue Pentecostal Campsite

## ST. DAVID

1. Westerhall Secondary School
2. Corinth Government School
3. St. Dominic's R.C. School
4. St. Theresa's R.C. School (Vincennes)
5. School for the Deaf
6. Berrotte Community Center
7. St. David's Catholic School
8. St. Joseph's R.C. School (Pomme Rose)
9. Belle Isle Community Center
10. Crochu Multi-Purpose Center
11. St. Martin de Porres Catholic School (Crochu)

## CARRIACOU

1. Bogles Community Center
2. Harvey Vale Government School
3. Hillsborough Government School
4. Glad Tidings Church
5. Dover Government School
6. Mt. Pleasant Government School
7. Harvey Vale Community Center
8. Hillsborough Secondary School

## PETITE MARTINIQUE

1. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School (PM R.C.)
2. Petite Martinique R.C. Church



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# TERMS USED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT



**DISASTER** – a situation resulting from an environmental phenomenon or human-induced conflict that produces stress, personal injury, physical damage, and economic disruption

of great magnitude. It causes intense negative impacts on people, goods, services and/ or the environment and exceeds the effective community's capability to respond to it. It is important to note that even though disasters are referred to by the event that caused them; a disaster is not the event itself. For example, an earthquake is a natural phenomenon; if it does not strike a populated area with weak buildings, it is not likely to be a disaster.

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT** – is a collective term, encompassing all aspects for and responding to emergencies and disasters including both pre and post activities; the management of risk and consequences of an event.

**DISASTER RECOVERY** – is the planned and coordinated process of supporting disaster affected communities in reconstruction of the environment, physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical welfare of the population.

**EMERGENCY** – a period of time in

which there is a clear and marked deterioration in the coping abilities of a group or community. Additionally, it is a situation in which coping abilities are only sustained by unusual initiatives by the group / community, or by external intervention.

**HAZARD** – is a potential occurrence of a natural or man-made event/disaster that has negative consequences.

**RISK** – is the probability that a disaster will occur given the hazard and vulnerability.

**VULNERABILITY** – is the susceptibility of persons, structures or systems to be affected by a hazard.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Any change in global temperatures and precipitation over time due to natural variability or to human activity.

**RESPONSE** - The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.



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# STAY PROTECTED DURING STORMS

## NOAA's National Weather Service

During a storm, whether you've evacuated or are sheltering in place, know what to expect from the hazards you may face. Remain vigilant, stay up-to-date with the latest forecasts and alerts, and continue to listen to local officials.

### Stay in your safe places from water & wind

Always keep a safe distance from flooded and damaged areas. When you're at risk from storm surge or flooding, it's important to get to high ground away from bodies of water and any flood-prone areas. Evacuate if told to do so. Never drive through floodwaters or compromised bridges. Always pay attention to barriers and signage.

If your house becomes flooded and you're still there, get higher in your house to escape the flood waters. If the highest floor of your home becomes dangerous, get on the roof and call 911.

Though rain and storm surge cause more direct deaths, wind can also be very destructive and deadly in hurricanes. Winds can be stronger higher above ground level. This can put high-rise buildings at a greater risk. To protect yourself from wind, the best thing you can do is put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. An interior room without windows is the safest place you can be in a building. You can cover yourself with a mattress and wear a helmet for added protection. If your area is under an Extreme Wind Warning, take shelter

**Hurricane Preparedness**  
weather.gov/hurricane

- Stay in your safe places from water & wind
- Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates
- Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast
- Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate

IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

immediately. Make sure to stay sheltered until the threat is gone.

### Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates

Make sure to have Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled on your phone to receive Warnings and other alerts. Always pay attention to the latest forecast as conditions can change quickly and storms can rapidly intensify from a tropical storm to a major hurricane. Even small changes in the storm's track can make a big difference.

### Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast

Remain vigilant even if you're far from the most damaging winds. Inland flooding can be felt hundreds

of miles from the coast. Never drive through floodwaters! A car can be swept away with only a foot of water, and there's no way to know if the road itself has collapsed when hidden by water.

### Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate

Local officials can provide you with up-to-date information as the situation changes in your area. Evacuation orders may still be given at this late stage — leave immediately if ordered! Follow recommended evacuation routes — do not take shortcuts, as they may be blocked. Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Never drive through floodwaters.

## NAMED STORMS FOR 2024 HURRICANE SEASON

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- Chris
- Debby
- Ernesto
- Francine
- Gordon
- Helene**
- Issac**
- Joyce
- Kirk
- Leslie
- Milton
- Nadine
- Oscar
- Patty
- Rafael
- Sara
- Tony
- Valerie
- William

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# Your Hurricane Preparedness Store!



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Engine Oils, 2 Cycle Oils  
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