Civil Society Coalition seeks clarity on SSZ, Destiny Project - See Page 5

St KITTS & NEVIS OBSERVER

$2

Friday, December 19, 2025 | *The Federation's Politically Independent News Source* | Issue #1628

Govt. rolls out EC$1.075B Blueprint for 2026

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Brantley calls for diversity in Budget response

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Celebration to tragedy for Miss Teen SKN

- See Page 8

Nevis housing revolution to continue in 2026, says Minister

By Vernan George
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

The Nevis Island Administration (NIA) will continue its housing revolution in 2026, with plans to construct more affordable homes and make additional residential land available to Nevisians, according to Minister of Housing and Lands, the Honourable Eric Evelyn.

Speaking during his Budget presentation, Minister Evelyn said the Nevis Housing and Land Development Corporation (NHLDC) remains central to the administration's mission of improving access to home ownership and land development on the island.

"The Nevis Housing and Land Development Corporation is continuing to construct houses and make lands available for the people of Nevis," the minister stated.

He announced that the immediate housing goal for 2026 is the construction and distribution of 34 affordable homes, fully equipped with essential amenities. The houses will be a mix of three-, two-, and one-bedroom units, built on approximately 5,000 to 13,000 square feet of land within existing and new NHLDC developments.

The developments earmarked for these homes include Maddens, Cedar View, Spring Hill, University Heights, Nisbett Estate, Craddock Road, Hamilton, Chimney Crescent, and the New River Housing Development. The distribution of the 34 homes is planned as follows: Maddens (6), Nisbett Estate (1), Craddock Road (1), Hamilton Sugar Mill Residences (3), Chimney Crescent (2), University Heights (1), and New River Estate— a new development to be known as Blue Waters Muse Extension—where 20 homes are scheduled to be built.

Minister Evelyn also revealed that new residential land will become available in 2026, with a land division comprising 36.16 acres at Ghana's Estate expected to come on stream.

"This is a wonderful area, and I know people are already lining up. I'm already getting calls," he said. "Persons can start lining up once those lots become available. We want you to get a piece of the rock."

In outlining infrastructure plans, the minister said NHLDC projections for 2026 and beyond include road and drainage works at University Heights; road, drainage, and water installation at Maddens Phase Three; road and drainage at Chimney Crescent; road and drainage at Mountain Crest Residences on Craddock Road; road, drainage, and water at Bay View Gardens in Rices; and full infrastructure—roads, drainage, electricity, and water—at the New River Estate development.

Minister Evelyn also provided an update on the corporation's performance. In 2025, the NHLDC has constructed, is constructing, or plans to construct 25 houses at a total cost of $6.8 million. Of that number, eight houses have been fully completed at a cost of $2.5 million, while 17 are under construction at a cost of $4.3 million. These homes are located in Maddens Phase Three, Nisbett Estate, University Heights, Craddock Road, Hamilton, Chimney Crescent, and Rices.

He further noted that between 2013 and 2025, the NHLDC undertook the construction of 346 houses at a total cost of $76.1 million. Land sales for 2025 amounted to 175,517 square feet.

Turning to quarry operations, the minister reported that in 2025, 2,787 cubic yards of stone were sold, generating $94,865, while 21,979 cubic yards of base material were sold, generating $699,710.50. In total, 24,766 cubic yards of material were sold, yielding total revenue of $794,575.

Minister Evelyn said the continued housing and land development initiatives underscore the administration's commitment to expanding home ownership, strengthening infrastructure, and improving the overall quality of life for residents of Nevis.

■ Public Notice

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCE, 1906

SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District " ",
To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Craig Celese (Chill Shack)
now residing in Shaw Avenue Street in the town or
village of Mc Knight do hereby give you notice
that it is my intention to apply on 5th
day of 5th January 2026 next to the District Magistrate at
Basseterre
for a Liquor licence in respect of my premises
in Shaw Avenue Street in Mc Knight

Dated this 16th day of October 2025

Signed C. Celese

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

Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0150

Submitted Date:17/12/2025 19:03

Filed Date:18/12/2025 08:30

Fees Paid:52.00

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

In the matter of Rule 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules, 2017

and

In the Estate of **ERSELYN VANTERPOOL also known as ERSELYN SAMUEL also known as ERCILYN SAMUEL** late of 167 Carib Road, New Road, St. Peter, St. Christopher, deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **CANDACE PEELER** nee **SAMUEL** and **CARICIA SAMUEL** both of 167 Carib Road, New Road, St. Peter, St. Christopher for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicants who are the daughters of the of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 13th 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 17th day of December 2025.

Filed by S. Shanise Hazel, HAZELALLEYNE LAW OFFICE, Attorneys-at-Law of the Applicant whose address for service is Victoria Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Telephone (869) 465-3986.

[~~FIRST~~/ SECOND PUBLICATION]

Shakeim Cranston sentenced to 63 years for murder

Shakeim Cranston has been sentenced to 63 years in His Majesty's Prison for the murder of Darnell Govia, which occurred on June 20, 2017, at the Joseph N. France General Hospital.

Cranston was convicted on October 10, 2025, and his sentence was handed down at the High Court in Basseterre on December 15, 2025, by His Lordship Justice Iain Morley KC.

According to court records, Cranston's time spent on remand will be deducted from his sentence. He will also be eligible for one-third remission only after serving forty-two (42) years of the imposed term.

The sentencing marks the conclusion of a lengthy legal process surrounding a high-profile case that has drawn significant public attention in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The fatal shooting that led to Shakeim Cranston's conviction and lengthy prison sentence occurred on the morning of June 20, 2017, at the Joseph N. France General Hospital in Basseterre. Around 9:00 a.m., 31 year old Darnell Govia of Phillip's Village was shot multiple times by a lone gunman while waiting outside the hospital laboratory for a friend who was undergoing medical tests. The attack caused panic among staff and visitors as gunshots rang out inside the public health facility, forcing people to take cover. Govia was rushed for treatment but later succumbed to his injuries.

Police responded swiftly to the scene, and Cranston — then 23 years old and of

Shakeim Cranston

Upper College Street, Basseterre — was arrested shortly afterwards following a coordinated effort by the Special Services Unit and officers from the St. Johnson's Police Station. He was formally charged with the murder of Govia on June 23, 2017.

Evidence presented at Cranston's trial included CCTV footage, forensic findings, and eyewitness testimony. A jury found him guilty in October 2025 of a premeditated firearm offence committed in a public setting, with the court noting several aggravating factors including the calculated nature of the killing and the fact that the defendant was on bail at the time for a separate firearm offence.

Govt. lays out EC$1.075B for 2026

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has unveiled a proposed EC$1.075 billion budget allocation for 2026, signalling a wide-ranging and people-centred investment programme aimed at strengthening governance, stimulating economic growth, enhancing social protection, and advancing the Federation's Sustainable Island State Agenda.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, presented the Estimates during his 2026 Budget Address in the National Assembly on Tuesday, December 16, outlining what he described as a disciplined, coordinated, and results-oriented framework for national development.

According to Prime Minister Drew, the 2026 Estimates are firmly anchored in the National Development Planning Framework, and are designed to convert long-term policy objectives into tangible outcomes. He noted that the allocation reflects careful fiscal management in the context of a complex and often volatile global environment, while maintaining a clear focus on resilience, inclusion, and sustainable growth.

"The 2026 Budget allocation represents more than figures on paper; it is a clear statement of intent, one that prioritises people, progress, and sustainable development," the Prime Minister said.

'The 2026 Budget allocation represents more than figures on paper; it is a clear statement of intent, one that prioritises people, progress, and sustainable development'

Dr. Terrance Drew
Prime Minister

DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

A significant portion of the EC$1.075 billion allocation is directed towards boosting productivity, expanding economic activity, and strengthening institutions. Prime Minister Drew explained that sustained investment in major public and private sector projects is expected to drive growth across several key industries, including construction, tourism, wholesale and retail trade, transport and communications, financial services, and agriculture.

These investments are intended to generate employment opportunities, modernise business operations through the use of technology, and enhance food security by increasing agricultural production for both local consumption and export markets. The government anticipates that this broad-based approach will help diversify the economy while improving livelihoods across the Federation.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

As part of the overall 2026 allocation, the Prime Minister's Office is proposed to receive EC$69.3 million in recurrent expenditure and EC$3.5

See ECS on Page 15 *

COURTESY PHOTO
PM Drew Delivers the 2026 Budget Address in the National Assembly.

Homicides in SKN falls sharply as public health approach to crime takes hold

The government's strategy to address crime from a public health perspective and the dedicated commitment of law enforcement have resulted in a dramatic decrease in homicides, as well as an overall reduction in crime. This has helped to foster a more peaceful environment across communities in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

According to information from the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, there have been six recorded homicides to date in 2025. In 2024, there were a total of 28 homicides, of which 16 were resolved. The dramatic 78 percent reduction in homicides to date, registers favourably when compared to larger countries in the Western Hemisphere. Notably, law enforcement also removed 20 illegal firearms to date, in 2025. Statistics also show that reported crime saw an 11 percent reduction at the end of 2024, compared to 2023.

The accomplishment is worth celebrating said Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, while presenting the Budget Address on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, for the fiscal year ahead.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK LIMITED
Member of Caribbean Association of Banks

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VENUE FOR NEVIS SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the **FIFTY -FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK LIMITED** is scheduled to be held at the Royal St. Kitts Hotel Frigate Bay on Monday December 29th, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Shareholders in Nevis are invited to attend the meeting via video conferencing at the Nevis Disaster Management Facility, Long Point.

Head Office: P.O. Box 343, Central Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts, West Indies
Tel: (869) 465-2204 Fax: (869) 465-1050
www.sknanb.com

EDITORIAL

Working the diplomatic channels continuously has become imperative

An expanded update to the U.S. travel ban was recently issued by the White House, and among the 15 newly-added countries listed as subject to partial travel restrictions are Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica.

Although it does not amount to a full entry ban, the restrictions would significantly affect the majority of citizens in those two nations and the other 18 countries named (20 in total), because it generally includes the suspension of immigrant visas and select nonimmigrant visa categories. There are also 20 countries with a Full Travel Ban, increased from 12.

There isn't ambiguity in the proclamation, it explicitly cites Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programs as the rationale for restricting the two islands. It is stated that "a foreign national from a country that is subject to travel restrictions could purchase CBI from a second country that is not subject to travel restrictions, obtain a passport in the citizenship of that second country, and subsequently apply for a United States visa for travel to the United States, thus evading the travel restrictions on his or her first country."

Law enforcement agencies in the US as well as the State Department have determined that "historically, CBI programs have been susceptible to several risks," and President Donald Trump has asserted unequivocally that these risks include allowing individuals to conceal their identity and assets to circumvent travel restrictions or financial or banking restrictions.

The two Caribbean nations have been taken by surprise.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne declared in a statement that his government is "deeply disappointed that Antigua and Barbuda has been included in this proclamation on the stated ground that our Citizenship by Investment Programme has historically operated without a residency requirement…That proclamation does not reflect the present reality of our laws,"

He said that Parliament recently enacted legislation introducing a mandatory 30-day physical residency requirement as a strict condition for citizenship qualification.

Browne also disclosed that immediately after the proclamation's release, Antigua's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders, contacted the State Department. He said that officials told Sanders they found the proclamation surprising and had received no prior notice of its issuance.

Browne said that Sanders has since initiated arrangements for urgent, high-level engagement with the State Department and the White House for

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St KITTS & NEVIS OBSERVER $2

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COURTESY PHOTO

Simulated emergencies and injuries during the Nevis Disaster Management Department's Annual Comprehensive Community Emergency Response Team Training Simulation Exercise on December 12.

Nevis Disaster Management Dept. conducts training simulation exercise

Sirens echoed through the streets of Nevis on Friday, December 12, as bystanders looked on while the Nevis Disaster Management Department (NDMD) conducted an island-wide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Simulation Exercise.

The full-day exercise featured coordinated, scenario-based emergency drills across all five parishes, designed to mirror realistic hazards and test community-level preparedness. The initiative formed a critical part of NDMD's ongoing mission to strengthen disaster readiness at both the national and local levels, while challenging CERT volunteers to operate in high-pressure environments requiring rapid decision-making, teamwork, leadership, stress management, and effective communication, all while adhering to established emergency protocols.

Throughout the day, CERT teams responded to multiple simulated incidents involving crowd control, victim extraction, medical care, evacuation, and coordination with national response agencies. The scenarios included a building explosion, search and rescue operations, a beach drowning, a landslide, a vehicular accident, and a house fire.

Coordinator for the exercise, Mr. Ian Fraser, told The Observer that the simulations were designed to assess the effectiveness of the training participants received over the past 10 weeks.

"Today we had a series of scenarios where we test the knowledge of the CERTs from the training they would have received over the past 10 weeks," Fraser said. He commended the volunteers for their commitment and encouraged others to get involved. "The exercise was a great one, and we commend the CERTs for their hard work. We always encourage others to join and be a part of these teams that we are building. We are trying to build a resilient nation, and we always thank the trainees for coming out and spending their time by partaking in these events."

Incident Commander for the training exercise, Deputy Fire Chief Timothy Martin, also expressed confidence in the teams' performance.

"Given the tight window—three hours per day—to teach the various topics, with the response today I feel confident that they know what they are about," Martin said. "They retained the knowledge and information that was passed on to them. With continuous training, the few errors made would be corrected."

The Nevis Disaster Management Department extended sincere thanks to the CERT volunteers and partner agencies, including the St. Kitts–Nevis Defence Force, Fire and Rescue Services, and the Red Cross. Appreciation was also expressed to members of the general public for their cooperation, patience, and continued support during the exercise.

We want to hear your opinion!

You opinion matters! Let everyone know how you feel about issues by writing a letter to the editor.

CSC hosts town hall on SSZ, Destiny project

By Vernan George
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

Nevisians gathered at the Anglican Church Hall in Charlestown on Monday, December 15, as the Nevis Civil Society Coalition hosted a town hall meeting to examine the proposed Special Sustainability Zone (SSZ) Act and the Destiny Project.

The panel featured Attorney-at-Law Chesley Hamilton, economist and land-use specialist Daniel Arthurton, and Dr. Glenn Griffin, a historian, psychologist and critical theory specialist. The discussion centred on governance, land rights, sovereignty, economic implications and transparency.

Co-host Dr. Glendale Herbert explained that the coalition was formed in response to growing concern over how the SSZ and Destiny Project were being advanced.

"The Nevis Civil Society Coalition was born out of the entire SSZ and Destiny, the prospect of the Destiny Project, and all the information that has been coming out," Herbert said.

He noted that several groups had spoken out independently but felt ignored.

"Civil society was all over the map and not speaking in one voice, and the government spoke in one voice," he said, adding that organisations such as the Bar Association, the Chamber of Commerce and church groups "did not get a response or favourable look from government."

Herbert stressed the importance of civil society asserting its role alongside government and business, stating that the coalition came together after several meetings over the past two months, culminating in the town hall.

Dr. Glenn Griffin offered a sharp critique of the proposed development, describing the SSZ and Destiny Project as"contemporary settler colonialism, plain and simple."

He argued that the project reflects long-standing fiscal concessions made since independence in 1983, and warned against how Nevisian land is portrayed.

"Notice how our land is talked about in the Destiny material — land that is underdeveloped, underutilised, awaiting activation," Griffin said.

He urged residents to question what is being offered in return.

"We need to know if what we're being offered is another version of Columbus beads," he stated, calling for negotiations aimed at ending poverty, financial insecurity, and even national debt.

Economist Daniel Arthurton focused on governance models underpinning the SSZ, raising concerns about legality and stability.

"They look for distressed economies, and the question is — is this even legal?" Arthurton asked.

He warned that such arrangements could lead to

"instability, protest and even sanctions," and called for full disclosure of negotiations.

"We must demand transparency because none of this was transparent," he said.

Athurton urged caution, adding, "Let's not rush. Let's hasten slowly with this one and look at the pros and cons properly."

Attorney-at-Law Chesley Hamilton addressed the constitutional implications of the SSZ, questioning the need for exclusive jurisdiction and tax-free status.

"Why give somebody exclusive jurisdiction and tax-free status?" Hamilton asked, arguing that Nevis should be built on principles of equality and equity.

He cautioned that the SSZ legislation effectively elevates itself above other laws.

"What you have done is elevate the SSZ Act to a status of semi-constitutional," Hamilton warned, describing it as something that requires "very, very careful" consideration.

Hamilton also disputed claims that the development agreement had not yet been finalised.

"You don't even have to guess what your development agreement is — it's inside here as a schedule," he said.

Dr. Herbert confirmed that Premier of Nevis, the Honourable Mark Brantley, was invited to attend the forum but did not do so. The town hall concluded with a robust question-and-answer session involving members of the audience.

Advisory Committee established to review SSZ Act

By Rick Amburgey
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

Following a commitment made at a national roundtable discussion last month, Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Terrance Drew has moved to establish an independent body to review the Special Sustainability Zones Authorisation Act, 2025, address public concerns, and ensure transparency and accountability in its application.

An Ad Hoc Advisory Committee has been formed for this purpose. The committee will review the legislation, consider how it may be implemented, and make recommendations on proposed amendments and other improvements.

Prime Minister Drew has emphasised that the SSZ Act does not, by itself, create or approve any Special Sustainability Zones, nor is it linked to any specific private development. Instead, the legislation is intended to establish a clear legal framework to guide how proposals are evaluated, disclosed and approved.

The committee will comprise representatives from civil society, professional bodies and key stakeholder organisations. According to a press release, organisations already invited to nominate representatives include the Saint Kitts Christian Council; Saint Kitts Evangelical Association; Saint Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce; Saint Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union; Bankers and Financial Services Association; Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions; Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; Organisation of Rastafari in Unity; Saint Kitts and Nevis Medical and Dental Association; Saint Kitts and Nevis Bar Association; Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean (Saint Kitts-Nevis Branch); Saint Kitts-Nevis Institute of Architects; Saint Kitts and Nevis Building Contractors Association; and the Saint Christopher National Trust.

IN THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT, CAP. 10.19
A.D. 2025

LAND REGISTRY Filed / Lodged DEC 05 2025 11:50 am ST CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

Case No. SKBLRD2025/**0059**

IN THE MATTER of Section 144 of the Title by Registration Act, Cap. 10.19

and

In the Matter of an Application by **VINCENT LIBURD** for the issue of a new Certificate of Title in the names of **VINCENT LIBURD** and **BARBARA MAYNARD** for a lot of land situate at **PARRY HOUSING EXTENSION PHASE 2** in the Parish of St. Peter, St. Kitts to replace a lost Certificate of Title recorded in Register Book **H3** Folio **542**

NOTICE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

It is hereby notified that an application has been made to the Registrar of Titles in Chambers for an Order for the issue of a new Certificate of Title in lieu of a lost Certificate of Title dated 8th day of December, 2008 and registered in the Register of Titles at Book H3 Folio 542 of the Saint Christopher Circuit for **ALL that lot No. 82 at PARRY HOUSING EXTENSION, PHASE 2 in the Parish of St. Peters bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- ON or towards the North-East by a Development Road, 141.91 feet; ON or towards the East by Lot No. 79, 19.42 feet; ON or towards the South by Lot Nos. 80 and 81, 115.00 feet and ON or towards the West by Lot No. 83, 102.26 feet and containing by admeasurement 7,014.24 square feet** all as the same is delineated and set forth on the plan by James R. Buchanan, Land Surveyor dated January 11th, 2007.

Any person knowing the whereabouts of or having any information concerning the said Duplicate Certificate which may lead to its recovery is requested to notify the Registrar of Titles at the Land Registry Department, North Independence Square, Basseterre, St. Kitts or Cherese Persad, Solicitor of **CHARLES AND ASSOCIATES**, Unit C20 the Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts at telephone No. (869) 466-7162 or Mobile No. (869) 667-7160.

Dated the 5th day of December, 2025.

Cherese Persad
CHARLES AND ASSOCIATES
Solicitors for the Applicant

FILE PHOTO

Leader of the Opposition, Mark Brantley, responds to the 2026 budget address.

FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

ISLAND OF NEVIS

TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP 10.19

A.D. 2025

LAND REGISTRY Filed / Lodged DEC 10 2025 10:21 am ST. CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS

IN THE MATTER OF the Title by Registration Act Chapter 10.19 of the Laws of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis

AND

IN THE MATTER OF a Certificate of Title Registered in **Book 42 Folio 297** in respect of land situate at Low Ground Estate (Phase B) measuring 8,406 square feet, in the Parish of Saint John, in the Island of Nevis in the name of **KEITH CLAXTON**

AND

IN THE MATTER OF an Application for issue of a new Certificate of Title in place of the lost duplicate Certificate of Title pursuant to **Section 144** of the **Title by Registration Act, Cap 10.19** of the Laws of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis

NOTICE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been made to the Registrar in Chambers for an Order for the issue of a new Certificate of Title to **KEITH CLAXTON** in lieu of a lost Certificate of Title presented the 9th day of September, 2004 and recorded as Book 42 Folio 297 in the Register of Titles of the Nevis Circuit in favour of **KEITH CLAXTON**, of Church Ground, in the Parish of Saint John, in the Island of Nevis for **ALL THAT** lot piece or parcel of land being Lot No. B43 situate at Low Ground Estate (Phase B) together with dwelling house thereon, in the Parish of Saint John, in the Island of Nevis, bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- **On or towards the North by Lot No. B33, 63.00 feet; On or towards the South by a Public Road, 66.68 feet; On or towards the East by Lot No. B42, 144.08 feet and On or towards the West by Lot No. B44, 122.82 feet** and containing by admeasurement **8,406 square feet** all as the same is delineated and set forth on the plan by Simeon Hill, Licensed Land Surveyor dated the 11th day of November, 2025.

Any person knowing the whereabouts of or having any information concerning the said duplicate Certificate of Title which may lead to its recovery is requested to notify the Registrar of Titles at the Registrar's Office, Charlestown, Nevis or the Legal Department of the Nevis Island Administration, Administration Complex, Main Street, Charlestown, Nevis at 1-869-469-0411 or e-mail: legal@niagov.com.

Dated the 10th day of December, 2025

JHodge

Janicia Hodge
Legal Counsel
Legal Department
Nevis Island Administration

Brantley urges economic diversification, criticises over-reliance on CBI

Opposition Leader Mark Brantley has called for urgent action to diversify the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis, stressing that the country remains overly dependent on the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programme despite years of discussion on economic reform.

Delivering his response to Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew's 2026 Budget Address, Brantley acknowledged the efforts of the government and the Ministry of Finance in preparing the annual budget. He encouraged the public to pay attention to the government's plans and programmes, rather than focusing solely on individual benefits.

"The sustainable island state agenda is important, and having a proper financial footing is crucial," Brantley said. "But over the past decade and a half, CBI has really been the backbone of our economy. If that golden goose were to stop laying eggs, this country would face grave difficulties."

Brantley stressed that efforts to diversify the economy have been slow. He highlighted the cannabis industry as an example of unfulfilled potential, noting that young entrepreneurs continue to face uncertainty and criminalisation due to unclear regulations.

"Why are we locking up young people who are trying to create something positive for themselves and their families?" he asked. "We need to put in place the necessary framework to allow them to be compliant and entrepreneurial."

He also praised initiatives in renewable energy, particularly the development of geothermal resources, as a promising avenue for economic diversification. Brantley commended the federal government's cooperation with Nevis on geothermal projects and other national initiatives, noting that renewable energy could transform the country's energy landscape.

On social issues, Brantley congratulated the police and national security forces for a noticeable reduction in violent crime. He urged young people to focus on opportunities within the country and highlighted the importance of Social Security, urging citizens, particularly the self-employed, to participate in the system.

The Opposition Leader also addressed property tax, citing the 2024 Audit Report, which revealed that property tax contributed just 2% of federal revenue. He urged the government to consider reforms to increase compliance and reassessment, pointing out that property tax revenue had remained stagnant despite growth in property values.

"Property tax in 2023 yielded $14 million, and in 2024, it yielded the same $14 million," Brantley noted. "It is an area that cries out for reform and proper attention."

Brantley concluded by emphasising the need for an informed public and constructive debate, warning against misinformation and misinterpretation of legislative processes. He cited the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) legislation as an example of a misunderstood initiative, comparing it to similar successful models in Dubai and elsewhere.

The Opposition Leader's remarks highlighted a recurring theme of caution: while recognising government initiatives, he urged deliberate and strategic action to reduce dependence on external revenue streams and foster a resilient, diversified economy.

Minister Phillip updates nation on the status of the Cayon Community Centre

During her contribution to the 2026 Budget Debate on Tuesday, December 17, 2025, Senator, the Honourable Isalean Phillip, Minister of State within the Ministry of Social Development, provided an update on the ongoing closure and remediation efforts at the Cayon Community Centre, which also houses the Cayon Post Office.

Minister Phillip reminded that the facility was closed in 2022, after an air quality test revealed the presence of mold in multiple spaces on both floors of the building. In the interest of protecting the health and safety of staff who work at the centre and members of the public who access the services there, the government took the decision to close the facility temporarily to allow for all necessary remedial works to be carried out.

Since that time, extensive efforts have been made to identify and eliminate the source of the mold while also preventing future occurrences. Minister Phillip noted that a range of remedial activities has been undertaken, including the repair and recapping of a leaking roof, professional mold remediation, installation of new appliances and air conditioning units, extensive cleaning, repainting, repair of the fence, reconnection of the cistern, and replacement of all wooden doors, furniture, and other fixtures.

Evelyn: Busy year ahead for Agriculture Ministry

By Vernan George
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

The Ministry of Agriculture is preparing for an ambitious and action-packed year in 2026, as it advances the government's broader goal of building a sustainable and resilient future for Nevis. This was outlined by the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Eric Evelyn—Minister with responsibility for Agriculture on Nevis—during his budget presentation.

Describing 2026 as a pivotal year for the sector, the minister emphasised the administration's continued focus on food security and food sovereignty. "I want to say here that next year, 2026, will be a huge year for agriculture. We are on that path of food security and food sovereignty, and we want all hands on deck," Minister Evelyn stated.

He said the ministry will continue several ongoing initiatives, including the promotion of agriculture in schools, support for shade house technology, farmer training programmes, and on-farm demonstrations. Efforts will also continue to improve both the quality and quantity of products at the abattoir and within agro-processing, alongside the promotion of intensive livestock production and ongoing capacity-building through training.

Looking ahead, Minister Evelyn outlined a range of new and expanded initiatives for Nevis. These include promoting intensive and semi-intensive livestock systems to reduce the practice of animals roaming freely, increasing public awareness of the sector and the department's work, and acquiring improved small ruminant breeds of goats and sheep.

Minister of Agriculture, Eric Evelyn

Plans are also in place to boost production on government estates and facilitate the marketing of crops in 2026. Noting the importance of onions as a major crop on the island, the minister said the department also intends to establish three acres of root crops for planting material, including ginger, yams, dasheen, and tannia.

Further priorities include enhancing animal extension and health services, as well as addressing the issue of stray animals through the introduction of an animal control unit. Expansion of the holding area at the abattoir is also planned, as the existing space has outgrown its capacity. "Our farmers need service. The department needs service," Minister Evelyn said, adding that two new tractors are required in 2026 and that work is expected to begin on a new office building for the department.

Minister Evelyn also detailed plans for the Department of Marine Resources in 2026. He said the successful fish pot-making workshop will continue in collaboration with the Department of Gender Affairs. The ministry also plans to rehabilitate seamoss farming, including the establishment of a seamoss group in the coming year.

Additionally, the creation of an aquaculture group is planned, as interest continues to grow in areas such as tilapia production and shrimp farming. The Department of Marine Resources will work closely with individuals interested in these ventures, providing technical support and guidance to help them become established.

Other initiatives include continued support for fishers through training workshops, mangrove tree planting, and infrastructure development in the Newcastle area. This development will involve the relocation of officials and the creation of a new landing site to better serve fishers in the community.

The department will also conduct joint patrols with the Coast Guard to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Additionally, plans are in place to establish at least 10 artificial coral reefs to preserve and enhance the marine ecosystem.

Minister Evelyn concluded by underscoring that all initiatives—whether in agriculture or marine resources—will be purpose-driven and aligned to build a resilient and sustainable future for Nevis.

Youthful voices shine at FLOW Junior Calypso Monarch Competition

The future of calypso signing took to the stage last Sunday night (December 14) as the performers brought energy, confidence and sharp social insight to the stage at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort during the FLOW Junior Calypso Monarch Competition.

With the final scores tallied, it was a mix of crowd-favourites who emerged victorious in both the primary and secondary school divisions, impressing judges and patrons with polished performances and meaningful lyrical content.

In the primary school category, Coryn Clarke, performing under the sobriquet Queen Coryn, captured the championship title with 244 points, securing the $2,500 grand prize. Adiaha followed closely in second place with 236 points, earning $1,500, while Mighty Zen placed third with 230 points and received $1,000.

The secondary school division was equally competitive, with Edward Williams, known as King Mighty J, claiming the crown after topping the field with 265 points. He was narrowly followed by Nicholas Petty (Star Boy Nicholas), who scored 263 points, while Dequan Hendrickson finished third with 232 points.

Throughout the evening, the young Calypsonians addressed a wide range of socially relevant topics, including the meaning of true independence, concerns surrounding excessive screen time, the importance of youth voices being heard, and the protection and empowerment of young girls. Their performances highlighted not only their talent but also the growing social awareness among St. Kitts and Nevis' young performers, signalling a promising future for the art form.

NOTICE OF DELAY OF THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors of The Bank of Nevis Limited sincerely apologises to our shareholders and stakeholders for the delays experienced with the completion and publication of the financial statements for the Bank for the financial years ended 30th June 2023, 30th June 2024 and 30th June 2025.

Emanating from the acquisition of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), there were post-acquisition related matters to be addressed by the members of the Consortium of Banks that acquired the assets and liabilities of the former RBC throughout the Eastern Caribbean in April 2021. These led to delays with the completion of the 2022 financial statements, which in turn delayed the completion of the 2023, 2024 and 2025 financial statements.

Additionally, the Bank has had to address post-acquisition related matters concerning the asset and liabilities of BON Bank Ltd (formerly RBTT Bank (SKN) Limited) which were vested in the Bank in January 2023.

Delays of this nature can occur with significant acquisition transactions, and we will continue to work with our External Auditor and Regulators to ensure that the Bank fulfils its regulatory requirements under the Banking Act 2015 (as amended) and the Securities Act and Regulations 2002 (as amended) including but not limited to obtaining the requisite extensions.

We are in the process of completing the financial statements for the financial year ended 30th June 2023 and will notify the shareholders of the date for the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a subsequent notification in accordance with the Bank's by-laws.

Shareholders who may have any queries and/or concerns, should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 469-5564 extension 330 or email at cherbert@thebankofnevis.com.

The Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to our shareholders and stakeholders for your understanding and patience under this circumstance. We regret any inconvenience caused and look forward to engaging with you at the 37th AGM.

By Order of the Board

...Herbert.....

CINDY C.T HERBERT (MRS)
CORPORATE SECRETARY

COURTESY PHOTO

A joyful post-pageant celebration was later overshadowed by the passing of the Teen Queen's mother (with arrow pointing to her).

Tatiyana Archer crowned Miss Teen SKN as celebration turns to mourning

By Loshaun Dixon
St. Kitts-Nevis Observer

An evening filled with school pride, pageantry and high standards unfolded at Warner Park on Saturday as ambassadors from eight secondary schools participated in the 2025-26 Republic Bank Teen St Kitts and Nevis Pageant, officially launching the Sugar Mas 54 pageant season.

Emerging victorious was Tatiyana Archer of Immaculate Conception Catholic School, who was crowned the Queen after amassing 406 points. Miss Archer's win was widely praised by patrons and viewers online, with the show earning strong reviews for its quality and the maturity displayed by the teenage contestants.

Miss Cader Rawlins of Washington Archibald High School was named first runner-up, Miss Celina Alwani of SKI Academy second runner-up, and Miss Camira Williams of Verchild's High School third runner-up. All eight ambassadors were commended for delivering a polished and entertaining production before a sold-out audience.

Less than 24 hours after the crowning, however, celebrations were overshadowed by an unimaginable tragedy. Archer's mother, Janet Johnson, a well-known and highly respected pageant coach, passed away suddenly. Ms. Johnson had been showered with praise only hours earlier after witnessing her daughter achieve the coveted title.

For more than three decades, Ms. Johnson made an indelible contribution to pageantry and the national carnival, mentoring and uplifting countless young women. She was also the coach of the current Miss St Kitts and Nevis Queen contestant, Taerani Phillip. Her passing sent shockwaves through the carnival and pageant community, prompting an outpouring of tributes recognising her dedication, passion and lasting impact.

The St Kitts and Nevis National Carnival Committee said it was "deeply saddened by the tragic and sudden passing of Ms. Johnson." In a statement, the committee described Johnson as "the epitome of a stalwart in our community," noting that she "poured her heart and soul into every pageant contestant that she coached."

"For over 30 years, Janet contributed immensely to our national carnival, living and breathing the

See TEEN on Page 9 *

COURTESY PHOTO

2025-26 Republic Bank Teen St Kitts and Nevis Pageant Queen, Miss Tatiyana Archer.

St. Kitts' Kunal Tilokani in WI U19 World Cup Squad

St. Kitts all-rounder Kunal Tilokani has achieved a significant milestone in his young career after being named in the West Indies Under-19 squad for the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2026, set to take place in Zimbabwe and Namibia from 15 January to 6 February.

Kunal Tilokani

Tilokani's inclusion in the 15-member West Indies side is the culmination of a standout 2025 season in which he impressed across multiple levels of regional cricket. He represented both the Leeward Islands Under-19 and Under-17 teams, earning the Most Valuable Player (MVP) title at the West Indies Under-17 Tournament. He also featured in senior competitions — including the Cool and Smooth T20 Tournament, St. Kitts Senior T20 team and the Senior 50-Over team — demonstrating both skill and maturity well beyond his years.

In international preparation ahead of the World Cup, Tilokani has already been involved in a seven-match Youth ODI series against England Under-19s in Grenada, where he contributed valuable runs and gained vital experience against quality opposition.

The West Indies squad, captained by Joshua Dorne, has been drawn in Group D alongside South Africa, Afghanistan and Tanzania at the World Cup, with group matches set for the High-Performance Oval in Windhoek, Namibia, before progressing to stages in Zimbabwe.

Tilokani's selection not only highlights his individual talent and work ethic but also represents a proud moment for St. Kitts cricket and its youth development pathways, as he prepares to compete on the global stage.

TEEN

Continued from Page 8

spirit of pageantry," the statement continued. "Her passion and dedication touched countless lives, and her recent win with her daughter is a testament to her enduring legacy."

The committee added: "We will remember her strength, her dedication and her unwavering commitment to uplifting our young women and setting the highest standard for pageantry in St Kitts and Nevis. Rest in peace, dear Janet. You will be missed but never ever forgotten."

Despite the heartbreak, Saturday night's pageant will be remembered as a defining moment for youth pageantry in St Kitts and Nevis — a celebration of talent, discipline and school pride — and as part of the enduring legacy of a woman who devoted her life to shaping excellence on the national stage.

The pageant showcased spirited school pride, with each ambassador backed by organised blocks of supporters cheering loudly for their respective schools. SKI Academy captured the School Spirit Award, impressing judges and patrons alike with colourful glow sticks, placards and noisemakers in support of their

COURTESY PHOTO

Tatiyana Archer 's mom and well-known pageant coach, Janet Johnson.

contestant. It marked the school's first appearance in the competition.

Case Number :NEVHPB2025/0109

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

Submitted Date:17/12/2025 15:43
Filed Date:17/12/2025 15:44
Fees Paid:12.00

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

In the Estate of Ismay Rosetta Fahie also known as Ismay Rosetta Morton
Late of Taylor's Pasture, St. Georges' Parish in the island of Nevis,
deceased

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PROBATE DE BONIS NON

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Wilbert Morton of Taylor's Pasture, St. Georges' Parish, in the island of Nevis but who currently resides in 40 Summercrest Drive, Unit 29, Hamilton Ontario, Canada, L8K6M5, the son and one of the surviving residuary legatee and devisee of the Estate of Ismay Rosetta Fahie also known as Ismay Rosetta Morton, deceased for a Grant of Probate De Bonis Non of the above named deceased who died on the 18th November, 2012 without revoking a will bearing the date of 5th September, 2008.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Probate De Bonis Non to the Applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2025.

Infatari Hanley
Barrister-at-law & Solicitor
IWD HANLEY LAW CHAMBERS

Filed by Infatari Hanley, Barrister-at-Law & Solicitor, whose address for service is IWD Hanley Law Chambers, Happy Hill Drive, Charlestown, St. Pauls`Parish, Nevis. Telephone:(869)663-9982. Email:iwdhanley.lawchambers@gmail.com

CIBC

CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited

Announces
Availability of its 2025 Annual Report

CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited (the "Company") announces that its 2025 Annual Report is available for viewing or download on the Company's website **www.cibccaribbean.com**.

Requests for printed copies
Shareholders who wish to receive a printed copy of the annual report or additional information should contact the Company at **agm@cibccaribbean.com**.

Cheryl Wood
Assistant Group Corporate Secretary

To view the 2025 annual report, scan this code.

The CIBC logo is a trademark of CIBC, used under license.

Construction of new JNF General Hospital imminent

Construction of the new Joseph N. France (JNF) General Hospital is officially set to begin, following the completion and approval of all site plans, feasibility studies, and the environmental and social impact assessment, marking a major milestone in the Federation's healthcare development.

The announcement was made on December 12, as Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Terrance Drew, joined by Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) H.E. Edward Ling-wen Tao, representatives of the Overseas Engineering & Construction Company (OECC), Ambassador Leon Natta-Nelson, and senior officials from the Ministry of Health and the JNF General Hospital, visited the project site. During the visit, it was revealed that construction activities will commence in short order.

The project, which has now entered its construction phase, is expected to generate significant employment opportunities for nationals of St. Kitts and Nevis, particularly within the construction sector and associated industries. Preparatory works and on-site activities are expected to begin in the coming days, providing an economic boost alongside the long-term healthcare benefits.

In a symbolic handing over of the site to OECC, Prime Minister Drew described the moment as the culmination of an extensive planning and consultation process and the transition to visible, on-the-ground development.

COURTESY PHOTO

Secondary School winner Edward Williams (King Mighty J) and Primary School monarch, Coryn Clarke (Queen Coryn).

"We are now at the stage where construction can begin," the Prime Minister said, noting that OECC has been granted access to the site and that preparatory works will immediately follow.

Prime Minister Drew emphasised that the project advanced deliberately to ensure all technical, environmental and regulatory requirements were fully satisfied, given the complexity and national importance of constructing a modern hospital. He reaffirmed that the new JNF General Hospital will be a climate-resilient, state-of-the-art facility designed to meet both current and future healthcare needs, while strengthening national preparedness and resilience.

Providing an update on the next phase, Ambassador Natta-Nelson explained that the site handover followed the formal approval of the hospital's designs and drawings, bringing the project to the completion of its first major milestone.

In the immediate period ahead, land surveys will be finalised, and residents in surrounding areas will be engaged as adjustments are made to site access and traffic flow. These activities will prepare the location for sustained construction work.

"The contractor will now be given permission to access the site and begin construction," Ambassador Natta-Nelson said, adding that the process will also create opportunities for employment and local participation as work progresses.

Both Prime Minister Drew and Ambassador Natta-Nelson expressed appreciation to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its continued partnership with St. Kitts and Nevis, highlighting Taiwan's critical role in supporting the development of modern healthcare infrastructure across the Federation.

The new JNF General Hospital is expected to significantly enhance healthcare delivery, stimulate economic activity during the construction phase, and serve as a cornerstone of the government's long-term investment in the health and well-being of the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. Construction activities are expected to begin at the Camps site in the coming days.

Notice JT_SKN: 02-15/12/2025

BRITISH-AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (IN JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT) ("BAICO") EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN

ATTENTION: CERTAIN FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BAICO EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas regarding the *"Distribution of Pension Trust Assets to Pension Plan Members"*, the Judicial Trustee ("JT") of the BAICO Employee Pension Plan, is attempting to contact the following individuals (or their eligible beneficiaries):

Finch, Tishma	Grant, E

If your name appears above, please contact the Judicial Trustee as soon as possible at **info@trinityconsultingservice.com**. This is an important step to facilitate the disbursement of pension funds to which you may be entitled under the BAICO Pension Trust.

Trotman brothers sentenced for Wounding with Intent to Murder

Brothers Divon 'Junie' Trotman, 25, and Dijon 'Bull' Trotman, 26, both of St. Kitts, have been sentenced to His Majesty's Prison for the offence of Wounding with Intent to Murder. The attack occurred on March 7, 2021, against Keon Fyfield, 38, who later succumbed to his injuries.

The Trotmans were convicted on August 1, 2025, and received their sentences at the High Court in Basseterre on December 15, 2025, before His Lordship Justice Iain Morley KC.

- Divon Trotman was sentenced to 22½ years' imprisonment.
- Dijon Trotman was sentenced to 21½ years' imprisonment.

Time spent on remand will be deducted from their sentences, and both are eligible for one-third remission for good behaviour.

The violent attack that led to the conviction of Divon and Dijon Trotman stems from an incident on March 7, 2021, in the Parray's Housing Extension area of St. Peter. On that day, 38 year old Keon Fyfield of Newtown was severely assaulted by the two brothers, suffering multiple traumatic injuries. Fyfield was taken to Joseph N. France General Hospital, where he remained warded until his death on March 25, 2021.

Initially, the brothers were charged with murder in April 2021. At the time, police confirmed that Dijon Trotman was charged on April 12, and Divon Trotman on April 13, following the earlier incident. Both were taken into custody by authorities.

Divon 'Junie' Trotman

Dijon 'Bull' Trotman

An autopsy conducted on Fyfield's body by Resident Pathologist Dr. Adrian Nuñez concluded that his death was linked to pulmonary embolism due to prolonged bed rest, which resulted from severe head trauma and concussion suffered during the attack. Investigators continued to examine evidence as the legal process unfolded.

During the trial, the prosecution eventually withdrew the original murder charge after determining that causation beyond reasonable doubt could not be fully established. However, the court proceeded with a conviction for wounding with intent to murder under the Offences Against the Person law in St. Christopher and Nevis, recognising the serious and coordinated nature of the assault.

Harris: 'SOS' required after latest budget

"If ever there was a time our country needed saving, we got the answer today. The budget estimates were a clear signal of why we have adopted SOS as an important platform — Save Our St Kitts and Nevis."

Former Prime Minister and Leader of the People's Labour Party (PLP), Dr the Hon. Timothy Harris, expressed this opinion as he launched a blistering attack on the Dr. Terrance Drew-led administration, accusing the government of incompetence, mismanagement and failing to deliver on key promises outlined in its latest budget.

Speaking at a town hall meeting following the Prime Minister's budget presentation, Dr Harris said the estimates confirmed what he described as a government that "does not know how to run things in St. Kitts and Nevis". He accused the administration of "wreaking havoc" on the country, and argued that the budget failed in its core purpose as an instrument of public accountability.

"A budget should clearly show the public how the country is being run. You listened today and what they should talk about, they did not talk about. Nothing new. Nothing has been accomplished. Fake promises. Broken promises."

The former prime minister also revisited what he said were unfulfilled commitments made shortly after the government took office, particularly the promise of an MRI facility.

"Almost four years ago, he promised that in two weeks the MRI facility would be there," Harris said, referring to Prime Minister Drew. "Up to today, no MRI has come. It is a five-year mandate they were given, and they have wasted your time and your vote."

Dr Harris further accused the government of prioritising its own comfort over the needs of the public, alleging that ministers have moved into government-paid residences while housing programmes for ordinary citizens have stalled.

"That is why there is no urgency anymore about the delivery of housing," he said. "They have used you, and they think they have fooled you."

Turning to the state of the economy, Harris said businesses across the Federation are struggling due to the high cost of living, rising electricity bills and declining consumer spending.

"Everywhere you go it is the same story," he said. "Businesses are about to close down. Turnover is not there. Electricity bills are too high. Prices keep moving in the wrong direction and many are at the borderline."

He also raised concerns about government spending, claiming that public finances have been mismanaged.

"You have to ask yourself how, in 2024, the government overspent by some $300 million," Harris said. "Where is the money? You can't see it. Roads are still bad. Public buildings are still run down and full of mould."

Pointing to unresolved issues in several communities, including Cayon and St Peter's, Harris said residents continue to wait for basic improvements long promised by the administration.

"Four years after, the problems remain," he said. "The elections are coming soon and you have to make up your mind."

In closing, Harris appealed to citizens to support what he described as a national effort to restore competent leadership, warning against what he said was the reversal of years of development progress.

"Developing a country is like filling a bathtub with a spoon," he said, recalling a metaphor used by the late Sir John Compton. "The danger of our democracy is that someone can come and just kick the bathtub over. We must say no and rescue our country."

Dr Harris urged supporters to prepare for change, insisting that St. Kitts and Nevis "deserves better" and calling for what he described as a return to government that works "for the people, not for itself."

'Everywhere you go it is the same story. Businesses are about to close down. Turnover is not there. Electricity bills are too high. Prices keep moving in the wrong direction and many are at the borderline.'

Dr. Timothy Harris
Former PM and Leader of the PLP

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

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO. NEVHPB2025/0107

In the Estate of FRANKYLN MAYNARD, late of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I but formerly of Hanley's Road, Gingerland in the Parish of St. George in the Island of Nevis, Deceased.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **VERNON MAYNARD** of Hanley's Road, Gingerland, Nevis, Heavy Equipment Operator and **SONIA DORE** of Hidden Valley, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I, Hotel worker, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicants who are the brother and sister respectively of **FRANKYLN MAYNARD** who died on the 24th day of August, 2018 in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

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

Dated this 18th day of December, 2025

Tyler Martin

Tyler Martin
ORAL MARTIN LAW CHAMBERS
Attorneys-At-Law for the Applicants

Filed by: ORAL MARTIN LAW CHAMBERS, Attorneys-At-Law of Upper Happy Hill Drive, Charlestown, Nevis for and on behalf of the Applicants who address for service is the same. Telephone No. (1869) 469-1819; Fax No. (1869) 469-5446; Email: oralmartinlawchambers@gmail.com /tylermartin_3@yahoo.com

Case Number :NEVHPB2025/0091

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

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ISLAND OF NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT

Submitted Date:06/11/2025 10:22

Filed Date:06/11/2025 10:22

PROBATE
A.D. 2025

Fees Paid:12.00

NEVHPB2025/00

Application for a Grant of Letters of Administration pursuant to Section 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules, 2017. St. Christopher and Nevis, Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 20 of 2017.

IN THE ESTATE OF KARIN MAYER COLT- DECEASED
of Colquhoun Estate, in the Parish of St. Thomas on the Island of Nevis.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR A GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **MAEVA MELODY COLT** of Colquhoun Estate, in the Parish of St. Thomas on the Island of Nevis, a student, child of the deceased for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant, the deceased having died intestate on the **12th of September 2025** at Memmingen, Federal Republic of Germany.

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

Dated this 27th day of October 2025

Ricaldo Caines Law Office
Attorney-At-Law for the Applicant

Filed by: **Ricaldo Caines of Ricaldo Caines Law Office, Attorney-At-Law, Suite 102, Phoenix House, Jews Street & Prince William Street, Charlestown, Nevis, for and on behalf of the Applicant whose address for service is the same. Telephone: (1869) 469-0017; Fax No. (1869) 469-0267;** Email: ricaldocaineslawoffice@gmail.com

Republic Bank (EC) Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Shareholder of Republic Bank (EC) Limited

Report on the Audit of the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion
The summary consolidated financial statements, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at September 30, 2025, and the consolidated statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and related summary notes, are derived from the complete audited consolidated financial statements of Republic Bank (EC) Limited and its subsidiaries ("the Group") for the year ended September 30, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Consolidated Financial Statements
The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the audited consolidated financial statements of the Group. Reading the summary consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon
We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated November 14, 2025. The audited consolidated financial statements and the summary consolidated financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited consolidated financial statements.

Responsibility of Management for the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Ernst & Young.

Rodney Bay, Gros Islet,
ST. LUCIA, W.I.
November 14, 2025

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at September 30, 2025
Expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars ($'000)

	Sep 30, 2025 $'000	Sep 30, 2024 $'000
ASSETS		
Cash on hand	51,594	52,242
Statutory deposits with Central Banks	325,191	316,249
Due from banks	557,696	701,599
Balances due from related banks	127,750	39,643
Due from related companies	269,732	168,466
Treasury Bills	146,268	185,221
Advances	3,325,170	3,039,521
Investment securities	292,994	433,339
Investment interest receivable	3,574	3,882
Other assets	62,073	102,747
Premises and equipment	36,717	29,699
Right–of–use assets	8,825	10,821
Intangible assets	55,976	62,556
Deferred tax assets	15,379	13,301
Taxation recoverable	7,809	8,595
TOTAL ASSETS	**5,286,748**	**5,167,881**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Due to banks	133,476	97,521
Balances due to related banks	79,359	83,195
Customers' current, savings and deposit accounts	4,316,623	4,306,156
Lease liabilities	10,043	12,461
Taxation payable	18,202	13,435
Deferred tax liabilities	11,479	10,863
Accrued interest payable	3,924	4,904
Other liabilities	83,145	75,311
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**4,656,251**	**4,603,846**
EQUITY		
Stated capital	402,894	402,894
Statutory reserves	52,167	38,874
Other reserves	93,427	86,270
Retained earnings	82,009	35,997
TOTAL EQUITY	**630,497**	**564,035**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**5,286,748**	**5,167,881**

These summary consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on November 14, 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Karen Yip Chuck, *Chairman*

Tracy Bartholomew, *Managing Director*

Pasquale Minicucci, *Director*

Henri-Jacques Mangal, *Corporate Secretary*

Republic Bank (EC) Limited

Republic Bank (EC) Limited

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For The Year Ended September 30, 2025
Expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars ($'000)

	Sep 30, 2025 $'000	Sep 30, 2024 $'000
Interest income	223,652	213,271
Interest expense	(43,039)	(39,266)
Net interest income	180,613	174,005
Other income	96,192	113,877
	276,805	287,882
Operating expenses	(179,276)	(200,447)
Operating profit	97,529	87,435
Credit loss expense on financial assets	(5,764)	(3,552)
Net profit before taxation	91,765	83,883
Taxation expense	(25,303)	(26,989)
Net profit after taxation being total comprehensive income for the year	**66,462**	**56,894**
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent company	**66,462**	**56,894**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For Year Ended September 30, 2025
Expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars ($'000)

	Stated capital $'000	Statutory reserves $'000	Other reserves $'000	Retained earnings $'000	Total equity $'000
Balance at September 30, 2023	**402,894**	**27,494**	**66,708**	**10,045**	**507,141**
Total comprehensive income for the year	–	–	–	56,894	56,894
Transfer to statutory reserves	–	11,380	–	(11,380)	–
Transfer to other reserves	–	–	19,562	(19,562)	–
Balance at September 30, 2024	**402,894**	**38,874**	**86,270**	**35,997**	**564,035**
Total comprehensive income for the year	–	–	–	66,462	66,462
Transfer to statutory reserves	–	13,293	–	(13,293)	–
Transfer to other reserves	–	–	7,157	(7,157)	–
Balance at September 30, 2025	**402,894**	**52,167**	**93,427**	**82,009**	**630,497**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For The Year Ended September 30, 2025
Expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars ($'000)

	Sep 30, 2025 $'000	Sep 30, 2024 $'000
Operating activities		
Net profit before taxation	91,765	83,883
Adjustments for:		
Disposal of right–of–use asset	(140)	–
Depreciation of premises and equipment and right–of–use assets	7,589	6,629
Credit loss expense on financial assets	5,764	3,552
Amortisation of intangibles	6,578	6,580
Translation differences and other adjustments	(225)	3
(Loss)/gain on sale of premises and equipment	(65)	680
Changes in:		
Increase in advances	(291,451)	1 (223,12)
Increase in customers' deposits and other fund raising instruments	10,467	268,134
Increase in statutory deposits with Central Banks	(8,942)	(28,927)
Decrease in other assets and investment interest receivable	40,982	7,893
Decrease in other liabilities and accured interest payable	6,854	(20,890)
Decrease in due from related companies	(101,266)	(69,979)
Taxes paid, net of refund	(21,213)	(16,285)
Cash (used in)/generated from operating activities	(253,303)	18,152
Investing activities		
Purchase of investment securities	(299,092)	(450,705)
Redemption of investment securities	429,165	391,138
Additions to premises and equipment	(12,342)	(4,735)
Proceeds from sale of premises and equipment	1,515	65
Cash generated from/(used in) investing activities	119,246	(64,237)
Financing activities		
Increase in balances due to banks	35,955	19,132
Repayment of principal lease liabilities	(3,997)	(3,750)
Balances due to related banks	(3,836)	34,719
Cash generated from financing activities	**28,122**	**50,101**
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(105,935)	4,016
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	871,771	867,755
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**765,836**	**871,771**
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year are represented by:		
Cash on hand	51,594	52,242
Statutory deposits with Central Banks – above statutory limit	341,724	424,509
Due from banks	215,972	277,090
Balances due from related banks	127,750	39,643
Treasury Bills – original maturities of three months or less	28,796	78,287
	765,836	**871,771**
Supplemental information:		
Interest received during the year	221,434	217,875
Interest paid during the year	44,017	37,682

Note 1. Basis of presentation

The Group has prepared its consolidated financial statements on the basis that it will continue to operate as a going concern. The consolidated financial statements of the Group are prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards and are stated in Eastern Caribbean Dollars. These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for investments in associates measured using the equity method, and financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss.

These summary consolidated financial statements are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Republic Bank (EC) Limited for the year ended September 30, 2025.

These summary consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in "Note 2" of the September 30, 2025 audited consolidated financial statements.

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with IFRS Accounting Standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant accounting judgements and estimates in applying the Group's accounting policies have been described in Note 3 of the September 30, 2025 audited financial statements.

republicbankstkitts.com kn.republicbank@rfhl.com Republic Bank (EC) Limited

CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS

■ Vacancies

VACANCY - Comfort Airco
is sarching for 2 Office Manager: B.A. in Business, have knowledge with Retail Edge POS, skilled in MS Office.
Email your resume to comfortairco@yahoo.com

VACANCY -
Franklyn's Construction Services
Is searching for a Laborer
Contact: (869) 663-0683
For More Information

VACANCY - NS Fashions
Building 2 Unit#105 Port Zante
Positions Available
2 Sales Persons and 1 Store Manager
Contact- fair.tech.yahoo.com

■ Vacancies

VACANCY -
El Colmadito D'Lacubanita
Is searching for a Cashier
Contact: (869) 663-2511
For More Information

VACANCY -
Green Valley Produce
Is seeking for a Farmer
Contact: (869) 668-0612
For More Information

VACANCY - VIP Auto Rentals
Chapista & Painter Wanted. Skilled in Metalwork, Painting and equipment repairs.
Available for Private Jobs or workshop work
Call/Whatsapp - (869) 767-4380

■ Vacancies

VACANCY -
Food Centre
Main Street Charlestown, Nevis
Is Searching for a Manager
Contact: (869) 762-9898

VACANCY -
Kalimata Inc
Building 14 Unit 100 Port Zante
Vacancy: 2 Sales Persons
Contact: hareshsadarangi@yahoo.com

VACANCY

Tropical Essence Distribution Ltd. is looking for an experienced Product Developer to lead the creation and refinement of its distilled products. The ideal candidate would be responsible for developing new products and improving existing products, conducting product testing, quality control and sensory evaluations and support innovation aligned with the brand identity and market trends. Must possess experience in spirits, beverages and product development, strong understanding of distillation, blending and aging process and be creative, detail-oriented and quality driven.

Contact: (869) 763-0648 for more information.

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IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.

You can buy and sell what you need to the St. Kitts & Nevis Observer classifieds

■ Public Notice

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCE, 1906

SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District " ".
To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Tanya & Travis Buchanan
now residing in 25th Bladwell South Street in the town or village of Basseterre do hereby give you notice that it is my intention to apply on 5th day of January 2026 next to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Liquor Wholesale licence in respect of my premises in Cayon Road Street in Tarsette Burg, St. Kitts.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2025

Signed [signature]

ADVERTISE IN THE ST. KITTS & NEVIS OBSERVER.
IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.

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

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO. NEVHPB2025/0110

In the Estate of JAMES NATHANIEL SIMMONDS also known as JAMES SIMMONDS, late of 607 N Conduit Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York, USA but formerly of Rices Village in the Parish of St. George in the Island of Nevis, Deceased.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **GERALDINE BERRY** of Church Road, Gingerland in the Parish of St. George in the Island of Nevis, Retired for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the sister of the **JAMES NATHANIEL SIMMONDS** also known as **JAMES SIMMONDS** who died on the 2nd day of December, 2015 at the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center.

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

Dated this 18th day of December, 2025

Tyler Martin

Tyler Martin
ORAL MARTIN LAW CHAMBERS
Attorneys-At-Law for the Applicant

Filed by: ORAL MARTIN LAW CHAMBERS, Attorneys-At-Law of Upper Happy Hill Drive, Charlestown, Nevis for and on behalf of the Applicant who address for service is the same. Telephone No. (1869) 469-1819; Fax No. (1869) 469-5446; Email: oralmartinlawchambers@gmail.com /tylermartin_3@yahoo.com

ECS

Continued from Page 3

million in capital expenditure. These resources will support effective governance, civil service modernisation, improved service delivery, and enhanced coordination across ministries and departments.

The Prime Minister highlighted the continued expansion of the Continuous Professional Development Programme as a key priority for the coming year, with a focus on leadership development, digital transformation, and performance management within the public service.

He also underscored the importance of sustained engagement with the diaspora, noting that funding has been set aside to support outreach missions aimed at strengthening partnerships, encouraging investment, and facilitating the smooth reintegration of returning nationals.

"INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND PROGRESS"

The 2026 Budget is presented under the theme "Investing in People and Progress," which Prime Minister Drew described as a practical framework for action rather than a symbolic slogan. He noted that the theme reflects steady progress in delivering on commitments made over the past three years, alongside the rollout of new and transformative initiatives planned for 2026.

Among the recent people-focused investments highlighted was the arrival and commissioning of five custom-built ambulances at the Joseph N. France General Hospital. This upgrade to emergency medical services significantly strengthens response capacity and reinforces the government's commitment to protecting lives and improving healthcare outcomes.

According to the Prime Minister, such initiatives demonstrate how public consultation and identified needs are being translated into decisive action and measurable results, forming part of a broader national strategy to build resilient institutions and expand opportunity.

EXPANDED LIFETIME HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

A major social protection initiative announced during the Budget Address is the introduction of expanded lifetime health insurance coverage for employees of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, effective December 1, 2025.

Under the enhanced arrangement, government employees are now covered by a EC$1 million lifetime health insurance policy, replacing the previous EC$750,000 triennial coverage. Active employees will continue to receive healthcare coverage as a no-cost employment benefit, with no additional charges for medical visits.

Prime Minister Drew noted that retirees will benefit most from the changes, which are designed to ensure continuity of coverage as employees transition from active service into retirement. Key improvements include lifetime protection with no automatic loss of coverage at age 75, an increase in retiree coverage from EC$100,000 to EC$500,000, and the continuation of coverage for qualified dependents beyond retirement.

To ensure fairness and long-term sustainability, the government will introduce a new graduated contribution structure in 2026. The previous flat monthly contribution of EC$75 will be replaced with a system allowing some pensioners to contribute as little as EC$25 per month, while others will pay nothing. Monthly contributions will be capped at EC$150, with the government continuing to subsidise both active employees and retirees.

The Prime Minister noted that feedback from pensioners showed strong support for the lifetime benefit and dependent coverage, as well as a willingness among some to contribute more where possible.

"December 1, 2025, marked a major step for us all," Prime Minister Drew said, describing the initiative as a reflection of the government's commitment to honour those who have served the country.

SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN NATIONAL SECURITY

The 2026 Budget also reaffirms the government's commitment to public safety through substantial investment in the Ministry of National Security, Citizenship, and Immigration. A total of EC$97.3 million has been allocated to the ministry, with a strong emphasis on enhancing law enforcement capacity, upgrading infrastructure, and deploying modern technology.

Of this amount, EC$84.1 million is earmarked for recurrent expenditure, alongside EC$3.2 million for critical infrastructure projects. Planned investments include the refurbishment of police stations, construction and upgrading of fire service facilities, and the acquisition of essential equipment.

The budget further provides for upgrades to closed-circuit television surveillance and traffic management systems, investment in the National Security Technology Refresh Programme, and the demolition and reconstruction of the Basseterre Fire and Rescue facility to improve emergency response times.

Special attention is also being given to fire services in Nevis, with a new fire appliance already procured and plans for the opening of a second fire station. Training of local firefighters in St. Kitts is also included to enhance the readiness and professionalism of the Nevis division.

"The safety and security of our citizens remain a top priority for this government," Prime Minister Drew said, noting that the investments are designed to ensure law enforcement and emergency services are properly equipped to meet current and future challenges.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As the Federation prepares to enter the 2026 fiscal year, the EC$1.075 billion budget signals a continued focus on people-centred development, national confidence, and steady progress. Prime Minister Drew reiterated that the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party Administration remains committed to action and delivery, ensuring that fiscal planning translates into real improvements in the quality of life for citizens and residents.

Despite ongoing global uncertainties, the government maintains that its strategy of responsible fiscal management, targeted investment, and inclusive growth will continue to lay a strong foundation for long-term economic and social advancement in St. Kitts and Nevis.

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

CHANNELS

Continued from Page 4

clarification on the matter.

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said that officials in his country are committed to treating the matter "with the utmost seriousness and urgency".

He said that they are actively consulting the US Embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados, to obtain clarification on the scope, basis, and specific implications for Dominican travelers, students, and families. The government pledged to work closely with US authorities to address identified issues and protect Dominican citizens' interests.

In late June of this year, when there were reports that a development of this nature, involving all CBI programs, was being considered, Prime Minister Drew stated that:

"This administration has received no official notice of any travel ban or restriction on our citizens. From the moment we saw the reports, we moved immediately through all appropriate diplomatic channels… Foreign Affairs got activated. I got in touch with the Embassy of the United States of America in Barbados to get clarification."

St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and St. Lucia have not been added to the list. Their officials have to get busy. In the current climate, working the diplomatic channels continuously has become imperative.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

The property described below is offered for sale by THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED in its capacity as Mortgagee:-

Description of Property: ALL THAT lands with the buildings and erections thereon with the appurtenances thereto situate in the town of Basseterre in the Parish of St. George in the Island of St. Christopher and bounded and measuring as follows that is to say:- ON the North by other lands of Buckleys Estates Limited; ON the South by the Caribbean Sea, ON the East by an Estate Road and other lands of Buckleys Estates Limited together with a Right-of-Way leading to Lime Kiln Bay and ON the West by other lands of Buckleys Estates Limited and of the extent of 2 acres 2 rods 22.3 poles

The lot consists of four (4) residential / rental buildings. There are three (3) buildings on the western side of the property and one (1) building on the eastern side of the property.

Building 1 (11,000 sq ft)
Upper Floor - Ten (10) Single Bedroom w/ One (1) Bathroom each.
Lower Floor - Five (5) Three Bedrooms w/ Two (2) Bathrooms each.

Building 2 (11,136 sq ft)
Both Floors: Ten (10) Three (3) Bedrooms w/ two (2) Bathrooms each.

Building 3 (13,950 sq ft)
Both Floors: 36 (thirty-six) Studio Apartments

Building 4 (980 sq ft)
Maintenance storage and lodgings

Survey Plan of Property:

Tenders: Interested persons may obtain the conditions of sale from the Mortgagee's Attorneys-at-Law and the closing date for the return of Tenders is **Thursday 15th January 2026**.

Minimum Offer: **EC$10,417,400.00**

THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED
Main Street, Charlestown, Nevis
Tel: 869.469.5564; Fax: 869.469.4798

Attention: Ms. D. Ashleigh Maynard, Legal Counsel
Email: damaynard@thebankofnevis.com

'Double salary' for public servants

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Terrance Drew, has announced the payment of an additional month's salary—commonly referred to as a "double salary" — for civil servants and other qualifying groups, as he brought his 2026 Budget Address to a close in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The announcement, delivered in the final moments of the presentation, was met with applause from Members of Parliament and the public gallery. Prime Minister Drew described the decision as a deliberate and prudent measure, grounded in the Government's people-centred philosophy and its recognition of the dedication of public sector workers.

Emphasising the role of public servants in keeping the country functioning, the Prime Minister told the House that "the hard work must be recognized," noting that the decision was taken with care and responsibility. "I am pleased to announce an extra payment of one month salary, commonly called the double salary," he said.

The additional payment will apply to civil servants, government auxiliary employees, pensioners, and workers on the STEP Programme. According to the Prime Minister, this reflects the Government's intention to ensure that those who contribute daily to national development directly benefit from the country's economic stability.

Dr. Drew further confirmed that the payment will be issued ahead of the Christmas holidays, providing timely financial support to thousands of households across the Federation. "This payment will be issued on Friday, 19 December, 2025," he stated.

For the first time, however, the Prime Minister outlined specific exclusions to the double salary arrangement. Under this year's framework, Ministers of Government and Government Advisors will not receive the additional payment. He described the move as a principled departure from past practice, underscoring the administration's commitment to equity, accountability, and prudent financial management.

"This has never been done this way before," the Prime Minister emphasised, adding that the decision demonstrates the Government's resolve to protect and reward its workforce while exercising fiscal discipline. "For our hardworking civil servants, you will get an extra one month salary," he affirmed.

The double salary announcement formed part of the broader conclusion to Budget 2026, which Prime Minister Drew characterised as a people-focused and confidence-building budget. He said it is designed to ease cost-of-living pressures, strengthen social protection, and continue investing in national resilience and shared prosperity.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis described the move as unprecedented in the country's public administration, marking the first time a double salary payment has been issued with clearly defined exclusions aimed at strengthening fiscal responsibility. The decision signals a new standard in governance, balancing meaningful support for workers with sound economic management, and reinforcing the Government's ongoing commitment to fairness, transparency, and accountability.

COURTESY PHOTO

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Terrance Drew, has announced the payment of an additional month's salary — commonly referred to as a "double salary"— for civil servants and other qualifying groups.

We want to hear your opinion!

You opinion matters! Let everyone know how you feel about issues by writing a letter to the editor.