



Lance

Legislation and Announcements Newsletter of Customs and Excise

"Getting it Straight - Management by Information"



St. Kitts and Nevis

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Cargo Manifest Module Successfully Launched in ASYCUDA World Development



ASYCUDA World has gone LIVE in St. Kitts and Nevis as of Monday, July 7, 2014.

As of this date forward, vessels and aircraft coming St. Kitts will declare all cargo and other specified information by the Comptroller of Customs through this automated web-based portal.

It is to be noted that the July 7 launch only covers vessels and aircraft coming into St. Kitts. The Nevis branch of the department will be on stream as of August 11, 2014.

This launch is the result of months of completed and ongoing training of Customs Officers and carrier agents for the paperless processes of reporting all cargo.

Already, within the first fourteen days of implementation (July 7 - 20), the system has processed eighty-four (84) cargo manifests which have been presented to Customs. These manifests consisted of 2,322 bills of lading.

In order to facilitate cargo reporting

through ASYCUDA World, thirty (30) representatives of fifteen (15) carrier agencies have been trained in meeting the requirements of the system. Additionally seventy-three (73) Customs officers, on both islands have been trained to ably retrieve information when reported and to assist agents in completing the mandatory field in the system.

Special emphasis is being placed on the accuracy of data fields in weights and description of goods. As a result, more accurate statistical data is expected to be gleaned through this process.

Local ASYCUDA World Implementation Chair and Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Theodore Brown said that the process has been progressing rather smoothly.

Brown is confident that the success of the implementation process is the result of the compliance of the carrier agents who are willing to partner with the department to facilitate trade.

Brown said that he is aware that many of the carrier agents find it difficult in this early stage to report in this format and it can be challenging, but "I assure you as time

goes by, they will find ASYCUDA World to be quite accommodative and easy to maneuver".

The interfacing of Customs and Port systems has also been completed. This means that all cargo reporting into ASYCUDA World is sent to the St. Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA) cargo reporting system in real time.

This interface allows the Ports Authority to monitor Customs' release processes as well as receive amendments to cargo manifests that would have already been submitted.

Customs is working untiringly with the support of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to deliver a first rate product that would be of great benefit to the national trade sector.

Work continues on other modules of the system such as the cargo clearance, accounting, risk management and statistical reporting modules. The department is on track to successfully launch the full ASYCUDA World in the final quarter of 2014.

Pen of the Comptroller



*Mr. Georid Belle
Comptroller of Customs, Ag.*

The aphorism “failure to plan is a plan to fail” continues to evade many aspiring and would-be great leaders. As a result, piecemeal implementation of ideas and incompatible blend of programmes and policies often lead to loss of focus.

As Customs and Excise looks towards achieving our vision of becoming a leading organisation both in the federation and in our region, it is imperative that we understand that as a department we have individual and collective responsibilities that are integral to our success.

The bedrock of our obligations as revenue collectors, border security agents, trade facilitators and compliance experts is the service we give to our customers. Customer service quality assurance guarantees the continued approval of traders and other trade sector stakeholders. In its simplest form, our *raison d’être* (reason for being) is to serve with distinction.

Bearing this in mind, top and middle managers of the department met in retreat to review our performance over the first six months and to recalibrate our efforts for the second half of 2014. Efforts for this year include reducing entry processing times and improving reporting mechanisms to enhance performance measurements.

The department has drafted policies on the valuation of goods, on pre-clearance procedures and on customer service. Each policy document will be finalized shortly and will be published on the department’s website for public consumption and their ongoing assistance.

It is important that all officers become aware of their role in the vision of the organisation on an ongoing basis. It is not enough to plan the work; more importantly

we must work the plan. We need to execute our 2014 work plan with understanding that our efforts will be measured by personal commitment and group cohesion. Each of us, from Comptroller of Customs to junior officer, has an indispensable role that strategically places the department in the best position to serve the public and to achieve all clearly set goals.

I look forward to the successful completion of our 2014 work plan that will guarantee improvements in our entry processing operations, revenue support services, enforcement, risk management and post import audits.

Individually, these initiatives can and will reap great dividends for the department but, believe me, there are far greater benefits that we can achieve when we work together. It is only through our combined strategic efforts that we will maximise our results.

I urge all Customs officers, supervisors and management to embrace a proactive role in setting and achieving organizational objectives. Discuss the plans of your individual units and work assiduously to produce the positive results that will redound to the benefit of all in St. Kitts and Nevis and beyond.

Your Customs. A Culture of Training.



This publication in collaboration with the Training Unit of the Customs Department wishes to introduce Customs staff and other readers to the Level one on-line courses that are available through the e-training portal of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The WTO e-training module is a series of no cost courses in the make up of the WTO and its mandate in setting trade

policies and the accession of nations to the organisation.

Successful completion of the courses helps to qualify nationals of WTO member states to qualify for level two regional training as well as it equips public sector employees with the requisite knowledge of trade facilitation and world trade procedures.

Training topics include: Introduction to the WTO, Accession to the WTO, The WTO and trade Economics and Policy, Multilateral Trade Agreements, Agriculture in the WTO, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade In Services in the WTO, Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO, Trade Finance and the WTO, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measure and Trade Remedies and the WTO.

Signing up to these course and other level one courses is easy. Interested applicants can visit the WTO website at etraining.wto.org/ and

sign up. Your head of department will endorse the application form which indicates that your department approves of your active participation.

All officers are encouraged to sign up for these courses which each run for a two month period upon acceptance. Failure to successfully complete any course results in a two month ban from the programme. The candidate may however resume studies in the post ban period

Customs and Excise is one of the national focal point s for the administration of trade facilitation policies. It is therefore incumbent that more and more of our officers are trained to competently serve in the administration of tariff preferences under present and emerging trade regime.

Do sign up and best of luck.

Strategic links between Tourism and Foreign Direct Investment



Excerpts of remarks by the Hon. Richard Skerritt at the soft opening of the Kittitian Hill Resort

This Kittitian Hill idea and project has received such strong and unwavering support from our Government from its very inception. Because we knew that the economic activity generated here would positively impact the lives of real people, and give hope to those in this area who had experienced despair after sugar.

Today's celebration is truly a momentous occasion and one that provides me personally with a sense of deep satisfaction in terms of seeing our island's tourism product take such a giant step forward. It is no secret that I have been a fighter for this project, both inside and outside of Cabinet. I want to say personal congratulations to Mr. Val Kempadu who has played an important role in our tourism development for the past 10 years.

Indeed, the model for sustainability in Caribbean resort development that is unfolding here at Kittitian Hill exemplifies the positive impact that tourism can have on the surrounding community and environment. Its unique philosophy is anchored in a broader view of sustainability that extends beyond the environment to also encompass arts and culture, social accountability, and economic development. With a strong commitment to agro-tourism, its 400-acre fertile farmland allows for impactful levels of integration between tourism and food production.

In addition to employment opportunities on the farm itself, Kittitians can therefore look forward to increased local food production which should positively impact the overall food supply of our destination.

Needless to say, the economic impact of this US \$300 Million project has already been impressive. So far it has provided jobs to more than 500 local construction workers and I am told that it has to-date paid some 75 local contractors and suppliers, more than 81 million EC Dollars. And the process of recruiting 300 staff by this coming December has already begun. If all continues to go well, the hotel plant will consist of 174 rooms by the end of 2014, and will double in size to 346 rooms with a total of 500 employees by December 2015, one year later. The implications for local and international business spin-offs are tremendous.

Our Government's strategic vision for the growth of our tourism product is strongly mirrored by what is happening here. It was our market research results 8 years ago which first led to our policy decision to shift the balance towards targeting the up-scale market, away from the 'mass' market, and going after the more affluent and discerning stay-over destination traveler. Faced with a mostly old and tired privately owned hotel plant, our product strategy shifted to focus on the wider destination experience and those existing and emerging developments that focused on the genuine hospitality of our people, along with the unique combination of our natural island environment and our rich heritage, which are the attributes that distinguish the tourism product of St. Kitts from any other.

Recent exit survey conducted at RLB International Airport, in April 2014, indicate that we are succeeding in attracting more upscale travelers. Our survey tells us that the average household income of our visitors is US \$146,500. In fact, 64% of all visitors have an average household income of more than US \$100,000 and 30% have an average household income of more than US \$200,000. Visitors are staying for an average of 7 days – a full week – and their average per person per day spend into our local economy is US \$179, an amount which has doubled since I was appointed as Tourism Minister nine years ago. In other words, today it takes half as many visitors to spend the same money in our economy that was being spent 10 years ago.

Our exit surveys also show that our visitors are leaving our destination having

had an overall positive experience here. They rated their satisfaction with their overall visit at 4.46 out of a possible 5 points. 73% responded that they are likely or extremely likely to make a future trip here, and an impressive 93% would recommend St. Kitts to a friend.

Meanwhile, in an article appearing in Caribbean Journal on June 2, St. Kitts & Nevis earned the number one spot in foreign direct investment inflows per capita in the Caribbean, the highest in the region by a wide margin. The ranking was based on data from the recently-released 'Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean' report from the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Our destination is also currently ranked #4 on a list of the Best Islands in the World, #2 on a list of the Best Caribbean Vacations, #7 on a list of Best Caribbean Honeymoons, and #8 on a list of the Best Beach Honeymoon Destinations in the World by US News & World Report. It is also currently ranked #8 on a list of the Top 10 Best Islands for a Holiday by 'Places to See in Your Lifetime'. These are just a few of the more recent recognitions published by international observers, with dozens others over the past 8 years since our tourism strategy has been unfolding. Kittitian Hill itself is already earning acclaim of its own, having been named on "The New List: 10 Caribbean Hotels We're Excited About in 2014" in an article appearing in Caribbean Journal on January 21, 2014.

I pledge continued support of our Ministry as part of our national quest for achieving global sustainable standards in tourism product preparation and delivery, the likes of which are already being realized here at Kittitian Hill. It is only by being truly globally competitive that our destination will deliver the best possible island experience to our visitors, while ensuring that our own residents continue to enjoy living and doing business here in this country that we love so dearly. Thank you.

Working with Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goleman

After hearing me give a talk on emotional intelligent, the CEO of a company—one of the ten largest in its market—told me in confidence about why, instead of grooming his chief operating officer of many years to take his place as CEO, he fired him: “He was extraordinarily talented, brilliant conceptually, a very powerful mind. He was great on the computer, knew the numbers up, down, and backward. That’s how he got to be chief operating officer.

“But he was not a brilliant leader, not even particularly likeable. He was often brutally acerbic. In groups he was socially awkward; he had no social graces, or even a social life. At forty-five, he had nobody he was close to, no friends. He worked all the time. He was one-dimensional; that’s why I finally let him go.

“But,” the CEO added, “if he could have done just five percent of what you’re talking about, he’d still be here.”

The example fits well with the conclusions of a landmark study of top executives who derailed. The most common traits of those who failed:

Rigidity: They were unable to adapt their style to changes in the organisational culture, or they were unable to take in or respond to feedback about traits they needed to change or improve. They couldn’t listen or learn.

Poor relationships: The single most frequently mentioned factor: being too harshly critical, insensitive, or demanding, so that they alienated those they worked with.

These traits proved fatal handicaps even to brilliant executives with strong technical expertise. One executive described a derailed colleague this way: “He’s a great strategic thinker and he has high ethical standards, but he lashes out at people. He’s very smart, but he achieves superiority through demeaning others. Many people have tried to help him work on this flaw, but it seems hopeless.”

The opposite of rigidity is adaptability. “Leadership agility, the ability to work with different styles and with people at all levels of the organisation, from the front line [junior officer] to top management,

demands empathy and emotional self-management. You need agility in leadership and in learning. We find an absence of this kind of agility is a top derailer for people we seek to develop.”

Sharp differences emerged between the successful managers and those who derailed on most major dimensions of emotional competence.

Self-control: Those who derailed handled pressure poorly and were prone to moodiness and angry outbursts. The successful stayed composed under stress, remaining calm and confident—and dependable—in the heat of crises.

Conscientiousness: The derailed group reacted to failure and criticism defensively—denying, covering up, or passing on the blame. The successful took responsibility by admitting their mistakes and failures, taking action to fix the problems, and moving on without ruminating about their lapse.

Trustworthiness: The failures typically were overly ambitious, too ready to get ahead at the expense of other people. The successes had high integrity with a strong concern for the needs of their subordinates and colleagues, and for the demands of the task at hand, giving these higher priority than impressing their own boss at any cost.

Social skills: The failures lacked empathy and sensitivity, and so were often abrasive, arrogant, or given to intimidation of subordinates. While some were charming on occasion, even seeming concerned about others, the charm was purely manipulative. The successes were more empathic and sensitive, showing tact and consideration in their dealings with everyone, superiors and subordinates alike.

Building bonds and leveraging diversity: The insensitivity and manipulative manner of the failed group meant that they failed to build a strong network of cooperative, mutually beneficial relationships. The successes were more appreciative of diversity, able to get along with people of all kinds.

Trained Incapacity

People in information technology are notorious for having high levels of technical skills,

but not getting along with people so well. They tend to lack certain skills, like empathy and social abilities. Folk in information tech divisions are famous for not getting along with people in other parts of their [organisations].

I used to think that such a pronouncement reflected a cultural misperception, a negative stereotype of the “computer nerd”. Underlying the assumption was my belief that emotional intelligence and IQ were essentially independent.

But a friend pointed out that at the extreme high end of the IQ scale, there is often a lack of social skills. “Trained Incapacity” is the term used to describe those who “The smarter they are, very often the less competent they are emotionally and in handling people. It’s as though the IQ muscle strengthened itself at the expense of the muscle for personal and social competence”.

Mastery of these technical pursuits demands long hours spent working alone, often beginning in childhood or the early teen years—a period of life when, ordinarily, people learn vital social skills from interacting with friends.

Personal qualities like perseverance, finding mentors and friends, and being willing to put in more hours make the difference. As Nobel laureate, Ernest O. Lawrence put it, “In scientific work, excellence is not about technical competence, but it’s in character.”

Sudoku Result

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

Law Review: Guyana to comply ruling on the “environmental” tax

by Christopher Ram
OpEd

On May 8, the Caribbean Court of Justice handed down a decision in a case against Guyana brought by a Surinamese manufacturing company Rudisa Beverages & Juices N.V. and its Guyana subsidiary Caribbean International Distributors Inc. In essence the two companies were claiming a refund of what is called under the Guyana's Customs Act an environmental tax of \$10 on the importation of non-returnable beverage containers.

The two companies asked the regional court which is the protector of the Revised Treaty of Chagauramas (RTC) among other things, to order Guyana to refund to them the sum of US\$6,047,244.47 paid by them to the GRA up to 24th October 2013 and any further amounts paid since that date.

After submissions and arguments which began in June last year, the Court:

A) Declared that the collection of the environmental tax in relation to goods of CARICOM origin is incompatible with the RTC; and

B) Ordered Guyana to:

i) Immediately cease the collection of environmental tax on imported non-returnable beverage containers;

ii) Pay to CIDI the sum of US\$6,047,244.47 together with such further sums paid by them from 25th October 2013 to the date of this judgement;

iii) Pay interest on the sums payable by this judgement at the rate of 4% per annum from the date of the judgement; and
iv) Pay the costs of these proceedings to be taxed if not agreed.

Guyana's representation

While the two Surinamese companies were represented by legal counsel with expertise in trade matters Guyana was represented by its Attorney General Anil Nandlall and a junior attorney to defend what under any circumstances would

have been a very difficult case for us. Reading the decision it was obvious that the court was not at all impressed by the submission and performance of Mr. Nandlall who probably did more harm than good for the country. An attorney-at-law has a duty not only to his client, in this case the State, but also to the courts of which he is considered an officer. Mr. Nandlall should have advised his clients of the complete hopelessness of the case, rather than appear before the regional court and look completely lost.

After all, Guyana had admitted as long ago as May 2001 at a meeting of COTED

- the regional trade organ of CARICOM
- that the tax was a violation of the RTC.

By unforgivable sloth and recklessness Guyana spent another twelve years during which it failed to provide COTED with requested information or act to remove the unlawful tax. In May 2009 COTED gave Guyana two weeks to indicate to it when it would make the necessary legislative changes and two years later to issue a warning that non-compliant countries would be responsible for the consequences of failure.

In November 2011, regional countries were mandated to immediately remove the discriminatory effects of any environmental legislation and in March 2012 Guyana reported that the matter was engaging its Cabinet and discussions were to be completed within one month.

Miracle

Against a background of serial failures of compliance, it would have required something of a miracle to overcome the formidable case presented by the Surinamese companies. Unfortunately, our case was so weakly represented that the Court had no difficulty in demolishing every one of Mr. Nandlall's arguments and efforts.

We argued for example that it was the political opposition that prevented the necessary legislative amendment to the Customs Act, ignoring the fact that the State is indivisible for the purposes of liability and had an overarching responsibility to honour treaty obligations, and ignoring too that Guyana had ten years to

comply with the law but did not.

We argued too, dishonestly in my view, about the nobility of the tax, leading the court to believe that the tax was used for environmental purposes when all Guyana knows that the monies collected were put into the Consolidated Fund. While the Court politely took notice of the need to strike a balance between environmental protection and economic development, it noted that such a need could not create an exception to the trade policy spelt out in Chapter Five of the RTC which prohibits the imposition of import duties on regionally sourced products.

Who was enriched?

Guyana sought to argue that the companies were not entitled to any reimbursement because they must have already passed on the tax to the citizens of Guyana, and that to refund them would be a case of unjust enrichment. This was more than ironic since Mr. Nandlall must have realised that it was Guyana that was unjustly enriched from levying for more than a decade a tax that was patently unlawful.

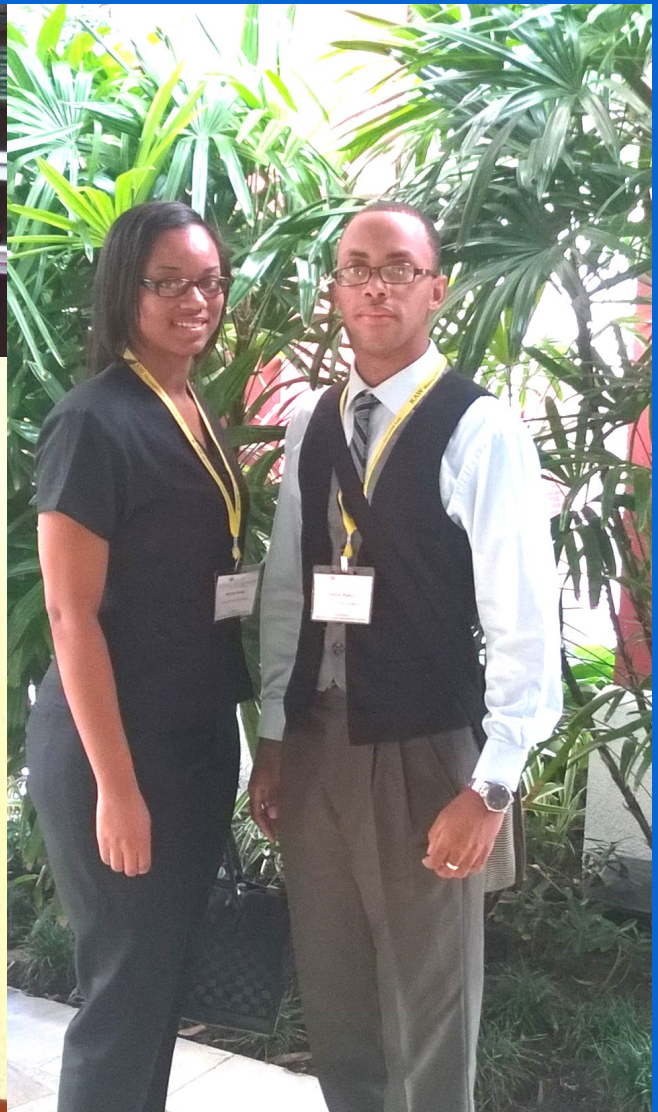
There was more. Our team failed to recognise that it was for the Government to provide the evidence to support the passing-on allegation, assuming there was a case to be made. Instead, Mr. Lendl pursued a line of robust cross-examination of the witnesses for the companies, the line that in any case was bound to fail.

The relevant authority on the matter, which was cited in the CCJ's judgement, is the case *Société Comateb v Directeur Général de Douanes et Droits Indirects* which was based on a specific statutory provision – Article 352a of the French Customs Code which provides as follows: ‘we are a person as a domestic duties or charges, levied in accordance with the procedures laid down by this Code, when those charges were not due, that person may obtain reimbursement of such duties or charges, provided that they

Pictorial Highlights



of Second Quarter



Caribbean export agency aims to boost regional trade



Michael Klein
July 02, 2014

Forty-two company representatives from the CARIFORUM region, and French and British overseas territories and dependencies met with members of the Cayman business community last week in an attempt to reinvigorate regional trade.

The visit was part of a business forum, as well as the ninth meeting of the CARIFORUM, French Caribbean Outermost regions (FCORs) and EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in the Caribbean Task Force on Trade and Investment at the Westin resort from June 25 to 27.

The Caribbean Export Development Agency, whose primary goal is to help facilitate trade between the territories of the Caribbean region, led the delegation of Caribbean entrepreneurs.

Executive director Pamela Cooke-Hamilton said while trade between the CARIFORUM, FCORs and OCTs has been going on for a long time, it has fallen off over the past decade.

"We have actually regressed as a region," she said, adding that the countries of the Caribbean have changed trade routes and the way they trade.

"What we are trying to do through this engagement and our geographical proximity is to increase and invigorate that trade once again."

Although being part of the same geographic

space should be conducive to regional trade ties, 90 percent of Cayman's imports and regional imports come from outside the Caribbean.

"One thing that we want to do not just in Cayman, in all the regions, is to increase the level of trade and address the obstacles that exist," Ms. Cooke-Hamilton said.

These obstacles include shipping and transport routes and technical barriers in the form of taxes or sanitary issues, which are related to overall standards and EU regulations.

"It is easier to get something from St. Kitts to Miami than from St. Kitts to Barbados. It is tragic, but it is true," Ms. Cooke-Hamilton said. At the same time the volume of trade is too low to actively engage the shipping industry.

Other trade barriers include the lack of familiarity with import procedures, a lack of distribution networks across the Caribbean, and immigration issues, Ms. Cooke-Hamilton noted.

"Immigration issues are something we need to address from the perspective of business. I understand that every country has the inviolable right to retain and protect its immigration borders. But I think it is very important that we facilitate the movement of business people in a manner that does not cause restriction."

The Chamber of Commerce and the Caribbean Export Development Agency hosted a

morning of presentations regarding trade issues and facilitated meetings between Caribbean and Cayman companies with a view to developing trade ties.

The delegates from 15 Caribbean countries also visited Cayman Enterprise City to meet with member companies of the special economic zone. Cayman Enterprise City won the Caribbean Export Agency's Special Award at the 2013 Regional Investor of the Year Awards. The award also influenced the Caribbean Export Agency's decision to host a business forum in Cayman.

"CEC represents Caribbean commerce at its highest quality and functionality and should be commended for pioneering a successful economic zone in the region," Ms. Cooke-Hamilton said.

"Trade within the Caribbean is only possible through the establishment of strong linkages, and our facilitation of business meetings between CARIFORUM, FCOR and OCT firms at CEC is a step closer towards building the kinds of relationships required to grow regional trade."

Cayman Enterprise City chief executive Charlie Kirkconnell said, "We thoroughly enjoyed hosting the delegation at CEC and believe the very active business networking session between delegates and zone companies will pave the way for some fruitful business relationships."

Customs prepares for 2014 Independence activities

The Customs and Excise Department is preparing to participate in the 2014 Independence celebrations. One year ago, the decision was made to enter the department as an unarmed unit in the Independence Day Ceremonial Parade.

The department shone in many areas and our unit was last year adjudged the Best in Quick March. Customs was the pride of the hundreds of spectators at Warner Park, Basseterre as well as at the post parade celebrations that followed at Camp Springfield.

Senior Grade IV Officer, Mr. Brian Mills, the man who spearheaded the 2014 preparations says the department is readying itself to repeat and exceed its sterling 2013 independence celebrations performances.



Mills remarked that the 2014 training will once again produce first and second place winners if and when the organisers produce a second edition of the Art Festival Drill Competition. "2014 will be our year to shine brighter," Mr Mills said.

The entire department is excited to rally behind our officers as they take part in national independence celebrations with pride and purpose. This publication extends best wishes to our marchers. May we always give our best.

Law Review: Ruling on the "environmental" tax (Continued from pg.5)

have not been passed on to the purchaser.'

It is instructive to note that the Opinion of the Advocate-General in the case stated 'the fact that a charge levied in breach of Community Law has been passed on to third parties that have purchased the goods does not extinguish the right of the individual to reimbursement of the sums unduly levied by the authorities.'

The loud silence of the PSC

While on professional grounds I am prepared to make and accept criticisms of Mr. Nandlall's handling of this case by the private sector, it is remarkable that not a single member or representative of the Private Sector Commission has made a single comment on the implications of this case for the country. Guyana could easily find itself having to refund several billion dollars to the Surinamese companies and to exporters from Trinidad whose government requested and was granted locus in a matter.

Two of Guyana's major companies – Banks DIH Limited and DDL – have been the principal beneficiaries of this discriminatory tax which effectively amounted to a subsidy for those businesses. Did they pass the subsidy to their employees and customers or did they pay it to their shareholders? It is clear that it was not only the stubbornness of Jagdeo but also the lobbying and influence of

these companies that allowed the illegal imposition of the tax to continue for such a long time and more recently for influencing the political opposition in blocking the amendments which COTED had been calling for.

For any person who has any doubt about the influence which companies exert over the politicians, I would recommend that the read of the debate in the National Assembly on the Bill last year that unsuccessfully sought to halve the tax and apply it to CARICOM companies exporting to Guyana as well as to Guyanese companies. I therefore find the criticisms of Mr. Nandlall ill-informed and hypocritical and the time may soon be approaching for the government to rethink its policy of appeasement with segments of the private sector.

Dangerous nonsense to be ignored

Indeed I have heard a leading representative of one of these companies suggest that Guyana should ignore the judgement. I think that is dangerous nonsense. That person and his ilk need to read Part IV Article XXVI, of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice. The Article is entitled "Enforcement of Orders of the Court" which reads:

"(a) all authorities of a Contracting Party shall act in aid of the Court and that any judgement, decree, order or any sentence of the Court given in the exercise of its

jurisdiction shall be enforced by all courts and authorities in any territory of the Contracting Party as if it were a judgement, decree order or sentence of superior court of that Contracting Party; (b) the Court has the power to make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any document, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of court that any superior court of a Contracting Party has power to make as respects the area within its jurisdiction."

Guyana has incorporated the CCJ into our domestic municipal law (Caribbean Court of Justice Act Cap. 3:07) which means that at both Public international Law and Private International Law the judgment is enforceable.

In my view Guyana has no option but to comply with the orders of the CCJ. Section 4 of the CCJ Act provides with narrow exceptions for decisions of the Court to be final. If we were to flout the declaration and orders handed down by the Court, we would be exacerbating an already bad situation and potentially invite retaliatory measures from our CARICOM partners. Guyana is the home of the CARICOM headquarters. It must not allow itself to become a pariah in its own home.

HMS Argyll re-joins fight against Caribbean drugs trade



July 14, 2014

Plymouth-based warship HMS Argyll has re-joined battle against Caribbean drug traffickers – exactly 12 months after she last tackled the evil scourge.

The frigate has left Key West to begin her patrols of the Caribbean after intense preparations for the mission – Operation Martillo – alongside 14 other nations and navies, led by the United States.

On her previous patrol in the region, Argyll seized nearly £75m of drugs in the Pacific then captured three traffickers in the Caribbean – the latter were recently sentenced to four decades behind bars collectively.

Operations in the Caribbean are overseen from Key West at the southernmost tip of the USA, home to the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (South).

It was there that Argyll received briefings and updates on the latest developments in the ongoing efforts to strangle the illegal drugs trade.

The ship also hosted local military officials and dignitaries for a demonstration of what she and her 180-strong ship's company can do – both generally and specifically when it comes to counter-narcotics operations.

Argyll's Commanding Officer Commander Paul Hammond told the assembled guests: "The Royal Navy is committed to the maintenance of maritime security worldwide, frequently working alongside

our allies, especially close partners such as the US.

"Over the next six months, HMS Argyll will conduct a wide range of operations in the Caribbean including working with the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force during counter-narcotics operations.

"Meeting at this early stage has enabled a greater mutual understanding between HMS Argyll and the task force – and this will allow me to deliver more effect at sea during our counter-narcotics operations."

The visit to Key West also allowed HMS Argyll's football and rugby teams to take on local opposition.

"Key West are a fantastic rugby team who play well on the pitch and look after their guests extremely well off the pitch. This is typical of the friendly and welcoming people we have met throughout our visit," said rugby team captain Leading Engineering Technician Gareth Willey.

As well as entering the fray in the fight to stop drugs from the Americas reaching the West, Argyll is trained and on standby for providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief to the UK's Overseas Territories in the region with hurricane season now open. She is due home in Plymouth at the end of the year.

Jamaica considers decriminalisation of marijuana

The Jamaican government said earlier this year that it is planning to decriminalise possession of small amounts of marijuana by the end of this year.

In Jamaica, marijuana is used in religious ceremonies by Rastafarians and as a herbal medicine by many others. But it is not just grown for local consumption. According to the US state department, Jamaica remains the largest Caribbean supplier of marijuana to the US as well as other Caribbean islands.

Cultivation and import of the drug have been illegal since 1913, although those caught with small amounts are rarely prosecuted.

The debate surrounding its use and whether it should be decriminalised, or even legalised, has been further fuelled by the drug's legalisation in Uruguay and the US states of Colorado and Washington.

But those who would be most affected by any change in the law, the marijuana growers, are divided on the issue.

Marijuana was first introduced to Jamaica by indentured Indian workers in the 19th Century and grew wild across the island.

It was declared illegal a century ago but



but recently there have been moves to decriminalise it.

Jamaican minister Philip Paulwell says he hopes to steer a law decriminalising marijuana through parliament by the end of 2014.

Courtesy: BBC

Humour - All in a day's work

What an attraction!

A young Dominican father-to-be living dung inna country awakened the village doctor in the middle of the night saying "Docta! Docta! Come fas! A mi wife sah! Ar water bruk an shi bout fi av di pikni!"

The doctor came over and told the father "Hold up di lamp higher. Hold di lamp higher nuh!" The father obliged, and behold, a baby's cry was soon heard. The father cried out: "Praise di Laad! A wan boy! Me a de proud faada a wan baby boy!"

The doctor again told the father, "Hold up di lamp higher. Hold di lamp higher nuh man!". The father again complied, and to be sure, another cry was heard. The father excitedly proclaimed: "A wan twin!! Mi get twin baby! Me doubly bless! Glory to Gad!"

The doctor instructed, "Hold up di lamp higher. Hold di lamp higher nuh!" Sure enough, a THIRD cry was heard! The father, somewhat subdued, in a nervous tone, muttered, "Oh. Tank Jesus."

The doctor repeated, "Hold up di lamp higher. Hold di lamp higher nuh man!", and a short while yet a FOURTH cry was heard. The father said nothing, being lost in deep thought.

The doctor for a fifth time commanded "Hold up di lamp higher man. Hold di lamp higher nuh!" The father then asked; "Doc, yuh nuh tink maybe is de light ah attract dem?"

When the truth hurts!

A Jamaican farmer named Ralph had an accident with a truck and was suing the truck company. In court their hot-shot solicitor was questioning Ralph.

Solicitor: 'Now didn't you say to the Police at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine.'?'

Ralph: 'Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favourite cow Bessie into the...'

Solicitor: 'I didn't ask for any details, just answer the question. Did you not tell the

police officer at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'?"

Ralph: 'Well, I had just got Bessie into the sidecar and I was driving down the road.....'

The solicitor interrupted again and said,

'Your Lordship, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident this man told the police that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question.'

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Ralph's answer and said to the solicitor:

'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favourite cow, Bessie.

Ralph thanked the Judge and proceeded.

'Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favourite cow, into the sidecar

and was driving her down the road when this huge truck and trailer came through a stop sign and hit me right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurt very bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear old Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible pain just by her groans.

Shortly after the accident a policeman on a motorbike turned up. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes.

Then the policeman came charging across the road, gun still in hand, looked me up and down, and said 'How badly are you hurt?

"Now, tell me judge, what else on earth would you have said?"

Fun at Customs - Sudoku

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

Interim Committee to lead Customs Sports Club

The Office of the Comptroller has announced the formation of an interim executive of Customs Sports Club effective July 1, 2014.

The primary focus of the revised body is to enable strategic changes that would promote the growth of the club ahead of executive elections in January 2015.

The revised executive will be comprised of Mr. Jervin Nisbett (president), Mr. Marvin Duporte (vice-president), Mr. Deslie Greenaway (treasurer), Mr. Damian Walters (secretary), Ms. Launlia Archibald (immediate past

president), Mr. Tavo Sargeant (immediate past vice-president), Mr. Georid Belle (executive member) and Mr. Kennedy De Silva (executive member).

The team has an exciting activity schedule that are aimed at increasing staff and community interest. These include a series of fun walks, a fundraising five mile run, and hikes to Black River (Old Road) and to Dos D'ane Pond.

The new executive plans to unveil a community outreach schedule which will feature church attendance once per month, regular visits to the children's home and elderly care homes, and the

adoption and beautification of a space in the community.

Other exciting events that the executive is planning include a catamaran cruise, staff beach-nics and Friday-Rama.

President Nisbett solicits the support of all Customs staff and encourages every one to become an active member as the club prepares to actively participate in the 2015 Customs Games which are scheduled to be held in Antigua and Barbuda.

Membership is opened to all Customs staff. Application forms are available from Mr. Damian Walters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July

3 - Denise Allen
6 - Adona Gumbs
9 - Kendale Liburd
10 - Juleen Manners
10 - Tonica Williams
11 - Bjorn Griffin
13 - Darryn James
17 - Glenroy Phillip
18 - Thea Hazel
20 - Arden Kadeem Bradshaw
20 - Jamila Jules
22 - Edwin Walters
24 - Tamesha Rouse
25 - Desraul Hazel
28 - Ivy Browne
30 - Travonne Bryant



August

1 - Oren Carty
2 - Rashan Allen
3 - Keston Herbert
3 - Tafarie Indiria DeCosta
4 - Kareema Cabey
5 - Akim Galloway
10 - Arlene Mills
11 - Djavan Martin
13 - Sharma Huggins
15 - Rezzarro Rebeiro
20 - Mychail Daniel
21 - Nichevaun Browne
21 - Marvin Duporte
22 - Sharlene Halliday
27 - Reginald Walters



September

1 - Terrida Browne
7 - Laurel Liburd
7 - Clyve Caines
8 - Deslie Greenaway
8 - Carol Griffin
9 - Rondra Thomas
11 - Monica Douglas-Jeffers
12 - Shane Hanley
14 - Janaie Brown
16 - Janice Pemberton
16 - Keithly Hendrickson
16 - Junel Duporte
17 - Alrick Mulraine
17 - Kirth Liburd
17 - Nikita Buchanan
20 - Sherizan Williams
21 - Linval Carey
22 - Tanise Warner
23 - Eli Webbe
25 - Josenda Dorsette
25 - Claesia Somersoll
27 - Kaye Brookes
28 - Georid Belle
28 - Lescott Webbe
29 - Jeremiah Locker
29 - Trevlyn Queeley
29 - Alejandro Warner
30 - Keifer Johnson

