

2010-07-23

No: 1100/10

ADHERE TO FOOD HANDLING AND STORAGE GUIDELINES

Guidelines for the handling and storage of food should be adhered to at all times during this year's Crop Over events.

This is the advice from the Chief Environmental Health Officer, Tyrone Applewhaite, who is warning stall owners and food handlers that they must cooperate fully with Environmental Health Officers and comply with the Health Services Food Hygiene Regulations (1969 CAP. 44).

The penalties for violating the Regulations include a fine of \$5,000 and, or imprisonment for 12 months.

There are several food handling and storage guidelines, which have been developed by the Environmental Health Division.

Individuals are reminded that they should store all foodstuff and water at least 18 inches from the ground; food and potable water must be kept in clean, covered containers and water storage receptacles should be fitted with taps.

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ADD: ADHERE TO FOOD HANDLING AND STORAGE GUIDELINES - 1

Raw and prepared foods should be stored properly, for example in covered containers, and stored separately, while raw meat and meat products must be kept in small parcels.

According to the Division, all hot food should be stored above 145°F and all chilled food should be stored below 40°F at all times.

There should be a constant supply of ice, and ice used for the storage of meat, fish or drinks, must not be used in the drinks when serving.

In addition, food handlers and assistants should never store or drag ice on the ground. When serving ice, scoops should be used, and the handle must never come in contact with the ice.

Only wholesome canned foods should be used. Canned products should be free of dents and rusted spots and must be labeled with appropriate expiration dates. All Batter (for example fish cake) should not be stored in large containers (e.g. five gallon pails) but rather in containers small enough to be kept at a temperature less than 40°F.

Food handlers should not prepare large amounts of food unless there is provision to keep the food at, or above 140°F or below 40°F. They should use tongs when serving food (hands should not be used to serve food). All equipment and implements should be kept clean and sanitised.

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ADD: ADHERE TO FOOD HANDLING AND STORAGE GUIDELINES - 1

Clean glasses or cups must be picked up by their bases but stall owners should consider the use of disposable cups and plates. Operators are further reminded that they should not touch the food contact surfaces of plates, forks, etc. with their hands and they should clean and sanitise knives and other utensils when switching from one product to another (for instance raw chicken to bread) to prevent cross contamination.

(JG/BGIS)

No: 1101/10

CENSUS ENUMERATION CONTINUES

Those persons, who have not been interviewed by the Barbados Statistical Service's (BSS) Census enumerators, are asked to contact the department to arrange a suitable time for the meeting.

An official from the department said that since the 2010 Population and Housing Census commenced on May 2, some persons were either out of the country, or not at home, when the enumerators visited districts across the island, to conduct face-to-face interviews.

He reiterated an earlier appeal for the public's cooperation during the exercise. "The public's assistance and cooperation are to complete an accurate and reliable count of individuals living in Barbados."

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ADD: CENSUS ENUMERATION CONTIINUES - 1

The Census is designed to assess changes to the Barbadian population and housing landscapes since 2000, when the last investigation was carried out by the BSS. It is also aimed at providing information on what the country needs to know in order to develop policies and programmes to benefit the public.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the BSS at telephone numbers 427-6009, 431-0904 and 436-8449. **(JW/BGIS)**

No: 1102/10

SECOND TOWN HALL MEETING JULY 29

Efforts at sensitising Barbadians about the new tourism attraction, "**Barbados Slave Route Heritage Trail and Tour**", will continue next week.

The Ministry of Tourism in association with the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS) will hold a town hall meeting on Thursday, July 29, at the St. Christopher's Resource Centre, Bourne's Land, Christ Church. It will get under way at 7:00 p.m.

The "**Barbados Slave Route Heritage Trail and Tour**" is a new concept which is designed provide tourists and locals alike with the opportunity to visit a number of sites in communities across Barbados, that speak to the legacy of some 200 years of slavery.

Representatives of the Ministry of Tourism and the BMHS will be on hand at the town hall meeting to answer any queries from the community. **(JG/BGIS)**

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE TOWN HALL MEETING NEXT THURSDAY, JULY 29, AT THE ST. CHRISTOPHER'S RESOURCE CENTRE, BOURNE'S LAND, CHRIST CHURCH, FROM 7:00 P.M.

No: 1103/10

TOURISM MULTI-HAZARD DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

The Tivoli Gardens incident and its impact on the Jamaican tourism sector will come into sharp focus next month, when the Ministry of Tourism hosts the 5th Annual Multi-Hazard Disaster Management Symposium.

The workshop takes place on Wednesday, August 18, at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael, from 9:00 a.m to noon.

Tourism stakeholders will hear a detailed presentation from Director-General in Jamaica's Ministry of Tourism, Carrolle Guntley, on the topic: **Tourism and Disasters - When the Unexpected Strikes.**

Ms. Guntley will speak on the Tivoli Gardens incident and its impact on the tourism industry and what lessons can be learnt by Barbados' tourism stakeholders.

Information on registration may be obtained by contacting Shanise Taylor or Maureen Bridgeman, at 430-7500 or via e-mail at taylor@tourism.bb or bridgemanm@tourism.gov.bb. **(JW/BGIS)**

ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THIS EVENT.

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CROP OVER EXTRAVAGANZA FOR SENIORS

Older persons from Christ Church South will be treated to a Crop Over Extravaganza next week. It will take place at the Dover Complex and Pavilion, on Thursday, July 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The event, which is an initiative of the Constituency Council for that area, stems from a previously held seniors consultation, which revealed that older adults are requesting more activities where they can come together and socialise.

The Extravaganza will see performances by a number of calypsonians, dance groups, the Seaman and Friends Tuk Band, and Rose Hill Tuk Band and The Landship. There will also be persons on hand to provide health checks, massages, pedicures and host exercise sessions.

Transportation will also be provided to and from the event. Persons are asked to assemble at 9:00 a.m., at Lower Carters Gap; the Oistins Community Centre or Sookram Minimart, St. Christopher, Christ Church. They will be returned to those locations at the end of the day's activities.

Persons interested in attending are asked to contact the Christ Church South Constituency Council Office at the Oistins Community Centre, at 418-1140 or email shirley-ann.small@barbados.gov.bb. **(SM/BGIS)**

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BARBADOS READY FOR BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SEPTEMBER

Barbados is ready for the International Amateur Boxing Association's (AIBA) Women's World Boxing Championships and it has received a passing grade for its preparations from representatives of AIBA who are here "fine-tuning details" to ensure the event is a memorable one.

Sports Director of AIBA, Olaf Veltman, is on his second visit here as part of an advanced party, and he told a press conference yesterday that "it is clear that a lot of progress has been made.

"There has been a huge improvement on the Garfield Sobers stadium, a lot of things have been renovated ... It is also good to see that the Local Organising Committee is actually in place and all the preparations are being made appropriately," Mr. Veltman disclosed.

His colleague, Yue Yuan, who is AIBA's Technical Delegate, and will be in charge of the event, agreed, stating that up to this point, everything was going smoothly. He opined that the championship should be very successful because of all the planning and hard work which had gone into it over the past year.

The Championships will be held in Barbados from September 6 to 19 at the Wildey Gymnasium. They will be staged in 10 weight categories, ranging from 45 kg to +81 kg, and 10 gold medals will be up for grabs.

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ADD: BARBADOS READY FOR BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SEPTEMBER - 1

Mr. Veltman said it would be a massive tournament, explaining that 72 countries had registered, but noted that final registration would be on August 6, so the exact numbers should be known shortly afterwards.

Over 600 boxers, as well as some family members and friends are expected here and select hotels are said to be offering them attractive rates.

The Sports Director pointed out that AIBA had developed "A Road To ..." Programme, which would eventually lead to London for the Olympics in 2012. He explained that for every major championship, AIBA would select a group of athletes and coaches from emerging countries to receive training two weeks prior to the competition, and they would also participate in the matches.

"So for Barbados, 40 boxers have been selected [from several countries], varying from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Burundi and also from countries which might not be able to participate in such a tournament because the costs might be too high.

"AIBA is paying for those 40 boxers and nine coaches who have been selected... They will be trained by four coaches, [that is] two local coaches from Barbados and two international coaches," he said.

Mr. Veltman added that a similar programme was successfully executed at the Youth World Championships in Baku and the Men's World's Championship in Milan.

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ADD: BARBADOS READY FOR BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SEPTEMBER - 1

He further explained that from the “Road To ...” Programme, about 10 boxers would eventually be chosen for preparation for the qualification tournament for the Olympic Games.

Chairperson of the LOC and Women’s Commission of AIBA, Joyce Bowen, gave the assurance that the Barbados team was training diligently under national coach, Gary Bowen. She added that the women were eagerly looking forward to the challenge from the international boxers. **(SA/BGIS)**

No: 1105/10

GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S DIARY

Sunday, July 25

10:00 a.m. His Excellency the Governor-General visits Centenarian Miss Leotta Sealy, at #55 Drax Hall Tenantry, St. George.

Monday, July 26

12:00 noon His Excellency the Governor-General receives courtesy call by Commander Rex J. Cox, HMS Manchester along with His Excellency Mr. Paul Brummell, British High Commissioner.

Thursday, July 29

11:30 a.m. His Excellency the Governor-General receives courtesy call by Mr. Samuel Chandler, Ambassador-designate of Barbados to the Kingdom of Belgium.

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No: 1106/10

MINISTERS' DIARY

Saturday, July 24

9:30 a.m. Minister of Labour, Dr. Esther Byer Suckoo, will deliver the feature address at the opening of the St. George South Constituency Council's seminar "Preparing for Entrepreneurship: Workshop for the Unemployed" at the St. Luke's Anglican Church Hall, St. Luke's, St. George.

4:00 p.m. Minister of Housing and Lands, Michael Lashley, will officially launch "The Villages at Coverley" and deliver the feature at the Christ Church site.

4:30 p.m. Minister of Social Care, Christopher Sinckler, will deliver the feature address at the Special Olympics Award ceremony at Divi Southwinds, St. Lawrence, Christ Church.

Monday, July 26

9:00 a.m. Minister of Health, Donville Inniss, will deliver the feature address at the start of the "Continuous Quality Improvement Workshop" in the Training Room, 2nd Floor, NIS Building, Culloden Road.

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ADD: MINISTERS' DIARY – 1

Saturday, July 24

11:30 a.m. Minister of Youth, Stephen Lashley, will take the salute at a march pass for the Barbados Cadet Corps' 2010 Summer Camp Programme in Heroes Square. The march pass will begin at Harrison College at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, July 26

10:00 a.m. Minister of Social Care, Christopher Sinckler, will hold a press briefing on the I.S.E.E Bridge Programme, in the Conference Room, 2nd floor, Warrens Office Complex, Warrens Office Complex, St. Michael.

10:00 a.m. Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Patrick Todd, will deliver remarks during the re-launch of WIBISCO's factory tours.

Tuesday, July 27

6:00 p.m. Minister of Health, Donville Inniss will deliver the feature address at the 15th Eunice Gibson Memorial Lecture at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital auditorium.

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ADD: MINISTERS' DIARY - 2

Thursday, July 29

2:00 p.m. Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Patrick Todd, will deliver the feature address during the launch of Kraft Foods brands at the Concorde Experience, Seawell, Christ Church.

Friday, July 30

9:30 a.m. Minister of Labour, Dr. Esther Byer Suckoo, will deliver the feature address at the opening of the Barbados Vocational Training Board's Health Fair at the C Lomer Alleyne Skills Training Centre, Sayes Court, Christ Church.

No: 1107/10

NEW STARTER HOME CONCEPT TO MEET DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES

The Ministry of Housing and Lands and the National Housing Corporation (NHC) will, in a few weeks, launch new initiative to meet the large local demand for quality and affordable housing.

Housing Minister, Michael Lashley, made this announcement today, while touring a new construction sites at Forde's Road, where 16 rental units are being built by the NHC; and at Stuarts Lodge, Tweedside Road, which is being constructed by a small contractor.

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ADD: NEW STARTER HOME CONCEPT TO MEET DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES - 1

He outlined that the new starter home project was designed to meet the housing needs of the approximately 15,000 persons on the NHC's waiting list, who could not afford to purchase land or a house.

"To further satisfy the lower income bracket we have conceptualised a new starter home project and we have actually looked at a house costing between \$70,000 and \$100,000, made of wall and wood... Once we construct the house ... and you add the land, which is \$15,000 on 3000 square feet because... it is part of the \$5.00 per square foot 500 lots programme, the house would come in at \$85,000. This is very economical and will be attractive to many Barbadians," Minister Lashley pointed out.

The Housing Minister stated that the house was designed to suit the lower income market and his Ministry was open to attaining further designs, in this regard.

Two model homes will be built at Woodbourne in St. Philip to demonstrate that the houses could be erected at that cost. "The house will be constructed with no frills and we will try to make it as liveable as possible... When I say no frills... I mean very basic finishes inside... those finishes add to the costs, so we will remove those finishes to bring the cost of the house down," he explained.

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ADD: NEW STARTER HOME CONCEPT TO MEET DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES - 2

A tender has already been published for the infrastructural work and it is hoped that once the contract has been awarded, within two to three weeks the infrastructural work should begin.

“From there on we will go out to the public to tender in relation to construction of the houses ... The NHC will lend technical expertise and provide full project management for the small contractors,” the Housing Minister stated.

Minister Lashley also revealed that the NHC had received a \$10 million draw down” of the \$40 million from First Caribbean International Bank to construct residential houses for sale, over a five year period. The “draw downs” from the loan will be used to finance the construction of residential houses for the NHC; the cash inflows from the sale of the houses will be used as a rolling stock fund to finance the construction of more residential houses; and the revolving loan will be repayable in 28 equal quarterly payments, commencing 15 months after the first draw down.

The funds will be used to construct 126 houses at Parish Land; 69 at River Crescent and 500 at Bushy Park, in St. Philip; 60 at West Terrace/Durants, 40 at Lancaster I and 41 at Lancaster II in St. James; and 400 at Spring Garden, St. Lucy.

Minister Lashley disclosed that he was anxious to get the starter home project under way, not only to house lower income persons, but to drive economic activity by contracting small contractors to take part in national housing projects.

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ADD: NEW STARTER HOME CONCEPT TO MEET DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES - 2

“I am pleased with the work of small contractors at Marchfield. They did excellent work and they have done excellent work at French Village and in fact a small contractor is building the units at Tweedside Road on a public/private sector partnership. In fact, he is financing the project and the NHC is paying the stage payments,” the Minister revealed.

The 20 two bedroom units at Fordes Road are projected to be completed by July 2011 and the units at Tweedside Road by September/October of this year. Minister Lashley was accompanied by acting General Manager at the NHC, Lanette Napoleon-Young; and acting Deputy Manager, Garvey Alleyne. **(LB/BGIS)**

No: 1108/10

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CARE ADVANCES PREPARATIONS FOR I.S.E.E BRIDGE PROGRAMME

Poor and vulnerable persons in Barbados will soon be given the opportunity to participate in an initiative which is geared towards their eventual empowerment.

The **I**dentification, **S**tabilisation, **E**nablement and **E**mpowerment (**I.S.E.E**) Bridge Programme, an endeavour being coordinated by the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Urban and Rural Development, will be introduced to

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**ADD: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CARE ADVANCES PREPARATIONS FOR I.S.E.E
BRIDGE PROGRAMME-1**

stakeholders with a week of meetings starting next Monday, July 26. The Organisation of American States (OAS), Chile and CIDA are providing assistance for its development through a Horizontal Technical Assistance Programme. Some other Caribbean States are also using a similar approach.

Representatives from the OAS and Chile will be on hand next week to discuss their role in the development of this programme.

It is aimed at breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty in Barbados. It is, therefore, being designed to address the needs of each member of eligible households, rather than focusing on just one individual. The initiative also seeks to empower persons requiring assistance with the necessary skills which will allow them to utilise opportunities that are being offered, thereby leading to their integration into the community and society.

An important objective of the project is the improved and harmonized delivery of social services in Barbados. **(SM/BGIS)**

No: 1109/10

RESEARCH CRITICAL TO HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Research continues to be touted as an important plank in health care delivery.

Minister of Health, Donville Inniss, hailed the benefits of research today as he addressed the start of the 10th Annual Professor E. R. Walrond Scientific Symposium at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH).

He said: "As the Ministry of Health and the QEH work assiduously towards improving on quality care in all aspects of health care delivery, the importance of thorough research becomes even more crucial in our endeavours."

And, he noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) also perceived research as critical to economic development and global health security. "WHO member states have been jointly charged with the responsibility of utilising research and audit in achieving health related development goals and to improve health outcomes in the face of current and emerging health threats posed by pandemics, chronic diseases and fragile health systems," said Mr. Inniss stated.

It was also pointed out that research was "a very critical determinant for growth in any institution" including health care settings, "where new diseases were emerging". "Therefore, new treatment regimes have to be developed and of course given changing trends and lifestyles, new approaches to treating patients have to be implemented, which are in keeping with our fast-paced, technologically driven society," the Minister stressed.

ADD: RESEARCH CRITICAL TO HEALTH CARE SERVICE - 1

Presenters at the symposium, which recognises the contribution of Professor Walrond to medicine and the community, were also told to make use of clinical audit, (which involves reviewing the delivery of health care to ensure that best practice was being implemented) was paramount to medical care.

They were reminded too that research and audit are as inseparable as they are vital to the delivery of quality health care. The Health Minister added: "There is a cyclical relation between research and clinical audit which must be operated in tandem for best results to be achieved. This process must of necessity be ongoing, because if exploited to its full potential, the result of one audit could very well inform a new research, therefore, in the same or a related field."

While maintaining that their research endeavours would inform and characterise the ongoing audit process, he implored the presenters to do more research and "to make the audit and peer review of all major clinical disciplines the cornerstone to the development of a sound monitoring and evaluation system."

Mr. Inniss declared: "Traditionally we have looked to regional and international institutions to be leaders in clinical research but research should start at home. Research which is initiated within our community is culturally relevant and sensitive to our particular needs which will be different to those of another country.

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ADD: RESEARCH CRITICAL TO HEALTH CARE SERVICE - 2

“That is why this symposium must be maintained and supported at all levels; we must seek to innovate, develop and implement what is ours, instead of always importing foreign ideas and processes and then adapting them to suit our specifications.”

(JG/BGIS)

No: 1110/10

SURVEY CONTINUES ON PHARMACEUTICAL USE ON THE ISLAND

The Barbados Drug Service (BDS) will continue its Level II Survey on the use of pharmaceuticals by Barbadians this weekend and is urging members of the public to cooperate fully with interviewers, who will be carrying identification cards issued by that organisation.

The survey is part of the World Health Organisation/European Union/African Caribbean and Pacific Project (WHO/EU/ACP) Partnership on Pharmaceutical Policies, and will be carried out with assistance from Harvard University.

It is one of the tools that WHO has developed to assess country pharmaceutical situations and a key objective “is to evaluate and monitor access and use of medicines in the community, so that we can get a clear indication of the effectiveness of the pharmaceutical services to Barbadians”.

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ADD: SURVEY CONTINUES ON PHARMACEUTICAL USE ON THE ISLAND - 1

Within the survey there will be specific questions relevant to certain illnesses that will assist the Ministry of Health to evaluate these conditions and develop policies to address the needs of people living with them.

Information is expected to be collected from government polyclinics and health institutions, along with 30 private pharmacies. Patients using polyclinic pharmacies will also be interviewed upon leaving. In addition, 300 households across the island will be visited, as part of the survey.

The Level II Survey on the use of pharmaceuticals will continue until August 26, and the information collected will be held in strict confidence. **(JG/BGIS)**

No: 1111/10

BARBADOS MANAGES BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

Barbados has demonstrated “a particularly mature approach to managing the intricate relationship between economic success and environmental stewardship.

This assurance came today from Minister of Environment, Dr. Denis Lowe, during a ceremony at United Nations House to launch the 2010 World Investment Report entitled “Investing in a Low-Carbon Economy”.

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ADD: BARBADOS MANAGES BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT - 1

Produced by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Report has two themes, “Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Climate Change – a review of how developing countries can promote FDI in low carbon sectors and benefit from it”; and “The Transnational Corporation (TNCs) Development Paradigm – a study of the changing operations of TNCs and how these practices altered development”.

Dr. Lowe said the Caribbean was particularly sensitive to environmental threats, such as loss of coastal wetlands and land degradation. “As serious as these issues are, in recent years, a much more global environmental threat has come to the fore – the threat posed by climate change. Being particularly vulnerable to issues such as sea level rise and more volatile weather patterns, which are associated with the phenomenon, we, the nations of the Caribbean, must leverage our resources to realise effective mitigation strategies,” he observed.

The Minister stressed that transnational corporations and the role of foreign direct investment could not be excluded from any strategy, since much of this island’s economic success could be attributed to FDI.

He contended that some countries had put restrictions on foreign direct investment in certain sectors, citing concerns over significant effects on the overall

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ADD: BARBADOS MANAGES BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT - 2

economy. “However, it cannot be denied that transnational companies’ vast knowledge, leading technologies, and global reach have made a contribution that has been particularly effective in spurring developing countries on at specifically-sensitive stages of their development,” Dr. Lowe suggested.

According to him, the region is at an exceptionally sensitive stage of development and other shifts had to be undertaken, where the focus must now be on process and efficiency. “Today’s shift is one which positively responds to the threats posed by environmental catastrophe, it is a shift towards a green economy,” he maintained.

The Environment Minister told the gathering that Barbados’ efforts at laying a solid foundation for a low-carbon economy had been multi-faceted, and he highlighted the new partnerships being actively sought, as well as the collaboration within the area of sustainable finance, as ways which showed the island had been building on the Barbados Sustainable Development Policy and the National Strategic Plan.

He continued: “We believe that this is a crucial development for the region and offers us significant leverage if we intend to initiate a low-carbon economy. Green projects represent an increasing world of opportunities:

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ADD: BARBADOS MANAGES BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT - 3

eco-based tourism, renewable energy projects, carbon-trading and credits, are all potential areas in which foreign direct investment may be channeled.”

Dr. Lowe noted that a number of mechanisms had been utilised to create an enabling environment for transnational companies and he listed them as including the systematic development of legislative mechanisms that form the basis of a low-carbon economy. He also stated that the National Physical Development Plan was a critical tool for ensuring a smooth transition to a Green Economy. **(SA/BGIS)**

No: 1112/10

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT COMING SOON

The much talked about Environmental Management Act will soon come on stream.

That’s the word from Minister of Environment, Dr. Denis Lowe, who said the Ministry had drafted the “sweeping piece of legislation” which was making its way through the various channels of government. He stressed that the Act “is very critical” to his Ministry achieving some of its goals.

Dr. Lowe promised that his Ministry would ensure the regulations were enforced. “There are lots of pieces of legislation in place that are poorly policed. Legislation itself has no greater energy than a strategic plan, unless we are prepared to enforce it,” he maintained. **(SA/BGIS)**

