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The Newspaper of Barbados

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LAND BATTLE

Church threatens to sue Govt if meeting not held

By Antoinette Connell
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In a conflict as old as biblical times, land is at the heart of a dispute involving two denominations and this time the Government has been accused of operating in bad faith.

The land at the centre of the controversy is the Welch Village Junior property in St John which, on Tuesday in the House of Assembly, was the focus of a resolution to approve its sale to the Wesleyan Church.

However, the Barbados Diocesan Trustees (BDT) is saying it is not the state's own to sell and has threatened legal action if a meeting requested since June is not held.

Chairman of the board of trustees, Adrian Elcock, confirmed that its lawyer had sent a letter to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing since May 9 and there had been a response on May 16 but an email sent on June 4 requested a meeting with the ministry that had not taken place.

"We are not anxious to get into legal battles, but we have to protect the rights of our land and the rights of our church. So, if a meaningful compromise cannot be met, then we will have to take whatever action we've been advised that we're entitled to take," Elcock said when contacted yesterday.

The land resolution passed on Tuesday included a structure on the land in an arrangement that would see the Wesleyan Holiness Church paying \$28 000 to the State.

In the May 9 letter, the trustees had contended that when the Anglican Church was de-established in 1969, several lands and properties were vested in the trustees, including church schools and Welch Village Junior was on the list.

"There can therefore be no doubt, or debate, that the Welch Village Junior property was vested in

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MR BLOOD
OPTS
FOR X-TRAIL

"I am keeping the car."

Anderson Mr Blood Armstrong has chosen transportation over cash after capturing the calypso crown in this year's Courtesy Pic O De Crop Competition during the wee hours of yesterday.

Mr Blood was one of eight De Big Show contestants in a line-up of 18 finalists

that also included last year's monarch Adrian AC Clarke.

His rendition of Don't Wait held the crowd's attention with fresh lyrics and a steady pace, earning high scores across criteria – rendition, lyrics, melody and arrangement.

Performing at number three, Mr Blood added the

appearance of the Mighty Grynner, symbolising appreciation while alive.

Here, Mr Blood with his trophy and his 2025 Nissan E-Power X-Trail valued at \$136 995. (NS)

(Picture by Lennox Devonish.)

Please see also Pages 16A to 20A.

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