



# Lance

Legislation and Announcements Newsletter of Customs and Excise

*"Getting it Straight - Management by Information"*



St. Kitts and Nevis

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## Canine Unit Leads Customs Border Security Initiatives



Customs and Excise continues to strengthen its border security capabilities through the expansion of its canine unit.

In November 2013, the department procured six new dogs which has carried the number of canine officers to ten.

This increase in the number of dogs has widened the search capabilities of the enforcement division. These include the detection of narcotics, arms and ammunitions, explosives and cash.

In an interview with this publication, Customs Officer, Glenroy Phillip said that Customs has placed itself in a better position to detect and deter illegal cross border activity. He highlighted that the dogs have proven to be an indispensable tool in border security efforts.

The energetic and dependable canine officers have been used to examine cargo in a number of Customs stations, including Customs Courier stations at Bird Rock, Federal Express and Parcel Post at the General Post Office, Basseterre; at the Baggage Hall, Air Cargo and Departure Areas of the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport; and at Transit Sheds I and II at Bird Rock.

Customs Kennel Master, Mr. Vibert Whattley, said that the addition of the dogs has further equipped Customs to ably assist other security agencies in conducting investigations.

"With these dogs, Customs continues to be an able partner to the police, the port and the defence force to curb the trafficking of drugs and guns and other contrabands" Whattley said.

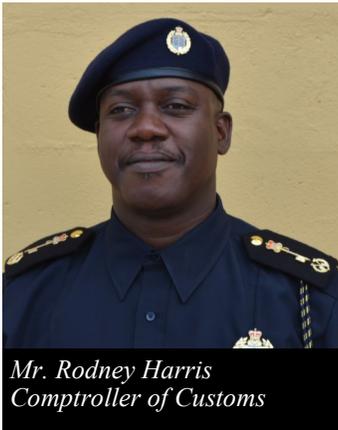
"Some may ask why Customs wants more dogs?" asks Senior Officer Grade IV, Mr. Desroy Daniel. "There is need for reliability and for continuity.

"More dogs allow us to cover more ground without tiring man's best friend. Like humans, dogs work well when they are rested and alert," Mr. Daniel said.

"In addition, we have adult dogs that at some point will need to be put out of the service. It means that Customs has to consider investing in replacement dogs on a sustainable basis. This we have done," he concluded.

Customs Enforcement continues to laud the reliability of its canine officers for the items that have so far detected and have been prevented from entering the federation. These are our citizen canines.

## Pen of the Comptroller



*Mr. Rodney Harris  
Comptroller of Customs*

In July of 1979, I joined the civil service and the Customs and Excise Department. I did so without the slightest thought that I would have made a career of service to my country nor did I dream that I would have risen to the rank of Comptroller of Customs.

More than three decades later I write to you my Customs colleagues in the same frame of mind that the Apostle Paul wrote to his young colleague Timothy. My friends, I have finished my course and "the time of my departure has come".

I will take these few lines to share a few parting pearls of wisdom with the staff that has been hardworking and supportive. For it is as a result of our team efforts over the years that our Department has continued to be relevant to the interest of the trading and traveling sectors.

Permit me here to thank all officers, past and present, for this most needed show of support.

I want to encourage the department to be always on the cutting edge of Customs knowledge and training. Do not become complacent and relaxed in the comfort of past achievements. Look forward to new challenges with zeal and purpose, for fortune favours the brave and success is the reward for effort.

Continue to uphold the standards of justice and fairness in all your dealings. Understand that corruption can and will neutralize the role of the department. I have found being a Customs Officer to have been a rewarding and fulfilling career. You too can find it so through preparation, hard-work and integrity.

As time goes by, Customs and Excise will continue to undergo further changes that

will be necessary for the advancement of our society. I encourage each of us to embrace this change with open minds and ready hearts. Nothing defeats change efforts like pessimism and fear. Nothing empowers change like active and ongoing engagement.

In the months ahead, the Department will be unveiling ASYCUDA World. This software has fast become a revenue and trade facilitation tool that has been used productively by many Customs Departments within and beyond the Caribbean basin.

This tool is no good unless the minds that will manipulate it are open to the changes that come with it.

I take my leave proud that I have left the Department much better than I have found it in 1979 but better than that I take my leave with the confidence that the best days of the Customs and Excise Department are still ahead and that the right folk are on staff to see it through.

May God bless each of you as you toil in service to the people of this great country, that at your times of departure your joy may be as full as mine. Thank you.

## Your Customs. A Culture of Training.



A new year of training opportunities has begun and Customs Officers are invited to approach the Training Department and identify areas of training that would better equip you for service. One can make such requests at [training@skncustoms.com](mailto:training@skncustoms.com).

### LAST QUARTER IN BRIEF

Five officers completed the US Drug Enforcement Agency's Marksmanship Course

(October 1-5), while an additional six officers completed the Cybercrimes Investigation Course at REDTRAC Jamaica (October 7-18).

In October and November, fifty-eight officers undertook Supervisory Management training both at the basic and advanced levels. The courses were facilitated by Mr. Cosbert Manchester of CM Associates.

In the same period, five officers undertook training in Trade Facilitation (2) and Management and Leadership (3) at the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, London.

Training in December was geared to equipping the ASYCUDA World Technical and Functional Committees with the requisite expertise in System Workflows. Six officers were trained by Messrs. Jamie Mendoza and Fabian Joseph.

### FIRST QUARTER 2014 PROJECTION

Twelve officers will travel to REDTRAC, Jamaica to pursue training in Narcotics Investigation and Intelligence Gathering (6 each).

Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) will facilitate Valuation Training from February 17 - 28 and Corporate Planning from March 17 - 21.

Twenty-one officers will undertake CCLEC Junior Officer Basic Training from February 3 to March 31.

These are only a fraction of the many training opportunities that are available to the Customs officer.

Training is the gateway to greater knowledge and skills development.

## ASYCUDA World Implementation Report Part II



The implementation of ASYCUDA World is moving at a progressive pace in St. Kitts and Nevis. This is the view of the Project Team Technical Advisor, Mr. Fabian Joseph of UNCTAD.

Mr. Joseph was at the time giving a demonstration of the workflow of the ASYCUDA World system to the senior management of Customs and Excise on Thursday, January 16, 2014.

The demonstration highlighted to the checks and balances built into the system for accountability. Management was shown how the declaration, payment and clearance procedures would flow seamlessly and the usefulness of data and documentary preservation capacities that are built into the system.

The project teams (functional and technical) continue to work closely with the UNCTAD expert to deliver an on time and reliable web-based system.

User licenses which allow officers, carriers, their agents, brokers, importers, government agencies and other system users to access ASYCUDA World and interface have been secured. These licences are important for the day to day functioning of the system.

Mr. Jamie Mendoza, ASYCUDA World Regional Advisor, conducted hands on training with members of the Functional and Technical Teams in areas related to the workflow, from cargo and vessel reporting to the release of goods from warehouses and the issuance of gate passes.

The training sessions emphasised the steps and the importance of manifest creation, 'de-groupage' of a master bill of lading, linking bills of lading to declarations, making amendments to manifests and bills of lading, making online payments, risk profiling and selectivity and the creation of gate passes.

At present, staff accounts and profiles have been created and are being tested and validated. These accounts will become the unique and identification of staff who will operate the system.

Accounts are also being created for all carriers, carrier agents, and brokers in the federation. These too will guarantee these trade sector operators access to the system in the federation to facilitate the growing import and export industries. Customs is happy to provide the facilitation.

All accounts will be password protected and, with the right legislative provisions, will become the accepted and legally binding identification of the officer and/or trade sector operator.

Additionally, the requisite reference tables have been imported into the system to ensure the continuity of concession regimes and tax rules that currently exist in the TRIPS system.

The reference tables also include the formulae for the calculation of duties and other taxes and the Harmonised System codes.

These are currently being tested for accuracy and reliability through a process termed as "breaking the system" which aims to test the system in real time scenarios.

The implementation team has begun to meet with carriers and carrier agents with the aim of ensuring that these organisations have the tools needed to effectively create and submit manifests in the system.

These meetings are expected to be followed by a series of training sessions with carriers and carrier agents about late February.

Having completed this the focus of the training will move to customs officers and customs brokers on both islands.

The first and second quarters (2014) are expected to culminate with the implementation of manifest submissions by carriers and their agents at all Customs stations in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Declaration implementation will then follow very early in the third quarter.

These will be followed by the publication of ASYCUDA World literature along with the hosting of a series of meetings with all stakeholders and the general public.



## Essential Tips on Leadership



### *What comes first: employee engagement or great work?*

by Carina Wytiaz

If you're managing a team you might wonder what comes first: engaged and personally invested employees or productive, great work? Is an employee doing great work because they're engaged, or will they become more engaged after doing great work?

Let's start at the beginning. Most employees will start any position engaged and ready to work. As time goes on, either the employee will stay engaged, re-engage at a deeper level, or they will pull away to do minimal (or less than) work. What happens at the moment of re-engagement? What's the difference between an employee who produces great work and one who doesn't? As a long time manager, I think the difference is how a manager recognizes their employee and motivates their everyday work.

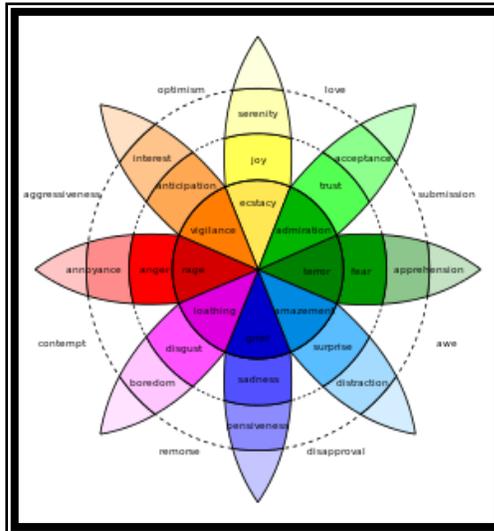
Your proactive actions can engage employees, which will produce personal investments that yield great work. This engagement isn't even dependent on the challenges the company faces. Every company has its challenges: resources, regulations, compliance, market, and even questionable leadership. What every manager can do, despite company challenges, is to recognize and reward great work when they see it.

When you recognize great work several things happen. First, your other employees understand the standards they are being held to for their own production. Second, the recognized employee is re-engaged to perform at an even higher level. Third, you're creating an environment that cheers on all employees, promising them the work they do is meaningful and worthy of notice. Your entire team is more likely to engage and produce great work when they know

and produce great work when they know they are appreciated and valued.

The difference between engaged, productive employees and those who are not, isn't usually that the first group are part of a company without problems; it's that their managers have found a way to communicate to their employees they are valued and special, which in turn re-engages the employees in their work. If you want employees who produce great work, maybe it's time to look at how they're engaging and then find a way to recognize their efforts.

Happy, motivated, appreciated, and engaged employees will do great work, which means your employees will re-engage, who will then produce great work, who then engage...



### *Leadership is About Emotion*

by Meghan M. Biro

Make a list of the 5 leaders you most admire. They can be from business, social media, politics, technology, the sciences, any field. Now ask yourself why you admire them. Chances are your admiration is based on more than their accomplishments, impressive as those may be. I'll bet that everyone on your list reaches you on an *emotional* level.

This ability to reach people in a way that transcends the intellectual and rational is the mark of a great leader. They all have it. They inspire us. It's as simple as that. And when we're inspired we tap into our best selves and deliver amazing work.

So, can this ability to touch and inspire people be learned? No and yes. The truth is that not everyone can lead, and there is no substitute for natural talent. Honestly, I'm more convinced of this now. But for those who fall somewhat short of being a natural born star (which is pretty much many of us) leadership skills can be acquired, honed and perfected.

Let's take a look at tools that allow for talent to shine:

**Emotional Intelligence.** Great leaders understand empathy, and have the ability to read people's (sometimes unconscious, often unstated) needs and desires. This allows them to speak to these needs and, when at all possible, to fulfil them. When people feel they are understood and empathised something, they respond PERIOD and a bond is formed.

**Continuous Learning.** Show me a know-it-all and I'll show you someone who does not have a clue about being human. Curiosity and an insatiable desire to always do better is the mark of a great leader. They are rarely satisfied with the status quo, and welcome new knowledge and fresh (even challenging) input. It's all about investing in yourself.

**Contextualise.** Great leaders respond to each challenge with a fresh eye. They know that what worked in one situation may be useless in another. Before you act, make sure you understand the specifics of the situation and tailor your actions accordingly.

**Let Go.** Too many people think leadership is about control. **In fact, great leaders inspire and then get out of the way.** They know that talented people don't need or want hovering managers. Leadership is about influence, guidance and support, not control. Look for ways to do your job and get out of the way so people can do theirs.

Honesty. Not a week goes by that we do not hear about a so-called

**Continued on Page 5**

## 10th CCLEC Junior Officer Basic Training begins February 3



On Monday February 3, 2014, 21 junior officers will undergo eight weeks of intense training in the policies, procedures and legislative mandate of Customs and Excise.

The 2014 class will be the 10th such group to undertake this training since the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) Junior Officer Basic Training began here in the federation in 1997.

It is significant to note that since that time course participants have risen to the leadership of the department to include the present Acting Comptroller of Customs, his Deputy Comptroller (St. Kitts) and two Senior Assistant Comptrollers of Customs.

Upon completion, officers graduate with a wealth of practical knowledge in the areas of Customs Legislation, Situation Defusion, Passenger and Baggage Search, Initial Process, Tariff Classification, Valuation and Tariff Preferences and Treatments.

There will be hands on sessions in vessel search, weapon disassembly and reassembly, and rifle range target practice.

This year's contingent will once again include participants from the Nevis Division of the Department as well as officers from the neighbouring island of Montserrat.

The lecturers will be drawn from senior officers of the department and experts of

the public and private sectors.

One of two new features to the course will be the introduction of a week long training in Criminal Investigation Awareness by retired Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joseph Richardson.

There will be a guest lecturer from the EPA desk of the CARICOM Secretariat to teach the rules of origin in the Cariforum-European Community Economic Partnership Agreement.

This course is expected to be the final group to be trained in this present class room format as CCLEC is expected to unveil new IT formatted modules in the not too distant future.

The Comptroller and Management of the St. Kitts and Nevis Customs and Excise Department wish all course participants every success in this the 10th CCLEC Junior Officer Basic Training Course.

## Essential Tips on Leadership (Continued from pg.4)

leader losing credibility because he or she was dishonest. Often this is because of pressure to try and "measure up" and it's not coming from a place of being real - often this relates to fear of not being accepted for your true self. We live in an age of extraordinary transparency, which is reason enough to always be true to your core -your mission will be revealed, your motivations will show by your behaviours.

But it goes way beyond this. It's an issue that sets an example and elevates an organisation. If you have a reputation for honesty, it will be a lot easier to deliver bad news and face tough challenges. Are **you inspiring people form your heart?**

**Kindness and respect.** Nice leaders (people) don't finish last. They finish first again and again. Ignorance and arrogance are leadership killers. They're also a mark of insecurity. Treating everyone with a basic level respect is an absolute must trait of leadership. And kindness is the gift that keeps on giving back. Of course, there will be people who prove they don't deserve respect and they must be dealt with. But that job will be made much easier,

and will have far less negative impact on your organisation, if you have a reputation for kindness, honesty and respect.

**Collaboration.** People's jobs and careers are integral to their lives. The more your organisation can make them a partner, the more they will deliver amazing results. This means, to the greatest extent possible, communicating your organisation's strategies, goals and challenges. This

builds buy-in, and again is a mark of respect. People won't be blindsided (which is a workplace culture killer) by setbacks if they're in the loop.

**Partner with your people.** As I said before, people's careers are a big part of their lives. That seems like a no-brainer, but leaders should have it front and center at all times. Find out what your employees' career goals are and then do everything you can to help them reach them. Even if it means they will eventually leave your organisation. You will gain happy, productive employees who will work with passion and commitment, and tout your [organisation] far and wide. This is an opportunity to brand your greatness.

Leadership is both an art and a science. These tools are guidelines, not rigid rules. Everyone has to develop his or her own individual leadership style. Make these tools a part of your arsenal and use them well as you strive to reach people on an emotional level. Be Human. This Matters.



# Customs Week 2014 - "Communication: Share"

January 26 - February 1



- Sunday 26 - Church Service**  
*Shiloh Baptist Church 11:15 a.m.*  
*Luncheon at Nisbett's Plantation Hotel*
- Monday 27 - Visit to Schools**  
*Violet O Jeffers Primary School, Elizabeth Pemberton Primary School, St.. James' Primary School, St. Thomas' Primary School*
- Tuesday 28 - Officer Exchange Day**
- Wednesday 29 - Open Day**  
*Customs, Long Point*
- Thursday 30 - Airing Panel Discussion**  
*Nevis Newscast TV*
- Friday 31 - Community Project**  
*Serving Lunch at the St. George's and St. John's Senior Citizens' Home*
- Saturday 1 - Fun Day and Beach Affair**  
*Cockleshell Beach, St. Kitts*

**Nevis**



# Sharing Information for Better Cooperation" February 1, 2014



- Sunday 26 - Church Service  
*Zion Moravian Church at 9:00 a.m.  
Luncheon at Carambola Beach Club*
- Monday 27 - Visit to Schools  
*Basseterre High School, Verchild's High School, St. Paul's Primary School, Sandy Point Primary School, Tucker-Clarke Primary School, Cayon High School, Saddler's Primary, Seventh-day Adventist Primary*
- Tuesday 28 - Officer Exchange Day
- Wednesday 29 - Panel Discussion  
*ZIZ Television (8:00 p.m.)*
- Thursday 30 - Open Day  
*Customs Headquarters, Bird Rock*
- Friday 31 - Private Sector Visit  
*Chamber of Industry and Commerce*
- Saturday 1 - Fun Day and Beach Affair  
*Cockleshell Beach, St. Kitts*

**St. Kitts**

## Manufacturing sector is key to economic transformation



The manufacturing sector in St. Kitts and Nevis has a critical role to play in the transformation of the twin-island Federation's economy.

This was reaffirmed by Federal Minister of Labour, Hon. Patrice Nisbett during a tour of four manufacturing plants on the C. A. Paul Southwell Industrial Park. It is the first in a series of planned visits to the important manufacturing enclave.

Minister Nisbett alluded to the fact that the current statistics reveal that the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis is the leading exporter in the OECS Region of manufactured electronic goods and components to the United States and the European Market.

This Minister Nisbett noted is an eloquent testimony to the quality of work been done in the Federation's Manufacturing Sector and to the quality of the workforce that produces the high end products, such transformers, specialized light switches and components for military, aerospace and medical industries.

He used the opportunity to urge the manufacturers to be prepared and ready to access the manufacturing opportunities which shall be spawned upon the final domestication and legalization of the Partial Scope Agreement between St Kitts and Nevis and Brazil.

"Transformation of the economy must be undertaken in tandem with the transformation of the workforce" noted the Minister of Labour.

He indicated that the government of St. Kitts and Nevis has moved to create the requisite enabling educational environment and policies to ensure that the Federation's Human Resources are developed and equipped with the necessary academic, technical and Information Technology skills set to respond to the transformed economy with its current and emerging human resource needs of the Private Sector.

Minister Nisbett noted that the facilitates in stimulating job creation also had a sacred duty to ensure that the jobs created are decent jobs, "jobs that provide decent living wages, jobs that take cognizant of the dignity and safety of the workers and are sustainable and vehicles for the continued attraction of Foreign Direct Investment to the Federation."

He seized the opportunity to thank and commended the General Managers of the various manufacturing facilities for the confidence shown in the St. Kitts and Nevis economy and for their, longevity of doing business in the Federation which collectively amounted to sixty-two years.

The Minister, who was accompanied by Labour Commissioner, Mr. Spencer Amory, toured Jaro Electronics, Kajola-Kristada and Lutron Liamuiga. He also paid a courtesy call on the Solar Panels Manufacturer – Speed Tech Ltd.

## Customs to devise new Strategic Business Plan

Deputy Comptroller of Customs (Ag.) Mr. Kennedy De Silva has announced that the department will by the close of the first quarter begin in earnest to create its new Strategic Business Plan.

The document, when completed, will chart the way with regard to the organizational flow and business objectives of the department as well as its division and their respective units of operation.

This new Strategic Business Plan follows the successful plan of 2010 - 2012 which saw improvements in the areas of Revenue Collection and Trade Facilitation,

Enforcement and Border Security, Organisation and Human Resources, Legislative Mandates.

Mr. Ken Head of the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) will guide the process and share the latest techniques in Business Plan creation and implementation.

The new business plan, when created will usher the department into a new level of internal operation and external cooperation.

The life of the plan will be for three years, that is from 2015 to 2018 however it is expected to contain such measurable

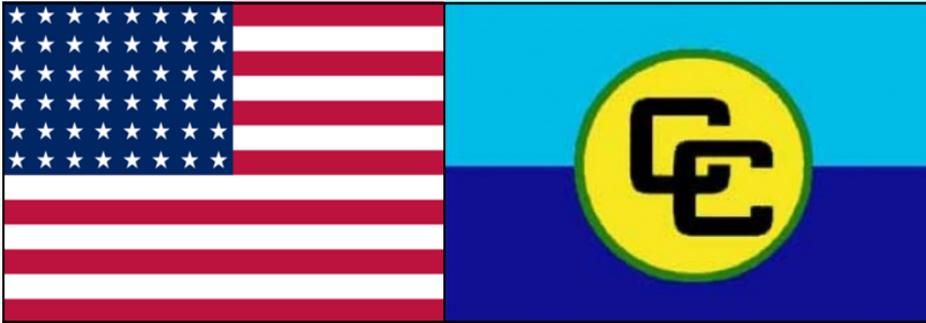
standards that would advance the department beyond the short and medium term.

De Silva said that his vision is for St. Kitts and Nevis Customs and Excise Department to advance to the level that has been set by Singapore - the world's leader in trade facilitation.

"Such standards may seem as idealistic, but they are real. It for us to plan our work, then work our plan," De Silva said.

Mr. Head arrives on March 21.

## US-CARICOM trade council called on to reject queen conch petition



Courtesy: Caribbean News Now!  
December, 2013

WASHINGTON, USA -- The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), has made a formal request on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United States-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment, to reject the petition of WildEarth Guardians, an environmental NGO based in Denver, Colorado, calling on US authorities to list the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) as a “threatened” or “endangered” species under the USA Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Speaking at a meeting of the Council held in Washington, DC, on November 15, 2013 CRFM executive director, Milton Haughton said: “We oppose the petition to list the queen conch as an endangered or threatened species on the ground that the petitioner’s information is unreliable and obsolete.”

The queen conch is a high-value species, in high demand on the international market. Haughton noted that such a listing could restrict or prohibit Caribbean imports of queen conch to the US. At the meeting of the US-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment, senior officials discussed, among other things, the removal of barriers to bilateral trade as important work to be done under the recently inaugurated US-CARICOM Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).

“If queen conch is listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, conch exports from the CARICOM States to the United States market would be prohibited,” Haughton noted. “This would result in significant social and economic hardship for thousands of Caribbean fishermen, fish processors/exporters and their families,

and fishing communities, and undermine peace and stability in coastal communities that rely on the queen conch resource, because it will effectively deprive them of their source of income and livelihoods.”

Most of the information presented in the WildEarth Guardians petition in respect of CRFM States is outdated and simply incorrect, the CRFM executive director added.

WildEarth Guardians threatened suit against US authorities, after it claimed a number of deadlines for action on the petition were missed. The NGO filed the petition in March 2012, and the 12-month finding was due in March of 2013. A decision on the petition is still pending.

The CRFM Secretariat has consulted with its member states, and in October 2012, it submitted a response to the US Department of Commerce, rebutting the WildEarth Guardians Petition and asking the US government to reject the petition.

Meanwhile, WildEarth has filed a legal challenge against the US National Marine Fisheries Service, over the delayed petition decision.

The queen conch petition states that the species is declining and threatened with extinction due to habitat degradation, specifically, water pollution and destruction of sea grass nursery habitat; overutilization resulting from commercial harvest, inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, and other natural and manmade factors such as biological vulnerability, human population growth, and other synergistic effects.

Haughton told the US-CARICOM Council on

Trade and Investment, though, that the CRFM states disagree with the claim that queen conch is being harvested at unsustainable levels, resulting in population declines, stock collapses, as well as recruitment and reproductive failure.

Haughton acknowledged that “Concerns about the health and long-term survival of Queen Conch and accompanying evidence of population declines in some countries led to the inclusion of Queen Conch on Appendix II of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1992.”

He explained that the Appendix II listing is used for species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but may become so unless international trade in the species is regulated, to avoid utilization incompatible with the survival of the species.

“Since 1992, CITES has been monitoring and regulating international trade and by extension, management, protection and conservation of queen conch to ensure sustainable trade and sustainable use more generally,” Haughton said.

According to the CRFM, “The petitioner made no effort to obtain current, readily available information regarding the conservation status and management systems for the queen conch fisheries in the 17 CARICOM / CRFM member states before submitting its petition.”

Haughton said that the listing would be “unreasonable, disproportionate, unfair, inequitable, and inappropriate” in addressing the issues in question. It is an unnecessary and unreasonable barrier to trade in the species, he stated.

The petition should be rejected, as the available evidence does not support the claim that the queen conch is a threatened or endangered species, in the context of the Endangered Species Act, Haughton told the US-CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment.

## Legislations - Fiscal Incentives and Hotels Aid Acts



Within its role of trade facilitation, Customs and Excise is mandated under law to administer special concessions to categories of importers. There are a number of pieces of legislation that guide direct us.

In this issue of LANCE, we will look at two of the Acts of Parliament that guide us in the administration and collection of duties and taxes under prescribed conditions. These are the Fiscal Incentives Act of 1974 and the Hotel Aid Act (Chapter 18.17).

The Fiscal Incentives Act brought consistency to the benefits which industrial units could be granted by the state to encourage robust economic activity.

Products approved under the Act are published in the *Gazette* by order of the Governor-General and the approved enterprise is identified (Sections 5 & 6). Applications for the designation of a product as approved is made in writing

through the Minister of Trade. Where the approved enterprise invests capital of not less than \$25 million that business is deemed highly capital intensive and may be granted the benefits given to an enclave enterprise. (Section 11)

The Minister of Trade also grants licences for the importation of plant, equipment, machinery, spare parts, raw materials and their components relieved of duties for a determined period (Section 7). The law however instructs the approved importer to keep all records of the article imported and have the article marked in such a manner as required by the Comptroller of Customs and for inspection by Customs and Excise (Section 8).

Items imported under this provision cannot be sold, given away or disposed of in the federation or in CARICOM unless the approved enterprise pays a bond to Customs for the amount of duty payable or after a period of five years (Section 10).

Tax holidays are approved classification of Approved enterprise in Schedule III of the Act

- Group I, 15 years; Group II, 12 years, Group III, 10 years, Enclaves, 15 year.

The Hotels Aid Act makes provisions for concessions on building materials and operational equipment for hotel construction and expansion. This Act makes these items free of all duties.

Licences under this Act are granted by the Minister of Finance (Section 3).

Drawbacks of customs duties are given to licencees under the Act who satisfies Customs that building materials or equipment bought in the federation had had duties paid upon importation. Where the importer can satisfy the Comptroller of the duties paid, that amount is paid; where the amount is uncertain the Comptroller pays drawbacks as he or she sees fit (Section 6).

Building materials and equipment entering the state under the provisions of this Act cannot be disposed of within three years of importation unless the Comptroller grants a permit (sections 7 & 8).

The Act mandates the licencees to mark the equipment bought and to keep an inventory on forms as prescribed by Customs. (Sections 9 & 10).

These and other pieces of legislation are found on the Customs and Excise website - [www.skncustoms.com](http://www.skncustoms.com).

## Meet Retired ACP Joseph Richardson



Over the past few months, Mr. Joseph Richardson has conducted a number of courses here at Customs and Excise. Meet the man who has worked closely with our organisation.

Mr. Richardson has served for more than thirty-three years in the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force. Upon retirement in 2012, he was an Assistant Commissioner of Police.

He holds a Bachelors of Law (LLB) from University of Huddersfield, UK and a diploma in Security Administration and a certificate in Criminal Justice and Police Management, both at post graduate levels.

For five years (2004 to 2008), he headed the Criminal Investigation Division of the Police Force after completing strategic leadership training at the Bramshill College of Policing.

Mr. Richardson will be sharing of his

vast wealth of practical and scholastic experiences with the department in an effort to sharpen the investigative skills of Customs as a border security agency.

During the week March 10 - 14, 2014, Mr. Richardson will share with the course participants of the 10th CCLEC Junior Officer basic course the in depth, hands on approach to Criminal Investigations.

The management and staff of Customs and Excise are delighted to work with ACP Richardson who continues to be an outstanding citizen and servant of his country.

Be ready. You may be in on his next class.

## Humour - All in a day's work

### Can't take dat Chance



A man from Tabernacle brought back the remains of his ever-nagging wife as baggage; she had died while the couple were on vacation in Jerusalem. On his return, he provided receipts totaling \$5,000 to Customs for the shipping of the body and attached was a pro forma invoice for \$150 to bury her there, in the Holy Land.

"Why didn't you not just bury her there?" the officer asked in disbelief. "I really thought about it you know but shipping her home was better," the husband said.

"That's real love." exclaimed the officer.

"Love?" the man replied. "No way. The last person who I know died in Jerusalem and was buried there, rise from the dead three days later. So I tell the undertaker, ship she home . I just couldn't take that chance wid she."

### No joke wid work



A young man from St. Paul's who did not make it on the PEP programme went to the airport very hysterical, carrying his luggage, passport, and other necessary items for travel.

He anxiously told the American Airlines agent at the ticket counter, "sell me a ticket to Jeopardy now, ma'am." The agent looked confused. "Jeopardy, Sir? Where is that?"

The man got even more anxious and agitated. "Miss, I ain't got time to fool roun'. Jus' sell me a ticket to Jeopardy."

The agent looked through her map and other materials. "Sir, there is no such place! Are you sure that's where you need to travel?" The man lost his temper and slammed his fist on the counter. "Look, woman. Ah say me nuh have time wid you. I hear them say on WINN-FM news dis mawnin' that 900 jobs in Jeopardy so I goin' to get one ah dem job, today."

### No beatings at Customs

Police Officers picked up a 10 year old McKnight boy in the Bird Rock area late one night who was reported as having run away from home.

The constables were anxious to know why someone so young would want to run away.

"Mister," said the chap. "My mother does beat me for everything. When I complain to me father, he does beat me. And when I talk to my grandmother bout it, she does beat me too. I am fed up. So I am going by Customs and live wid dem."

"...but why Customs?" they asked.

"Ah goin' be safe at Customs. Cause I hear they have a Netball team that don't beat anybody."

## Fun at Customs - Sudoku

1				4	9	5	3	
					2	7	6	
4	2		6	3				
8		2					5	6
	4						7	
7	3					8		1
				6	7		8	3
	7	8	9					
	6	9	3	1				7

Here is another chance to master Sudoku, the game of numbers.

Complete the puzzle by inserting the numbers 1 to 9 in each box so that each row and column and each 3x3 square has all numbers 1 to 9.

The technique to playing this game begins with using a pencil. You may have to insert possible answers and erase those that prove to be wrong.

Another technique is to complete a row or column so as to have one of each number identified.

There are many techniques to master this game of intrigue. You can read more of them at <http://www.sudokuoftheday.com/pages/techniques-overview.php>.

Games are a good way to train the mind to master difficult situations and to solve problems. Please, be a problem solver.

## US Border Protection detects drugs in Trinidad juice imports

TRINIDAD -- For the second time in two months a drink produced by local manufacturing company SM Jaleel and Company Ltd has been associated internationally with the illegal drug trade.

In the latest incident, Customs and Border Protection (CPB) officers seized 732 pounds of cocaine, with a street value of over \$.6 billion, concealed in cans bearing the labels of Trinidad Orange and Grapefruit Juices at the Port of Norfolk in Virginia, United States, on December 20 last year.

The discovery was made during the inspection of a 20-foot container containing the fruit juices. The wholesale value of the cocaine is about US\$12 million and has a street value of as much as US\$100 million, according to Customs officials.

Early December 2013, another drink associated with SM Jaleel and Company Ltd laced with cocaine was named in the death of a Royal Navy veteran in the United Kingdom. A liquid cocaine concoction in a Pear D soft drink bottle was blamed for the death of Joromie Lewis.

Lewis, 32, is said to have consumed the drink on December 5 and succumbed shortly after.

This led to the voluntary recall of all Pear D drinks bearing the code "BB Jan 08 14". SM Jaleel and Company January 17, 2014 said it has launched an internal investigation into the latest multi-million cocaine bust involving its products. The company said it is being targeted by cunning criminals.

"It is common knowledge that the criminals

involved in the drug trade have been using mechanisms to transport cocaine such as fruits, car parts, lumber, hardware, etc. It now appears that someone may be trying to utilise our company's product in this regard," a release on the company's website stated.

SM Jaleel and Company Ltd said it had only found out about the situation through the media. The company maintained that it has always promoted family values and complied with all laws both locally and internationally.

"SM Jaleel is a family-owned and operated business that began its operations in Trinidad approximately 90 years ago. We have consistently maintained our family values throughout the development of the business", the company release said.



### January

- 2 - Damian Walters
- 2 - Kenyatta Warner
- 4 - Kimoy Henry
- 4 - Cassandra Blake
- 7 - Collene Morris
- 10 - Larry Vaughan
- 14 - Jarid Sutton
- 14 - Vibert Whattley
- 22 - Corey Rodney
- 22 - Kiwannie Joseph
- 25 - Shiwani Gumbs
- 25 - Lé Shanda Rochester
- 29 - Anthea Hazel



### February

- 1 - Karim Herbert
- 3 - Roger Fyfield
- 5 - Danika Simpson
- 8 - Trevor Henville
- 11 - Charlene Mitchell
- 18 - Jervin Nisbett
- 21 - Karim Maynard
- 25 - Junicia Ryan

### March

- 5 - Kishma Griffin
- 8 - Keston Warner
- 12 - Kersha Martin
- 12 - Kevin Rawlins
- 14 - Kenya Henry
- 15 - Zeliah Wilson
- 19 - Dion Berridge
- 26 - Acekem Greene
- 30 - Osmond Williams

