

THE SISSEROU VOICE

Vwa Siséwou



EDITION 03/2022

Issue No: 107 Editor: Reg Hector



Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

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*Easter
Edition*

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<p>Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Association DONA</p>	



Editorial

At this present time, we were all hoping that this corona plague would all be a thing of the past., but to our dismay the virus is still with us, and indications are, as we are advised, that this is something we must now live with ad-infinitum. This as we all know is disappointing news as we have seen the adverse devastation this pandemic has caused to all our lives and livelihood as we all had to comply with Government restrictions.

It is evident that as a consequent to this current situation, quite a lot of things have changed in that, many businesses have shut down and some have had to restructure. The way in which businesses conduct their affairs have also changed in that many employees have been working from home and shopping online has now become more commonplace.

All this has impacted on our lives and as with countless other organisations, DONA has also been left swimming against the tide. In view of this, and seeing that the signs are, that restrictions are gradually being lifted, we are once again starting to organise our fundraising activities, social and face to face meetings with the next general meeting set to take place on the 10th of April 2022, and a seminar on the 14th of May 2022; further information to be given for these events

We have recognised that the way we have transacted our affairs in the past must be changed to make the necessary transition in order to mitigate contemporary challenges, and we are now considering using a PO box for mails, online banking, online fund raising, making more use of social media, our website, and will continue to use online meetings(zoom) whenever necessary.

The Executive Committee (after various discussions) have come to recognise that in today's environment, it is imperative that we do embrace new technology if we are to remain buoyant and to maintain continuity. In these current times, we do see and hear of the use of modern cutting-edge technology used to enhance the undertakings of organisations, thus making great improvements to their viability and DONA is set to follow that trend.

As previously declared, some of our executive members are now senior citizens having been doing the job for many years, so handing over the baton in now an imperative. DONA has created a good platform for forward thinking people who have an interest in developing the association, self-development and in their island Dominica.

The Association needs your talent and expertise so let us all keep DONA afloat.

R A Hector

DONA PRO

DONA SEMINAR WORKSHOP



DONA SEMINAR WORKSHOP

Join us on Saturday the 14th of May 2022 for this very important event

Time: 14.00 to 17.00

Venue:

Dominica Embassy

1 Collingham Gardens, Kensington

London SW5 0HW

Come and listen to our young successful professional Panel of speakers, take part in discussions and workshop session.

Our Speakers Include:

Adryan Abil -Smith Snr Project Designer; Richard Etienne -Film designer

Yvonne Hector -John – Senior Officer with the NHS; Iana Vidal (Policy), Joanna Vidal- (Volunteering); Nakinda. -Diplomat.

[Refreshments provided](#)

We urge you make every effort to attend as this is a very important event in the Association's calendar.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Easter Message

JESUS - THE WAY TO THE CROSS

We are now in the season of Lent and many Christians give up something as a sacrifice to the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ, for forty days and nights in the wilderness, being tempted by the devil.

This is a form of spiritual cleansing –deprivation, giving up certain pleasures or fasting symbolises the sacrifice Jesus made for us. In many cases we fail as we crave for the things we love, a longing to get back to normality. Jesus did not have a choice.

What goes through one's mind at such times; the temptation to break the fast, wondering if it's all worth the pain. I would imagine Jesus was in the same position but did not succumb to the temptation, as there were greater spiritual powers working within him. The season of lent is also a soul-searching time, time for reflection, an awakening and renewal of our spirit, a new birth, as we release the old self and bring in the new. It is like the plant that dies in the winter, come alive in the spring and bloom in the summer.

It was to be the beginning of Jesus' trials, the way to the cross. He tried to explain to his disciples, but they could not understand. He knew then who his betrayers would be, Judas selling him for thirty pieces of silver and Peter who he so loved to deny ever knowing Him.

This brings to mind the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The pain and suffering he endured for us, to redeem us from our sins. It was the night of the Passover that Jesus revealed his coming suffering to his disciples, when he called them to the table for a meal, one which would be the last before he leaves for the next world.

We have similar occurrences in today's world; people go to length to do the wrong things for wealth, pleasure and power.

This bring to mind the people in Ukraine, who are now being persecuted and driven from their homeland, families and friends by the devil Mr Putin, a man, without conscience or feelings, for human lives; just to gain power over a nation. We watch the plight of these

Ukrainians, innocent people, children and the elderly trying to escape and our hearts bleed as we are powerless to get them to freedom.

As we follow Jesus's ministry, we note that there were many times he prayed to his Father, always before attempting another hurdle, that which protected and guided him through his journey. An example we should emulate in our spiritual life, as prayer releases the tension, strengthen us and enables us to continue on our journey.

Even today we hear of Christians being persecuted for their faith. However, we know that his death was not the end, as he rose again triumphantly on that glorious Easter morning.

He arose, He arose, and Halleluiah, Christ arose.

As we celebrate, let us show the love that God gave to us through the sacrifice of his son and be mindful of those who suffer in mind body and soul for the benefit of others. May the joy of his resurrection and the love and peace it captures remains with us always

Happy Easter

Ethelca Brand OBE, MBE, MSA

DONA Easter word Search _____ Date: March 2022

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

Word List: Have fun; 40 to find. Play: Horizontal, Vertical and Diagonal. (Find the Easter symbol)

Lent, Sepulchre, Fasting, fish, Friday, King, Easter, Eggs, Praetorium, Nazarene, Passover, Judas, Thirty, Colt, Risen, Joseph, Justice, Transfiguration, Jerusalem, Hosanna, Donkey, Blessings, Nazareth, Pilate, Barabbas, Council, Peter, Crucifixion, Christ, Jesus, Monday, Calvary, Cross, Betrayal, Supper, Money, Silver, Psalms, Cohorts, Crown,

Reg Hector

Work Plan 2022 (Subject to change)

Month	Date	Time	Item/Event	Venue
January	Saturday 29th	2pm to 4pm	<u>Windrush Reach Meeting</u>	<u>Acton Hill Church W39BU</u>
January	Sunday -16	3.00 pm	<u>General Meeting, Thanksgiving service and New year social</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
February	Saturday 12	3.00 pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
March	<u>Friday 25</u>		Newsletter issued	<u>Zoom</u>
March	<u>Sat 26</u>		Executive Meeting	
April	Sunday -10	3.00 PM	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
April	Saturday 30	3:00pm	Trustees Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
May	Saturday 14		Dona Seminar -Bridging the gap	Dominica Embassy
May	Saturday 28	3.00 pm	Executive meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
June	Sunday 26	3.00Pm	AGM & Biennial Election	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
June	Saturday 18	11am	Sponsored Walk	North Acton Playing fields
June	Friday -24		Newsletter Issued	
July	Saturday 16	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
August	Saturday 06	7:30am	Seaside Day Trip	<u>BOTANY BAY</u>
August	Sunday -21	1.00 pm	24 th Annual Funday	North Acton playing fields
September	Sunday -11	3.00Pm	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
September	Saturday 24	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
September	Friday -30		Newsletter issued	
October	Saturday 08	3:00 pm	Executive Meeting	Acton Hill Church or Zoom
October	<u>Sunday -30</u>	<u>3.00 Pm</u>	<u>Independence Mass</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Date TBC</u>	<u>4.30 pm</u>	<u>Evensong Service</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Date TBC</u>	<u>9.00 Pm</u>	<u>Independence Dance</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Sunday -13</u>	<u>3.00PM</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
December	<u>Saturday - 10</u>	<u>7.00 Pm</u>	<u>Christmas party</u>	<u>TBC</u>
December	<u>Friday -16</u>		<u>Newsletter Issued</u>	



COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA
**MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT,
YOUTH AT RISK, GENDER AFFAIRS, SENIORS' SECURITY AND
DOMINICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

CHANCES

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Jimmit Highway
Jimmit
Commonwealth of Dominica

21st January 2022

Dominica Oversea Nationals Association
London
England

Dear Members,

CHANCES is a home for children who have been abused, neglected, cheated and emotionally scarred. The institution is intended to improve the lives of vulnerable children by sharing the benefits of a normal family where members love, protect and respect each other.

We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Dominica Oversea Nationals Association (DONA) for their continued support throughout the years.

We want to assure you that the donation of the Industrial Range Cooker, will go a long way in the continued care of the residents at CHANCES.

We wish the team all the best and anticipate that the year is a productive and successful year for all.

May God continue to bless all.

Mrs. Jenny Honore - St. Valle
Managing Director
CHANCES

"Embracing the Challenge: Rethink, Rebuild, Transform"

We are pleased to announce that we have made the donation of the requested cooker range to the children's home (CHANCES) in Dominica.

This was made possible with your kind donations to this project, and we say a big thank you to all our dedicated Members and Friends.

Please see above letter from CHANCES.

GOV.UK**Nationality and Borders Bill**

Information relating to the Nationality and Borders Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 6 July 2021.

From:

[Home Office](#)

Published

6 July 2021

Last updated

4 December 2021 — [See all updates](#)

The Nationality and Borders Bill is the cornerstone of the government's New Plan for Immigration, delivering the most comprehensive reform in decades to fix the broken asylum system.

The bill – and the wider plan – has 3 key objectives:

1. To make the system fairer and more effective so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum
2. To deter illegal entry into the UK breaking the business model of criminal trafficking networks and saving lives
3. To remove from the UK those with no right to be here

The introduction of the bill was preceded by a [consultation](#), which the government has carefully considered. The government will publish its response in due course.

What you need to know about the Nationality and Borders Bill 2021, by

Pauline Campbell

In April 2018, David Lammy MP asked the then Home Secretary in Parliament, Amber Rudd, following the devastation of black people's lives through the Windrush scandal: "Can she tell the House how many have been detained as prisoners in their own country, can she tell the house, how many have been denied health care under the National Health Service, how many have been denied pensions, how many have lost their jobs. This is a day of *National Shame*, and it has come about as a result of a hostile environment policy."

It is understandable that black people would be nervous of anything new law that the government introduce, so with that in mind it's important that we consider what is happening in respect of the New Nationality & Borders Bill 2021, which is not British Law yet, but is currently going through the Parliamentary process, and as such could become law within the coming months.

The question is how if at all does it affect those from the Caribbean Community?

The most controversial part of the 2021 Bill is Clause 9, which makes changes to nationality law, that would allow the Home Secretary to strip an individual of their British nationality, which in exceptional circumstances could be without notifying them. Therefore, if you have obtained British citizenship, either by being born in Britain or gaining citizenship through Naturalisation, which applied to many Caribbean people who had settled in Britain, you can be at risk of having that citizenship revoked, which could include myself, or anyone whose parents were born in another country.

But Citizenship can only be removed if it is deemed for the public good, for example if a person had committed acts of fraud, terrorism, or war crimes, or where a person fraudulently obtained their citizenship and were never entitled to it in the first place. People also have the right to appeal, and those appeal rights would be explained to them from the start. The government

argue that only a tiny number of people would fall foul of these rules. But although it is accepted that the majority of the black community are not engaged in criminal acts, are not terrorists, and have obtained their British citizenship legally. We cannot ignore the fact that if I committed a crime alongside a white offender, despite the fact that we were both born in this country, were educated, and worked here and neither of us had never lived in any other country. The Home Secretary would have the discretion to remove my citizenship for the mere fact that my parents were born in Jamaica.

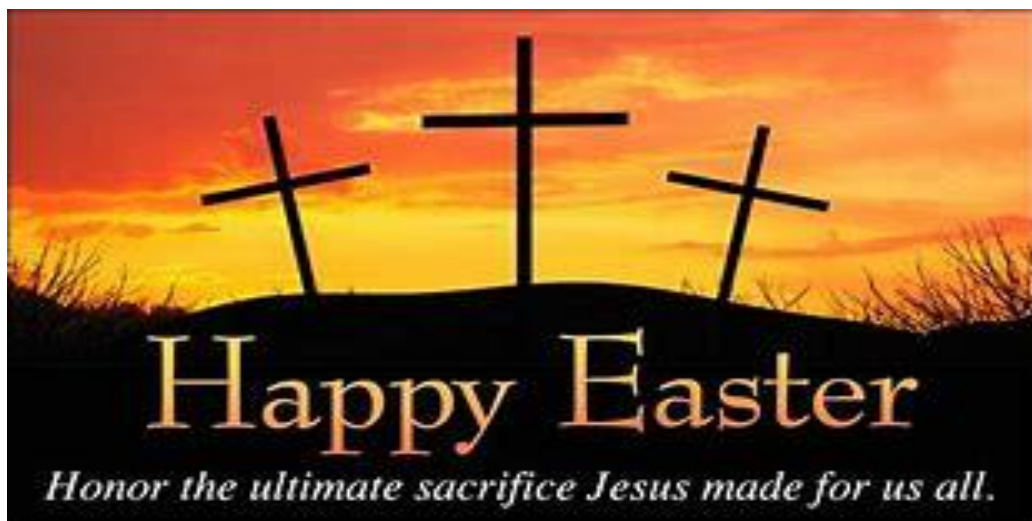
We are being told that decisions to revoke citizenship are only made after careful consideration of advice from officials and lawyers and in accordance with international law, and that each case is assessed individually.

What can we do?

Well of course the first thing is not to commit any crimes that would leave you vulnerable to this proposed new law. But what is equally important is that we *remain vigilant and informed about what is happening*. Because when Theresa May introduced the hostile environment policy, it was never meant to include Caribbeans that had been settled in Britain for decades, yet that's exactly what it did.

A Petition has been lodged on the government website in which 323,865 people have signed the Petition for Clause 9 to be removed. I have added my signature to that Petition and the link is below, I have also been asked to be updated on what is happening in relation to Clause 9.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/601583>



Black History

Ed Dwight - The First Black Qualified as an Astronaut

By Wayne A. Young

Feb 2008- Apr 2008

Feature



“I knew I had been to that magical space, but I had to negotiate how to get back that feeling again,” Ed Dwight, pictured, uttered. His now former assistant, former NFL football star George Knox, began relating his own experience to Dwight’s. He added, “You want to regain control of your destiny.” In November 2020, Port Of Harlem will celebrate 25 years of publication. As we count down to our birthday, we will republish some of our most popular articles from our print issues. Thanks for subscribing and inviting others to join you in supporting our inclusive, diverse, pan-African publication - - now completely online. We originally published this article in the Feb 2008- Apr 2008 print issue.

Robert Lawrence, Jr. (1967) was the first Black astronaut, but he died in a plane crash during a training flight in 1969 and never made it into space. Guion Bluford (1983) became the first Black American astronaut to travel in space; Mae Jemison (1992) became the first Black female astronaut. Frederick Gregory (1998) was the first African-American shuttle commander. But it was Kansas City, Kansas native Ed Dwight who paved their way.

“In 1961, I got a letter in the mail asking me if I wanted to be an astronaut,” recalls Dwight as we sat in his Denver studio. The letter was a result of a promise President Kennedy made to Urban League President Whitney Young to accept a Black in the astronaut training program. But according to the authors of “The Real Stuff,” the prevailing belief was that the space program would select a Negro, “but [he] would never fly for NASA.”

Interestingly, flying was not Dwight’s childhood dream. “I have been creating art since I was in preschool,” says Dwight, who has since made his mark as an outstanding sculpturer. Only after his father “gave him the word,” that he was not going to be a struggling artist dependent upon his parents did Dwight begin studying the math and science needed to graduate from Arizona State University’s aeronautical engineering school.

After completing Experimental Test Pilot School and the Aerospace Research Pilot course, he became the first Black qualified as an astronaut. However, the politics of the day prevented the United States from sending its million-dollar investment into space.

“If it was important enough to this country to have a minority early in space than the logical guy was Dwight,” says Thomas McElmory in “Right Stuff.” McElmory was the Deputy Commandant of Aerospace Research Pilots School when Dwight was a student. The Russians sent the first Black, Amaldo Tamayo-Mendex of Cuba, into space in 1980, and simply said, “He (Dwight) was rejected for astronaut duty because he is a Negro.”

Our Island History

Brief history of Vieille Case

By Lennox Honeychurch Ph.D.

The community of Vieille Case is situated on the north cost of Dominica, Facing the French islands of Guadeloupe, and Marie Galante and the Les Saintes. The land slopes steeply along the tops of the high cliffs and is cut by deep ravines. The landscape was formed by volcanic ash and stones that was ejected by the eruption of Morne Aux Diabes volcano. With every eruption, new layers were piled upon others, creating different coloured strata which can be seen along the cliffs. Due to its rugged terrain this area was occupied by Carib/Kalinago people for over two hundred years after Dominica was sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1493. There are archaeological sites at Au Tou and Au Parc where the remains of pots and stone tools made by the indigenous people have been found.

The Kalinago name for the area is Itassi, sometimes written on old French maps as Litassie. The first recorded contact with the French was made between the Carib Chief Kalamiena of Itassi and Father Raymond Breton, a French Roman Catholic missionary of the Dominican Order then based in Guadeloupe. Breton lived among the Kalinagos of Itasssi of and on from 1642 to 1648. Here in the chief's Longhouse or Karbay, he celebrated the first recorded Christian Mass with the inhabitants of Dominica in 1646.

Close links were developed between Chief kalamiena and the Chiefs such as le Baron of Itassi and the French in Basseterre, Guadeloupe. Le Baron sent one of his sons to be educated among the French. Two Kalinago man of Itassi were taken to France to be trained as priests; however, one died in France and the other returned to Itassi but gave up trying to convert his people and reverted to his former traditions.

The contact with Guadeloupe encouraged settlers from poor white (Pettie Blanc) families to come and settle in the north of Dominica. They had come from France as labourers or engages to plant tobacco and cotton in Guadeloupe. But they were pushed out by the expansion of the sugar industry and importation of enslaved Africans. So, they crossed the sea channel and came to settle among the Kalinagos of Itassi. The family names of these people are still with us. Royer, Le Blanc, Brumant, Frederick, Mourilolon, Seaman and others. Most of the Kalinagos intermixed with these French smallholders and therefore many Vieille Case families have French and African as well Kalinago ancestry.

It appears that the French settlers began to call the place Vielle Case Because of the large old Kalinago Karbay that stood in the center of the village. Because of the steep Jagged nature of the land, no large estate developed at Vieille Case, even after the British took over Dominica in 1763. It remains a community of small holders, mainly peasant proprietors owning few slaves to produce coffee.

Tax records of 1827 for instance, shows members of the Brumant families owning 11,14, and 15 slaves each and they were producing an average of 900 lbs of coffee a year. The four Royer holdings averaged 4 slaves each, Joseph Leblanc had 7 slaves and Jean Baptiste Le Blanc had 9. However, after coffee blight in the 1840s, Vieille Case shifted to sugar. It was an isolated community well into the 1920s that had more contact with Marie Galante and Guadeloupe than it had with Roseau.

The wider community is composed of many different zones such as Coton, Paille, Balthazar, En Bas, Tobino, Gommier, Au Parc, and Au Tou among others.

The Roman catholic Church, run by the FMI fathers from 1872, was the focus of the community. The construction of the former stone church began late in the 1870s, and it stood firm until it was seriously damaged by an earthquake in November 1904. The new church of steel and concrete has been built in its place. As the influence of the United States became stronger in the late 20th century, fundamentalist evangelical denominations from the United States mid-west bible belt became popular and a variety of churches, such as the Pentecostals developed in the village.

Culturally, the long-standing French links with Vieille Case made it a strong Creole speaking community. Traditional dances such as Quadrille, heel and Toe Polka, Flirtation Sortis and Lancers were enjoyed. Wakes or nine night for the dead were observed, while religious feast days such as that of the village patron St Andre are still celebrated.

In the 1940s the Village Board system was introduced with much local opposition at first. Slowly, by the mid-20th century, a motorable reached Vieille Case from the junction of the Portsmouth to Marigot Road at Blenheim. This road was enlarged in 2007-2008. From the 1960s, an improved water system, village roads, a new school, a health clinic and the introduction of electricity in 1973, enhanced the quality of life for the village. The introduction of the Credit Union helped to give financial security.

The fishing industry was once very strong in Vieille Case, operation from the bay at Au Tou. Now the few fishermen still involved used the harbour at Anse De Mai. When the banana industry was in its prime some prosperity came to Vieille Case as a result. Today, the main agricultural products such as yams, dasheen, tannia and plantains are sold for shipment to the Leeward Islands.

Attention was drawn to the village in 1961, when one of its sons, Edward Oliver Le Blanc, leader of the Dominica Labour Party became chief minister and in 1967, Premier of Dominica. In 1993 another son of Vieille Case, Crispin Sorhaindo, was made President of Dominica. In 2004, Young Roosevelt Skerrett became Prime Minister of Dominica and confirmed his popular leadership by going on to win the general elections in 2005 and 2009.

Extract from from :Dominica Heritage Day -Vieille Case Sunday 23rd October 2011

Dominica National Bird



Dominica's National Bird / Symbol: Amazona imperialis (Sisserou Parrot).

The Sisserou parrot (*Amazona imperialis*), "The Pride of Dominica", is generally recognized as the National Bird of Dominica. The parrot figures prominently on the Coat of Arms, the National Flag, The Public Seal, The Mace of the House of Assembly and Dominica's Honours for Meritorious Service to the Country.

The Sisserou Parrot is protected, and it is probably among the oldest species of Amazon parrot in the world and is found only in Dominica. Unfortunately, this bird is most vulnerable, particularly when young, but through evolution, it has adapted to various changes in its habitat. Even more unfortunately, it has not been able to adapt to the bad influences of man. The Parrot (*Amazona imperialis*) is a shy but very attractive native of the tropical forest of the Commonwealth of Dominica. Sisserou parrots have lived on the island for several hundred thousand years and can live to be very old (over 70 years),

Dominica

Dominica, Dominica -
 you remind me of a past:
 the age of exploration, close
 to the violent edge of the world.
 With weeks at sea,
 this emerald isle to Columban crews,
 must have appeared
 out of endless sky and waves
 as a green giant
 and yet a godsend.
 And so on the day they found you
 you became Dominica - the day of the Lord.

Dominica, Dominica -
 you remind me of a dream
 Wai'tukubuli to the Kalinago people,
 a faceted gem set in the necklace of an island
 arc
 strung across the Caribbean - an island
 of such lush intoxication rising to vertiginous
 heights
 from where a multitude of rivulets
 cascades through primeval forest
 to meet with the ocean swell
 feeding the fluorescent reefs below;
 draining an interior so formidable
 as to become refuge for Carib and maroon
 escaping the cruelties of aggressors.

Dominica, Dominica -
 you remind me of a gift,
 to see in you today how the Caribbean used to
 be -
 simple, rustic, traditional, resourceful,
 swathed in natural beauty
 though slowly reshaped with each inflowing
 tide
 laying down a cultural base of creole
 overlain by European aspirations.
 To have possessed good pasturage
 safe anchorage or gold
 would have been a curse but today
 the colourful timber homes of Roseau
 frame images of a past
 that bend reed- like into the present,
 rasta colours portraying new identity,

colours of the roots of Africa
 that still echo from across the wide ocean -
 as much a part of you now
 as the parks of Cabrits and Trois Pitons
 protectors of flora and fauna, reefs and forts;
 - as much as crabback, sancoche,
 callaloo and mountain chicken,
 rum punch and Kubuli beer -
 and, most absorbingly, cricket;
 - as much as the fervent beat of soukous
 and zydeco at festival time.

Dominica, Dominica
 you remind me of a prayer
 that with careful unfolding
 you may yet become a playground of the
 senses
 sustainable as you used to be
 when life was more simple,
 where it is possible to live to the max,
 bursting the bubble of everyday trouble
 to bele the night away.

Your fathers knew well this protective spirit,
 captured perspectives and aspirations
 in the flag of a new nation -
 unique, like the Sisserou parrot
 perched at its heart;
 like the striped cross of God's Trinity:
 yellow for harvest, of banana and citrus,
 white for the clarity of your fresh waters,
 black - your rich volcanic soil and
 deep African heritage;
 a background of green - luxuriant forest
 hardwoods
 underpinning the whole - in spite of hurricanes
 in spite of suffocating blasts from Soufriere.

Dominica, Dominica.
 You remind me of a never-ending song
 your rugged people sing to see you through
 whose tune I will be humming now all day
 long

Poem Written by Lea Knowles



Dominica Ranks as One of the Safest Country in the Caribbean and Latin America in New Citizenship Report PROVIDED BY

CS Global Partners

13 Jan, 2022, 05:00 GMT

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LONDON, Jan. 13, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- The Commonwealth of Dominica has been crowned as one of the safest places in the Caribbean and Latin America in a new one-of-a-kind report by the world's leading government advisory and marketing firm, **CS Global Partners**. Taking into account data from the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021 and World Governance Indicators (WGI), the **World Citizenship Report (WCR)** ranked the Nature Isle third in the region with a score of 77.3, bringing it to the 33rd safest place in the international arena.



Dominica ranks third safest country in the Caribbean in the World Citizenship Report (WCR) In the Caribbean, Dominica followed Uruguay's safety and security score of 82 and Costa Rica's 79. Iceland, New Zealand and Switzerland ranked top globally, while economic giants like France (76.5), the US (64.4), and the UAE (65.9) trailed much further behind Dominica.

The report acknowledged recent weather storms in the Caribbean but gave Dominica a high standing due to authorities prioritising the rapidly developing climate-resilient infrastructure on the island. "The region has also placed emphasis on physical safety, rule of law, and political stability. Most importantly, Dominica ranks high in categories like voice and accountability, where citizens feel empowered to hold leaders accountable to their demands and needs," the report stated.

The WCR also offers well-rounded insight into the minds of global citizens and investors worldwide through over 500 interviews by factoring in their top five priorities: Safety and Security, Quality of Life, Economic Opportunity, Global Mobility and Financial Freedom. Overall, thanks to lucrative opportunities that appeal to business people and families through Dominica's [Citizenship by Investment \(CBI\) Programme](#), the WCR placed Dominica in the top 30 per cent of 188 of the world's jurisdictions.

"Caribbean citizenship offers global citizens access to some of the best travel and economic markets in the world through its growing roster of visa-free and visa-on-arrival destinations. But, the COVID-19 pandemic has subjected international travel to significant restrictions and made us question whether healthcare systems could adequately manage a global health crisis," said the CEO of CS Global Partners, Micha Emmett.

"As a result, many High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs) are focusing more acutely on the importance of issues such as their quality of life, healthcare, safety and security, and financial planning."

Dominica began welcoming foreign nationals to obtain its citizenship in 1993. The nation has been ranked as the [number one CBI initiative](#) for five consecutive years in the CBI Index, published by the Financial Times' Professional Wealth Management magazine. The island is politically and economically stable, with a low crime rate and rich investment opportunities. After submitting all the correct documentation through an authorised agent, successfully passing due diligence checks and making a qualifying contribution, investors become Dominica's citizens for life. They also gain the right to not only live, work and study in the country but pass their citizenship on for generations to come.

NEW COLIHAUT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE OPENED



The Colihaut constituency is the most recent recipient of a newly constructed health and wellness centre.

The centre, which was constructed by Montreal Management Consultants Establishment Ltd. and funded by the Citizenship by Investment Programme, was commissioned on Friday, January 14, 2022.

Member of Parliament for the Colihaut Constituency, Hon. Lady Catherine Daniel expressed gratitude on behalf of the constituency.

“We as a people from this community are extremely elated and thankful for this magnificent infrastructure and well needed facility. The building has been erected on a site which once housed a health centre which served us well but was structurally weak,” Hon. Daniel stated.

She encouraged citizens to take good care of the facility as it is there to serve everybody.

“To whom much is given, much is expected. And as a community, let us demonstrate our appreciation by taking care of our facility, our health and wellness centre. Let each one of us be a guard to protect this facility. This is ours. It will serve everyone regardless of religion, or political affiliation. We all have a stake,” Ms. Daniel stated.

Project Manager of Montreal Management Consultants Establishments, Mr. Cal Murray detailed the two-floor facility.

“This health centre was designed and built according to high international standards. The entire structure was built using reinforced concrete, windows which are hurricane resistant, and the finishings and outfitters are of high standards. The ground floor of the health centre consists of a spacious lobby, two examination rooms, doctor’s office, nurses’ room and an emergency facility. It is furnished with medical equipment and loose furniture. As for the upper floor, it consists of the

staff accommodation which is a two bedroom is furnished apartment with all needed facilities,” Mr. Murad explained.

Acting Minister for Health, Wellness and New Health Investment, Hon. Kent Edwards stated that providing quality health care to citizens remains a priority to citizens.

“The Government of Dominica, over the years, has focused on providing resources to facilitate health care delivery and quality health care for all at primary secondary and tertiary levels. Recognizing well that in order to improve delivery services, the quality of infrastructure and a safe working environment is of utmost importance. Health care delivery has remained a priority of the Ministry of Health and in spite of the adverse challenges which arose, the Ministry has always been provided health care to its people,” Hon. Edwards noted.

Senior Minister and Minister for Housing and Urban Development and while representing the Prime Minister, Hon. Reginald Austrie urged the nurses to use the facility as an institution to educate residents of the area.

“I don’t see this facility as one just for care and for health, but I also see it as an educational and learning institution. Now that the health professionals are in a more comfortable environment, I believe that they will find it very, very useful to engage the community on various health subjects those that are here now and those to come. And I believe that is a major function of this health and wellness centre to continue the education process,” Hon. Austrie noted.

MARIGOT HOSPITAL NEARING COMPLETION



With a mandate to improve health care and boost medical services in Dominica, the Government continues to build and rehabilitate medical facilities around the island.

As part of this mandate, the people of Marigot will soon enjoy services from the newly build Marigot hospital which is nearing the end of its construction.

The 40,000 square feet two-floor hospital will have a 75-bed capacity, as well as a wide range of essential services and modern state-of-the-art facilities.

Services to be provided by the New Marigot Hospital will include Ambulatory Services, Emergency Care, Intensive Care (ICU), Maternity and Paediatric Care, Laboratory and Radiology Services and Trauma Centre.

“I really welcome this facility and of course I am very impressed with the number of people who were able to gain employment throughout the project. So far, we had just about 90 and out of that 90 we have about 68 people who are local, people from the area and were able to get employed as a result of this project,” stated Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning, Hon. Gregory Riviere

Hon. Riviere went on to praise the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI), through which funds for the hospital were sourced. He noted that the CBI was the only sure option for funds during this pandemic.

“I would really want to encourage the people from Marigot and the Northeast to embrace the facility. this is our facility. we also want to thank God for the CBI programme. Of course, there is no way that we would be able to get a loan to build this facility, not in this covid-environment; and grants are not always forthcoming, because every country is trying to keep what little they have, and we cannot rely on taxes because in this covid environment we have seen a dramatic decrease in our tax revenues. So, the CBI is a very, very good instrument that we can use to finance those capital projects,” the Minister explained.

He went on to say that he hopes that “The service comes from this facility, I would really hope that it is of top class,” going on to add “the nurses and the doctors and the other health professionals who are going to operate in this facility, we are hoping that they will bring a certain sense of care and love to those who they are going to dispel these services to.”

He then thanked Montreal Management Consultants Establishment (MMCE) and all those involved in the construction of the hospital.

“And I want to thank of course in a very special way MMCE for partnering with Dominica as the developer to pursue this programme. And of course, Rayneau, who has been very diligent and very efficient. We can see the quality of the work and it is very, very high quality, so we want to say thank you. And to all those who continue to work to ensure that we have an excellent product at the end of the day,” Minister Riviere further stated.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning, Resilience and Sustainable Development, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Mrs. Gloria Joseph stated that she is impressed with the quality of the work presented.

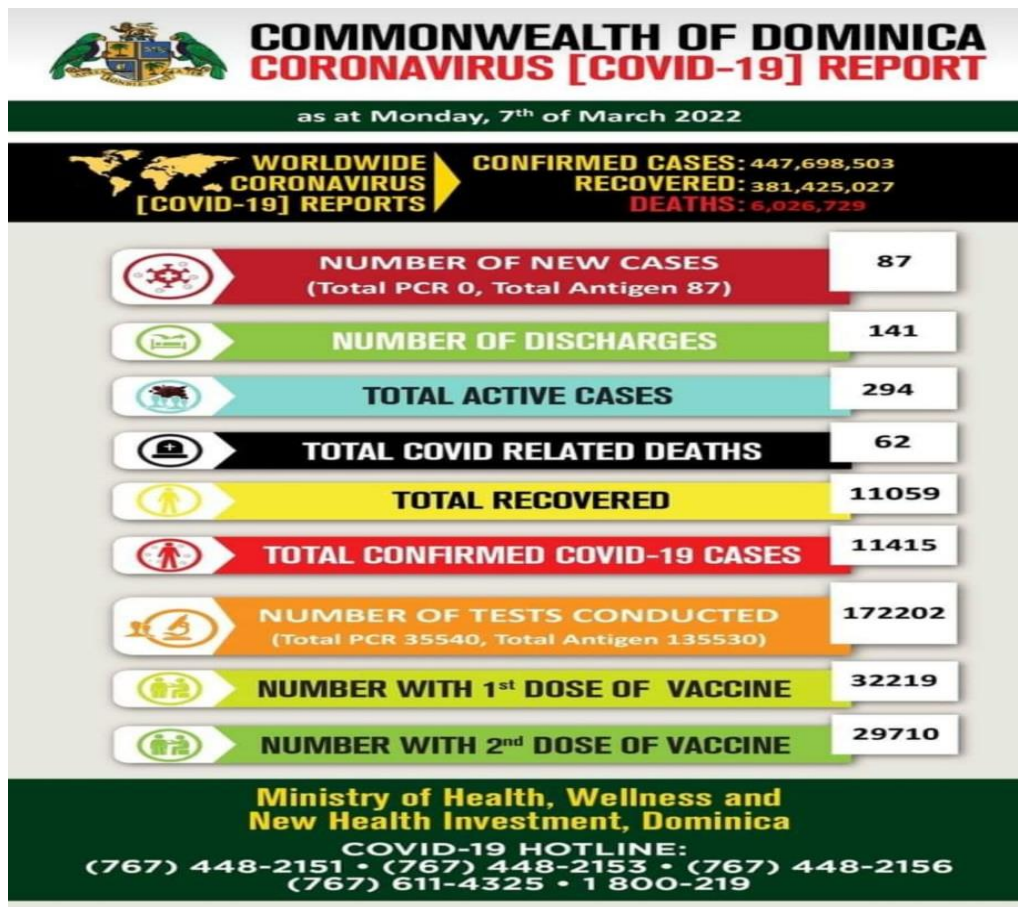
“What has captured my attention added to what has already been shared before is the quality of the construction and I speak to what seems to be an extremely resilient structure, and I think should be

able to withstand any category of wind and withstand even seismic activity. I feel confident that we have a totally modern resilient infrastructure here in Marigot and something that all of us can be proud about and more so the people of Marigot and the surrounding communities should be excited that this yours. and you have to own it, you have to love it, you have to protect it, you have to be proud of it,” she noted.

Policy Analyst within the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning, Resilience and Sustainable Development, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, Mr. Alvin Bernard explained that the construction of this hospital in addition to the other medical facilities being built around the island is indicative of a bright future for health care in Dominica.

“With the addition of this hospital to the health centre and the other health centres already built and those to be built, I think the future of health care in Dominica looks very bright and it is fantastic. and I am very impressed with the facility here. it’s a resilient facility and it is beautiful. I was particularly impressed with the organization of the space because that is very important in any project and in any facility, that is the way in which the amenities are connected and how the services would flow effectively and efficiently throughout this space here and it is very well organized. Apparently just about everything has been thought of and it looks like this will make this area of Dominica, more or less self-sufficient,” Mr. Bernard noted highlighted.

Meantime, Marigot resident Mrs. Christine Gordon says that this hospital was needed in her community, noting that “I think we should give God thanks for this facility, this building. And the other people to give thanks to is the Government and the people who are building this hospital. We really needed this you know.”



GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR DIASPORANS TO REGISTER FOR E-PASSPORT



The Ministry of National Security and Home Affairs to set up E-Passport application stations in various countries to facilitate Dominicans in the diaspora.

Overseas based nationals seeking to make the transition to their new E-Passport will be able to apply through the various Consulates in their respective countries.

Minister for National Security Hon Rayburn Blackmoore has reassured Dominicans living overseas that this aspect of the procedure will not change.

The National Security Minister says the deadline for the country's transition from machine readable to E-Passport has now been changed from 30th of July 2022, to 31st. of August 2023.

Dominica Launched its E-Passport with upgraded security features, on the 26th of July 2021.

“Permanent offices will be established in New York, in the United Arab Emirates and in London. These offices will be fully equipped to facilitate all application processes including data and image caption. The installation of the overseas passport stations will take five months,” Hon. Blackmoore stated.

Minister Blackmoore says besides the three locations mentioned Dominicans living in other destinations will also be afforded the opportunity to apply for their E-Passports. The passports will only be issued by the immigration department.

“So when those permanent offices will be established, there will be no issuing of passports in those locations. The information will be instantaneously transmitted to the centralized location in Roseau, that is the Immigration Department in Roseau and all passports will be issued by the centralized location. To say further, the system is locked by way of two keys, the Commissioner of Police and the Head of Immigration,” Hon. Blackmoore explained.

Minister Blackmoore says while the overseas passport work stations are under construction the mobile kits will be deployed overseas to undertake registration, data and image capture of people living abroad who require those services.

“Teams consisting of police officers have already been selected to travel to various locations across the globe to ensure that as many Dominicans as possible can be given access to registration for the new e-passports. The locations that the mobile kits will be deployed to will include Canada, Texas and Florida,” Minister Blackmoore added.

DONA Sends Birthday Greetings to All our members and friends.

April

Josephine Moise

Eustace Maxim

Charmaine Charles Powell

Nicola Charles Mulholland

May

Joseph Vidal

Deborah Brand

Hilma Alfred

Sunshine Brand

Leisha Wickham

*Members and friends of the Association
Happy Birthday and Many Happy returns to you all*



Sick Members

DONA wishes you all a speedy recovery.



For the bereaved

Our deepest sympathy to the families of Angela Charles and Violet Cuffy.

May their souls REST IN PEACE

To all our members and friends who have lost loved ones because of the corona virus and other ailments.



It is with sadness that we announce the death of our member (Angie 29/05/1935 -01/01/2022) Angela Charles. Angie was the wife of Amos Charles who also passed away 7 years ago. She will be sadly missed by us all. May their souls and the souls of the faithfully departed to the mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen

It is also with sorry that we announce the passing of Hewie Andrews our brother and member of the Association. Hewie will also be remembered for the Queen Mother Moore black supplementary school of which he was the Founder President.

Hewie was currently residing in Dominica. May he Rest in Peace.

**DOMINICA OVERSEA NATIONALS' ASSOCIATION (DONA)
11 Nemoure Road, Acton London W3 6NZ
DONA (Charities No. 279643)**

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER 2022

To carry out the administrative work of the association your membership subscription plays a significant part.

DONA depends on your support to enable it to function, in helping Dominicans here in the UK and at home in Dominica.

Your subscription of £20.00 for waged members and £15.00 for Senior Citizens and UB members covers membership, welfare and newsletter for one year.

1st January to 31st December 2022

Please contribute as a true Dominican / DONA supporter – your subscription will go a long way in maintaining the future development of the association

We value that support

Thank you.

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Tear off here and return with your subscription to:
The Membership Officer

C/o 11 Nemoure Road, Acton London W3 6NZ

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Your donations will be most appreciated.

Many thanks.

Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

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