



General Manager of SOL (Barbados) Ltd Roger Barrow (left) interacts with a customer at the grand reopening as service worker Tariq Carter cleans the windshield. (HG)

## SOL reopens in Black Rock after \$1/4M renovation

SOL has breathed new life into its Black Rock, St Michael service station which has reopened its doors after undergoing a comprehensive renovation valued at over \$250 000.

The renovation project, which spanned several months, upgraded the exterior and interior of the station. There are now 16 pumps equally divided into diesel and gas dispensers, and an upgraded convenience store.

Speaking at the grand reopening on Friday, General Manager of SOL (Barbados) Ltd Roger Barrow noted that the reopening of the Black Rock location brings to 23, the number of SOL service stations across the island.

"We felt that this was a missing piece of our customer offering puzzle, and we made sure that we repositioned it. We've done quite a bit of work here to get it prepared for our Black Rock community. We consider this a community station and are happy to welcome back all of our customers," he said, adding that the improved station is more spacious and gives customers additional access to certain areas.

Among the highlights of the revamped station is the introduction of the recently introduced SOL XTend fuels which, according to Barrow, provides enhanced performance and efficiency for customers' vehicles. (SM)

## Entrepreneurs graduate from manufacturing incubator course

A new cadre of entrepreneurs has graduated from the Manifest Manufacturing Incubator Programme organised by the Barbados Trust Fund Ltd (BTFL). The programme aims to enhance the quality and standards of products offered by the island for regional and international export.

Congratulating the graduates on Wednesday at a ceremony at Pelican Village, BTFL General Manager Gerald Amos highlighted the importance of collaboration and increased brand awareness for sustaining long-term growth for entrepreneurs.

"The BTFL has recognised the benefits of entrepreneurs and SMEs coming together to form cooperatives throughout Barbados and the region," he said. "The Barbados Trust Fund has envisaged this cooperative initiative to allow like-minded clients to form cooperative entities, become self-sufficient, and offer support in increasing brand awareness and furthering professional business development."

Amos emphasised that the BTFL is focused on bringing positive change to the entrepreneurial landscape through collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships to ensure the sustainability and development of entrepreneurs.

Throughout the programme, participants received assistance in various areas such as cost and pricing, selling and distribution, product testing, social media management, networking and brainstorming, public speaking, understanding market trends, packaging and labelling, and accessing opportunities for advanced development.

"We stay faithful to enhancing the quality and standards of products for export," Amos insisted, noting that improving standards is a

Clement Mapp gets his certificate from Lisa Neblett-Hall. (JB)



top priority.

He thanked partner organisations like Export Barbados, Government Analytical Services, National Cultural Foundation, Caribbean Label Craft, and the Barbados Manufacturers Association for their support.

Amos revealed that due to the positive response, the next cohort for Manifest will start in earnest, "with plans to expedite three iterations with additional modules by the end of this financial year". (SB)



### STI AWARENESS MONTH

## Trichomoniasis: The STI You Didn't Know Existed

Trichomoniasis, also known as Trich, is a common and curable sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a parasitic protozoan called *Trichomonas vaginalis*. This infection can lead to genital inflammation, increasing the risk of **HIV transmission**. Pregnant individuals infected with trichomoniasis may experience premature birth or deliver babies with low birth weight.

While women may experience symptoms, most men do not. Symptoms, if present, typically appear **5 to 28 days** after infection and can include:

### MEN

- Itching or irritation inside the penis
- A discharge or pain when urinating

### WOMEN

- Vaginal discharge that is green, yellow or grey
- A bad vaginal smell
- Itching in or around the vagina
- Pain during sex
- Pain when urinating

### CAN IT BE TREATED?

Trichomoniasis is curable with antibiotics. All prescribed medications should be taken as directed and all partners should be tested and treated. Sexual contact should be avoided until the patient and partner(s) have been cured.

### HOW DO YOU TEST FOR IT?

Recognising the need for **fast, convenient and confidential testing**, Bayview Lab has introduced a self-collection STI kit. Samples are collected at home and brought to the lab to test for Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Trichomoniasis.

Patients should be advised not to urinate for **at least two hours** prior to specimen collection.

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