



COMMUNITY CORNER

MSDGA welcomes new Ministers to the helm

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The Ministry has seen a change of leadership, with the recent appointment of the Honourable Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, Minister of Social Development, Gender Affairs Ageing and Disabilities, Education, Ecclesiastical Affairs and Housing, to the helm.

He will be assisted by the Honourable Isalean Phillip, Junior Minister with responsibilities for Youth Empowerment, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Aging and Disabilities.

A former Director of Youth, the Honourable



*The Honourable Ministers
Dr. Geoffrey Hanley and Isalean Phillip*

Dr. Hanley has a passion for humanitarianism and holds several academic degrees, including a Master of Science in Education and a Ph.D. in Leadership and Executive Management.

The Honourable Isalean Phillip, with experience in advocacy and social research, holds a Master of Arts in Women & Gender Studies and Policy Development and Implementation.

Since receiving their instruments of appointment, the Ministers have held introductory meetings with the various Departments of the Ministry, to become familiarized with their staff and functions, and any presenting issues.

The Honourable Ministers have also raised several areas of focus for the near future, including greater support for seniors and those with disabilities, improvement in social assistance programming, and greater responsiveness to pressing social issues, such as gender-based violence.

Poverty Alleviation Programme officially transferred to MSDGA; to be regularized

The *Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)*, launched in December 2018, is a social protection plan targeting households with combined incomes of less than \$3,000 per month. It is also referred to as *The Support for Livable Wage*.

As a result of the August 05th 2022 general elections, the Programme was formally transferred to the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs (MSDGA) for

full managerial control on October 03rd 2022. The Ministry is presently working on the digitization of the applications received from the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the former managers of the PAP.

The Federal Cabinet has also approved the regularization of the Programme following the identification of the following issues:

1. Persons who were not eligible were receiving the benefit. That is, persons residing in a household where the combined income was over \$3,000 per month were receiving the benefit with no indication of the reason for the exception.
2. Multiple persons in the same household...
.....(cont'd on pg. 4)



GEMS girls to receive guidance from Female Mentors

Girls at-risk now have the opportunity to receive guidance from female mentors, after the recent launch of the **GEMS** (Girls Empowerment & Sisterhood) programme.

An empowerment project which aims to build character, self-esteem and civic-mindedness in girls, the **GEMS** programme was launched on August 31st, 2022 at the Ottley's-Lodge Community Centre, with several persons in attendance, including Minister of Social Development and Gender Affairs, the Honourable Dr. Geoffrey Hanley; Permanent Secretary in the Minister of Social Development and Gender Affairs, Mrs. Janelle Lewis-Tafari; Director of Gender Affairs, Mr. Virgil Jeffers; Resident Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to St. Kitts and Nevis, H.E. Michael Lin, as well as the programme's mentees and mentors.



Honourable Minister Dr. Geoffrey Hanley stands with GEMS Advisory Board members

Officer in charge of the girls' platform, Ms. Kasandra Bedford, recounted why the programme was started. *"It's always been something of interest for me.... and we saw an urgent need in the schools, regarding issues with girls. The schools were crying out, saying they needed a lot of help with female students. Sometimes they would call the Department and say, 'Come and talk to this girl, please', because of the behaviours they were seeing",* she said.

After the decision to begin the programme, the Department issued a call for female

mentors, which was followed by a screening and interview process, after which over twenty-five women were selected.

The mentors have now been matched and introduced to their mentees, with the help of information gained from their application process. All mentors have also committed to regular interaction with their mentees over the course of a one year period, after which the mentees will be assessed to determine if any improvements have been shown in their general behaviour.

The **GEMS** programme, which will serve as a sister to the currently running Boys Mentorship Programme, is being piloted in the Charles E. Mills High School, before being assessed and hopefully expanded to other high schools in the future.



Launch of GEMS Mentorship programme
(Photos credit: SKNIS)



"Sometimes they would call the Department and say, 'Come and talk to this girl, please'"



Food Demonstration & Game Day Events
(Photos credit: SKNIS)

Seniors energized by Month of Older Persons activities

Seniors are feeling energized after several fun and educational activities held to celebrate the Month of Older Persons, which ran from October 1 – 31st, 2022.

The Observance began with a special Church Service on September 30th at the Calvary Baptist Church, Sandy Point, while on October 6th a Health Empowerment Session was held in conjunction with

the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in which seniors received important information on diet and nutrition, physical activity, as well as disease management, from officials of the Ministry of Health.

On October 13th, older persons showed off their cooking skills during a Food Cooking & Demonstration activity, in which they pre-

pared various traditional dishes such as cassava bread, goat water, cheesy breadfruit and coconut johnny-cakes.

The Month ended with lots of laughter during a Fun & Games Day held on October 27th, which saw older seniors enjoying traditional masquerades and fun games such as bingo, cards, and "pop the balloon".

For more information on the Ministry/newsworthy events, please see our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MCDGASS

Staff & Social Club Events end with a 'bang' on Sports Day

Activities under the MSDGA Staff & Social Club ended with a 'bang' on Friday, September 23rd, with the hosting of the first Staff Sports Day at the Conaree Playing Field, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

The Sports Day brought together all the competing House teams, namely *Support* (represented by the colour Blue), *Protection* (colour: green), *Restoration* (colour- coral), and *Empowerment* (colour – purple), to vie for points that would allow them to capture the title of Winning House of the Year.

After the traditional March Past, led by retired Driver, Mr. James 'Bunny' Pemberton and a lively Cheer & Chant competition, house



Inaugural Staff Sports Day

members competed in various fun games, such as Lime and Spoon, Sack, Skipping and Wheelbarrow races, as well as the final Tug of War, to the cheers and laughter of house supporters and spectators.

At the end of the Event, House *Empowerment* reigned supreme, with Team *Protection* in second place, followed by *Restoration* and *Support* respectively.

The Cheer & Chant Competition was also won by Team *Empowerment*, with *Restoration* placing second, and *Protection* third.



Hon. Isalean Phillip shares a light moment with Officer Maricia Kelly at Sports Day



The Cheer & Chant Competition was also won by Team *Empowerment*, with *Restoration* placing second, and *Protection* third.

Child Protection officials convene to review Laws

Child Protection officials came today to review laws governing child protection and juvenile justice, at a workshop held from September 6th-7th at the Early Childhood Centre Conference Room, Victoria Road, Basseterre.

The workshop, which was commissioned by the Honourable Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, was attended by the Honourable Isalean Phillip, as well as over twenty-five officials in the child protection arena, including the Department of Probation & Child Protection Services, the New Horizons Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre, and the Royal St. Christopher & Nevis Police Force.

In delivering remarks, Permanent Secretary Mrs. Janelle Lewis-Tafari noted that the specific aim of the workshop was to review the roles and functions of the Probation & Child



Child Protection & Juvenile Justice workshop

Welfare Board, which was established in 1994, to oversee the care and protection of children, and guide the relevant government departments.

The Permanent Secretary noted that in 2013, the functioning of the Board was enhanced following the enactment of several pieces of family legislation modelled after the OECS family law reforms bills, but the expanded responsibilities resulted in an overlap and ambiguities (in some cases) of some roles and

functions.

"For example, [prior] to 2013, our probation officers could go to the court and present a case to remove a child from a situation where they were being abused" she said, continuing, "However, as the reforms took place, "the officers were now told by the court, in accordance with the law, that they needed a lawyer from the Board."

The workshop, which was facilitated by Legal Counsel Mr. Rohan Walters, was described as productive and insightful exercise, by the attendees.



Workshop facilitator, Mr. Rohan Walters

Poverty Alleviation Programme officially transferred to MSDGA cont'd

.....cont'd from pg. 1

...were receiving the benefit.

3. Benefit was being paid to persons with no valid social security number for accounting tracking purposes. This matter is currently being addressed by the Accountant General's Chambers, where suspensions are being made to beneficiary payments until a valid social security number can be provided.

The regularization process will ensure that by the close of 2022, the master listing of beneficiaries conforms with the eligibility criteria of the Programme. The process will take the form of a re-registration drive for all existing applicants and an opportunity for new applicants to make their first application. Further details on the registration process will soon be made public.



After regularization, the Ministry's intent is to introduce case management with each eligible household (similar to the past MEND programme) – thereby 'MENDING the PAP'. Case management (in the field of social work) is defined as a method of service delivery where an officer conducts assessment of clients and their families. Based on the needs identified, the officer arranges and monitors multiple services from different providers (e.g government-subsidized daycare) to serve the client's needs.

This system allows for resiliency and self determination

to be developed by family members, as well as the identification of strengths and a broader network to address family members' individual needs. The family can then also use these newfound resources to address any future needs or issues, hence improving their functioning. They would no longer feel 'bereft and lost', but instead know where to get assistance, advice and services when needs arise.

Secondly, a graduation process will be instituted for all applicable households, which would entail the identification of a likely date when household members can better address their needs and move towards self-sufficiency.

The process of case management will commence in 2023, after beneficiaries of the Programme have been confirmed.

Youth and vulnerable populations to receive support from United Nations Joint Programme



A United Nations (UN) programme to improve access to social protection systems was launched in St. Kitts on October 4th, 2022, at the Solid Waste Conference Room, Victoria Road.

The Joint Programme, entitled "*Resilient Caribbean: Engaging and Training Youth, Strengthening Integrated Social Protection Sector Delivery*", will assist workers in the informal economy, improve access to social protection systems, and provide youth with greater access to labour market and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Junior Minister, the Honourable Isalean Phillip, gave remarks at the launch ceremony, noting that the Federation was happy to serve as host for the Event and work with the UN agencies to deliver sustainable benefits for the country's people, particularly those poor and marginalized.



UNICEF Social Policy Analyst Ms. Celine Felix and UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Didier Trebucq

Also speaking at the ceremony were UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Didier Trebucq and UNICEF Social Policy Manager Ms. Celine Felix, who expounded on the benefits of the Joint Programme to the Caribbean territories it will benefit, namely Anguilla, Grenada, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Joint Programme will be implemented over the next two years and will work through government agencies to achieve its empowerment goals.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Employment

Ms. Tianna Bowry Case worker, New Horizons
Mr. Ricardo Browne Deputy House Parent, New Horizons

Transfers

Ms. Naeemah Hazelle from Deputy Director, National Counselling Centre
Ms. Tivanna Wharton from Probation Officer, Probation & Child Protection Services

Retirement

Ms. Esther Hodge from Office Attendant, Administration



Upcoming Celebrations

November

5 November - Craig Jules
6 November- Patricia Huggins
14 November - Amoy Brandy
14 November- Carren Hicks
17 November- Tashine Stevens
21 November- Veronica Greene
22 November - Jacquilin Christopher
29 November- Erslyn Bridgewater

December

4 December - Alpha Pennyfeather
5 December- Michele Blake
12 December- Theodore Phipps
15 December- Glenda Marshall
16 December- Brenda Clarke
24 December - Sharaine Williams
28 December- Charlotte Salters



January

1 January- Syrus Richardson
7 January - Marecia Browne
19 January- Eldora Carty
24 January- Candace Burt



Ms. Lyncia Dore of the Seniors Enrichment Programme congratulates St. Kitts' newest Centenarian, Ms. Frances-Ann Prince, on her birthday



83rd Session for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Switzerland—attended by Junior Minister the Honourable Isalean Phillip and Gender Affairs Executive Officer, Mrs. Sharon Warner

Fun at Staff Sports & Social Club Events

(Beach Lime, Hike & Sports Day)





Snippets of International Day of the Girl
Child Excellence Awards

Seen here (clockwise, top to bottom):

- Amazelle Procope (St. Pauls Primary)
- Shakeema Welcome (Estridge Primary)
- Alayna Pennyfeather (Sandy Point Primary)
- Tyronique Allen (Beach Allen Primary)



National Counselling Centre staff
spread awareness for Mental Health
Week 2022

Two local
NGO's, *Tab*
SKN and *Lake*
Health & Wellbe-
ing, receive grant
funding from the
Republic of Chi-
na on Taiwan



Scenes from the Month of Older Month
Persons' Church Service - Calvary Baptist
Tabernacle, Sandy Point
(Photo Credit: SKNIS)



SCHOOL IN SESSION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. These abusive actions can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, economic class, immigration status, religion, or gender. It can happen to couples that are married, living together, or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.



Does the Person You Love:

- Threaten to hurt you or other people you care about?
- Hit, kick, punch, push, choke or use physical force against you?
- Criticize/blame you for everything that goes wrong?
 - Humiliate you in front of other people?
 - Control your access to money?
- Control the decision-making in your relationship?
 - Control your time and actions?
- Put you down, call you names, make you feel like you're crazy?
- Destroy your property or abuse your pets?
- Threaten to hurt you or commit suicide if you leave?
- Force or coerce you to have sex when you don't want to?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you might be in an abusive relationship.

WARNING SIGNS

- **Pushing for quick involvement:** Comes on strong, claiming, *"I've never felt loved like this by anyone."*
- **Jealousy:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because *"you might meet someone."*
- **Controlling Behavior:** Interrogates you intensely (especially if you're late) about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to do anything.
- **Unrealistic expectations:** Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.
- **Isolation:** Tries to cut you off from family and friends; accuses people who support you of *"causing trouble."*
- **Blaming others for problems or mistakes:** It's always someone else's fault when anything goes wrong.
- **Making others responsible for his or her feelings:** The abuser says, *"You make me angry,"* instead of *"I am angry,"* or says, *"You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."*
- **Hypersensitivity:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad.
- **Cruelty to animals or children:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also, may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry.
- **Use of force during sex:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex.
- **Verbal abuse:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel, hurtful things, degrades, curses, calls you ugly names.
- **Rigid roles:** Expects you to serve, obey and remain at home.
- **Sudden mood swings:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.
- **Past battering:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person *"made"* him (or her) do it.
- **Threats of violence:** Says things like, *"I'll break your neck,"* or *"I'll kill you,"* and then dismisses them with, *"I didn't really mean it."*
- **Controlling behaviors using social media or technology**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...



Name: Andria Caines

Position: Home Care Officer

Favourite colour: Blue

Favourite food: Corn and steam fish, with broccoli, carrots & sweet potato

Favourite type of music: Calypso

Favourite hobbies: Hanging out with my grandchildren (all four of them!)

Favourite holiday/times of year and why: My birthday, because that's when I was born, Easter -when Christ died for my sins, and Christmas - when Jesus was born!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE cont'd - How to Help & Safety Planning

If you know someone in an abusive relationship, there are ways you can help.

Listen: If possible, find a time and place that is safe and confidential to talk to your friend/family member. Start the conversation by expressing concern, i.e. *"I am worried about your safety."* Allow your friend/family to speak and let them know you believe what they are telling you.

Offer support: Let them know they are not alone and that no one deserves to be hurt. Abuse is not the victim's fault. Assure them what they are feeling is okay. Then, ask how you can best support them.

Provide resources: Encourage them to reach out to community resources. Connect them with crisis hotlines, support groups, Domestic Violence shelters, mental health services, or anything else they may need.

Help safety plan: Make a safety plan with your friend/family.

Respect their choices: Do not pressure them into leaving. It is never as simple as just leaving. There are many reasons people stay in an abusive relationship. Offer them support and resources, but ultimately know it is their decision. Do not be judgmental or make them feel bad for staying in an abusive relationship. Let them know you will be there for them no matter what choice they make.

Remember, you are there to support your loved one, not to rescue or save them.

Source: <https://www.wadvocates.org/>

Effective safety planning is essential to getting out of a domestic violence situation. Here are some basic safety techniques.

Safety at Home – If you and your abuser get into a fight, move to a room that has a phone, door, or window. Stay away from the bathroom, kitchen, or anywhere near weapons.

Phone Numbers – Keep a shelter's phone number, some change, or a calling card on you at all times for emergency phone calls.

Get Away Bag – Leave money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents, and extra clothes with someone you trust so you can leave quickly.

Children – Talk to your children about your safety plan. Teach them about 911, including how and when to call the police.

School and Child Care – Tell your children's teacher and child care provider who can pick up your children. Talk to your children about who they should tell if they see your abuser.

Order for Protection – Always keep your protection order with you. Make extra copies to keep in your car, at work, in your purse, and at your children's daycare or school.

Family and Friends – Tell trusted family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and your boss that you have a protective order.

Leaving Work – Make up a safety plan for when you leave work. Have someone walk you to your car or bus. Go home different ways. Plan for what you would do if your abuser follows you.

JOKE



A guy wins the lottery....and comes home to his wife.
"Honey! I just won the lottery! Quick, pack your bags!" His wife is totally shocked and flustered. She asks *"Well where are we going? To the Caribbean? Are we going skiing? I need to know what to pack?"* The guy responds... *"I don't care what you pack. Just get the hell out of here!"*.



BREADFRUIT CHEESY PIE

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◇ 1 Breadfruit | ◇ 1/4 scotch bonnet pepper, diced | ◇ 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese |
| ◇ 1/4 tsp salt | ◇ 1 tbsp dry mustard | ◇ 1 cup grated Medium Cheddar Cheese |
| ◇ 3 tbsp butter | ◇ 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese | ◇ 1/2 cup onions, diced |
| ◇ 3 tbsp flour | ◇ 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley | ◇ 1 pinch ground nutmeg |
| ◇ 1 1/2 cups evap. milk | | ◇ 1/4 tsp ground black pepper |



1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (180 degrees C)
2. Peel and cut breadfruit into wedges, removing the spongy centre in the process.
3. Rinse breadfruit and place in a deep water, covering with water. Bring to a boil, add salt (1/4 tsp) and allow to cook until it's tender for 20 minutes.
4. In another sauce pan heat the butter (3 Tbsp) on low heat, then as it melts add the all-purpose flour (3 Tbsp) and cook for about 4 to 5 minutes.
5. Add the evaporated milk, then turn up the heat to medium and whisk. Add the fresh parsley, scotch bonnet pepper, dry mustard, Monterey Jack Cheese, most of the medium cheddar cheese, onions, ground nutmeg, and ground black pepper.
6. Cook for a few minutes until you have a thick and smooth sauce. Then slice each wedge of cooked breadfruit about 1/4 inch thick, and place a layer onto a greased cooking dish. Add a layer of cheese sauce, then another layer of sliced breadfruit and top with the remaining cheese sauce. Sprinkle on the rest of the grated cheese on top.
7. Place on the middle rack of a preheated oven and bake for about 30 minutes. Cool, serve and enjoy.

Have you lost
your taste?

No, this is just
how I dress.



Party time

F	F	A	M	L	I	Y	A	T	S	Z	I	P	M
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	M	P	T	F	R	E	F
P	R	P	I	I	S	E	A	V	P	R	E	E	S
A	N	O	N	Y	A	L	C	O	O	K	I	E	N
R	E	E	S	K	N	I	R	D	E	M	K	D	I
T	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	A	L	C	C	K
Y	S	N	O	L	L	A	B	B	A	U	A	S	P
F	M	E	N	C	A	K	E	A	E	K	P	C	A
A	A	A	F	A	K	N	E	Z	R	M	E	R	N
V	P	S	B	U	P	I	S	E	T	A	L	P	N
O	F	N	I	R	N	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	P
R	C	T	N	M	P	O	A	C	U	P	S	R	L
S	D	E	R	E	M	A	E	R	T	S	K	N	U
G	A	M	E	S	L	I	C	P	I	Z	Z	A	G

PIZZA
ICE CREAM
COOKIE
DRINKS
CAKE
FUN
PLATES
NAPKINS
CUPS
CANDLES
STREAMER
FRIENDS
GAMES
FAMILY
BALLONS
PARTY FAVORS



Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1571051/>

SIMPLE MAUBY RECIPE

Ingredients

- 8 g mauby bark
- 2 tsp aniseed
- 10 cloves
- 2 star anise
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ cinnamon stick
- 7 cups water
- 100 g sugar

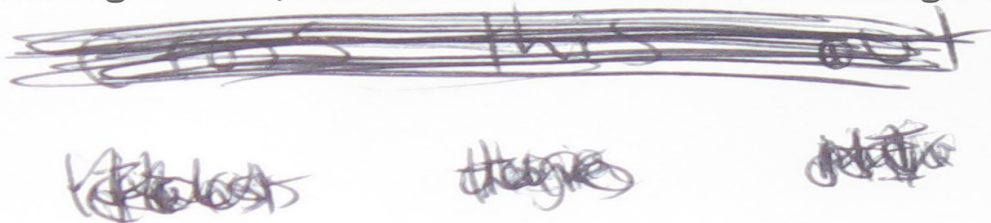
1. Place a small pot on medium heat.
2. Add 3 cups of water to the pot
3. Mix in mauby bark, aniseed, cloves, star anise, bay leaf, and cinnamon
4. Boil for 20 minutes
5. Turn off heat and set aside for 3 hours to overnight
6. Strain
7. Add sugar and remaining water to sweeten and dilute
8. Taste test and adjust by adding more sugar and water
9. Refrigerate
10. Serve cold



<https://wetrinifood.com/mauby-recipe/>

LIFE HACK

When you want to cross words out you don't want to be legible, instead of scribbling over them, write random letters and words over the original.



UPCOMING

November 19th - International Men's Day

November 20th - Universal Children's Day

Nov. 25th -Dec. 10th - 16-Day Campaign Against Gender-based Violence

December 5th - Int'l Volunteer Day

December 3rd - International Day for Persons with Disabilities

December 10th - Human Rights 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



Community Corner is a publication of the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs. It is compiled by the Policy, Planning and Projects Unit and will be circulated quarterly to staff and other stakeholders in social services.

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