



THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

BARBADOS, WI

www.nationnews.com

BDS\$1.50

Leaning danger



THE UNOCCUPIED HOUSE at Laundry Road, Garden Land, St Michael, which was damaged by Hurricane Beryl. (Picture by Maria Bradshaw.)

RESIDENTS AT LAUNDRY ROAD, Garden Land, St Michael, are fearful that an unoccupied, dilapidated house which was damaged by Hurricane Beryl could collapse any time soon into the street.

The roof was blown off and the wooden house has already started to fall apart and is leaning dangerously towards the road.

Residents said they contacted the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). However, they said no one has visited the area to date.

"The roof blew off and the side has started to fall. At night we can hear the house creaking," a resident said.

Another pointed out that the house had been unoccupied for several years as the owners had passed away.

"There are rats and termites and everything," a resident said, pointing out that she and several others had called the EPD.

"A woman took my name and number and said they would call back for directions but up to now nobody has called," she said.

When the DAILY NATION reached the EPD yesterday an officer said the matter would be looked into. (MB)

'Unite' in crime fight

Tannis: Collective action has always served us well

CHAIRMAN OF THE Barbados Private Sector Association (BPSA) Trisha Tannis has called for urgent action to address the alarming increase in violence across Barbados, particularly those incidents involving guns.

Tannis, who was speaking at a press conference yesterday held at Goddard's Building, Haggatt Hall, St Michael,

emphasised the importance of national unity and proactive measures to tackle this pressing issue.

"The Barbados Private Sector Association, the umbrella voice of private sector associations in Barbados, joins our voice to the national concern about the escalation of violence in Barbados, most notably gun violence and calls for an immediate reversal of this alarming

developing trend," Tannis said.

She highlighted the critical role of collective action, noting that national agreement historically served Barbados well.

"The BPSA stands in agreement with the Government of Barbados, our other social partners, stakeholders and families,

Continued on Page 4.

4. THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024. DAILY NATION.

N News



Safety check

BHTA: Concern about damage to island's image

CHAIRMAN OF THE Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) Javon Griffith has expressed deep concern over the potential impact of escalating gun violence on the island's tourism industry.

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday by the Barbados Private Sector Association (BPSA) at the Goddard's Building, Haggatt Hall, St Michael, Griffith highlighted the importance of safety as a core element of Barbados' tourism brand and emphasised the immediate threat posed when visitors no longer feel secure.

"Well, what I would say first and foremost is that we are a destination which has safety listed as one of its brand planks. So as soon as persons no longer feel safe in the destination, that becomes an immediate threat to the tourism industry and it's something which our members are very concerned about," Griffith stated.

He underscored the swift response of governments in key source markets, noting that travel advisories could be issued rapidly in response to heightened violence, deterring potential visitors.

Travel advisories

"We know from previous instances where this has happened, that the governments in our source markets can be very quick to issue travel advisories for their citizens against travelling to certain parts of the world because of escalated levels of violence," he said.

The timing of these concerns was particularly critical as Barbados approaches the main events of the Crop Over Festival, he noted. Griffith pointed to the industry's heightened awareness and proactive stance in addressing the issue.

"This is something which we are very actively aware of and something which we hope it doesn't come to, especially over the next two weeks in this lead-up to the main events of our Crop Over Festival," he said.

Reflecting on recent events, Griffith described the past three weeks as "nothing short of shocking" for those involved in the tourism sector. He expressed a collective hope that the situation would be swiftly resolved to prevent further damage to the island's

reputation as a safe and desirable travel destination.

As of mid-July 2024, Barbados reported a total of 27 homicides for this year.

Police Commissioner Richard Boyce, in a recent press conference, said law enforcement officers were working diligently to address the situation.

Government also revealed plans to reintroduce amendments to the Bail Act, which would prevent those charged with murder and serious gun offences from obtaining bail within the first two years on remand. (CLM)

Words 'not sufficient' to combat violence

From Page 1.

that Barbados will realise sustained de-escalation of violence in this country," she said.

Acknowledging the complexity of the issue, Tannis stressed that words alone were not sufficient to combat violence. However, she underscored that words could be a precursor to action, suggesting an overhaul in the approach to day-to-day interactions as answers are sought to concerns about conflict resolution.

Tannis called for a multi-dimensional approach, involving the wider private sector, law enforcement and community organisations to address the root causes of anger and violence. She emphasised the need to build character, discipline and wholesome behaviour, particularly among the youth. She noted that while the country had realised economic growth at the macro level, there was the prevailing view that this was not felt on the ground.

"Since COVID-19 and its devastating consequences in our economy, Barbados has realised

economic growth, but we will all agree that economic growth alone is not what is required for a nation to thrive," she remarked.

The BPSA chairman encouraged increased investment in youth programmes, support for mental health and addiction treatment services and a review of existing gun control measures to ensure responsible ownership and curb illegal weapon importation. Tannis also stressed the importance of maintaining Barbados' identity and security for both residents and visitors.

Hard work

"Together, we must be determined to ensure that Barbados remained a country built and sustained on the hard work of our foreparents," she declared.

Tannis said the business community stood willing to put their money where their mouth was, noting they were awaiting instructions from the relevant authorities as to where contributions would be most impactful. She cited past

contributions, such as supporting police outposts and engaging in dialogue with the Attorney General's office.

"We have a proud history of lending, financially and tangibly, whenever called upon," she said. However, Tannis urged a shift in focus to preventative measures, addressing issues in homes, schools and churches to prevent young males from falling prey to criminal activities. She called for a comprehensive understanding of the motivations behind these actions and the development of a non-partisan rescue mechanism to engage the youth meaningfully.

She reaffirmed the BPSA's commitment to working alongside public officials and community leaders to implement effective strategies to reduce crime and promote peace and security. She emphasised the serious impact of crime on businesses and the broader society, stating: "We cannot live in fear in our homes because there are relatively few elements that are being highly incentivised to do whatever it is that they do and not care about the innocent fallout." (CLM)

Make it an unforgettable experience!

This summer you could

Win \$5,000 Cash

when you apply for a Cash Loan today.

2 More prizes of \$1,000 CASH to be won!

Hassle-free application. | 24-Hour approval. | Affordable monthly payments.

* 1 Grand Prize. 2 Consolation Prizes. Normal lending criteria and special conditions apply.

Apply today online at
courts.com/barbados/ready-cash-loans
Call us at 572-5983 or 431-6850.
Or visit any Courts store.
Promotion ends August 8th, 2024.

COURTS Ready CASH
Ready when you are!