COMMUNITY COR

Family Month Activities A Success

Inside this issue:

The Newsstand 1-4

House Matters 5

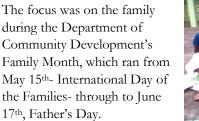
6-7 Working Scenes

School in Session 8-9

On de Playground 10-11

Notice Board 12

Contact Us 12



The celebration, held annually to highlight the importance of family life to the nation, saw a wide range of activities in different communities around the island - all of which allowed family members, from young to older, to strengthen their bonds, learn skills, and have fun together as one body.

In describing the activities,



Tree donation to St. Peters' Karate club Horseback riding at Fun Day

Community Development Officer for Zone two - Central Basseterre to Trinity- Mr Delroy Prentice, noted that the Department hosted Movie Nights in several communities, giving residents the opportunity to come out, socialize, and relax to a familyfriendly movie, while partak-



ing of delicious treats. A Family Fun Day, in which parents and offspring were rewarded for the end of a successful school term, was also held at the Irishtown Primary School, with children enjoying bouncing castles, movies, horsebackriding, and other delights.

Households to benefit from Monthly Assistance

Community Centres across the island were a hive of activity for the first few weeks of August, following the launch of the Government's Household Assistance Programme.

The Programme, which will see the provision of a \$500 'helping hand' payout to households making less than \$3000 monthly, was officially launched on July 17th, with the Data Gathering Exercise beginning on August 1st. Staff of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services served as key enumerators for the exercise, along with com-

munity volunteers. Both groups of helpers received training on completing the forms, and also took an oath of confidentiality, as a measure to protect the information collected. As persons came in to apply for the programme, enumerators facilitated the completion of forms, which would help to determine householders' eligibility to receive funding under the Programme.

According to enumerators, many persons took the opportunity to apply for the poverty alleviation measure at Community Centres and

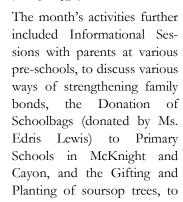
other central locations round the island, which were open from 10:00 am-6:00 pm during the data gathering period, to facilitate persons wanting to apply during and after regular working hours.

After the data gathering exercise is completed in mid-August, the investigative and assessment stage (phase 2), which will determine applicant's eligibility for the \$500 payment, will begin. The payout of the monthly stipend to qualifying households will then follow, in Phase 3.



Family Month Activities A Success (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg 1)



and benefit from the health properties of this local fruit.

Mr. Prentice declared that the month was successful, stating "Family Month went extremely well this year - the initiatives launched were fresh and welcoming to the community. We now have more to do because persons were so thrilled

encourage families to use with the Month that they are expecting more community events from the Department'.

> He said that community cohesion would have been strengthened because of the Month of activities, and that the Department looks forward to continuing its community-building efforts for the rest of the year.



Mr. Prentice and community resident at Tree Planting exercise

...other events are planned for

the year, including a Movie

Night, Spa Day, and a trip to

Nevis"

Seniors have 'Fun in the Sun'

It was a day of fun and excitement at the Seniors 'Fun and Sports Day' - an annual event hosted by the Department of Social Services. This year's event was held on Monday, May 3rd, at the Conaree Playfield, and saw approximately 135 seniors (aged 55 years and older), engaging in games such as cricket, 'lime and spoon,' 'thread the needle', dominoes, and brisk walking. Participants were organized into different houses and won prizes for their efforts during the activities.

Ag. Director of Social Services, Ms. Anne Wigley, said that the event was a success and that the seniors enjoyed

the opportunity to come out and have fun with each other in an outdoor setting. She also noted that they gained a sense of pride and accomplishment from competing in the races, and from the prizes they received. Noting that the event could not have been successful without sponsorship, she gave thanks to the Sports Department for organizing the races, the Ministry of Education for providing transportation and Island Purified Water for their donations of water. Thanks were also given to DJ 'Bigga' and Fulton's Catering respectively, for the lively music selections and well-balanced meals enjoyed at the Fun Day.

As the Department continues

its seniors programme, Ms Wigley advised that other events are planned for the year, including a Movie Night, a Spa Day, and a trip to Nevis. She noted that the Department planned to continue promoting 'active aging' in St. Kitts and declared that the island already had 11 centenarians, with 5 of this number 'turning 100' over the last few months.

The Ministry extends hearty congratulations to these newest centenarians, Ms. Irene Hamilton of Lamberts Project, Mr. Edward Bailey-Solomon of Saddlers, Ms. Carol Jack of Molineaux and Ms. Theresa Gladys Williams of St. Peters.



Senior cheers at Fun Day

Security Forces Sensitized on Juvenile Justice Reform

Ninety-six law enforcement officers, including members of the Police, Prison, and Defence Forces, are better equipped to deal with juveniles following 2 weeks of training held from May 14th -25th at the Police Training Complex.

The training, which was facilitated by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services; is part of the Juvenile Justice Reform Project, which seeks to increase

the use of alternative sentencing for youth in conflict with the law, while ensuring adequate rehabilitative services and supporting the reintegration of youth returning from detention facilities to their families and communities.

(cont'd on pg 4)

Gender holds Summer Workshop for Teens

While many teens were out enjoying the summer break, some were busy gaining skills through a Social & Life Skills workshop, organized by the Gender Affairs Department from August 1st-3rd, 2018 at AVEC.

The first workshop was hosted for participants of the Project Viola Teen Mothers' Programme, with the aim of educating them on various topics that could help in their growth and development. Ms. Kassandra Bedford, Gender field officer for Girls and Project Viola, noted that several topics were

addressed during the workshop, including Family Planning, Diet and Nutrition, Self Esteem, and Sexual Health and Reproduction-all of which were delivered by qualified professionals, including a counsellor, nurse, and a nutritionist. With about nine participants at the tender ages of 14-19, Ms. Bedford also indicated that games, teambuilding activities, and goalsetting activities were included throughout the three-day span.

In explaining the purpose of

Project Viola, Ms. Bedford noted that the programme gives teen mothers a second chance to attain a secondary and tertiary education, while also aiding in their holistic development. She noted that the Summer workshop was important because Project Viola was not just about academics, but also giving teens the education needed to help make better life choices.

Boys at risk was the target of the second workshop, held at AVEC in a different...

(cont'd on pg 8)



Gender Field Officers Ms. Kassandra Bedford and Mr. Dion Browne

"The children are excited..and even have a little competition going on, with their own gardens"

New Horizons residents go from 'Farm to Fork'

Rehabilitation Centre are learning key skills through a Hydropronics Project, sponsored by the OECS Juvenile Justice Reform Project.

Through the project, residents have learnt the hydroponic art of growing plants without soil, and have been able to cultivate a variety of herbs, including kale, arugula, parsley, thyme, lettuce, as well as other herbs and seasonings. According to Director of the Centre, Ms. Adele Williams, the project has been ongoing for some time and has yielded a lot of produce. While chuckling that the residents "don't particularly like arugula", Ms. Williams indicated that most of the produce is used by the Centre, and the excess is given to the Saddlers Home for the Elderly, with some samples also being sold to members of the community.

Ms. Williams noted that the

Residents at the New Horizons Centre hoped to get the support residents. Based on her suggestions, of the Ministry for a proposal to sell the residents' produce on a larger scale—the profits of which would be used to open Bank accounts for the residents, or invested back into the project to purchase seedlings and other resources, such as organic pesticides.

> She lauded the support of Mr Daniel Arthurton, who manages his own Hydroponics farm in Nevis, and also volunteers his time to teach the residents the skill of hydroponics.

Meanwhile, preparations are also underway at New Horizons for a ground Farming Project, which will see the planting of various ground provisions on the Centre's grounds.

"We recently had a Nutritionist come in to review our menu and make suggestions about the types of foods we could add to our meal plan, to ensure a balanced diet for our

we came up with a list of food items that we could supply", she said.

She noted that the designated grounds were recently ploughed and prepared, and that assistance was gained from Mr. Stuart Versailles of the Department of Agriculture and a staff member of New Horizons, to procure seedlings for the project, which is set to begin in September.

"The children are excited...and even have a little competition going on, with their own gardens...so they have started to take the initiative by themselves", said Ms. Williams. She added, "It's an important skill that they can learn and take with them, even after they leave the Centre. Most of them will eventually become parents and have their own homes, so they can use this skill to start their own home gardens, and also pass it on to future generations".



Produce growing at New Horizons' Greenhouse

'Golden Years Club' to be Revived

Seniors in St. Kitts will soon benefit from the re-introduction of the 'Golden Years Club'.

The Club was established in St. Pauls in 2004, as a recreational group and training programme for older persons. Funded by the Canadian Caribbean Initiative, the Golden Years Club provided seniors with the opportunity to socialize and partake in exercise classes and stimulating activities, such as arts and craft, healthy meal preparation, and basic computer classes. According to Ms. Laverne Richard, Social Assistance officer and focal point for the Club, members who were trained in different aspects of the Club, were then expected to graduate and take ownership of the group, managing it with their own leaders, schedule and activities.

After the St. Pauls' group was established, a second Club was formed in Cayon in 2006, incorporating and training seniors in that community as well as several older persons who had been made redundant by the closure of the Sugar Factory in 2005.

Ms. Richard revealed that both Clubs were very vibrant and gave seniors the opportunity to stay active and mingle



Club members enjoy crafts and an exercise class



with each other, as well as interact with the younger generation and pass on their knowledge. She noted that a book of 'Local Sayings' was created by the seniors during the lifetime of the Club, with the assistance of then-Director of Culture, Mr. Creighton Pencheon.

Although both Golden Years Clubs eventually fell dormant after being active for several years, Ms. Richard, who recently returned from study leave, indicated that the groups would now be revived and brought under the umbrella of the Ministry for greater support. While the immediate plan would be to

get the St. Pauls and Cayon groups back 'up and running', she advised that the plan would be to establish a Club in each Community Centre around the island over the medium term Noting that the Ministry would be happy to receive financial support towards realizing this goal, Ms. Richard said that the revived Golden Years Club would be stronger and would also utilize the skills of retired persons as facilitators, while also assisting seniors to be recruited into positions where they could stay active, work, and/or pass on their skills and knowledge.

She expressed that there was strong interest in restarting the seniors' group, and that past members, who were previously isolated, inactive and in failing health, had experienced several health benefits from joining the Club, according to their personal accounts and reports from the Health Centres that they attended. "Many of the elders didn't get a chance to 'walk out', and so through the Club they were always happy to come and socialize with their peers", Ms. Richard reflected. She added that the resurrection of the Club was important as it would help to decrease seniors' social isolation, while aiding in companionship, sense of purpose, and overall well being.

Security Forces sensitized on Juvenile Justice Reform (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg 2)

The two-week training covered areas such as adolescent development and juvenile justice, the Child Justice Act, and opportunities for diversion (i.e alternatives to processing juveniles through the criminal justice system).

In speaking of the importance of the workshop, Mr. Leonard Terrance, Deputy Commissioner-Department of Corrections in Saint Lucia and Course Cofacilitator, said that there are other ways and means of ensuring that juveniles do not end up in problems with the law. "We have looked at diversion where we

try to keep the young people off the dangerous road and try to ensure that not every offence requires them to be in a custodial setting. There are things that we can do; there are things that are available right here in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis that we can utilize and not simply the first option of using the prison or juvenile rehabilitation centre", he said. At the end of the two-week training, participants hailed the experience as helping to change the attitudes they previously held towards juveniles in conflict with the law.

Corporal Dwight Toussaint of the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force stated, "What

I have learnt here in this short period that we had with the facilitators is priceless. It has made me a new person".

The course ended with a Closing Ceremony, which saw the newly-trained officers receiving certificates of completion. Ms. Azilla Clarke, Focal Point for the Juvenile Justice Reform Project (JJRP) in St. Kitts and Nevis, gave remarks and thanked the representatives from the OECS Commission, Mr. Leonard Terrance and Magistrate Gloria Augustus, for facilitating the training, as well as the participants for ensuring that they were informed on juvenile justice reform in St. Kitts and Nevis.



Staff Movements

Nikisha O'Loughlin Probation Officer - PCPS (transfer)

Vanessa Archibald Receptionist, Gender Affairs (STEP attachment)

Denise Browne Home Care Officer, Social Services

Natika McCall Home Care Officer, Social Services

Jacqulin Christopher Senior Administrative Assistant, Administration (transfer)

Upcoming Celebrations

4 September - Andria Caines-James, Social Services 6 September- Khishma Huggins 8 September - Celeen Phipps, Social Services

12 September - Carolyn French, Social Services





6 October- Davin Francis, Counselling
 9 October -Zahra Jacobs, Counselling/Administration
 15 October -Bilisa Browne, Social Services

5 November- James Pemberton, Administration

14 November - Amoy Richards-Brandy, Social Services

14 November - Caren Hicks, Social Services

17 November - Tashine Henville-Stevens, PCPS

21 November - Tivanna Wharton, PCPS

21 November - Veronica Greene, Social Services

22 November - Jacqulin Christopher, Administration

29 November - Erslyn Bridgewater, Social Services



5 December - Michele Dela Coudray-Blake, Counselling

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



Facilitators stand with newly trained prison officers at Juvenile Justice Reform training



Hard at work: Kedauna prepares vouchers for clients of Social Services



Social Assistance Officers gear up for a busy day



Pretty like flowers! Ms. Nadir and Ms. Christopher of Social Services/Administration



Vanessa's smile makes her a great asset as Receptionist for Gender Affairs!



Ministry staff remind onlookers at the Child Month March to 'Break the Silence!' surrounding child abuse

WORKING SCENES















Seniors Fun & Sports Day Vibes!



New playground equipment at Conaree green space: Funded by Advancement for Children Foundation (ACF SKN)



Children enjoy 'Movie Night' at St. Peters for Family Month



What is the Social Protection Implementation Unit?



The Social Protection Implementation Unit (SPIU) is the projects, planning and research unit of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services.

Conceptualized a few years ago, the SPIU was born out of the need to have improved planning, oversight and accountability for programmes carried out by the Ministry, to ensure good outcomes for all stakeholders who interact with us:- including individual clients, the community, donor agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The mission of the SPIU to ensure that all Departments of the Ministry can make evidence-based decisions through the management of data, the conduct of research, and the production of best practices and lessons learnt through the application of sound project management techniques throughout the project cycle of all programs and activities, while effectively communicating with all stakeholders.

The Department is made up of Director, Ms. Azilla Clarke, Projects Officer I, Mr. Theodore Phipps, NHR Manger, Ms. Andrea Douglas, and Project Officer II, Ms. Jeweleen Manners-Woodley.

Having only been formed last year, the Unit is already responsible for the coordination and oversight of several critical projects within the Ministry, including the National Aging Policy and the Juvenile Justice Reform Project. The Department also manages the National Household Registry, which is a database of vulnerable households in St. Kitts, which allows them to be assessed for eligibility to Departmental/Governmental social assistance programmes.

Other major duties which will be covered by the Unit include oversight, monitoring and evaluation of Ministry projects and goals, and information-sharing about the Ministry's work, with all stakeholders.





Gender Holds Summer Workshop for Teens (cont'd)

(cont'd from page 3)

...classroom. Mr Dion Browne, Field Officer for Boys/Men's Issues within Gender Affairs, explained that the workshop targeted ten boys involved in the Department's Boys Mentorship programme—a system which pairs boys-at risk (aged 12-16) with upstanding men in the community, who serve as mentors.

Similar to the first workshop, topics such as Sexual and Reproductive Health, Self Esteem & Discipline, Personal Grooming and Appearance, Time Management and Emotional Intelligence, facilitated by professionals, were covered.

Mr. Browne noted that the Department's Boys Mentorship programme aims to help boys who are prone to antisocial behaviour develop greater

self-awareness and leadership skills, while turning any negative circumstances around them into 'a positive', with the help of mentors and support from the Gender Affairs Department. He also indicated that the transformative programme, which was piloted in the Charles E. Mills high school two years ago, celebrated its second anniversary on July 22nd, and is now set to expand into the Basseterre High School in September 2018.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE!!

"LOVE, SERVICE, PATRIOTISM AND PRIDE, INDEPENDENCE 35"

MINI-CALENDAR OF EVENTS (St. Kitts)



Monday, 10th September

Beginning of School Visits by Cabinet Ministers

Tuesday, 11th September

♦ National Fruit Day

Wednesday, 12th September

♦ Prime Minister's Independence Lecture Series, ECCB- 7:00 pm

Friday, 14th September

- Night of Drama, ECCB- 7:00 pm
- ♦ National Sneaker Day

Saturday, 15th September

♦ National Pride Fest

Sunday, 16th September

♦ Independence State Service, St. George's Anglican Church, 5:00 pm

Monday, 17th September (National Heroes' Day)

- ♦ National Heroes' Day Observance, 8:00 am
- ♦ SKNDF Cade Core Flag Raising Ceremony, 8:00 am

Tuesday, 18th September

- Schools' Patriotic Programme & Treat
- ♦ National Wear/National Colours Day

Wednesday, 19th September

(Independence Day)

- ♦ Independence Day Parade, Warner Park– 8:00 am
- ♦ Toast at Camp Springfield
- ♦ PM's Visit to Maternity Ward

Friday, 21st September

- ♦ Cook-off & International Food Fair, 10:00 am
- Independence Day Time Concert

Saturday, 22nd September

♦ Night of Choirs, ECCB-7:00 pm

Monday, 24th September

♦ Hosting of ICT Week

Thursday, 27th September

♦ Civil Service Fun Day, ,Warner Park– 1:00 pm

Friday, 28th September

♦ Senior Drills Competition, Bay Road— 5:00 pm

Sunday, 30th September

- ♦ Independence 35 Treasure Hunt
- ♦ Soca and Calypso Show, Carnival Village—7:00 pm

Monday, 8th -Tuesday, 9th October

♦ Schools STEM Fair Competition

Sunday, 14th October

♦ Night of Dance, ECCB-7:00 pm

Friday, 19th October

- World Food Day Meat Fest, Old Treasury Building
- ♦ Plant a Tree Day

Thursday, 8th November-Friday, 9th November

♦ Ministry of Education STEM Fair

Sunday, 11th November

♦ Remembrance Day Service, Cenotaph—8:00 am

Thursday, 15th November

2nd Annual Ecclesiastical Affairs Awards

Monday, 19th November

◊ International Men's Day Rally

Friday, 30th November

 National Finale of the First Edition of Songs of Praise Competition

December

 Best Christmas Decorated House Competition

The above was adapted from the Official Independence Calendar of Events, published by SKNIS. For the full calendar of Events (including celebrations in Nevis), please visit www.sknis.kn

ON DE PLAYGROUND



"A mistake repeated more than once, is a decision" (Paulo Coelho)

contributed by Ms. Jeweleen Manners-Woodley

A Note on Love

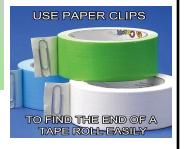
LIFE TIPS

NEED TO CLEAN YOUR MICRO-WAVE?

FILL A BOWL WITH WATER AND

MICROWAVE IT FOR 2-3 MINUTES. THE STEAM WILL LOOSEN ANY DRIED FOOD PARTICLES, FOR EASY CLEANING.





(Source: https://medium.com/life-hacks/the-101-best-genius-life-hacks-that-make-life-easier-86c2152a8f7a)

Idea contributed by Ms. Paulette Adams

"Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But when there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away". So let us love one another.

1 Corinthians 13: 4:8

contributed by Mr. Keith Warner

Church Joke

One Sunday, a young preacher was preaching on the Ten Commandments. When he said, "Thou shalt not kill!", a mosquito flew across and bit him on his back, and he killed it. An old woman shouted out in the congregation, "Pastor! You just said 'thou shalt not kill!". The pastor replied, "Yes!—but that one was a 'back bite' and God don't like 'back biters".

contributed by Mr. James 'Bunny' Pemberton

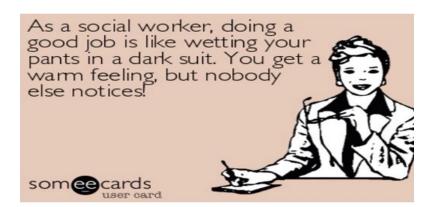


Riddle

There are four rooms. One is full of men with guns, one is full of fire, one is freezing cold, and the other is full of lions that haven't eaten for 2 years. Which room is the safest?

(www.thebrainteasers.com, Answer on page 11)





contributed by Ms. Andrea Douglas

PLANTAIN LASAGNA RECIPE

- 3-4 large ripe plantains
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 red/green bell pepper chopped
- 3 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano thyme
- ½ -1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tomatoes chopped or 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 pound ground beef/chicken



- 2 3 green onion chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons water
- 2 cup shredded cheese
- 1 packet sazon or 1 tablespoon chicken bouillon
- 2-3 tablespoon parsley chopped

Instructions

Using a sharp knife cut both ends off the plantain. This will make it easy to grab the skin of the plantains. Slit a shallow line down the long seam of the plantain; peel only as deep as the peel. Remove plantain peel by pulling it back. Slice the plantains horizontally into 4-5 pieces depending on plantains. You may either fry or bake the plantains. I prefer frying.

Frying Method

- ♦ Heat up a large skillet or cast iron with oil up to ½ inch- medium-high heat until hot but not smoking.
- ♦ Fry the plantain in batches, turning once, until lightly brown, about 5 minutes. Do not overcrowd the pan (it will make the plantains soggy and absorb excess oil)
- Using a slotted spoon, transfer the fried plantains and drain on paper towels.

Baking method

- ♦ Spray a baking sheet and place plantains on them in a single layer; spray lightly over the plantains using the canola oil spray and bake at 400 degrees F, turning over slices, after 8 minutes for about 12- 20 minutes or till plantains turn slightly brown.
- Next, add about 1-2 tablespoons of oil in a skillet followed by onions, garlic, smoked paprika, cayenne, oregano—sweat for about a minute.
- Then add bell peppers and tomato sauce; bring to a simmer, add ground meat and cook for about 7-10 minutes, while stirring frequently to prevent burning; add about broth or water as needed. Season with salt, chicken bouillon or *sazon*.
- ♦ Finally, add green onions and parsley, adjust for seasoning. Remove and set aside.

Assembling

- ♦ Spray a deep 8x8 pan with cooking spray or rub with butter/oil.
- ♦ Line the bottom of the baking pan with the fried plantain. Make sure there is no space between the plantains.
- Add enough of the beef mixture to make a layer, just like you would prepare lasagna. Alternate rows of plantains and meat until both are used up. Add cheese in between if desired
- ♦ In a mixing bowl, whisk the eggs and pour over the plantain dish, making sure to cover the entire thing.
- ♦ Add cheese if desired
- ♦ Bake at 350 degrees F for 25-30 minutes, or until all the egg has cooked through and the cheese is bubbly.
- ♦ Let it cool, then serve warm.

(Source: africanbites.com)

contributed by Ms. Sandy Powell-Liburd



October 11th- Mental Health Day (Counselling Centre)

October (entire month)- 'Month of the Elderly' Celebrations (Social Services)

November 19th- World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse (PCPS)

November 19th- International Men's Day Observance (Gender Affairs)

November 20th- Universal Children's Day (PCPS)

November 25th- Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Gender Affairs)

December 10th- Human Rights Day

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services will develop and implement culturally sensitive customer service initiatives, by using evidence-based data to guide strategic decision- making in order to advocate for human and child rights and integrate gender mainstreaming, family wellness and creative enterprise, to enhance the development of an inclusive society.



CONTACT:

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services

Victoria Road

Basseterre

St. Kitts

Telephone number: (869) 467-1020/ Fax number: (869) 466-1552

Email: deptsdcga@yahoo.com

Departments

Administration - 467-1020

Social Services & Community Development - 467-1314

Probation & Child Protection Services (PCPS) - 467-1311

Social Protection Implementation Unit (SPIU) - 467-1523

Gender Affairs - 467-1397

Finance - 467-1276

Counselling Centre - 465-5000

New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre - 662-5624