

# ‘WORK TOGETHER’

By **Cara L. Jean-Baptiste**

**BARBADIANS are being encouraged to take responsibility for their communities, parishes, and by extension the island.**

This encouragement came from Prime

Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley, as she delivered brief remarks during yesterday's 'Gather at De Bay', which took place at River Bay.

The PM disclosed that during an address to the nation tonight, she will reveal a seven-year plan that will help

better Barbados.

"Tomorrow night I will address the country, and I will set out for you a seven-year plan that I want every Bajan to hold hands with me and join, because we can't make this country different by Government alone, or by the Church

alone, or by one or two [persons] here alone; it would be made different when the majority of us, can't get everybody, but when the majority of us stand up for Barbados and the Barbados brand," she said.

**PLAN on Page 3**



**Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, second from left, chatting with St. Lucy Member of Parliament, Peter Phillips and Minister of Culture, John King, among others at the 'We Gatherin' picnic yesterday at River Bay, St. Lucy.**

## BAPE President: Professionalism must prevail

IT is being suggested that Government should commit to the development of a culture of world-class professionalism in all areas of national operations.

It has come from the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers (BAPE). In its 2020 New Year's Message, President of BAPE Trevor Browne said such would require that those leading or managing national institutions be held

to global standards of professional performance, ethical behaviours and accountability. According to Browne, such standards are best established and monitored by the Barbados National Standards Institution and the various professional bodies in the different disciplines.

"The most important benefit of such a new approach is that the review,

assessment and adjudication of ethical issues would be done by experts in the various fields – rather than by courts and judges who, while expert in the Law, often may not be sufficiently versed in the fundamental technical issues being raised in the various disciplines," he said.

He continued, "Another benefit is that it provides the avenue through which all formal sectors of society can be elevated

to professional status, based on the quality, ethical and performance standards that they are able to reach and maintain. 'Professional status' must mean operating at the highest possible internationally accepted standards, and governed by professional codes of conduct, integrity, accountability, competence and ethics."

**BAPE on Page 5**

# Grant: We're making good progress

**IT IS anticipated that by Monday all ten newly-imported trucks will be on the roads of Barbados.**

This assurance was given by Chairman of the Sanitation Services Authority (SSA), Senator Rudy Grant, as he gave an update on the trucks, after it was revealed that on Monday three trucks were retrofitted and in operation.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Grant said, "This morning we had six of those new trucks in operation and we expect that by Thursday there would be a further two operating as well and by Monday all ten will be in operation if not before Monday."

He reminded the general public that a further ten trucks have been ordered. "That order would have been from an order of 12. Two of those trucks are expected to arrive in Barbados on January 1 and there are a further three trucks that will soon be completed and shipped to us."

The chairman noted that the SSA also received a Bomag landfill compactor and is expecting "very shortly" two small pick-up trucks and a forklift.

"I make reference to those because it is important for us to recognise that there are other pieces of equipment which are also facilitating the purchase of which

would greatly assist us overall with the waste management in Barbados."

Senator Grant said he respects and understands the concerns that have been raised by the public.

"Repurpose-built trucks take seven to nine months to get to Barbados after the order is made and given the significant concerns that were being expressed by the public we felt that it was necessary to identify another option where we would have garbage trucks available. So we are extremely happy that the ten new garbage trucks are here and that as of this morning, six of those ten trucks are in operation and – expect a further."

He also commended the

dialogue between the SSA and the National Union of Public Workers,

representing the workers of the SSA. The chairman stressed the concerns of the workers are important and the SSA is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all workers.

"Most of the matters that have been identified by the NUPW had already started to be actioned. Those matters related in part to the issues with respect to the new garbage trucks, the issue of the steps at the side, the issue of the holding bars."

He noted that new garbage trucks being manufactured in the USA are being built with steps at

the back of the vehicle. "So all garbage trucks imported into Barbados have to have the adjustment with respect to the steps being moved from the side to the back as well with the holding bar. And we have facilitated that with these ten new garbage trucks."

"In addition to that we have been able to identify the solution for a third seat inside of the cab. The NUPW based on our discussions they are satisfied with the adjustments that have been made."

Grant also revealed that training would have been undertaken from Monday morning. "We have an official from McNeilus who would be in Barbados on

Wednesday night and he will be facilitating some training ... We are making good progress. We have to ensure that we are able to continually enhance our equipment, we have indicated to the NUPW that already nine of the new trucks have been outfitted with the Ontrac Telematic system and we intend to ensure that all of the garbage trucks are outfitted."

He explained that this will allow the SSA to enhance its fleet management system. "There is the clear recognition that we have to enhance our ICT capacity at the SSA and that is something we are giving urgent attention to."



Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley during her address.



Part of the crowd participating in an activity during the event.

## PM: Many hands make light work

**PLAN from Front Page**

She went on to note that the We Gatherin' 2020 was intended to bring people home so that they could make connections with their families, friends, community groups and church groups that helped nurture and shape them into the people they were today, and as they made that connection, it is her hope that they would feel encouraged to help take Barbados to the next level, as she believes that "many hands make light work".

Mottley noted that the country was at its best when persons from many different backgrounds came together and as such, stated that the

Government determined that 2020 needed to be about Barbadians coming together and talking with each other, adding that it may take a village to raise a child, but it took a nation to save a family.

"So my friends, let us as one family welcome all who want to come, Bajans by birth, Bajans by descent, Bajans by marriage, and those who tend to be as passionate as us, Bajans by choice," she said.

"All of us are in this together and I today, the January 1, 2020, as all Bajans to join me in being hosts and chief because everyone of you is host and chief to everyone who comes to your parish, not just your country."



From left Adrian Clarke, Anderson 'Blood' Armstrong and Junior Monarch Quan during their performance.