



COMMUNITY CORNER

New Ministry to focus on Youth, Ageing & Disabilities

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A New Ministry was announced on February 21st, 2023, with the official launch of the Ministry of Youth, Ageing and Disabilities.

According to Junior Minister of Social Development & Gender Affairs, Youth, Ageing & Disabilities, the Honourable Isalean Phillip, the new Government took the initiative to establish the Ministry, so that there could be a special focus on vulnerable and often marginalized populations.

"This initiative is a thrust.. to promote youth development, to honour and dignify aging, and to be inclusive and caring...of the differently

abled", she said, noting that the administration wishes to promote more transgenerational relationships, equity and a more inclusive society overall.

In her remarks, Permanent Secretary Mrs. Janelle Lewis-Tafari, also noted that St. Kitts-Nevis, like other UN Nations, had pledged to establish a more equitable society in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, *"No one must be left behind"*, she asserted, adding *"The Ministry has the potential to help make a positive difference, not just for those who are disabled, those who are older, those who are babes amongst us, but those who love and care for them.. the caretakers. There is*



Ministers & Staff at Launch Ceremony
no sustainable development, unless these persons are considered'.

The Launch Ceremony was held at the Solid Waste Conference Room and attended by several dignitaries, including the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, Ambassador Michael Lin, and Ambassador of Youth, Mr. Kenny Douglas. Staff members of the New Ministry were also present, including Permanent Secretary, Ms. Sahira Joseph, Assistant Secretary.... (cont'd pg. 4)



Poverty Alleviation Programme being revised and rebranded

Several changes have been made to the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), as announced during a February 5th speech by the Honourable Minister of Social Development & Gender Affairs, Dr. Geoffrey Hanley.

The Honourable Minister noted that over 9000 complete applications had

been received and were undergoing verification, but that certain groups would be prioritized for payment - namely households headed by persons over the age of 62, those with disabilities, and unemployed persons with minor children, while the remaining groups of applicants would be paid at the end of February, once verification

had been completed.

It was also noted that there was an urgent need to reform and rebrand PAP, to ensure its sustainability. Emphasizing that a wage of less than \$3000 does not indicate that a person is unable to meet their needs, the Honourable Minister advised that the programme will now ... (cont'd pg. 4)

Child Abuse Prevention the focus of Universal Children's Week



Presentation for Universal Children's Week

'Leading with Prevention, Creating Awareness, Promoting Alliances and Strengthening Communities' was the theme for *Universal Children's Week*, which was observed by the Probation & Child Protection Services Department during the week of November 20th-25th, 2022.

According to Probation Officer and Coordinator of the Week's Activities, Ms. Glentine Wattle-Sutton, activities included a Worship Service at the Rivers of Living

Water Christian Centre- which featured presentations to persons who have contributed to the development of children, namely Ms. Zahra Jacobs, Mr. Lauston Percival, and Mrs. Corrine Small. Other activities included a Colouring Challenge and Reading Corner for children, a Child Abuse Prevention Workshop, and the popular *Go Blue Day*, which encourages persons to wear the awareness colour Blue, to highlight child abuse prevention.



Activities for Universal Children's Week

Officers of the Department also made several appearances on radio and television to discuss issues affecting the nation's youth and ways of protecting and nurturing their development.



He also informed of future plans to utilize the lands on the Eastern and Southern side of the Park

New Road Family Park Re-Opens

The New Road Family Park is now open for family recreation, following the Official Re-Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, which was held on Monday, January 23rd, on the Park Grounds.

The Ceremony was graced by several persons, including the Honourable Prime Minister and Ministers of Cabinet, representatives of the Republic of China on Taiwan, former Government Officials, members of the New Road Community, and several excited children and parents.

In giving an overview of the Project, Ms. Azilla Clarke-Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Development & Gender Affairs, advised that the decision had been taken not to reopen the

Park after its 2020 COVID-19 closure, due to the discovery of land undermining on the Eastern grounds. She thanked the Republic of China on Taiwan for their ready offer of financial assistance to rehabilitate the grounds and provide new equipment, at a cost of US\$350,000, and solicited the general public's support in caring for the new Facility.

His Excellency the Honourable Micheal Lin affirmed that the Republic of China on Taiwan was happy to fund the Park's rehabilitation, declaring that it was the perfect New Year's gift to commemorate the Republic's 'Year of the Rabbit' as well as the current 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with St. Kitts and Nevis.

In a similar vein, the Honourable Minister Dr. Geoffrey



New Road Family Park

Hanley announced the Government's pleasure at the Park's reopening, noting that it represented their ongoing commitment to build strong families and communities. He also informed of future plans to utilize the lands on the Eastern and Southern side of the Park for family fun and enjoyment, including biking and walking trails.

The newly reopened Park will be overseen by custodian Ms. Imelda Richards while a new Management structure is established, under the overall supervision of the Department of Community Development of Social Services.



An excited Park goer gets ready to play!

Ministry hosts Christmas Dinner and Awards Event

Staff of the Ministry got the chance to 'fancy up' for an End of Year Dinner & Awards Event, the first of many in some years.

The celebration, which was held at the Ramada Resort on the evening of Saturday, December 17th, saw several staff members in attendance.

Ms. Azilla Clarke-Permanent Secreatry, presented a year in Review, outlining the successes and challenges of the Ministry during the past

year, while thanking all staff for their Service.

During the Ceremony, selected staff were recognized for special service during the Year. The awardees were:

-*New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre* - Mr. Stuart Henry and Ms. Sheldar Fyfield

-*Probation & Child Protection Services* - Mr. Naren Maynard, Ms. Khishma Huggins & Ms. Trevicia Clarke

-*Gender Affairs* - Mrs. Sharon Warner

-*Community Development & Social Services* - Mr. Delroy Prentice and Ms. Lyncia Dore

-*Administration* - Ms. Donarette Sharry

-*Policy, Planning & Projects Unit* - Ms. Patrice Carey

-*Home Care* - Ms. Melissa Hazel

-*National Counselling Centre* - Mr. Jeremy Thomas

The night wound down with an exciting raffle draw, dinner, and dancing.



Ms. Sheldar Fyfield receives Award

New Probation & Child Welfare Board appointed

The last quarter of 2022 saw the appointment of a new Probation & Child Welfare Board.

The new Board members are:

Mrs. Vincia Merritt-Rogers - Chair, Ms. Tracy Wattley - Deputy Chair, Dr. Dwain

Archibald and Mr. Mackie Smith as Health and Police representatives, respectively, Mr. Rohan Walters as Legal Advisor, Ms. Palsy Wilkin and Ms. Aldriscia Burke as representatives from Nevis, and Ms. Keimon Archibald, Ms. Kashema Gumbs, and Mrs. Sandra Blackman-Riley as members of

civil society.

The Probation & Child Welfare Board provides supervision and guidance to the Probation & Child Protection Department in all matters of child protection, as well as youth in conflict with the law.



During the Ceremony, selected staff were recognized for special service during the Year.

Eight Men Awarded for International Men's Day

Eight men were awarded during an evening International Men's Day Ceremony, held on November 19th, 2023 at the Palms Court Gardens.

They are Mr. Rodney Browne, recognized for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Mr. Elmo Burke for First Response, Mr. Recaldo Richards for Environment and Sanitation, Mr. Clive Saunders for Community Service and Activism, and Mr. Sylvester



2022 Men's Day Awardees

Huggins for Creative Economy and Culinary Arts. The Prime Minister's Award was presented to cricket icon Mr. Elquemede Willett and the Legacy Award to Mr. Leroy Willett, while the Director's

Men of Valour Award was received by Mr. Jahrick Crossley.

The Special Ceremony was attended by several persons, including Prime Minister the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, Junior Minister responsible for Gender Affairs, the Honourable Isalean Phillip, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Marcus Natta, Director and staff of the Gender Affairs Department, as well as supporters of the Awardees.



Chair of the Men's Day Ceremony, Mr. St. Clair 'GQ' Liburd

Gender Champions Honoured During 16-Day Campaign



Gender Champion Inductees

Five 'Gender Champions' were recognized for their advocacy, volunteerism and provision of services to address the issue of gender-based violence, during a special Induction Ceremony held on Tuesday, December 6th, at the Early Childhood Unit Conference Room, Victoria Road and hosted by the Department of Gender Affairs.

The Event was held as part of the *16-Day Campaign against Gender-Based Violence*, which was observed from November 25th-December 10th under the theme *"Unite! Activism to End Violence*

Against Women and Girls".

In giving welcome remarks, Senior Gender Field Officer, Ms. Shinnel Charles, noted that the annual 16-Day Campaign provides opportunities for collaborative efforts to bring into the spotlight the serious nature of violence against women and girls, and thanked the honourees for their tireless work in that regard, particularly by providing pro bono legal services, sheltering victims of domestic violence, serving as male mentors, and even doing carpentry work for the Department's awareness activities. *"From bargaining with service providers to pledging for employment...too much to mention, too much to repay, today we say thank you for your hard work and dedication"*, she said.

In other appreciative remarks, Permanent Secretary of Social Development & Gender Affairs, Ms. Azilla Clarke, noted that the 'Gender Champions' played a critical role in

creating a climate of change and advocacy while the Honourable Isalean Phillip - Junior Minister of Social Development & Gender Affairs, informed that the public doesn't often get to see the victims and volunteers of domestic violence, but that the work on that front was very much appreciated, so that the Federation could achieve its aspirational goal of gender equality.

The 'Gender Champions' were then announced with a reading of their profiles. They are:

Ms. Talibah Byron (Lawyer)

Mrs. Marissa Hobson-Newman (Lawyer)

Pastor Eugene Springette (Pastor)

Mr. Melvin Agard (Community Activist)

Mrs. Natasha Grey-Brookes (Lawyer)

The five partners will be inducted into the 'Gender Champions Wall of Fame', to be prominently displayed at the Office of the Department of Gender Affairs, Victoria Road.



Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)...cont'd

(cont'd from pg. 1)... be targeted to the most vulnerable populations, i.e those who earn less than \$3000 and are unable to meet their basic needs. In addition, the programme has been reformed as temporary cash transfer

programme, with the payment being given for 6 or 12 months, depending on household circumstances. In this light, Case Management will also be introduced to assist recipients to become more self-sufficient and eventually graduate from the

programme.

Other revisions including a new name, operational plan and management structure, are expected to be introduced in the coming months.

New Ministry to Focus on Youth, Ageing...cont'd

(cont'd from pg. 1)... Ms. Kishma Archibald, and Coordinator of the Ageing and Disabilities Units, Ms. Lyncia Dore, and Mrs. Marecia Browne, respectively.

While Youth develop-

ment will remain a key pillar of the new Ministry, the Home Care Programme and Seniors Enrichment Programmes will now fall under the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing & Disabilities, instead of the Ministry

of Social Development & Gender Affairs.



STAFF MOVEMENTS

Employment

Ms. Tanya Belle-James - to Case Manager, PCPS

Mr. Sheldon Isaac- to Office Attendant

Ms. Fabianna Gumbs - to Accounts Officer

Retirement

Ms. Jacquilin Christopher - Senior Administrative Assistant

Sgt. Roxroy Campbell - Probation Officer (part-time)

Resignation

Ms. Venetta Bergan - Cleaner

Transfer

Ms. Azilla Clarke - to Permanent Secretary

Ms. Patrice Carey - to Director (Ag.), PPPU

Ms. Denejah Morris - from Admin. Asst., New Horizons

Mr. Gerald Connor - from Director, PCPS

Ms. Andrea Douglas/Household Registry- Administration

Transfer to Ministry of Youth Empowerment,

Ageing & Disabilities

Mrs. Janelle Lewis-Tafari - Permanent Secretary

Mrs. Marecia Browne - Executive Officer, Admin.

Ms. Lyncia Dore - Case Manager, CDSS

Ms. Maricia Kelly - Social Assistance Officer, CDSS

Transfer to Ministry of Youth, Empowerment, Aging & Disabilities cont'd

Ms. Veronica Hendrickson - Home Care Officer

Ms. Andria Caines - Home Care Officer

Ms. Venecia Wharton- Home Care Officer

Ms. Carren Hicks - Home Care Officer

Ms. Henrietta Warde - Home Care Officer

Ms. Charlotte Salters - Home Care Officer

Ms. Amoy Richards-Maynard - Home Care Officer

Ms. Bernadeth Duncan - Home Care Officer

Ms. Isis Nisbette - Home Care Officer

Ms. Freedom Wilkes - Home Care Officer

Ms. Iotha Charles - Home Care Officer

Ms. Florence Francis - Home Care Officer

Ms. Melissa Hazel - Home Care Officer

Ms. Merle Woodley - Home Care Officer

Ms. Franciss Madir - Manager, Saddler's Home for Elderly

Ms. Janice Bailey - Home Care Officer

Ms. Jacqueline Francis- Home Care Officer

Ms. Denise Browne - Home Care Officer

Ms. Veronica Greene - Home Care Officer

Ms. Nakita McCall - Home Care Officer

Birthday Celebrations

Congratulations to Mr. Delroy Prentice as well as Mrs. Osslyn Ward-Harris on the safe arrival of their babies



February

23 February - Ms. Shinnel Charles

28 February - Ms. Melissa Phillip

March

13 March - Mr. Richard Wattley

22 March - Mr. Nigel Langley

April

16 April - Ms. Dahlia Scarborough

23 April - Ms. Azilla Clarke

28 April - Mr. Delroy Prentice

May

1 May - Ms. Dorn Henry

2 May - Mr. Stephan Joseph

12 May - Ms. Sonia Tyson

20 May - Mr. Janan Stapleton





Rotary Club of St. Kitts brings Christmas Cheer to Foster families



Nevisian Artist Vaughn Anslyn makes a presentation to Gender Affairs

SCENES FROM CHRISTMAS STAFF DINNER





Gender Affairs hosts Women's Self-Defense Classes



Permanent Secretary attends Women's Empowerment Forum



Men's Day "Buss a Pot" Challenge



Bar Association donates to New Horizons Centre



Preschoolers enjoy a Reading Corner with Ms. Judy Mardenborough for Children's Week



Seniors show off PAHO-sponsored shirts



16-Day Campaign Against Gender-based Violence



Boys Mentorship Programme reaches Verchild's High School

SCHOOL IN SESSION

MINISTRY OF YOUTH, AGEING & DISABILITIES

The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing and Disabilities is newly established to bring attention and focus to improving and developing programmes and policies that sustainably respond to the growing needs of youth, seniors, the elderly and the disabled. The creation of this ministerial portfolio extends the mandate of the Government to invest in young people and improve social protections to ensure the elderly and disabled are not left on the margins of national development. *(Honourable Isalean Phillip)*



Permanent Secretary, Mrs.
Janelle Lewis-Tafari



Some staff of the new Ministry



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Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing & Disabilities



CEDAW Meeting, Switzerland

WHAT IS CEDAW?



CEDAW Meeting, Switzerland

CEDAW is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly. It is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

The Convention defines discrimination against women as *"...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."*

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and
- to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises

Saint Kitts – Nevis acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on April 25, 1985 and ratified the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women on June 12, 1995.

(Source: <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/>)

(In observance of World Day of the Boy Child - May 16th)

Six Things Single Moms Raising Amazing Boys Should Keep In Mind

Raising a boy on your own can be challenging. Here are 6 tips for single moms on that journey:



1. Boys Are Boys. They Aren't "Little Men."

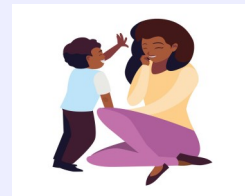
Don't expect your son to take over responsibilities in the house meant for a man. Let him be a boy. Let your son cry. Don't tell him to "be a man". Also, be careful about slotting your son into household chores that are a typical male/husband chores. Make both children (if you have a daughter too) take out the trash, do the dishes, help with the lawn. You'll be doing both of your children a favor in the future when they grow up and have homes of their own.

2. Boys Are Sensitive Too

Boys sometimes show their soft side differently than girls. But that doesn't mean they aren't sensitive. At a young age, they are still trying to figure out how to express their emotions outwardly. Be aware that boys may show their emotions in different ways than girls (e.g through anger), and make opportunities to talk with them to find out what they're going through.

3. Boys Need Male Role Models

Not having an adult male in the house can strain the family in terms of finances, help around the house/yard etc. For boys, having someone who understands what they are going through when they process emotions, puberty, dating, and all the other milestones of life is not something to be ignored. If your son's father is not in the picture, who else can help mentor him? Is there a positive male influence in your family, such as a grandfather or uncle he can spend one-on-one time with? If not, consider a family friend or youth group at the church if led by a man; even though one-on-one time may not be possible initially, a relationship may form. What's important is that he sees respectful, godly men in his life that he feels comfortable talking to.



4. His Own Space

To grow up in an environment where he is the only male can be difficult. Put yourself in his shoes if you lived (and maybe you did) with your father and brothers with no mother or sisters. To have room just for you and your girl things would be very important to you. If having his own room isn't possible, then designate an area just for him. Even grown men want their own man cave. To give a boy a small space will help him feel like he has a little bit of privacy and control.

5. Be Willing To Talk About The Tough Topics

Be willing to talk to your son about sex and his body but also sensitive to the fact that he may be more comfortable having these conversations with his father or another male. If he doesn't open up to you or you aren't able to have these conversations with him, discuss any concerns you have with his father or another role model in his life. Try giving your son books on the topic if he won't talk about it. Usually, boys are more open to this discussion the younger they are, so the earlier you broach this subject, the better. Once their bodies start to change, they may become self-conscious and close down.

6. Show Interest in "Their" Things

Boys may not seem very talkative if you sit them down and try to start a conversation. They may be busy with their hands and not have time to make eye contact with you. But if you show interest in things they enjoy: e.g video games, sports, Legos, they might be more likely to open up. You may have to try this approach multiple times and be willing to sit in silence for a while before opening up, but it's worth it once they do.



"The only thing we never get enough of is love; and the only thing we never give enough of is love." — Henry Miller

Valentine's Day Word Search

c	g	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	i	p
j	s	w	e	e	t	h	e	a	r	t
e	f	p	a	c	u	p	i	d	a	e
v	h	o	i	k	a	c	p	s	r	t
a	o	g	u	y	h	e	a	r	t	s
l	o	v	e	r	r	d	e	g	o	f
e	k	r	a	p	t	r	r	o	w	r
n	r	i	r	o	s	e	s	p	x	i
t	o	h	s	d	r	d	e	i	r	e
i	s	u	h	s	p	i	n	n	h	n
n	r	g	a	r	e	l	l	k	t	d
e	o	s	c	h	o	s	r	o	s	h
s	w	e	e	r	t	s	f	r	i	e
v	c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e	k

valentine
arrow
cupid
hearts
love

red
fourteenth
hugs
chocolate
pink

roses
friend
flowers
sweetheart
kisses



Date Night

Caramel Popcorn Recipe

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cups cooked popcorn, plain

1 Combine butter, brown sugar, and condensed milk in a heavy-bottomed saucepot over medium heat. Mix together until the butter dissolves and the mixture comes together. Reduce heat to low and continue cooking, stirring continuously, until caramel thickens, about 5 to 7 minutes.

2 Pour caramel over the popcorn, making sure the kernels are coated well. Serve immediately.

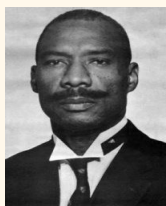
"For hatred does not cease by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by love, this is an old rule."

— Friedrich Max Muller

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

St. Kitts-Nevis Trivia - Do you Know?

1. What year did Christopher Columbus find St. Kitts?
a) 1628 b) 1593 c) 1493
2. Who were the original inhabitants of St. Kitts-Nevis?
a) Caribs b) Indians c) Taino d) Arawak
3. What year was St. Kitts settled by the English? a) 1793 b) 1623 c) 1465
4. What year was slavery abolished in St. Kitts-Nevis? a) 1868 b) 1797 c) 1664 d) 1834
5. What month and year did the Buckley's Riots take place?
a) August, 1938 b) July, 1967 c) January, 1935
6. What year did the sugar industry end?
a) 2015 b) 2010 c) 2005
7. How many parishes does St. Kitts have? a) 9 b) 13 c) 8 d) 11
8. When is the rainy season in St. Kitts-Nevis?
a) July-November b) December-June c) January-April
9. Which island is NOT an immediate neighbour of St. Kitts-Nevis? a) Montserrat b) Antigua c) Anguilla d) St. Eustatius
10. Which attraction is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site? a) Black Rocks b) Caribelle Batik c) Brimstone Hill



ANSWERS

1). 1493 2). Carib 3). 1623 4). 1834 5). January, 1935 6). 2005 7). 9 8). July-November 9). Anguilla 10). Brimstone Hill



Kittitian Saltfish Cake Recipe

- 1/2 lb saltfish
- 1/4 lb flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 6 tbsp milk
- 1 tbsp melted butter/margarine
- 1 finely chopped onion
- 1 chopped hot pepper
- Oil for frying

Method

- ◇ Soak fish overnight.
- ◇ Drain, rinse, then simmer until tender
- ◇ Drain again. Skin and bone it, then finely shred or mince
- ◇ Sift flour, baking powder and salt together
- ◇ Add lightly beaten egg, milk and melted butter/margarine
- ◇ Stir into dry ingredients
- ◇ Add fish, onion and pepper— mix well
- ◇ Drop by spoonfuls into hot oil and fry until golden brown. Drain and serve

'Recipes of St. Kitts-Nevis Anguilla' - Cookbook





UPCOMING



February 1st- 28th - Black History Month

March 8th - International Women's Day

May 1st- June 15th - Family Month

May 14th - Mother's Day

May 15th - International Family Day

May 16th - World Day of the Boy Child

May 31st - Centenarians' Day

The Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs is dedicated to serving vulnerable populations through advocacy, education, empowerment and enhancement of individuals, families and communities through evidence-based and customer-oriented programmes that promote equity, growth and development, regardless of race and culture.

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Website: www.socialdevelopment.gov.kn

Youtube: MSDGA *Instagram:* msdga_skn

Departments

Administration - 467-1020

Community Development & Social Services - 467-2675/762-5539

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

(PCPS hotline: 662-6833)

Policy, Planning and Projects Unit (PPPU) - 467-1370

Gender Affairs - 467-1223

(Domestic violence hotline: 765-5492)

Finance - 467-1154/1276

Counselling Centre - 465-5000

New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre - 467-1598/762-5624

