



# Lance

Legislation and Announcements Newsletter of Customs and Excise  
"Getting it Straight - Management by Information"



St. Kitts and Nevis

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## St. Kitts-Nevis Customs Department shines at Independence 30 Celebrations



**A**s debutants at the annual national independence parade, Customs and Excise gave a dazzling display and were adjudged Best in Quick March.

Under the command of Customs Officer Grade IV Brian Mills, Customs Officers entered the parade of the 30 anniversary of national independence as part of the unarmed units along with the Fire Service and H.M. Prison Service

Donned in beret and smart fitting uniforms the officers were an exhibition of patriotism and service.

Customs' presence at the historic 30 independence parade was an integral part of the Customs Reform Initiative and image rebranding started in April this year. With the kind assistance of the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force, our officer were rightly prepared for their day in the national spotlight.

It was the Rt. Hon Prime Minister, Dr. Denzil Douglas who first commended

the department for a job well done on parade when he announced to the units that Customs was declared Best in Quick March, while he presented his annual toast to the nation.

Lt. Col. Patrick Wallace then issued a challenge to the Customs Department and all other unarmed and armed units that were on parade on Independence Day to prove their worth in the area of drills display at the First Annual Art Festival Drill Competition.

The gauntlet was thrown down and Customs knew that we were ready for any challenge.

Entered among eight teams, Customs' team of Kajali Gumbs and Sherima Stanley were the immaculate epitome of precision and presentation.

Both officers gave performances that appealed to the crowd that was present on the Basseterre Bay Road including Governor General, His Excellency Sir Edmund W. Lawrence and Lady Lawrence, Prime Minister Douglas and Lt. Col. Wallace. The results showed that Customs was more than prepared to walk away

with the coveted title of undisputed winners of the inaugural National Arts Festival Drills Competition.

Officer Stanley was declared third place individual winner and Officer Gumbs was adjudged first place individual winner in the competition.

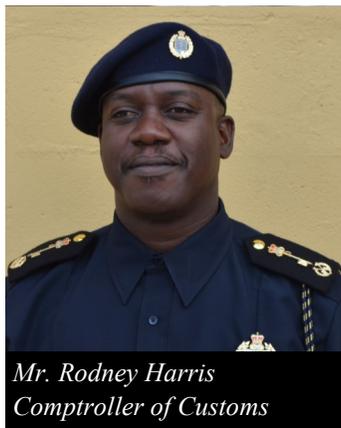
Deputy Comptroller of Customs Mr. Georid Belle believes that his department's involvement in the independence celebrations of 2013 will rank highly among the proudest moments of its sterling history.

"We were prepared to walk away with first and second places only but this victory is equally as definitive and resounding," Belle said.

The department is already setting its sights on entering the 2014 Independence as part of the armed units. Additionally, plans are already afoot to enter our platoon donned in full ceremonial wear.

This publication expresses profound congratulations to all our officers.

## Pen of the Comptroller



*Mr. Rodney Harris  
Comptroller of Customs*

Over my many years as an employee and administrator here at Customs and Excise, I have considered the present to be a time of most promise and change in the history of this great organization.

I consider it to be a time of promise simply because at present the staff has an abundance of youth; and youth presents an opportunity for change and innovation.

As our department begins to implement ASYCUDA World, we need to capitalize on not only on the potentials that reside in our army of young people, but also on the benefits of

the boundless possibilities that we may maximize in the area of technology.

It has always been my vision that our department will, through the formulation of the right youth development strategies and technological advancement, become the Singapore of the region - that is, the model of Customs innovation.

Our officers have had the latest technologies at their individual and collective disposals. They each also have benefitted from adequate professional training and other capacity building initiatives.

It would be sad if after having all this access our officers view the latest technologies as just personal play gadgets and not as tools with which to innovate and find new and improved ways to serve the people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Self-development is needed in all our young people, so that they can each assist in community and national efforts.

Times have truly changed. When I joined Customs and Excise many years ago, the advice a young officer received was to live up the life - party hard and worry about nothing. It would be sad if that mindset persisted in the department, today

So, as the department moves towards full automation of its import and export procedures, I use this opportunity to warn against laziness among our officers.

Your roles and responsibilities ought not to be passed on to the computers. You must still be sharp in the valuation and classification of goods. A workman who knows less because he has good tools is bound to regress to a state of irrelevance. That my friends is not good.

I encourage the more experienced officers to embrace change as an opportunity for personal and institutional advancement. Do not fight against change and think that everything should go as "it used to be".

ASYCUDA World and other events will introduce opportunities for change in the department. Embrace them.

Finally, I want to wish the staff and all readers of LANCE best wishes for the Christmas and Carnival seasons and prosperity for the new year ahead. Working together, we can achieve all our goals.

Remember, as a professional body we will need to embrace change as we keep pace with the changing world around us.

## Your Customs. A Culture of Training.



We have come to the close of an active and successful quarter of training and human resource development in the department.

### THIRD QUARTER SYNOPSIS

Thirty-one officers undertook a Leadership Training Course in July facilitated by our friends of the St. Kitts -Nevis Coast Guard. Course participants were taught the skills

of team building and conflict resolution.

Six officers travelled to Jamaica, August 12 to 23 and completed the REDTRAC Financial Investigation Course.

In September, six officers completed a boot camp in computer networking the US Information Technology group ThinkTank. At the close all officers were successfully certified as in Entry Level Networking Technicians, CISCO Certified Network Associate and CISCO Certified Network Security Officers.

During this quarter, 102 officers received training, both local and regional.

### FOURTH QUARTER PROJECTIONS

Two Officers will leave the federation in October for London to pursue professional studies in Strategic International Trade.

Three other Officers will also travel to London in November to complete professional studies in Leadership and Management.

Mr. Terrence Leonard of the UNCTAD team will return in November to conduct training with officers in Risk Management and Post Clearance Audit.

From October 21 to November 16 about forty officers will engage in a University of the West Indies certified Management Training Boot Camp.

The Training Department takes this opportunity to congratulate all officers who successfully completed those courses which they undertook in 2013 and wishes all officers future success and greater advancement.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all!!

## ASYCUDA World Implementation Report

The Customs Department has formally entered a contractual arrangement with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to implement the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) here in the federation.

The contractual arrangement outlines that the process will be done in key stages over eighteen months.

In September, the UCTAD Implementation team was on island to get the process going. The team consists of Mr. Terrence Leonard, ASYCUDA World Regional Project Manager; Mr. Jaime Mendoza, ASYCUDA Regional Advisor; and Mr. Fabian Joseph, ASYCUDA Technical Advisor.

The team comes with years of professional experience in Customs and trade. Each team member has been involved in the implementation of the ASYCUDA World programme in other Caribbean territories.

### ASYCUDA WORLD

ASYCUDA World is a web based system that utilizes a global, harmonized standard data set that uses uniform electronic messages to facilitate trade. The main objective of the programme is to assist countries to achieve a global aim – Facilitation of Trade, by strengthening the Customs Administrations' operational capacity to carry out their fiscal and control missions, through the implementation of modern and reliable systems.

### LOCAL TEAMS

To assist the UNCTAD team, groups of selected local Customs officers have been established. These groups will provide for the establishment of local experts in ASYCUDA World that would make the necessary changes to the programme when needed.

One team is the ASYCUDA Technical Team which is led by Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Tavo Sargeant. Other members of the team include Customs Systems Technician, Mr. Clyde Caines; Customs Officers Grade IV, Messrs. Deswert Douglas and Coryn Maynard; and Customs Officer Grade II/I, Mr. Cliburn Jeffers.

The second team is the ASYCUDA Functional Team which is led by Customs Public Relations Officer, Mr. Larry Vaughan. Other members of the team include, Customs Officer Grade III, Miss Nadrine Daniel; Customs Officers Grade IV, Mr. Ivor Wrensford and Miss Kishma Griffin; and Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Miss Wendy Wilkes.

Both teams report to the ASYCUDA World National Project Manager, Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Theodore Brown and the National Project Director, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Georid Belle.

### CONSULTATION

The UNCTAD implementation team met with various national stakeholders to outline the ways ASYCUDA World will greatly assist in bringing about the One-Window of trade facilitation.

The team met with representatives of government ministries and departments including the Ministries of Trade, Health and Agriculture, the Bureau of Standards and the Fisheries Department.

There were also meetings with representatives of the St. Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA), St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Commercial Bankers and the customs brokers and shipping agents.

The team also journeyed to Nevis and there met with the trade partners from the public and private sectors.

The meetings outlined the functions of ASYCUDA World and how each stakeholder will be able to generate a workflow that facilitates the importation and exportation processes.

Workflow charts are to be developed over the first three months of the project in order to establish a prototype version of the programme. It is expected that this time that it will be tested in the Long Room so as to ascertain its usability and overall compatibility with the IT frameworks of the various stakeholders.

### TRAINING

Training is an integral part of the implementation of the ASYCUDA World Programme. Mr. Terrence Leonard of the UNCTAD started the ball rolling with one week of sessions in Change Management .

During the period September 23 –27, twenty Customs Officers were exposed to the needed insights of coping with and benefitting from change.

As ASYCUDA World is expected to bring new opportunities and challenges to the Customs environment, officers were encouraged to embrace change with a view to identifying these benefits.

Mr. Leonard will follow up with further training in risk management and post clearance audit components of the system., during the period November 11 to 22.

The ASYCUDA Functional Team will then be charged with the responsibilities of training all the staff of the Customs Department in effectively manipulate the system ahead of full implementation in the third quarter of 2014.

Staff members are urged to be prepared for these training opportunities so that together we can ably serve the trading and traveling sectors.

All are asked to visit the following websites where ASYCUDA World has been implemented for familiarization and its current usages on other Caribbean territories.

- <http://asycuda.customs.gov.gd/awclient/>
- <http://www.customs.gov.bz/>
- [http://www.customs.gov.bz/download/SOCLass\\_Cache.pdf](http://www.customs.gov.bz/download/SOCLass_Cache.pdf)
- <http://aw.customs.gov.lc/awclient/>

Together with ASYCUDA, we'll not just work harder, we'll work smarter.

## Mental Health and the Workplace



Courtesy: Canadian Medical Health Association

### What is Mental Health and Mental Illness?

Although the terms are often used interchangeably, mental health and mental illness is not the same thing; but they are also not mutually exclusive.

**Mental health** is a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.

**Mental illness** is a recognized, medically diagnosable illness that results in the significant impairment of an individual's cognitive, affective or relational abilities. Mental disorders result from biological, developmental and/or psychosocial factors and can be managed using approaches comparable to those applied to physical disease (i.e., prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation).

A fundamental difference between mental health and mental illness is that everyone has some level of mental health all of the time, just like physical health, whereas it is possible to be without mental illness. Mental illness is extremely prevalent around the world.

However, the main burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion - about 6 percent, or one in 17, who suffer from a serious mental illness.

### Mental health is not static

It is important to remember that mental health and mental illness are not static;

they change over time depending on many factors. These include: levels of personal and workplace stress; lifestyle and health behaviours; exposure to trauma; and genetics.

When the demands placed on any individual exceed their resources and coping abilities, their mental health will be negatively affected.

Two examples of common demands that have the ability to wear away at people are: i) working long hours under difficult circumstances, and ii) caring for a chronically ill relative. Economic hardship, unemployment, underemployment and poverty also have the potential to undermine mental health.

### Types of mental illnesses

There are many different types of mental illnesses, just as there are many types of physical illness. Some of the defining characteristics of a mental illness are:

- that it is a recognized, medically diagnosable illness;
- that it can cause significant cognitive, affective, or relational impairment;
- that it results from biological, developmental and/or psychosocial factors;
- that it can be managed using physical disease approaches (i.e. prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation).

Research on mental illness is evolving. As time passes, more mental illnesses are being discovered and diagnosed. Some of the more common and well researched mental illnesses, by category of illness, include:

- **Mood Disorders (affective disorders):**

depression, mania and bipolar

- **Anxiety disorders:** Generalized anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder
- **Psychotic disorders:** schizophrenia
- **Concurrent disorders:** addictions and substance abuse
- **Personality disorders:** antisocial personality disorder, obsessive-compulsive personality disorder.

Mental illness is much like diabetes, heart disease and a broken leg - one can live with it and recover from it. Recovery is not an end state; it does not mean that the individual no longer has depression, schizophrenia or another mental illness. Recovery means that the person has stabilized and regained their role in society.

Learning more about mental health and mental illness is a crucial step in dispelling stigma, stopping prejudice and promoting early identification and effective treatment.

### In the Workplace

Below are eight strategies that positively affect mental health in the workplace.

1. Encouraging active employee participation and decision making
2. Clearly defining employees' duties and responsibilities
3. Promoting work-life balance
4. Encouraging respectful and non-derogatory behaviours
5. Managing workloads
6. Allowing continuous learning
7. Conflict resolution practices
8. Recognizing employees' contributions effectively

Similar to mental health promotion in the workplace, the effects of more general workplace health promotion initiatives are broad reaching and can build on each other. Programs focused solely on improving workplace mental health can produce multiple benefits.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Trade News

### CCJ Rules for Myrie and Jamaica

Courtesy: Jamaica Gleaner

October 4, 2013

**KINGSTON, Jamaica:** The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has ruled that Jamaican Shanique Myrie be awarded a total of Bds\$75,000 or \$3.6m Jamaican dollars.

The ruling by the six-member panel was delivered via a video conference in the Supreme Court.

The court declared that the Barbados government breached Myrie's right to enter the country under article 5 of the revised treaty of Chaguaramas.

Myrie took the Barbados Government to the CCJ alleging that she was discriminated against because of her nationality when she arrived in Barbados on March 14, 2011.

The 25-year-old also claims she was subjected to a body-cavity search in unsanitary and demeaning conditions before being detained and deported the next day to Jamaica.

The Barbados Government denied the claims and argued at the hearing that the Jamaican woman had been untruthful to Immigration Department officials.

Its lawyers also contended that her testimony was contrary to what she had provided in statements to the Barbadian police.

Myrie wanted the CCJ to determine the minimum standard of treatment for CARICOM citizens moving within the region under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Myrie had asked the CCJ to award her almost US\$500,000 in punitive damages for the treatment she received on her visit to Barbados.

She also wanted the regional court to award costs and special damages.

#### THE MYRIE CASE TIMELINE

**March 14, 2011** – Myrie visits Barbados, was

denied entry, inhumane cavity search.

**January 12, 2012** – Application filed to CCJ after Jamaican and Barbadian authorities failed to arrive at a settlement.

**April 20, 2012** – CCJ ruled that there was sufficient grounds for Myrie's case to be heard.

**September 27, 2012** – Jamaican government given permission by the CCJ to intervene in the hearing.

**March 4-6, 2013** – CCJ sits in Kingston, Jamaica to hear Myrie's testimony.

**March 18 to 19, 2013** – case resumes in Barbados, Barbadian government presented its case.

**April 8 and 9, 2013** – Final hearing, submissions were made before the CCJ at in Trinidad.

### Mental Health and the Workplace (Continued from pg.4)

**Possible benefits of a comprehensive workplace health promotion program include:**

**Improved:** productivity, morale and employee satisfaction, staff retention, staff co-operation, creativity, loyalty to company and recruitment

**Reduced:** medical leave, staff turnover (and therefore lower recruitment and training costs), workplace injuries and accidents, work time lost, health costs, absenteeism and presenteeism (inability to concentrate at work and to achieve work outcomes)

**What is a mentally healthy workplace versus a psychologically healthy workplace?**

Psychologically healthy workplaces and mentally healthy workplaces are synonymous terms that describe the same high-functioning, respectful and productive workplace. The term "psychologically healthy workplace" is often used in the context of prevention of psychological

injury. The term "mentally healthy workplace" is often used within the context of mental health promotion and is often viewed as a strategy used to reduce risk factors for developing mental illness.

As mentioned, environments that follow occupational health and safety legislation and guidelines show respect for the health of its employees. Occupational health and safety guidelines vary by province so it's important to check industry-specific, jurisdictional guidelines.

#### Conclusion

Workplace mental health promotion is important to individual and organizational health and success. The evidence is clear that changes need to be made and that



mental health in the workplace is a real concern. In moving forward with workplace mental health promotion programmes, remember every individual and organisation is unique.

Tailor programmes and make sure to have commitment from senior management and to involve employees in the planning and decision making. Also, make sure to find the baseline, evaluate the programme and share the findings. The time is now to start make positive changes.

# Photo Gallery of Independence Day March, Drill Co



# Competition and ASYCUDA Implementation Meetings



## China's Rising Tide in the Caribbean



Courtesy: Wall Street Journal  
October 1, 2013

Most American vacationers see the Caribbean as a place for sun and sand, not for geopolitical struggle. But that may change as Beijing ramps up its global power ambitions. As U.S. strategic interest in the Americas wanes, China has lavished money and attention on the Caribbean's island nations, muddying the waters in what has long been "America's Lake."

In June, for instance, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Trinidad and Tobago to court the leaders of 10 Caribbean countries. He came bearing some \$3 billion in development loans, a hefty sum for a tiny region.

At first, such largess seems straight out of China's standard developing-world playbook: From Africa to South America, Beijing has perfected the art of buying off governments, often to win natural resources for Chinese factories or to steal sovereign recognition from Taiwan.

But China's Caribbean involvement is far from business as usual. The combined Caribbean economy is no larger than that of Kansas, and only a handful of its countries—Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago—possess exportable resources of note. A few Caribbean microstates, such as St. Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis, recognize Taiwan, but China stopped courting these states five years ago amid a Beijing-Taipei detente.

The best way to understand China's Caribbean courtship is to consider the last distant power to have designs on the region: the Soviet Union. Today

the Caribbean is regarded as a strategic and economic backwater by Washington. But the Soviets saw - and Beijing sees- something different: an American vulnerability.

Until it collapsed in 1991, the Soviet Union viewed the Caribbean through a military-strategic lens. Moscow knew the Panama Canal was essential for moving U.S. naval vessels from the Atlantic to the Pacific. U.S. oil imports arrived at Gulf of Mexico refineries via Caribbean waterways. In the event of war, the Soviets reasoned they could disrupt these transportation lines, harm the U.S. economy, and distract attention from Europe.

Beijing's analysts studied the Soviet Union's Caribbean strategy in the 1980s, writing that "Soviet expansion posed a threat to [Caribbean] sea lines" and helped "contain U.S. strategy." China and the U.S. are not in a Cold War. But Beijing's recent Caribbean push does revive the Soviet strategy to project power. The difference is that Beijing has greater tolerance for the long game and emphasizes economic and legal instruments of statecraft instead of Soviet-style military assistance and coups.

Caribbean states are suffering from chronic trade deficits, decades of stagnant growth, and record government debt. This year three governments—St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica and Grenada—are pursuing painful debt restructuring. U.S. aid is roughly half what it was in the 1980s. But China has a major project in nearly every Caribbean country and, including the \$3 billion in loans announced in June, has provided more than \$6 billion in development loans and grants to

the region over the past decade.

China's assistance is a long-term strategic investment, and it can buy low and sell high since Caribbean influence is relatively cheap. State-owned China Communications Construction Co. already plans to build a mammoth commercial port in Jamaica over the next decade. Later on, China could establish surveillance facilities or sign naval-access agreements, as it has with Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean and Pakistan in South Asia. In times of crisis, China could use the Caribbean to draw U.S. attention away from Asia and Beijing's own maritime backyard, the South China Sea.

Moreover, China knows that island states have outsize political influence in international organizations where even the smallest countries carry the same weight. Jamaica is home to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which regulates mining access to seafloors in international waters—and the billions of dollars of rare-earth minerals believed to be buried there.

China currently produces more than 95% of all rare-earth minerals, and to retain its dominance in the market hopes to become a leader in deep-sea mining. Not coincidentally, China has given aid to Jamaica and several other Caribbean states sitting on ISA committees that award contracts and write regulations for deep-sea mining.

China has also invested in Caribbean microstates in hopes of winning their votes in other organizations such as the United Nations. These states can and do provide support for Chinese positions on human rights, Taiwan and, increasingly, territorial disputes as far away as the South China Sea.

In June, Caribbean leaders meeting in Trinidad thanked President Xi for his beneficence and hailed what he calls his "China Dream" of "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." That may seem like empty rhetoric—but the Chinese investment that buys diplomatic blandishments today will tomorrow be used to secure still greater economic and strategic advantages.

## Caribbean imports and exports will increase in 2013 - ECLAC

**SANTIAGO, Chile, September 12, 2013** - The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has predicted that regional exports will grow by 1.5 per cent and imports by 4.5 per cent respectively this year.

In its annual report titled "Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy 2013", ECLAC said the foreign trade performance of Latin America and the Caribbean "reflects the weak global economy"

It said regional export values were expected to grow by just 1.5 per cent in 2013 which is similar to the 1.4 per cent growth observed last year.

ECLAC is predicting that imports would expand by 4.5 per cent "which will bring the region's trade surplus down to eight billion US dollars in 2013, compared to US\$41 billion in 2012.

The Commission said that the weak global economy "continues to affect the buoyancy of world trade.

"The latter is expected to grow by around 2.5 per cent in volume in 2013. This would mean trade growing more slowly than global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for the second year in a row - which has not been seen since the 1980s.

"Latin American and Caribbean countries whose exports are mainly to China and the rest of Asia will probably chalk up higher volume growth, while at the same time experiencing a gradual change in demand from commodities to more processed products," it added.

In the report, ECLAC said that one of the main features of the current international economic situation was "mega-regional negotiations" linking the main world production networks.

It said that several "mega-regional negotiations" under way were changing the face of world trade, identifying some of the main examples as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the European Union and the United States, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the free trade

agreements between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

"These initiatives create large economically integrated spaces at the regional level (in Asia), as well as at the trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific levels. These mega-negotiations include topics that are not regulated by the World Trade Organization and that are important for international production networks.

"The agenda is becoming increasingly sophisticated, with a view to harmonizing the operating rules of various production networks to facilitate the operations of multinationals in North America, Europe and Asia," the ECLAC report noted.

According to the document, as well as diverted trade and investment flows, these negotiations could result in the region facing "restricted access to knowledge and innovation opportunities provided by new technologies, if the positions of the lobbies observed so far in the main economies prevail".

## E-Cigarettes to be regulated as medicines



Courtesy: UK National Health Service

Electronic cigarettes are to be licensed and regulated as an aid to quit smoking from 2016, it has been announced.

E-cigarettes – battery-operated devices that mimic cigarettes – are to be classed as 'medicines', which means they will face stringent checks by British medicine regulators and doctors will be able to prescribe them to smokers to help them cut down or quit.

This move has been widely welcomed by medical experts and officials, as tighter regulation will ensure the products are safe and effective.

Until this happens, e-cigarettes are only

covered by general product safety legislation, meaning they can legally be promoted and sold to children, and we cannot be sure of their ingredients or how much nicotine they contain. The UK regulator Medicines and Healthcare Products

Regulatory Agency (MHRA) will not ban the products entirely during this interim period, but will encourage e-cigarette manufacturers to apply for a medicine licence.

### Are e-cigarettes safe?

We don't really know until they have been thoroughly assessed and monitored in a large population over time. However, compared with regular cigarettes, they are certainly the lesser of two evils.

First, e-cigarettes don't contain any tobacco – only nicotine, which is highly addictive but much less dangerous. For this reason, smoking e-cigarettes (known as 'vaping') is generally regarded a safer alternative to

smoking for those unable or unwilling to stop using nicotine.

### What do e-cigarettes contain, and how do they work?

Most e-cigarettes contain a battery, an atomiser and a replaceable cartridge. The cartridge contains nicotine in a solution of either propylene glycol or glycerine and water, and sometimes also flavourings.

When you suck on the device, a sensor detects the air flow and starts a process to heat the liquid inside the cartridge, so it evaporates to form water vapour. Inhaling this vapour delivers a hit of nicotine straight to your lungs.

### Will they help me quit smoking?

We don't yet know. The evidence so far is promising, but not strong enough to draw any firm conclusions. It's a wait and see situation.

## Legislations - Duty Free Shop Act

It is important for Customs officers, junior and experienced, to be fully aware of the provisions of the Customs (Management and Control) Act and the Customs Tariff Act as these are the principal pieces of legislation that govern the administration of our responsibilities as a department.

However, there are a number of legislations that guide the functions of the department as we levy the correct taxes and duties on goods imported.

Of these pieces of legislation, we will focus on the Duty Free Shops (Licensing and Taxation) Act, No. 6 of 2010.

This Act provides for the establishment of Commission to regulate the duty free shops sector, to receive and investigate complaints, review applications for licensing, make recommendations to the Minister in respect to the maximum number of duty free shop licences to be granted and make recommendation with regard to the grant, refusal, revocation or suspension of duty free shop licences.

The Act establishes ten duty free zones. (Third Schedule) They are Basseterre, Charlestown, The Sands Complex, RLB International Airport,

VA International Airport, Romney Manor, Brimstone Hill, Frigate Bay, The South East Peninsular, and the White Gate Development area.

There are two classes of duty free shops. Class A shops include those that sell electronic equipment, personal accessories and selected brands of goods; shoes of F.O.B. value of \$50.00 US; chinaware, stoneware and porcelain; cologne, body fragrances and perfumes with an FOB value of \$50.00; Jewelry; golf clubs, balls and clubs; souvenirs of St. Kitts and Nevis; T-shirts, polo shirts, pants and skirts bearing the name St. Kitts and Nevis and other items listed in Part I of the First Schedule.

Class B shops are those that sell Liquor and Tobacco only.

Both Class A and Class B shops pay and annual licence fee of \$10,000 XCD. (Fourth Schedule)

A licence is valid in every instance until the December 31 each year and should be renewed (Sections 6,7 and 10)

The licence is not transferrable to any other person and should not used for the benefit of any other person. (Section 9)

All licences are granted by the Minister of Finance and where granted, all licences are to be published in the Official Gazette.

(Section 5)

Section 12 stipulates that where different duty free shops and premises are kept in the name of one person or company, a separate licence shall be taken out.

Section 13 further stipulates that where both Class A and Class B goods are sold in one shop, that person shall obtain two separate licences.

The receipts of all duty free shops are to follow the format of the Stamp Act (Section 14).

Where a duty free shop is not located in a customs port, approved wharf or customs airport as prescribed by section 15 of the Customs (Control and Management) Act, such an area can be approved as a customs area. And where such an approval is made that condition should be stated on the duty free shop licence.

Based on the CIF, a duty free shop licensee shall pay to Customs and Excise a duty free shop levy at a rate of six per cent on any approved good that is imported. (Second Schedule)

Finally any person found to contravene the act or provides false information commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or jail term of 12 months or both. (Section 20)

## US releases \$100 banknote with new security features



“The US Federal Reserve has issued a new hi-tech \$100 banknote comprising several new security features.

It includes a blue 3D security ribbon and a bell and inkwell logo that authorities say are particularly difficult to replicate.

These combine with traditional security features, such as a portrait watermark and an embedded security thread that glows pink under ultra-violet light.

The 3D security ribbon - which is woven into the note, not printed on it - features images of 100s that change into bells and move upwards or sideways depending on how you tilt the paper. Tilting also reveals a green bell within a copper-coloured inkwell to the right of the blue ribbon.

In addition, the 100 number in the bottom

right-hand corner shifts from copper to green.

The redesigned banknote, which features a portrait of US founding father and scientist Benjamin Franklin, also includes raised "intaglio" printing that gives the notes a distinctive feel, and microprinted words that are difficult to read without magnification.

Over a decade of research and development has gone into the new note as the that \$100 bill is the most counterfeited of all US banknotes.

## Humour - All in a day's work

### Ah Cuss Mi Boss



Two Port Officers were drinking in a bar, complaining that their boss was always giving them a hard time. The next day they met again and the one officer began boasting, "boy ah cuss out de boss real good, and when ah done, ah ask him for a raise and he give it to me."

His friend stared in surprise and asked "you mean he ain't fire you?". So the next day he went to work and began to cuss up the boss who looked at him and promptly fired him on the spot.

That afternoon when they met in the bar again, he said, "Boy it aint work out like you. How you get so lucky, boy?" His friend replied, "Boy that day when I cuss de boss, I did cuss he in me mind."

### Bon Appetit



An old lady in Dieppe Bay opened her door only to see a young man displaying a shiny new vacuum cleaner.

"Good morning Ma'am" he said the young man. "May I demonstrate the greatest and latest vacuum. There's nothing like it! The lady replied, "Go away! I don't have any money!"

Before she closed the door, he pushed his way in. "Give me a chance to show you.," and there emptied a bucket of manure onto her carpet. "Now, watch me remove every trace of this manure. If this vacuum cleaner does not do the job, I will eat up what's left myself." The old lady turned around saying, "Then let me get a knife and fork for you, because SKELEC disconnected my electricity today."

### Caribbean Unity

A California Highway Patrolman pulled a car over and told the Guyanese driver that, because he was wearing his seat belt, he had just won \$5,000 US in the state safety competition.

What are you going to do with the money?" asked the policeman.

"Well, I goin' get a driver's licence," he answered with jubilation. "Oh, don't listen to him," yelled the Trinidadian woman in the passenger's seat. "He is a real stupid when he drunk." The Bajan guy in the back seat began to moan, "I knew we ain' gon' get far in no tiefin car." Just then, there was a knock from the trunk and a Jamaican voice asked, "I man mek it krass de barder yet?!"

## Fun at Customs - Four Pics, One Word



Five Letters : \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



Six Letters: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



Seven Letters : \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



Eight Letters : \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Play the latest game sensation out there - **Four Pics, one Word**.

The name says it all. A series of four pictures have one word in common, the challenge is for you to identify it.

Identify that one word from each series of four pictures and you will be on your way to gaming excitement.

**Four Pics, One Word** can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store to your smartphone for hours of fun and excitement.

Play **Four Pics, One Word** and compete with family and friends.

But pay attention to the number of letter in the clues as this will help you to successfully solve the mysteries.

Thank you for playing and enjoying, Four Pics, One Word in this issue of LANCE.

## Customs Sports Club Notices

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sports Club on October 7, 2013, the following fundraising events are being planned for the following dates and times:

- Family Fun Day at the LIME Grounds on Saturday, November 9 at 11:00 a.m.
- Take Away Dinner on Saturday, November 23, from 7 - pm at the

Customs Headquarters at cost of \$20.00 XCD

- Friday Lunches will be available for sale to staff, brokers and their families on Friday December 6, 13, and 20. Lunches will be sold by tickets. Get your tickets from President Launlia or any executive member.
- A Car Wash activity is being planned for this quarter. Please plan to be a part of this event.

### OUR SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Executive Committee of the Customs Sports Club wishes to thank the management and staff of the Customs and Excise Department for your support of our 2013 programmes and activities. Your presence made our events the successes they were.

We look forward to having more fun together in 2014. Season's greetings to all.



### October

- 1 - Sheniqua Francis
- 2 - Raynaldo Bradshaw
- 4 - Ingrid Brown
- 5 - Janessa Huggins
- 7 - Jomo Butler
- 8 - Gregory Davis
- 13 - Kenecha David
- 14 - Sherri-Ann French
- 16 - Alvernez Harris
- 16 - Jessica Rawlins
- 24 - Clifton Harrigan
- 26 - Delando Levine
- 28 - Clyde Alford
- 28 - Keizel Williams

### November

- 1 - Amerelle Walters
- 3 - Kajali Gumbs
- 4 - Evelyn Garnette
- 4 - Shauna Webbe
- 4 - Joseph Williams
- 7 - Bjorn Griffin
- 9 - Monica Douglas-Jeffers
- 10 - Christanja Carey
- 11 - Wendy Wilkes
- 12 - Launlia Archibald
- 13 - Curtis Pemberton
- 16 - Latoya Francis
- 17 - Virgil Hodge
- 20 - Longs Matthew
- 27 - Brian Mills

### December

- 1 - Akeem Edwards
- 1 - Zefton Francis
- 2 - Eric Thompson
- 3 - Kenville Dunrod
- 5 - Jevon Gumbs
- 6 - Thyronne Jeffers
- 7 - Patricia Liburd
- 9 - Shane Hanley
- 10 - Najae Hector
- 11 - Lansbury Williams
- 12 - Cynric Carey
- 14 - Askia Hendrickson
- 15 - Theodore Brown
- 15 - Leon Natta-Nelson
- 15 - Valerie Webbe
- 18 - Dianne Henderson-Phipps
- 23 - Chesney Carey
- 23 - Christopher Broadbelt
- 24 - Ian French
- 24 - Rodney Harris
- 25 - Kisha Browne
- 25 - Tichina Williams
- 27 - Coryn Maynard
- 28 - Ianson Slater
- 28 - Sherima Stanley
- 29 - Deswert Douglas
- 30 - Elmar Martinez