

THE SISSEROU VOICE

Vwa Siséwou



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Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

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Your Easter Edition

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EASTER

CHRIST HAS RISEN.

Editorial

The Windrush Generation

This year (2023) is designated Windrush year as it marks 75 years since the ship HMT Empire Windrush transported its passengers from the Caribbean to Great Britain to assist in the redevelopment of the country. This Journey was made because of the call made by the British Government to the Caribbean community to come to Britain to fill vacancies in the various commercial and industrial industries including the NHS, as their contribution to rebuilding the country post the 2nd world war.

It was on the 22nd of June 1948 that the Empire Windrush made this historical Journey from the West Indies with these migrating pioneers who answered the call to come and work in the mother country, and their stories to date of their adventures are well documented. The Windrush Generation is defined as people arriving in the UK from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1971. Within that time there were many other ships making that journey from the British Caribbean islands to name but a few, the SS Ipinia, the Ascanina and the Francaise. To date the Windrush generation (Who was always legally British) and their descendants are well integrated in their adopted society and has made great positive contributions towards the development of their new home.

The majority of the migrant when ask, never intended to remain in the UK and most had given themselves about 5 years to return to the Caribbean. Today we are all a permanent feature of the British society, and the Caribbean influence can be seen

everywhere; the Caribbean cuisines, food items in the shops and street markets, accent, hear- styles, music, churches, athletics, culture, Parliamentarians, and many other aspects of this diverse institution. Although we can boast of our achievements, the road ahead is very long and arduous and we still have a long way to go. Although the road ahead is still very long, our generation can proudly boast of its achievements.

The Association will be celebrating its 45th anniversary this year and plans are afoot to mark this special occasion. This in fact will be a combination of the Windrush year and DONA's 45th anniversary celebrations which will include the outing to Botany Bay, and our favourite Family Sunday Funday. Which usually takes place in Acton Playing fields in August.

Through the machinery of the Association, we were able to make valuable contributions especially at times of natural disasters such as the hurricanes which devastated our Islands over the past years, and we continue to make tangible donations such as computers to schools, and other items to the other institutions in our beloved Island Dominica. This was only achieved because of our efforts of working together and recognising the vision of the bigger picture.

In view of all this it is imperative that the association secures its continuity and that our descendants recognise the foundation which we have laid down and embrace that opportunity which will enhance their standing in the wider community.

RA Hector

PRO

Coming to England

My story.

a synopsis by Reginald A Hector

Answering the call to England

Over the past years we have heard many stories of the ship HMT Empire Windrush which transported the migrating West Indian communities to England. We have subsequently heard of the positivity's and negatives of that pioneering generation and of the heart-breaking stories which has recently surfaced. In the fifties and sixties there have been other sailing ships but there has been little mention of them. To name but a few, we had the RMS Ascania, the SS Francaise, and the SS Irpinia.

My story of coming to England started in January 1967 onboard the SS Irpinia. With many other Dominicans, I boarded the ship which was anchored offshore in the Roseau harbour and as we all assembled on the ship's balcony, it was with sadness that we all waved to our loved ones, family and friends standing on the seafront. There were tears and laughter despondency and joy and for me a 20-year-old boy travelling alone, a feeling of apprehension. As we sailed away, we were all overwhelmed with sorrow looking at our people disappearing in the distance as the ship sailed away towards the horizon. In that instance I begin to ponder on what I was leaving behind and at the same time excited at the prospects of this new adventure.

At that time (in the sixties) there was a campaign by the British Government to recruit operatives to work in the United Kingdom as we were told of the desperate need to fill job vacancies. A great number of us answered the call and I remembered going to the old Roseau grammar school for an interview and taking a basic academic test. The outcome was positive, and months later I was on my way to England.

Onboard the ship, there was a very warm and friendly atmosphere with formal and casual onboard social activities which offered great opportunities to make friends and engage with people (the boys and girls) from the other Islands, some on their way to France from the French islands and for us the UK. The first five days at sea was a scenery of only sea and sky. After days of sailing the ship made various stops at ports in different countries of which we were allowed to visit for the day, and it was a delight to see places which one had only heard of.

The Arrival

Arriving at Southampton, we were all met by our High Commissioner Mr Arden Shillingford which was very comforting to us as he made us feel very comfortable, welcomed us all and reassured us of his support and the support of the Office of the High Commission. He was very well dressed in his winter coat etc, and he looked strange to me as I had not physically seen anyone dressed in that manner. He was wearing a bola hat, winter coat, gloves, a scarf around his neck and carrying an umbrella which looked like a walking stick. Indeed, we were all ill prepared for the weather as we came to understand that it was mid-winter, and we were wearing very little clothing to keep us warm.

On disembarking the ship which was home for the last 14 days was certainly a bit of an anti-climax to our great expectation as we all expected to see bright sunshine and a similar atmosphere to what we left behind. We were now on terra firma in England, it was very

cold, dull, grey, and gloomy and we were poorly clad for the winter season as this was January.

After clearing immigration, we were ushered to the train and the journey to Waterloo station was a treasured experience as I had only seen train in pictures and in the movies so, to be on a train traveling at seventy miles an hour was very exciting. The end of the train journey was Waterloo Station which I found to be bit dingy, but I was delighted when I saw my brother Earl (who I had not seen for 10 years) waiting for me. We made our way to Peckham where I stayed with his family. Three days later I started working for Lyons as a kitchen porter at a teashop in the Strand. This had been all arranged by the recruiting agency prior to me leaving Dominica. I continued working there for just over a year after which I started looking for other opportunities and alternative accommodations.

Finding myself at a disadvantage academically, I made the decision to remedy this, and made enquires at an adult education school which had a banner that read BRUSH UP YOUR ENGLISH. I said to myself this is the place for me. On enrolling I was given a test questionnaire to complete. This I completed to the astonishment of the lecturer. Dear boy he said to me, you are in the wrong place, he took me to one side and said to me, "you see all these people sitting there, they cannot read or write". I was surprised as they were mostly white English people.

With that, I was guided to a technical college in Lewisham where I completed seven years of studies and obtained an Electrical Technician Engineers' Certificate. During the years of schooling, I did various factory jobs, and trying to find employment in the electrical field was an uphill struggle. It was a closed shop. You had to have a union ticket to get the job and you had to have a job before you could get the union ticket. A

situation which I found to be most perplexing.

In my effort to enter the electrical industry, after receiving information that there are vacancies in the city of London area, a letter was given to me to take to an office manager on one of the floors in the building. I arrived at the office building on the day and time advised. On arrival I was sent from one building to another, from one department to another and was on the march all morning to no avail. Taking a pause to calm myself at the nearby Monument station, it dawned on me that today is all fool's day, and I was the fool for that day. I felt very dejected and taught to myself how malicious these men were.

After a long struggle I finally got a job as an electrician working on the flyover which started from Marylebone to White City and then onto Shepherds bush. I continued working in the electrical industry until I retired in 2011.

My family.

In the late sixties, at a chance encounter whilst visiting at the Brook hospital in Woolwich, I met a young and very attractive nurse on her way home coming off duty. She looked so elegant in her uniform her cape flowing as she strolled down the hospital corridor, and I could not help noticing her highly polished shoes. We started talking and I thought to myself how intelligent she was. Over the months after some persistence, we started dating and to my amazement, I learnt that she had arrived on the same ship that I came on, the Irpinia, from Trinidad, one year before my arrival. As destiny would have it, we got married and my wife was a great inspiration to me as she supported me in all my endeavours. We had our own family, three children and now six grandchildren.

In those early days our struggles were no different to other immigrants, poor housing,

no inside toilets, and we had to make use of the public baths as necessary. Just imagine in this great country there were houses with no inside toilet and no baths. Trying to find accommodation was also difficult (rooms to let no blacks etc.). The wages in the sixties were not very good as I earned nine pounds a week and had to pay five pounds a week for rent. Thankfully, things have greatly improved over the years.

The Electrician.

Over the years I worked as an electrician on various building sites, promoted to the ranks of approved electrician and Electrical Technician and became a member of The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). When the opportunity came, I left the building/construction site and entered the field of building services as a maintenance engineer, promoted to a supervisor with

responsibilities as an Electrical Authorised Person responsible for the High voltage systems (11 KV) throughout office buildings, and in my latter years after obtaining NVQ5 qualifications in Management studies, was promoted to Contract Manager, responsible for several commercial buildings and staff throughout London. I feel very proud that in my position, I was able to give employment to several Dominicans and others in my role as a manager.

Yes, I have met negativity and I cannot deny encountering endemic racism as well as being met with a type of discrimination by some Africans and some Jamaicans. In conclusion, I have met a great number of good people, managed to transcend all negativity and I am appreciative of all the support and help that I have received, very proud of my achievements and I am sure that my parents would also be very proud.

Reginald A Hector

Our ex-chairperson Awarded at general meeting.



We are pleased to announce the presentation of a plaque to Joseph Vidal for his services as the chairperson of the association from 2013 to 2022. Mr Vidal will remain as an ordinary member as he has stated for the foreseeable future but has promised to continue assisting when necessary. The association says many thanks to Vidal and wishes him well in all his future endeavours.

LIFE

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone except her loving boyfriend. He is always there for her. She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend. One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her, then she could see everything, including her boyfriend. Her boyfriend asked her, "now that you can see the world, would you marry me? The girl was shocked when she saw the boyfriend was also blind and refused to marry him. Her boyfriend walked away in tears, and later wrote a letter to her saying, " just take care of my eyes, dear".

This is how the human brain changes when the status changed. Only a few remember what life was before, and who has always been there, even in the most painful situations.

Life is a gift. Today, before you think of saying an unkind word, think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food; think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife; think of someone who is crying out to God for a companion. Today, before you complain about life; think of someone who died too early.

Before you complain about your children, think of someone who desires children, but they are barren.

Before you argue about your dirty house or someone didn't clean or sweep, think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance you drive, think of someone who walks the same distance on their feet

And when you are tired and complain about your job; think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had your job.

But before you think of pointing a finger or condemning another; remember that not one of us is without sin and we all answer to one Maker.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down; put a smile on your face and thank God you are alive and still around.

Life is a Gift, live it, enjoy it, celebrate it and fulfil it.

***As we think of Easter, let's be reminded of what the sacrifice means to us.
Have a blessed Easter.***

Ethelca Brand (OBE, MBE, MSA)

DONA – Easter Wordsearch

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

Christmas word List: --- Have fun; 40 words to find. Play: Horizontal, Vertical and Diagonal.

Spring, Cleaning Snowdrops, Daffodils, Nesting, Birds, Easter, Bonny, Eggs, Risen, Jesus, Apostles, Mary, Chocolate, Church, Cross, lent, Ashes, Praying, Crucifixion, Fish, Fasting, Sunrise, Frost, King, Tomb, Pilate, Judgement, Seamless, Soldiers, Joseph, Simon, Colt, Jerusalem, Calvary, Eclipse, Temple, Caiaphas, Nazareth, Emmaus.

OUR HISTORY

Volume No. 1 Issue No. 30 - Monday, October 21, 2002

Aves Island a Strategic Island in the Caribbean Sea Should Dominica Stake a Claim to the Island?

by Thomson Fontaine

There has been much discussion over the years in Dominica about its claim or lack thereof to Birds Island. Former Prime Ministers Patrick John and Roosevelt Douglas had both expressed interest in the Island. Speculation was heightened last year when the CARICOM heads of government indicated that they may be willing to back up Dominica's claims to the Island. However, to date the government of Dominica has not indicated whether it will pursue any such claim.

Birds or Aves Island, as it is called by the Spanish, is a famed bird sanctuary and is said by some to be rich in oil. Most of the people arguing in favour of Dominica staking a claim to the Island have pointed out that at approximately 180 miles west of Dominica, it is well within its territorial boundaries. Birds Island is the most isolated Island in the Caribbean Sea and is very strategically located.

Upon gaining its independence from Spain in 1821, Venezuela lay claim to Birds Island, which lies approximately 600 miles northeast of Caracas, the Venezuelan capital. At that time however, no attempt was made to inhabit the Island. Approximately 1000 meters long and 400 meters wide, Birds Island is made up mostly of sand and coral. Several rare bird species survive on the Island and in 1972, it was named a Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary by the government of Venezuela.

Birds Island has an intriguing history. In 1587 the Island was spotted by Spanish adventurer Avaro Sanzze, who claimed it on behalf of Spain and named it Isla de Aves (Birds Island). At that time however, no formal possession of the Island was made by the Spanish, and it was not inhabited.

The Island was later to change possession between the British, the Spanish, the Portuguese and later the Dutch. In 1878 the Guano & Copra Company of America, inhabited the island, built up some wooden houses and mined guano (a bird fertilizer) until 1912 when the bird manure was practically exhausted.

In 1979, the Venezuelan government erected a coast guard station and listening post on the island. Today, it is used as a military base, and the Venezuelan military exercises strict control over the island, with visitors requiring a special permit from the Venezuelan military. For the most part, only Venezuelans have been allowed to visit the Island. Local Dominican fishermen have reported rich fishing waters around the island, which are regularly patrolled by the Venezuelan coast guard.

To date, no government official has spoken out publicly about Dominica's interest in Birds Island, and it is yet to be determined if any action on the matter is planned by the authorities.

Britain's Slave Owner Compensation Loan, reparations, and tax havenry

It's hard to believe but it was only in 2015 that, according to the Treasury, British taxpayers finished 'paying off' the debt which the British government incurred in order to compensate British slave owners in 1835 because of the abolition of slavery. Abolition meant their profiteering from human misery would (gradually) come to an end. Not a penny was paid to those who were enslaved and brutalised.

The British government borrowed £20 million to compensate slave owners, which amounted to a massive 40 percent of the Treasury's annual income or about 5 percent of British GDP. The loan was one of the largest in history.

We wanted to find out which financial institutions were involved in this loan, so I sent two Freedom of Information requests to the UK Treasury and the Bank of England about it. I received two responses, which I'll detail later, but the names and details of those creditors and investors remain frustratingly out of sight. If you feel you have the skills and time to help us continue the search, please get in touch. As the [toppling of the statue celebrating slave trader Edward Colston by Black Lives Matter protestors in Bristol](#) shows (after years of trying to have it removed, placed in a museum, and being ignored) it's never been more painfully apparent that, as [Kris Manjapra](#) writes,

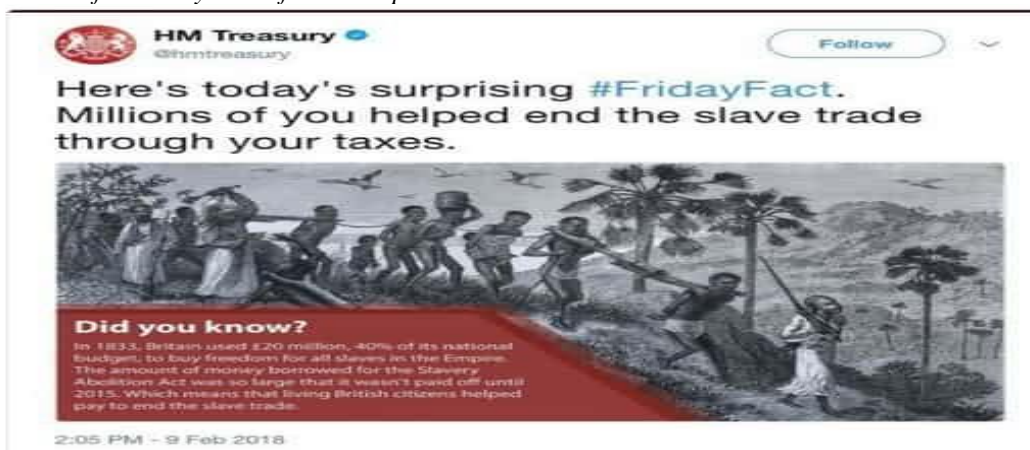
legacies of slavery continue to shape life for the descendants of the formerly enslaved, and for everyone who lives in Britain, whatever their origin. The legacies of slavery in Britain are not far off; they are in front of our eyes every single day."

[Kris Manjapra](#)'s article, along with the work of historian [David Olusoga](#) inspired this blog, our investigations, and our Freedom of Information requests on this subject.

British taxpayers would never have discovered they'd completed these loan repayments in 2015 if someone in the British Government's Treasury Department hadn't posted this on its official Twitter channel to its hundreds of thousands of followers:

The tweet was subsequently deleted, but not before this insult, and the secret was out, which David Olusoga [writes about here](#). Here's one of the responses to that Treasury tweet he includes:

For more of this story and information please check online.



Commonwealth Day 2023 Message from The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General



We gather as a Family of Nations to celebrate Commonwealth Day for the first time since the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty was a remarkable person, who lived a remarkable life. Through her seven decades of service as Head of the Commonwealth, in a rapidly changing world, she was the epitome of duty, stability, wisdom and grace.

Her late Majesty loved the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth loved her.

In our sadness at her passing, our admiration for all that she was, and our enduring gratitude for all that she gave us, we can all take heart from the fact that her vision for the Commonwealth, as an equal partnership of nations and races, has come to fruition.

As we look to the challenges and opportunities of the world today, and seek to shape our common future, we warmly

welcome His Majesty King Charles III for his first Commonwealth Day as the new Head of the Commonwealth.

His Majesty has said many times that our Family of Nations has been a cornerstone of his life, and as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter, we share his conviction – and that of all Commonwealth leaders – that the values and aspirations it enshrines must not simply represent words on a page, but the lived experience of all.

Today, the Commonwealth stands as a voluntary association of 56 independent sovereign states, spread across five continents and six oceans. At 2.5 billion people, 60 per cent of whom are under the age of 30, we encompass around a third of the world's population.

Each Commonwealth country is different, with different histories, different circumstances, and different experiences.

But each is united in active, engaged membership of the modern Commonwealth, bound by the blend of practical advantages, common interests and shared values which makes our Family of Nations so special.

I believe profoundly that our unique qualities and advantages mean that the Commonwealth in 2023 is not simply a part of the international system, it is a beacon within it. These qualities shine in the fact that, with a multilateral system under strain, the Commonwealth is growing, precisely because of what we stand for and what we can deliver.

The values and aspirations of our Charter, and their application in the Commonwealth and the wider world, are enduring – but they are at their most important during difficult times.

In a world experiencing serious economic, environmental and security challenges, and profound social and technological change, they offer us a clear path forward for principled and purposeful collective action to break down the barriers which confront us, and build a better future for everyone.

Just as the Commonwealth stood together in the face of apartheid, and warned of the threats of environmental breakdown as long as 34 years ago, we stand together now to face the challenges of the moment, and seize the opportunities of tomorrow.

Where there is violence and conflict, we work for peace.

Where there is insecurity, we protect the culture, process and institutions of democracy.

Where there is poverty, we tackle it.

Where there is injustice, we challenge it.

Where our brothers and sisters have their lives threatened and disrupted by the impacts of climate change, we stand with them, working tirelessly for climate action and a more sustainable world.

And at every turn, we work together to deliver a better future for the 1.5 billion young people of the Commonwealth.

The friendships and partnerships which have developed over decades mean that no Commonwealth country, or citizen, stands alone.

As we have shown so many times, when we stand together there is no storm we cannot weather, no challenge we cannot overcome, and no opportunity we cannot seize. I believe profoundly that our family of 56 nations and 2.5 billion people is stronger, more vibrant, more connected and more purposeful than ever.

So, on this tenth anniversary of our Charter, as we renew our commitment to its values and to each other, let us resolve together to ensure that in the years to come, we make the peaceful and sustainable common future we all strive for a reality for the whole Commonwealth.

I wish everyone, in every part of our Family of Nations, a peaceful, joyous and purposeful Commonwealth Day.

Work Plan 2023 (Subject to change)

Month	Date	Time	Item/Event	Venue
January	Saturday 14	TBC	<u>New Years Party</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8 4PD</u>
January	Sunday 15th	3.00 pm	<u>General Meeting,</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8 4PD</u>
January	Saturday 28	3.00pm	<u>Executive Meeting</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
February	Wed. 8th	8.00 pm	Ad Hoc Executive Meeting	Zoom
February	Sunday 12th	3pm	General meeting	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8 4PD</u>
February	Saturday 25	3.00 pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
March	<u>Wed. 22nd</u>	8pm	AD Hoc Executive Meeting	<u>Zoom</u>
March	<u>Friday 24th</u>		Newsletter issued	
March	<u>Saturday 25th</u>	3pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
April	<u>Sunday 16th</u>	3.00 PM	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
April	<u>Saturday 22</u>	3pm	<u>Executive meeting</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
April	<u>Saturday 29th</u>	3:00 pm	<u>Trustees Meeting</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
May	Saturday 13 th		Dona Seminar TBC	TBC
May	Wed. 17 th	8.00 pm	Ad Hoc Executive meeting	Zoom
May	Saturday 27 th	3.00 pm	Executive meeting	Zoom
June	Saturday 17 th	11.00 a	Sponsored Walk	TBC
June	Friday 23 rd		Newsletter Issued	
June	Sunday 25 th	3.00 pm	AGM Meeting	33 Brougham Road Hackney E8
June	Wed. 28 th	8.00pm	Ad Hoc Executive Meeting	Zoom
July	Friday 7 th	6pm	DONA anniversary celebration	TBC
July	Saturday 15 th	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
August	Saturday 5 th	7:30am	Seaside Day Trip	BOTANY BAY
August	Sunday 20 th	1.00 pm	25 th Family Funday	North Acton playing fields
Sept.	Sunday 10 th	3.00Pm	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
Sept.	Saturday 16	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
Sept.	Friday 22 nd		Newsletter issued	
October	Saturday 7 th	3:00 pm	Executive Meeting	Zoom
October	<u>Sunday -29th</u>	<u>3.00 Pm</u>	<u>Independence Mass</u>	<u>TBC</u>
November	<u>Saturday 11th</u>	<u>3.00 pm</u>	<u>Executive Meeting</u>	<u>Zoom</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 -12</u>	<u>3.00 pm</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
December	<u>Saturday 9th</u>	<u>7.00 Pm</u>	<u>Christmas party</u>	<u>TBC</u>
December	<u>Friday 15</u>		<u>Newsletter issued</u>	

Property for Sale in Dominica



For sale free hold property in the town of Roseau, Goodwill, in the Commonwealth of Dominica West Indies containing two dwellings.

Unit one containing two-bedroom, dining room, kitchen bathroom and toilet.

Unit two containing one-bedroom, dining room, kitchen, toilet, and bathroom.

Price is reasonable as this part of Roseau is a fast developing. First come first serve.

D.O.N.A.
SEASIDE DAY TRIP TO
Botany Bay
SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2023

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN LOVING DAY

PICK UP POINTS:
ACTON TOWN HALL: 07.45AM | HACKNEY TOWN HALL: 08.30AM

NON MEMBERS: £26.00 MEMBERS: £22.00 CHILDREN OVER 5 YRS: £18.00

CONTACT US ON:
020 8992 0142 | 07932 702 072 | 07982 644 395

The poster features the D.O.N.A. logo (Dominica Overseas Nationals Association) and The Triangle Connection logo. It includes several circular images showing people enjoying a beach day, a house, and a beach scene.

Come join us

D.O.N.A.'s 45th Anniversary
Annual Family
Fun Day **£5 ENTRY**

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The poster features the D.O.N.A. logo and The Triangle Connection logo. It includes several circular images showing people enjoying a family day, a beach scene, and a group of people.

News From Home

FOLLOWS

“New look Cabinet of Ministers of Dominica and associated Parliamentary Secretaries

Dominica News Online



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit earlier this evening announced his new Cabinet of Ministers and associated Parliamentary Secretaries following the Dominica Labour Party’s victory in the Dec 6 general elections.

The new Cabinet is listed below.

Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit

Prime Minister and Minister for Investment and Governance.

Hon. Dr. Irving McIntyre

Minister for Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security.

Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson

Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy.

Senator Rayburn Blackmoore

Minister for National Security and Legal Affairs.

Hon. Cassanni Laville

Minister for Health, Wellness and Social Services.

Hon. Melissa Poponne-Skerrit

Minister for Housing and Urban Development.

Hon. Roland Royer

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy.

Hon. Denise Charles

Minister for Tourism.

Hon. Fidel Grant

Minister for Public Works, Public Utilities and Digital Economy.

Hon. Miriam Blanchard

Minister for Labour, Public Service Reform, Social Partnership, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development.

Hon. Gretta Roberts

Minister for Culture, Youth, Sports and Community Development.

Hon. Cozier Frederick

Minister for the Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment.

Hon. Octavia Alfred

Minister for Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence.

Hon. Daren Pinard

Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour, Public Service Reform, Social Partnership Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development with specific responsibility for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development.

Hon Jullan Defoe

Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy with specific responsibility for Fisheries and Blue Economy.

Senator Hon. Oscar George

Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Community Development, with specific responsibility for Youth and Sports.

Hon. Chekira Lockhart- Hypolite

Minister of State in the Ministry of Public Works, Public Utilities and Digital Economy, with specific responsibility for Public Utilities, Telecoms and Broadcasting.

Hon. Dr. Cassandra Williams

Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services, with special responsibility for Seniors Security, Children at Risk, Gender Affairs and the Differently Abled.

Hon. Fenella Wenham

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Planning, Vocational Training and National Excellence, with specific responsibility for Education Reform and Human Resource Development.

Hon. Darron Lloyd

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment with specific responsibility for Constituency Empowerment.

Hon. LaKeyia Joseph

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, with specific responsibility for Development of Community Agro Enterprises.

Senator Kent Edwards

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services with particular responsibility for Community and Home Care.

It is my intention, at the first sitting of Parliament, to nominate Mr. Joseph Issac to serve, for a second term, as The Honorable Speaker in the House of Assembly.

Senator Phillip Rolle will also be nominated as Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly.

The fifth Government Senator in the Parliament of Dominica shall be Mr. Austel Lockhar

Energy Minister reports geothermal project in Laudat progressing ‘quicker than expected’.



Dominica News Online

Dr. Vince Henderson
Minister for Energy Dr. Vince Henderson led a delegation on a special site visit to the Geothermal Development Project in Laudat this week to witness the progress made on the project thus far.

The Geothermal project has reached a new phase with the completion of the well for backup production.

“It’s a very exciting time for us, the fact that we have gotten to this stage quicker than expected...,” he said. “It was estimated that it would take 47 days, but it actually took them 37 days to get to this point.”

Dr. Henderson continued, “And the fact that we did not have to go deeper than 1385 meters this is great news, so we have gotten to a stage where the contractors have said to us, yes this is it, we think we have found it, but it has to be tested in order to determine the quality and the quantity of the resource that is available here.”

He pointed out that 10 megawatts is already being generated from the wells at P1, closer to the village.

“We have a well there with 10 megawatts and we have a smaller well about 2 megawatts,” Dr. Henderson explained. “So we have enough, enough steam to be able to construct a 10 megawatt power plant.”

He added, “For this well, the results will tell us how far we can go without having to drill another well.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Henderson said this means that the electricity/energy problem can be solved right here, “these wells we have already drilled.”

“We can provide power to meet all of our demands and with an increase, even with an international airport, and new hotels, we can generate at least 20 megawatts from what we have already drilled,” Dr. Henderson revealed.

Dominica placed 4th as “least corrupt country in Caribbean by Transparency International” TI

The 2022 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Report has placed Dominica in 4th place as the “least corrupt country in the Caribbean.”

The overall ranking of Caribbean states on the CPI:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Barbados | 8. Jamaica |
| 2. The Bahamas | 9. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 3. St Vincent and the Grenadines | 10. Guyana |
| 4. Dominica | 11. Suriname |
| 5. St Lucia | 12. The Dominican Republic |
| 6. Grenada | 13. Haiti |
| 7. Cuba | |

St Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, and Belize were not on the list. The second least corrupt Caribbean country was The Bahamas with a score of 64 and an overall place of 30. Haiti was the lowest-ranked Caribbean state with a score of 17 and an overall rank of 171, which it shared with four countries including North Korea. The least corrupt state on the 2022 CPI was Denmark, which received a score of 90.

Austrian company contracted to build Dominica’s historic cable car project.

Dominica News Online - Wednesday, March 1st, 2023



Austrian ropeways and cable cars manufacturer, Doppelmayr Group has been contracted to build the 6.6-kilometre-long (4.1-mile) gondola/cable car project in the Roseau Valley, which upon completion is expected to be the longest in the world.

At a press conference on Monday, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit verified the

information, noting that due to the few firms engaged in the building of such projects globally, his government chose the Austrian company, which is regarded as one of the best in the industry.

“This is a very highly reputable company. I met with the principals [owners] last year when they came to Dominica,” he declared.

“What’s happening as far as I understand, “Skerrit added “is that the bases and so forth will be constructed and then all of the components will come in from Austria and will be mounted up so that there is a quicker installation in the process of this.”

Upset residents of SpringHill Estate, Laudat informed Dominica News Online (DNO) last year that they discovered that their property would soon be taken from them after a

foreigner entered their property without permission and began conducting surveys.

A few weeks later, a letter from the Land and Survey Division stating that the government was interested in purchasing their land for the Detachable Monocable Cable Car project brought about the first official confirmation from the government of Dominica, for roughly seven local residents.

Although the landowners could not be reached for a further update as of the time of publication, Prime Minister Skerrit stated at the same press conference that his government has contacted the individuals.

“I know initially, because of an absence of information, the persons who had reservations about it, having engaged them one on one in small groups, there was a greater appreciation for the overall importance of the project to the Roseau Valley and of course, the wider country and our tourism offering and on tourism product,” he said.

Skerrit agreed that increased public involvement and information sharing from his government is required going forward on initiatives of this magnitude.

“I think there has been a lapse on the part of the government because so many things happen in this country,” the country’s leader stated.

“I guess maybe it’s not our style to boast about what we’re doing because we were working and

working and keep working. But I think we have to take time to share more with the Dominican public and engage them more on what we’re doing so that people have a greater appreciation for what’s happening in Dominica.”

Denise Charles, Dominica’s Tourism Minister dubbed the US\$54 million project as critical in 2022, noting that it will feature Dominica as a “major tourist destination as many people will be excited to come and visit the second-largest boiling lake in the world.”

She said the project is being undertaken by ABL Holdings—whose website states is among the world’s most successful companies in terms of residence and citizenship by investment—with the government having a 15 percent stake.

The Associate Times reported that Outdoor Engineers, (a European company based in Switzerland) conducted a feasibility survey in Dominica, which revealed that the completion of the cable car project would result in a three-fold increase in the country’s tourism.

The 10-passenger detachable gondola would provide visitors with a “fast, reliable and comfortable means of visiting the national park in less than 20 minutes,” according to the international website “Zenger” which first announced on August 29, 2022, that the Doppelmayr had been hired to build the project by 2024.

Hospitality and shopping facilities focusing on the Caribbean island’s distinctive local features will be incorporated at the bottom station, according to the Austrian company.

The Austrian corporation’s website states that at the bottom station, there will be integrated hospitality and retail facilities emphasising Dominica’s unique local characteristics, while a café with a panoramic terrace, a viewing platform, and a six-meter (19-foot) statue of Dominica’s national bird, the Sisserou Parrot, will also be located near the top station.

Several international workers expected to arrive on island to build international airport; jobs will be available for locals vows PM.

Dominica News Online - Thursday, March 2nd, 2023



Computer-generated image of welcome sign at proposed international airport.

In the upcoming days, several international workers from countries such as the People's Republic of China, The United States, Spain, and other parts of the world will arrive on island to engage their service in the construction of the international airport.

This disclosure was made by Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit who noted that the project's enormity necessitates the importation of a variety of skill sets and competencies, which are not available in Dominica, or that the country may not have at capacity.

Some of which he highlighted include airport construction, airport designs, and airport engineering.

"But at the end of the day we have to recognize that a project of that magnitude, you will never have enough competencies in the country to really move it forward. I mean, never," he declared. "You can study airports that have been built for the Caribbean and you will recognize that all of these countries, no matter the size of the population, they have had to bring workers from out of the country to assist."

"And so...this is nothing new," the prime minister continued. "We're not breaking ground in Dominica, where this is concerned. There is no innovation in Dominica by bringing people to assist the construction of the airport."

The head of government vowed to the nation that there will be employment opportunities for Dominicans who wish to apply for the jobs that are opening up and urged the skilled workers to avail themselves, adding that there is no need for controversy.

"As a matter of fact, there are several residents of Woodford Hill and Wesley, who have been engaged on the site and many of them have left the National Employment Program and moved to the airport project, and there'll be [significantly] more who will be employed from across the country," he said.

Skerrit went on to say that the long-awaited airport project is set to begin "in earnest" since the contractor, Chinese company CR5, has started mobilising.

As further highlighted, heavy equipment for the construction of the airport is expected to arrive this week and the former Public Works site in Good Will is being prepared as a staging ground for that equipment.

“One can well appreciate that a project of this magnitude will require a large quantity of equipment, which is not readily available in Dominica at the moment. We simply do not have the capacity. However, I wish to make it fundamentally clear that this does not preclude the engagement of local contractors and owners of heavy equipment who will have access to jobs during the life of this project,” he further avowed.

According to the prime minister, the construction of over 30 homes, to relocate residents to the new Joe Burton development, the clearing of portions of the land, the construction of offices, and the construction of a lab were all done using the talent, skills, and equipment of local people during the preparation phases.

He, therefore, urged all citizens to “reject the efforts of the enemies of progress, who will seek to cast doubt and undermine this process.”

“The movements you have seen are positive indications, positive indications that the airport project is taking off. And that we will begin to see increased economic activity centred in the North, Northeast of the island, and indeed, the entire country. So, for those who say that the airport will not happen, it is unfolding. And by God’s grace, the airport will be built in the Commonwealth of Dominica,” Skerrit declared.



Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

DONA’s MEMBERS PARTY

Saturday 17TH JUNE 2023

33 Brougham Road, Hackney London E8 4PD

All members and friends are cordially invited.

No charge. 6.00pm to 11.00pm

Celebrating our 45th Anniversary



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

Sharon 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

DONA sends condolence to the family of Mrs Eudora Shaw who passed away in February 2023. She was the wife of the late President his Excellency Mr Vernon Shaw.
May she Rest in Peace.

DOMINICA OVERSEA NATIONALS' ASSOCIATION (DONA)

11 Nemoure Road, Acton London W3 6NZ

DONA (Charities No. 279643)

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

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Many thanks.

