



CONSULATE NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 3 • Summer 2009 • www.congenantigua-barbuda-ny.org

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THE IMPORTANCE OF OVERSEAS NATIONALS TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA’S ECONOMY

As the global economic crisis continues to spread Antigua and Barbuda is likely to experience higher unemployment, reduced access to credit, business closures and increased poverty. Since we are now integrated into a global economic structure very few countries will escape the negative fallouts from this ensuing economic crisis. Over 40 trillion US dollars in wealth have already been wiped out by this once-in-every-hundred-years economic crisis, and before it is all over, many countries will find themselves racking up huge debts to keep the state afloat. This will become necessary to support state run social programs and maintain public sector employment. Economic crises can cause extreme hardship, particularly on the middleclass and the poor. Millions of persons in the United States and other developed countries have already lost their jobs and millions more will become unemployed before the crisis ends.

What can members of the Antigua and Barbuda Diaspora or overseas community do to cushion the harsh impact of this devastating economic crisis? Overseas nationals can help by doing what they have done over the years, and that is, send remittances to relatives and charitable organizations back home. A remittance is defined as “the portion of migrant workers’ earnings sent home to their families”. According to the Remittance Forum this form

of money transfer has served as “a critical means of financial support for generations”. It is said that for many years remittances have been “hidden in plain view”, unaccounted for and in many cases ignored. However due to the growth of the “New Economy”, driven by global economic integration and facilitated by trade liberalization, the value of migrant remittances has at last garnered significance.

Currently the value of remittances is highly recognized and appreciated in developing countries. These remittances represent a huge cache of foreign currency to developing countries and help to alleviate poverty. Approximately 10% of the world’s population depends on remittances to help support their households. However it is not only poverty alleviation that benefits from migrants’ remittances, economic growth and investment are also substantial beneficiaries. These remittances increase consumption and as a result help to spur economic activity on which many businesses rely to keep their doors open. In addition remittances are used to augment local savings and credit mobilization. In 2006 the Caribbean received over \$US8 billion in remittances from overseas nationals. Barbados received US\$292 million which represents 9.4% of GDP and Grenada US\$162 million or 32% of GDP. In 2007 Antigua and Barbuda received US\$11 million in remittance inflows. However when one considers that a significant portion of remittances to Antigua and Barbuda is not recorded the actual inflows could be as high as US\$ 25 million in 2007.



The statistical data clearly shows the important role remittance transfers play in poverty alleviation, investment, savings, credit mobilization and consumption in developing countries.

The government of Antigua and Barbuda should offer incentives to overseas nationals so as to ensure an increase and steady flow of remittances to Antigua and Barbuda at this very difficult period in time. The government should also adopt viable models that can make productive use of remittances. Many countries in Latin America and Asia have successfully used remittances to finance community development programs; Antigua and Barbuda should, where feasible, implement similar models. In Antigua and Barbuda contributions by overseas nationals is often disregarded or demeaned, this is partly due to indifference and ignorance. In order for Antigua and Barbuda to overcome the current and future economic crises, overseas nationals must increase their remittances. However this will only occur if our government begins to treat our overseas nationals like India, China and other Caribbean countries treat their own-like undeniable contributors to the nation’s



Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda- New York

Business Hours

Monday – Thursday
9am – 3pm

Friday
9am – 1pm

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8am – 6pm

(continued from front cover)

economic development! If business and the taxpayer expect a return on investment (ROI), why shouldn't the overseas national expect the same? It is only fair that our government recognizes the importance of remittances and gives overseas nationals incentives in return for their inestimable contribution to the economic development of Antigua and Barbuda.

Unfortunately, Antigua and Barbuda is yet to follow the lead of Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada and numerous other Caribbean countries in establishing a Diaspora office fully dedicated to the development of a sustainable reciprocal relationship between overseas nationals and Antigua and Barbuda. With an

estimated sixty-five thousand Antiguan and Barbudans residing overseas their per capita contribution to GDP is meager compared to per capita contribution to GDP by Jamaica, Grenada and Barbados overseas nationals. Based on these figures perhaps it is time for nationals at home and abroad to ask themselves some hard questions such as: why is there such a large disparity between the remittances received by other Caribbean countries and those received by Antigua and Barbuda? Why hasn't our government established a Diaspora office as yet? Is there a relationship between remittances transfer and government's Diaspora policy or lack thereof? Are overseas nationals viewed

at home as insubordinates rather than identical contributors to the economy of Antigua and Barbuda? What does the non existence of a thoughtful Diaspora policy cost our economy in terms of capital, foreign exchange, knowledge transfer, research and development (R&D), technology transfer and foreign direct investment (FDI)? These issues and questions should be taken into consideration as the government looks at ways to stabilize and strengthen our country's economy during these challenging times.

*by McChesney Emanuel,
Consul General - New York*

THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans,

Last December, I had the humble privilege of addressing the gathering at the sixteenth annual dinner and dance for the Children of Freetown Antigua (COFA) organization. Given the overwhelming positive response and numerous requests for copies of my notes, I decided to publish a slightly adapted version of my presentation in this issue of our newsletter.

I am sure that most of you would agree with me that we are more prone to offer criticisms and negative feedback than offer encouragement. I certainly do not say this with any degrading or cynical intent because I do believe that constructive criticisms and negative feedback are integral to our personal growth and development. However, I want to challenge us all to bring balance to such tendencies and behaviors and commit to offer more encouragement to those we come in contact with. Why? Encouragement changes everything!

Encouragement by definition refers to the support of a kind that inspires confidence and the will to continue or develop. I believe that most of you can think of a significant point in your life when a person came along side of you and spoke or did a deed of encouragement to you that you could look back and say, "That was pretty

life-changing, that really made a difference." Perhaps it was a time when you were confused or thinking of quitting and someone said the right words that lifted your spirits. Over the years I have learned the value of encouragement myself and would like to share 5 simple thoughts with you- some of which I have borrowed from notable authors.

1. Encouragement keeps us going. There were many times when I wanted to quit but deeds and words of encouragement have kept me going.

Walt Whitman who is regarded as the most important American poet of the nineteenth century describes 3 kinds of people in the world today.

- (i) Well-poisoners - They discourage you, stomp on your creativity, and tell you what you can't do.
- (ii) Lawn-mowers - They are well intentioned but self-absorbed. They tend to their own needs, mow their own lawns, and never leave their yards to help any one else.
- (iii) Life-enhancers- They reach out to enrich the lives of others and lift them up and inspire them.

Be committed to be a life-enhancer. People will go farther than they think they could when someone else thinks they can.

2. Encouragement makes people better.

- Charles Schwab who was the first employee in America to be paid a million dollar salary during the 1920's said, "I have yet to find the man, however exalted his station, who did not do better work and put forth a greater effort under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism. He said that throughout his life he has learnt that people get better when we value them, when we praise their effort and when we reward performance.

- Psychologists say that deep down, all people have certain desires in common. If you want to encourage people, help them to fulfill these most basic, heartfelt desires and these are:

- (i) People want to do the right thing- stand with them
- (ii) People want to achieve things of which they can be proud - motivate them.
- (iii) People want to belong to a group that achieves the extraordinary- invite them.
- (iv) People want to earn recognition for who they are and what they achieve- honor them.

3. Encouragement turns lives around.

Renowned author, Dr. John Maxwell says that there are 5 things he knows about people.

THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(THE POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT continued from page 2)

- (i) Everybody wants to be somebody
- (ii) Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.
- (iii) Everybody needs somebody.
- (iv) Anybody who helps somebody influences a lot of bodies.
- (v) Today somebody will rise up and become somebody

Encouragement is at the absolute core of all these things.

4. Encouragement gives hope.

Dr. John Maxwell also said that his father taught him the following principles on encouraging people.

- People are insecure ... give them confidence.
- People like to feel special sincerely compliment them.
- People are looking for a better tomorrow show them hope.
- People need to be understood ... listen to them.
- People lack direction ... navigate for them.
- People are selfish ... speak to their needs first.
- People get downhearted encourage them.
- People want to be associated with success ... help them win.
- People desire meaningful relationships ... provide community.
- People seek models to follow ...

be an example.

- The secret of encouragement is HOPE.

5. Encouragement empowers groups.

Encouragement is a great empowering tool to use in teams or groups. This is particularly useful for those of us in leadership positions.

- People who build successful teams, successful groups and successful organizations, never forget that every person's role is contributing to the bigger picture. This increases high morale. The reality is everybody needs somebody and none of us achieve anything without someone else. I recently heard someone saying it this way, "You can't help to push a person towards their destination and remain in the same position."
- Former American film producer and Oscar nominee Samuel Goldwyn said, "When someone does something good, applaud! You will make two people happy." As you encourage others you become encouraged yourself.

In closing, how and when do we give encouragement?

- Encouragement should be earned.
- Encouragement should be sincere.
- Encouragement should honest- if you praise someone who doesn't deserve it, it is dishonest.

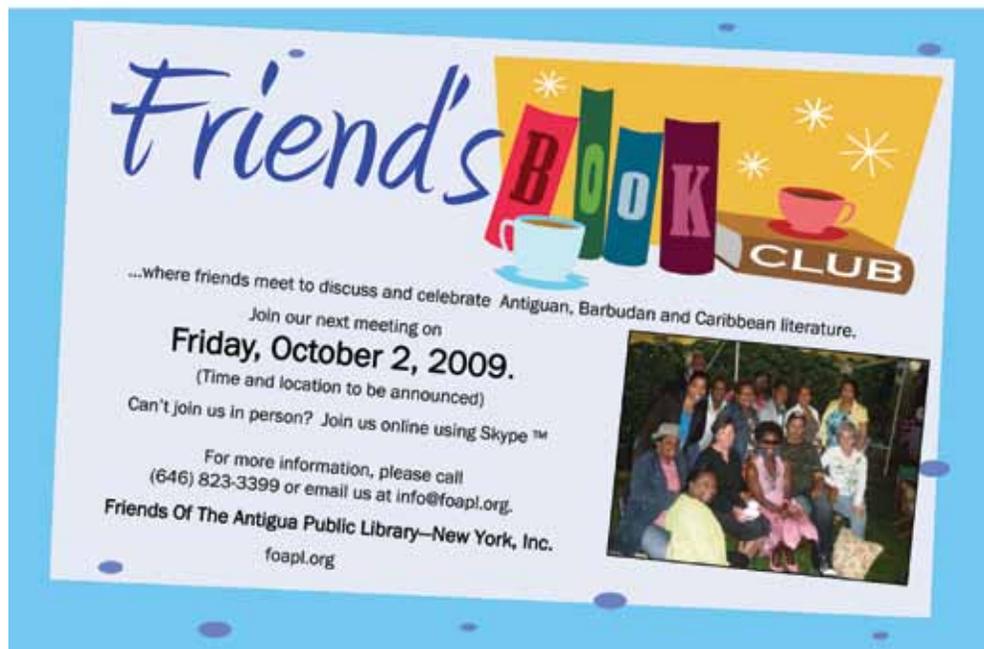
- Encouragement should be appropriate- there is time, a place and season to give encouragement.
- Encouragement should be meaningful- when given it should be substantiated by something that is done.
- Encouragement should be balanced with guidance and correction when needed.
- Encouragement should be specific.

I encourage you today to think of someone who has been a source of encouragement to you. Follow their example and give the gift of encouragement to someone you know. One of the good things about encouragement is that you don't have to be brilliant to encourage people. You don't have to be a person of position to give encouragement. You just really have to have a heart for people. So resolve to be a greater encourager and show someone that you care. For as Zig Ziglar says, "You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life."



Onyma David,

*Deputy Consul General
of Antigua and Barbuda*



Friends' BOOK CLUB

...where friends meet to discuss and celebrate Antiguan, Barbudan and Caribbean literature.

Join our next meeting on
Friday, October 2, 2009.
(Time and location to be announced)

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GOVERNMENT MOVES CLOSER TOWARDS IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda recently held a consultation on immigration reform. During this public forum, National Security Minister Dr. Errol Cort informed the audience of over three hundred that any comprehensive program of immigration reform will have to be simultaneous with electoral reform and possibly the complete re-registration of voters. Dr. Cort also announced that Antiguan and Barbudans will soon hear the details of illegal activities at the Immigration Department surrounding the granting of temporary residence status to non-nationals. He said that a three-member committee was set up to investigate the matter had assured him that a report on the issue would be released shortly.

In the meantime, Dr. Cort released statistics which showed that Guyanese and Jamaicans were major beneficiaries of temporary residence status in Antigua. Of the total 2,433 certificates granted in 2006, 915 were given to Guyanese and 729 to Jamaicans. In 2007, 1,005 were granted to people from Guyana and 855 to Jamaicans. Last year, the total number of certificates dipped slightly to 2,870, but 1,029 were granted to Guyanese and 837 were granted to Jamaicans. Nationals of the Dominican Republic, Syria and the United Kingdom also benefited although not to the same extent. Dr. Cort added that the number of applications denied in those years was negligible.

The impact of immigration on Antigua and Barbuda's education system was also discussed at the said consultation session. Dr. Cort reported that 22% of students at all primary and secondary schools (public and private) were non-nationals. The ratios are particularly high at the secondary level, accounting for nearly 29% at state-run institutions and almost 37% in the case of private secondary schools. Prime Minister Spencer had earlier disclosed that the government was under added pressure to build new schools because of the demands posed by a large and ever expanding immigrant population.

As the government seeks for solutions to its growing immigration problems, the Labor Department has recommended some changes to the policy on work permits that will essentially lengthen the process, make it more expensive for employers to hire workers from outside of Antigua and secure more local jobs. The Labor Department also recommended that self-employed work permits should be restricted to persons who are legal residents for a minimum of seven years except for persons who will be creating immediate employment. Other recommendations made by members of the audience at the consultation session was for the labor, immigration and police departments to be computerized and linked to keep track of all people entering and leaving the island.

The Prime Minister added his voice to the hotly debated issue of immigration and the alleged ill-treatment of non-nationals in Antigua and Barbuda at a recent Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads Meeting in Guyana. In his address Prime Minister Spencer stressed that Antigua and Barbuda has demonstrated its commitment to the regional integration movement as enumerated in the Grande Anse Declaration.

He said that even before CSME, Antigua and Barbuda "was on the frontier, welcoming our brothers and sisters from across the region to live and work and many have contributed to the growth of the nation. However, because of the limited resources of the country, the liberal immigration policy cannot be sustained."

The Prime Minister added that "continuing this liberal immigration arrangement is counter-productive to my government's policy of providing the greatest good for the greatest number of our citizens and residents."

Prime Minister Spencer supported his argument with data as he informed his colleagues that "... between September 2008 and June 2009 the Immigration Department in Antigua and Barbuda approved 14,318 applications from persons seeking an extension of time to remain in the country. Some of these applicants may have received multiple extensions over the said period. In respect of work permits, during the period 1998 to 2008, an average of 5,000 work permits was granted on an annual basis. Furthermore, during the period 1999 to 2008, a total of 5,958 persons became citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, which averages about 600 persons per year. These figures do not include persons who qualified for citizenship under the Millennium Naturalization Act which conferred citizenship on over 3,000 individuals who were living in Antigua and Barbuda legally for at least three years prior to December 31, 2000," the Prime Minister said. Prime Minister Spencer further appealed to his CARICOM colleagues that his country's current socio-economic state



PM Spencer at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Georgetown, Guyana.

IN THE NEWS

has made it difficult to adhere to its obligations under the Free Movement Regime.

Antigua and Barbuda secured five years derogation from any further expansion of the Free Movement of Persons and Contingent Rights regimes under Chapter three of the Revised CARICOM Treaty. According to Prime Minister Spencer Antigua and Barbuda has a population of 73,000 and approximately 40,000 residents are not Antiguan.

PLANS FOR MOUNT OBAMA REVEALED

On August 4, 2009, Boggy Peak will officially be renamed Mount Obama and officials hope it will be positioned as a unique tourist attraction and a viable and financially self-sustaining entity. The renaming ceremony coincides with the 48th birthday of President Barack Obama and Antigua and Barbuda's annual Carnival celebrations.

At a press conference held on May 25, Prime Minister Spencer told reporters, "I am pleased to announce plans for the Mount Obama Monument/National Park Development which will be developed and managed as a national landmark to symbolize the historical achievement of Barack Obama and what it means for the people of Antigua and Barbuda."

Prime Minister Spencer added that, "Mount Obama will become a prolific guidepost, a triumph of the human spirit and a beacon of hope for all people, particularly minority groups who may have been economically disadvantaged. This will include people in underdeveloped countries and single parents who can readily relate to President Obama's journey and accomplishments."

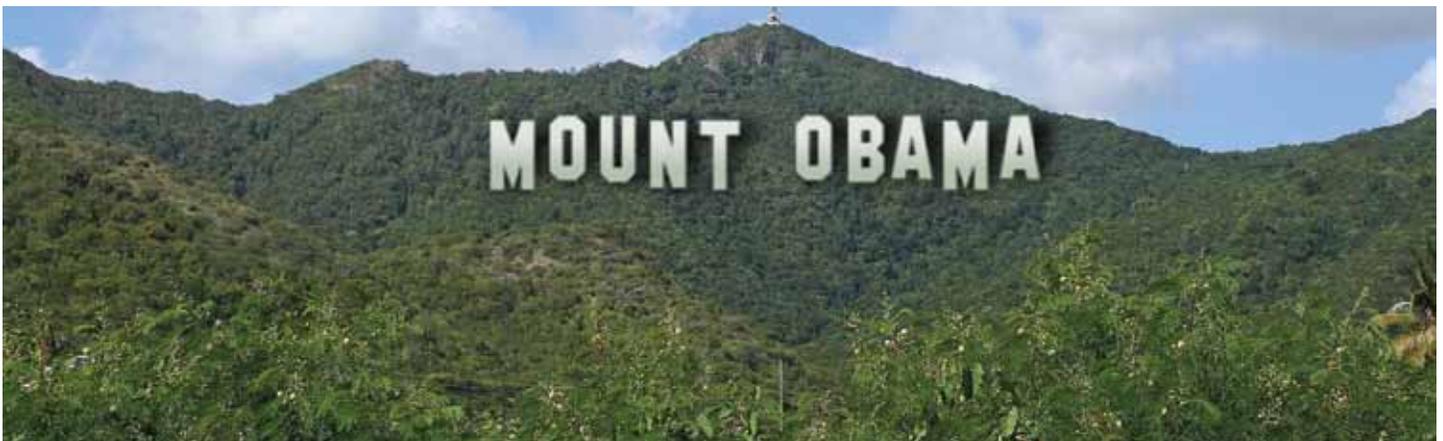
"While chronicling our path, it will serve to promote human dignity, inspiring and encouraging interest in our journey from the departure of the first slave ships from Africa to our successes in the 21st century," Prime Minister Spencer further explained.

With growing focus throughout the world on eco-tourism, agro-tourism, health and wellness and community tourism, officials believe that Mount Obama will present many opportunities to develop a number of niche markets that will help to diversify and strengthen our tourism product. The park is expected to help facilitate eco-tourism in the Cades Bay area and agro-tourism in Christian Valley.

A steering committee has been established to manage and provide strategic guidance for the renaming process as well as co-ordinate the Mount Obama National Parks project. Committee chairman and environmentalist Ivor Jackson explained that this project is aimed at the "preservation, conservation and sustainable use of our national heritage." Other committee members include the Acting Director General of Tourism Cortwright Marshall, Deputy Director of Agriculture Jedidiah Maxime, Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) representative Kim Derrick, Tracelyn Cornelius from Ministry of Information and Valerie Harris-Pole from the Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Spencer originally wrote to Obama after the election in November telling him of his intentions. However, not all Antiguan were equally thrilled at the prospect. Some reportedly questioned the Prime Minister's motives, while others were unsure of Obama's relevance to their country.

In response to criticism that the move was premature, Prime Minister Spencer remarked, "It is not a question of whether or not Barack Obama's presidency will be successful. I have no doubt that it will but the issue doesn't turn on that. What it turns on is the fact that he was elected president of the United States of America as a man of color and it sends a powerful signal world-wide not only among people of color but other races and ethnic groups throughout the world."



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Meet the Government of Antigua of Antigua and Barbuda

THE CABINET



The Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs



Hon. Justin L. Simon
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs



Hon. Wilmoth Daniel
*Minister of Health, Social Transformation
and Consumer Affairs*



Hon. Harold E. E. Lovell
Minister of Finance, the Economy and Public Administration



Senator the Hon. Dr. L. Errol Cort
Minister of National Security



Hon. John Herbert Maginley
Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture



Hon. Hilson Baptiste
*Minister of Agriculture, Lands,
Housing and the Environment*



Dr. the Hon. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro
Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs



Hon. Trevor Myke Walker
Minister of Works and Transport

MINISTERS OF STATE



Hon. Chanlah Codrington
*Minister of State attached to the
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment*



Hon. Eleston Montgomery Adams
*Minister of State attached to the
Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture*



Senator the Honorable Winston Vincent Williams
*Minister of State attached to the
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs*



Senator the Hon. Dr. Edmond Mansoor
*Minister of State attached to the
Office of the Prime Minister*



Senator the Honorable Joanne Maureen Massiah
Minister of State attached to the Ministry of Legal Affairs



Senator the Honorable Elmore Charles
Minister of State attached to the Ministry of Works and Transport

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CONSULTATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIASPORA BOND



Hon. McChesney Emanuel - Consul General

On Saturday June 20th 2009 the Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda hosted a brunch-meeting at the Antigua House located at 12 W 122 Street in Harlem to discuss the current global economic crisis. The event brought together Antigua and Barbuda community leaders, businesspersons and professionals to discuss the impact of the global economic crisis on the economy of Antigua and Barbuda. There were two specific agenda items: 1) the role of overseas nationals in helping to alleviate economic hardships and 2) establishment of an Antigua and Barbuda Diaspora bond that could raise US\$100 million.

Hon. Consul General McChesney Emanuel chaired the meeting and the keynote speaker was Attorney Jerry Edwin. In his remarks to attendees Consul General Emanuel stated: "As the global economic crisis continues to broaden Antigua and Barbuda is expected to experience higher unemployment, reduced access to credit, business closures and increased poverty. Since we are now integrated into a global economic configuration very few countries will evade the negative fallouts from this shattering economic crisis. Trillions of dollars in wealth have already been wiped out by this unparalleled economic crisis, and before it is all over, many countries will find themselves racking up huge debts to keep the state afloat. This will become necessary to support state run social programs and maintain public sector employment. Overseas nationals can help Antigua and Barbuda get through this crisis by doing what they have always done, and that is, send remittances to relatives and charitable organizations back home". Mr. Emanuel indicated that in 2006 Antiguan and Barbudans sent over US\$30 million in remittances back home. He also remarked that "with the creation of a Diaspora bond Antiguan and Barbudans can help raise millions of dollars for the government and at the same time receive excellent returns on their investment".

Attorney Jerry Edwin Remarks

Keynote speaker, Attorney Jerry Edwin, told participants that Israel was the first country that established a Diaspora bond which raised millions of dollars to help the country's development. India and China have also been very successful at raising hundreds of millions of dollars in their country's Diaspora. These funds helped to save these countries during periods of dire economic hardships. Innovative financing is highly essential for Caribbean countries in the face of the current shrinkage of capital market funds for infrastructure and other types of development. Diaspora bonds are the leading 'out-of-the-box' idea that provides the best option for creative financing to aid distressed economies of CARICOM member nations. From 1951 to 1991 Israel raised approximately US\$15 billion through Diaspora bonds. In 1991, 1995 and in 2000 India successfully launched Diaspora bonds to support its balance of payments requirements and to develop its infrastructure. All together India raised over US \$ 40 billion. Since then other countries have caught on to the viability of these innovative forms of financing.

In 2006 Ghana launched its Jubilee bonds which were so oversubscribed that the close date was extended. The initial estimate of US\$350,000,000 was ultimately extended by Ghana's Central Bank and ultimately raised US\$750,000,000. Ethiopia, in its goal to expand electrification beyond 25% of its population issued a corporate Diaspora bond in 2008 that is expected to raise in excess of US\$250,000,000. In April 2008 Kenya announced that it would roll out a Diaspora bond by the fall of that year. In June this year, Zimbabwe announced its plans to launch a Diaspora bond although the government has been reluctant to identify the dollar amount it anticipates. Given the enormous size of its Diaspora, particularly in Southern Africa and the United Kingdom, development experts expect the Zimbabwe issue to exceed US\$500,000,000.

The Philippines Central Bank is currently discussing issuing a bond and an announcement is anticipated this summer or in the early Fall. In the Caribbean, Jamaica has announced plans to issue a Diaspora bond in the near term in the amount of US\$500,000,000. According to those close to this project the goal is to raise half of the funds from private capital markets and the other half from individual Diaspora investors. Some other countries that have successfully raised capital from their Diaspora communities using Diaspora bonds are Lebanon, Ireland and Armenia.

An immediate benefit to individual investors of Diaspora bonds issued by their home countries is the ability to leverage the bonds against contractual obligations at home; the tax free income they receive offers the option to take their returns in local currencies and most importantly, the guarantee of the returns. Not least for retail Diaspora investors, is the hedge Diaspora bond provides against the risk of additional financial institutions' collapse and the comparable high rate of return offered by Diaspora bonds that is not available in the United States, Canada or the European Community.



Business and Community Leaders

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS

Passport photographs are rejected when they **DO NOT** meet the requirements set by the Passport Office. This delays the processing of your passport application. Please follow the guidelines below:



QUANTITY

- ❖ Applicants are required to submit **THREE (3) IDENTICAL** copies of a professionally produced photograph from the same film taken not more than six (6) months prior to the application.

QUALITY AND STYLE

- ❖ Print on high quality paper and use high resolution.
- ❖ Photos should be 2x2 inches in size.
- ❖ The photos should be taken in color against a plain white background.
- ❖ No **SHADOWS** should be behind ears and head.
- ❖ No flash reflections and no red eye.
- ❖ Light distribution should be even throughout photograph.
- ❖ Photographs should provide a full frontal view of the **HEAD, NECK AND TOP OF SHOULDERS WITH BOTH EARS CLEARLY VISIBLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.**
- ❖ Photograph cannot be manipulated, for example, by removing spots or softening lenses.
- ❖ **DO NOT** affix embossed seal to photographs.

FACE/HEAD

- ❖ Your face should be the central or principal point of focus.
- ❖ Size of face should be 25mm to 35mm, from the chin to top of head.
- ❖ There should be a margin of 3mm between the head and the edge of the photograph.
- ❖ Show both edges of your face clearly.
- ❖ No glare or too much light should be on your face or forehead.
- ❖ Show natural skin tones and have appropriate brightness and contrast.
- ❖ No smiling (to show teeth) or frowning. Show a neutral expression with mouth closed.
- ❖ Look directly at the camera.
- ❖ Do not look over one shoulder (portrait style) or with head tilted.

GLASSES

- ❖ If you wear glasses **DO NOT** wear them when photographed.
- ❖ If you **MUST** wear glasses:
 - Your eyes must be clearly visible without your frame hiding any part of your eyes.
 - Lighter framed glasses are preferred if you have them.
 - No dark tinted lenses which would restrict a clear view of your eyes.
 - No flash reflection off the lenses.

HAIR

- ❖ Your hair must be away from your forehead, eyes and face.
- ❖ Applicants with grey/white hair should have photos taken against a pale blue or grey background.

HEAD WEAR

- ❖ Applicants should wear **NO HEAD COVERING** whatsoever. Applicant's full face and ears must be clearly visible.

CLOTHING

- ❖ Applicants of light complexion should **AVOID** wearing white clothing and should have the photos taken against a white background.
- ❖ Applicants of dark complexion should wear colored clothing and photos **MUST** be taken against a white background.
- ❖ Photographs should display appropriately clad images; **SHOULDERS AND CHEST SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED.**
- ❖ No halter tops, spaghetti straps or merinos should be worn.
- ❖ Jewelry and other accessories should be minimal or fully removed to prevent shadows when photographed.

CHILDREN AND BABIES

- ❖ Photos of children and babies should:
 - Show the child or baby with his/her eyes open, looking straight at the camera with mouth closed and no pacifier.
 - Show the child or baby's face clearly without any other objects (including parent's supporting hand) visible.
 - Show the child or baby without any hair across the eyes.

CERTIFICATION

- ❖ One (1) passport photo **MUST BE CERTIFIED** with stamp and signature by the same notary as Section 9 of the passport application form.
- ❖ Applicant **MUST PRINT OR SIGN** his/her name on photo below the notary's stamp.
- ❖ If notary's stamp cannot fit on the photo use the following certification:
"I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE PHOTO OF (INSERT APPLICANT'S NAME)."
- ❖ Notary should place his/her signature beneath the above certification statement.

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke Introduces the Caribbean Count Bill



Washington, DC -- Rep. Yvette D. Clarke introduced the *Caribbean Count Bill* (H.R. 2071), an historic bill that calls for Caribbean nationals to have their own origins check box on the U.S. Census form. It calls for all questionnaires used in the taking of any decennial census of the U.S. population, to include a checkbox or other similar option be included so that respondents may indicate Caribbean extraction or descent.

“Every household in the country will receive a census questionnaire in 2010, and now is the time to stand up and be counted, said Rep. Clarke. “We want to ensure an accurate and fair count of all populations at all geographic levels in the nation, so I am encouraging everyone to fill out the entire form and send it in. **By completing your questionnaire you are providing data that will help your nation, your state and your community make major decisions over the next 10 years.**”

The bill has been supported by Carib ID, a movement to get Caribbean nationals counted and their own origins category listed in the census. President and Founder of Carib ID, Felicia Persaud said, “this is truly an extraordinary step by our own Caribbean American Congresswoman, who truly understands the struggles of the Caribbean community across the U.S., which continues to be dismissed simply because we have no means of accurately counting our bloc.”

“Respect comes from census numbers and until you are truly recognized and accurately counted by the U.S. Census, the growth of this vibrant group and its potential will never be truly realized. We see this as the first step in the battle to get this category, but one that is truly significant,” Persaud concluded.

Ann Walters, Director of CaribID for Washington, D.C. also added her comments. She remarked, “Caribbean nationals can now feel they are part of the process. We must also mobilize around the census and realize the importance of our community being counted accurately as a bloc.”

“Caribbean nationals can now feel they are part of the process,” said Walters. We must also mobilize around the census and realize the importance of our community being counted accurately as a bloc.

The bill will be referred to the Government Reform Committee.

H.R. 2071- Caribbean Count Bill

This bill requires that a checkbox or other similar option be included so that respondents may indicate Caribbean extraction or descent in the questionnaires used in the taking of any decennial census of population.

This bill is important to the District because:

- It draws attention to the significance of the 2010 U.S. census to the Caribbean community, which because of cultural sensitivities and other factors can sometimes be reluctant to complete the forms.
- Census Day is less than a year away, and it is imperative that every household participate in order to ensure an accurate count.
- Today, data generated by the census is used not only to determine voter representation, but also to help equitably distribute federal funding from a wide range of government programs.

Census data is an invaluable resource to private industry, helping businesses make sensible decisions about how and where to expand their capital. An accurate count of the Caribbean community will highlight their purchasing power and economic impact both in the U.S. and global markets.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY 2009

Clint James/ Interim President

All-Saints-United

452 South 6th Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10556

Genevieve Peters/President

**Alumni of Faith & Hope High School
New York Chapter**

3444 White Plains Rd #9H
Bronx, NY 10467

Gloria Airall Simon/President

Alumni of Antigua Girls High School

4050 Murdock Avenue
Bronx, NY 10466

Foster John / President

Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society

P.O. Box 788
Cambria Heights, NY 11411

Desmond Emanuel / President

Antigua and Barbuda Justice Movement

P.O. Box 330
Bronx NY 10472

Henrietta James / President

Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association

1942 Blackrock Ave
Bronx NY 10472

Dr. Oswald Thomas / President

Antigua & Barbuda Progressive Society

12 West 122nd Street
New York, NY 10012

Diann Beazer Jeffers/President

Barbuda Civic Association

3091 Decatur Ave.
Bronx NY 10467

Eustace Watson Sr. / President

Children of Freetown, USA (COFA)

201-15 112th Avenue
St. Albans, NY 11412

Patrick Johnny Gomes / Director

City South Steel Orchestra

2030 Pitman Ave
Bronx NY 10466

Charles Jarvis/President

Crossroad of All Saints Village Association

P.O. Box 740055
Bronx NY 10474
Website: www.coava.com

Wayne Warren /Chairman

Dem Boyz & Girlz of All Saints

2690 University Ave #4A
Bronx, NY 10468
Website: www.demboyzandgirlz.com

Beverly Benjamin George/President

Friends of the Antigua Public Library- New York, Inc.

Church Street Station
P.O. Box 1926
New York, NY 10008
Website: www.foapl.org

Andy Howell

**Jersey City Antigua/Barbuda Sister City Support Committee
Sidewalk University**

15 Hudson Street
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Mali Adelajei Olatunji

Roots Cultural Connection

Political Cultural Society of Antigua and Barbuda

200 New York Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Denley Burton/President

Swetes Reunion Committee

P.O. Box 550
Bronx NY 10456

Ron Gordon / President

Team Antigua & Barbuda USA

81 Metropolitan Oval #9C
Bronx, NY 10461

Dion Irish/President

The Antigua and Barbuda Association of Greater Boston

34 Angell Street
Boston, MA 02124

Barrymore Richards/Interim President

The Antigua & Barbuda Association of Philadelphia

20 Wildwood Ave
East Landowne, PA 19050

Loretta Ramsey/President

The Antigua & Barbuda Disaster & Relief Fund Inc.

2117A W. Cheltenham Ave
Elkins Park, PA 19027

George Joseph/ President

United in Harmony Steel Orchestra

759 South 6th Avenue
Mt Vernon NY 10550

Shelly Hood / Chairperson

Wadadli West USA, Inc.

12 West 122nd Street
Room 1A
New York, NY 10012

Elise Laviscount / President

Grays Green Community Club of NY

756 Magenta Street
Bronx, NY 10467

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS 2009 CALENDAR

SATURDAY AUGUST 22

Wadadli West USA Inc.

FISH FRY AT THE ANTIGUA HOUSE

12 West 122nd Street • New York, NY 10012

Time: 2pm - 8pm

Cost: \$10 per meal

Contacts: 347-302-8098/347-576-3677/917-3311836

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

4TH ANNUAL BOAT RIDE AT CIRCLE LINE

Swetes Reunion Committee

Time: 8:30 departure

Cost: \$45 person

Contact: 646-271-0552

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society

TEA PARTY

United Moravian Church

200 East 127th Street • New York, NY 10035

Time: 4pm - 8pm

Cost: \$25 per person

Contact: 718-527-8064

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Antigua Progressive Society

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

777 East 22nd Street • Bronx NY 10467

Time: 3pm

Contact: 212-933-4008

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

Antigua Progressive Society

75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Faculty Dining Room

City College of New York (CCNY)

160 Convent Avenue • New York, NY 10031

Time: 7pm – Midnight

Cost: \$65 per person

Contact: 212-933-4008

Dress: Formal Attire

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

St. Mary's Reform Episcopal Church

411 East 143rd Street • Bronx NY 10454

Time: 4pm

Contact: 718-527-8064

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1-SATURDAY OCTOBER 10

Antigua and Barbuda Cultural Society

CRUISE TO PANAMA CANAL

Contact: 908-561-4853 or 908-531-5778

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

Swetes Reunion Committee

BUS RIDE TO ATLANTIC CITY

Departure: Burnside & Jerome Avenues

Time: 9am SHARP

Tickets: \$35 per person

Contact: 646-271-0552



Operation Bread Basket:

Antigua and Barbuda Needs Our Help

In an effort to assist our nationals who have been affected by the global economic crisis, the New York Consulate would like to collect basic supplies and food products to fill two 40 ft containers for shipment and distribution in Antigua and Barbuda.

If you would like to participate in this worthy cause please contact our office for more information:

212 541-4119

when you call please ask to speak with a Consulate representative about **Operation Bread Basket.**

The second episode of the television series **"World Eyes On Antigua and Barbuda"**, produced by the New York Consulate will be shown on ABS Television the last week of August, 2009. The program focuses on Antiguan and Barbudans residing in Northeast United States.

Holidays Observed	
August 3	August Monday
August 4	August Tuesday
September 7	Labor Day (United States)
November 2	Independence Day Observed
November 26	Thanksgiving (United States) (Antigua and Barbuda)
November 27	Day After Thanksgiving
December 9	Heroes Day
December 25	Christmas Day

3 Dag Condominiums
305 E. 47th Street
6th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-541-4119
Fax: 646-215-6009



Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda – NY

Save the Date

Antigua and Barbuda Independence Gala

Saturday, November 21, 2009

8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

at **MARINA DEL REY**
1 Marina Dr., Bronx, NY
(live entertainment)

