

THE SISSEROU VOICE

Vwa Siséwou



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Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

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Summer Edition

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

EDITORIAL

Dear members and friends.

We are pleased to present the June edition of the newsletter, the Sisserou Voice.

As transparently evident the coronavirus is still with us as we continue to see and hear of the misfortune caused here in the UK and overseas. Having said this it is most important that we try to remain positive as we are seeing the subtle changes that engenders hope, that the end is looming, as we begin to see the effects of the vaccine rollout.

Obviously, we are still in some form of lockdown but encouragingly, we now see the lifting of restriction regarding meeting with family and friends and of travel.

It is obvious that this pandemic has had a devastating effect on lives, livelihoods and businesses as we continue to witness these effects in people that we know and love.

This pandemic is describe as fighting a war as it has certainly taken its toll leaving bereavement, and families to pick up the pieces.

Unfortunately, in parallel with this coronavirus there are in some parts of the world active arms conflicts, political instabilities and injustices causing human calamities, an example of the death caused by the racially motive killing of George Floyd and others in the USA.

In spite of all this melancholy we live in hope that good will prevail and a degree of harmony will return to us all in the near future. At this time, we are looking forward to summer and the optimism that this season brings, the lovely warm sunshine the beautiful floral gardens, the greenery and all the amazing colours of plant life with their wonderful fragrance and blooms.

As you all are aware DONA (as with many other organisations) at this present time, are not able to do any fundraising or other social activity, but we are hopeful that with the approaching of the end of restrictions we will resume some form of normality.

We were planning to hold the AGM (virtual meeting) via a Zoom meeting on the 25th of June and it was hoped that many of you would be able to participate on the day. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled. With the announcement of the lifting of the current restrictions, we are now planning to hold the physical meeting in August when new executive members will be elected.

In spite of all that has taking place over the last year, DONA has continued to hold its own and we are pleased to inform you that we are in the process of dispatching charitable items to Dominica which will include computers for schools, items for the infirmary and an Oven Range to CHANGES the children's home for disadvantage children.

It is most pleasing to report to you that your executive committee had been relentless working to keep the Association afloat. This I must say is as a result of their dedication and that powerful entity, Love.

Reg Hector (PRO)

Chairman's Annual Report to the Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

AGM

Sunday 27th June 2021

Introduction

I was elected your chairman at the last AGM, and Biennial Election of Officers on Sunday 12th May 2013. This is my 8th Chairs Report.

For the past seven years I have chaired almost every executive and general meeting. I have learnt a great deal in this role but have also found it to be quite challenging. However, working alongside a great executive committee has been a very good learning process for me.

Fundraising

This year with the COVID-19 pandemic which has hit the world, we were unable to actively raise funds for the past 18 months, except for our membership fees, and some passive income from PayPal and social media towards our Stove Appeal it has been very slow this year.

Fun Day

For the second year running we had to cancel our annual fun day which is one of our biggest fund-raising events.

Newsletter

Our Sisserou Voice Newsletter is going out to all association members on a quarterly basis. Sincere thanks to Mr Reg Hector for all his hard work as our PRO/Communications Officer.

Let me take this opportunity to encourage everyone to continue to send in articles which will be considered for publication.

Membership

We have seen a decline in our membership because some have returned to Dominica. Others are now elderly and can no longer take part in the Association activities, and sadly we have lost members who have passed away.

On behalf of the Executive and myself, let me take time to send sincere condolences to the families and friends of all those members we have lost this year, I pray that their dear souls rest in eternal peace.

Social Media

Our website is up and running and three of the executive members receive regular training on how to maintain the site and keep it up to date. Our face book community is growing very well, and thanks to Sylvia Smith for her work in this area.

Quadrille Dancing

Miss Hilma Alfred is leading the group under the watchful eye of Mrs. Brand. She coordinates all practice sessions and bookings. We have two new dancers added to the group and are looking for two more women and three men to be part of the group.

DONA – Aid Dominica Development Trust

Mr. Reg Hector is the Chairman of the Trust, and we meet quarterly.

The Trusts current projects include:

1. The purchase and despatch of an industrial cooker to the ‘Chances’ children home of Dominica
2. 9 refurbished PC computers for despatch to the Ministry of Education - Dominica
3. Purchase and despatch of 76 aprons and other items to the Dominica infirmary

Executive Committee vacancies

If you have some time to spare and are able to give a regular commitment, we have vacancies for an Honorary Secretary and 2 -3 Officers without portfolio. Do contact either me or Sylvia – Deputy Chairperson directly if you are interested.

Thanks and Appreciations

To the current Executive Committee for all their hard work and being there whenever I call upon them. Over the past 18 months, we have been meeting on zoom which has worked very well, and we therefore feel confident to host our AGM this year through zoom.

I pray God that we will all continue to keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Joseph Vidal

Chairman

Treasurer's Report for year ending 31 March 2021.

I hope you are keeping well and looking forward to getting together as more restrictions are being lifted, though with caution as some parts of the country is experiencing a third wave of the Indian virus (Delta) however, looking forward to some form of normality come July.

We must remember those of our members who have lost loved ones and friends and the thousands whose lives were taken during the worldwide pandemic. We thank God that in the last three months the death rate has fallen and do hope it comes to an end soon.

The past fifteen months have been particularly traumatic as Covid-19 has affected every aspect of society and like millions out there DONA have had a very unproductive year. We were unable to have any social events or fundraising which has set us back financially. Looking back on our annual income record this has been the worst for many years. Our only income was from membership and a few donations. I would like to thank all our members and Donors for their continued support.

You will off course notice in the annual report that our expenditure far exceeded our income. The reason being that we had to keep up regular expenditures for insurance, storage, lottery licence; we also made donations to the families of three members of the association who passed away. The association assisted a Dominican student who had some financial difficulties. We upgraded our website, paid to upgrade some computers which was sent to Dominica. Also, we have been using the new technology (Zoom) for Executive meeting and have paid a subscription for one year by so doing we have less interruptions during our meetings.

Lastly due to a past member reporting us to the Charities Commission we had to have the 2017/218 annual account re- examined at a cost. Thankfully we can hold our heads up high that the commission was satisfied with the submission and no further action required.

Having taken advice from the accountant to reduce the number of accounts we held. We have closed the deposit account and transfer balance to the trust account; closed the DONA Quadrille Dancer's account and transfer balance to the current account, therefore we now only have two accounts as you will observe from the annual account, please note.

The balances in the accounts are still fairly reasonable but we must not be too complacent as without further income this could easily be wiped away.

At this point I must draw your attention to the project we have undertaken, to purchase an industrial cooker for Chances the home we are supporting in Dominica. Most of you will be aware of the purchase price of £6,000 approx. from our previous mailing We have had a set back with the purchasing of the item. After completing the transaction, we were informed that that particular item is out of stock, much to our disappointment. However, if successful with the purchase this sum will be reflected in the 21/22 financial report.

Although we haven't had face to face meetings, the executive members have been meeting regularly and I would like to thank them for keeping the momentum up. Our numbers are pretty small, and I appeal to those of you who are able to become executive members for the more we are in numbers the better we shall be.

On this last note I would like to give notice, regrettable, that due to health issues, I will be stepping down as Treasurer or have any post at least for the time being but will be around in an advisory capacity as and when needed.

Thank you all for the support you have given me and the association over the years.

God bless.

Ethelca Brand OBE, MBE, MSA

DONA end of year account 31/03/21

Income

Donations	310.00
Membership	255.00
Chances	250.00
Dona quadrille dancers	<u>110.00</u>
	925.00
Transfer from DQD a/c	<u>2047.16</u>
	2972.16

Expenditure

Donations	800.00
Printing	345.57
Insurance	176.72
storage	494.15
Website	750.06
Lotery licence	20.00
Postage	5.57
Computer upgrade for Dom	102.20
Accountant fees	385.00
Zoom	<u>143.88</u>
	3223.15
I/E	<u>925.00</u>
	2298.15

Openin balance	5643.29	
	2298.15	
	<u>3345.14</u>	3345.14
Transfer to A/c		<u>2047.16</u>
Closing balance 31/3/21		<u>5392.30</u>

Aid Dominica Development Trust

Opening balance 1/4/20	16979.51
Interest	<u>6.41</u>
	16985.92
Transfer from Deposit a/c	<u>9774.52</u>
Closing balance 31/3/21	<u>26760.44</u>

[Accounts subject to ratification by the general meeting](#)

AGM 2021 PRO Report

It is unfortunate that we are unable to hold any form of public meeting as a result of restrictions imposed on us because of the corona virus pandemic.

As you may be aware, there are still vacant positions on the executive committee and as a result, incumbent executive committee members have had to undertake various tasks to ensure the functioning and continuation of the association. In that regard I give thanks to Dr Sylvia Smith who is the Vice chair and has also taken onboard the secretarial duties. Indeed, our Matriarch Mrs Brand continues to be all things to the association, and we are all grateful for her continued valued assistance. Having said this over the past year the current executive has done a splendid job in supporting our organization.

In addition to being the PRO of the association I am also a trustee of DONA's charitable trust and with members of the trust, must ensure that all undertakings are done within the spirit of the Trust and with compliance to the rules of the UK Charities Commission.

The duties of the PRO could be very taxing as we see the expanse of social media and come to realised what a struggle it can be to continually update information. Within that medium I must hold my hand up as I have not excelled as expected, although we will be making more use of our own DONA website. Notwithstanding, I am responsible for producing the association's Newsletter (The Sisserou Voice) and I do hope that all who received it have found it to be informative. As regards to feedback, indications are that the newsletter is a lifeline to our members especially those who are housebound.

The quality of the product is also reliant on the contribution made by others, and I give thanks to all those who have assisted me in making your newsletter stimulating.

Printing have proved to be costly as we do not have our own commercial printer, especially having to sometimes print in colour. This said, extra contributions from members in that respect, would be appreciated seeing that our funds are being depleted as a result of restrictive fundraising activities.

With respect to multitasking, I have also undertaken to assist the treasurer when necessary and most surprisingly using zoom have proved invaluable. Utilizing that system, we were able to work together to resolve the outstanding 2018 account which had to be resubmitted to the Charities Commission, as a result of a complaint made by one of our members to the UK Charity authorities. This element was successfully concluded to the satisfaction of the Charities Commission and have now been given conformation that all is now in order.

I am pleased to say that regardless of the corona virus pandemic and the imposed restrictions, the Association continues to carry out its charitable functions and can verify that we are currently holding our own.

R A Hector (PRO)

Lock Down Walkers

Sylvia Smith

Last year 2020 when this thing hit us, I started walking incessantly - it was a way to keep sane and keep moving, I walked, walked and walked. Often, I would listen to; Audio books which was great, podcasts were also a favourite listen, much of the material supported my reflections and overall mental health and wellbeing. Then a netball mate joined me, and we walked together weekly, the next thing we knew, more ladies from our netball days joined us and we've been walking together consistently at least 2-4 times a week. It's been great, we've covered miles; local pavements and discovered so many local green spaces. We chat about our week, our children (many of whom are adults) work and a lot more besides. It's been a real treat. We've maintained our weekly walks throughout all the seasons: rain, snow and sunshine. It's been lovely to discover all the local places and so much more. We include little challenges to help us keep boredom at bay, one of which was contributing to the 'Chances Stove Appeal' and I'd just like to publicly thank those wonderful women for their contributions, good humour and resilience throughout these difficult challenging and difficult times – well done girls.



DONA DONATES COMPUTER TO SCHOOLS IN DOMINICA.

In its continuing effort to assist our Island, DONA has dispatched 9 computers and associated accessories to be distributed to schools in Dominica. This has gone to the Ministry of Education who will make the appropriate decision as to where they are to be allocated. In addition to the computers, much needed items such as reusable aprons and other items were also dispatched to the Roseau infirmary for distribution amongst the inmates. (RH)

www.gov.uk/guidance/free-course-for-jobs

Free courses for jobs in the England

Details of the free courses and qualifications for adults (19+) available through the Lifetime Skills Guarantee including eligibility criteria and how to apply. From: [Department for Education](#)

Published

1 April 2021

Last updated

10 May 2021

Overview

As part of the Prime Minister's [Lifetime Skills Guarantee](#), if you are 19 or over you can now access a course for free. This is part of the government's Plan for Jobs. There are 2 options available to you under the Lifetime Skills Guarantee. **Free level 3 qualifications**

If you are 19 or over and do not already have a [full level 3 qualification](#) (equivalent to an advanced technical certificate or diploma, or A levels) you can now access a free qualification.

Some of these qualifications are available to study online or part-time. The courses will help you:

- gain qualifications that are needed and valued by employers
- improve your job prospects
- progress in work
- earn a good wage

Skills Bootcamps

Skills Bootcamps offer free, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks, an opportunity to build up specialist skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer.

They are available to you if you are aged 19 or over and are either in work or

recently unemployed (some Skills Bootcamps have additional eligibility criteria). Skills Bootcamps are developed in partnership with employers, colleges and local authorities, to help people develop the skills that are in demand in their local area and get a better job. They include a range of digital courses and technical skills courses, like construction or engineering. There has been a high demand for places on the Skills Bootcamps, however, new Skills Bootcamps will be announced later in the spring. More information about eligibility, subjects available, locations and how to apply for Skills Bootcamps will be added as soon as it is available.

Eligibility: You can access one of the [free level 3 qualifications](#) if you are aged 19 or over and want to achieve your first level 3 qualification, which is equivalent to an advanced technical certificate or diploma, or A levels.

Some of these qualifications are available to study online or part-time. In some instances, you may need to meet admissions criteria for the course you chose to apply for. For example, you may need to have studied a particular subject before at a lower level. Previously, if you were aged 24 or over, you would have had to pay the course fee for these

qualifications. Now, many colleges and training providers have funding available to cover this cost for you. If you're 19 to 23 years old, you can also access additional qualifications for free. If you're in this age group, contact your local
Qualifications are initially available in:

- accounting and finance
- agriculture
- building and construction
- business management
- childcare and early years
- digital
- engineering
- environmental conservation
- health and social care
- horticulture and forestry
- manufacturing technologies
- mathematics and statistics
- medicine and dentistry
- public services
- science
- teaching and lecturing
- transportation operations and maintenance
- warehousing and distribution

college or the [National Careers Service](#) for further information. **Subjects available**
You can choose from hundreds of level 3 qualifications to help you on the path to a better, well-paid job.

See the full list of [free level 3 qualifications](#) available.

Read real-life examples of [how a free qualification could help you get ahead in work](#).

For more information, Visit : www.gov.uk/guidance/free-course-for-jobs

Appeal

Dear Members and friends

We are in the process of purchasing a much-needed cooker (Gas Range) for the Children's home (CHANCES) in Dominica.

Below is a photo of the apparatus requested by CHANCES, this being a direct replacement of the existing unit which has reached its end of life. We are treating this as a matter of urgency. The shipment of the cooker and computers to Dominica is pending, and we are appealing to all for donations to assist us in this philanthropical undertaking.

The cost of the industrial cooker (Gas Oven Range) is £7991.74 Inc. VAT.

Please send your donations to:

DONA (Charities No. 279643) at 11 Nemoure Road Acton

London W3 6NZ

For online transaction Account No. 00736435 sort Code 30 - 00 – 09

Your donations will be most appreciated.

Many thanks.



Our island History

Roseau Cathedral

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia



The **Cathedral of Our Lady of Fair Haven of Roseau**, originally known in French as *Église de Notre-Dame du Bon Port du Mouillage de Roseau*, is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Roseau, the capital city of Dominica in the Caribbean. The church is the see of the Diocese of Dominica, suffragan diocese of the Archdiocese of Castries, Saint Lucia.

The cathedral is an example of European creolisation influence in Dominica. Built in the Gothic Romanesque revival style, the Cathedral's consecration, in its present form, is dated to 1916. Though it may appear small from the outside, the interior is spacious and well lit.

While Kalinago people originally called the region *Sairi*, French woodcutters named the city Roseau, in the 18th century. *Roseau* (*reed*) is the name of the river, the town, and the cathedral. The cathedral, originally called in French "*Église de Notre-Dame du Bon Port du Mouillage de Roseau*", is popularly known as "Our Lady of Fair Haven". It was also known at one time as "Our Lady of Bon Port".

The location of the cathedral is in the southern part of the town of Roseau on the banks of the Roseau River, which assures a good water supply. The availability of a large plane of land on the south riverbank also dictated the cathedral's location. The cathedral is located to the north of the Fort Young Hotel and northeast of the Dominica Museum.

History

The church at Roseau was initially a small wood hut with a thatched roof made of locally available reed. Carib people built the cathedral in the local building tradition.

18th century

In 1727, the plot of land was first surveyed for building. Three years later, in 1730, Father Guillaume Martel established a permanent church. He planned and built 12 metres (39 ft) by 5 metres (16 ft) church made of solid wood (timber-framed and stone flooring, to meet the growing congregational needs of settlers who had come from France and occupied territory on the south coast of the island nation.

In April 1796, Agostino Brunias was buried in the Catholic cemetery, located at the site of the church.

19th century

This church survived until 1816 when it was destroyed by hurricane. The present church, which was built 24 years later, located at the same site, was also found to be inadequate to meet the growing needs of church goers. This was a result of the abolition of slavery and permitting former slaves to attend church services. Black and white people sat together to worship in the pews without discrimination. The expansion program which began took almost 100 years to complete to its present form. The additions to the cathedral started with a steeple built in 1855, followed by a wooden ceiling for the cathedral in 1865 by the Kalinagos who cut and brought simaruba trees from the northeast of Roseau; it took them three months to build the wooden ceiling. During this period, a large stone pulpit was also erected. This stone pulpit was carved by prisoners who were kept in Devil's Island (located off the coast of French Guiana). In the year 1873, at the southeast end, the Chapel of St. Joseph came to be established along with a crypt where bishops and priests could be buried. In 1853, the town and the parish had a population of 6000 Catholics. As the Catholic Ministry did not support the building activity, the Catholic community carried stones to the site to build the church. A hurricane in 1863 caused substantial damage to the cathedral, which necessitated raising funds not only for its restoration, but also for many other churches on the island, which also had been destroyed by the hurricane. Funds were raised by imposing a levy on the French planters.

20th century

Following this, refurbishing started with stained-glass windows being added to the church, and the addition of new stone pillars in 1902. The steeple was added on the western end, which was built with stones brought from the old church at Point Michael, then demolished. Building this part of the church brought symmetry to the cathedral's façade. Mention is also made that the cathedral's spire was completed in 1916.^[7] The cathedral was formally consecrated in 1925 by Bishop James Morris. After 1925, only minor additions in the form of electrical connections, a public address system and a clock have been made.

The cathedral is on Virgin Lane west of the Methodist Church. It is a stone edifice with an expansive interior. The Gothic Romanesque Revival style building is constructed of volcanic rock, both inside and out, and is built to withstand earthquakes. The bell tower is stubby with a giant clock. The windows are Gothic with stained glass in the upper section and aligned wooden shutters in the lower sections, to provide good ventilation. One of the stained-glass windows is dedicated to Christopher Columbus. The building is well maintained.

The interior of the cathedral is finely carved and has Victorian pews. There are ornate Victorian murals behind the side altars, painted by the local artists. The east and west walls have windows from the entrance to the altar. The organ in the cathedral was installed in January 1883.

DONA June word Search _____ Date: _JUNE 2021

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

Word List: ___ Have fun; 40 to find. Play: Horizontal, Vertical and Diagonal.

Holiday, Summer, Foxglove, Roses, Wimbledon, Sunshine, Blossoms, Swallows, Vacation, Gladioli, Poppies, Petunia, Cricket, Migrating, Birds, Gardening, Cocktails, Sunset, Rain, Tennis, Sunglasses, Excursion, Grass, Strawberries, Allotments, Sunflower, Barbeque, Flowers, Bees, Sprinklers, Seaside, Picnic, Rambling, Deckchair, flies, Grasshopper, Heat, Hat, Solstice, Sweetcorn.

Work Plan 2021

Month	Date	Time	Item/Event	Venue
January	Sunday -10	3.00 pm	<u>General Meeting, Thanksgiving service and New year social</u>	<u>33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8</u>
February	Saturday - 6	3.00 pm	Executive Meeting	11 Nemoure Road
March	Sunday 14	3.00 pm	Seminar on DONA -Going Forward with confidence	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
March	Friday 26		Newsletter issued	
April	Sunday -11	3.00 PM	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
April	Saturday -10	3:00pm	Trustees Meeting	11 Nemoure Rd
May	Saturday -1	7.00 pm	Nostalgia night	33 Brougham Rd E8
May	Saturday -15	3.00 pm	Executive meeting	11Nemoure Rd
May	Sunday -23	3.00Pm	AGM & Biennial Election	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
June	Saturday -5	11am	Sponsored Walk	North Acton Playing fields
June	Friday -25		Newsletter Issued	
July	Saturday -24	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	11 Nemoure Rd
August	Saturday - 07	7:30am	Seaside Day Trip	BOTANY BAY
August	Sunday -22	1.00 pm	24 th Annual Funday	North Acton playing fields
September	Sunday -12	3.00Pm	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
September	Friday -18	3.00pm	Executive Meeting	11 Nemoure Rd
September	Friday -24		Newsletter issued	
October	Sunday -10	3:00 pm	Executive Meeting	11 Nemoure Rd
October	Sunday -24	3.00 Pm	Independence Mass	TBC
November	Date TBC	4.30 pm	Evensong Service	TBC
November	Date TBC	9.00 Pm	Independence Dance	TBC
November	Sunday -7	3.00PM	General Meeting	33 Brougham Rd Hackney E8
December	Saturday - 11	7.00 Pm	Christmas party	TBC
December	Friday -10		Newsletter Issued	

This work- plan is subject to change by the Management Committee

Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

Executive offices

Chairman: Joseph P. Vidal

Deputy Chairman: Dr. Sylvia Smith

Hon. Treasurer: Ethelca Brand OBE, MBE, MSA

Membership Officer: Hilma Alfred

PR/Communications Officer: Reg Hector

Welfare Officer: Elenora Royer-Desbonne

Youth Office: Albert Lambert

News From Home

FOLLOWS

GIS Dominica

GOVERNMENT AND MMCE SIGNS CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Citizens of Dominica from all around the island all gathered at the Windsor Park Sports Stadium to witness the historic signing of a contractual agreement between the Government of Dominica and Montreal management Consultants Establishment (MMCE) for the commencement of Dominica's international Airport.

The ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2021, and was attended by Members of Cabinet, representatives of MMCE, other relevant stakeholders and members of the general public.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit stated that his has been a dream of Dominicans for a long time. "It is said that nothing happens before its time, well now is Dominica's time. We have waited, we have been patient and we have planned, and we are now on the cusp of making the dream of all Dominicans a reality. When we were dealt a devastating blow by Hurricane Maria in 2017 and we surveyed the damage and destruction all around us, who would have thought then that less than four years later we would be witnessing the signing of an agreement to undertake the single largest infrastructure project that this country has ever witnessed," Hon. Skerrit stated.



PM Skerrit noted that the contract signing is the first step in making the international airport a reality.

“Today the Government which I have had the honour to lead has delivered the first tangible and visible step towards making the international airport a reality in Dominica. Today, we see the evidence of its substance about to take shape in Dominica. After today, the airport will begin to rise out of the ground, then from the ground to the air, and I give you the solemn assurance that planes will land here direct from Europe and the United States of America in 2025,” he explained.

The Prime Minister described the occasion as ‘historic’ adding that it is a step closer to building a future filled with new opportunities for Dominica.

“This is a historic moment which will redefine the future of Dominica and its people. Today we take one step closer to fully claiming the new prosperity which will be ours. Today we create new opportunities for this country and its citizens. Today we help to secure the future our children, the children of Dominica, our children and our grandchild. Today we walk forward into the future, a future that for generations we have talked about, for generations we have dreamed about but which this generation and this Dominica Labour Party Government is now building for our people,” Hon. Skerrit added.

Senior Minister and Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Reginald Austrie noted that the airport which is being financed through the Citizenship by Investment Programme, will not be of any cost to Dominicans.

“As a Government we have vowed not to impose unnecessary financial burdens on the people of this country in our quest to construct an international airport and our Prime Minister has found a creative financial mechanism that will pare us the cost of high debt but will really be of no tax impact on the residences. This is what we promised, and this is what we will deliver, an

airport that will not increase the tax burden on the people of this country. Our dream of this airport is today drawing closer to its reality,” Hon. Austrie stated.

Minister for the Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security, and Parliamentary Representative for the Wesley Constituency, Hon. Fidel Grant explained that Dominica needs an international airport to properly compete with other Caribbean countries.

“We need this airport to achieve the economic diversification that we have been speaking about for many decades. We need the international airport if we are to position ourselves with the rest of the region and the world by extension. We need this airport to create the Dominica that you dream about, the gateway that makes the world your oyster,” the Minister noted.

Minister for Tourism, International Transport and Maritime Initiatives, Hon. Denise Charles explained that this international airport will provide numerous benefits to Dominica specifically the tourism industry.

“An easier travel is just the foundation of benefits. Easier access means that with the hurdle of complex travel lifted, more tourists will click the single button and visit the most amazing place on earth. Increased visitors mean a lot for Dominica in many ways. Our spectacular accommodation providers will experience increased revenue, translating into more jobs, a greater demand for crops, fish, ancillary services and entertainment, extended exposure for our artists and craft persons increased sales for vendors, increased service demands for taxis tour guides, restaurants and spas,” Hon. Charles stated.

According to the CEO of Montreal Management Consultants Establishment Ltd. Dr. Anthony Haiden, only the best construction practices will be used in the building of the airport.

“This international airport is the biggest contracted undertaking not only in the history of Dominica, but also in the history of the region. The most sophisticated methods developed in the construction industry will be applied and the result will be the best airport in the region, its successful completion and subsequent operation will have a transcending effect on the country and will literally reshape the future of Dominica.

President of the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Stephen Lander went on to encourage citizens to support the project as the end result will benefit every citizen.

“As the industry transitions out of recovery following the global pandemic, the airport will serve as a foundational element under pinning its future growth. This is a national project with inclusive opportunity. I encourage all Dominicans to give this effort your full support and more importantly tap into your inner entrepreneur. Imagine the possibilities, and position yourselves to take advantage of them,” Mr. Lander urged citizens.

Work has already begun on the international Airport at the proposed site of the village of Wesley. Government has already begun the construction of homes for the relocation of Wesley residents to the Jo Burton site.

Artist impression of proposed airport



DOMINICA WELCOMES FIRST AMERICAN AIRLINES JET

The Government of Dominica, through the Ministry of Tourism, International Transport and Maritime Initiative's continues its efforts to improve air access to Dominica.

This as Dominica welcomed the first American Airlines Jet flight on Tuesday June 22, 2021. The flight performed a proving run to and from the Douglas-Charles Airport. It landed at 4:15 p.m. on Runway 09 and departed at 5:46 p.m. directly to Miami International Airport, where it landed approximately 3 hours later at 8:57 PM. A proving flight run is typically the last technical or operational hurdle in the process of an airline seeking to obtain an Air Operator Permit for destinations where it has an interest to service.

This flight was not a revenue service operation, but done to ensure that an aircraft is able, in real time, to perform safe and compliant operations on this route. The feedback from the crew on land was all positive with no concerns raised. The aircraft was an Embraer 175 (E175) with a capacity for seventy-six passengers with twelve first class seats, and sixty-four premium seats with extra leg room and main cabin seats.



For more information Visit GIS Dominica

DOMINICA CONTINUES TO INVEST IN TOURISM INDUSTRY



The Government of Dominica continues to heavily invest in the Tourism Sector with the construction of numerous hotels and resorts in an effort to develop the accommodation stock.

Both the pre and post construction of these accommodation facilities are also expected to increase employment around the country both temporarily and permanently.

Currently, the Anichi Resort located in Picard Portsmouth, Tranquility Beach Dominica in Salisbury, Jungle Bay Resort and Spa in Soufriere and Secret Bay Residencies located in Ti-Bay Portsmouth are all under construction in Dominica.

Meanwhile construction is also ongoing on private investment projects such as Villa Copthall in Copthall, Coulibri Ridge Resort in Soufriere, and the Fort Young Hotel in Roseau. These private investment properties are being built at a total cost of 76 million dollars.

Upon completion of these private projects, one hundred and seventeen citizens are expected to benefit from direct employment.

The Sanctuary Rainforest Eco Resort and Spa in Laudat, Cotton Hill Flats located in Portsmouth and Timbo's Downtown and Timbo's Seaside are a few hotels and resorts are expected to begin soon, as they have already been announced by the Government. Construction is expected to begin as early as June 2021.

According to the Minister for Tourism, international transport and Maritime Initiatives, Hon. Denise Charles, "The construction of these seven new hotels and resorts in Dominica is expected to result in total investment of approximately 950 million E.C dollars, create 470 construction jobs and create 791 permanent jobs during operations of these accommodations."

Hon. Charles stated that the resulting jobs from these projects will span over a variety of sectors.

"An important activity which directly impacts growth and employment is the construction of accommodation facilities. These large construction projects have the potential of creating short term jobs during construction for various skillsets and levels. Upon completion long term employment is created for staffing these facilities in various fields. This is where Dominicans benefit the most as the livelihoods of so many are positively impacted," the Tourism Minister noted.

She explained that these projects will also create indirect benefits for many citizens.

"Accommodation construction also has tremendous effects in terms of the increase in demands for goods and services. These benefits accrue to farmers, fisher folk, art and crafts vendors as well as utility service providers. These are just the direct linkages but the indirect supply chain's benefit are numerous," Minister Charles added.

The Minister went on to say that that "Dominica has exciting days ahead" adding that "all these new properties have taken tourism in Dominica to the next level.

She then encouraged citizens to get vaccinated to restart the tourism sector.

"Let us heed the call to get vaccination, so we can get thee resorts filled with people," Hon. Charles added.

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NEW STELLA LEBLANC HEALTH AND WELLNESS FACILITY FOR VIEILLE CASE



The Government of Dominica has reached yet another milestone on their quest to build a modern and robust health care system with the commissioning of the Stella LeBlanc Health and Wellness Centre in Vieille Case.

The centre, which was funded by the Citizenship by Investment Programme, was built with climate resilience at the forefront and equipped with reinforced concrete structure and impact resistant windows. It contains two examination rooms, doctors' and nurse's offices, two clinics, pharmacy and residential accommodation for medical staff. The newly commissioned facility was named after Nurse Stella LeBlanc, a 2020 Sisserou Award of Honour recipient. She received the award for rendering meritorious service to the Government and people of Dominica by her dedicated and untiring contribution in the field of Health and Community Development.

Mrs. LeBlanc's contribution to the advancement of the Primary Healthcare Programme in the Portsmouth district where she served as a primary healthcare nurse midwife for over 23 years was deemed invaluable.

Nurse LeBlanc re-entered the nursing profession as a Community Health Care worker in 1980 serving the communities of Penville, Vieille Case and Thibaud until 1982. She became a Primary Care Nurse in 1984, working in the Portsmouth Health District both at the Portsmouth Hospital and various health centres.

She also provided services in surrounding communities including Paix Bouche and Dos Dane where she served as a midwife for many years. Nurse LeBlanc was very passionate about the advancement of Primary Health Care Services, and she would do her best in carrying out the duties entrusted to her during or after working hours, and even during her vacation leave.

She retired from the public service in 2003, but given the staffing constraints in nursing, especially in the area of midwifery, she agreed to return on contractual employment to assist with alleviating the crisis.

Prime Minister of Dominica and Member of Parliament for the Vieille Case Constituency, Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit

"I dare say when it was brought to her attention that she would be recognized, she was not willing to accept again because of the profoundness of her humility, because for us and for her, it is about service

to people. It is not about what you get in return but selflessly giving your time and your energy to people and also emphasizing with people's struggles.

The Prime Minister noted that the facility will improve the delivery of health care in the community as well as enhancing the overall appearance of the community.

The Member of Parliament noted that a holistic approach was taken with the construction of the facility.

"This is welcoming to the village. It is a major investment by the Government in improving the delivery of primary health care, improving the facilities. But also ensuring that what we have done with these facilities across Dominica, not only provide for the clients who will come here but also for the comfort of the District Nurses not for the community. So we are taking a holistic approach to the construction of these health facilities across Dominica," PM Skerrit stated.

Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Telecommunications and Broadcasting, Honourable Oscar George stated that this Government has shown that health and wellness is a priority in its quest to build a Dynamic Dominica.

"This is real evidence of our commitment to developing primary health care, real evidence of our commitment to ensure access and affordability to health care services without the inconvenience of traveling to Roseau for basic health care. The health of every citizen is top priority for this government, and we will continue to ensure that every Dominican is granted high quality health care irrespective of their location and social class," Hon. George stated.

Minister George went on to urge the Dominica's youth to include regular health check-ups in their routine as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Minister for Health, Wellness and New Health Investment, Dr. Irving McIntyre explained that the new Health and Wellness Centre is a well-deserved addition to the projects ongoing in the community as these projects are focused on various sectors of their livelihoods. He encouraged citizens to not take the facility for granted.

"This is part of the bigger picture where all the determinants for your well-being and your development as a community is being brought, literally to your doorsteps. I trust you will not take for granted, all these interventions that your Government is doing for you the people of this community, the ball is in your court; the Government has been and is playing its part in delivering the goods and services to you. It is up to you to use these facilities to your benefit," the Health Minister urged.

Project Manager for Montreal Management Consultants Establishment (MMCE) Mr. Ahmad Alkhatib stated that health centres will be built in Roseau as well as other areas of Dominica. He noted that MMCE is proud to be assisting Dominica in its quest to build a resilient country.

"I am amazed and proud to be part of the transformation of the health system in Dominica. I cannot help but stargaze at the rolling out of these health centres. We have been informed that the Government of Dominica will expand the utilization of this programme to include Roseau and other areas, and as always we look forward to the challenge. Let me reaffirm the importance of the work that we are doing with the Government of Dominica in helping to attain and sustain proper development on the island in the areas of housing, health and education. We look forward to continue serving this beautiful country," Mr. Alkhatib stated.

Meanwhile, Nurse Stella Leblanc expressed her gratitude for the honour that she has received. "I had to agree, but I don't look for those things. I prefer to just do what I have to do. I love simplicity, I am happy that I have reached thus far. I am seventy-two, but I still want to work," Nurse LeBlanc noted.

DOMINICA IN A BETTER POSITION TO WITHSTAND A MAJOR HURRICANE SAYS CEO OF CREAD



Chief Executive Officer of the Climate Resilience Executing Agency (CREAD), Ms. Francine Baron believes that Dominica is in a much better position to withstand a major hurricane.

CREAD leads and coordinates strategic initiatives across sectors in the commonwealth of Dominica with the goal of making the country the world's first climate resilient nation. CREAD acts to bolster the ability of the business community, public services, and social sector partners to build strong and resilient communities, develop adaptive infrastructure, accelerate economic growth, strengthen institutional systems, enhance Dominicans' capacity to respond to the local impacts of global climate change, and set an example for the rest of the world on how to respond to the challenges of a changing climate.

Ms. Baron says a climate resilient recovery plan was developed to ensure that Dominica is on the right path to becoming the first climate resilient nation in the world.

“The Climate Resilience Recovery Plan is actually based on three pillars which is climate resilience systems, prudent disaster risk management and effective disaster risk response. So with climate resilience system, we are talking about our systems being able to adjust and absorb the impact of a disaster. Prudent disaster risk management speaks minimizing and managing the risks and the effective disaster risk response and recovery talks about post disaster, and how we minimize the impact and accelerate the recovery after a disaster,” Ms. Baron explained.

Based on various ways to ensure that proper infrastructures are built in the event of a major natural disaster.

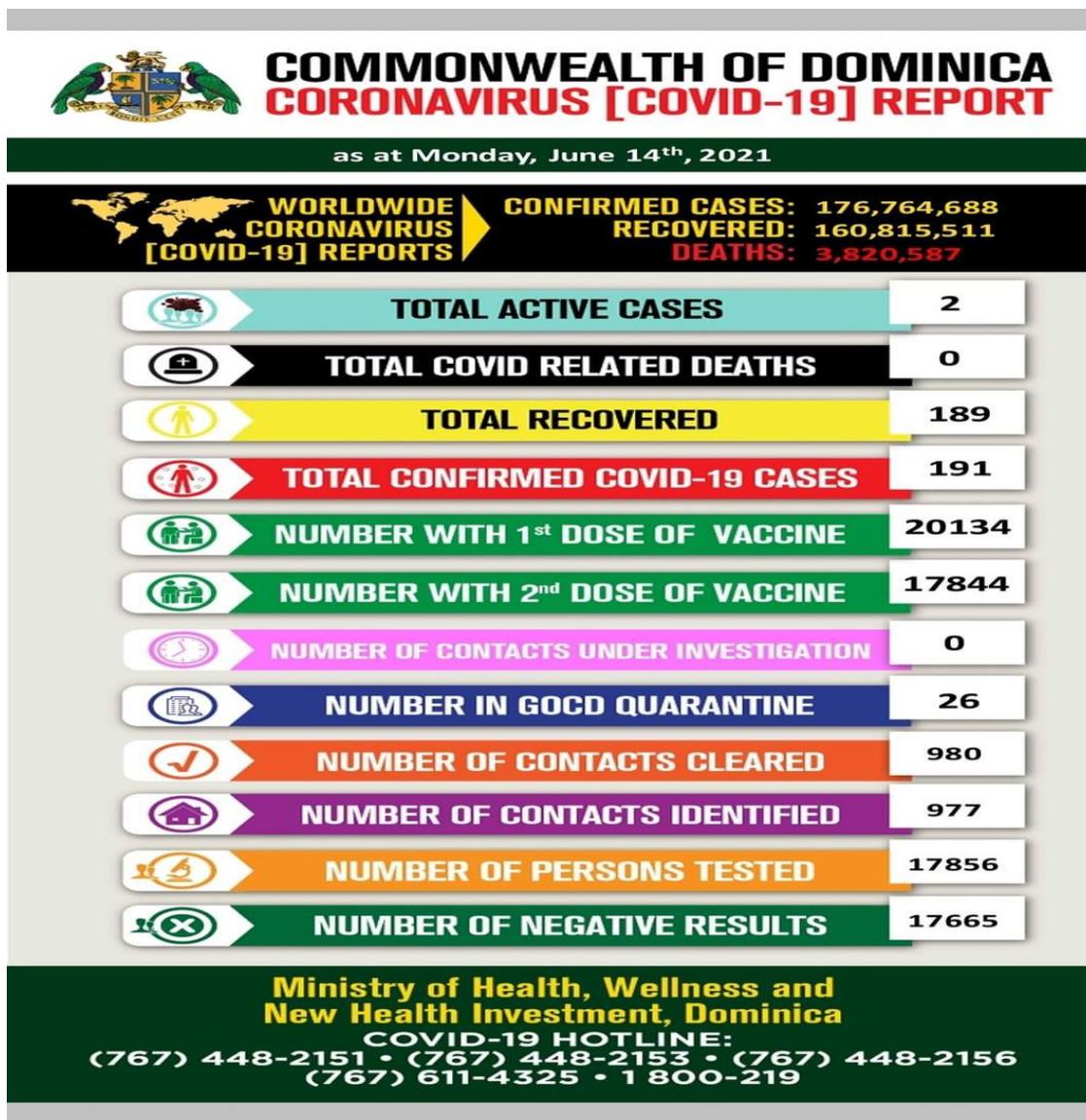
“We would have seen significant impact to our infrastructure as a result of Hurricane Maria and therefore the requirement and need to build back better, to build stronger structures; structures that are more resilient to impact from either the weather or an earthquake. So the structures that are being built are being built to be resilient so that if we are affected again by a category 5 hurricane, we will not have the level of damage that we suffered from hurricane Maria. So we talking about our schools that are being reconstructed or repaired and being done better. So in many instances, we have to make the decision to see if the school should be repaired or rebuilt, and if it makes better sense to completely rebuild the school instead of just repairing what is there which is a weak structure, we would rebuild the school instead,” the CREAD CEO added. CREAD continues to implement a series of flagship initiatives that will propel the journey towards resilience.

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those three pillars, six result areas have been identified to achieve this plan.

“Those results areas are strong communities, so how do we build strong communities that have the capacity to absorb shocks and bounce back quickly. So, we are looking at the key elements being your ability to access shelter, to access medical care and the basic necessities such as food, water, power, telecommunications, and our disaster preparedness and response plan. Those are the key things that we will look at under that particular result area. Then of course there is the robust economy which has many different dimensions but the idea with the robust economy is to ensure that we limit production losses after a disaster and we are able to recover and reconstruct in a very quick manner,” the CREAD CEO explained.

The third result area is a well-planned and durable infrastructure. Hurricane Maria wiped out ninety percent of Dominica’s housing stock. (For more info Visit GIS)



DONA Sends Birthday Greetings to All our members and friends.

June

Marlon Brand Jnr

Raphael Desbonne

Sylvia Mitchel

July

Molly Prince

Bertha Caesar

August

Hayden Francis

Dr. Sylvia Smith

Franklyn Georges

S Darragh

Ham Prince

Mary Sylvester

May you all have a happy Birthday and any happy returns.



Sick Members

DONA wishes you all a speedy recovery.

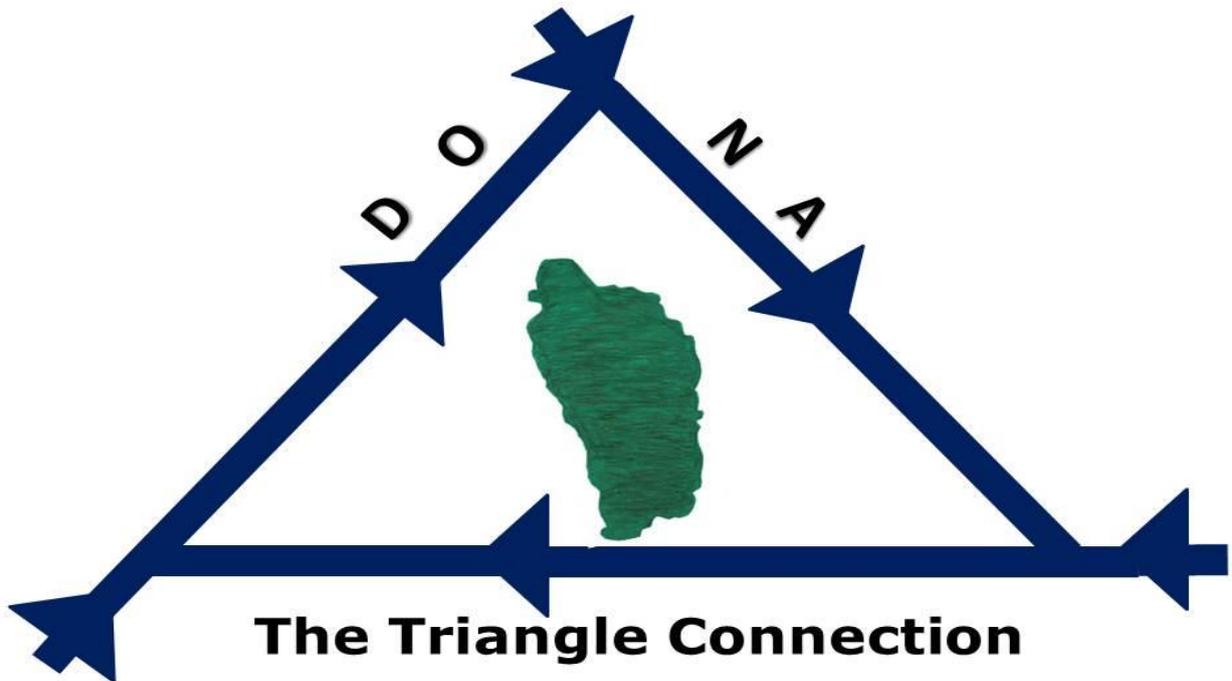


For the bereaved

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed REST IN PEACE

To all our members and friends who have lost love ones as a result of the corona virus and other ailments.

May they find comfort and peace in the risen Christ.



Dominica Oversea Nationals Association

Aid Dominica Development Trust

[Registered Charity No 279643](#)

Coronavirus Information

Please follow the Government Guidelines

HANDS. FACE. SPACE. FRESH AIR