Nevis shines again at CTO's Youth Congress | Page 5

St KITTS & NEVIS OBSERVER

$2

Friday, October 3, 2025 | *The Federation's Politically Independent News Source* | Issue #1617

Security Guarantee

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Brantley: Federal forces, DPP will be primary security authorities in Nevis' proposed SSZ

By Vernan George
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

Leader of the Nevis Island Administration (NIA), the Honourable Mark Brantley, has reassured residents that Federal Security Forces and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) will remain the primary security authorities within Nevis, including in the proposed Special Sustainability Zone (SSZ) on the island's south.

Speaking at his monthly press conference on September 30, Premier Brantley stressed that national security would continue to be a federal responsibility, even within the new zone.

"As you know, National Security is a Federal concern, not an NIA concern," he explained. "What I have been advised is that there will be some mechanism where security operates inside the zones. Just like Four Seasons—that's probably the best example I can point to. They have a security force inside Four Seasons, but that security force liaises with the local police. Similarly, I think that is what is anticipated here—that you'll have a security force inside, which liaises with the police. I know that the jurisdiction of the police, the DPP, and the Head of Customs, has been reserved and will continue to apply."

Brantley added that if any incident were to occur within the zone, the DPP would have full authority to address it as if it had taken place anywhere else in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Premier noted that discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders to establish clear guidelines for security operations in the SSZ. "The matter is still at a stage of discussion," he said. "Meetings have been convened with the Commissioner of Police, the Head of Customs, and the Honourable Attorney General. My understanding is they have worked out a mechanism that would allow certain personnel, authorised by the Commissioner of Police, to operate with functions similar to Island Constables. It is a new model—untested in some respects—but these are matters still being worked through."

He emphasised that once discussions are finalised, the public would be fully informed. "We want to be in a position to say: here are the discussions, here are the recommendations, and here is the model that will work," Brantley stated.

On the issue of costs, the Premier said the financial burden on taxpayers had been raised as a major concern. "One of the concerns expressed was the cost. If the ordinary Police Force were required to find officers to police a zone of this size, it would represent a significant cost to taxpayers," he explained. "So, they are trying to work out a balance."

The establishment of the Special Sustainability Zone has been a topic of national debate, and Brantley's comments are aimed at providing clarity on the role of Federal agencies in maintaining law and order as discussions continue.

Case Number :NEVHCV2021/0092

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST.CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(NEVIS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:26/09/2025 15:10

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THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT, CAP
A.D. 2025

Claim No. NEVHCV2021/0092

In the matter of Section 92 of the Title by Registration Act, Cap. 10.19

and

In the matter of the sale of the property comprised in a Certificate of Title dated 25th April, 2012 registered in Register Book 50 Folio 101 of the Register of Titles of the Nevis Circuit in favour of THE ESTATE OF EUSTACE COLIN WALLACE

TDC FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY LIMITED **APPLICANT**

AND

THE ESTATE OF EUSTACE COLIN WALLACE **RESPONDENT**

NOTICE OF SALE

The Property described below will be offered for sale by The Registrar of The Supreme Court by public auction at the Court House, Bath Village, Nevis on the 24th day of October, 2025 at 10.00 o'clock in the morning.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his/her accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.
Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT 5,065 Square feet of land known as Lot 5 (Sugar Mill Grove) with house thereon situate at Hamilton Estate in the Parish of St. Paul in the Island of Nevis bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say: **On the North by Lot No. 3, 100.06 feet; On the East by the Public Road 50.63 feet; On the South by Lot No. 7, 100.03 feet ;and On the West by lands of Hamilton Estate 50.63 feet and containing by admeasurement 5,065 square feet**

UPSET PRICE

The upset price for the above property shall be EC$280,000.00.

Dated the 24th day of September, 2025.

M Flemming
ASST REGISTRAR

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
High Court of Justice

UN backs 5,500-strong force to battle Haiti's gangs

The United Nations has approved a much larger international force for Haiti, called the "Gang Suppression Force," with up to 5,550 troops and police to replace the smaller Kenyan-led mission that has failed to stop escalating gang violence in Port-au-Prince.

US Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz said the current mission lacked the scale and resources needed to restore security in the Caribbean nation.

"Today's vote sets that right with this vote to transform the MSS mission to the new Gang Suppression Force, a mission five times the size of its predecessor and with a strengthened mandate to go after the gangs," he said.

It was not immediately clear when the GSF will be deployed or which countries would provide the additional police and soldiers.

The current mission, called the Multinational Security Support (MSS), is led by Kenya, and troops and police have come from Kenya, Jamaica, Belize, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

In earlier stages, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, and Chad have formally said they would contribute personnel.

FOR THE BEST DEALS ON SCAFFOLDINGS AND JACKS RENTALS, PLEASE CALL: (869) 663-6296 OR (869)764-7189.

PM calls for global peace, inclusion, and partnership

Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Terrance Drew, delivered a compelling address at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for renewed global cooperation, the promotion of peace, and the inclusion of smaller nations in international decision-making.

Highlighting unrest in the Caribbean and beyond, the Prime Minister drew attention to the ongoing dispute between Venezuela and the United States, urging both nations to engage in diplomatic dialogue to prevent escalation and safeguard regional stability.

"We recognise the serious threats posed by drug trafficking and other transnational crimes. These scourges must be addressed through cooperation, dialogue, respect for sovereignty, and the full respect for the principles of international law," Dr. Drew stated.

"We are not asking for pity or imposition. We are asking, therefore, for partnership, for tools to block the flow of guns and the flow of funds that fuel violence, for initiatives that create opportunities so that young men and women find purpose in productive work rather than perilous pursuits. Partnership, not pity. Prevention, not punishment."

The Prime Minister also focused on the worsening situation in Haiti, describing the nation's ongoing political instability, gang violence, and humanitarian challenges as a regional concern that demands urgent attention.

"Haiti's struggle is our shame if we do not respond with resolve. The people of Haiti carry within them an extraordinary history of emancipation and courage, yet that history has been marred by instability, natural disasters, and foreign interventions that have too often deepened dependency and deprivation rather than delivered dignity," Dr. Drew said. He applauded the Kenya-led multinational security support mission and other regional efforts to restore order, but stressed that long-term recovery must extend to health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and governance.

COURTESY PHOTO

Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Terrance Drew, addressing the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

On global conflicts, Dr. Drew called for dialogue and humanitarian action in several hotspots, including Palestine and Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Yemen. He condemned the ongoing genocide in Gaza, calling for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and restoration of humanitarian access.

"International law, conscience, and human decency demand no less," he said, while reaffirming support for a two-state solution that guarantees human rights, dignity, and security for all.

Dr. Drew also called for reform of the United Nations to better reflect the realities of the modern world. He highlighted the exclusion of smaller nations, particularly in the Security Council, as a structural flaw that undermines credibility and global peace efforts.

"The time has come to reshape the United Nations itself, to reform its structures so that they reflect the realities of our modern world… those who suffer the sharpest edges of insecurity must have a seat at the table where peace is forged," he stated.

Among other global issues, Dr. Drew reiterated calls for the end of the decades-long U.S. embargo on Cuba, describing it as "gravely unjust" and a barrier to regional solidarity. He also advocated for Taiwan, St. Kitts and Nevis' 42-year diplomatic partner, to be granted representation in international organisations such as the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, citing Taiwan's significant contributions to global health, technology, and disaster relief.

"The Taiwan Strait is not merely a lane on a map. It is a lifeline of commerce and human connection. We must urge calm, counsel conversation, and choose this diplomacy of dialogue over the dramatics of discord," Dr. Drew emphasised.

Closing his address, the Prime Minister appealed for a world built on partnership, dialogue, and shared responsibility.

Homeowners brace for more storms without insurance coverage

Hurricane season brings back painful memories and financial worries for many in the Caribbean.

After the devastation of Hurricane Irma in 2017, thousands of homes in Barbuda were flattened. Today, insurance costs are higher than ever, rising by up to 40% in the past two years.

Many islanders cannot afford cover and instead rely on building sturdier homes with cash from their own pockets.

In Jamaica, only one in five homes has insurance. In Barbados, about half are covered. The problem is not only hurricanes but also earthquakes and volcanoes.

Insurance companies charge high rates because of these risks and the region's small populations. While premiums in Antigua may reach 1.7% of a home's value, but in practice, limited competition, smaller insurance markets, and higher risk might push effective costs higher, particularly for remote or vulnerable islands.

in the UK they can be under 0.2%. In Florida, the most hurricane-prone state in the US, homeowners have to pay large deductibles, that is paying out of their own cash for repairs, before home insurance kicks in.

The high cost of hurricane insurance can also affect the saleability of vacation homes in the Caribbean and has to be calculated into the equation of the cost of homeowning.

For Caribbean survivors like Dwight Benjamin and Mohammid Walbrook, each new storm alert brings anxiety and flashbacks of Irma. Dwight built a reinforced extension to his home as a shelter. Mohammid lost his house but later received a new one through international aid.

In Antigua and Barbuda, rebuilding after Irma cost over $200 million, with help from the UNDP, the EU, China, and Venezuela. UNDP also launched a cash-for-work programme and trained contractors to build stronger homes.

The region has developed mechanisms such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, which paid out $85 million after Hurricane Beryl last year. Local disaster agencies also work year-round to prepare shelters, train volunteers, and strengthen infrastructure.

Still, with climate change driving stronger and faster storms, many islanders remain fearful each hurricane season. As Dwight put it after attending a church service in memory of Irma: "We keep an eye on the weather and our fingers crossed. But we are resilient people and we know how to survive."

EDITORIAL

The 'Gang Suppression Force' will definitely have its work cut out in Haiti

The efforts continue to save one of our sister nations, Haiti. On Tuesday last, the United Nations Security Council agreed on a significantly larger international security force to tackle ever-increasing gang violence in the conflict-torn Republic.

A "Gang Suppression Force" with up to 5,550 police and soldiers from around the world will have the power to detain suspected gang members. The intended aim is to stop the killings, rapes and kidnappings committed by the lawless groups. The plan was proposed by the United States and Panama.

The Gang Suppression Force will boost the Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support mission - a force which was meant to have up to 2,500 members, but fell far short of that, and has been unable to curb the violence since its deployment in 2023. The vote came two days before the expiration of the U.N. mandate for that security arrangement

More than 5,500 people were killed in gang-related violence in Haiti in 2024. Armed gangs currently control about 85% of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The adoption by the Security Council of the related resolution also requested the creation of a new UN Support Office in Haiti, meant to provide logistical and operational support to the Gang Suppression Force.

Member States of the UN were urged to support the Gang Suppression Force, including through scaled-up voluntary contributions and the provision of uniformed personnel. There was a reminder of the horrific situation regarding gender-based violence, and a warning that these atrocities were continuing at alarming levels.

In the first eight months of this year, there were reportedly more than 6,450 incidents – nearly half of those cases being rape. One in seven of these survivors is said to be a girl under 18. Armed groups were allegedly responsible for 75 per cent of the cases. Displaced people account for 70 per cent of the survivors.

Continuing underfunding is compounding the crisis and leaving the vast majority of survivors without care. Haiti has been crippled by economic chaos, a political vacuum and the brutal gang warfare since its president Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in July 2021. Nearly 1.3 million people have been internally displaced due to armed violence.

It is hard to imagine what can adequately address this ongoing crisis. Gangs are continuing to expand their territory across the country. They know every square mile of it. The Gang Suppression Force will definitely have its work cut out.

St KITTS & NEVIS OBSERVER $2

The Federation's Politically Independent News Source

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COMMENTARY

SSZ Part III - Repeal the Act!

James Milnes Gaskell

Our Premier (MB) who has not yet disclosed to the people any draft agreement made by his administration with the intending developers of the South of Nevis under the provisions of the SSZ Act, has touted the benefits of such an agreement, including an expected increase in the population of 7000 - 10,000. Estimates are estimates. It could be less. It might be much more. Who are these people? Why have they made a play for Nevis? Are they persons of integrity and trustworthiness? That aspect has long been recognised as critical. Indeed, the famous Chinese philosopher and teacher, Confucius, born 551 BC, said 'I know not what a man without trustworthiness may accomplish'.

So far MB has told us that Olivier Janssens and seventy others are investing, and he has told me that Roger Ver (who has a criminal record and is wanted by the US Revenue Dept) is not one of the investors. My supposition was reasonably based. Ver bought about seventy acres of South Nevis in 2021 and is mentioned in a press release put out by The Free Society Foundation in 2017. Extracts from this release, '…Founder Olivier Janssens and other prominent libertarian and cryptocurrency figures announced its plans today to form the world's first libertarian country…Roger Ver, one of the co-founders adds, 'I'm incredibly excited to be part of this project that will finally create a society based on voluntary interactions instead of Government force'.'

An island realtor has been assembling land on behalf of these investors for the last several years. If I was the investor with this kind of crackpot idea about purchasing sovereignty and autonomy over an area of land within another State, I would, before locking up funds in land, approach the Government of that State, seek acceptance of my plan to establish a semi-autonomous area, and obtain a binding written commitment that if I did succeed in assembling the requisite land I would be granted all necessary permissions, and that legislation to cover it would be enacted before I made my final and major land purchases.

We hear that the sale and purchase agreements are conditional upon a development agreement being made under the SSZ Act. This is subject to a

See SSZ on Page 13 *

Why accreditation really matters in medical education

By Latelle J. Barton, II, MD, HEC-C
Fellowship-Trained Bioethicist and Accreditation Consultant specializing in international medical schools in the Caribbean region.

Offshore medical schools have long provided alternative pathways for aspiring international students. For many, these institutions offer the opportunity to study abroad and provide a route to licensure, enabling a medical career in their home countries. At their best, they symbolize hope and opportunity.

Historically, however, offshore medical education has faced challenges. Some schools operated in environments with limited regulation, leading to inconsistent curricula, weak student services, or unqualified leadership. In such cases, students and faculty reported issues ranging from nepotism to inadequate support. When standards are not met, the result can be devastating: graduates burdened with debt, disappointment, and no clear career path.

Since the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) under the umbrella of Intealth in the United States implemented the Recognized Accreditation Policy in November 2024, the pursuit of accreditation has become not just important, but essential.

The Student's Perspective

Students are seeking medical schools that prepare them for a career as a licensed physician in one of the many fields of medicine. They are willing to travel thousands of miles, live away from family and friends, and pay thousands of dollars for their education at the institution. Students want assurance that the curriculum is comprehensive, assessment methods are fair, and clinical training meets international benchmarks. They require schools to provide basic academic services, including adequate facilities, libraries, learning resources, and student support services. Students

See MATTERS on Page 12 *

NRP supporters stage SSZ protest outside Assembly

By Vernan George
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

When members of the Nevis Island Assembly (NIA) arrived for the Thursday 25 September sitting, they were met by a small but vocal group of opposition Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) supporters, who staged a peaceful demonstration outside the Assembly building.

The protesters, carrying placards, voiced strong opposition to the proposed Sustainable Special Zone (SSZ) earmarked for the south side of Nevis. They accused Premier Mark Brantley and the Nevis Island Administration of concealing key details of the development.

One protester explained the group's concerns: "We are protesting against this SSZ on the south side of the island of Nevis. It is a development we are told is for economic growth, but this zone is shrouded in secrecy, lies, and deception by the Premier of Nevis. When news broke about this zone in November last year and he was questioned about it in February 2025, he denied it. Again, in July, he dismissed it as a rumour.

"The Premier hasn't come to the people of Nevis to explain what this development entails. What these developers want is a zone for themselves with their own laws, their own customs, their own everything—and to me, that is an island within an island."

The protester added that the government's approach raised serious concerns about transparency and accountability.

COURTESY PHOTO

Premier Mark Brantley was greeted by protesters carrying placards and voicing strong opposition to the proposed Sustainable Special Zone earmarked for the south side of Nevis.

COURTESY PHOTO

The group of Nevis Reformation Party supporters who staged a demonstration outside the Assembly building.

"Rather than consulting with the people of Nevis, the Premier did his utmost to hide it from us. We must question what is taking place when the leader of the island is hiding. So, we are saying that we do not want this zone in Nevis. The Premier is not being honest with us."

The demonstrators also criticised the involvement of Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew.

"When you have the Prime Minister, who put the bill in Parliament and got it passed, now saying to leave him out of Nevis people's business and Nevis land story, something is absolutely wrong.

The protester went further, accusing the leadership of failing the people of Nevis: "The Premier and the Prime Minister are at fault. They have failed us, the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. The Premier is not for or with the people of Nevis, and there will be no change in him."

The demonstration remained peaceful throughout, with protesters maintaining that their stand was about transparency, accountability, and the protection of Nevisian land and people.

Nevis makes its mark again at CTO's Youth Congress

By Vernan George
Special to the St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

Premier of Nevis, the Honourable Mark Brantley, has announced that Nevis is once again making its mark on the regional tourism stage, with a cohort of Nevisians participating in the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) Annual State of the Industry Conference in Barbados.

Speaking at his monthly press conference on September 30, Premier Brantley revealed that Khayla Claxton, a fifth-form student of the Gingerland Secondary School, is representing Nevis at the CTO Regional Tourism Youth Congress, held from September 29 to October 3.

Claxton joined 14 other students from across the Caribbean in a roundtable debate, assuming the role of a Junior Minister of Tourism to present perspectives on pressing issues facing the regional tourism sector. At the end of the Congress, one student will be crowned Caribbean Junior Minister of Tourism by a panel of judges.

Brantley also highlighted Nevis' impressive record of success at the Youth Congress, proudly pointing to past winners from the island. "Keyana Warner from Nevis was the winner last year, following in the footsteps of two other Nevisians, Rol-J Williams and Neelia Jones, who also won this same competition," the Premier noted.

This year, Warner is making history by returning to Barbados in a new role. As the reigning Caribbean Junior Minister of Tourism, she has been invited to moderate the Youth Congress and deliver brief remarks at the official opening ceremony alongside CTO Secretary-General and CEO, Donna Regis-Prosper.

"This marks a historic first," Premier Brantley emphasised. "It is the first time that a Junior Minister of Tourism has been invited to address the conference's opening session—and she is from right here in little Nevis. With all the size of the industry in Jamaica, Barbados, and the Bahamas, it is Miss Warner who has been invited to do this. I commend her, her teachers, and her parents. This is what Nevisian excellence looks like."

The Premier, speaking with evident pride, remarked that Nevis continues to punch above its weight in regional affairs. "Nevis is not easy. Nevis is achieving some great things," he said

See CONGRESS on Page 13 *

Case Number :NEVHPB2025/0081

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ST.CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(NEVIS CIRCUIT)

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THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT
A.D. 2025

NEVHPB2025/

In the Matter of Administration of Small Estates Act, Cap 5.02 as amended (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules 2017
AND
In the Estate of STEPHEN STAPLETON, late Hardtimes, in the Island of Nevis, deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Caleb Stapleton of New Road, in the Island of Saint Christopher in the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 23rd day of February 2008.

Any person having objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 26th day of September, 2025

CHARLES & ASSOCIATES
Attorneys-at-Law

Filed by **CHARLES & ASSOCIATES**, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant whose address for service is Unit C20, The Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts.

A walk into the world of self-defence and the law

By Wendel Edwards
Director of Public Prosecutions' Office

THE LAW IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

Self Defence

The Collins English Dictionary defines self-defence as the use of force to protect yourself against someone who is attacking you. In simple words, it means protecting yourself from harm. For example, if someone tries to slap you and you push them away that is understandable. However, if you respond by stabbing them with a knife, the law may say you have gone too far.

In law, the definition is a bit more precise. Self-defence is the use of necessary and reasonable force to protect yourself, others or property from harm. The words necessary and reasonable are what separate lawful self-defence from unlawful violence. When a person charged with a crime claims self-defence, the job of the prosecution is to prove that the person did not act in self-defence. If the prosecution can show that the actions were not reasonable or not necessary, then the defence will fail, and the person may be guilty. If the prosecution cannot prove this, then the actions will be treated as justified, and the person will not be guilty of the crime.

Understanding Self-Defence

The law on self-defence is meant to protect people. It recognizes that everyone has the right to fight back when threatened. It shows us that the law does not expect us to stand helpless in the face of danger. At the same time, it makes sure that this right is not misused. Self-defence protects both sides. It allows the victim of an attack to protect themselves. It also protects the attacker from being punished in the name of defence. Without this balance, the idea of self-defence could easily turn into an excuse for revenge. The best way to think about self-defence is to see it as a shield and not a sword. A shield is used to guard, and not to strike out in anger. Self-defence works in the same way. It is there to protect you and not to punish another person. If you are in danger, the law stands with you if you act fairly and only use the force that is truly needed.

Claim of self-defence

One important case on this subject is R v Palmer 1971 AC 814. In that case, a man who was being chased shot at a police officer. The officer later died as a result of being shot. The man argued that he acted in self-defence. The court rejected his claim. The judges ruled that self-defence fails when the force used is more than necessary. The judges went further to say that a person under attack cannot be expected to measure every act with perfect care. In moments of fear, reactions are often quick and imperfect. The law accepts this. However, if someone goes far beyond what was needed, then their actions will no longer count as self-defence. This means you do not have to respond in the same way as the attacker. If someone slaps you, the law does not require you to slap back. You may block them or push them away. If your response is out of proportion, such as beating them with a weapon, then the defence will fail. The test is whether your actions were necessary and reasonable in the situation as you honestly believed it to be.

When self-defence succeeds and fails

Self-defence usually succeeds when there is a real and immediate threat. It also succeeds when there is no safe escape and when the response is proportionate. For example, if a burglar breaks into your home at night and runs at you, then using force to stop them will usually be justified. Self-defence fails when the force is excessive. It fails if the danger has already passed. It fails if the act is really revenge and not protection. Chasing someone who has already run away is not defence. Attacking someone hours after they hurt you is not defence either. The effect of a successful self-defence claim is very important. In criminal law, the person will be found not guilty because their actions are lawful. This shows how powerful self-defence can be when it is used correctly. It clears a person from blame entirely. However, when it is misused as a sword, the law no longer provides protection.

Conclusion

Self-defence allows people to protect themselves and others in times of real danger, within reasonable limits. Your actions must be reasonable and necessary. You are allowed to defend yourself, but not to seek revenge. Think of self-defence as a shield and not a sword. The shield is there to protect and not to punish. If you act fairly and use only the force that is necessary and reasonable, then the law will stand with you.

Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0112

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST.CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(ST.KITTS CIRCUIT)

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A. D. 2025
(PROBATE)

Submitted Date:26/09/2025 13:28

Filed Date:26/09/2025 13:29

Fees Paid:52.00

In the matter of the Application of **DEBORAH THOMPSON** for the issue of a Grant of Probate in the Estate of **IONA CONSTANCIA BERRIDGE** of Trafalgar Road, Buckley's Site, Basseterre, in the Island of Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) deceased

And

In the Matter of Rule 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **DEBORAH THOMPSON** the Executor/Executrix name in the said Will of the said deceased, for a Probate of Will to the applicant who is the Executor/Executrix, the deceased having died on the 1st day of February, 2023.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Probate of Will to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2025.

Filed by Cherese Persad of **CHARLES AND ASSOCIATES**, Attorneys-at Law whose address for service is: **Unit C20, Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts**

[FIRST PUBLICATION]

Vance calls US government shutdown 'craziness' — and Washington agrees

As the United States wakes up, the morning shows are focused on the new government shutdown.

Speaking on Fox News, Vice-President JD Vance said, "the longer this drags on, the worse it is for the American people," calling it "craziness" that hurts ordinary lives.

He warned travelers of airport delays and noted that the military is not getting paid. While he was glad some Democrats backed a Republican bill, he urged both parties to "work together" on lowering healthcare costs instead of using shutdowns as bargaining chips.

Shutdowns have become a recurring ritual in Washington since the 1970s, with more than 20 episodes. They are rarely total shutdowns; "essential" services like the military, border security, Social Security, Medicare, and air traffic control keep running, while other federal employees are furloughed or work without pay.

National parks close, passport renewals slow, food safety inspections and research projects stop.

Thanks to a 2019 law, federal employees eventually receive back pay, but contractors often do not.

Banks and credit unions now step in with zero-interest "furlough loans" to help workers survive until funding resumes. Institutions such as USAA and Navy Federal also waive fees or allow deferred mortgage payments.

Critics argue that if employees are guaranteed back pay, a direct system of government advances would make more sense.

The Caribbean also feels the ripples. Embassies stay open because visa services are fee-funded, but smaller posts may reduce operations if the shutdown lasts. U.S. foreign aid programs and joint law-enforcement efforts could be delayed. Tourism also suffers when American travelers face flight uncertainty or hesitate to book trips.

Shutdowns tend to end without major policy shifts. They are used as political leverage, with public opinion usually blaming whichever party seems responsible. Deep partisan divides, competitive primaries, and a fragmented media environment reward brinkmanship instead of compromise.

So the cycle continues: workers brace for missed paychecks, banks revive their loan programs, Caribbean partners watch for disruptions, and eventually Congress strikes a deal—until the next shutdown arrives.

As JD Vance put it, "It's craziness."

NIA passes Limited Partnership Ordinance 2025

The Nevis Island Assembly reconvened its sitting on Thursday, 25 September 2025, and passed the Nevis Limited Partnership Ordinance, which was first introduced and read on 3 July.

Premier and Finance Minister, the Honourable Mark Brantley, moved the second and third readings of the bill, which he said would help boost and secure the financial services sector.

Premier Brantley outlined the purpose of the legislation:

"We come in here because what we are seeking to achieve in this Honourable House is to create the kind of Nevis where our people can prosper. So, we anticipate in terms of economic impact, increased registration of partnerships, we want to boost government revenue, we want to see the growth of the ancillary services (legal, accounting, corporate administration), and we want to see importantly the reinforcement of Nevis's branding as an innovative, forward-thinking, first-class financial centre.

The legal and regulatory impact, Madam President, we want to create a clearer framework for our court and regulators in adjudicating disputes, reduce ambiguity in partner liability, protecting both investors and creditors, and we want to create a stronger alignment with Financial Action Task Force standards and international regulatory expectations.

I want to emphasise that point, because Nevis has and will continue to conduct itself in accordance with best practices and international standards. What we are seeking to do here is to create through the Nevis Limited Partnership Ordinance a strategic reform that adds the availability of an attractive investment and wealth management vehicle to the suite of products already available.

We feel, Madam President, that this initiative highlights Nevis as a modern, reputable and competitive financial services jurisdiction. By combining contractual flexibility with statutory safeguards, the bill provides a robust platform for attracting investments while preserving the integrity of the financial services industry."

During his contribution to the debate, the Premier detailed several key provisions of the Ordinance:

- The legislation applies to partnerships formed under it and mandates compliance with its provisions.
- Instruments must be filed in English, but authenticated translations are allowed.
- Partnerships may be established with names written in non-Latin alphabets.
- Fees and penalties for registration are established, with annual renewal requirements.

COURTESY PHOTO

Premier and Finance Minister, the Hon. Mark Brantley, moved the second and third readings of the bill.

- All partnerships must maintain a registered agent in Nevis.
- Partnerships may operate for any lawful business purpose and may have limited or unlimited duration.
- Limited partnerships are granted legal personality, enabling them to act as natural persons for business purposes.
- Provisions address formation, naming requirements, capital contributions, liability among partners, and partnership structure.
- A registrar will maintain a register of partnerships, including name reservation provisions.
- Registration of charges is allowed, enabling liens or charges to be recorded.
- Management rules for general partners are defined, including admission and expulsion.
- Partnerships are recognised as legal persons with the ability to sue, be sued, and own property.
- Indemnification rules for partners are provided, along with requirements for meetings and record-keeping.
- Certification of good standing is available.
- Provisions for conversion, coalition, merger, spin-offs, dissolution, and winding-up are outlined.
- A regulatory and advisory committee is established, described as a novel feature by the Premier.

Brantley noted that the legislation was crafted following consultation with stakeholders in the sector, describing it as a "comprehensive code" that strengthens Nevis's financial framework. He also listed the range of services already available within Nevis's financial services industry:

"So, in the context of financial services more broadly, the island of Nevis is now offering: the IBC, the LLC, the Trust, the Mutual Fund, the International Insurance, the International Banking, the Partnership, and all of these are products that we continue to come to this Honourable House and introduce in order to build out the industry."

The passage of the Nevis Limited Partnership Ordinance 2025 represents a significant reform, reinforcing Nevis's status as a competitive, reputable, and modern financial services jurisdiction.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Probate No. SKBHPB 2025/0117

In the Estate of **VIVIAN ELAINE STEVENS,** deceased, Late of New Pond Site, Basseterre in the Island of St. Christopher

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PROBATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **DESMOND ERICSON STEVENS** of Florence Nightingale Lane, New Pond Site, Basseterre, St. Kitts, for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above-named deceased who died on the 2nd day of April 2025, in the Parish of St. George in the Island of St. Kitts without revoking a Will bearing the date of 13th September 2012, wherein the applicant is named as Sole Executor.

Any person having an objection to the Application for Grant of Probate shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 30th day of September 2025.

Talibah Byron-Chiverton
Attorney-at-law for the Executor

Whose address for service is:
Chambers
BYRON & BYRON
O'Loughlin House
Fort and Central Streets
Basseterre
St. Kitts and Nevis.
Tel: 869-465-2055.
Email: office@byronlawchambers.com

FIRST ADVERTISEMENT

St. Kitts hosts regional leaders for talks on future of Caribbean agriculture

By Loshaun Dixon
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

The 19th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) officially opened on Monday, September 29, 2025, at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort with resounding calls for innovation, youth engagement, and strengthened regional cooperation to transform Caribbean food systems.

Held under the theme "Sowing Change, Harvesting Resilience: Transforming Our Caribbean Food Systems for 2025 and Beyond", the week-long event brings together government officials, regional agricultural bodies, international agencies, farmers, and youth to discuss the future of agriculture in the Caribbean.

Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Hon. Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, described agriculture as "the heartbeat of our Caribbean story" and stressed its role in food security, sovereignty, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

"If a country cannot feed itself, it is not truly free," Dr. Hanley declared. "Food and nutrition security is a significant pillar of becoming a sustainable island state, along with renewable energy, economic diversification, water security, climate resilience, digital transformation, and social protection."

He outlined the Federation's efforts to modernise the sector through technologies such as hydroponics, climate-smart farming, aquaculture, and renewable energy integration. He also urged young people across the region to see agriculture as an innovative and profitable field.

"Too often, young people hear the word agriculture and immediately picture backbreaking labour under a hot sun. That is not the agriculture of the future. It is creative, technologically advanced, and filled with opportunity," Dr. Hanley said.

Also addressing the opening was Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Manuel Otero, who used the occasion to reflect on his eight years of service as he prepares to demit office in January 2026.

"CWA represents more than a gathering. It is a reaffirmation of our shared vision that Caribbean agriculture is at the heart of resilience, prosperity, and food security," he said.

Dr. Otero noted that when he took office in 2018, he pledged to develop a differentiated strategy for the Caribbean, recognising the region's vulnerabilities as small island developing states. He pointed to tangible outcomes such as the introduction of a biofortified rice variety high in zinc, the development of an agricultural trade app to boost intra-regional trade, and capacity-building projects supported by a US$700,000 special Caribbean fund.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Renata Clarke, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean

He also announced progress on a regional centre of excellence for agricultural innovation in Jamaica, a soil rehabilitation project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines following the La Soufrière volcanic eruption, and initiatives to combat threats such as Fusarium TR4 disease.

> ***'If a country cannot feed itself, it is not truly free. Food and nutrition security is a significant pillar of becoming a sustainable island state, along with renewable energy, economic diversification, water security, climate resilience, digital transformation, and social protection'***
>
> **Hon. Dr. Geoffrey Hanley**
> **Deputy Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis**

"Our south-south intervention efforts have resulted in donations of seeds and supplies from friendly governments, particularly Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile," Dr. Otero said. "As I approach the end of my tenure, I feel immense joy at the bonds built with the Caribbean, but also sadness, as this will be my last Caribbean Week of Agriculture as Director General. I truly feel embraced as part of the Caribbean family."

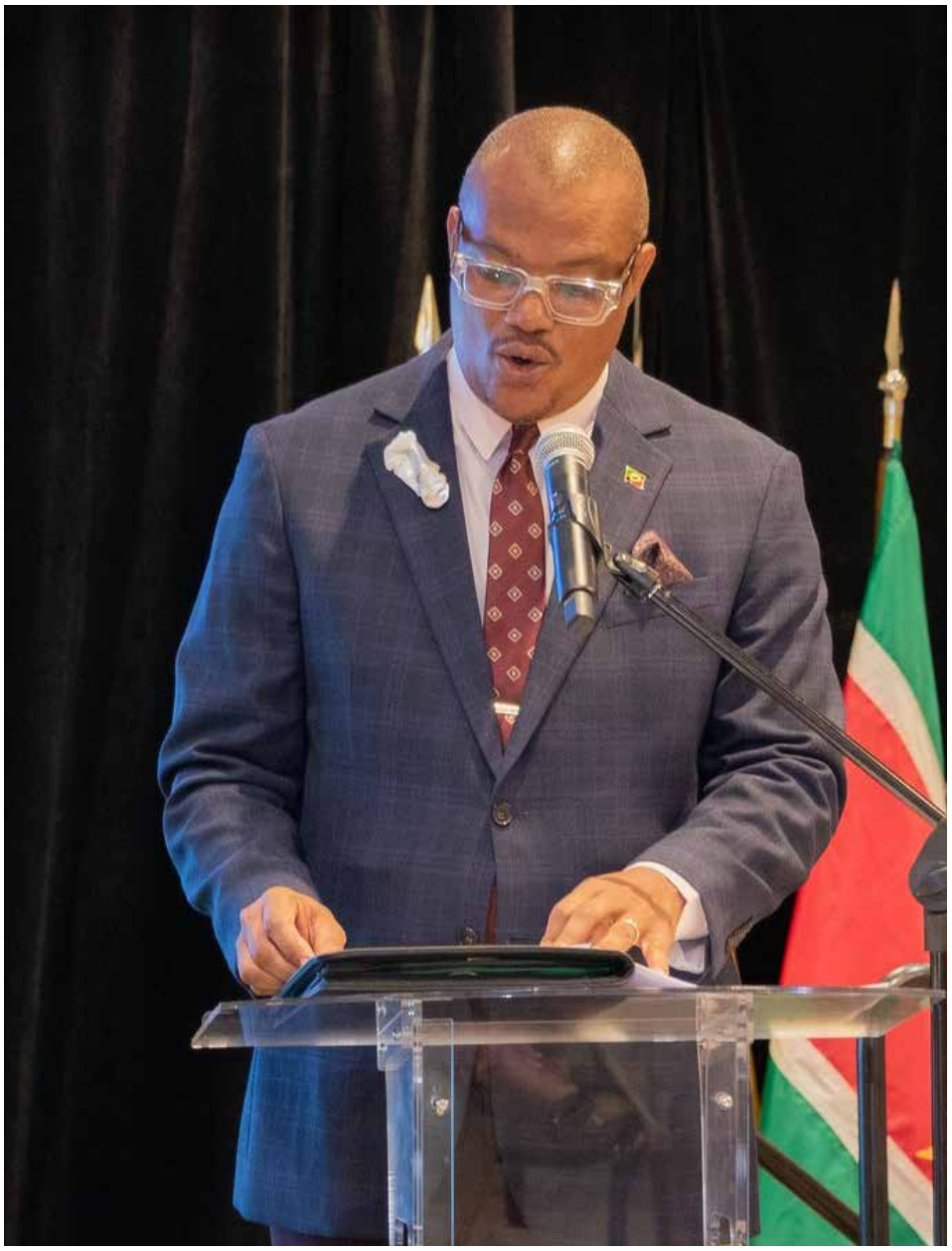
Dr. Renata Clarke, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, called CWA a vital checkpoint for agricultural progress and urged the region to maintain momentum.

"People ask me if I think agriculture is moving fast enough. My answer has been that a lot of progress has been made in re-setting the foundation for a more efficient, productive and sustainable sector. My expectation is that the visible advances will accelerate in the next five years. For sure, we have to keep our foot heavily on the gas," she said.

Clarke highlighted achievements since the 18th CWA, including the launch of mariculture pilots in Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia; the adoption of soil scanners and digital farming technologies; and the completion of agricultural censuses in several countries.

She also pointed to increased investment through private-sector partnerships and the rollout of youth strategies supported by international funding. "CWA is more valuable when we can count on what we hear and use this information in our own planning," Clarke noted. "I would like to see CWA evolve as a think-tank that truly influences the Caribbean's path forward. We are here not just to network, but to put our energy behind the transformation we are collectively seeking."

See FUTURE on Page 9 *



COURTESY PHOTO

Deputy Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Hon. Dr. Geoffrey Hanley.

FUTURE

Continued from Page 8

Regional Unity and Resilience

Throughout the week, participants have been engaging in technical sessions, policy discussions, and exhibitions, with a strong focus on youth, technology, climate resilience, and intra-regional trade.

In his closing words, Dr. Hanley saluted the farmers, fishers, agri-processors, and entrepreneurs driving the sector forward. "Your work is demanding, often unpredictable, but absolutely vital. You are the ones who protect our food sovereignty and remind us that the wealth of the Caribbean lies not just in hotels or offshore services, but in the richness of our land and sea," he said.

Caribbean Week of Agriculture, initiated by IICA in 1998, continues to serve as the region's premier forum for advancing agriculture and rural development, uniting leaders, innovators, and stakeholders in shaping the future of Caribbean food systems.

Londy Esdaille named new general manager at Nevis Co-operative Credit Union

The Nevis Co-operative Credit Union Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Londy Esdaille as its new General Manager, effective 1st October, 2025.

Ms. Esdaille has devoted more than 25 years of service to the Credit Union, having served as Accountant, Head of Finance and Accounting Department, and most recently as Acting General Manager. She brings to the role a wealth of financial expertise, proven leadership, and a strong commitment to the co-operative values of service, trust, and community.

This appointment follows the retirement of Mr. George Sydney Newton, who served as General Manager for 31 years. The Board of Directors extends its heartfelt appreciation for his decades of dedicated leadership, which transformed the Credit Union into the strong and resilient institution it is today.

"Ms. Esdaille's appointment reflects the Board's confidence in her vision, experience, and dedication to our members. At the same time, we salute the remarkable contribution of Mr. Newton, whose leadership has left a lasting legacy for the Credit Union and its members, said Board Chair Collin Walwyn

Londy Esdaille

The Nevis Co-operative Credit Union looks forward to continued growth, innovation, and service under Ms. Esdaille's leadership.

Colombia president shrugs off US visa ban: 'I don't care'

The president of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, brushed off the US decision to cancel his visa, saying it proves Washington punishes those who criticize Israel.

Petro told supporters he does not care because he holds European citizenship and considers himself free to travel.

Petro is an Italian citizen by descent, but still would probably be unable to enter the USA if his visa has been revoked, however he would be able to travel easily to Europe.

He accused the US of violating international law after he spoke at a pro-Palestinian rally in New York, where he urged US soldiers to disobey Donald Trump and not fire on civilians.

Bahamas PM: Prosperity lies in renewables, not sacrifice

Prime Minister Philip Davis of The Bahamas spoke at the Global Renewables Summit in New York on September 22, 2025, where he called for a shift in how the world talks about energy and climate.

He said the future of renewable energy must be seen not as sacrifice, but as a path to prosperity and abundance.

Davis explained that The Bahamas is carrying out its first nationwide energy reforms, modernizing laws, upgrading grids, and reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels.

He said the IMF had praised these reforms as ambitious and positive, but he warned that hurricanes have drained billions from the country's economy, making it harder to invest in the energy transition while also raising borrowing costs and insurance premiums.

He argued that countries need to "reframe climate debates" by showing citizens how renewables will lower energy bills, improve health, and strengthen food and water security.

He cautioned against focusing only on blame, saying zero-sum arguments about past wrongs make cooperation harder in a world already strained by rising costs and political anger.

Davis stressed that telling better stories about clean energy could unlock trillions in investment. "If we invest in stories and get the message out just a fraction of what we invest in solar panels and turbines and batteries, we can bend the arc of history," he said.

He ended by saying progress, not perfection, should be the goal. Every panel installed and every grid upgraded is a step toward real energy abundance, he said, adding that The Bahamas shows progress is possible even under the hardest conditions.

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(869) 469-5907

COURTESY PHOTO

President of the Nevis Island Assembly, Mrs. Michelle Slack-Clarke.

Nevis Assembly President to serve on executive body of CPA

By Vernan George
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

President of the Nevis Island Assembly, Mrs. Michelle Slack-Clarke, has been nominated to serve as one of the regional representatives on the executive body of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

Mrs. Slack-Clarke made the announcement during the sitting of the Assembly on Thursday, 25 September 2025.

"As you are aware, as a law-making body in the Commonwealth, we are a branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a part of the regional body that represents the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic region," she told the Assembly.

"We recently participated in our regional meeting to dialogue on ways to maintain the democracy of our parliaments within the standards of the Commonwealth of which we observe. As your president, I accepted a nomination to serve as one of the three representatives from the region on the executive body of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which is vested with the authority and power to manage and control the association. We will meet in Barbados in October."

The CPA is one of the oldest established organisations in the Commonwealth, comprising more than 180 legislatures in 54 countries. Its mission is to strengthen parliamentary democracy by providing a forum for knowledge-sharing, training, and collaboration among elected representatives. The executive body, on which Mrs. Clarke will serve, oversees the management and strategic direction of the Association, giving her a direct voice in shaping policies that impact Commonwealth parliaments globally.

Mrs. Slack-Clarke's appointment to the executive is seen as both an honour for Nevis and a recognition of the island's role in the regional parliamentary community.

She brings to the post her experience as President of the Nevis Island Assembly, a position she has held since December 2022 when she was first elected to preside over the island's legislative body.

Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0113

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST.CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(ST.KITTS CIRCUIT)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A. D. 2025
(PROBATE)
Claim No.

Submitted Date:18/09/2025 12:05
Filed Date:18/09/2025 12:05
Fees Paid:12.00

In the Estate of **WILLIAM OLIVER SPENCER** also known as **OLIVER SPENCER** late of The Grange, The Grange Estate, Ottleys, in the Parish of St. Mary, in the Island of Saint Christopher, deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE than an application has been filed by **ALISON SPENCER** of Verchilds Village, Verchilds, in the Parish of St. Thomas, in the Island of Saint Christopher for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 11th day of April, 2025.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2025.

Filed by: DUBLIN & O'BRIEN LAW FIRM, Attorneys-at-Law, whose address for service is Suite C18 The Sands, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts.

SECOND PUBLICATION

St. Lucia calls for Taiwan's representation in UN

In his address to the 80th United Nations General Assembly, Honourable Alva Baptiste, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation, and Diaspora Affairs of Saint Lucia, called for Taiwan to be accorded its rightful place at the United Nations. Minister Baptiste emphasized that Taiwan's exclusion undermines the principles of inclusivity and fairness that the UN stands for.

The absence of Taiwan from the United Nations is primarily due to the one-China policy, which asserts that there is only one sovereign state under the name China, encompassing both mainland China and Taiwan. This policy has led to Taiwan's exclusion from the UN and its specialized agencies. Despite this, Taiwan continues to engage with the international community through various non-governmental and unofficial channels, advocating for its interests and contributing to global development.

Police Force dominates Independence 42 Drill Competition

The Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force showcased outstanding discipline and skill at the Independence 42 Drill Competition, held Friday on Basseterre Bay Road, capturing the top two individual titles and being crowned the Best Overall Organisation.

The annual competition featured spirited performances from uniformed organisations, including the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force Cadet Corps, the St. Kitts and Nevis Fire and Rescue Service, His Majesty's Prisons, and the St. Christopher Air and Sea Port Authority (SCASPA).

This year's event proved highly competitive, with tied scores forcing a drill-off to finalise placements.

Woman Police Constable Danecia Henry once again rose to the occasion, securing her second consecutive individual title. She was followed by Police Constable Delvin Williams in second place, while Javed Richardson of SCASPA took third.

Henry, dedicating her victory to her twin sons, reaffirmed her commitment to continue competing. "This is for my boys. They inspire me to keep pushing harder every year," she said.

The competition also spotlighted a family dynamic when Myrtle Daniel triumphed in Group 3, while her son Addijah Daniel captured first place in Group 4. Their dual victories highlighted the unique family atmosphere of the event. "I am proud of my children and all they have accomplished, even when we compete against each other," Myrtle shared.

Their achievements contributed to SCASPA and the Cadet Corps tying for second place in the Best Organisation category. Ultimately, the police force claimed top honours, further solidifying their dominance at the national showcase.

Receiving the trophy on behalf of the police, Constable Miguel Hendrickson underscored the wider significance of their success. "This is not just about drills," he said. "It's about growth, versatility, and building stronger bonds with the community. What we demonstrated here today shows that policing is about discipline, spirit, and showmanship, not just law enforcement."

The Independence 42 Drill Competition once again highlighted the skill, camaraderie, and pride of the nation's uniformed services, with the police force standing tall as the standard-bearers of discipline and performance.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Independence 42 Drill Competition proved highly competitive, with tied scores forcing a drill-off to finalise placements.

Colombian president shrugs off US visa ban: 'I don't care'

The president of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, brushed off the US decision to cancel his visa, saying it proves Washington punishes those who criticize Israel.

Petro told supporters he does not care because he holds European citizenship and considers himself free to travel.

Petro is an Italian citizen by descent, but still would probably be unable to enter the USA if his visa has been revoked, however he would be able to travel easily to Europe.

He accused the US of violating international law after he spoke at a pro-Palestinian rally in New York, where he urged US soldiers to disobey Donald Trump and not fire on civilians. The US State Department called his remarks reckless and incendiary.

Colombia's foreign ministry argued that using visas as a diplomatic tool goes against the UN's principles and suggested moving UN headquarters to a neutral country.

This is not the first time a Colombian president has had a US visa revoked—Ernesto Samper faced the same in 1996 after a drug cartel scandal.

Relations between Bogotá and Washington have worsened since Trump's return to power. Petro previously blocked deportation flights, accused the US of plotting a coup, and cut ties with Israel, banning Colombian coal exports.

Colombia remains the world's largest grower of coca plants, which are processed into cocaine, which remains a key area of conflict between Colombia and the US.

Thank you for reading the St. Kitts & Nevis Observer! We are dedicated to covering you.

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST.CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(ST.KITTS CIRCUIT)

Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0111

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A.D. 2025
(PROBATE)

Submitted Date:15/09/2025 12:40
Filed Date:15/09/2025 12:40
Fees Paid:102.00

In the estate of **FRANCES ELIZABETH DOUGLAS** also known as **FRANCES ELIZABETH HARRIS** also known as **FRANCES ELIZABETH FLANDERS,** late of Saddlers Project in the Island of St. Christopher, Deceased

APPLICATION

APPLICATION is hereby made to the Registrar by **MARGARET FLANDERS** of Saddlers Project, in the Island of St. Christopher:-

For a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above-named deceased who died on the 25th day of March 2023 without revoking a Will bearing the date of 26th day of April 2021 wherein the applicant is named Sole Executrix.

Dated the 1st day of August 2025.

Johsiah Imo

Filed by Hamilton & Co. L.P., Attorneys-at-Law

The Court Office is at the High Court Annex, Basseterre, in the Island of St. Christopher, telephone number (869) 467-1102

The office is open between 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays

CARICOM free movement of people gets underway

Starting October 1, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines launched Enhanced Cooperation in Free Movement. This is a major step forward from the existing CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

What it means for citizens of members.

• Citizens of these four countries can live, work, and retire in any of the four without a work permit or CSME skills certificate.

• You can move for any legitimate reason, not just work or business.

• Families can come too—spouses, dependent children, and dependent parents.

• You will have access to primary healthcare, schooling, and social services like a local resident.

Key Questions and Answers

1. How was movement under the old CSME system?

CSME allowed movement mainly for economic reasons—like working in approved job categories, starting a business, or providing services. Skilled workers had the right to stay indefinitely, but everyone else was limited to short stays.

2. How is this new system different?

Enhanced Cooperation goes beyond work. Any citizen of the four countries can move to another participating country for work, study, retirement, or leisure and stay indefinitely.

3. Which countries are part of this?

Barbados, Belize, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

4. What rights do citizens get?

You can enter, live, and work freely, with no need for work permits or skills certificates. You will also have access to health and education services. Entry can be refused only if someone is a security risk or a serious financial burden.

5. When did this start?

October 1, 2025.

Case Number :NEVHPB2025/0082

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST.CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(NEVIS CIRCUIT)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
ISLAND OF NEVIS
[Probate]
A. D. 2025

Submitted Date:30/09/2025 12:19
Filed Date:30/09/2025 12:19
Fees Paid:52.00

In the Estate of Sydney Williams late of Hanley's Road, Gingerland in the island of Nevis but who resided in the United States of America, deceased,

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Colin Desmond Williams of 1309 Catherine Drive, Opelika, Alabama in the United States of America for a Grant of Letters of Administration of the above-named deceased who died on the 17th day of November 2015 wherein the applicant is the lawful Attorney of Derek Ulyssess Williams, the son and only beneficiary and the intended Administrator of the deceased's Estate.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the Application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2025

Michelle J Slack-Clarke
WALWYN SLACK CLARKE & WHITE
Attorneys-at-Law

Filed by Michelle J Slack-Clarke of **WALWYN SLACK CLARKE & WHITE** Attorneys-at Law and Notaries of Suites 16 & 17 Temple Building, Main Street, Charlestown in the island of Nevis Tel 1 (869) 469- 5645 Email mslackclarke@wscwlaw.com

MATTERS

Continued from Page 4

are increasingly looking for medical schools that are accredited by the Caribbean Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), the Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine (ACCM), or the Agency for Accreditation of Educational Programs and Activities (AAEPO), in rare cases. Without accreditation, the risks are too great: wasted time, wasted money, and wasted potential.

The Parent and Family Perspective: Assurance of Value

Parents and families are often the ones financing their children's education, and in the case of international medical schools, this is usually a significant financial sacrifice. Families need assurance that the institution their child attends will deliver on its promise: a pathway to becoming a licensed physician.

The Faculty and Staff Perspective:

Faculty and staff are also deeply affected by whether or not a school is accredited. In unregulated environments, many schools have historically operated with opaque hiring practices, nepotism, or unqualified leadership. There have been credible reports of wage disputes, bullying, and exploitative conditions at some offshore schools, underscoring the need for stronger accreditation standards. Accreditation is designed to address abuses that have been reported in the region, including faculty mistreatment and unstable employment conditions.

Accreditation forces institutions to change this dynamic. It requires that leadership and faculty hold appropriate qualifications, that governance structures are transparent, and that academic freedom is respected. For faculty, teaching at an accredited institution adds credibility to their professional record, enhancing career prospects.

Moreover, accredited schools tend to be more stable, providing faculty and staff with better job security and professional development opportunities. Accreditation, in short, creates a healthier workplace culture that benefits both educators and students.

The Institutional Perspective: Legitimacy and Sustainability

From the perspective of medical schools, accreditation is crucial for survival. Historically, offshore schools have had varying levels of quality; some offered robust programs, while others operated primarily to collect tuition with inadequate oversight. As a result, unaccredited medical schools in the region are facing challenges such as low enrollment, high dropout rates, and students transferring to accredited institutions.

Accreditation differentiates legitimate educational institutions from weaker ones and diploma mills. An accredited school gains credibility, which has a direct effect on attracting and retaining students. In today's competitive global education market, accreditation often plays a crucial role in students' decisions about which school to attend.

The Community Perspective: Revenue and Workforce Development

International medical schools play a significant role in the economy by attracting foreign students who contribute to various local sectors. These students spend money on housing, domestic services, food, utilities, transportation, car rentals, shopping, restaurants, street vendors, and engage in cultural exchange. This influx of students also creates job opportunities for both skilled and unskilled labor. Accredited schools tend to maintain steady enrollment, ensuring that these economic benefits are consistent and reliable. Overall, this can generate millions of dollars for the community, which is a substantial advantage.

The National Perspective: Global Reputation

At the country level, accreditation shapes global reputation. Nations associated with schools that do not meet standards risk credibility, with the possibility of creating barriers for graduates abroad. Conversely, countries with accredited institutions strengthen their health workforce, attract international students, boost tourism, and demonstrate global leadership in medical education.

Conclusion

Accreditation is more than a bureaucratic hurdle; it is the safeguard of trust, quality, and accountability in medical education. Accreditation protects students and families, empowers faculty, sustains institutions, strengthens communities, and enhances national reputations. For medical schools, it is not optional. It is the only pathway to a future that is credible, sustainable, and globally respected.

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IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.

SSZ

Continued from Page 4

vote in the Nevis Parliament. Clearly anyone voting for this must be sure that no personal benefit to himself/herself or to a close relative might be attributed to their positive vote. Anyone thus compromised must declare such interest as he/she may have and recuse him/herself. Cannot vote. This is elementary. No one is permitted to use a Parliament vote to enrich him/herself.

'When we started contacting governments, interest was much higher than initially estimated,' said Mr. Janssens in 2017. A long drawn out and secretive process has just now come to the end, with but one final vote in the Nevis Parliament required to set up the developer and the SS Zone in Nevis. Neither the AG's legal department nor the equivalent in Nevis seem to want to accept original authorship of this bizarre SSZ Act.

The reason is obvious, the Free Society investors came with this Act readymade to fit into our system, give them what they wanted and make it proof against all reasonable objections that might be put up by the people. That is why the Act gives such extraordinary powers to the PM and the Premier to bring to their respective Cabinets and Parliaments a Bill to create an SSZ Development Agreement.

We don't even know if any of the conditions precedent in s 5 have been met. And since s 5(2) reads 'In considering any development agreement, the Cabinet and, where applicable, the NIA, shall be guided by the conditions precedent set out in this Act', absolute and sole discretion is given to these two leaders to interpret this guidance as they wish. We do not even know if the economic analysis or the plans to develop the necessary infrastructure mandated by s 5 (1) have actually been done, let alone what these two requirements indicate.

All that these billionaire investors have to do is to persuade our two leaders that granting them development rights under the SSZ Act is a good thing. Of course, the politicians have to sell it to the people, and we are in this process. At this point we remind them that in a decent democracy the power they have, all of it, derives from us, 'We the People'.

In contrast, the SSZ Act vests such power in our two leaders that they might be tempted to think and act as 'Me the People', and leave us out of the reckoning. It is clear from all the comments made that 'We the People' are making a legitimate demand to see all correspondence, notes and verbal dealings that exist between our representatives and these investors.

'We the people' say to 'Me the people' 'remember the words of Abraham Lincoln.'

'Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail. Without it nothing can succeed.' In my first article for The Observer in March 2000 which discussed the big development at Pinney's that government hoped for, I said, '…What I would like to see, replacing the secretiveness, is a new attitude of openness and willingness to share knowledge.' Twenty-five years later nothing has changed.

There is worry about losing so much land to outsiders. Far more important is the concern that the fairly sudden increase in population, an influx of these white Crypto Bros supporters will mean that we lose ourselves. They come from America where there is a strong white supremacist movement. History shows, over and over again, that large numbers of immigrants from a different culture cause social dissension, upheaval, and sometimes violence. Crypto Bros come from a country where there are more guns than people, where crazies go in to schools and shoot up the children, and also into churches to bring mayhem. They want their own port. Our police have a hard job controlling the illegal import of guns. They will have no chance if Crypto Bros control their port.

Our citizens possess a high degree of racial tolerance and absorb without objection a limited number of folks from other countries and cultures. This intended SSZ development may destroy that, and the benefits of the 'higher end' tourism that we and our tourists enjoy. Is it so wrong for me to want and to say that I hope that when my little grandsons' children go to school at Stepping Stones they will look around and see that most of the others look like them, a strong branch of the Caribbean people originating out of Africa.

To preserve our culture and traditions and not to risk becoming foreigners in our own land there is only one course of action available to us. Repeal the SSZ Act!

Panama Canal budget swells as lake plan promises drought relief

Panama's lawmakers have approved a new $5.21 billion budget for the Panama Canal that is expected to boost state revenues by nearly 15%.

For the fiscal year starting in October, the canal is projected to deliver $3.19 billion to the national treasury, up 14.5% from the previous year. The canal authority also forecasts a $3.5 billion profit for the current year ending in September, though it expects fewer transits in 2026 due to global economic uncertainty.

A major feature of the budget is a $1.6 billion plan to build a new reservoir at the Rio Indio. This reservoir would provide a backup water source for the locks and could go a long way toward making the canal more drought resistant.

The need for such resilience became clear in 2023, when a prolonged drought forced the canal to limit the number of daily crossings. Each ship transit consumes millions of gallons of fresh water, and the canal's future depends on stable supplies.

The reservoir, however, is controversial. It would displace about 2,500 residents in farming communities, and opponents have taken the case to Panama's Supreme Court, arguing that it violates constitutional rights. Local groups say most residents do not want to leave.

The canal remains central not only to Panama's economy but also to global trade. Its contributions are a key pillar of the national budget.

At the same time, Washington and Beijing are watching closely. The United States has pressed Panama to restrict Chinese involvement in canal operations, and former president Trump has promised to "take back" the waterway from what he describes as Chinese influence.

CONGRESS

Continued from Page 5

with a smile.

Brantley further outlined that the Nevis delegation in Barbados includes representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Miss Tamara Morton, a teacher at Gingerland Secondary School, who has been working closely with both Claxton and Warner in preparation for the Congress.

"I have very high hopes for Miss Claxton," the Premier added. "She is a very impressive young fifth-former. She even came and gave us a flavour of her presentation to the Cabinet, and we were deeply impressed by her enthusiasm and remarkable ability."

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
A. D. 2025
(PROBATE)

IN THE MATTER of the Application of **ANTONIETTA MAZZATENTA** for the Resealing of a Grant of Probate in the Estate of **GIUSTINO MAZZATENTA,** late of 105 Ellwood Drive West, Bolton, Ontario, L7E4W8, Canada, deceased

And

IN THE MATTER of Rule 30 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

ADVERTISEMENT (RESEALING)

NOTICE is given that after the expiration of 8 days application will be made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for the resealing of the grant of probate in the Estate of **GIUSTINO MAZZATENTA,** late of the 105 Ellwood Drive West, Bolton, Ontario, L7E4W8, Canada granted by the Ontario Supreme Court of Justice at Brampton, Ontario, Canada on the 12th day of September 2025.

Dated this 29th day of September 2025

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GRANT, POWELL & CO.
Attorneys-at-Law for the Propounder

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SKN showcases St. Mary's Biosphere at UNESCO World Congress

St. Kitts and Nevis was among the nations represented at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, held in Hangzhou, China, from 22–26 September 2025. The participation was confirmed by the UNESCO National Commission for St. Kitts and Nevis on 29 September.

The Congress, organised under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), brought together experts, policymakers, and community leaders to advance the conservation and sustainable development of biosphere reserves worldwide.

St. Kitts and Nevis operates the St. Mary's Biosphere Reserve (SMBR), accredited in 2011, which stands as a model of the Federation's commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices. Representing the nation at the Congress was Mrs. Telca Wallace, National Coordinator for the SMBR.

In her presentation, Mrs. Wallace highlighted the progress made in biodiversity management over the past decade, underscoring ongoing collaboration with UNESCO. She noted key initiatives such as the development of legal protection measures and an ambitious management plan aimed at positioning the SMBR as a regional and global example of sustainability.

"The St. Mary's Biosphere Reserve continues to embody our commitment to balancing human activity with ecological preservation. By strengthening partnerships with UNESCO and implementing innovative conservation measures, we are building resilience while safeguarding biodiversity," Mrs. Wallace said.

The Congress featured a broad agenda, including ministerial sessions where countries shared insights on biosphere management, and thematic discussions on biodiversity conservation, education, and financing strategies.

H.E. Nerys Dockery, Secretary-General of the UNESCO National Commission for St. Kitts and Nevis, praised the Congress for offering a platform to highlight the SMBR as a community-driven sustainability success story.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mrs. Telca Wallace, National Coordinator for the UNESCO St. Mary's Biosphere Reserve, represented St. Kitts and Nevis at the meeting that takes place once every 10 years.

Meanwhile, Ambassador David Doyle reiterated the Reserve's role in Caribbean biosphere initiatives, noting its achievements from UNESCO-supported projects. Among them is the Earth Network initiative, launched in 2023, which promotes agricultural biodiversity and resilience through community-led measures such as seed banks and rainwater harvesting systems.

The Federation's active participation in the Congress reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of the SMBR, while showcasing Nevis's efforts in sustainability and community engagement to a global audience.

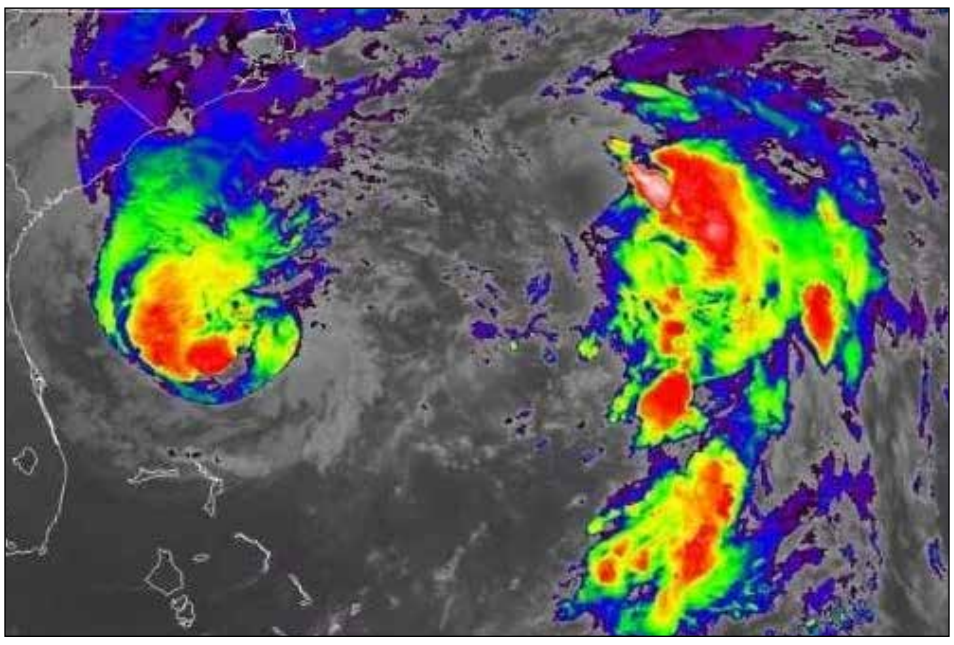

PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Hurricanes Humberto and Imelda. When two hurricanes are close together, strange effects can occur

Humberto and Imelda mark start of fierce Atlantic season

Hurricanes Humberto and Imelda swept across the Atlantic, putting Bermuda in their path after already hitting Cuba and the Bahamas.

Humberto, a Category 2 storm with winds of 100 mph, passed west and north of Bermuda, bringing heavy rain and dangerous seas. Imelda, which killed two people in Cuba and flooded dozens of communities, strengthened into a Category 2 hurricane and was expected to pass near or directly over Bermuda.

The Bahamas, especially New Providence, Grand Bahama, and Abaco, also saw major flooding and school closures.

Bermuda's government has urged residents to prepare for "a serious week of weather." Though its strong buildings help against hurricanes, the island faces up to four inches of rain and rough seas. Both storms were also stirring up dangerous surf and rip currents along the U.S. East Coast, from Florida to New Jersey.

Neither of the twin hurricanes was expected expected to make a direct strike on the Caribbean, but choppy seas could cause danger to fishing boats, recreational boating, and bathers on beaches.

Forecasters note this year's hurricane season has been active, with nine named storms so far.

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Historic Gathering of First Ladies and Gentlemen at UNGA80. First Lady Diani Prince-Drew is at far right.

First Lady Diani Prince-Drew attends high-level UN event

By Rick Amburgey
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

Diani Prince-Drew, wife of Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew, joined first ladies and first gentlemen from around the world at a Joint High-Level Event at the United Nations on September 24, commemorating the UN's 80th anniversary.

The gathering, held under the theme "The Role of First Ladies and Gentlemen: United for Peace and Prosperity," was co-hosted by the Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen Global Platform (SFLG), the Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), and the Alliance of Spouses of Heads of State and Representatives of Latin America (ALMA). It was facilitated by the Global First Ladies Alliance (GFLA).

Participants issued a joint statement outlining their commitment to promote dialogue and inclusion, strengthen cooperation across regions, and support initiatives aimed at peace and prosperity.

Mrs. Prince-Drew attended as a member of SCLAN and reaffirmed that Saint Kitts and Nevis remains dedicated to advancing people-centred solutions—an approach aligned with the government's vision of building a Sustainable Island State.